How Many Presidents Does it Take to Bake a Cake?

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Cover: These THD Presidents didn't actually bake this cake, but they enjoyed it with 200 others at THD's 50th Anniversary Celebration, see page 16.

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.
Imagine for a moment that most of the people in North Beach just disappeared. Add to that many of our neighbors in Russian Hill, the Marina, Polk Gulch, and Fisherman’s Wharf—all just gone. Would you be inclined to help those who were left?

The scope and scale of the human suffering in South East Asia is so staggering as to truly defy comprehension. But if any hope can be taken from an event filled with such despair, it is the truly unprecedented international response to the tragedy. Nation after nation is raising the ante to help those who have survived this disaster. At last count, over $2 billion in aid had been promised by various countries around the world. Global corporations and individuals are contributing at an unprecedented rate. Telethons, concerts, cupcake sales, and the like are constant reminders of the outpouring of desire to help people on the other side of the planet.

Compassion is a virtue demonstrated in modest amounts over the course of human history. Admirable or not, it is simply a fact of human behavior that we are more affected by the suffering of those we know or to whom we can better relate. And as this disaster has so tragically reminded us, those bonds are stronger and more vivid today than ever before.

The world has changed. In this modern world of high tech communications and easy travel, the world is not just a smaller place; it is a community. In our little corner of the community, almost everyone has visited one of the places struck by this disaster or knows someone who has. The news repeatedly brings us the harrowing stories of our fellow countrymen and their narrow escapes or tragic loss of life. Sometimes the stories even involve a friend or a relative just one step away. And it all adds up. While we are normally reminded of the divisions across our world, this event reinforces more than ever that we are, in fact, a global community. And with that proximity comes a greater responsibility today than at any point in our past. Like neighbors on the Filbert Steps, we must do more than live together; we must thrive together, and be there when the other is in need. It all seems pretty plain. One would just hope that in the days and years to come it does not take another catastrophe for the lesson to truly strike home.

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Some Memories of My Dad

by Terry Anderlini

Elios Pacific (Andy) Anderlini
(1908-2004)

After my dad died a friend wrote, “The roses were all crying at your father’s passing.” It seemed true. On the day he died, November 18, 2004. I took a walk through his famous rose garden at 300 Filbert St. on Telegraph Hill. The roses drooped as if they knew he was gone. They had lost their good friend and daily caregiver. Even his lemon tree did not look well, feeling the loss of his loving and caring presence. If his death has been a great loss to the roses and lemons, it has been even more of one to all the others who he touched in life.

My dad was 96 years old when he passed away in his sleep without suffering. He and my mother, Virginia, had been happily married for 67 years. He lived a wonderful adventurous life his way. On his 90th birthday he told me that he was ready to go at any time because he had fulfilled all his life long dreams.

Andy was born in Kansas to poor Italian immigrant parents who spoke no English. His father worked for a coal mine company. Because of his language barrier, Andy struggled for his education in grade school. His family decided to move to San Francisco when he was 15. Living in North Beach, he attended Galileo High School where he earned excellent grades, all the while working part time to contribute to the family income. He found time to become a cheerleader before graduating from Galileo with honors. He went on to the University of California, Berkeley for two years, then was granted early admission to Hastings Law School where he graduated as one of the top students in his class.

He started practicing law in North Beach in 1935 and in 1937 married my mother Virginia who had been born on the Telegraph Hill in a flat next to the Speedy’s Market. She became his legal secretary in his law office in the old Rossi Building at the corner of Union and Stockton.

In 1940, Andy and Virginia purchased the lot and built the house at 300 Filbert for the then exorbitant price of $20,000. When the local milkman told my mother that Mrs. Wiesgerber

continued on page 21
The Tank

by Parker Maddux

Returning from a year of postgraduate school in Europe in the fall of 1965, I had thoroughly consumed my savings; I had no choice but to go to work. I found a job downtown for a salary that wouldn't get a garage for a month on Telegraph Hill today, but at the time was enough to rent an apartment on the Hill and even furnish it. I headed immediately for Speedy’s to see if there was anything for rent. Walking up Montgomery Street, I came on an enormous gray apartment building at the corner of Montgomery and Green with a “For Rent” sign in one of the windows. I rang the bell, and met the owner, whom I’ll call “Angelica.” She was—dressed entirely in black. Her age was—indeterminate (but somewhat north of 60), and she had a blaze of white and gray hair as her only adornment. She glared at me as if I were from the IRS, but, with promises of good behavior, I managed to get her to show me the empty apartment. I took it immediately. The rent was $125 per month, including utilities, and for another $7.50 I got a garage in the building. There was even a view of sorts—by standing on my toes and craning my head to the right—I could see to the cliff at the end of Green Street, and a slice of Treasure Island and the East Bay.

I quickly determined that I was the only renter in the entire building (it had 12 or more apartments). It took several weeks, but I finally got acquainted sufficiently well with Angelica to ask why I was the only tenant. She mumbled something non-responsive, but I later pieced the explanation together — she was widowed, or never married, and had inherited the building. I guessed that since her expenses were apparently only her taxes and food (she had no car, and seemed never to go out except to buy groceries), she had no need for more tenants, and having more would have just been a bother.

