

THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ FEBRUARY 2017



A valentine to Big Alma

“The Kiss”
AUGUSTE RODIN

Like many other museums around the world, San Francisco’s Legion of Honor is commemorating the centenary of the death of the great sculptor Auguste Rodin in 1917. Many of the Rodin sculptures in the Legion’s extensive collection were originally housed in the neighborhood in Alma Spreckels’ limestone mansion on Washington Street. When she decided to create the Legion of Honor as a permanent home for the work, it was to be located atop Alta Plaza Park. Eventually it was built in the more remote Lincoln Park.

For the Love of Books

Browser Books has been romancing Fillmore for four decades

“LOVE WAS IN THE AIR,” says Fred Martin of the days when he and Browser Books were both young. And on many nights, it still is. “This place is magic,” he says of the bookstore, where he has worked for 36 of its 40 years as it grew into a landmark on Fillmore Street. “People love this place. They get caught up in interesting conversations.” And sometimes more. Many lasting connections have been made in Browser Books: couples on dates uncovering mutual interests, spouses returning to a favorite haunt, chance meetings that grow into romance. The store is filled with love stories — from the stacks of Neruda that sell out on Valentine’s Day, to *Romeo and Juliet* on high school reading lists, and the middle-aged professional proudly unembarrassed to ask for *Fifty Shades of Grey*. “It’s the most realistic portrait of the romantic idea of working in a bookstore I’ve ever had,” says Jordan Pearson, the newest of the Browser clerks. “It’s being a bartender without the liquor — and sometimes I wish I had a bouncer late at night.” “I always feel like I’m the party host,” says Fred Martin. “I want the store to be a place where people can be at home and talk about anything. I love being part of that.” Browser Books opened in 1976 a block north next door to the Clay Theatre. “It was a real artist hangout,” says Martin. He recalls a couple who met in the old store and got married under the avocado tree in the garden out back, near the fountain with a sculpture of brass instruments. Just recently they stopped by, back in town from Oregon, and talked about moving back. In 1989 Browser gave up used books and moved south to its smaller current location. “We’re not just a little library, like a lot of other places,” says Martin. “People have always been friendly and outspoken here.” The Beat poet Latif Harris worked at the old Browser for a time and lived upstairs above the shop. He met his wife when she came browsing into the store one day. Fred Martin also met his spouse there. And so have others.

See **BOOK LOVERS** | PAGE 8

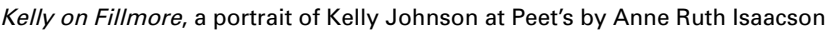
UNION STREET
GOLDSMITH

VALENTINE'S
SALE

ALL EARRINGS 25 - 50% OFF*

Our New Location: 2118 Union Street, San Francisco
415-776-8048 UnionStreetGoldsmith.com

*Excludes diamond studs.



TO THE EDITORS:

What a beautiful piece. ["Kelly's Corner," January.] The idea of the crew from the ex-Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf going upstairs to look after Kelly Johnson when he was recovering from an operation is incredible. I never went to that place and now regret it.

LUCY GRAY

LUCY GRAY

For years I've seen that gentleman sitting on the corner of Fillmore and Sacramento, but I had no idea of the rich and colorful life in music and dance he has lived. It's a reminder to take the time to stop and speak to our neighbors.

RICHARD SPRITZER

Anne Ruth Isaacson is to be commended for her beautiful portrait of Kelly Johnson. I enjoyed both her painting and her article.

ED WALBORSKY

I am disappointed and unsettled that Ten-Ichi has had this sign outside of the restaurant for weeks. It is insensitive, insulting and intolerant — everything we wish not to see in San Francisco (or anywhere). What will it take to have them and others recognize that prejudice against people who are overweight is as discriminatory and devaluing as any other form of bias? My suggestion is to take the sign down and replace it with an apology.

EMILY SCOTT



VOGUE THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO



P. O. Box 15115 ■ San Francisco, CA 94115 ■ 415-441-6070
editors@newfillmore.com

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

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

Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore 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.



newfillmore.com | for updates and archives



YouTube

Fillmore fashion at a tipping point?

As upper Fillmore became a mecca for fashion brands in recent years, it sometimes seemed there was a new shop every month. The question on many lips: How many fashion boutiques can one neighborhood handle — especially since most seem to have so few shoppers?

Now the shakeout has begun, and it seems to be picking up steam. In the fall, **MARC JACOBS** closed its showplace at the corner of Fillmore and Sacramento. . . . Then before the holidays **ROBERTA ROLLER RABBIT** at 2053 Fillmore closed. . . . Now, at the end of January, **ELLA MOSS** shuttered its shop at 1913 Fillmore.

Watch for more turnover as leases come up for renewal.

■ **YET STILL THEY COME:** Pop-ups have become an ever more popular way to test the market. Artist and sculptor Negarin Sadr has now brought her new **NEGARIN LONDON** line of women's clothing from Venice Beach to San Francisco — first popping up on Union Street, then in the Fillmore space vacated by Roberta Roller Rabbit. . . . Now she's made it permanent. The shop just reopened after some interior sprucing.

■ **FOOD NEWS:** The new **BOBA GUYS** tea shop at 1522 Fillmore will have its grand opening on February 4, with Korean fried chicken in the back at **SUNDAY BIRD**. . . . Farther down the 'Mo, new life is coming to the spot at 1521 Eddy that formerly housed Gussie's and Powell's Place: the folks behind **SWEET MAPLE** and its millionaire's bacon are opening a Thai restaurant. . . . And work continues on the new ice cream shop from Portland's **SALT & STRAW** at Fillmore and Sacramento.

Shell Station Remodeling Down to the Dirt

OWNERS OF THE Shell service station at California and Steiner are now in the midst of an extensive rebuilding of their corner that will expand the number of gas pumps from five to eight and add a new Loop convenience store.

Still unclear is whether the revamped station will include a garage.

Since the beginning of the year, the old station and garage have been leveled and the underground gas storage tanks have been removed. A massive earth-moving operation created a deep hole lined with a metal barrier around new and larger double-walled tanks.

Au Energy company — which owns more than 100 Shell stations in California — battled for permission to rebuild and expand the neighborhood filling station. Original plans calling for 10 gas pumps were scaled back to allow only eight after neighbors complained.

Neighbors also forced a reduction in the size of the proposed convenience store.

Much of the opposition focused on the



The station at California and Steiner was leveled and new underground tanks installed.

elimination of the double-bay garage that had served the neighborhood for decades. After a series of contentious hearings, the Planning Commission approved the

scaled-back plans and directed that a garage be included in the new station. Au Energy nonetheless evicted the garage operator after its plans were approved.

Unity Church May Move Out of the Neighborhood

UNITY CHURCH — which has been in its Victorian home at 2222 Bush Street for decades — is considering a move out of the neighborhood.

“We engaged a committee of Unity SF members to look at our building needs and to determine if moving to a new location would help,” Rev. Ken Daigle wrote in a report to his congregation. “The committee came back and let us know that they

thought we would be better served being closer to BART.”

The committee said Unity should look to buy another building with a better layout for a sanctuary and classrooms.

“Most of our members do not live in the Pacific Heights neighborhood and about 25 percent of our congregation comes in from outside of San Francisco,” Daigle wrote, adding: “The committee was also

very clear that staying at Bush Street was preferable to renting.”

He said preliminary consultations with a commercial real estate company suggest the church could sell its building for considerably more than a new building elsewhere would cost, which would also help create an endowment.

The church members own the building and will make any eventual decision to move.

Tuesday
February 7
2017

Institute on Aging presents the 34th Annual
Dinner à la Heart

AgeOn. Institute on Aging

Uniting two of San Francisco's favorite qualities: good food and a giving heart.

Dinner à la Heart gives Bay Area residents an opportunity to choose a restaurant, make reservations through Institute on Aging, and enjoy a unique dining experience while supporting seniors in need. Treat yourself to an exclusive prix-fixe dinner, including wine and coffee or tea, and help our seniors remain independent and healthy.

New this year! Lunch à la Heart.

Gather your friends and dine out for a cause at lunchtime!

For reservations and additional information, call 415.750.3443 or visit www.ioaging.org/dinneralaheart.

