



SEPTEMBER 2013

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FREE

Potrero Boosters under New Leadership

BY XAHEJ BAJIPURA

Last spring, in an uncontested race, J.R. Eppler was elected to serve as president of the Potrero Boosters, a neighborhood association that focuses on land use issues impacting the Hill. The previous president, Tony Kelly, decided to step down after serving in the position for more than nine years. “The Boosters act as a big tent where everyone can come together and bring their different viewpoints, work to develop a common message to the City, and address the changes taking place on the Hill. The more neighbors we can organize, the stronger our voices will be, and the better we can ensure this neighborhood remains wonderful” said Eppler.

The Boosters have 350 members, with upwards of one-third attending a given monthly meeting, and perhaps a tenth joining over the past few years. Established in 1926, the association is one of San Francisco’s largest neighborhood organizations. Boosters members also tend to engage in other civic groups, including parents and merchants associations. According to Kelly, one-quarter of the Hill’s 12,000 residents are involved in some community-oriented civic activity. “Good schools, parks, and transit. We can do more collectively than



PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE

In five years there will be 7,000 new residents on or about the Hill. Are we going to wait for them to come and be gridlocked, or will we start planning now the necessary infrastructure?

— J.R. EPPLER

separately,” said Kelly.

“The Boosters have enlisted several relatively new faces to serve on the executive committee this year. We hope that engaging new members can help bring folks back into the Boosters who

have not been so active in the last few years and help bring in new members,” emphasized Eppler, who joined the organization in 2010. “I am concerned about maintaining the character of the neighborhood that drew so many of us to it in the first place.” Other new executive committee members include Lisa Schiller-Tehrani, second vice president, who previously served as the *View’s* production manager, membership chair Carlin Holden, and treasurer Maulik Shah.

Eppler, a corporate attorney for Crowell & Moring LLP, learned how to tackle City planning issues “on the job” while serving as the Booster’s treasurer. In 2010 the South-of-Market transplant and his now-wife, Kate Eppler, moved to the Hill after finding a Utah Street apartment they liked from a flyer posted on a pole at 18th and Connecticut streets. He called his new home “a very community-minded place,” where he knows his neighbors, and residents are engaged in local affairs. “This helps the Boosters be successful” he noted.

“With the amount of change happening on the Hill, right in the middle of a lot of development plans, it is akin to jumping on a horse in motion” said Eppler, of his new position with the

BOOSTERS page 4

Private School Enrollment Fluctuates With Economy

BY SASHA LEKACH

Potrero Hill boasts two private kindergarten through eighth grade schools, two public kindergarten through fifth grade schools, and three public high schools. Several factors play into families’ decisions, about where to send their school-age children, but finances are among the strongest motivating forces determining where students learn their ABCs and multiplication tables. Money also influences whether families stay in the City or move to a more affordable location.

According to California Department of Education (CDE) data, enrollment at private Live Oak School, located at 1555 Mariposa Street, has inched back up since the depths of the 2008 recession. In the middle of the economic downturn there were 258 students at the independent school; that number rose to 271 for the most recent school year. Tuition at Live Oak for the 2013 school year is \$24,610.

Data for recently launched pre-kindergarten through eighth grade

SCHOOL page 6

Loyal Players Hope to Win Big at Potrero Hill Bingo Parlor

BY SASHA LEKACH

“N-38!” the caller announced through a microphone in a booth where numbered balls were selected and then displayed on a half-dozen of television screens scattered around the Army Street Bingo Hall. The players bent over their automatic and paper of bingo boards, in search of the designated square. The two large rooms that make up the Hall were filled with rows of folding tables and chairs. Florescent lights hummed above a murmur from the die-hard, serious-faced players and the constant call of bingo numbers.

Not much has changed physically or operationally at 1740 Cesar Chavez Street, which has offered bingo since 1992 under the moniker of the former street name. Wedged between several taxicab headquarters and next to a small convenience store—where

Thursday through Sunday nights, the bingo hall is open with upwards of 140 players competing to win. Loyals return weekly for years. Sessions extend between 6:45 p.m. and 10 p.m., during which 28 separate games are played. Each offers a \$500 prize; if there are multiple winners the prize is divided accordingly. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON NOLTE.

players grab snacks before and between games—the Hall is a nondescript tenant at the Potrero Business Center. It’s easy to miss on the industrial drive located between the City’s two freeways.

A typical night at the Hall draws upwards of 140 players, according to Pat Fong, the Friday night and Sunday manager. Fong started as a volunteer before securing a paid job managing the games for the better part of 23 years. She’s seen a loyal clients return week after week. “We get some newbies, but

BINGO page 8



Too Big for Potrero Hill

BY ALISON HEATH

Over a period of several years, I worked with a dedicated team of parent-volunteers to bring Live Oak School to Potrero Hill. Now an out of town developer, Related California, wants to build 320 rental units and about 10,000 square feet of commercial space on 3.5 acres adjacent to the school. This project is too big. As proposed, 1601 Mariposa is considerably larger and denser than anything else in our neighborhood. To put the project's massive scale in perspective, consider



ILLUSTRATION BY AMY CURKENDALL

Victoria Mews, with 94 condos over 4.4 acres, or the development over Whole Foods, which comprises 165 condominiums over a full city block.

Live Oak always anticipated future development of the site, but never anything like this. Related California plans to put four stories a mere 16 feet away from Live Oak's classroom windows. They'll build as high as five stories near the school's courtyard play area, shadowing it for much of the school year. The building will also cast shadows on the southern portion of Jackson Park where the playground and community gardens are located.

Health hazards during construction to children at the school and playground, as well as to residents in the area, pose too big a risk. The site

contains asbestos and heavy metals from serpentine and landfill. There are three underground storage tanks that have leaked and contaminated the soil and groundwater with benzene at levels that are well above the risk level for cancer. Unfortunately, the *Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan* included an environmental impact report (EIR) that didn't consider this site's peculiar and significant impacts. A full EIR needs to be completed before any approvals for designs are even considered.

I ask that you join me in signing the online petition at growpotreresponsibly.com. It's a good early step to let the City and developer know that we must Grow Potrero Responsibly.

SHORT CUTS

More Development

Down the street from where **Kaiser Permanente** had proposed to build an 84-foot high building, but instead shifted their development to Mission Bay, the owner of a one-story warehouse at 1301 16th Street has been drafting plans to build a seven-story edifice. As currently envisioned, the 68-foot-tall building would front Carolina, 16th, and Wisconsin streets, and include 278 new units with a garage for up to 84 automobiles on the ground floor...Speaking of Kaiser, in addition to building the new Mission Bay medical office complex, the health care giant plans to purchase parking spaces for staff and patients in a nearby garage. According to Kaiser's media relations specialist, **Joe Fragola**, "members and staff will park in the parking garage located adjacent to the 1600 Owens Street" medical office building. Unless another garage is built close to 1600 Owens Street, Kaiser is likely to purchase spaces in the existing 1670 Owens Street facility... **Heath Ceramics** has requested three parking spots from the City to build a parklet in front of their 18th Street facility, posting a petition calling for the sprawling space at the **Blue Bottle Coffee** outlet adjacent to their retail shop. If approved, it'd be San Francisco's largest parklet.

More Refreshments

The **Dogpatch Saloon** is back in business after an extensive renovation, featuring a gas fireplace, barstools salvaged from a Stanford University science laboratory, local artwork, and a steel bar footrest made from a Bethlehem Muni rail. And of course, there's a new array of beverages. The new cocktail menu lists twelve

libations, such as Headphones in Beirut — CapRock gin, kalamata-infused Amaro Montenegro, lime juice, and toasted fennel pollen — and Blackheart, Buffalo Trace Bourbon, Anchor Porter, fresh strawberry, and maple syrup. All that, plus ten beers on tap... According to Dogpatch resident **Jane Liaw**, writing for *Indie Travel Reviews*, compelling pop-ups are popping up throughout the neighborhood, including **Neighborhood Bakehouse**, open Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at **Mr. and Mrs. Miscellaneous**. Operated by Dogpatch resident **Greg Mindel** the temporary eatery offers chocolate croissants, and bacon and bitter green croissant sandwiches, among other tasty treats. **Thistle**, next to **Piccino**, sells seasonal, affordable, California-grown flowers. There are others; you'll need to walk the neighborhood to find them.

Better Seating

Ergo Depot opened **Ergo Depot Design Studio** last month at 245 Kansas Street. Founded by **David Kahl** in Portland, Oregon, the mostly online business specializes in height-adjustable desks and active seating. Kahl noticed that a quarter of his online sales were shipping to the Bay Area, even without special marketing efforts. To supply the organic demand, he opened the Potrero Hill space, enabling interested people to try out his merchandise. It's the company's first attempt at an open-to-the-public showroom.

Camp Out

Laura Eisenberg ended her tenure as University of California, San Francisco-Mission Bay Camps Supervisor last month to take a position with UCSF Campus Life Services Housing. Eisenberg lead the Camps program since 2006, consistently offering fresh and fun activities for hundreds of campers and dozens of camp counselors...Woody Allen's latest film, *Blue Jasmine*, features lovely scenes shot at **The Ramp** and along the Central Waterfront, including a peek at the American Industrial Center in the background of one emotional passage. It's worth seeing the movie — which has an Oscar-winning performance by Cate Blanchett — just to spot some of the more obscure, but beloved, corners of our City, a few of which are in our neighborhood.

MCKINLEY PARK BY SIMON STAHL

150 MILLION YEARS AGO, DURING THE LATE JURASSIC PERIOD, MOST OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WAS COVERED WITH DENSE COASTAL FORESTS. WESTERN CALIFORNIA WAS STILL UNDERWATER.

JURASSIC-ERA SHORELINE

THESE FORESTS WEREN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM TODAY'S REDWOOD GROVES, WITH FERNS AND CYCADS GROWING UNDER TOWERING CONIFERS. THE ENVIRONMENT WAS WARMER AND MORE HUMID THEN, SUPPORTING MANY SPECIES OF DINOSAUR.

FEW FOSSIL SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN CALIFORNIA CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE STATE. AN ARMORED, CLUB-TAILED ANKYLOSAUR WAS FOUND NEAR SAN DIEGO.

DUCK-BILLED DINOSAURS LIKE SAUROLOPHUS WERE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON. ALBERTOSAURUS, WHICH RESEMBLED A SMALLER, SLIMMER T-REX, MAY HAVE HUNTED THEM IN PACKS.

CALIFORNIA WAS HOME TO BIRD-LIKE SPECIES AS WELL. SAURONITHOLESTES, A SIX-FOOT LONG CARNIVORE, HAD A SIMILAR SKELETON TO THE VELOCIRAPTOR. THOUGH IT MAY HAVE HAD FEATHERS, IT WOULD NOT HAVE FLOWN.

FLYING PTEROSAURS LIKE PTERANODON FISHED OFF JURASSIC CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE. THREE FOSSIL SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE STATE, SUGGESTING THEY MIGHT HAVE GROWN TO A MASSIVE THIRTY-FOOT WINGSPAN.

