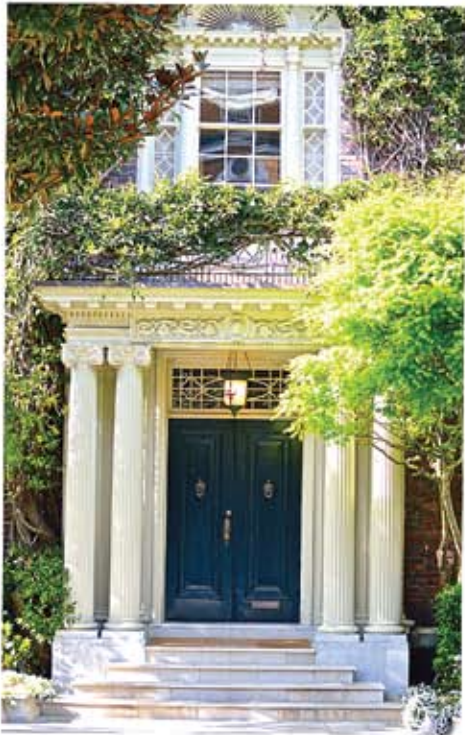


THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ DECEMBER 2016



DOORWAYS *of* PACIFIC HEIGHTS

A new book celebrates *The Mansions of Pacific Heights* — especially their elaborate entries.

BOOKS | PAGE 10

Body & Soul

If you're looking for fashion or beauty products, Fillmore has become the street to shop.

THE ONRUSH of new fashion and cosmetics brands and boutiques onto Fillmore Street in recent years has been astonishing — and beauty and body products are the indisputable trend of the moment.

There is understandable confusion about why so many have located so near each other and what sets them apart. And those seeking something new or a special gift are met with

a barrage of adjectives: ethically sourced, cruelty-free, anti-microbial, sustainable or hypoallergenic. But step inside any of the stylishly sleek shops and you'll find knowledgeable sales associates with a true passion for their products. Lotions and potions are formulated not just to prettify, but also to fortify the health of the skin and the spirit of the soul.

FILLMORE'S BEAUTY ROW | PAGES 8 & 9

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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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■ STREET TALK

Boba Guys coming to the jazz district

Boba tea has taken the city by storm, and now two friends who call themselves the **BOBA GUYS** are promising a higher-quality version at 1522 Fillmore, next to the **WISE GUYS** bagelry.

Their sweet creamy tapioca tea is made with Straus organic milk, and is more expensive than most. They already have locations in Hayes Valley, the Mission, near Union Square and in New York.

Around the corner at Geary and Steiner, the transformation from KFC and Taco Bell to **JANE THE BAKERY** is nearly complete.

■ **HERE COMES JOE:** In the now-shuttered Noah's Bagels store at 2213 Fillmore, look for a new Danish juice bar and sandwich shop called **JOE & THE JUICE**. They've got hundreds of outlets around the world, but promise they are "local to every neighborhood." . . . Up at the top of the street, work has finally begun at **BLUE BOTTLE COFFEE** after more than two years of waiting. . . . Still no signs of life at 2043 Fillmore, despite owner Pascal Rigo's latest promises that the long darkness will end with a new **LA BOULANGERIE** and a fresh paint job.

■ **MORE FASHION:** Fillmore's latest fashion boutique has arrived at 1905 Fillmore with the opening of **45R**, a Japanese brand of clothing for men and women. The shop itself is a work of art, hand-crafted by a team of artisans with new and ancient wood.

■ **NEW DINING OPTIONS:** The young Turks at **TROYA**, at 2125 Fillmore, have simplified their menu, lowered prices and shifted to fast-casual service. . . . And **GARDENIAS**, at 1963 Sutter, has added brunch on weekends.

Volunteers Needed for Local Schools

FOR THE NEW YEAR, the San Francisco Education Fund has issued a call for additional volunteers in the Fillmore to spend one hour each week in a local classroom tutoring and mentoring public school students.

"With just one hour, once a week, volunteers can make a big difference," said San Francisco Education Fund executive director Kimberly Wicoff. "We train and place volunteers in classrooms throughout the city," Wicoff said, "but we focus a majority of our services in a set of high-need schools that have disproportionate populations of students in need of support."

Schools need 15 more volunteers to help elementary school students with reading and 25 more volunteers to help middle school students with math.

"Volunteers help us zone in on exactly what students need," said Nikki Thornton Street, an elementary school teacher. "They become a part of our school family. I'm so grateful to our volunteers, because I believe this work cannot be done alone."

The San Francisco Education Fund helps recruit and train volunteers who dedicate time in schools through math, literacy, college and general classroom support programs. During the last school year the fund trained and placed more than 500 volunteers, and has set a goal of doubling that number this year.

To learn more about volunteering with San Francisco public school students, visit sfedfund.org.

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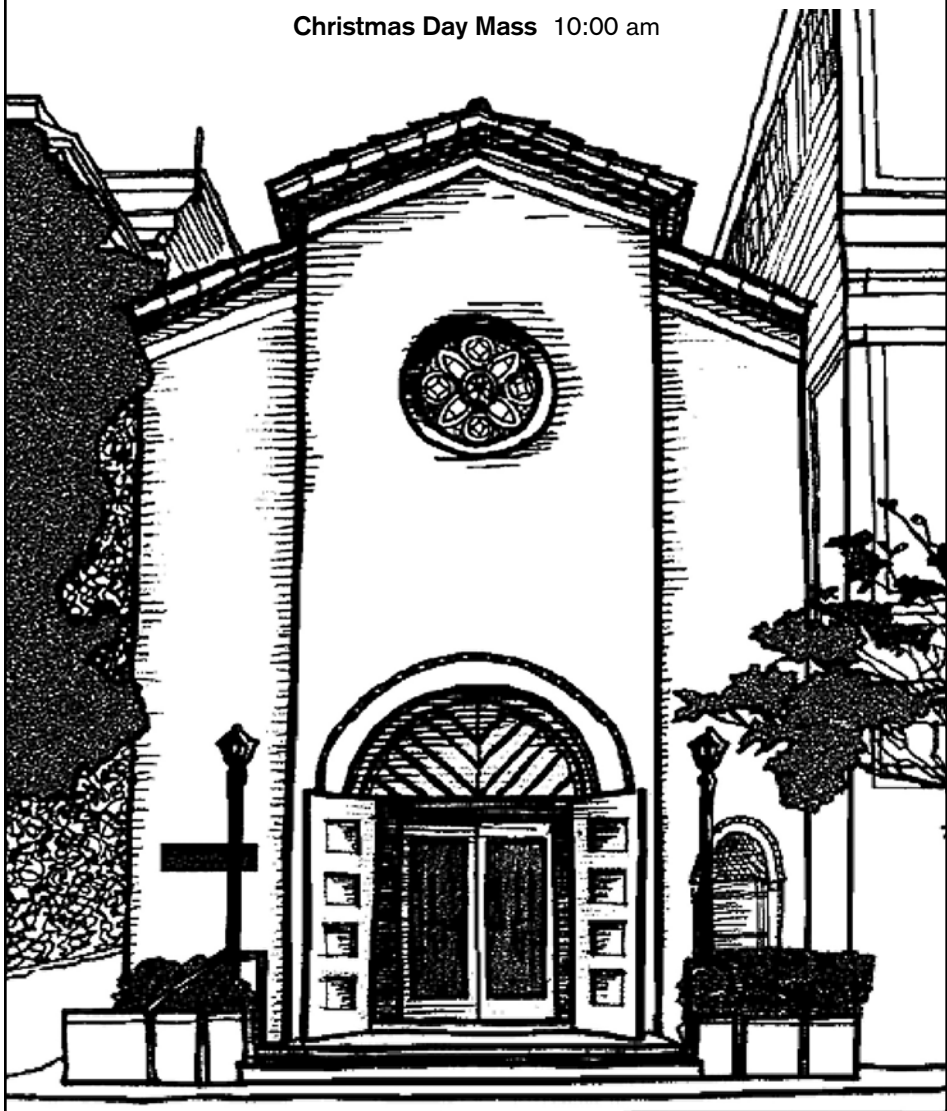
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Service of Lessons & Carols December 18 at 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Choral Service 5:00 pm, Mass at 5:30 pm
Christmas Day Mass 10:00 am



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CRIME WATCH

Street Robbery With Force
Franklin and Sacramento
September 19, 3:30 p.m.