Participating restaurants include:

3rd Cousin, Alfred's, All Spice (San Mateo), Barbacco, The Big 4, Boulevard, Buckeye Roadhouse, Bungalow 44, Delfina, The Dorian, Ecco (Burlingame), Epic Steak (2 nights), Farallon, Fringale, Garibaldi's, Gary Danko, Harris' Steakhouse, Hutch Bar & Grill, Il Fornaio (Palo Alto, San Jose, San Francisco, Corte Madera), Izzy's Steaks & Chops (San Carlos, San Francisco, Oakland), Jason's Restaurant, Kokkari Estiatorio, Le P'tit Laurent, Le Central (Lunch & Dinner), Marin Joe's, Meze's Kitchen, Mission Rock Resort (Lunch & Dinner), Moniseur Benjamin, Mourad, One Market Restaurant, Osso Steakhouse, Palm House, Pane E Vino Trattoria, Perbacco, Piperade, Poggio, Roka Akor, Roti Indian Bistro, Sam's Grill & Seafood, Sessions, Sixto's Cantina (Lunch & Dinner), Sushi Ran, Swan's Oyster Depot, Taj Campton Place, Trader Vic's (Emeryville), Venticello Ristorante, Waterbar, Waterfront & more!

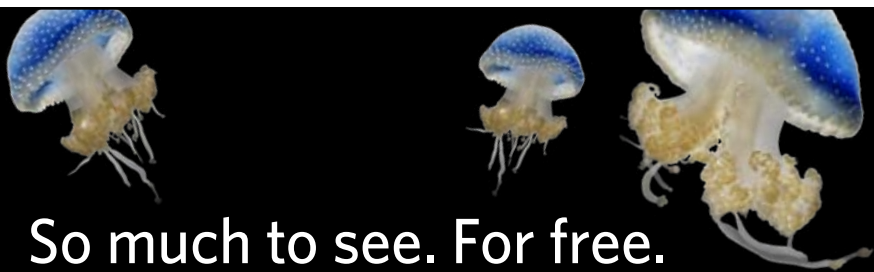


90%
APY*
on your Money Market Account



Call or visit to start earning more now!

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 08/31/2016 and is subject to change without notice. The APY's stated may vary between states due to market condition. The APY may change on Checking, Savings, and Money Market accounts after account is opened. \$500 minimum opening deposit required in money market account. Rates are compounded monthly and paid on the entire balance in the account. Fees may reduce earnings if the average minimum monthly balance of \$500 is not maintained. Membership in the Sterling Premier Club is required. Contact us for Club member requirements.



We're inviting all San Francisco residents to explore the Academy for free. Come see the world's only aquarium-planetarium-rainforest-living museum! To learn more visit [**calacademy.org/free**](http://calacademy.org/free).

NEIGHBORHOOD	SF ZIP CODE	SPRING 2017 FREE DAYS
Bernal Heights, Castro, Cole Valley, Glen Park, Haight, Lake Merced, Mission, Noe Valley, St. Francis Wood	94110, 94114, 94117, 94127, 94131, 94132	February 10, 11, 12
Parkside, Sunset	94116, 94122	March 3, 4, 5
Chinatown, Marina, Nob Hill, North Beach, Presidio, Richmond, Russian Hill, Seacliff, Telegraph Hill, Western Addition	94108, 94109, 94115, 94118, 94121, 94123, 94126, 94129, 94133	March 10, 11, 12
Bayview-Hunters Point, Downtown, Hayes Valley, Ingleside-Excelsior, Mission Bay, Potrero Hill, SoMa, Tenderloin, Treasure Island, Visitation Valley	94102, 94103, 94104, 94105, 94107, 94111, 94112, 94124, 94130, 94134, 94158	March 17, 18, 19

Each visiting adult must show a valid photo ID with proof of residency. The following items or combinations are acceptable: a driver license or state ID card, photo ID plus postmarked envelope, postcard, or magazine label with name and date, photo ID plus utility bill (gas/electric/cable), bank statement, or letter from a government agency with name and home address (not a P.O. Box).

Generously supported by



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES
Golden Gate Park

**Aggravated Assault With a Weapon
Laguna and Greenwich
November 1, 3 p.m.**

A woman was walking down Laguna when a man she did not know asked her for cigarettes. She ignored him and kept walking. The man followed her, then swung a squeegee at her, but missed. The woman continued on her way; the man swung again with the squeegee, this time striking her in the back of the head. Two witnesses saw the incident and chased the suspect away, then called the police. Officers arrived with additional units to search the area. They located the suspect and transported him to Northern Station.

**Burglary of Vehicle, Warrant Arrest
Palace of Fine Arts parking lot
December 12, 4:44 p.m.**

Officers from Northern Station's street crimes unit were in plainclothes conducting an auto burglary operation in the rear parking lot of the Palace of Fine Arts, which experiences a high number of auto burglaries because visitors often leave valuable items in their cars. One officer watched as a man tried to shatter the rear driver's side window of a white BMW. He was unsuccessful, and moved on to a black van. He broke its front driver's side window and entered the vehicle. The suspect was leaning into the van, rifling through the items inside, when the officers took him into custody.

During an arrest search, an officer found a window punch in the suspect's right rear pants pocket, as well as methamphetamine in his right front pants pocket. A computer check revealed he was on probation for possession of stolen property. He was transported to Northern Station and later booked at county jail.

**Trespassing, Aggravated Assault
Hayes and Buchanan
December 17, 2:27 a.m.**

Officers received a report of a stabbing. Dispatch informed them the suspect was last seen running toward Fillmore and McAllister. The suspect was described as a Latino male about 19 years old, 5 ft. 5 in. tall, wearing no shirt or shoes. While officers searched for the suspect, they came upon two women who had stab wounds. The officers called for an ambulance and both women were transported to the hospital. At the scene, they found a silver and black folding knife, a pair of white Adidas shoes, a jacket and condoms. They located the suspect and transported him to Northern Station.

Officers then went to the hospital to interview the stabbing victims, who said they had been standing in a parking lot when the man walked up and began talking to them. They got into an argument and the suspect pulled out a knife. After he stabbed both of the women in the stomach, they fell to the ground and the man fled.

Trespassing
Octavia and Washington
December 19, 9:10 p.m.

A security guard at an apartment building saw a man walking around the locked inner yard of the property. As the man sat on a bench, the guard approached him and told him he had to leave. He refused, and said he was waiting for his girlfriend. When the security guard again asked him to leave, the man got up and started walking away. As the guard followed him, the man suddenly took off running, then jumped a stone wall, a fence and several hedges. The guard continued to chase him, then stopped and called 911.

Several officers responded. The suspect was a white male, approximately 5 ft.

8 in. tall, and about 30 to 35 years old. The officers eventually located the suspect, who was carrying no identification. At Northern Station, the police identified him using the mugshot computer. He was cleared of any warrants, then cited and released.

**Suspended License,
Marijuana Possession for Sale
Geary and Blake
January 9, 9:02 p.m.**

Officers stopped a car to issue a citation for a broken headlight. When an officer asked to see the driver's license, he said he did not have one. A computer check revealed that his license had been suspended, and that he had two narcotics-related warrants for his arrest. Investigating officers also learned the vehicle had earlier been involved in a hit-and-run accident.

During the traffic stop, police located a large amount of marijuana separated into multiple small bags, which led them to believe it was packaged for sale. The suspect was booked at county jail on several felony charges.

**Mental Health Detention
Arguello and Euclid
January 10, 12:33 p.m.**

A man called his relatives to tell them he had a gun, and that if anyone knocked on his door, he would use it. The police went to the man's residence to check on his well-being.

When the officers arrived, the man agreed to speak with them at his front door. He refused to show them his hands, and would not leave his apartment. When he began making statements that suggested he was contemplating endangering his own life or theirs, an officer armed with a bean bag gun fired at the man and struck him in the side. This caused him to drop the knife he was concealing behind the door. The man then attempted to run back into his apartment. Officers followed and detained him. He told the police that he had planned to end his life, and had wanted the officers to shoot him. He was transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

**Warrant Arrest, Traffic Violation
Post and Divisadero
January 11, 2:15 p.m.**

A vehicle with no license plates caught the attention of officers, who conducted a traffic stop. The driver was unable to provide either proof of registration or insurance; he also stated he did not have a valid driver's license. Police then learned he was on probation and subject to a search. Officers found a bag of methamphetamine in a search of his car. When the police contacted the suspect's probation officer, they were told an arrest warrant had just been issued for him. He was booked at county jail on several charges.

**Traffic Collision, Hit and Run,
Driving Under the Influence
Geary and 9th
January 13, 2:18 a.m.**

Officers received a report of a hit-and-run incident. They located the car that had caused the crash parked six blocks from the scene of the collision. A man was asleep in the driver's seat.

The officers eventually managed to awaken the man and administer field sobriety tests, which he failed. He then submitted to a chemical test, which showed his blood-alcohol content was more than three times the legal limit. Officers then learned the suspect's driving privileges had been suspended, and that he had several outstanding warrants for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked at county jail. No one was injured in the collision.

The Transformation

Japantown grocery becomes a new Korean spa

By BARBARA KATE REPA

There was a message on my phone with an icon marking it urgent: “There’s a new spa in the neighborhood — and it looks really, really nice.”