So I passed a few months in the building, rarely even spotting Angelica except to pay the rent and when she looked out her window to see who had closed the front door. I rattled around the apartment, but had no reason to take a look at any of the other floors or apartment hallways in the building, since all were abandoned, dark and not very clean. But one day, moved by a spirit of exploration, I set out to walk down—my hallway to the stairs located in the middle of the building, between—two sets of six or so apartments each. As I rounded the last corner to the staircase, I came upon an astonishing sight. I was on the middle floor, so the staircase led both upward and downward from where I stood. At the top there was a skylight or windows (I don’t remember exactly now), and in the gloaming I could make out a huge, three story high, dark redwood tank at least 10 feet in diameter—smack in the middle of the stairwell area and reaching from the top of the building to the bottom. It was so incongruous to find the huge tank that my jaw must have bounced off the floor. I couldn’t figure out what it might be, guessing that it may have held water to supply the building, or perhaps for emergency use in the event of a fire or earthquake. At any rate, I was determined to get an explanation from Angelica somehow, notwithstanding her reticence about all things.

A few days later I ran into Angelica outside her apartment. I greeted her in a friendly manner,—despite her scowl at the inconvenience of encountering me, and I asked right out about continued on next page
In 1991, the production crew for the film “Basic Instinct” arrived in San Francisco. Joe Eszterhaus had written a pointless, lusty and highly marketable $3 Million script and the movie was to be shot in part, just below our house at Vallejo and Kearny. Though no one in the script seemed real, gays and lesbians thought it offensive enough to deserve street protests. The film crew, aided by Teamsters and SF off-duty rent-a-cops set up camera and light towers, anticipating four all night sessions. Their subject: SUV’s in chase, knock down street signs, drive over staircases, knock over handrails and a street tree. (“We'll plant you another, later.”)

Fast forward to the neighborhood mobilization. THD was generously granted use of Whitney Warren’s handsome Butter House at the top of Filbert where a meeting was to be held with the filmmakers over hors d’oeuvres and drinks to discuss the film’s shooting terms. The film’s stars, Mr. Michael Douglas and Miss Sharon Stone declined the invitation, as did Eszterhaus. But English producer Alan Marshall and his associate producers came along.

I said, “Not a frame more of this film will be shot on this Hill until a $50,000 check written to our children’s and seniors’ programs comes from Tri-Star, and clears the bank. Marshall, a diplomat, knew we were underwhelmed with Hollywood bravado, intimidation, and all-night shooting. He had a $43Million juggernaut rolling, and was already putting up with the daily chides from Herb Warren.”

This story is the first in what we anticipate will be an occasional “Tales of Telegraph Hill” feature in the Semaphore. Those with tales to tell should send anecdotes of under 1000 words to apeterson@writingproject.org or mail them to Semaphore Editor, 101A Telegraph Hill Blvd. SF 94133.
Caen and a variety of street protestors. He seemed to get it: we too were serious.

Later that night at 4:00 a.m, Janet and I were roused by a call from a cheeky Santa Monica studio attorney who suggested I could wind up in the Bay if I stood on my threat. He sounded nervous.

I reminded the attorney the replacement cost of his set, our set, a wonderfully deep set, compellingly verite, able to be shot at any angle, was approximately $20 million. We pay for his set’s annual maintenance costs and its property taxes. He was paying City Hall $200 a day for the use of it.

I called friends in Chinatown for a back-up reserve of fireworks to “assist with sound track enhancements and colorful visuals” in the event filming got underway before the check cleared.

All of a sudden the moguls were paying attention. Junior production assistants hung about Kearny Street pulling fifty-dollar bills from their tummy packs for anyone “inconvenienced.” For those who made even more noise about this nuisance, the film people gave “a free over night at the Fairmont if you just can’t sleep”.

The next morning Tri-Star gave the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center $40,000 and their check did clear in a day. I believe this was the largest single donation the organization had received, up to that time. And that night, we let a Michael Douglas stand-in drive his battered 4-wheeler up the Kearny steps under the lights, without a single sign cut away or tree damaged.

From “Birth of A Nation” to this day, big studio shooting schedules have proceeded with little understanding of the costs inflicted on the neighborhoods they choose for their locations. What these communities need to realize is that these businesses have lots of cash. Some studios simply hemorrhage money during production to stay on schedule .This is a fact worth remembering when the commissary trucks and rent-a-cops circle, and when THD is trying to fund important neighborhood work. I’m not in favor of dunning small independent and student films, but Eszterhaus had $43 million to work with. Perhaps an even larger rent for his “back lot” should have remained right here, to further beautify our photogenic Hill.

Rod Freebarin-Smith was president of THD from 1989-1991
In Memorium: Richard Marshall 1920-2004

By Patricia Cady

He said he recalled just one incident of outright conflict in his 84 years: A fist-fight over a woman with another Cal undergrad in the lobby of Berkeley’s Hotel Durant; the boys stopped when they got tired and ordered drinks at the bar. He appreciated a well-made Manhattan, and saw the point in getting along with people-good traits in an architect whose long career began in post-war Paris where he used the G. I. Bill to study at Ecoles des Beaux Arts.

