

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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# *New* **FILLMORE**

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JANUARY 2008



The Brown Bag is pictured in one of Jean Collier Hurley's photographs from the dot-com boom, when it seemed every Fillmore business was hiring.

## Local Talent

THIS IS A neighborhood rich in talent — some known internationally, some less visible. Starting on page 7, we spotlight the recent work of five local creative spirits:

- Photographer Jean Collier Hurley exhibits her "Dot-Com & Gone" series.
- Teacher Henry Neff launches a series of fantasy fiction.
- Songwriter Winston Montgomery releases his first CD.
- Author Julian Silva publishes a double novel.
- Jazzman Jesse Foster performs live.



Singer and songwriter Jesse Foster's 30-year musical odyssey brings him to the Sheba Lounge this month.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH LEWINGTON



## Pulaski

Hi! I'm Pulaski and I want an adventurous owner. I love taking long walks to the park to meet other doggie playmates. I am looking for someone who will take me to training classes because I'm working on becoming a model canine citizen. A family with teens or older who has experience with hounds would be ideal. Please come see me at Pets Unlimited!



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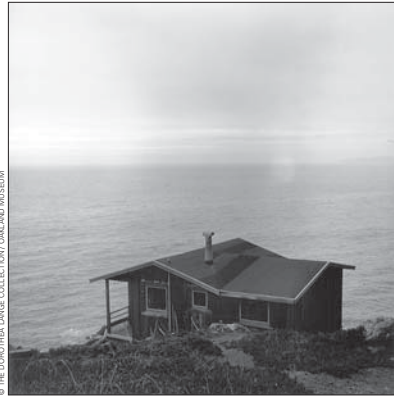
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### NEARBY



© THE DOROTHEA LANGE COLLECTION / OAKLAND MUSEUM

Renowned photographer Dorothea Lange captured rarely seen images at the cabin on the Marin coast to which she and her family often retreated.

### Rare Dorothea Lange photographs unveiled



In a departure from her Depression-era images capturing the plight of migrant farm workers, photographer Dorothea Lange also focused her lens on intimate family moments at a home away from home they called Steep Ravine.

The small cabin perched on the rocky coast of Marin County became a profoundly significant place for Lange and her family. This month more than 50 of Lange's rarely seen photographs from Steep Ravine will be presented in an exhibition at the Main Library at 100 Larkin Street.

"A Life Surrounding a Cabin: Dorothea Lange at Steep Ravine" opens Saturday, January 19, and continues through March 16 in the Skylight Gallery on the library's sixth floor.

In the late 1950s, Lange (1895-1965) and her second husband, the economist Paul Taylor, began leasing the cabin. They traveled to Steep Ravine many times over the years with their children and grandchildren, crossing the San Francisco Bay from their home in Berkeley. Lange said the environment at Steep Ravine shaped the identity and bonds of her family.

Daniel Dixon, son of Dorothea Lange and her first husband, the painter Maynard Dixon, will open the exhibition with a two-hour presentation. Dixon and his wife Dixie will discuss the universal language of his mother's work and her collaborative relationship with Maynard Dixon. Their presentation takes place in the Koret Auditorium of the Main Library from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on January 19.

On February 19, filmmaker Meg Partridge will screen her film, "Dorothea Lange: A Visual Life." The screening, which starts at 6 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium, will be followed by a discussion with Partridge; her father, the noted photographer Ronald Partridge, a longtime colleague and friend of Lange; and Betsy Partridge, a Lange biographer.

The exhibition and programs are free and open to the public. Visit [www.sfp.org](http://www.sfp.org) or call 557-4277 for more information.

### THE NEW FILLMORE

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### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

Every month, 20,000 copies are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and we welcome your suggestions and story ideas.

Archive of recent issues: [www.newfillmore.com](http://www.newfillmore.com)

Your comments and letters about the neighborhood are welcome there, too.

## Liquor License for Mansion in Pacific Heights?

### Ristow Vineyards wants wholesale, retail permits

AN UP-MARKET Napa Valley vintner who is also a prominent local plastic surgeon has applied to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a license to open a sales outlet in his Pacific Heights home.

The applicants are Bruno Ristow, president of Ristow Vineyard, and his wife Urania Ristow. Two licenses have been requested, one for wholesaling beer and wine, the other for off-sale beer and wine sales.

Neighbors speculated that the wholesale license might simply mean the Ristows want to do paperwork in San Francisco. It is the off-sale license, which would allow people to buy wine at the residence, that sparked their concern. The mansion is zoned as a single family residence.

The Ristows did not respond to press inquiries about their plans.

Greg Scott, president of the Pacific Heights Residents Association, delivered a letter to the residence on December 29 asking the Ristows to meet with the group's directors at their next scheduled meeting on January 7.

Scott said requesting a liquor permit for a residence is "bizarre," and added that the residents association "is not enthused about a license for a private residence."

At first a sign announcing the application for a beverage license was posted in a second story window of the house, well back from the street and difficult to read. After a neighbor across the street, Judith Duffy, complained to the ABC, the sign was moved to street level.

"Everybody on the block has called," said Duffy, who is vice president of the residents association.

The application was filed on December 6, making public comment due by January

### NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



A notice that the owners are seeking a liquor license is now posted more prominently in front of the Pacific Avenue home after first being posted in a second story window.

6. Because of the sign's original placement, Duffy asked that the date be extended, but said she had heard nothing about her request from state licensing officials.

According to the company's website, Ristow Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is grown in the Quinta de Pedras Vineyard

located on the Silverado Trail, just south of the Stags Leap district. The 18-acre vineyard is planted solely with Cabernet Sauvignon vines. Each year a small portion of the crop is selected for bottling under the Ristow Estate label, while the remainder is sold to neighboring wineries.