The alert came from Melody Sams, a friend who had spied the newly opened Pearl Spa & Sauna on Post Street, just a few doors down from her acupuncture clinic. In addition to practicing Chinese medicine and massage on her own, Melody has worked as a masseuse at both the neighboring Kabuki Springs & Spa and the Nob Hill Spa. She knows spas.

We made appointments to try out the new place together. At 1656 Post Street, jammed into a block of disconnected retail shops and restaurants, it’s an unlikely locale for an oasis. But the spot also has a venerable act to follow: It’s in the former home of Uoki K. Sakai, the oldest grocery store in Japantown, which closed its doors at the end of 2011 after 105 years in business.

An amazing transformation has occurred. The fish market and aisles of tall metal racks stacked with groceries have been replaced by gleaming marble and tile and whimsical light fixtures. The space has been reconfigured as a classy, immaculate, modern day spa for women. Owners Ray and Tracy Giron have spared no detail.

Tracy greets Melody and me in the entry room and hands us waterproof key fobs, then leads us into the dressing room

to demonstrate how easily they open the locker doors without a key or code. “Like James Bond!” she says, giggling with glee, though you suspect it’s not the first giggle she’s had over this very thing. Inside the lockers are jacquard robes that look a little small at first, but easily accommodate us.

Tracy then takes us robed first-timers on a spirited tour. A huge room on the main floor includes a bank of showers along one wall, a dry sauna, a wet sauna and cold and hot pools. Upstairs there’s a large open room with wide leather couches for relaxing after treatments, a bit oddly equipped with a flat screen TV.

There’s also a Clay Room — an enclosed heated area with a floor filled with marble-sized balls of red clay. Spending time lolling atop them is said to produce a number of therapeutic effects — including relaxing muscles and joints, relieving rheumatism and increasing blood flow to the muscles. She cautions about the proper approach to the heated balls. “Lie down, but do not stand up on them,” she says, demonstrating with great exuberance a nimble roll and crawl combo to get to the center of the room.

Next door is a Himalayan Salt Room — a large room heated a bit more intensely than the Clay Room, lined in beautiful rosy pink salt slabs with charcoal insets. A sign outside the door heralds its benefits: It regulates water content, flushes toxins, clears sinus congestion, increases endurance and improves blood flow.

But Tracy says it’s imbued with a sort of



The Pearl Spa at 1656 Post Street.

magic, too. “It’s so strange, this room — so mystical,” she says, recounting how the Salt Room helped cure one spa-goer’s allergies and another’s arthritis.

There are thoughtful feminine touches throughout the place: queenly upholstered chairs in the waiting room, bright pink mugs on shelves and tables, tea and tanger-

ines for the taking and an array of Aveda bath and beauty products for the trying.

Melody asks about the women-only policy. “Why only women? Men stink! They would sweat up the place,” Tracy says.

The tour complete, it’s time to get down to business. Tracy gives us each a bottle

Come try our new concept!

TROYA
mediterranean kitchen

New food and beverage menu • Fast casual counter service • Fresh decor
OPEN DAILY from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

2125 FILLMORE STREET • 415.563.1000

A casual and FUN Fillmore neighborhood taqueria serving **MEXICAN CLASSICS**

- Comida made with free-range chicken, grass-fed beef, line-caught fish, organic tortillas and more...
- Home-made guac & chips
- Thirst-quenching agua frescas, agave margaritas, sangria and Mexican cervezas
- Enjoy weekly specials
- Join us for weekend brunch

We love catering fiestas & corporate meetings!
Call (415) 786-9406 to find out more

2401 California Street @ Fillmore
www.415tacobar.com
Open 7 days/week

hiho silver
SAN FRANCISCO

1904 FILLMORE STREET • 415.771.4446
hihosilver.com

World Famous
GOSPEL BRUNCH

Join us for an uplifting Sunday with gospel music and Chef Lawrence’s soulful brunch in the historic Fillmore. Seatings at 11:00am & 1:00pm
Reservations recommended.

1300
ON FILLMORE

WHERE
the fillmore district
1300 fillmore street at eddy
san francisco, ca 94115

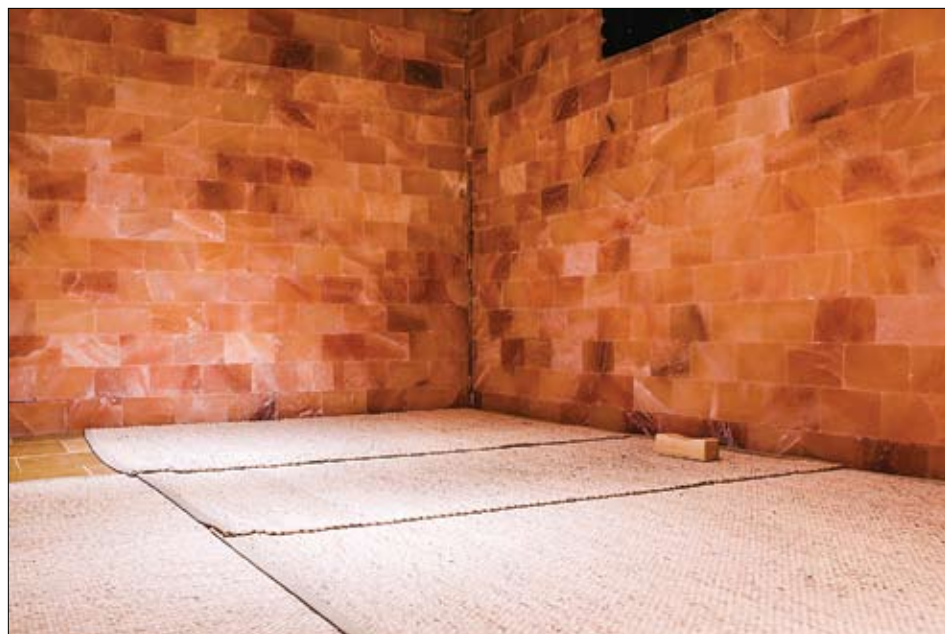
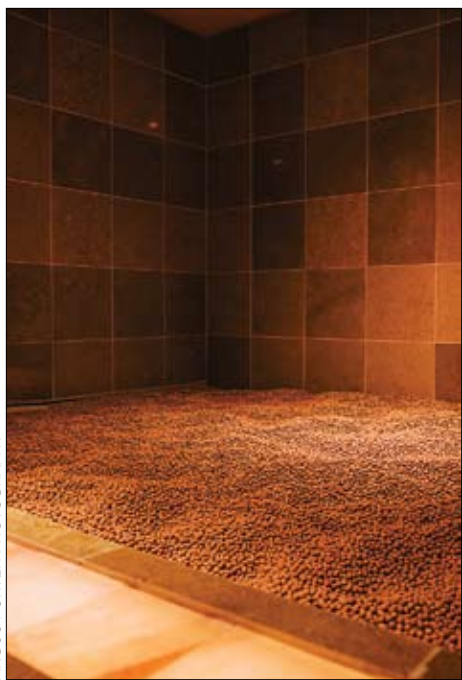
PARKING
public garage

RESERVATIONS
415.771.7100 or www.1300fillmore.com

LIVE JAZZ NIGHTLY

NO COVER CHARGE
1419 FILLMORE ST. AT O’FARRELL ST.
415.440.7414 SHEBAPIANOLOUNGE.COM

Sheba
PIANO LOUNGE



Pearl Spa's therapeutic places: the Clay Room (left) and magical Himalayan Salt Room.

of cool water and issues a dictate of sorts: "Have you been in the dry sauna yet? Go now."

Ray Giron had earlier sent an email explaining Pearl's offerings: "We believe what really sets us apart from other spas is our moderately priced exfoliating body scrub treatment," he wrote. "This is a beauty ritual practiced by Korean women for over 1,000 years."

The prices do seem moderate by San Francisco spa standards, ranging from a \$25 general admission pass for use of the facilities without a treatment, to \$60 for a 30-minute scrub, up to \$150 for a 100-minute "Pearl Special" that includes applying a 24-carat gold mineral extract.

Primping near us in the spacious dressing area is Jessica Reeves, who describes herself as "half-black and half-Korean," and verifies that spas are a vital part of Korean life. "People go with their grandmas and kids and stay all day," she says. She

and her mother visit Pearl Spa together every 10 days or so. She says they get full scrub treatments about once a month and in between come to use the saunas, pools and clay and salt rooms.

"This is the only place in the city I know that offers all that," she says.

The treatments appear to be working for her. "I'm 42, but everyone makes fun of me because my skin is so supple," she says. She also offers a couple of tips for newcomers to Korean spas. "It's best to use the steam sauna before a scrubbing, because it helps soften your skin the most." And: "Wear a paper facial masque into the dry rooms. You won't believe how it helps."