A woman alerted police that she had been walking eastbound on Sacramento toward Van Ness when two men pushed her from behind. She fell into a parked vehicle, then tried to flee, but one of the men grappled for her purse, then, when she fought back, ran off without it. The second suspect grabbed her iPhone and fled. There were several witnesses to the incident.

Additional officers responded in an attempt to apprehend the two suspects. They came upon a parked car; a man in the back seat matched the description given. They detained all the occupants and found the woman's iPhone inside the car. Two of the suspects were juveniles and one was a runaway who lives in Concord. Officers contacted their mothers, along with the juvenile authorities.

Aggravated Assault
Turk and Gough
September 26, 3:57 p.m.

Officers received a call about an assault. When they arrived, they found one man pinning another against a chain link fence. The officers detained both. One man stated that he had seen the other man hit someone in the back with an ax.

The officers took custody of the man who had wielded the ax, then located the man he had attacked. He said he had been sitting in the park, eating. As he got up to leave, he felt a blow to his back. After he fell to the ground, his assailant struck him four more times in the back. He turned and started to fight back, grabbing the ax to prevent his attacker from hitting him again. A man who was walking by witnessed the incident and jumped in to help

the man who had been struck. The suspect fled, but the witness then chased the assailant, caught him and pushed him up against the fence.

Officers called for an ambulance for the man who had been assaulted; his injuries were minor. They then transported the suspect to Northern Station. A computer check revealed an outstanding warrant for theft and he was transported to county jail for booking.

Vehicle Burglary
Laguna and Ellis
October 17, 5:56 p.m.

A man called 911 to report that he had just seen a man pop open the door of a silver car. Officers searched the area and found a man who matched the description the witness had given. They exited their patrol car and told the suspect to sit down on the curb. As he was taking off his backpack, he started to run. Both officers gave chase on foot and captured him a few blocks away. When the officers searched the suspect's backpack, they found several burglary tools, which they seized for evidence. He was transported to county jail, where he was booked.

Municipal Code Violation
Pine and Baker
October 24, 6:06 p.m.

A local resident called 911 to report that a man had dumped all the trash out of the bin in front of his house. The man then lay down in the garbage and started making "snow angels" in the refuse. Officers arrived to find the offender sitting in a chair in the home's driveway with trash strewn all around.

Running a check on the suspect's criminal history, the officers learned he was a

THE VILLAGE PROJECT & THE BAYVIEW Y PRESENT

UMOJA (UNITY): TO STRIVE FOR AND MAINTAIN UNITY IN THE FAMILY, COMMUNITY, NATION AND RACE. MONDAY, DEC. 26TH: 12 NOON, MUSEUM OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA, 665 MISSION STREET @ 3RD; 7 PM, AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS & CULTURE COMPLEX, 762 FULTON STREET @ WEBSTER

KUJICHAGULIA (SELF-DETERMINATION): TO DEFINE OURSELVES, NAME OURSELVES, CREATE FOR OURSELVES AND SPEAK FOR OURSELVES. TUESDAY, DEC. 27TH: 12 NOON, CITY HALL, 1 DR. CARLTON GOODLETT WAY, ROTUNDA; 2 PM, HAMILTON REC CENTER/MOMAGIC, 1900 GEARY @ STEINER; 6 PM, BAYVIEW Y. 1601 LANE @ REVERE

UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY): TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKE OUR BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S PROBLEMS OUR PROBLEMS AND SOLVE THEM TOGETHER. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28TH: 1 PM, WESTERN ADDITION SENIOR CENTER/WESTERN ADDITION FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 1390 TURK @ FILLMORE; 4:30, OMI FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER/IT BOOKMAN, 446 RANDOLPH @ ARCH

UJAMAA (COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS): TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR OWN STORES, SHOPS AND OTHER BUSINESSES AND TO PROFIT FROM THEM TOGETHER. THURSDAY, DEC 29TH: 1 PM, POTRERO HILL FAMILY SERVICES, KING (STARR) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1215 CAROLINA STREET @ 25TH STREET; 5 PM, SAN FRANCISCO MAIN LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN ST

NIA (PURPOSE): TO MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOCATION THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPING OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO RESTORE OUR PEOPLE TO THEIR TRADITIONAL GREATNESS. FRIDAY, DEC. 30TH: 1:00 PM, BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 380 FULTON @ GOUGH; 4:00 PM, GLIDE MEMORIAL, 330 ELLIS

KUUMBA (CREATIVITY): TO DO ALWAYS AS MUCH AS WE CAN, IN THE WAY WE CAN, IN ORDER TO LEAVE OUR COMMUNITY MORE BEAUTIFUL AND BENEFICIAL THAN WE INHERITED IT. SATURDAY, DEC 31ST: 1 PM, SUCCESS CENTER, SF JAZZ HERITAGE CENTER, 1330 FILLMORE; BAY VIEW OPERA - RUTH WILLIAMS MEMORIAL THEATER, 4705 THIRD STREET;

IMANI (FAITH): TO BELIEVE WITH ALL OUR HEART IN OUR PEOPLE, OUR PARENTS, OUR TEACHERS, OUR LEADERS AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND VICTORY OF OUR STRUGGLE. SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST: 1:00 PM, THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH, 1399 MCALLISTER @ PIERCE; 6 PM, ST. CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2097 TURK @ LYONS

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parolee with an outstanding felony warrant for his arrest. As they took him into custody, the man informed the police he had scabies, bed bugs and open sores all over his body. Afterward, the police vehicle needed to be taken out of service for decontamination.

**Bank Robbery With a Gun
California and Laurel
October 27, 1:52 p.m.**

A woman approached a teller's window and placed a handgun on the counter, then passed through a note demanding money. The teller complied, and when the suspect was content with the amount, she fled on foot.

The teller alerted the manager, who ran outside to look for the woman. He spotted a police vehicle and told the officer what had happened. The officer informed dispatch of an armed robbery. Additional officers responded to search for the woman, but could not locate her.

The suspect was described as a black female between 30 and 35 years of age, about 5 ft., 9 in. tall, weighing about 140 pounds and armed with a silver semi-automatic handgun. Police are still investigating.

**Robbery With Force,
Kidnapping During a Robbery
Clement and 8th
November 3, 3:30 p.m.**

Officers were flagged down by a woman who said she had just been robbed. She was walking on the sidewalk when a gold four-door sedan pulled up alongside her. A man in the back seat told the woman to stop walking. She ignored him and kept moving away from the car. The man then got out, approached the woman and tried to grab her purse. She refused to give it up and fought with the suspect. The robber then

pulled the purse, and the woman who was still holding on to it, into the back seat of the car. The driver drove away. The woman's ordeal ended when the suspect opened the door and kicked her, causing her to fall out of the car.

