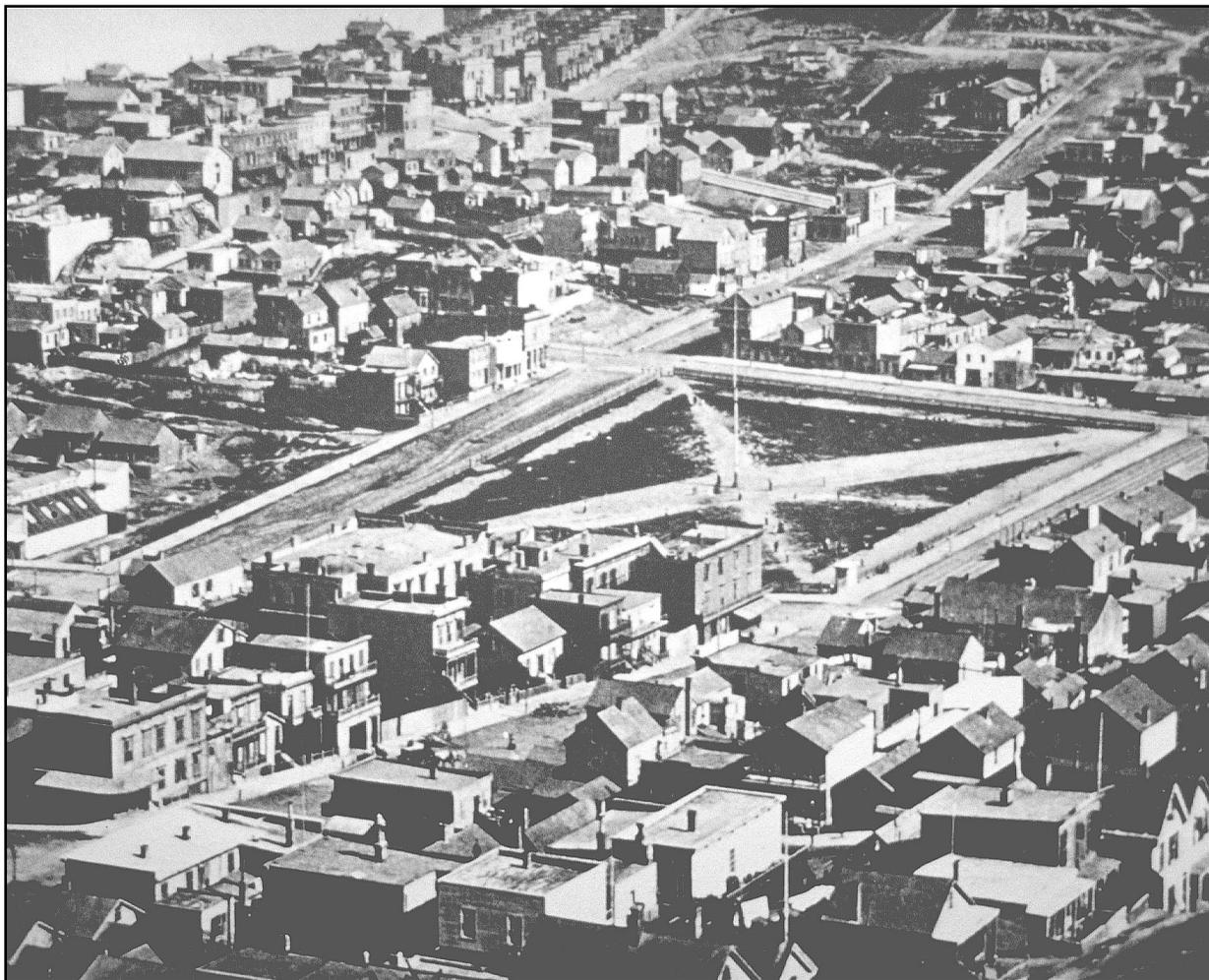


The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Washington Square celebrates its 150th anniversary as a new City Landmark



TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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Cover: Washington Square in the 1850s from a photo provided by Julie Christensen. Highlights of the square's redoubtable history, researched by Mary Nelson, start on page 23.

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.

EDITOR'S DESK

"Do you accept compliments?"

"Yes, but not not easily," the gardener blushed.

He'd stopped pruning ornamental trees to show us what else he'd planted near a playground in the city park. Visiting years later I found the area abandoned, though I could still trace the meander and flower beds. God heals and the doctor takes the money, the adage goes. Here, healing takes the inevitable course of sand replacing landscaping, while money to properly staff and caretake public parks hasn't been available for decades.

This *Semaphore* is dedicated to our own park/garden, Washington Square, now a designated City Landmark on its 150th birthday. A

preview of some of the May 13 celebration events is at the end of this issue.

Telegraph Hill is still one of the most visible and famous green spaces in San Francisco, due in large part to generations of THD volunteers—most recently, those who contribute time and money to the Pioneer Park Project, and who worked hard to get the Parks Package passed in the March election.

Volunteers are working with the Recreation and Parks Department to survey two local parks—Washington Square and the North Beach Playground—with the idea of making future improvements that neighbors say they want. To participate, tear out the centerfold in this issue and complete and return the survey.

JULIUS CASTLE

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Atop Telegraph Hill overlooking San Francisco Bay

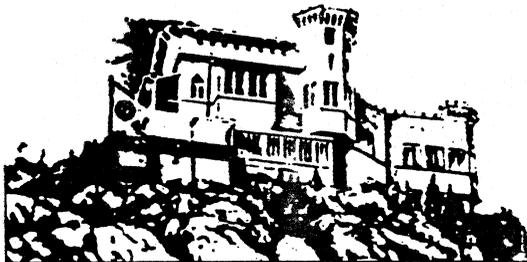
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Definition: To convey information using visual signals, such as flags, lights and mechanical arms.

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Time to put on my bean counter hat and talk budget. This time I will spare you from my usual crowing about the Dwellers' accomplishments, save to say that we will finish our fiscal year (which runs from April 1 to March 31) safely in the black.

THD has spent significantly more money than last fiscal year (33% more for a total of about \$34,000). But don't worry. We're not spending like drunken Barbary Coast sailors — we brought in significantly more money than last fiscal year (68% more for a total of almost \$37,000).

Much of the increase can be attributed to THD's efforts to conduct a professional survey of North Beach and Telegraph Hill's architectural and cultural resources for which we raised \$10,000 in contributions, including a \$5,000

grant from San Francisco Beautiful, and spent almost \$9,000. Everything we do, from publishing the *Semaphore* to holding election forums, to insurance for our social events and the like, cost a pretty penny.

