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The mysterious life and death of Charles Sullivan

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ SEPTEMBER 2014



The Art of Burning Man

"What motivates a builder to spend six months designing and constructing an elaborate five-story wooden temple in the middle of a barren desert ... only to deliberately burn it down a week after it is completed? What drives a disparate collection of doctors, baristas, musicians, schoolteachers and plumbers to spend sweltering summer nights building a giant tree stump in a run-down warehouse welding shop, and then use up their vacation to weld it from sundown to sunup?

Burning Man. This is the world's largest outdoor art show."

With those opening words, neighborhood author Jennifer Raiser sets the stage for her new book, *Burning Man: Art on Fire.* Raiser, who chronicles the social set in Pacific Heights on her website, sfwire.com, is a Black Rock veteran and treasurer of the Burning Man Project. Oversize photographs by Sidney Erthal and Scott London bring it all to life — especially the fire.



Rising Rent Moves More Shops South

Copynet to Sutter, Zinc Details to Geary; fashion frenzy continues

ILLMORE STREET is "the hot retail spot in San Francisco" for fashion and beauty brands, Women's Wear Daily proclaims, and the rent on commercial storefronts is rising rapidly to reflect the neighborhood's newfound favor.

This year has already brought Ella Moss and The Kooples to the street, joining dozens of other clothing and beauty boutiques. Soon Rag & Bone will open its new show-place on the prime corner of Fillmore and California. And Rebecca Minkoff is bringing its designs to the former Pure Beauty store at 2124 Fillmore, the only empty storefront on upper Fillmore.

Now two more longtime neighborhood shops are packing up and moving south, where the rent is significantly less expensive.

- COPYNET, the printing and graphic design firm that has occupied 2404 California Street for 20 years, will move this month to 2174 Sutter Street a few doors from Jet Mail, which made a similar move earlier this year.
- ZINC DETAILS, the home furnishings store that has been on Fillmore near Bush Street for 20 years, will move three blocks south in October into the empty National Dollar Store space at 1633 Fillmore, next door to the Boom Boom Room at the Geary bridge.

The owners of both businesses see fresh opportunities in their new locations, but both acknowledge they were facing big rent increases that made it impossible to maintain their current locations.

"The landlord — who's been a good landlord for 20 years — hinted that our rent would be brought up to market rate," says Vasilios Kiniris, owner of Zinc Details. "That could be two or three times what we're paying now."

Kiniris began considering his options when real estate brokers showed up offering big money if he would sell his lease to a fashion brand hungry for space on what one broker is promoting as "Bleeker Street on the West Coast."

When Kiniris looked at the empty dollar store, he says he thought it could be "a golden opportunity" to stay in the neighborhood and have more space, rather than

FAREWELL

His Baton Is at Rest.



A few hours later, as dark descended, several dozen of Gilchrist's friends and admirers instinctively gath-ered at the church for music and an informal memorial.

"He had that unique ability to make everyone feel like his best friend," said pastor John Weems.

Gilchrist first came to the historic church at Jackson and Fillmore in 1951 to play the organ. Except for a brief study tour in France, he never left. He was named director of music in 1965, and in the decades since he has been widely 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, including performances at Notre Dame in Paris and at the historic cathedral in Chartres. More recently he



Ever-playful music man Alden Gilchrist.

pioneered a popular Sunday evening jazz service at Calvary.

"He survived six different pastors," said choir member and church historian Joe Beyer, a friend of Gilchrist's for more than 50 years.

In October 2011, a concert honored Gilchrist on his 60th anniversary at the church. He remained at the podium through the annual Christmas concert last year, when he conducted the choir and accompanying

orchestra in two major works, the Gloria by Francis Poulenc followed by the equally famed Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi.

Shortly afterward, he suffered an illness that kept him in and out of hospitals for much of this year. Gilchrist's friends and the church staff kept rigid rules in place to limit visitors. "Those who know him which includes most of greater San Francisco - know also that the gregarious musician would have had nonstop visitors partying with him if the choice were left to him," said his friend Fran Johns.

Gilchrist's public sentiments were mostly musical. Weems recalled asking Gilchrist to pray at a staff meeting. He promptly responded: "I already did."



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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.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Rising Rent Uproots More Longtime Shops

"It feels great," he says. "The proportions are nice, the ceilings are high a full basement downstairs.

Maryam Zadeh, owner of Copynet, also faces a big rent increase when her 20-year lease is up at the end of the year. Two banks wanted the space to install ATM machines.

Her old colleagues at Jet Mail encouraged her to consider a newly renovated space on their increasingly popular stretch of Sutter Street between Steiner and Pierce.

"It's smaller, but still in the neighborhood," she says. "Instead of doubling the rent, we're cutting it in half. And that corridor is coming along. It has a lot of foot traffic, actually."

She adds: "Things worked out to our

benefit.'

Kiniris hopes the same will be true for Zinc Details.

"Fillmore Street is a victim of its own success," he says. "There are so many lookieloos coming in. All you're doing is greeting people. On the weekends, we get hordes of people sitting on the furniture, checking their email. Visually it looks like things are happening, but there's no sales.'

He adds: "I saw the writing on the wall. We need to separate ourselves.

Besides, Kiniris says, "There's already so many good things happening on upper Fillmore. We're helping revitalize another part of the street. Let's spread the love."



HEN DINO'S became Dino and Santino's last year at Fillmore and California, owner Dino Stavrakikis wanted to make his — and his son's — prime corner a little friendlier. So he bought a black metal bench and bolted it to the sidewalk, inviting the neighbors to stop and sit in the sunshine, even if they weren't ordering a slice of pizza.

His good example has now brought more benches to the stretch of Fillmore between Bush and Jackson Streets. In mid-August the city's Department of Public Works, encouraged by the Fillmore Merchants Association, put additional benches like Dino's on the street — only shorter, so no one is tempted to take a nap. The original 60 locations under consideration were whittled down to 19 spots acceptable to the various authorities from the city's transit, utility, parking and disability departments.

The drive to add benches on Fillmore began 14 years ago. It took a politically savvy young DPW staffer, Ahmad El-Najjar, and funding secured by Supervisor Mark Far-rell's office to make it finally happen.