After some time in the saunas, a soaking in the hot pool and a brave dredge through the cold one, Melody and I are summoned for our treatments by attendants who call us by our locker key numbers and lead us into the main treatment rooms.

I am greeted by a Korean woman who manages to be both friendly and no-nonsense at the same time. She is my "auntie," and I can't help but notice that her skin seems to glow. Auntie directs me to lie face down on a bed covered in pink vinyl. The bed is narrow, leaving no room for modesty. I am naked and my auntie is clad only in a black lace bra and panties, which is not as sexy as it might sound.

She douses me with pans of deliciously warm water and speaks very little, though no words are needed to know I'm getting the scrubbing of my life with the abrasive mitts on her hands. She then directs me to take a shower and come back to the pink table, where I'm swaddled in towels, massaged and pummeled in a manner not for sissies, my face covered in gauze and painted with a masque. As finishing touches, the auntie douses me with warm milk — to nourish the skin — and washes my hair, then ties it up tightly in a towel.

Pearl Spa's website promises "the exfoliating body scrub will remove rolls of dark grey skin, revealing fresh pink skin." Mercifully, I have not read this before the scrub, noting only the fresh pink after-effects. Melody also marvels that her scrubbing has left her skin feeling soft and renewed. She is glowing like my auntie.

We adjourn to the Clay Room, dutifully tucking and rolling and then lying on the small clay balls.

And finally we venture into the Salt Room. We have been in there for a while — talking softly, despite the spa signs instructing "Keep Silence Please," about topics ranging from politics to UFOs to why some husbands don't want to travel. I'm about to signal that the heat in the room is getting to me, toxins flushed or not, when Tracy mystically appears with cold wet towels for our heads.

Pearl spa-goers are limited to four-hour stays, and Melody had earlier been disappointed by that.

"That time will just zip by," she lamented.

I told her that's crazy: "Have you ever stayed at a spa longer than that?"

Turns out, I'm the one who's daft. After steaming, saunaing, dipping, being scrubbed and pummeled and absorbing the benefits of the clay and salt rooms, we've worn out our welcome. It's been nearly five hours.

Before we reluctantly leave, we make appointments to come back again, noting that a gift certificate to Pearl would make a lovely gift for any female valentine — even if she doesn't have any rolls of dark grey skin.

For more information about Pearl Spa & Sauna or to book reservations online, go to pearlspasf.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY WINE DINNER

PRIX FIXE DINNER | WINE PAIRING | \$65-\$89



Saturday, February 11th through Tuesday, February 14th
Prix Fixe Dinner + Wine Pairing

Make Your Reservation Now:
ValentinesAtScopo.Eventbrite.com

Scopo
DiVino
THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF WINE



415 928 3728
2800 CALIFORNIA ST
SCOPODIVINO.COM

Fillmore Street's literary meeting place plays matchmaker — especially for those who work there.

BROWSER BOOKS, a neighborhood fixture since 1976, has no doubt sparked countless anonymous instances of romance. The store's staff, however, has been especially susceptible to this phenomenon. Perhaps it's because we spend so much time in the store — or perhaps it's because there's just something a little different about the kind of person who chooses to work in a bookstore.

It was 1981, back in the funky, colorful days of the neighborhood, when Browser Books was still in its old location next to the Clay Theatre. I had been at the store less than a year, working nights mostly, when I met William Weber, a psychiatrist with an office nearby.

A color photograph of two men standing in front of a building with a sign that reads "TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE". The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a white sweatshirt with a circular graphic. The man on the right is wearing a blue sweatshirt and khaki pants, with his arm around the other man's shoulder.

from Texas. William — from Yazoo City, Mississippi — was less flamboyant, but seductive, with his big brown eyes and that low bedroom voice.

He made several return visits. After the second or third time he asked me for a date, I finally accepted. I was a bit dubious at first, probably flattered, and definitely curious. One thing led to another, and we had a serious relationship tryout: camping together for a long weekend at the McCabe Lakes, near Tioga Pass, in our mutually beloved Yosemite National Park.

We survived that adventure, somehow, and soon moved in together. We bonded over our mutual love of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Over the years — 36 now — it's become apparent that, however opposite we are in every conceivable way, we complement one another.

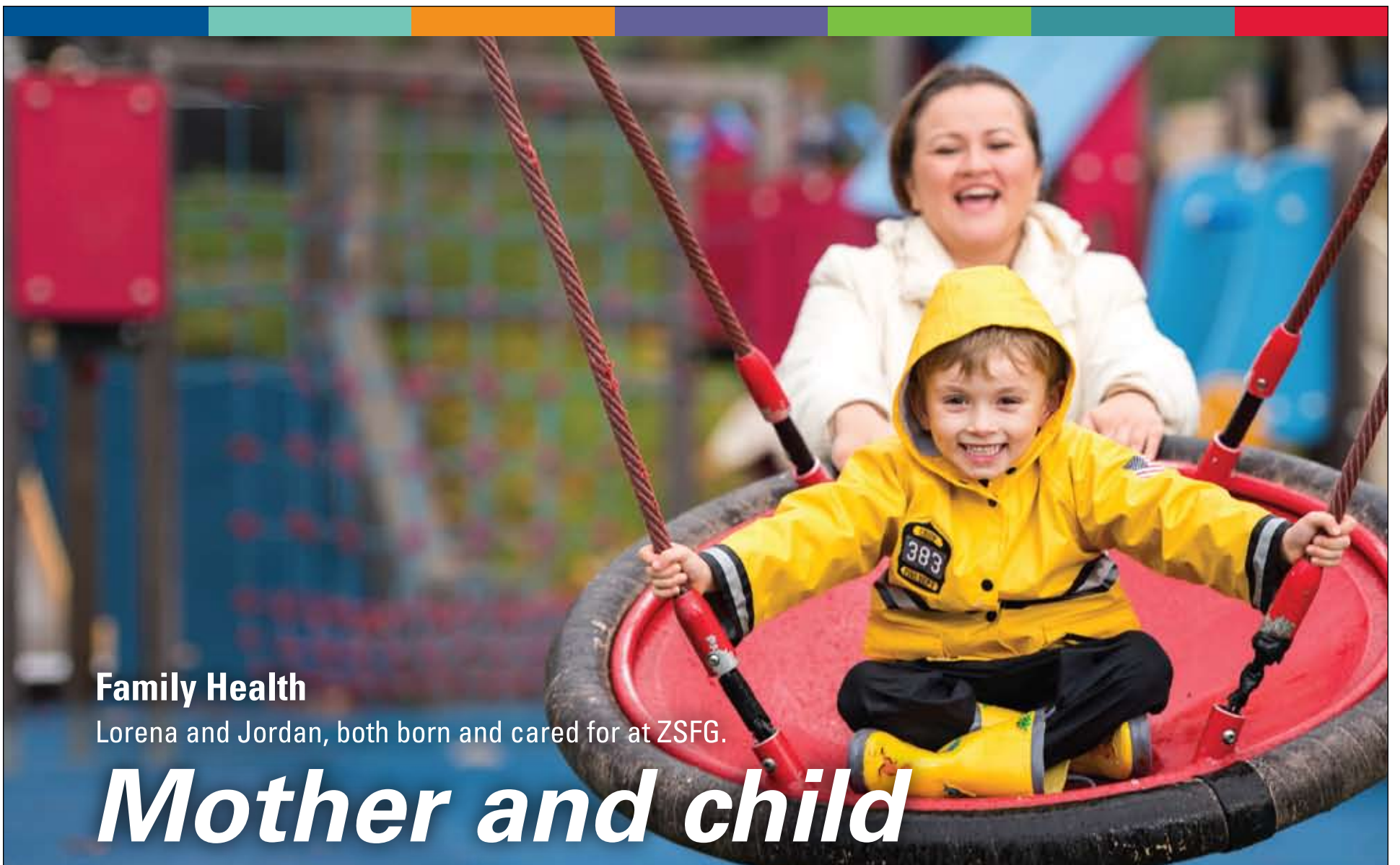
I'm pretty sure Erin thought I disliked her the first day we worked together. It was my responsibility to train her in Browser's opening procedures. Since she was replacing a longtime employee, I was determined to be extra diligent and businesslike. Of course I noticed how pretty and stylish she was. But I put those observations aside to focus on the tasks at hand. My deep first impression was how smart, professional, quick and witty she was. As I reported to Browser owner Stephen Damon: "Erin's a real bookseller. She's going to work out great."

I relaxed around Erin after our first day, and we laughed a lot, shared our writing and lists of our favorite books and authors. I was impressed and charmed that she was reading her way through the books of Charles Dickens. When I mentioned I was an occasional Dickens reader, she gently challenged me: Had I read the *Pickwick Papers*? No, I hadn't. Well then I should get to it — and while I was at it, I should read five or six Balzac novels as well. It took me a while, but I did just as she suggested. In turn, I got her to read the work of Cynthia Ozick.