Police could not locate the suspects, but found the woman's purse nearby. Her cell phone was still inside, but her medication had been stolen.

The suspect who was driving was described as a black female between 20 and 30 years old. The suspect in the back seat was a black male between 20 and 30 years old, with black hair.

**Terrorist Threats; Mental Health Detention
Clement and 3rd
November 8, 1:53 p.m.**

Police received a call about a man who was shouting and threatening to kill police officers. The suspect was making rambling statements about shooting officers, stating repeatedly, "Police pigs should die." Initial efforts to communicate with the man proved futile, so officers cordoned off the area in the interest of public safety and specially trained officers were brought in to engage the suspect. After a lengthy stand-off, the man surrendered and was taken into custody.

Police determined that the suspect did not possess any firearms. He was then transported to the hospital for a mental health detention and will face criminal charges for his actions.

EDITORS' NOTE: Again this month, information in the Crime Watch column comes mostly from Richmond Station, which serves the area of the neighborhood west of Divisadero Street. No new information was released last month from Northern Station, which serves the area east of Divisadero.



Still Seeking Hope, Love, Joy & Peace

Sundays at 10 am

November 27 - December 25

What Sweeter Music

a Calvary Christmas Concert

December 11 at 5 pm

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm & 7:30 pm



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Wise Women Also Came © Jan Richardson, janrichardson.com

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Weekday Masses:

6:30 & 8:00 am; 5:30 pm

Morning Prayer: 7:15 am (weekdays); 8:00 am (Saturday)

Evening Prayer: 5:00 pm (daily)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

First Fridays: 2:00 & 9:00 pm (Sign-up required)

Sunday Masses:

Saturday evening: 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am (Quiet), 9:30 am (Family), 11:30 am (Solemn)
1:30 pm (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish), 5:30 pm (Contemporary music), 9:00 pm (Candlelight)



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(Individual Confessions Available)

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

8:00 am (Advent Mass)

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm (Family Masses)

11:15 pm (Carol Service) followed by

12:00 am (Midnight Mass)

(Solemn Mass with Choral Music, Strings & Brass)

No confessions today

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

8:30 am (Parish Mass with Carols),

11:00 am (Solemn Mass with Choral Music, Strings & Brass)

1:30 pm (Mass in Spanish)

No confessions today and no Masses at 5:30 pm or 9:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 - Sunday, January 1, 2017

5:30 pm, December 31 (Vigil Mass)

10:30 pm (New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil)

8:30 am (Parish Mass with Carols)

11:00 am (Solemn Mass with Choral Music)

1:30 pm (Mass in Spanish)

No Masses at 5:30 pm or 9:00 pm today

Solemnity of The Epiphany

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Our Regular Mass Schedule

www.stdominics.org

5 Years In, Asmbly Hall Hits Its Stride

Mom and pop neighborhood shop is bucking the trends

By BARBARA KATE REPA

FIVE YEARS AGO, when many saw the neighborhood becoming inhospitable to mom and pop businesses as ever more corporate chains moved in, Tricia and Ron Benitez turned a deaf ear to the naysayers and opened their one-of-a-kind clothing boutique at 1850 Fillmore Street.

They stocked it with pieces for men and women by indie designers for the customer they described as a “sophisticated prepster” and named it Asmbly Hall, a moniker they said “describes a gathering place for the community that brings fashion, art and music together.”

Five years later, it’s all come true — even the mom and pop part, since the couple welcomed daughter Harlow 21 months ago. Mayor Ed Lee recently chose Asmbly Hall to kick off the “Shop and Dine in the 49” campaign, a holiday initiative to encourage spending in to the city’s neighborhoods. And Ron this year became president of the Fillmore Merchants Association.

“I’ll be the first to admit we didn’t coast — there were obstacles and challenges along the way,” he says. Among them: adjusting the business to the changing demographics of the neighborhood. “It’s transient here now. Customers we thought would be long term have come and gone,” he says. The couple also had to



Asmbly Hall’s Ron Benitez (center) offers Mayor Ed Lee fashion advice, shared on the mayor’s Instagram feed.

tweak the original notion of offering only locally made goods — although more than half of Asmbly Hall’s offerings are still manufactured in San Francisco.

They continue to buck the newer conventions, not only with the shop’s vintage decor, but also by maintaining lower prices than many of the Fillmore boutiques.

“As the street has become more commercial — and despite the ‘rising everything’ in San Francisco — people are pleasantly surprised that we keep accessible price points,” says Tricia. “It also works to our advantage that we’re a small local business. People who come in often ask: ‘Are there more stores like yours?’ The unfortunate part is that there aren’t many left — but it helps us stand out.”

You won’t find strollers and juice boxes strewn about most of the street’s sleek new boutiques. But they’re part and parcel of Asmbly Hall, where Harlow — not yet two

years old, but already a budding fashionista — spends most of her waking hours under her parents’ watchful eyes.

Their joint training in the corporate retail world — with stints at the Gap, Levi’s and Gymboree — helped them hone their chops at product offerings and development. Ron recalls they were among the first to stock sporty and casual athleisurewear. “Once it got accessible, though, it lost its novelty,” he says. “That made us rethink what we carry to stay one step ahead.”

They’re also stepping out with a new line: private label tees, shirts and outerwear offering “the Asmbly Hall flair and twist.” They’re starting first with items for men, who quickly proved to be more loyal and easier to define. “We’ve also discovered our clothing is timeless. Our typical male customer has been in the work force for some time and cares about quality, good fit and design,” says Ron. He adds that male shoppers often do something women rarely do: buy clothes without trying them on.

The couple also has plans to add another natural: children’s clothing.

“We really didn’t expect that. It came from a lot of friends and customers egging us on,” says Tricia. “And now that we have Harlow, we have lots of friends who are also new parents. Products for toddlers will give local customers another option with clothes that are reflective of us.”

An online business added three years ago now accounts for about 20 percent of their business. But asmblyhall.com acts mostly as a catalogue for the shop, with some customers perusing it before they come in so they can shop more efficiently.

“What continues to be important and keeps people coming in — and keeps us authentic — is that we invest in the customers. We know their kids, and whether or not they’re locals or tourists,” says Ron.

“That’s what I love and what I’ve been most surprised about — the number of relationships we have been able to make as customers turn into friends,” adds Tricia. “They genuinely want to support us and keep the business going. We’re not just a business — we’re a neighborhood shop.”

