North Beach is exploding with creative new enterprises. The neighborhood’s resolve to say no to Taco Bell and The Gap has paid off by attracting an avalanche of visionary retail entrepreneurs, who are returning our streets to the small-business haven of past days. Here are some of them:

**Carmel Blue**

1418 Grant Ave. / 362-2583
www.carmelblue.com

Carmel Blue is all about babies. Named for Carmel, the child of shopowner Sharone Mendes Nassi, the establishment provides classes and support for pregnant women and budding families and the community surrounding them. Nassi offers gifts for baby showers and innovative healthy products for the first years of a child’s life, from prenatal gifts to baby necessities and toddler toys.

Nassi sees this enterprise well prepared, having had experience working with both retail products and expectant and new mothers. She was employed for 15 years as a product developer and designer for Levi Strauss, Pottery Barn and other San Francisco- and New York-based design companies. At the same time, she became a certified yoga teacher, a prenatal yoga teacher, a birthing coach and a doula, working with expectant parents and volunteering at S.F. General Hospital’s Labor and Delivery unit.

Nassi’s mother, Nili Mendes, who has a background in natural childbirth education, often assists in the shop. Nili says her mom brings to the endeavor a “Solid Grandma’s ear and practical perspectives.”

Liz Ferro and Dane Boryta own and run Bottle Cap in the former location of the Washington Square Bar & Grill. Sitting with a portion of the restaurant’s café area Friday through Sunday. There are also plans to open the bar a little earlier in the afternoon and will offer lunch in the café area Friday through Sunday. There are also plans to open the bar a little earlier in the afternoon and will offer lunch in the café area Friday through Sunday.

**Park Tavern**

1422 Grant Ave. / 217-8864
parktavernsf.com

Abby Herman had a vision. With a background in public administration from San Francisco State University, she was working in nonprofit fund development, but then decided what she really wanted to do: work for herself in a retail environment where she could support her local community and provide products that customers could feel really good about buying. It all started as a fantasy, though, until Abby asked her sister Jessica if it was something that she would be interested in pursuing.

Jessica, who holds a master’s degree in education from the University of Washington, was a classroom teacher of students with emotional and behavioral disabilities before developing her own business working as an educational consultant. Jessica, without hesitation, said “yes!” to Abby’s proposition, and the sisters began working on making their fantasy a reality. The result was Park and Pond, a retail space that only carries products that are produced within 100 miles of San Francisco. (“Goods From Near” is their business slogan.)

**Make Hang Gallery**

450 Green St. / (978) 973-6995
makehang.com

Alaine Darge, weaver, and Alan Robin, photographer, are the founders and curators of this gallery space intended “as a place for local emerging makers to explore and share sculptural, textile, installations with ‘Beach’s diverse community.”

Darge is a sculptural textile artist, weaving natural and cultural objects together to explore the tensions and beautiful gray area between giving everyday objects unexpected and funky new lives. She is a graduate of the California College of the Arts, and shows her textiles internationally in both gallery and guerrilla spaces. Now she weaves on the loom at Make Hang, completing a new, flowing textile every few weeks. She invites readers to drop by Make Hang to talk about the “slow fiber” process of weaving and see what is fresh off the loom. Installation pieces are front and center at Make Hang. During November the gallery will feature Stephen Stout’s “The Nothing Box,” which the artist describes as a piece “that will lead you through a tunnel and into the heart of a sculpture made of mirrored boxes. Inside you are surrounded by an array of lights in a three-dimensional grid with you at the center, and you will feel like you are floating in a void. You may experience a shifting of space, a doubling of your own senses; a rift between what you have perceived and the rationalization of this perception.”

Make Hang is a participant in North Beach First Fridays and also sponsors regular artist’s talks and poetry readings.

**Bottle Cap**

1707 Powell St. / 529-2237
www.bottlecapsf.com

Liz Ferro and Dane Boryta own and run Bottle Cap in the former location of the Washington Square Bar & Grill. Sitting with a portion of the restaurant’s sweet potato fries in hand and Washington Street stippled in a late Sunday afternoon tableau, I sat down with Ferro to learn about their new venture across from Washington Square Bar & Grill. Sitting with a portion of the restaurant’s sweet potato fries in hand and Washington Street stippled in a late Sunday afternoon tableau, I sat down with Ferro to learn about their new venture across from Washington Square Bar & Grill.

**Park and Pond**

548 Union St. / 374-7865
info@cyckelsf.com

Shoppers Knikla and Rocío Pearce, husband and wife, continued on page 10

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS OWNERS FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS
“Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.”  
— Bertolt Brecht, poet and playwright

This quote, one of my favorites, came to mind recently while I was squeezed into the Focus Gallery on Upper Grant in a warm Sunday September afternoon. I was straining to listen to a woman with purple hair speak to the beat of a red-wood-log drum. The woman was jazz poet ruth weiss, once described by Herb Caen as “the Beat Generation Goddess.” Her passionate reading that day—once described by Herb Caen as “the Beat Generation Goddess”—inspired storms of life and persevering through the pain of injustice did not just ring true— they inspired me to live more.

That Sunday afternoon was the final day of THD's North Beach/Telegraph Hill ArtWalk 2011 weekend. This was THD’s fourth annual ArtWalk, an event that has taken on a life of its own and now draws thousands of people to artist studios, galleries and workshops across our neighborhood to see incredible art, engage with some of the most creative people on the planet and support their talent by purchasing and taking home their work. This year’s ArtWalk — once again orchestrated with efficiency, enthusiasm and flair by Art & Culture Committee Chair Julie Jaycox — was by all accounts the best ArtWalk yet (but just wait until next year).

After the ruth weiss reading was over and the thunderous applause subsided, I popped out onto the sidewalk. I paused for a moment, took a deep breath, and looked around. What I saw was a block that I traverse every single day. But, for the first time, I really noticed that it has been transformed from one of our neighborhood’s more sleepy commercial stretches into one of its most diverse and alive.

According to David Myrick’s quintessential book “San Francisco’s Telegraph Hill,” the block of Upper Grant Avenue between Union and Filbert was once home to such vibrant gathering places as the City Lights Publishing Company, Mooney’s Irish Pub, artists’ coffeehouse “The Place,” the Telegraph Hill Country Club feehouse “The Place,” the Telegraph Hill Country Club, the wafting scent of bread, biscotti, macaroons and (my favorite) muffins. Near the other end is Macchiarini Delicatessen, home of SS Peter and Paul’s Church. Over the years these businesses — and many more — came and went, with this block shifting shape in character and tempo as so many do. With apartments above storefronts along the street, it has always remained a place where residents live. But in recent years the street life along the block seemed to dwindle, with the number of ‘for rent’ signs increasing while the volume of foot traffic and activity diminished.

For whatever reason, this block became what some locals began to refer to as “Grant Avenue’s orphan.” But time, determination and patience have again transformed this stretch of street. The block’s anchors never left. At the corner of Union and Grant, the French-Italian Bakery has remained steadfast over the many years, consistently filling the morning air with the wafting scent of bread, biscotti, macarons and (my favorite) muffins. Near the other end is Macchiarini Creative Design, where Danny Macchiarini followed in the footsteps of his father Peter and became one of our neighborhood’s — and city’s — most inspired artists, sculpting metal and materials into exotic and extraordinary shapes and jewelry. The Macchiarini family has worked tirelessly to build community and champion the talents of neighborhood artists and the wares of local merchants. They continue to infuse Upper Grant with a truly unique creative spirit.