A couple of things to keep in mind before looking at the numbers which speak for themselves:

(1) the "actual" revenue and expenses shown for this fiscal year represent funds received and expended as of February 10, 2000 plus projected expenses through March 31, 2000, the end of THD's fiscal year end; and

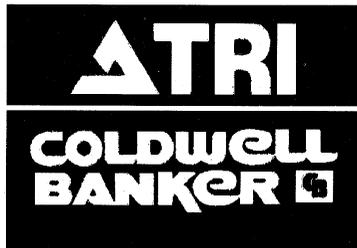
(2) thanks to previous fiscally prudent boards of directors, THD has savings (invested in a money market fund) of an additional \$14,069.

continued on next page



Aaron Peskin

photo by Jason Doly



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Finally, I want to acknowledge THD's treasurer, Paul Switzer, for his capable and dedicated service over the last three years. If you have

any questions about your association's financial matters please don't hesitate to contact Paul or myself. We'd be happy to answer any questions or provide you with more detailed information.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Actual vs. Budget

	1999-2000 Actual [1]	1999-2000 Budget [2]	1998-1999 Actual
Income			
Advertising Income	\$7,787	\$8,000	\$8,023
Dues Income	\$13,921	\$12,500	\$11,832
Contributions (general)	\$3,486	\$1,000	\$1,387
Contributions (NB Historical Project)	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Interest Income	\$420	\$700	\$776
T-Shirt Sales Income	\$1,360	\$0	\$0
TOTAL INCOME:	\$36,974	\$22,200	\$22,018
General Expenses			
Board Meeting/Administrative Expenses	\$1,921	\$2,350	\$1,338
Community Relations	\$868	\$1,000	\$2,134
Crime Prevention	\$0	\$200	\$0
Election Forums	\$472	\$500	\$0
Insurance	\$2,396	\$2,400	\$2,296
Jack Early Estate legal expenses	\$0	\$0	\$6,526
Membership Services	\$1,488	\$1,600	\$567
President's Fund	\$158	\$200	\$25
Semaphore newsletter	\$10,389	\$10,500	\$7,720
Stationary	\$0	\$750	\$0
T-shirts	\$1,417	\$0	\$0
Sub-Total General Expenses:	\$19,109	\$19,500	\$20,606
Committee/Project Expenses			
Neighborhood Beautification Committee	\$116	\$800	\$680
North Beach Historical Project	\$8,964	\$0	\$0
Oral History Project	\$173	\$400	\$492
Parking and Transportation Committee	\$351	\$400	\$229
Planning and Zoning Committee	\$2,812	\$3,000	\$2,168
Social Committee	\$2,499	\$2,500	\$1,434
Sub-Total Committee/Project Expenses:	\$14,916	\$7,100	\$5,003
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$34,024	\$26,600	\$25,609
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$2,950	(\$4,400)	(\$3,590)

[2] includes \$5,150 in approved budget augmentations as follows:

- BOARD MEETINGS: increase of \$300 from original budget amount of \$1,600 to \$1,900
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS: increase of \$500 from original budget amount of \$500 to \$1,000
- ELECTION FORUMS: increase of \$250 from original budget amount of \$250 to \$500
- MEMBERSHIP: increase of \$600 from original budget amount of \$1,000 to \$1,600
- PLANNING & ZONING: increase of \$500 from original budget amount of \$2,500 to \$3,000
- SEMAPHORE: increase of \$2,500 from original budget amount of \$8,000 to \$10,500
- SOCIAL COMMITTEE: increase of \$500 from original budget amount of \$2,000 to \$2,500



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[1] actual revenue and expenses year to February 10, 2000 plus anticipated expenses to fiscal year end (March 31, 2000)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Peter Overmire

One of the goals of THD is to represent our neighborhood as widely as possible. How do we get the word out about our organization? Several long-time members have said that when they first moved to the Hill, they heard about THD but had trouble finding us. Well, we are over 700 strong now so . . . In an ongoing attempt to make our group accessible, new emphasis has been placed on putting membership information and applications in retail shops and meeting places around the neighborhood. This has become a valuable source of new members.

I would like to thank those merchants, public centers and private building owners who have let us put racks with membership information in their shops and entrances: Speedy's New Union Grocery, Caffe Puccini, Galetti's Shoes, Caffe Malvina, Caffe Roma, North Beach Library, North Beach Pool, Caffe Trieste, Prudente and Company, Nature Stop, Chinatown Community Development Center, Grant Ave. Cleaners, Coin Op Laundromat, De Stijl, Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store, Columbine Design, Little City Meats, North Point Health Club, Coit Tower Shop, and 101 Lombard. There are others to ask but we need distributors to keep the brochures in the racks.

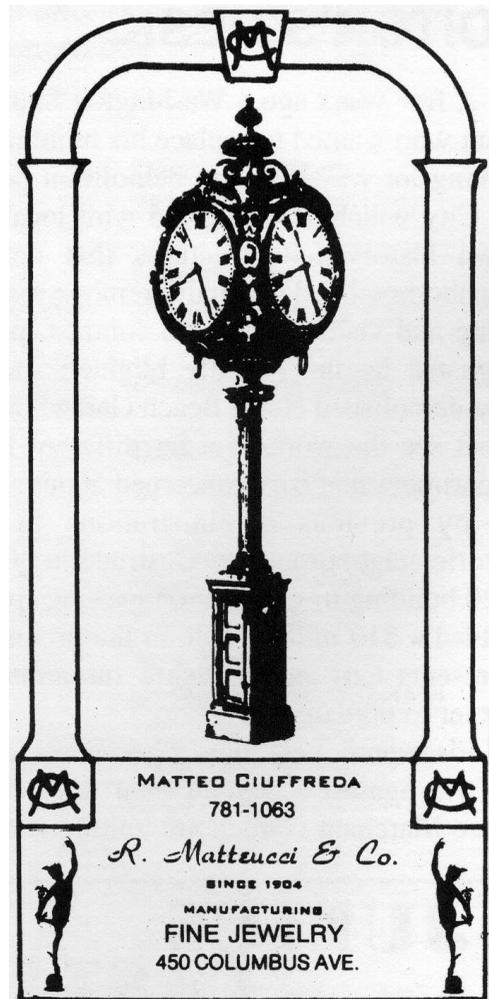
I would especially like to thank those members who have volunteered to keep our racks stocked with membership information: Marge Savo, Catz Forsman, Joe Luttrell, Lori Viti, June Fraps, Gerry Hurtado.

Who faithfully sends out renewal notices each month so we will all remember to pay our dues? Another behind-the-scenes member, Gail Switzer. Thanks Gail!

Without all this help, membership tracking

and recruitment would be an impossible job! Thank you again, one and all.

How can you help? One-to-one contact is still the best source of recruitment. Hand a friend a membership brochure and tell them about THD. Buy your friend a membership. Several of our members do this regularly.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

San Francisco's first neighborhood organization was started by a few residents who stopped highrise developments on Telegraph Hill. Almost 50 years later, 700 members strong, THD acts forcefully on concerns affecting North Beach, the Waterfront/Embarcadero and our famous Hill.

RECEIVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION COPY OF THE *Semaphore Magazine*. Read about issues affecting the neighborhood. Find out what you can do to influence them.