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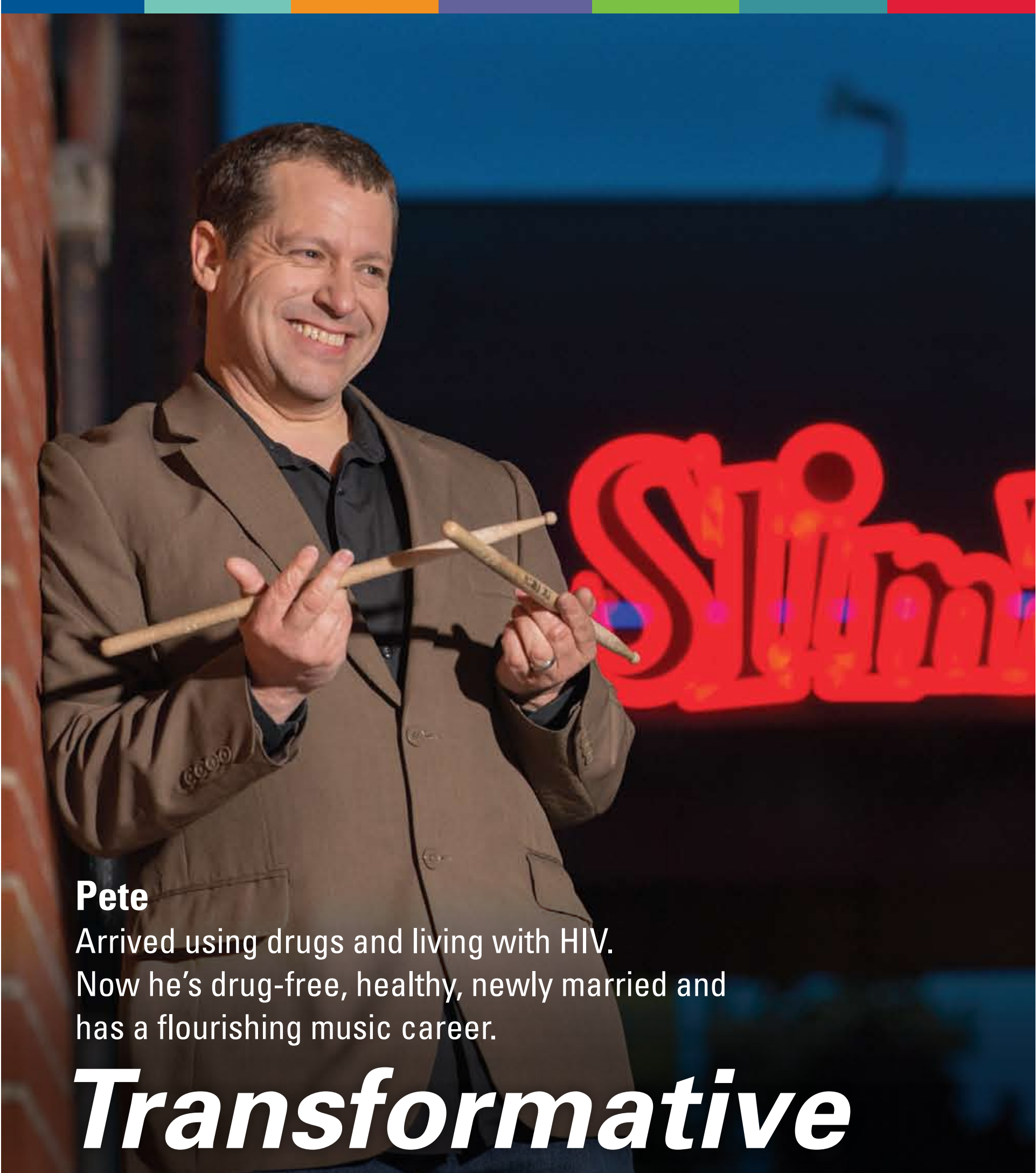
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FILLMORE'S BEAUTY ROW

Aesop 2450 Fillmore

The neighborhood is home to San Francisco's first Aesop store, which offers skin, hair and body care products from this Australian company. In its 29 years in business, the number of Aesop boutiques has burgeoned worldwide, with each designed to reflect the look and feel of the surrounding community. On Fillmore, sales associates pridefully point to the subtlety of the place, including its "organic opening," which offers a mostly darkened doorway to passersby. "We don't like to be invasive," said one.

The company's claim to fame is its savvy chemistry, with scientists sourcing a balance of plant-based and laboratory-made ingredients for products for everyone in the family — from pets to humans. Customers are encouraged to try out the lotions and exfoliants on the spot; a strategic sink makes it handy to wash off any residues. And samples are liberally offered for home experimenters. Specially packaged for the holidays are six gift kits honoring noted naturalists — including California's John Muir — ranging in price from \$72 to \$142.

Atelier Cologne 2105 Fillmore

The newest kid on the block, Atelier Cologne offers 30-something scents of *Cologne Absolue* — pure perfume — blending citrus with raw materials such as violet leaves, pink pepper, galia wood, and black and green tea melded with

high concentrations of essential oils for sniffiness that lasts on and on. The company was founded by Sylvie Ganter and Christophe Cervasel, a couple who met, quickly fell in love, then set out to create the first fragrance house entirely dedicated to cologne. Very French. Their goal is to evoke a "memory in a bottle." Also very French.

In addition to cologne, the line, recently acquired by L'Oreal, includes scented candles and skincare items such as body lotion, shower gel, hand cream and soap.

Finding a fitting scent for yourself or for gifting takes time, so speed shoppers need not bother. A popular gift item: a 3.4 ounce bottle of cologne, ranging from \$125 to \$145, in a leather case that helpful Atelierites will engrave in gold, free of charge, with a name, date, city or meaningful phrase. *Tres romantique*.

Benefit Cosmetics 2117 Fillmore

Among the very first makeup boutiques to hit the street, Benefit has long been the neighborhood go-to spot for brow shaping and lip waxes. Earmarked by its girlie decor and cheeky promotions, the local shop is always bustling, allowing those in wait plenty of time to peruse the shelves stocked with products. Dogs-in-waiting are encouraged to nosh on a biscuit or two. Of late, the emphasis has been on eyebrows — with copious offerings of pencils, primers, gels and even highlighters for those who want theirs either "bigger and bolder" or "defined and refined."

A gift bestseller — a "Haul-iday" Special, in Benefit parlance — is "Girls Gone Wow," a smattering of products for \$46 including mascara, face and lash primers, eyebrow gel and cheek and lip stain — all packaged in a girlie head, reusable all year long.

Credo 2136 Fillmore

With its lovable slogan "Flirt More, Harm Less," Credo distinguishes itself on the street by offering a collection of 70-plus brands conjured by "industry angels" that are free of chemicals and animal testing. Sales associates say every product in stock has a story behind it. Here's one: Juice Beauty's creative director of makeup, the consciously uncoupled Gwyneth Paltrow, says she curates all products "for her close friends and family."

For the holidays, you might treat the skin-conscious souls on your list to a signature 60 minute facial (\$150) featuring Tata Harper's cruelty-free products. They'll be indulged in the cozy private spa room adorned with a leafy ceiling trellis in the back of the boutique.

Kiehl's 1971 Fillmore

Kiehl's has been in business since 1851 and on Fillmore since 2004. Since L'Oreal acquired the brand, its reach has spread far beyond department stores to 62 shops nationwide, in addition to a formidable international presence.

The boutique's boast is that it carries something for everyone: dogs, babies, men and women. When helping customers suss out holiday gifts, sales associates say they ask a lot of questions, "not to be nosy, but to find the perfect fit." Among them: "Is it for a male or female? Is he or she into sports?" A safe bet is the Crème de Corps Body Butter — acclaimed for its fluffy texture and easy absorbency. The two ounce size is \$15; eight ounces cost \$38; 12 ounces, \$48.

Le Labo 2238 Fillmore

This boutique, which opened on Fillmore six years ago, has the look and feel of a science lab. That's quite intentional, as the founders, seeking "to create something less commercial," distinguished the line by offering scents handblended on the spot. There are now well over a dozen of them, as well as several city-exclusive scents, each one available only in the city that inspired it. San Francisco's is Limette 37, which has light, fresh notes of lime and bergamot.

Le Labo also offers hand-poured candles in a number of its signature scents, which, like the fragrances, can be labeled with a personalized name or saying. And it recently unveiled a new creation: an electric home diffuser specially fashioned from wood salvaged from water tanks in New York. Only 300 were made; each sells for \$590.

L'Occitane 2207 Fillmore

The Monet-inspired blue and yellow hues of this boutique signal its provenance from Provence. Inside are a plethora of products carefully arranged by labeled categories: bodycare, handcare, skincare, aging, home fragrance and so on. Nearly all ingredients are sourced from southern

Free Programs at the Jewish Community Library

An Evening of Mizrahi and Sephardic Poetry

Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m.

