

# THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ OCTOBER 2016



### I'll take Manhattan

Poster by  
MICHAEL SCHWAB

The venerable saloon Perry's on Union Street is a museum of all things newsworthy in San Francisco for the last half century, with nary a square inch of empty wall space. But Perry Butler has long felt something was missing. Now he has his own pair of posters.

See COCKTAILS WITH ARTISTIC FLAIR | PAGE 10

## Japantown Fountains in Limbo

Inspired by origami,  
artist Ruth Asawa's  
creations remain dry

By FRAN JOHNS

IT'S HARD TO find people in Japantown these days who remember when the water stopped flowing and the once-lovely fountains on the Buchanan Street pedestrian mall became two interesting but somewhat curious sculptural objects.

This is not what widely beloved, internationally renowned San Francisco Japanese-American artist Ruth Asawa had in mind when she created them four decades ago.

Yet it is not clear when — or whether — anything will be done to reclaim and restore the fountains.

The Buchanan mall, constructed in the mid-1970s as part of the Redevelopment Agency's urban renewal project in the Fillmore and Japantown, was designed by architect-planner Rai Okamoto. It was intended to be reminiscent of Tokyo's Ginza district — a pedestrian-only area known for shopping and dining. An entry gate was constructed at Sutter Street where Buchanan becomes inaccessible to cars. It resembles a Torii gate similar to those that traditionally welcomed visitors to Shinto shrines or Japanese gardens.

Ruth Asawa was all about welcoming. She was an unassuming woman who devoted her life to arts and education. Funding for the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts at 135 Van Ness Avenue is part of the Yes on A initiative on the ballot in November.

Asawa was a *Nisei* — a second-generation Japanese-American — who bore no ill will toward the government that sent her family to an internment camp during World War II. Her fountains were part of the area designed to bring a sense of welcome and peace back to many of those who shared the upheavals of the internment camps and further displacement during redevelopment.



An origami fountain  
when the water flowed.

TO PAGE 3 ►

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## CORRESPONDENCE

# Enough With the Tears!

TO THE EDITORS:

Compliments on your excellent article ["Cottage Row Zen Garden Sparks Fight," September].

I don't understand what Marvin Lambert's objection is all about, other than it simply is the classic NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome.

It's ironic that for 34 years, since Anne Bloomfield in 1982 nominated the area for the National Register of Historic Places, Lambert did not once raise the issue that "Bloomfield and the National Register got the facts wrong in what he called 'some flowery but erroneous language.'" He apparently enjoyed the benefits of that classification for all those years without objection!

It took the United States of America 74 years, under President Ronald Reagan, to officially apologize to Americans of Japanese ancestry for executive order 9066, issued on February 19, 1942. It's time for us as a community now to do our small part: Support a simple and tasteful Zen rock garden in that perfect spot to honor the 110th anniversary of the Issei.

ANDRE BOLAFFI

Shocking that someone would object to this project. Is this 2016 or 1956?

MATTHEW GILREATH

This story says so much that is just plain sad. I'm going to have to do something particularly nice tomorrow in protest.

BARBARA JARR

The irony of no Zen in the Zen garden is indeed regrettable. Is there a possibility for peace to prevail?

LINDA HARRIS

Paul Osaki is the one reopening old wounds. He is also fostering divisiveness in a neighborhood where none existed and for this he should be ashamed of himself, as well as for referring to anyone who opposes his plan as racists and bigots. The only racism exhibited in this dispute is toward the neighborhood residents Osaki excluded from the initial planning of this project as he tried to secretly move it forward.

I have lived on Cottage Row for more than 30 years and have been intimately involved in the mini-park. It has finally evolved into a pleasant place and has always been a welcoming location for people of all races and ethnicities to come and sit, have lunch, play with children and pets, or now, just admire how it has been transformed. A special interest now wants to undermine

this tranquility and transform the park into a daily reminder of a long-past war from the perspective of just one narrow point of view. This is insulting to the Recreation & Parks Department staff and all of us who have worked to transform the park into what it is today, and particularly to those of us who have quite different and equally horrendous family memories of World War II. Enough with the tears!

It is well known that the economic viability of Japantown is uncertain. Establishing this beachhead in a block that was never part of Japantown would just add confirmation for their overreaching strategy, which is to have tax and regulatory influence over as large an area as possible. Their special use district already covers part of Fillmore Street and nearby residential areas where people of Japanese heritage have never lived or conducted business to any significant degree.

I invite anyone interested to visit the Peace Plaza in Japantown. Just west of the pagoda is a planted space that could readily be converted, and this year, into the proposed Zen garden with no opposition from anyone. And a far greater number of people would see it there than at Cottage Row.

It also needs to be mentioned that Osaki currently lives in his family apartment next door to the Row. This suggests that the current proposal may be primarily a memorial to himself and his parents.

AUDREY SHERLOCK  
NO. 6 COTTAGE ROW

When are we going to put a moratorium on make-up/perfume stores on Fillmore Street? I can't even count them all anymore! I feel like Fillmore Street is becoming an open-air Sephora. To think they once limited restaurants. How many after the new one goes in at the Heidi Shoes location?

CYNTHIA TRAINA

As a resident of Pacific Heights living on Washington and Fillmore for the last 30 years, I have seen plenty of changes in this neighborhood over the years. The greed is intolerable right now on this street. Empty retail spaces have been vacant for almost a year. My top of the most offensive is Blue Bottle Corporation, with the empty space on Fillmore and Jackson.

As a resident who lives nearby, I say shame on Blue Bottle Corporation, which has left a shambles of a neglected storefront empty for almost two years. It looks like a slum.