WORK ON A COMMITTEE. THD committees are described on the last page.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS. Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers for dinners and cocktail parties at local restaurants.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS who have joined us since publication of the last *Semaphore*, Maya Armour, Jack Bair, Ned Boynton, H. William Brown, Robert Ellis & Jane Bernstein, Sioux Brundage, Patricia Cannon, Catherine & Mark Cormier, Pauline Craig, Mary Cronin, Robert Durst, Elizabeth Galaviz, Tom Harrington, Barbara Hoffer and John Hesse, Henrik Jochens, Bridget McNamer & John Doxey, Donald Putnam & Susanne Kellison, L. Koren, John Kortum, Allison Pobjish, Sam Bottone & Toni Propotnik, Andrew & Kathryn Shepherd, Tricia Stapleton, Pat Swan, Pamela Taylor, Jonathan Weiner, Kristen Wetterhahn, Nadya Williams.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign Up, or Sign a Friend Up, as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

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PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Nancy Shanahan

The following are updates of ongoing projects and information on new projects since the last Semaphore. For more information about a specific project or to get involved in the Planning & Zoning Committee please call Nancy at 986-7070.

I. PROJECTS IN THE TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

Grace Marchant Garden/Alta Street Condo Development (20-30 Alta). THD has had ongoing

discussions with the developers encouraging them to pursue a new design concept that conforms to the historic district guidelines and is similar in total square footage to the building that occupied the site until 1992. The developers have not yet submitted revised plans to the Planning Department.

212 Union Street. The new owners of this historic property have proposed minor changes to the previously approved plans (those of former owner Leo McLaughlin) for the new garage/residence structure on the western portion of the property. The new proposal would increase the size of the new building by an additional 100 square feet.

24-30 Darrell Place. The owners of this historic

continued next page



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PLANNING AND ZONING

building are proposing a renovation which will convert a basement into a living unit and add new windows at the rear (eastern) elevation. The changes will not be visible from a public right of way.

290 Union Street. The ongoing construction at this address is being monitored to insure compliance with the Planning Commission's conditions of approval which require a preservation architect to oversee the exterior modifications.

II. PROJECTS IN THE NORTHEAST WATERFRONT HISTORIC DISTRICT

(This historic warehouse district established by the Board of Supervisors in 1983 is bounded by The Embarcadero, Sansome, Broadway and Union Streets).

Sansome Street Cliffs/88 Calhoun Terrace. We anticipate the release for public review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzing the impacts of a proposal to subdivide the existing lot at 88 Calhoun Terrace/1171 Sansome into three lots and build a four-story residence fronting on Calhoun which would require the construction of an extension of Calhoun Terrace.

150 Green St. (1100 Sansome). This proposal to convert the first floor from parking spaces to office

space will result in a net increase in office space of about 4,360 square feet and net loss of 48 parking spaces. Although no expansion of the existing building is proposed, because it is a "Contributory" building within the Northeast Waterfront Historic District, alterations to add new windows and doors to the western facade will require review by the Landmarks Board and a Certificate of Appropriateness.

1088 Sansome. The original proposal was to add two stories to this three-story "Contributory" warehouse building in the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. P & Z Committee representatives have met with the project architect to suggest limiting the proposed addition to one additional floor, stepping back the added story to make it minimally visible from the surrounding streets, and making sure that the proposed design would conform to the Secretary of

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PLANNING AND ZONING

Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. Any such alterations to this historic structure will require review by the Landmarks Board and a Certificate of Appropriateness.

City/Port Projects In or Adjacent to the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. Nothing new to report since the Winter Semaphore on the proposed **hotel** (at the Embarcadero and Broadway), the proposed **low-income housing project** (at Broadway and Battery), or the proposed **new central police station** (adjacent to the district at Broadway and Sansome).

III. OTHER PROJECTS AND PLANS FOR THE WATERFRONT

Piers 27-31. The Port's negotiations with New York developer, Chelsea Piers Management, to develop a major sports and recreation complex on the 15-acre site at Piers 27-31 seems to have been put on hold pending resolution of a disagreement between the Port and Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) as to the amount of public open space that should be included in the project.

Pier 35/Lurline Hotel. The P & Z Committee heard a presentation from the developers of a project to permanently dock the SS Lurline cruise ship at Pier 35 to function as a 277-room hotel with two restaurants. The project requires an amendment to state law and needs permits from BCDC and the Port.

Pier 45. In response to the Port's Request for Proposals for the building called Shed A at Pier 45, two competing proposals were received. The Malrite Company of Cleveland has proposed a project called "San Francisco at the Wharf" which is something of a theme park about San Francisco history geared to tourists. A second proposal made by a coalition of wharf businesses and environmental groups together with the California State Coastal Conservancy is called "The Bay Center" whose core mission would be to foster, present and protect the well being of the San Francisco Bay estuary, its Delta, its Pacific Ocean sanctuaries, and their inhabitants, through state-of-the-art exhibits, resource archives, educational pro-

grams, public forums and outreach programs. THD's Board of Directors has enthusiastically endorsed and is supporting The Bay Center proposal.

Waterfront Lighting THD has expressed support for a grant to fund the Port's plan to install lighting for the bulkhead buildings and other elements along the waterfront.

Ferry Arch. With the support of THD, the Port has received a grant to fund the restoration of the historic Ferry Arch on Fisherman's Wharf which was damaged by a fire last year.

Port/BCDC Special Area Plan. Representatives of THD are continuing to meet with the Port and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regarding the formulation of a Special Area Plan to guide future development along the City's waterfront. THD is part of a coalition of groups including SF Tomorrow, Save the Bay and SF Architectural Heritage which are working to ensure that the plan includes sufficient public open space and the designation of a waterfront historic district.

IV. NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(In 1987 the Board of Supervisors adopted the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District (NBNCDC) Ordinance to maintain the character of and mix of businesses in North Beach).

1. New Legislation.

North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District (NBNCDC) Ordinance amendments. Supervisor Leno's legislation amending our NBNCDC Ordinance became law effective December 2, 1999. The new law limits large use sizes (like Rite Aid) and discourages the consolidation of our existing small storefronts. Specifically, the new legislation limits use sizes to a maximum of 4,000 square feet and reduces the "as of right" ceiling from 2,499 sq. ft. to 1,999 sq. ft. This means that new uses occupying between 2,000 and 3,999 sq. ft. would require conditional use authorization and uses over 4,000 would be prohibited (THD agreed to exempt the Pagoda Theater from the maxi-

continued next page

PLANNING AND ZONING

mum use size only if the building is to be used as a movie theater or other entertainment such as plays or live performances). The new legislation also reduces from 3 years to 18 months the period of nonuse required for an existing use or size which does not conform to the existing code requirements to become “abandoned” or “discontinued”. Because it represents a model for controlling the proliferation of large chain stores in neighborhood commercial districts, our new legislation passed with the support of the North Beach Chamber, the Council of District Merchants, North Beach Neighbors, Russian Hill Neighbors and other neighborhood groups throughout the City. Similar legislation has already been proposed for the commercial districts on Polk Street and in the Upper Market and Castro.

