Dining Out in the Neighborhood

Last month, we mentioned some of the many gift stores in Eureka Valley/The Castro. Our neighborhood is also fortunate to have a splendid variety of restaurants that make dining a memorable experience.

Sumi, at 4243 18th Street near DeLano's Supermarket, is the most venerable of the neighborhood’s fine restaurants, going strong after more than twenty years. The fusion French and Japanese cuisine is flawlessly executed in a quiet, understated rustic Kyoto-inspired environment. A regularly rotated collection of paintings for sale decorates the space. The special three course, $25 per person menu, offered from 5:30PM to 7:00PM nightly, is a bargain.

Across the street from Sumi is Bullshead Restaurant, which specializes in steaks and hamburgers in a renovated, multi-storied Victorian building. The hamburgers and onion rings are sensational. The recently renovated Harvey's, on the corner of Castro and 18th Streets, has a lively bar and a popular restaurant serving both lunch and dinner. Specialties include salads and burgers, with traditional egg dishes offered for Saturday and Sunday brunch.

The garden ambiance at Luna at 558 Castro Street (near 19th) makes breakfast, lunch or dinner there enjoyable. The menu is primarily comfort food. Heat lamps and a retractable roof provide shelter when the weather is unpleasant. The bar specializes in Bellinis.

Fresh seafood, superbly cooked and elegantly presented in a stylish, sophisticated interior is what diners find at Catch, 2362 Market Street, near Pottery Barn. The sheltered patio, which faces Market Street, has a central Swedish fireplace and heat lamps. Lunch and dinner are served daily, with a special brunch menu on weekends. The lobster bisque, roasted salmon with risotto, salmon BLT sandwich are just some of the superbly executed dishes. Non-fish eaters can chose from excellent chicken and beef entrees. If you wish to nibble while having a drink at the beautiful bar, try the fried Greek olives with feta cheese, the addictive french fries, or fresh oysters. During the evening, a live pianist plays terrific music.

How You Can Help with Halloween

Over the years, residents of The Castro/Eureka Valley have complained about the annual Halloween celebration in our neighborhood. What was once an enjoyable event has become an unmanageable and dangerous one. This year, Mayor Gavin Newsom and District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty have found an alternative location for San Francisco’s official Halloween–on the waterfront, near AT&T Park. We are grateful to them for this decision.

Unfortunately, as Newsom and Dufty realize, people, including troublemakers, will still come to the Castro. It will take several years for that tradition to end. Hence, the city will provide extra police protection and other services to the neighborhood this year. Final plans are still being developed, but we, as residents, can help in making Halloween 2007 a safe event.

How? By asking local establishments to shut down early that day. Dufty is urging bar and restaurant owners, gas stations, and other merchants to put the welfare of the neighborhood ahead of profits. Several, including Catch Restaurant, owned by long-time EVPA Treasurer David

(Continued on page 2)
A Note of Thanks
to the Eureka’s Editor
by Frank Weiss (EVPA President)

For the past year, the EVPA has had the good fortune to have Ken Wong in charge of editing the Eureka. In years past, Pauline Shaver and Drew Bertagnolli volunteered for this important task, but they both needed a break. When Ken volunteered to take over, I was very happy to put him in charge.

Ken was born and raised in San Francisco and has lived in the Eureka Valley since 1991. He currently works in the Peninsula as an engineer assisting with data center engineering/construction throughout the United States. We hope Ken will continue to keep editing the Eureka. He certainly is doing a fine job of it and we all appreciate it very much. Thanks, Ken!

If you have articles for the Eureka, please send them to eureka@evpa.org.

Weiss, and Café Flore, have agreed to close down early on Halloween. As residents, we can help such exemplary neighbors by patronizing them more, especially in September and October.

If people coming to the Castro on Halloween find that nothing is going on—bars, restaurants, liquor stores, markets, have closed down, that no one is out, it will re-enforce the message that the party is elsewhere this year and there is nothing to do here. Because it will take years to change behavior, it is important that this Halloween begins a new tradition—one in which revelers find no reason to be in the Castro and, consequently, go to the waterfront, enjoy live entertainment, and spare our neighborhood from the annual trashing that we have endured for far too long.

So, please, stop at your favorite restaurant, bar, and other businesses, ask them what their plans are for Halloween, encourage them to do the right thing for our neighborhood, and, when they do, increase your patronage accordingly.

I would like to assure you that I have begun to take the necessary steps to limit if not to eliminate some of these incidences. Below are some of the procedures The Café has implemented in order to alleviate future disturbances.

1. The Café has increased its security budget to provide 17th and Hartford Street with a patrol person between the hours of 11:00 PM and 2:30 AM Thursday, Friday and Saturday to control noise and disorderly conduct as Castro event goers return to their vehicles.

2. We have placed signs in visible locations inside and outside our venue to ask that patrons be courteous and quiet while returning to their vehicles.

3. Our staff has been instructed to make sure all windows and doors remain closed after 10:00 PM.

4. A limiter has been added to our sound system to regulate the volume of the music. Remote volume control knobs were also added to limit our DJ’s control on the volume as well.

5. We are currently in the process of commencing a monthly Café sponsored neighborhood group meeting to get to know our neighbors and receive feedback and ideas to improve the affect that the night time entertainment has on the neighborhood.

I will be attending the next EVPA meeting on July 19 to give an update and take your questions. In the meantime, please contact me at 415-861-3846 or thecafesf@aol.com. I would like to sincerely apologize for any inconveniences and disruption that our establishment may have contributed in the past. I have made it my primary focus to make The Café a positive entity in the Castro and to have you view us as a good neighbor.

