



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER EUREKA!

News for Eureka Valley, Upper Market, Castro, Duboce & Twin Peaks
CASTRO/EUREKA VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1881

Volume 130, Issue 01 January-February 2010

www.evna.org

www.PinkTrianglePark.org

A Year Well Spent

By Outgoing EVNA President Scott Wiener

Someone I know – and who shall remain unnamed – told me once that there is no more thankless job than serving as president of one’s neighborhood association. Planning and building great neighborhoods is hard and controversial work. It requires enormous effort, unending outreach, and working with a lot of different people who have all sorts of different views – sometimes fundamentally different views – on what the neighborhood should look like, what should be happening in the neighborhood, who should be living in the neighborhood, and what the neighborhood should be. These are not the kinds of issues that you address on the fly.

About fourteen months ago, I was honored by our association’s members to be elected president of this almost 130-year-old organization. I was well aware of the importance of the role, given how much this neighborhood has changed since EVPA’s founding in the 1880s and how much change is happening now.

2009 saw some terrific developments in the neighborhood. Perhaps most dramatic, we saw the long-planned creation of the 17th Street Plaza. The Castro is notoriously lacking in public spaces, and the plaza has added much-needed space in the heart of the neighborhood. The Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, and Mayor Gavin Newsom deserve a lot of credit for prioritizing this project and making it a reality – the first accomplishment of the city’s “pavement to parks” program. I’m proud that EVPA voted to support the plaza early and that we provided consistent support as it moved forward.

Also, thanks to the great work of MUMC and others, the Castro welcomed its first Farmers Market, on Noe Street. The Farmers Market was a smashing success, creating a temporary “town square” every Wednesday and reminding us how important it is to have spaces where neighbors can gather. That’s how we create strong community bonds. I’m already looking forward to the Farmers Market’s return next spring!

We also saw the advancement of various development projects in the neighborhood, including the S&C Ford/Whole Foods mixed-use projects, the “hole in the ground” plot at Noe and Market, and various other planned developments. We participated with other neighborhood organizations to provide input for these projects to ensure that as they move forward, they do so with the best interests of the neighborhood in mind.

2009 also saw structural changes within EVPA. After years of discussion, we informally changed our name to the Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association and, while keeping our official boundaries, defined an area of primary geographic focus for the organization. These changes will allow the organization to be more focused in its work and to reflect the neighborhood’s diversity and modern history more effectively, while continuing to embrace our historic roots. We also amended our bylaws to make our board structure more flexible and thus to make it as easy as possible to engage more people in our work.

As I write this column, I look back proudly on the last year. EVPA (now EVNA) is a critical organization, and it has a lot to add to the conversation of where we are going as a community. As its immediate past president – having passed the baton to the hard-working and effective Alan Beach-Nelson – I will continue to play my part in that process.

Here’s to a great 2010!



Getting Involved is THE BEST way to connect with your community

By EVNA President Alan Beach-Nelson

I am humbled to be elected President of the Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. I hope that I can serve you as effectively as my immediate predecessors, Scott Wiener and Steve Hall, and many leaders of this neighborhood association over the last 129 years.

Though my husband Daren and I have been members of EVPA since 2002, my involvement in neighborhood issues did not begin until 2007. It started as an outgrowth of my working with neighbors to resolve nuisance issues with The Café. Eventually, I became the group leader of 30 people working with EVPA, DTNA and The Café’s Manager, Louis Caputo. With some trials and tribulations, a bond of trust and collaboration was established, and a resolution was achieved that has greatly reduced noise and unruly patron behavior along 17th and Hartford Streets. This collaboration can serve as a model for late-night entertainment establishments and residents working together. It has already begun with an idea I developed and that has now evolved into “Castro After Dark,” a community patrolling program funded by area late-night entertainment businesses to minimize unruly patrons and nuisance on area residents.

Up to this point I had lived in the Castro for 14 years, but it was only then that I became involved in the neighborhood. I found the experience invigorating – to really connect with my community and effect positive change in the neighborhood. Thus, I no longer *just* live in the Castro, it is my home. It may seem like a minor distinction, but mentally, it is enormous.

I invite you to become more involved in the newly christened Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. At our Wednesday, January 20th meeting, we will discuss the priorities and goals of EVNA for 2010. Please join us.

I am excited and optimistic about all we can accomplish together in 2010. With an amazing Board, and more importantly, *YOU*, I am confident that we can continue the amazing work of the many who have come before us.

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**NEXT EVNA MEETING
PLEASE NOTE:
NEW NIGHT & NEW VENUE
WEDNESDAY, January 20
7:30 to 9:00 PM
Chase Meeting Room
15th and Sanchez at Market**

CHANGES AHEAD IN 2010:

- Due to scheduling issues, EVNA will hold our bimonthly meetings **on the third WEDNESDAY** of odd-numbered months. We apologize for the inconvenience the change from our long-standing Thursday night may cause.
- Membership and Board Meetings will be held in the new Chase Community Meeting Room at 15th & Sanchez.
- The Board of EVNA meets on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month at 7PM. All members are invited to attend. **A special invitation is extended** for the next meeting, January 13, for a brainstorming session on EVNA’s 2010 goals and priorities.
- We will be adding two new committees: Technology and Newsletter, and need volunteers to serve. Joining a committee is a great way to get involved. Additional committees may be added based on EVNA’s priorities/goals discussion at our 1/20 meeting.

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eureka@evna.org

ADDRESS CHANGES:
eureka@evna.org

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE
20th of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.

Newsletter
Editor and Design:
Alan R. Beach-Nelson
Copyeditor: Judy Hoyem

2010 Membership Meetings
7:30-9PM, Chase Meeting Room
15th & Sanchez at Market St.
January 20, March 17,
May 19, July 21,
September 15, and November 17

2010 Board and Contacts
Note, you can e-mail the entire board
at board@evna.org

President: Alan Beach-Nelson
alan.beach@evna.org
415/431.5152

Past President: Scott Wiener
scott.wiener@evna.org
415/437.9414

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WE NEED YOU!

EVNA is in need of volunteers
to work on two new committees:
Web/Technology and Newsletter.
If you are interested, contact Alan
Beach-Nelson, 415/431.5152 or
alan.beach@evna.org.

Castro/Eureka Valley
Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Agenda

NOTE: CHANGE OF DAY AND VENUE

Wednesday, January 20, 7:30 to 9 PM
Chase Meeting Room, 15th and Sanchez

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Officer reports
4. Committee reports
5. Discussion of 2010 priorities/goals
6. New committees/volunteers
7. New business
8. Announcements

EVNA
PO Box 14137
San Francisco, CA 94114
Address service requested
www.evna.org

3-1-1

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Yes! I want be more involved in my neighborhood by joining EVNA! Membership is open to all who live, work or own property within Eureka Valley, geographically defined an the Castro and Upper Market areas from Dolores to Twin Peaks and from Duboce to 22nd Street. Dues are payable annually on April 15.

Join EVNA online at <http://evna.org/join> or via check payable to EVNA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114

Type of Membership: Individual: \$20.00 Household (2 people): \$30.00 Business: \$40.00
This is a: New membership Renewal

Name: _____ 2nd Name (households): _____

Organization/Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ 2nd e-mail: _____ (households)

I want to be listed in a roster when available I want to be mailed a hard copy of the Eureka! Newsletter

I am interested in: City Planning Transportation Utilities Advertising in the Eureka!
 Newsletter Writing/Production Technology/Web Other _____

My concerns for my neighborhood include: _____

EVPA is a California non-profit public benefit corporation.