Hear ancient and modern poems composed by Jews of the Middle East and North Africa, translated from Arabic, Hebrew, Ladino, and French.



Sikhism and Judaism

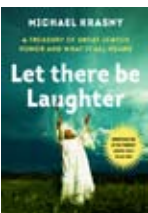
Thursday, December 15, 7 p.m.

In this multimedia survey, Ken Blady and Amrik Pannu Singh compare and contrast concepts and practices of the two faiths.

Michael Krasny on Jewish Humor

Thursday, December 22, 7 p.m.

KQED radio host Michael Krasny discusses his new book, *Let There Be Laughter*, exploring the most iconic Jewish jokes and illuminating the cultural expressions and anxieties behind the laughs.



One Bay One Book: Michael Chabon's *Moonglow*

Each year, the Jewish Community Library's One Bay One Book program invites the entire community to discuss a single book. This year's selection is Michael Chabon's new novel, *Moonglow*. Pick up your copy and contact the Library to learn more.

EXHIBITION ON VIEW

Haiku and Prayers: Where Jewish and Japanese Converge
Photography & Poetry
by Sonia Melnikova-Raich

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France, where the company demonstrates its goodwill by supporting small local farmers. The shea butter used in its beauty balms, however, comes from Burkina Faso, where the L'Occitane Foundation rubs in good karma by supporting the local women with literacy programs and entrepreneurial projects. The butter makes up 20 percent of L'Occitane's Dry Skin Hand Cream. Those running the chemo groups at the hospital up the hill send patients to buy it in bulk to combat persistent dryness and itchiness. A 5.2 ounce tube, \$28, makes a good gift. And the shop offers an added perk for those who are all thumbs: complimentary gift wrapping.

M.A.C. Cosmetics
2011 Fillmore

M.A.C., part of the Estée Lauder Companies since 1994, opened its doors on Fillmore more than a dozen years ago. Devotees of the brand laud its long-lasting lip colors and low-key but helpful consultants. Activists applaud its company culture, including producing the recent film, *More Than T*, about the lives and times of six transgender individuals. A good one-size-fits-all holiday gift might be a certificate for a one-on-one make-up application and lesson by one of the aforementioned consultants. Services range from 30 minutes, with a focus on a single feature such as lips or eyes; to 60 minutes, for a full makeup look, which includes a face chart to use as a cheatsheet at home plus a free mascara; or 90 minutes, described as an "extended tutorial," with the face chart and mascara included, along with a 20 percent discount on products. An added benefit: Consultations are conducted in a small room in the back, extending privacy to those who are just learning to color in the lines.

NARS Cosmetics
2050 Fillmore

NARS Cosmetics, a subsidiary of Shiseido since 2000 — though Francois Nars himself has stayed on as artistic director and copywriter — launched 22 years ago with a dozen lipstick shades, and rapidly expanded to include a complete line of makeup known for its rich and vibrant colors loaded with pigment. While the products are widely offered at stores from Sephora to Nordstrom, the shop on Fillmore, which opened in 2013, is one of only eight freestanding boutiques in the nation. Consultants offer a number of services, including event makeup applications (\$100 with eyelashes, \$85 without). All service fees can be applied to products. For the holidays, NARS offers a limited edition collection of four Sarah Moon eye shadows to wear alone or layer, along with a Via Veneto eyeliner, all for \$49.

Space.NK Apothecary
2000 Fillmore

Born in the U.K. and now snaking its way into the U.S., Space.NK offers a curated selection of skincare, make-up, haircare, scents and home fragrances from around the world. Customers are urged to indulge in "cross-brand education" and to pick and choose among the 80 beauty lines rather than focus on one in particular. "We carry things you might not find anywhere else," says one sales associate. As for holiday gift offerings, she says: "You can't go wrong with candles. They're warm and welcoming — especially during these colder, wetter months." This season, a Space.NK votive in Shimmering Spice scent goes for \$20. It's a nice host or hostess offering for those who don't want to arrive empty-handed.

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December 2016 NEW FILLMORE 9

Lingering Looks at the Homes of the Neighborhood

BY LEWIS SOMMER

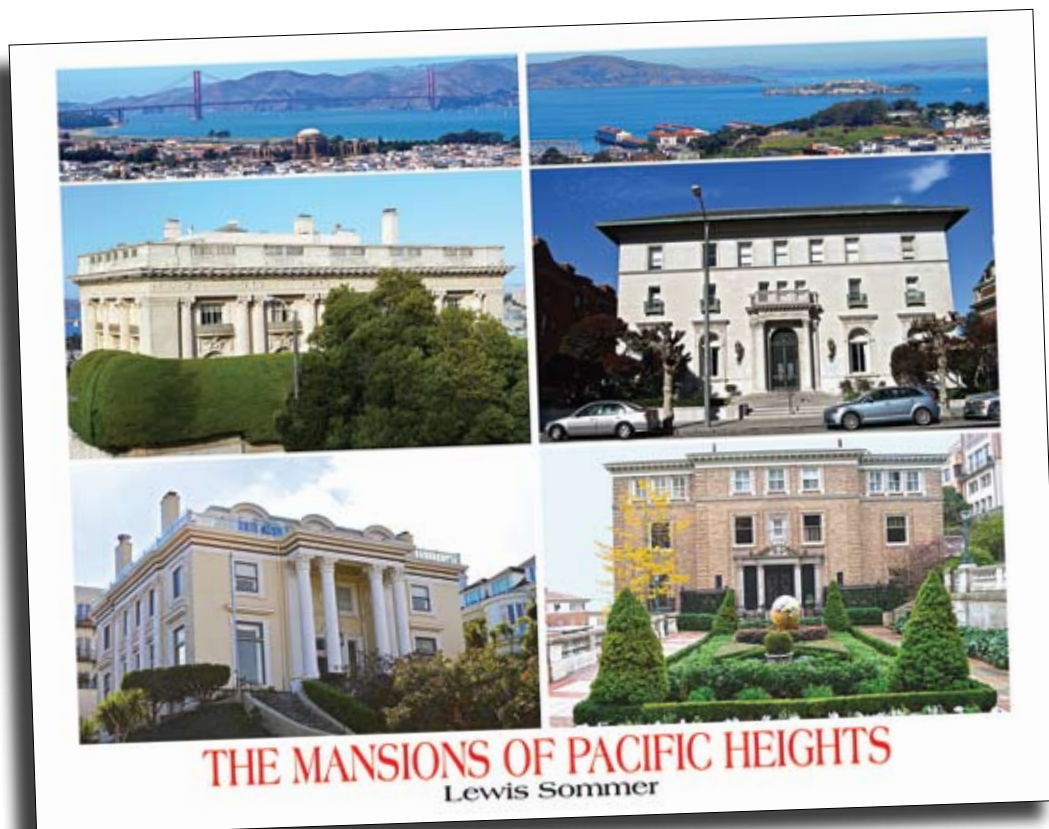
IN 1980, I moved to San Francisco to open the west coast office for an expanding tour company. The office was on fashionable Union Street in Cow Hollow, and I lived just up the hill on Broadway in a nice apartment building with great views of the bay.

I loved to take walks on Broadway, past the Flood and Hamlin mansions, through the streets of Pacific Heights and all the way to the Presidio. In addition to the elegant and historic mansions, the walk includes spectacular views of the city and the bay, an eclectic mix of architectural styles, the homes of several prominent residents, the grand staircase overlooking the Palace of Fine Arts and the Victorian homes seen in the movie *Mrs. Doubtfire* and the television show *Party of Five*.