Our exchange of reading suggestions worked out so well that we decided to form our own book club. We read works by Isak Dinesen (one of Fred's favorites), Robert Coover, Saul Bellow, Eudora Welty, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Mavis Gallant, to name just a few.

After a few months, I worked up my courage to ask her out for coffee. We must have hung out for three hours that day, but it went by like a dream. Lunch dates, museum visits and dinners followed.

We wanted to try a change of scenery, so we left Browser and San Francisco for California's Central Coast. We spent 15 months there and decided to get married — in the beautiful old courthouse in Santa Barbara, no less. Despite being near Erin's folks and new friends, after about nine months in San Luis Obispo we admitted to each other that we wanted to come back to San Francisco.



Family Health

Lorena and Jordan, both born and cared for at ZSFG.

Mother and child

Care.



ZUCKERBERG
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL
Hospital and Trauma Center



SF HEALTH NETWORK
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ZSFGcare.org



Erin Messer and Ken Samuels on their wedding day in the Santa Barbara County Courthouse.

We packed up the four kooky cats — one named after our beloved Mavis Gallant — and made it back to the city. I returned to Browser, while Erin went on to other ventures. I miss working with her, but I have the greater fortune of getting to spend the rest of my life with her.

Erin’s Story

It’s a romantic comedy cliché: The pair who begin the film as arch-rivals are guaranteed to fall in love by act three. Director Ernst Lubitsch perfected the technique in his 1940 film *The Shop Around the Corner*, starring Margaret Sullivan and Jimmy Stewart as rival salesclerks engaged in an epistolary romance. My personal favorite of these small but significant imitations of the old trope is my own marriage.

Ken and I did not start as enemies, exactly. But I began my training with him under a cloud of misinterpreted annoyance. Anyone familiar with the store will recognize Ken’s characteristic fluster, his

decade and a half of Browser knowledge — and five decades of intelligence working faster than his tongue, with his self-deprecating Jewish wit not far behind. But for the newcomer trying to learn on her feet, it felt at first like trial by fire.

Still, we bonded over Mavis Gallant, the Montreal-born, Paris-based master of short fiction, whom we both discovered around the same time. The Gallant collections *Paris Stories* and *The Cost of Living*, published by New York Review Books with romantic red spines and cover photographs by Brassai and Dora Maar, Picasso’s muse, became our holy books.

We began to leave each other increasingly elaborate notes and inside jokes hidden in personal paperwork, or left out for discovery when he would close and I would open. These articles are sealed and bundled in special envelopes and small bags; they never leave my desk. I still have the Browser bookmark on which he wrote a key to the inventory database shorthand, and the printed page of instructions for opening and operating the store.

We finally solemnized our book collection by getting rid of some, though not all, of our duplicates — a difficult process all too familiar to any book-loving couple. But we didn’t even consider giving up our copies of Mavis Gallant.

The Next Generation

The next generation of Browser romance is so skillfully plotted that it might have been lifted from a well-crafted short story.

Catie Damon, daughter of owner Stephen, grew up pulling Berenstain Bears books off the spinning rack at the back of the store, as so many neighborhood kids did. When she was still in junior high, she worked the occasional register shift. Catie has become a gifted artist and budding filmmaker, so it should come as no surprise that she and Jordan Pearson, an aspiring filmmaker himself, hit it off so quickly. As they tell it, Jordan was shelving books on Tibetan Buddhism when they were introduced. The karma was instant.



The youngest members of the Browser Books family: Jordan Pearson and Catie Damon.

Like every Browser couple, they have their own reading group of two. Favorites include the both cinematic and far-reaching *Silence* by Shusaku Endo and *The Sheltering Sky* by Paul Bowles, as well as Don Carpenter’s unfinished masterpiece *Fridays at Enrico’s*, a book of post-Beat love and loss that’s impossible not to fall for if your own personal love story begins in San Francisco.

We are among the lucky ones who can claim to have adapted the Browser Books motto — printed on every receipt — to one of the most significant aspects of our own lives: “You’ll not only find the book you want, you’ll enjoy looking for it.”

“It’s a Family”
VIDEO | newfillmore.com

BOOK

READER

- EDITING
- REWRITING
- WRITING
- THINKING
- RESEARCHING
- IDEATING
- DREAMING

I can help.

PAMELA FEINSILBER
Book Editor | Writing Coach
Publishing Consultant

www.pamelafeinsilber.com
Email: feinsilber@comcast.net

**You live it.
We’ll frame it.**

FINE CUSTOM FRAMING ■ PHOTO FRAMES
DECORATIVE MIRRORS

2019 Fillmore Street	415.922.6811
355 Presidio Ave	415.346.1868
348 West Portal Ave	415.759.2002

WalterAdamsFraming.com

THE MANSIONS OF PACIFIC HEIGHTS
A photography book by Lewis Sommer

Call 415-747-8298 or
go online to www.lewissommer.com

IMAGES OF THE NORTH
PRESENTING FINE INUIT ART
LILLIAN PITT

2036 UNION STREET @ WEBSTER | 415.673.1273 | TUES - SAT 11-5:30
APPRAISALS | CONSIGNMENTS | GALLERY@IMAGESNORTH.COM
VALIDATED PARKING AT 2001 UNION PLAZA GARAGE

At the Kabuki, the kiss of mediocrity

San Franciscans have long had access to a great array of serious films, something that few other cities have. Only Manhattan and Los Angeles have more screens devoted to serious independent, foreign and documentary films.

But in 2015, Robert Redford's Sundance group sold their five theaters — including the Sundance Kabuki in our neighborhood — to Carmike, a small Georgia-based theater chain. This seemed to forecast a shift away from serious films to more suburban offerings aimed at teens.

Then a few months ago AMC, one of the largest theater chains, announced that it was buying the Carmike chain. AMC ownership is the kiss of mediocrity, the promise of the sort of Hollywood-oriented films that the AMC plays in their big Van Ness Avenue building.

I saw *Silence* recently at the Kabuki — a very good albeit grim film — and it confirmed that the Kabuki's programming is fast shifting away from serious films to standard Hollywood fare. The ads, which Sundance had eschewed, were in full force, including a totally obnoxious piece for *Bay Watch* filled with boobs and bimbos. The trailers were mostly blow 'em up junk, not intelligent films.

The local management was not happy with this change either, but no megachain like AMC is likely to care that there is a strong audience here for serious films. As Bob Dylan sang: "Now is the time for your tears."

— IAN BERKE

British Film Fest Returns to the Vogue

By ANDREA CHASE

THERE ARE MANY reasons to love the Mostly British Film Festival, now in its ninth year, and running from February 16 to 23. Not the least of which is that it continues to take place at the neighborhood's Vogue Theatre on Sacramento Street when other festivals have decamped for trendier locales. Another is that it revives great films, this year offering the chance to see both *A Hard Day's Night* and *Mona Lisa* on the big screen again in all their glory.

A Hard Day's Night — screening on February 18 as part of a commemoration of the Fab Four's last concert at Candlestick Park — is Richard Lester's kinetically anarchic film that introduced the Beatles to the big screen. It became not just a classic in its own right, but also created a sub-genre of films built around pop music phenoms.

Mona Lisa, screening February 17, didn't create the film noir genre, but it too is a classic from Neil Jordan, with Bob Hoskins in one of his best and Oscar-nominated roles, as a small-time hood who falls in love with the wrong woman (Cathy Tyson), which pits him against his ruthless crime boss (Michael Caine).

So much for nostalgia.

The new films are just as enticing, starting on February 16 with the opening night's *Their Finest*. It's a romantic comedy starring Gemma Arterton as a fledgling copywriter for propaganda films designed to boost British morale during World War II who is coping with a producer played by Sam Claflin, and Bill Nighy as the mati-



This year's festival runs from Feb. 16 to 23.

nee idol of bygone days who is less than thrilled to be cast as a drunken fisherman. Nighy will be on hand for a Q&A after the screening.

Terrence Davies returns to the Mostly British on February 22 with *A Quiet Passion*, starring Cynthia Nixon as the poetess Emily Dickinson. Lushly stylized, it is as much a psychological study as a biography, heightened with Dickinson's verse used as narration to illustrate her gradual change from ebullient young woman to near-total recluse. Bonus: Actors from San Francisco performing arts company Word for Word set the mood before the film with readings from Dickinson's poetry.

On closing night, February 23, *The Daughter*, based on Ibsen's play *The Wild Duck*, updates the action to modern Australia without losing any of its punch. The film stars Geoffrey Rush, whose marriage to a much younger former housekeeper sets off a series of events that eventually sheds light on a shattering family secret.