Today, if you take a stroll down Grant between Union and Filbert and have a look, besides those two iconic fixtures, along with a couple of busy laundromats and popular nail salons, here is what you will see:

- Aria Antiques: Home to Bill’s rare and beautiful found objects, which one visitor called “An amalgam of eclectic, selective, and downright fantastic curios from all dusty corners of the world.”
- AB Fits: Top-of-the-line fashions and jeans specially fitted to your posterior brought to you by owner Howard Gee, who dreams of creating a “parklet” in front of his shop.
- Men Cinen: Inside this museum-like space, Mike offers unusual, complex and beautiful artifacts and jewelry.
- Chinese Community Development Center: Central hub for this longtime affordable housing provider and senior and youth services and advocacy organization.
- NB Designs: Bright and sunny shop where designer Nancy Bui offers lovely clothes, hand-tailing and alterations.
- Focus Gallery: John Perino plays host to inspired shows of photography and art from across the city and around the world.
- Little Vine: Specialty gourmet grocery and an instantly beloved recent addition to the block. Owners Jay and Melissa offer a large selection of cheeses, pasture-raised poultry, organic beef and locally farmed produce, with much more to come.

The next time you walk down the block of Upper Grant between Union and Filbert on your way to somewhere else, pause and take a look at the way it has been transformed. If it’s not already your plan, patronize a shop, step into one of the art spaces to see what’s new, treat yourself to a fresh pastry, or pick up a special delicacy. Enjoy the pleasure of being in a place that not long ago was an “orphan,” but today is alive and thriving as it finds its way home.

“Here’s a look at some of the unique and vibrant businesses and organizations—some old friends, some new—with special thanks and appreciation to the businesses and organizations that have enhanced the cultural and economic vitality of our community.”

Sean O’Donnell
Handyman

“Anything can be fixed except a fallen soufflé.”

307-1205


CASTLE ON THE HILL

By Catherine Accardi

Castle (from Latin castellum) a type of fortified structure built and inhabited in Europe during the Middle Ages by European nobility.

Rarely does one find a castle clinging to a hill in the center of an urban area. Julius' Castle, at 302 Greenwich St, where it meets Montgomery Street, is the exception. The castle, while certainly well built (although not quite "fortified"), was the residence and business establishment of a beloved San Francisco "noble" by the name of Julius Roz. Julius' Castle was a leading San Francisco restaurant for more than 80 years, and is San Francisco landmark No. 121, designated as such on Oct. 5, 1980.

The History

So, how did this urban castle come to be? It all began with building permit No. 114873 (dated March 20, 1923), when Roz, a local Italian restaurateur, began work on the castle-like structure perched on one of Telegraph Hill's many precipices. In 1886, the site had been the location of Michael Crowley's two-story grocery store. Later, the John Mini family built their home there only to have it destroyed around 1918 by fire. In 1924, less than a year after construction on the Castle began, food service was under way, establishing Julius’ Castle as among the oldest San Francisco restaurants at its original location with its original name.

With Roz's collaboration, civil engineer and architect Louis Mastropasqua designed this amazing structure that combines fairytale elements, such as pointed arched windows and medieval-style battlements on the upper balconies, all mixed with Gothic Revival and Arts-and-Crafts influences. Interior wood paneling was reputedly purchased by Roz from the city's 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. The words "Julius' Castle," on redwood on the front, were added by Roz in 1928.

At the time, Montgomery Street was little more than a dirt trail wide enough for one vehicle. Because the street was so narrow, a turntable was installed in 1931 at the dead-end in front of the castle and an employee turned cars around and parked them.

During Prohibition, Julius' Castle became a speakeasy for the carriage trade. Its patrons watched the Bay Bridge being constructed and completed in 1936. Regulars witnessed the apparition of Treasure Island Bay Bridge being constructed and completed in 1936. It was the Nunziato pasta factory at 415 Washington Street in North Beach in a yellow Chrysler Imperial convertible… He always had the convertible's top down and two beautiful collie dogs in the rumble seat, which had its own windshield and side windows to keep the wind off the dogs...What a magnificent sight!

The Architect, Louis Mastropasqua

Louis Mastropasqua was born in Brescia, Italy, near Milan, in 1870, graduating in 1899 from the Italian Royal Polytechnic School, specializing in civil engineering and architecture. He traveled, studying architecture and art in Japan, China and Africa before his arrival at San Francisco in 1902. He spoke no English, but quickly learned the language and established himself as an architect of repute in the Italian community, especially after the building boom following the 1906 earthquake and fire.

One of Mastropasqua's first designs was the Nunziato pasta factory at 415 Broadway near Montgomery. In addition, he designed a number of residences, including the Charles Bosvone house (1908) at 68 Macondary. He was also a noted cartoonist for the Italian paper "La Vita Italiana."

Historic records indicate Mastropasqua's collaboration with Roz on the unique design of the Castle in part inspired by Frederick O. Layman's wooden castle, which had stood nearby atop Telegraph Hill between 1882 and 1903. Layman built the "German" castle continued on page 5
THD Wins Latest Battle in Decades-Long Fight Over Development of Cliff Face at 1171 Sansome St. / 88 Calhoun Terrace

This large vacant cliff lot – that extends from the top to the bottom of the Hill — has been the subject of numerous failed subdivision and development proposals for the last third of a century. The lot, known as 1171 Sansome St./88 Calhoun Terrace, located on the eastern slope of Telegraph Hill, is an incredibly sensitive and geologically unstable site with a long history of rock slides and falling debris. The slope is so steep that it has a grade of 65 percent in some locations. Consistent with decades of past city decisions, the Board of Supervisors unanimously rejected the developer’s most recent attempt to circumvent environmental review.

In 1982, a 12-story office/residential complex on Sansome Street was proposed, Frieda Klussman, the famous Telegraph Hill resident who stopped the city from dismantling the last of its cable car lines, led the charge to oppose this development proposal. In 1995, her large vacant cliff lot – that extends from the top to the bottom of the Hill — earned a reputation for late-night fights and commission authorizations.

THD and the Police Department, the new owner of 88 Calhoun Terrace, have secured a commitment that neighborhoods would not expand the building’s envelope. THD is hoping he will allow the long-term tenants to remain. Under the provisions of the San Francisco Planning Code Section 790.142(e),

• Audible noise is not allowed outside the business.
• DJ performance is not permitted; and
• The area devoted to performances would not exceed 200 square-feet;
• Limited live-performance is permitted until 10 p.m.;
• Audible noise is not allowed outside the business.

New “Limited Live-Performance Permits”

The proposed legislation is plainly inconsistent with the original intent of the NCD legislation and would have significant impacts on North Beach, which is undergoing a renaissance.

Another piece of legislation sponsored by Mirkarimi completely overhauls the NCD legislation enacted with significant neighborhood and THD involvement in 1986. Years of careful legislative work within individual neighborhoods and commercial districts stand to be undone, if this legislation passes in its current form. It is a “one-size-fits-all” approach that conflicts with many of the controls now in effect to address issues of neighborhood character and residential livability unique to the archipelago of San Francisco neighborhoods, including ours. The proposed legislation is plainly inconsistent with the original intent of the NCD legislation and would have significant impacts on North Beach, which is undergoing a renaissance.

