

# The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

## 1906 Earthquake & Fire



ORAL HISTORIES SEE PAGE 11

APRIL 18-20, 1906 SEE PAGE 15

TELEGRAPH HILL QUAKE SURVIVORS SEE PAGE 16-17



# TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Voice Mail/Hotline: 273-1004. Fax: 255-6499. Web Site: [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)  
P.O. Box 330159 • San Francisco, CA 94133

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

**PRESIDENT:** Vedica Puri,  
111 Chestnut St., #601,391-5880,  
[vpuir@aol.com](mailto:vpuir@aol.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Joe Butler,  
325 Chestnut St., 956-5307,  
[jjosephbutler@hotmail.com](mailto:jjosephbutler@hotmail.com)

**RECORDING SEC'Y:** Mary Lipian,  
1304 Montgomery, 391-5652,  
[lipianmw@aetna.com](mailto:lipianmw@aetna.com)

**CORRESPONDING SEC'Y:** Ian Vose  
740-6115, [ivose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ivose@sbcglobal.net)

**TREASURER:** Greg Chiampou  
345 Filbert #3, 834-9338,  
[gchiampou@att.net](mailto:gchiampou@att.net)

**FINANCIAL SEC'Y:** Sarah Kliban  
463 Chestnut St., 781-2278,  
[casting@value.net](mailto:casting@value.net)

**HISTORIAN:** Nancy Shanahan  
224 Filbert, 286-7094,  
[nshan@mindspring.com](mailto:nshan@mindspring.com)

**ARCHIVIST:** Rozell Overmire  
19 Alta, 989-3935,  
[rozell@ureach.com](mailto:rozell@ureach.com)

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**  
Brad Willmore, 31 Alta, 955-8901  
[scfadvisors.com](http://scfadvisors.com)

## SEMAPHORE STAFF:

**EDITOR:** Art Peterson,  
101A Telegraph Hill, 956-7817,  
[apeterson@writingproject.org](mailto:apeterson@writingproject.org)

**COPY EDITOR:** Tony Long, 362-8363  
[alittlechinmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:alittlechinmusic@yahoo.com)

**AD SALES:** Kathleen Cannon, 776-  
6014, [cannonpk@aol.com](mailto:cannonpk@aol.com)

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Gail Switzer,  
341 Filbert, 788-8667,  
[gail\\_switzer@yahoo.com](mailto:gail_switzer@yahoo.com)

**TYPESETTING/DESIGN:** Chris  
Carlsson, Cloverleaf Productions.,  
608-9035 [cc@chriscarlsson.com](mailto:cc@chriscarlsson.com)

## DIRECTORS 2005-2007

Mikkel Aaland, 543 Greenwich, 392-  
7742, [maaland@cyberbohemia.com](mailto:maaland@cyberbohemia.com)

Joseph Alioto, 296 Francisco, 377-  
8117, [Joseph.Alioto@gmail.com](mailto:Joseph.Alioto@gmail.com)

Marc Bruno, 15 Nobles Alley, 434-  
1528, [marcbruno@yahoo.com](mailto:marcbruno@yahoo.com)

Kathleen Dooley, 216 Filbert #1 433-  
6932, [info@columbinedesign.com](mailto:info@columbinedesign.com)

## DIRECTORS 2006-2008

Patsy Chan, 504 Greenwich, 391-1187,  
[pvc@ac8.com](mailto:pvc@ac8.com)

Al Fontes, 455 Vallejo, #204, 433-  
6515, [Alfred@fontes.org](mailto:Alfred@fontes.org)

Sherry O'Donnell, 398-1205

Stan Teng, 333 Greenwich, #2, 986-  
2626, [stanarch@earthlink.net](mailto:stanarch@earthlink.net)

---

---

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Corner . . . . .	3
Planning & Zoning Report Spring 2006 . . . . .	7
The Survivors (I) 1301 Montgomery . . . . .	10
Oral Histories Give 1906 Events Human Dimension . . . . .	11
Expansion Proposal Loses Out . . . . .	13
The Alfa Nose . . . . .	14
April 18-20 1906. . . . .	15
Earthquake Survivors in the Telegraph Hill Historic District . . . . .	16

Supervisor Peskin Reports . . . . .	19
New Board Members Have Big Plans . . . . .	20
The Last One Standing. . . . .	25
2005-2006 Social Season Ends on a Sharpe Note! . . . . .	27
Board of Directors: Motions Passed . . . . .	29
New Members . . . . .	30
THD Committees Need You. . . . .	31
THD Calendar. . . . .	32

COVER: Dante Monaco in the rubble of J.B. Monaco's studio, 1906. PHOTO BY J.B. MONACO.

*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.

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Lessons from the Past

By Vedica Puri

Of all the places I've seen in my travels through this state, as a native Californian, the view that most takes my breath away is the one from my office window. As we commemorate the centennial of the 1906 earthquake, the view is especially endearing. From high in the Transamerica Pyramid facing north, I can see Jackson Square, Levi's Plaza, the Bay, many piers, much of Columbus and Broadway and, of course, Telegraph Hill and Coit Tower. On sunny days, I even get to see quick green shiny glints of the famous parrots. From this view I can read dozens of North Beach business names on the street. Those names are constantly changing as they do in any urban neighborhood. But there are a few family business names, born over a century ago, that became legendary: Monaco's Photo Gallery was one of them.

The owner J.B. Monaco, lived on Russian Hill and established his photo studio in the heart of North Beach on Montgomery Street. Then the 1906 earthquake struck. The quake demolished Monaco's Photo Gallery. Our cover photo of J.B. Monaco's young son sprawled in the rubble of the studio with almost no undamaged building in sight says it all.

The story goes like this. As the firestorms ignited by the quake neared Monaco's Photo Gallery, federal troops intervened and stopped Monaco from saving his studio. Monaco refused to see his home succumb to the same fate. "Monaco and his neighbors formed a bucket brigade from a natural well around the corner on Francisco



Street. After an 18-hour heroic effort at the corner of Leavenworth and Chestnut streets, the wind changed direction and the block was saved.<sup>1</sup>"

With his studio in ruins, North Beach in flames and firestorms raging out of control, Monaco then did what he knew best. He captured some of the most compelling photos of the fire and its aftermath.

The Monaco family exemplified the spirit that consumed the city and led to rebuilding it in three short years. Almost immediately, a temporary studio, called Monaco's Fotos, was erected on Broadway and opened for business. One of the Monaco photos shows two ladies with a small child sharing a makeshift stove on a dirt street. Fires were not allowed inside a home after the quake and the picture is of J.B. Monaco's wife, son and a neighbor. Another print shows a pristine Telegraph Hill, completely undeveloped, through several smoke clouds. Yet another picture is of North Beach and the waterfront leveled after the quake, with the earth still smoldering and scattered refugees in the foreground. It would be insulting for me to try and capture the pathos and grandeur of the collection in writing.

Recently, Dick Monaco (grandson of J.B. Monaco) graciously agreed to allow the THD to show the family's historic pictures of the 1906 earthquake. With the help of devoted THDers, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and committed City Hall employees, some amazing prints are now showing in the South Light Court at City Hall. More prints will be showing at the Canessa Gallery (708 Montgomery) in North Beach in



**Freebairn-Smith & Crane**  
 Planning, Urban Design, Architecture

Rod Freebairn-Smith  
 Janet Crane  
 (415) 398 4094

# Hoof it to Moose's.



1652 Stockton St. San Francisco. Open Daily  
 Sunday Brunch. Reservations 415-989-7800  
[www.moses.com](http://www.moses.com)

## Sean O'Donnell

“Anything can be fixed  
 except a fallen soufflé.”

415-307-1205

## ENRICO'S



504 Broadway in North Beach  
 415 982-6223 for reservations  
[www.enricosidewalkcafe.com](http://www.enricosidewalkcafe.com)

Live Jazz  
 Nightly

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued from page 3

June. I personally thank Mr. Monaco for his generosity in allowing us to honor his family's historical treasure.

Another legendary story concerns the Bank of Italy (now Bank of America), located at the corner of Columbus and Washington, that was also destroyed by the quake. Its founder, A.P. Giannini, usually commuted in from San Mateo to work each day by train, but on the day of the quake the train tracks were unusable. Hitchhiking and walking his way into the city, Giannini took the money from his bank and loaded it into the bottom of two horse-drawn wagons. Waiting for nightfall in order to avoid looters, he took the money back to his home in San Mateo. To hide the money, Giannini loaded mattresses, office furniture and crates of food and oranges on top. It is said that the money smelled like oranges for weeks thereafter. Giannini used the saved

notes to make loans to help rebuild.<sup>2</sup>

The 1906 quake may have been a defining moment in urban natural disaster history. But by no means did the city's residents allow the disaster to define them: brave souls like the Monacos and A.P. Giannini rebuilt their businesses, families restored their neighborhoods and the city went on to host the International Exposition in 1915.

When I look out my office window, I realize that this is what the THD is all about: taking and respecting the best parts of the past, incorporating them into plans for the future and moving forward with spirit and integrity.

Check out [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org) for upcoming centennial and other social events.

