

■ INSIDE

Street Talk

Crime Watch

Fillmore Beat

Music

Locals

Home Sales

3

4

5

10

11

14



■ SCHOOLS

Progress at Cobb School

A principal makes a difference

PAGE 8



■ LANDMARKS

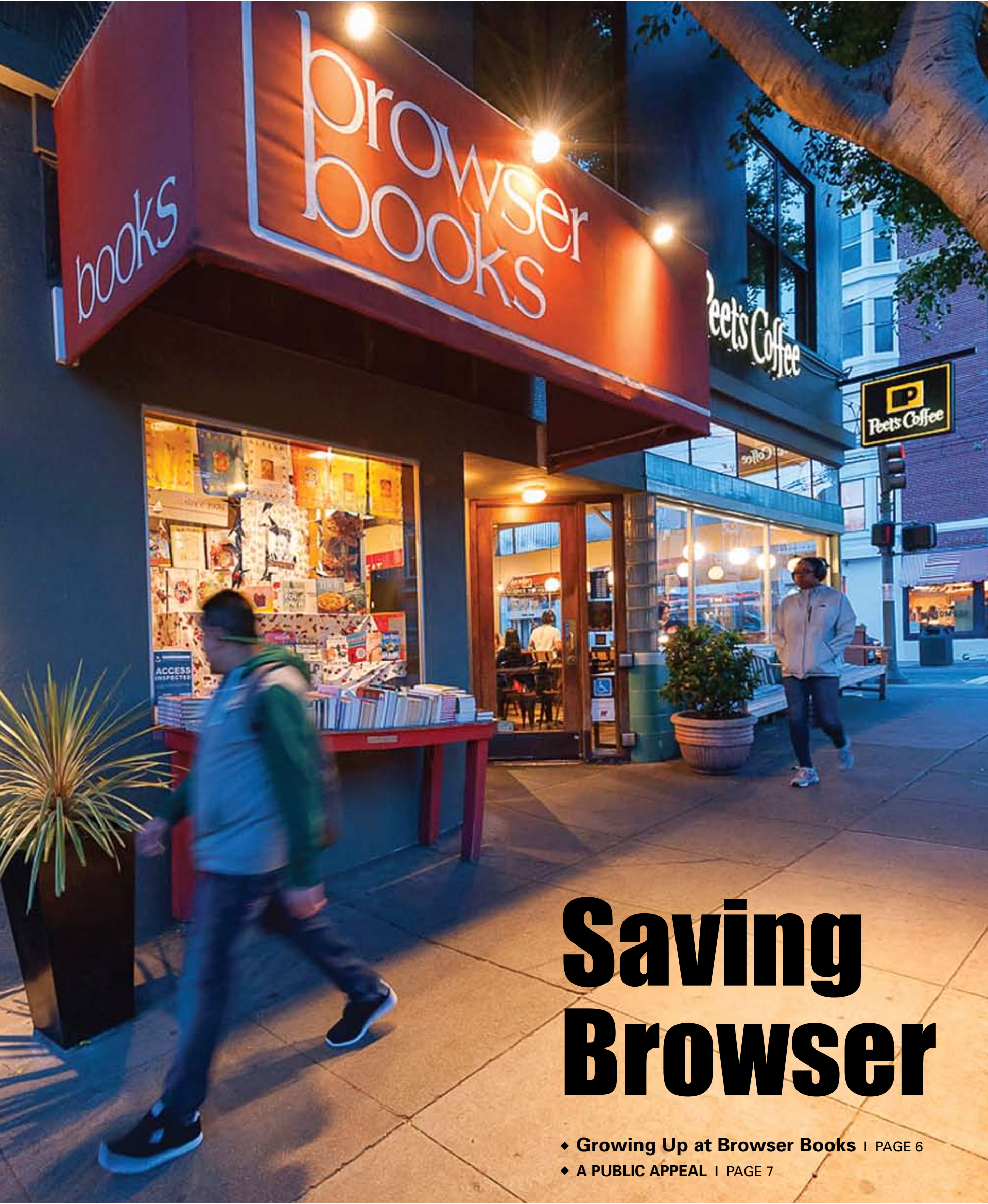
Fillmore's Movie Palaces

Cinema came early to the neighborhood

PAGE 12

THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ MAY 2018



Saving Browser

◆ Growing Up at Browser Books | PAGE 6
◆ A PUBLIC APPEAL | PAGE 7

PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL BAHMANI



San Francisco's Sketchpad Gallery presents the "First Time in America," an illustration series and a story collections about people's discoveries and experiences when they first time come to the USA. The gallery show Curator Ruby Wang and Exhibition Director Hsing Yi Lee invited eight other San Francisco local artists to join this project. Through interviews, artists illustrated their friends' stories and experiences about culture shocks. First Time in America uses both humor and real experiences to present how foreign people adjust to their life in America.



Featured artwork by Hsing Yi "Cindy" Lee

sketchpad

Sketchpad Gallery
505 Natoma St. @ 6th St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
Show runs May 05-06th.

Featured Artists :
Ruby Wang, Hsing Yi "Cindy" Lee, Celine You,
JJ song, Gloria Felix, Wilma Lai, Salo Duarte,
Eleven Shih, Eunjung June Kim, and Prem Sai.

One Planet. One People. One Future.

A Meditation to Help the World

At this time of crisis, many are searching for ways to make a positive difference in the world – while deepening their own spirituality. Thousands across the globe have found a way to accomplish both these goals: Transmission Meditation.

Transmission is a simple, group meditation that provides both a dynamic service to the world and a powerful means of personal spiritual development. It was introduced in 1974 by a great spiritual teacher, a Master of Wisdom. A group of Masters are now emerging into the public arena to help us solve our most critical global problems.



AN INTRODUCTORY TALK AND MEDITATION
Saturday, June 2nd @ 2:00 pm
Presidio Branch Library
3150 Sacramento Street (bet. Lyon and Baker)
FREE ADMISSION
share-international-west.org • 510.841.3738

CORRESPONDENCE

On NIMBYs, Living & Dying

I WAS DEEPLY disappointed by Susan Sward's article ["How Pacific Heights Got a 40-Foot Height Limit," April]. The piece wrongly portrays local activists who oppose reasonable increases to housing density limits in Pacific Heights as heroes who are somehow fighting to save the neighborhood from a tidal wave of evil construction.

San Francisco is in the midst of a staggering housing shortage and affordability crisis, largely because of retrograde policies like the 40-foot limit advocated by NIMBY groups like the Pacific Heights Residents Association. And yet the article chooses to champion the group and focus on amorphous qualities such as "preserving neighborhood character" instead of addressing perhaps the most pressing issue impacting the neighborhood and the entire city.

The most revealing quote came from activist Charlotte Maeck toward the end of the piece: "Why should I spend \$5 million if I might move in only to learn the neighbors next door plan to go up to 80 or 85 feet?" As if readers are supposed to sympathize with people who can afford to pay millions of dollars for property in one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in the country. This tells me that terms like "neighborhood character" are really just coded language for preserving property values for wealthy home owners, which, according to the tone of the article, should take precedence over the thousands of residents in this city who are struggling to find an affordable place to live.

Hilariously, when I went to the online version of the paper, I found this as the lead article on the home page, without a hint of irony: "Condos under \$1 million increasingly rare."

Gee, I wonder why.

JOHN HERMANSEN

Thanks for your message. But you wrongly impugn our motives by confusing journalism with advocacy. We tell the story of how Pacific Heights came to have a 40-foot height limit. Our readers are intelligent enough to draw their own conclusions, as you have.

THE EDITORS

Thanks for responding. The tone of the article seemed to champion Charlotte Maeck and the PHRA, but that could just be my interpretation. I look forward to future editions of the *New Fillmore*.

JOHN HERMANSEN

What an eloquent and personal tribute to my mom's life and her departure to the next one. ["Lessons in Living & Dying," April.] Barbara Kate Repa is an artist with words. She really captured the essence of my mom. I will enjoy reading it over and over again.

LYNDA BOYER

That was a perfect remembrance of Mary Boyer, very reflective of her in many ways. I enjoyed several visits with her during her last three weeks, noting her selflessness to the end. Such a beautiful person.

GLEN GODDARD

That was a lovely tribute about an intriguing person. I feel certain that friendship was a gift and blessing to you both.

