

The Semaphore

A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

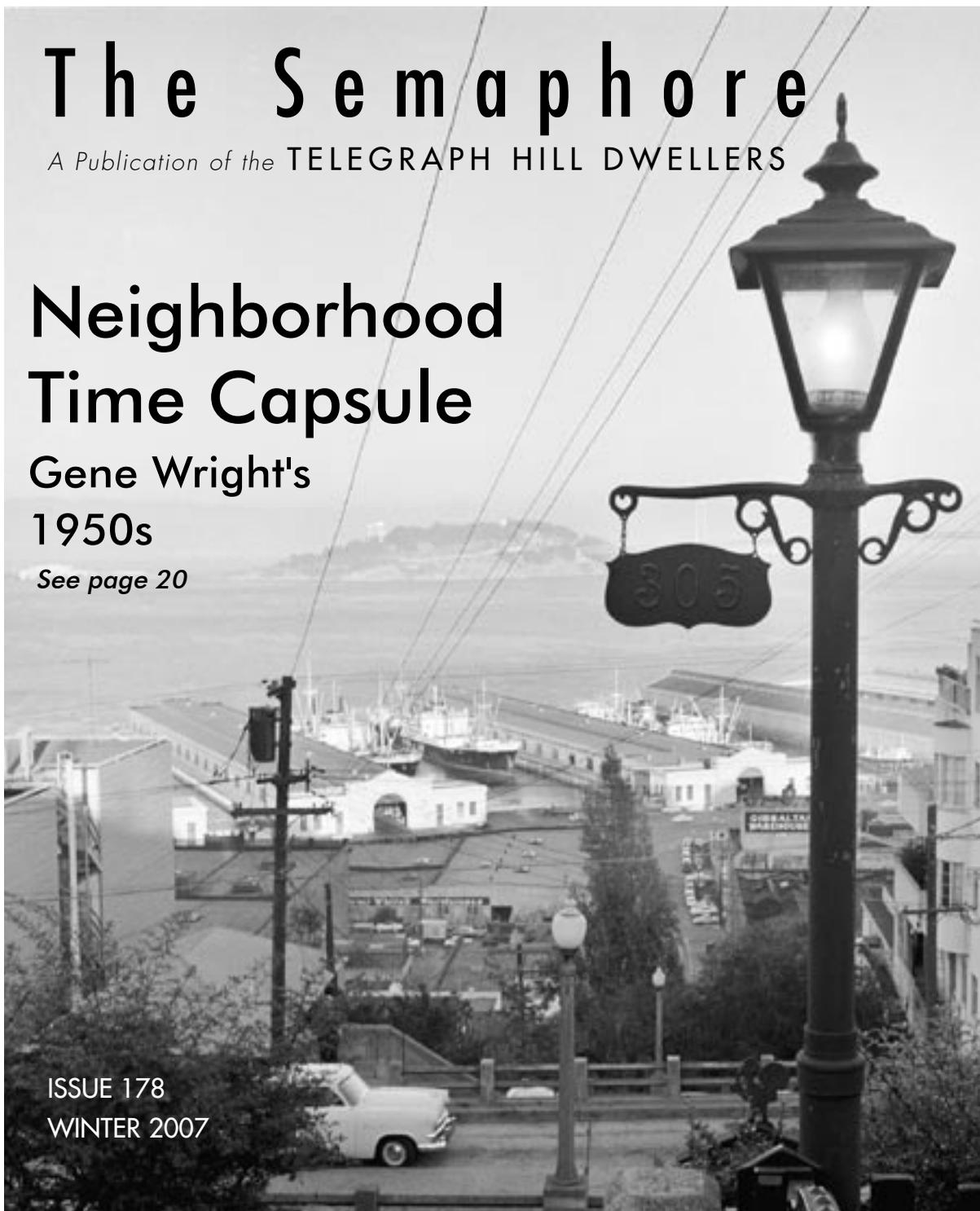
Neighborhood Time Capsule

Gene Wright's
1950s

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ISSUE 178

WINTER 2007





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SEMAPHORE STAFF:

EDITOR: Art Peterson, 101A Telegraph Hill, 956-7817, apeterson@writingproject.org .
 COPY EDITOR: Tony Long, 362-8363 alittlechinmusic@yahoo.com
 AD SALES: Kathleen Cannon, 776-6014, cannonpk@aol.com
 BUSINESS MANAGER: Gail Switzer, 341 Filbert, 788-8667, gail_switzer@yahoo.com
 TYPESETTING/DESIGN: Chris Carlsson, Cloverleaf Productions., 608-9035 cc@chrisarlsson.com

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



by Vedica Puri

It is always difficult to find those special folks willing to donate untold numbers of hours and boundless energy to a purely volunteer-run organization. Each year, THD's nominating committee has just that thankless task. By the time this *Semaphore* reaches you, the committee (to be nominated and elected by the Board at its February, 2007 meeting) would have begun its work to prepare a slate for your consideration at the April, 2007 elections/membership dinner.

At that same dinner, the membership will vote on a proposed amendment to the THD's by-laws proposed by member Marc Bruno. The proposal would impose terms limits on the few Board members not already subject to terms limits and also make it impossible—once anyone has served six years—for that person to ever serve on the Board again.

This is a draconian rule to impose on an organization that lives and breathes by the grace of its volunteers. A majority of the 17 Board positions are already subject to term limits under the current by-laws. The Board positions not limited in term are recording secretary, treasurer, historian, financial secretary and editor of the *Semaphore* newsletter. It is hard enough to find volunteers willing to fill these positions, but to then oust them and/or other Board members simply because they have served 6 years—forever and ever—would ruin any continuity and depth the Board has managed to gain.

Regardless of how or why the amendment was proposed, it ends up targeting a few long-standing and respected Board members for seemingly no reason.

Under our bylaws, the act of submitting a petition signed by 18 members to the President requires me to call a special membership meeting, in this case, for the purpose of voting on the amendment.

Less than three-dozen members of the approximately 800 members of THD have requested a special meeting to consider the proposed term limit amendment. It is the strength of our organization that any 18 members who see a need for amendment can call for a special meeting to vote their idea up or down. Whether those who signed the petition understood the organization's history or the conflicts the proposed amendment sets up with other sections of the by-laws is not clear. Since the petition was submitted, a number of those who signed the petition have since expressed their intent to withdraw their names from the petition not having understood its practical effect or intent.

The decision is ultimately one to be voted upon by the membership at large at the special meeting, which I intend, at this time, to set for the same time as our annual April dinner. As my one-year term comes to a close that night, I want to say how humbled I am to have served this intelligent, hard-working and caring of a group in any way I could. Much has been accomplished this year: social events are back in full swing, we have made neighborhood

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

merchants a key priority, our website is updated and the *Semaphore* rocking and rolling like never before.... a full-time job sometimes prevents us from doing all we wish we could. I certainly have many things remaining on my to-do list and hope to continue on and complete them.

To all the members who have thought about contributing—we'd love to hear from you. And to those members always doing more than their fair share—a heartfelt thank you. ❖

MEETING ON BYLAW PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED

At a special meeting to coincide with the April general membership dinner, the following change to the THD bylaws will be considered and voted on. The meeting and vote are required by our bylaws in response to a petition submitted by more than 18 members of THD in good standing.