THERE WERE ALSO TOOTHED BIRDS IN THE LATE CRETACEOUS ERA, SIMILAR TO SEAGULLS AND CORMORANTS, WHICH DOVE INTO THE SEA TO CATCH FISH.

LONG-NECKED, FOUR-FINNED PLEIOSAURS ALSO ATE THE FISH OF COASTAL CALIFORNIA. THEY SWALLOWED STONES, POSSIBLY TO ACHIEVE NEUTRAL BUOYANCY IN THE WATER, MUCH LIKE CROCODILES DO NOW.

FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT "DINOSAURS AND OTHER MESOZOIC REPTILES OF CALIFORNIA" BY RICHARD P. HILTON

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE VIEW!
FILL OUT OUR SURVEY
POTREROVIEW.NET/SURVEY



Letters to the Editor

Editor,

“Former State Senator Criticizes Proposed Green Benefit District,” in the August *View*, contains a significant error in its lead paragraph that should be corrected. The article states that owners “would voluntarily pay a tax.” In reality, this tax would be mandatory if the green benefit district (GBD) is certified. Readers—who don’t read through to the article’s last paragraph—will mistakenly believe that they can opt-out of the GBD at any time.

Further, the article gives the impression that 15 percent of Potrero Hill residents responded to the GBD survey. In reality, the survey was directed to all residents and businesses, and made available online to whoever wanted to respond, as well as to those who wanted to respond multiple times. Only 4.4 percent—not 15 percent—of Hill adults responded; 650 of 14,700. Thirty-four percent of these responses represented Dogpatch residents.

This information is from the preliminary results of the GBD survey published at the UP Urban site, <http://phd-gbd.org/update-zone.html>

Richard Drechsler
Rhode Island Street

Editor,

Thank you for your August article on my first few years as Supervisor (“Supervisor Malia Cohen Assesses the First Half of Her Term.”) I’d like to expand on some additional accomplishments I’ve been able to achieve for our Southeastern neighborhoods, and some of the initiatives I’ll be working on this fall.

In my work at City Hall I prioritize creating policies that keep District 10 working, healthy and safe. These three issue areas serve as a framework for the policies I craft, including the establishment of an interdepartmen-

tal code enforcement team that’s been effective at conducting inspections, acting on code violations, demolishing unsafe buildings and holding negligent landlords accountable.

I championed legislation that increased penalties for illegal dumping and, after seeing the financial and public safety impacts of metal theft, successfully passed first-of-its-kind legislation to strengthen permitting regulations and enforcement on our City’s junk dealers.

I’ve sponsored three ordinances regulating types of especially lethal ammunition, high capacity firearm magazines, and giving law enforcement additional tools to combat gun violence. Additionally, I passed legislation that increases neighborhood notification and community participation in land use decisions, and sponsored legislation facilitating the expansion of the California College of the Arts and the revitalization of historic buildings at Pier 70.

This fall, I plan to work with neighbors across the District on legislation to better regulate medical marijuana grow-houses, incentivize the construction of new production, distribution, and repair space, rebuild the outdated Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant, finalize regulations for formula retail along Third Street, negotiate new entitlements for the Schlage Lock site in Visitacion Valley and continue to work with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to ensure that the needs of our communities are incorporated into plans for parking management, the proposed turn around loop and expansion of bike and car sharing and programs.

I look forward to continuing to serve you as your District 10 Supervisor.

Supervisor Malia Cohen
District 10 Supervisor



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PUBLISHER’S VIEW

Deliver

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Forty-three years ago the *Potrero View* was launched as a mimeographed newsletter under the title *Hills and Dales*. The missive was circulated by hand among the community’s population, mostly first or second generation Americans from Eastern Europe, Italy, and Portugal, as well as African-Americans. Soon, the newsletter became a newspaper, with bundles dropped off and distributed at Farley’s, Goat Hill Pizza, The Good Life Grocery, among other places. It wasn’t until after the turn of the last century that the *View* added boxes to its circulation network, as well as a modest list of paid home subscribers.

While the *View* has always been a step behind the times in terms of its delivery methods—we added a searchable website less than a decade ago—the paper has continually maintained a fresh relationship with its readers. On the first of the month, when the *View* hits the streets, Dogpatch and Potrero Hill residents can be seen clutching their latest copy, snatched up at their favorite store or restaurant. Not a week goes by that we don’t hear from someone about how much they “love” the *View*. Not like, or even respect, but love. It’s a bond forged by a particular place and through the interaction between our readers and the stories we tell about our neighborhood, made physical by the rustle of newsprint between fingers.

Like all relationships, though, things can go stale. People change, and so has the community the *View* serves. The shipwrights, factory workers, and artists that built Dogpatch and the Hill more than a half century ago are fading into history, replaced by a burgeoning population of financial, medical, and technology professionals. Many of these new residents interact with the neighborhood less than those who came before them; too busy commuting to work and transporting their kids to school to spend an idle hour at Thinker’s Café, or nurse a beer at The Connecticut Yankee. Some, no longer used to picking up any newspaper, have yet to develop a relationship with the *View*.

And that’s why we’ve decided it’s time to freshen things up. Starting with the September issue, the *View* is shifting to door-to-door delivery to 9,000 residences in Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and what’s being called “MishPot,” the area between Highway 101 and South Van Ness Avenue. Like a suitor bringing flowers to their intended’s doorstep, we’re not going to wait for our readers—new and old alike—to come to us. We’re going to go to them, with a hand-delivered fresh paper on the second or third of each month. At the same time, we’ll continue to distribute from a limited number of boxes and establishments, including ones located in Bayview, South-of-Market, and Visitacion Valley. This new approach will help the *View* increase its readership by one-third, giving access to news,

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THE POTRERO VIEW

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Published monthly. Address all correspondence to:
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THE VIEW IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED NEWSPRINT WITH SOY-BASED INK.

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AT&T Wants to Install Two Fiber Optic Cabinets on the Hill

BY KEITH BURBANK

Last month, the San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW) heard arguments for and against the installation of surface-mounted fiber optic cabinets at two locations on Potrero Hill. If approved, the cabinets will be installed on the sidewalks at 502 Missouri Street and 1870 20th Street. AT&T, the cabinets' owner, met with little opposition at the hearing, but a few people expressed disapproval of the proposed installations.

"It's a burden on the property owners," Deb Dolezal told DPW staff, AT&T representatives and other hearing attendees. Dolezal was representing the 1501 20th Street/508 Missouri Street Homeowners Association (HOA), which opposes the cabinet planned for Missouri Street. According to Dolezal, the HOA objects for three reasons: it will attract graffiti, it's a public safety hazard, and it's an unfair easement burden on the homeowners.

AT&T said it could add a polymer to the cabinet to make cleaning it easier. But Dolezal said that despite any efforts to make the cabinet graffiti resistant, it will still have to be washed. And she asserted that vandals can create graffiti in other ways, such as scratching and attaching stickers. Dolezal also pointed out that 502 Missouri Street already has one AT&T cabinet.

According to Alex Krasov, AT&T public affairs manager for Northern California, the company takes responsibility for cleaning its cabinets. Krasov said AT&T personnel will wash cabinets during normal maintenance. Graffiti can also be directly reported to AT&T or by calling 311 to have a message sent to the company.

Dolezal said the cabinet would be a safety hazard because it would create more shadows in the immediate area, where homeowners walk their dogs at night. Besides the existing cabinet, there are two trees outside 502 Missouri Street. And, Dolezal asserted, the cabinet is an unfair easement burden because the area in which the box would be placed already has public amenities that the neighborhood has to maintain,

such as the other cabinet, a light pole and a garbage can. Neighbors prefer to occasionally clean the area themselves, rather than wait for the City or AT&T to maintain it. "We want to create a good neighborhood feel," she said. Lynn Fong, DPW's surface-mounted facility program manager, confirmed that adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining green spaces, which in this case consists of the two trees and the area surrounding them.

Tony Kelly, representing the Potrero Boosters, also opposed installation of the two cabinets. According to Kelly, when AT&T first introduced the idea of cabinets, the company told the Boosters it would forgo locating the objects in the community if there was any opposition. Kelly said there are 28 protests against the 502 Missouri Street cabinet. "How many is enough?" Kelly asked the hearing officer.

Kelly said there are 10 protests against the cabinet planned for 20th Street, though DPW could only confirm nine protests. Kelly suggested that the cabinet planned for Missouri Street be placed on Daniel Webster Elementary School property. There's ample opportunity on that site, Kelly said. AT&T sent only one notice to the school district to inquire about placing the cabinet on district property; Kelly criticized AT&T for a lack of effort. "That's fairly lazy," Kelly said. He encouraged more diligence on the part of AT&T.

The cabinets would bring fiber optic technology to the existing copper equipment on the Hill. Unfortunately, there's no way to combine the two cabinets into one, as one meeting attendee suggested. Tedi Vriheas, AT&T external affairs representative, acknowledged the 28 protests against the 502 Missouri Street cabinet, but said AT&T has a database of thousands of people who want the new technology. She said that the 28 people opposed to the installation didn't speak for the 400 or so the cabinet would serve. "This is the best location for the cabinet," Vriheas said. She asked DPW to approve the company's installation request.

DPW made no decisions at the meeting, but will notify interested parties of its verdict via the mail.

BOOSTERS from Front Page

Boosters. "Everyone knows that these folks are coming. We see the designs. In five years there will be 7,000 new residents on or about the Hill. Are we going to wait for them to come and be gridlocked, or will we start planning now the necessary infrastructure?"

To help develop the necessary transportation and open space infrastructure, the Boosters have proposed to collaborate with the more than one dozen rarely-full private company shuttles traversing the Hill, consolidating routes and offering access to residents. Such an approach could be supplemented with a neighborhood-serving shuttle to transport residents and workers to local commercial corridors and employment centers. And last year the Boosters launched an effort with the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association to form a Green Benefit District (GBD), under which property owners would pay a voluntary tax that would support maintenance and capital improvements at neighborhood open spaces and gardens.

While Eppler is energized by the prospects of the community shuttle and GBD, which are "new variations on ideas already in use by the City," he recognized "the implementation process takes time, which is frustrating when we're already behind on infrastructure improvements."

Kelly remains an active "member at large" of the executive committee. "Residents are experts about how their neighborhood works," he said.

"We live here. We work here. We see connections between different things that the City does not see. We need to be a watchdog for government. We have so many issues in this neighborhood. We have eight times the asthma rate of other neighborhoods because of our freeways. At schools like Daniel Webster Elementary, one in six children don't have a secure home; the official term is a 'family-in-transition.' These issues affect all of us. You could say we have a neighborhood in transition. We don't have a secure home, and City Hall doesn't pay attention. So we have to fight for ourselves. Local control is critical."

PUBLISHER'S from page 3

information, and local advertisements to a whole new crop of community members.

Our new distribution model is more expensive. Which is why we've launched a supporters' page, enabling enterprises to make a modest monetary contribution to the paper while being acknowledged for their support. Readers can similarly help, by using our classified section to give a shout-out to friends, publish short poems, or note an important anniversary or event. And if you know of a place that should be retained as a distribution point—or a story that needs to be told—please let us know.

Our readers love the *View* because the *View* loves our community. Every neighborhood deserves a newspaper. The *View* is yours.