LINDA GATES

Loved the Mary Boyer article — those dabs of Chanel No. 5!

JUDITH SKINNER

Out of the shadows
into the light
Bridget Maley's history of places
seems just right.

I wonder if she'll add
a word or two
that will bring the people
into view.

JOHN GAUL

The *New Fillmore* is my favorite thing to read these days. It's great to learn about the neighborhood, and I thoroughly appreciate the coverage and the well-crafted headlines. It's more important all the time to "act locally," I believe, and knowing the neighborhood news is a critical first step.

SARAH DUNCAN

I want to tell you: I found a copy of the April issue of your paper at the Millbrae post office today, and I just finished reading it. I could cry. It makes me feel so nostalgic for San Francisco, which I will not visit these days.

The stories you have in here, the biography of Mary Boyer, I cannot tell you how much they have touched me. I remember the fight in the Western Addition to save the neighborhood.

I cannot tell you what your paper meant to me, and I hope I find it again. Thank you.

ANONYMOUS CALLER

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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.



newfillmore.com | for updates and archives





The end is near for a Fillmore icon

Neighborhood icon **KELLY JOHNSON**, a steady presence on the corner of Fillmore and Sacramento for many years, plans to die in early May. Wracked by a terminal illness, he has invoked California's new End of Life Option Act. After a final few weeks of celebrating with friends, he says May 7 will be his last day on Fillmore, where he has lived since 1969.

NEW ROOTS: An opening date has now been set for the craft grocer **MERCHANT ROOTS**, coming to 1365 Fillmore. After a series of soft openings, the shop will open to the public on May 5, offering gourmet packaged items, prepared food and dinner three nights each week.

GOING MOD: Jaunty signs have gone up in the windows at 2033 Fillmore, the spot **SANDRO** recently vacated, proclaiming a womenswear shop from **MODCLOTH** is coming soon.

Founded in a college dorm room in 2002 by a pair of high school sweethearts, Modcloth offers some homeware items as well as a range of women's clothing from swimwear to wedding attire in sizes ranging from 0 to 4x. This will be the online retailer's second brick and mortar shop, after its first in Austin, Texas.

Up on Broadway, a 'Road Diet' Is Planned

A NEW PLAN will be presented at a public hearing this month that would reduce traffic from four lanes to three on Broadway between Polk and Steiner Streets.

Transit officials call it a "road diet."

The idea is to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety, while making room for dedicated bike lanes. Broadway is a key

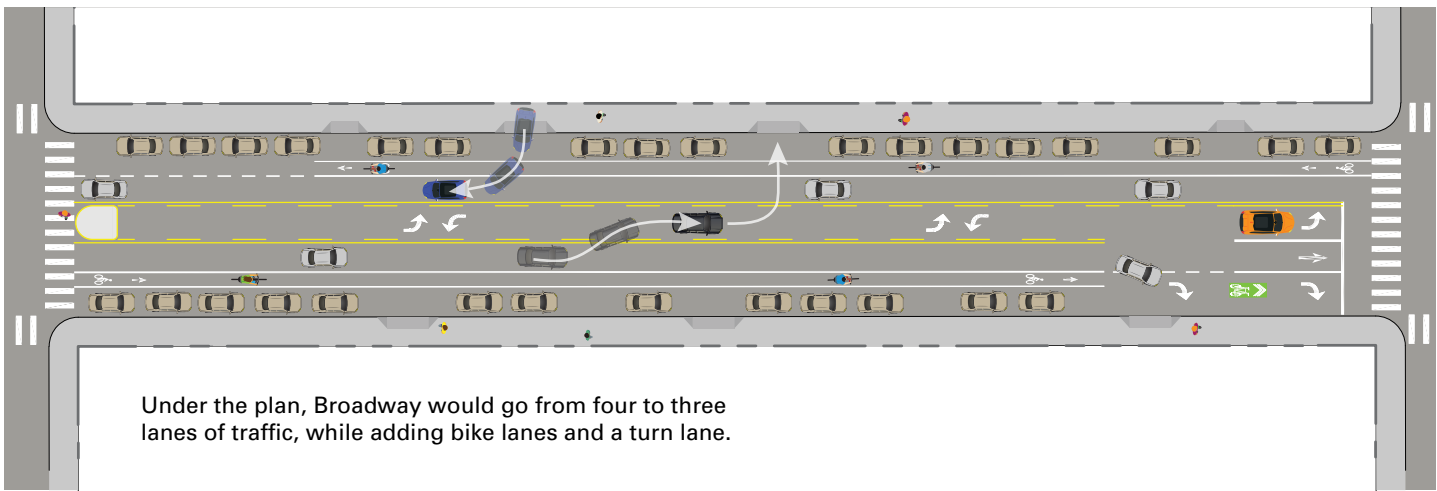
route on the city's bicycle network and the only route without separate bike lanes.

A public hearing on the plan will be held on Thursday, May 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Brigid School at 2250 Franklin Street. More information about the project is available online at sfmta.com/broadway.

The configuration of lanes will vary from block to block and shift at many intersec-

tions. The lanes and instructions will be painted on the street, as in Golden Gate Park and on other recently refigured streets. Some city bike lanes are painted green, but no color is planned on Broadway.

Transit planners say they have worked closely with the private schools on Broadway so that the revised traffic flow will not affect their drop-off and pick-up programs.



'Presidio Twilight' Returns This Month

SUMMER SEASON arrives in the Presidio on May 17 when the Thursday night parties known as Presidio Twilight resume for the fifth year.

It's an evening picnic by firelight, with the main parade ground filled with people, musicians, games, lantern-lit cabanas and firepits. The parties continue every Thursday night from 5 to 9 p.m. through September 20.

The Thursday evening event and similar Sunday afternoon Presidio Picnics were started to help attract more people to the park. Both have turned into successful events, with a wide array of food trucks organized by the Off the Grid group.

Prime spots tend to be snapped up quickly and the warming fires can be helpful as more than mere ambiance. For more information, go to offthegrid.com.



Summer calls for firepits in the Presidio.

Join the UCSF Department of Dermatology for a Free Skin Cancer Screening



UCSF's Mount Zion Campus is accessible using the MUNI lines 38, 38R, 24, 2, and 3.

If you would like to be on our email notification list, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu, specifying the campus site(s) of interest: Parnassus, Mission Bay, Mount Zion, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

For more information, contact:
Lily Wong at
(415) 476-8318
Lily.Wong3@ucsf.edu

When:
Saturday, May 12, 2018
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where:
UCSF Department of Dermatology
1701 Divisadero Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco

Did you know?

One American dies of melanoma almost every hour.

More than 3.5 million skin cancers in more than 2 million people are diagnosed annually.

Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old.

Exposure to tanning beds increases the risk of melanoma.

1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

Screenings are open to the public, and you do not need to be a patient of UCSF to attend. Insurance and appointments are not required.

Screenings will be performed to determine the possibility of skin cancer. Medical consultation will not be provided for other skin conditions such as rashes, abrasions, etc.



University of California
San Francisco

SF BUSINESS VOTES

JUNE 2018 VOTING GUIDE



Vote to finance traffic relief, support safer policing, and oppose raising office rents for small businesses

RM
3

YES on RM 3 / Bay Area Traffic Relief

Reduces area traffic congestion by financing urgently needed highway and public transit improvements

PROP
B

YES on PROP B / Appointees Running for Office

Require appointees on San Francisco boards and commissions to give up their seats when running in state or local elections

PROP
H

YES on PROP H / Safer Policing Initiative

Authorizes SFPD to train and deploy officers to use Tasers as a non-lethal alternative to firearms

PROP
A

NO on PROP A / Power Facilities Revenue Bonds

Could be used to bypass existing voter approval requirements in order to construct competing power systems

PROP
C

NO on PROP C / Tax Increase for Childcare

Largest tax increase in city history, a 3.5% surcharge on the city's commercial rent tax significantly raising office rents for businesses of all sizes

PROP
F

NO on PROP F / Legal Representation for Evicted Tenants

Creates a program that would be best addressed legislatively rather than by the ballot

**Paid for by San Francisco Forward, sponsored by
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.
Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.**

CRIME WATCH

Bicycle Theft

Laguna and Cleary

March 21, 6:45 p.m.

