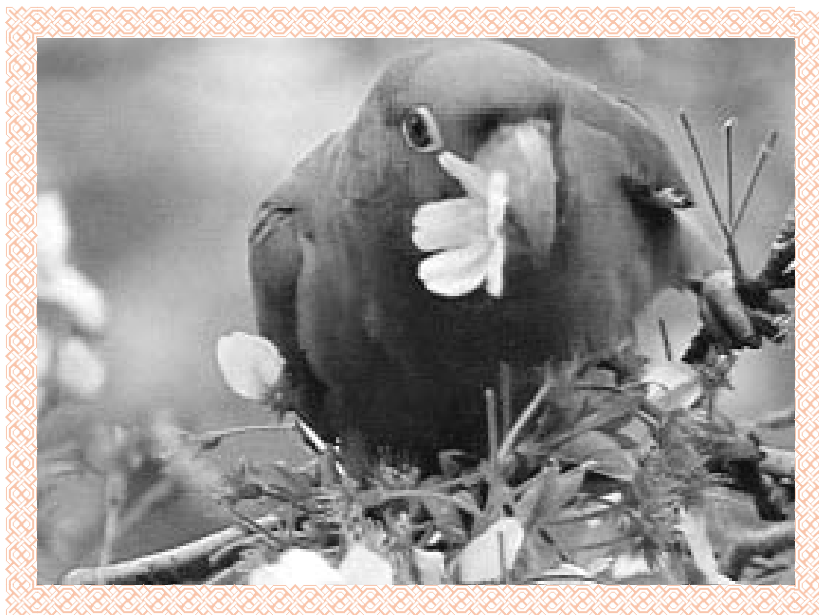


The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS



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Cover: During the first week of April, Telegraph Hill's flock of cherry-headed conures annually descends upon Walton Square to munch cherry blossoms. It is a magical time for both parrots and the humans watching them. For other news of the flock visit www.wildparrots.com

Photo courtesy of IDG Film.



Printed on Recycled paper

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.

THD Welcomes New Board Members

Eight new members have joined the Board for the 2000-2001 year.

Retired Lowell High School English teacher Art Peterson will serve as historian. Art is currently editor of a publication for the National Writing Project, a network of writing teachers. In addition to writing, Art enjoys playing the piano and photography. He hopes to be active in the Oral History Project.

Treasurer Maya Armour is a former engineering student turned lawyer. She shares a cozy Greenwich Stairs apartment with cat Pearl.

Director for 2000-2002 Julie Christensen has chalked up a long list of neighborhood accomplishments, including being a key organizer of the Washington Square anniversary celebration, serving on the Pioneer Park Project, and chairing the 400 Trees committee. With a gleam in her eye, Julie says that her current undertaking is the Joe DiMaggio Playground. Explains product designer Julie, "My neighborhood is my true vocation. I just have to work to pay the mortgage."

Serving as a director for 2000-2002, Susan

Weisberg works with authors to develop college science textbooks. A resident of the Hill for 13 years, Susan has been active in the Planning and Zoning Committee. She designs jewelry in her spare time.

Another 2000-2002 director is native New Yorker Bill Seelinger, who has lived on the Hill for four years. He is currently a private investor. He and new wife Cindy enjoy extensive trips to Europe.

Jan Holloway is also a 2000-2002 director who is chairing the Beautification Committee. A former art gallery owner, Jan is currently the curator of an exhibit at the Bolinas Museum. She planned last year's auction to raise funds for Pioneer Park and acquired the art, including Ralph Stackpole work, that was sold at the auction.

Writer Cheryl Bentley is serving her second stint as *The Semaphore* editor. Her passion for India, where she has traveled some 20 times, is now second to her interest in animals, particularly parrots. She is a fond observer of the Hill's wild flock.

Corresponding Secretary Lewis Shepherd works for Clint Reilly.

JULIUS CASTLE

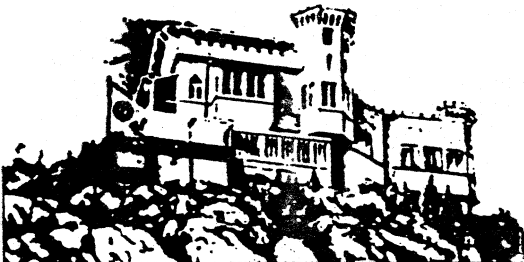
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

North Beach is often referred to as the soul of San Francisco. Well, if that's the case, Washington Square is the soul of North Beach. Washington Square is the physical and cultural cross roads of Telegraph Hill, North Beach, Chinatown and Russian Hill. And while I know that this wonderful urban oasis is cherished by all of the residents of these dense neighborhoods, it's really important to take the time to publicly celebrate and acknowledge our communal treasures like Washington Square. On May 13, several hundred people gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Washington Square and thank those who worked to obtain official landmark status for our park. It was also an opportunity to honor the return of the repaired bear statue to Marini Plaza, the small triangular part of the square that is bounded by Columbus, Powell and Union. It was by all accounts a lovely event which included the Green Street Marching Band, a traditional lion dance, Beach Blanket Babylon, a flock of politicians and dignitaries and jazz by the Marcus Shelby Ensemble. It was a day of saying thanks. We expressed the community's deep gratitude to Assemblyman Kevin Shelley on behalf of his father Mayor John Shelley who in 1966 had the political courage to veto funding for a parking garage approved by the Board of Supervisors that would have irreversibly marred our beloved Square. We thanked June Osterberg and the many folks who aided her grassroots effort to raise funds to Repair the Bear. We praised Supervisor Yee for helping us save the Colombo Building from demolition, for working with us to prevent Rite Aid from moving into the Pagoda Palace Theater and for helping us build cultural bridges across the North Beach and Chinatown communities. And we recognized Supervisor Becerril for her assistance in passing the legislation to landmark Washington Square and Supervisor Newsom for his work to garner funding

for the City's parks in general and for the North Beach Playground in particular.

As safeguarding and enhancing the Square has long been a community effort, so was celebrating it. Big thanks to all of the co-sponsors of the event: North Beach Neighbors, Friends of Washington Square, North Beach Chamber of Commerce, the North Beach Jazz Festival, the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center and all of the individuals who devoted time to making the long-planned day a success. Special thanks to board member Julie Christensen who kept us all on track and for whom no task was too big or too small, to Ken Maley who curated an incredible exhibit of historic photographs of Washington Square which were displayed by over 40 neighborhood merchants; to Doug Ahlers of Muriel's Theater and Alistair Monroe of the North Beach Jazz Festival who handled all of the logistics from sound equipment to assembling the stage.