He headed a university’s architecture department in India, completed projects in Africa for UNESCO and came home to construct public schools throughout California, for which he won numerous design awards. Following a stroke, Richard died last October, leaving friends to remember our kind and witty neighbor, champion of the underdog who worked all his life for social justice. A loyal Democrat, had he lived to see George W. Bush assume another term in office, that alone might have killed him.

A THD’er who had chaired the Planning and Zoning Committee, Dick was an early, active supporter of Supervisor Aaron Peskin. Most mornings he could be found talking politics at the Italian French Bakery where he was friends with Petra, who has adopted his dog, Sandy, his good and patient companion.

Services were held at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi where he supported, since it began in 1998, their Music Program which gives free public concerts on Sunday afternoons. Donations to continue the program can be made in Richard’s name c/o the Shrine at 610 Vallejo Street.

Letter to the Editor

As the New Year comes in, let’s resolve to patronize the small businesses in our own neighborhood. The past few years haven’t been a great time for them.

Consider Speedy’s. The owners have been heroically keeping a neighborhood mainstay alive, and with style. Many evenings they could be seen behind their plate glass windows, scrubbing, painting and polishing after hours. They provide catering as well as fresh produce, herbs and a deli, and have donated food and labor to Tel Hill Club events.

They have good days and bad days. Remember how people turned out in droves when we thought we were losing our corner store? Now let’s sustain it. There is always something delicious and new at Speedy’s, like their fabulous homemade soups and freshly prepared foods to go. Brian often bakes biscotti, carrot cake and other desserts. Speedy’s, like the other small businesses in our neighborhood, is deserving of our support.

—Deirdre English

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From the Heart of Tuscany
To the Heart of San Francisco
As readers of the Semaphore know, for more than two years the Telegraph Hill Dwellers’ Parking & Traffic Committee has been working through possible solutions to the egregious queues of up-to 50 cars winding—on weekends and holidays—from the Coit Tower parking lot, down Telegraph Hill Boulevard and sometimes even onto Lombard Street. These queues, which have been with us for many years, serve as a blot on our city and its face to visitors. Further, the cars in these queues, spew air pollution and impede legitimate access to the Tower by emergency vehicles. Because of this congestion, it is impossible for the Telegraph Hill bus— the 39 Coit— to maintain its schedule. As a result, ridership is far less than it could be.

The lengthy line of cars would, in fact, be much longer if the drivers of many of these vehicles didn’t become discouraged and make dangerous turnarounds in the middle of Telegraph Hill Blvd. How often does a driver get caught in a traffic jam any where else in the city that takes 20 minutes to get through?

After a community meeting open to the public, the committee developed— and publicly presented— a trial plan that advances the idea that the best way to eliminate the queues is to eliminate visitor parking (except handicapped) during peak weekend and holiday periods. Visitors will have the option of arriving via the 39 Coit bus, taxi or limo. They may also be dropped off by private vehicle, but the driver must then immediately exit the lot. Walking is, of course, another option.

Neighbors who live near the Tower lot regularly use it as a neighborhood parking lot during all hours of the day and night and throughout the week. Representatives of these neighbors have repeatedly resisted any change that might jeopardize their ability to park there. Many other people feel that the setting at the base of Coit Tower is too significant to be used as an ordinary parking lot, which they view as an eyesore in this venue. They advocate no parking there at all. Those who hold this view would rather the space be given over to a piazza, garden or some other aesthetically appropriate setting for the Tower. They reason that this is a special “public space” and should be used as such.

However, the committee’s trial plan treats the elimination of visitor parking and the presence or absence of neighbor parking as separate issues. Under the proposed plan, while visitor parking will be restricted, neighbors will be allowed to park their cars in the present spaces. Neighborhood vehicles represent a very small percentage of the vehicular comings and goings at the top of the hill. The neighbors don’t create the queues. However, neighbors who arrive when there is no free space available would be required to descend the hill and try again later, rather than wait for a space as waiting in this way would impede all traffic. Based on data the committee has collected measuring neighborhood usage, residents will normally be able to find a spot.

Before this trial can proceed, the committee must get an opinion from the city attorney on the legality of allowing neighbors with red “A” stickers or other designations to park at the Tower lot to the exclusion of others. There appear to be existing precedents for this, but a final determination has not yet been made. Muni and the Department of Parking & Traffic have been working with the committee on this project. Easy-to use- Telegraph Hill transit and clear unpolluted streets will benefit both these entities and our community.

The committee hopes to mount the trial this coming summer when traffic is at its highest level.
Nominees for Board

Do you know a Telegraph Hill Dweller who would make an effective board member for our organization? If so, it’s time to forward your candidate’s name to the THD Nominating Committee.

Interviews for several board positions will be conducted by the Nominating Committee and a slate of new directors proposed to the general membership for election in April. The nominating process is competitive and not all proposed nominees would be interviewed.

In thinking about someone you might nominate, remember that the ability to commit a minimum of five to six hours weekly to THD activities is essential. Board meetings are held monthly and usually last three hours. Board members are also expected to participate in one of several committees (e.g. “Planning and Zoning,” “Park and Rec,” “Beautification,” “Parking and Traffic,” “Grant Avenue Revitalization”), and are also asked to volunteer for special projects and activities. They are encouraged to attend social or program events so they can meet members in informal settings.