## Group Seeks Partnership for School

BY DON LANGLEY

A GROUP of concerned neighbors is attempting to create a plan for the future of the venerable Pacific Heights School at Webster and Jackson Streets, home for many years to Newcomer High School.

The group is promoting the idea that it could again become an elementary school to serve the growing number of children in the neighborhood.

At a December meeting at Temple Sherith Israel, Lisa Villareal, program officer in education for the San Francisco Foundation, showed a video depicting the salvation of the Daniel Webster School on Potrero Hill. There, parents of toddlers created an on-site, fee-based preschool in conjunction with the school district, promising enough future students to justify keeping the school open.

The presentation included examples of other partnerships between school districts and community groups from Long Beach to Portland. In Long Beach, for example, the YMCA offers programs from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., providing classes in everything from karate to French.

A public-private partnership is the first option being considered by the Exploratory Committee of the Pacific Heights School/Community Partnership, as the group is calling itself.

If the school district sees no further need for the building, the group says it could become a community center providing after-school classes in music and art yoga and Pilates classes for adults; space for home office facilities operated by a company like FedEx Kinko's; social services, a pre-school or endless other possibilities.

The building is currently being used under a short-term contract by Metropolitan Charter School.

## Kids Store Closes; HeidiSays Will Expand Again

YOUNTVILLE Clothing for Children at 2416 Fillmore Street closed at the end of the year after 23 years of selling chic wear for youngsters in the neighborhood.

"Every business has its time," said owner Po Chan. "After 23 years, it's natural for me to start thinking about, 'What else?'"

The store will be replaced by a third outpost for HeidiSays, whose original shop selling women's clothing and accessories is just a few doors up the block at 2426 Fillmore. Last year, owner Heidi Sabelhaus opened a second store, HeidiSays Shoes, at 2105 Fillmore.

The third HeidiSays boutique will offer more casual clothing for women. A February opening is anticipated.

Chan said she has operated Yountville long enough to be serving a second generation of neighbors. Many who wore her clothes as children returned to shop for their children.

"We've been so busy, I haven't had time for emotion," she said, adding that she plans to do "everything I haven't done for 23 years" in retirement.

## Renovation of Local Library Nearly Complete

THE WESTERN ADDITION Branch Library will soon reopen after a lengthy renovation and seismic upgrade.

The opening will be celebrated on Saturday, February 2, starting at 1 p.m. by Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and City Librarian Luis Herrera. They will be joined by lion dancers, musicians and children's entertainers.

The library doors, at 1550 Scott Street, between Post and Geary, will open at 2 p.m.

The Western Addition branch will now be open seven days a week. Before the remodeling, it was closed on Sundays.

The modern building will have a new entry with automatic front doors, a new teen area, improved main reading and children's areas, a new state-of-the-art program room and a landscaped outdoor courtyard.

The \$4.3 million renovation project made the building seismically sound, fully accessible and equipped with new restrooms, new computers and wireless Internet access.

A number of temporary services set up during the renovation will be affected by the reopening. The Japanese-language portion of the international languages collection at the Presidio Branch will be un-



The vaulted reading room has new lights and windows, making it much brighter.

available in January while it is being moved back to the Western Addition branch. After the move, the Presidio Branch will be closed on Mondays.

The temporary Western Addition Reading Center at 762 Fulton Street has already closed. Story times at Parents Place on California Street will end on January 29. And bookmobile service at Post

and Steiner Streets will end February 1. The Western Addition branch is the seventh to be built or renovated with funds approved in a \$105.9 million bond measure passed in November 2000. The Western Addition Library Campaign Committee raised \$150,000 to pay for the furnishings, fixtures and equipment in the renovated branch.





When you go to the Polls on February 5, the Chamber recommends...

**Yes on A: Fix our Parks**

Proposition A will extend critically important park and recreation center repairs and improvements to every city neighborhood and create new parks along the eastern waterfront – all with no increase in the property tax rate.

**Yes on B: Keep Police on the Street**

San Francisco is short up to 300 police officers, with 600 more set to retire in the next four years. Proposition B will encourage experienced police officers to postpone retirement to give increased recruitment a chance to reduce the shortage, all at no additional cost to the pension plan.

**No on C: Keep Alcatraz in the National Park System**

Proposition C would make it city policy to urge the National Park Service to give Alcatraz Island to the city for a peace and mediation center. Alcatraz is a National Landmark, part of Golden Gate National Park and should remain that way.



*Paid for by the 21st Century Political Action Committee.*

## Lafayette Park Friends Back Bonds

It's one of the parks to be renovated if Prop A passes

**L**AFAYETTE PARK is one of 12 city parks designated for a major makeover if Proposition A, a \$185 million bond issue, is approved by the voters on February 5.

Friends of Lafayette Park are campaigning for the measure, which requires a two-thirds majority. The group's leaders say the opportunity to repair and improve the park may not come again soon if the proposition fails.

The \$8 to 10 million project will include renovation of the restrooms, built in 1936, and the children's play area, the picnic area and tennis courts; restoration of the roads and pathways; upgrades to the infrastructure, including lighting and irrigation; modification to remove barriers and improve accessibility, and overall reconditioning of the landscape.

Art Perysko, an active member of the Friends of Lafayette Park, pointed out that retaining walls around the park are broken and leaning. Within the park, he said, old trees are falling and some patches of lawn have died because the irrigation system is broken.