Call me biased, but *The Semaphore* is the best publication of any of the City's neighborhood organizations. After overseeing the publication of 22 issues of *The Semaphore* and 7 years as editor, Patricia Cady has retired and returned to "civilian life." We all owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her professional and loving stewardship of our 46-year-old quarterly publication. THD and its efforts to preserve and improve our corner of the world are as good as the volunteers who devote their time, energy and soul. Pat devoted countless hours seeing it through issue after issue, year after year. On April 3rd at our Annual Dinner, Dawne Bernhardt masterminded a touching tribute to Pat complete with a special mock edition of *The Semaphore* in her honor. On behalf of Telegraph Hill Dwellers, thank you, Pat.



Aaron Peskin

photo by Jason Doly

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

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

THD Loves Pat Cady

By Dawne Bernhardt

At the April THD membership dinner, "Passionate Crusader, Dedicated Preservationist, and Superlative *Semaphore* Editor," Pat Cady was presented THD's most prestigious **People Who Make a Difference Award**.

Shouting "Extra! Extra!" four THD newsboys distributed copies of a limited edition of *The Semaphore*. On the cover of this very special *Semaphore*, Pat was framed by sketches of her pet projects—Our Lady of Guadalupe, the North Beach Garage, Pioneer Park, Washington Square, and the Shrine of Saint Francis, along with the new trees in front of the church.

Snippets from tributes included:

"We all owe Pat a deep debt of gratitude for her professional and loving stewardship of our 46-year-old quarterly, for her editorial quality over seven years and 22 issues, for comprehensive content and elegant design. Her determined but gentle spirit is woven into each issue."

—Aaron Peskin

"Pat has nurtured and molded *The Semaphore* with passion and professionalism. I have appreciated her humility when praise was bestowed upon her. In turn, she has always been generous with praise of others."

—Gerry Crowley

"There can be no sweeter, gentler person than Pat Cady, and can she put out a paper! Is it too early to talk about canonization?"

—Joe Luttrell

"You have coped with deadlines, sloppy copy, fragile egos, dark photos, stubborn layout artists, overworked printers, late deliveries and even lost mail. You always came through, unflappable, professional, tactful and kind. Your hundreds of loyal readers are grateful."

—Billie Atlas

"You've always made it look easy, Pat, kept your cool, gracefully rearranging your day to accommodate any and all emergencies. Occasionally when things were going particularly wrong, you'd jokingly say, 'I'm not in it for the money'." —Gerry Hurtado

"You not only wrote articulate and pungent editorials about the controversies that swirled around the Hill during your editorship but attended meetings, made speeches and stood tall in the defense of threatened institutions. I've watched with awe as you kept your temper, courtesy and sense of humor in writings and talks with obdurate forces determined to padlock St. Francis of Assisi Church or destroy the North Beach Garage."

—June Osterberg

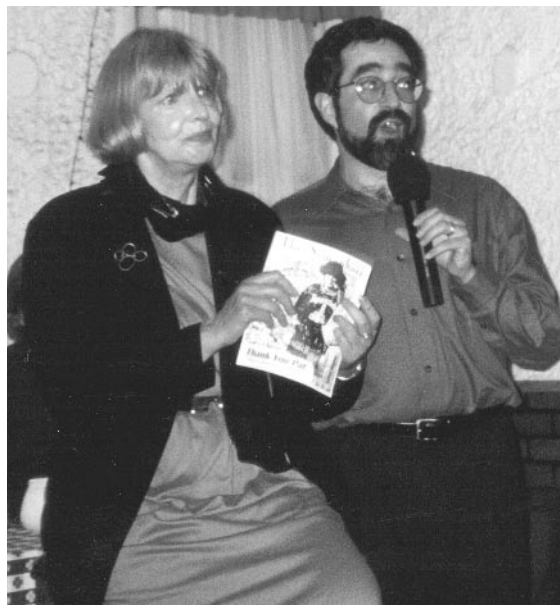
"Working with others, you created a community, Pat, which shared and championed your goal and led to the preservation of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Your faith, perseverance and literacy, whether guiding *The Semaphore* or creating a National Shrine is a gift to us all."

—Joe Butler

"It's quite a talent to recognize what needs to be done, what fights must be waged to mix logic and pleading with righteous indignation; to cajole, rouse and deputize others to take up pen, banner or sword. Pat Cady, you excel at all."

—Julie Christensen

Indeed, Pat Cady has won not only THD's respect for her energy and commitment, but also its love for her gentle and generous spirit.



Aaron Peskin salutes Pat Cady

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Nancy Shanahan

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

I. PROJECTS IN THE TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

Grace Marchant Garden/Alta Street Development (20-30 Alta). The project, which will shade the garden and overwhelm the historic district, is back again. This time the developers are proposing a single family home in excess of 7,000 square feet. The revised proposal is still much too massive under the historic district requirements and, while shorter than the previous proposal, it is wider, which could increase the shadow impacts on the garden. THD's Board voted unanimously to once again oppose the project as proposed. A Landmarks Board hearing on the revised plans will be scheduled in the near future.

290 Union Street. The City Building Inspector has shut down this project for not being constructed in accordance with the approved building permit and plans approved by the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission. At issue are a new balcony and chimney being

added to the forth floor which would impair light and views from adjacent windows. The neighbors at 1304-1/2 Montgomery have filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals, and the Planning Department has requested that the project be returned to the department for review.

II. NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

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

New Ordinance Limiting Video Stores. THD supported Supervisor Yee's legislation requiring conditional use authorization for new video stores in Neighborhood Commercial Districts. THD's boundaries include two Neighborhood Commercial Districts (North Beach and Broadway) and we felt that the proposed legislation provided a reasonable mechanism for allowing input from residents and merchants as to the size and location of such establishments in our neighborhood. The legislation was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors.

1741 Powell Street (Pagoda Palace Theater). Project sponsor Doug Ahlers (President, Leirum Corporation) made a presentation to THD's board of his plans to rehabilitate the facade and convert the theater building into a live theater venue with an accessory bar. THD

PLANNING AND ZONING

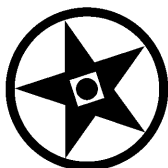
intends to express its support for the project at a Planning Commission hearing.

1351 Grant Ave. (Back Street Bar, formerly Figone's Hardware). In response to protests filed with the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) by THD and approximately 15 individual neighbors regarding the request for a new liquor license at this location, the ABC has sent out a list of proposed conditions to be attached to the license. The applicant does not agree with several of the conditions proposed by ABC. No hearing date has

been set by ABC. The building owners are proceeding with their Ellis Act eviction of all residents in the upper stories of the building.

801 Greenwich Street. The Planning Department has issued a Negative Declaration (a document which states that there will be no significant environmental impact as a result of the project) for a proposal to demolish the existing one-story grocery store building at this site and construct in its place a 40-ft-high structure with 8 residential condominium units and about 750 sq. ft. of commercial space. The P & Z

continued next page



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PLANNING AND ZONING

Committee recommended that the proposed commercial space be increased in size to 2000 sq. ft. so the existing tenant can continue its business at this location following construction, that such commercial space front on Greenwich (instead of Mason as proposed) to enhance the commercial viability of the new space and that proposed rooftop structures be eliminated.

III. BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

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

412 Broadway (Boys Toys). THD's appeal of the Zoning Administrator's determination (that BoysToys was not adult entertainment and did not need a Conditional Use Authorization) was finally heard by the Board of Appeals on April 5,

2000 (following three continuations). THD contended that the Planning Code was not being applied properly and that the project required a public hearing by the Planning Commission because of the change of use, increase in the size of the use by over 500 sq. ft. and because rights to the former use of the building had been "abandoned" (i.e., not used for over 3 years). Although several of the individual members of the Board of Appeals stated in the record that BoysToys needed a Conditional Use Authorization, they nevertheless voted to uphold the Zoning Administrator's determination.

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Kearny). A presentation was made to the P&Z Committee by representatives of Ad Art and Bright Vision of a proposal for two outdoor television-type advertising signs (each 90 square feet in size) at the second floor corner of this building above Enrico's. The consensus of the Committee was that these signs are inappropriate at this location.

IV. JACKSON SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

700 Montgomery (Law Offices of Angela Alioto). In an effort to ward off proposals to demolish this historic 1905 building in the Jackson Square historic district and replace it with a high rise office tower, Angela Alioto is pursuing the designation of this building as an individual City landmark. (It has already been identified as contributory to the Jackson Square Historic District.) To date, the Board of Supervisors has adopted a resolution initiating the land-marking process, it has been approved by the Landmarks Board and will be heard by the Planning Commission. THD intends to speak in support of the landmark designation.

722-728 Montgomery Street (Belli Building). These two 1850s Landmark buildings (City Landmarks No. 9 and 10) are owned by Landmarks Board Member Nancy Ho-Belli. Portions of the roofs were removed two years ago and windows were left with no covering, exposing the interior to two seasons of rain as well as pigeons. The building is now in danger of collapsing. On February 10, 2000 the City Attorney formally notified Ms. Ho-Belli that

she had 30 days to cover the building. According to the Department of Building Inspection, as of May 5th, the building has still not been adequately protected. As a result of public comments by THD, SF Heritage, Save Jackson Square and other concerned citizens, an informational presentation was made to the Landmarks Board at its May 3rd meeting, during which the owner's representatives argued that the current condition of the building would necessitate demolition of significant portions of the structures. THD is continuing to monitor this project and working to ensure that as these buildings are restored to the extent feasible.

407-445 Jackson Street. A group of retail merchants from Jackson Square have formed a group called "Save Jackson Square" to prevent four pre-1870's buildings at 407-445 Jackson Street from being converted into one large office space. After the group filed a request for Discretionary Review (DR) with the Planning Commission, negotiations with the project sponsor, the Monahan Pacific Company, became more meaningful and Save Jackson Square was successful in obtaining a formal written agreement whereby the project sponsor agreed to restore the buildings and keep a substantial portion of the ground floor in retail use.

845 Montgomery Street (formerly Ernie's Restaurant). A presentation was made to the P&Z Committee by the Martin Group of its plans to renovate and seismically upgrade these buildings, adding a story and mezzanine and changing the use to offices. The P&Z

continued next page

PLANNING AND ZONING

Committee urged the project sponsor to maintain retail use at the ground floor, to ensure that the addition is not visible from the surrounding streets, and to involve their historic preservation architect in designing both the addition and the facade to ensure compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Buildings.

V. OTHER PROJECTS

The North Beach Public Housing Development (bounded by Columbus Ave. & Bay, Mason and Francisco Streets). This proposed project of HUD, the San Francisco Housing Authority and BRIDGE Housing Corp. will demolish the existing project structures consisting of 229 units of housing and reconstruct up to 360 townhouses and flats on the site. The project is now undergoing federal environmental review.

3 Montague Place. In a request for Discretionary Review (DR) of this project, the next door neighbors and THD asked the Planning Commission to enforce a Notice of Special Restrictions recorded against this property. The NSR was intended to prohibit the vertical or horizontal expansion of the building without a new variance unless the Zoning Administrator finds and determines that it is compatible with existing neighborhood character and scale and does not cause loss of light, air, view or privacy to adjacent buildings. The Planning Commission denied the request, allowing the vertical addition. THD is interested in seeing that NSRs are enforced by the Planning Department.

308-310 Green Street. The Planning Commission voted 4 to 3 to deny taking Discretionary Review (DR) of this project. The project will demolish an existing one-story single family dwelling and garage at 310 Green St. and construct a large, single luxury home at the maximum height (40 feet) allowed. The DR focused on the loss of small scale, sound and affordable housing, in conflict with Prop M and other general plan policies pertaining to the retention of the City's existing housing stock.

412 Lombard Street. The architect redesigned this single family project and made a second presentation to the Committee. The project is now much more in keeping with the size and scale of its neighbors.

368 Vallejo Street. The project sponsor and her architect made a presentation to the P&Z Committee of a proposal to demolish the existing 12-ft-wide house and to replace it with a modern 2-story single family residence. The P&Z Committee felt that the facade, as proposed, is not compatible with its neighbors' per the City's Residential Design Guidelines.

295 Bay Street (North Point Theater). The P&Z Committee was generally supportive of a proposal to convert the theater to office space at the ground and upper floors, but encouraged the developer to put in street trees and not add an additional floor to the building. Note: In October, 1999 THD requested Discretionary Review (DR) of Rite Aid's plans to convert the theater into a Rite Aid store.

The Little House

By June A. Osterberg

There was an old movie entitled “The House on Telegraph Hill.” This story will be about The *Little* House on Telegraph Hill. The Little House on Filbert Street.

The Little House behind The House with the Oval Window.

The House with the Oval Window was a landmark for many years on the 300 block of Filbert Street—the block that began with The Shadows Restaurant on Montgomery Street and ended at the top with Bill Bailey’s cottage.

There is nothing like either of those small but distinctive structures in the Telegraph Hill of today, with all its big, boxy, blockbusting buildings.

The oval window was the most distinguishing feature of 307 Filbert. Otherwise it was comparable to the old wooden two-story buildings still standing on Lower Alta Street. The second story apartment had an open porch at the rear, and there was a small patio below. Facing the patio was The Little House. 307B Filbert Street.

The Little House was unique. It was a two-story house, but it had only three small rooms. On the first floor (which was split-level) were a tiny living room and a tiny kitchen and bathroom. A tiny bedroom was above the living room, and there was a tiny deck above the kitchen.

The Little House had no foundation. It was believed that it was the great, fragrant honeysuckle vine that held up the whole thing.

The legend about how this unusual house

had come to be was that it had been constructed from the water tower that served the house in front when it was a brothel in sailing ship days.