Truth in Disclosure Act—Supervisor Yee’s legislation requiring disclosure on all applications and public notices for building permits, conditional use permits and variances, of the real name under which the applicant intends to conduct business, was passed by the Board of Supervisors. This new law also requires that all such applications be signed under penalty of perjury.

2. Projects

502 Columbus Ave. Construction is underway in preparation for a new café in the old Curley’s location to be operated by the Delucchis (of Delucchi Sheet Metal on Powell Street).

1741 Powell Street (Pagoda Palace Theater). Project sponsor Douglas Ahlers (President, Leirum Corporation) made presentations at the P & Z Committee and at THD’s January Board of Directors meeting of his proposal to convert the theater building into a live theater venue with a bar and to rehabilitate the building facade. Board and P & Z Committee members are continuing to work with the project sponsor with regard to plans for the facade.

1351 Grant Ave. (Back Street Bar, formerly Figone’s Hardware). Protests filed with the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) by THD and approximately 15 individual neighbors regarding the request for a new liquor license have

been accepted by ABC, but to date no determination has been made by ABC nor has a hearing date been set. The building owners have since proceeded to commence an eviction of 21 tenants from the 8 apartment units in the upper stories of the building under the Ellis Act.

801 Greenwich Street. There is a proposal to demolish the existing one-story grocery store building at this site and construct in its place a 40-ft-high structure with 8 residential condominium units and about 750 sq. ft. of commercial space. The project is undergoing environmental review.

V. BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(This Neighborhood Commercial District extends along Broadway from west of Columbus Ave to Osgood Place.)

412 Broadway (Boys Toys). The Zoning Administrator made a written determination that this new 15,000 sq. ft. adult entertainment establishment called “Boys Toys” does not require a conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission (neither for size in excess of the 3,000 sq. ft. limit in the Broadway NCD nor for “adult entertainment” use). Although THD appealed the Zoning Administrator’s determination to the Board of Appeals, Boys Toys was allowed to open for business on January 26th. Originally scheduled to be heard on February 2, THD’s appeal was continued by the Board of Appeals at the request of the project sponsor to March 8, 2000. Since its opening, Boys Toys has been cited by the police for repeated violations of the Police Code requirement that topless dancers be at least 6 feet from patrons of the establishment.

VI. UPDATES ON OTHER PROJECTS

1. Commercial

295 Bay Street (North Point Theater). THD was informed by the Planning Department that as a result of THD’s request for Discretionary Review (DR) filed in October 1999, Rite Aid abandoned its plans to convert the North Point Theater into a Rite Aid store. At its February meeting, the P & Z Committee heard a presentation by developer John

PLANNING AND ZONING

Reninga regarding a proposal to convert the theater to office space.

435 Pacific Ave. Over the objections of THD and San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, the Planning Commission approved a project to demolish this building within the Jackson Square Historic District and construct in its place a five-story office building. In so doing, the Planning Commission overruled the Landmarks Board recommendation. SF Heritage is planning to appeal the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors. This project is significant because it represents the first time since the designation of the Jackson Square Historic District, in 1971, that a historic building in the district will be demolished, and sets a dangerous precedent for the City's other historic districts.

407-445 Jackson Street. A group of retail merchants from Jackson Square have formed a group called "Save Jackson Square" to prevent four pre-1870's buildings at 407-445 Jackson Street from being converted into offices. The new group, represented by attorney John Sanger, has been attempting to reach an agreement with the buildings' owner, the Monahan Pacific Company, to ensure that most of the ground floor space will remain small scale retail stores and that the architectural integrity of the building will not be compromised. On February 4, when negotiations broke down, Save Jackson Square filed a request for Discretionary Review with the Planning Commission. THD has been asked to work with Save Jackson Square, which intends to pursue neighborhood commercial district zoning in order to prevent the continued conversion of ground floor retail spaces to offices.

2. Residential.

3 Montague Place. This property is subject to a recorded Notice of Special Restrictions (NSR) prohibiting the vertical or horizontal expansion of the building without a new variance unless the Zoning Administrator finds and determines that such expansion is compatible with existing neighborhood character and scale and does not cause loss of light, air, view

or privacy to adjacent buildings. The proposed project is to add a partial third floor and roof deck and alter the facade of an existing two-story over garage residential structure, merging two existing dwelling units to create a single family residence. The owner of the adjacent property at 5 Montague filed a request for the Planning Commission to take discretionary review of this project because of the impacts to light, air, view and privacy the vertical addition would have on her property. THD is interested in seeing that NSRs are respected and enforced by the Planning Department.

1635-37 Grant Ave. The Zoning Administrator approved a variance from setback requirements of the Planning Code to accommodate the addition of a garage off of Kramer Alley and extension of the back portion of the second and third floors.

308-310 Green Street. A request has been filed by a private party for the Planning Commission to take Discretionary Review (DR) of this proposed project to demolish an existing one-story single family dwelling and garage at 310 Green St. and to construct two 40-ft condominium buildings. The DR focuses on the loss of small scale, sound housing in conflict with Proposition M and other general plan policies pertaining to the retention of the City's existing housing stock. The DR has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

1757 Grant Ave. A proposal to add a roof deck and rooftop penthouse (to house an elevator, staircase water heater and other equipment), modify window openings and add a new exterior fire escape on the Grant Ave. facade raised some concerns. The P & Z Committee has been working with the project sponsor and architect to reduce the size of the rooftop addition and its impact on views from nearby properties and to address the unsightliness of the new fire escape.

324-326 Chestnut Street. This is a proposal for a vertical addition and facade alteration to an existing two-unit residential building. The project sponsor met with owners of properties across the street who objected to the project because their views would be impacted by the vertical addition. No discretionary

continued next page

PLANNING AND ZONING

review was filed and the project has been approved by the Planning Department.

52-56 Telegraph Place (through lot to Greenwich Street). This is a proposal for a horizontal addition extending the existing building towards Greenwich Street. P & Z Committee members have expressed concern that the proposal might negatively impact a palm tree on Greenwich. Several owners/residents of adjacent properties object to the project because the addition will require that several lot line windows be covered thereby impacting their light, air and views.

412 Lombard Street. This is a proposal to replace an existing one-story residence with a three-story plus stair penthouse structure containing two residential units. The project was presented as a vertical addition (1.5 stories and stair penthouse) to the existing one story residence which occupies the entire lot (with total façade alteration) in order to avoid the requirement for a rear yard variance. P & Z Committee objected to the proposed height and design as being incompatible with existing neighborhood character. The architect and project sponsor are redesigning the project and will make another presentation to the Committee.

262 Chestnut Street. The Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Authorization allowing the lot to be subdivided into two lots subject to a special condition that prohibits the owners in perpetuity from making any roof top additions on this site. P&Z worked with the project sponsors and concerned neighbors to craft the special restriction. Note: THD had previously expressed concern that the height of the two-unit residential structure proposed for this vacant site would shade Jack Early Park for additional morning hours during the winter months.