A woman and man were smoking a cigarette together. As she was preparing to depart on her bicycle, he shoved her to the ground, took the bike and fled. The suspect is described as a male from 19 to 24 years old. Police are investigating.

Cell Phone Robbery

Buchanan and Hayes

March 28, 11:45 a.m.

When a Muni bus stopped at a bus stop, a man grabbed a woman's cell phone, jumped off the bus and fled. The suspect is described as a male, about 20 years old. No arrests have been made in this case and the matter is still under investigation.

Battery of an Officer

Masonic and Oak

March 29, 4:09 a.m.

An officer observed three individuals lying on the steps of a building that had posted a "no trespassing" sign. The officer approached the men and awakened them. One became angry, picked up some fecal matter from the ground and tossed it at the officer. The man was issued a citation for trespassing, resisting arrest and battery of a peace officer — and released at the scene.

Stabbing

Van Ness and Eddy

April 3, 9:47 p.m.

Police received a report that two young men were involved in a verbal dispute and one was stabbing the other with a knife. When they arrived, they learned that the man who had been stabbed had a life-threatening wound. He was taken to the hospital for treatment. The assailant vanished before police arrived. The suspect is a male in his early twenties.

Hot Prowl

Bush and Laguna

April 4, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

A woman returned to her home and left her purse on the couch, believing that she had locked her front door. Some time later, an unknown individual entered her house and stole her purse, which contained her credit and debit cards and her wallet. The woman became aware of the theft when her bank called to alert her to suspicious activity on her account. Police have no suspects at this time.

Armed Robber

Buchanan and Sacramento

April 7, 3:20 p.m.

A man made an arrangement to meet a potential buyer for a necklace he was selling. When the two met on a street corner, the prospective buyer snatched the necklace

and ran. The man who had been robbed chased the thief and confronted him. The robber then brandished a handgun, turned and fled again. The robbery suspect is a male between 17 and 19 years old.

Hot Prowl

Franklin and Ellis

April 8, 9 a.m.

A man was lying in bed when he heard a noise and saw a stranger entering his bedroom. The intruder saw him and bolted out of the apartment. The resident later discovered that his wallet was missing. The suspect is a male approximately 30 years old. Police are still investigating the matter.

Robbery, Stolen Property

Geary and Collins

April 8, 12:50 p.m.

A man entered his garage and saw a stranger standing near the rear of his car. The intruder snatched a backpack out of the car and ran. The man who had been robbed ran after the suspect while his wife called the police. During the chase, the thief attempted to discard several stolen items, which were later recovered. Arriving officers detained the robber with the assistance of the victim and USF officers. The suspect was arrested and booked at county jail for burglary, robbery, receiving stolen property and committing a felony while out on bail.

Grand Theft

Masonic and Geary

April 9, 10:38 a.m.

A Target employee saw a man enter the store he recognized from prior shoplifting incidents. The employee watched while the suspect picked up several items, placed them in a shopping cart, then walked out of the store, bypassing open registers. The employee detained the man and notified the police. The man admitted to the officers that he had stolen the items and had done so in the past. His actions were caught on the store's surveillance cameras. The suspect was arrested and booked at county jail on a charge of grand theft.

Narcotics

Geary and Masonic

April 22, 6:53 p.m.

Officers were called to the Target parking lot after a report of an auto break-in. They located the vehicle and the suspect, who was detained after a records check revealed he had a search condition. The search revealed he was carrying multiple bottles of pills, baggies of a white powdery substance and of suspected heroin, as well as a scale. The suspect was arrested and booked at county jail for transporting a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for sale.

Honor & Support



WORLD WAR ONE

100th 1918-2018

Armistice Centennial

Commemoration Committee

alwmcsf@gmail.com



USS SAN FRANCISCO CEREMONY

Sunday, May 27 11:30a.m. Lands End

USS San Francisco

Memorial Foundation

awcurtis@comcast.net

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 28 11a.m.

Presidio National Cemetery

presidio@presidiotrust.gov

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Monday, May 28 12:30p.m.

Korean War Memorial Foundation

info@kwmf.org • www.kwmf.org



The Cookie Crumbles

By Chris Barnett

AFTER AN EIGHT-YEAR BATTLE with the landlord and a dozen floodings, one of which shut them down for 10 months, the mother-daughter team who own **BUMZY'S CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES** fought and won a continuance on a 10-day eviction notice. But now the exhausted owners have thrown in the towel. They're shutting down in July after the Fillmore Jazz Festival, taking orders on the internet, and looking for a new storefront. "Another African-American business in the lower Fillmore is closing its doors," says proprietor **SHEILA YOUNG**, who owns the store with her daughter, **TONI "BUMZY" YOUNG**.

The long-running dispute was triggered by a ceiling pipe connected to the sewer outside the shop at 1460 Fillmore Street, which has repeatedly failed and contaminated the premises. Father-son landlords **RICHARD AND PATRICK SZETO**, who own the block-long strip of stores on the Safeway parking lot, blamed the city for the problems and kept demanding the \$3,000-plus monthly rent, the shopowners say, even when they were shut down for repairs. Sheila Young concedes she did not pay \$25,000 in rent for the months the store was shuttered.

Landlord Patrick Szeto says he had been treated unfairly, adding: "We're currently in litigation and cannot comment on details at this time." However, Sheila Young says there is no longer any litigation pending and no longer any money owed: "When we agreed to move in July, they forgave the debt."

RENT UP, ANTIQUES OUT: The Japanese antiques shop **KURAYA** at 2425 California is gone after 17 years, and moving into 3557 Geary Boulevard. When the rent for the 3,400-square-foot space was doubled from \$7,000 to \$14,000 a month, owner **JIN TSAYOSHI** said "sayonara." Moving in is a real estate office that reportedly is also taking over the adjacent empty storefront long occupied by the wine shop **VINO!**, which bailed out last year when its lease was up. Tsayoshi is sad. "Good customers, good people, good location," he says. "I feel like I'm losing my home."

STREET SHRINK: You've seen him on Fillmore for years. Silver-haired, scholarly, awash in pens, little note cards, a Starbucks coffee or a chardonnay close at hand, lost in thought, scribbling, reflecting, typing on his laptop. **DANIEL LAPIN**, Ph.D., a retired psychologist, is writing his second book, and he's doing it on the street. Plagued with a childhood "issue," he says he can only write in public places.

"I grew up in Queens, a naughty boy who never got caught," he says. "I always studied on the subway. Looking back, I probably had a mild case of attention deficit disorder. But no one knew what it was in those days."

Now he's writing volume two of *The Vampire, Dracula and Incest*, a psychosexual biography of Dracula's Victorian-era creator Bram Stoker. The first volume, published in 1995, was started in the comfort of his cozy Pacific Heights study. Then he froze. "I need white noise to get creative," he says. He finds it in the Fillmore Starbucks, the Mollie Stone Starbucks, Via Veneto and Dino's. "My wife is sick of my books. She says: 'If I never hear another word of your books, I will not be unhappy.'"

A SUPERSTAR ON DIVIS: When the American Medical Association went on a nationwide hunt for a new editor-in-chief for its influential website and *Journal of the American Medical Association-Dermatology*, it zeroed in on **DR. KANADE SHINKAI** at UCSF's Dermatology Clinic on Divisadero. Shinkai pondered the offer and agreed, as long as she could hire her own editorial staff — and keep up her practice, so she doesn't lose the connection with her patients. The AMA bought the deal. UCSF doesn't lose her. Plus, Shinkai can still do her never-miss morning workout: surfing in the Pacific Ocean.

UNION STREET DISPATCH: Highballing into its 50th year, **PERRY'S** claims it's celebrating the milestone with nothing new. Barkeep **KEVIN YOUNG** is in his 38th year. Says GM **CAROLYN CHERRY**: "In a world of new, we're all about familiarity and comfort." That's not entirely true, since owner **PERRY BUTLER** is opening his fourth joint, a 7,000-square-foot eatery — plus cafe, plus rooftop bar — in downtown Santa Rosa.

In other news on Union, the loudly touted **STARBUCKS RESERVE**, which was to peddle a small cuppa premium joe for six bucks and up, isn't going to open after all. The existing Starbucks on the corner of Laguna may push through the wall and take over the space.

The Beat goes on. Send newsy local items to chris@cbarnmedia.com or call 415-921-5092.