Initial reaction was mixed. Some merchants complained about smokers, and high-end fashion boutiques and restaurants feared undesirables would sit in front of their high-rent shops. But the reaction from residents has been mostly positive.

The benches are being touted as a pilot project that may be adjusted or expanded. Already several other business owners have asked for benches.

"I want one right out front," said Dino. "The last one I had to buy myself."

New Plans in the Works for Alta Plaza

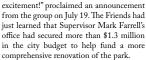
N THE SPRING, neighborhood meetings were held to review plans to renovate the north side of Alta Plaza Park and put in place a new water-waving irrigation system similar to the one installed last year on the south side of the park.

But the sidewalks on Clay Street were still slippery, the walkways were crumbling and the newly planted no-mow grass was thick with weeds. Neighbors complained the park's most significant problems weren't being addressed.

So the Friends Alta Plaza Park decided to regroup and hire their own landarchitects to develop a comprehensive plan.

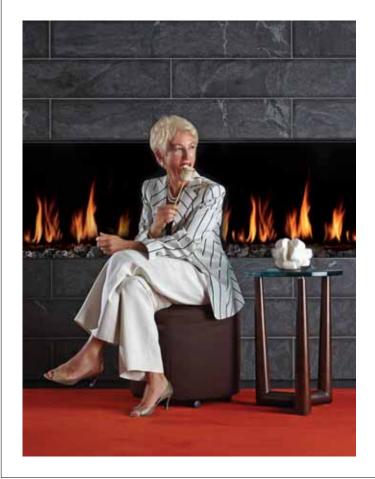


"We are head over heels with



Alta Plaza Park

Now another round of public hearings begins. The first will be held on Saturday, September 13, from 10 a.m. to noon at the SF Waldorf School at 2938 Washington.





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CRIME WATCH

Robbery With a Gun Divisadero and Bush Streets July 17, 1:13 a.m.

A man and a woman were walking along the sidewalk when two men passed by them. One turned around to ask, "Are you alright?" The pedestrians responded that they were fine. Then one of the men stepped between the two and drew what they described as a black semi-automatic handgun, telling them to hand over their belongings. They complied, and the robbers fled in a silver vehicle. Neither victim was hurt. The matter is still under investigation.

Burglary California and Divisadero Streets July 18, 10:06 p.m.

Officers received a call about a break-in. When they examined the residence, they found the suspect had removed a screen from a first-story window, then took a laptop computer and iPod from the premises. Officers noted that no locks had been installed on the windows. The investigation continues.

Battery, False ID to a Police Officer Geary Boulevard and Divisadero Street July 23, 2 p.m.

A hospital worker was attempting to discharge a woman who became aggressive, attacking the employee and punching her in the chest. The worker called the police. During the investigation, the former patient gave a false ID to the police. She was arrested for battery.

Robbery With a Knife, Aggravated Assault California and Franklin Streets

July 28, 8:20 a.m.

A caller reported that a man inside Whole Foods had attacked a shopper with a knife, then stabbed a security guard. Investigating officers learned the suspect had also stolen items from the store. The man was detained and arrested.

Burglary, Unlawful Entry, Possession of Stolen Property O'Farrell and Fillmore Streets August 1, 7:35 p.m.

A resident of an apartment building reported that a man in the lobby was opening tenants' packages and putting the mail into a duffle bag he had brought in with him. When officers arrived, the caller pointed out the suspect, who had gone outside and was sitting behind a nearby trash can. The officers detained him. When they searched his duffle bag, they found an assortment of mail and packages with various names and addresses on them. The man told the police, "Thm not gonna lie; I stole those things." The suspect was booked at Northern Station.

Narcotics Sales Lyon and Pine Streets August 2, 3:58 p.m.

Plainclothes officers spotted a known drug dealer. During a search, they discovered a large amount of narcotics in his possession. When they learned the identity of the man who was with him, they discovered an outstanding felony warrant for his arrest. After determining that both men were selling drugs, police placed them under arrest.

Vehicle Burglary, Possession of Burglary Tools Bush and Fillmore Streets August 8, 1:42 a.m.

Dispatch sent officers to an auto burglary in progress. As they arrived they saw a man inside a car, crouched in the back seat. The officers removed him and handcuffed him. The man insisted he was just taking a nap. Since he was on probation, officers searched the man and found a large screwdriver in his pocket. Further investigation revealed pry marks on the car's rear wing window. There were items strewn about the back seat. Officers determined that the suspect had unlocked the back door from the inside after prying open the wing window. Officers then conducted a records check on the suspect and found several outstanding warrants for his arrest. He was booked at Northern Station.

Geary Boulevard and Gough Street August 9, 11:48 p.m.

A witness called the police to report that a man was lighting a fire beneath a staircase. The officers asked the witness to get into their patrol car to help them search for the suspect. After they circled the block, the witness spotted the man; he was pacing back and forth and pausing to stare in the direction of the fire. Officers detained him and transported him to Northern Station. Firemen extinguished the flames.

Exhibiting a Deadly Weapon, Possession of Methamphetamine Geary Boulevard and Franklin Street August 10, 5:55 p.m.

A woman seated near a man on a Muni bus saw him pull out knives and fidget with them while mumbling to himself. She notified the driver, who called 911. The officers boarded the bus and spotted the man in the back. He was wielding two four-inch fixed-blade knives, which he attempted to conceal when he spotted the police. They ordered him off the bus; he complied and dropped the knives. The officers then hand-cuffed him. A search revealed the suspect was carrying crack cocaine and methamphetamine. He was transported to Northern Station.



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LOCALS

Like Print, Juicy News Is Evolving

Juice bar is long gone, but newsstand endures

Story & Photograph by Lucy Gray

as he's known by frequenters of his magazine shop full of fashion, art, literature and design periodicals at 2453 Fillmore — first came to work at Juicy News in the mid-1990s. He figured he'd only stay a short while before pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy, his undergraduate major at UC Berkeley.

At that time the store was owned by Gretchen and Pete Rogers and their friend Marcia Hunt. They also owned two other newsstand-juice bars, also called Juicy News, in Berkeley.