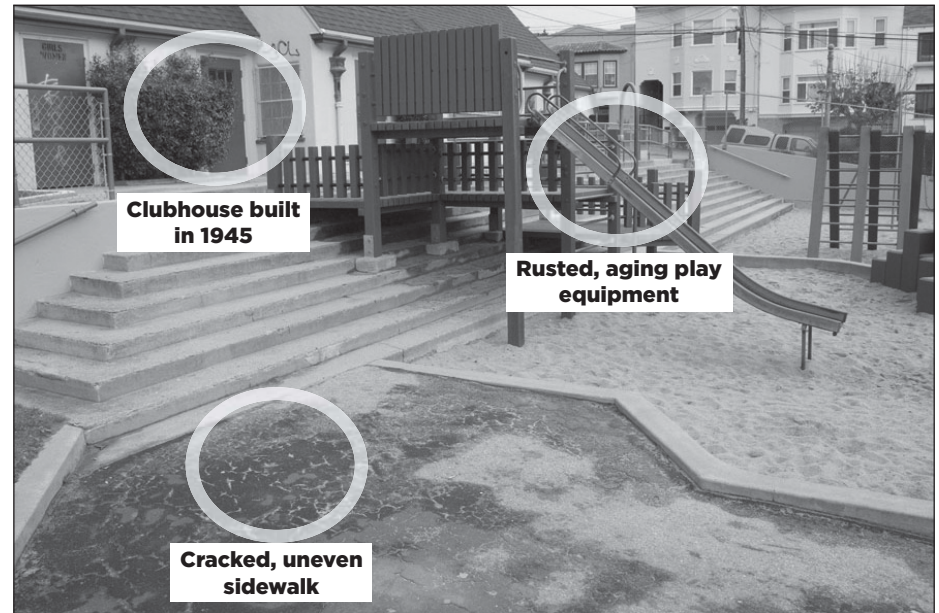
Victorian water fountains like this one in Alamo Square are coming to Lafayette Park.

**Victorian Alliance funds fountains**

Graceful Victorian water fountains will be installed in Lafayette Park, thanks to a grant from the Victorian Alliance. The funding comes from the proceeds of last year's Victorian Alliance house tour of historic homes near the park.

The Friends of Lafayette Park requested and received \$11,710 to replace two existing water fountains, one centrally located at the top of the hill, the other in the middle meadow. The fountains will be installed by next September. The project was modeled after a successful drive that put the fountains in Alamo Square.

Kimbell Playground at Geary and Steiner will also be upgraded with funds generated by Proposition A if the measure is approved.



Clubhouse built in 1945

Rusted, aging play equipment

Cracked, uneven sidewalk

## It's Time to Fix Our Neighborhood Parks

**P**rop A addresses the most urgent needs in many neighborhood parks. The bond measure will rebuild recreation centers for earthquake safety, replace damaged restrooms and repair broken, unsafe playground equipment.

**PROP A WILL REPAIR FILLMORE PARKS**

- Lafayette Park
- Kimbell Playground



# YES on A

## Fix our parks!

**PLEASE HELP US PASS PROP A!**

- Friends of the Urban Forest
- Sierra Club
- San Francisco Parks Trust
- Neighborhood Parks Council
- San Francisco Labor Council
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
- Chinese American Citizens' Alliance
- Livable City



- Planning Association for the Richmond
- San Francisco Vikings Youth Soccer League
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
- Mayor Gavin Newsom and the entire SF Board of Supervisors
- The entire SF School Board  
*(Partial List)*

[www.fixourparks.com](http://www.fixourparks.com)

Yes on A. Fix our Parks • A Project of The Conservation Campaign. Major funding by San Francisco Parks Trust and Warren Hellman  
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# CALIFORNIA PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

★ REGISTER AND VOTE. ★

Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Early voting at City Hall begins January 7, 2008.

Last day to register to vote is January 22, 2008.

You must re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or want to change your party affiliation.

Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is January 29, 2008.



**Party Affiliation & "Decline-To-State" Voters**

The February 5, 2008 election is a "modified" closed primary. If you registered to vote with a qualified political party, you can only vote for candidates from that party.

If you declined to state a political party when you registered, you can vote for candidates from one of the following two parties:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party

*All registered voters may vote on ballot measures.*

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RESALE SHOPS



AN ERA ENDS

Audrey Clock reigned over the Victorian House for three decades



Audrey Clock (far left) began volunteering when the hospital's thrift shop was in its original Victorian house, still standing (left) on Webster Street beside the medical library.

founded the Victorian House Thrift Shop, she found a kindred spirit. After Kay died, Audrey vowed to maintain the standards and viability of the Victorian House — and to give the store an extra elegance by selling fewer things in better condition, many of which came from her friends in Pacific Heights.

In 1989, when the Victorian House moved to 2318 Fillmore Street, near the Bank of America, she led the move to hire a manager, recognizing that the volunteers could not sustain the store on their own. She recruited Nathan Howard, the first and only manager, who continues in that position today at 2033 Fillmore, where the shop has been located for the past decade.

But it was Audrey Clock who ruled the most until a few days before she died on December 5 after a short illness at her home in the San Francisco Towers. She received donations, issued tax receipts, sorted items and set prices — and was never shy about offering fashion advice, often tart, to volunteers and shoppers.

Some wonder whether the Victorian House will survive without her. "It was her life," said fellow volunteer Bridget Hennessy. "She was such a character. Everybody knew her. And nothing surprised her."

Said Edward James, another volunteer: "The Victorian House owes its soul to Kay Cosper and its heart to Audrey Clock."

BEFORE SHE BECAME the strong-willed chief volunteer at the Victorian House Thrift Shop on Fillmore Street — a reign that lasted for 28 years until her death last month at age 91 — Audrey Clock traveled the world.

She and her husband, Philip, who served in the diplomatic corps, left Hungary as the Iron Curtain closed behind them. In Tehran, she waltzed with the Shah of Iran. In London, they lived near Hyde Park. They

walked at night among the fountains of Rome, returning to their apartment beside the Spanish Steps. And then they went on to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

She was a fourth generation San Franciscan who grew up alongside Golden Gate Park, graduating at the top of her class at Lowell High School. She became an accomplished tennis player and Phi Beta Kappa at Stanford, where she met her husband, with whom she had three children.

