

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD IS CHANGING, AGAIN!

By Catherine Accardi

“I want my North Beach back!” I hear this all the time, maybe because I say it all the time.

It’s not just me whining about the North Beach that was, our favorite restaurants that are no longer, and our trusted shops shuttered, gone forever. Right on the heels of Café Divine’s closing in November of 2014, by the time you read this, Capp’s Corner *may, or may not*, be in business anymore. The word on the street was that our beloved, legendary eatery was scheduled to close on March 31. Now the word is that Capp’s Corner might not be closing after all! At the time this edition went to print, the neighborhood was breathing a sigh of relief because the latest chatter is the corner of Powell and Green Streets might remain the same. I hope reports of Capp’s closing are just bad rumors, or better yet, an inappropriate April fool’s joke. If this is a

bles, bread and, finally, the main course, all accompanied by red wine. We also fondly remember that marvelously carved wooden bar near the door that greeted us when we walked in.

Joe was named “Capp” to acknowledge the trademark fedora, the fancy hat I remember as a child. He lorded over his corner at Powell and Green streets, greeting the customers he liked and ignoring everyone else. Joe was real. Born on Varennes Street to Italian immigrant parents, was something I always wanted to remind him we had in common. I never had the chance, but I had good ears and one of the stories he would tell was the one where he worked for a newspaper and one of his workers was Joe DiMaggio, *THE* Joe DiMaggio. The climax of this particular tale was when Capp bragged about firing DiMaggio because he was always disappearing, off to play baseball. I wonder why!



The Corner of Powell and Green streets as it was for 52 years.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE ACCARDI

joke, it is in very bad taste, indeed.

Some of the neighborhood news is good news! We have “live worms” on the move, and we may also have positive change at the corner of Columbus and Vallejo. But first, the possible bad news.

This Corner *Might* Never Be the Same — So long, Capp’s or is this just a rumor!

So beloved was (is?) Capp’s Corner that it made “the list.” That list would be San Francisco Heritage’s prestigious “Legacy Bars and Restaurants” listing.

I remember walking by the corner of Green and Powell as a teenager on my way to Victoria Pastry. My mother would jerk my arm back when I peeked inside the door, hoping to catch a glimpse of the man with the fancy hat. “You’re too young for that place,” she would whisper. Well, a few years later I was not. Capp’s was a place where I brought my friends when I wanted to show off my new drinking-age self. My friends were impressed that I knew about such a cool joynt. “Is this one of those gangster places?” they would ask. “Why, of course it is,” I would answer with that snotty, all-knowing look I was famous for. I thought I was just exaggerating, but now that I’m in my mature years, and have decades of historical research behind me, I *KNOW* what that joynt was all about. Although Capp sold his Corner to Tom Ginella in 1985, the legendary eatery has always kept Joe’s original character.

Joseph “Capp” Caporale bought Capp’s Corner back in 1963 along with his partner, Frank Sarubei. The deal was that Sarubei would own the liquor license and take care of “business” and Capp would take care of patrons, which, of course, included cops, politicians, celebrities, and later on, brats like me. Most of us certainly enjoyed the family-style meals with plate after plate of soup, salad, pasta, vegeta-

Columbus Cutlery has closed!

Seriously! Columbus Cutlery has been part of North Beach for decades, since 1964. There was no other like it for people that needed sharp implements to properly prepare those hearty Italian meals. Anybody that was anybody, from chefs to hair stylists, would patronize Columbus Cutlery.

Now for the good news . . .

Live Worms, by any other name —

Live Worms Gallery will be welcoming a new “space-mate” when Focus Gallery moves in to share the space at 1345 Grant Ave. Think about the name, “Live Worms.” The gallery occupies a space that was,

for a long time, a neighborhood hardware store which, of course, sold live worms. There you have the reason why a beloved neighborhood art gallery had a very interesting name. Be sure to stop by and experience the shows and exhibits which are equally interesting and creative.

An iconic North Beach corner may be getting a new lease on life —

Have we not all stood in line at one time or another in order to sample the yummy food served at Mama’s



Mama’s on Washington Square at 1701 Stockton St. COURTESY OF LYNN & VINCE SANCHEZ

on the corner of Stockton and Filbert streets? Lucky are those of use that actually live in the ‘hood as we can drift in as soon as the restaurant opens on weekdays when the crowds are light. For fans of Mama’s there is good news. Mama’s on the Piazza, and a new concept Lil’ Mama’s Community Market, might finally open in September, at the corner of Columbus and Vallejo streets. Old-timers might recognize this spot as the former location of the historic Rossi Market.

Mama’s will be much like its current location, albeit, with 30 more seats and expanded lunch menu. Lil’ Mama’s Community Market will offer Mama’s signature jams and baked products.

It will feature local Bay Area products from farmers, ranchers, fish mongers, bakers, and other small purveyors of goods. The Sanchez family will offer the neighborhood the complimentary use of the Mama’s space after 5 p.m. The Community Meeting Place may be used for the likes of local associations, poetry groups, art shows, etc.

As of the time this issue of *The Semaphore* went to press, the Mama’s project still needs approval from the Planning Commission and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, but we certainly can hope for the best outcome. ✦



Rossi Market, located at the corner of Vallejo and Columbus, as it looked on Jan. 18, 1955.

COURTESY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



By Vedica Puri

Last year was the 60th Anniversary of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, and it was without a doubt one of our best years yet. With an active membership and an energetic Board of Directors, we did so much that is almost head-spinning: THD hosted another fabulous music-filled Block Party for families, seniors, neighbors, kids and dogs, organized an array of Art & Culture salons and a unique North Beach authors book reading, honored neighborhood treasures, such as Café Jacqueline and longtime Hill garbageman Dave Franzoa, celebrated the reopening of a beautifully restored Coit Tower and its historic murals, helped preserve height limits to keep the waterfront a unique feature of our city, and so much more.

This year has started off very busy, too, and I want to welcome newly appointed District 3 Supervisor and Telegraph Hill resident Julie Christensen in the

hopes that we can all work together for the benefit of our neighborhood. We recognize that this is an election year, but, separate and apart from the politics of who will be elected in November, there is a long list of opportunities for collaboration with Supervisor Christensen that should not wait for Election Day.

Here are three key issues I hope the Supervisor will join the neighborhood in fighting for:

- Improving Muni and transit options now by restoring critical bus routes that were eliminated by budget cuts, including the 20-Columbus and the Sansome Street route from Broadway to Fisherman's Wharf. (The historic F line streetcars are great, but they don't do the job for residents and commuters.)
- Getting the Port Commission to drop the 8 Washington project and move forward on something recreation-oriented in that part of the waterfront, and supporting the City Attorney's defense

of our waterfront height limits against a nasty lawsuit by development interests to toss out voter-approved Proposition B.

- Treating Coit Tower like the art museum it truly is by urging the Recreation and Parks Department to stop ignoring the will of the voters to prioritize funds generated by Coit Tower for preservation needs, such as hiring a guard to protect the murals, and enforcing the Arts Commission's rules, such as removing backpacks to ensure visitors don't damage the murals.

I hope you will join me in extending our hands to our new Supervisor in the hopes that we can work together to accomplish these and other great things for the wonderful neighborhood we are all so very fortunate to call our home.



PIAZZA ST. FRANCIS, THE POET'S PLAZA

By Catherine Accardi

Below are excerpts from an original article published in *L'Italo Americano* newspaper on March 19. The article is available in its entirety in print and at <http://www.italoamericano.org/search/site/accardi>.

It is not often that a metropolitan city like San Francisco has the opportunity to incorporate a new urban piazza in the center of one of its most historic districts. That would be a rare opportunity indeed! It does appear this vision is turning into a reality for San Francisco's beloved North Beach.

Recently, I spoke with Angela Alioto, San Francisco attorney and former president of the Board of Supervisors, and there is much good news to report on Piazza St. Francis, The Poet's Plaza.

The vision for the project began several years ago when Alioto, the driving force behind this undertaking and its financing, spearheaded the reconstruction of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi as part of "The Renaissance Project" in 1997. The piazza would replace the portion of Vallejo Street on the 600 block that runs in front of the National Shrine of St. Francis and its adjacent rectory. Caffé Trieste will anchor the southeast corner of the piazza. Francis Ford Coppola worked on his screenplay for the "The Godfather" in Caffé Trieste, the historic coffeehouse that has been the gathering place of poets, writers, artists, and filmmakers since 1956.

Quotations from some 30 great poets will be engraved in the paving of the piazza, and the circle of Peacemakers will be white granite with their names in big brass letters. As illustrated by Art Zendarski's rendering, the piazza will be a lovely urban oasis.

So you see, the location of the new piazza will continue the decades-long tradition of peace and goodwill among people. It will be a new meeting place for those wishing to take a respite from hectic urban living, a place to meet with friends, a place to make new friends.

Piazza St. Francis will be a place of contemplation, rest and rejuvenation, and a place for gathering together and a place to ponder the meaning of life.

Looking to the future, 2016 will be the 800-year anniversary of the pardon of St. Francis. There are plans to hold a celebration in Piazza St. Francis to honor that event and to commemorate 2016 World Peace Week. World Peace Day, officially The International Day of Peace, is observed annually on September 21. It is dedicated to world peace, specifically to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. What better place to honor peace than Piazza St. Francis! Look forward to the project's groundbreaking day in June 2015 with opening day projected for February 2016.

For more information about Piazza St. Francis



Illustration of Piazza St. Francis by Art Zendarski

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, ART ZENDARSKI

check the project website at <http://www.piazzasf.org/> and the Knights of St. Francis website at <http://www.knightsofsaintfrancis.com>. If you wish to contribute to the nonprofit vision of the piazza, you can use PayPal online or please send donations to Piazza Saint Francis/Knights of St. Francis, at 700 Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA, 94111.



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If you let your neighbors know about your business we can work together to keep our voice in the neighborhood thriving. Take out an ad in *The Semaphore* for your business or service, or contact a business that you like and ask them to take out an ad. Here are our reasonable THD ad rates:

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Ad Sales contact person: Andy Katz at Andy.Katz@thd.org.
Please contact Andy to place your ad or if you have questions and need more information.

IN MEMORIAM

ANNA
CIPOLLINA

JANUARY 12, 1944 –
MARCH 11, 2015

Anna Cipollina was born in Parma, Italy, and came to San Francisco when she was 10 years old. She was well known for greeting many locals and visitors with a friendly smile and open heart at the U.S. Restaurant in San Francisco's North Beach. She will be missed.

CHINESE-AMERICAN HISTORY: A LEGACY AT HOME IN NORTH BEACH

Laura Lai

(January 7, 1933 – December 10, 2014)

Him Mark Lai

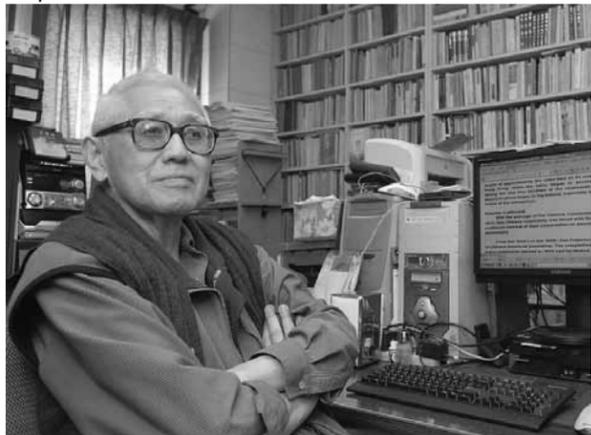
((November 1, 1925 – May 21, 2009)

By Howard Wong, AIA

The Chinatown Branch Library was renamed Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Library in 2011, but Laura and Him Mark Lai are little known in North Beach, where their small house on Union Street (near Castle Street) became a hub of Chinese-American history. Him Mark Lai was known as the “Dean of Chinese-American History” by scholars, while working as a Bechtel engineer for 31 years. His historical research began consuming all his spare time — an unquenchable lifelong passion. Upon retirement, his full-time pursuits sustained a seminal body of historical knowledge from before the Gold Rush to the current day. His wife Laura’s financial acuity facilitated the research. Because he didn’t drive, Laura was behind the wheel when they visited Chinatowns across the country, interviewing old-timers and finding written records that documented the story of Chinese in America.

The relentless research fueled prolific writings, lectures and teaching. Lai wrote and edited 10 books and more than 100 scholarly articles on Chinese-American life — a field ignored by non-Asian historians. His work and teaching helped pioneer Asian-American Studies in colleges and universities. The Chronicle of Higher Education named Him Mark Lai “the scholar who legitimized the study of Chinese America.”

Helping to restore Chinese-American historiography, the house on Union Street literally embodied Lai’s immersion in the field. Every nook and cranny was piled with rescued books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, clippings, journals, ledgers, letters, phonograph records and esoteric findings from attics, dumpsters and defunct Chinatown businesses. A master archivist, Lai collected, documented, organized, and preserved historical assets in Chinese and English. Lai picked up Chinese newspapers on regular jaunts to Chinatown, dutifully reading and clipping articles. Saved from oblivion, the collective past of Chinese-American history and the Chinese overseas resided in his North



Him Mark Lai at his North Beach home with some history books and research.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE LAI FAMILY/CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA



Laura and Him Mark Lai consulting at overseas Chinese museum in Zhuhai.