Some of today’s Telegraph Hill dwellers may not be aware that the summit of The Hill was spared in the Great Fire of 1906, and that is the reason that the oldest buildings on Telegraph Hill are at the top, including the fine old survivors on Alta Street and Montgomery, Union and Calhoun, Napier Lane and Greenwich.

The tiny bathroom off the kitchen had a stall shower and a toilet fastened precariously to a seriously slanting floor. It was a sobering experience to use the facilities. The only sink was the kitchen sink.

The back wall downstairs had parted from the listing floor some time before. I would find Jughead, my large silver tabby, gazing intently out through the opening. I would ask him what he saw out there, but I never dared to get down on my hands and knees to see for myself.

The gap between floor and wall was also used by the slugs who made their home in the patio. There was lacy bamboo growing along one side. The slugs would slide in at night and

continued on next page

Fog Hill Market

Hanna Chedyak

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continued from previous page

clean out Jughead's dish on the floor, and I would find their silvery trails in the morning. There were some encounters in the dark, too—whoops!

To reach The Little House, one used a walkway running alongside the west wall of the house in front. It was the stubborn Swede in me that caused an unintended christening of this passageway when I moved in in 1959.

I had been working for the trade magazine of the wine industry in those years, and a friend had given me a few bottles of priceless wine from the old wine cellar at the Palace Hotel. The historic Palace had just been sold to the Sheraton people, to the dismay of practically everybody.

I was moving a few things in at a time, and I picked up one of those precious bottle to take over on one of those trips. Bob said, "Don't bring that now—you'll drop it."

"Oh, no, I won't," I retorted stubbornly. I did, of course, drop it. The entrance to the walkway was redolent of fine old wine during those moving in days, and turned out to be quite prophetic of the high times to come on Filbert Street.

One of those times that springs to mind is an illustration of what a firetrap that wonderful place was. (We didn't think about that in those intoxicating days when life on The Hill was one continuous cocktail party.)

We did a lot of remarkable cooking on the ancient three-burner gas stove with the rusted-out oven. One night I was making Steak au Poivre, and the flames leapt up, as they do. Somebody looking out a window next door called the Fire Department. The firemen came charging down the narrow passageway with all

their gear, prepared to prevent a conflagration on The Hill.

When they saw that there was no fire and we were just about to sit down to dinner, they apologized for interrupting our evening. Bob graciously asked them to join us and offered them a drink, which they regretfully declined and clanked off into the night.

There was a dark, dank basement under The House with the Oval Window. We had learned from other enthusiastic cooking friends that there was a farm in the city where one could buy lugs of mushrooms-to-be in dirt. That damp basement across the patio was the perfect place to grow them.

I harvested many crops of our own mushrooms. There came a day when I found three huge ones. One was about five inches across, and the others were only slightly smaller—a treasure! I could hardly get them into a glass bowl I brought out of the kitchen. There was excitement in the patio.

The door to The Little House was a dutch door, and very often the top half was open. I placed the bowl with the giant mushrooms on the shelf on the lower half.

Again it was the intelligent Bob who said, "Junie, don't put the bowl there—it will fall." With my customary stupidity, I said, "No, it will be all right." A while later someone pulled open the lower door carelessly, and the bowl crashed to the concrete patio. All the magnificent mushrooms had to be discarded because they were full of inextricable shards of glass.

Bob said solemnly, "The Lord giveth. . . and the Lord taketh away."

Yes, there was a view of the Bay. I would check the activity on the water from the upstairs window just before going to sleep at night. We

continued on page 18

San Francisco Tomorrow Honors Aaron Peskin

Aaron Peskin was presented the Unsung Hero award by San Francisco Tomorrow on May 17 for his work in saving the Colombo building from the wrecking ball. The organization cited Aaron's many efforts to protect Telegraph Hill from inappropriate development.

We're proud of you, Aaron!

The THD
Beautification
Committee

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FACE-OFF

Two Views of Homelessness

His Help Sends Him to Sensitivity Training

By Officer James Gratz

My name is James Gratz and I have the best job in the S.F. Police Department, even better than being Chief. I'm the beat cop assigned to the parks of the Central District. My job is to keep the peace and enforce the law in these areas and to help people who can't help themselves.

From the first day of my assignment in 1995, I identified a core group of constantly intoxicated individuals who inhabited Washington Square. You've all seen them. They slept in the park day and night, they drank and did drugs, they threw up, urinated, and defecated in the park. Your park. They fought with each other and they assaulted visitors. They froze during the winter and shivered in the rain, but they did not have incentive to leave the park.

I tried everything I could to help them salvage their lives. I called the ambulance countless times for everything from alcoholic seizures and drug OD's to injuries they inflicted on each other. I transported them to homeless shelters. I arranged for counseling programs. I cited them hundreds of times for drinking in public, but each citation was dismissed. I even booked them in jail when they were so drunk they couldn't care for themselves. Case dismissed each time.

I grew to know this group personally and could see that alcohol was killing them slowly.

They all received governmental assistance—and staggered to the nearest liquor store and bought a fifth.

I began searching for a way to make a positive difference in their lives. My research revealed seldom used California laws that made it illegal to sell alcohol to a "habitual drunkard." I prepared and distributed notifications to the liquor stores adjacent to Washington Square.

Over the next couple of weeks my group found it difficult to buy booze and bring it into the Square. They were more sober and healthier—and CRANKY. They complained to a group of lawyers from the "Homeless Coalition."

The Coalition lawyers filed a claim against the city, your city, saying that I had taken away these folks' civil rights. The city settled for about five grand of the taxpayers' money. Your money.

The final result? Each of five individuals received about \$960, which they blew through in about a month. I was ordered to a class in sensitivity training.

The money is gone. You and I still see them everyday. They still pee and drink in the park, your park, and I don't give any of them that long to live without intervention.

I tried.

We would love to publish your letters on this—or any other—issue. We reserve the right to edit letters to fit space requirements.

He Says a New Vision Is Needed

By Dick Clark

Like quite a number of San Francisco citizens, I have tried to use my modest gifts to reverse the increasing numbers of homeless people in our city. Perhaps the most alarming thing which came to my attention while working with homeless families is that the younger generation, many of whom volunteer in homeless programs, thinks that it was always this way. As an aging baby-boomer whose memory is still (somewhat) intact, I know that this is not the case. Not surprisingly, homelessness began its steady march to the dubious distinction of America's number one social problem shortly after Ronald Reagan assumed the presidency in 1980. The deep recession, massive cuts to social programs, affordable housing and public education, coupled with a tax "reform" which further enriched the (already) obscenely wealthy, brought us to where we are today. And here we are. What can we do to get back to the enlightened vision of President Johnson's Great Society? There is no question that we have the resources to end poverty and homelessness in our country and in our city. But do we have the will? And more importantly, do we have the vision?