Other highlights from the Mostly British Film Fest, which features films from the U.K., Ireland, Australia, India, South Africa and New Zealand:

■ Noir finds modern expression in *A Patch of Fog* on February 18, with *Game of Thrones*' Conleth Hill in a tale of fame, blackmail and fandom gone wrong.

■ On February 19, Rachel Griffiths gives a dazzling performance in *Mammals*, playing a woman with complicated maternal instincts in a gut-wrenching film that questions gender roles and societal expectations.

■ Steve Coogan, one of the funniest men on the planet, goes dark as he takes on the courtroom drama in *Shepherds and Butchers*, screening on February 20. He plays a lawyer whose defense of a South African prison guard on trial for multiple murders uncovers troubling truths.

■ And don't miss the tribute to Anne V. Coates, one of cinema's finest film editors, with a screening of one of the best Agatha Christie adaptations, *Murder on the Orient Express*, on February 21. Coates won an Oscar for *Lawrence of Arabia* and has edited the likes of *Out of Africa* and *Erin Brockovich*. She will be in conversation with local film historian David Thomson. To describe this as a once-in-a-lifetime meet-

Children's Theatre of San Francisco Presents

Aladdin
and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp

SATURDAYS
January 28, February 25, March 11
10:30 am and 1pm


Presented at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
3301 Lyon St., San Francisco

Tickets \$15
(service charge included)
For tickets and information visit www.ctasf.org
or call (415) 248-2677
or [Facebook.com/CTASF](https://www.facebook.com/CTASF)

Director: Bill Starr
Musical Director: Bill Keck
Producers: Dianne Brock & Valerie Raskin

CTA

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Englewood, Colorado
Book by Tim Kelly. Music and Lyrics by Pam Hughes. Adaptation by Adelaide Hornberger 2016.




Michael W. Perry
& Company

Fine Custom Framing
Antique Prints & Maps


1837 Divisadero • 415-563-8853
www.mwperry.com

Keep your visitors
in the neighborhood




Artists Inn
B & B

2231 Pine Street
Between Webster/Fillmore
415.346.1919 • www.artistsinn.com



**ST. DOMINIC'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

**800th JUBILEE 1216-2016**
ORDER OF PREACHERS

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

ing of minds is almost an understatement.

Festival co-founder Ruthe Stein, a long-time film writer for the *Chronicle*, shared some thoughts about the Mostly British.

ON HOW THE FESTIVAL CAME ABOUT:

"I got into this as a way of making money for the wonderful nonprofit, the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation. I know the people who run it and they have helped save theaters like the Vogue and the Balboa. There was never any question it would be anywhere but the Vogue, then or now.

"I wanted to do a film festival, but had to think long and hard about what kind of hole there might be to fill in San Francisco, the center of a mind-boggling number of film festivals. I came up with the idea of Mostly British celebrating English-speaking, but not American, movies from all over the world. We joke that it is a foreign film festival without subtitles."

ON CHOOSING THE FILMS:

"I don't really look for a theme. The only criteria are that the films be really good. I do go out of my way to try to find more upbeat films because so many of the indie films, especially from first-time filmmakers, are — I hate to say it — depressing and downers."

ON WHAT SHE LIKES MOST ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:

"I love to stand in the back of the theater at a sold-out movie and just listen to the stillness of the audience being really into the movie. Best feeling!"

For tickets and more information about the Mostly British Film Festival, screening at the Vogue Theatre at 3290 Sacramento Street, go to mostlybritish.org.

By CHRIS NICHOLS

MY DAY JOB in the tech world is rewarding, but music is my passion. And much of my musical journey has played itself out on Fillmore Street.

It started two decades ago with a friend's invitation to a Thursday night rehearsal of the choir at Calvary Presbyterian Church at Fillmore and Jackson. Alden Gilchrist was directing — my first encounter with this world-class musician and wonderful human being, who was at the heart of Calvary's musical excellence for more than 60 years, until his death in 2014.

Both Alden and his spirited rehearsals were terrific. I returned again the next week. At the end of the rehearsal, Alden tapped me on the shoulder. "Chris, could I see you for a minute?" he beckoned. To my relief, I wasn't getting a quick boot. Instead, Alden invited me to join the choir on a two-week tour of France, singing in Notre Dame in Paris and other great churches, including the magnificent cathedral in Chartres.

Mostly we performed classical music, on that tour and afterward, but we also had fun with fund-raising concerts — including an evening of French cabaret when we sang as the audience dined on tables set with checkered tablecloths in the church basement.

BEFORE I BEGAN my career in the business world, I'd gotten a masters of arts in music and performed leading roles in small opera productions, including *Figaro*, *Don Gio-*



After 20 years of making music in the neighborhood, tenor Chris Nichols (left) will present a solo recital on February 25. He will be joined for a duet by guest soprano Heidi Moss Erickson (center) and accompanied by pianist Peter Grunberg (right).

vanni and *The Magic Flute*. At Calvary, I returned to solo performance as a baritone, first with the choir, and later in a recital in the chapel with my teenaged daughter, Gabrielle Goozee-Nichols. After she returned from college, she joined the choir and became the director of the children's choir at Calvary. Now she is assistant conductor of the adult choir. And 18 years ago I met my life partner Carol Fox in the choir, where we still sing.

Calvary draws people from the neighborhood and beyond for its music. In addition to the chancel choir, children's choir and jazz musicians, the San Francisco Bach Choir and many others perform at the church.

Three years ago, a remarkable thing began to happen for me as a singer. I'd always been a baritone, but people I respect suggested I might actually be a tenor. I started taking lessons again,

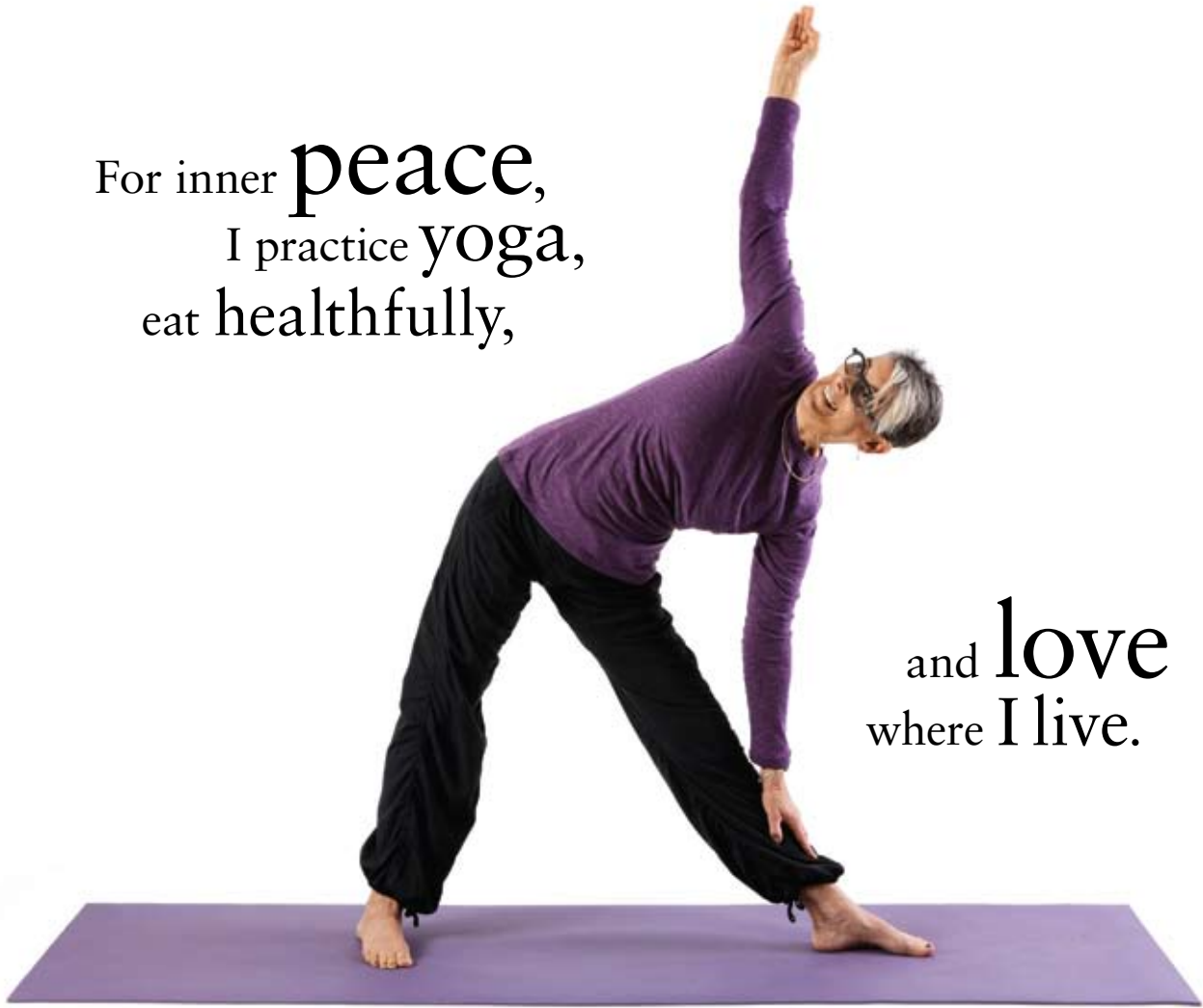
and a different voice began to emerge.