COURTESY OF THE CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Beach house, including 10,000 books, 400-linear feet of research files and 100 boxes of news clippings. This knowledge was shared with anyone with a legitimate research interest. The collection is now archived at UC Berkeley’s Ethnic Studies Library — for future generations.

Him Mark Lai’s passion grew from dissatisfaction in the ways the Chinese-American experience was depicted or ignored in mainstream history writing. In Lai’s autobiography: “Growing up during the Chinese exclusion era, I was constantly reminded of the limited opportunities available to the Chinese in America.” His quiet demeanor veiled a fierce devotion to civil rights and to document the story of how Chinese Americans fought discriminatory laws to gain success in their new homeland. With the African-American-led civil rights movement, the study of race and ethnic relations grew to be mainstream in academia. Him Mark became an internationally renowned activist and a highly respected leader of the community. His writings founded a field that challenged prevailing assumptions and conventional narratives of United States and world histories.

The Lais were involved in progressive organizations throughout their lives. Him Mark met Laura while they were members of Chinatown’s Chinese American Democratic Youth League, or Mun Ching, a progressive pro-China group that was investigated by the FBI for three decades. With the McCarthy era of the 1950s, Mun Ching moved away from progressive politics to cultural, educational and recreational activities, changing its name to Chinese American Youth Club (CAYC). Because of the government’s Chinese Confession Program, identifying “paper sons” and “illegal” immigrants, Laura lost her U.S. citizenship for

eight years. The CAYC closed in 1959 when it lost the use of its Chinatown clubrooms. In Him Mark Lai’s autobiography: “One reason Laura and I bought our house on Union Street was to provide a place for these club members to meet.”

Him Mark Lai had a multifaceted life, shaped by the racial, legal and political currents of his time. From early years of nontraditional activism in Chinatown, Laura and Him Mark Lai’s relatively traditional life in North Beach enriched the neighborhood’s historical tradition. Much engrained in North Beach life, Him Mark attended Francisco Junior High School and both attended Galileo High School at different times. Him Mark proposed to Laura at Coit Tower, marrying in 1953. Historic North Beach was an appropriate setting for a newly-hatched field of knowledge — Chinese-American history — rippling across cultures and generations from a little house on Union Street. ❖



Laura and Him Mark Lai being honored at a Chinatown tribute in 2007.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK JANG
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CHATTER ON THE STREET

Washington Square Restrooms — The First Flush!

Admit it. We have all been waiting for “It,” the completion of the restrooms in Washington Square, and it has finally happened. The new restrooms were opened with a “first flush” by June Fraps and other Friends of Washington Square on Saturday, March 14. The opening ceremonies included comments by Ken Maley and representatives from San Francisco’s Recreation and Parks Department. The new facility features a clean, modern design, and larger, updated fix-



June Fraps and Ken Maley about to cut the ribbon for the new restrooms in Washington Square

BOTH PHOTOS BY CATHERINE ACCARDI

tures. In addition, the new building houses a small work area and storage room to support the park’s dedicated gardening staff.

Learn more about the Friends of Washington Square by checking out their website at <http://www.friendsofwashingtonsquare.com/home.html>.

Better yet, join this active group of neighbors and friends dedicated to addressing the continuing needs of one of San Francisco’s most beloved parks. Washington Square is one of San Francisco’s oldest three parks, set aside as a public square in 1847, and has been the centerpiece of North Beach for more than 150 years.

Joe DiMaggio Playground

The Joe DiMaggio Playground fundraising event at Bimbo’s was a huge success! More than 500 people were in attendance on January 14. Some \$93,000 was raised for the park renovation.

Construction on the playground began on January 29. The entire playground is closed, although the clubhouse will remain open until mid-March to accommodate current programs. The pool will remain open throughout construction, which is expected to last 10-12 months.

Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club

So what’s happening next to Saints Peter and Paul Church? According to the CSDA Design Group website (<http://csdadesigngroup.com/portfolio-item/salesian-boys-and-girls-club/>) the project at the Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club includes modernization of the existing two-story building and the addition of a third story. The modernization includes the renovation of the gymnasium, exercise court, tutorial classroom, children’s lounge, staff office, and restrooms. The third-story addition includes spaces for a martial arts dojo/dance studio, computer classroom/learning center, arts and crafts studio, music/drama room, office space, and a conference room.



The new restrooms in Washington Square

Chatter about food —

Chubby Noodle is moving from Amante’s to the former Pisto’s Tacos location.

A Pisto’s Tacos will be opening in the Marina.

Teague/Tupelo is taking over the old Dell’Uva space

Dell’Uva is moving to the former location of Café Divine.

Do you have chatter to share with your neighbors? If so, be sure to share it with the editor at caacat@comcast.net.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

By Jen Haeusser

I was listening to “I am a Rock” by Simon and Garfunkel the other day. Catchy tune, but by observing the words I realized how sad the song was. It starts out singing about being alone, gazing out of their window to the streets below, and ends with the conclusion that friendship just causes pain. Again, great song, but I’m going to have to disagree.

Recently, I went on a date night with my husband to a Korean restaurant. While we were talking and looking into each other’s eyes, we noticed a family of four at a table, each one with a smartphone in hand. Not one person was having a conversation with another! We are so immersed in our electronics today that the virtual world replaces being



Markus and Jen on their fire escape where they stand to say “Hi” to people passing by.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JEN HAEUSSER

with the person next to you. In an age where independence is prized, and more time is spent on Facebook than sitting face to face with someone, it is refreshing to live on Telegraph Hill.

Quite the opposite of the song, we look out of our window or down from our balcony and see friends. There is many a time where we greet people below our apartment fire escape as they walk by. Where else can you walk the streets and run into so many people that you know? This neighborhood truly is a little village. One of our neighbors confirmed this notion when they shared with me how individuals who move to the Hill either leave after two years or stay forever, nothing in between. Having lived on the Hill for three years, I guess that we are here to stay!

Becoming a part of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers was one

of the first things that we did when we moved to Alta Street and it was worth the effort. The relationships that have been built through membership meetings and social events have been invaluable. Who wouldn’t enjoy the 60th Anniversary Block Party on Calhoun Terrace, author events at Naked Lunch, or the Holiday Party at Original Joe’s?

It’s not just about having fun together, but also providing support during difficult seasons of life. Before the holidays, we experienced a death in the family and needed to fly to Germany early for the funeral. We came home to sympathy cards and e-mails from

neighbors.

This was a wonderful welcome back. Community is not just people living in the same space, or having shared interests or goals, though to say “Hi.”

this can be a part of it. Commitment, interdependence and love are the “Golden Rule.”

I’d like to encourage you to get involved in your community. Volunteer or become a part of a neighborhood organization whether it is THD or another one. There are many valuable causes and organizations in our neighborhood. Love where you live and the people who live around you. A rock may feel no pain and an island never cries, but I believe that relationships are worth the risk!



Andy Katz as he paused under Jen’s fire escape



CELEBRATING THE BEATS!

THE TOP OF THE MARK AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL MARK HOPKINS HOTEL PARTNERS WITH THE BEAT MUSEUM TO PRESENT POETRY & JAZZ SERIES THIS SPRING.



By the time the spring issue of *The Semaphore* goes to print some of the events in the poetry and jazz series will already have taken place, but the series continues through April 28, so there is still time for you to

Enjoy Music and Lyrics from the Legends of San Francisco's Beat Generation at the Top of the Mark Every Tuesday Starting March 3

In celebration of the birth of the Beat Generation in San Francisco, the InterContinental Mark Hopkins has partnered with the Beat Museum to bring legendary poets to riff alongside local jazz musicians for a weekly series at the Top of the Mark, Tuesday evenings, March 3 – April 28, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

History lovers are invited to jazz up their evenings with Top of the Mark's

Poetry & Jazz Series through April 28. In honor of the 60th anniversary of poet Allen Ginsberg's first public reading of his poem "Howl," one of the great works of American literature and a piece that is thought to be the birth of the Beat Generation, this series celebrates the renaissance of San Francisco in the 1950s and '60s.

For the first ever Poetry & Jazz Series, the Top of the Mark has partnered with San Francisco's Beat Museum, dedicated to spreading the spirit of The Beat Generation. Located in San Francisco's North Beach, the Beat Museum is home to an extensive collection of Beat memorabilia, including original manuscripts first editions, letters, personal effects, and cultural ephemera, occupying the same ground that was once the epicenter for Beat activity during the 1950s.

For more information about the Beat Museum please visit: www.kerouac.com.



ruth weiss, "The Beat Generation Goddess," and company

The current Poetry & Jazz schedule is as follows:

*Performers are subject to change

Tuesday, April 7

Michelle Tea presents RADAR: An Evening of Edgy Literary Performance from San Francisco's Underground

Tuesday, April 14

The wordWind chorus performs with q.r. hand jr. (poetry, voice), Lewis Jordan (saxophone, poetry, voice), and Brian Auerbach (poetry, voice)

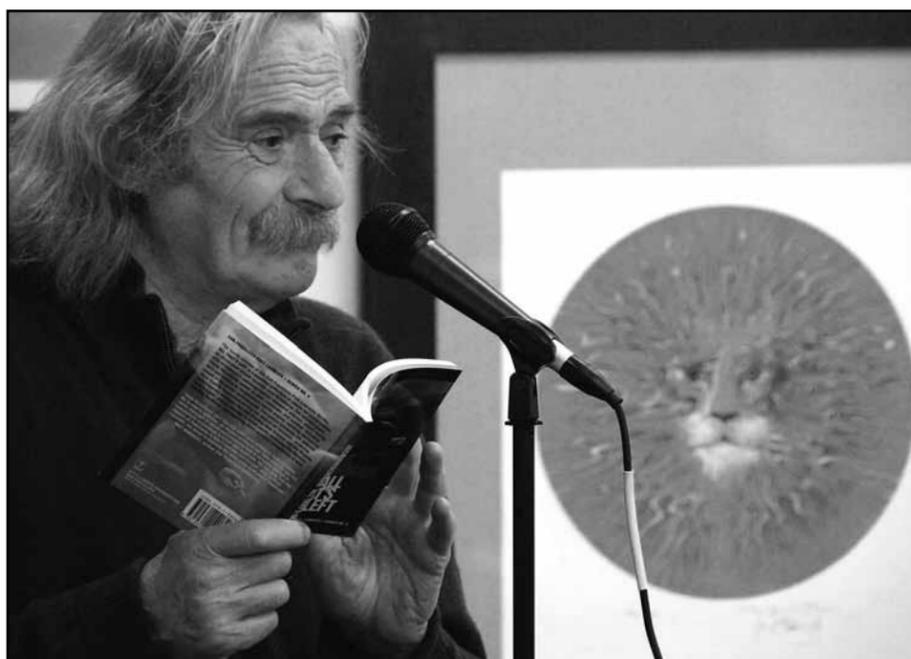
Tuesday, April 21

From San Francisco to Europe & Back: former San Francisco Poet Laureate, painter & translator Jack Hirschman performs with Swedish-born San Francisco poet, Agneta Falk and special guest, George Long on saxophone

Tuesday, April 28

Herb Caen called her "The Beat Generation Goddess" – ruth weiss performs with Doug O'Connor (acoustic bass), Rent Romus (saxophone), and Hal Davis (percussion)

For a complete schedule, please visit www.topofthemark.com



Jack Hirschman, San Francisco Poet Laureate, painter & translator

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE BEAT MUSEUM



WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

SHINING LIGHT ON 'SECRET' EVENTS AT PIER 27 CRUISE TERMINAL



By Jon Golinger
Chair, Waterfront Committee

The beautiful new Cruise Ship Terminal at Pier 27 was made possible because neighborhood, environmental, and Fisherman's Wharf businesses banded together in 2004 as the Citizens to Save the Waterfront coalition and defeated a proposed Mills Mega-Mall slated for the site. The Pier 27 terminal was paid for with public funds and is intended to be a public facility that will enable residents and visitors to enjoy the bay and embark on high-seas adventures.

Instead of maximizing the public utility of the Cruise Terminal through a mixture of public and private activities, the Port of San Francisco has decided to exclusively rent the Cruise Terminal for corporate events and private parties. Dozens of corporate events are planned for Pier 27 this year. A "Pier 27 Events" website has been created by Metro Cruise Services, the private company the Port has hired to find and manage corporate events there, which lists the upcoming cruise-ship calls and corporate events currently scheduled. See that page at: www.sfmetroevents.com/calendar.aspx.

Unfortunately, despite requests from numerous members of the public at a January 8, 2015 public forum about the Cruise Terminal event schedule, Metro Events and the Port have, so far, refused to disclose on the website detailed information about the corporate events, such as who the sponsor is, what time the event is scheduled to begin and end, contact information for an event coordinator if there are public safety or other urgent problems. Instead, the website only says "Corporate Event" with an estimated number of attendees. Because Pier 27 is a public building and all of its activities are of public record, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers submitted an official Sunshine Ordinance Public Records Act request to the Port and was able to obtain documents that describe recent and upcoming corporate events at Pier 27 by companies, including Dropbox, LinkedIn, KMPG, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Facebook, and BUILD. Key information obtained from that records request is now available on THD's website at: www.thd.org/waterfront/.

In response to community concerns, the Port and Metro Cruises have set up a Hotline that neighbors can call during a Pier 27 event to report problems or ask questions. That number is: (415) 298-1913.