North Beach, a literate and uniquely artistic community, justly prides itself on its repository of creativity, imagination and talent.

A rich history of literary bums passed this way and has become community icons. Jack Kerouac and Jack London come to mind. Of course, there are many more. Yet with no reliable source of income, these artists and writers lived and worked indoors. Where would Kerouac and London be today? Washington Square Park comes to mind. Would they be welcome?

At the start of the last century, Anatole France wrote: "The Law, in its majestic equality, forbids the Rich and the Poor from sleeping under bridges at night." Charles Dickens, Emile Zola, Victor

Hugo....we read them in school and suffered along with our favorite characters, exploited and despised, pursued by the repressive forces of law and order. I remember clearly, stepping over human beings as my friends and I joined the throngs to see a production of "Les Miserables." The irony was not lost on us.

According to a comprehensive survey taken by North Beach Citizens, on any night, 140 people call the streets and doorways of North Beach home. Many write, paint and play music. With the exception of a few veterans on partial disability, they receive no supplementary security income, nor do they avail themselves of the "generous" \$345 per month General Assistance provides to those who clean the streets. They survive by their wits and creativity, a resource as yet untapped by the community. The upstart community-based homeless organization, North Beach Citizens, provides a terrific opportunity for creative heads to come together to problem-solve a community problem within the community.

Does North Beach Citizens have the answers? Of course not. That's why the program needs your help and support.

For the homeless of North Beach, options are few: one weekly 12-step meeting, no shelter beds, no affordable housing, no showers, and no substance abuse programs. With only 1500 emergency shelter beds (including beds for families) in San Francisco and between 5,000 and 10,000 homeless people in our city, hope is also at a minimum. North Beach Citizens just might be able to restore that hope to a community in despair. I once saw Mother Theresa on a visit to this country. I flushed when I heard her say that the spiritual poverty of America was worse than the material poverty of India. She didn't live long enough to see the world of SUVs, cell phones and 20-year-old millionaires. What advice would she have for us? Would anyone be listening? Homelessness is not a stock option.

Dick Clark is the former Executive Director of the Hamilton Family Center and volunteers with North Beach Citizens.

THD Board Resolutions

February: The Board agreed to support the Bierman Condominium Conversion legislation, which would have discouraged buying buildings to sell them as tenancies in common and eliminated a financial incentive to evict tenants under the Ellis Act. (This legislation was subsequently defeated by the Board of Supervisors.)

March: The Board agreed to contribute \$500 to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Washington Square. The Board agreed to make a \$50 charitable donation in the name of a loyal THD member, who was recovering from surgery.

April: The Board agreed that THD work with the Board of Supervisors to enact legisla-

tion to clarify that use size can be abandoned and to work with the police to clarify that Boys' Toys is adult entertainment.

The Board also agreed to support shed removal at Pier 27 to the framework line of 475 feet and to support the retention of all of Pier 23. The Board further agreed to send a letter regarding the proposed restaurant-bar at 1351 Grant (formerly Figone Hardware) to Alcohol Beverage Control stating that the commission's terms are acceptable if THD receives an agreement that retains the façade of the building and that THD signs off on its protests and encourages others to do so.

The Little House *continued from p. 14*

still had a real port in those years. The sound of foghorns provided a pleasant lullaby.

There were built-in bookshelves alongside the very good fireplace in the little living room. Jughead was in heaven curled up on the rug in front of the fire.

Because the 300 block of Filbert Street has only stairs, my car had to live elsewhere. A typical rent for a garage in those years was \$15 a month, and I remember being aghast when I had to pay \$25 on Montgomery Street.

(I still have that gallant old sport car, now 45 years old, but now it has to live in Oakland. A person who has paid \$37.50 for an apartment on Telegraph Hill is not willing to pay \$250 for a space for her small car.)

Probably it was inevitable that this remnant of La Vie Boheme could not continue past the mid-

Sixties. I think I was witness to the beginning of the end, when I happened to see what we later called The Day of the Termites. It was dazzling to watch dozens of the fledglings, maybe hundreds, emerge from a narrow slit in the front side of the House with the Oval Window, flying swiftly into the air. It was like miniature planes being launched from an aircraft carrier – zoom! zoom!

The landlords gave notice in December 1963 that they would demolish the two character houses, but I was able to stay on through 1964 and into 1965 before I had to make my melancholy departure.

Luckily my friends down the hill on Filbert Street, right at Washington Square, were moving from their terrific old flat. There were at least 20 people who wanted to take it over, but they let me have it because I was losing my beloved place.

I did not go back up the hill to see The Little House be destroyed.

Say, Who's in Charge of *The Semaphore*?

By Patricia Cady

Until recently, I was. But rather than test the theory that a person can't be two places at once—and I was away when this issue was produced—let me welcome our new (and a former) editor, Cheryl Bentley. In this organization where board members and committee chairs keep our numerous engines humming, *The Semaphore* is the “glue” that holds everything together.

Founded in 1954 as San Francisco's first neighborhood association, Telegraph Hill Dwellers has maintained print communication with its membership since 1956. Our original publication titled the *Bulletin* was reproduced on a mimeograph machine which spun waxed sheets of typed characters around an inked roller. \$1.00 annual dues entitled members to receive news so hair-raising it brought the neighborhood together, many times, to challenge plans for Telegraph Hill which would have obliterated all of its history, most of its charm. A founding member was also the *Bulletin's* first editor: Author David Myrick lived on Alta Street; now residing in Santa Barbara, he's still a THD member. David was the honored guest at a cocktail party held at the Art Institute last year. His old friends packed the place and I had the pleasure of meeting him at last.

I started wondering who the other, especially early, editors were, whose work was so essential to keeping membership intact and growing. Unlike other organizations which form around specific issues then dissolve, THD still grows strong (membership's at an all-time high). I met with Rhoda Robinson, our Historian *Emeritus*, who generously put together a chronology of editors. I prowled through the archives to see

what they wrote about. What follows are facts, some conjecture, and much *news*, which has become our *history*, complete with mysteries that might be solved by longtime members who are welcome to set me straight.

David Myrick (editor 1956-59) produced the *Bulletin* during the dark years of day-and-night building demolitions in the city's Western Addition which wiped out two thriving neighborhoods. Alarming, the city next turned its attention to sections of Telegraph Hill and North Beach which were in danger of being officially named “Blighted Areas”, the easiest way to appropriate land for developers who knew exactly what they wanted to build here—skyscrapers. David woke the sleepyheads who thought nobody noticed numerous substandard dwellings in the days when the Hill was like a rural village with a populace rich in “bohemians”. He warned: “Whole blocks could be needlessly razed to make way for urban renewal—and then where is the Hill's crazy charm?” Residents worked hard to bring buildings to code, spruced them up in an all-out blitz supervised by volunteer architects, designers, planners, even building inspectors, and the neighborhood beat the devil. David reported social news: At the Annual Peach Blossom Festival, fifty people viewed three peach blossoms on an Alta Street tree.