Candidates to the Board should have an interest in Telegraph Hill architecture and history, appreciate the neighborhood’s cultural diversity, be committed to protection of our parks and open spaces and the advancement of our commercial areas.

Candidate’s names must be received no later than February 20. Please include the Nominee’s home address and an e-mail or telephone contact where she or he can be reached. And if you believe you are the right person for the job, please feel free to nominate yourself.

Send written recommendations to:

Telegraph Hill Dwellers
Nominating Committee
PO. 330159
San Francisco, CA 94133
Or email to: Nominating_Committee@THD.org

THD 50th anniversary party at Coit Tower.
SQUARE BE LIMITED OR RESTRICTED?

THD BOARD MEMBER JOE ALIOTO ARGUES “NO”

The issue before us is really three-fold: whether Washington Square is an appropriate venue for public events (absolutely, yes); whether THD should involve itself in regulating the types of events to be held in the park (unquestionably, no); and whether THD is well-suited to regulate the characteristics of such events, including whether alcohol may be served, the hours events take place, and whether the event planners should be limited to certain noise volumes (THD’s target for change should be the government, not event planners).

After 153 years, and thanks in no small part to the activities of THD, Washington Square, the gathering place that, as Herb Caen noted, is a Square that is not a square, located in a neighborhood that is not a beach, remains the oldest unaltered public park in San Francisco. At least on its surface. In fact, the Square has welcomed change. Over the years this park has been the congregation point for Russians, Germans, Italians, Chinese, and, at one time milk cows. It was even once a cemetery. But Washington Square is far from dead. It embraces change. There is little common about Little City’s common.

In fact, if there is anything at all “regular” about Washington Square Park, it is its commitment to its role as “American Town Square”—a place where people of different backgrounds freely share their political views with the world. But, the Town Square’s purpose is also to ensure cultural democracy. It highlights our diversity by inviting all manner of cultural expression through art festivals, parties, music concerts, and other gatherings. Our national tradition has always been to foster cultural diversity through public events in our nation’s Town Squares. In this regard, Washington Square is no different, and the freedom to celebrate our cultural differences through public events in the park should always be preserved.

Should THD, then have a role in regulating public events at Washington Square? The short answer is “no.” First, under no circumstances should THD’s efforts be aimed at squelching the type of events held at the park or the type of music played at such events. Allowing certain types of events and preventing others would lead to the appearance of favoritism or even censorship. Worse yet, it would be contrary to our neighborhood’s rich history of inviting cultural expression from all backgrounds.

Some level of discomfort has to be tolerated to ensure free political expression. (I’m thinking of a particular, noisily turbulent hotel lock-out.) The same is true for cultural expression. Music, for the most part, is better loud. Wine or beer festivals involve, well, drinking. Culture learned in a library is subdued; culture lived is boisterous.

Not everyone agrees, of course. During these events, noise levels increase, parking gets tighter, and unfortunately, there are occasions when irresponsible citizenry get a little too loose with the booze.

But, efforts by THD to prevent event planners from playing music, serving alcohol, or staging events within certain hours are misguided. In part, that is because it gives the appearance of meddling (or censoring) certain types of events. But, it is also because legal mechanisms to deal with these problems are already in place, and all event planners must apply for and be awarded...
Two of the qualities most often mentioned in praise of our neighborhood are its intimate scale and its active public spaces. So it’s no wonder that, when something occurs in the public realm, neighbors tend to take a personal interest. After almost a decade as Chair of Telegraph Hill’s Parks & Trees Committee, I’ve heard my share of pros and cons about the events in Washington Square. The ongoing challenge is how to respect the wonderful treasure we’ve been given, enjoy it while we’re here, and leave it in good or better condition for those who follow. A challenge, indeed:

Open space

We are the densest urban area outside of New York, with 55,000 people per square mile. We live in compact dwellings without yards. Our district has the least amount of public open space per capita in the City. Washington Square is our communal yard: quintessential, essential.

But the “passive recreation” for which Washington Square is set aside is harder to define and is seldom championed and protected like organized sports or more clearly dedicated facilities. Gentle pursuits like reading in the sun, or picnicking, or letting a toddler roam free are easily driven out by organized events, large and small – whether a boisterous concert, a screeching preacher, or protesters with giant posters of mutilated chickens.

Perhaps the most passive use of all—looking at the park—takes a hit from events. The park is easily obscured by hulking delivery trucks and clattering metal barricades. The park perimeter becomes an extended service area, with cables, tubs, racks, easels, and debris.

continued on page 18
Your Most Memorable Moment as THD President?

Dr. Bob Major (1958-1959) *Not shown*

The time I told the board, “This outfit should be for something, not just against”

Jerry Cauthen (1968-1970)

Blocking the well-financed International Market Center, a mega-complex that would have badly scared the waterfront

Anne Halsted (1977-1979)

The meeting we had to protest the Pier 39 development; we lost the battle, but the organization came together as never before

Jeanne Milligan (1985-1987)

Getting Planning and Zoning reestablished as a core committee


Establishing a 40-foot height limit in the North Beach business district

If there are special gods looking out for the welfare of Telegraph Hill, they were very much on duty September 26, 2004, the day of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers 50th Anniversary Celebration at Pioneer Park. The day was balmy and the winds that often sweep over the hill were nowhere to be found. Over two hundred celebrants enjoyed good food, drink and music, while listening to a few mercifully short speeches paying tribute to THD’s resilience and accomplishments over 50 years. There was face painting and jaunty commemorative berets for sale and tours of the normally inaccessible areas of the Coit Tower murals. All in all, an experience not to be forgotten.
Your Most Memorable Moment as THD President?