"There was a juice bar, a magazine business, books — a lot to coordinate," he says. Soon he was asked to manage the Fillmore store, and he put aside for the moment his desire to teach philosophy.

During his early years of managing the shop, most of the six or seven other employees were high school students from the nearby Convent of the Sacred Heart on



Mo Salimi — the manager who became the owner — says everything that is successful about Juicy News is because of relationships and its community focus.

Broadway. Their friends came to the store to get smoothies after school and their parents bought magazines and books.

Salimi found he enjoyed becoming part of the fabric of the community. When he was asked to become the manager of a new Marc Jacobs store opening at Fillmore and Sacramento, he agreed. After all, he knew the neighborhood and the clientele. In the first days after the store opened, a line often stretched around the block from opening at 10 a.m. to closing at 10 p.m.

It was a huge success. But it took its toll: In the first month, the already-svelte Salimi lost 30 pounds.

He lasted three years before he tired of the corporate world — despite the perks, pay and prestige — because he rarely saw

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Elite Cafe 2049 Fillmore Street (@ California) www.TheEliteCafe.com 415.346.8400 his wife, had no social life and traveled only for work. So he quit.

For a few months Salimi rested and indulged his passion for writing. Then he ran into his old boss, Gretchen Rogers, who asked him to come back to Juicy News. At first that seemed like a regression and he resisted. But it was 2008, the beginning of the financial collapse, and he was intrigued by the notion of going against the economic tide. He believed in keeping print alive. He told himself there wasn't much to lose in trying. So he came back.

The owners had tweaked the Juicy News concept when the Italian juice maker broke down and they learned it would cost as much as a car to replace. So they eliminated the Fillmore juice bar, focused on the newsstand and shrank the staff.

They closed the other stores in Berkeley. Then Gretchen and Pete Rogers decided they were going to retire and move to Santa Barbara. They gave Salimi a choice: He could take over the Fillmore shop, or they would shut it down.

And so the manager became the owner. He took on the debt, the risk and the keeping of the books. Industry statistics report that in 2012 a mere 3 percent of Americans regularly read magazines, yet, miraculously, Salimi says sales at Juicy News have increased. His relationships with various small distributors keep the shop's supplies fresh. He's a true believer that there is a strong future for his business.

"Magazines in print," he says, "are not just information being transmitted. They are each unique physical objects that give tactile and olfactory experiences that cannot be replicated — they give access to the past as the paper wears and ages and leaves memories for the reader."

He has adapted to keep the store vig-

orous and crisp, adding to the selection of books, cards and gifts that complement the newsstand. One of the kitschier objects is a best seller called Paper Passion. Inside a book is a bottle of scent that smells like fresh paper. His audience has a nostalgic longing for print and the fear it is coming to an end, ironically, seems to be fueling

Salimi says everything that is successful about Juicy News is because of relationships and its community focus. He keeps a sharp eye on local interests and buying habits. And while there are other stores that sell international fashion and design magazines, photography books and artistmade greeting cards, Salimi maintains they are not competition because they are not in this neighborhood. Despite the broad reach computers provide, he ascribes more value to local, independent connections.

He lives in the neighborhood. He walks to work. He estimates he has given retail training to more than 100 kids who grew up here. He has watched children become young adults and move away. Sometimes they come back, marry and have babies they bring into the store. He takes great pleasure and pride in the generations of families who patronize the place.

Still, Salimi has his worries. He would like to renovate and create a reading room, but he's reluctant to close for a month and risk losing customers - and wary the costs could upset the delicate balance he has been able to maintain. He has been renting his 500-square-foot space from a supportive landlord who bought the building in the 1970s. But now there is a new owner, and his lease is coming up for renewal.

The future of Juicy News - like that of the publishing industry - is still being written.

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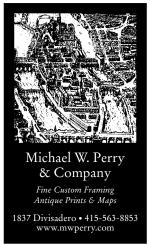
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'Just in Time'

A conversation with photographer David Johnson and his old friend and new wife, author Jacqueline Sue

■ RETROSPECTIVE

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David Johnson's

ACKIE: In November we will have known each other for 58 years. Just a few weeks ago we celebrated your 88th birthday and our fifth wedding anniversary. Do you remember how we met?

DAVID: Well, my wife Lucy and I and our two children were attending the Westside Christian Church at Bush and Divisadero. The mostly white congregation was interested in bringing more African-Americans to their church. A black pharmacist named Wayman Fuller who was a member invited my family, and we met you there.

JACKIE: New in town, age 21, no friends, I was there because it was my family denomination in Kentucky and that was the only Christian Church in San Francisco.

DAVID: You and Lucy bonded quickly and became friends because you were both among the first African-American long distance operators in the 1950s.

JACKIE: When your son Michael was born in 1957 and I became his godmother, you were already an established photographer, but I didn't realize it.

DAVID: Yes, by then, I had photographed many of the historical photographs that are now being exhibited. My studio was on Divisadero Street not far from our church.

You see, as a youth growing up in Jack-

sonville, Florida, I found that I was curious about the neighborhood and environment where I lived. We were poor and living on the edge. However, my foster mother provided a good place for me to grow up.

After my discharge from the Navy following World War II, I decided to come to San Francisco and study photography with Ansel Adams at the California School of Fine Arts (now

the San Francisco Art Institute). While Ansel and other students photographed Yosemite and nature, it was a natural fit for me to photograph people and the Fillmore community I lived in.

JACKIE: I lived on many streets of the Fillmore. When I met you, I was living on California Street, not far from the old Grand Central Market, now Mollie Stone's. Then I moved to Geary and Fillmore that apartment is long gone, replaced by the underpass, just a block from where you

photographed Looking South on Fillmore. How did you happen to take that shot?

DAVID: I was always on the lookout for images that told a story. You know, I had to climb a scaffold at the old Bank of America building at Fillmore and Post with a large 4-by-5 view camera to take that picture. That was in 1946.

JACKIE: I also lived at McAllister and Steiner. By now we were both working in the post office at Rincon Annex. Unions were just beginning to form and you were the president of the National Alliance of Postal Employees.