'No Member of the Board of Directors shall serve more than a total of four years. Any member of the Board of Directors may, no less than three years after the expiration of said four year term limit, become a member of the Board of Directors for an additional period of time, not to exceed two years. Any Immediate Past President of Telegraph Hill Dwellers shall be allowed to serve the subject four year term immediately followed by a total of two additional years solely to fill the office of Immediate Past President.'

This amendment shall not take effect until the election to be held at the next annual meeting."

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF THE BYLAW AMENDMENT

By Kathleen Dooley

Each year, worthy candidates are turned away from positions on the THD Board due to the small number of openings on the Board. This situation is the result, in part, of the current term-limit bylaws.

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FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR PESKIN



Earlier this month I had the honor and privilege of being chosen President of the Board of Supervisors for a second two-year term. Although District 3 is never far from my thoughts, and I endeavor to provide the best constituent services my office can offer, the job of Board President requires a city-wide focus. I wanted to use this issue of the Semaphore to share with you some of what I said at the inaugural meeting of this new Board.

My new term as Board President offers an opportunity to review what we've done, and where I hope we'll go. What we have accomplished is by any standard significant, and I have every confidence that we will continue to move the city forward on issues of concern to our citizens: affordable housing, health care, public safety, transportation, parks and open space, cultural institutions and the arts, fiscal responsibility and the economic health and vitality of San Francisco. Whether by providing a universal health care program, by strengthening the inclusionary housing program to create more affordable housing for working class San Franciscans, by requiring police walk the streets and make use of community policing practices, by adopting budget practices to fund essential services where the state and federal governments refuse to pay their fair share, by asking voters if they believe that working people deserve paid sick time – as over 60% said

they do, or by setting controls on chain stores so our beloved neighborhood small businesses can continue to exist, we—and the voters of San Francisco—have been in the forefront of enacting laws which California, and then the nation follows.

As we begin a New Year at City Hall, there is much work to be done:

Let's commit to better serving our senior and aging community. As the federal government struggles to implement a disorganized drug benefit program, San Francisco seniors on fixed incomes are spending more and more on prescription medication. Our Board will move to create a program leveraging the power of group purchasing to reduce prescription drug costs for an increasingly burdened group of our citizens.

Let's commit to continued vigilance on public safety issues. Our Board of Supervisors respects and supports the men and women of the San Francisco Police Department who put their lives on the line for our safety everyday. The members of the Board extend their deepest condolences and heartfelt gratitude to the families and colleagues of the officers who fell in the line of duty this year. We will continue to demonstrate that support by funding the city's public safety needs. At the same time, we will continue

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From the Desk of Supervisor PESKIN

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to explore innovative public safety strategies. While we, the police and the mayor may sometimes have different ideas, we all share the same goal of a safer San Francisco. And at the end of this calendar year, as the pilot foot patrol program comes to an end, we will take a close look at its record in dialogue with the Police Department as we consider the future of real community policing in this City.

Let's commit to fairness and equity in our city's tax structure. The current system continues to penalize job creation by relying on a payroll tax instead of a gross receipts system. We must move towards a tax structure that encourages jobs and requires corporations contribute their fair share. This is a fundamental issue that has been bogged down with stale rhetoric from vested interests. Let's have an open conversation about a complex issue for the betterment of all San Francisco.

Let's fill the potholes and run the buses on time. This year the Board allocated over 30 million dollars to repair our roads and an unprecedented amount of money for the city's infrastructure. Deferred maintenance on our roads and publicly owned buildings must become a thing of the past. Addressing the needs of our transportation providers will help ensure that San Francisco is the beneficiary of state and federal funding and bond money. As we celebrate the opening of the Third Street Light Rail, we must move forward the Central Subway and Bus Rapid Transit systems along Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard.

Today in our city there are entire neighborhoods that haven't felt the lift of prosperity and good luck many San Franciscans enjoy. For many, market-rate housing has become inaccessible; longstanding tenants are evicted from their homes and their city. Public school enrollment has declined, and the well-to-do have turned their backs on our public education system. Health care costs continue to skyrocket. While the Board has worked hard, we can still do more to help San Franciscans in need.

As I begin my new term as President, I ask each of you to be the eyes and ears of my office, pointing out where the City can be doing better, and where we are not doing enough. As always please don't hesitate to contact me (554-7450 or <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>) or my staff, Rose Chung (554-7453 or <rose.chung@sfgov.org>) and David Noyola (554-7451 or <david.noyola@sfgov.org>). See you at the café or around the neighborhood. And you are always welcome to come visit at City Hall where we promise you the grand tour. Call and take us up on it. Best wishes for the New Year.



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PLANNING & ZONING REPORT



Prepared by Nancy Shanahan and members of the Planning and Zoning Committee

BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (Broadway NCD):

Formation of Broadway Corridor Subcommittee.

The P&Z Committee has established a Broadway Corridor Subcommittee, chaired by Director Mike Madrid, to focus on the many major issues and concerns of this area as they impact the residents of Telegraph Hill and North Beach. The new subcommittee will address issues related to entertainment permits and licenses of businesses on Broadway, and also work with the Police Department to address other important topics. Mayor Newsom has made improving the situation on Broadway a priority, but local residents need to voice their opinions concerning the future of this area. Mike is actively seeking the support and participation of THD members willing to become involved. For too long, Broadway has just been considered a nightlife area, and it's often forgotten that individuals and families live nearby, and that they deserve a safe environment. The issues that are happening on Broadway influence not just those that live on this side of Telegraph Hill, but the quality of life for all of its residents.

515-525 Broadway (Hollywood Hustler's).

Proposal to renovate the façade of this building and open a new "Hollywood Hustler" store at this site, which was previously a restaurant. THD is concerned not only with the proposed changes to the building's façade, but also about the over saturation of such "Adult" uses, as this may affect crime on the Broadway corridor.

556 Broadway (Big Al's Adult Books & Video).

The Planning Department has issued a Notice of Alleged Violation to Big Al's regarding their hours of operation. They have been operating between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM without the required Conditional Use Authorization.

NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (NBNCD):

1429 Grant (Knitz & Leather). THD has learned

that Knitz & Leather, a small retail business at this location for over 19 years, has received an eviction notice.

1435 Stockton (A. Cavalli & Co., Italian Booksellers). A. Cavalli & Co., in business in North Beach as an Italian language bookstore since the early 1880's, is one of the oldest retail establishments in the City. Its new owner has filed an application for a Conditional Use Authorization to allow for the use of this space as a small self-service restaurant, serving coffee, wine & beer, salads and other food products.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS:

30 Edith. Proposal to replace the existing 2-story building with a 4-story structure. Due to the narrow width of this ally (17-ft wide) and impacts to the character of this block, many nearby neighbors, with the support of THD and the Planning Department, are urging the elimination of the proposed 4th floor, even though it would be within the 40 ft height limit.

249 & 251 Chestnut. Concurrent proposals to expand both of the 2 existing structures on a single lot would require would a rear yard variance. Neighbors are concerned with the cumulative impacts of these projects on their block, particularly on the mid-block open space.