In the North Beach NCD, this legislation would increase the size and number of restaurants and allow for up to 2,000 square-feet of “live rights.” This would conflict with two longstanding goals of our commercial area: (1) to retain and encourage small-scale businesses; and (2) to re-establish and maintain a balance between neighborhood-serving businesses and restaurants/bars.

We will continue to work with other neighborhood organizations that are concerned about this legislation to make sure that we preserve the zoning controls that keep our neighborhood so vibrant and livable.

By Nancy Shanahan

THD Moves Ahead With Plans to Install 725 Refrigerator-Sized Utility Boxes

San Francisco Beautiful and the Planning Association of the Richmond appealed the Planning Department’s determination that locating 725 refrigerator-sized boxes on the congested sidewalks of San Francisco would have no negative impacts on aesthetics or pedestrians. The Board of Supervisors rejected the appeal on a dim 6-to-5 vote. In explaining his swing vote in favor of AT&T, Supervisor Scott Weiner claimed to have secured a commitment that neighborhoods would have input on each proposed installation. Stay tuned to learn what AT&T and SF Planning Department Tel/Telegraph Hill. We sent AT&T a letter requesting information on all proposed sites in our area. We’ll keep you posted.

Salesian Boys’ & Girls’ Club Addition & Renovation Project

The Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club, located at 680 Filbert St./1836 Powell St., is moving ahead with plans to renovate and expand its recreational facilities by adding a 7,150-square-foot floor on top of its two-story building to accommodate a dance studio, meeting room for the girls’ club and new offices. The new floor will be set back 15 feet from Powell Street and be constructed of scored concrete to blend with the character of the neighborhood buildings. Improvements are also proposed to soften the existing Powell Street wall by adding plantings and by painting the garage doors.

THD and the Planning Department, Supervisors Push Measures That Impact Neighborhood

New “Limited Live-Performance Permits”

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Proposal to Overhaul 1986 Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD) Controls

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We will continue to work with other neighborhood organizations that are concerned about this legislation to make sure that we preserve the zoning controls that keep our neighborhood so vibrant and livable.

In other news:

The America’s Cup is in flux. City Hall hearings on the EIR for the Cup and the proposed cruise ship terminal at Pier 27 are expected late this year.

The proposed up-zoning of 8 Washington St. (Golden Gateway Swim and Tennis Club) has been delayed, but this massive project is moving forward. Hearings at the Planning Commission are expected in early January.

District 3 Supervisor David Chiu introduced more than 350 pages of changes to the Planning Code that would impact the northeast waterfront. The Planning Commission expressed concerns and delayed the next informational hearing until December 15.

Finally, Supervisor Wiener is proposing to weaken the city’s historic preservation laws enacted by the voters under Proposition J (2008). Planning Commission hearings on Wiener’s proposals are expected in January.

Enjoy the holidays and join us in our efforts to steward our incredible neighborhood.
Julius’ Castle

continued from page 3

as a business venture and cable car terminus of his proposed observatory and restaurant. Known to residents as “Layman’s Folly,” the structure was destroyed by fire in 1903. As Roz and Mastopasqua had arrived in San Francisco from Italy in 1902, they were able to ponder the first “Castle” on Telegraph Hill. Apparently, this gazing was inspirational, as 20 years later Julius’ Castle was created.

Roz’s castle was well thought out, achieving a unique restaurant setting on a world famous hill, providing customers with unparalleled views, providing neighboring residents with quite a sight, visible from down the street, down the hill, from the waterfront and from passing ships.

The Landmark

Well, of course it’s a landmark! The San Francisco Planning Dept.’s 1976 Architectural Survey bestowed a “high quality rating” on our neighborhood gem. The survey classifies Julius’ Castle’s style as “Miscellaneous Exotic,” with its main component styles as Gothic Revival and Arts-and-Crafts. It is a wood-frame building over a concrete foundation. A basement contains the compressor room, storage, wine cellar in a former garage and a loggia leading to the restaurant. The main floor houses the kitchen and the approximately 64-seat restaurant. The apartment is above. The landmark report, available for viewing at the San Francisco Planning Department, is a wealth of detailed information regarding the Castle’s architectural merit.

In the Media:

The booklet, “Bohemian Eats of San Francisco,” by Jack L. and Hazel Blair Dodd describe the Julius Castle ambience and dining experience:

“…Should you get lost on the way up the hill, the small boy by the roadside will give you directions as only a small boy can. Many Italian eateries display their national colors of red, green and white. Here you can eat them in the form of red, green and white tagliarini. As you arrive, and during your meal, Sandy will greet you with a smile and tail wag as Sandy is a collie dog. He will ask to play with you. Sandy has played with such celebrities as Jackie Coogan, Lon Chaney and Douglas Fairbanks. Yes, indeed, your host Julius Roz, has received radiograms from ships at sea on their return, asking that reservations be made for passengers as soon after their ship docks as is possible. Lunch from 12 to 2, $1.50 — Dinner from 6 to 9, $2.00.”

In Films:

“The House on Telegraph Hill” – 1951. 20th Century Fox, Director: Robert Wise

According to film archives, 20th Century Fox used the front of Julius Castle in this movie. Creative changes to the structure were made so that it would look like the entrance to a stately home. These alterations to the exterior were created by building a façade around the castle.

The Present

My contact with the property’s leasing and sales associate brought unfortunate news. The Castle has neither been leased nor sold. It continues to sit empty, occupied only by memories.

The concern is that, although a registered San Francisco landmark, the designation can be nullified and demolition could ensue, according to a San Francisco ordinance that states that to tear down a city landmark, owners must prove there is no economic use for the property. If the structure is vacant, not being used in three years for its intended purpose (in this case a restaurant), the landmark status can be voided.

Nowadays, the Castle sits empty, abandoned and seemingly unloved. Just one more time, I want to walk by 302 Greenwich and imagine two frisky collies running around and the delicious aroma of Italian sauce mixing in nicely with cool bay breezes.

Catherine Accardi is a native San Francisco born on Telegraph Hill. She has been a long-standing member of The Telegraph Hill Dwellers and the San Francisco Historical Society. In 2010, her book “San Francisco’s North Beach and Telegraph Hill,” was published by Arcadia Publishing. Her latest book, “Images of America—San Francisco Landmarks,” will be released in the winter of 2012. She welcomes other information readers may have about Julius’ Castle. She may be contacted at cacatta@comcast.net.

“The Raging Tide” (1951) Universal International Pictures, Directors: George Sherman

One scene from this movie shows Shelly Winters running out of Julius Castle, pausing on the entrance steps for an emotional dialogue. City lights are the backdrop. In another scene, Winters is having brandy at the bar in Julius Castle talking to a bartender.
By Dick Boyd

North Beach has always been special. The mix of people has been a tossed salad. Back in the 1950s and early 60s, most residents were Italian — or at least part Italian. The religion was predominantly Catholic. If you went to church at St. Peter and Paul’s, you would hear a lot of Italian spoken before and after services. Even the North Beach post office had employees who spoke Italian. Today, of course, most of those behind the counter speak Chinese as the neighborhood demographics have changed.