We are calling on the Port and Metro Cruise Services to add detailed information to their website about each corporate event because it is all public information, and doing so will improve the transpar-



Pier 27 Cruise Terminal

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

ency of Pier 27 Cruise Terminal operations, rather than attempt to shroud it in secrecy.

On a positive note, the Port has been in discussion with the San Francisco Symphony to finalize plans for a July 12 symphony concert that would be free and open to the public in the beautiful new Pier 27 public park. We are looking forward to this being a fantastic and free event that will allow every San Franciscan to come to our waterfront to enjoy beautiful music while "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay."

Judge Joins Voters in Rejecting 8 Washington

A judge has struck down the 8 Washington project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and set aside all project approvals by the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. Even though voters rejected 8 Washington by a 2-1 margin in November 2013, the Port Commission has allowed developer Pacific Waterfront Partners to retain control of the precious public waterfront land, stating that the developer plans to proceed with a "Diet 8 Washington Project" based on city approvals they had already received before voters weighed in.

In a new ruling, however, Superior Court Judge James Robertson threw out the 8 Washington project approvals, finding that the city relied on an environmental study that used outdated and incomplete traffic data. It's time for the Port Commission to make a clean break from this failed project, and take a fresh look at the best way to allow everyone to enjoy this prime part of San Francisco's waterfront.

Defending the Voices of Voters

In January, Supervisor Scott Wiener – who backed 8 Washington and opposed letting voters have a say in whether waterfront height limits should be respected or raised – announced that he plans to put a Charter amendment on the November ballot to dramatically rewrite the citizen initiative rules to make it significantly harder for regular San Franciscans – but not City Hall politicians – to qualify initiatives for the ballot.

Wiener's proposal would throw roadblocks in front of citizen-initiated ballot ideas by:

1) **Increasing** the number of valid petition signatures required to put a citizen-initiated measure on the ballot, which favors corporate interests because it will raise the cost to qualify ballot initiatives by thousands of dollars, 2) **Blocking** citizen initiative petition gathering until the Board of Supervisors has held a hearing on the issue, and 3) **Doing nothing** to make it more difficult for the mayor or supervisors to put measures on the ballot – even though 85 percent of city ballot measures have been put there by politicians, not the people. Because the vast majority of ballot measures come out of City Hall, why are the proposed restrictions targeted only at stopping the initiatives that come from the people – such as requiring a Waterfront Land Use Plan and protecting waterfront height limits?

A citywide coalition of environmental, neighborhood, and civic leaders has formed to say: **Don't Silence San Francisco Voters.** Find out more at www.DontSilenceSFVoters.com.



NORTH BEACH CITIZENS BUYS KEARNY ST. BUILDING – EXPANDS PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE S.F. HOMELESS ISSUES

By Kristie Fairchild
Executive Director, North Beach Citizens

It is with great excitement that I am announcing that after 13 years of renting we are now the proud owners of a building at 1034 Kearny St., between Broadway and Pacific. Although we won't be moving in until this summer, I wanted to let you know more about North Beach Citizens (NBC), our plans for the new building, and how the expansion of our programs will further benefit the North Beach community.

We are currently renting a storefront at 720 Columbus Ave. Thanks to a very generous donation and the support of the community, we have purchased a building at 1034 Kearny. Having our own building allows us to expand our commitment to our clients and to the community and gives us greater control over our programs and services. This increases our ability to make better long-term planning decisions.

North Beach Citizens is a community-based organization focused on the needs of homeless and low-

income citizens. Francis Ford Coppola founded NBC in 2001 out of concern for the number of impoverished people he encountered on his daily walks from Caffé Trieste to his office in the Sentinel Building. Since then, we've improved the quality of life for many people, offering drop-in services, counseling, advocacy, and access to nutritious food through our food pantry, as well as finding permanent housing for many of our clients.

Overall, NBC offers a unique solution to alleviate homelessness that:

- ♦ **Takes a community approach:** Working with police officers, firefighters, other nonprofit service providers, residents, and merchants to encourage homeless citizens as they reclaim their lives.
- ♦ **Gets and keeps people off the streets:** In the last three years, NBC helped find homes for 100 people, with 90 percent staying in housing, and helped more than 300 with our other services.
- ♦ **Helps in a lasting, cost-efficient way:** It costs NBC \$10,000 per year to help one homeless person get

care and into housing, while it costs the city \$61,000 in emergency services and incarceration for one chronically homeless person.

- ♦ **Reduces crime and panhandling:** Help people get the resources and food they need, which reduces panhandling, crime, and loss of housing due to inability to pay rent.
- ♦ **Cleans the parks and streets:** The NBC Street Beautification team picks up 4,000 bags of trash each year.

Once interior construction is completed this summer to make 1034 Kearny suitable for North Beach Citizens programs, we will begin to enhance and expand our services to our clients such as:

- ♦ Doubling the number of people we serve
- ♦ Increasing our hours of operations from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- ♦ Increasing our food pantry program to include more local residents
- ♦ Enhancing our intensive case management program

continued on page 14



PARKS, TREES & BIRDS REPORT



By Carlo Arreglo
Co-chair, THD Parks, Trees & Birds Committee

It's been awhile, but one can't mention spring without looking back at the Christmas Bird Count. Every year in December, citizen science volunteers fan out and look for birds in their count areas. Their findings help build a long-term database on species, numbers, and distribution and can be interpreted against factors such as habitat, urbanization, climate change, noise, energy sources, and much more.

North Beach/Telegraph Hill has for the past few years been part of Area 7.1. However, the day before the 2014 Christmas Bird Count (CBC), I got an e-mail stating that Area 7.1 would be reunited with Area 7.2 to form Area 7, which is what it was before it was split. Lafayette Park, City Hall, the Tenderloin, Market Street, Union Square, South of Market, and the waterfront down to Mission Creek were added to North Beach/Telegraph Hill, Chinatown, the Embarcadero, the Financial District, and Russian Hill.

On the count day, wind played havoc with the

count and threatened to drain the stamina of participants, especially along the waterfront and downtown where tall buildings created a chilly, blasting, wind-tunnel effect. Thankfully, Amy Loewen's delicious holiday shortbread helped us get through the chilly morning.

Despite the wind, we had an enthusiastic team of long-time counters and new S.F. CBC counters from the East Bay, and a mix of eager S.F. birders. Highlights included the Orange-crowned Warbler, Varied Thrush, and Brown Creeper, the latter two very good birds for Telegraph Hill. White-throated Sparrow made an appearance at the Coit Tower south lawn, which was a lifer for several counters. At Sydney Walton Square, a Red-tailed Hawk showed up, much to the displeasure of a Peregrine Falcon, which stooped on the buteo several times until it hastily left the premises. Sue Bierman Park was mostly a bust. Deep shadows, cold, windy. We did see a dark morph Red-tailed Hawk though.

Piers 3-19 had many of the usual gulls attracted to the herring run. We managed a couple of Glaucous-winged Gulls and, surprisingly, two Surf Scoters flying north, which is quite good for this area. There were more sea lions and harbor seals than I've ever seen along the waterfront. We made two separate attempts for the Black-and-white Warbler at Coit Tower, but got skunked.

Two North Beach/Telegraph Hill counters ran into a Fort Mason counter at Lafayette Park and their combined forces got them a Baltimore Oriole! They later reported Acorn Woodpeckers and one Merlin from Lafayette Park and the Tenderloin. They also produced the only Bushtits sighted during the count. I don't know where the California Towhees were, but they were never found. We ended up with 54 species, a respectable number for downtown birding, reminding us that nature can be found deep in the city.

Thank you to Area 7 stalwarts and counters: Amy Loewen (with much gratitude for supporting a birder's schedule), Paul

Weaver (with thanks for recording), Sean Reynolds, Amanda Starbuck, Sohail (I didn't catch your surname) [thanks for your autonomy and to both of you for covering Lafayette Park, Tenderloin, and City Hall], Lee and Gail Bruno (South End Rowing Club representatives), Sheila Dickie, Elizabeth Sojourner (both long-time counters from Judy Irving's tenure), Joan Francis (first-time CBC counter and looking forward to more birding!), and Erika Kawata and Niki (both first-time S.F. counters).

As for the coming spring, migration will be taking place as birds travel hundreds and thousands of miles from their wintering areas in Central and South America. The city has already had reports of Allen's Hummingbirds. These migrants may be checking out your flowers and hummingbird feeders right now! Keep a look out for flycatchers, orioles, tanagers, kingbirds, warblers, and more. I've seen a pair of juvenile Cooper's Hawks zipping around the Hill checking out local feeders. As always, if you'd like to learn more about birds or just go out for a walk in the 'hood, you are very welcome to join my monthly North Beach/Telegraph Hill bird walk. It's free, and if you'd like more details about when and where to meet, visit the Golden Gate Audubon Society website at <http://goldengateaudubon.org/>. All the best birding!



Christmas Bird Count Group 7 at Pier 1
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CARLO ARREGLO



Christmas Bird Count Group in action at Sue Bierman Park
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CARLO ARREGLO

COMMERCIAL DRONE CLOSES COIT TOWER

By Jon Golinger

On January 12, hundreds of visitors to Coit Tower and Pioneer Park were greeted by police officers and "Closed" signs that blocked all access to our national treasure. Visitors and residents alike were surprised to discover that – without prior community discussion or public notice – the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission had granted permission to a corporate production company to close Coit Tower, Pioneer Park, Telegraph Hill Boulevard, and a block of Lombard Street, so they could use a small drone to fly over Coit Tower and film footage for a corporate ad campaign.

The coordinator of the commercial shoot stat-

ed that his company had decided to use a drone rather than a helicopter to get the shots for their ad to save money. Apparently, the Recreation and Park Department simply granted permission for them to do so and shut down the park and Coit Tower to the public.

Following numerous community complaints and TV, radio, and newspaper stories about "The Drone that Closed Coit Tower," the production company finished its filming and cancelled plans to close Coit Tower for a second day of filming.

Coit Tower is a public space that belongs to the people, and it diminishes this treasure to stop them from even seeing Coit Tower because a company wants to use a drone for its commercial to save money. As has been evident throughout the recent



Drone flying over Coit Tower

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON GOLINGER



Commercial production company with drone in the parking lot at the base of Coit Tower

battle to preserve and protect the historic Coit Tower murals from continued lax oversight and neglect by the city, this event shines a spotlight on this essential question: Why does the city allow the Recreation and Park Department to continue to treat Coit Tower like a cash cow and just another building, rather than the special place of great importance to San Francisco it truly is?



'HERE'S TO YOU, MARY ETTA MOOSE'

By Catherine Accardi

Trained as a photographer 40 years ago, I know capturing a person's "sprit" in a photograph is both challenging and rewarding. Now, as a writer, I know capturing someone's "being" in writing is sublime. I was reminded of that recently when I interviewed Mrs. Mary Etta Moose.

Mary Etta is the other half of the dynamic duo that ran the Washington Square Bar & Grill, and later, Moose's, both legendary restaurants of North Beach. Back in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, if you were a *real* San Franciscan you patronized those establishments. Who didn't know about the Washbag and Moose's! Or, at least, who would dare to admit such ignorance?

Mary Etta Moose, wife of the late, great Ed Moose, was born Mary Etta Presti in 1929, as she says, "below the Mason-Dixon Line." She is the daughter of a Sicilian immigrant father.

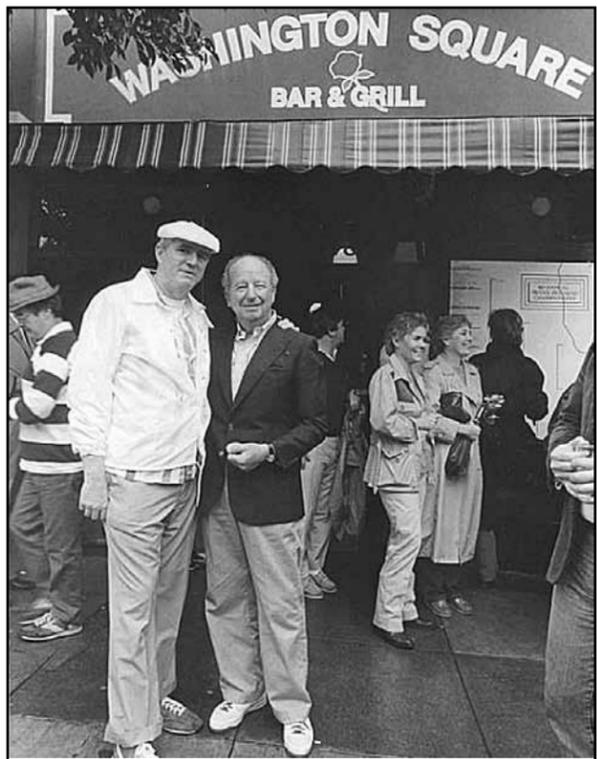
He arrived in the United States at the age of two, and a mother who was born in St. Louis, Mo. Her maternal grandfather came from Wales, a family line that dates back to 18th century America.

Growing up in St. Louis, it is also the place where Mary Etta would eventually meet the love of her life, Edward Moose. They were introduced by Sam Deitch, their mutual friend, and San Francisco business partner, who brought Ed to Mary Etta's New Year's Eve party one year, and the rest is a lovely love story.