Bill Bailey Cottage (115 Telegraph Hill and 361-377 Filbert). THD is continuing to work with Supervisor Yee and the principal of Garfield School to secure an agreement to return the Bill Bailey Cottage to a site on school property (between Telegraph Hill Blvd. and the school building). The site on the Filbert Steps where the Cottage was and where the other

buildings were demolished over seven months ago is still sitting vacant and exposed to erosion from the winter rains.

IV. NEW LANDMARK/SURVEY OF HISTORIC NORTH BEACH

Washington Square Park Landmark Nomination.

On the eve of its 150th Anniversary Washington Square has finally been designated City Landmark No. 226. The Board of Supervisors passed the legislation designating it and it became law in December. THD, the North Beach Chamber of Commerce and other groups are planning the Square's anniversary celebration to be held on May 13th.

North Beach Historical Project. Sad news: architectural historian, Anne Bloomfield, who conducted the original survey in 1982 and was almost finished updating that survey died on December 29. We all owe Anne a debt of gratitude for all of the work she did to preserve Telegraph Hill and San Francisco's architectural heritage. Together with several prominent volunteer architectural historians we are confident that we will finish the project to update the North Beach Historic Survey. On a happier note: THD applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from San Francisco Beautiful's Klusmann Grants to complete and produce the North Beach Historic Survey. Thanks again to SF Architectural Heritage for agreeing to accept tax deductible grants and donations for the project including the grant from SF Beautiful. We are still looking for volunteers to help on this ambitious effort.

Fog Hill Market

Hanna Chedyak

415-781-8817

1300 Kearny
San Francisco, CA 94133

Washington Square Park & North Beach Playground Survey

Initiated by community volunteers, sponsored by the Recreation and Park Department and its Open Space Committee.

Have your voice heard in the redevelopment of the parks in your neighborhood! Your input will help determine the approach for the upcoming community planning process. Your reply is helpful in determining how the parks are used and their future potential.

**Please mail this survey or drop it off
at the following locations by April 1, 2000**

Caffé La Piazza – Columbus @ Filbert
Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Café – Columbus @ Union
Caffé Malvina – Union @ Stockton
Caffé Roma – Columbus between Green & Union
Caffé Sapore – Lombard @ Taylor
North Beach Pool
North Beach Library

To: Washington Square Park
& North Beach Playground Survey

c/o Telegraph Hill Dwellers
P.O. Box 330159
San Francisco CA 94133

Please describe yourself and your family members:

M	F	Age	Child's School
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Check all that apply:

- Dog Owner
- Local Merchant
- Member of neighborhood organization?

Which one? _____

Would you like to be part of the community planning process for park improvements in North Beach? If yes, when is the most convenient meeting time for you?

- Weekday Daytime
- Saturday Early Evenings (5:00-5:30)
- Sunday Evenings (6:30-7:00)

If you would like the results of this survey and other park-related mailings, and to be informed of public workshops and presentations, include your street and email address below:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Washington Square Park

How close do you live/work to Washington Square Park?

- within 2 blocks of park
- 2 to 6 blocks from park
- 6 blocks to 1 mile from park
- further than 1 mile from park

Why do you visit Washington Square Park and how often?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Children's Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tai Chi, Martial Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sit, Picnic, Rest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decaux Toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rec & Park Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events & Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you see the following as a plus or minus?
Please rank their condition:

	Plus	Minus	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Children's Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lawn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hard Surface Area, Paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decaux Toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rec & Park Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events & Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water for washing/drinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What do you like best about Washington Square Park?
(In order, favorite things first)

What are your three biggest concerns?
(In order, biggest concern first)

What improvements or changes would you most like to see? (Please describe)



How close do you live/work to North Beach Playground?

- within 2 blocks of park
- 2 to 6 blocks from park
- 6 blocks to 1 mile from park
- further than 1 mile from park

Why do you visit North Beach Playground and how often?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Asphalt Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bocce Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you see the following as a plus or minus? Please rank their condition:

	Plus	Minus	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Asphalt Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bocce Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water for washing/drinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What do you like best about North Beach Playground? (In order, favorite things first)

What are your three biggest concerns? (In order, biggest concern first)

What improvements or changes would you most like to see? (Please describe)

Pioneer Park Project Update

By Dawne Bernhardt

Donor tiles are still available to help fund renovations to the green space surrounding Coit Tower. In addition to a new terrace lawn, improved lighting, and native plantings, three new rock-walled stairways will make the area safer for pedestrians and more accessible. The stair risers will carry names designated by contributors to this phase of the park's history. A \$500 donation purchases one tile, one name. A \$2,500 donation reserves all five tiles, 5 names, on a single stair.

To reserve a tile, make your check payable to the San Francisco Foundation, or to Friends of Recreation and Parks, with a notation for Pioneer Park. Mail to the Pioneer Park Project at 1308 Montgomery Street, #1, San Francisco 94133. Donations through either organization are tax deductible. Participants have requested tiles to commemorate births, weddings, beloved friends and relatives, neighborhood businesses, even family pets. They are a fine way to leave your own mark for posterity.

Visit Coit Tower to see a model of the completed plan for which more than \$1.5 million has been raised by project volunteers. The fully funded project went out to bid in 1999. But, with the robust economy and resulting building boom, contractors raised their prices. We have raised sufficient additional funds to allow a new bidding round and hope to announce a groundbreaking celebration in the near future.

Sean O'Donnell Handyman

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Remembering Anne Bloomfield

EDITOR'S NOTE—*Anne Bloomfield's death last December rocked the city's preservation community, certainly in North Beach, where she had personally surveyed every street and structure, to define the North Beach Historic District itself, and to document the individual buildings which contribute to it. She started the project in 1982, before sky-rocketing real estate and development schemes would profoundly change the neighborhood. The tremendous effort it takes today to preserve any of our historic buildings, once they are targeted for redevelopment, is bolstered by the scrupulously detailed project which the prescient Ms. Bloomfield, now an everlasting ally, has left us. The President of Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Aaron Peskin, was asked to speak at her memorial. Here is his eulogy which well describes the woman and her work.*

I met Anne through her written work long before I met her in person. But over the last three years my neighbors and I were incredibly lucky to work closely with Anne on a host of preservation initiatives.

Anne did for us—with us—what she had done for so many neighborhoods and communities in San Francisco and northern California. She gave us the tools to protect the fabric of our historic neighborhoods and in her unassuming, no-nonsense way she gently pushed us to reach further in our quest to preserve some of San Francisco's greatest historic neighborhoods: North Beach, Jackson Square and Telegraph Hill.