PHILIP AMBERS

## THE NEW FILLMORE

P. O. Box 15115 ■ San Francisco, CA 94115 ■ 415-441-6070  
[editors@newfillmore.com](mailto:editors@newfillmore.com)

**Editors** | Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds  
**Production Editor** | Ginny Lindsay  
**Copy Editor** | Donna Gillespie

**Advertising inquiries** [ads@newfillmore.com](mailto:ads@newfillmore.com) or 415.441.6070  
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### Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore circulate 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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YouTube



### Revamped Elite Cafe opening October 3

An old friend returns with a new chef, a new menu and a new look when the venerable **ELITE CAFE** reopens on Monday, October 3.

The Elite will sharpen its focus on classic New Orleans cuisine. “If I didn’t eat it growing up, it’s probably not going to be found on the menu,” says Chris Borges, a Louisiana native who is now executive chef of the Elite and Shroeder’s in the Financial District, also owned by his company.

■ **MORE FASHION & BEAUTY:** Next door to the Elite, **FRYE** — the 153-year-old bootmaker — on October 1 opens its first stand-alone store on the West Coast at 2047 Fillmore. . . . The fall season has already seen the arrival of **INTERMIX**, the Gap’s newest clothing brand, at 2223 Fillmore. . . . Adding to beauty row: London’s **SPACE NK** has opened at 2000 Fillmore. . . . And coming soon: **ATELIER COLOGNE**, a Paris *parfumerie*, at 2105 Fillmore.

■ **FAREWELL:** Sad news from one of Fillmore’s few remaining old-school shops: **SF BOOT & SHOE REPAIR** at 2448 Fillmore has closed after 34 years. Owner Ed Nahigian died September 27 while walking his granddog in Alta Plaza Park.

■ **OVER ON DIVIS:** Another longtime local business owner, Kelly Ellis, died after a long illness and his **LION PUB** at 2062 Divisadero has closed after 48 years. . . . Across the street, the **LONDON MARKET**, shuttered over the summer, is in the midst of a complete overhaul under new owners. . . . A block south at Divis and California, **WILD HARE** is emerging from a redo as new owners take charge. . . . A few doors west, **B. PATISSERIE** will expand again, this time into the space next door.

# Will Ruth Asawa’s Fountains Flow Again?

► FROM PAGE ONE

The original metal origami fountains, designed to resemble flowers of folded paper, corroded and were removed following a long drought in the early 1970s. But public outcry brought back bronze replicas, also created by Asawa, to a revitalized Buchanan mall in 1999. At that time, they were officially designated as part of the city’s art collection by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

An Arts Commission history reports that Asawa “enlisted the help of the Buchanan mall merchants’ children in making the relief panels that adorn the benches” — wood and concrete benches she also designed for the mall. The history notes: “Depicting scenes from Japanese fairy tales and festivals, the panels were sculpted in dough (one of Asawa’s favored mediums) before being cast in concrete.”

■ However distinctive and clear their history, the future of the fountains remains murky. Uncovering why they have not been restored involves working through a maze of bureaucracies.

The mall is owned and operated by the Nihonmachi Parking Corp., with the open space under the general dominion of the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation. Because of the nature of the mall, it also falls within the ambit of the city’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Because they are part of the city’s art collection, the Arts Commission oversees the fountains, which are maintained



*Without water, the fountains have become two interesting but somewhat curious sculptural objects.*

by the Department of Public Works under an agreement with Nihonmachi Parking Corp. The mall is in San Francisco’s District Five.

Getting the attention of that number of corporate, political and bureaucratic entities has probably never been easy. But they did all cooperate to request an “Investiga-

tion of the Fountain Sculptures and Infrastructure,” which was undertaken last year by ARG Conservation Services. ARG investigated the site and submitted a detailed report, complete with schematic drawings, photos of the plumbing and an explanation of the malfunction. Fountains are notorious for being clogged by cigarette butts and litter, and these are no exception.

“Just about the only really successful fountain we have in the city is the Huntington Park fountain,” said senior registrar Allison Cummings of the Arts Commission staff. “A group of neighbors created the Friends of Huntington Park, who regularly care for that fountain,” she said. “With the Asawa fountains, there is not only the cost of plumbing and repair, but the cost of maintenance. Part of the challenge is figuring out under whose jurisdiction the repair and maintenance costs fall.”

■ And thereby hangs the tale. ARG submitted its draft report to all concerned on February 10. An itemized list of “fountain rehab” costs totals \$437,177.34. So far, no one has stepped up to raise the money and implement ARG’s report. Supervisor London Breed, in whose district the fountains lie, did not respond to several messages requesting comment.

Meanwhile, two treasures of Japanese-American culture — and the city of San Francisco’s art collection — continue to deteriorate.

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## CRIME WATCH

### Assault on a Police Officer Fillmore and O'Farrell August 7, 11:30 p.m.

An off-duty officer was in a restaurant when friends who work there approached to tell him someone had broken into the business's locker area and was going through the employees' lockers. The officer confronted the intruder and told him he was an off-duty police officer. The suspect quickly left. The officer ordered him to stop, but he refused, then turned around and punched the officer in the face. Then he pulled out a large pair of bolt cutters and tried to swing them at the off-duty officer's head. The officer backed off and followed at a distance until on-duty officers arrived.

Police recovered several stolen items from the suspect. After a computer check revealed he was on probation for grand theft, they transported him to county jail.

### Discharging a Firearm at an Inhabited Dwelling Green and Gough August 29, 6:39 p.m.

A woman called 911 to report that her friend was having a psychotic breakdown and had a gun. As the caller ran out of the house, she heard gunshots. Officers approached the house and knocked on the door. A man opened it; he was sweating, shaking and looking around fearfully. They took him into custody, then searched the house. They found multiple handguns laid out in plain view, along with five cartridges and an assault rifle. They also discovered four bullet holes in a wall in the kitchen.

They met with the 911 caller, who told them that her friend had been behaving oddly lately. Officers believed the suspect was high on a narcotic, so they transported him to S.F. General. Police confiscated more than 50 firearms from the home. The suspect was later booked at county jail.