At that time, Ed traveled throughout the country setting up alumni associations for the Saint Louis University Medical School. It was on one of these travels that he fell in love with San Francisco, the closest thing to the Mediterranean cities he loved, and the North Beach district the most Italian. It was soon after they met on that New Year's Eve night that Ed invited Mary Etta to join him in San Francisco. They have never lived anywhere else. This is what a love story is all about. Tony Bennett first performed "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in 1962 at the Fairmont Hotel. Ed and Mary Etta married in 1964. These dates are close enough for me to hope they are not just coincidence.

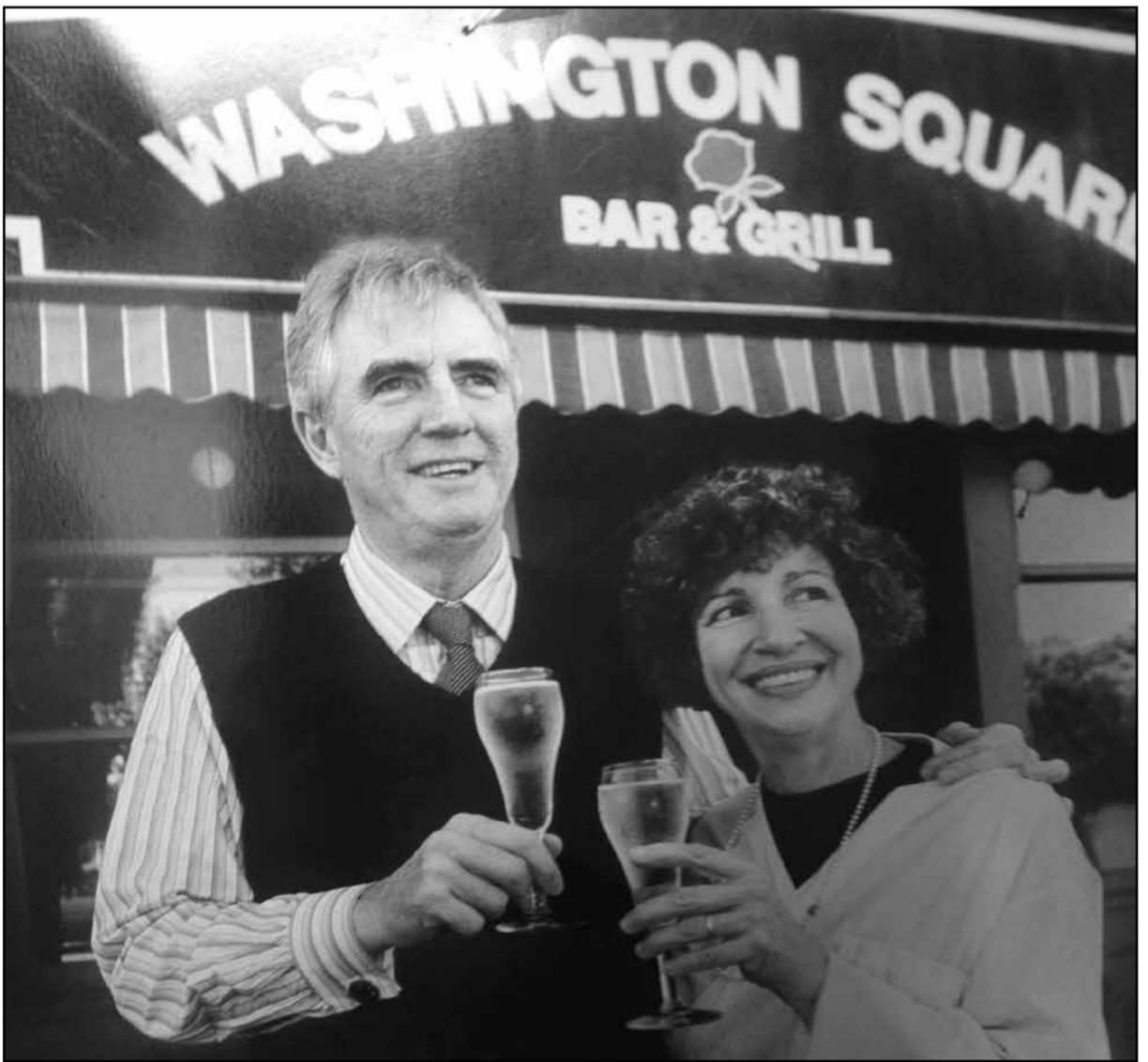
Mary Etta reflects on her early days in San Francisco by sharing: "When I arrived in San Francisco, in the late 1950s, it was a village, compared to today. There were very few high-rises grouped downtown. Walking through North Beach, we knew most of the people we passed. My first apartment cost \$75/month, and my salary was \$75/week. Really colorful characters could afford to live in North Beach and there were plenty of them. It was a wonderful time."

What are her thoughts on the loss of some decades-old establishments and the arrival of new ones? "Tosca is still here, happily. Park Tavern is run by people who know what they are doing, and it is thriving. Original Joe's is a great addition to the neighborhood; it feels like it was always here. It enjoys the irreplaceable attraction of having owners always on the premises, greeting patrons. Rose Pistola's is consistently good. The own-



Moose and Herb Caen

(FROM THE SEMAPHORE ISSUE NO. 192, PAGE 30)



Ed and Mary Etta Moose in front of the Washington Square Bar & Grill

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MRS. MARY ETTA MOOSE

ers of The Square are chefs, so the food quality will continue to obtain. All these places are full of happy customers. Iconic-wise, we are covered. Losing Café Divine is painful; we all hope something as right for the neighborhood will replace it on that key corner. We hope the others have long leases, because the escalation of commercial rents is foreboding for food-service establishments."

I asked her what she thought about the adjectives used to describe her two restaurants, those words being "fashionable," "iconic," and "legendary." Her reply was: "Ed was never satisfied with merely running a restaurant. He was a restless, creative, political, outgoing man. He created a softball team, Les Lapins Sauvage, and worked with mayors and team owners to set up softball games in major ballparks – including Yankee Stadium, Fenway, and Sportsman Park. Les Lapins played games in Moscow, Ireland and Hong Kong.

"We kept in touch with our customer list with newsletters, which expanded into a newspaper, at Moose's. The first thing we selected for our restaurants was a chef, then a piano, and then a graphic artist. Larry Green designed our logo, and sign, menu and newsletters for Washington Square Bar & Grill. Ward Shumaker did the deed for Moose's, created the great logo, the neon sign, and all our graphics, including the newsletter.

"We needed live music on the premises to keep us happy in our work, so there was always a piano and a pianist at Washington Square Bar & Grill and at Moose's. Sam Deitch's sister, the lyricist Fran Landesman, attracted traveling jazz musicians to sit-in sessions. Our friend Stan Getz brought his horn and

drew other players who were traveling through the city. At Moose's, pianist Mike Greensill's Trio played. Mike was our music director for special events, like Wesla Whitfield's and Pat Yankee's Sunday afternoon performances. Bob Dorough ("Multiplication Rock") is the only performer who ever caught the attention of our young cooks – 'It's HIM! -- the chap who taught them numbers. I'll send you a photo of Bob at Moose's, with Dean Reilly."



Moose's iconic neon sign

PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHERINE ACCARDI

Deitch and Ed together filled that role at WSB&G."

It goes without saying that Mrs. Moose had the opportunity to meet many interesting people. She identifies some of her favorite characters as: "Herb Caen and Stanton Delaplaine and Ron Fimrite were San Francisco stars, who fashioned our public persona; Handsome seaman Motts Matsumodo, who ornamented North Beach bars whenever he was not at sea. Motts would send a postcard from whatever port he landed in, and the cards always bore the same message:

'Nothing here.' Specs Simmons, owner of Spec's 12 Adler, was bright, entertaining, and a colorful original. Donato Rossi, of Gino & Carlo's. Donato won us over one afternoon when a not-sober refugee from the Financial District became obstreperous. Donato reached under the bar, drew up a pair of scissors and cut the guy's tie in half. Too many to mention, all wonderful."

continued on page 9

DAVID IRELAND

The Telegraph Hill Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of San Francisco Bay Area artist David Ireland (1930-2009). "The Idea That Nothing Was Something Was in My Thought" runs from March 20 through May 1, with an opening reception on Sat., March 21, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Telegraph Hill Gallery is located at 491 Greenwich St. in San Francisco. The show will feature Ireland's works on paper dating from the mid-1970s and the mid-1990s.

Ireland was one of the key figures in conceptual art on the West Coast. He gained the respect of his peers, steadily rose to prominence, and won critical acclaim worldwide. Ireland pushed the boundaries and broke down the hierarchy in art by blurring the line between life and art. He chose ordinary, everyday materials as his tools and manipulated them by experimentation and by improvisation into works of art. He considered the process an integral part of his work and as art itself and valued the process as much as the finished work.

Ireland is best known around the globe for his conceptual and large-scale installation art, sculptures of massive proportions, assemblage

of miscellaneous and household objects, and drawings. He was at ease working in both large and small format and worked fluidly between mediums. His home at 500 Capp St. is considered his masterpiece. Major museums and corporations collect Ireland's sculptures and drawings.

The exhibition features Ireland's works on paper dating from the mid-1970s and the mid-1990s. Included are landscape pieces made from folded paper, monotype, as well as plaster works echoing the walls of his San Francisco home. There are rarely exhibited minimalist print works in a series of inked strings in black and primary colors, gray "DI" compositions exploring the concept of the artist's signature, and a suite of gestural enamel works blending meandering lines and his initials as he continued to probe his own concerns regarding the impact of the artist's signature.

The Telegraph Hill Gallery
491 Greenwich St., San Francisco
(415) 767-9794
www.telegraphhillgallery.com

COURTESY OF THE TELEGRAPH HILL GALLERY

"THE IDEA THAT NOTHING
WAS SOMETHING WAS IN MY
THOUGHT"
—WORKS ON PAPER—



DAVID IRELAND

THE IDEA THAT NOTHING WAS SOMETHING WAS IN MY THOUGHT
Works on Paper
20 March through 01 May 2015

{ TH } { TH(e)Gallery } 491 Greenwich Street San Francisco CA 94133
{ eG } TELEGRAPH HILL T 415 767 9794 telegraphhillgallery.com

Mary Etta Moose *continued from page 8*

And who was responsible for the iconic neon Moose sign? Well, that would be Ward Schumaker, who created that graphic identity.

One of the many accounts about Mary Etta and Ed's love story is that of the lovely home-cooked meals they enjoyed together. She elaborates on the subject by explaining:

"A frequent guest at our home, an official at the phone company, suggested one day that because Ed was such a great conversationalist and socializer, and I could put together a good meal, we were naturals for the hospitality field, and should consider abandoning our jobs and open a restaurant. He was one of the smartest people we knew, so we listened and followed his advice. After the dining room was seated and running smoothly, Ed always came home for dinner *a deux*. Not easy to relax in your own restaurant."

I asked about the famous mural that hung in the banquet room, the one that held a delightful detail about which Mary Etta explains: "Shortly after Moose's opened, the editor of my book realized, talking to me, that I had not yet picked up on the detail in the mural in the banquet room. He led me upstairs and pointed out that the 2-year-old girl was me, and she was carrying a moose doll, and the writing on the ribbon above her read, 'And, with her very best friend, she started on the long journey.' I learned that, when we asked Ward Schumaker to paint a mural, Ed had handed him a photo of me at age 2 and asked him to put me in the mural. I will always regret that I had not thought to do the same with a photo of young Ed. When they took the mural down, Anna Weinberg generously offered me that section of it, and it now hangs in our home."

Mary Etta is known for being a "recipe archivist" and co-author of the book *The Flavor of North Beach*. How did that come about I asked. "Chronicle Books was doing a series of books by Brian St. Pierre on the food of sections of the city. Brian wrote about the restaurants and asked me to write about the food shops and do some recipes. There were still four great delicatessens in North Beach (Molinari's survives), two knife butchers (Little City still obtains) and there were still some of the cooks alive who ran historic restaurant kitchens."

Speaking of recipes, there is one that survives to this day called the "golden sandwich." Exactly how did that come about? "One day when Ed and I stopped by

Iacopi's butcher shop, Bruno Iacopi called the bakery across the street for some focaccia, warm from the oven. He had sitting out a slab of Teleme cheese (it was May, the seasonal high for Teleme cheese). It was very soft and creamy. He halved the focaccia, stuffed it with a thick slice of cheese, wrapped it in foil for a tantalizing few minutes and cut it up for us. Ed exclaimed 'That's golden!' and Golden sandwich was born."

It is said that the Moose's had a favorite table overlooking the kitchen. Here is the real story. "When we dined at Moose's, Ed and I took the table closest to the kitchen with the best view of the dining room. Ed always sat facing the door, so he could greet regulars as they arrived and/or left." Of course! That's just what great restaurateurs do!

In closing our interview, I asked Mary Etta if she missed her patrons as much as we miss her. Her reply was "We worked seven days a week, our patrons and staff were our entire social life."

"I miss a great many of our friends because they are no longer here, it is the lot of the survivor. It is always a joy to see those who remain. In retirement, Ed suffered greatly from not being among people. We have been told by many people they felt the same about Ed's not being available publicly." Edward Moose passed away on Aug. 12, 2010.