From 1960-62 the *Bulletin* was co-edited by Mary Fraser Stanyan, a writer for the *San Francisco Examiner*, and Alma Oberst, a writer at the *News-Call Bulletin*. In my imagination, these were two snappy gals who took no guff from guys; they pounded Royal typewriters, wore hats well, and gave “items” to Herb

continued on next page

Who's In Charge *continued*

Caen—all possibly true. I don't know where Mary is, but an update in a later *Bulletin* noted Alma had moved “far away” to the Marina District. In an issue they produced, well-known San Francisco author, Harold Gilliam, observed: “But the cottages on Telegraph Hill are being replaced...The ultimate results will be to turn San Francisco into a counterpart of Manhattan Island, its hills disappearing behind walls of skyscrapers.” And that almost happened:

The local 40-foot-height limit, fought for and won by Telegraph Hill Dwellers in 1959, was severely challenged in 1961 by pro-development property owners who claimed: “Nearly 90% of the structures (on Telegraph Hill) are substandard and fail to comply with the building code, making them unfit for human habitation.” Yikes!

This after the 1950s fix-up campaign gave evidence that developers had no intention of going away. Pitting “innumerable meetings and phone conversations to work out a plan of action” against a well-financed goal to confiscate the Hill, almost 300 Dwellers showed up at City Hall to protect the height limit, and they won—aided by a sympathetic press, notably, the newspapers where Mary and Alma worked. By then, San Franciscans knew better than to look the other way while another neighborhood was torn down. Social news: Membership met at the Montclair Restaurant on Green Street where the 5-course Italian dinner cost \$2.75, tax and tip included.

Bulletins during the year 1963 have disappeared so I don't know whom to credit as the editor who would have reported the war

continued page 22

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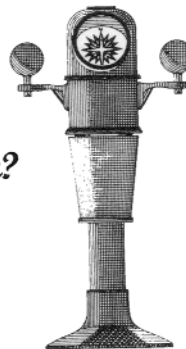
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Bulletin Board

TGIF, THD style. You've just finished work and would love to drop in some place for a drink, knowing that you'll meet friends and neighbors there. Sound like a good idea? It does to a group of THDers, who are starting a weekly after-work get-together beginning in June. If you'd like to join us, call Susan Weisberg at 986-1209 for location and time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *You are invited to contribute non-commercial notices of interest to the neighborhood to our new Bulletin Board Feature. Contact Cheryl, 392-4081, email: cheryl@slip.net.*

Is this your last Semaphore?

If the mailing label is dated March 1, 2000 or earlier, your membership has lapsed and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please contact Membership Chair, Rozell Overmire, phone 989-3945. E-mail rozell@overmire.com.

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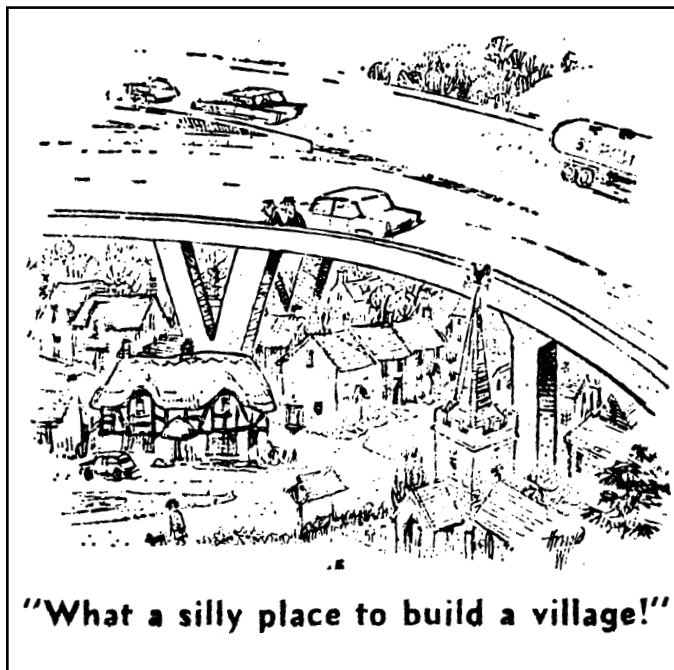
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Who's In Charge *continued from p. 21*

between THD and California's Department of Transportation, whose idea was to construct a multi-lane skyway around the Hill as a conduit to the Golden Gate Bridge. The thousands of vehicles disgorged daily into North Beach by the Embarcadero freeway (finally demolished in 1990) would have been complemented by thousands more whizzing above our heads. THD's George Rockrise, an architect who was then a City Planning Commissioner, led and won a close fight. More attempts to build freeways around and through neighborhoods were finally put to rest in 1965 by the Board of Supervisors with a resolution which passed by just one vote.



From a 1964 Bulletin

Emily Heron edited the *Bulletin* 1964-65. I have her name and address, that's all. She lived

around the corner from where I live now, so I know the blocks she'd have walked to board meetings on dark, chilly streets lit by blue street lamps in glass globes, doubtless carrying a notebook in which she'd sketched ghosts of ideas for articles. She produced a special edition inviting members to THD's 10th Anniversary Party at the Old Spaghetti Factory, suggesting they wear costumes appropriate to the Hill's history—vigilantes, goat girls, sailors, artists—and dance all night, eat all night, for \$1.50. A few months after the party, Emily reported on a worsening internecine feud:

At a membership meeting in February, 1965 THD resolved to oppose construction of a parking garage under Washington Square, which was the pet project of a private group of North Beach merchants. At first, the city didn't want to spend the money. But the merchants paid for a study which proved the need, they said, and after months of back-and-forth, they convinced most city officials to go along with them. The important exception was Mayor John Shelley, still a hero around here, who veto'd the project. Grumbling losers threatened for decades to try again, until THD President Aaron Peskin succeeded last year in protecting Washington Square with landmark designation.

By the time Kenneth Evers took over as editor (1966-74), membership dues were up to \$2.00, and the Montclair's dinner cost fifty cents more.

In the next Semaphore: Ken Evers, the editors who succeeded him, and the story of a 6-block-square "crate" which was almost built at the foot of Telegraph Hill. See you next time!