1320 Kearny. Proposal to replace the existing 2-story building with a new 40-ft high single-family structure. The project sponsors and their architect, working collaboratively with the P & Z Committee on height, envelope, design and surface materials, have developed a preliminary design that will be compatible with its North Beach setting.

1131 Montgomery. Proposal to make a 2-story 3,250 sq. ft. addition to the rear of the existing 1,090 sq. ft. cottage, built in 1906. Committee wants the cottage to be preserved and any additions to the rear to be sensitive to the proportions and style of the 1906 cottage, as well as to the materials of the historic cottage. Nearby neighbors are also concerned that the mass of the proposed addition at the rear will block light and air.

1420 Montgomery. Proposal to make exterior changes to this 1960 Gardner Daly building includes changing

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PLANNING & ZONING

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the existing pattern and configuration of windows and adding a 4,000 sq ft roof deck containing a kitchen and dining area. Issues to be addressed include impact of proposed exterior changes to character of original Gardner Daly design and whether the mass of the roof top additions would block views from the public right of way or from homes on upper Montgomery. The P & Z Committee has requested that “story poles” be put up to show the envelope of the proposed roof top additions so that impacts can be accurately assessed.

115 Telegraph Hill Blvd. A preliminary proposal for the development of this vacant site on the Filbert steps between Kearny and Coit Tower (formerly occupied by the Bill Bailey Cottage and approximately 11 residential units) would maximize the allowable building envelope. Because Committee members believe that the initial issue to be addressed regarding any development on this site is the impact on public views from Pioneer Park, the Committee suggested that the developer begin by determining what building envelope and configuration would preserve public views from Pioneer Park. In addition, the Committee wants to ensure that any proposed design on this site is compatible with Telegraph Hill architecture, scale and character.

OTHER PROPOSALS:

City College Chinatown/North Beach Campus

Project (Washington & Kearny). A proposal by City College to construct a 17-story, 238-foot high building at this location to house a new Chinatown/North Beach campus. The proposed building, designed by architects EHDD and Barcelon & Jang to represent water, would be constructed of jade green glass in a curvilinear in shape above a 4-story rectangular base. Issues and questions raised by THD include the fact that the proposed building far exceeds the height limit, how the building’s design would integrate into the neighborhood, possible glare from the glass, the amount of shade cast by the building upon Portsmouth Square, and traffic concerns—only 50 parking spots are proposed, all for faculty. Letters of concern have been sent by Chinatown Community Development Corp. (CCDC), numerous individual residents and organizations of Chinatown and the Hilton Hotel.

Washington Square Lighting Project. A project to be financed by the SF Public Utilities Commission and managed by the Department of Rec and Park proposes to increase lighting in Washington Square Park by adding 11 new light posts consistent in appearance with the existing 7. The next step will be to present the proposed new lighting scheme to the community for input and review—the date and place to be announced. In the meantime, we recommend that residents visit

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1620 Montgomery St. (Del Monte Milling Co. Bldg). As previously reported, there are plans to demolish this 1907 building and replace it with a 9-story condominium complex. The building is included on the Landmarks Board work plan for potential designation as a landmark. In a victory for the neighborhood, the Landmarks Board rejected as inadequate the developer’s report endeavoring to prove that the building was not historic. However, the application to demolish the building remains on file and fundraising efforts are underway to pay for the necessary research for designating the building as a Landmark. If you are interested in participating in the efforts to save this building, please contact Friends of Del Monte c/o Susan Lee at 152 Lombard St #509, SF CA 94111 or email Susan Lee <leereetz@pacbell.net>.



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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF THE BYLAW AMENDMENT continued from page 4

The proposed bylaw changes will allow for the election of more new Board members each year and ensure that a larger number of community members have the opportunity to serve on the Board of THD. These changes mean that the Board will continue to be vital and reflective of the diverse nature of the community it represents. The proposed changes will allow Board members to serve a reasonable length of time on the Board. The existing bylaws, although seeming to set specific limits on the length of time any director may serve on the Board, in fact, allow directors to remain on the Board indefinitely. Although a director is limited to serving 2 consecutive 2 year terms, the present bylaws allow a director to serve an open-ended period of time by also serving additional terms as President, vice-president, corresponding secretary, or unlimited, renewable one year terms as recording secretary, treasurer, Semaphore editor, membership secretary and historian. They may also be re-elected as a director again if they serve a term in an executive position after their 2 consecutive terms as director end. In theory, by moving between these different positions, one could remain permanently on the Board, something I think we can all agree does not necessarily benefit THD or the community it serves. Too often our organization and its Board in particular, has been perceived as insu-

lar. Whether or not this is true, the new term limits would actively encourage Board members to reach out into the community to recruit potential new Board members, involving a much larger pool of members to participate in THD at the leadership level. Under the proposed amendment, one would be able to serve 2 terms total on the Board in any position from director to President. If a member serves a term as President, he or she will be eligible to serve an additional term on the Board in the position of "immediate past President". After serving 2 terms on the Board, one would be termed out and ineligible for a position on the Board for a period of 3 years and then would be eligible again for one more 2 year term. Leaving the Board in no way prevents a member from continuing to be vitally involved in the organization. Many former directors serve in important capacities such as committee members and chairs, where most of the work of THD is done, and their ongoing participation is invaluable to THD. The proposed term limit bylaw change is a fair approach which will allow THD to continue to attract new members, both to the Board and to the general membership and encourage more community members to actively participate in the vital work THD performs in our neighborhood. ✦

ARGUMENT OPPOSING THE BYLAW AMENDMENT

By Gerry Crowley

Background:

For more than fifty years, THD's all volunteer Board of Directors has been serving the interests of the residents of Telegraph Hill and North Beach with great success. I am writing to enumerate the reasons to vote against this misguided attempt to change to THD's bylaws.

Over the last half century many members have served more than 6 years on the Board, some as many as ten years, at least one for a dozen. All have been devoted volunteers, serving with integrity, and

holding the neighborhood's best interests at heart. The amendment to the by-laws proposed by member Marc Bruno would have the effect of forever precluding any Board member who has served a cumulative total of 6 years from *ever* serving again.

THD's bylaws already have term limits for most of its 17 positions. The notion of limiting terms may be inherently appealing as a way to encourage new volunteers willing to serve the interests of our community. That is probably the reason the original THD bylaws included provisions governing the

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NEW CLUB TAKES ROOT

Kathleen Dooley, former THD director, is in the process of forming a new neighborhood organization, The North Beach Garden Club.

The club will engage in such activities as hooking up elderly and disabled gardeners in North Beach/ Telegraph Hill with neighborhood gardeners without gardens who would like to lend a helping hand. Dooley feels this is a great way to introduce

neighbors who share a common interest in a way that benefits not only garden owners but the community at large. If you know someone who needs help in their garden or someone who would be interested in teaming up to work with one of these gardeners, please send an e-mail to nbgc@mindspring.com or leave a message at 415-433-6932.

The organization will also be beginning a yearly North Beach Garden Tour, which will feature visits

continued on next page

PLANNING & ZONING

Washington Square at night to assess the present lighting situation.

WATERFRONT:

The Committee is planning to organize a Community Workshop on the Public Trust Doctrine and Public Financing mechanisms in relation to the development of our Waterfront.