TOO BIG.

1601 Mariposa Street 320 Rental Units

COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the proposed project

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013
6:30 PM at Live Oak School
1555 Mariposa Street

SIGN THE PETITION

www.GrowPotreroResponsibly.com

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Beat Cop, Marquita Booth: marquita.booth@sfgov.org

Beat Cop, Mike Chantal: michael.chantal@sfgov.org

Going for the Gold at the Vault

BY PAUL MCDONALD

Behind Sally's Restaurant, at 16th between De Haro and Rhode Island streets, there's a pair of Silver Meteor train cars. The north car — visible from the street — houses Vault Wholesale, a company founded in 2008 that deals in precious metals: gold, silver, and platinum. The company was started by Potrero Hill resident Joshua Abramson in 2008 when he partnered with eBay's largest coin and collectible dealer. In 2009, Joshua brought on his brother, Joel, a former Tower Records executive who now serves as Vault Wholesale's sales director. Via their website, www.vaultwholesale.com, and their eBay presence, Vault Wholesale sells precious metal investment pieces in all 50 states and 12 countries.

According to Abramson, he deals in "Wealth Insurance." Gold, silver and platinum have historically been attractive as an alternative to "paper," and are viewed as insurance in relation to traditional financial investment options. Vault Wholesale prides itself on its integrity and low pricing. Abramson is passionate about educating people regarding the precious metals market, and "Wants to bring a Blue State mentality to what is a Red State industry."

Abramson is dedicated to making the industry more accessible to mainstream precious metals investors, rather than catering to the few high net worth individuals who bury their coins



WHAT'S INSIDE THE VAULT Above, the American Gold Eagle, one of the world's most popular gold bullion coins, is worth about \$1,500; Below, this is a British Sovereign from the United Kingdom, containing .2354 ounce of pure gold. Top Left, 1 gram PAMP bars are worth about \$60 each. Top Right, Joshua at his desk inside the rail car. Right, The Silver Meteor rail car. Far Right, Swiss Helvetias, which are worth about \$280 each. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON NOLTE/IMAGES OF GOLD COURTESY OF THE VAULT WHOLESALE

in their bomb shelters along with meals ready to eat. To get his message out, he hosts a video blog under the moniker "The Silver Fox," on which he provides tips on industry trends.

Abramson said that he'll beat any advertised price, has a buy back guarantee at market rates—as opposed to 50 cents on the dollar, like many

other dealers—and takes the time to fully explain each investment. The Abramson brothers are so confident in their company that they list the URLs of their competitors on their own website. And they pride themselves on answering their phones seven days a week.

To further get the word out, as

well as show off his unique 1947 Silver Meteor bar car office, Abramson plans on hosting twice monthly "salons," gathering 15 to 20 like-minded people to eat, drink and have informal discussions about precious metals. The events will be co-hosted by local eateries and advertised through word of mouth, "Locals First" and on their website.

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It's a Sellers Market!

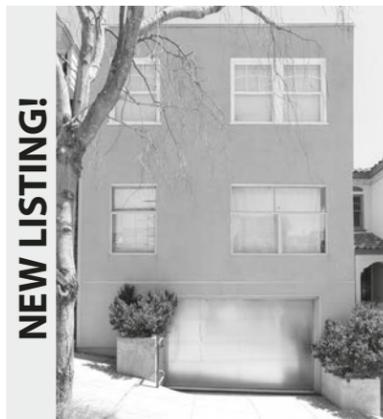


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NEW LISTING!

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- Large windows with sweeping views of SF Bay
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- Additional room-office/den & loft space
- Large deck in front
- Garage with 1 car parking
- More photos & info at: www.533missouri.com

With the new quarter's statistics coming out it is becoming clear that it's currently a great time to be a seller and a more challenging time to be a buyer.

Over the past year the average days on the market for single family homes, condos, and 2-4 unit buildings has been just over one month. Most properties are selling FAST!

Sellers want to prepare themselves for a quick sales cycle. And Buyers should have their purchasing power ready to pounce on the right property before it's scooped up by someone else.

For all of your real estate questions and needs, contact me any time!

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Café Cocomo Counting Down Its Final Months

BY SASHA LEKACH

After almost two decades of dance parties, Café Cocomo enjoyed what's likely its last summer at its 650 Indiana Street location. The building is slated to be demolished within the next 18 months. The site will be converted into two residential buildings, with retail shops on the ground floor. The beleaguered Dogpatch club—there's been a strained relationship for years between neighbors and the late-night loud party space—wants to stay in the neighborhood, and is searching for a new space to set up shop.

Last spring the club's general manager, the owner's nephew, Rhush Wanigatunga, distributed a letter to neighbors outlining the decision to sell the space, which was no longer compatible with the growing neighborhood and families moving into the area. The club's owner, Drew Wanigatunga, is looking at other Dogpatch spaces that can accommodate the salsa, tango and other late-night entertainment for which the venue has become known. He said the club will operate at its current location until as late as June 2014. "We are a salsa institution," he said. "We are Number One." Wherever the club lands, Wanigatunga assured loyal patrons that similar offerings will be found there, along with most of the same staff. Although Wanigatunga is preparing for the move, he said customers can expect business as usual at the current location, and encouraged locals to come for happy hour drinks offered Monday through Saturday.

As many as 120 units will be built at the site, adding to the residential options in fast-developing Dogpatch.

Plans include a 135,000-square-foot apartment complex comprised of two buildings, each standing five stories. An alley will separate the buildings, according to Build Inc., which is developing the project. Designs also call for a 1,500-square-foot art café at the corner of 19th and Indiana streets and a public square, "Decompression Plaza." An annual post-Burning Man event is held at Club Cocomo in October; that tradition will continue at the new space. Construction is expected to begin sometime in 2015.

Meanwhile, Drew Wanigatunga has teamed with the proprietor of Cup of Blues, at 900 22nd Street, to open a French café. "It's a lot of things happening at the same time," Wanigatunga said. The café, to be named "Niche," will open by the end of this month. According to Wanigatunga, there aren't enough restaurants to accommodate demand from Dogpatch and east slope Hill residents. He claimed that his restaurant, a French bistro-inspired establishment, will offer inexpensive food and beverages in an attractive atmosphere.

Wanigatunga wants the small venue, located next to the Rickshaw bag shop, to serve as a corner café, with a lounge feeling and music. There'll be outdoor seating, which he hopes will evoke Parisian al fresco dining. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as wine and cocktails, will be on offer. An onsite bakery will vend fresh bread and croissants.

The new restaurant is revamping the coffee shop, which has been open for almost 20 years. According to Wanigatunga, the remodeled eatery "...will benefit the neighborhood" adding to the growing 22nd Street business corridor, where Piccino Cafe and Just for You Café have found a steady stream of customers, just blocks from a Caltrain station.

More information: cafecocomo.com.

SCHOOL from Front Page

La Scuola Internazionale di San Francisco was only available for the past school year, when just 12 students were enrolled in grades kindergarten through second. This year the school added a third grade class. The school opened originally as a home-based play group program. In 2010 it created a preschool campus, which has roughly 130 students, and added its elementary school. Tuition for this school year is \$20,000.

Throughout San Francisco, enrollment in all types of private schools— independent and parochial—dropped by almost six percent between the 2009 and 2010 school years, from 23,253 students countywide to 21,915, according to CDE data.

Joe McTighe, executive director at the Council for American Private Education, acknowledged that the economy plays a role in school choice, especially if a parent loses a job, sharply reducing a family's discretionary income. "The economy affects enrollment in a reverse way" as well, McTighe pointed out. When funding reductions prompt school districts to scale back on extracurricular, art and music and other programming; and political changes focus more attention on basic math and English learning, parents turn to private schools. "It's a double-edged sword," McTighe said.

According to Ron Reynolds,

executive director of the California Association of Private School Organizations, throughout the state there's been a decline in private school enrollment in the past decade, but in the past year enrollment seems to have stabilized at slightly lower rates. "Overwhelmingly" private education is only an option for "families that can afford it," said Reynolds. In the 2000s the housing boom coincided with a rise in private school enrollment, he said. But with the subsequent bust came high attrition rates at those same schools. "The recession clearly had an impact," Reynolds said.

Reynolds also pointed to the "proliferation" of charter schools as pulling students from private to public schools that have a sponsor and tend to feature more parent involvement and better teacher-to-student ratios. "A lot of parents say this looks similar to a private school," said Reynolds, but without the tuition. "That part is hard to compete with." He said more charter schools are popping up. The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) website lists 10 of such schools, such as KIPP Bayview. Starting this fall, charter high school KIPP SF College Prep is sharing space with International Studies Academy (ISA) at the Enola Maxwell campus. Private and religious alternatives are still a common choice in San Francisco, where large swaths of the population

SCHOOL page 20

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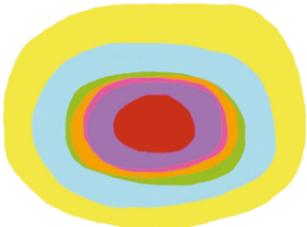


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One Person's "Junk" is Another's Treasure at Building Resources

BY PAUL MCDONALD

Building Resources, positioned between Potrero Hill and Bayview, serves as a salvage yard for donated building materials: windows, doors, sinks, toilets, tile, wood, tubs, pavers, bike parts, frames, conduit, metal braces, all types of glass, and much more. Located at 701 Amador Street, at Cargo Way, the yard is a resource for artists, homeowners, landlords, scavengers, contractors and idea-getters. It's a junk yard for building materials. As a nonprofit, donations to the organization are tax deductible, which encourages a steady in-flow of items, although on a recent visit a sign in chalk read "Not currently accepting toilets."

Within the one acre property there's an art gallery, the Reclaimed Room, which is currently showing works of three local artists, curated by Soumyaa Kapil Behrens. There's also a business-within-a-business, Red Shovel Glass Company, which offers a myriad of tumbled glass pieces. The Reclaimed Room gallery shares space with what's referred to as the "Showroom"; the section of the property that's indoors. The works of art, including ceiling-hung lighting by

Gregory Randolph Benke, mosaic garden sculptures/bird baths by Martha Jones, and wall-hung wooden pieces by Aleksandra Zee, are all made of recycled materials. A reception for the next installation, featuring artists Roland Blandy and Reddy Lieb, will be held on September 12, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Red Shovel Glass Company offers huge bins of a variety of glass, stone and tile in big on-site tumblers. Billed as "Perfect for

landscape, floral and decorative applications," varieties include mirror, clear, art glass, beach mix, terra cotta, coral, river rock and ceramic and dishes. According to Wayne Riley, who runs the showroom, "This place is like Disneyland...divided into kingdoms." Co-worker Micah Pususta echoed the sentiment, naming the large aisle of toilets and sinks as "Porcelain Park."

Building Resources offers periodic classes and workshops. Don't forget to visit the restroom, which serves double-duty as a showcase for various recycled materials, or the garden and pond, which contain a variety of plants, all thriving in unique containers.