Heard 'Round the Hill

by Lewis Shepherd

Many enjoyed seeing longtime member **Pat Lorentzen** at the recent commemoration of the newly-named **Peter Macchiarini Steps** on Kearny. Pat lived not far from those steps for thirty years until her untimely eviction three years ago. Happily, she reports she's long past that trauma and enjoying life and new digs in San Rafael... Popular THD member **Nadya Williams** may get even more popular when it gets out that she's planning an astounding in-depth tour of Northern Ireland through Global Exchange. Also ahead are India and South Africa. If your passport's current, call Nadya at (415) 255-7296... Some members take THD with them when they travel. What did **Karen Kevorkian** fax back from Belgium recently? Her handwritten minutes of the April THD board meeting, just in time for May's get-together. Envious members looked for gastro-nomic stains from the mussels of Brussels... Members **Megan Levitan** and (THD prez) **Aaron Peskin** seem to be popping up at all the right places lately. Politics? Well, it does just so happen that both were recently elected to the Democratic Party's Central Committee for San Francisco. And, to their credit, both took down their campaign signs in record time (though some may be going back up, we hear?)... It's feast, not famine in North Beach, as our embarrassment of restaurant riches continues. If you haven't been to Cobalt yet (ex-Washbag), you should be on your way, and should have been at the lovely grand opening which benefited the **Friends of Washington Square**, led by **Herb Kosovitz**. Also on your plate should be **Gianna** (ex-Fuzio), which opened with a great

party that just happened to support THD. Former THD Board Member Wells Whitney was recently elected to SPUR's Board of Directors. Wells has founded CancerTrust.com, an online resource for cancer patients and their families. One member strolling up **Pioneer Park** recently had to laugh when she noticed for the first time the inscription on the statue of Christopher Columbus, naming Mayor "Willy" Brown. He's Willie, of course, but neither Columbus nor apparently City Hall have discovered the error since 1997. Anybody on Da Staff reading this?

Tel-Hi Fundraiser Sets Record

Revenue of more than \$117,000 was raised at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center's annual dinner-dance on May 6th at the historic Merchants Exchange Building's Julia Morgan Ballroom. The record amount was primarily realized through the generosity of former Telegraph Hill resident Leo McLaughlin III who, upon moving to New York, donated 10 Giants season tickets to Tel-Hi for fundraising. Gerry Crowley, President of the Board of Directors at the Center, says that support from other members of THD is crucial to Tel-Hi's ability to provide services each day for more than 400 children, youth and seniors.

Film Commission Gives Telegraph Hill a Break

By John Doxey

Responding to a rising chorus of complaints from irritated residents, the San Francisco Film & Video Arts Commission has placed a temporary moratorium on film shoots in the Telegraph Hill neighborhood.

The Film Commission will not issue any permits to film in the neighborhood “for at least two months, maybe more,” said P.J. Johnston, the commission’s executive director. “After that, I intend to see that we are more judicious about the number of shoots we allow in any short stretch of time.”

Johnston’s announcement followed an April 10 demonstration by Telegraph Hill residents against the repeated use of their neighborhood for film shoots. As a film crew prepared to shoot a scene for the movie “Bedazzled” at the intersection of Montgomery and Green streets, a group of residents stood nearby waving signs bearing such messages as “People are trying to live here” and “This is not a film set.”

The “Bedazzled” shoot capped a heavy period of filming activity in the Telegraph Hill neighborhood. By itself, the Montgomery and Green intersection—with its world-famous backdrop of the Transamerica Pyramid and Financial District—was the site of three movie and television commercial shoots during a six-week period. Telegraph Hill residents have long complained that these shoots disrupt their lives.

During at least one recent shoot, for example, neighbors were prohibited from parking on more than three adjacent blocks.

The Film Commission’s Johnston described the February through April surge of filming activity as unexpected. “I understand why filmmakers continue to be drawn to this area... where the views are incomparable,” he said. But “burdening one small neighborhood intersection with repeated film shoots in a two-month stretch is not the right balance.”

Johnston says his office encourages film directors to use less-frequented locations, but directors want “locations like Telegraph Hill that scream San Francisco.” Johnston listed Telegraph Hill as one of five City neighborhoods that receive the highest number of filming permits, along with Russian Hill, Alamo Square, Fisherman’s Wharf and Chinatown.

Johnston stopped short of placing a one-year block on Telegraph Hill filming, as some neighbors had requested. Although Johnston, a neighborhood resident himself, acknowledged the annoyances associated with film shoots, he said a one-year ban might send a message that San Francisco is hostile to filmmaking. “That’s not a message we want to send,” he said. Johnston estimated that the film industry pumps \$350 to \$400 million a year into the local economy.

Feature Film & TV Show Shooting Locations, January 1999 through April 2000 (Does not include "Nash Bridges" or TV Commercials)

"Sweet November"

Potrero Hill–Sunset–Presidio–Dolores Park–SOMA

"Bedazzled"

Telegraph Hill–Russian Hill–Nob Hill–City Hall/Civic Center–Justin Herman Plaza

"The Wedding Planner"

Telegraph Hill – Russian Hill–Golden Gate Park–Victorian Park–City Hall–Legion of Honor

"Bicentennial Man"

Russian Hill – Nob Hill–Alamo Square–City Hall

"Boys and Girls"

North Beach–SOMA–Haight Street–Fisherman's Wharf–Victorian Park–Palace of Fine Arts–Financial District

"City of Bars"

Western Addition–Noe Valley–Lower Haight–Mission–Dolores Park–Church Street

"Down to You"

Union Street–Potrero Hill

"Groove"

Potrero Hill – Haight Street–Cole Valley–Western Addition

"City Lights (TV)"

Chinatown–Fisherman's Wharf–Presidio–Golden Gate Park

"Invisible Circus"

Presidio Heights–Buena Vista Park

"Party of Five (TV)"

North Beach – Pier 23–Marina – Pacific Heights–SOMA–3Com Park–Potrero Hill

"Rude, Irresponsible & Wild"

Sunset – SOMA–Haight Street–Mission

"The Sculptress"

Washington Square – Russian Hill – Nob Hill–Palace of the Legion of Honor–Glen Park Bart Station–Old

Mint–Presidio – Palace of Fine Arts

"SFO"

Russian Hill–Pacific Heights–SOMA–Palace of Fine Arts–Union Square–Academy of Sciences–Hall of Justice–Ferry Building–Pier 7

"Two Goldsteins"

Noe Valley–Fort Mason–Presidio–Municipal Pier–SOMA–Lower Haight – Mission – Sunset

"Woman On Top"

Lower Haight–Nob Hill–Castro–Palace of Fine Arts

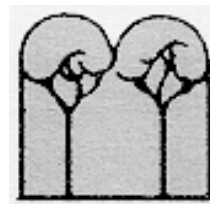
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Neighborhood NERTs Trained for Next Big Earthquake

By Bridget McNamer

Are you ready for the next big one? Well, as of March, 22 more Telegraph Hill/North Beach residents are not only better prepared to help themselves and their families – but their neighbors and neighborhood – survive the Bay Area's next major earthquake. These residents participated in Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT), sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department and taught by department members.

Those of you who experienced the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake may be aware that volunteers proved to be very beneficial in helping the Fire Department respond to emergencies in the Marina district. Recognizing that the next major earthquake may make the participation of volunteers even more necessary, the Fire Department initiated a citywide program of civilian emergency response training. The intention of the training is to give volunteers a higher level of basic skills in fire fighting, search and rescue, disaster medicine and preparedness so they can better assist emergency crews in the wake of an earthquake or other major disaster.