After he retired from the foreign service, they settled in the neighborhood near Presbyterian Hospital, now the California Pacific Medical Center.

She promptly began volunteering in the hospital's thrift shop, which at the time really was in an 1890s Victorian house — still standing, although unoccupied, at 2018 Webster Street.

When Audrey met Kay Cosper, who

Dot-Com & Gone

Photographs of Fillmore Street by JEAN COLLIER HURLEY

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LOCAL TALENT

The Evolution of a Songsmith

Jesse Foster's 30-year journey of refining his craft and keeping the faith

By JAMES DEKOVEN

THE SLOW SCREECH of a braking bus. Two voices in conversation. Police sirens and fire alarms and honking car horns. It's noise to many, but singer-songwriter Jesse Foster finds these sounds of urban life inspiring.

"I discover ideas for harmony and melody in the sounds of everyday life," he says.

Part of his everyday life is spent here in the neighborhood. You'll often find him hanging out with the locals at Peet's on Fillmore, tapping out a rhythm and shooting the breeze: politics, sociology — and music, of course. Pull up a chair and you might learn about his evolution as a musician, a 30-year journey of refining his craft and keeping the faith that has paid off with the release of his first album and regular live performances in local clubs.

Figuring it out early

Born in Alabama in 1946 and raised in Cleveland,



moved when he saw Nat "King" Cole's television show. "Man, that's what I want to do," he recalls thinking at the time.

Up and down

By the early 60s he was singing with doo-wop groups and organ combos, the types of musical groups made popular in the day by Gene Ammons, Jack McDuff and Richard "Groove" Holmes.

By the 1970s, after time in Canada, he found the rich music scene in San Francisco. At the edge of 30, he decided it was time to settle in here and go for the musical career he wanted. He took operatic voice lessons from a gifted teacher who encouraged him to teach, which would become a major element of his career.

Gaining confidence, he formed a band called Creations in Sound, which often played at the legendary Minnie's Can-Do Club on Fillmore, in the space now occupied by Florio. Another project, a soul fusion outfit called Life is Color, also developed a strong local

TO PAGE 8

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10:30 - 12:30 Choice of speakers:

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- "Is Knowing My Cholesterol Level Good Enough? The Role of Advanced Lipid Testing" James Mailhot, M.D.

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■ THIS MONTH



Jesse Foster at Sheba Lounge

Jesse Foster performs in the neighborhood this month with pianist John Groves on **Thursdays, January 3 and 17**, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Sheba Piano Lounge at 1419 Fillmore Street. Get his album at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com), iTunes or from the man himself at his live performances. In addition to the Sheba Lounge, he performs regularly at Bistro Yoffi on Chestnut Street and at the Octavia Lounge on Market. His schedule and information about his workshops are available online at [www.jessesings.com](http://www.jessesings.com).

## He Writes Songs Inspired By the Sounds of Urban Life

FROM PAGE 7 following and won praise from Phil Elwood, who was for many years the respected jazz and blues critic for the *Examiner*. Foster's evolution continued. In 1977, Life is Color played a series of gigs at the legendary Keystone Corner. In the early 80s, he landed a spot in Jules Broussard's band.

### A record of influences

On his CD, *People, Places and Songs*, Foster distills the influence of Marvin Gaye, John Coltrane and Minnie Riperton into a distinctive style. He blends the sanctified vocal delivery of classic soul with the spiritual sensibilities of 1960s avant-garde jazz.

*People, Places and Songs* is very much a personal affair. "How Are You" tells the story of meeting his wife, Michelle; "Lost Love Returns" is about reuniting with an old friend; and "Claudia," the opening track, conveys his love for his mother.

In live performances, he fills the room with his ever-present smile and joyous energy while delivering his own original compositions, plus inventive versions of songs

by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Luther Vandross, Chick Corea and Al Jarreau.

### Inspiring others

When he's not recording or performing, Foster is often teaching and encouraging other aspiring musicians. He teaches at the Community Music Center on Capp Street and also offers private lessons on improvisation and vocal technique in jazz, soul and rhythm and blues. On Sunday afternoons, he hosts a workshop for his students before a live audience at Bistro Yoffi on Chestnut Street.

Most important, he says, is teaching students to improvise, often in response to the urban sounds that surround them. "I teach my students to be open to influences," Foster says. "If you hear two cars honking, figure out the interval, the rhythm. Let the environment stimulate you."

Back on Fillmore at Peet's, easing into his morning routine, he practices what he preaches — greeting friends, telling stories and ever so gently drumming on the table to the rhythm of the passing scene.

PHOTOGRAPHY

## Before the Bubble Burst

Capturing a moment in time on Fillmore

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY JEAN COLLIER HURLEY

BACK IN THE fall of 2000, when my young neighbor at the Amelia complex on Fillmore began an ambitious condo renovation project, I was curious. Her door was open, so I stepped in.

"What's up?"  
"Dot-com."  
"Dot-com?"  
"Yes, I'm a dot-commer working for a start-up in Silicon Valley."  
"Oh, I said, 'Good job, huh?'"  
"Yes, we're building the company to take it public. Everyone's doing it."

I took a walk up to Peet's to have a latte and think it through. As I strolled down Fillmore, I noticed that nearly every retail shop, coffee house and cafe had a help wanted sign in the window.

My neighbor was right: Business was booming, yet everyone was leaving the shops and cafes in the city for dot-com employment South of Market and south of the city. Sensing that this might be a unique point in time, and perhaps a bubble that would one day burst, I grabbed my latte and raced home to get my camera.