At THD’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

Having the superior court award a large bequest from a former member—Jack Early; also the work we did to honor our history, implementing the Oral History Program and formalizing and permanently relocating our archives.

Having the superior court award a large bequest from a former member—Jack Early; also the work we did to honor our history, implementing the Oral History Program and formalizing and permanently relocating our archives.

Aaron Peskin (1999-2000)
Blocking the Rite Aid store at Washington Square and the eventual land marking of the square.

Rod Freebarin-Smith (1989-1991)
Extracting $40,000 for the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center from a film company working on the Hill (See story, page 9).

Jane Winslow (1983-1985)
Establishing a 40-foot height limit in the North Beach business district.

Paul Scott (2003- )
The Board of Supervisors vote to give the neighborhood the triangle park.

Aaron Peskin (1999-2000)
Blocking the Rite Aid store at Washington Square and the eventual land marking of the square.

If there are special gods looking out for the welfare of Telegraph Hill, they were very much on duty September 26, 2004, the day of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers 50th Anniversary Celebration at Pioneer Park. The day was balmy and the winds that often sweep over the hill on summer afternoons were nowhere to be found. Over two hundred celebrants enjoyed good food, drink and music, while listening to a few mercifully short speeches paying tribute to THD’s resilience and accomplishments over 50 years. There was face painting and jaunty commemorative berets for sale and tours of the normally inaccessible areas of the Coit Tower murals. All in all, an experience not to be forgotten.
Escalating Use

There are more and more events being scheduled for the park, and events are getting larger and more complex. The City Attorney has taken the position that free speech issues force RecPark to allow the preachers and protestors. Art groups proliferate and each one wants more time in the park. New promoters with sympathetic affiliations, espousing good intentions, lobby to be added to the existing queue.

All event planners will tell you that their primary goal is to put on a great party, see people gather and have fun. But these events are enormously expensive to put on, and those costs must be recouped. Even “non-profit” events typically channel salaries to organizing groups or individuals. All this fuels the push for larger, multiple-day, and paid-admittance events, and for alcohol sales.

Damage

The typical components of many events—delivery trucks; stages, tents, scaffolding and other structures that must be braced or tied down; cooking fires that produce fumes, smoke, grease; portable toilets and dumpsters; event workers and guests that rut around in great numbers and/or for extended periods—seem tailor-made for destruction of the comparably fragile natural elements. It can take as long as 3 to 6 months for Washington Square to recover from a large event. But events occur at much quicker intervals and damage becomes compounded.

Spillover

Many neighbors choose to attend events in the park, and enjoy them. But those who prefer not to participate often have no choice, as sound amplification, debris, and congestion don’t respect the park boundaries. Amplification of sound over the allowed decibels has been a particular area of complaint. Music, bouncing off buildings and traveling 3 or 4 or 6 blocks away, becomes cacophony.

Fairness

The fees for use of the park are far below those for the rental of equivalent buildings and halls. Because many promoters can claim non-profit status, fees are lowered substantially or waived altogether. What fees are collected go into the Recreation & Park Department’s General Fund, not to the park of origin. Penalties may be levied for the repair of damaged areas, but they do not result in extra manpower. Event-necessitated repairs and scheduled maintenance vie for limited resources.

How best to balance the desires of promoters, celebrants, and neighbors while acting as good stewards of Washington Square? I believe the answer lies, unglamorously, in policy.

There is enormous room for improvement in every step of event planning and permitting. Use policies—who can rent the park, for how long, and how often—should be consistent and fair—to the park, neighbors, merchants, RecPark staff, and to promoters. Use guidelines should be clear, forceful, and readily available in advance of event planning and permit applications. Applications should be required well in advance to allow for proper reviews, notifications, and acknowledgments. Penalties should be levied consistently and reliably, with promoters clearly responsible for all subcontractors. Neighbors and staff have much to contribute in the crafting of stronger policies. We encourage RecPark to incorporate their input and make the needed changes.
proper permits by The City. If music rises to the level of legal nuisance, police have the authority to shut it down. If irresponsible party-goers remove alcohol from designated areas or become overly intoxicated within them, police can and should intervene. If an event remains active outside its permitted hours, it can be stopped. If these types of problems persist, THD’s remedy is not with event-planners, it is with the police for better enforcement of existing laws.

THD’s role is, and always has been, to protect the historical traditions of Telegraph Hill. Protecting our own Town Square is not just about preserving its physical appearance, but rather its traditional symbol as a place rich with unfettered cultural expression.
I hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season. After the hubbub of a busy election year, the calm of the December holidays provided an opportunity to reflect on events of recent months.