Then at a Calvary recital I met Maxine Bernstein, who runs an organization called Lieder Alive! dedicated to the performance and appreciation of lieder — the German word for song, and also a genre of classical music for singer and piano written by most of the major composers since Beethoven. Through her I joined a monthly master class and speeded up my transformation into a tenor by singing German lieder.

THIS MONTH, after 20 years of music-making in the neighborhood, I will perform a solo recital, "For the Love of Leider," in the chapel at Calvary on February 25 at 5 p.m.

I still spend my workdays at the office or on the road. But I am grateful for the rich musical journey that Calvary and some very special people in my life continue to encourage.

For inner peace,
I practice yoga,
eat healthfully,



and love
where I live.

As a yoga instructor, Marilyn has always embraced a Northern California lifestyle. So she brought her yoga class on campus, along with her passion for fresh, healthful food to the table. What else adds to her inner peace? The central location, Life Care, and freedom from mundane chores. Looking for some inner peace of your own? To find out how and learn more about retirement living, call Alison at (415) 351-7900.


The Sequoias
SAN FRANCISCO
A Life Care Community
sequoias-sf.org
1400 Geary Boulevard



This not-for-profit community is part of Northern California Presbyterian Homes and Services. License# 380500593 COA# 097





The exuberant “old temple” at Webster and Filbert incorporates architectural ornament from many religions.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAYNE WATSON

Vedanta Society Has a Pair of Important Homes

By BRIDGET MALEY

THE VEDANTA SOCIETY of Northern California was founded in 1900 by visiting Hindu monk Swami Vivekananda, who earlier gained fame and admiration at the Chicago Parliament of World Religions in 1893. The society owns two neighborhood landmarks: the “old temple” at 2963 Webster at Filbert, completed in 1905, then further expanded in 1908; and the “new temple” at 2323 Vallejo at Fillmore, dedicated in 1959.

“Vedanta is the oldest of the major living religions of the world,” according to the society’s website. “It affirms that all religions lead to the same truth.” Put simply, this branch of Hinduism underscores the importance and universality of the world’s diverse religions and cultures, and promotes oneness with God.

Under the headline “Arrival of Hindoo Lecturer,” the *Chronicle* announced on February 23, 1900: “Swami Vivekananda of Bombay, a renowned teacher of the Vedanta philosophy ... will remain here for several weeks teaching and lecturing.” The swami’s reputation preceded him to the Bay Area, and within days of his arrival, an estimated 2,000 people attended his lecture at Oakland’s Unitarian Church. Realizing San Franciscans’ intense interest in the Vedanta teachings, Swami Vivekananda arranged for a disciple, Swami Trigunatita, to take up the local post and provide lead-

ership to the fledgling chapter of the society. Under the newly dispatched swami, the society soon began to plan for a permanent meeting place.

Its leaders turned to architect Joseph Leonard to design a building for the lot newly purchased at the southwest corner of Webster and Filbert Streets. The original design was a two-story building influenced by Queen Anne and Edwardian styles — a much less exuberant version of what we see today. Swami Trigunatita and his new temple were pictured beneath the *Chronicle* headline of January 7, 1906, reading: “San Francisco has First Hindu Temple in the Western World, Vedanta Mission Established Here.”

Using elements of the world’s religious architecture to convey the society’s belief that all religions are true, the architect expanded and elaborated on the building just two years later. While Leonard was the official architect, it seems clear that Swami Trigunatita heavily influenced the design of the vertical addition. The architectural ornament used in the 1908 alterations referred to both old world and eastern precedents. Projecting from this eclectic structure are five distinct domes with European, Moorish, Hindu and Russian influences — and one very reminiscent of those that grace the Taj Mahal. At the upper story, Moorish columns support cusped Mughal arches, forming an arcaded balcony. The effect is

Better Care Takes The Pressure Off You.

Lean on us. No matter what level of home care is needed, our registered nurses can make home visits, provide medication management, and coordinate health care needs. See why we’re the Bay Area’s leading expert in senior care.

Free assessment 415.449.3777 or visit SeniorsAtHome.org.

A Division of Jewish Family and Children’s Services
San Francisco • Peninsula • Marin • Sonoma County
HHA License 220000378

Seniors At Home
Better Care Starts Here



The “new temple” at Vallejo and Fillmore is a throwback to the Art Deco style.

extraordinary, and must have been quite a sight in 1908 San Francisco.

Attracting a wide range of curious students to the temple in April 1908, Swami Trigunatita preached at its formal dedication ceremony. His Sunday lectures became very popular, and within a few years, the society’s auditorium was full for his weekly sermons.

■

Then tragedy struck. Just after Christmas 1914, a lone fanatic, Louis J. Vavra, entered the temple carrying an explosive device, proceeded to the rostrum where Swami Trigunatita was preaching, and

detonated it. The bomber’s motive was never fully understood, although it was speculated that he held some sort of grudge against the swami, or was put up to the deed by those who wished the swami ill. Swami Trigunatita later died of injuries he suffered in the explosion, and the event left the temple damaged and the congregants shaken. Nonetheless, the temple was repaired and Swami Prakashananda came to San Francisco by the end of 1915 to lead the society.


The 1920s through the 1940s saw continued growth and engagement of the Vedanta Society. As early as 1941, under

the direction of Swami Ashokananda, the society began to contemplate building a new temple. It acquired a lot at the southwest corner of Fillmore and Vallejo and hired architect Henry Gutterson to design a building to fit the hilly parcel. Gutterson was known for his residential work in Alameda and Berkeley as well as his home designs in San Francisco’s St. Francis Woods, Jordan Park and Ingleside Terrace. A Christian Scientist, he also designed a number of California’s Christian Science churches.

Gutterson’s “new temple,” a 1950s throwback to the earlier Art Deco style,

was not formally dedicated until 1959, after his death. Stepping up the steep incline of Fillmore Street, the building’s smooth concrete finish is interrupted with pilasters, modified chevron patterns and a tower along the Vallejo Street elevation. The “new temple” featured an extensive library — today open on Sundays or by appointment — and a lovely, mid-block garden that now has curving stairways and paths meandering uphill alongside the neighboring residential buildings.

The “old temple” has recently undergone an extensive restoration. For more about the restoration, go to sfvedanta.org.



THINK CURRENT & AUTHENTIC

Think Zephyr.

Highly competitive and nuanced, the Bay Area real estate market can be both challenging and rewarding. Zephyr turns local clients into successful home sellers, buyers and investors.

Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

ZephyrRE.com

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Insurance disputes, serious injury and wrongful death, medical and legal malpractice, elder abuse, business disputes

Our first conference is without charge. We work on a contingency or billable basis to make our services affordable to you.

Guy O. Kornblum
Certified in Civil Trial and Pretrial Practice Advocacy, National Board of Trial Advocacy



1388 Sutter Street, Suite 505, San Francisco, CA 94109 | 415.440.7800
50 Old Courthouse Square, Suite 601, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 | 707.544.9006

www.kcehlaw.com

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Days	Date	Asking	Sale
1652 Lyon St	2	3	2	2,440	110	1/5/2017	2,450,000	2,300,000
2016 Buchanan St	4	3	3	n/a	64	1/4/2017	3,200,000	3,075,000
3810 Washington St	4	3	2	2,722	69	12/23/2016	3,895,000	3,775,000
3747 Jackson St	3	2	1	4,120	21	1/4/2017	5,295,000	4,500,000
2515 Broadway	3	4	2	n/a	21	1/6/2017	4,895,000	4,800,000