I loved capturing the essence of each store and cafe through its help wanted message. Many reflected the characteristics of the shop seeking help. The always exciting Fillamento



■ THIS MONTH

### "Dot-Com & Beyond"

An exhibition of Jean Collier Hurley's photographs opens with a reception for the artist on **Friday, January 11** from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery. It continues through February 2 at the gallery, located at 2291 Pine Street.

told potential employees: "If you think shopping at Fillamento is fun, imagine what it's like to work here." Vivande boasted, "Jobs here taste great."

The moment passed, the dot-com bubble burst, employees migrated back to the neighborhood and the signs came down. Since then, a number of the shops and restaurants I photographed have closed, making their images a page in the visual history of the Fillmore neighborhood.



**GONE WITH THE BOOM** — Many of the Fillmore businesses included in Jean Collier Hurley's series of photographs from 2000 are now closed, including the vintage shop Departures from the Past, above, and Fillamento, at right.



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MUSIC

## An Aging Rocker Lives the Dream

Why buy a sports car when you can record your own album

By WINSTON MONTGOMERY

THERE HAVE BEEN some serious musicians in this neighborhood through the years. I'm one of the newer ones, though not one of the youngest.

Like many people — too many, no doubt — I was in a rock band in college back in the 60s. So was my roommate, Brien Hopkins, who went on to some renown as the bass player in the 70s group based in Mill Valley called Eggs Over Easy.

In college Brien and I wrote songs together, including "Such a Good Day," a la Loving Spoonful, which he later recorded. After college Brien successfully pursued a career in music, but I moved on to rescuing Victorians in the Western Addition.

Fast forward 30 years, and I felt the urge to write songs again. It was my college buddy Brien, retired in Mill Valley, who heard them first. He was encouraging, and with his old bandmate Austin de Lone, a longtime fixture on the Marin music scene, we recorded a few songs — Brien on bass, Austin on keyboards and guitar, with my vocals. This led me to write and record more songs.

Now I've put seven of them on a CD and called it *Child Is Father to the Man*.

I write songs in the folk and country genres because they seem the least swayed by current musical fashions. But my 60s roots are pretty obvious. I'm not looking

for commercial or financial success. Hearing someone else perform my songs would be sufficient reward.

My songs characteristically have a strong narrative with a satiric edge. "The Southland Stole Our Water" was inspired by the aqueduct next to Interstate 5. "Daddy, Why'd You Have to Be So Hard?" is a lament about a cruel father. "Fallujah Skies" is a Beach Boys style song set in wartime Iraq.

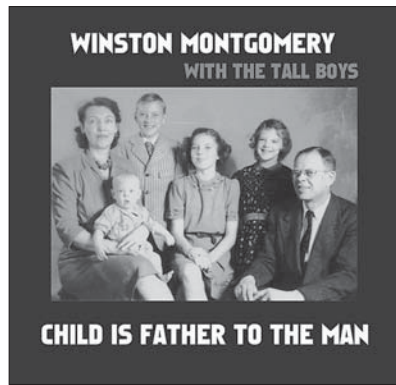
Now I'm working on a full length CD, produced by Austin de Lone, that should be out next year. Unfortunately, Brien Hopkins passed away a few months ago. My first CD is dedicated to him.

I enjoy writing songs, but not performing them. I do, however, play at open mikes as a way of getting exposure for the songs and seeing how they are received. Open mike nights have a singular culture that is mostly welcoming and supportive, regardless of age or level of skill.

At one of my first open mike attempts at the Bazaar Cafe in the Richmond District, I jokingly told the audience that, having recently retired, I had narrowed my options to pursuing my longtime interest in music or buying a sports car.

As I finished my nervous and halting performance and was making my way back to my seat, a 20-something woman said to me, "It's not too late to buy that sports car."

She was right, of course. But gas is so expensive nowadays, and I'd miss young wisasses like her.



It's not on the charts just yet, but neighborhood resident Winston Montgomery's new CD is now available. That's him on his mom's lap.

### He wrote the songs — and made the CD

You may wonder what would possess a man stepping gingerly into retirement to write and record a CD of original country/folk/rock songs after a career in residential construction and remodeling.

I can tell you what made it possible: dramatic changes in recording technology, thanks to computers and the Internet, which allow musicians with computers to engineer, edit and master their own professional sounding recordings.

I recorded the majority of the songs on my new CD, *Child Is Father to the Man*, in San Francisco at DuVatzen Records, the in-home studio of engineer, sound technician and musician Gavin Jones, who offers recording and sound services, mostly for smaller bands and individual musicians.

He also plays a mean lead guitar and bass — as he does on several songs on my new album, now available at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).

— WINSTON MONTGOMERY

BOOKS

## A Fantasy Is Born at The Grove

Stuart Hall instructor concocts his own world

By HENRY H. NEFF

FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS I have wandered the storied stretch of Fillmore Street as a writer of children's books, a teacher of U.S. history at nearby Stuart Hall High School and an adopted son of San Francisco. It is my chosen haunt, whether I'm grading papers, fine-tuning an illustration or brainstorming the next novel of *The Tapestry*, my series of contemporary fantasy fiction.

It's no stretch to say that *The Tapestry* series and its first book, *The Hand of Reason*, were born on Fillmore Street. It was at The Grove that my characters made their leap from thought to page, their trials scrawled into dog-eared notebooks or visualized with careful drawings sketched in the margins. Hunched low amid the cushions and benches and quiet conversations, I've concocted and shaped a world, summoning heroes and monsters into being with the scratch of a pen and endless cups of coffee.



Henry Neff wrote and illustrated the first book of a new series of fantasy fiction.