Piers 27-31. The latest development proposal—by SF Piers LLC (Shorenstein Properties and Farallon Capital Partners)—was presented to the Committee in December 2006. Many questions were raised and the project sponsors will be invited to return with their architects to present more specific plans for a proposed new structure on Pier 27 and the restoration of the historic Piers 29 and 31. Clarification is needed as to the amount and types of recreational uses to be included in relation to the proposed 440,000 sq feet of private office space. A recent letter from the State Lands Commission, finding the amount of proposed office space not consistent with the public trust

doctrine, raises questions as to the viability of the project. Another key issue is the over \$80 million in public financing the Port intends to provide this project through the issuance of bonds in what promises to be an extremely complicated set of financial transactions. Approval of the development memo (specifying the precise uses for the space) was on the Port Commission's January 9th agenda. However, in light of concerns expressed by several neighborhood groups regarding outstanding issues, this hearing was taken off calendar and has not yet been rescheduled.

Piers 1 1/2, 3 & 5. "The Piers" project, which rehabilitated these 3 historic piers and opened up 1000 feet of bay frontage to public use, is now officially complete and open to the public. Be sure to check it out on your way to the Farmers Market.

Hornblower/Alcatraz Ferry Service. Labor disputes continue between the unions and Hornblower Cruises & Events, the new National Park Service concessionaire for ferry service to Alcatraz. ❖

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WOLO—OUR NORTH BEACH BOHEMIAN

By Rozell Overmire

Wolo. Does that name ring a bell? To me it means puppet shows and books like “Amanda,” “The Secret of the Ancient Oak,” “Friendship Valley,” “The Children’s Music Box” and “The Hippo Cook Book” that I read in my childhood. It also means greeting cards for Christmas and birthdays, illustrated by Wolo with his whimsical book characters. Then there were the wonderful murals at the Hippo hamburger restaurant on Van Ness Avenue, signed Wolo. That was all in the mid-1950s and early ‘60s.

Wolo’s illustrations are still found

in North Beach. You can see them at the entrance and just inside the door at Vesuvio Café on Columbus Avenue. Wolo used to park his 1930 Model A Ford—Amanda, embellished with his decorative handiwork—outside Vesuvio. He was also a patron of the New Pisa Restaurant and did wall paintings there.



The idea of street chalk paintings in North Beach came from Wolo, when he started encouraging children to decorate city sidewalks with their drawings for the Upper Grant Avenue Street Fair in 1974. We continue this tradition for the yearly Columbus Avenue Parade weekend. When Wolo turned 81 in 1983, the Upper Grant

GARDEN CLUB *continued from page 13*

to amateur and professionally designed neighborhood gardens. Dooley comments, “I’m sure we would all love to take a peek inside of some of the many special garden nooks that prosper in our sunny part of the City.”

According to Dooley, future projects will also include seasonal plant sale/exchanges along with the occasional field trip to special Bay Area nurseries and gardens. Another goal of the organization will be to create a North Beach garden tool lending library and a blog for gardeners seeking advice from each other and sharing their special challenges and success stories.



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The first club meeting will be scheduled sometime in April to elect a founding board of directors and decide how to proceed with implementing the goals mentioned here, along with vetting other ideas from club.

Interested? Contact Kathleen Dooley at the e-mail or phone above with your questions and ideas. She would like to speak with all who are interested in “beautifying our neighborhood, meeting new friends, and sharing the wealth of gardening knowledge that lurks on our hill!”



Avenue Fair was dedicated to him.

The ever-creative, ambidextrous Wolo lived in North Beach from the early 1930s into the '80s and had a portrait studio, Happy Things, at 1721 Grant. He built a swing there so he could think things over when he worried. In a niche was a painting of two open hands holding a star that pierced the bleeding palms. In a 1965 interview with the Chronicle, Wolo said the painting represented talent, "a gift that shines but also hurts, a curse and a blessing at the same time." Lettie Connell Schubert, a well-known American puppeteer, staged informal puppet shows in the studio's display window.

Wolo's real name, an impossibly long one, was Wolf Erhardt Anton Georg Trutzschuler van Falkenstein. His sister, who as a child could not pronounce "Wolf," called him Wolo, and the name stuck. Though Wolo spent 58 years in San Francisco, he was born in Germany in 1902. His father was

an aristocrat, a baron. His mother divorced the baron and married the Swiss vice-ambassador to Germany. His step-father coolly sent Wolo to a military academy when he was 5, refusing to let his mother keep him.

At 21, Wolo won an agricultural scholarship to the University of Wisconsin and escaped to the United States. He made his way to Los Angeles and had a small studio on Olvera Street. There he met his future wife, Lydia Roth, a kindergarten teacher. By

1931, Wolo was a permanent resident and the couple came to San Francisco. By 1937 he was a U.S. citizen with two children, Buddy and Betsy.

Making a living was difficult for Wolo because he had so many ideas and talents. He worked as a farmer, a milkman, a private secretary, a salesman and an advertising artist, but he really just wanted to be an artist. In 1933, after 10 years of work, he had a portfolio of 9,000 portrait caricatures.

The Chronicle hired him to sketch caricatures of people he saw on the street. His column was called "I Saw You." If the subject appeared at the Chronicle



Wolo's work graces the Vesuvio entrance.

and identified himself, he was given \$5. Wolo's break came in December 1942 when he had a show of his sketches at the Paul Elder Bookstore. That got him a book illustration contract with Thayer Hobson, president of William Morrow book publishers. Wolo wrote and illustrated five children's books in the 1940s.

Wolo's books led to a series of lectures and a new career as a puppeteer. Before his

lectures he would draw sketches and distribute them to his audience. Then, he let his puppets do the lecturing. He performed puppet shows on KPIX-TV in San Francisco, as well as in Los Angeles. He believed that color TV (he worked in the black-and-white era) would create a renaissance in American art. His puppetry made an appearance in the movie 1950s film "Lili."

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PARKS & TREES REPORT



by Joe Butler

News is everywhere this winter: in the parks, in the streets, on the sidewalks, as well as under the parks, streets and sidewalks. Let's start with the parks:

In December, Lizzie Hirsch of the Recreation and Parks Department presented a new lighting plan for Washington Square Park. Thanks to a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission grant arranged by Robert Mittlestadt, Lizzie is working as a landscape architect on a plan to augment the pole lighting at the pedestrian path entrances to the park.

The existing pole lights, and in-ground uplights installed in the last round of lighting improvements, will be separated into two circuits. The 11 new pole lights will enable each fixture to have lower wattage than the existing fixtures, which cause glare. The Department will create a lighting model to test the proposed wattages to determine the optimum combination of low wattage and enough light for safety.

Lizzie, our longtime neighbor and a veteran of the Pioneer Park project, is being transferred from Rec-Park to the Department of Public Works. We are joining the Friends of Washington Square Park and the North Beach Merchants Association in requesting that Lizzie be able to continue as the project manager until the lighting plan has been implemented.

Brian Goggin, a San Francisco artist, is making news in the streets. As part of the 2% for Art program for the Broadway Street improvements, Brian has conceived a flock of books taking off from the triangle plaza at the foot of the North Beach mural in the Broadway, Grant and Columbus Avenues intersection. (See story on page 18.)

The sidewalks around Washington Square have begun to breed news racks.