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Days	Date	Asking	Sale
2134 Filbert St	1	1	1	676	49	12/23/2016	648,000	675,000
2865 Pine St	2	1	0	860	62	1/11/2017	785,000	785,000
1840 Washington St #203	1	1	1	863	83	1/3/2017	949,000	900,000
3045 Jackson St #203	1	1	1	1,087	145	12/16/2016	1,078,000	1,015,000
1840 Washington St #403	1	1	1	837	20	12/23/2016	899,000	1,050,000
2869 Pine St	2	2	0	1,495	62	1/11/2017	1,195,000	1,200,000
3026 Laguna St	2	1	1	1,129	28	12/22/2016	995,000	1,250,000
2655 Bush St #307	2	2	1	1,038	9	12/21/2016	1,299,000	1,269,000
2867 Pine St	2	2	1	1,402	67	1/11/2017	1,249,000	1,275,000
2719 Pine St	2	1	1	1,291	12	1/3/2017	999,000	1,290,000
345 Maple St	3	2	1	1,360	23	12/27/2016	1,375,000	1,375,000
2882 Jackson St	3	2	0	1,605	62	12/21/2016	1,490,000	1,495,000
1701 Broadway #4	3	2	1	1,821	54	12/21/2016	1,829,000	1,560,000
3172 Sacramento St	2	2	1	1,301	7	12/19/2016	1,425,000	1,575,000
1835 Franklin St #102	2	2	1	1,500	12	12/28/2016	1,495,000	1,575,000
1859 Green St	2	1	1	1,306	42	12/21/2016	2,000,000	1,700,000
1901 California St #7	3	2	1	2,100	86	1/6/2017	1,850,000	1,850,000
3252 Clay St	2	2	1	n/a	68	12/27/2016	1,995,000	1,875,000
2855 Jackson St #301	4	3	1	n/a	56	12/22/2016	2,795,000	2,495,000
3234 Washington St #5	4	4	2	2,520	217	12/29/2016	2,995,000	2,744,757
1861 Filbert St	4	4	2	3,259	69	12/29/2016	3,215,000	2,880,000
3369 Jackson St	3	3	1	3,000	15	12/22/2016	2,198,000	3,100,000
3193 Pacific Ave	2	2	1	2,140	65	1/3/2017	3,595,000	3,190,000
2121 Webster St #107	3	3	1	2,650	77	12/16/2016	3,595,000	3,595,000



The Pacific, at 2121 Webster, had two penthouse sales last fall: one for \$8.9 million and the other for \$11.8 million.

New local condos are finding buyers

Over the past couple of years, a number of new luxury condominium buildings have been sprouting up in the neighborhood, helping to put a dent in the shortage of inventory that has challenged San Francisco homebuyers.

At The District, at the corner of Bush and Divisadero streets, six units sold in the final two months of 2016, including a two-bedroom condo for \$1.3 million on December 21. Prices for units sold in the 81-unit building have ranged from \$1 million to \$1.4 million; the average days on the market have varied considerably, from five to 102.

At the LuXe on Broadway, 10 units sold in the second half of 2016, including a \$5.1 million penthouse. The Pacific, at 2121 Webster Street, had two penthouse sales last fall: one for \$8.9 million and the other for \$11.8 million. And activity has been brisk at the 260-unit Rockwell, just off Van Ness Avenue, where nearly 40 units sold in the third and fourth quarters of last year.

In the days ahead, buyers will have even more to choose from along the Van Ness corridor, as 1450 Franklin is now selling and construction has begun at The Austin on Pine Street.

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

The best care. The right way.



WE LISTEN BECAUSE WE CARE.

At Care Indeed, we take the time to understand your needs, and offer solutions that address every aspect of your care - the kind of care that you want and makes you happy.



www.CareIndeed.com • info@careindeed.com
1935 Divisadero St, San Francisco
Our caregivers, all bonded and insured, offer eldercare and lifestyle assistance.

SPECIAL OFFER!

Sign up for one week of service and receive a \$150 gift certificate or \$1,000 OFF of first month of Live-in Service

Mention this ad to take advantage of these offers. Expires 2/28/17

For a FREE in-home consultation, please call us or visit careindeed.com.

(415) 404-7373



Specialists in Residential Urban Landscaping

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

415-821-3760 · 1031 Valencia St., San Francisco · jmoyerlandscaping.com
Landscape Contractor License 853919 · Pest Control License 36389

The Local Hangout

In the '70s, the Donut Hole was the neighborhood gathering place

By JAMES BROGAN

THE DONUT HOLE doesn't fill up with people by accident. Everybody has a reason for coming in, for stopping to sit down, or buying a cup of coffee and a glazed to go. The numbers change according to what time of day it is.

In the morning, from 6 to 8 or 8:30, the place is like an anthill. Steve has to keep two people working behind the counter, and somebody out in the room cleaning off the tables. All the customers are in a hurry, fueling up before they go to work.

Later in the day it's a different story. Everybody with a real job is at work, and the place is left to another set of people: people who don't work, or people who don't work regular hours, or students or old people or artists, or just people looking for someplace to sit.

I go down there every once in a while myself in the morning. I don't like to do it very often because, if I sit there drinking coffee for a couple of hours, by the time I get back to my apartment my hands are shaking and my mind is running so fast I can't use it. Once I sit down in there I might as well kiss off the day because I won't get any work done. So unless I'm doing laundry or something, I don't go in.

At noon it gets busy again with people trying to make a meal out of junk food. A crowd of high school girls comes in from St. Rose Academy on Pine Street to smoke

cigarettes and pretend they are grown up. They sit around in short wool skirts, crossing and uncrossing their legs for anybody who might be walking by on the street.

After noon, business slows down again, and except for a half-busy time between 5 and 6, the rest of the day leaves quite a few empty tables for people who don't have anything special to do. That's when the chess board comes out. At first, it's just Kenny waiting for somebody to play him. He is the only one with a board and pieces.

The rest of us find out about each other playing against him. Every once in awhile Kenny gets up and lets a couple of us play a game by ourselves, and gradually we get interested enough to want to play even when he is not there. One day, the Donut Hole gets a chess board of its own. I don't know where it comes from. Maybe Kenny buys it because he gets tired of waiting to take his own set home. Or maybe he just decides to leave the one he has.

We keep it in the back room on the shelf, with the pieces in a small white paper donut sack. If you want to play you just ask the guy at the counter, and he brings it out for you. It doesn't seem to belong to anybody. I doubt if Steve even knows it is there.

You can play chess for hours without spending any money. A game holds a table down better than a cup of coffee does, and makes people think what you are doing is



The Donut Hole at Fillmore and California was a mainstay of the neighborhood for years.

important. I have gone for weeks at a time several days a week without spending a nickel. I guess even if I did want something I wouldn't have to pay for it because I work here part time. Everybody works here part time.

Actually, I am surprised that Alice doesn't throw the chess players out. Maybe she thinks we make the place look busier than it really is during the off-hours. You know how customers are. If a place looks empty, they won't come in because they

figure something must be wrong with it. If it is already full, then they come in, even if they have to wait. Customers are dumb, but they do spend money. Usually Alice gets rid of the deadbeats.

For five years in the mid-70s, James Brogan lived in an apartment above Kotzbeck Galleries at 2029 Fillmore. His shift at the Donut Hole was one afternoon a week, Friday, from 2 to 7. More of his stories are posted at newfillmore.com.

The City's Best in 2016

Congratulations to all of our top producers!



Annie Williams
#1 Top Producer



John Woodruff III
#2 Top Producer



Meagan Levitan
#3 Top Producer



Joan Gordon
#1 Team



David Cohen
#1 Team



Stephanie Ahlberg



Lee Bender



Thomas Cooke



Donna Cooper



John Dallas



Eva A. Daniel



Travis Hale



Marilyn Hayes



Elaine Larkin



Michelle Long



Lowrie MacLean



Marcus Miller



Sheri Mitchell



Grace Shohet



Robert Vernon



Dianne Weaver



Sandra Bagnatori



Scott Brittain



Ron Wong



Mike Tekulsky

Local Ownership. Global Reach.



415.921.6000 • www.hill-co.com



HILL & CO.
REAL ESTATE

Getting fit, healthy and **stronger together**

at the only club in San Francisco that specializes in
healthy weight loss and customized fitness programs
for boomers and seniors.

We work with clients just like you every single day.

Men and women who were busy professionals and between the office and meetings, the kids, the running around, the shopping and the spouse, there was simply no time to exercise.

And now you have more time and your body is telling you that you need to do something different - yes?

*“ I have made
immeasurable progress
in strength, endurance,
and confidence . . . ”*

- Susan Meyers

Seriously... How much do you want to be stronger and fit so you can enjoy a round of golf or play some tennis, play with your grandkids, volunteer for your favorite charity or travel and explore and do all the things on your bucket list?

How much is having your clothes fit comfortably, having more energy, fewer aches and pains, better sleep, improved balance, less pills and feeling great worth to you?

Whether it's your metabolism slowing down, back and knee issues or the need to tailor your workouts when coming back from injuries or surgeries, our training programs – we offer both private and small group personal training – deliver results because they're customized to meet your goals and fitness level while keeping you safe and challenging you at the same time.

Imagine . . . just 90 days from now, what it would be like to be STRONGER, FITTER & FEELING BETTER than you have in years!

So what are you waiting for? Let's get started today!

Give us a call at (415) 563-6694 to schedule a **FREE** small group training session* or email training@phhcsf.com.



pacific heights health club

2356 pine street | phhcsf.com | 415.563.6694

* New clients only.