Back then, however, the seasoning in the saladdressed by the characters I call the Broadway Boyz. Broadway was the hangout for those guys. This was true because three of the best Italian restaurants could be found within 100 yards of each other — New Joe’s, Vanessa’s and Swiss Louie’s (now at Pier 39). They could also be found at Mike’s Pool Hall (now Urban Carry), and, of course, at Enrico’s, the place to be seen front. Lots of the local boys worked along Broadway at a variety of jobs from bus boy, to waiter, to Maitre d’, to chef, to owner. I was a partner in Pierre’s (546 Broadway) back then and knew these guys.

Pee Wee Ferrari: Pee Wee of Tippy’s (556 Broadway, now under construction) was the ‘lead’ of Broadway back then. If you had a question, you went to Pee Wee. He had seen the really bad times and could answer most questions. He could tell you, for instance, all about watering down bar booz. Pee Wee had card games in the back to supplement his earnings. Back in those days, before Broadway took off, times were tough. You often had to find ways to survive. I don’t think the cops really gave a rip what you did, because they usually turned a blind eye or maybe settled for a free drink or two, often at night with their wives.

Coke Infante: Coke was the consensus “mayor” of North Beach. He roamed from card games at Aquatic Park to the bars all the way back to North Beach. One time, a cop put the handle on him for a warrant. The pinball machine across from La Fonda (now the Columbus). Coke asked the cop to walk him back to Central Station, which was then located on Kearny, across from Portsmouth Square. The cop, who knew Coke, consented. Coke knew exactly what his bail would be and borrowed that amount from friends along the way.

Somehow, Coke had developed a dislike for alleged artist Walter Keane, the guy who took credit for those famous eyes, which were created by his wife, Margaret. Walter was a bad drinker and swore like a longshoreman in front of whoever was present. He was a lousy liar’s dice player, too, but loved to play. If Coke knew Walter was in a bar playing liar’s dice, he would hustle over and harass him. I wish they had video back then because those scenes would be on YouTube today. Walter even went so far as to hire Eddie Asencio as a bodyguard. Walter offered Eddie 200 bucks to break Coke’s arm. Eddie just happened to be Coke’s close friend. They put together a great scam. They went to Rosati’s Drugs (now the Café Divine at Union and Stockton) bought some plaster of Paris, some gauze and a sling. They then went to a nurse’s station. "an enigma wrapped in a riddle. His multitalents often got him into financial trouble. If he believed in something, he would put his money where his mouth was.

While on Broadway, Billy became fast friends with 6-foot-8 Lucky Luchessi, the manager. Leo made a film called “Alias Big Cherry,” but it never got released. The story is that it was suggested by some New Jersey bad boy that the filmmakers might find a horse’s head in their bed, if the film was released. I got that from Leo, so I think it’s probably the truth. You want to know more about Leo, see Shawn at Red’s Java House on the Embarcadero. He knew Leo like a book.

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by Joan E. Gluck

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THE BROADWAY BOYZ OF THE ’50S AND EARLY ’60S

Enrico Banducci

Enrico Banducci: The beret-wearing Enrico was a one-of-a-kind guy. Multitalented, but paragraping what Winston Churchill said about Russia, Enrico was "an enigma wrapped in a riddle." His multitalents often got him into financial trouble. If he believed in some-thing, he would put his money where his mouth was.

PHOTO COURTESY ENRICO BANDUCCI.
Lucile drifted into my shack one day and stayed for six months. When Vicky Pike brought her to one of my parties, I thought she a charming child — she was naive, untroubled by the exigencies of the work- ing world. Several months later, when she dropped in for tea, the impression was only reinforced by her halt- ing little voice and her floating black hair, which always seemed to be falling in front of her downcast eyelashes. Lucile was an immensely rich lady in Sacramento, and she had grown up among the legisla- tors in the state capital. After much protesting, her father agreed to supply her with money for a year of art study. So here she was, with a shiny wooden paintbox filled with round little tubes of crimson madder and burnt sienna, a sheaf of fresh brushes — and nowhere to stay. So Lucile moved in. I like having a roommate. Lucile wrote delicate and subtle poetry, and after awhile she showed me some of it with shy excitement and that night we sat up till 4 in the morning talking about Keats and the Miraloma Club, Fahey’s and the Four Others. She showed me some of it with shy excitement and that night we sat up till 4 in the morning talking about Keats and Josephine Miles and Donne and Wilford Owen. Another good thing about having roommate is that it keeps a wolf from coming through the door with you when he brings you home from an evening on the town.

One day. I went away for the weekend and came back rather early Monday morning to get ready for a new working week. Lucile was having breakfast in bed, and a yellow-haired boy with bloodshot eyes was shar- ing it with her.

I stood there, looking at them, wondering whether to retreat or not. Lucile put down her coffee cup and smiled shyly.

“Oh, it’s all right,” she said, “we’re in love.”

That was Hector. They were in love for about a month, and being the accommodating soul I am, I went out of town for a week of weekends, and sometime stayed down at Val’s or over at Lenore’s. Then one day I came in to find Lucile in bed with someone else. A fiery boy this time, with brown hair and fierce teeth.

“He fought for the Loyalty in Spain,” Lucile explained. That was Erik. Luckily, he had an apartment of his own. Erik lasted six weeks, and after that came Pat, who was “such a wonderful labor organizer,” and Jeffery, who came from “a fine old-line New Orleans family,” and Frank, a dancer Lucile met in one of her classes.

It’s so good for Frank to have normal relations,” Lucile explained sweetly.

One day we decided to paint the bathroom. I put on my blue jeans, a workshirt and sneakers. Lucile emerged from the closet in fancy blue satin pajamas and bare feet.

“I like to feel elegant while I’m doing messy work.

And boys can get a better grip on the edge of the wad-rub while we do the ceiling.”

Lucile dipped into the big bucket of calcimine, while I pried open the cans of mandarin red enamel and went to work on the water drum.

“Lucile,” I asked suddenly, “are you typical?”

She gave me an impish sidewise glance and asked, “Typical of what?” although she knew very well what I meant.

“Well … you know. Men.”

“Of course,” she said. “You don’t think all those people who live in those neat little houses with daisy bushes in the front — all the thousands and thousands of hard-working San Franciscans — are like the people on Telegraph Hill, do you?”

“Then you aren’t typical?”

“I guess I’m typical of a certain kind of California. Maybe of a group. A very large group.”

I laughed. “When they’re good they’re very, very good, and when they’re bad they’re — Polynesian. Is that what you mean?”

“Exactly.”

“Lucile,” I asked severely, “don’t you ever worry about your immortal soul.”

She sat back on her pink heels and grinned at me.

“Don’t you know,” she said, “that a Californian (my kind, I mean), never talks about his soul, or purpose in life or any of those things? It makes him uneasy. No, of course I don’t worry. As long as I’m happy, not bothering any- body else, my soul can take care of itself.”

North Beach Boys

Oftentimes it made borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. At his Hungry i, he helped a lot of entertainers, including Bill Cosby and Barbara Streisand get a start.

Lucky Lucchiessi: Lucky was managing Enrico’s when I first met him. He was a friendly guy, but if he didn’t know you, he could be formidable. He was a good guy to stay on the good side of. He would come by Pierre’s, take his false teeth out and stick only his teeth in bed with someone else. A fiery boy this time, with brown hair and fierce teeth.