Every day, it seems there are more and more boxes which do little for the park, create a source of

litter, and often end up in the street after storms and vandals have their way. We are working with the Friends of Washington Square Park, Renew SF, and the North Beach Merchants Association to have DPW install new low-profile fixed pedestal news racks, and limit their locations, preferably on the sidewalks across the streets from the park.

Finally, even Muni has a new idea: Let's get underground! The new Third Street light rail, which runs from the Bayview to Mission Bay, is projected to go underground along Fourth Street, near Bryant. It will then head for Market Street, Union Square and Chinatown as a subway. The Chinatown station will be located on Stockton Street, between Clay and Washington. When the pair of side-by-side tunnel boring devices finally arrive after digging their way under downtown, the contractor will need to extract for other projects the valuable bullet-shaped tunnel boring devices known as "moles."

The current proposal is to bring these moles out of a shaft dug down to the tunnels, not in Chinatown, but in North Beach. The reasoning: There is less congestion here and they would encounter less infrastructure as well. Then there is the intended benefit of giving North Beach a leg up for a future extension of the subway into our neighborhood and on to Fisherman's Wharf.

If you have interest in, or comments on, any of these projects, let us know: 776-9416.

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Wolo preferred the world of children, where there was no “war, jealousy, crookedness, and lack of trust,” as he told a Chronicle interviewer in 1967. “You must have an antenna to heaven,” the interviewer said. And indeed he did. Wolo brought a bit of that heaven to earth through his murals in Children’s Hospital, the Stanford Convalescent Home for Children, and the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in the Expectant Father’s Waiting Room (called the Torture Chamber Mural).

Like the children of his world, food was high on Wolo’s list. He was a pancake artist, but his is favorite dish was duck marinated in



By Wolo for Rozell Overmire's sister Diana from Aloysius, a favorite Wolo puppet.

brandy, several wines and cooked in an earthenware pot with three pounds of mushrooms. He insisted that it be served with the finest crystal, best linen and fancy silver. Wolo was an artist but he disdained the bohemian trappings. “Hobohemians are phonies who give Bohemians a bad name,” he said in a 1953 interview with the *Call Bulletin*. “They sit around with long hair, unwashed, and drink pink tea.”

Wolo died in 1989 at Laguna Honda Hospital. He was a grandfather three times over and a great-grandfather six times. His work is preserved at the Norton Simon

Museum in Pasadena—and in the memories of his admirers.



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PELLEGRINI

A NEW FLOCK OF "BIRDS" SOO

by Marv Kasoff, for RENEW SF

Remember when San Franciscans gathered at the intersection of Columbus and Broadway, blowing moo-cow horns, and watching lights in the sky from Chinatown's semi-legal fireworks displays, celebrating the New Year or the triumph of the San Francisco Forty-Niners? That intersection has been our little Times Square, and remains the crossroads of the many worlds which form the warp and woof of our neighborhood. Those who hold these memories dear should know that developments are under way to highlight and celebrate the history of this "Square", as well as to emphasize its centrality.

A streetscaping project to enhance the pedestrian experience along Broadway, first envisioned by the Chinatown Development Corporation (CCDC), will soon be carried forward from Montgomery to Columbus. A key element in this neighborhood upgrade will be a public art project for the intersection of Columbus, Broadway, and Grant Avenues, executed by the site-specific artist, Brian Goggin. At a community meeting held a year ago at the Jean Parker School on Broadway, Goggin asked those present to conjure up what came to mind when they thought of that intersection. Responses came flying back at to him: Lights; Books; Poetry; History; Intersection of cultures; the Beat Movement; North Beach; Chinatown; The Condor Club; Grant Avenue, Upper and Lower; Jazz; Entertainment; Tourism; Crossroads; on and on.



computer rendering by
Freebairn-Smith & Crane



Brian went to work. In a few weeks, he came to RENEWSF, a small group of neighborhood activists who had been most vocal about the need for a project with a vision for this intersection. Meetings were put together with the North Beach Merchants, CCDC, Friends of Washington Square Park, and others, and Brian laid out his ideas to a positive response.

He called the piece "The Language of Birds." His plan was to float images of a "flock" of books, texts deriving from the many cultures and traditions which surround the square and then illuminate them in a kinetic display, as if they were

ON TO FLY OVER NORTH BEACH



birds taking off in flight, lighting the way down the varied paths one can take from this central location. Embedded in the new pedestrian “piazza” below the “birds” would be words and phrases taken from these books, as if they had fallen from the pages as the books took flight. The whole display would be animated by the music which has formed such an important element in our ‘hood. The Jazz Mural of Bill Weber, currently under restoration, would be highlighted and enhanced by the “flock” flying in front of it. Visitors, unsure of their directions, would be grounded in their search for the merchants of Upper and Lower

Grant, the cafes and restaurants of Columbus, and the club, jazz, and bar venues, historically a part of our neighborhood. The books, literature, poetry and Bohemian past that are a part of us would be celebrated. In summary, Goggin’s poetic light sculpture would support the positive side of our neighborhood’s fascinating history, unique shops, and attractive night life. Encouraged by the positive response from the community, Brian and his collaborator, Dorka Keehn, went to all the relevant city agencies where approval was unanimous. On their own, the artist and his partner raised much of the funding needed to get the work off the ground. And recently, a fund-raising event was held at the Condor Club. Attendees were encouraged to participate, not only financially, but also to suggest authors, books and phrases which will be incorporated into the piece, so that the entire project will become a true community undertaking. So keep your eye in the sky, North Beach - a new flock of birds will soon appear alongside our famous wild parrots, guiding visitors and neighbors to our revived “Times Square.” Installation of the sculpture will be incorporated into the construction work which the Department of Public Works will begin this spring. If you are interested in participating in this community effort, in contributing to it, or in getting more information, please contact Dorka Keehn at Dorka@igc.org, or go to www.metaphorm.org. ✦

BOOK REVIEW

THE WAY IT WAS

by Mikkel Aaland

San Francisco Love Affair: A photographic romance
by Gene Wright
Rock Out Books 2006, \$40

It's a must-have for lovers of North Beach: "San Francisco Love Affair: A Photographic Romance," by the late photographer Gene Wright. It's a book that will bring out your own nostalgic love affair with the city. At least it did for me. Wright wasn't born in San Francisco, but he was conceived here, in 1915, while his parents were on honeymoon, bathed in newlywed bliss.

According to Andy Tennill's informative introduction, Wright moved to San Francisco in 1949 and hit the ground running, taking photographs of a city he came to call his "love." His love for San Francisco was second only to his first love, his wife Elizabeth, whom he married in 1971.

The love theme is totally supported by the 150

photographs beautifully printed and presented by Rock Out Books, an S.F. publishing house. Flipping through the pages I was transported back to my own youth and our frequent family visits to San Francisco in the '50s, '60 and '70s. The familiar old cars are everywhere: the Volkswagen convertible Beetle (which we kids called Doodle Bugs) parked precariously on one of North Beach's steep streets; a high-finned Cadillac in the mid-'60s roaring down the Embarcadero with Coit Tower in the background; and a beat-up Plymouth taxi photographed in the early '60s in front of The Village on the corner of Lombard and Columbus.