Neighborhoods are worth fighting for.

San Francisco's charm — what makes it the city where everyone wants to live — comes from our neighborhood control of planning decisions. As mayor I will not allow the state to seize control of planning. While **SB 827** may be temporarily on hold, the struggle to save our great neighborhoods has just begun.



Developers around the state are salivating. They're making all kinds of backroom deals to abolish every residential restriction in neighborhoods, through **Senate Bill 827**. It's too radical an attack on our affordability crisis. "Affordable Housing" can be a mantra that stands to make the developers very rich — if they are allowed to build in our beautiful neighborhoods.

While I strongly support building affordable housing, and I promise to build **5000 low and moderate-income housing units every year** as mayor, we have not seen that building more housing brings down housing costs. Rents and homeownership are still out of reach. Mayor Ed Lee's 2014 plan to build 30,000 units by 2020 — four years later — is now halfway complete, so why is the cost of housing rising?

As George Wooding (who is supporting Jane Kim for Mayor) reported in the *Westside Observer*, "Since announcing his Housing Plan in January 2014, over 17,100 units have been built or completely rehabilitated, with . . . **6,166 new affordable housing units**, plus 1,838 acquisitions and rehabilitation of existing affordable units in the fifth report issued in May, totaled an increase of **8,004 affordable units citywide**, but that was offset by the **loss of 4,182 affordable units** due to a variety of factors (including various types of evictions, Ellis Act conversions, and other reasons). That left a new gain of **3,822 affordable units**."

Since the state seized control, through *Costa-Hawkins*, of our rentable housing — housing that allows our most vulnerable San Franciscans to live in their homes — now **it is instrumental in the spiraling rent and eviction crisis**. Developers are waiting with ready cash to bankroll the campaigns of the good Senators from Coachella, Orange County and Fresno. With all due respect, I don't see the value of relinquishing control of our precious and limited spaces to their purview. **Protect our neighborhoods!**

Angela's experience, drive, and passion to improve the lives of all San Franciscans is unmatched in this race. She will rise above the petty, divisive politics in City Hall and find solutions to the issues that affect all of us.

www.aliotoformayor.com

Angela ALIOTO

FOR **MAYOR**

Paid for by Angela Alioto for Mayor 2018 Financial disclosures available at sfethics.org



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Growing Up at Browser Books

BY CATIE DAMON

BROWSER BOOKS, the literary landmark on Fillmore near the corner of Sacramento, was originally located one block north, beside the Clay Theatre, in a building that had also been a head shop and a recording studio for Carlos Santana's first album, called simply *Santana* and released in 1969.

How my dad, Stephen Damon, came to own Browser in 1978 is, as he acknowledges, a curious and incredible story.

The bookstore's first iteration was called Edge of the City Books, opened in 1972 by a young couple who then sold it to an elderly man, who in turn sold it to a middle-aged woman in 1976, who renamed it Browser Books.

Two years later, my dad was hired as assistant manager. When the owner started to talk about selling the place, he left to work at another bookshop. One day a man came in who was marvelously wealthy from oil money and asked if my dad knew anyone who could sell him a bookstore, which he envisioned as a place to spend his retirement. My dad suggested his previous employer, and together they marched over and persuaded Browser's owner to sell.

Within a year, the man decided the life of a bookstore owner was not for him and agreed to sell it to my dad for \$20,000, to be paid over a year. The bill of sale was drawn up on a thin slip of paper from the Brown Bag, the local stationers. Two months later, my dad owned the store.

The bookstore moved a block south to 2195 Fillmore in 1989, six months before I was born.

Growing up in Browser Books, I was largely unaware of the adults who frequented the shop, but I do remember excitedly stretching my arm across the counter to shake comedian Robin Williams' hand.

The bookstore was my place of solitude. Sitting on the



Browser Books owner Stephen Damon with young Catie.

floor reading *The Boxcar Children* or *Little House on the Prairie*, I'd watch the ankles of the adults as they shuffled by. Underneath the bookcases were paperbacks and cassette tapes wreathed with dust.

The shop always felt like my private place, but I could tell it served the same purpose for others. On early mornings or rainy afternoons, I would stumble upon customers who had tucked themselves into the corners of the store. I'd help my dad haul boxes of decorations up from the basement before the holidays. I was behind the register wrapping books and ringing up sales well before I reached the legal working age.

There once was a hamburger joint called Sugar's Broiler on the corner where Peet's Coffee is located now, and I remember the empty look of that diner, which was almost always closed, as my dad unlocked the front door to Browser. I would follow him into the dark cloud of books and rugs to his office, tucked under the stairs, where he would flip the breaker that illuminated the

store. Fred Martin, who started at Browser in 1980, would arrive to vacuum and feed the canary. The radio would be set to the classical station. The rickety red table would be pushed out front and I'd help stack the books on it as best I could. Then I'd find a corner in the kids' section and read.

We'd take our lunch in the office, my dad sitting at his desk with a sandwich from the deli at Grand Central Market and me on the turned-over blue bucket we used for umbrellas during the rainy season.

My dad permeates every memory from those days. Everything revolved around his smile as he bounced down the aisles. He was always having fun. He loved racing Fred to see who could shelve books the fastest. He'd regularly engage a customer in conversation about Buddhist philosophy, or theologian Thomas Merton, while I waited at his hip.

My dad chose Browser Books instead of graduate school. He orchestrated an ongoing neighborhood symposium, a meeting point for kindred minds. People stopped in from the Zen Center and his old philosophy classes at San Francisco State. Beyond being a neighborhood bookstore, Browser was a place for people in search of the spiritual.

All of the neighborhood shopkeepers knew my dad and welcomed us as we made our rounds to Spectrum Exotic Birds, Mrs. Dewson's Hats and my favorite, the Has Beans coffee shop on California Street, where I would pick from the bins of gummy candies, tart and shaped like lemon wedges.

As I got older, I understood my dad was teaching me the importance of independent businesses. He was teaching me how to get to know people and how to help them. More than once, he let a homeless person sleep in the basement of the bookstore overnight. For me, Browser represented a sophisticated and harmonious world.

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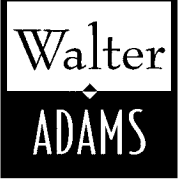
Guy Kornblum and his wife, Victoria, live in our neighborhood and raised their two children here.



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Onward & Upward

A principal makes a difference at Cobb School

By FRAN MORELAND JOHNS

ALONG WITH THE usual playground noise at Cobb Elementary School, at 2725 California Street near Scott, it's possible to hear something else: the roar of Tiger pride.

That's because the students at Cobb, Tigers all, are justifiably proud. The vibrant brick red school, which underwent a \$7 million modernization a few years ago, now boasts a new library/media center, a redesigned play yard complete with a garden and outdoor classroom spaces, and countless other upgrades.

But most important have been a renewed spirit and focus during the three years the school has been led by principal Chad Slife. "Each year enrollment and achievement have gone up," Slife says. "I have people emailing me out of the blue who want to teach at our school."

Established in 1865 as the Emerson School, it was renamed in 1978 for Dr. William L. Cobb, who became San Francisco's first African American principal in 1947 and for 16 years led the school now named for him.

Cobb has 160 students from pre-K to grade 5. Slife knows every one. "Ask me about any kid," he says. "I can tell you about him or her, and I will spell the name right. At Cobb, we know our kids."

Slife did his undergraduate work at the University of Southern California, then

entered Teach for America, a national program that places college graduates interested in teaching at low-income schools for two years. After earning a master's degree in education at San Francisco State and teaching in schools here and in Los Angeles, he came to the neighborhood as founding assistant principal of Gateway Middle School at Geary and Scott. Three years ago, he moved to Cobb.

"My focus was on fixing the culture," he says. "The biggest thing was a shift toward building community."

Parents are becoming more involved in the school. While parent volunteers have long worked in the classrooms and helped out with special events and fundraising, the first PTA was established this year.

The school also gets a boost from its community partners. Nagata Dance in Japantown partners with the school for its K-5 arts enrichment. And Presidio Pizza Co., nearby on Divisadero, is the sponsor of Cobb's Student of the Week certificates, which come with a free slice of pizza. Cobb also partners with nearby Drew School, Town School and Gateway High School, which provide older buddies for Cobb students. On a Saturday at the end of April, a program called Rebuilding Together brought parents, teachers and Salesforce staffers together to renovate the school's garden and add a new mural.