Contact EVPA Board Members

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please feel free to contact any of the following EVPA Board Members:

Frank Weiss (President) 415-706-6597
Demian Quesnel (At Large Board Member) 415-861-5084
Dining Out  (Continued from page 1)

On the same side of Market Street, closer to Noe Street, is Pasta Pomodoro, which serves well-prepared Italian food at reasonable prices in a pleasant environment. Around the corner at 208 Noe Street is La Mediterranea, offering delicious Moroccan, Turkish, and Greek food, in a warm, friendly setting. Kitty-corner is the venerable Café Flore, 2298 Market Street, offering simple, well-prepared dishes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a pretty patio setting. Blue, 2337 Market Street, specializes in comfort food. Their macaroni and cheese, with or without chicken, is memorable. Irresistible small plates, including delicious mini grilled cheese sandwiches and tiny hamburgers, are served at Lime, 2247 Market Street, which attracts a young, hip crowd and is jammed on weekends and evenings. The bar serves all kinds of drinks, including Cosmos. Next door, at 2251 Market Street, is Barracuda, an elegant restaurant serving classic Japanese cuisine, including superb sushi. Nearby is another long-time institution, 2223 Market Street, offering excellent California cuisine in a large, light-filled space. The long bar fills up early. Brunch/lunch is served on weekends. Roast chicken is a specialty.

The deservedly popular Home Restaurant at 2100 Market Street near Church is a lively choice with excellent American style comfort food offered in a large, appealing setting. Reserve early for the weekend brunch, served on the attractive patio. Chow, at 215 Church Street, is regularly rated one of the best bargain restaurants in San Francisco for lunch and dinner. The pizzas and salads are excellent.

Back on 18th Street, the upscale Eureka Restaurant and Lounge, located at number 4063 near Hartford, serves superb dinners, including pasta and meat dishes, in a soothing, elegant venue. During the warm months, the heated patio provides a lovely setting for a memorable meal. Upstairs is the cocktail lounge and bar. Across the street is Ararat, housed in a restored Edwardian building, and offering fine middle-eastern dishes, in large or small portions. It recently started brunch on weekends.

For casual lunches and dinners, Firewood Café, 4248 18th Street near Diamond Street, is another informal restaurant regularly earning high praise from the San Francisco Chronicle’s food critics. The thin crust pizzas, also available for take out, are hard to beat. The roast chicken is another popular choice. The homey and venerable Cove Cafe, at 434 Castro Street, across from the theatre, has been a local institution since the days when working class Scandinavian families settled in the neighborhood. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in a casual environment. Photos of regulars are shown on several big screens mounted on the walls. Former Manhattanites will love “A Taste of New York”–lox (smoked salmon), served with cream cheese, toasted bagel, sliced tomato and red onion. At least four home made soups, also available for take out, are offered daily.

This is only a partial listing of restaurants in the neighborhood. If you have favorites that we didn’t mention, let us know. Meanwhile, as the late, great Julia Child used to say, “Bon appetit!”

General Membership
Meeting Minutes
June 2007

Upon motion made and seconded, the May, 2007 General Membership meeting minutes were approved.

Upcoming EVPA Meetings

EVPRA meetings are back in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center Auditorium, 100 Collingwood (behind Cala Foods). See you there!

July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
Pink Flag Raising During Pride Weekend
Custom Services

Install Shelving
Make a Door Fit
Pack Things to Ship
Small Carpentry Jobs
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Abandoned Vehicles   553-9817
DTP Dispatch   553-1200
Street Signs Missing/Damaged   554-9780
Pot Hole Repair   695-2100
Supervisor Bevan Dufty’s Office   554-6968
bevan.dufty@sfgov.org
CBD Hotline   559-6968

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Frank Weiss (President) 706-6597
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EVPA                 P.O. Box 14137
San Francisco, CA 94114-0137
Address Service Requested
www.EVPA.org        www.PinkTrianglePark.org

2006 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
President: Frank Weiss
Secretary: Gustavo Serina
Treasurer: David Weiss
At-Large Board Members: Mike Babbit, Joe Caruso, Demian Quesnel

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, July 19, 2007 @ 7:30PM
Eureka Valley Recreation Center
100 Collingwood St.
AGENDA:
1. Introductions
2. Approval of June, 2007 minutes (Action Item)
3. Committee Reports
   Update on The Café
   Update on the Castro Street Fair
   Update on Proposed Ballot Initiative Regarding Off-street Parking
4. Update on Formation of 501 (c) (3) Non Profit Corporation
5. Special Guest: Beat Cop Lisa Frazer: Late Night Safety Issues
6. Special Guest: District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty

EVPA  P.O. Box 14137
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Join EVPA by Sending Us This Completed Membership Application

Name:_______________________________________________________________
First                                             Last
Name:_______________________________________________________________
First                                             Last
Organization: _________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________ Apt. ________
City:   San Francisco, CA                         Zip Code___________________________
Day Phone: (____)_______________  Evening Phone: (____)__________________
Email
Address:______________________________________________________________
(EVPA does not share your contact information with other groups)

My concerns for the neighborhood include___________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
I am interested in working on the following issues:
___City Planning/Zoning ___Transportation, Utilities & Neighborhood Commerce
___Public Health/Safety ___Education/Recreation ___Membership & Promotion
___Finance  ___Internal Affairs ___Pink Triangle Park
___ Renewing membership. ___ New membership.
___ I wish to receive my copy of the Eureka! Via the internet rather than by US Mail

Annual Membership dues are $20 per calendar year for individuals, $30 for households and $40 for businesses or nonprofits in Castro, Upper Market, and Duboce Triangle (Eureka Valley). EVPA is a non-profit California corporation. Please return this form with your check payable to EVPA to:
EVPA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114-0137