### Fraudulent Game or Trick to Obtain Money or Property California and 15th August 30, 8:30 p.m.

A woman received a phone call from a man claiming to be her grandson. He said he had been arrested after a car accident and needed \$2,000 in bail money. He then gave the phone to a second suspect who claimed to be the grandson's attorney. This man directed the woman to go to a CVS pharmacy and purchase \$2,000 in Amazon gift cards. The victim immediately did as the suspect directed, then called and supplied him with the gift card codes to pay for her grandson's bail.

The next day the suspect called back and told the woman her grandson's bail had been increased to \$3,000, so she went back to CVS and purchased more Amazon gift cards. Then the suspect called again and said

the other party involved in the car accident had died, and the bail amount was now \$1 million. At this point the woman became suspicious. She contacted her grandson, who told her he was fine and he had not been involved in a car accident. She then went to the police station to file a report.

### Burglary Fillmore and Eddy September 6, 10:50 p.m.

A security guard called the police when he spotted a man in the parking lot he recognized from an incident the day before; the man had stolen keys and broken into a car. Several officers searched the parking garage. One found the suspect and recognized him from a crime bulletin concerning an earlier burglary. The officers searched the suspect and found several keys and a key fob in his pants pocket. The security guard also had the suspect on video surveillance. He was transported to county jail.

### Burglary of Vehicle Steiner and McAllister September 10, 11:30 a.m.

A man who was circling the block looking for parking saw a man wearing a red and white beanie break in the window of a car. He called 911, then watched while the man searched through the vehicle and removed various items. The officers soon located a man who matched the description they were given and detained him. A records check revealed an outstanding warrant for his arrest for fraud. The officers transported him to county jail.

### Robbery With Force California and Baker September 15, 8:50 a.m.

A man came into the police station to report a road rage incident. He said an impatient driver behind him attempted to pass, then sped around him unsafely and threw a cup of tea at his car as he passed. Then the passing driver stopped suddenly in front of the man, causing him to stop, too. The suspect got out of his vehicle, approached the man he'd passed and kicked the side mirror off his car.

The man whose car had been vandalized pulled out his cell phone and took photographs of his assailant's vehicle. The suspect ripped the cell phone from his grasp and attempted to leave the scene. When a bystander intervened, the man threw the cell phone to the ground, causing damage to the phone. He then fled.

The cell phone was still functioning, so the man who had been harassed was able to provide the license plate number of the man who attacked him. Later, an investigations team responded to the suspect's address, and he was arrested and booked on felony charges.

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Wine & hors d'oeuvres

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# There's a New Sherith in Town

By JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF

I GREW UP in this neighborhood. I used to go to Gino's grocery store at Fillmore and Jackson after school to get gummy worms in the '80s when they were all the rage. I've walked around this neighborhood for years — decades, in fact. And now, I'm delighted to be back here in a new capacity.

Last month, a new clergy team was installed at Congregation Sherith Israel, at the corner of California and Webster Streets. Friends and congregants gathered for a Sabbath service on September 16, followed by festivities and food that honored the different cultures of San Francisco. About 600 people participated.

Who would have thought, just shy of 30 years after I became bat mitzvah in this community, that I would stand in the same spot being installed as the 10th senior rabbi of Congregation Sherith Israel?

■ I am the first senior rabbi who proudly hangs a Sunday School diploma on the wall.

■ I am the first senior rabbi who interned here as a rabbinical student.

■ And I am the first senior rabbi to wear a dress for installation — at least as far as I know.

As we've been saying, there's a new Sherith in town.

Our congregation is 165 years old. We have been in our beautiful building for more than 110 years. It was consecrated on September 24, 1905 — not quite six months before our city's most famous



RICHARD MAYER

earthquake. Our sanctuary withstood that earthquake and the subsequent ones. Phase 2 of our seismic retrofit is underway now to ensure that this building will withstand future earthquakes and be here for generations to come.

But Sherith Israel is about much more than our 120-foot high dome, our 3,500 organ pipes or our 1,109 light bulbs. We are a community of people seeking to, in the words of the prophet Micah, "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."

Many years ago, I went on a Passover

retreat in Moab, Utah. We climbed steep sandstone inclines and slithered under boulders, heading to the rock arch under which we would begin our seder. During the climb, on the side of a sandstone cliff, the group gathered. I learned a most important lesson, one that has stayed with me. "Offer the person next to you a hand, even if you don't think it's needed," the leader instructed us. "And take the hand offered, even if you don't need it."

An urban San Francisco kid who had been living in New York for 20 years, I did need the hand, I thought, as I looked

at the ladders carved into the cliff ahead. Suddenly, a hand was extended, and I took it — scrambling up an impossible looking ladder. Not only did I make it to the arch, but I went back the following year.

So here we find ourselves, on our own sandstone cliff, looking up at the ladder ahead, wondering how we'll possibly climb it. The answer: Offer the person next to you a hand, even if you don't think it's needed. And take the hand offered, even if you don't need it.

Together, we will become the community we dream of being.

*"Our congregation is 165 years old. We have been in our beautiful building for more than 110 years."*

— JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF, new senior rabbi at Sherith Israel, with new cantor David Frommer



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# Waiting for Coffee

BY BARBARA WYETH

**F**UNNY HOW habits form. They revolve around responsibilities and chores, but also the small pleasures that brighten our daily routines.

I have been working for several years at a beautiful flower shop in the neighborhood. In addition to spending time with a great team of co-workers and the lovely flowers every season and every day, it includes a relatively pleasant bus trip over from my Russian Hill apartment.

Florists start early, so it's usually the coldest part of the day, and in the winter it's dark. Very dark. But at the corner of Fillmore and Jackson was the welcome light of the coffee shop and the aroma of ground beans and steamed milk — and those friendly baristas who knew exactly what I wanted and just how I wanted it.