The days of Moose's and Washington Square Bar & Grill are gone, but not the memories.

It's to those memories that we raise our glasses and say, "Here's to you, Mary Etta Moose."



Bob Dorrough and Dean Reilly

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MRS. MARY ETTA MOOSE

EDWARD BURBRIDGE SO LONG SAN FRANCISCO

Recently, North Beach resident and THD member Dana Merker contacted me regarding her friend Edward Burbridge. She suggested we feature a poem by Mr. Burbridge in *The Semaphore* titled *So Long San Francisco*. I read it and was touched. Of course this must be printed, I thought. Here it is on page 11, along with a second poem, *San Francisco Still*.

—Editor

About Edward Burbridge — from Dana Merker

Our good friend Edward Burbridge lived on Telegraph Hill in the mid-1950s while attending the theater program at San Francisco State College. He knew Phyllis Diller, sat at the bar to design the Purple Onion logo, worked with Johnny Mathis and knew Maya Angelou.

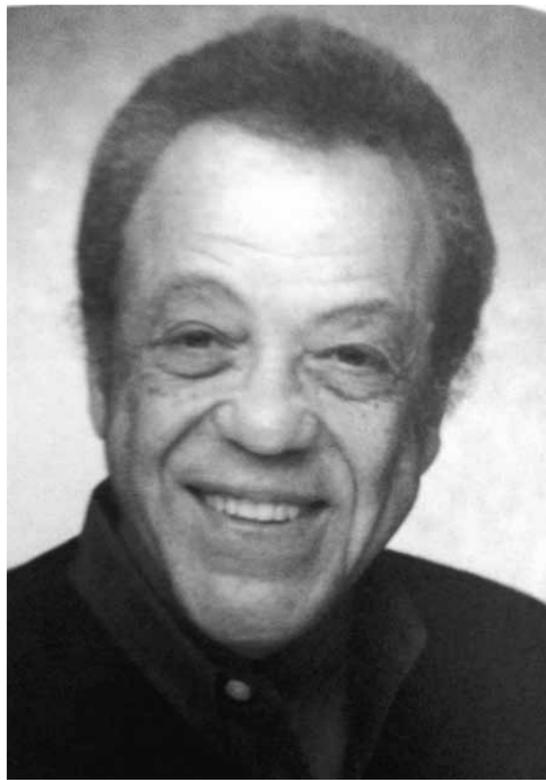
After his college years, Edward left for New York to study art

at Pratt. He became an accomplished scene designer, working both on and off Broadway, was a founding designer with The Negro Ensemble Company, worked closely with The Joffrey and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and worked in television and movies. He lives in a wonderful row house storefront in Brooklyn Heights, and visits us regularly at our place on Filbert Street near Kearny, reminiscing about living around the corner on Telegraph Hill.

A gifted writer, Edward developed the following piece, *So Long San Francisco*, which he read for us on a recent visit. He dedicated the poem to our close friend Harvey Berman, who passed away last year, and was a teacher and theater director at S.F. State while living in North Beach in the mid-'50s. We enjoyed hearing Edward read the poem again, and it occurred to me that it might be of interest to *The Semaphore*.



Edward Burbridge at age 20, about the time he wrote *So Long San Francisco*.



Edward Burbridge today

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF EDWARD BURBRIDGE

MEMORIES OF MAYA ANGELOU AND JAMES BALDWIN

By Edward DeJoie Burbridge Jr

I first met Dr. Angelou in 1955 in San Francisco. She was appearing at the Purple Onion on a bill with Phyllis Diller and Ketty Lester, then named Ravoyda Frierson. I had designed the logo for the Purple Onion and Phyllis Diller had made the selection after seeing my portfolio. At the bar she had said to me, "Don't ever lose that freedom, honey."

Across the street at the Hungry i, I had designed a set for "Trouble in Tahiti." Johnny Mathis, then a student at San Francisco State, was in the trio. We toured the production to several cities in California, picking Johnny up from a small house on Post Street.

Several years later, I toured with James Baldwin and the Amen Corner in Europe and the Far East. I was the lighting designer technical director and Jimmy and I traveled together, he giving interviews and I adapting the set. This poem (*So long San Francisco*) came out of the meetings with Maya Angelou and James Baldwin.

So long San Francisco

So long San Francisco
I looked for you
And found
That you had gone

Cafe Vesuvio
Called me back
I had to go
Couldn't find
A face I know
San Francisco

I came back
To Vesuvio
To see
If you were
There
Singing San Francisco
So radiant
So rare

To climb
The still
Resistant streets
That rise
Above the bay
Where
The oleander
Meets
The breeze
That whispers
Stay
In San Francisco

Goodbye
North Beach mornings
Breakfast
By the bay
Champagne
Laced with
Orange juice
Curried eggs
Soufflé

So long
Lazy Sundays
The flat

Below the tower
Where
Wally , Lou,
And Christopher
Told stories
By the hour

That afternoon
With Isherwood
I wish I could
Recall
Telling tales
He held us
In his thrall

And life
It seems
Was so arousing
We drifted
Down the hills
Carousing
Headed for
The corner
Paper Doll

The sculpture garden
The cottage cunning
Nearly naked
Napping sunning
It seemed to us
That time
Stopped running
In San Francisco

Goodbye to
The old
Black Cat
Where a guy
Wearing only
A sailor's hat
Danced
On the bar
With a silver
Fan
Crying
He lost
His honey man

In San Francisco
"I'd sigh.
I'd cry
I'd lay me down
And die
If ever I should
Loose
My honey man"

And life
It seems
Was so arousing
We drifted
Down the hills
Carousing
San Francisco City
Loved us all

Where's
The Purple Onion
Gone
Where's
The Hungry I
Where
Maya sang
Calypso
Where
Lenny
Signified

Steak tartar
At Gordon's Bar
Cocktails
By the fire
We chased
The night
Into the light
And never
Seemed
To tire
We chased
The night
We closed
The bars
Until the light
Deposed

The stars
In San Francisco

The flat
In The Fillmore
Where
The Painted
Ladies preened
We climbed
The flights
To sail the nights
Through stars
The moon
Had gleaned

Mariah, Stephen
Harvey and I
The friend
Who happened
By
Quipped
And supped
And tipped
The cup
Until
The wine
Ran dry

Mariah
For emphasis
Threw
Her glasses
Through
The air
She
Made her point
Then
Rolled a joint
And smoothed
Her chestnut
Hair

Stephen gave
That sigh
She knew
And Harvey
Didn't care

Stephen
Towering
Talking softly
Held a Chrystal
Glass aloft
He
Always seemed
Enticing
And so rare

Midnight suppers
Lobster bisque
Behind
The pocket
Doors

We were shining
Newly minted
Fortune flared
In candle light
Glinted
Warm
And trembling
On the polished
Floors
In San Francisco

That San Francisco
Summer
Blazed
Then died
Too soon
Flowers
In the ashes
Strewn
Ashes
Of the moon

For: Harvey Berman

By Edward DeJoie Burbridge jr

San Francisco Still

I passed a body
Wrapped in rugs
Sleeping in
The portal of
The floral stenciled
Bohemia Bar
And
Walked up California
Where
I waited for
The cable car

The morning streets
Were mute
And haunting
San Francisco
Still
Remembered tremors
Love left wanting
Lost
Upon the hill

Two thin men passed
Shoulders touching
Shivering
In short sleeves
Clutching
Fantasies
Spun in some bar
Elusive
As a fallen star

In sleazy yellow
Drenched in grease
In mordant
Dangerous cerise
They passed graphiti
Screaming peace

In vain I sought
The cable car
Down
The climbing

Street
And felt
The cogs and cables
Spar
Underneath
My feet

The morning sky
Was opaque
Clouded
San Francisco
Still
The cable car
A ghost
Mist shrouded
Appeared
Above the hill

For: Gerald

By Edward DeJoie Burbridge Jr

THE 'i' THAT STORMED THROUGH NORTH BEACH, CIRCA 1950

By Art Peterson

If a fan of the Golden Age of San Francisco comedy, emerging from a Rip Van Winkle slumber, were to drop by the Hungry i at 546 Broadway, expecting to find Mort Sahl taking comedic jabs at U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy, he would be confused, if not disappointed, depending on his idea of a good time. As denizens of that Broadway block know, the present day "i" is more about Saturnalia than satire. Yes, the name is the same as the legendary boite that opened for business in 1951 in the basement of 149 Jackson, now Francis Ford Coppola's Columbus Tower. That's because Enrico Banducci, the club's fabled proprietor, sold the name one day when he was, not uncommonly, on the shorts. (The meaning of the "i" has been a matter of some dispute. Banducci, who inherited the name, claimed it stood for "id," a nod to the fashionable Freudianism of the time. Others said it was short for intellectual. Or maybe, as has also been asserted, the sign painter just didn't finish in time for the opening.)

Banducci bought the 85-seat "i" from faux beatnik Eric Nord with \$800 of borrowed money. The *San Francisco Examiner* columnist, who wrote that the club was "a basement Disneyland peopled with left over bohemians, on-the-nod junkies, and other waifs and strays from reality," was probably not far off the mark. However, Banducci had a dream that did not include performances by over-the-hill Burl Ives clones.

The man wanted a night club, but one like no other. "I didn't care for night clubs," he once said, "I saw my place more as a theater." This was not going to be a place where you would need to fold a high-denomination bill into the maître d's palm to get a table this side of Siberia. There would be no orchid sellers, no photographers, no cigarette girls.

In 1954, Banducci's dream began to materialize when he moved the club to the basement of 599 Jackson, below the site of the then-International Hotel, whose residents were mostly older Filipino men employed as servants and kitchen workers. He installed what he claimed was the world's longest bar, and 291 canvas chairs with cup holders, all facing a stage backed by a brick wall that left one entertainer with the queasy feeling that he was standing in front of a Cuban firing squad.

It was Banducci's gift for spotting talent, however, that made the "i" special. There was Sahl, but there was also Shelley Berman, "Professor" Irwin Corey, Bill Cosby, Dick Gregory, Lenny Bruce, Nichols and May, Maya Angelou (she was singing at the time), the Limeliter, Peter, Paul and Mary, Dick Cavett, Tom Lehrer, Phyllis Diller and Jonathan Winters. On and on. Banducci might have missed out on the Smothers



Kingston Trio performing onstage at the Hungry i

PHOTO COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Brothers (he didn't think they were funny), but few others slipped past his insightful eye.

He hired the novices Woody Allen and Barbra Streisand for the same bill. He first encountered Streisand in the office of a New York agent. True to form, she announced that she was going to be a star. Impressed by her energy, Banducci signed her on the spot at \$200 a week. After she left the room the agent said, "But you haven't even heard her sing." According to legend Banducci replied, "She can sing, too? \$250."

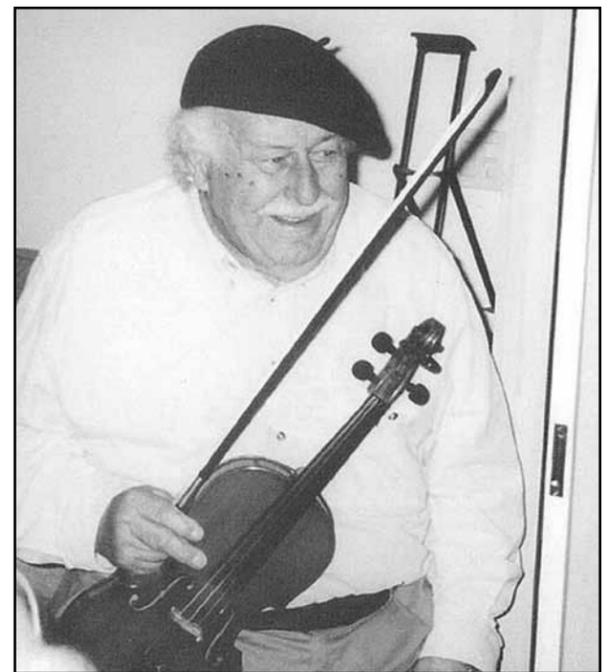
He had not made a mistake. By the end of her run, patrons were lined up around the block to hear "Happy Days Are Here Again." Allen's debut was less auspicious. His jokes, transmitted through his nerdy, New York Jewish persona, were met by no more than nervous giggles. Reacting, he turned his back to the audience, face in his hands, until he was rescued by Banducci interrupting with "Let's give a hand for..." The comedian retreated to Earthquake McGoon's where he sat in on clarinet with Turk Murphy. Banducci did not give up on Allen. Not many years later, the comedian returned in triumph.

Performers who debuted at the Hungry i were often in for a rude awakening when they worked other clubs. Banducci demanded silence during performances. Chatter was forbidden. No drinks were served when performers were on stage, no blenders cranking out grasshoppers. Hecklers were unceremoniously removed. On one occasion, Banducci ejected an entire Grayline bus load of rowdy tourists. Chivalrous to the core, Banducci once got in a slugfest with artist Walter Keane. He said he overheard Keane "using obscenity in the presence of a lady." The next day, the contretemps received front-page attention in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, much to the delight of Banducci's press agent.