The coffee is a problem, however. The cookies, too. They're enormous and irresistible and have caused my fiscal ruin. One teaches for love, not money, and I'm ashamed to say that I've spent a staggering percentage of my meager earnings at The Grove. I can't begrudge it, however. It's been money well spent and has allowed me to laze away many a late afternoon, watching tortured writers, flirty hipsters and the slow river of humanity that courses past the windows.

My students are a part of that river. They wander by and wave, but rarely venture inside; The Grove's dark environs, crackling fire and exotic teas scream "boring adults" to the adolescent mind.

Instead, they hurry along, roaming Fillmore like puppies as they dart into Johnny Rockets or La Salsa or follow their noses up the street to Fresca. If you see them, be sure to say hello — they are disarmingly polite, and you might meet an aspiring filmmaker from Shanghai, a future statesman from Oakland and a budding entrepreneur from Daly City. Like the street itself, they are an eclectic bunch, as diverse in their backgrounds as they are unified by their energy and optimism.

Fillmore isn't all cookies and bright-eyed students. No place with depth and soul can be. It has its sad stories, too, and one sees them curled in the

doorways or mumbering to passersby with different measures of shame or sickness or even a twinge of anger. It is part of the landscape and rhythm here, cast alongside the Victorians and technocrats to form an urban identity unlike any other.

That identity can be perplexing to outsiders. Friends and family visiting from my native Chicago fail to understand how such a conspicuous concentration of wealth and brainpower can coincide with poverty and despair. I don't have answers for them. San Francisco can both inspire and exasperate, as can my favorite street as it climbs and dips along the hills and hollows.

When I despair for answers, I take a walk. The walks are best at twilight, when the sun sinks low and the lights on Fillmore flicker with possibilities. John Dos Passos concluded that "U.S.A. is the speech of the people" and I think he was on to something. I hear this echo in the groan of the buses, the clink of bottles and the laughter of crowds milling about the Boom Boom Room or the Fillmore auditorium. There's history in those places, buried in walls, layered in paint and humming in the worn planks of their stages. There must be answers, too.

I haven't found the answers yet, but I keep looking. Meanwhile, there are students to teach and books to write and the intoxicating promise of a city that can be great. If you see me at The Grove, come say hello. I'll be the guy with the red pen and a stack of exams stealing glances at his notebook. I can't promise answers or entertaining conversation. But I might buy you a cookie.

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# A TALE OF TWO NOVELS

*This neighborhood novelist's story is too improbable to be true. But it is.*

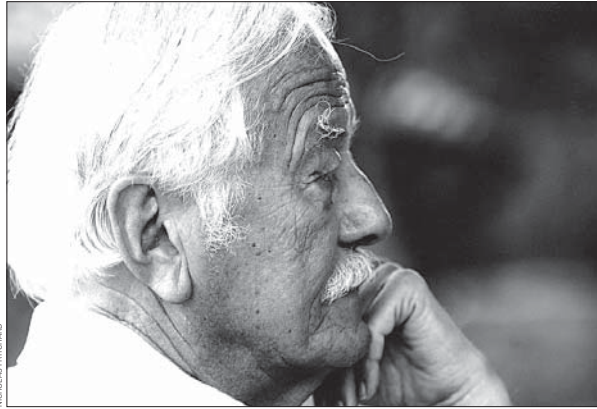
By JULIAN SILVA

I HAVE BEEN WRITING for as long as I can remember — mostly, alas, in a vacuum.

My first agent did sell a story to *Cosmopolitan* magazine, for what at the time seemed an immense sum of money, though he never managed to place the novel I was truly interested in. It was far from any sense of triumph that I first saw myself in print. I had written a story called "A Scarf for Olaf." *Cosmopolitan* published something called "A Virgin Bride."

That is why many writers take recourse in literary quarterlies and university presses. Over the years the University of Colorado's Writers Forum has published seven of my stories, the first of which was 30 dense pages long, a length no slick magazine would even consider except from an established writer. The editor became something of a champion and, acting as an agent without fee, got Ohio University Press to publish my first novel, *The Gunnysack Castle*, in 1983.

The great advantage of a university press is that no one changes a word or a comma without the writer's consent. But university presses, though long on integrity, are dismally short on funds, most of which are spent on production rather than promotion. And without a certain amount of promotion the best of books is doomed to languish unsold. I did receive one great national review in *Publishers Weekly*, which unfortunately is read mostly



NICHOLAS PITCHARD

Julian Silva taught English at Galileo and Lowell High Schools, among other places, until his retirement to become a published novelist.

by people in the trade. Thus my book could be found in virtually any library in the country but in very few bookstores.

I have published a number of stories since then, but no other novel, despite the efforts of two different agents — partly, perhaps, because each successive novel depended in part on a knowledge of the previous one. The three novels were meant to form a single work dealing with three

generations of a Portuguese-American family in the Bay Area, with an ever-narrowing focus, so that the third volume deals with a single aspect of a single character.

Finally I ceased to submit my work, but continued to write for my own gratification until the turn of the century.

In the year 2000, I was in my early seventies and caught a momentous change

— of not only the century but also the millennium — not unnaturally led to thoughts of mortality. I decided it was time to face certain obvious facts and begin to clean out my files rather than leave that unpleasant task to my executors. I destroyed every trace of the last novel I had written without a qualm. Though it had its moments, it was not, I decided, worthy of publication. I also destroyed all

traces of my first novel, and that impulsive act I do now regret.

By the time I got to *The Death of Mae Ramos*, the second of my three related novels, I could not bring myself to destroy it as well. It would have been tantamount to consigning my grandmother herself to the shredder. So instead of destroying it, I began to rewrite it, with no intention whatsoever of submitting it to anyone, but simply for my own satisfaction. After completing that, I went on to rewrite the third novel in the series, *Before the Revolution*.