Over the years, despite moving to Marin County, my interest in the elegant mansions in Pacific Heights continued. I focused on the architecture — and particularly the striking and colorful doorways of the beautiful homes in the neighborhood.

Along the way, my wife gave me a digital camera as a gift. Photography then turned into a wonderful hobby and side business and fostered my passion for travel. Initially I dabbled in landscape photography, particularly panoramic images, and did some commercial photography for vendors in the hospitality industry.

A couple of years ago, I began working on a photo montage of the mansions and architecture of Pacific Heights. After a two-year labor of love, the project



Lewis Sommer's photographs of local homes are presented in his new book.

evolved into a photography book, published this year.

The homeowners I spoke with were quite receptive to my photography project. Fortunately no one called the police suspecting that I was “casing the joint” while taking photographs, but I did catch the attention of a wary security guard at Danielle Steel’s mansion and an official at a consul general’s residence.

One day a woman asked why I was photographing the homes on her street. But she wasn’t worried. Instead, she excitedly pointed out a special floor mosaic at the entryway of an elegant mansion across the street; I never would have seen it without her help. This colorful mosaic is one of my favorite special flourishes and is prominently featured in the book.

The Mansions of Pacific Heights is a colorful photographic journey of the stately mansions and beautiful residences in one of the country’s most desirable and expensive residential areas.

The book “allows us a close-up peek at some of the most beautiful house exteriors in the city,” the San Francisco Public Library archivist Susan Goldstein kindly wrote. She added: “We can linger over elaborate doorways, finely wrought balconies and gates, and stunning windows, all details that we might miss driving by.”

I’m now working on a sequel which will be an in-depth exploration of 20 of the most prominent mansions in Pacific Heights, featuring both interior and exterior photographs and archival and anecdotal information about past and present occupants.

Photographing the beautiful homes in this neighborhood is a never-ending source of joy.

First edition signed copies of The Mansions of Pacific Heights are available from Lewis Sommer Photography at 415-747-8298, or go to lewissommer.com.

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Reinventing the Musical

By ANDREA CHASE

COMING TO THE Vogue Theater on December 16 is the sublime *La La Land*, a film that bravely reinvents the splashy musicals of the 1950s as a credible art form for the 21st century.

Damien Chazelle, the powerhouse writer-director of *Whiplash*, which won an Oscar for J.K. Simmons, once again explores the irresistible impulse of creativity — this time with a pair of lovers (Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling) at turning points in their careers. She's an actress of enormous power who can't catch a break at auditions; he's a jazz musician with a dream and an uncompromising attitude that prevents him from playing the music he's hired to perform. Floundering alone, together their synergy is the inspiration they sorely need.

Stone and Gosling do their own singing and dancing, and their chemistry is electric. So is the choreography that finds traffic jams in L.A. turning into a high-energy production number, and ends in a wordless ballet that will break your heart while reaffirming the power of love. Add to that a soundtrack by Justin Hurwitz that is an instant classic, with the song *City of Stars* a new standard, and you have a sparkling holiday film that is funny, charming and wildly romantic without being sappy in the least.

Chazelle, in an interview, recently explained his

careful casting of Stone and Gosling, actors known neither for singing nor dancing.

"Obviously, we needed people with some experience in music, to some degree or another, which Ryan and Emma do have, but there also needed to be a freshness and that sense of humanity that guides you through it," he told me. "That was the idea of the whole movie — taking these old Hollywood musical tropes and setting them in a real city and trying to imagine what would happen if real people today started existing in this magical universe."

Chazelle also discussed the film's unique melding of reality and musical scores: "There had to be some sort of documentary reality in the midst of the glitz. I think there is something to be said for when you feel that it's real people expressing real emotion. In a musical, if you feel enough, you can literally bend the laws of the world. Suddenly an orchestra can appear out of nowhere and score your feelings. It's like a manifestation of feeling — and that's what has to be important. So anytime you sense that the characters stop existing and it's just performers trying to impress you, and doing a number that is calling for judges to hold up their score cards, you lose the feeling. And it was really important that we not do that."

To read more of Andrea Chase's interview with the director, go to killermoviereviews.com.

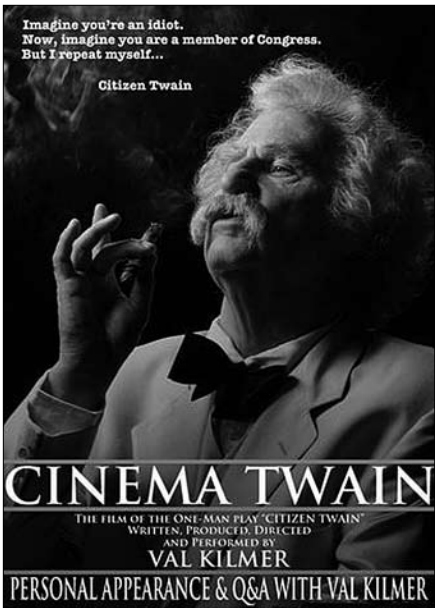


Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling sing and dance in *La La Land*.

■ ONE NIGHT ONLY

Val Kilmer is Mark Twain at the Clay

The last generation or two thinks of Hal Holbrook when it comes to one-man shows about Mark Twain. Not to take anything away from Holbrook's dry wit and perfect timing when performing Twain's words, Val Kilmer with **CITIZEN TWAIN** makes a compelling argument to join him as another master interpreter of those



words. He will be presenting the piece one night only in San Francisco, December 22, at the Clay Theatre on Fillmore Street.

In Kilmer's telling, the voice is deeper than Holbrook's, the performance more physical, but the delivery is just as spot on. Kilmer is also more sardonic, yet finds an almost self-deprecating way with Twain's take on humanity, making it clear that he doesn't spare himself when passing judgment. He brings a contemporary vibe to Twain's reminiscence about a particularly

Val Kilmer will be at the Clay on Dec. 22.

sadistic schoolteacher he enjoyed taunting, despite the teacher's liberal use of corporal punishment, his still prescient take on politics and his unabashed love of adulation.

Distilling a lifetime of Twain's splendid writings into a 90-minute piece cannot be easy, but Kilmer — who wrote and directed the play now filmed from a live performance for cinematic presentation — has made choices that are equally splendid, leaving viewers tickled and wanting more.

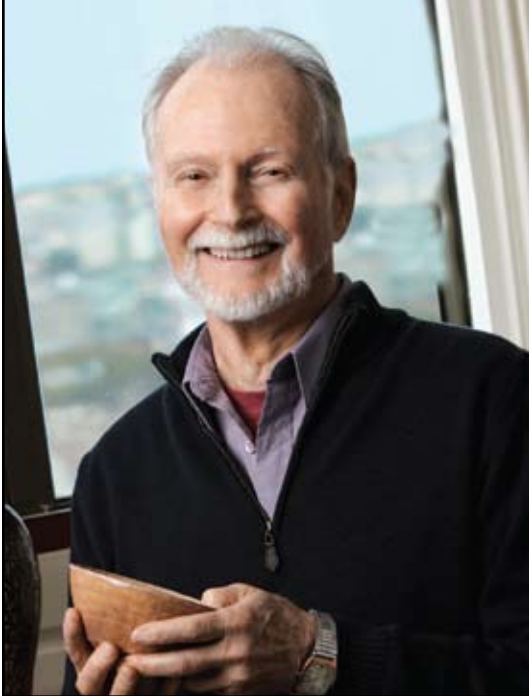
"Citizen Twain" is a thoroughly engaging reminder of why Twain is still a pleasure to revisit for both his biting satire and his uncanny insight about what makes people tick.