"Our location is amazing, and neighborhood people want to get involved — this is new," Slife says. "This year it's really picking

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZIE BIEHLER



"At Cobb, we know our kids."

— CHAD SLIFE, principal of Cobb Elementary School for the past three years



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Parents and the community have become more involved at the brick red Cobb School.

up — at least two or three a month. That’s big for a school.”

Slife attributes the students’ improved achievement levels — “still low, but better every year” — to the school’s nurturing environment, which is designed to bring out the intellectual best in each student while honoring individuality through song, dance, drama, instrumental music and visual art. Cobb also offers a free after school program, run by the Buchanan YMCA, from the end of the school day until 6 p.m.

Then there are the popular Tiger Tickets. A student can earn a Tiger Ticket for all sorts of good behavior, including being courteous and respectful, behaving politely or helping another person. Tiger Tickets can then be spent in the school store on school supplies, toys or “privilege passes.” Enough passes might win lunch with the principal or a class Popsicle party. The lure of Tiger Tickets is strong for everyone. In educationese, it is PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. In kid-speak, it’s simply fun. From all angles, it is a way to encourage individual growth and community spirit.

Cobb students are mostly from the Western Addition, and most are children

of color. Some of their parents and grandparents studied in these same classrooms. Now that has begun to change.

“We’re seeing more racial diversity in our lower grades,” Slife says. Statistics from the past two years show significantly more parents choosing Cobb as an option for their children. “This is huge,” Slife says. “It’s a huge testament to our work and the reputation of our school.”

It’s tough juggling a full day’s activities on an urban campus open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. while keeping track of 160 students whose names you know and can spell. “I’m just not the kind of principal who can close the door and get other things done,” Slife says.

It takes a toll, and Slife recently told his staff he will not be returning next year.

“It’s just time,” he says. “This school can really drain you.” He notes that his three years are the longest tenure of the six most recent principals at Cobb. “This is just not a sustainable position for one person,” he says, with no assistant principal.

Slife is hoping there will be a position for him next year at school district headquarters.



“Since I turned 5, I have been at school,” he says, with 17 years as a student and almost that many as a teacher and administrator. “I’ve never *not* been at school. I’m ready to have an office job for awhile.”

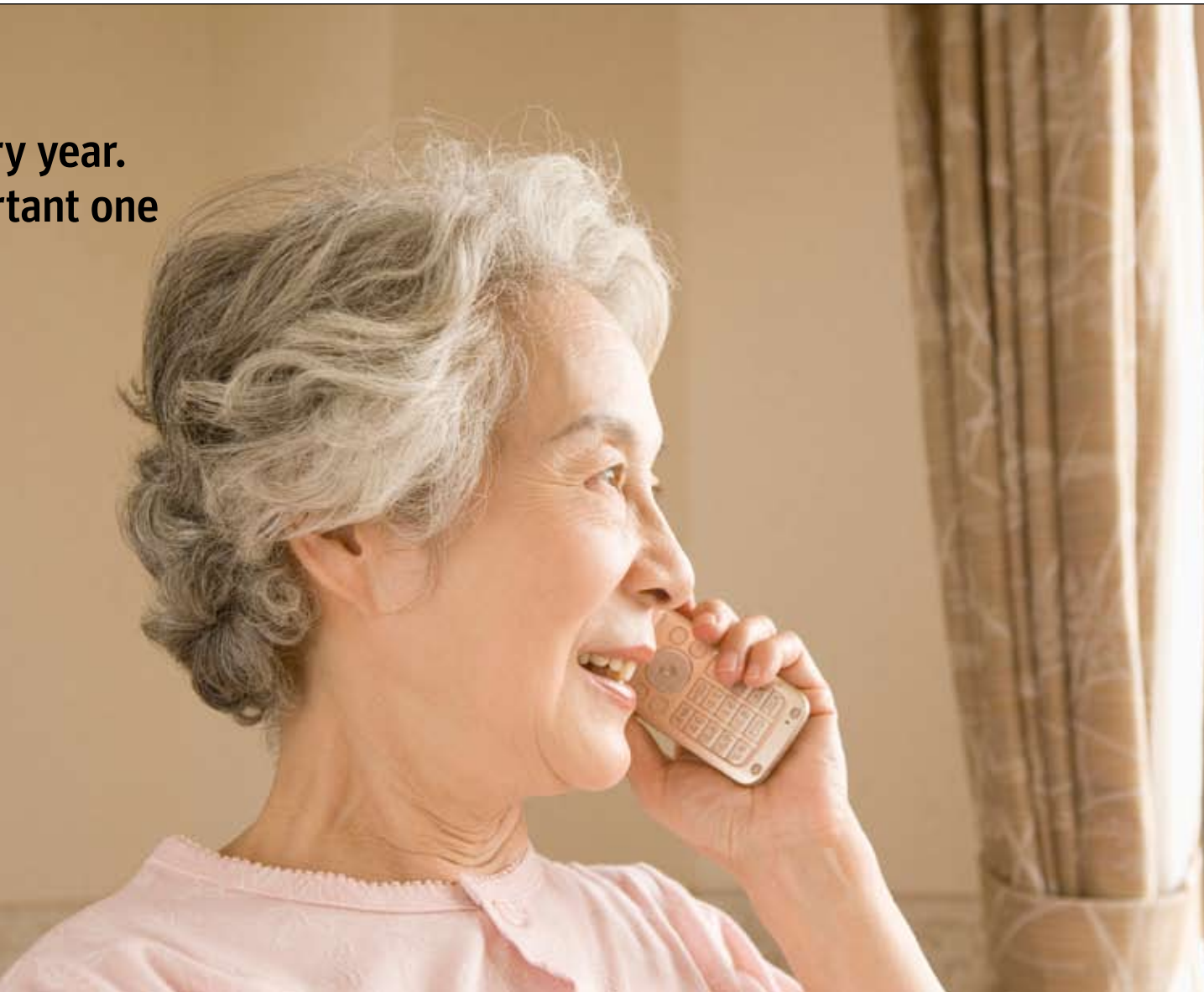
Charter schools are calling, but “I’d rather stay with public education,” he says.

Slife is a fitness buff who teaches cycling classes, is a certified personal trainer. He has run marathons or half-marathons in

22 states and plans to get to the rest. He’s clearly invested in education for the long haul, too.

At Cobb’s campus, he acknowledges, “They’re sad I’m not returning next year. It’s been a huge grieving process.” But he is hopeful about the future. “The new principal will be walking into a new situation,” he says. “Almost all of the critical players are returning. They are poised for success.”

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BY ANTHONY TORRES

YEARS AGO, when I first came to San Francisco, a friend took me to see live jazz at Rasselas, located at that time on the corner of Divisadero and California. That night, Robert Stewart played some incredibly hard R&B-inflected jazz that was incendiary.

In 1999, Rasselas moved to 1534 Fillmore Street, creating a new music venue out of an old fish market, with a second bar, stage and dance floor in a very large back room.

That was eight years before the massive Yoshi's complex opened two blocks south on Fillmore to great fanfare. While Yoshi's for a few years attracted the biggest and best nationally and internationally renowned players, Rasselas stayed true to its mission of showcasing some of the best R&B, soul and jazz musicians the Bay Area had to offer — and that was, and is, a lot.

Adding to the mix was the intimate and elegant Sheba Piano Lounge, which opened at 1419 Fillmore Street in 2006.

While Sheba and Rasselas were across the street from each other, and both served authentic Ethiopian food and offered live music, each managed to exude a distinctly different feel, and made the constellation of clubs in what was touted as the reborn Fillmore Jazz District one of the hippest sections for music and culture in San Francisco.

Sheba quickly became the go-to place for the Yoshi's crew when their shifts ended and they wanted to hang out, decompress and hear music. Rasselas closed in 2013 and Yoshi's shuttered two years later, after a brief and ill-fated attempt to continue as The Addition.

Sheba is still going strong. It remains a relaxed and casual space featuring live music every night from some of the area's best players, doing what they do out of love for the music they play. Sheba presents a variety of genres anchored in musical forms derived from the African diaspora that vary from night to night and week to week, depending



Sisters Israel and Netsanet Alemayehu own Sheba Piano Lounge.