To find out more: buildingresources.org.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL MCDONALD



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BINGO from Front Page

not much," she noted. According to caller John Perez, bingo is considered a social activity; he sees "the same faces" each week. However, though clusters of mothers and their grown-up daughters could be spotted around the rooms, most of the middle-aged and older patrons kept their attention on their games, daubing paper sheets or punching numbers into a simple electronic device that looks like Milton Bradley's latest way to play Battleship.

Seemingly simple, the game has some complexities. But, in the end, "It's all luck." said Fong. "Everyone is trying to win." Twenty bucks buys a two-pack of games; for \$35 the electronic device packed with multiple games is added to increase the odds of winning. Sessions extend between 6:45 p.m. and 10 p.m., during which 28 separate games are played. Each offers a \$500 prize; if there are multiple winners, the prize is divided up accordingly.

Smaller prizes can be won through "warm-ups" or "specials." These side games are like buying a Scratchers ticket while waiting for the lottery numbers to be announced. In a sort of quick bonus round, workers mill around offering "lightning games" — "Golden State" and "Bingo Monster" — that can be purchased for a dollar. One game, "Blazing Balls," has three numbers on the back. If within a game those numbers are picked the player wins some quick change.

The bingo games cycle through different patterns that need to be blotted out to win, including "Inside Picture Frame," "Small Crazy Kite," and "Bingo and Biscuit." There are 30 rules listed in small print on the board package. One Hall law states that "sleepers lose their right to claim a Bingo," meaning that if someone doesn't shout "Bingo" loud



and clear on the last number called, they can't claim the prize. Side bets aren't allowed — such as on horseracing — and alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited. This rule gives the place the vibe of an Alcoholics Anonymous social gathering, and may explain the large number of smokers that puff away outside the Hall between games.

Daubers are sold for one dollar a tube. Although seemingly meaningful, there's nothing behind the different color choices of the blue, magenta, orange and other pigmented markers used to fill in called numbers on the bingo board. According to Fong, most players are superstitious about what colors they use; others buy an array and display them at their seat during the evening.

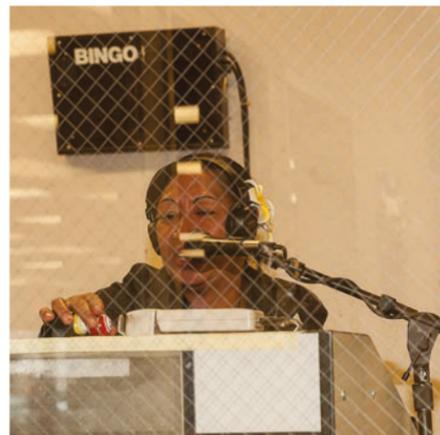
One San Francisco resident who declined to give her name said she'd been coming to the Hall consistently for 15 years. "I want to win," she said. She initially got involved with bingo through her church. She considered a visit to the Hall a social event, but during the games she's focused.



There's not much time for talking with neighbors, she explained. "You have to pay attention."

Another woman from South San Francisco comes with her grown children most Friday nights, and has been visiting the Cesar Chavez Street venue since she was in her mid-20s. She said she has regular seats that everyone knows are hers. She recognizes the people around her because everyone sits in the same spot every week. She claimed Army Street is "better than any bingo hall on the peninsula." It's worth the extra miles north each week, she said.

A security guard stands by the front entrance, although safety concerns seem far from anyone's mind. All of the work-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON NOLTE

ers carting around boxes with lightning games, change, and bingo supplies are volunteers. Each night a different organization volunteers at the center, which is overseen by Jerry Kika of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. On one Friday evening, individuals affiliated with the Nihonmachi Street Fair Inc. volunteered their time. The night before the San Francisco-based Samoan Community Development Center staffed the games, and the following day the Accion Latina group from the Mission District had run the hall. Each session's earnings are split between the volunteer organization and the cost of running the center. The Nihonmachi Street Fair volunteers gave their time to raise money for their 40th annual cultural fair held last month in Japantown.

The Hall is open Thursday through Sunday with twice-daily weekend games midday and in the evening. More information: Army Street Bingo Hall, 1740 Cesar Chavez Street, 920.1730

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3rd on Third Street Events to Get Public's Input

BY KEITH BURBANK

At an August working group meeting to organize the 3rd on Third Street art celebrations in Bayview, Southside residents raised concerns that too few people were involved in the planning process. In response to the complaints, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the agency overseeing the event series, agreed to hold a public meeting to hear what residents want included in the celebrations.

Our "primary concern is ensuring that the funding that has been allocated for further activities in the Bayview is managed in a transparent, inclusive and smart way," said Shane Mayer, a Bayview resident who attended last month's working group

meeting. Mayer spoke on behalf of BRITE, Bayview Residents Improving Their Environment, a group working to make the community safer, cleaner and more attractive. According to Mayer, he was told he wasn't welcome at the meeting because the working group would be choosing its members, rather allowing anyone who wanted to join to do so, an approach he disagreed with, since public money is being used to pay for the celebrations.

Another meeting attendee, five-year Bayview resident Robert Davis, added, "Among the many issues is the neighbors think this is a public meeting; public money is being spent and we should have a say in what events take place in our neighborhood."

The 3rd on Third Street celebrations are intended to spur economic activity along Third Street by attracting more foot traffic. During the next two fiscal years, \$240,000 from District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen's discretionary fund will be spent on the monthly celebrations, in equal amounts annually.

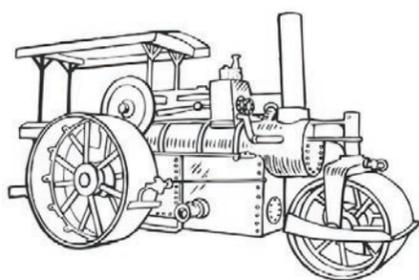
Two celebrations have already taken place. The first, in June, focused on murals created through the StreetSmArts program. At that event, six StreetSmArts murals painted on the sides of Bayview businesses were unveiled. Funding for the June event came from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Department of Public Works. That event was

supposed to be a one-time thing, but it was such a success the City funded a second celebration in July, in part to maintain the momentum created a month earlier.

Future events will be planned by a professional consultant hired by the Arts Commission, which will issue a request for proposals after it holds the promised public meeting. Between now and the time a vendor is hired, \$10,000 of the \$120,000 earmarked for the next 12 months will be used to keep the event going.

Activities during future celebrations will center around Mendell Plaza, unlike the June and July celebrations, which occurred along Third Street from McKinnon to Quesada. "Supervisor Cohen clearly intended the funds to support the Third Street corridor merchants and specifically to maintain the activities that were introduced at the original 3rd on Third event in June," wrote Judy Nemzoff, community arts and education program director of the San Francisco Arts Commission, to Alka Joshi, communications chair, BRITE. "She wants to see the event become established monthly and recognizes we would need significantly more funds and capacity to run the length and breadth of Third Street."

The Arts Commission public meeting is scheduled September 11, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bayview Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

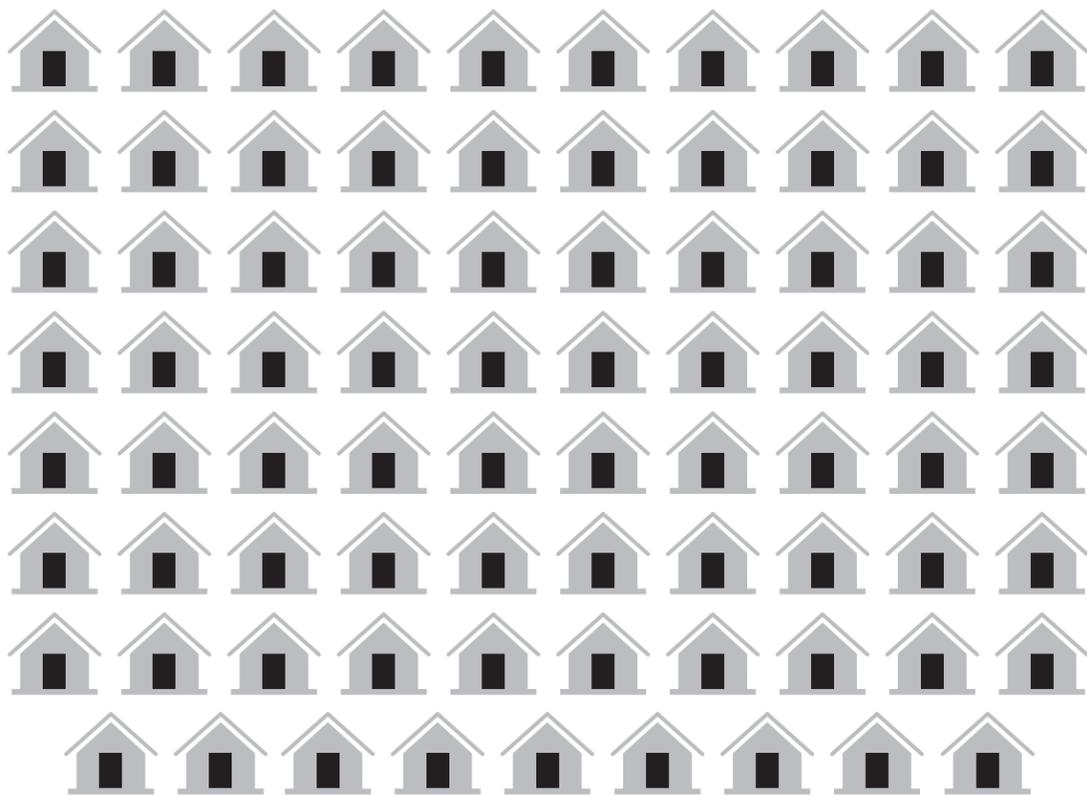


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| 2106 22nd St | \$673,000 | 1177 De Haro St | \$1,250,000 | 376 Texas St | \$1,350,000 |
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Crossfit Trainer Exercises in the Dogpatch

BY BILL SLATKIN

Zain Elmarouk, who began his fifth year conducting Crossfit training in Dogpatch this summer, believes his lifestyle is a good testimonial for the benefits of the fitness program. The 37-year-old father of five commutes from Contra Costa County to his single-car-garage-sized “gym” on Indiana Street up to five days a week. He also acts as physical education director for a 40-student Arabic private school that was co-founded by his wife near their home.

Elmarouk’s typical day often starts with a 5 a.m. appointment to work with clients, including one of the first people he began training when he started his business seven years ago. And he may continue to work with clients until 10 p.m.

“I’ve been fortunate. Some of my clients have followed me since the beginning” said Elmarouk, who has worked as a Crossfit trainer at three different gyms, including the Bakar Fitness Center on the University of California, San Francisco-Mission Bay campus.

“Crossfit is controversial. A lot of trainers who follow traditional methods don’t want to try something new,” said Elmarouk, who explained that the physical training system he leads was developed “less than ten years ago” by a trainer in Santa Cruz. “It’s grown like wildfire. There are twenty thousand plus Crossfit affiliates worldwide.” Elmarouk said his business, Crossfit 415, was the third of about 20 Crossfit training facilities in San Francisco.

Advocates of the Crossfit approach explain that their program is designed to promote total fitness rather than concentrating on strength, endurance or the other “limited” fitness goals promoted in most exercise methods. Elmarouk said the training is defined as “constantly varied, high intensity



functional movement. There are people who may have a very strong upper body but can’t run around the block. Or think of a woman who runs marathons all the time. But if you ask her to pick up a cardboard box that weighs twenty pounds, she blows her back out because she’s not used to that.”