DAVID: I was very active in the union and in local politics. I met many in the up-andcoming leadership of the black community when we were going to school and in the churches of the Fillmore neighborhood. I took photographs of Terry Francois, who was appointed by Mayor John Shelley as the first African-American to serve on the Board of Supervisors; Joseph Kennedy, first African-American appointed to the municipal court; Dr. Carlton Goodlett, publisher of the Sun Reporter newspaper and one-day-to-be California assemblyman Willie Brown. I photographed many of the national personalities, such as Thurgood Marshall, before he became a Supreme

Court justice, and one of my favorite people, the poet Langston Hughes.

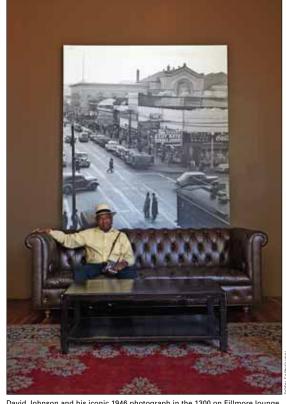
JACKIE: You knew and photographed the San Francisco that was deemed "the Harlem of the West." Your photographs of the classy people dressed for social events and lively jazz music are now a way for me and others to relive that magical time in the Fillmore District.

In 1964 I married Frank

Sue, a San Francisco-born Chinese man and, like many minorities, we moved to the suburbs. For us it was Marin County.

DAVID: Yes, but our families remained close. In the '70s we all went to Haiti together, taking my youngest daughter with us. I still took pictures, but not as much. Through the Urban League, I took a job at UC Medical Center and eventually retired

JACKIE: Many years went by. I became a postmaster in Marin County, then went



David Johnson and his iconic 1946 photograph in the 1300 on Fillmore lounge.

"I was always on the lookout for images that told a story."

on to become a postal executive in Washington, D.C., finally retiring after 30 years. You and Lucy attended my 40th wedding anniversary celebration. Sadly, later in the year, my husband Frank Sue died of a heart

DAVID: Then, two years later, Lucy passed suddenly and my family was in shock, because she was the heart of our family.

JACKIE: We renewed our friendship at our family Christmas party and it easily fell into place that we would make good marriage partners and do fun projects together, me as an author and you as a photographer.

DAVID: Since we married, the recognition of my work has increased. Together at our Marin church we met Mindy Steiner, the filmmaker who did the documentary Positive Negatives on my life. The documentary allowed us to showcase my work not only in San Francisco, but in other cities - San Diego, Sacramento, Atlanta, Rochester,

New York, and Washington, D.C.

JACKIE: I wrote the book A Dream Begun So Long Ago: The Story of David Johnson, Ansel Adams' First African American Student and now your exhibitions have increased

DAVID: Yes, including the wonderful exhibition opening September 6 at the Harvey Milk Center in San Francisco. And there's another book coming out next year titled The Golden Decade featuring the students of Ansel Adams from 1945 to 1955.

JACKIE: Getting married led us to downsize and move to the Tamalpais retirement center in Greenbrae. But we are busier than

DAVID: I sang a song to you at our wedding, "Just in Time." For me it really was true. I found you just in time.



"A Dream Begun So Long Ago" VIDEO | newfillmore.com



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Who Shot the Mayor of Fillmore?

Charles Sullivan was the undisputed boss — until he was found dead. A new play tells his story.

By Gary Carr

N AUGUST 2, 1966, the "Mayor of Fillmore" was found shot to death in the area south of Market Street. He was sprawled on the street next to the open door of a rental car. A revolver lay beside his right hand. Police said it was a suicide.

The dead man was Charles Sullivan, the most influential — and controversial — figure in the mostly African-American Fillmore District. From the late 1940s until his death, Sullivan was probably the richest man in the neighborhood. He was tall, handsome and imposing, dressed in finely tailored suits worthy of Duke Ellington. A local merchants group bestowed his title on him, complete with an oversize key to the city.

The San Francisco coroner dismissed the idea of suicide, declaring the death of "unknown circumstances." Also disagreeing with the initial police report is Harry Richard Hall, Charles Sullivan's nephew and the creator of a new oneman show, Blues for Charles, which will

be performed this month at the Exit Theatre as part of the 23rd annual San Francisco Fringe Festival.

Blues for Charles is a murder mystery, and also Hall's tribute to Charles Sullivan, his family and the Fillmore. But Hall would be the first to admit his uncle was no saint.

"Charles never would have committed suicide," Hall says. "He was too selfish."

Charles Sullivan was the epitome of the self-made man. He worked his way to the West Coast in the mid-1920s from his home in Alabama. The journey took him two years, and in 1928, he ended up in Los Angeles where, after a series of menial jobs, he became a gofer in a machine shop and ended up a journeyman machinist.

"At best, Charles only had a sixthgrade education," Hall says, "but he was a genius with numbers."

As Hall's new play makes clear, Sullivan was good with numbers in more ways than one.

He left Los Angeles for San Fran-



cisco in 1934 because the machinist union barred blacks. He found the union doors closed in the Bay Area, too, so he took a job as a chauffeur and mechanic for George Nicholls Jr., a Hollywood film editor and director of the popular 1934 film Anne of Green Gables, who was living in Hillsborough at the time. The

job helped Sullivan meet people, and he was good at making friends. Or at least connections.

He cobbled together the money in 1938 to open a barbecue joint in San Mateo, naming it Sullivans. A year later, he brought his teenage sister Gertrude, later playwright Harry Hall's mother,

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Hello humankindness





Charles Sullivan (center left, with Fats Corlett sitting beside him) in the Booker T. Washington Hotel at Fillmore and Ellis. Sullivan also owned the Post Street Liquor Co., which was run by his brother-in-law George Hall (above and center right, with Sullivan's key to the city). George Hall's son Harry Hall has written a play about Sullivan.



out from Alabama to go to high school and work in the restaurant. He bought a bar near Pacifica, just so he could get the liquor license.

"In those days, you could transfer a license to another location," Hall explains.