“One day we decided to paint the bathroom. I put on my blue jeans, a workshirt and sneakers. Lucile emerged from the closet in fancy blue satin pajamas and bare feet.

And boys can get a better grip on the edge of the wad-rub while we do the ceiling.”

Lucile dipped into the big bucket of calcimine, while I pried open the cans of mandarin red enamel and went to work on the water drum.

“Lucile,” I asked suddenly, “are you typical?”

She gave me an impish sidewise glance and asked, “Typical of what?” although she knew very well what I meant.

“Well … you know. Men.”

“Of course,” she said. “You don’t think all those people who live in those neat little houses with daisy bushes in the front — all the thousands and thousands of hard-working San Franciscans — are like the people on Telegraph Hill, do you?”

“Then you aren’t typical?”

“I guess I’m typical of a certain kind of California. Maybe of a group. A very large group.”

I laughed. “When they’re good they’re very, very good, and when they’re bad they’re — Polynesian. Is that what you mean?”

“Exactly.”

“Lucile,” I asked severely, “don’t you ever worry about your immortal soul.”

She sat back on her pink heels and grinned at me.

“Don’t you know,” she said, “that a Californian (my kind, I mean), never talks about his soul, or purpose in life or any of those things? It makes him uneasy. No, of course I don’t worry. As long as I’m happy, not bothering any- body else, my soul can take care of itself.”

Poopie O’Conner: Poopie was an imposing guy

Poopie O’Conner: Poopie was an imposing guy

Tommy Vasu: Tommy, who was known as “Tommy the Dyke,” came into Pierre’s to play liar’s dice with Walter Keene. She usually had good-looking blonde hair and was dressed in a double-breasted suit, topped by a flat cap, which she used in the man’s room. She explained to me that it would cause quite a commotion if she went to the ladies room. Tommy had the parking concession between New Joes (now the Beat Museum) and Enrico’s. She also owned Tommy’s Joint at 529 Broadway (now the Garden of Eden) and 12 Adler, a famous lesbian pick-up place downstairs (now Speck’s). In those days, there was a staircase connecting the two clubs. Tommy’s blond girlfriend got hooked on heroin; and Tommy started dealing it to help keep expenses down. This led to her arrest, which back then the homophobes SFPD was more than ready to do, even with flimsy evidence. She made bail but became a fugitive. Eventually, she turned herself in and was sent to Tehachapi for five years. After her release, she lived in Southern California where she reportedly died of natural causes.
By Julie Jaycox

People are regularly quite surprised when I tell them this year’s ArtWalk was the fourth year of THD’s event, but word is finally getting around about this weekend in September.

ArtWalk has definitely been a stealth event — but the art- and North Beach-loving public has figured it out and responded by showing up. Neighbors don’t have to leave the ‘hood to enjoy a great event with a multitude of art and events (and any weekend is better without worrying about Muni’s so-called schedule). Both this year and last we have been fortunate to have parking validation from the Golden Gateway Garage (on Clay Street under Whaleship Plaza) thanks to the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), including a free shuttle every 15 minutes to Grant and Broadway, if your friends and family come from other neighborhoods.

This year, there was a fairly steady stream of people all weekend, despite the gray weather, according to most of the businesses and artists I have spoken to since September. ArtWalk was created with this in mind: to benefit both the local economy and the artists, I want to thank all the people who volunteered time to make ArtWalk happen, especially my cheerful can-do committee members!; the businesses that supported the event through donations of food and/or goods or time and space; the artists who gave me what I needed when it was needed (mostly) and happily spent two days seeing what it was about (traffic? sales? networking? you never know); Barb Oplinger for the poster and map design; and everyone who gave an opinion or walked into a venue that weekend. It’s all good!

After three years of leading ArtWalk to a comfortable place in its life, it’s time for me to focus a little bit more on my own art and work with the less complicated aspects of running the Art & Culture Committee. ArtWalk has grown into an event that needs more than one person’s focus and dedication, so I am looking for someone who is interested in working with the artists and businesses of North Beach to create a satisfying local event again next year. I will be a skilled ArtWalk consultant and fount of information for this new person(s). Please e-mail me if you are the one or ones who wants to do this or if you know someone you’d like to recommend: artandculture@thd.org. Thanks!
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LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

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Cheeses at Little Vine

The Emerald Tablet
800 Fresn St. / 500-2323
www.emtab.org

Della Heywood and Lupo Guzzini seem like just the right people to open a creativity salon, whose name derives from an ancient artifact that reveals a profound spiritual technology. The owners describe their gallery as a ‘community space aiming for a fusion of right-brain creativity with left-brain practicality. We host classes and events to inspire, teach and unite. We do our very best to provide hospitality to arts and cultural events that celebrate and embody neighborhood and community life.’

Heywood is an artist and the manufacturer of Spectrall, an all-natural, non-toxic spray fracture for artists, now sold worldwide. She says: “curiosity and love of learning led me to open a venue in which the arts, crafts and sciences can be shared for the mutual benefit of all.”

Guzzino is a self-described computer nerd of humanist bent, as well as a lover of Socratic dialog, mathematics and philosophy. He hopes to sponsor a forum in which ‘the liberal arts, science, civics and politics more can be restored to holistic unity.’

But these lofty goals do not keep Emerald Tablet from providing a fun space for community learning – with children and adults, spanning the arts, crafts, sciences and more; There are events for all ages that focus on imagination and creativity in painting, drawing, sewing, poetry. Instructables, printmaking, video, sewing, photography and theater. On a recent Saturday visit, I witnessed one group involved in making felt hats, another making paint from scrunchy caps, both using the mundane technique of a skilled instructor. Other classes immerse participants in history, literature, philosophy, engineering and healthy sustainable lifestyles. All of this effort is devoted to an overarching goal: ‘We provide creative learning spaces for children and adults to enhance their own lives and participate in the future of human civilization.”

Emerald Tablet will have its grand opening on December 2nd, and is planning a party in collaboration with Julie Jaycox and the THD Art & Culture Forum. To find out more about this exciting new venue, please contact the authors. For more information, please visit our website: www.emtab.org

The New Wheel
524-7363 / www.newwheel.net

The couple has lived in the neighborhood for the past four years, and has fallen in love with the 1500 block of Grant Avenue. “It has such great architecture,” says Melissa. “We had our eye on our spot for a while and it seemed to be the right time. Plus, it’s great to walk two blocks downtown to work everyday.”

The couple’s goal is to create a store that brings back the spirit of old North Beach, which once had lots of small stores that specialized in quality products with helpful service. “We really hope our customers enjoy the products that we hand pick, since they are our favorite things,” says Melissa.

—Andy Katz

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• Urban Gardens

Brian David of The New Wheel and Dylan Thuber of Dylan Tours

New Businesses

Cheeses at Little Vine

Little Vine
1541 Grant Ave. / 738-2221
www.shoplittlevine.com

Since 2004, Melissa Gungi and Jay Esopenko have owned a cocktail catering company called ‘drink.’ There trademark has been handmade cocktails using local artisan products. Now, with the opening of Little Vine, the couple has moved to the next step.

They’ve opened a shop that focuses on artisan food items – “a place for people who love to eat, drink and cook,” says Gungi. “We opened a place where we would want to shop. We chose a selection of products that are mostly small production, and many are from Northern California. She adds: “Our idea for Little Vine started many years ago while living in Europe, we fell in love with the little shops that inhabited every corner.”