He explained that each training is individualized and meant to incorporate the ten “Crossfit elements:” cardiovascular/respiratory endurance, stamina, strength, flexibility, power, speed, coordination, agility, balance and accuracy of movement.

“People don’t think about how important total fitness can be. But the minute you have to dart out into the street to grab a child who’s about to get run over, or you have an important job interview in an office on a high floor and the elevator is out; in order to be there on time, you have five minutes to

go up a bunch of stairs, wash your face and stroll into the office all ready for the meeting; that’s when you are glad if you are in total physical condition.”

In addition to individual trainings, including work with a few prominent San Franciscans—he mentioned hotelier and Potrero Hill resident Chip Conley as a long-term client — Elmarouk conducts group sessions relying on simple equipment, a Crossfit training characteristic. There’d be no room in the 415 Crossfit space, on the ground floor of a small office building, for elliptical machines, rowing equipment, an assortment of free weights of various sizes, and the other workout systems available at more traditional and well-branded fitness gyms. Instead, Elmarouk follows a common Crossfit practice of using whatever facilities are at hand and can be easily obtained. He got permission to install a rubber padded octagon space for stretching, along with pull up bars and a climbing rope in Progress Park, next door to his facility. And Indiana Street is the running track.

Elmarouk, who has five separate Crossfit certifications, said he has a passion for the training, and talks with admiration about the community that’s grown up around training programs across the country. He evangelizes as a “total lifestyle about forming good habits,” what some crit-

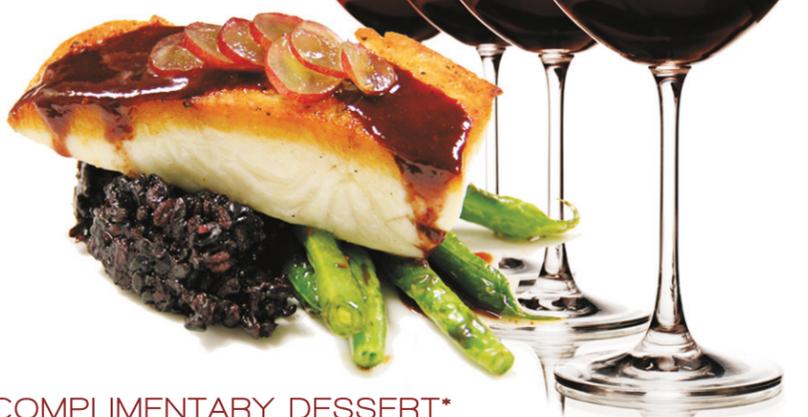
ics call the “Crossfit Cult.”

Regardless of the way it’s regarded, the training has been adopted by the U.S. Military, including the Marines, the service in which Elmarouk enlisted after graduating high school in San Francisco, where he grew up. He talks with equal enthusiasm about his devotion to his Islamic faith and the round-the-world travel and pilgrimage in which he engaged before settling back into San Francisco and working in various jobs, including ambulance attendant and restaurant server, before he was introduced to the physical training profession, ten years ago, by Shehabeddin, his twin brother. Shehabeddin has an office/studio in the same building, where he conducts Pilates and Paul Chek training.

According to Elmarouk, his clientele of roughly 50 people have a variety of goals, such as weight loss, endurance training, strength building. “Everyone progresses at their own pace. The most important thing is to show up and to be consistent. That’s a good lesson for life.”

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Hello, *Bonjour!*

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Last month Bonjour Restaurant opened at 655 Townsend Street, along the small commercial strip that houses a hair salon, computer repair store, Starbucks, and Holy Grill. The restaurant is a kind of permanent pop-up, with Bonjour Patisserie vending macaroons, cakes, and croissants by day, and the bistro serving Full Belly Farm Goddess Melons and Petrale Sole, among other delectable offerings, by night.

And what a night it is! Bonjour, the restaurant, staffed by Chef John Reyna and Pastry Chef Samer Salman, offers a tasty menu, with perfectly paired wines selected by Sommelier Chris Lamm available. On a recent night, the Grilled Octopus was sufficiently succulent to, well, induce one to eat grilled octopus, and ask for more. The Monterey Bay Halibut, with blue lake beans, “forbidden” rice, and port wine-grape sauce was sublime. And all three of the desserts were worth a visit to the restaurant in their own right. Passion Fruit Savarin, Vanilla Crème Brulee, and Chocolate Beignets Salted Carmel Chocolate Tart each were delicious; bring a friend or three, and order them all.

Reyna, Salman and Lamm have worked in the fine-dining industry for more than twenty years. After graduating from the California Culinary School in San Francisco in 2002, Reyna headed to Las Vegas, Nevada.



A LOVELY MEAL OF halibut (above), beets (top right), with melon and prosciutto (middle right); and a delicious creme brulee to finish. (bottom right).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEBBIE FINDLING

While working for celebrity chef Roy Yamgauchi, he fell in love with French and Asian cuisine. He moved back to the Bay Area, and landed at Blackhawk Grille as a line cook. Within three years, Reyna had worked his way up the ranks to senior sous chef. His next stop was Pres-A-Vi in the Presidio, where he served as sous chef. In 2007, Michael Bauer awarded him two stars for his French and Asian Cuisine. In 2008, Reyna became the executive banquet chef at Cavallo Point under Michelin star Joseph Humphrey, where he worked for three years.

Lamm, a native of Tacoma, Washington, began his wine and service career in Las Vegas. While studying criminal justice at the University of Nevada, Lamm discovered his passion for food and wine from a Master Som-

melier. Lamm worked at restaurants in Las Vegas, Orlando and Miami before moving to San Francisco. With his sommelier certification, Lamm worked for Michelin-starred One Market Restaurant and Cavallo Point.

Salman, who comes from Jerusalem, has been making pastries since he was 15 years old. He started working at the Five Star King David Hotel in Jerusalem, moved to the La Rome Hotel, before traveling to the U.S. to make a name for himself. Salman was the pastry chef at the The Caprice and Sweden House Bakery, both in Tiburon, Market Bar in San Francisco, and ran the Strawberry Gourmet Deli in Mill Valley before joining Bonjour.

At \$16 to \$20 an entrée, and \$12 to \$13 for first courses, the menu reflects a solid value, given the quality of the food. In addition to the wine pairings, wines by the bottle are available for a minimal mark up. For example Laurent-Perrier, Brut, Maison Fondee, typically priced at \$125 or more, are on offer for \$52. The interior tables and chairs are lovely, as is the selection of background music, though the pastry display cases don't add to the elegant dining atmosphere. Diners seated facing the large front windows are treated to views of the red brick buildings across the street, as well as a steady parade of Adobe, Zynga, and other technology workers making their way home—or to their favorite watering hole—after a hard day staring at their screens.

Bonjour is definitely worth a try, and chances are, once you've tasted one of the impeccably crafted entrees or extraordinary deserts, you'll return.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER LINENTHAL

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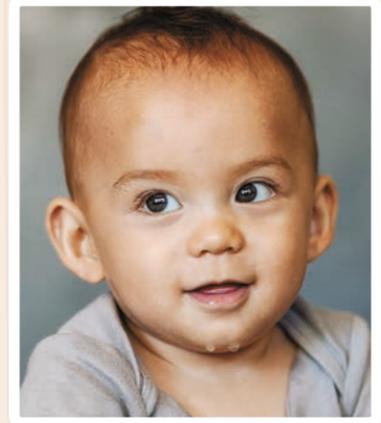
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The View is delighted to publish local kids' birthdays and milestones. Please email your image and/or caption to production@potreroview.net by the 18th of the prior month. High resolution photos, please!

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LIBRARY NEWS

BY LYNNE BARNES, POTRERO BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Programs for Adults

Pickles Essentials Workshop. How can pickles be made at home simply with maximum flavor? This lecture, demonstration, and tasting session will outline the processes and techniques of vinegar-brined pickles—both canned and quick—and fermented pickles, and offer useful tips for the home DIY enthusiast. As time permits, we'll also discuss some of the more peculiar pickling possibilities from the fringes of preserved fruits and vegetables—soy sauce pickling, nuka (rice bran) pickling beds, salt-cured pickles, and Electric Kool-Aid pickles. Bring your questions and your pickling passion! Karen Solomon is the author of *Jam It, Pickle it, Cure It; Can It, Bottle It, Smoke It*; and the *Asian Pickles* e-cookbook and print cookbook series. She's written about pickling and food preservation for a host of publications, including *Saveur.com*, *The Blender*, *Fine Cooking*, *Prevention*, *Yoga Journal*, *Vegetarian Times*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Saturday, September 21, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Programs for Teens

Game On! Come play PS3 games on our big screen. We have a selection, but you can bring your own T or E rated games to share. Challenge your friends to determine who is the ultimate gamer. Snacks. Ages 10 to 18 welcome. Tuesdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Duct Tape Masterpieces Make a duct tape pencil case, phone pouch, wallet, or rose. Or anything else your creative brain can dream up. We'll have a variety of duct tape colors to choose from, and some other materials to embellish your masterpiece. Bring anything you want to decorate, or make something new. FREE. Ages nine to 19. Friday, September 27, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Call 355.2822 or contact Lisa at lfagundes@sfpl.org for more information on any teen program at Potrero.

Programs for Children

Baby Rhyme and Play Time. For infants up to eighteen months old and their caregiver. Tuesdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Family Storytime. Featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For children from birth to five years old and their caregiver. Thursdays, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Fun Flicks. This film program is offered every second Wednesday of the month and includes short films based on children's books and stories. September's films will be *The Case of the Mad Movie Mustacher* and *Cat in the Hat*. For children ages three to eight, Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Fifth Annual Tricycle Music Fest with Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, "the new face of indie rock," according to *New York Magazine*. Led by husband and wife team Lucky Diaz and Alisha Gaddis, this nationally touring family band based in sunny California has won numerous awards—including *People Magazine's* #1 Cool Kids Album and *USA Today's* #1 band pick—has received wide acclaim from parenting publications, and has multiple hits on Sirius XM. Their highly anticipated fifth release, 'Lishy Lou and Lucky Too' will be out on October 1. Saturday, September 28, 3 to 4 p.m.

Library Sponsored Community Partnerships

Creative Writing Workshop. A free class to help you write your own stories, develop your characters, and find your own unique voice in a supportive and creative environment. Please contact Shevi for more information: sheviros@gmail.com or 602.7961. Thursdays, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Starr King Open Space Meeting. Tuesday, September 10, 6 to 7:30. For more information contact Webb Green, 648.6168, webbgreen@mindspring.com

The Potrero Hill Book Club meets at the library every third Wednesday evening of the month. September's selection is *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon. Join the discussion on Wednesday, September 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

San Francisco Seed Library at the Potrero Branch Library In partnership with the San Francisco Seed Library, the Potrero Branch Library has seeds available for "checkout." Located on the 1st floor beneath the staircase.