Writing by then had become a pleasant, even necessary, pastime that kept my imagination active and my intellect stimulated. I did not any longer even dream about the possibility of publication — until suddenly, and with scarcely any warning at all, everything changed.

Three years ago, before I was about to take off for a summer holiday in Tuscany, I received a telephone call from the San Francisco Public Library asking if I was the author of *The Gunnysack Castle*. Someone from Dartmouth was inquiring. My curiosity was piqued, but I did not dwell on it for long.

Sometime after my return, I received a package of handsome books published by the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Along with it came a very flattering letter from the center's director telling me how much he had enjoyed my novel and asking if I had any unpublished manuscripts I'd be willing to let him see.

Seldom have I been sufficiently strong-willed to resist the blandishments of fulsome flattery. And if there was one thing I had a surplus of, it was

unpublished manuscripts. So naturally I sent him a copy of *The Death of Mae Ramos* and tried to prepare myself for one final letter of rejection.

The wheels of academe move slowly. Eventually I received not the rejection I had tried to prepare myself to expect, but an offer to publish. There was, however, one possible problem: Since the second novel presumed some knowledge of the first, would I consider allowing them to publish both novels together under a single title? At this point reality seemed to be fast overtaking fantasy.

That the director had even come to hear about the first novel required a number of improbable coincidences. He had called someone at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley to inquire if anyone there knew of any novelists dealing with the local Portuguese and their descendants. The library did not have anything, but the person who answered the telephone — by some strange and improbable fluke — happened to have a copy of my novel. He found the title for the director, who found a used copy of the book online and then found me — hiding in plain sight for decades just waiting for someone like him to come knocking at my door.

Thus did I celebrate my 80th birthday holding a copy of a novel called *Distant Music: Two Novels by Julian Silva*, written by someone with my name. Every few days since I have had to verify its reality to convince myself the author has not, after all, slipped into dementia.

Distant Music: Two Novels by Julian Silva, is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). A third novel, *Before the Revolution*, will be published this year.

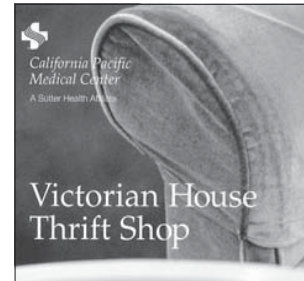
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## Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi  
Freelance Writer  
San Jose, California.

Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted to see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In some states, Bioptic Telescopic glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving," says Dr. Burt Worrell of Advance Vision Center of Optometry in San Jose, California. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving."

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received bioptic-telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading

glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious," says Dr. Lisa Lintiaico, partner of Dr. Worrell. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease amongst the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp images. When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition. Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST demonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on these doctors at Advance Vision Center.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment except for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.



### DOROTHY COLLIER WEARING BIOPHTIC TELESCOPIC GLASSES FOR DRIVING

Dorothy Collier, 84, of Saratoga, California, came to Dr. Worrell and Dr. Lintiaico on the advice of a friend. "I wanted to be able to keep driving in order to take care of my husband. I love watching my granddaughter play softball and watch her pitch. These bioptic telescopes have done so much for me and I can do everything on my own now."

Dr. Worrell and Dr. Lintiaico prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. As Dorothy puts it, "These telescope glasses that Dr. Worrell has provided not only allows me to read signs from a farther distance, but makes driving much easier. I've also used them to watch television so I don't have to sit so close. Definitely worth the \$2400 cost. I don't know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner."

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Lintiaico. "Whether it's driving, reading, watching television, seeing faces, playing bridge... we work with whatever is on the person's wish list."

"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000," says Dr. Worrell, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Reading glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

The following are some of the very experienced doctors working with low vision patients. They are members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* and are happy to speak with you:

- Burton Worrell, OD, FFAO Northern California 866.451.2020
- Lisa Lintiaico, OD Northern California 866.451.2020
- Richard Shadlener, OD, FFAO Southern California 888.610.2020
- David Armstrong, OD Virginia 866.321.2030
- Brian Saunders, OD Georgia 877.948.7784
- Marc Cannon, OD Florida 866.942.2020
- Ross Cusic, OD Washington 877.823.2020
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### CREDIT COURSES

CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Room #
37246	History of Modern Art	W	6:30-9:30 pm	821
37895	Catering and Events	Th	4-8 pm	Dining Room
77587	Catering & Events	TTh	4-9 p.m.	Dining Room
32980	Elementary French II	MW	6-8:45 pm	425
38436	Intermediate German 3A	M	6:15-9:45 pm	621
38532	Reading & Composition	MWF	12-1:00 pm	320
39523	Reading, Writing, & Critical	TTh	12-1:30 pm	320
38421	Visual Basic.net (Intro)	W	6-9 pm	623
38091	Vis Basic.net (Obj Orient)	Th	6-9 pm	623

### CREDIT SHORT-TERM COURSES

CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Dates	Room #
38109	College Orientation	MW	3:30-7:30 pm	4/21-4/23	Rosenberg 301
32572	Orientation/College	TTh	10-11 am	1/15-3/6	Art 212
32574	Orientation/College	TTh	10-11 am	3/11-5/8	Art 212
38479	Specific Study Strat.	Sat	8 am-5 p.m.	4/12	Bungalow 701