### Footnotes

1. Quote from [www.jbmonaco.com](http://www.jbmonaco.com).
2. The A.P. Giannini story was paraphrased from the text, *The Great Earthquake and Firestorms of 1906*, by author Philip L. Fradkin in pages 97-99.



## San Francisco Relationship Doctor

Your Friendly Neighborhood Therapist  
on Telegraph Hill

Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. (CA License PSY 12642)

**415-391-1881**

[www.sfrelationshipdoc.com](http://www.sfrelationshipdoc.com)

## The Donnell and Eckbo Gardens

Modern California Masterworks  
by Marc Treib



Available at:

**William Stout Architectural Books**  
804 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415.391.6757  
[www.stoutbooks.com](http://www.stoutbooks.com)  
and other local bookstores



## North Beach Restaurant

Since 1970  
Lorenzo and Chef Bruno  
have been serving the finest  
"Cucina Toscana"

Famous for its home-cured prosciutto, fresh pasta, finest veal, fish, beef and chicken. Lorenzo produces his own extra virgin olive oil and the first Brunello in Sonoma. North Beach Restaurant is a dining destination. Great food, award-winning wine list, relaxed atmosphere and great service. The secret to our success is consistency and quality.

1512 STOCKTON ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA

**(415) 392-1700**

[WWW.NORTHBEACHRESTAURANT.COM](http://WWW.NORTHBEACHRESTAURANT.COM)  
[WWW.PETRONIVINEYARDS.COM](http://WWW.PETRONIVINEYARDS.COM)

Serving continuously from 11:30 a.m.–11:45 p.m. Banquet rooms and valet parking.



*From the Heart of Tuscany  
To the Heart of San Francisco*



## Louis Silcox and Sotheby's International Realty are pleased to announce the sale of one of Telegraph Hill's Most Distinctive Homes.

**Telegraph Hill, San Francisco** - Award-winning architect Gardner Dailey's modernist masterpiece. This important mid 20th century residence was designed and built for the late Helen Crocker Russell, a renowned philanthropist and patron of the arts. The property features spectacular panoramic bay views, broad terraces, and over 30 rooms, including a formal dining room, living room, family room, chef's kitchen, and two guest apartments.

To learn more about this and other properties offered for sale by Louis Silcox, please contact him directly or visit his website at: [www.sfEstates.com](http://www.sfEstates.com)

*Louis J. Silcox, Jr.*  
*Direct Line: 415.296.2229*  
*email: [louis.silcox@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:louis.silcox@sothebysrealty.com)*

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

# Planning & Zoning Report Spring 2006

Prepared by Mary Lipian, Nancy Shanahan & Jeanne Milligan

## TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC

**DISTRICT** (*This historic district on the east side of Telegraph Hill was established in 1986 to preserve the largest group of pre-1870 structures in the City.*)

**60-64 Alta St. (the "Duck House").** The new owner of this Second Bay Area Tradition style building designed by William W. Wurster is in the process of gutting and remodeling the middle floor apartment. All changes are to the interior.

**22 Alta St.** After permits issued in 2001 expired, the project sponsor has re-submitted his plans for a proposed 5,432 sq. ft, six level, single-family building on this steep historic cliff above the Grace Marchant Garden and Filbert Street Steps. The project is now undergoing new environmental review.

**17 Alta St.** Major modifications are proposed to this 2-story pre-Earthquake historic cottage perched on the cliff at the eastern edge of the Historic District. Concerns expressed by THD include the mass of the proposed rear addition as visible from The Embarcadero and below, the extent of the excavation that would be required, the impact on the historic cottage from proposed structural work and the extent of the proposed demolition work. Preservation of this 1876 cottage and a more modest alteration has been encouraged.

**212 Union St.** The city has halted work on this project to alter and renovate the historic pre-1880s Greek Revival cottage after determining that the changes authorized by the Landmarks Board had been exceeded. The current cover over the structure is to prevent damage and deterioration from the elements.

**118 Alta St.** The owner of this 1907 Craftsman cottage has agreed to retain the historic character of this building by repairing and replacing 11 deteriorated wood windows with wood painted windows, including true divided lights, after having consulted with THD who advised against vinyl replacements originally sought.

**Proposed Amendment to Historic District Ordinance.** The Board of Supervisors adopted a reso-

lution authored by Supervisor Alioto-Pier initiating legislation to add certain properties to the Telegraph Hill Historic District that were deleted from the originally proposed district, in particular, lots containing historic cliffs, and to add further protections for the district's historic cliff and open space features.

## NORTH BEACH RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

**1345 Montgomery St. (formerly the Dalla Torre Restaurant).** The new owners are in the process of converting the building (formerly 2 buildings) into a single family dwelling. Changes to the exterior envelope include two new dormer windows, a modified window pattern on the lower level and the addition of a new "elevated" roof deck and garden with an extensive glass railing. THD has worked with the project architect and Planning Department to redesign the roof access and proposed railings to reduce the visibility of these features from Montgomery Street and the Filbert Steps.

**568-570 Greenwich St.** The new owner of this Edwardian building has met with THD twice to discuss his original plans to excavate the site to add 2 floors under this building including a garage level and a new first floor flat and storage units. He has scaled back this project and will return to THD with his new design for a two car garage with no additional exterior building  
continued on page 8

**Mills Act Amendments.** The good news for owners of contributory buildings within the Telegraph Hill Historic District is the approval by the Board of Supervisors of legislation expanding the scope of the Mills Act to historic buildings located in neighborhood historic districts such as the Telegraph Hill Historic District. The Mills Act provides property tax relief as a financial incentive to preserving historic building. In addition to broadening the scope of eligible buildings for Mills Act preservation contracts, this legislation encourages the use of this property tax incentive by requiring the Planning Department to develop criteria and procedures.



# Planning and Zoning *continued from page 7*

changes. We anticipate a favorable working relationship and a positive resolution of the issues.

## NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

**COMMERCIAL DISTRICT** (*In 1987, the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District Ordinance was adopted to maintain the character of and mix of businesses in North Beach.*)

**543 Columbus Ave. (former site of Ben and Jerry's).** The owner of La Boulangerie bakery and café, which will open soon at this location, obtained a Zoning Administrator Determination to allow the operation of the café from 7 am to 7 pm. The operation will be similar to the café located on Polk Street (at Green).

**623-29 Vallejo St. (formerly Rossi's Market).** The Planning Commission denied the King of Thai Restaurant's application for a Conditional Use Authorization to convert a large portion of the former grocery store space into a full service restaurant. In denying the application, the Commission found that "the Project will adversely impact the character and economic diversity of North Beach since there is already an over-concentration of eating and drinking establishments in the neighborhood, and the mix of neighborhood-serving retail uses will be further unbalanced by another restaurant." The building is for sale again.

**585 Columbus Ave. (Coit Liquor).** The new owners of Coit Liquor, a young couple educated and trained as sommeliers, have worked closely with THD in determining the restrictions on the Conditional Use permit to add the operation of a wine tasting area to the liquor store operation. The hours of operation for the tasting are between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**1353 Grant Ave. (formerly Lost & Found Saloon).** The new owners of this building are converting the Saloon into Maggie McGarry's Irish Tavern. Working with THD on the exterior design for the new tavern, the owners removed the old Lost & Found Saloon sign to reveal the original clerestory windows and have agreed to repairing and repaint the original features. As to the new tavern, a transfer of the liquor license to the new business will be required. According

to Captain Dudley of Central Station, the new owners will meet with the police to discuss their hours, operation, security plan, entertainment, etc. and will sign an Entertainment Commission "Good Neighbor Plan."

**601 Union St. (formerly Fior d'Italia).** Following a fire in this building, the old Fior d'Italia restaurant relocated to Mason Street in the San Remo Hotel. The new tenant, Dudum Sports & Entertainment, is planning to open "DiMaggio's Italian Chophouse" in the old Fior d'Italia site on Washington Square which will include a 7800 sq. foot, 250 table restaurant with the theme of "come back to North Beach native son DiMaggio." Since their initial presentation in February, THD has worked with the project architect and sponsor to bring the proposed exterior changes into compatibility with the character of North Beach and Washington Square. In response to our suggestions, the project sponsor has made substantial modifications to the originally proposed design.

## BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD

**COMMERCIAL DISTRICT** (*This Neighborhood Commercial District extends along both sides of Broadway from Columbus to Osgood Place.*)

**373 Broadway.** The good news on Broadway is that Daniel Patterson (formerly of Elizabeth Daniels Restaurant in Jackson Square) opened up a high quality restaurant in this historic building, which is situated next to Centerfolds. Patterson worked with THD and agreed to incorporate many suggestions as to the exterior design which have enhanced the historic character of the building.

**412 Broadway (Broadway Showgirls).** The owner has applied for conditional use authorization to extend the hours of operation until 4:00 a.m. The police and THD have recommended disapproval. The police are also aware that food establishments on Broadway, i.e. pizza parlors, which stay open until 4:00 a.m. may hinder police ability to clear off Broadway at 2:00 a.m.

**391 Broadway (Centerfolds).** The owners are considering applying for a new liquor license to service this business at a newly created separate club which would open on their Montgomery Street entrance.

# Planning and Zoning *continued from page 8*

The police and THD adamantly oppose this application for an additional liquor license.