After this maneuver, Sullivan's BBQ had a bar and became Club Sullivan. It also had a card room in the back; Sullivan was the first black man on the Peninsula to own a gambling license.

He was on his way up.

Because Sullivan was good with machines and loved music, he got into the jukebox business, which he named Sullivan's Music Co. Booking live acts followed, and by the mid-1940s, he had grown to be the most successful music promoter on the West Coast.

Sullivan moved into the Fillmore and hooked up with one of the Bay Area's more colorful characters, a large man named Shirley "Fats" Corlett. Fats had come into possession of the Edison Hotel at 1540 Ellis Street and renamed it the Booker T. Washington Hotel, but because of a felony conviction he couldn't own the bar. Sullivan saw an opportunity and bought the hotel, as well as the Post Street Liquor Store nearby at 1623 Post. The building had rooms for rent on the second floor, and that became the Sullivan Hotel.

Sullivan booked some of the biggest

names in jazz - including Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Ruth Brown, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker and Slim Galliard — into his own and other Bay Area venues. Galliard was a unique entertainer - a singer, songwriter, master of many instruments and inventor of his own language, which he called Vout.

Galliard borrowed money from Sullivan to buy a chicken and waffles place on Post Street, which he called Vout City. When the place went bust, Sullivan sued Galliard and won control.

"Not only was my uncle good with numbers," Hall says "He was a tough man with a lawsuit, too."

Sullivan was also a man of great per-

severance, eventually becoming the first African-American in the Bay Area to belong to the machinist union. When black people began arriving to work in the shipyards in Oakland and Hunter's Point during World War II, Sullivan was already there.

The machinist-jukebox entrepreneurnight club owner-promoter already owned one of the most successful jazz clubs in the Fillmore, the Booker T. Washington Lounge. He added Galliard's place, which turned into an even more successful after-hours music venue, the legendary Jimbo's Bop City. The building that housed Jimbo's was later moved from Post Street when the

TO PAGE 12 ▶



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At a party in the Fillmore in the 1940s, jazz great Louis Armstrong (seated second from right with his wife, Lucille) was joined by locals including Gertrude Hall (center), Charles Sullivan's sister and the mother of Blues for Charles playwright Harry Hall.

'Blues for Charles' a Tribute to His Family

► FROM PAGE 11

Fillmore District was largely wiped out by the Redevelopment Agency and became home of the late and lamented Marcus Book Store.

Sullivan also owned the master lease to the Fillmore Auditorium. In 1965, he began subletting the Fillmore to Bill Graham when he wasn't using the venue himself for blockbusters like the Ike and Tina Turner Revue.

On August 1, 1966, Sullivan flew back to San Francisco from L.A., where he had promoted a James Brown concert at the War Memorial Theater, Sometime

between midnight and 2 a.m., Sullivan's body was discovered on Bluxome Street in the industrial district south of Market. According to the police report, he was between his rental car and the building, "lying where a sidewalk would be if there was one." He had been shot once at close range "one inch to the right of the left nipple." He was 57 years

The police estimated the time of death at midnight and called it a suicide. The coroner said it happened at 2 a.m. and ruled out suicide. Acquaintances of Sullivan said that, at midnight, he was still

at a woman's house in Oakland. Rumors spread that it was a mob hit. Soon afterward, Bill Graham took over booking acts into the Fillmore.

Harry Hall has his own theory of what happened to his uncle Charles. But Blues for Charles remains a murder mystery - and a tribute to a talented and powerful, if flawed, man.

Hall sums it up this way: "I've worked on this play for four years, and in the end, all I really want to do is free the family ghosts, and sing the blues for Charles.

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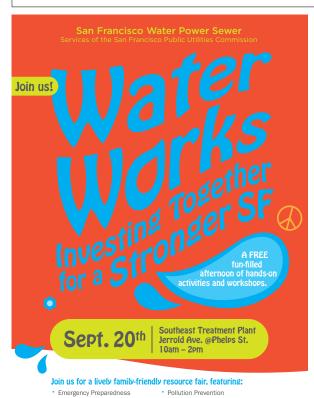
■ THEATER

Harry Hall performs BLUES FOR CHARLES, his one-man tribute to his uncle Charles Sullivan, the one-time Mayor of Fillmore, at the Exit Theatre at 156 Eddy Street on September 7, 13, 16 and 17, For more information or to buy tickets, visit sffringe.org.

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By Sheila Malkind

o Many People of all ages, getting old connotes frailty, loss, dementia and death. But for me as director of the Legacy Film Festival on Aging — presented this month at the New People Cinema at 1746 Post Street — it's all about people facing the challenges of aging with creativity, courage and humor.

The fourth annual Legacy festival returns from September 12 to 14 to the New People theatre in Japantown, site of the first festival in 2011. The mission is to present films every year that inspire, educate and entertain intergenerational audiences about issues surrounding aging. We want to highlight films showing that people can age meaningfully, not fearfully.

Thanks to health care innovations and aging baby boomers, the global population of older adults is expanding rapidly. There are currently 95 million people in the U.S. over the age of 50, with 40 million of them over the age of 65. A poll last year found 15 percent of the population in San Francisco was over the age of 65.

Aging is a universal concept and we expect to have lively Q&As about the various film portrayals at each of the festival programs. All will be led by one of the filmmakers, subjects of the films or someone with intimate knowledge of the issues.

This year's festival includes 18 short and full-length documentaries and fictional features on an array of topics — from 70-plus-year-old Dutch male hockey players playing their last game to older Uruguayan tango-dancing couples talking about love and betrayal and telling moving stories about caregiving.



Shirley Knight stars in Redwood Highway, the finale at the Legacy Film Festival on Aging.

A Film Fest on Aging

Legacy festival returns to Japantown this month

But not all the films are serious: No Problem is the spirited story of African women who spend six months in India being trained as solar engineers; The Cake Lady focuses on an 89-year-old woman who bakes cakes for people she likes; The Mayor follows a gentleman who lives in a Texas retirement home and is looking for a caring woman. Three films are based in retirement homes, where the main characters in two of them buck the stereotype by being quite happy and comfortable.