New Owners Take Over Monte Carlo Bar and Restaurant

BY SASHA LEKACH

After nearly a quarter-century in business, the Monte Carlo Bar and Restaurant—located off the southern end of Third Street—closed this summer. The new owners of the space plan to maintain it as a restaurant, but the husband-and-wife duo behind the Bayview eatery have taken off their aprons, put down their spatulas and left the house.

Theresa Derouen opened the club, which specialized in Louisiana cuisine, in 1989 at 1705 Yosemite Street. Run by Derouen and her life and business partner, Gary Lynch, the place became known for its Southern hospitality and Cajun gumbo. Music and dancing was a major part of the bar scene following dinner hours. The couple lived in the apartment above the club.

In June, the couple sold the business to a family who plan to move into the upstairs unit and are looking for a retail tenant to take on the restaurant. According to Coldwell Banker realtor Eric Chin, who is working with realtor Tina Low, Derouen and Lynch moved to the East Bay. It took six months to sell the residential-business space.

According to Bayview resident Dan Dodt, the couple was ready to retire, and faced major upgrades to the aging kitchen space to continue

the business. “That likely factored into the decision to move on,” he said. With aging restaurant equipment still in place, Chin said the space would remain an eating establishment. However, it’s no longer licensed to serve liquor. The new owners are currently undertaking termite-related and other repairs and renovations. A peek into a side window of the closed restaurants shows empty tables and bar stools set askew, along with bare walls and bar displays. The orange building with a red awning still features a sign that reads “Gary & Theresa’s Monte Carlo.”

Rumor around the neighborhood is that the new owners will open a Chinese food restaurant. However realtor Tina Low said there’s no set tenant yet. Cathy Davis, executive director of the Bayview-Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services Center, which is located across the street from the former Monte Carlo, said the new owners are Asian and want to keep the space as an eatery of some kind.

Before closing, the venue offered a full weekend lineup of events, including a smooth jazz night on Sundays and other dancing entertainment Fridays and Saturdays. The latest Yelp review was posted last May, and gave the club the maximum five stars. The user said, “Great bar, great owners. Can get a little rowdy after 10 at night...The food is fantastic...Always a good party atmosphere and a good time on the weekends.”

Toshi Aline Ohta Seeger

July 1, 1922 to July 9, 2013

Toshi Aline Ohta Seeger, wife of folk singer Pete Seeger, passed away peacefully July 9, at the age of 91. Ohta Seeger was related to the Ohta family, of Potrero Hill, whom the Seegers visited occasionally.

Pete Seeger, a noted environmentalist and member of the folk band, The Weavers, achieved fame with the song “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” But despite her husband’s celebrity, the couple were “partners in every sense of the word,” according to a remembrance at the Libby Funeral Home, located in the couple’s hometown of Beacon, New York. “They collaborated on everything from building their log cabin [to] organizing festivals big and small,” the remembrance said. The two met in 1939, and married in 1943, when Seeger was on leave from World War II military service. Ohta Seeger died 11 days before the couple’s 70th wedding anniversary.

Ohta Seeger was born in Munich, Germany, July 1, 1922, to Virginia Harper Berry of Washington, D.C., and Takashi Ueda Ohta of Shikoku, Japan. The couple brought their daughter to the United States when she was six months old. The family lived in Greenwich Village and Woodstock, New York, from the 1920s to the 1940s. Her parents were part of the theater community, and Ohta Seeger “grew up surrounded by art and theater,” the remembrance said. She graduated from the High School of Music and Art in 1940.

Ohta Seeger had an impact altogether apart from her husband. She

was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, as well as a volunteer, writer, filmmaker, potter and festival organizer. Her films are part of the Library of Congress’ collection, though she had no training as a filmmaker. At 85 years of age, she served as the executive producer of a documentary of her husband, Pete Seeger, *The Power of Song*, which won an Emmy Award.

In 1965, Ohta Seeger marched for civil rights with Dr. Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. In the 1970s and 1980s she pioneered environmental and accessibility changes at festivals, including providing wheelchair access, sign language interpretation and recycling.

She’s survived by her daughters, Tinya, of Beacon, New York, and Mika, of Tiverton, Rhode Island; son Daniel of Topanga, California; and her husband, Pete. Also, surviving her are eight grandchildren—Sonya Cramer, Rufus Cohen, Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, Cassandra Seeger, Kitama Cahill-Jackson, Moraya Degeare, Penny Bossom-Seeger, and Isabelle Bossom-Seeger—three great-grandchildren—Dio Cramer, Gabel Cramer, and Liam Oulton—as well as nieces and nephews of the Ohta, Dixon, and Seeger families.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her brother, Allen Homare Ohta; her sister, Aline Dixon; and a sister-in-law, Penny Seeger, whom she raised as a daughter.

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Get a Job

BY MAURI SCHWARTZ



The View asked Hill resident and career expert Mauri Schwartz to answer questions from job seekers.

Q: A recruiter friend of mine told me a story that really scared me. She said that her client was preparing to extend a job offer to one of her candidates after a round of successful interviews. As news of the offer was being communicated to my friend to forward to the candidate, the client received an email from the candidate thanking her for the opportunity to interview. Proper etiquette, right? However, in the candidate's message, she came across as arrogant, rude, and careless, as her message included misspellings and grammatical errors. The hiring manager changed his mind and rescinded the offer. This made me think that it'd be good to learn more about job search etiquette. Can you please share your advice on this topic?

A: I'm glad you asked, as this is a favorite topic of mine. There are four key areas of interaction to consider when conducting a job search.

Networking: Offer to help; focus on the give side of a two-way give and take exchange. When you make new contacts at networking events or reach out to your existing contacts, think first about how you can help them in their endeavors, whether they be career-related or not. Keep in mind that supporting someone in an effort automatically makes that person want to return the favor. I call this "Networking Karma."

Be respectful of your contact's time, and make it comfortable for that person to say "yes." Don't ask for a job; ask for advice. Everyone has advice, and is happy to give it. Furthermore, you're paying her a compliment by implying that she's an expert.

Everywhere I look, career experts are advising job seekers to ask for informational interviews. I agree with the concept, but disagree with the wording of the request. An informational interview conjures up a 30- to 60-minute meeting which resembles an interview but for which there's no open position that can be offered you. This can make your contacts feel somewhat uncomfortable, first about committing so much time and then for feeling that you expect more than they can give.

I'm not saying this is actually what you expect, but it's the thought process that often occurs. I say ask for a chat, which is defined as an 'informal conversation or talk conducted in an easy familiar manner,' and implies a much shorter amount of time, for which it will be easier to get someone to commit.

Face to Face: Everyone knows that you should be on time for a meeting; don't keep people waiting. If you're meeting that person in her office, you should also beware of arriving too early. Since you're a guest in her space, she may feel responsible for meeting with you earlier than planned and uncomfortable if she can't. If you're sitting in the reception area for a long time, you also make other people in the office uncomfortable, and you'll end up feeling awkward as well. Arrive only about five minutes before your designated meeting time.

Be prepared, know what you want to discuss and be clear about what you'd like for this person to do for you. Don't make them figure it out. Don't shove your resume in front of her and expect her to figure out what type of job you should seek.

Listen and be patient. Pay attention to what the person is telling you and show your appreciation for her insight without countering every suggestion with an excuse. I really don't have to say that your cell phone should be off and out of sight, do I?

On the Phone: Pretend this is a face-to-face meeting and follow all of my recommendations above. If you're leaving a voice message, make it short and to the point. Follow up with an email if you have a lot to say. I have a colleague who not only shows up early for all our meetings but calls a couple of minutes in advance of our scheduled phone appointments. This drives me crazy. I recommend that you call one or two minutes after your scheduled time to give the other person a chance to be ready for you.

In Writing: There'll be numerous occasions to send thank you messages. Always do so immediately after meeting with someone, whether it's an interview or networking. When you've landed your new position and your job search is over, don't forget to go back again and thank all those people who have helped you in any way. Whatever type of message you're sending—thank you notes, cover letters, or other correspondence—be polite and make sure that you thoroughly check for spelling and grammatical errors. Don't use texting-like abbreviations, such as BTW or FYI. And don't use texting or twitter to convey any of these messages. Texting is okay when the other person has used texting to contact you, but still beware of using texting abbreviations.

This month's lagniappe: When using a formal salutation that includes Ms. or Mr., follow it only with the person's last name. I am continually surprised by the number of people who will begin a letter with Dear Ms. Mauri Schwartz when the correct way is Dear Ms. Schwartz.

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Sept 6, 8, 14, 19

Theater: *StormStressLenz*

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7 Art: Catherine Clark Gallery Opening

Catharine Clark Gallery announces its inaugural exhibition at its new Potrero Hill location, 248 Utah Street. In honor of the new location and community, Catharine Clark has invited long-time gallery artist and California College of the Arts faculty member Anthony Discenza to curate an exhibition of artists associated with the school's Fine Arts program. The resulting exhibition *This is the Sound of Someone Losing the Plot* features the work of nine CCA alumni and faculty: Gareth Spor and Piero Passacantando; Bruno Fazzolari; Josh Greene; Stephanie Syjuco; Patricia Esquivias; Arash Favez; Lauren Marsden; and Kate Bonner. There'll be a walk-through of the exhibition at 3 p.m., guided by Anthony Discenza and several of the artists, before the opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m. Free. Catherine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah Street. Information: 399.1439, cclarkgallery.com

Sept 7, 14, 21, 28

Dance: Okeanos

Okeanos Intimate is a dance/circus portrait of the ocean as body, environment, resource, metaphor, and force. Watch dance inspired by science, and see how the dance/circus performance group not only consults with scientists, it workshops with them. This dance/circus performance incorporates choreography, apparatus, and set design by Capacitor Artistic Director Jodi Lomask and the voices of oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle and marine biologist Dr. Tierney Thys. Each night an ocean scientist will present a 15 to 20 minute talk prior to the performance. \$20-25. 7 p.m. door. The Bay Theater at the Aquarium of the Bay, Pier 39, The Embarcadero and Beach streets. Information: capacitor.org

12 Craft: Etsy Meet & Make—Craft Lab Sewing 101

Add sewing to your list of crafting super powers in this short drop-in workshop. Etsy expert, Rebecca Saylor of OodleBaDoodle will teach the basics of how to use a sewing machine. Choose from a variety of recycled materials, such as reclaimed denim or mod gingham. The simple pattern can be reused to create grocery bags, laundry bags, and more. Includes supplies, instruction and beverages sponsored by Lagunitas Brewing and Anchor Brewing Companies. Sewing machines and equipment sponsored by Bernina and Eddie's Quilting Bee, materials from FabMo. Registration recommended. Adults 21+. \$10. 7 to 9:30 p.m. No walk-ins after 8 p.m. Museum of Craft and Design, 2569 Third Street. Information: sfmcd.org or meetmakesewing101.eventbrite.com

12+13 Music: The 14th Annual San Francisco Electronic Music Festival

The 14th Annual San Francisco Electronic Music Festival is proud to offer four evenings of stimulating performances by internationally recognized composers, performers, and audio artists in the electronic music field. This year's lineup includes a wide array of electronic music pioneers, modern innovators, and emerging artists, ranging in diverse styles from noise to sound sculpture, free improvisation, ensemble composition, avant pop music, and video art. The featured artists utilize instruments such as analog synthesizers, home-brewed electronics, acoustic instruments and laptop patches. \$45. Check website for times and location. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street and California Academy of Science, 55 Music Concourse Drive. Information: sfemf.org