## NORTHEAST WATERFRONT

**55 Francisco Street.** This is a proposal to add 3 stories of luxury condos (51 units) atop an existing above-ground parking garage adjacent to the McGraw Hill office building. THD is concerned with the bulk of the proposed project, the lack of ground floor retail and, particularly, with the proposed unsightly above-ground parking garage in an area where other new residential projects have hidden their parking underground. THD and the local citizen group formed to oppose this project, Stop 55 Francisco: Preserve Our Waterfront, have appealed the Planning Department's preliminary findings that this project would have no negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. This appeal will be heard in May.

**1620 Montgomery St. (Del Monte Milling Company Bldg).** The project sponsor met with THD in March to share proposed plans to demolish this 1907 building and replace it with a 9-story condominium complex. The Landmarks Board included the building on its 2006 work plan for potential designation as a landmark. At a Landmarks Board hearing in March,

a report submitted by the project sponsor to show why the building does not qualify for landmark status was found to be inadequate. Local neighbors, with THD's support, are now pursuing landmark designation.

**945 Front St.** The new owner of this structure located within the NE Waterfront Historic District, along with her architect, met with THD to discuss possible changes to the exterior this commercial building prior to developing a design. She plans to renovate the building and prepare it for lease to tenants and will return to THD with final plans.

**Roundhouse One—City Landmark #114.** An architectural/planning firm which has leased this Landmark building (located at the Embarcadero at Lombard) from the Port of SF is seeking approval for mechanical equipment to be placed on the roof. Nearby residents are concerned with possible noise and vibrations. Other issues addressed by THD relate to the potential impact of these additions to the character defining features of the historic building. Greater detail including the size and location of the equipment was requested.

**8 Washington (at The Embarcadero).** Pacific Waterfront Partners, LLC, the developer of Piers 1 1/2 - 5 now nearing completion, presented to THD, as well as the Port Commission, a proposal for development of the site currently occupied by the Golden Gateway Tennis Club. The developer seeks a public-private partnership with the Port, and an exemption from the competitive bidding process, to incorporate Seawall Lot 351 into the development which now includes a 350-space \$30M underground public parking garage in addition to an 84 foot high 170-unit condo complex. THD continues to support the prevailing legal opinion that the recreational use on this site is to be in perpetuity.

**Northern Waterfront National Register Historic District.** The State Office of Historic Preservation has approved the Port's National Register nomination of the bulkheads and piers along the northern waterfront from Pier 45 to Pier 48. The official designation now awaits final approval by the National Park Service.



## What's New At Fog City Diner?

The Original "One Buck Shuck" Dollar Oysters  
Monday Through Friday 4:00 Pm – 7:00 Pm

~  
"Pop The Cork"

Every Monday Night All Bottled Wines Are Half Price.

~  
"Triple One Tuesdays"

If You Are A Resident Of The "94111" Zip Code, Stop In To Receive Your "Triple One" Membership Card, Which Will Entitle You To Special Discounts Forever!!

**1300 Battery St. S.F., 94111 [Fogcitydiner.com](http://Fogcitydiner.com)  
Telephone: 415-982-2000**



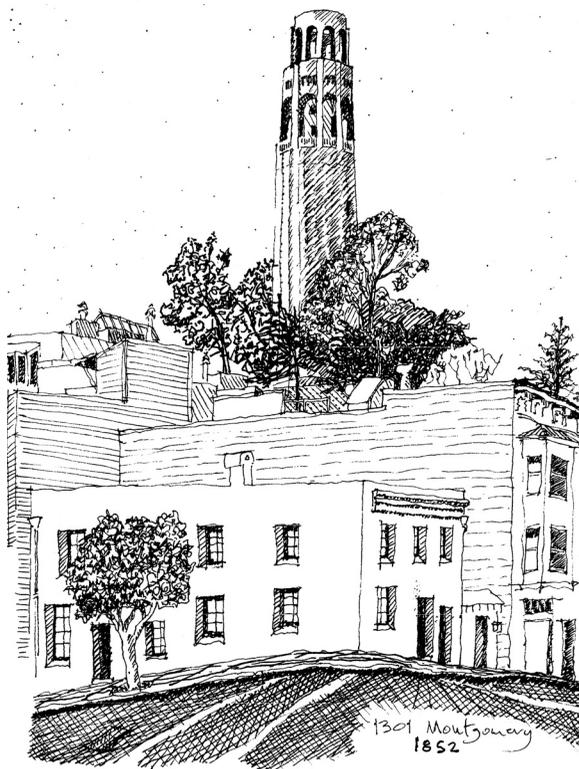
## The Survivors (I) 1301 Montgomery

In the next few issues of *The Semaphore*, we will take a look at some of the buildings on Telegraph Hill that survived the 1906 earthquake and fire. We begin with 1301 Montgomery, one of three buildings vying for designation as the oldest building on the Hill.

1301 Montgomery, possibly the oldest existing brick building in San Francisco, had a leg up on surviving the cataclysmic events of April 1906 because of the sturdy materials from which it was constructed. What damage there was to the Hill was perpetrated by flames, not shaking, and 1301 Montgomery had a better chance of pulling through than many of the nearby wooden structures.

The U.S. Coast Survey map of 1853 shows a structure on this lot in that year and a pre-1870 photo (see below) reveals a simple commercial building resembling many of those cropping up around 1850 on the flat lands below. But why a commercial building at this rather out-of-the-way location in the 1850s?

A likely answer may be the spirit of speculation that permeated the city then. The original owners of the 50x50 property, granted to them by the *alcalde* (mayor) in 1847, sold the lot in 1850



The sketch is Joe Butler's rendering of the property today.

to one John Carter for the hefty price of \$1,041, indicating that the buyer may have been responding to dreams of profit generated by reports that a semaphore for the purpose of signaling the arrival of ships would be constructed at the summit of the Hill later that year. The manually operated semaphore, or "telegraph," that was to give the Hill its name, was indeed built, and for a while everyone's eyes were on Telegraph Hill. In 1853, an electric telegraph system was established at Point Lobos and the Hill lost much of its cache as a hot property.

But the building at 1301 Montgomery remained a site of commercial activity. Ann Bloomfield spec-



Before 1870, 1301 Montgomery was neatly bricked.

# Oral Histories Give 1906 Events Human Dimension

*Under the direction Audrey Tomaselli, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers have for several years been collecting oral histories from long time neighborhood residents. As these excerpts from the histories illustrate, personal accounts give an insight into events not usually available in more broad stroke accounts. Some of this material has been paraphrased.*

## **Bruna Asensio**

I had an aunt, my mother's sister-in-law, living in the neighborhood around Broadway. She was a very particular person who kept everything up. Everything had its place. When the quake came things began falling down, and she just kept picking everything up and putting it back. I don't think she felt the tremor at all. She didn't realize what was happening.

My uncle, who was my mother's brother, was in Santa Rosa on business with a little horse and buggy. He was sleeping over and he found himself with a bed on top of him and couldn't get out. He heard people talking so he shouted, and they came over and extracted him. Otherwise, I don't know what would have happened.

When he came back with the horse and buggy the military confiscated it. The city was under martial law. (Editor's Note: This was in fact not true, but many residents considered it to be true.) The soldiers said you go here and you go there. No one could take anything. It wasn't very



Ines Belli's father and uncle (c. 1901)

nice. It was a nice little horse and buggy.

## **Ines Belli**

My papa was out with the horse and wagon at around Montgomery and California and he saw the tower of the old Call building wiggling back and forth. But his horse felt the shaking first and started galloping off. Papa said the only way he could control the horse was to steer it up hill, and he did.

## **Norma Tealdi**

My father and Aunt lived on San Antonio Place. When the fire came, they said they threw wine on their home to save it, but it wasn't saved. My aunt wanted to go back in to save her bird. But they wouldn't let her go in, the fire was so bad. Then they were all shipped over to Emeryville, the whole family. They came back when it was over. This is all I remember them saying.

continued on next page

## EARTHQUAKE ORAL HISTORIES continued from page 11

## Joe Jachetta

My grandfather and his sister had opened a boarding house, restaurant and bar in North Beach, and when the earthquake struck in 1906, everyone in the boarding house, including my mother was sleeping. There was a big chifferobe [a high chest of drawers] that had fallen in front of my mother's door. This barge captain, who was one of the boarders, pushed the door open and took my mother and brought her down the stairs which were now all crooked because of the quake. They finally got downstairs, and he herded my mother and her family down to the waterfront, and they all got on his barge, anchored it in the middle of the bay and watched the city burn.

## Virginia Anderlini



Virginia (right) and her sister, c. 1920

No one ever talked about whether they went back to the house on Vallejo. I don't think it was destroyed. Nothing more was said. I don't know where the bureau wound up. It's too bad that we didn't ask enough questions. It's really sad I don't know more about their thoughts.

The family was living on Vallejo Street and when they heard this huge shaking they left the house and for some unknown reason my dad decided to save a bureau. You know how people will go out with the wrong thing in a crisis. The family was lucky to get a ferry boat and then a train to Santa Rosa where my grandmother had a house.