It takes a full year to find the right films. We send out calls for entries and require that the films not demean older adults. A group of board members and volunteer jurors watches all entries.

What I dislike most is having to send rejection letters. Congrats are more fun.

Opening night, September 12, features

a program titled "Three Perspectives on Growing Old(er)." It includes:

BURN THE CLOCK (23 minutes, U.K.), a funny and moving sex-drug-and-drink-addled fictional story with a twist.

BEAUTY BEFORE AGE (22 minutes, U.S.), a groundbreaking film from 1997 that explores the power of youth and beauty in the gay community, with interviews of older and younger gay men navigating their fears of ending up old, undesirable and alone.

Director Johnny Symons, a Berkeley resident and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, will moderate a Q&A with the audience about his perspectives on aging. Accompanying him will be Dazie Rustin Grego, a local performance artist, poet, dancer and activist who appeared in the film at age 19 talking about life being over once people hit 26 or so. Nearly 20

years later, he will present his present-day perspective.

FABULOUS FASHIONISTAS (47 minutes, U.K.), in which filmmaker Sue Bourne explores the art of aging through the company of six extraordinarily stylish women with an average age of 80 who are determined to "squeeze the pips" out of life.

On Saturday, September 13, San Francisco filmmaker Barbara Klutinis will present her film, STEPPING INTO THE STREAM (30 minutes, U.S.), an ode to women fly fishers. Jared Sheib, a young filmmaker from Southern California, will talk about his first feature documentary, THE MAYOR (68 minutes, U.S.), about the varied residents in a retirement home in Texas.

LES BEAUX JOURS (94 minutes, France), explores complexities between an older married woman and a male computer teacher 20 years her junior. Several speakers will be featured afterward, including Ken Olim, whose new book, *The Boomer Guide to Finding True Love Online*, will be published soon by Amazon; and representatives of Stitch.net, a website that helps mature adults find the companionship they seek.

On Sunday, September 14, the festival closes with REDWOOD HIGHWAY (90 minutes, U.S.). Veteran actor Shirley Knight, as Marie, decides to journey 80 miles on foot to crash her granddaughter's wedding. The lesson is the same as in many of the other films: Living life fully and lovingly is empowering.

For more information, visit legacyfilm-festivalonaging.org.

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ART

By Judy Goddess

MAGES OF THE NORTH gallery at 2036 Union Street may be small in size, but its collection is rich in artistry and giant in vision.

"Inuit art is magical," says owner Lesley Leonhardt of the art she presents capturing the Arctic landscape and culture.

Her Union Street gallery houses one of the country's most extensive collections of Inuit art by established and emerging artists from all over the Arctic. Sculpture fills the floor; smaller pieces are stored in narrow cabinets along the walls; jewelry and prints are hung on the walls and displayed in cabinets and racks in the back of the gallery. This month, the gallery will showcase soapstone sculpture by Jonas Faber, its third exhibition of the internationally heralded artist known for his bold, personal style and his creative treatment of Inuit cultural themes and myths.

Until the middle of the last century, the Inuits were nomads following the food trail in Northern Canada and Alaska. But in the 1940s, they began settling in permanent



Lesley Leonhardt

communities across the Arctic, Leonhardt says. The Canadian government, concerned about the Inuits' survival, sent advisors to help local settlements develop a source of income. While the Inuits had a long history of creating art for their own personal use — beading, tattoos, game pieces and amulets — they had no concept of purely decorative art, she says.

But the advisors did. The abundance of local materials

— stone, whalebone, ivory and antlers — made carving a promising option for self-sufficiency.

There were obstacles at first, Leonhardt points out. "Carvings to display on tables? What is a table? There wasn't even a word for 'art' in the Inuit language," she

Soapstone sculpture by the renowned Inuit artist Jonas Faber will be exhibited at Images of the North gallery on Union Street from September 13 through October 9.

Art of the Arctic

Venerable Union Street Gallery Specializes in Inuit Art

says. Still, all the carvings brought to Montreal for the first commercial exhibit of Inuit art in 1949 sold within a weekend.

And the boom was on.

"Local communities formed artist co-operatives to sell their works and, with some assistance from the Canadian government, the Inuit art market began to flourish," Leonhardt says. "Over time, regional styles have developed depending on the local stone and on the success of earlier carvers from the community. Because the U.S. government did not offer the same encouragement, few Alaskan Inuit communities produce art."

Leonhardt has been associated with Inuit art for more

than 35 years, since she began working at the Quest gallery in Sausalito.

"I learned on the job," she says. "The two owners taught me about Inuit art and the art business." In 1980 Leonhardt joined Images of the North, a gallery focusing on Inuit art co-founded by Sam and Helene Sobol in 1979. By the mid-80s, she had become a partner. When the Sobols retired, Leonhardt became the owner.

Her passion has endured, even as Inuit art, particularly sculpture, has evolved.

"The naturalness of the medium inspires a fundamental relationship to the art. It can be grasped," she says.

And much of it begs to be touched, too. Carvers initially rough out the block of carving stone with axes, hammers and chisels, or sometimes with small power tools. Then they use files, rasps and sandpaper for finishing. Earlier sculpture was more primitive or naive.

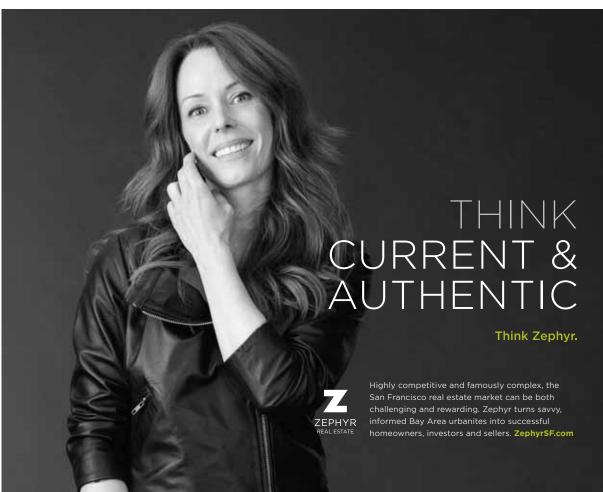
"While contemporary Inuit sculpture still focuses on the classic themes of animals, families and myths, the art has become more abstract," Leonhardt says. "We are also seeing a more refined look, a preference for highly polished stone."