Most visitors and residents don't know what every preservation activist in San Francisco gets to know when they discover Anne's work. Of course, you had to discover it yourself because even if you knew Anne, she would be the last

person to tell you the phenomenal work she had done. Anne's fingerprints are really all over this City's built environment. So many historic districts and individual landmarks in our City are living tributes to her. You can't walk far in our part of town without seeing the results of her decades of work: from the Telegraph Hill Historic District, which she documented and helped enact into law in 1986, to three National Register Districts created on Russian Hill, to one of her favorites, the Colombo Building at Number One Columbus Avenue, for which she wrote several landmark case reports which spurred us on to save the Colombo Building from the wrecking ball. Anne was truly the one legislator of our City without portfolio and without term limits.

Experts speak to the professional and academic quality of her work. Our relationship with her work was different: We know it as an invaluable tool in our battles to save threatened architectural resources. And in the process of using her work to save these buildings, she imbued us with the history of our neighborhoods that she so painstakingly researched and documented. And because Anne was also so knowledgeable about local, state and federal preservation law, her work was crafted for the survival of our riches.

Anne Bloomfield was far more than a preservation professional. She was also a teacher, a mentor and a fellow neighborhood activist. Anne made us proud to be called neighborhood activists. She wasn't a loud and pushy activist like certain others I know intimately. She just knew what was right and she did not hesitate to pursue it in her deliberate

ANNE BLOOMFIELD REMEMBERED

way. Advocating for historic preservation—for neighborhood preservation—often means taking your lumps over losing this or that important building but Anne wasn't mournful—she'd just push on. I can't tell you how much that spirit meant to us when we were struggling to save the Colombo Building.

A year ago, Anne honored our neighborhood by agreeing to conduct a historic survey of a proposed North Beach Historic District her last work which she all but finished—working on it until literally the day before she left us. Anne not only did the fastidious professional work that was her hallmark, she willingly trained a group of local volunteers to do the multitude of tasks required. And Anne must have known that her time was short because in her gently powerful way she pushed us to work faster. Just a month

ago, Nancy and I drove around with Anne helping her decide which additional streets should be included in the District. It was a beautiful day and it gave us pleasure to see how she enjoyed reacquainting herself with buildings she hadn't seen for a while.

Now we, together with many of her fellow architectural historians, will put the finishing touches on her survey and before long we will have a North Beach Historic District. I know that Anne would have liked that.

Anne's work is now finished. She left us and future generations of preservationists with a phenomenal body of work. It is up to us to use it to keep the historic fabric of San Francisco intact and to share it with one another to celebrate this City that she so loved.

SHEILA TOBIN BLACK, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist #PSY 15926,
Specializing in Adults with Heavy "Baggage"

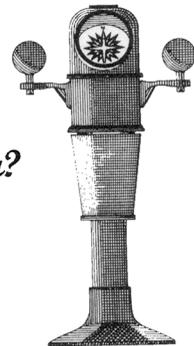
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Volunteers Needed at Garfield School

Many students can greatly benefit from two interesting new programs: School Buddies visit two students at least weekly between 11:15 and Noon to play chess or cards, go for a walk around the building, or just chat and provide the one-on-one support that helps kids thrive. Volunteer Listeners visit at least weekly. Students who have the chance to read aloud to a patient audience often rapidly advance their skills and become enthusiastic readers. **FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RAYMA MUI AT 291-7924.**

Is this your last Semaphore?

If the mailing label is dated December 1, 1999 or earlier, your membership has lapsed and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please contact Membership Chair, Rozell Overmire, phone 989-3945. E-mail rozell@overmire.com.

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Washington Square

by Mary Nelson

The park, the Square, Il Giardino. The Italians called it the The Garden. Washington Square is many things. To some, it is the village green. To some, it's the front lawn of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. To others, it is a sanctuary.

Step out of the Post Office on Stockton Street, and look up. A massive tower of a tree rivals the spires of the church, in mass and height and nearness to heaven. Consider the ten giant pines on the corner of Filbert Street and Columbus Avenue. Their soft and vaulted canopy is a chapel, protecting the little playground.

Old timers who have been watching over the park say Washington Square has never looked as beautiful as it does today. Tom O'Connor, the City gardener, has been lavishing affection on the grass, the flowerbeds and the soil around the trees.

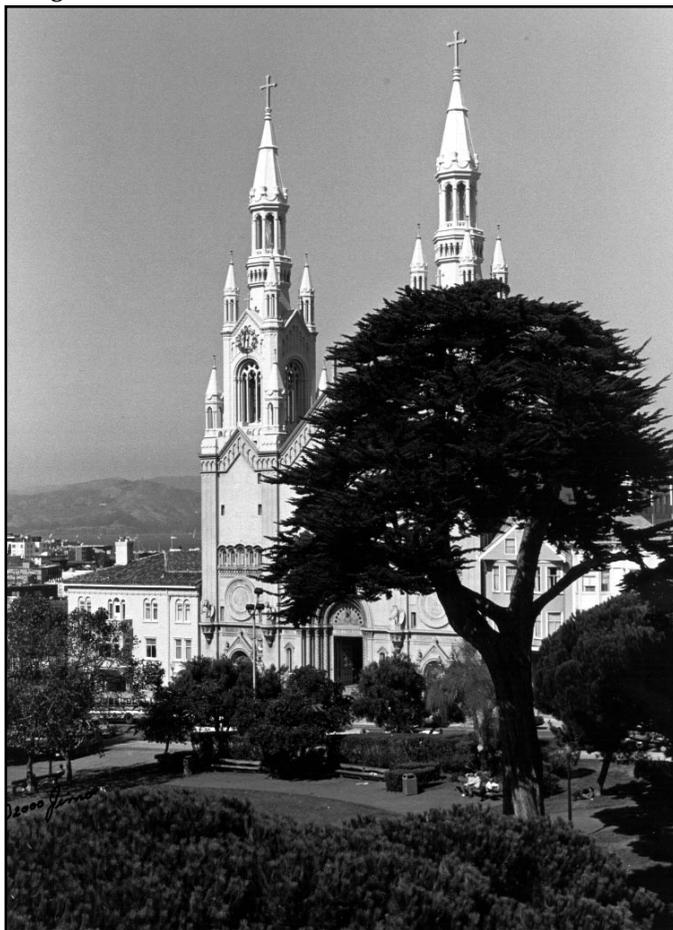
It's an auspicious time to be beautiful. This is the year of Washington Square. In its 150th year, the Hill Dwellers are celebrating the heart of North Beach and their achievement in persuading the City of its historical significance and of the need to protect it from destruction.

Washington Square is now a San Francisco landmark. This is thanks to more than two years of the Hill Dwellers' efforts—lead by Aaron Peskin and the Board of Directors—and the scores of hours of research and photography, meetings, letters and presentations to city officials in numerous

departments.

In 1850, the first mayor of San Francisco, John W. Geary, declared the land a public square. It was first cultivated by prisoners, who graded the land and watered the grass. But in the early 1850s, it became a haphazard cemetery and a goat pasture. Then it was an unofficial dump and the workplace of a stonemason. Then it became

continued next page



Washington Square with SS Peter and Paul Church.