Grandpa Gallo's Front Street Restaurant and Boarding House c. 1901

## Anne Guardino Wallace

I don't remember my father ever mentioning where exactly he was living at the time of the Earthquake, but it must have been right there in North Beach, because they all ended up in Washington Square Park. From what I remember him telling me—what's vivid in my mind—was the feeding of the people. They had no houses, no nothing, you know. And the military provided the food. And they always thought my father had already had a meal because he looked so much like his brother. They looked like twins. The military said, "Hey, we gave you your dinner."

"No that was my brother, I didn't have my meal yet," he'd say.



ESPRESSO	CAPPUCCINO	VINO	PANINI
----------	------------	------	--------

**CAFFÈ GRECO**

423 Columbus Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415-397-6261

Hanna & Sandy Suleiman

# Expansion Proposal Loses Out

By Art Peterson

*By a vote of 62-20 with one abstention, a proposal to expand THD's boundaries was voted down at a general membership meeting of the organization held April 17 at the Italian Athletic Club A week earlier, a town meeting had been held at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center where issues related to the boundary change were discussed. This is an account of that meeting.*

“Suspicion and assumption have been replaced by recognition of a common interest.” That’s how Hill Dwellers’ Vice President-elect Joe Butler summed up the hour and a half of vigorous dialogue that had just taken place on the evening of April 11 at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center.

Present at the town meeting were members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Russian Hill Neighbors, North Beach Neighbors, the newly formed Barbary Coast Association, and one woman visiting from Wisconsin.

The issue up for discussion was an amendment to the THD bylaws that would expand the organization’s boundaries. The new boundaries would extend west to Leavenworth, south to Jackson and Washington, and east to include the piers on the east side of The Embarcadero

Joe Alioto, chairperson of the Bylaws committee that drafted the proposal, explained its rationale. First, a number of projects in which THD has found itself intimately involved—he cited examples of the struggle over the Triangle at Columbus and Lombard and the Mills Project at Piers 27-31—fall outside the present boundaries of THD. Further, Alioto said, there are as many as 50 THD members living outside the present boundaries who cannot vote, serve as committee chairs, or hold a position on the board of directors. The new boundaries would rectify this inequality, he said.

In drawing the new boundaries Alioto said

the committee had taken into consideration the North Beach Survey (one reason for the expansion to the west), as well as the “contours of the valley” of North Beach.

With that overview, each of the 50 or so people present had a chance to speak. While the speakers routinely praised THD for its vigorous defense of the neighborhood, many voiced reasons to oppose this particular amendment:

- The membership was not adequately informed of this proposed change. “The meeting you are having tonight you should have had weeks ago,” said longtime THD member Herb Kosovitz.

- This was an arbitrary and unnecessary change in the rules. “You can’t just call Telegraph Hill, North Beach or North Beach, Telegraph Hill,” said Jerry Petruzzelli, a former THD president.

- In advocating for its concerns, THD needs the help of other organizations, said former THD president Joe Luttrell, so it is not wise to alienate these groups

- Each neighborhood has a particular set of problems, said Carl Beale of North Beach Neighbors. These special concerns should be the focus of each organization

- Rather than an expansion of boundaries, the organization should concentrate on finding common ground with other groups. Gerry Crowley, another former THD president, recounted the impressive display of three or four groups showing up at the Board of Supervisors, unified over a common concern.

Several THD members who live outside the present boundaries were present to advocate for the changes. One of these members, Tanya Hoffmoen, said that “when I heard about the proposed changes I applauded. Finally I could vote.”

Pat Cady, who has held positions on the THD Board, made the point that, “it’s difficult to

continued on page 23



# The Alfa Nose

Again this month, Kathleen Cannon and her amused Alfa nose about the neighborhood searching out good news.

## 02.08.06 Be-Attitude and Brew

Neal Cassady's bash at the Beat Museum, then onward to the S.F. Brewery where Allen Paul graciously led THDerS on an underground Tour d'Brew. Amazing hardware and careful processing equals excellent suds. Note how happy everyone looks. What is the secret ingredient? Can't be the water.

## 02.11.06 Changing the Oil: Olivetta

A flurry at Coit Liquor: The Opening of Jeff Branco's wine tasting bar. (Jeff & Linda's "dream to bring wine education to N.Beach.") Word flew around Washington Sq. and a line quickly formed. But, sorry, a shot of this stuff started at \$3.50. Construction was costly, and Jeff worked closely with THD. Crossed over to Piazza Pellegrino. For this year's made from scratch olive oil, Dario's chosen "Golden Light" from Orland, CA. Also new: a pre-6pm Special and a gelato machine.

## 03.15.06 Alfisti Il'Literati

At Fanny Renoir's "Literary Evening" at the Beat Museum, a hard rain gave way to merriment

and tender memories as Herb Gold recounted Paris nights with Ginsburg and Corso. Ferlinghetti's "Her" was a hit. But belly laughs went to Terry Tarnoff's tales of attacking baboons in Africa and smoking ganga along the Ganges by romantic firelight (funeral pyres, he later realized).

## 03.17.06 St. Paddy Would Have Stayed Home

\$10 just to break thru police barriers at O'Reilly's? Gino & Carlos served their corn beef & cabbage feast gratis on the back pool table. But I miss The Gold Spike, where Roger & I shared a corn beef plate as I watched a cockroach sporting a little green hat stumble across business cards on the wall... To the end of an era.

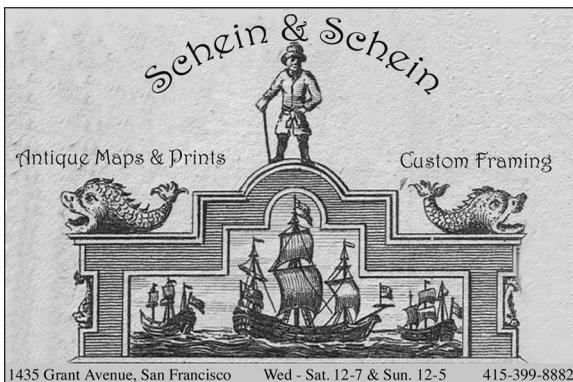
## 03.20.06 Ferrari Carbonari, The Sequel.

There has been little filming around Telegraph Hill (too wet)...except for a segment of the gear-head TV hit, "Monster Garage," shot at Fior d'Italia in February and aired in March. It began with a "Pasta Challenge" luncheon between Monster Garage and Fior d'Italia. Chef Gianni (Fior) prepared his pasta in the "manner of his province," while chef Jessie James claimed to make his pasta using a drivable 1981 Ferrari 308 GTVI. Which pasta would be more "Italian"? The cameras rolled. But the Ferrari pasta maker merely sparked a fire. N.Beach footage that was cut from the final tape. Alfa felt *almost* sorry for the Ferrari, even with its pristine Italian flag paint job. Ferrari's fate, per MG Producer, is "to be disassembled, it didn't work."

## 03.21.06 Bravo Jacamo, an Aaron Peskin Production.

Tutti Poeti, friends, and politicians gathered the First Day of Spring to celebrate Jack Hirschman's long deserved notoriety as S.F. poet laureate. Jack

continued on page 20



# April 18-20 1906

## SOME LESS-THAN-WONDERFUL DAYS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Art Peterson

“**W**hat would I have done?” we often ask as we learn about actions of those involved with some historic crisis. On Telegraph Hill in April, 1906, which of us would have taken the perfectly logical course of scampering down the hill, looking for the first ferry to Berkeley, and who would have remained behind to fight the good fight? Eyewitness Henry Anderson Lafler speaks of the latter breed:

“It was the boys of the hill that saved the hill. It was Toby Irwin the prizefighter, and Tim O’Brien, who works in the warehouse at the foot of the hill, and his brother Joe, who works in a lumberyard, and the Dougherty boys, and the Volsse boys, and Herman, the grocery clerk—it was they who saved the hill.

“It was the old Irish woman who had hoarded a few buckets of water through the long days of fear and rumor and who now came painfully toiling up the slopes with water for the fire—it was she who saved the hill.

“It was the poor peasant Italian with a barrel of cheap wine in his cellar who now rolled it out and broke its head in with an axe and with dipper and bucket and mop and blanket and cast-off coat fought the fire till he dropped—it was he who saved the hill.

“It was Sadie who works in the box factory, and Annie who is a coat finisher and Rose who is a chocolate dipper in a candy shop who carried water and cheered on the boys to the work—it was they who saved the hill.”

In the hours that followed the quake, none of this frenetic activity on the Hill had materialized. Structures, secure on the Hill’s bedrock foundation, remained blessedly unscathed.

In the first couple of days after the quake, the Hill provided a conduit for refugees from the Barbary Coast and Chinatown, who descended the Filbert and Greenwich stairs to the waterfront, where they hoped to hook up with boats crossing the bay. Gawkers climbed the Hill to get a better view of the growing devastation in other parts of the city.

But by Thursday evening the situation had changed. Flames, pushed on by strong winds, approached. None of the city’s 900-some firefighters, who were now occupied on Montgomery, Nob Hill, Van Ness and parts of the Mission District, were available. And, anyway, as the city’s water delivery system was destroyed, there was no water in the neighborhood hydrants. Most residents decided it was time to evacuate, joining 30,000 others at the waterfront looking for a way out of town.