A brief collecting of body and soul before starting the busy workday is one of those small pleasures in life. After a while you get to know all the other folks starting their work days, or resting after a morning run, or heading off to school to teach or learn. Friendly faces, steamy warmth, a jolt of caffeine and off we all go.

There hasn't been a bright light at that corner for a few years now. There are other cafes nearby, but none so convenient — for me, at least. Our little cadre of early morning espresso hounds have scattered throughout the neighborhood.

I see a customer from the flower shop with her tray of two lattes trudging up Fillmore Street. The guy from the shipping store crosses over to the corner market to get his fix. But I just can't do that. I like that market, but the aroma of produce doesn't quite



DICKIE SPRITZER

## From Blue Bottle, prolonged silence

Nearly two years ago, the firm announced: "Blue Bottle Coffee is excited to be pursuing a new cafe located at Jackson and Fillmore Streets." Since then, nada. A PR rep says only what she has said for months: "I will be in touch as soon as I have more details." In mid-September the windows were papered with a Blue Bottle logo and a quote from writer Yukio Mishima before his ritual suicide: "When silence is prolonged over a certain period of time it takes on additional meaning."

make it at that hour. And where to sit? I recognize a few souls sitting on the metal cafe chairs outside while the bread delivery guys unload their wares, slamming and banging their trays. But those seats are cold.

Then there's the time element. I had those short minutes timed — just enough to relax and mentally prepare for my day. There's really not enough time to run down

the street to another coffee shop where, unlike *Cheers*, nobody knows my name, and double espresso looks like less than a single at my old haunt.

A friend visited recently and we met on Fillmore Street to have dinner. She, like everyone else, it seems, kept talking about how much the city has changed.

As I walk through the neighborhood, I

recall the small letterpress print shop that opened behind the old Browser Books when it flanked the Clay Theatre, and Mil-lard's was on the other side. I miss the clutter and wonder of The Brown Bag, filled with office equipment and toys like an old-fashioned variety store. I remember the imperious Ruth Dewson from the hat shop parading the street as if she owned it, and Leon from the barbecue joint who walked the Fillmore in a cloud of hickory smoke. I recall the loud jungle squawking from the exotic bird shop, and the funky Royal Ground coffee shop. But I'm wondering now: Did they ever have wi-fi in there?

But the venerable La Mediterra-nee remains — as does Curbside Cafe, the Grand Central Market (now Mol-lie Stone's) and the lovely Mio, selling designer clothing for decades now. On this ever-changing street, new restaurants and shops continue to appear. Aside from the makeover of the old dental school, these changes hardly compare to the dramatic ones that brought so many bland new towers of condos to Van Ness or the Mission or Mission Bay or South of Market.

So the city and the neighborhood morph and move on. But frankly, and selfishly, I am more concerned about the relatively minor change on the corner of Fillmore and Jackson Streets.

It's one of those cold, foggy, damp mornings, the sun unable to break through. Drizzle settles on the seats of the bus shelter, so I can't sit. The next bus sign isn't working, so I stare into the gloom and ponder whether I'll get to work on time. I stand on the corner guessing that I might have just a few minutes to spare.

But I'm still waiting for coffee.

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Enumeration District No. 31-284 Sheet No. 12B  
Supervisor's District No. 6-284

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	PLACE OF BIRTH		
																	18	19	20
Cottage Row	1	194	23	Kawakami Teichichi	Head	R	30	—	16	M	55	M	24	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Tome	wife H					F	48	M	18	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Hawa	daughter					F	24	S		16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
	3	195	230	Takayama Yozo	Head	R	30	—	16	M	50	M	34	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Shuko	wife H					F	40	M	24	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Hiroshi	son					M	14	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Hanayo	daughter					F	14	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Hiroko	daughter					F	10	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				George	son					M	9	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
	4	196	237	Tanaka Shido	Head	R	15	—		16	M	32	M	24	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan
Bush				Kulanka	wife H					F	28	M	21	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Fumiko	daughter					F	5	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Sunnie	son					M	2	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Misako	son					M	4	S		16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
	5	197	238	Kashirobana Kinjo	Head	R	30	—		M	32	M	24	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Tamara	wife H					F	34	M	27	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Yoshimi	son					M	4	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Shizuko	daughter					F	3	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Imoko	former					F	10	S		16	40	Washington	Japan	Japan	
				Imoko	former					F	10	S		16	40	Washington	Japan	Japan	
6	198	239	Kimoto Yachigawa	Head	R	30	—		M	50	M	32	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan		
Bush				Kumage	wife H					F	37	M	19	16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Kiyoshi	son					M	11	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Tadashi	son					M	9	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Yoshiko	son					M	7	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Hisao	son					M	4	S		16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Shizuko	daughter					F	19	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Masakazu	son					M	12	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Takashi	son					M	8	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
				Hisao	son					M	5	S		16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan	
				Imoko	former					F	10	S		16	40	California	Japan	Japan	
			Fukaya Seichi	former					M	41	S		16	40	Japan	Japan	Japan		

The 1930 census shows Cottage Row occupied by Japanese-Americans.

# How Japanese Was Cottage Row?

SOME NEIGHBORHOOD CRITICS of a plan to create a memorial Zen rock garden on the Sutter Street side of Cottage Row have disputed historical sources that say Cottage Row was primarily occupied by Japanese-Americans before they were evacuated and interned during World War II.

They are wrong. A review of census records and city directories shows that Cottage Row was almost exclusively occupied by residents of Japanese descent from 1920 until they were incarcerated in 1942.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows that five of

COTTAGE ROW  
SUTTER ST 1970

1 Enomoto Lloyd K r.	WA-4349
1 Kawakami T r.	WA-4349
2 Hikido J J r.	FI-0385
3 Arimoto Susie r.	WA-4389
4 Itano Tom r.	WA-6998
4 Misawa M r.	WE-1246
5 Matsumura K r.	WE-7059
6 Kimoto Joe Y r.	WE-2119

BUSH ST 2175

the six cottages had residents with Japanese surnames. That was still the case when the 1930 census was taken.