WASHINGTON SQUARE CONTINUED

a traditional, Eastern style, public square, criss-crossed by an unpaved X, carved by people getting across as quickly as possible. It was also the fastest way for those on horseback to get from Union Street to Filbert Street. Riders were eventually discouraged by the building of a ditch on one side, and a low wall on the other.

Originally, it was a complete rectangle, all the way to Powell Street. But in 1873-1875, the City built Columbus Avenue, then known as Montgomery, cutting through the Square. The avenue was built, evidently, because business and banking interests in the Financial District wanted greater interaction with North Beach, which was isolated, geographically, by the hills, the Barbary Coast, and Chinatown.

The tiny park at Powell Street, is now named Marini Plaza. Frank Marini (1862-1952) is mentioned often in Alessandro Baccari's book, "Saints Peter and Paul: 'The Italian Cathedral' of the West, 1884-1984." Marini was a major civic benefactor, participating in the work of the Salesian groups at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. He was a sponsor of the boys' club, to help troubled immigrant boys who had little English speaking ability, education or guidance. He was a fundraiser to pay off the debt for building the church and Salesian school. He gave the money to build a gymnasium at St. Francis Church, on Vallejo Street, for the church-sponsored basketball teams.

Washington Square was a place of refuge for many fires on Telegraph Hill, notably in 1894 and 1901. It was home for a year for some 600 people who lived in wooden barracks and Army tents after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

It was also a stage for celebration. In the 1920s, Italian festivals and musicales were held in the Square, as was the annual Columbus Day

parade. There, the Salesians celebrated completion of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, which had been under construction from 1912 to 1924.

In 1951, when the City intended to build the North Beach library in the center of Washington Square, Father Costanzo, of Saints Peter and Paul, led the fight to save it as a common green. He believed in preserving the open space, free of buildings, as the center of the neighborhood.

Controversy again arose in the mid-1950s, when a coalition, the Committee to Beautify Washington Square, engaged Lawrence Halprin and Douglas Baylis to redesign the Square. Halprin got rid of the X and designed the paved and curving paths around the periphery of the center lawn, which we have today.

After the design was completed in 1958, controversy kicked up again. Proponents of an underground city garage sought to tear up the park to solve the parking problem.

The Board of Supervisors narrowly approved the garage that year. But, in a move that some say cost him his political career, Mayor John F. Shelley vetoed the plan, stating that the garage

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WASHINGTON SQUARE CONTINUED

would lose money for the entire 35 years of the life of the bond issued to finance it. Even so, the garage proposal surfaced two years later, and has every several years since then.

Ironically, the City's landmark case report states that the major threats to Washington Square are public works projects and vandals. Washington Square is one of the three original public squares in San Francisco, dating to 1849, and the only one to escape the bulldozer. Both Union Square and Portsmouth Square are today the roofs of City parking garages. Now that the Square is landmarked, any significant changes to the major features requires a public hearing and a special permit from the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Marini Plaza is landmarked, too. The missing sculpture of the California Bear, in the pose that appears on the State flag, was severely vandalized a few years ago. Ripped off its platform, it lost its paws, and was thrown in the pond. Neighborhood efforts to raise money for restoration were successful. The bear has been recast and will be returned some time this year.

What will remain in Washington Square includes the Juana Briones bench, dedicated to the Mexican cattle rancher, humanitarian and mother of eight (1802-1889), who ranched and farmed what is now the Square in the 1830s. Apart from the merits of memorializing Briones, the bench was hugely controversial as to size and location when it was installed in 1997.

In the center of the Square, surrounded by six Lombardy poplars, is the statue of Benjamin Franklin, which was given to the City in 1879 by Dr. Henry Cogswell, a tee-totaling dentist who intended to donate a public water drinking fountain for every hundred bars, a project which proved impossible. It is no longer a water foun-

tain, but the base reads "Welcome" on all four sides and is dedicated, "To Our Boys and Girls, Who Will Soon Take Our Places and Pass On." The statue was moved to the Square from Kearny Street in 1904. It has a time capsule, which was opened in 1979, and will be again in 2079.

The monument to the Volunteer Firemen of San Francisco, 1849 to 1866, was funded by a bequest from Lilly Hitchcock Coit and originally meant for Coit Tower, but was dedicated in Washington Square in 1933. The geodetic survey marker, dating from 1869, was placed there by Dr. George Davidson, for whom Mount Davison was named. In 1937, the latitude and longitude of Washington Square were carved onto the monument.

For those who love it, Washington Square is a landmark of the mind. And today, it's a landmark indeed. The effect is not absolute protection. But like a heavy mist calming the dust of controversy, it gives notice that the park, the Square, Il Giardino, is a sanctuary.

Gratitude for support, information and insight to June Osterberg, Julie Christensen, Herb Kosovitz, Patricia Cady, Jimo Perini, Jean Kortum, Alessandro Baccari, Jr., Jeffery Chinn, Aaron Peskin, Nancy Shanahan, Katherine, the Painter, the North Beach Museum, the Mechanics Institute, the San Francisco Public Library, and Washington Square.

SOURCES INCLUDE:

Baccari, Alessandro Jr., *Saints Peter and Paul Church: The Chronicles of "The Italian Cathedral" of the West, 1884-1984* (Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1985); Dillon, Richard, *North Beach: The Italian Heart of San Francisco* (Presidio Press, 1985); Myrick, David F., *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill* (Howell-North, 1972); Nichol, Kate, "Washington Square: Landmark Designation Case Report (April 1999).

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BALLAD OF BELLS

By Helen von Ammon

"Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

In my neighborhood not far from Washington Square the bells of SS Peter & Paul Church are harbingers of events. Their tintinnabular moods announce the time of day, joyful weddings, holidays. Doleful tolling announces the demise of the heroic, pious, or not so saintly. From my cluttered desk I listen to their messages. Any distraction is welcome in my frustration. I peer into my unblinking computer which stubbornly refuses to disgorge elusive text for my cur-

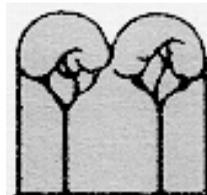
rent book. I wonder whether a similar blockage caused Dorothy Parker to put a sign of her office door: Men's Room.

This morning the bells began their pealing at regular intervals. I waited, hypnotized, for each next knell. A total of 31 resonant, mournful sounds. Then silence. The residual hush more doleful than the bells. The Baptist church of my southern childhood must surely have produced audient memories, but I cannot remember a single one, beyond belting out "Onward Christian Soldiers." These neighborhood bells have lodged in my belfry and I wish someone would explain to me: Why 31 bells? Why not 40, or 15, or 10 bells? Since I am not a Catholic, alas, no bells will toll for me.

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THD BOARD RESOLUTIONS

November 9, 1999: The Board agreed to appeal to the Board of Appeals the Zoning Administrator's written determination that a new 15,000 square foot adult entertainment establishment called "Boys Toys" at 412 Broadway does not require a conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission. The Board voted to contribute \$50.00 to support the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center's Holiday Book and Gift Drive.