When one of these evacuees, Giovnni Donmeri, climbed back up the Hill to grab some possessions, soldiers gave him some wine-soaked burlap sacks and told him to join volunteers applying these bags to the walls and roofs of remaining buildings. This strategic use of “God’s nectar,” in a city where the mayor had ordered a ban on the sale of alcohol, was one element of the neighborhood’s deliverance. It was said that an arsenal of 500 gallons from neighborhood cellars was made available for the fray. The Hill’s defenders had other strategies, too: Some small buildings were demolished as firebreaks; a successful backfire was set, and Pioneer Park provided a natural barrier in the path of the flames.

Partly as a result of these efforts, and partly as a matter of luck, the southeast side of Telegraph Hill is one of three enclaves in central San

# Earthquake Survivors in the Telegraph Hill Histo

- 17 Alta (1876)–Patrick Garrigan House, Patrick Garrigan, Teamster; Italianate style
- 21 Alta (1862)–Michalsen Grocery, Richard Andrews, Stevedore; Italianate style (restoration completed in 2003)
- \*23 Alta–unfortunate “remake” of 1870’s building in 1981-84 by architect, Theodore “Ted” Brown
- 25 Alta (1876)–Henry Smith, Fireman; Italianate style
- 29 Alta (1876)–Original owner unknown; Italianate style
- 31 Alta (1858)–Richard Andrews, stevedore; Greek Revival style (restoration completed in 2005)
- 33 Alta (1865, left portion; 1930, right portion), James Harrington, warehouseman, later watchman; Greek Revival style
- 110 Alta (1866) (remodeled in 1937)–Patrick Moyles, Laborer, Greenwich Dock; Greek Revival
- \*112-14 Alta (1868)–John Cooney, house painter; Italianate style duplex (demolished in late 1980s to make way for new construction)
- 120-22 Alta (1902)–Michael Brady, Laborer; Colonial Revival cottage
- 9 Calhoun (1854)–third oldest surviving house on Telegraph Hill–David G. Robinson, physician, actor, theatrical entrepreneur, bitters manufacturer; Gothic Revival style
- 20-22 Darrell Place (1877)–Patrick O’Brian, Laborer; Italianate cottage (originally one story)
- 24-30 Darrell Place (1871)–Edward Collins, Longshoreman; Italianate cottage (originally one story)
- 216 Filbert (1865; remodeled in 1959)–Andrew Benson, later James Gorman, Stevedores
- 218-20 Filbert (1861 & 1882)–Patrick McDermott, Laborer; Italianate style
- 222 Filbert/8 Napier Lane (1879)–Michael Thornton Grocery & Residence, Italianate style
- 224 Filbert (1859)–James Callaghan, laborer; later foreman at North Point Warehouse; Gothic Revival cottage
- 226 Filbert (1859)–Farley House; James Farley, laborer; Greek Revival cottage
- 228 Filbert (1869)–Phillip Brown, Stevedore; Gothic Revival cottage
- 230 Filbert (1858) - William F. Ross, laborer, later longshoreman; Vernacular cottage
- 221 Greenwich (1857)–George Mitchell, Longshoreman; Vernacular cottage
- 235 Greenwich (1885)–Michael Gibney, Laborer; Italianate cottage in the Heslett Compound
- 237 Greenwich (1857)–John McDonough, Longshoreman; Italianate cottage in the Heslett Compound
- 241 Greenwich (1898)–James J. McEvoy, Grain Inspector; Vernacular cottage
- 285 Greenwich (1886)–first owner unknown; Colonial Revival cottage
- 1252 Montgomery (1876)–Lugi Bacigalupi, Drayman, later Tilesetter; Italianate style
- 1254-62 Montgomery (core 1861; corner and upper story c.1887)–George Smith, Grocer; Italianate style–Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 1301 Montgomery (1852)–Thomas Johnson, Grocer on site; brick bearing walls (it is impossible to determine whether the District’s first extant building was this structure or the building at 291 Union)
- 1303 Montgomery (1859, remodeled in 1926)–John Allen, Drayman; Italianate style
- 1304 A Montgomery (1859)–Duncan Campbell, Rigger and Stevedore; Vernacular cottage (located behind 1304 Montgomery)
- 1305-07 Montgomery (1861)–William B. Smith, Stevedore; Italianate style (stripped, new windows, new siding)
- 1308 Montgomery (1865)–Joseph King, Stevedore, later porter; Italianate style (stripped, bay added, then partially restored)
- 1309-11 Montgomery (1866)–Patrick Heffernan, Laborer; Italianate style
- 1313-15 Montgomery (1866)–Michael Carr, Fireman on S. Boat; Italianate style, was store and dwelling
- 10 Napier Lane (rear) (1857)–Mortimer “Murty” and John Clark, teamster & laborer at Greenwich Dock Warehouse; Italianate cottage
- 15 Napier Lane (1872)–Berthold Clark,



PHOTO BY MIKE MADRID

- Warehouseman; Italianate cottage  
 21 Napier Lane (1880)—James Dougherty, Laborer; Italianate style  
 22 Napier Lane (1876)—Timothy O'Brian, Longshoreman, later foreman of Haslett Warehouse; Greek Revival Cottage  
 32-34 Napier Lane (1895)—Casper Link, Laborer, former longshoreman; Vernacular cottage  
 \*212 Union (1880)—Garrigan's Rental Cottage, Patrick Garrigan, Teamster; Greek Revival Cottage  
 \*280-86 Union (1865)—Daniel Geary, Stevedore; Italianate cottage  
 287-289 Union (1857)—Cooney Rental Units, John Cooney, Grocer; Gothic Revival cottages  
 \*288 Union (1864) (significantly remodeled in 1944)—Mary Devitt, widow, formerly Italianate style  
 \*290 Union (1867)—John McEvoy, Longshoreman (altered in 1944, then demolished and new building built in c.2000), formerly Italianate style  
 291 Union (1853)—John Cooney, Grocer on site; Italianate style (tied with 1301 Montgomery as being the oldest extant building in the District)  
 \*292 Union (1886) (remodeled 1942-1984)—Herman Meisel, Grocer  
 293 Union (1860's)—Joseph Pane, Cook; Colonial Revival cottage  
 \* Demolished or substantially altered

Information was extracted from the Telegraph Hill Historic District report prepared for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board by Anne Bloomfield and adopted by the Board of Supervisors when the historic district was designated in 1986.

## LESS-THAN-WONDERFUL DAYS continued from page 15

Francisco to escape major devastation. And that is why some of the city's oldest homes are found on these streets.

North Beach, at the bottom of the Hill, was a different story. The neighborhood was totally devastated by the fire, with the shell of the Shrine

of St Francis hanging on as the neighborhood's most prominent remaining feature (see page 25). In this neighborhood of Italians, 20,000 homeowners were on the streets.

The rebirth of the neighborhood was, to large extent, engineered by one man: AP Giannini, founder of the Bank of Italy. When the earthquake struck, Giannini grabbed the \$80,000 cash he had stashed in his bank at Columbus and Washington, loaded it in two wagons, covered the piles with blankets and oranges to avoid suspicion, and transported the money to his home in San Mateo. (See Vedica Puri's "President's Corner" page 3)

A few days later, working from a plank on the Washington Street Wharf, Giannini began loaning money to many of those who had borrowed from him to purchase their properties, all the while advising these immigrants that his bank was a safer place to keep their money than under a mattress in a refuge camp.

The neighborhood was rebuilt as 6,000 new Italians arrived to do San Francisco's reconstruction work.

Even before 1906, the symbol of San Francisco was the phoenix rising from the ashes. The neighborhoods of Telegraph Hill and North Beach, each in their own way, serve as shining examples of this resilience.

## Sources:

Fradkin, Phillip. *L The Great Earthquake and Firestorms of 1906: How San Francisco Nearly Destroyed Itself*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005

Myrick, David F. *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill*. San Francisco: Telegraph Hill Dwellers and City Lights Foundation, 1972, 2001.

Thomas, Gordon, and Max Morgan Witts. *The San Francisco Earthquake*. New York: Stein and Day, 1971.

Smith, Dennis. *San Francisco is Burning: The Untold Story of the 1906 Earthquake and Fires*. New York: Viking, 2005

**EL RAIGÓN**  
ARGENTINE ASADO



T (415) 291 0927 F (415) 291 0991  
WWW.ELRAIGON.COM

510 UNION ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CA 94133

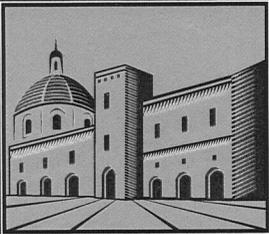
**TRADER JOE'S**

---

401 BAY STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

(415) 351-1013  
www.traderjoes.com

PIAZZA



RISTORANTE ITALIANO

659 Columbus Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
Tel: 1 415.397.7355  
Fax: 1 415.397.7357

PELEGRINI

www.piazzapellegrini.com



# From the Desk of Supervisor Peskin

When I set out to write this column for the Semaphore, I intended to focus on issues related to the centennial of the great 1906 Earthquake and the many lessons learned from the disaster and subsequent rebuilding of our City. However, the events in the early morning hours of April 8<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot at Coit Tower required more immediate and serious attention.