For other reasons related to Banducci's style, the club was a unique workspace. Alvah Bessie, the black-listed Hollywood 10 screenwriter, was unemployable in the 1950s because of his radical affiliations. Ever the rebel, Banducci hired Bessie to announce the acts. Off-kilter folks of every stripe worked at the "i." One was the beautiful hostess Jo Ann Edmonson, who had an ability to fend off unwanted suitors by putting out a cigarette on her wooden leg. Banducci insisted that his acts spend time at the bar fraternizing with the patrons, where Gregory Peck and Franck Sinatra might be holding forth, and where local representatives

of the "sable and sandal set" were also belying up. Shelly Berman was impressed by the way Banducci connected with performers. "Most of the other club owners," he said, "just want to count their money." His admiration was not dimmed when a "bonus" check from Banducci "was still bouncing years later."

In a way, the "i" came along at the right place and time. The Free Speech Movement was still years away, but political young people were beginning to emerge from their Eisenhower era slumber. They came out to



Enrico Banducci with a violin

PHOTO COURTESY DICK BOYD, VIA FOUNDSF.ORG

see Mort Sahl though Sahl had his doubts about them. "They want to change the world, if Daddy will give them permission to use the station wagon," he said. He would often end his act by asking, "Is there anyone here tonight who I haven't offended?"

Successful as the Hungry i was, nothing lasts forever, and the club ended its run in 1970. For Banducci, awash in debt, Las Vegas, television and rock 'n' roll had taken their toll. With the financial help of Sahl, Bill Cosby and "Professor" Irwin Corey, Banducci opened Enrico's, his see-and-be-seen restaurant-café on Broadway. That place remained the centerpiece of North Beach hipster culture until the man's generosity and lack of attention to the bottom line left him broke again and forced him to step aside.

Some years later, asked by Jess Hamlin about his success, Banducci took well-deserved credit. He said he allowed no one to interfere. "It was me."

Art Peterson is the author of "Why Is That Bridge Orange? San Francisco for the Curious" now in its third printing.



Faith Winthrop at the Hungry i

PHOTO COURTESY FAITH WINTHROP VIA FOUNDSF.ORG

THE SPEAKEASY

AN IMMERSIVE THEATER EXPERIENCE

Boxcar Theatre has announced that it has signed a 10-year lease on a property at the confluence of San Francisco's Chinatown and North Beach neighborhoods. The property, located at 644 Broadway, will house The Speakeasy, scheduled to open in late 2015 or early 2016, with three to four shows per week and an array of neo-vaudeville acts on other nights. The immersive theater experience is about a Prohibition-era saloon.

The theater's former location was in the Tenderloin, where it ran for more than five months with continuously sold-out shows, earning widespread praise from critics and audiences. Patrons were free to explore the authentically recreated nightclub, featuring a bar, casino and cabaret.

When The Speakeasy reopens it will accommodate up to 250 patrons a night in a newly remodeled club, formerly a movie theater tucked within the subterranean quarters below the defunct Gold Mountain Restaurant. Before it housed one of the country's largest dim sum restaurants, 644 Broadway opened in 1906 as the Palace Theatre, later re-christened the Verdi Theatre, then in 1954 the World Theatre, screening mostly Chinese language films. After the building was torn down and rebuilt in the early 1980s, a smaller World Theatre reopened, screening films for another 15 years. The property at 644 Broadway was subsequently acquired in 2013 by Cypress Properties Group.



The Speakeasy revue

PHOTO BY PETER LIU

Boxcar follows China Live Ventures and the San Francisco Film Society in leasing space in the building.

Boxcar Theatre was co-founded in 2005 by Nick Olivero and has produced more than 60 plays and musicals, including "Hedwig and the Angry Inch,"

"Little Shop of Horrors," "Clue," and three Tennessee Williams plays and four Sam Shepard plays in repertory. For more information, visit boxcartheatre.org and thespeakeasysf.com.

SPEAKING OF SPEAKEASIES

Reprinted here is a *Semaphore* Classic from the Autumn 2008 issue. Dick Boyd's, "Prohibition: North Beach and the Mob," provides a look back at the days when the speakeasies of North Beach were in their "prime." Let's

not forget that, according to historic accounts, 1630 Powell St., which dates back to 1918, was the location of one of San Francisco's most successful speakeasies. Years later, it was the location of the famous Amelio's Restaurant (now Pena Pachamama).

The landmark location of Amelio's was a fine-

dining establishment where, reportedly, Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe had their wedding dinner, where the Kennedys, Gary Cooper, Rocky Marciano, and Dean Martin were frequent guests. The upstairs dining room is where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard rendezvoused.

PROHIBITION NORTH BEACH AND THE MOB

by Dick Boyd

It's hard to pick up a paper these days without reading about a murder. North Beach thankfully seems to be a little behind that curve. However, the recent barrage of homicides in the Bay Area got me to thinking about another era. What was North Beach like during Prohibition? That's when organized crime got its foothold in the neighborhood. I had always heard that the SFPD had kept the Mafia out of San Francisco. Well, that's true—sort of.

But during prohibition East Coast mafia "soldiers" were in San Francisco's North Beach in sufficient numbers to control the illegal booze coming into the city. Keep in mind that city voters had overwhelmingly rejected Prohibition. San Franciscans were drinkers legal or otherwise. Figures are not easy to come by for the Prohibition Era, but at the close of WWII our



Scene of slaying of Luigi Malvese. Auto in place where Malvese was shot. Lewis Packing Corp. Ltd., 720 Columbus. May 19, 1932

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SF PUBLIC LIBRARY

residents consumed not only more booze per capita than any other city in the U.S., but the city was also first in gin mills per capita.

During Prohibition speakeasies flourished in North Beach. There was Portuguese immigrant Izzy Gomez's place at 848 Pacific. The joint became writer William Saroyan's watering hole of choice. The Hotel D'Oloron on Columbus between Pacific and Jackson was opened by Basque immigrants. What later became Mooney's Irish Pub at 1525 Grant had a 600 sq/ft speakeasy in its basement next to a Bocce Ball Court.

Contrary to the Hollywood depiction of the era, most speakeasies were just rectangular rooms with curtains from ceiling to floor. A waiter took the order, disappeared through an opening in the curtain, and returned with the booze. If there was an unexpected raid the owners simply changed a couple digits in the street address, the color of the curtains and reopened the next day. Of course, there were hundreds of these

Semaphore Classic

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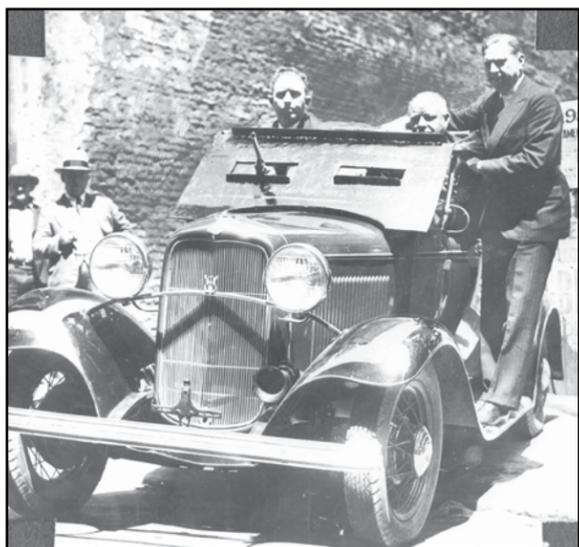


speakeasys throughout the city. Well, residents had to get their booze somewhere. This is where the mafia and some of their front men came in.

In 1928 Gerri Ferri, the "Don Juan of North Beach," was the man in charge. He was later found filled with bullets in his bathroom at 490 Lombard. Ferri's murder set off a four-year power struggle. He was soon followed in power and death by "Genaro the Magnificent" Broccolo, Mario Filippi, Alfred Scariso and Frank Bosch, "the strong man of the Sicilians," all of whom had brief reigns. The bloodbath ended with the murder of the self proclaimed "King of North Beach Crooks," Luigi Malvese of 1495 Grant Ave. At one time or another Malvese, had been charged for bootlegging, hijacking, extortion and gunrunning (including a plot to smuggle guns into Folsom Prison).

He met his demise just before 6pm on May 19, 1932 in Al Capone style while double-parked in front of the Del Monte Barber Shop at 720 Columbus Ave, now the North Beach Citizens headquarters, but then a gangster hangout. In a scene reminiscent of *The Godfather*, Malvese's passenger, Ralph Ravelli entered the barbershop, leaving "The King" alone. Three men emerged from the shop and one ran to the rear of the auto and began firing. Malvese tried to escape but crumpled to the ground where the killer applied the coup de grace behind his ear.

continued on page 15



Armored police vehicle, 1932, police chief William Quinn stands on running board at right.

PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN MULLEN, VIA FOUNDSF.ORG



RESTAURANT REVIEW



DOC RICKETT'S R_x FOR NORTH BEACH: GREAT FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

By Carol Peterson

Doc Rickett's
124 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
Docrickettsf.com
415-649-6191

Three men, owner Christopher Burnett, General Manager Charlie Brown, and Executive Chef Justin Deering, met at Boulevard restaurant 10 years ago. Little did they know as they shared complementary ideas about food and restaurants that their friendship would lead them to design and open Doc Rickett's, nestled at the entrance to North Beach, bordering the western side of the old Barbary Coast.

Burnett grew up in Monterey, the son of marine biologists. At a young age, he became familiar with another marine biologist, one of Monterey's most prominent citizens, Doc Ricketts, who readers will remember as the protagonist in John Steinbeck's Monterey-set novel, "Cannery Row." Ricketts was more than a biologist. At night, after he closed his lab, he hosted salons for writers, scientists, philosophers, and musicians. When Burnett and his colleagues set out to open a venue that featured eclectic entertainment, as well as food, he knew what he wanted to name the place: Doc Ricketts. Furthermore, he would call the entertainment space in the restaurant's basement, once the location of the legendary Purple Onion, "Doc's Lab."

The other two members of the team, Brown and Deering, went to culinary school in New York at Hyde Park Culinary Academy at the same time, but did not know each other. Coincidentally, they met 15 years later at the Redwood Room in the Transamerica Building where both honed their culinary skills before moving on to Boulevard. Brown said of Justin, "I really identified his talent while working with him."

Doc Rickett's, at the former site of Cafe Macaroni, is small with nine tables, plus bar seating. With his background in engineering and design, Burnett knew

exactly what he wanted in the design of the restaurant and bar. Both the tables and the bar top are the handiwork of Burnett, who milled them from redwood.

Deering designed a menu with seasonal ingredients. Here are some of my favorites from the current menu. From the appetizer menu, I was delighted with a salad of roasted golden and red beets, pea shoots, crispy pork crackling and Banyuls, which is a sweet, red wine vinegar from southern France (\$11). This salad could be shared by two.

The Pate Campagne, from the charcuterie offerings, is a Deering version (\$7.50). It is tender pork shoulder, fat, pasticcio nuts, and wrapped in bacon. It is then poached, sliced, and served with house pickles, a pickled mushroom, and seeded mustard and toast. The dish lacks the greasy fatty texture that one often associates with pate dishes. This plate is perfect with a glass of wine, if you are just stopping by for a drink. The pate is one of five charcuterie offerings. You can also sample the Tasting Plate (\$24).

There are seven options in the entrée category, the most popular of which is, with good reason, the Roasted Chicken (\$22). The chicken is brined and roasted, with a crispy outside and a very juicy inside. It is served with tender broccoli rabe, fingerling potatoes, and something very unusual: two slices of slightly warmed chicken liver pate on toast. This is also a dish that could be shared. The vegetarian Gnocchi Parisienne (\$15) is another option. The tender gnocchi is combined with pea tendrils pesto, walnuts, and pickled shallots. A quick stir brings this dish to

life and the flavors dance on your tongue.

The dessert menu is exceptional and it was difficult to pick from the four choices, but the Meyer Lemon Bar (\$8), with Swiss meringue, white chocolate and candied zest is a perfect combination of flavors. Every bite brought an eye-shutting moment. The designer of the dessert menu is Deering's girlfriend, Lisa Lu. They met in 2005 at Boulevard where Lisa was the Pastry Chef.

We learned about Doc's Lab, one Sunday night when friends invited us there for the Sunday Night Big Band free show. It is exciting to have jazz back in North Beach. But as I later learned, this is not only a place for jazz, but all kinds of music, comedy and literary events. The atmosphere is like a New York club. On one night, or another, there is something for everyone's taste. A bar menu is offered, or you can request the dinner menu for downstairs dining. The space can also be rented for special events.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Doc Ricketts and Doc's Lab! You are fresh, fun and innovative.



Doc Rickett's at 124 Columbus Ave.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DOC RICKETT'S

North Beach Citizens *continued from page 6*

♦ Continuing our commitment to our Street Beautification program by expanding the number of clients in the program

North Beach Citizens is holding its 14th annual Italian dinner fundraiser. Participants will enjoy local Italian cuisine from Ristorante E Tutto Qua, music from Ron Borelli Trio and DJ Dave Tutton. The event is held at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 666 Filbert St.,

at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 12. Tickets range from \$175 for a single adult ticket to sponsorship opportunities. Please visit our website at www.northbeachcitizens.org for details.

Or for more information, please contact me at (415) 772-0918 or via e-mail at kfairchild@northbeachcitizens.org.