I, of course, have spent considerable time during these months campaigning for my reelection. Throughout my campaign, I listened to voters across District 3 stress the importance of having a City Hall that answers the phone and returns messages. Citizens impressed on me the necessity of a government that works harder and leaner in these tough budget years.

I am committed to improving the level of service that government provides to San Franciscans while recognizing that our current budgetary constraints require further belt-tightening. It is essential that government, like small businesses, operate under the realities of fiscal constraints.

These fiscal and quality of life issues have come to the forefront recently on our Northeast Waterfront. The Port of San Francisco has a highly capable new director, Monique Moyer, who has proven a commitment to cleaning up mismanagement in that agency and increasing outreach to surrounding communities that are impacted by new developments on Port property.

In response to a slew of new development proposals on the Northeast Waterfront, I recently requested a comprehensive traffic impact study for the entire area. At present, the city has not analyzed the cumulative impact on surrounding communities and traffic flow along the Embarcadero that unbridled development will bring.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires study and review of perceived impacts of individual projects on the surrounding neighborhoods, including any increase in traffic generated by a new development. However, state law doesn’t require the city to engage in planning relative to the entire community on the Northeast Waterfront and how it will be affected by planned and proposed developments.

I am excited that the San Francisco County Transportation Authority has chosen to approve this important study and we expect data to be reported over the next few months. The fall of the Embarcadero Freeway provided San Francisco with an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize an entire portion of the City’s storied urban waterfront.

I am proud of the work that has already been accomplished to bring new business and architectural excellence to this community, and I am committed to working with neighborhood representatives and local businesses to ensure a balanced approach to future development. The Northeast Waterfront is a crown jewel of San Francisco neighborhoods and we will continue to work hard to guarantee appropriate developments along the Embarcadero.

As always, our office is available for any questions or concerns you may have about City operation, neighborhood issues, or new ideas for making the City operate more effectively. Don’t hesitate to contact me or my staff, Rose Chung and David Owen, at (415) 554-7451 or Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org. See you around the waterfront.

EDITOR’S NOTE: On January 8, Supervisor Peskin was unanimously chosen by his colleagues to serve as President of the Board of Supervisors.
had an interest in selling part of it, my mother, who owned the property, went after it. She had tea with the woman for months before Mrs. Wiesgerber would agree to sell to the Anderlinis.

Meanwhile Andy was busy with his law practice. Several of his cases had an only-in-North Beach quality. After the World War II started, the Italian North Beach Crab Fishermen were not allowed to go out the Golden Gate Bridge to catch crab because the Navy had put a large submarine net across the entrance of the bay between Fort Point and the Marin shoreline in fear of a Japanese submarine attack. Andy represented the crab fisherman and he negotiated an agreement with the Navy to allow the crab fishermen to be escorted out and back through the Navy nets under the Golden Gate Bridge so they could maintain their livelihood.

Andy then decided to join the Army to defend our country. He became a second lieutenant in the military police and a language specialist. He was first stationed in Florence, Arizona to guard Italian P.O.W.’s. After the war ended he was transferred to Seoul, Korea to help set up their democratic government. Returning to his North Beach law practice, he represented many neighborhood Italians and small business owners, and became recognized as a civic leader in the North Beach community. When he retired at 55, he started to really enjoy life, traveling around the world and dabbling in his various art projects.

During the late 40’s through the 50’s, Telegraph Hill was a colony for artists, musicians, writers and poets. All of them seemed to know each other and each other’s kids. If a new family moved in people would immediately go over to their home to welcome them with some food or a bottle of wine. Andy and Virginia were part of this Hill welcoming committee. It was a great way to meet the neighbors. Notices of what was happening on the Hill were always posted on a bulletin board set up in the window of Speedy’s Market. With my father as one of the ringleaders, the residents would organize potluck street parties with great live music, good spirits and plenty of food.

During his life Andy was a true Renaissance man. He was a successful lawyer, a military officer, a scholar, a community leader, a world traveler, an artist, a poet, a children’s storyteller and writer, a handyman, a fisherman, a gardener, a rosarian, and a sports enthusiast with a fanatical interest in the 49er’s. He was also a loving and devoted husband to Virginia.

Andy, once known to some residents as “The King of the Hill,” loved to meet people while he worked in his garden. Always promoting the virtues of San Francisco and Telegraph Hill, he would talk to them about the roses or anything else they were interested in discussing. He was a daily tourist guide for out-of-towners who were hiking to and from Coit Tower.

With Andy now gone, Virginia intends to stay in her home on the Hill and continue to maintain their rose garden as best she can. Her cherished memories of Andy working in their garden and talking to the neighbors and the tourists as they walked up and down the Filbert St. steps will always be one of her fondest memories.

The outpouring of sympathy and offers of support to Virginia from all the locals who knew Andy have been greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Anderlini family we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.
THD Board Motions for the Months of August Through November 2004

August, 2004 Motions
MOTION: THD accepts an invitation to be a sponsor of an educational forum on Ellis Act Evictions on September 9, 2004, at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.
The Motion passed.

MOTION: The Board unanimously approved authorizing the Treasurer on behalf of the THD Board to subscribe to D&O, General Liability and Volunteer Medical insurance coverage with CIMA/Hartford in 2004/05 (as outlined in the August Board packet).