Sheba Keeping Jazz Alive

Others have come and gone, but Sheba keeps the flame burning on Fillmore

on the musicians who show up to sit in and play.

BOHEMIAN KNUCKLE BOOGIE has long been a mainstay at Sheba. The group has helped to anchor the local scene through its commitment to the historical tradition of Fillmore jazz as a living cultural phenomenon that nurtured a range of great musical spirits.


Originally led by Mike “Coffee Picasso” Pitre — who died unexpectedly a few years ago after suffering a heart attack — the group continues to hold court at Sheba on Sunday nights, playing a unique blend of soul, jazz and blues, creating a unique sound the band calls “good music for hard times.”

On Mondays, Sheba features an open jam session where musicians and vocalists are invited to sit in with the **LARRY NELSON TRIO**. The house band is great, whether people show up to sit in or not. But the night is usually full of surprises and patrons never know if the person sitting at the next table might stroll up to the stage and completely amaze the crowd.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays tend to be flexible, with rotating groups. On a recent evening, Barbara Ochoa opened with the jazz standard “Nature Boy,” joined only by a piano accompanist.


Thursdays are reserved for **LATIN BREEZE**, an international ensemble that plays a variety of musical styles including salsa, cha-cha and merengue. They lay down Latin rhythms that attract musicians including the legendary percussionist Louis Romero, who played in his native New York with the likes of Hector Lavoe, Celia Cruz, Ruben Blades, with seven-time Grammy nominated John Santos sitting in on congas. That gives music fans some indication of the caliber of musicians who frequent Sheba Piano Lounge. And recently, Wiley Coyotes was seen and heard playing some real “roots” reggae music, which is fairly rare, especially in such a small and cozy venue.

At Sheba, music serves as a catalyst for bringing different people together and breaking down barriers, bridging humanity through genuinely heartfelt music by deeply committed musicians who make this a true neighborhood cultural resource.




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Monty on a visit to Chouquet’s on Fillmore.

Monty’s Big Day Out

MONTY HAS A SWAGGER. It’s a swagger of self-assuredness, a wiggle. It’s the wiggle-swagger that only a noble and confident West Highland Terrier can have. That was exactly the swagger he wiggled on his recent Big Day Out.

Monty’s best friend, Alison Carlson, was having work done on their home in the neighborhood. Contractors were in and out the door when one of them left it open, and Monty had the idea that he wanted a breath of fresh air. He decided on Chouquet’s, at Fillmore and Washington, where he knows the outdoor terrace well. He walked along the sidewalk unchaperoned, chest-out and proud. He made it to the orange-colored table Alison normally sits at and curled up underneath, unconcerned about the lunchtime diners with confused and worried expressions.

Longtime Chouquet’s staffer Pamela Gioe, who knows Monty well, brought him a bowl of water. Monty lapped it up, squinting in the sun. Luckily, Monty wears a handsome nametag around his neck, and Pamela was able to find Alison’s contact number and call. Unperturbed and feeling right at home, Monty remained curled up under his usual table and laid there Buddha-like until Alison zipped over in a cab to take him home.

It was the perfect rescue ruined only by lack of danger.

— MARK FANTINO

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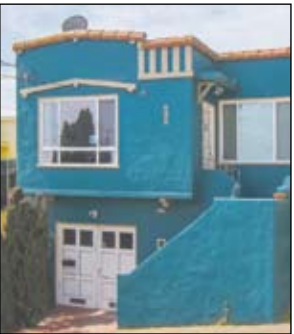
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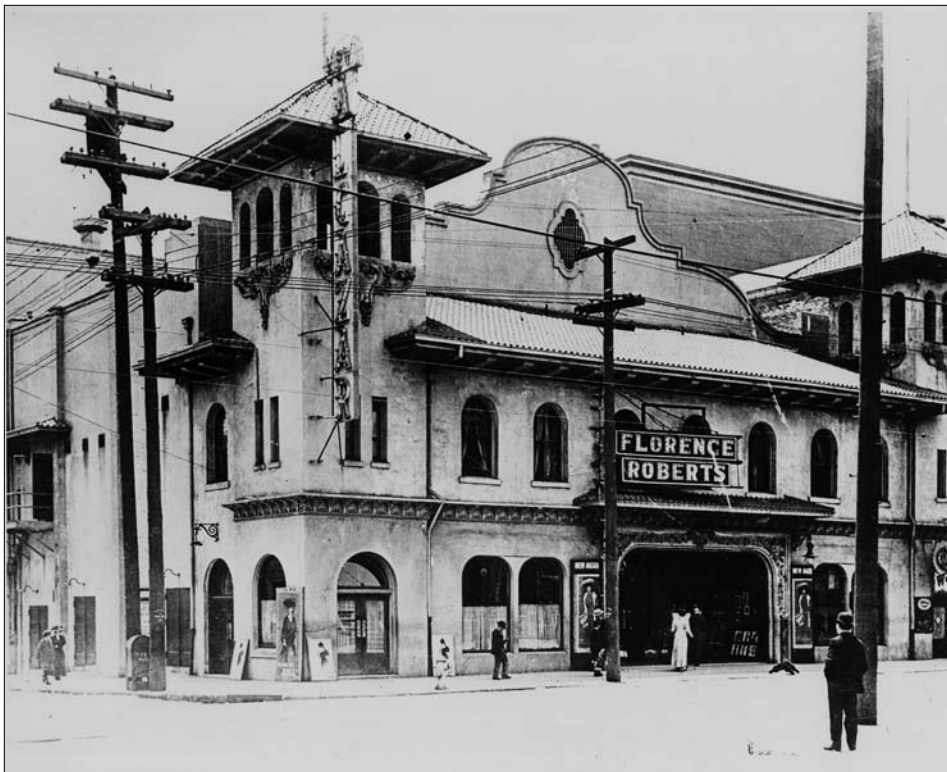
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The Alcazar at Sutter and Steiner (above) later became the Uptown (below left). The New Fillmore (below right) opened in 1917 at 1325 Fillmore Street.



Fillmore at the Movies

The neighborhood has been home to many picture palaces through the years

BY BRIDGET MALEY

BUILDINGS, even buildings we’ve lost, tell stories. This is an admittedly truncated recounting of some of the many movie theaters located in the neighborhood over the years. Sadly, many of these venues no longer grace our urban landscape, or have been reconfigured for other uses, in some cases making them unrecognizable.

As San Francisco began to recover from the earthquake of 1906, a number of smaller neighborhood theaters cropped up while the larger, grander venues along Market Street were being rebuilt. Although it was still the early days of “moving pictures,” these neighborhood theaters were specifically designed for this new form of entertainment, departing from the more audience-engaged vaudeville houses and nickelodeons.

In her essay in the 2010 book, *Left in the Dark*, Katherine Petrin — a native San Franciscan, architectural historian and proponent of theater reuse — notes that

“movie palaces appeared in neighborhood commercial areas initially as less expensive second-hand houses.” Then, when first-run films migrated to the neighborhood theaters, their importance was elevated and that was reflected in their architecture.

Petrin points out that the twin neighborhood theaters of the New Mission and the New Fillmore, both designed in 1916 by the Reid Brothers architects, were capable of seating 2,000 patrons. The New Fillmore, which was located at 1325 Fillmore, made its debut in October 1917, showing Fannie Ward’s *On the Level*. While the New

Mission has been recently reincarnated as the Alamo Drafthouse, the New Fillmore was lost in the 1950s.

With the increasing popularity of moving pictures, a cluster of theaters accumulated near Fillmore and Geary, including

two venues that debuted just after the 1906 earthquake. First came the Uptown, which was originally called the Alcazar, then the Republic, and briefly the Sutter, at the southwest corner of Sutter at Steiner. This ornate theater was conceived in the Mission Revival style, but remodeled



The Progress Theater at 1525 Fillmore.