The San Francisco Street Directory listings of Pacific Telephone Co. from 1933,

COTTAGE ROW  
SUTTER ST 1970

1 Tatsuno Aya r.	WE-1255
2 Iwamoto K r.	FI-2035
3 Arimoto Susie r.	WA-4389
5 Matsumura K r.	WE-7059
6 Kimoto Joe Y r.	WE-2119

BUSH ST 2175

1936 and 1940 confirm the overwhelming Japanese presence on Cottage Row.

“The six cottages were almost exclusively Japanese,” said architectural historian Bridget Maley, who retrieved and reviewed

Cottage Row

1	Frank Tatsuo	WE1255
2	K Iwamoto	FI2035
3	Susie Arimoto	WA1389
5	K Matsumura	WE7059
6	Joe Y Kimoto	WE2119

City directories from 1933 (far left), 1936 (left) and 1940 (above) list only Japanese names on Cottage Row.

the census records and city directories from the pre-war era.

“There are also lots of Japanese names in the adjacent blocks of Sutter, Webster and Bush,” Maley said.



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# Throwback to a Bohemian Past



Sacred Heart rectory becomes a sanctuary for artists, healers, makers

By DANIEL SCHILLER

VISIBLE FROM several points across the city, the former Sacred Heart parish at 548 Fillmore near Fell Street today provides another type of spiritual guidance.

Instead of bingo, signs promote the Church of 8 Wheels, a weekly roller-skating party and yoga classes. A membership gets you all the tea you can drink in the subterranean teahouse that will celebrate its one-year anniversary this month.

If the idea seems like a throwback to a bohemian past, that's because it is.

In a real estate market that has become surreal, artists, healers and makers are seeking ways to continue living and working in the city. Tucked into the former parish rectory, The Center SF represents one option.

As one of the few remaining arts collectives in San Francisco, The Center SF has by necessity been imaginative in providing a home to a new generation of creative souls. For comparatively reasonable monthly rates, a trio of business models co-exist: a live-work space houses around 30 artists on the upper floors; holistic medicine practitioners on the ground level; and a tea house, yoga shala and performance space on the lower level. Movement memberships, available for \$130 per month, and tea memberships, at \$49 monthly, come with



*"You have to hear the summons to answer."*

— DA-GANG WANG, Wang Wellness

discounts to workshops, events and priority bookings for nonresidents who enroll.

The Center SF is more than a clever reuse of a storied space that once hosted not only an active Catholic parish, but also the Black Panthers, Vietnam War protestors and a hospice at the height of the AIDS epidemic. It is the latest co-living space brought to life by artistic entrepreneur Michael Latronica.

Two decades ago, when Latronica moved to San Francisco for art school, he met with the harsh realities of the real estate market during the first dot-com boom: There was virtually no space an artist could afford.

"Artists always want to belong to a community of their own," says Latronica. "But back then, aside from Theatre Artaud and Cell Space, there were few options for this sort of thing."

The Center SF is not Latronica's first live-work project, but it is his most ambitious. In 2010, given three weeks to fill the old Sacred Heart rectory space, he leapt at the chance.

Latronica relies on a democratic system to manage the residences. To ensure things run as smoothly as possible, The Center SF requires each new prospect to submit to a trial run. "We want people who are a fit, and we know that takes time to sort out," Latronica says.

That means not just being a good housemate and artist, but also a conscious human being who will invest in the community. "Not only do we want people to do their 'sacred duty' as we call it, but also to provide their vision for the space," he says.

With a diverse resident mix that includes a French chef, an opera singer and an acro-yoga instructor, The Center SF offers an eclectic calendar of events — from comedy

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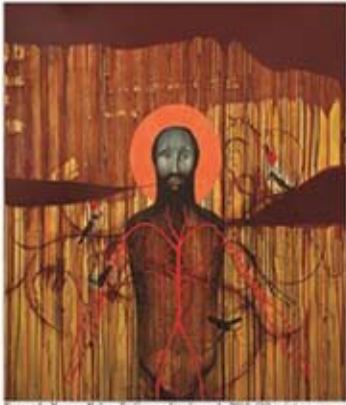
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Communal spaces and the tea room at The Center SF have an old San Francisco vibe.

sketches to Shakti dance and meditation retreats.

Da-Gang Wang, whose Traditional Chinese Medicine practice, Wang Wellness, occupies a handsome space on the ground level, describes The Center SF as “energy resonant” — something akin to Zen meets Burning Man.

Wang originally had a space in Presidio Heights, but its rules didn’t accommodate his practice. For example, his former building managers would not allow him to burn moxa, an essential element of Traditional Chinese Medicine marked by its earthy smell. He began to sublet space from another practitioner on The Center’s ground floor, and eventually took over the lease.

“I moved here because it allows me to practice without compromise,” he says. “To do what we love in this space is just remarkable.”

The community is a huge support for his business, too. Da-Gang considers it an honor and validation when the residents seek his advice or refer new clients. For him, being a part of The Center SF is a calling.

“You have to hear the summons to answer,” says Da-Gang. “Part of the joy of being here is uncovering the ability to see things a little differently. Everyone here chose this building because it has an old San Francisco vibe. I feel like Anna Madrigal. We give each other much warmth and support.”

How long The Center SF can continue in its present form is an open question. While the church, school, rectory and convent were sold into private ownership in 2010, plans to redevelop the structure have come and gone since then. A plan that would transform the church into condos and commercial space is currently pending before the Planning Commission.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHI O'LEARY

*“Artists always want to belong to a community of their own.”*

— MICHAEL LATRONICA, organizer of The Center SF

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# At Perry's, Cocktails With Artistic Flair

By Chris Barnett

ETERNALLY PREPPY saloon impresario Perry Butler's landmark joint at 1944 Union Street is a museum of all things newsworthy in San Francisco for the last 47 years, with nary a square inch of empty wall space. But he's long felt something was missing. "I've always wanted a poster," he says, "A simple, clean, classic illustration of our signature cocktail."