MOTION: A motion to approve the expenditure of up to $200.00 for use with Russian Hill Neighbors and other organizations to publish a ballot argument in favor of a $60 million bond measure on the November, 2004 Ballot.
The Motion passed.

September, 2004 MOTIONS
MOTION: A motion was made by the Board to approve the proposed budget.
The Motion passed.

October, 2004 MOTIONS
No Board Meeting took place this month due to the Port Commission Hearing.

November, 2004 MOTIONS
MOTION: A motion was made for the Board to approve Jennifer Morer as Co-Chair of Parks and Trees.
The Motion passed.

Breakfast & Lunch 7 days a week 7:30-3:30

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At THDs 50th Anniversary Celebration, Carol Peters introduced this song she had written to honor the Hill Dwellers. Paying homage to THDs 1950s origins, Carol’s composition was performed in the doo-op style of the era and contains fashion references familiar to any devotee of American Bandstand, as well as references to businesses some long gone, some still with us.

**TELEGRAPH HILL**

My saddles were needing
A cleaning and a shine.
I went to Galletis,
Where I didn’t wait in line.

Put on my neck scarf,
For a big important date.
Walked down Montgomery.
Not to be late.

We ate at the shadows,
In a booth just meant for two,
Then walked to Broadway
To hear a little blues.

I’m here on Telegraph Hill,
surrounded by the bay,
with all my friends and neighbors.
would I have it any other way?

I was having a party;
Needed some red wine.
Went to Coit Liquor,
Where there’s always something fine.

Stopped in at Rossi’s,
For olives and some meat.
Wanted something special,
So I walked to Union Street.

And there at Mario’s,
With no cigar in hand,
Got some sandwiches,
The finest in the land.

Needed some french bread,
In the worst kind of way.
Walked Grant to Union,
For the freshest in the bay.

Stopped in at Trieste,
For an opera song.
Drank strong espresso
To make the night last long.

Picked up some friends,
At the old Basque Hotel.
Hurried home to Chestnut,
Before the night time fell.

I’m here on Telegraph Hill,
living where I want to be.
there’s no place in the city,
where my heart is meant to be.

There’s no group in the city
like good old THD.
THE BALLAD OF THD

Art Peterson recited the piece of doggerel below at the Telegraph Hill Dwellers 50th Birthday Celebration. In introducing the work he commented that while many “many great poets have walked our neighborhood, this particular work owes more to the inspiration of Robert Service than to that of Robert Creely or Robert (Bob) Kaufman.”

It was a gloomy day in '54
When the people got the word;
The 39 would soon be gone,
But the neighbors had not heard.

When the neighbors got the message;
They let out an angry cry,
Our little bus still runs today,
Its end no longer nigh.

Thus the Dwellers were created,
A moment not too soon,
As folks who held high places,
Advanced the freeway boom.

The so-called city fathers
Devised a crazy plan,
A road that hacked our hill away
Flatter than a flan.

Our heroes joined the battle,
Armed but with facts and nerve,
Convinced the politicians,
That a freeway was absurd.

But there would be no rest, alas,
As other monsters loomed;
The word was “tall is better.”
Our bay views would be doomed.

We mobilized our dwellers,
Stormed into city hall,
Our message plain and simple:
Forty feet—that would be all.

The mayor began to listen.
The supes they fell in line.
Our resolve soon convinced them
Forty feet would be just fine.

Still the Dwellers had their problems,
And in more than just one case,
Their greatest need turned out to be
A ready parking place.

But the city had an answer,
A solution it thought fair,
A hunky-dory parking garage
Beneath our civic square.

The dwellers they were outraged
“Not what we mean,” they said,
“The park should be our living room;
Its green grass stay our bed.”

The Pols again they listened;
As the Dwellers made their case,
Parking spots they come and go,
But a park you can’t replace.

Then the Dwellers next learned
If you have enough dough,
You can build a hotel,
Where bay waters should flow.

But the Dwellers said “No,
We like things as they are,
Why should a colossus
Our waterfront mar?”

So The Dwellers stood foursquare
For a hill packed with beauty.
To challenge the ugly,
They saw as their duty.

Billboards and heliports
Have taken their lumps.
We’ve learned of our battles
We face them in clumps.

A few of our tactics
Give some folks offense.
“What are you for,
And not merely against?”

What we’re for are our neighbors
Who must have a say
When choices arise
For an aye or a nay.

What we’re for is friendship
That blooms at its best,
When planning with neighbors
At Café Trieste.

For fifty years we’ve been around,
A fact worth celebrating;
But the challenges we face today
Show no signs of abating.

So here’s to fifty more good years
Of friendship and of glory.
The years so far are nothing but
A chapter in our story.

—Art Peterson, 2004

****
As almost everyone who has lived on Telegraph Hill for long knows, *San Francisco’s Telegraph Hill* by David Myrick is a collector’s item. The out-of-print first edition of this book, lovingly detailing the colorful history of the Hill, sells for $200 these days.

In 2002, David agreed to make revisions to the original, and THD agreed to sponsor the second edition of the Myrick book. The new volume includes 32 new pages and 50 more photographs.

To order your book, please fill out the order form below.