"Art is a tough business," she acknowledges. "Fewer people seem to have the discretionary income to buy art these days. But you don't give up."

"Union Street has changed, too," notes Leonhardt, who has been the executive director of the Union Street Association for almost 20 years. "We see fewer retail businesses, as people do more of their shopping online. Retail stores are being replaced by stores selling personal services: nail shops, gyms and facials."

Leonhardt says that before the most recent economic downturn, 70 percent of her business came from tourists. While collectors continue to seek out the gallery, the slowdown in street traffic has definitely affected sales.

"Of course I want to make sales, but I also want people to come in and look, to enjoy the art. I want visitors to say, 'This is great. I'm enjoying this art and this experience,' says Leonhardt. "This magic needs to be shared."





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A message from

PIER 70 NEIGHBORS SUPPORTING PROPOSITION F





NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dear San Francisco neighbors,

We, members of the **Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** and **Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association** and longtime residents of the neighborhoods, write to urge you to support Proposition F, the ballot measure regarding revitalization of Pier 70.

Today, the area is a mix of vacant land and deteriorating buildings behind chain-linked and barbed wire fences that block waterfront access to the public.

For the past several years, we've been participating in an extensive community planning process that will support revitalization of the site with waterfront parks, housing affordable to low and middle income households, rehabilitation of historic buildings, space for local artists, and the creation of new jobs for San Franciscans.

Our respective neighborhood associations – the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association and the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association – both recently endorsed Prop F. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

Janet Carpinelli, President, DNA

Susan Eslick, Vice President, DNA Vanessa Aquino, Board Member Jared Doumani, Board Member David Siegel, Board Member Holly Allen, Joe Boss, Ellen Brin, Bernadette Doerr, Adam Ferrall-Nunge, Lesley Grossblatt, Andrew Ho, Alisha Holloway, Bruce Huie, Christopher Irion, Patricia and Scott Kline, Bill Lapczynski, Tina Lindinger, Michael Rhea, Mark Olsen and Kerry Rodgers, Robert Schooler, Brian Simonson, Callista Shepherd Smith, Alison and Mark Sullivan, Matt Svoboda, Stefan Kyle Watkins, John Warner, Dogpatch Café, Marc Goldfine, Dogpatch Saloon, Alex Goretsky, La Stazione Coffee & Wine Bar, Mark Dwight, Rickshaw Bags

Paid for by Yes on F, with major support from FC Pier 70, LLC

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association

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	Single Family Homes	BR	ва	PK Sq	ft Days	Date	Asking	Sale	
	2885 Union St	3	3	2,3	34 50	8/1/14	3,550,000	3,300,000	
	2210 Pine St	3	2	1,9	50 1	7/29/14	2,700,000	3,400,000	
	2608 Sacramento St	4	3		8	7/30/14	3,250,000	3,450,000	
	1641 Green St	4	3	2,4	12 38	7/18/14	3,499,000	4,200,000	
	68 Presidio Ave	5	5		60	7/24/14	8,995,000	7,750,000	
	2602 Pacific Ave	6	6		32	7/21/14	8,995,000	8,250,000	
	2090 Vallejo St	6	6	9,3	78 268	7/24/14	10,950,000	9,500,000	
Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts									
	1730 Broadway	0	1	65	2 41	7/23/14	489,000	480,000	
	2918 Pine St	1	1		30	7/25/14	550,000	553,000	
	2646 Post St	1	1	72	24	7/18/14	598,000	615,000	
	2077 Jackson St #205	1	1	64	0 11	8/5/14	589,000	683,500	
	1701 Jackson St #205	1	1	68	12	8/13/14	689,000	745,000	
	1800 Washington St #215	1	1	68	31 14	8/5/14	682,000	750,000	
	1521 Sutter St #4031	1		74	7 23	8/14/14	747,000	800,000	
	1895 Pacific Ave #203	1	1		38	7/30/14	779,000	825,000	
	1880 Steiner St #208	2	2	94	2 43	7/29/14	899,000	925,000	
	2393 Post St	3	2	1,39	7 6	7/24/14	880,000	925,000	
	2111 Franklin St #A2	1		89	14 29	7/28/14	979,000	1,000,000	
	3140 Clay St #1	2	1	1,06	8 18	8/15/14	995,000	1,083,000	
	1998 Broadway	2	2		38	7/24/14	1,099,000	1,140,000	
	1800 Washington St #918	2	2	1,07	2 59	8/6/14	1,200,000	1,200,000	
	2482 Bush St	2	1	1,52	22 23	8/6/14	1,189,000	1,260,000	
	2865 Broderick St	2	2	1,26	55 3	8/6/14	1,395,000	1,625,000	
	2040 Laguna St	3	3		14	7/18/14	1,529,000	1,635,000	
	1970 Scott St	3	3	89	5 12	7/18/14	1,500,000	1,650,000	
	1865 Clay St #2	3	4	1,66	7 11	8/8/14	1,475,000	1,750,000	
	2322 Divisadero St	3	2	1,78	12	8/15/14	1,450,000	1,900,000	
	3469 Jackson St	3	2	2,16	52 50	8/11/14	2,095,000	1,990,000	
	2251 Washington St	3	3	2,10	0 43	8/1/14	2,750,000	2,675,000	
	2454 Vallejo St	3	4		47	8/8/14	3,199,000	3,000,000	
	2210 Vallejo St	3	3	3,04	5 11	8/8/14	3,195,000	3,500,000	



Big homes, big condos still in demand

A pair of recent Pacific Heights home sales suggests there is still plenty of demand for the top tier of San Francisco real estate.

In late July, 2090 Vallejo Street (above) sold for \$9.5 million, the fourth priciest single-family home transaction in San Francisco this year and, at 9,378 priciest single-family nome transaction in San Francisco this year and, at 3,378 square feet, the second-largest in size. Two blocks west, 2210 Vallejo sold for \$3.5 million in early August, one of the year's five largest condominum sales in the neighborhood. Originally listed near \$3.2 million, the three-bedroom condo left the market after 11 days nearly 10 percent above the asking price.