Perhaps Butler was listening to his inner adman. After all, his dad was a Madison Avenue heavyweight whose newly minted Dartmouth grad son had a brief fling in the hard-drinking agency world of the 1960s. He didn't like it.

Two years ago, Butler approached San Anselmo graphic designer Michael Schwab, possibly the Bay Area's most prolific and passionate poster artist. Schwab turned him down, saying he was too busy. Schwab's style — strong, simple, retro images in warm, bold colors reminiscent of the '20s and '30s — makes even Alcatraz look inviting. The Golden Gate National Park Conservancy, which runs The Rock, has enlisted Schwab to produce a series of posters capturing the various places in the national park the conservancy oversees.

When Butler called again a year ago, Schwab had an opening in his schedule. The two men, along with 32-year-old Aldy Butler, the empire's heir apparent, met at the newest Perry's in Larkspur, formerly Bradley Ogden's Lark Creek Inn, to brainstorm.

Butler wanted Schwab to capture Perry's popular



"Our iconic cocktail is still — and always will be — our Bloody Mary," says proprietor Perry Butler.

Bloody Mary, the (still) \$8 hangover cure: two ounces of Gordon's Vodka, extra thick Sacramento tomato juice, Tabasco, salt, pepper, Worcestershire, but no veggies. While it was crimson, tart and tasty to the tongue, it just didn't dazzle the eye, opined Schwab.

The younger Butler had a suggestion: a Manhattan, straight up, smooth, sexy, seductive. Perry's take on the venerable, sophisticated cocktail consists of four ounces of 90 proof Bulleit bourbon, an ounce of Martini & Rossi sweet vermouth and a dash of Angostura bitters, garnished with a Luxardo brandied Italian cherry. It's as pretty

as a picture and another bargain at \$10 for a husky pour. "I'm a method artist," says Schwab, whose drink of choice is Hochstadter's Rye on the rocks. "I need to experience what I'm portraying. So I had a Manhattan made and photographed it."

He also drank it.

His instant digital image, photographed with his cell phone camera, captured the Manhattan's visual elegance. "Warm, exotic, copper-colored, with a brandied almost brown imported cherry, not some cheap artificially made maraschino," waxes Schwab.

Strained into a stemmed martini glass, the drink silently screamed "Perry's" to regulars or anyone familiar with the landmark thirst parlor. First-timers wouldn't have to guess at its heritage.

The Butlers — father and son — were thrilled with the Manhattan poster, with its subtle gradations of color and come-hither "sip me" siren song that even the tone-deaf could hear. But Butler wasn't satisfied it did justice to Perry's true cocktail legacy. "Our iconic cocktail is still — and always will be — our Bloody Mary. We never changed it. Haven't raised the price," he says, then admits: "Some people have complained we make it in a wine glass, not a highball glass."

Butler dug deep and commissioned Schwab to design a second poster immortalizing the Bloody Mary in all its original glory.

"I've been lucky enough to work with some very creative clients and art directors over the years," says Schwab. "And Perry Butler is among those at the top of the list."

Now 25 prints of each drink are also for sale. A 36-inch by 24-inch version is priced at \$125 and a 24-inch by 16-inch size is \$75. But Perry's not trumpeting them, which would not be very Butleresque for the low-key saloonlord.

And lately, Michael Schwab has been lobbying his client to expand his portfolio with a portrait of another Perry's classic cocktail: the bone dry gin martini, straight up. "I'm trying to talk him into it," Schwab says. "But so far, no luck."

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[http://www.mercurynews.com/columns/ci\\_28170149/barnidge-if-berkeley-shoppers-dont-have-pay-soda](http://www.mercurynews.com/columns/ci_28170149/barnidge-if-berkeley-shoppers-dont-have-pay-soda)
- <sup>3</sup> Grocery Store Owner Opposes SF Grocery Tax <http://bit.ly/AdelAlghazali>





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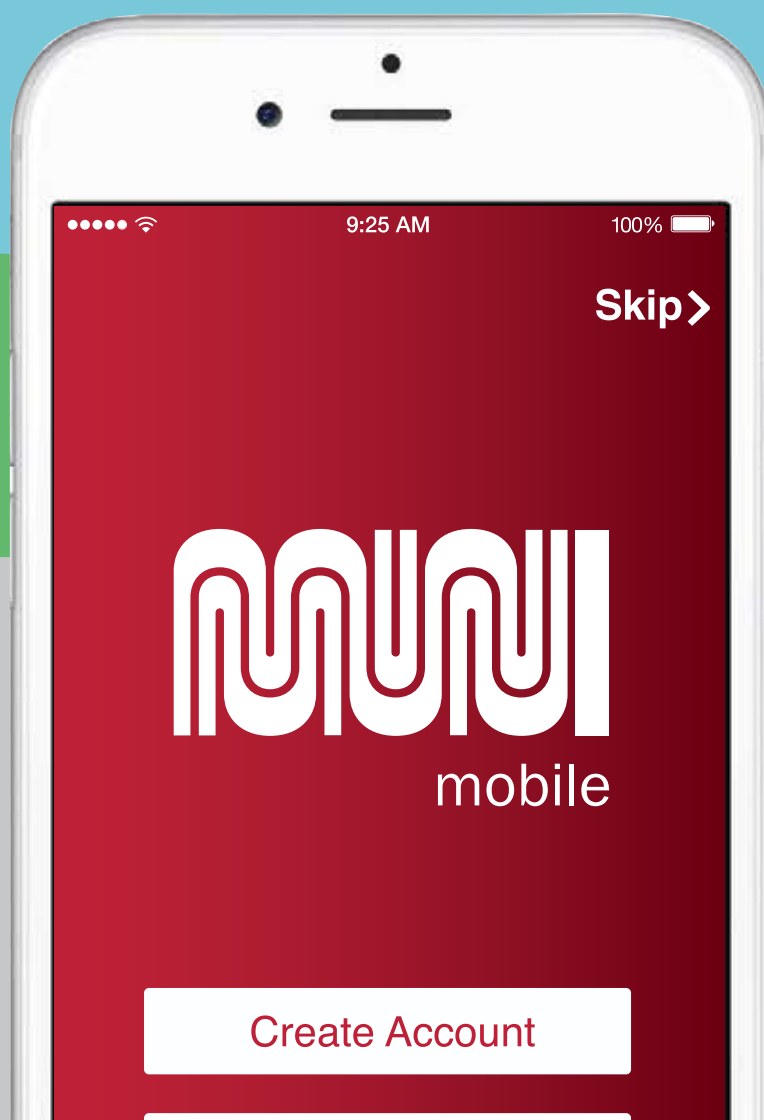
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TOURS