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**SHIPPING INFORMATION**

Please provide the address(es) where shipment should be made.

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If you have any questions, please write Telegraph Hill Dwellers or call (415) 255-6799.
THD Holiday Party full of kids, old and new!

PHOTOS BY CAROL ZISSON
As the new Parks & Trees Co-Chair, I have been acquainting myself with the responsibilities of the position via Julie Christensen and Mikkel Aaland. I am excited to take an active role in Telegraph Hill Dwellers and encourage any ideas for the position you wish to share.

North Beach/Joe DiMaggio Playground

Holiday Party: Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground celebrated the holidays December 7 at the South Beach Yacht Club. Coordinated by Liz Diaz, the organization hosted approximately 60 playground supporters and raised approximately $1,100 through a silent auction.

Pool: As the North Beach Pool nears completion, plans are in the works for a “Pool Party” to celebrate the completion and to recognize those who have played key roles in the pool’s development. Julie Christensen and others plan to meet mid-January to coordinate this event.

Washington Square Park

Elsewhere in this issue of the Semaphore, Julie Christensen and Joe Alioto debate issues related to the uses of Washington Square. Julie wishes to add this comment: “I cannot write a piece on Washington Square without acknowledging the Square’s RecPark gardener, Tom O’Connor. There is much that Tom is capable of, and lofty offers have come his way, but he loves Washington Square and chooses to remain. If you haven’t said hello to Tom, stop by and do so. Let him know how much he is appreciated. We are extraordinarily fortunate to have him, and the park’s ability to withstand so much activity is totally due to his loving dedication.”

And for those who may not be aware, there is an organization specifically devoted to the preservation and improvement of the Square: The Friends of Washington Square addresses the needs of the park and acts as a forum for park-related issues. The group has been instrumental in improving lighting in the park, repairing the Marini triangle pond, and lobbying for other park repairs and improvements. The Friends meet at 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every other month. Persons interested in participating should contact Herb Kosovitz at hkosovitz@aol.com, or 398-0757. Contributions to park improvements are, of course, quite welcome.

Park Alert.

Sad time for parks: There are 22 parks in our district, but budget cuts and reallocation of personnel has left us with only 5 gardeners. The numbers become even more daunting when you realize that the 22 parks include heavily-used and tourist-attracting spots like Pioneer Park, Portsmouth Square, Justin Herman Plaza, and Huntington Park, as well as Washington Square.

Here is Julie’s parting shot on the subject: “We refuse to tax ourselves at a rate commensurate with our expectations for city services. Emergency services departments (police, fire, health) lobby forcefully against budget cuts. That leaves vulner-

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Looking for a tennis partner, a way to sell your Persian carpet, or a public place to wish your boy friend a happy birthday? Take advantage of this new Semaphore feature, our classified ad section.

The price? $3.00 for each 40 character line.

The next deadline for these classified ad will be April 1. Send copy and a check made out to THD to: Semaphore Editor, 101A Telegraph Hill, SF 94133. Be a contributor to this community bulletin board!

MISSING

1971 Ed. Myrick’s Telegraph Hill w/ dedication by author to Maggie Bayliss. Double sentimental value. Pts contact Julie Christensen, 26 Child St. 552-7774.

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Set bath accessories. Chrome Trad. Style. 2 towel bars, Matching shelf, tp holder $35 Contact Julie @ 552-7774

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THD Welcomes New Members
August 2004 to October 2004


For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION
Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

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CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual $25 ____ Household $40 ____ Senior (age 65 and over) $15 ____
THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU
You can make a difference! Join one of THD’s committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parking and Transportation. Chair, Bill Seelinger, 392-8450 billseel@aol.com. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

Planning and Zoning. Chair, Jeannie Milligan, Jeanne_M@pacbell.net. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

Semaphore. Editor, Art Peterson 956-7817; artpeterson@writingproject.org. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair, Maxine Schulman, 981-4042; BigMaxSF@aol.com. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Greg Chiampou, 834-9338; gchiampou@att.net. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; tom@noyesfamily.com. As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair, Jennifer Moerer, 5 Edith St. 265-0317, jmoerer@gmacl.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Oral History Project. Chair, Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; tmshl@earthlink.net. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

THD Web Site. Webmaster, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; webmaster@thd.org. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

North Beach Neighborhood Coalition. Representative, Gerry Crowley. 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187; junefraps@juno.com. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

WEB SITE = www.thd.org
Whether you want to catch up on THD’s Oral Histories, see what the THD is up to, or submit old photos of the Hill, www.thd.org is the place to go. Use the Web site to discover or email information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphore.
sem.a.phore

DEFINITION: To convey information using visual signals, such as flags, lights and mechanical arms.

In the 19th century, Telegraph Hill was a lookout spot. A man stood at the top and watched for ships arriving through the Golden Gate. He used semaphore signals to spell out ships’ names to the people below who were waiting for goods and mail. Neighbors who formed Telegraph Hill Dwellers in 1954 named their newsletter to salute this early use of the Hill.

THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stair and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: February 12, March 12. For more information call 552-7774.

January

31—Cocktails 6-8 at new Divine Restaurant, Union and Stockton

Dates and locations subject to change.

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: First Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

For more information, log on to http://www.thd.org