In my 16 years as a North Beach / Telegraph Hill resident, including 3 on the Filbert Steps, I have observed that most hill dwellers move here with the understanding that they live in a destination neighborhood, replete with tourist hot spots, popular bars and a few raucous night clubs. In fact, part of the allure for many neighborhood residents is the unique mixture of urban experience and neighborhood character that typifies life on the Hill.

Unfortunately, over the last few years one negative aspect of urban life has steadily increased on and around our neighborhood. The incidence of crime, generally occurring late at night or early in the morning, has been on the rise. These criminal acts have been particularly related to property damage and automobile theft, but now there has been a homicide at Coit Tower.

As I write this column, the San Francisco Police Department is actively investigating this double shooting. While any assertion of a correlation between that crime and the general increase in crime around the Broadway corridor is premature, the connection between underage drinking and other criminal activity outside of clubs and bars along Broadway and the increase in crimes on the Hill is hard to ignore.



In response to the escalating crime in and around the Broadway corridor, the San Francisco Entertainment Commission (the City agency responsible for overseeing and issuing all “entertainment-related” permits) recently created a task force to include multiple agencies with oversight and authority over night clubs, bars and

law enforcement. The task force includes representatives from the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the San Francisco Fire Department, SFPD’s Central Station, the District Attorney’s office, the San Francisco City Attorney’s code enforcement team, the Mayor’s office, the North Beach Merchants Association and various area bar and club owners.

The task force, meeting at Enrico’s Restaurant, worked first to identify the scope of the problems which need to be addressed. After much discussion, the group identified several key causes of crime around the Broadway corridor, including: underage (18-21 year olds) drinking outside of clubs and bars on sidewalks and in alleys/parking lots; large numbers of non-San Franciscan bar and club patrons who treat North Beach as an escape from normal, responsible behavior; traffic and crowd control problems caused by so-called “drunk busses” that deliver patrons to the area with no plan for a return ride home; the lack of resources and interagency coordination amongst various law enforcement agencies.

After identifying the source of much of the spillover crime that affects surrounding neighborhoods, the task force set out to develop a plan (soon to be released) detailing specific proposals for improving the situation. The proposal begins by outlining opportunities for greater inter-

continued on page 20

# New Board Members Have Big Plans

By Katie Hopkins

**M**et **Al Fonts**. In his non-hill time, he leads a team of engineers at a software company called Epocrates, which makes medical reference applications for Palms, smart phones and the like. Al has been in the neighborhood for just over 11 years. He joined the board because he wants to help people be active members of the Hill Dwellers and take full advantage of all the delights of San Francisco. How's he going to do it? By maintaining the website on a continuous basis so it's a relevant, timely

resource for the membership.

If you want to dial up the fun, **Sherry O'Donnell** is the person to talk to. She's an artist, wife, mother, party giver and general instigator of good times. She's been on the hill for 23 years, and she joined the board because she wants to make the Hill Dwellers even more active than it is now. Her plans include opening THD events to more people, bringing in fresh faces and ideas and creating joint shindigs with neighboring groups.

**Ian Vose**, our new corresponding secretary, is an institutional portfolio manager who specializes

---

**PESKIN** continued from page 19

departmental coordination of resources, information and enforcement capabilities to achieve the Task Force's goals.

The plan focuses on achieving greater compliance amongst bars and clubs with existing rules and regulations as well as reducing on-street criminal behavior. The Task Force proposal calls for the ABC, Fire and Police Departments and the Entertainment Commission to randomly and periodically spot-check Broadway Corridor establishments to ensure code compliance.

The Task Force is also working to facilitate meetings between Entertainment Commission and Police Department staff and club-owners to educate them about placing "Section 10-B" officers (off-duty police officers hired by private establishments) outside their clubs to maintain order and prevent on-street underage drinking. The Entertainment Commission is also developing educational presentations for club and bar owners to give them immediate access to code requirements and security resources they can use to reduce criminal activity around their establishments.

The Task Force plan also includes a proposal for partnering with the California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol

(CHP) to setup random sobriety check points along Bay Bridge exits to put incoming revelers on notice about the danger of attempting to drive home while intoxicated. The Task Force is also working with ABC and SFPD's vice squad to initiate a decoy program to test compliance with drinking-age laws and other code requirements.

In addition, the plan will also call for investigating a partnership between the SF Sheriff's Department and the CHP to provide funding for an on-site detention vehicle (colloquially known as a drunk tank) to provide the SFPD with quick detention access for offenders as well as a visible deterrent for area revelers to push their partying limits.

The Task Force will continue meeting and welcomes input from other community organizations, residents and businesses. The goal of this endeavor is to provide a forum for North Beach and Telegraph Hill residents to work with local law enforcement and entertainment establishment owners on finding solutions to the increase in area crime while preserving the character of Broadway and North Beach. Please feel free to contact me in City Hall at 554-7450 or [Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org) to get more information about the next meeting.

See you around the Hill...



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS continued from page 20

in investing his clients' assets in equity markets around the world. His particular focus is on the global pharmaceutical/biotech industry, a natural enough transition for a man who's had a background as a biochemist. Since relocating from the United Kingdom five years ago, he has enjoyed living in our San Francisco neighborhood, that serves as a launching pad for Ian's serious mountain biking. He feels that the special charms of the area are in no small part due to the efforts and accomplishments of the THD over the last 50 years and hopes that as an active member of the board he can help continue the good work. ✦

### THD PROMOTES MONACO SHOW

THD members are invited to the opening of an exhibit from the collection of J.B. Monaco focusing on his photos of the 1906 earthquake and fire. The event will be held on Sunday, June 4th from 3PM to 5PM at the Canessa Gallery 708 Montgomery Street, a building that survived the 1906 events. All of the images in the exhibit, which will run during the month of May, are of North Beach and Telegraph Hill.



**Rose**  
**Pist**  
**ola**

532 Columbus Avenue  
 415 399 0499

## Expansion Loses continued from page 13

get people on the board. Expansion would mean more talented people.”

Present THD board members listened to all of this and responded. President-elect Vedica Puri said that the proposed amendment was never intended as a “power grab,” but admitted that the issue had been approached “ass backwards.”

Board member and Bylaws committee member Nancy Shanahan also said “expansionism never entered our minds.” Referring to the Planning and Zoning committee on which she serves, she said that THD members living beyond the current boundaries are active members of that committee. “We wanted folks like this to have a chance to become chairs,” she said.

Board member Mikkell Aaland took some responsibility for advocating the expansion of the boundaries westward. He lives on the Telegraph Hill side of Greenwich, but his children go to the

Yick Wo School on Russian Hill. He does not see the neighborhood as a collection of fiefdoms to be divided up. Rather, he said, “you see it as a park, you see it as a school.” This, he said, was the spirit in which these changes were intended.

Out of the back and forth discussion some suggestions emerged:

- Go back to the drawing board and propose some less radical changes.
- Leave the boundaries as they are, but change the rules to allow a certain number of board seats to be held by members living outside the area.
- Arrange regular social and other events that allow Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Russian Hill Neighbors to get to know each other and build collaborations.



yoga • pilates • cardio • tennis • squash • nutrition • spa  
strength training • swimming • pro shop • cafe • childcare



The San Francisco Bay Club

150 Greenwich Street >> 415.433.2200 >> [sfbayclub.com](http://sfbayclub.com)

## THE ALFA NOSE continued from page 14

taught himself to compose in Russian at Caffè Trieste, and on this evening his brilliant verse charmed the audience. Aaron Peskin, who threw the affair, Matt Gonzalez, N.B. Merchants' Tony Gantner offered quotes: "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of our times," per Aaron. (So, why can't legislators be the poets of our times?) Matt added: "Jack would have been a good police chief." But Jack is also a genuine guy, a gentleman poet who once dropped a coin into a lady's orange soda, mistaking her for needy, as she sat outside City Lights "looking pensive." Generous food contributions by Sake Lab, Burgermeister, Viva Pizza, Tomasso's, Figaro.

### 03.25.06 A Class Act.

Can the Ferry Building be the most elegant site for a Farmers' Market in the world? Farmers travel from Santa Cruz, Modesto and Sonoma. One of my favorites is Green Gulch (organic soil since 1972), which still supplies Greens Restaurant. "And this place is only a ferry ride away," a couple of outlanders enthused. Also visit the Ferry Building's beautiful second story for a stunning north S.F. view.

### 04.01.06 - St. Stupid's Day.

Led by the Patron Saint of Fools, a parade of merrymakers arrived at Caffè Trieste late ...just after Trieste's 50th anniversary party ended. Figures. Trieste rolled back cappuccino prices to 35 cents and Ida rewarded us with Easter egg cookies.