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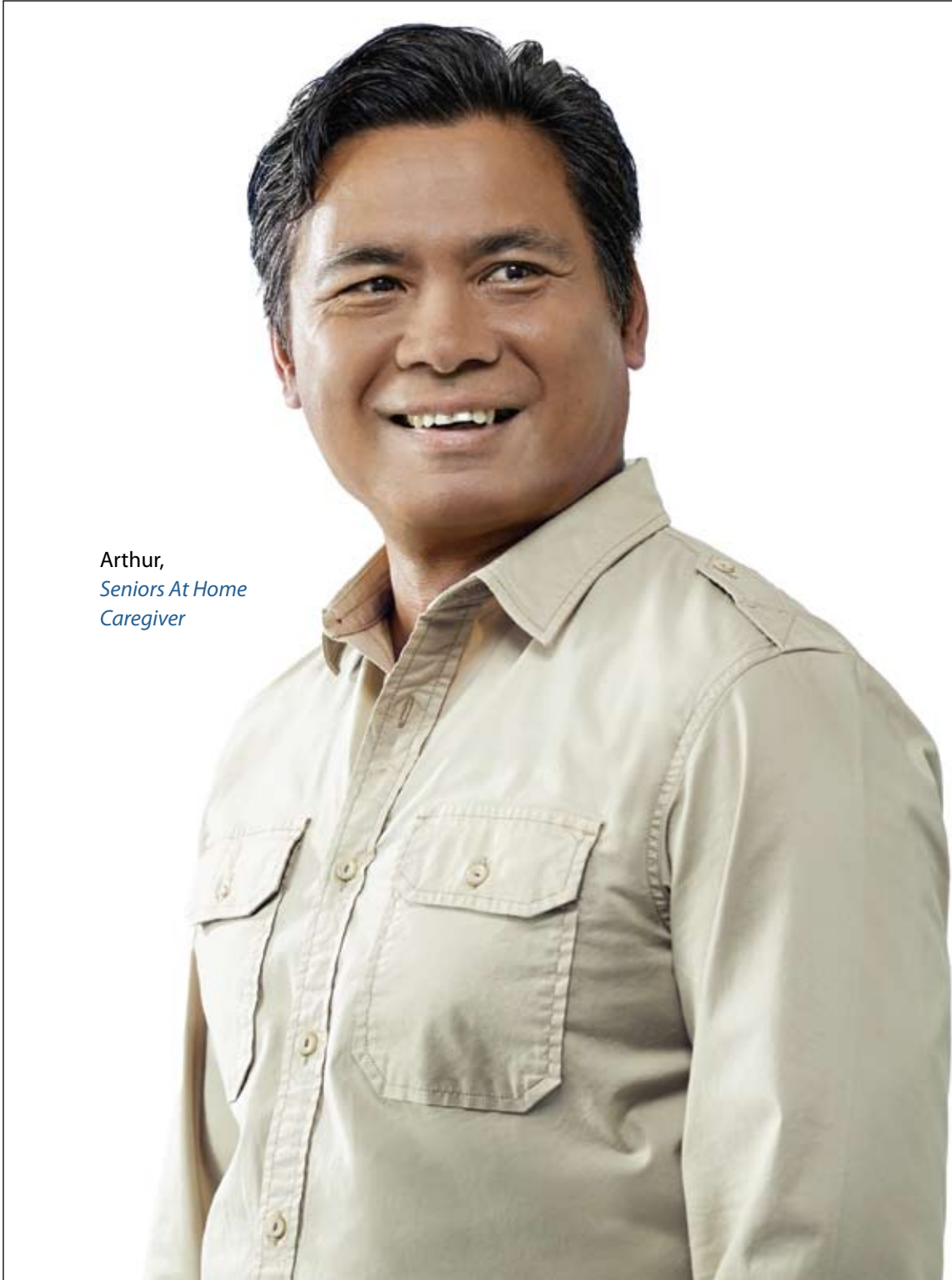
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The Clay Theater opened in 1914 as the Regent, then became the Avalon in 1931, and finally the Clay in 1935.

in the early 1930s in the Art Deco style, simultaneously taking on a new name, the Uptown. It closed in the early 1970s, only to be demolished shortly afterward.

The Victory Theater, which opened in November 1907, was located mid-block

at 2030 Sutter between Fillmore and Steiner, and was also a vaudeville house. The building was Classically inspired, with a distinctive Roman arched window at the front facade. Several years later, it became Fisher's Theater. However, as Jack Tillmany,

author of *Theaters of San Francisco* notes: "It is probably best remembered as Teatro Sutter, San Francisco's home to Spanish-language films," beginning in 1941. The last mention of the Teatro Sutter in the *Chronicle* appeared on March 11, 1955,

with an announcement of the showing of a bantam-weight boxing match to be narrated in Spanish.

In 1911, the Progress Theater, at 1525 Fillmore between Geary and O'Farrell, opened for a short run that ended in 1925. The building, which remains, has been remodeled extensively and used as a retail store until a few years ago, when it became a modernized home for the restaurants State Bird Provisions and The Progress.

The Class A, a smaller venue at 1745 Fillmore, occupied the first floor of an established, five-story Masonic Lodge, known as King Solomon's Hall. Illustrated on the 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the building was noted as having moving pictures on the first floor and lodge rooms above. The theater was aptly renamed the Temple in 1924.

In another *Left in the Dark* essay, writer D. Scott Miller explores the impact of race on the development and demise of the neighborhood's theaters. Miller's piece notes that the Temple Theater became a gathering place for African-Americans. The Uptown, which played more expensive first-run movies, was sometimes a budget buster for many in the neighborhood. Redevelopment of the Fillmore in the 1960s wiped away many buildings associated with the African-American community, including many of those related to entertainment.

The Clay Theater, at 2261 Fillmore Street near Clay Street, opened in 1914 as the Regent, then became the Avalon in 1931, and finally acquired its current name in 1935. The Clay has defied the long, slow demise of the neighborhood movie theater partly, as Miller notes, because of its location farther up Fillmore Street.

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2323 Greenwich St	2	2	1	n/a	36	4/12/2018	2,895,000	2,450,000
2148 Steiner St	4	3	2	n/a	7	4/13/2018	3,495,000	3,850,000
2506 Washington St	4	2	2	n/a	4	3/27/2018	3,995,000	4,300,000
3880 Sacramento St	4	3	2	n/a	4	4/5/2018	4,500,000	4,300,000
3962 Clay St	5	5	1	3,915	44	3/30/2018	4,990,000	4,990,000
1843 Pine St	8	6	4	5,203	10	4/4/2018	5,350,000	5,350,000
3225 Jackson St	4	4	2	3,445	11	3/16/2018	4,795,000	5,493,000
2829 Baker St	5	4	2	4,730	52	3/30/2018	7,500,000	6,850,000
2860 Greenwich St	5	5	2	5,578	50	4/6/2018	8,300,000	8,310,000
2230 Green St	6	5	5	6,400	82	4/3/2018	11,550,000	10,399,375
34 Maple St	9	6	7	11,700	264	4/3/2018	19,950,000	18,500,000