December, 1999: No Board meeting in December.

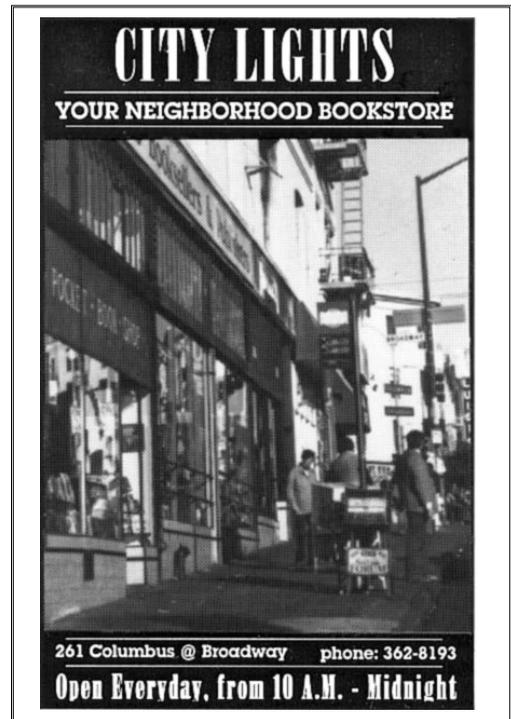
January 11, 2000: The Board agreed to endorse Propositions A and C, the \$110 million Neighborhood Parks Bond and companion charter amendment, and to co-sponsor a fundraising event. The Board agreed to endorse the San Francisco Bay Center at Pier 45, a state-of-the-art learning and interpretative resource center.

SOCIAL & PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

By Mary Purdy-Read

Great dinner meeting on February 9 at Caesar's Restaurant! Italian chicken and fish dinners included good wine, big salads and a pasta course for all. The highlight was Julie Christensen's slide show history of Washington Square. Using photos never seen by many of us, including the earliest map of North Beach, she walked us through the improbable story of this famous bit of real estate in a well researched and entertaining presentation. Past THD President Gerry Crowley presented Julie with a Certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge her important contributions to THD and the neighborhood, including managing our 400 Trees Project, and the extensive work she continues to do for the Pioneer Park Project.

Regarding dinner meetings: Luckily, space was made at the last minute for members who had failed to send their checks in advance. Another restaurant may not be as able, or willing, to accommodate non-RSVPs in the future. To ensure your dinner, send your check to the restaurant by the deadline on the postcard invitation.



Neighborhood News

39 Coit Bus Terminus Changed.

Buses now terminate at Stockton at Beach (opposite Pier 39) instead of at Bay and Taylor. This enables easy connection with the new F-line on the Embarcadero while continuing to serve the Northpoint Shopping Center. Familiar routes to Coit Tower, Washington Square, and Union/Montgomery have not changed, nor has the schedule. New bus stop signs and neighborhood maps will be placed along the route.

Growing numbers of local residents and visitors see the benefits and convenience of leaving their cars parked and riding the 39 bus to the Wharf, North Beach and Coit Tower. It's a good habit to acquire now, because once construction starts at Pioneer Park, Telegraph Hill Boulevard will be inac-

cessible to most vehicles, except the bus.

St. Patrick's Day in Washington Square

O'Reilly's Irish Pub on Green Street draws a big crowd of celebrants every March 17. This year, Myles O'Reilly made sure there'd be room for everybody by presiding over an Oyster Festival in Washington Square. It's a free event between 2:00-10:00 PM complete with traditional Irish music and dancing and opportunities to purchase specialty foods from the Emerald Isle. Whether this *Semaphore* reaches you before St. Patrick's Day, or after, (the post office doesn't guarantee home delivery dates) anyone who's had the pleasure of visiting O'Reilly's Irish Pub trusts Myles to put on one swell party. Maybe it will be an annual event—let's hope so.



Our Irish brunch is a lovely event.
Just as long as no one asks
for English muffins.

Irish Pub and Restaurant 622 Green Street San Francisco, CA 94133, 415-989-6222

www.oreillysirish.citysearch.com

Irish Brunch served Monday through Friday 10-4PM and Saturday & Sunday 8- 4PM

Sidewalk Dining Available

O'Reilly's

WASHINGTON SQUARE 150TH ANNIVERSARY A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT!

Saturday, May 13, 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.

The park turns 150 this year; landmarking's official; the battered bear of Washington Square will return to its pedestal in Marini park. Let's celebrate! Planned events and spectacles include a children's lantern parade, wearable light, dragons, performances, light sculpture, music!

The Washington Square Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee consists of representatives of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, the Friends of Washington Square, the North Beach Chamber of Commerce; the North Beach Jazz Festival; Public Glass, and the group renovating the Pagoda Palace. We're working to include the Italian American Athletic Club, members of the Chinatown community, and others.

The main event is being orchestrated by well-known local artist Cork Marcheschi. Cork has had dozens of one man and group shows; he's taught at Pilchuk Glass School, the Art Institute, UC Berkeley, and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. But he's also a neighborhood boy who played music in every nightclub on Broadway during its heyday, saw Lena Gastone sing atop the bar at Vieni-Vieni Club, and knows the secret of the tiger prawn sauce at Caffe Sport. Cork is rounding up artist friends up and down the West Coast for the celebration.

Suggestions have been pouring in. We've got room for more. You can send email to julie@surfaces.com, or call 552-7774.

But, please, mark your calendar, alert your friends, make your dinner reservations. It should be a great evening. The square deserves our best!

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, Howard Wong, 982-5055. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

Planning and Zoning. Chair Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094. 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 Patricia Cady, 397-2175. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair Mary Purdy-Read, 433-9626. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Paul Switzer, 788-8667. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair Rozell Overmire, 989-3945. As prescribed in bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair Julie Christensen, 552-7774. email julie@surfaces.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Neighborhood Beautification call 986-7014. Creates opportunities to improve, beautify, and preserve the Hill. Through its awards program, recognizes individuals and businesses who enhance our neighborhood. Facilitates cleanup, gardening and graffiti removal.

Oral History Project Chair Dennis McElrath, 397-0201. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

Pioneer Park Improvement Project. Chair Howard Wong, 982-5055. Work party volunteers enhance the open space around Coit Tower, improving accessibility and safety through planning, landscaping work parties and fundraising.

THD Web Page. Webmaster Peter Overmire, 989-3945. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

WEB SITE =
www.thd.org

That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail 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.



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THD CALENDAR

2nd Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties. April 8, May 13, June 10. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 552-7774.

Friday, March 17. 2:00-10:00 PM. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Myles O'Reilly in Washington Square.

Saturday, May 13. 5:30-10:00 PM. Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Washington Square.

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: Last Wednesdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION: 2nd Saturdays at 11 AM at Little City Restaurant, Union and Powell Streets.

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

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