Instead of a general release, Kilmer is presenting his film one city at a time, hosting the screenings he calls Cinema Twain, and making himself available for a Q&A with the audience. Special pricing for this event is \$39. More information about the December 22 screening at the Clay is at valkilmer.com.

— ANDREA CHASE

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Hiding in Plain Sight

E.E. Young designed classic but understated buildings

By BRIDGET MALEY

ARCHITECT Edward Eyestone Young became known for his collaborative work with speculative housing developers during the first few decades of the 20th century. Designing and building houses primarily on San Francisco’s north side, with a particular focus in Pacific Heights, Presidio Heights and along Lake Street, Young established strong relationships with some of the city’s important developers. Several homes were often crafted in a small group, each with a similar floor plan but with varying facades.

Three of Young’s more distinctive Pacific Heights collections still stand at the corners of Octavia and Jackson, Divisadero and Green, and Presidio and Jackson.

A Missourian, Young arrived in San Francisco in 1902 at the age of 32. Not much detail is known about Young’s early years, but he appears to have received some architectural training before relocating to California; by 1905, he had obtained a state architectural license.

In November 1906, Young married Julia Tharp, a sister of architect Newton Tharp and a well-known musician. A year later, Young designed and built their family home at 22 Presidio Terrace, signaling that he had already achieved a certain financial and social stature. The Youngs lived in that house for 25 years, raising five children there. When Young died in 1934, his son,

John Davis Young, took over his father’s established architectural practice.

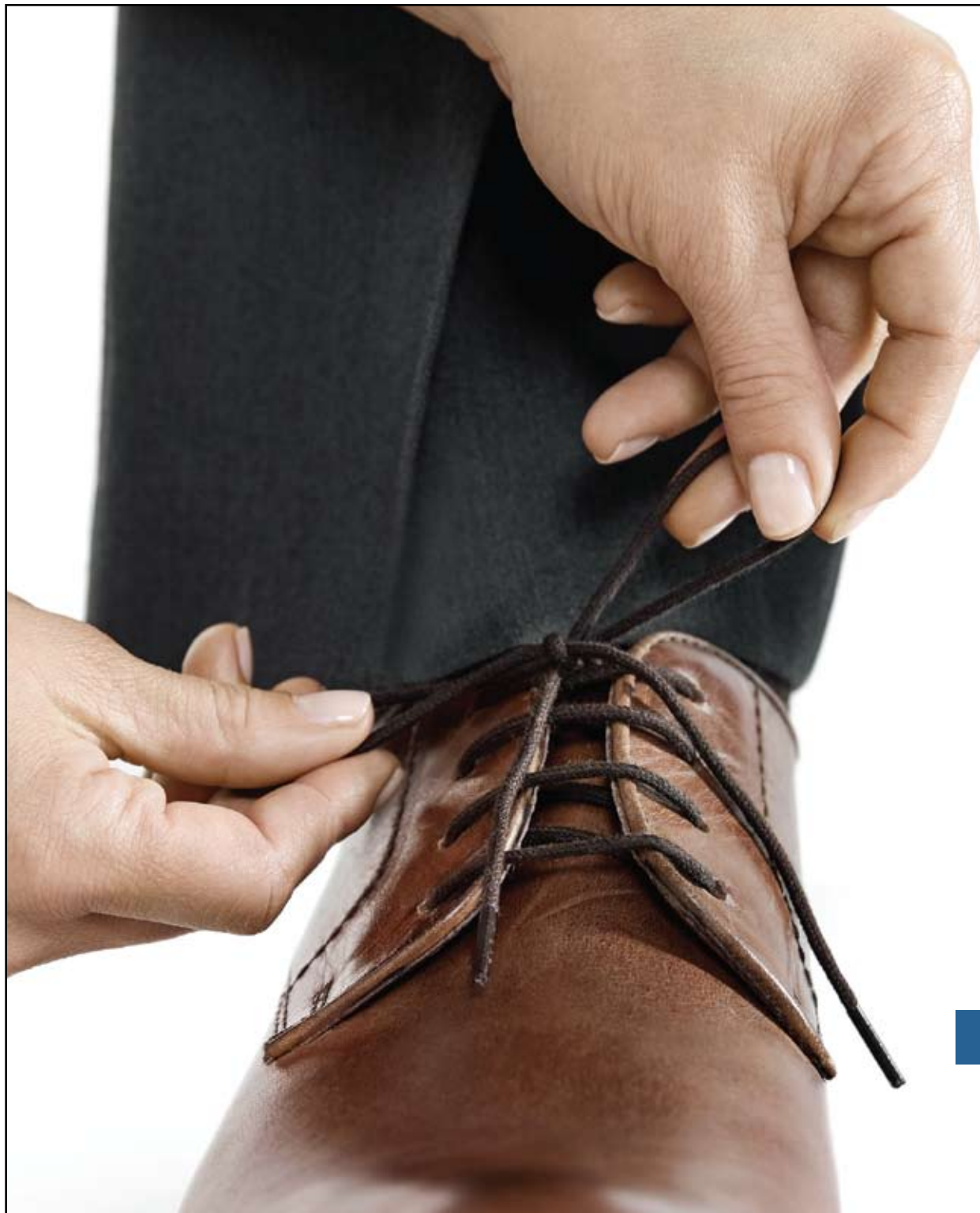
Young’s larger-scale projects include Glide Memorial Church and the Californian Hotel, now the Serrano Hotel, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places; an apartment building at California and Octavia Streets that Young both designed and developed; the Franciscan Club near Union Square; and the Park Lane Apartments on Nob Hill.

In *The Historic Houses of Presidio Terrace*, architectural historian Patrick McGrew noted that Young’s work “was successful and sold easily, generating a repeat clientele among the developers.” One such partner was Matthew A. Little, an Irishman, who came to San Francisco in 1901. Little’s 1956 *Chronicle* obituary claimed he constructed “one of the first buildings that went up after the 1906 earthquake and fire at Ellis and Stockton Streets” and that he “erected many apartment houses and homes here in his 55 years as a builder.” Little’s local investments were significant and appear to have been highly strategic. He and Young designed and built a number of groupings on the coveted north of Lake lots along the Presidio, as well as the Californian Hotel on the corner of Taylor and O’Farrell.

In an early endeavor, Young and Little crafted three houses at the southeast corner of Divisadero and Green Streets in 1913. Marching up the hill on the east side of Divisadero, these houses have all had a third floor added in varying configurations.

Several homes were often crafted in a small group, each with a similar floor plan but with varying facades, including these at Octavia and Jackson.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAYNE WATSON



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E.E. Young designed the homes at Divisadero and Green (left), now with added third floors, and the corner house at 2000 Jackson (below).



Originally, they were each capped with a decorative cornice and a flat roof. The stairs and entry are all in the same location, but of varying design. Similarly, the large window lighting the first floor living area is different, but each house is somewhat classically inspired.

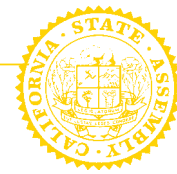
Another grouping, at the northeast corner of Presidio Avenue and Jackson Street, was the investment of Thomas Scoble. Constructed in 1916, the grouping of four houses is somewhat hidden behind Presidio Avenue's mature street trees, but close inspection reveals similar porches, entries, rooflines and window shapes, as well as a stucco finish.

An attractive grouping illustrating Young's work with developer F. R. Grannis

graces the southwest corner of Octavia and Jackson, across the street from the grounds of the Spreckels mansion. An August 1925 advertisement noted: "Luxurious, Compact Residence, Fairland Gardens, Situated between Spreckels and Phelan mansions. F. R. Grannis, Builder of Distinctive Homes."