### FREE NONCREDIT COURSES

CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Room #
45333	Basic Accounting Concepts I	TTh	8-10:30 am	515A
45334	Basic Accounting Concepts II	TTh	8-10:30 am	515A
44265	Computer Accounting	TTh	1-3:30 pm	514
40055	Desktop Pub. (Begin)	M-Th	10:30 am-1 pm	516
40160	Desktop Pub. (Interm)	M-Th	10:30 am-1 pm	516
41960	ESL by Computer	M-F	10 am-12 noon	325
43008	ESL by Computer	M-F	12 noon-2 pm	325
43118	ESL by TV	Sat	10:30 am-1 pm	320
43534	ESL by Computer	M-F	2-4:30 pm	325
43868	ESL Song Lyrics	M-Th	10 am-12 noon	623
45128	ESL Job Search Skills	M-Th	12 noon-1:15 pm	819
43780	Food Tech: Baking	M-F	6 am-12 noon	Kitchen
43781	Food Tech/Dining Serv.	M-F	9 am-3 pm	Kitch./Dining Room
45185	Graphs for Business	TTh	1-3:30 pm	515C
44925	Quickbooks Level II	M-Th	10:30 am-1 pm	515A

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1915 Sacramento St	3	2.25	1	2454	16-Nov	1,995,000	2,325,000
1625 Vallejo St	4	4.5	2		11-Dec	3,198,000	Not Disclosed
3383 Clay St	4	3.5	2	3138	20-Nov	3,495,000	3,200,000
2701 Pacific Ave	6	4	2		14-Dec	4,950,000	4,510,000
2849 Pacific Ave	5	3.5	3		20-Nov	5,850,000	Not Disclosed

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2945 Baker St #1	1				27-Nov	320,000	259,000
2999 California St #403	1		613		20-Nov	450,000	425,000
2831 Webster St	1	1	1		30-Nov	499,000	520,000
1760 Pacific Ave #1	1	1		737	16-Nov	599,000	570,000
2040 Franklin St #702	1	1.5	1		27-Nov	599,000	600,000
2831-33 Webster St #2	2	1	1		30-Nov	549,000	610,000
2552 Gough St	1	1		754	27-Nov	589,000	630,000
2171 Sacramento St #3	1	1	1	610	4-Dec	599,000	645,000
2831-33 Webster St #4	3	1	1		30-Nov	699,000	820,000
2106 Jackson St #1	1	1	1	1062	14-Dec	850,000	825,000
2009 Divisadero St #3A	2	2	1		12-Dec	849,000	840,000
3042 Jackson St #2	2	1	1		16-Nov	849,000	855,000
2090 Pacific Ave #502	1	1	1		10-Dec	995,000	990,000
2040 Franklin St #1207	1	2	1	1100	1-Dec	999,000	999,000
3128 Washington St	3	1	1		30-Nov	995,000	1,015,000
3320 California St #3	2	2	3	1198	30-Nov	1,195,000	1,195,000
3042 Jackson St #3	3	2	1	1267	14-Dec	1,185,000	1,198,000
2606 Buchanan St	2	2.5	2		14-Dec	1,250,000	1,225,000
1989 Broadway	3	2	1	1930	5-Dec	1,250,000	1,250,000
343 Presidio Ave	3	2.5	1	2100	30-Nov	1,495,000	1,485,000
2200 Pacific Ave #12F	2	2	1	1955	20-Nov	1,488,000	1,488,000
214 Arguello Blvd	4	2.5	1	2000	4-Dec	1,675,000	1,600,000
2863 Clay St	3	2.5	1	1939	16-Nov	1,795,000	2,070,000
2637 Buchanan St	4	3.25	1	3841	30-Nov	2,700,000	2,500,000

### Spreckels starter mansion available for \$25 million

As we approached the end of the year, the San Francisco housing market went into a light hibernation, and we've seen the typical slowdown in sales. Nonetheless, the year ended on a strong note, with more than 30 closings during the past month — including at least five homes that sold for more than \$2 million.

In that group, 1915 Sacramento was a property that stood out. Priced aggressively at just under \$2 million, the home received much attention from the moment it hit the market. There were multiple offers, and it closed nearly 20 percent over the asking price.

While the number of new listings coming onto the market has slowed, there are a couple in the neighborhood worth watching in the new year.

At 2786 Jackson, a cozy ground floor studio unit is located completely off the street. This may be the unit for those concerned with quiet and safety. Just be prepared to navigate a bit of a maze before you enter the front door. At \$375,000 it is currently the most affordable property in the neighborhood, although that price does not include parking.

On the other end of the spectrum, 2100 Vallejo (left) recently came on the market at \$25 million. This grand, 7,000 square foot beauty was the starter home for Adolph and Alma Spreckels before they built the Sugar Palace up the hill on Lafayette Park. It has been carefully restored and boasts full-on views from the Golden Gate Bridge to Russian Hill.

— Data and commentary provided by JOHN FITZGERALD, a co-owner of the Byzantium Brokerage and an agent at Pacific Union. Contact him at [jfitzgerald@pacunion.com](mailto:jfitzgerald@pacunion.com) or call 345-3034.

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### GOOD WORKS



A homeless patient receives care from a volunteer dental student.

## Dental Students, Faculty Check Up on the Homeless

MORE THAN 100 homeless San Franciscans have received much-needed dental care, thanks to volunteers from the dental school at the University of the Pacific at Webster and Sacramento.

Students and faculty provided free dental services as part of the city's Project Homeless Connect outreach project held on December 5.

For the first time, Project Homeless Connect transported its clients to the school's clinics to serve the large number of patients and to have access to state-of-the-art facilities.

"This is the first time we were able to see patients in our dental

clinics," said Saam Zarrabi, class of 2008 and student coordinator of the event. "So our students were able to see first-hand what it takes to make an outreach program like this successful."

Students and faculty members performed oral surgery procedures on 30 homeless clients and provided dental restoration work on 20 others. They provided preventive dental care to 109 more homeless clients at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, where the Project Homeless Connect clinic is held every other month.

"We're very proud of the treatment we were able to offer," said Zarrabi, "and look forward to continuing our participation in Project Homeless Connect."

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