In a series of photos of the cable car turntable at Powell and Market, again taken in the early '60s, stands the old Woolworth store where I remember Mom buying us a half-decent slice of pizza for 50 cents. There is a 1959 shot of the interior of Caffé Trieste, which, frankly, looks like it could have been taken yesterday. I can make

continued on page 24



Caffé Trieste, interior, 1959.

terms of its officers and directors, and I believe they have been remarkably effective. Under the *existing* bylaws:

- Each of the 8 Directors is limited to 2 consecutive 2-year terms
- The President is limited to 2 consecutive 1-year terms
- The Vice President is limited to 2 consecutive 1-year terms
- The Immediate Past President's term is limited by the term of the President
- The Corresponding Secretary is limited to 2 consecutive 1-year terms
- The Offices of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, *Semaphore* Editor, Financial (Membership) Secretary and Historian are each elected to 1-year terms, without limit on the total number of terms, but must be re-elected by the membership each year

In other words, out of a 17-member board of directors—12 positions are subject to term limits. The remaining five positions are positions that require institutional history and even these are subject to annual re-election.

For 53 years, this system has served THD well, and I have yet to hear a compelling reason to change it. Institutionalizing lifetime barriers to those who have time and energy (difficult to find in the first place) from serving if they are elected by the membership is discourag-

ing to volunteers and disrespectful of their service.

Practical Effect?

By way of example, finding a talented *Semaphore* Editor with the expertise and willingness to diligently publish THD's quarterly newsletter is not an easy task. Under the by-laws amendment, any Editor who had served 4 years on the board in any capacity would have to leave that post. After a two-year break, he or she could return for two more years, thereafter that person could no longer serve in any capacity on the Board

Think about the effect of the proposed lifetime limit on a board member with a financial background willing to serve as treasurer, devoting hours of volunteer time to balance THD's books, prepare an annual budget, process payments and reimbursements, account for membership dues, pay for social events and prepare a financial report to the Board each month. And shouldn't the historian be familiar with the history of the organization through service on the board?

The institutional memory of long-serving Board members is an asset to the functioning of the organization, not a stain or blemish requiring their removal. We are all volunteers. Whatever

continued on page 34



THE ALFA NOSE

By Kathleen Cannon

Follow Kathleen and her Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce as they party through North Beach and Telegraph Hill into 2007.

Holidaz.

Did Joe DiMaggio's score with THDers when festive neighbors gathered on December 3rd for their holiday party? Prosecco flowed and trays of hor'dourves floated thru the glittering, happy crowd. Vedica Puri brought her special touch of charm. I'll drink to that—and to THD's hard work on assuring Joe's facade blended in architecturally. On a bitter-sweet note, Spider misses Julius Castle which hosted the THD holiday banquet for many years -- excellent buffet and warm memories. James Payne has bought JC (no advertised date to reopen yet). The premises are being repainted and will maintain the Victorian decor, we're told.

Another Sleeping Beauty,

Enrico's, may get a kiss from a buyers' group headed by Christine Deeb (Nob Hill Cafe). Mark McLeod, a former owner of Enrico's, explained "the lease expired in 2005 and good faith negotiations suddenly ended when it became clear it wouldn't work out...(we) sold all equipment and liquor license." According to Ward Dunham, Enrico's former barkeep/partner, the old Enrico's is defunct. Even the name was sold and is now expensive, so the real Banducci may join again. Ward rues the influx of gangs that kept away patrons during last year. According to Ward, when "a Montgomery Street friend of Judge Newsom's" was confronted by eight rowdies availing themselves of his planter, enforcement funds for 'the problem' finally opened." The good ol' days are cyclical on Broadway, and always more colorful in retrospect.

Anti-Freeze

A cold shot of weather didn't slow Christmas festivities at The Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi where Brother Robert coordinated with Franco of Porziuncula. Against a "Live Nativity" scene, SF Opera singer Cheryl Sassani and carolers entertained shoppers on Christmas Eve. By 5pm, North Beach was eerily quiet. With the exception of a few bars, establishments were closed...except at Sts. Peter & Paul. There pews overflowed as folks of Sicilian heritage met to worship and watch their children perform the nativity play. On Christmas Day at Sts. Peter & Paul, Marc Bruno coordinated a Prime Rib Feast for 480 hosted by St. Vincent de Paul, in which THDers volunteered and/or contributed. Marc reports the holiday lunch is in its fifth year. Not only "poor and homeless attend, but also people whose families are far away."

Sign Here Please.

At Dick Boyd's December 15th book signing at Cafe Divine, I found an old friend and compatriot, Liz Wright. (We slaved together during the 1990's at a Grande SF law firm.) Liz and her famous, eccentric husband, Gene Wright (1949-2000) lived and worked in North Beach for decades. Gene, who cut a dashing figure in a black hat and cape, was known for his three Martini interviews and stunning B&W photos that delicately captured the soul and souls of San Francisco. Still a Southern beauty, Liz published part of his work in "San Francisco Love Affair: A Photographic Romance." (see page 20) Across the street from Divine, under noir shades and a hand-painted Martini glass, the former La Felce has been languishing as an Unnamed Bar striving to maintain a precious liquor license. Padrone Giovanni Toracca reported he sold to partner Danny Bernadino, who



THE ALFA NOSE

was seeking a leaser. As we go to press, Grant Schley and Frank Bumbalo are opening “avenue G”, which (per Frank) will serve “San Francisco Cuisine, such as crab and seafood.” The Martini glass is history, but the black tiles will return.

Of Human Bondage

The Broadway Cabaret Strip, Captain Dudley reports, ushered in the New Year with zero felonies, but saw a “huge midnight influx of people from Embarcadero that resulted in thirty misdemeanour arrests.” Question: How much \$\$\$ must taxpayers/neighbors throw like confetti to contain revelers in the after-afterhours? Even though the liquor is locked up at 2 am, as long as dance clubs stay open until 4am, expect to pay the price. The Captain also warns of burglars posing as utility workers, and, a continued float of \$100 counterfeit bills to

merchants (apparently excellent artwork). Look for SFPD Rag Ball games (with 5-7 year olds), a worthy New Year’s police action at the Rec Center.

Worth a Thousand Words

Wine and lyrics flowed in Live Worms Gallery on New Years Day as fifty poets crept in on cool little cat’s feet for a go-lightly feast and romance with words. They also answered that eternal question: how many poets are there in North Beach? “Fifty...because there are fifty chairs and it was invitational,” answered organizer/photographer (Focus Gallery) John Perino, “but probably 70 people are here now.” The pot luck event for “a sit down” feast was conceived by Aggie Hirshmann and John. Artist/Owner Kevin Brown donated the gallery space. Guests brought a plate and a “haiku or special message for the New Year.” Laureate Gentleman Jack, read his specially written

continued on page 27



On New Years Day fifty poets crept in on cool little cat’s feet for a go-lightly feast and romance with words.

SF LOVE AFFAIR: GENE WRIGHT *continued from page 20*

out a younger Iolanda Bodi, who retired to Italy in 1999, and who is now replaced behind the counter by Ida Zoubi, her great niece. One of my favorite shots was taken in the '50s of Iacopi's Meat Market on the corner of Union and Grant. A meter "maid" is walking out of the shop with the day's dinner carefully wrapped and clutched in his left hand. Two dapper men walk on either side of him.