13+14 Film: Delusions of Grandeur at SF Latino Film Festival 2013

San Francisco is known as the home of progressive liberals and the free-spirited. It only makes sense that after quitting her depression medication, Lulu, a voluptuous, rebellious, grungy girl moves to the city to live with her transgender fairy godmother, Illusion. Bored by her job at a local coffee shop, Lulu leaves no stone unturned when it comes to her sexual lust. Meanwhile, Illusion searches for someone to love. With its avant-garde perspective, *Delusions of Grandeur* is a bright and colorful presentation of the struggle from adolescence into adulthood. Enjoy this local spin on the coming-of-age tale for a new generation. \$10-12. Check website for times and other movies in the festival. Information: sflatinofilmfestival.com/

15 Art: En Plein Air Painting Class

Paint the Golden Gate Bridge from Crissy Field with an experienced artist and instructor who will walk you through the painting process in this step-by-step painting class. Learn to create your own version of the Golden Gate Bridge while enjoying a beverage and socializing. No experience necessary. All supplies provided. Bring a beverage, friends, a date, or come and meet people. Meet at the Sports Basement at Crissy Field and walk across to find a gorgeous spot for painting the Golden Gate Bridge. \$35 online or \$40, same day. 2 p.m. Information: beyondthecanvassf.com, www.facebook.com/beyondthecanvassf

17 Fundraiser: Local acupuncturist and Wushu Champion, Brenda Hatley.

Support local acupuncturist Brenda Hatley at an amazing fundraiser at the Ramp. Replete with great food and raffle prizes, the proceeds will help Hatley to compete in Wushu (a style of martial arts) at the upcoming World Wushu Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 5 to 8 p.m. The Ramp, 855 Terry A Francois Blvd. Information: brendahatley.weebly.com

18 Walk: Japanese Full Moon Walk

Stroll through the garden as the enormous silvery full moon rises, giving night blooms a pearly glow. A docent naturalist will lead you to the most interesting night sights in the garden and followed by hot tea and cookies while contemplating the silvery disc in the moon viewing pond. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Check in at 6:30 p.m. Please be prompt, as the tour will leave at 7 p.m. Ticket: \$10-20. 7 p.m. San Francisco Botanical Garden, 1199 9th Avenue. Information: e414095@staticfiles.com

19 Live Radio Event: Bayview Opera House

The Bayview Opera House welcomes the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) and public radio station KALW to the historic Ruth Williams Memorial Theatre for *Sights and Sounds* of Bayview, an evening of live radio stories featuring remarkable people who live and work in the neighborhood. Bayview native Raquel Miller goes from street fighting teen to Olympic hopeful. A group of Bayview seniors gather for a weekly line dance class, sharing stories of empowerment and redefining what aging means to them. See these creative audio portraits performed live on stage, accompanied by original photography and music from Bayview residents, before they're broadcast on the radio. Hosted by Hana Baba, co-host of KALW's daily radio newsmagazine, *Crosscurrents*. Food and drink

provided by local merchants. Free. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Live multimedia storytelling starts at 7 p.m. Bayview Opera House, Ruth Williams Memorial Theatre, 4705 Third Street. Information: bvoh.org

21 Kids: Night Out in Japantown — Ninja Night

Bring your child and their friends for a romping fun time at Bay Jiu-Jitsu Japantown for self defense, games, jiu-jitsu, nerf guns, active play, movie, pizza, and more. The evening includes enough time for a nice adult dinner with the many restaurants in Japantown, and perhaps a movie. Tickets: \$40 for first child, \$25 for additional children. 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Bay Jiu-Jitsu, 1628 Post Street. Information: bayjiujitsu.com or 689.4181.

25 Health: Managing Stress: Sustaining a Healthy Mind and Body

The concept that exercise and good nutrition aid the body and relieves stress isn't a new idea. Join this informative forum to gain greater knowledge on the true impact of stress and hear innovative solutions that'll help you maintain a healthy mind and body. Visionary artist and Life Coach Wanda Whitaker and Dr. Marcus Penn, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SelfCare Reform/Wellness Consultancy/Healing will present topics such as, using nutrition to manage stress, the importance of movement; and how to stay healthy through mental and physical health. A light meal will be served. Proceeds go to the San Francisco Mental Health Education Fund, Inc. Tickets: \$25. Holiday Inn Civic Center, 50 Eighth Street. Information: e439920@staticfiles.com or brownpapertickets.com/event/439920

28 Community: Potrero Hill Democratic Club's Fifth Annual Party and Silent Auction

Enjoy food, drink, jazz music and great deals with local businesses at a party for the community and a fundraiser for the club's many educational and service-oriented activities. The club is the first community group to hold an event at the beautifully renovated Dogpatch Saloon. A live jazz trio will be featured, with fantastic local musicians, great food from club members and local eateries, and lots of items to bid on from the local merchants and artists. Free. No-host bar. 5 to 8 p.m. Dogpatch Saloon, 2496 Third Street. Information: PHDemClub.org or email contact_us@PHDemClub.org.

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Ibrahim "Abe" Michael

January 14, 1941 to August 1, 2013

Former M & M Market owner, Ibrahim "Abe" Michael, passed away peacefully at his home August 1. He was 72. Born to Nicola and Azizeh Michael in Ramallah, Palestine, Michael immigrated to the United States of America in 1967, the year the Six-Day War broke out in Israel. A year later he married his beloved wife, Laila Salim Freij, in Detroit, Michigan, and purchased the M & M Market at 23rd and DeHaro streets to start a better life away from war in his native land.

Before immigrating to the U.S., Michael taught physics in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Palestine, after earning a degree in agriculture at Khadouri College in Tul Karam, Palestine. He attended primary and secondary schools in Ramallah.

Michael retired from M & M Market in 2007. He struggled with health issues during the last years of his life, according to his daughter, Betty Kelleher. "Yet he never let any of his ailments get him down," Kelleher wrote in an obituary to the Palestinian community. "He was a fighter; never giving up hope that one day he would get better. Throughout his struggles he always maintained a smile on his face." Kelleher said her father was at the point of death nine times, and she and her siblings used to joke with him that he had nine lives. "He was a survivor and a go-getter," she said.

For 40 years Michael owned and operated the M & M Market with his wife. Kelleher said her father worked seven days a week, in difficult and dangerous conditions. He was held up a number of times. But despite the struggles, "my dad loved his customers," Kelleher said. The store had many visitors. "He was extremely generous, outgoing, friendly and funny," Kelleher wrote to her cultural community.



"Everyone who knew him loved and respected him."

Michael and his wife owned a house on Rhode Island Street, where they raised their three children. But Kelleher said she and her brother, Nick, and sister, Amal, spent more time at the store than at their home. Michael's wife passed in 1995, forging a tight bond among the surviving family members, Kelleher wrote in the obituary.

Michael also created community bonds. One was with Jack Jacqua, co-founder of the Omega Boys Club. "He was a real community person," Jacqua said. "He was there to help people." According to Jacqua, Michael made more than two thousand sandwiches for neighborhood kids during the time he owned the store. Michael also fed others in need, such as the homeless and people in poor health. "He was such a benevolent soul," Jacqua added.

In addition to work, he loved going to St. George's Orthodox Church in San Francisco. "His love and faith in God was pure," Kelleher wrote. "He was an active member of the church and Ramallah community. He attended all functions, shared his wisdom, and loved people unconditionally. His love and respect for others was unparalleled. His heart and home were always open, and he enjoyed spending time with all his family and friends."

"He was a wonderful guy," Kelleher said. "He was one of a kind, and will live in our hearts forever. May he rest in peace."

Michael is survived by eight brothers and sisters: Basma, Iffat, Janet, Widad Husary, Hanna, Simon, Jad and Fuad; his three children; one grandchild, Laila; and nieces and nephews. Donations in his memory can be made to the St. George Orthodox Church.

SCHOOL from page 6

can afford to send children to pricey schools.

Public schools within 94107 include Starr King Elementary, Daniel Webster, ISA, KIPP, and Downtown High School. Enrollment at these schools rose during the trough of the economic downturn; it's declined somewhat with the economic recovery. Last year, ISA had 402 students, and 409 students the year before, compared to 529 students in 2008. In 2006 and 2005 there were 421 and 470 ISA students, respectively. In contrast, Starr King Elementary has beefed up enrollment since the recession, growing from 290 students in 2008 to 358 students last year. In 2005 the school was struggling, with only 151 students in attendance.

An analysis of SFUSD enrollment by Berkeley-based Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, based on the 2009 school year, found that enrollment at district schools had declined throughout the 2000s until 2008, when registration rose. According to the report, "the economic recession could cause abnormal patterns, such as lowering the (relatively high) percentage of San Francisco children attending private schools." In 2008, 27 percent of City students attended private schools. The report found that "higher family income is the single most important characteristic of children in private schools, even when controlling for

race, place of birth, and area of residence."

The report also indicated that residential construction in Bayview-Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley and Mission Bay is bringing additional students to schools, and more development will attract school-age children into growing areas. According to district spokeswoman Heidi Anderson, school officials are anticipating growth in Southside neighborhoods. "SFUSD routinely studies the overall enrollment needs of the district," she wrote in an email, and "considers a range of options to accommodate any anticipated enrollment growth." She noted that school placement is not based on neighborhood, but on choice, and that the 94107 area is on track to accommodate any population spurts in the next year or so. The district is working with demographers, she wrote, and "development plans for Potrero Hill were not yielding students, but we are continuing to take a look at it."

Neighborhoods do have a role in determining whether a student goes the private or public route. The Demographic Research report found that, "The neighborhood in which children live makes a big difference in whether they attend private school. Children living in the northwestern part of the City are much more likely to attend private school than children in any other region." This trend is likely related to the high-income levels of residents in that part of the City.

A MONTHLY UPDATE
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VOLUME 36 • SEPTEMBER 2013



A Note from Steve, Potrero Garden Manager

Recently someone asked me, "What are you guys doing up there on Potrero Hill?"

This led me to reflect on what we have accomplished and to imagine what's to come. For over two years now, the Family Resource Center (FRC) Garden has gifted residents of the Potrero Terrace and Annex (PTA) with many pounds of fresh, organically grown produce. Tuesdays/Saturdays Garden workdays bring out a diverse group of PTA residents and other Potrero Hill dwellers that work together growing the bounty, sharing recipes, and telling stories about gardening with their grannies. Some are experiencing planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables for the first time. Others grew up in the South with families who sustained themselves on small farms and backyard gardens; they can't wait to get their hands back into the warm soil, and taste the fresh collards, onions, and tomatoes.



On Saturdays, we have monthly garden workshops for children and twice monthly for adults. Several apprentices have been hired to become stewards of the garden and spread their knowledge to others. Resident/apprentice Tanjika Kelly leads our seed saving program with hopes of collecting

our most valuable seeds for future use and distribution to other SF gardens. Our barrel garden program is inspiring residents to water their yards and plant other small gardens and flower beds.