### After Midnight: The Agony and The Extasy. Is The Artist Quarter always next to The Cabaret Strip?

The "hot spots" du jour for the 30+ crowd include Basque on Romolo, Rosewood and Butterfly. But when is "a hot spot" too hot? Week-

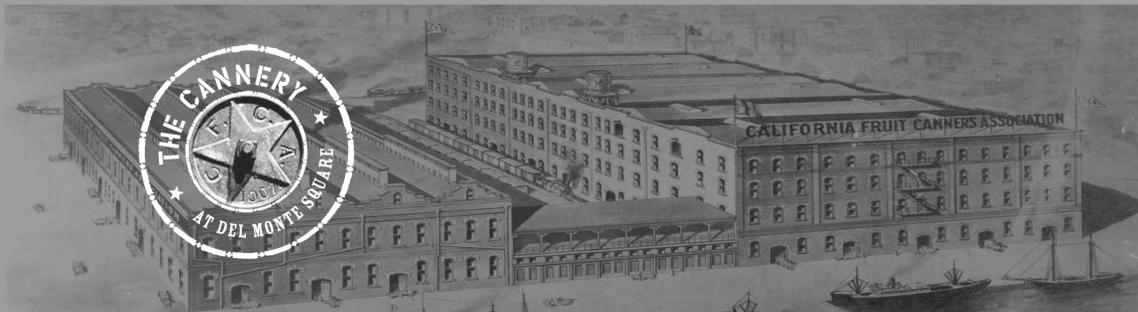
ends after midnight, when Broadway and Grant lay under siege from young Valleyites drinking up the sidewalks and imbibing "synthetic" drugs. Capt. Dudley, fresh from a N.B. Merchants session, confirmed Central Station cited four liquor stores, and is allocating extra force, but "there are more fronts than police." As summer approaches, the fog may save us. *Closing* establishments at a decent hour would be a start. *DUIs* also speak clearly to youth. And to think in the "old days" we arrived with a fake driver's license printed by a Stanford fraternity, and snuck in for rum & coke. And dressed up for the occasion.

### A Movable Feast -

Jimmy and Marty Schein (antique maps) applaud "the renaissance of Grant Avenue and emergence of young, enthusiastic business owners." Empty spaces (1300-1500 blocks) will be filling up with soap products, Far/Near East imports, jewelry & antique relics. The "sewing shop" has moved after their 28 year lease expired. Danelo's Bakery serves a new array of hot panini, and fish & chips has made a comeback on Green. Special kudos to Chris Martin/The Cannery for hosting The Beat Museum while they search for a N.B. location.

### Finale. To the Beach

Bunny cakes are hopping away, and, Father's Day will herald summer ... with the blessing of the animals at the Shrine of St. Francis. Meanwhile, I smell spring between squalls, see butterflies with indigo eyes dotting golden wings, feel Jasmine and Magnolia blossoming all over the Hill. A young man with a charmingly thick accent stops me to inquire, "Where is the beach?" Huh? "This is North Beach ... excuse ... where is beach?" Why it's historical ... it's conceptual ... a state of mind atop sunken ships. You've arrived, and welcome!



# SHOPPING • DINING • NIGHTLIFE

**the DIRTY MARTINI**  
Cocktails • Live Music • Dancing • Billiards

*The Green Room*  
**Comedy Club**

**LAS MARGARITAS**  
*Mexican Restaurant and Cantina*

**THE BEAT MUSEUM**  
Celebrating the Beat Generation in San Francisco

*Jacks*  
**CANNERY BAR**  
with over 85 beers to choose from

*norman's ice cream & freezes*  
SERVING MITCHELL'S ICE CREAM

**BASIC BROWN BEAR FACTORY**  
*San Francisco's Own*

**Shades of Tiffany**  
tiffany lamp gallery

**Oakville Grocery**

**THE CANNERY AT DEL MONTE SQUARE**  
2801 LEAVENWORTH ST • SAN FRANCISCO • 415-771-3112  
[delmontesquare.com](http://delmontesquare.com)



Ample street parking. Many of our stores validate at Anchorage Parking Garage 500 Beach Street. Just ask.

# The Last One Standing

By Patricia Cady

By April 18, 1906, Saint Francis of Assisi Church had stood for 46 years. After the earthquake ended, and the scouring fires had died out or were finally put out, the brick facade of the church building still stood. Views of a devastated North Beach show little left: The neighborhood of wooden buildings had turned to ash; a photo of federal troops marching down Vallejo Street shows the church standing alone.

Just ahead of the fire, priests at Old Saint Mary's Church on California Street had time to rescue a few objects while the interior of St. Francis was consumed with its treasures of paintings, windows and liturgical objects. Priests joined forces with the Sisters of the Presentation who had a school at Powell and Lombard streets where they started a relief center.

## Gold Rush Church

Saint Francis was dedicated in 1860, but the church's history is older than San Francisco itself. It started life in 1849 as the only parish church between Mexico and Oregon, in a small wooden building commissioned by the



Frank Giovanessi in front of St. Francis Church, 1906

(PHOTO: J.B. MONACAO)

Archbishop of Oregon, who hoped to temper the rough-and-tumble frontier of San Francisco's Gold Rush. The building was hammered together by soldiers who carted materials from the Presidio, and staffed by two young, presumably very nervous, French-speaking Canadian priests who watched one of the greatest shows in American history play out before them.

First services were held at a time when thousands of prospectors and entrepreneurs doubled San Francisco's population weekly. The environment wasn't particularly Christian.

Men needed to get hold of prospecting equipment and reach the gold fields before the next guy, to stake claims and get rich -- just like they'd read about. The hundreds of ships that arrived were abandoned in the harbor, at that time about a five-minute walk from the church. Men on horseback drove long teams of dray animals through foot-deep mud or blowing sand. The noisy confusion of over-laden wagons and carts, carriages for hire, street hawkers, milk sellers pulling goats on a rope, not to mention altercations between soldiers, cowboys, gamblers -- and occasional gun play -- joined the constant din of sawing and hammering of freshly harvested wood. A new store could be put up in a day. The little church must have provided a sanctuary amidst the materialism and borderline anarchy.

## New National Shrine

The presence of St. Francis was vitally important to the community of Italian immigrant families who essentially rebuilt North Beach, aided by loans from A.P. Giannini's Bank of Italy. The archdiocese constructed a temporary building next door where services continued uninterrupted, and over the next 12 years restored it (the nation's only "Italian Church") around a steel frame within its original walls.

continued on page 27



# FERRY BUILDING NIGHT MARKET

## EVERY THURSDAY

★ 4PM-8PM ★



# MAY – OCTOBER

FARMERS MARKET ★ LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE FOOD ★ MUSIC



[www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com](http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com)

The Ferry Building Marketplace is dedicated to the celebration of San Francisco's artisan food culture and cuisine and is supported by Equity Office, a company committed to fostering the values of this community.



# 2005-2006 Social Season Ends on a Sharpe Note!

By Pat Swan

THD Social Chair

Our Annual Membership Dinner was held April 17 at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. We ended our social season with a 'bang' and tried a few new things, including setting up displays during the cocktail hour so folks could see some of the neighborhood goings-on. The club did a fabulous job in accommodating our big jump in diners. (We almost doubled the number of attendees from the figure I originally gave them.) This was my second event at the Italian Athletic Club, and the affairs have been great both times.. Thanks to you, Lisa Marie Michelis, and all of your staff for putting on a really terrific party.

As an event planner, I'm concerned with all parts of the event, but most importantly, that everyone has a good time. And the music of Mal Sharpe and the Big Money in Jazz Band contributed greatly to the festive atmosphere at our dinner. What great music! If you haven't heard the group, check it out Fridays at Enrico's or Saturday

afternoons at the Savoy Tivoli.

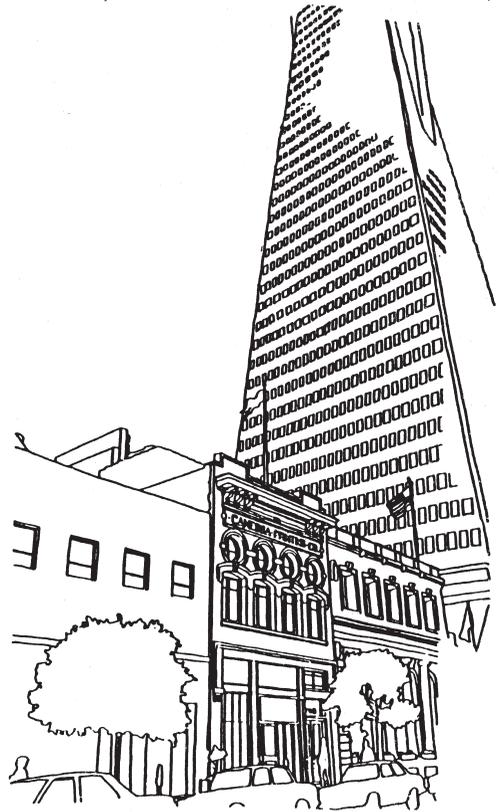
I would personally like to thank Brad Willmore for all of his assistance throughout the year. He made being Social Chair fun! His plans to get our group of dwellers out more and socializing more often worked. We even signed up a few new members. Thank you to everyone who participated, and special thanks to Café Divine, Café Blanca, Andrew Yeager's House of Seafood & Jazz, Estia Greek Restaurant, the San Francisco Brewing Company, the Live Worms Gallery & the Beat Museum, Fior d'Italia, and, of course, Julius Castle, home of our Holiday Party every year. We couldn't have such fun without your support of THD. Thank you all!