There are photos in the book from all over the city, but North Beach is particularly well represented. Wright opened a photo studio here, in 1951, at 1412 Grant Street. He was in a good position to watch (and participate) as the bohemian subculture blossomed all around him.

Wright died in 2004 at the age of 88, but not before he got the recognition he deserved. In 1963,



Co-Existence Bagel Shop, Grant Street.

SF LOVE AFFAIR: GENE WRIGHT continued from page 24

he was awarded the key to the City of San Francisco by Mayor George Christopher. In 2002, the Board of Supervisors declared him a San Francisco Living Legend. The honor was presented to Wright by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who also wrote the foreword to the book.

I particularly like what Wright's wife, Liz, says in the book's introduction, "He [Wright] was really a San Franciscan, and he loved San Francisco like no one in the world loves this city. His photography is a true expression of how beautiful it was to him... Everything about it was very important to him... It was truly a San Francisco love affair."

You can find the Wright's book at local bookstores and online. If you have trouble finding it, as I did—it was sold out and between printings — contact the publisher directly at www.rockoutbooks.com.



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ITALY MEETS BRAZIL ON STOCKTON ST.



By Carol Peterson

The Semaphore writes about only four neighborhood restaurants each year. Because of this limitation, we focus on those establishments we can review positively.

MangaRosa, 1548 Stockton Street, San Francisco, CA 94133 415.956.3211 ★★ ★ 1/2

“Go ahead, order anything on the menu. It’s on us tonight.” This was a first. At a Tel-Hi silent auction, we had won a dinner for two at MangaRosa. Now, we have won dinners before, but never had a restaurant awarded such a generous carte blanche. So we folded ourselves into our chairs and began a magnificent meal.

When I started doing restaurant reviewing, I always kept this experience at MangaRosa in the back of my mind. Not only do I look for fabulous food in the neighborhood, but I value a community spirit and immersion into the North Beach scene, when a new restaurant joins us. So two years later we went back for dinner.

The first thing to know about MangaRosa is that it is an Italian restaurant with a difference. Renato Fusari, told me, “We are 90 percent Italian and 10 percent Brazilian.” It is the 10 percent that gives MangaRosa the edge, as they infuse different herbs, limes, coconut milk and other Brazilian flavors into their food.

The meal starts with their homemade bread. The stars of the bread basket are the small round hot dinner rolls that contain a surprising dollop of a creamy melted cheese in the center.

A must is the MangaRosa butter lettuce salad, with sweet and spicy walnuts, fresh mangos, dry cherries and cambozola cheese. The combinations of crunchy, chewy and creamy all come together but it is the dressing, a unique mixture of mango, lime, mint and oil cocktail that makes this salad stand out.

It left me trying to figure out which lingering flavor was assaulting my taste buds.

If you are a lover of beef, at MangaRosa you are at the right place. Here the tender beef short ribs are slow-roasted and literally melt in your mouth. They come on a platter, with a red bell pepper sauce, a rich and colorful compliment to the meat. The large portion is appropriate for sharing.

Many restaurants fall flat when they try to do a seasonal dish; not MangaRosa. The “Camarao na Moranga,” or prawns in a pumpkin, shines. You are served a small pumpkin, stuffed with prawns in a sauce of coconut milk and tomato so delicious that I found myself digging into the soft flesh of the pumpkin and eating it with the remaining sauce. Chef Sergio Cruz has created a real prize here.

The elite dessert is the chocolate-strawberry bread pudding, with hazelnut ice cream. Well worth the calories.

Our third visit was on a Thursday night, and were we ever surprised. A Brazilian rum company was having a promotion and happy hour was in full swing. The place was packed. Brazilian music was playing and out came the scantily dressed dancers on the bar, in their Carnival costumes. The place had so much energy, it was easy to fall into the mood.

As we ate, the dancers came around to the table begging a dance and the rum representative came by to explain the finer points of South American rum. We ordered Caipirinhas, the official drink of Brazil. The one I was served that night was better than any I’ve had in Brazil. This happy hour goes on for considerably more than an hour every Thursday night.

MangaRosa has been around for quite a few years now and seems to be a fixture in the neighborhood. I’ll be back for more delicious food and I hope you will put the place on your A list, too. ♦

message and toasted 'a New Year where Everyone in the Entire World Over is alive and well to share it' (my paraphrase over champagne). Very successful ...and to be repeated next year!

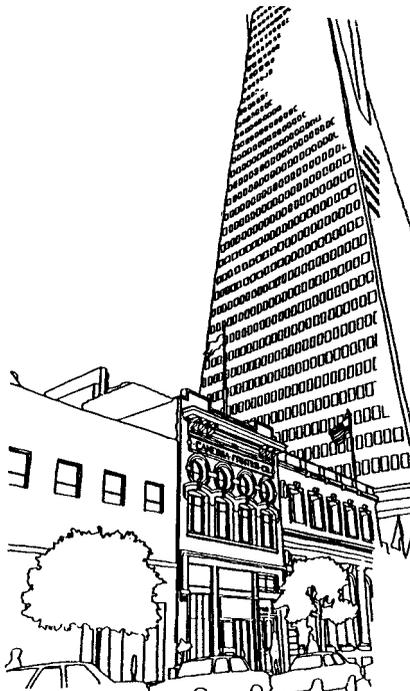
Kiddie-corner across the street at The Saloon, possibly the oldest bar around, the regular Sunday afternoon band 'Blues Power' was infused by a red hot, saxophonist—John Peligun, formerly of Journey. In passing, John exhaled on my sunglasses, "Hi, Hollywood," in a short but memorable interview. Gratis North Beach pizza circulated. Generally for free on weekdays, everyone from gents in suits to happy neighbors in glad rags dance to the bluest of Blues.

Non Sequitur Sequiturs

The Beat Museum is hosting "a ton of events,"

among them a poetry contest and daily walking tours of North Beach. On Grant Avenue, Julia of Knitz & Leather is also singing the blues...getting crowded out "from above" (landlord), after twenty years of hand tooling precious lamb coats. But she may have a savior in Aaron Peskin or The Cannery.

Fast forward past Groundhog Phil's shadow sighting. By the time you crack open this Winter issue, your Valentine heart will have melted into a sweet dream, and we will be in 4705, the Year of the Pig. Those born under the Sign of the Pig, from Bogart to Hitchcock, "are regarded for their chivalry and pureness of heart, and make friends for life". Good pigs make good neighbors? They certainly make good San Francisco movies.



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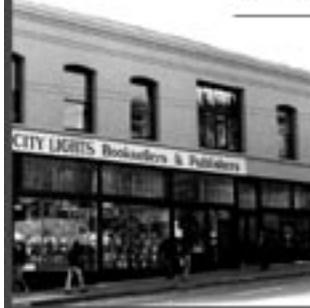
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PROFILE: GEORGE LONG

by Sherry O'Donnell

In this issue THD Board Member and artist Sherry O'Donnell continues her interviews with North Beach creative types. This time, she talks with George Long, North Beach artist, musician, and longtime resident.

Sherry: George, I'd like a little bio, tell me about yourself.