Hunting for Local Ghosts

THE ghost hunt walking tour has been a neighborhood staple since 1997, when it was founded by local raconteur and ghost lover Jim Fassbinder. He recently retired and brought in new blood, passing the reins of the tour to Christian Cagigal, who helped create it nearly 20 years ago. While the ghost hunt is normally offered Wednesday through Sunday nights, this year there will be a special tour added on Monday, October 31 — Halloween.

Cagigal, who has won various awards for his prowess as a performer and magician, makes full use of his drama training on the tour, punctuating it with pitch perfect imitations of creaking doors and spirit cries. And he does it in full Goth regalia, wearing a long cloak, scarf and top hat while toting a lantern and tapping the pavement with a walking stick as he leads the way around the neighborhood.

The evening's group of ghost hunters is instructed to gather in a decidedly eerie spot: the corner of Bush and Octavia, under the six giant eucalyptus trees reportedly planted by San Francisco entrepreneur-abolitionist-voodoo priestess Mary Ellen Pleasant in the late 1800s.

While he claims to be a "healthy skeptic" and "objective reporter," Cagigal tells convincing tales of Pleasant's seemingly



Christian Cagigal starts his ghost tour at Mary Ellen Pleasant Park at Bush and Octavia.

otherworldly escapades, as well as other local spirit sightings and hauntings. He also delves into the history of some of the neighborhood's more storied buildings at several stops along the tour.

While the ghost hunt is a hit with tourists during the summer months, Cagigal says that, mysteriously, locals tend to flock to it in the fall months.

*The ghost hunt walking tour is offered five nights each week for 25 bones each. Reservations required at sfghosthunt.com.*

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- PROP Q** A commonsense solution to sidewalk encampments
- PROP R** Dedicates police staffing to reduce neighborhood crime
- PROP U** Ensures middle-income families qualify for affordable housing
- PROP 67** Encourages use of reusable shopping bags

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- PROP W** Higher taxes that increase rent for residents & small businesses
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- PROP 65** Save our reusable shopping bag laws

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Since 1950, the former commandery at 2135 Sutter Street has been home to Macedonia Baptist Church.



# First a Masonic Meeting Hall, Now a Church

By BRIDGET MALEY

BUILT AS THE Golden Gate Commandery for the Knights Templar, the distinctive structure at 2135 Sutter Street between Steiner and Pierce Streets was under construction when the 1906 earthquake struck, delaying its completion. Claiming to descend from the Knights Templar of the Crusaders,

who in the 12th century served to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land, the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar built the meeting hall there after outgrowing an earlier structure. When the brick and stone building was finally completed in October 1907, the *Chronicle* reported: “The hall is said to be one of the finest and best appointed temples in the land.” Designed by the

architectural firm of O’Brien and Werner, a partnership known for other Masonic-related projects, the building has been an important neighborhood landmark for a century. Architect Carl Werner, a Philadelphian and graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, came to California at the turn of the 20th century and later designed numerous Masonic build-



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ings throughout the state. A Mason himself, he was a longtime resident of Alameda and, with several partners, he designed the Art Deco-inspired Alameda County Courthouse.

Werner’s architectural partner, Matthew O’Brien, completed several residences around Alamo Square, but seems to have specialized in designing theaters, hotels and Masonic buildings.

While they worked together for only a decade, from 1903 to 1913, O’Brien and Werner designed many notable buildings after the earthquake and fire, including the Hippodrome and Tivoli and Golden Gate theaters.

For the commandery, they designed a two-story building over a raised base-ment of rough-faced stone. The symmetrical facade is finished in red brick with decorative cream-colored terra cotta elements: shields, winged knights, mystical figures, Latin crosses and sculptured heads — which, along with the crenelated roofline, convey a medieval character that also fits the building’s subsequent ecclesiastical use.

Fraternal organizations such as the Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Hibernians and the Native Sons of the Golden West gained popularity in the United States after the Civil War. In major American cities, as well as more rural communities, these orders often built elaborate meeting halls. But after the second World War, as suburban living decentralized membership,

many of these men’s organizations began to decline. In 1950, the commandery, which had occupied the Sutter Street building since 1907, formally moved to the Bliss and Faville-designed, monolithic cube at 25 Van Ness Avenue in the Civic Center.

A rising neighborhood institution, the Macedonia Baptist Church purchased the building from the commandery in 1950. The congregation was composed primarily of African-Americans living in the

Western Addition and the Fillmore. Led by Rev. P. S. Ogborne, the church grew to 2,000 congregants by his death in 1957. A new pastor, G. L. Bedford, who had been serving a Los Angeles church, made some interior alterations, paid off the mortgage and revised the name to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Dr. Martin Luther King preached at two services at the church on Sunday, February 26, 1967.