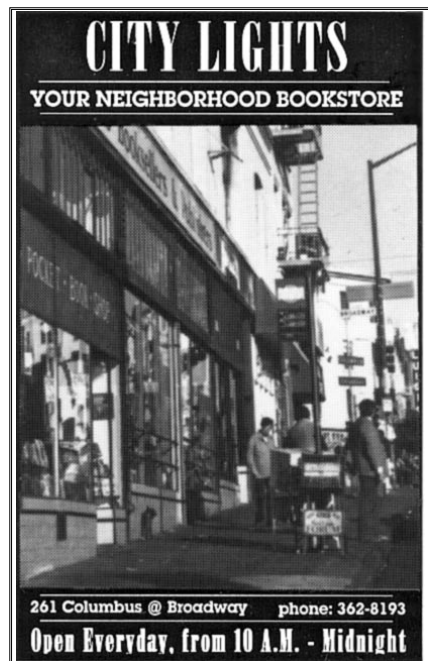
Throughout the six-week training course (one night a week, 2 ½ hours), "NERTs" learn crucial earthquake/disaster survival skills such as how to:

- Put together an earthquake kit for your family
- Turn off utility controls (e.g., gas and water)
- Use fire extinguishers to put out fires
- Assess damaged buildings
- Search for and rescue victims
- Perform basic disaster medicine

The training is free, it's fun, and it may prove very useful when the earth starts shaking again. The more Telegraph Hill/North Beach NERTs we can get trained, the better off our neighborhoods will be

when that time comes. As an added bonus, you get a nifty yellow hard hat and bright orange safety vest to signify your special NERT status. Even if you don't go through the training, when the next tremor hits town, look for people in this uniform: they are there to help you.

The next NERT training for the Telegraph Hill/North Beach area is not scheduled to take place until next spring (exact dates not yet available). However, trainings for other neighborhoods will take place at different points throughout the year, including one for the Marina in the fall. You don't need to live in a particular neighborhood to take a training class there. Contact Ted Nelson, NERT coordinator for the Telegraph Hill/North Beach areas at 956-7282, or check the NERT website at <http://www.slip.net/~nertsffd/> for more information on NERT, including class outlines and updated course schedules.





Washington Square Celebrates 150 Years

Friends welcome the bear back to Washington Square during the May 13 festivities celebrating the 150th anniversary of Washington Square. Also featured in the program were the Green Street Marching Band, Beach Blanket Babylon, and Marcus Shelby. *Photo by June Osterberg.*

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Reserve now to attend the annual San Francisco Symphony All San Francisco Concert of Ravel and Mozart works, on Thursday, September 21st, at 8:00 PM at Davies Symphony Hall. Cost is \$12 per person, limited to one guest per each THD member. Send checks payable to THD in a SASE, to THD Symphony, PO Box 330159, SF 94133. Checks must be received by June 30th. Checks received after THD's 50-ticket allotment is fulfilled will be returned.

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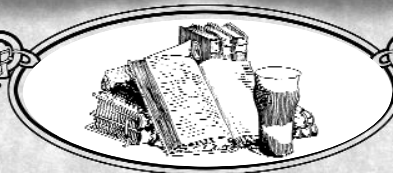
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Photo by June Osterberg

Peter Macchiarini enjoys festivities
at Enrico's before the dedication of
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City CarShare, a car-sharing cooperative, is planning to start operations in our neighborhood in November. You can use a car when you need one, without the costs of car ownership and insurance, and the hassle of finding a parking place close to home.

The cost, tentatively, will be \$1.50 per hour and \$.25 per mile (including gas), plus a small administrative fee and a refundable deposit. City CarShare is scoping out potential sites in North Beach, so it will be convenient as well as inexpensive.

Check out the progress of the plans at www.sfcarsshare.org.

North Beach Fair

The North Beach Fair will be held on Grant Avenue June 10 and 11.

The North Beach Fair, the oldest urban street fair in the country, the fair will feature crafts, a spoken word stage featuring poetry and jazz, live music and dance, and specialists devoted to mind and body healing. In addition, there will be a blessing of the animals at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi on June 10 at 2:00 and a free organ concert at the shrine on June 11 at 4:00.

Garfield School Needs Volunteers

Garfield School's Literacy Coordinator, Rayma Mui, has asked THD to poll our membership for a volunteer, possibly two, to conduct research and compile a brief document of medical, dental, vision and social services available in the North Beach area. This information would be provided to low-income parents.

As September approaches, volunteer tutors will be needed, particularly to work one-on-one with second graders to improve their reading and language skills. An hour or an hour and a half a week would be beneficial. Volunteers are also needed to make social contact with youngsters in the school yard before school starts in the morning or during lunchtime. Many of these students are ESL or from another ethnic or cultural background and do not feel connected with their social environment. If you are a daytime walker or jogger who passes by Garfield School on Filbert at Kearny, please consider a 3-minute chat with a student as part of your routine. Become a friend and mentor to a disadvantaged child. For detailed information on volunteer opportunities, contact Rayma Mui, Literacy Coordinator, at 291-7924.

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NEW MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

THD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS who have joined us since publication of the last *Semaphore*, Douglas Ahlers, Albert & Shirley Anthony, Richard Appelbaum, H. William Brown, Robert Durst, Dana Keuffner & Peter Heineman, Barbara Hoffer & John Hurst, Dagmar Johnson, Denis Lappos, Mark & Mary Lipian, Mark Lusardi (Emma Restaurant), Takako Mackay, Marianne Manilov, Joe Macri & Monica Mejia, Miriam & Edward Michalski, Rhonda Rubenstein & David Peters, San Remo Hotel, Lou & Kyung Sarto, Cathy Steinberg, Larry & Karen Ward, Scott Burch & John Winchester, Dennis Wishnie

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Single \$25 ____ Family \$40 ____ Senior \$15 ____

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

Semaphore. Editor Cheryl Bentley, 392-4081. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair Pat Swan, 788-7926. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Maya Armour, 986-1474. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

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

Neighborhood Beautification. Jan Holloway, 398-2055. Creates opportunities to improve, beautify, and preserve the Hill. Through its awards program, recognizes individuals and businesses who enhance our neighborhood. Facilitates cleanup, gardening and graffiti removal.

Oral History Project. Chair Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

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

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

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

WEB SITE =
www.thd.org

That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphores.



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THD CALENDAR

2nd Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties, July 8, August 12, September 9. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 552-7774.

Friday and Saturday, June 10 & 11, North Beach Fair

Thursday, September 21, 8:00 PM, San Francisco

Symphony Concert, Davies Symphony Hall

Schedules of Committee Meetings

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

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

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

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