The houses are built into the hill and the portion of Octavia Street that is often called the "other curvy street" is brick paved with a landscape median. Later the duo also designed and built the corner house at 2000 Jackson Street on the northwest side of Octavia. This house, with its heavy base, classically inspired corner quoining, heavy balustrade and dormered roof, is an especially well designed and sited dwelling.

Young's talented hand is present in many elegant homes and apartment buildings in the neighborhood, though the work of this prolific architect is often hidden in plain view. His understated houses don't immediately draw the eye, but with careful consideration and a second look, they illustrate a time when craftsmanship was important and the lot location informed placement and design.



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2640 Steiner St	4	3	1	3,300	26	11/10/2016	4,450,000	4,150,000
1711 Broderick St	4	3	2	3,755	15	10/26/2016	4,750,000	4,675,000
2640 Divisadero St	4	3	2	4,239	2	10/28/2016	4,795,000	4,975,000
2342 Octavia St	4	3	2	2,945	32	10/27/2016	4,995,000	5,000,000
2244 Steiner St	5	4	3	3,500	36	10/28/2016	6,500,000	6,000,000
2255 Octavia St	4	4	2	n/a	9	11/15/2016	6,500,000	7,200,000
2764 Greenwich St	4	4	2	4,233	30	11/3/2016	7,695,000	7,525,000
2808 Vallejo St	6	4	2	n/a	1	10/16/2016	8,500,000	8,500,000
3323 Clay St	6	5	2	6,505	116	10/27/2016	11,250,000	9,250,000
2480 Broadway	5	3	2	4,316	126	10/18/2016	15,500,000	11,742,500
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1905 Laguna St #307	0	1	0	535	35	11/3/2016	172,139	172,139
1450 Post St #305	1	1	1	519	34	11/2/2016	260,000	260,000
2945 Baker St #4	0	1	0	254	31	10/20/2016	399,000	399,000
1450 Post St #1102	1	1	1	540	23	10/28/2016	399,000	400,000
1905 Laguna St #102	1	1	2	795	15	10/24/2016	849,000	870,000
1825 Laguna St	2	3	0	n/a	1	10/21/2016	900,000	900,000
1827 Laguna St	n/a	3	0	n/a	2	10/21/2016	900,000	900,000
2655 Bush St #127	2	2	1	974	80	11/15/2016	1,125,000	1,075,000
2775 Greenwich St	2	1	0	n/a	12	11/8/2016	1,049,000	1,150,000
1800 Washington St #211	2	2	1	1,058	25	11/8/2016	1,180,000	1,177,000
1835 Franklin St #602	2	2	1	1,500	14	11/9/2016	899,000	1,200,000
2111 Bush St	2	1	1	1,286	17	11/15/2016	1,199,000	1,300,000
2106 Jackson St #1	1	1	1	1,062	13	10/25/2016	1,184,500	1,325,000
2655 Bush St #412	2	2	1	971	14	11/10/2016	1,355,560	1,355,560
1568 Union St #202	2	2	1	1,154	14	10/25/2016	1,325,000	1,365,000
2030 Green St	3	2	1	1,620	19	11/14/2016	1,295,000	1,370,000
2205 Sacramento St #301	2	1	1	n/a	13	10/21/2016	1,350,000	1,400,000
2876 Jackson St	3	1	1	1,564	10	11/10/2016	1,395,000	1,410,000
1900 Broadway #3	1	1	1	1,315	18	10/21/2016	1,195,000	1,415,000
2655 Bush St #308	2	2	1	1,053	5	11/10/2016	1,429,625	1,439,625
1869 California St #5	3	2	1	1,720	31	11/14/2016	1,595,000	1,640,000
2050 Divisadero St #2	3	2	2	1,839	47	10/18/2016	1,759,000	1,675,000
3924 Clay St #6	3	2	1	2,006	55	10/18/2016	1,950,000	1,798,000
3581 Sacramento St	3	2	1	1,450	39	11/7/2016	1,995,000	2,050,000
1650 Broadway #101	3	2	1	1,553	15	10/28/2016	2,150,000	2,088,000
1925 Pacific Ave #4	3	2	1	1,702	13	10/28/2016	1,795,000	2,100,000
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BY FRAN MORELAND JOHNS

IT STARTED out of frustration. A pastor at a mainline San Francisco church got tired of pulling together candlelight services after yet another black youth was killed. He wanted to do something positive to show support for the black friends he and many of his parishioners knew. So he hung a banner on the front of the church's education building. Black Lives Matter, it proclaimed, the logo of a nascent movement.

This happened a few months ago at Calvary Presbyterian, the 164-year-old church at the corner of Fillmore and Jackson. Alongside the banner, minister John Weems hung a rainbow flag. He was also weary of attacks on the LGBTQ community, which incredibly still occur in San Francisco.

"Oh, that's good," I thought when I first saw them — admittedly after several weeks of walking by without noticing a thing. Although not much of a protest person, I had joined a group from Calvary and Grace Tabernacle Church in the Bayview some months earlier for a candlelight vigil. We paused at almost a dozen spots where black men and boys — and in one case a young woman — had died of gunshots. A young man walking with me casually remarked, "I got shot over there." That experience drove home the sadness of knowing good people who live with gun violence every day, just across town, and opened my eyes to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Almost everyone I encountered at Calvary had the same response to the banners: "Oh, okay, that's cool."

But as might be expected in any group



A new banner at Calvary Presbyterian Church includes both protests and eternal verities.

‘Love Thy Neighbor’

Presbyterians embrace protesters, spark still more

of three or more — and Calvary's membership currently hovers around 1,000 — not everyone was pleased. Protests mounted: "Black Lives Matter is too political! The church should not be involved in politics." And "That Black Lives Matter banner disrespects the police." Also "The Black Lives Matter movement has been hijacked by thugs." And the argument only a Presbyterian might fully appreciate: "Proper process was not followed."

So John Weems, supported all along by fellow pastors Joann Lee and Victor Floyd,

returned to proper process: have meetings with leaders of the congregation, listen to everyone, gather data, study scripture, pray a lot, issue statements, then make an eventual decision.

As a current member of the Calvary Session — that's Presbyterian for board of directors — I was caught up in the process, party to hundreds of emails, phone calls, conversations and meetings on the topic.

Several neighborhood residents who had probably not entered a house of worship in years took the trouble to ring the bell, walk

in and express their support. "Good for you," one said. "You're doing what churches ought to do." Another neighbor, who identified herself as a Catholic, left a tearful voice mail message saying how appreciative she was, adding that she planned to urge her own church to become more proactive. One woman who noticed the banners while riding by on a Muni bus said, "That's for me," and showed up at Calvary the next Sunday.

In all probability there were neighbors who disapproved of the banners. But interestingly, not one member of the outside community — including the captain of the local police precinct, who was fine with it all — stomped in to demand that the banner and flag be removed.

At several forums held at Calvary, church members and neighborhood visitors gave emotional testimony about their own suffering from racial bias, about why they strongly supported the banner and flag, or in some cases why the signs might cause them to go somewhere else to worship. But unlike some of the public debates of recent months, the conversations were unfailingly civil, respectful and polite.

Eventually, a Presbyterian decision was reached. The Session issued a statement, proper process was followed — and a new banner replaced the two signs. The new banner incorporates that "Love thy neighbor" business Jesus talked about, and an invitation to "Join the conversation."

Both new and old Fillmore are included in that invitation. The conversation is ongoing, with visits from law enforcement officers, leaders in conflict resolution and programs on implicit bias and related topics extending into 2017.

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