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3720 Sacramento St #5	0	1	0	n/a	45	3/20/2018	499,000	560,000
2701 Van Ness Ave #403	0	1	0	551	7	3/21/2018	610,000	630,000
2040 Franklin St #1206	0	1	1	n/a	56	3/23/2018	699,000	650,000
2298 Green St #3	1	1	1	680	11	4/11/2018	675,000	846,000
1865 California St #2	1	1	0	650	22	3/16/2018	749,000	855,000
720 Presidio Ave #201	2	1	1	n/a	9	3/30/2018	779,000	855,000
360 Locust St #1	2	1	0	n/a	34	4/10/2018	849,000	910,000
2920 Pine St	2	1	1	760	68	4/3/2018	869,000	955,000
2359 Jackson St #4	1	1	1	653	6	4/2/2018	995,000	1,034,500
2945 Pacific Ave #6	1	1	0	n/a	69	3/16/2018	1,245,000	1,072,500
2680 Post St	2	2	1	976	5	3/30/2018	998,000	1,100,000
3876 Sacramento St	2	1	0	1,228	1	3/30/2018	987,000	1,105,000
1800 Washington St #511	2	2	1	1,058	18	3/27/2018	1,270,000	1,240,000
882 Presidio Ave	3	2	1	1,078	5	3/21/2018	1,198,000	1,300,000
2040 Franklin St #609	2	2	1	n/a	12	4/13/2018	1,195,000	1,300,000
2299 Sacramento St #12	2	2	1	1,380	7	4/13/2018	1,100,000	1,310,000
1800 Washington St #513	2	2	1	1,119	36	3/23/2018	1,295,000	1,320,000
2040 Franklin St #1207	1	2	1	1,100	9	4/4/2018	1,295,000	1,350,000
2835 Sacramento St	2	2	0	1,210	29	3/23/2018	975,000	1,350,000
2529 Post St	3	1	1	1,510	14	4/9/2018	1,295,000	1,410,000
2655 Bush St #330	2	2	1	1,149	17	3/20/2018	1,450,000	1,410,000
2833 Webster St #4	3	1	1	1,165	8	4/13/2018	1,199,000	1,425,000
1568 Union St #203	2	2	1	n/a	11	4/3/2018	1,295,000	1,506,300
2655 Bush St #603	2	2	1	1,003	21	3/22/2018	1,699,000	1,529,000
1721 Baker St	2	2	1	1,812	19	3/27/2018	1,495,000	1,530,000
1998 Broadway #1206	2	2	1	1,170	5	3/16/2018	1,595,000	1,825,000
2837 Sacramento St	3	2	2	n/a	32	4/6/2018	1,650,000	1,900,000
2447 Vallejo St #4	2	1	1	1,314	12	4/10/2018	1,649,000	1,919,000
2238 Divisadero St	3	2	1	1,790	11	3/30/2018	1,795,000	2,131,000
1829 Laguna St	3	3	0	1,870	14	3/19/2018	1,795,000	2,190,000
3555 Jackson St #3	3	2	1	1,562	41	3/21/2018	2,450,000	2,200,000
1942 Bush St	4	2	1	1,980	34	4/4/2018	2,300,000	2,300,000
2365 Bush St	3	2	2	1,668	10	3/19/2018	1,949,000	2,350,000
1501 Filbert St #TH1A	3	3	1	2,345	49	3/30/2018	2,749,000	2,700,000
3326 California St #4	4	3	1	2,364	2	3/21/2018	2,495,000	2,850,000
2409 Scott St #5	3	2	1	2,320	8	3/30/2018	2,995,000	3,100,000
2121 Webster St #608	2	2	1	1,793	11	4/12/2018	3,595,000	3,845,000
1980 Vallejo S #4	3	3	1	2,328	9	4/9/2018	3,800,000	4,100,000
2190 Broadway #9E	3	3	1	3,200	1	3/29/2018	4,400,000	4,400,000
2062 Jackson St	3	2	2	2,150	24	3/16/2018	4,995,000	4,900,000



The Tudor home at 34 Maple Street sold for \$18.5 million, making it the most expensive sale this year.

Strong start to spring homebuying

The traditionally busy spring real estate season in the neighborhood was even busier than usual this year, anchored by the most expensive single-family home sale in 18 months.

There were 53 single family and condominium sales in Lower Pacific Heights, Pacific Heights, Cow Hollow and Presidio Heights between mid-March and mid-April, a 51 percent increase from the same period last year. A combination of factors may be motivating buyers to act now — including mortgage rates that are up half a percent from last year, with the prospect of more increases later this year. Buyers may also feel a sense of urgency due to low inventory and rising prices.

The most notable San Francisco sale so far this spring was 34 Maple Street, a spacious Tudor mansion directly across from the Presidio. The nine bedroom, nearly 12,000-square-foot home sold on April 3 for \$18.5 million after being on the market for nearly nine months. That makes it the priciest single-family home sale in San Francisco since October 2016, when a home at 2250 Vallejo Street sold for \$21.8 million.

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

Vote NO on E

San Francisco has REAL problems.

Our City has serious problems like property crime, homelessness, a severe lack of affordable housing, and horrible traffic congestion. If the Board of Supervisors would spend less time trying to parent the community and focus more time on governing, San Francisco could once again become a city that is welcoming to all—regardless of income, race, or origin.

This ban appears to be paternalism, or more, at its worst.

Who would think that San Francisco, of all places, would intentionally target and ban the tobacco products most preferred by communities of color, while the most popular tobacco products will remain legal in the City? That's what this ban does, it targets the choices of adult menthol and shisha tobacco consumers.

Bans and prohibitions don't work.

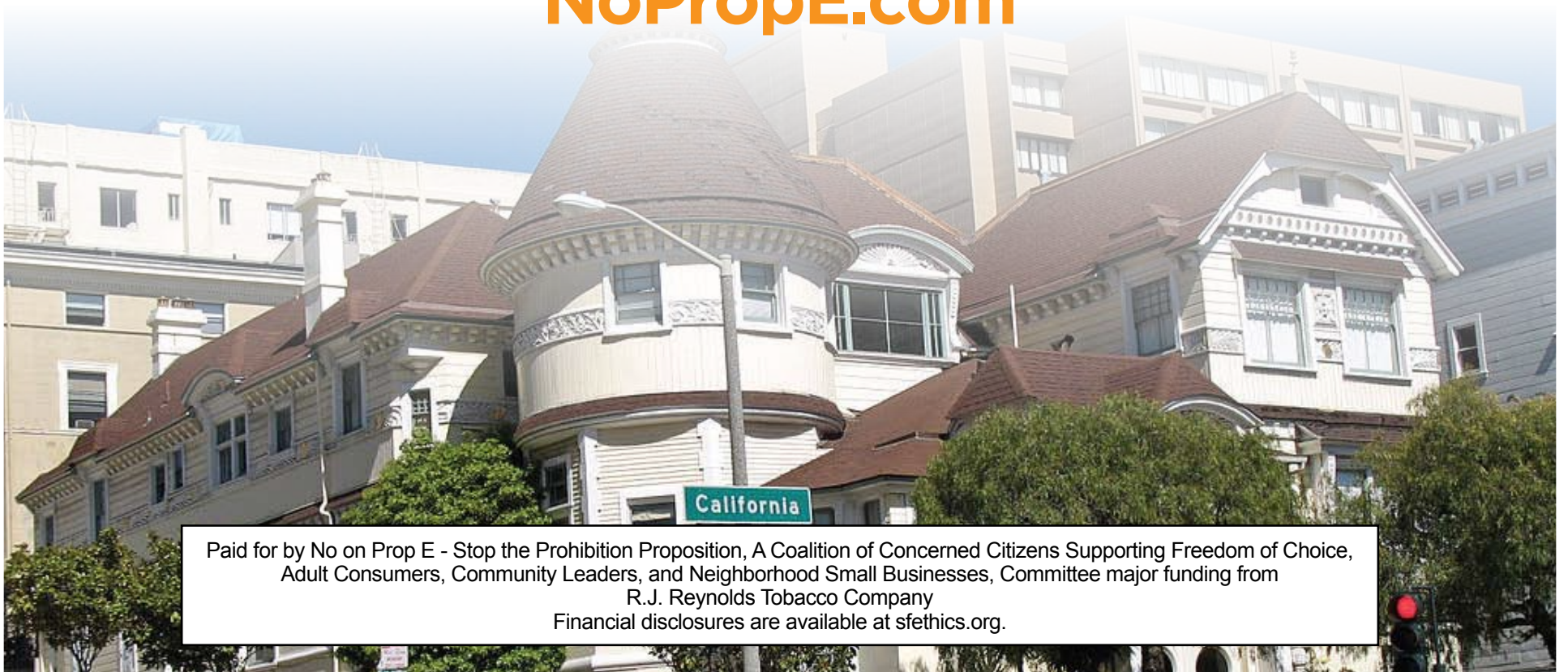
In 2016, San Francisco voted to legalize recreational marijuana by a higher margin than anywhere else in the state because the government's longstanding War on Pot was a failure. San Francisco is the one place in the country that has never been about telling adults what they can and cannot do. And the last thing we need is a new ban on menthol cigarettes, most vaping liquids, and other tobacco products City Hall says have characterizing flavors.

California voters recently passed a 200% increase in the tax on tobacco.

We've increased the tobacco tax and all tobacco products are already banned for anyone under 21 years old. A pack of cigarettes is almost \$10, with a large portion of that money going to the government in taxes. These taxes—which generate over \$1 billion per year—are supposed to be going to education and healthcare. Education—not banning adult choices—is the real solution.

Pacific Heights says NO on Prop E!

NoPropE.com



Paid for by No on Prop E - Stop the Prohibition Proposition, A Coalition of Concerned Citizens Supporting Freedom of Choice, Adult Consumers, Community Leaders, and Neighborhood Small Businesses, Committee major funding from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.



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