Thank you for your support.
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IN MEMORIAM

LAURA SAMPLE MATTOS

Passed away on March 14, 2015

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NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT



By Mike Madrid
Chair, Neighborhood Safety Committee

It's not unusual to hear people complaining about the lack of parking in North Beach. Yet there is another downside to having a car in this neighborhood — auto burglary. It's so common to hear car alarms going off, or to see shattered windshield glass on the street, that you may not pay attention anymore. The reality is that auto burglary is the number one crime in our area. In 2014, there were 2,300 reported car break-ins, an increase of 500 from the previous year. The good news is that San Francisco police officers made 100 arrests in connection with auto burglaries in this area. So why is this crime such a big issue in our neighborhood?

First off, the nature of auto burglary has changed. In the past, these crimes were more random, perhaps perpetrated by a drug addict or petty thief to make a little quick cash. Today, auto burglars are criminals often

working as part of a gang. They come to our neighborhood from other parts of San Francisco, or other cities in the Bay Area, with the specific purpose of robbing cars. They are often armed, and can be dangerous.

What attracts these criminals to our neighborhood? Often times it's tourists. We live in an area with a high concentration of tourist attractions, including North Beach, Coit Tower, Lombard Street, Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. Visitors often leave luggage, money, and other valuables in cars. Criminals take advantage of this. In some cases, tourists have had all of their valuables stolen the day that they arrive in the city. To deal with this issue, Captain David Lazar of Central Station and members of the Community Police Advisory Board developed an educational program called Park Smart. The group created an information card that advised tourists not to leave valuables in their cars. This card is being distributed at parking garages, hotels, and car rental agencies. If visitors have the right

information and are more careful with their valuables, the number of auto burglaries will decrease. What can residents do to protect themselves from auto burglary? Prevention is the best tool to avoid having your car broken into. You shouldn't leave valuables in your car when it is parked on the street. You may think your laptop or purse is safe locked in the trunk of your car, but that's not always the case. Thieves are often watching, and will see you putting those items in your trunk. Once you're gone, they'll break open the trunk and rob you. If you do need to lock something in your trunk, plan ahead and do so in a secure area where no one can see you. The same goes for parking garages. If you live or work in a building with a parking garage, don't assume that your valuables are safe in your car just because it's not on the street. Thieves often gain access to parking garages and systematically break into cars. Keep in mind that if your car is broken into, the thief may be stealing more than just your iPad or purse. They may also be gaining access to your personal information. It's a hassle to have to replace stolen property, but identity theft is a bigger problem you may face as a result of an auto burglary.

Captain Lazar holds community meetings on the third Thursday of every month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. These meetings are your opportunity to speak directly with him and address issues that concern you. The locations of the meetings vary, but you can get information about upcoming meetings and other issues in the neighborhood by following Central Station on Twitter-@SFPDCentral.



Park Smart banner

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Prohibition, North Beach and the Mob

continued from page 13

The killer then ran back into the barbershop and disappeared through the back door, into what is now known as "Via Bufano" (or Grover Street for USPS delivery purposes). The barbers and patrons in the Del Monte Barber Shop suffered a bout of "amnesia," as did most passersby. Ravelli, denied any implication in the crime in spite of the fact it appeared he had set Malvese up. He claimed when he heard the shots he came out of the barber shop, found Malvese dead in the street, dragged him to the gutter and walked away. He was never prosecuted.

One of the barbers was Raffaele Esposito who had shot and killed Broccolo (see above) in October of 1930. He was acquitted on the story that Broccolo had threatened to bomb his home and steal his wife because he wouldn't pay tribute.

By 8pm of the 19th, Captain Arthur Layne of Central Police rolled out a "task force" of a dozen paddy wagons and headed to the Tenderloin. In those days the Tenderloin was in part an upscale district. There were numerous fashionable theaters along Market from 10th St. to 4th St. including the Fox, Orpheum, Paramount, Warfield, United Artist, Golden Gate and State. But there were also "men's only" card clubs at 136 Taylor and 105 Turk Street where a number of suspects were known to hang out. Seventy men were booked at the Hall of Justice, most on \$1000 dollar vagrancy charges

so they could be legally fingerprinted and held on high bail.

The next day, May 20th, the *Chronicle* headline read, "S.F. Gangster Executed in Busy Street." The sub headline read, "Columbus and Filbert Throng in Panic as Bullets Fly." Police Chief William Quinn declared war on the gangsters. (He didn't like it a year later when Alcatraz was about to open. He told the press, "We don't need a Devil's Island here. We have so far in San Francisco kept the gangster within bounds. Incarceration of the likes of Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly would draw their henchman here as honey draws flies.")

On May 21st, Daniel Piccerelli, "Danny the Hook," AKA James Rizzo of 1304 Stockton St., was arrested as a suspect but was turned over as a fugitive when it was discovered he was wanted for a murder in Philadelphia. No one was ever convicted of Malvese's murder.

Malvese's girlfriend, Ramona Crawford, a dancer, was left heart broken, penniless and unable to pay her rent at their Grant Street apartment. However she seemed to have no regrets. "There is no love as loyal or true as a gangster's," and "I'm glad I was a gangster's girl," she said.

In 1933 the Volstead Act was repealed and booze flowed again legally. The bootlegging business dried up, and most of the mafia boys left town encouraged by the



"GOING, GOING—This is Izzy Gomez (left, 1944) and his old place on Pacific Ave., favorite haunt of many a San Franciscan in days not so long gone by..

PHOTOS: SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SF PUBLIC LIBRARY

SFPD. Many years later, in 1958, Gangster Mickey Cohen got roused big time by the cities finest when he came to San Francisco to see his biographer, Dean Jennings. Chief Thomas Cahill simply said, "I have a sworn obligation to the people of San Francisco to protect them." The word was out that the mafia thugs were not welcome in the city—even on a literary sojourn.

Dick Boyd is the author of *Broadway North Beach, The Golden Years* available at *City Lights, The Beat Museum, Books Inc., and Book Passage.*

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THE SAGA OF THE FILBERT STEPS ELM

By Judy Irving

Co-chair — THD Parks, Trees & Birds Committee

As you probably know, elm trees in the United States have been hit hard by Dutch elm disease, and few remain. In the Filbert Steps (Grace Marchant) Garden, though, there is a large healthy elm that has been at the center of a neighborhood debate about whether it should live, or die. If and when the city takes on the care of all street trees — in some distant future when money is actually earmarked for this purpose — this kind of battle will be relegated to history, and will seem quaint. For now, the story of the Filbert Steps elm illustrates how we assign responsibility and liability for our street trees.

Several years ago, someone who shall remain name-

less hired people to climb up into the 50-foot elm and chainsaw away all the greenery, such that the tree was left with several hacked-off limbs: “headed back to large stumps,” as an arborist’s report described it. This was a very bad thing to do to the elm, but it restored the person’s view. A fine was levied by the city and eventually paid. Later, this person moved away. The elm started sprouting thin new branches, “sucker growth,” which popped out of the stump ends. However, a large limb had cracked in previous windstorms, but no one knew this because no one was taking responsibility for regularly assessing and caring for the tree. Eventually, this limb fell in another storm. No one was hurt, thankfully. The branch fell because the elm had not been properly pruned or maintained. If it had been, the branch would

have been removed; an arborist would have seen that the crack posed a hazard.

But who *was* responsible for the elm’s care? That has been a matter of debate! It turns out that the person who so brutally chopped the elm was *not* the responsible property owner. One adjacent owner, believing that she was solely responsible, filed an application to remove the tree, fearing that it would drop another limb and hurt someone. The application was denied because the City Arborist determined that the tree was healthy, it just needed proper care. The property owner filed an appeal, and the notice of the appeal was posted on the tree. That’s when a small group of neighbors got involved.

We want to save the tree, if at all possible: It’s a rare,

continued on page 17

**Thanks, North Beach, for
your support as we approach our
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ART & CULTURE REPORT



By Richard Zimmerman
Chair, Art & Culture Committee

Season of the Witch Salon

Author David Talbot held an overflowing Canessa Gallery audience's rapt attention for a presentation on his best-selling book, "Season of the Witch," at a recent Art & Culture Salon. Talbot describes his book as "a bloody valentine" to San Francisco that covers the era from the

1960s to the early '80s. "... what we now call San Francisco values were not born with flowers in their hair, but howling, in blood and strife," says Talbot. One thesis of his book is that the so-called "San Francisco values" have been exported to the rest of the country; a work still in progress.

While "Witch" provided a starting point for his talk, Talbot segued into a talk he had given recently at

Stanford (You can read the entire talk on 48Hillsonline.com). In that talk — targeted at students — Talbot asks "Are you interested in going public, or in serving the public — that's the fundamental question a Stanford student has to ask these days."

Talbot went on to decry the state of politics in San Francisco and suggest forming an action committee to find competition for Mayor Ed Lee in the upcoming election.

Great evening. Thanks to Talbot, Canessa Gallery, and the Art & Culture Committee for putting on this event.

Current Exhibit

Committee member Melissa Karam has a solo show of her nature-inspired abstract paintings at Melt, 700 Columbus Ave. The exhibit is open-ended, but be sure to stop by soon.

End of this Trip

This marks the end of my tenure as Art & Culture Chair. It has been an interesting and educational two years. It is hoped some of you found our programs interesting as well. I want to thank the dedicated members who have spent the last two years with me on the committee: Jen Hauesser, Steve and Lynn Rabinowitsh, Melissa Karam, and Bethany Long. A special thanks to Zach Stewart for donating Canessa Gallery as a space for our salons and meetings.



"Season of the Witch" salon

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS HEARNE

Filbert Steps Elm *continued from page 16*

healthy elm and is a major feature of the Filbert Steps garden below Montgomery. We also want to make sure that it's properly maintained, so it isn't a safety hazard. In fact, this isn't the first time neighbors have gotten involved. In 2013, we hired Ted Kipping, a well-known consulting arborist, to assess the elm and write a report. Kipping strongly recommended immediate remedial pruning to reduce the "sail" — the top-heavy weight of new growth. Unfortunately, we couldn't raise sufficient funds for the pruning. Also, we weren't sure who was actually responsible for the tree. We all live close to the elm, but none of us live right next to it.

It's a little-known fact, but along the Filbert, Greenwich, and other stairways, the adjacent property owners are responsible/liable for the trees in the public right-of-way that are closest to their buildings. For example, the Compound on the Greenwich Steps where I live is responsible for the trees opposite our cottages along the southern half of the Greenwich garden, while 101 Lombard is responsible for the trees along the northern half, opposite its buildings. These right-of-way stairway gardens are "owned" by DPW (Department of Public Works), but the care of the trees, just like street trees assigned to adjacent property owners, is not DPW's responsibility. All this might change in the future, but for now, The Filbert Steps Elm this is how it is.



PHOTO BY JUDY IRVING

Back to the elm: We reached out to the property owner, who had requested the appeal hearing for tree removal, and she agreed to postpone the hearing so we could all try to work out a neighborly solution. The group again hired Ted Kipping, whose assessment agreed with the city: "I feel that the tree is eminently retainable if the height, reach, end-weight, and windsail are sufficiently reduced." He ended by saying, "Please do this remedial work soon *BEFORE* the added weight and sail of the new growth kicks in." In other words, before the tree leafs out this spring.

But *who* would do the work? In the past, two adjacent property owners on each side of the garden had received notices from the city regarding the elm. We asked for a definitive answer, and DPW sent staff out

to take measurements and assign responsibility/liability once and for all.

This is what happens in a city like San Francisco: *ALL THIS FOR ONE TREE!* Rural people would probably think we're nuts to spend so much time and effort on one tree. But San Francisco has a very small tree canopy compared to other major cities — we have fewer trees per acre than Chicago or New York City — and it makes sense to defend the diminishing number of large, healthy trees still standing.

According to the city, 75 percent of the elm's large trunk is adjacent to a Montgomery Street address, and 25 percent is adjacent to an address on Filbert. As of this writing, this is how the responsibility/liability has been assigned. The two property owners (neither of

whom committed the destructive pruning!) are expected to work together, 75/25, to regularly assess the tree's health, prune it properly, and keep it safe. If they make these good-faith efforts, and if a limb later falls and hurts someone, it's my hunch that they would not be found liable. I'm not an attorney, but it seems to me that if you take reasonable precautions to keep a tree safe, you've done your due diligence, and the rest is an "Act of God." However, if the responsible parties fail to regularly assess and maintain the elm, that's another story.

Meanwhile, our neighborhood group is hopeful that proper pruning, long postponed, will be done before the elm leafs out and becomes top-heavy this spring.

All this ... for one tree! YES!

ON STREET CAR SHARING! CITY CARSHARE

By Tom Noyes

Mary and I have been members of City CarShare since we moved into the city in '98. We got rid of our car about five years later and we couldn't be happier not owning a car in San Francisco. Besides the savings (we spend less in a year than we had been paying only for car insurance), there is always a parking spot when we get back.

In conjunction with the city of San Francisco, City CarShare has rolled out the first four of its on-street spots. There is one on Grant at Filbert. It is conveniently located as the last spot on the west side of the street, making departure and return easy. The spaces are well signed and red-curbed, so other drivers should be able to avoid taking the spot when it's empty. I've tried to reserve the car a number of times, but it's always been

in use, so it certainly seems popular with members near there. I think the street spots are a great idea. They are also becoming necessary as more and more parking lots vanish under the pressure of development.