— Data and commentary provided by PATRICK BARBER, president of Pacific Union. Contact him at patrick.barber@pacunion.com or call 415-345-3001.





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FIRST PERSON

From Fillmore to Tanzania

Seizing an opportunity to make a difference



This month Erin LeMoine will leave the neighborhood to help build a community center in Africa

By Erin LeMoine

VE LIVED in this neighborhood for eight years, so I tend to make a lot of decisions when hanging out on Fillmore Street. Dino's or the Elite for dinner? Yoga at International Orange or Mindful Body? Recently, while having coffee and surfing the web at Jane, I made a bigger decision: to quit my job, leave the safe confines of the neighborhood and go to Africa on a humanitarian project.

I've enjoyed a successful career as an event planner in the entertainment, tech and sports marketing industries. It's been fun and rewarding. But the last couple of years have left me wanting more. I've always wanted to make a more significant impact by doing work that helps people help themselves. I realized it was now or never.

I had been searching for a project for some time and that morning at Jane I discovered the website for Mama Hope, an organization working with African organizations to build schools, health clinics, children's centers, clean water systems and food security projects. I was so excited about the opportunity that I hiked half a block up to Peet's and completed the online application.

Mama Hope isn't the usual volunteer opportunity; you must apply and interview for the fellowship program. Luckily, I made the cut. Now I must raise \$20,000 to help build a student dining hall and community center in Tanzania. This new structure will provide a space for children to eat meals together, and will also serve as a gathering place for meetings, events and celebrations. Most importantly, the community center will attract more paying students, which means more poor and vulnerable children can get a free education.

This month I'll board a flight for Moshi, Tanzania, and live there for three months, collaborating with community leaders to begin the project. When I come back to San Francisco, I'll spend three months doing a mixture of monitoring and evaluation, reporting and public speaking.

Even though I'm leaping into the unknown, the move aligns with my passion for service. Maybe it's innate; my father was a firefighter and my sister is a teacher. I intended to get a graduate degree in public health after college and I almost joined the Peace Corps. Instead, I ended up planning elaborate tech parties. However, I've reconnected to my passion over the years with some volunteer yoga teaching and a two-year tutoring stint at Rosa Parks Elementary School on Webster Street.

Now it's time to really go for it.

Fundraising hasn't been easy. The last time I asked for money, I pleaded with my parents for cash for Duran Duran concert tickets. Yet I've been pleasantly surprised by the generosity of people and businesses in the neighborhood and throughout the city. NARS Cosmetics, Yoga Works, Caryn Cohen at Secret Agent Salon, massage therapist Wendy Parker, International Orange, Soul Cycle, Equinox and Prana are just some of the local merchants that have stepped up to the plate. With their support, we're connecting our community with the community in Tanzania.

I'll miss my friends who sit on the bench at Peet's every day. I'll miss fall, my favorite San Francisco season. But the sacrifice will be worth it. And perhaps my work in Tanzania will open doors to a career in international development.

And to think, it all started on Fillmore.

Learn more about Erin LeMoine's project at stayclassy.org/erincommunitycenter and follow its progress at erinlemoine.tumblr.com.



Jordan Park Offered at \$4,200,000

Coming Soon. Vonderful spacious five edroom, four and a half oath home with all the edrooms on one floor. Fabulous bright cook's kitchen, family room, office, and more. Deck, garden, and off street parking for 3 cars

Joan Gordon 415.987.7567 David Cohen 415.309.3283



Pacific Heights Offered at \$3,795,000 Gorgeous Home in Fantastic Location. Just one block to Fillmore

Street shops, cafes street snops, cares, schools, Lafayette Park and more. This beautiful 4BD/3.5BA home features nardwood floors, molding and soaring ceilings throughout! Spacious. ecently updated eat-in itchen opens to a bright sunny patio and garden MyPacHeightsHome.co

Rachel Swa 415.225.7743



Pacific Heights Offered at \$3,395,000 Contemporary 3-Level View Home. This 3BD/3.5BA

This 3BD/3.5BA townhome is like a single family home. There are no common walls or roof, and the garden is all yours. The home features beautiful craftsmapship or all the single process. craftsmanship and efinished hardwood floors. high ceilings, skylights, granite counters and two fireplaces. 2-car garage.

Stephanie Ahlberg 415.321.4232



Presidio Heights

Coming Soon! Elegant 2-Level House-like Condo. A lovely private entrance and wide staircase lead to a large foyer with graceful stained glass windows. This 3BD/2.5BA home includes a pentroom with City views a grand living room, formal dining room and eat-in ritchen. 1-car deeded pkg.



Pacific Heights Offered at \$2,595,000

Chic Luxury Property. Just steps from beautiful Alta Plaza Park and all the pest of Pacific Heights. this grand 3BD/3BA property is appointed with the finest materials and finishes by a highly-regarded local designer. Gorgeous hardwood loors, designer lighting fixtures throughout, 2-car garage parking. 2870Washingt



Corona Heights Offered at \$2,495,000 Beautifully Maintained

3-Unit View Building -Delivered Vacant. Perfect setup for an owne occupied with income property, or simply income property. Building includes 2BD/2BA unit, a 2-level 1BD/1.5BA unit and a 1BD/1BA unit. All three nave side-by-side parking

eveltWav.con

Trent Fashimpaur



Corona Heights Offered at \$1,895,000 Contemporary 3-Level View Condominium.

niov picturesque views of Corona Heights Park. City lights, the Bay, East Bay and Mt. Diablo from all three levels of this eautifully remodeled ouse-like condo. Family nedia room with fireplace and walk-out view deck. -unit laundry and 1-car



Lower Pacific Heights Charming 1BD/1BA Historic Cottage Row.

This is one of the most unique properties you'll er find in San Francisco Located near vibrant Fillmore Street, you won't believe you're in the midd of one of San Francisco's ost sought after neighborhoods. Includes vate garden and deck

Meagan Levitan 415.321.4293

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to see how a next generation property search tool functions.