From the late 1960s and into the 1970s, Macedonia lost some congregants to both the extensive redevelopment in the Western Addition and to Jim Jones’s Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ. After the mass suicide of Jones’s followers in Guyana in November 1978, Rev. Bedford buried a number of Peoples Temple members.

Today, the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church remains a vibrant, involved institution. The mid-block, eclectic structure was designated San Francisco Landmark No. 202 in January 1993.



The symmetrical facade is finished in red brick with decorative cream-colored terra cotta elements (above and left).

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1	09/15/2015	09/15/2017
2	09/15/2016	09/15/2018
3	09/15/2017	09/15/2019
4	09/15/2018	09/15/2020

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## NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Days	Date	Asking	Sale
4 Cottage Row	2	1	1	1,172	71	8/17/2016	1,695,000	1,600,000
1845 Laguna St	3	2	2	2,850	1	8/18/2016	3,295,000	3,250,000
1924 Pine St	3	2	1	1,308	46	9/15/2016	3,495,000	3,370,000
115 Walnut St	3	3	0	n/a	12	9/2/2016	3,695,000	3,800,000
2707 Laguna St	5	5	2	4,168	9	9/9/2016	4,495,000	4,600,000

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Days	Date	Asking	Sale
1700 Gough St #408	0	1	1	258	49	8/22/2016	399,000	450,000
2786 Jackson St #A	0	0	0	472	34	9/14/2016	499,000	505,000
1450 Post St #1016	2	2	1	1,094	46	8/29/2016	709,000	675,000
2040 Laguna St #102	1	1	1	550	44	8/17/2016	699,000	699,000
2311 Scott St #3	0	1	1	n/a	20	8/18/2016	760,000	745,000
2029 Pierce St #301	2	1	1	n/a	58	8/25/2016	799,000	760,000
2410 Pacific Ave #4	1	1	1	862	21	9/2/2016	749,000	841,000
1998 Broadway #1502	1	1	1	700	11	8/16/2016	925,000	917,500
1542 Broderick St	2	1	1	1,332	50	8/22/2016	899,000	950,500
3101 Jackson St	2	1	1	n/a	12	8/16/2016	929,000	980,000
3055 California St #A	2	2	1	966	20	8/22/2016	960,000	1,050,000
1840 Washington St #302	2	2	1	985	40	8/19/2016	1,200,000	1,200,000
1998 Broadway #507	2	2	1	1,030	39	9/7/2016	1,100,000	1,200,000
2200 Sacramento St #501	2	2	1	952	98	9/1/2016	1,244,000	1,244,000
3138 Scott St	2	1	1	1,130	31	9/12/2016	1,150,000	1,250,000
3326 California St #1	2	2	1	1,180	9	8/29/2016	1,250,000	1,250,000
1541 Filbert St #3	3	2	1	1,350	57	9/7/2016	1,495,000	1,435,000
1940 Sacramento St #6	3	2	0	1,700	38	8/22/2016	1,495,000	1,450,000
2450 Bush St	2	2	2	1,446	47	8/17/2016	1,450,000	1,450,000
1541 Filbert St #5	3	2	1	1,350	123	8/18/2016	1,850,000	1,475,000
2200 Sacramento St #706	2	2	1	1,110	20	8/25/2016	1,175,000	1,500,000
2401 Jackson St #7	2	1	1	1,500	5	n/a	1,295,000	1,550,000
432 Laurel St	2	2	1	n/a	9	8/22/2016	1,495,000	1,710,000
2100 Green St #204	2	2	1	1,841	45	8/18/2016	1,799,000	1,850,000
3441 Clay St	4	2	1	2,281	75	9/7/2016	1,995,000	1,900,000
1650 Broadway #201	3	2	1	1,493	116	8/31/2016	2,095,000	2,095,000
3002 Clay St	3	2	2	2,032	13	8/31/2016	1,995,000	2,350,000
1650 Broadway #401	3	2	1	1,487	317	8/31/2016	2,450,000	2,495,000
2655 Greenwich St	3	3	2	n/a	4	9/9/2016	2,895,000	3,140,000
1650 Broadway PH#1	3	2	2	1,930	63	8/31/2016	5,395,000	5,100,000
2121 Webster St #506	3	3	1	2,339	1	9/12/2016	6,095,000	6,200,000
2121 Webster St #606	3	3	1	2,389	2	8/26/2016	8,960,000	8,960,000

### Luxury condos boost late summer sales

The period before Labor Day is typically a slow time for real estate. But this year was a lot busier, thanks to new condominium buildings that have been opening across San Francisco's northern neighborhoods.

There were 32 condominium sales in Cow Hollow, Lower Pacific Heights, Pacific Heights and Presidio Heights between mid-August and mid-September — almost three times as many as the same period last year.

Three more units recently sold at the LuXe, a seven-story, 34-unit building at 1650 Broadway between Van Ness and Franklin. Two nearly 1,500-square-foot, three-bedroom condos in the building sold on the last day of August, one for \$2.1 million and the other for \$2.5 million. Also that day, a three-bedroom penthouse in the building fetched \$5.1 million.

The Pacific, another new building located just steps from the heart of upper Fillmore at 2121 Webster Street, saw two big ticket sales recently, with two three-bedroom units selling for \$6.2 million and \$9 million. One of the penthouses in The Pacific has also closed, with a selling price of \$11.5 million.

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



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A modern, multi-story office building with a dark, metallic facade and large, irregularly placed windows. The building is illuminated from within, showing warm interior lights. A palm tree is visible on the left side of the frame. The address number 4318 is visible on the right side of the building.

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A small, modern house with a white facade and a gabled roof. The house is illuminated from within, showing warm interior lights. It is set in a grassy area with trees and a large, dark mountain in the background under a twilight sky.

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