Asked about specific products that the store features, Melissa says: “We are very proud of our salami selection — we have Il Mondo Vecchio from Colorado, Cremolini from Utah, Olympic Provisions from Portland and Foz Maia from Berkeley, to name a few. We are also so thrilled to have Bicycle Coffee, which is based in the Mission. The coffee is delivered on bicycles."

and wife, are photographers by trade, but Niklas also is an avid cyclist. It’s that passion that brought the couple to open Cykel, a boutique bicycle store that specializes in racing bikes. Tomas Pearce, Niklas’s brother, who has joined the couple in the business, apprenticed at Elite Bicycles headquarters in Philadelphia before moving to San Francisco. Chris Bondiis, a family friend, has also joined the business, having worked in the cycling industry for almost 10 years.

The shop offers great enticements for the serious cyclist. They are the only resellers of Panache Cyclewear in the city (a high-end Colorado-based company), the only Ritter Racing dealers in Northern California and the only Elite bicycles dealer on the West Coast.

In addition to top-of-the-line bikes, the store sells helmets, shoes, bike parts and general cycling apparel. They also offer bicycle assembly and repair as well as professional bike fits. The shop also carries local brands of bicycle-related products such as Mission Workshop bags and Bicycle Coffee. Further, we exhibit local art work at the shop that is for sale by the artists. We switch the art every other month and have an amazing line-up for the rest of the year,” says Niklas.

Rocio says about North Beach: “We fell in love with the cozy, family feel of the neighborhood. When doing our market research we felt that the area was missing a shop like ours and we think that it complements the other bike shops in the area. We were welcomed warmly by all the businesses and residents.”

The young owners share another North Beach passion, says Rocio: “We are dog friendly and have Nik and my pup Floyd Dumplin’ in the shop almost everyday and Chris’ pup Floyd on occasion.”

—Meriam Owen

The New Wheel
782 Columbus Ave.

The New Wheel is a vehicle dealership for the 21st century, offering state-of-the-art electric bikes. It was founded a year ago by Brett Thurber, a recent Cal grad, as a statement as much as a business. He wanted to ‘assert the value of buying something lasting and of high quality over tomorrow’s junk, of doing more with less and living better for it, of participation in public space over being isolated in private space.” From humble beginnings demonstrating electric bikes at farmers’ markets and street fairs, The New Wheel has grown. The firm has provided electric bikes to city supervisors, the mayor and the UCSF Police Department, and has been featured in Outside Magazine (August 2011). Thurber has partnered with City Carshare to help more people divorce their automobiles. He hopes to continue ‘to find creative solutions for people to change the way we move ourselves, and in the process transform the way we live in our city’

—Art Peterson

Seven years ago, after returning from traveling around the world, David founded Dylan’s Tours to offer tourists a chance to experience San Francisco in a way that only a local could provide. He takes riders on anec- dotefilled tours of famous San Francisco landmarks that offer lots of photo ops. Another tour takes cyclists to Muir Woods, returning by ferry. Though his busi- ness is geared to tourists, Dylan is interested in creating the shop a place where locals can feel comfortable, stop- ping in to hang out and watch a Giants game.

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—Art Peterson

New Businesses continued from page 3
PIONEER PARK, 10 YEARS ON

By Julie Christensen

Ten years have passed since major renovations to Pioneer Park were completed and opened to the public — with Chinese dragons, a vintage fire engine, music and fanfare — on a bright blue Saturday morning just a couple of days before 9/11. That makes it 16 years that the volunteers of the Pioneer Park Project have continued to work with the city to address the park’s never-ending needs. The group points to a long list of accomplishments, as well as struggles and frustrations, as they embark on the latest projects. Among the accomplishments: replanting the park’s north slope, improved crowd control and perimeter planting at the parking-lot edge and improved lighting along the paths.

The 1995-2001 Pioneer Park Project concentrated on difficult issues such as pedestrian safety, serious erosion, accessibility problems (including ADA access to Coit Tower), irrigation and reforestation, mostly around and south of the tower. The result was the south lawn, the rock wall-lined paths and three new stairways. In the last five years, the group has turned its attention to issues regarding the steep slope north of the parking lot.

Many of the challenges on the north slope began when hundreds of cypress trees were planted in the 1930s. The trees were never thinned as they matured. Instead, the densely packed trees, usually 90 feet tall and 40 feet across, were topped and chopped. The trees suffered from this severe pruning and cramped conditions. Their solid canopy suffocates the hillside, leaving mostly scrub weeds and bare dirt below. The city stopped topping the trees as the work became too dangerous and because, for many of the trees, removing the topmost branches would leave no branches at all.

Beside the often-commented-on loss of views, the north slope also suffers from overuse as a drinking and drug den, toilet, ascension spot, campground and so on. Erosion has removed soil from beneath the bleachers and the bleachers have become an ill-placed place after nighttime. Temporary fencing has been trampled and cut; plantings have been crushed and scoured; and complaints about the lack of views grow more strident. Project volunteers and the park’s gardeners finally admitted the modest trial measures weren’t enough.

In 2009, in an attempt to placate both view-lovers and tree-lovers and as further implementation of the group’s 25-year reforestation plan, the Pioneer Park Project proposed a phased solution: 1. Remove some trees, leaving the healthier ones to grow more normally and creating “windows” through the trees to the views beyond (a tactic that has worked well at Lands End, in Carmel and other spots). 2. Replace the traditional buffer edge of shrubs at the parking-lot edge, both for aesthetics and for crowd control. 3. Create more effective barriers (including permanent fencing in limited areas) to improve safety and discourage illicit uses of the north slope.

The first tree removals, funded by private donations, were done in fall 2009. The Recreation and Parks Department’s tree management team, along with most of its heavy equipment, was in the park this past October doing the second phase of removals. The “window” areas will be replanted with lower-height, drought-tolerant native plants that will provide food and habitat for insects and birds. Pruning of remaining dead and dying trees and limbs is being negotiated.

The Pioneer Park Project is also partnering with the city to fortify the fence rail along the north bleachers to reduce unintended uses of the north slope (and the resulting vandalism, erosion and trash) and to replace the damaged and otherwise unsuccessful bollard lights along the Coit Tower paths. Project donors matched, dollar-for-dollar, a Rec/Park grant for the lighting- and-fencing projects. This infusion of funds will allow those projects to proceed as soon as specifications and permissions can be worked out.

In the meantime, the native oaks planted in 2001 are entering sturdier adolescence, staking their claims on the rocky, windy hillside. Someday, when the cypress trees have run their course, the oaks planted on our watch will define Pioneer Park.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

A BOUNTIFUL BIT OF BASQUE ON BROADWAY

By Carol Peterson

When Enrique’s on Broadway closed several years ago, many locals mourned the loss. We missed the watering hole and the characters who hung out there. The restaurant that followed was too hip for its own good and didn’t seem to fit the spot. The space was empty for many months. Then, a few months ago, two guys, who owned Naked Lunch next door for 10 years, announced Chocó — refers to a type of club in this region, was to open a restaurant featuring Spanish-Basque cuisine and cooking. However, Chef Begg did not forget the local crowd and so vegetarians would have a delicious choice, combines Sherries, Madeiras and Ports to compliment dessert.