The city is doing this as a pilot program and wants to hear comment. Nearly 900 on-street spots are being rolled out citywide. However, not all car-sharing services are created equal. City CarShare is the elder statesman. It is nonprofit and provides a service nearly identical to Zip-car (for our usage it is significantly better). It receives grants and donations to influence policy and legislation around "shared mobility," and develops programs to ensure social equity and environmental sustainability of car sharing.

I can't wait for the first electric car in a nearby pod! Hope I remember to unplug it when I use it.



Painted "tow away" curb for City CarShare

PHOTOS BY TOM NOYES



Curb-side sign for City CarShare

THD ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBERSHIP EVENT 2015 PROPOSED NOMINEES FOR THD OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The THD Annual Meeting and Membership event will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Seaglass Restaurant located in the Exploratorium. The Seaglass Restaurant and Exploratorium are located at 698 Pier 15, in San Francisco.

This annual election event is where the 2015 proposed nominees for THD officers and Board of Directors will be voted on by the membership. Stay tuned for detailed information about the Annual THD Meeting and Membership event which will be coming to you via postal mail and e-mail announcements. Listed below are the 2015 proposed nominees for

THD Officers & Board of Directors.

Officers

President – Stan Hayes
Vice President – Judy Irving
Recording Secretary – Mary Lipian *
Corresponding Secretary – Melissa Mountain
Treasurer – Joe Luttrell
Financial Secretary – Tom Noyes *
Historian – Nancy Shanahan *
Past President – Vedica Puri
Semaphore Editor – Catherine Accardi *

Directors: Term 2014-2016

Marilee Gaffney **
Jen Haeusser **
Julie Jaycox **
Paul Webber **

Directors: Term 2015-2017

Karen Cartales
Andy Katz
Dan Lorimer
Romalyn Schmaltz

* Incumbent nominated for re-election.
** Director whose term has not expired.

THD MEMBERSHIP REPORT — NEW MEMBERS!

By Tom Noyes

THD Financial Secretary (aka Membership)

I have been remiss this year in providing the traditional recognition of new members because I have taken on other duties. Just so I do not miss anyone, I am going back to March 1, 2014, catching us up on the year's reporting in *The Semaphore*. Please search out and talk to new members at meetings and events.

March-May 2014: Bernard Dethiers, Peter Kwan, Rosalie Gonzales, Marian Heath, Dana Merker, Rishi Misra, Monica Turner, Terry Grinchik.

June-August 2014: Tom & Gerri Vorturba, Hendrik Arend Kroon, Megan Croley & Jarrett Conard, Tony Wolff, Amy Neisler, Roderick & Miriam Owen, Malana Mobery & Roland Solvato, Gary & Susan Halling, Anna & Robert Berryman Jr.

September-November 2014: Ellen Powell Heneghan, Phil Lumsden & Julie Herrod, Carol Verburg, Cheryl Moody & Scott Sharpe, Phil Lumsden & Julie Herrod, Darcie Reynolds, Matthew Kuchta.

December-February 2014-2015: Marcia Helel

Sultagi, Patricia Kenney, Christopher Crehan, Nicholas Handel, Karen Cartales, Charles Childs.

Remember, if you receive a dues notice that you think is in error, contact me as soon as possible. This is a volunteer job and although I strive for accuracy, it is easy to make a mistake. Thanks to all of you who have reached out; it makes the job easier.

You can e-mail to membership@thd.org. You may also call our general number, 415-843-1011 (THD-Ten-Eleven), to leave a message, including when it would be best to get back to you. THD is not able to have someone answer the phones, so I appreciate your patience in leaving a message.

Don't forget to have a membership brochure handy to give out to someone. Personal contact is still the best way to get new members. If you do not have one, pick one up at any event — we should always have some there.

P.S.: If you are in the new members list, but you are a renewal, it might be a recording error. Welcome regardless!

The Lilly Hitchcock Coit Memorial Literary Society

meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Carol Peterson at 415-956-7817.

THD BOARD MOTIONS

Prepared by Mary Lipian
THD Recording Secretary

November 2014

No motions

December 2014

No THD board meeting was held.

January 2015

No motions



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Tom Noyes

Acting THD Treasurer

We are on track to be in the black this year and recent donations should ensure that. Our dues and advertising do not support all the work we do with our committees, *The Semaphore*, and our programs. We continue to be dependent on

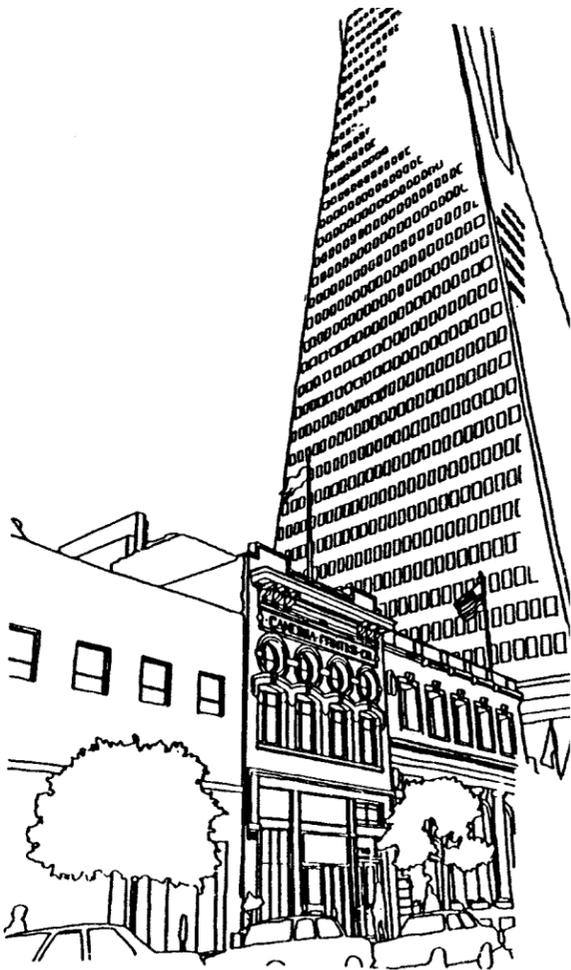
donations in general, for specific events, and creative fundraising ideas in keeping with our by-laws. We have been fortunate this year in all of those categories.

There are still some commemorative Coit Tower 60th Anniversary glasses left — be sure to get yours before they are gone! Thanks again to Jon Golinger for this great idea, its organization, and its significant con-

tribution to balancing our budget this year.

The nominating committee is actively looking for a new treasurer. It is hoped by the time you read this that the annual meeting notice will be coming shortly with news on that front. Check it out!





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Recent monographs, Summer 2014:

Peter Zumthor, Backen Gillam & Kroeger, Aidlin Darling Design, Paul Rudolph, Charlotte Perriand, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Tadao Ando, Walter Pichler, Mickey Muennig.

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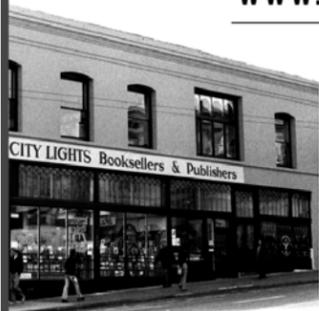
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Vice-President: Stan Hayes — Stan.Hayes@thd.org
Recording Secretary: Mary Lipian — Mary.Lipian@thd.org
Treasurer: John Reed — John.Reed@thd.org
Financial Secretary: Tom Noyes — Tom.Noyes@thd.org
Corresponding Secretary: Andy Katz — Andy.Katz@thd.org
Historian: Nancy Shanahan — Nancy.Shanahan@thd.org
Editor of the Semaphore: Catherine Accardi — Catherine.Accardi@thd.org
Immediate Past President: Jon Golinger — Jon.Golinger@thd.org

DIRECTORS

Term: 2013-2015

Judy Irving
Amy Loewen
Mike Madrid
Richard Zimmerman

Term: 2014-2016

Jen Haeusser
Julie Jaycox
Marilee Gaffney
Paul Webber

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Art & Culture: Richard Zimmerman (Chair) Contact Richard at Richard.Zimmerman@thd.org
Budget: John Reed (Chair) Contact John at John.Reed@thd.org
Membership: Tom Noyes (Chair) Contact Tom at Tom.Noyes@thd.org
Neighborhood Safety: Mike Madrid (Chair) Contact Mike at Mike.Madrid@thd.org
Oral History Project: TBD
Parking/Transportation/Subway: TBD
Parks, Trees, & Birds: Carlo Arreglo & Judy Irving (Co-Chairs)
Contact Carlo at Carlo.Arreglo@thd.org, Contact Judy at Judy.Irving@thd.org
Planning & Zoning: Nancy Shanahan & Mary Lipian (Co-chairs)
Contact Nancy at Nancy.Shanahan@thd.org, Contact Mary at Mary.Lipian@thd.org
Semaphore: Catherine Accardi (Editor) Contact Catherine at Catherine.Accardi@thd.org
Social & Programs: TBD
Waterfront: Jon Golinger (Chair) Contact Jon at Jon.Golinger@thd.org

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Central Police District Community Advisory Board: Mike Madrid
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: Paul Weber, Merle Goldstone (Alternate)
Friends of Washington Square Liaison: TBD
Neighborhood Network Liaison: Gerry Crowley
Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger

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WEB SITE = www.thd.org

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

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Schedules of Committee Meetings

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

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

**THD Welcomes New Members
JOIN NOW**

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

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 \$35__ Household \$50__ Senior (age 65 and over) \$25__ Senior Household \$40__



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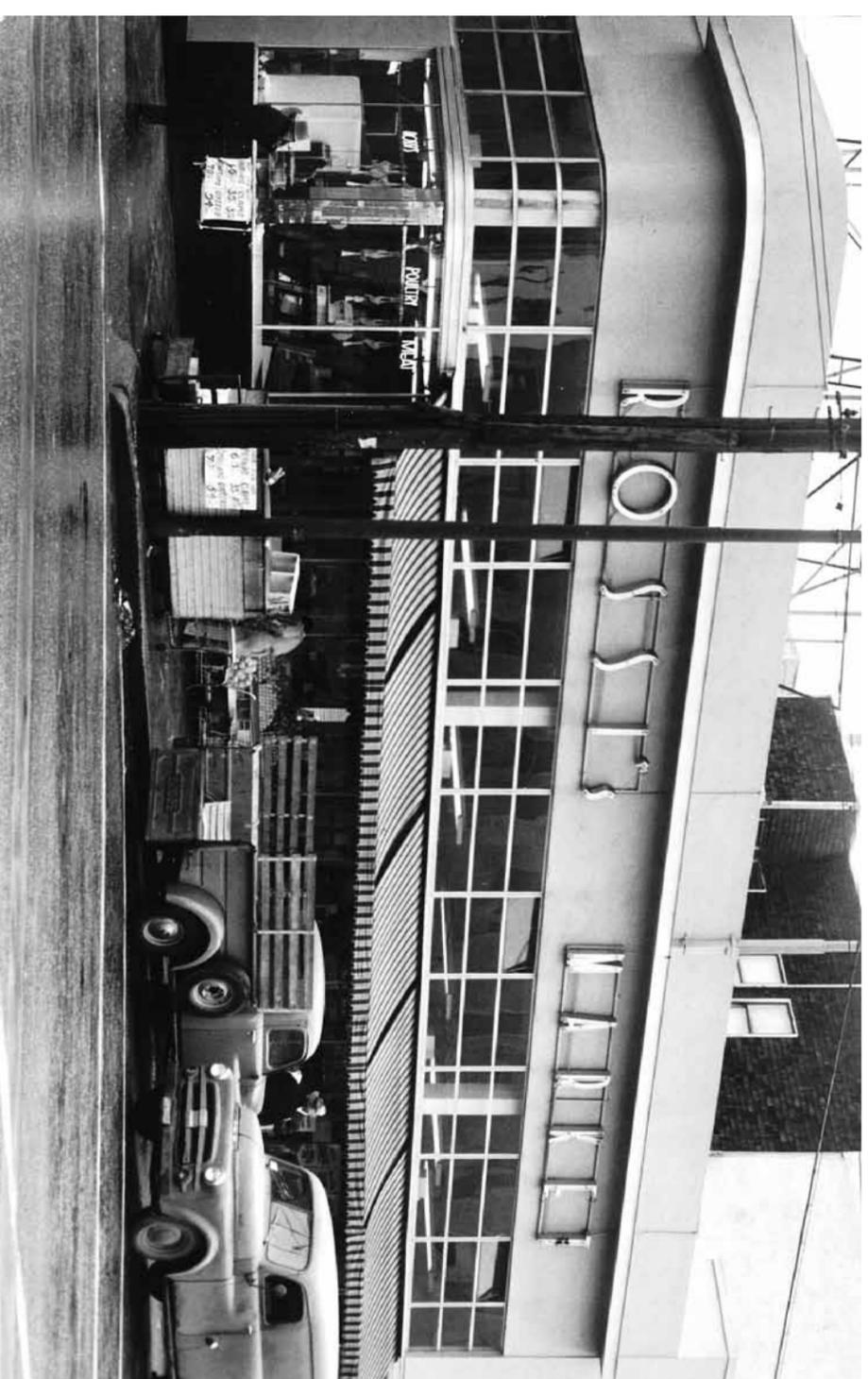
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The Semaphore
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Issue 209 Spring 2015



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May Be Changing
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