A year ago, the Texas Street Farm was delayed. This simply inspired the gardening crew to seek out other areas to plant. A small, barren spot north of the FRC Garden raised beds has been transformed into a sunflower patch with fence trellised tomatoes, a row of pineapple guavas, and a squash bed with zucchini, yellow crookneck squash, zapallitos de tronco, and butternut squash. Amaranth and blue honeywort make the patch truly eye catching. The hillside north of the beds, which was first seeded by David Globber, the original garden manager, has been extended to the foot of the Texas Street Farm. This hillside has been turned into a virtual food forest with apple, fig, and mulberry trees. Native and perennial shrubs and flowers are also scattered throughout.

And now, the Texas Street Farm is being completed with 13 new raised beds. The promise of what the Farm will bring is truly exciting. Imagine the number of community members who will be fed with this new produce. Kevin Williams, one of the Garden Apprentices, exclaims "We are going to have the best garden in the city." These are lofty words, but who's to say we can't make it so?

A shout out to all of the PTA residents and neighbors who have participated in the garden program from its beginning and thank you to Recology who generously provided soil at no charge.

For more information, visit our website at rebuildpotrero.com or e-mail us at potrero@bridgehousing.com

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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Annex-Terrace Housing Complex Subject to Complaints about Crime

BY KEITH BURBANK

At about 1:10 p.m. on July 24, a man allegedly attempted to snatch a Potrero Hill resident's purse as she was riding the Number 10 Muni bus near the Potrero Annex-Terrace housing complex. The suspect allegedly sat behind the victim as she was riding the bus and started tugging on the strap of her purse, which was draped over the victim messenger-bag style. The suspect eventually pulled hard enough to pull the victim from her seat, but still unable to take the purse, gave up and fled. The attempted robbery took place at Dakota and 23rd streets.

According to the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the victim, in her 40s, suffered minor injuries, but refused medical attention at the scene. The suspect is described as an African-American male in his late teens or early 20s, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and baggy jeans. Police have examined the video from the bus to get a better description of the suspect. No arrests have been made.

The victim reported the incident on Nextdoor Potrero Hill, a neighborhood social networking site. Another Potrero Hill resident responded to the victim's posting by saying that he's infuriated by the attack because the police, politicians and Department of Housing and Urban Development know that there's an "entrenched criminal element" in public housing, and aren't

doing anything about the problem.

Asked about safety issues at Annex-Terrace, Bayview Station Captain Robert O'Sullivan said that there are gang members and people with arrest records who live in or frequent the complex, a few of whom are committing crime in the area. A study of drugs and crime by Terence Dunworth and Aaron Saiger found that "drug and violent offenses are severe problems in [public] housing developments."

The Nextdoor poster who spoke out about criminal incidents near Annex-Terrace also said that homeless encampments under Highway 101 and Interstate 280 are hideaways for criminals, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) hasn't been doing enough to break up the camps. Criminals can avoid being detected by police by staying in homeless encampments because of the sensitive political nature of homelessness, the resident said.

According to Caltrans public information officer Steve Williams, this year his agency has spent more than 800 hours and \$43,000 cleaning up homeless encampments under 280 from King Street to the 101 junction. The agency has removed 24 encampments, but can't keep the homeless from coming back. "We're doing the best that we can," Williams said. Williams added that Caltrans makes weekly sweeps through the City, and the agency has hired a contractor to help with the problem.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER, 2013 MONTHLY

ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD (AAB)

Notice is hereby given of 8 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call 415-554-6778 OR visit the Board of Supervisor's website at www.sfbos.org.

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Enrolling in WIC early in your pregnancy will give your baby a healthy start. Also, WIC staff can show you how you and your family can eat healthier. Migrants are welcome to apply as well.

San Francisco WIC has six offices throughout the City. For more information, call (415) 575-5788. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETINGS

Open to the Public; Tuesdays at 2:00pm at City Hall - Room 200

September 3, 10, 17, 24
October 1, 8, 22, 29

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Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Bayview Station, 201 Williams Avenue. Next meeting: September 3rd, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: September 10th. Voting membership is open to anyone living in or owning property or a business in Dogpatch. For more information or to join/pay online: mydogpatch.org

Green Benefits District Formation Committee Monthly Meeting is held at 6 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Planned meetings: September 9th and 23rd; October 14th; November 11th; December 9th. Community workshop meeting planned for October 12, location to be determined. For more information : phd-gbd.org

McKinley Square Community Group is a communication and discussion group regarding events and activities, clean up days, improvement and beautification, and other concerns, such as crime in the neighborhood. MSCA board meets approximately quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month. Look to the online discussion group for postings of upcoming meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/McKinleySquareCommunity>. Locations vary between the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and Downtown High School. For updates, including sustainable gardening and park workdays, and our grant progress, check out the MSCA blog at: <http://mckinleysquareblog.blogspot.com>.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:45 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: www.potreroboosters.org or email president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: September 24th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Dogpatch Merchant's Association meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: September 10th, 10 a.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: September 3rd, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

Starr King Open Space The third Saturday of each month neighbors and friends of SKOS are welcome to get down and dirty while sprucing up the open space. Come learn about our native flower's while being a steward for our land. For more information: www.starrkingopenspace.org; email the Board of Directors at starrkingboard@gmail.com; voice mail 415-6336-SKO (756).

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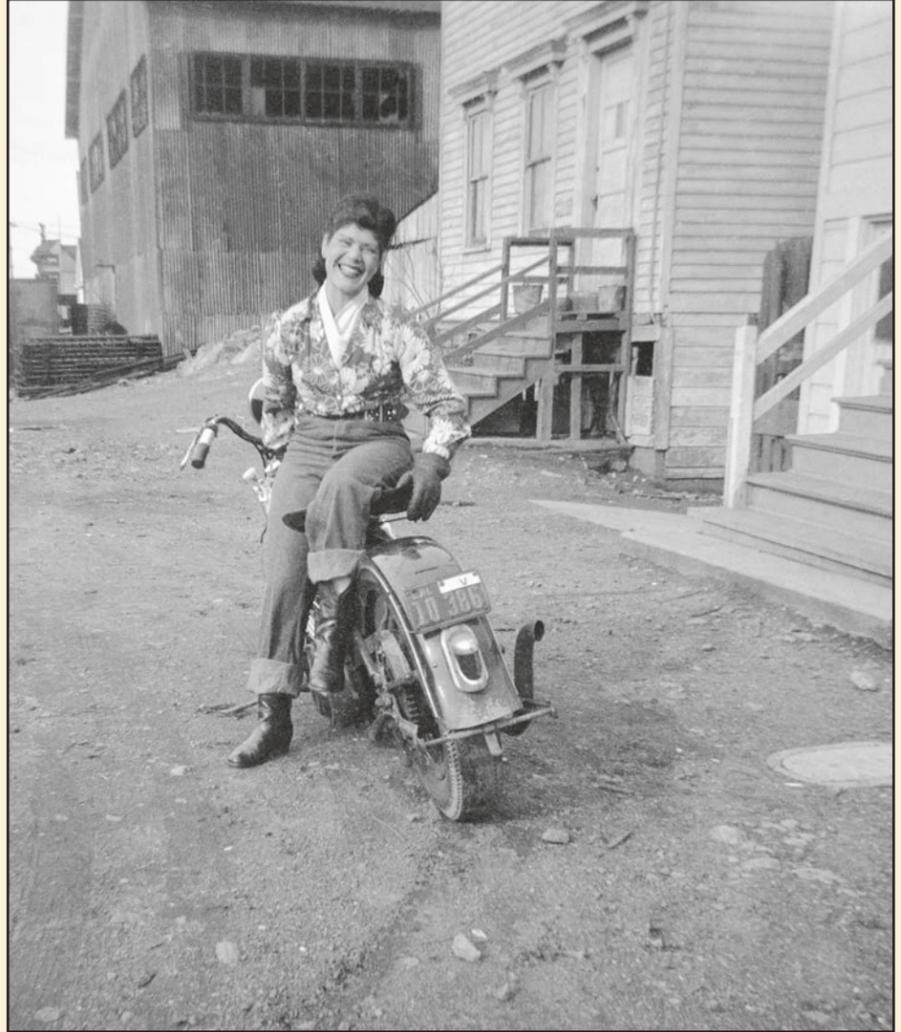
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A VIEW FROM THE PAST:

Gramma the Biker Girl

Shortly after his grandmother died, Roy Heinze dusted off an old family album he didn't recall having seen before. It was full of photos he *knew* he hadn't seen before, almost all of them featuring his grandmother on motorcycles. In this 1940s photo, she's astride a Harley, in front of her house at 997 Iowa Street, where she lived from the early 1940s until construction of the freeway in the 1960s reduced most of Iowa Street to rubble. Roy knew his Gramma Bette had led a somewhat unconventional life in her younger years, but he never dreamed she'd been a biker girl! When Roy was a kid in the late 1950s and early 1960s, visiting her on Iowa Street, the motorcycles were long gone, and Gramma Bette had mellowed into a doting grandmother, if not exactly the cookie-baking sort. She had an affectionate Italian nickname for him, which he later discovered meant "disheveled one." Roy remembers his family driving up from Daly City to visit Gramma, and knowing when he saw the huge Pacific Gas and Electric Company tank on Pennsylvania Avenue that they'd soon be there. Her house, across the street from the railroad tracks, shook alarmingly when the new diesel-powered trains roared by. Gramma Bette was born Josephine Dileo in 1915. When she married Louis Firpo in 1931, there was already a Josephine Firpo in the family; Louis's sister. So the young wife experimented with other names for herself before settling on Bette, perhaps in tribute to another free spirit,



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ROY HEINZLE

actress Bette Davis. Bette and Louis's marriage, which produced two children—one of them Roy's mother—did not last long. But some thirty years after their breakup, Bette and Louis reunited as friends, attending, with their respective spouses, family parties and often speaking Italian to each other, as they did in the old days. Louis died in 1967; Gramma Bette in 1999.

—Abigail Johnston, Potrero Hill Archives Project.



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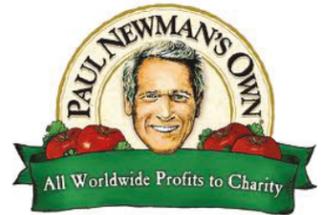
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16.9 oz. -reg 12.79

\$7.99



Wallaby Low Fat Yogurts



All Flavors
6 oz. -reg 1.49

99¢



Crystal Geyser Sparkling Water

All Flavors
1.25 Liter -reg 1.45

99¢ +Tax + CRV



Kettle Brand Potato Chips

All Varieties
8.5 oz. -reg 3.89

2/\$5



Post Honey Bunches of Oats

All Varieties
18 oz. -reg 4.99

\$2.99

Sea's Gift Seaweed Snacks

0.17oz. -reg .95

4/\$3



Clover Organic Half Gallons

64 oz. -reg 3.99

2/\$7



Clover Cage-Free Brown Eggs

One Dozen -reg 4.49

\$3.99



Sale Prices effective September 3 - 22, 2013



The GOOD LIFE GROCERY