George: I was born in Hong Kong. At 1-1/2 years old, my family went to Japan where we lived with my grandparents for a bit, then we took a ship through the Suez Canal to Genoa, stopped for a little bit in Austria to be with my other grandparents, and finally crossed the channel to England a year later. In 1968 we moved to Vancouver. I came down here from Vancouver in 1977 on a whim, just for an adventure. I had no idea what I was going to encounter.

S: When did you start painting?

G: I actually started painting in England as a kid, in Jesuit boys school. I had a teacher who was really encouraging me to do these weird abstracts that I was doing when I was about 11 or 12 years old. But then, when I got to Canada, it was a different environment, and I was not encouraged to paint because it was considered a kind of girly thing to do, so I got into photography.

S: So what provoked you to start painting again?

G: When I came here in '77 I had everything stolen from my car except for a broken guitar. I lost all my cameras and a bunch of money. So my sister basically said, we have all of these old art materials, why don't you start painting again? So she gave me

continued on p. 333



GEORGE LONG *continued from page 32*

a bunch of old canvases and some brushes and some funky paint and I started painting again.

S: How do you think that San Francisco, particularly North Beach, has influenced your work. Or has it?

G: Oh, it really has. The people I've met here have really influenced me just because so many of them here are striving for goals in different kinds of art: writing, painting, music, cinema. So, being surrounded by these creative people has been amazing for me ... because in Canada, I was the only guy doing anything creative, everyone else was working in logging camps, or building a house or getting married, or looking for a wife to take away to their house in the woods.

S: Was there anyone in particular who might have influenced your work?

G: Like people, human people? Well, I hung out with Gregory Corso. I got a lot from him by just hanging out with him. I don't think any local art influenced my work but the local characters did. They inspired me to be free with my work, like James Redo, Robin Jones, Corso (as I said), and even Ronald Sauer. He was very encouraging about my painting, and about me becoming part of the neighborhood, part of the scene. Jack Hirschman was kind of a major mentor in that he took my art very seriously.

S: I understand that you consider yourself first and foremost a musician. You play saxophone and harmonica.

G: Yeah, and a little guitar, and flute. I studied music formally, whereas I just picked up art. I painted all my life, although I just wanted to play music. It's just like Rauschenberg said, nobody wants to be an artist, it just happens. I never wanted to be a painter, ever, but it just started happening ... people started buying my work. If I had my dream, it would be to make it as a musician.

S: Is there somewhere we can see your art? Hear you play?

G: I play occasionally at poetry readings, do solo work, and play (tenor sax) sometimes at the Saloon with Chicago Blues Power on Sunday afternoons. My art is in my studio at 939 Pacific. I have a display in the window, and though it's not a store, people are always encouraged to drop by and see my work.

S: Tell me about the time you used inexpensive paint on some pieces.

G: Actually, it was the paint my sister gave me. She gave me all these paints and canvases, which my neighbor (artist James Redo) warned me about. He said you should be careful about using leftover paint because quite often it doesn't dry. I did three major paintings with this blue paint in 1989. One 5' x 5' piece was destroyed because the paint never dried and it just peeled off. The second one was 4' x 8' and I had to paint over every part of the painting that was blue with a China Drier. The other one is in my studio and it's still wet and I'm still trying to figure out what to do with it.

S: Are all your paintings large?

G: I have all sizes, from small pieces that range from 8"x10" or so up to the largest painting which is about 8'x5' (horizontal). I also do a lot of little pen and inks.

S: Where do you find your inspiration?

G: The lifestyle and the people. And the women, the beautiful women.

S: Tell me a little about your heritage.

G: My father is Chinese-Austrian, and my mother is Japanese-English-American. My father's father was Long Tack Sam, who was one of the most famous magicians in the world in the early 20th century. He taught Orson Welles magic, was good friends with Laurel and Hardy, and had Archie Leach (Cary Grant) work for him as an acrobat. My whole family is artistic. We have lots of painters...

S: Is it true that the family wasn't pleased when you left school to become a painter? What was your field of study?

G: I was going to be some kind of scientist or

continued on p. 34

THD BOARD MOTIONS

FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY-SEPTEMBER 2006

September

No Motions in September

October

MOTION: For THD to sponsor the 2006 Nonna's Christmas Cookie Crawl by contributing \$2000 to the event. The Motion passed.

MOTION: To increase the Social Committee budget by \$3,000.

The Board approved a \$3,000 increase to the Social Committee budget, for an aggregate Committee budget of \$6,000.

November

No Motions in November

December

No Board Meeting in December



Sean O'Donnell

"Anything can be fixed
except a fallen soufflé."

415-307-1205

ARGUMENT OPPOSING THE BYLAW AMENDMENT

continued from page 21

the intent, this member sponsored bylaws amendment would penalize the Board members upon whose contribution our entire community relies.

For all these reasons, the amendment should be rejected.



ZAP Graffiti and Dumped Trash

CALL CITY HOTLINE 28-CLEAN

GEORGE LONG *continued from page 33*

doctor. I was a math whiz, one of the best calculus students in the college. I dropped out because it was boring me, which led me to kind of be disowned. The fact that I got no support from my parents basically helped me. Their rejection forced me to go out and make my way in the world. I didn't speak to them for a while, and I had to completely reinvent myself. At first, my father was totally against the artist's lifestyle, but later he saw how happy I was and we became wonderful friends.

S: And are you happy now?

G: Oh yeah, I'm very content.

S: And do you think the math background has informed your work? Your work is so often geometrical.

G: I think so but I think it affects my music more because music is math and music affects my paintings.... I work in a kind of musical theory ... they even talk about coloration in music. I'm kind of taking my paintings into a musical vein; I guess you could call them jazz paintings.

A psychic once told George that he had a halo of music around his head. Well, look at the paintings and see what you think.

CORRECTION: *In Sherry's interview with Agneta Falk in our last issue, Falk's first name was at two places misspelled "Agenta". We regret the error.*





TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Voice Mail/Hotline: 273-1004. Fax: 255-6499. Web Site: www.thd.org

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THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

PLANNING AND ZONING. Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094, Mary Lipian, 391-5652. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

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

PROGRAM. Chair, Pat Swan, 788-7926; 439 Greenwich #7B, pswanhome@yahoo.com. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

BUDGET. Greg Chiampou, gchiampou@sbcglobal.net. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP. Co-Chairs, Sarah Kliban and Tom Noyes, membership@thd.org. As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

ARCHIVIST: Rozell Overmire, rozell@ureach.com

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

PARKS AND TREES. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; tmsli@sonic.net. Rozell Overmire, 939-3945, rozell@ureach.com. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

THD WEB SITE. Webmaster, Al Fontes, 433-6515; webmaster@thd.org. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS. Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION. Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

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

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

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

THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stroll and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: March 10, April 14, May 12. For more information call 552-7774.

SCHEDULES OF COMMITTEE

MEETINGS

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

Look to the THD website for information on THD events.

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

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

THD Welcomes New Members November 2006 to January 2007

Leigh Kienker, Brooke and Steve Waterhouse, Jake Tomilson, David and Amy Smolen, Wilma Pang, David and Jessica MacGregor, Paul Kohler, Tan Chow, Carol Inocencio, Tom Simundich

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$25 _____ Household \$40 _____ Senior (age 65 and over) \$15 _____

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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