## MAGNIFICENT SURVIVOR

continued from page 25

Artisans created the interior we see today, with notable stained glass and fine altar murals by Luigi Brusatori, and the church was rededicated in 1919. Its old bell was pulled at 5:16 a.m. on the day of the earthquake centennial.

The Gold Rush church with the humble beginnings was steeply elevated in the year 2000 when it was designated The National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi. Former San Francisco Archbishop (now Cardinal) William Levada, reopened it in 1998 after a four-year closure. As a National Shrine, the mainstay Catholic church has a new mission -- to provide an ecumenical destination for visitors of all faiths.



advertisement



# JULIUS CASTLE

1541 Montgomery St. San Francisco, CA

Atop Telegraph Hill overlooking San Francisco Bay  
Featuring exquisite continental cuisine,  
elegant service, rare vintage wines and spirits  
with unsurpassed views in an intimate atmosphere.

A San Francisco Tradition since 1922.

Lunch Monday - Friday from 11:30-4:00 p.m.

Evenings from 5:00-10:00 p.m.

All major credit cards accepted. / Valet Parking / Private Parties Welcome



For reservations please call 362-3042

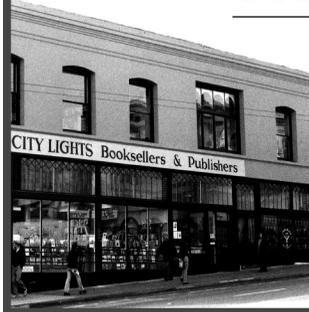
## CITY LIGHTS BOOKSELLERS & PUBLISHERS

A LITERARY MEETING  
PLACE SINCE 1953

OPEN DAILY  
10am-midnight

261 COLUMBUS AVE SAN FRANCISCO CA 94133 • 415 362 8193

[www.citylights.com](http://www.citylights.com)



IN-DEPTH SELECTION  
OF POETRY, FICTION,  
TRANSLATIONS, POLITICS  
& CULTURAL CURRENTS,  
STAFF PICKS, RARE  
BOOKS, PRINTS,  
BROADSIDES, T-SHIRTS,  
TOTE BAGS, GIFT  
CERTIFICATES & MORE!

## STEVE SILVER'S BEACH BLANKET BABYLON



CLUB FUGAZI • 678 BEACH BLANKET BABYLON BLVD  
(GREEN STREET) • SAN FRANCISCO  
WED & THURS AT 8PM • FRI & SAT AT 7 & 10PM • SUN 2 & 5PM

**415-421-4222**

PHOTO BY REQUIRED DRINKING • PERSONS UNDER 21 WELCOME TO MEETINGS  
[beachblanketbabylon.com](http://beachblanketbabylon.com)

©SSPI 2006 Photo: Larry Markle/David Allan

*We've moved to the historic  
San Remo Hotel*



*America's Oldest Italian Restaurant*

**415 986-1886**

2237 Mason between Francisco & Chestnut

[www.fior.com](http://www.fior.com)

**ZAP Graffiti and Dumped Trash  
CALL CITY HOTLINE 28-CLEAN**

*Have you thanked Semaphore advertisers for their support?*

# THD Board Motions

FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2006

January, 2006

**MOTION:** That THD contribute \$2,500 to the Vallejo Steps Garden Association to assist with their gardening efforts.  
The Motion passed.

February, 2006

**MOTION:** To not support the location of the U.S.S. at the San Francisco Waterfront.  
The Motion did not pass.

**MOTION:** That THD appeal the mitigated negative declaration of 55 Francisco by February 17, 2006.  
The Motion passed.

**MOTION:** That the Telegraph Hill Dwellers strongly support all efforts to require the removal of the illuminated sign from the rooftop of the Chinatown Hilton Hotel.  
The Motion passed.

B R E A K F A S T  
L U N C H & D I N N E R



**CAFÉ DIVINE**  
HEAVENLY CUISINE

1600 STOCKTON STREET  
ON WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133  
TEL 415.986.3414  
FAX 415.986.4633



**SAN FRANCISCO'S  
MOST AWARDED PIZZA**

**FAST FREE DELIVERY**

**433-2444**

PIZZA, PASTA, ENTREES  
SALADS AND SANDWICHES

1499 Grant Av at Union      1310 Grant Av at Vallejo

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

**PAT'S  
CAFÉ**

Dinner  
Fri & Sat

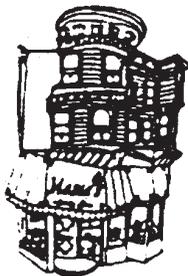
**2330 Taylor Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415-776-8735**

**Home Style Cookin'**

**GREEN STREET MORTUARY** 

William K. Steiner  
General Manager  
史威林

麗安殯儀館  
FD-101  
CA Insurance  
Lic. #OB28431  
FDR 2082  
649 Green Street  
San Francisco, California  
94133-3801  
415.433.5692  
Fax 415.433.2290



**Mama's**  
on Washington Square

Debra & Michael Sanchez

1701 Stockton St. S.F., CA 94133  
Phone: 415-362-6421

# For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

## THD Welcomes New Members Jan. 2006 to March 2006

James A. Amdur, Brian Birney, Carolyn Blair, Jan Blum, Franklin Bowles, Lani Chun, Cathy Earley, Raymond Guiducci, Julie Herrod-Lumsden, Katie Hopkins, Steve Kendrick & Katharine Lewis, Mike Madrid, Sheila Mahoney, Brian and Karen Perlman,

Amanda & Brad Peters, Patrick Rylee, Joel & Mindy Schweitzer, Sue Siegel, Bernard Stern & Estelle Solod, Alan and Kelly Steremberg, Jane Swinerton

### 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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (age 65 and over) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_



ISTITUTO ITALIANO SCUOLA

425 Washington Street, Suite 100  
San Francisco, California 94111  
Ph: 415.788.0242 Fax: 415.788.6389  
e-mail: italianschool@sfiis.org

[www.sfiis.org](http://www.sfiis.org)

**italian language, cinema, opera lyrics, history,  
regional cuisine, art, architecture, travel to italy,  
see films from our vast library, our exhibits, attend  
our numerous lectures and events**

### Fog Hill Market

Hanna Chedyak

415-781-8817

1300 Kearny

San Francisco, CA 94133

## 1301 MONTGOMERY cont'd from page 10

ulates that the property may have been the first sales room for "Dr. Robinson's Celebrated Vegetable Bitters," a concoction advertised as "composed entirely of California vegetables." Dr. Robinson, a multi-talented resident of the Hill, resided at 9 Calhoun Terrace in a home that still stands.

We know for sure that by 1854, a grocery owned by Thomas Johnson occupied this location. The site was still a grocery in the 1880s, but was now owned by Sigmund Friedlandaer. Over the years the prem-

ises have come to house a barber shop (1915), a pool hall (1920s), a purveyor of "soft drinks" during Prohibition, and finally a residence.

Photos show the building neatly bricked before 1870, run down and mostly plastered over in the 1920s, and freshly plastered in the 1950s.

### Sources

Bloomfield, Anne, *Telegraph Hill District, San Francisco*, Prepared for The Landmarks Advisory Board, (no date).

Myrick, David F, *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill, San Francisco: Telegraph Hill Dwellers, City Lights Foundation, 1972, 2001*

# 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.** Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094, Mary Lipian, 391-5652. 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, Pat Swan, 788-7926; 439 Greenwich #7B, pswan@visa.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, Sarah Kliban, 781-2278, casting@value.net. As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

**Parks and Trees.** Julie Christiansen, 552-7774. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

**Oral History Project**  
Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; tmsli@sonic.net.  
Rozell Overmire, 939-3945, rozell@weach.com Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

**THD Web Site.** Webmaster, Al Fontes, 433-6515; 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.

## THD Wish List

Can you help us with any of the following items?

- Stamps, stamps, stamps • Office/PC paper
- Business window-envelopes • PC laptop • Tape Recorder(s)
- Transcribing machines
- Flat file (for maps, posters, lg. flat printed materials)

If so please contact Sarah at: (415) 781-2278 (press # if message) or e-mail Sarah: membership@thd.org Thank you so much!

### **WEB SITE = [www.thd.org](http://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](http://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 *Semaphores*.

# NORTH BEACH COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

***Benefit Joe DiMaggio Playground and the North Beach Library!***

Help find a new home for your quality surplus items, and help our neighborhood move closer to a renovated library and playground.

**MARKET DATE** Saturday, May 20, 2006 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**PLEASE DONATE** your clean, undamaged, serviceable items.

**DROP OFF** at the Joe DiMaggio Playground Sat. & Sun., May 6 & 7, 13 & 14. 10 AM to 2 PM.

**PICK UP:** Or call 415-552-7774 weekdays for possible pick-up at your location May 6, 7, 13, or 14.

*All contributions are tax deductible through the San Francisco Parks Trust.*

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS  
P. O. BOX 330159  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

## THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stair and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: May 13, June 10 and July 8. For more information call 552-7774.

Check THD emails for  
social calendar updates

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: First Thursdays. Call for time and location.  
986-7070, 563-3494, 391-5652.

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 6781