Ian Begg, head chef, have been working together since 1995. Of the four Small Bites I tried, I found two that I really loved. The Foie Gras a La Plancha is a tender small piece of foie gras, perfectly cooked, with a golden raisin sauce, Brussels sprouts and a hint of coriander. The other is the Local Squid a La Plancha. Like all the Small Bites, this one comes on small toast, in this case spread with a white bean puree, chorizo and herbs topped with a generous amount of tender pieces of squid. The bean puree perfectly compliments the squid.

When I saw a butternut squash Small Plate on the menu, I knew I had to try this fall favorite. The dish — Butternut Squash Arroz — created by Chef Begg so vegetables would have a delicious choice, combines tender Spanish rice, with squash, corn, peppers and Herbs of the Woods Chanterelle mushrooms. Another Small Plate — Glazed Beef Cheeks is a keeper. A generous beef cheek, tender enough to cut with a spoon, is surrounded with crispy sweetbreads, carrot puree, celery and horseradish crème. This is a dish that could be shared, but you won’t want to.

As I mentioned, txoko only has one Big Plate. It is Painted Hills Bone-in Rib Eye steak for two. The steak takes approximately 45 minutes to cook, so plan on spending some time in the restaurant. When the dish was placed on our table, I felt like the waiter had delivered a whole cow. It is a huge portion of perfectly cooked meat — 3 pounds — from the crispy end pieces to the medium rare center pieces. The flavor is achieved by grilling in a mesquite wood brick oven, after preparing the meat with a perfect mix of secret seasoning. The steak is served with two generous plates of seasonal, perfectly cooked, tender vegetables. Two dips are provided for the vegetables, a Cabernet sauce and a basil, parsley, shallot, garlic olive oil sauce. The price of this dish is $65, but compared to any of the top steakhouses in town, this is a bargain as the dish can easily be shared by four people. You do the math and you will head to txoko with your friends, if you love a good steak.

I am a sucker for anything goat cheese, so when I saw Goat Cheese Flan on the menu, I couldn’t resist trying it. The goat cheese gives the flan a different texture, resembling cheese cake, but more tender. The flan is surrounded by harvest grapes, candied marconas and pickled raisins. Pastry Chef Ana Paliza-Brown concocts all of the desserts. There is a number of Spanish Sherries, Madeiras and Ports to complement dessert.

I have great admiration for these two industrious young men, who have opened this wonderful restaurant on Broadway. Ryan says, “We are fighters and can see Broadway changing in the future, with the help of good establishments like ours coming in.” We will certainly be back and the vibe feels very good in the old Enrique’s spot.
Washington Square: As you may have noticed, a large replacement deodar cedar has now been planted by Rec/Park in the hole that was for so long surrounded by orange plastic fencing, and they also planted a small Canary Island pine beside the one that was damaged (both pines are near the restrooms along Columbus), so all of Jack Early's trees are in the ground and doing well!

We’re still working on a donor recognition plaque for Jack Early. Hopefully that won’t take quite as long as the planting, but it might, because Rec/Park intends to develop a design that would be used citywide. Our little plaque will hopefully become their template. Craig Heckman and Kathy McNichols are working on that.

Bird-Safe Buildings: I’m pleased to report that bird-safe building standards were passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the mayor in September. Thanks to all who sent in supportive comments, and to those who spoke at the various hearings that were held over the past nine months. San Francisco maintains and extends its ‘green’ reputation in passing these compassionate and hopefully effective standards to protect urban birds.

In my testimony, I told the story of ‘Big Bird,’ a cherry-headed conure from the wild parrot flock. Mark Birnbaum and I have been taking care of her for 10 years, since she knocked herself out on Bea Taggi’s glass windbreak atop Telegraph Hill and injured her eye. She can’t ever be released because her vision is impaired. Marking windows with dots or other designs, or shielding the glass with screens or other architectural devices can reduce bird strikes. If you have a see-through windscreen around your deck or balcony, please put stickers on the glass so that birds can see it! You can order stickers here: www.duncraft.com/index.php?category_id=227/category_chain=227/name=Window+Strike+Solutions

Telegraph Hill Honey: Little Vine, the lovely new shop on Grant near Filbert, now carries jars of beekeeper Kate McGee’s first harvest of Telegraph Hill honey. The price recently went up, but it’s still a great gift for visitors and/or for yourself. For more info, here is Kate’s web site: www.heslethoney.com.

A POSTMAN WORTH REMEMBERING

By Herb Krounitz

On Saturday, Oct. 1st, in the early afternoon, about 100 neighbors from the north side of Telegraph Hill gathered at Julius Alley, off Lombard Street. Their purpose was to say goodbye and Godspeed to Mat Sneeringer, our postman for the past seven years. He has retired from the U.S. Postal Service, and with his wife, Sandy, will move to the Sacramento area at the end of October.

People brought drinks and food, dogs and children, visited with neighbors they knew, and met others. It was bittersweet, as we all felt admiration and warm regard for Mat and wished him a happy future, but realized that for us there will probably not be another like him. I’m old enough to remember how like a family member one’s local letter carrier was. After she moved here from Kansas City in 1965, my mother even invited our mailman and his wife to come visit — and they did.

Those were the good old days. Now we wonder whether it’s our mail or our neighbor’s that comes through the slot. But we can be thankful to know that, even in the 21st century, we had a chance to know Mat Sneeringer, the real McCoy.

THD JOINS SUNDAY STREET FUN

By Carlo Arreglo

As a new board member for The Telegraph Hill Dwellers, I’m fortunate to participate in neighborhood events. The recent Sunday Streets event gave me and Lucie Faulkmon, another new board member, a chance to interact with locals and visitors on a brilliantly hot and sunny day.

Not a day to sell a whole lot of THD sweatshirts, but we did talk up THD to the masses that managed to walk up from Chinatown past our booth in front of Little Vine on Upper Grant. I guess those ping pong tables tuckered folks out because most of the action appeared to stay south of Green.

Typically, Sunday Streets is an automobile-alternative event that focuses on biking and walking as a mode of rediscovering and re-engaging the community, its businesses and the people. The Chinatown-North Beach event was actually a walking-only variation of Sunday Streets and while the numbers may not have been as robust as other Sunday Streets, participants seemed thrilled with the intimacy of a car-free Grant, however temporary.

Numerous candidates for the upcoming election made the rounds. Merle Goldstone and Danny Macchiarini dazzled us with their juggling. Former North Beach/Telegraph Hill residents stopped by and told us how much the neighborhood meant to them. People got anxious about a permanent car-free Grant. A cool, young couple on stunning Dutch-style bikes stopped by our booth and we tried our best to convince them to move to North Beach because they were looking for a new place to live. I’m not sure if they decided to move here but it was quite lovely to have a relaxed conversation with friendly folks out in the middle of a city street on a Sunday afternoon.

On another note: I am interested in reconstituting the THD Oral History Project. Want to join in? Contact Carlo at arreglo@berkeley.edu.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: CHANGING TIMES

By Chris Stockton, Financial Secretary

In October, THD launched Annual Dues Notices to be sent by e-mail rather than through the U.S. Postal Service. Our plan is to try e-mail notifications for the next few months. If all goes well, we hope, we will then make this conversion permanent.

For those members who do not use e-mail, Annual Dues Notices will be sent by regular mail. For those members who do not allow THD to use their e-mail, we urge you to at least allow THD to send you Annual Dues Notices by e-mail.

As I’m sure many of you are aware, THD has very limited financial resources, which are stretched to publish The Semaphore and sponsor various neighborhood events. By sending Annual Dues Notices, Past Dues Notices and Final Dues Notices by e-mail, we expect to save more than $500 annually for large and small envelopes, paper for notices, printing, labels and postage.

If, for any reason, you do not want to receive your Annual Dues Notices by e-mail, please let us know by sending a note to Telegraph Hill Dwellers, P.O. Box 330159, San Francisco, CA 94133.
By Jonathan Farrell, freelance journalist

A sunny day in North Beach means there will be lots of traffic, especially foot traffic. While the shops and restaurants do their part to keep their storefronts and sidewalks clean, the rest of Columbus Avenue and surrounding streets get untidy very quickly with tourists converging in growing numbers.

Since 2004, North Beach Citizens’ Street Beautification Program has been maintaining the underserved areas of the neighborhood. During those years, Ken Scott (pictured) and other citizens have been sweeping streets, removing debris and attending to graffiti.

“The funding we receive from the City and County of San Francisco to pay for our Street Beautification Program has run out,” said Amy Wickstrom, development director at North Beach Citizens on Columbus Avenue. The Street Beautification Program had been supported by a $25,000 allocation from the Department of Public Works and supported by former District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin and current District 3 Supervisor David Chiu. Because of budget cuts, the funds are no longer available.

Executive Director Kristie Fairchild, explained that the beautification program provides homeless and low-income citizens (they are referred to as “citizens,” not “clients”) with a sense of responsibility and aids in restoring their self-esteem. They become part of the community in a supportive environment.

“Each street beautification worker receives an incentive gift card for a day’s work,” said Wickstrom. The gift cards help the citizens to purchase food and other vital items. With little or no income, they struggle to obtain necessities.

Jeanne Milligan, who serves on North Beach Citizens’ Board of Directors, said, “programs like this are vital because they work. Look at how clean the sidewalk is here,” she added, pointing to the sidewalk where Ken and others had just swept. Milligan is hopeful that North Beach Citizens will be able to obtain private funds to sustain this important community service.

The sweeping has been routinely performed three days a week. North Beach Citizens has prided itself on doing its part in maintaining the North Beach neighborhood as the landmark attraction it has been. Its work is an anchor for the community and the outreach it provides creates positive change for the homeless.

Thom, one of North Beach Citizens’ first street beautification workers, said, “We are demonstrating the success that comes when you empower people, inspire people and enable people… allowing them to feel useful and important about the work they do.”

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**TEL-HI HONORS GERRY CROWLEY**

On Saturday, Oct. 15th, former THD President Gerry Crowley was the special guest of honor at a dinner at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center attended by more than 200 people. THD board members past and present, neighbors, civic leaders, friends and family joined together to honor Gerry as the recipient of Tel-Hi’s 2011 “Heart of Gold” Award. The award recognizes Gerry’s many years of dedicated volunteerism for Tel-Hi and her passionate advocacy for the programs that serve hundreds of children and seniors everyday. Gerry’s tireless efforts to secure the private donations and public funds necessary to preserve and expand social services at Tel-Hi earned her the Heart of Gold Award – and a standing ovation from everyone in the room. Bravo, Gerry!
The night before September 11th, I received a call from police Officer Fred Crisp asking me if I would be interested in helping Mary Matvy read the list of names of the people lost in the World Trade Center twin towers disaster in 2001. She had known people who had died that day and wished to honor them, which consequently led to honoring all of the dead. I showed up at the longitude marker in Washington Square on Sunday morning to find Fred and Mary waiting for 8:46 a.m., the time of the first plane's impact with the north tower in New York City. It was difficult to think about the huge number of names on the list, and we all teared up. It was an intense moment, even though the dog walkers were strolling as usual, someone was on a cell phone on a nearby bench, people were reading newspapers as on any regular Sunday morning. Mary started. She had to stop when she teared up, but her voice strengthened as she read. When my turn came it was a surprise to feel how reading the names did that for me also — it felt like even this small concrete act connected me to these strangers’ lives. Many people who stopped to listen were asked to read names and they did.

Mark Bittner’s account of the birth of the Greenwich Street Garden and the lives of its founders that appeared in the summer issue of The Semaphore will be continued in the winter issue.
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 • San Francisco, CA 94133

NAME: ________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________________________
CITY: _____________________________________________STATE: _______ ZIP: ___________________
PHONE ___________________________________EMAIL: ______________________________________

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual $30___   Household $45__  Senior (age 65 and over) $20__ Senior Household $35___

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

List of new members and former members who have rejoined since Issue 195, Summer 2011:

Martha Nell Beatty, Wendover Brown, Deborah & Paul Cleveland, Melissa Gugni & Jay Esopenko,

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

Visit the THD website to explore a wealth of neighborhood history and get the latest information about what’s happening on the Hill.

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS
P.O. Box 330159 • San Francisco, CA 94133

THD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012
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Editor of the Semaphore: Art Peterson—Art.Peterson@thd.org

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

Get involved in our neighborhood and make a difference! Contact a THD committee and help keep the Hill a special place to live.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: Chair: Tara Novos. Contact Tara at Tara.Novos@thd.org
MEMBERSHIP: Chair Chris Stockton. Contact Chris at Chris.Stockton@thd.org
SENAHPUDE: Editor Art Peterson. Contact Art at Art.Peterson@thd.org
FINDS, TREES & BIRDS: Chair Judy Irving. Promotes projects to support neighborhood parks, green spaces, street trees, and birds. Contact Judy at Judy.Irving@thd.org
FINDING & TRANSPLANTING: Supports efforts to use computers, optimize neighborhood park- ing, and enhance public transit.
PLANNING & ZONING: Co-Chairs Nancy Shanahan & Mary Lipian. Reviews and monitors proposed development projects for consistency with applicable laws and neighborhood character. Contact Nancy at Nancy.Shanahan@thd.org or Mary at Mary.Lipian@thd.org
SOCIAL & PROGRAM: Co-Chairs Lynn Sanchez & Merle Goldstone. Organizes neighborhood social events, group dinners, and quarterly membership meetings. Contact Lynn at Lynn.Sanchez@thd.org or Merle at Merle.Goldstone@thd.org
WATERFRONT: Works to enhance and protect our unique and historic waterfront.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

ART & CULTURE: Chair Julie Jaycox. Organizes events and projects that celebrate the art and humanities of our neighborhood. Contact Julie at Julie.Jaycox@thd.org
COMMUNICATIONS: Chair Jon Golinger. Contact Jon at Jon.Golinger@thd.org
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: Director, Carlo Arreglo. Contact Carlo at Carlo.Arreglo@thd.org
LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS: Gerry Crowley. Contact Gerry at gerrycrowley@aol.com
NORTHEAST WATERFRONT ADVISORY GROUP: Jon Golinger. Contact Jon at Jon.Golinger@thd.org

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

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TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS Schedules of Committee Meetings

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

Look to the THD website for information on THD events. Log on to http://www.thd.org

For tickets & show times 415.421.4227 (evenings Thurs) beachblanketbabylon.com

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