

JFCS provides
safe harbors
for many.../7



Visionary develops
solar powered
railcars.../9



IN THE NEW NORTHSIDE...
Dream jeans for
everybody.../1



THE
NEW

FILLMORE

VOLUME 19 ■ AUGUST 2004 ■ NUMBER 4



A committee of the Japantown Task Force and other community members has been formed to establish guidelines for the historic preservation of Japantown, including of course the Buchanan Mall above.

Committee goes to work on plan for Japantown preservation

Task Force also suing City over leaky Peace Plaza fountain

A 16-member committee began formal work in late July on developing a specific plan to promote and preserve the history and culture of Japantown.

The committee consists of eight directors of the Japantown Task Force and eight others who are residents, business owners or property owners in Japantown. The Task Force has already developed a matrix for gathering information about cultural icons in the neighborhood.

One of the committee's first tasks will be to define "culture," which consists of more than buildings and artifacts. The Japantown Task Force wants to complete a rough draft of a plan in September and a more polished draft in October. The completed report is due in Sacramento in December.

The project originated with the state Legislature which passed SB307 in September 2001, calling for a one time grant to San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles to help the cities face "the challenge of integrating development and urban renewal proposals that are not consistent with the cultural character of Japantown neighborhoods."

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution last December, designating the Japantown Task Force as the community planning entity, specifying the composition of the committee and authorizing the Redevelopment Agency to apply for funds on its behalf. The resolution also acknowledged that the Task Force previously developed a comprehensive Japantown

Community Plan, part of which won an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Task Force Executive Director Linda Jofuku has been notified that a check for \$50,000 to cover the study is en route. Both the San Francisco Planning Department and the Redevelopment Agency will review and comment on the finished study.

The three California Japantowns are the only ones remaining from the dozens that existed before World War II.

And, in a move related to the preservation of cultural heritage, new bilingual street signs are now ready for posting throughout Japantown. They will be unveiled by Mayor Gavin Newsom at a brief ceremony August 5 at 12:30 p.m. at the Peace Pagoda, Post Street at Buchanan.

Also in line with preservation, and of immediate concern, The Japantown Task Force is planning a "friendly" lawsuit against The City for funds to repair the Peace Plaza at Post and Buchanan streets.

The plaza fountain "leaks like a sieve," according to Linda Jofuku, the organization's executive director. Jofuku said that one weekend in mid-July the leaks shorted out electrical circuits for an entire floor of the Japan Center garage, which sits beneath the plaza.

The City has fixed some of the results of the problem, but not the problem itself, she said. What is necessary is ripping up the tiles of the fountain, putting a membrane under it, and restoring the tile, at a minimum cost of \$4 million. The mem-

See Japantown page 12

Library Commission to review plans for renovation of Western Addition Branch

Plans for renovating and remodeling the Western Addition branch of the Public Library will be reviewed by the Library Commission on August 19.

The library staff has already held two community meetings in the branch and made significant changes in response to the public input. One more community meeting will be scheduled later this year to show the final design and to review services while the work is done.

The current draft of the plans shows four computers in the children's area. In the adult area there will be 12 computer stations, double the current number, spread out for the first time because there will be many more electrical and telephone outlets. There will also be wireless Internet access for those who bring their own laptops. Better lighting and a better ventilation system will be installed.

The project also includes asbestos removal, lead removal, new entry doors and new landscaping.

Floor space will be increased about 500 square feet, with about 350 square feet going to the addition of a "program" room on the Geary Boulevard side of the building. The room, which can be divided in two, can be used for small meetings or for teens' group homework sessions.

Impetus for the work was the need for a seismic upgrade and to make restrooms comply with the Americans with

See Library page 12

THIS MONTH
IN THE NEW
NORTHSIDE

**Ridin' that train with
the film "Festival
Express" .../20**

**The festive flavors of
Iluna Basque.../12**

**How single malt
Scotch is aged to
perfection.../26**



LOVE ANSWERS

BY MAUREEN BASS
MINISTER UNITY CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

Desire is God's nudge

Desire is the gift of the Cosmic Power, seeking expression through you. When you are hungry the Life Principle supplies you with the desire for food in order to care for you. When thirsty, you desire water, when you are cold, you desire heat, and on and on and on—you get the picture.

The Limitless Cosmic One within you does not desire to express Itself in any form of limitation. The desires, urges, intimations, and promptings of your Deeper Mind are always lifeward, urging you to rise, to transcend to grow, and to manifest your desires for health, happiness, prosperity, true expression, and the fulfillment of your ideals, dreams, and aspirations. Desire is the goad, which pushes you onward, upward, and Godward.

Desire is the beginning, and its realization is the end and the solution to your problem. Failure to realize your desire is the cause of frustration, unhappiness, and illness. To continue desiring to reach your goal, morning, noon, and night over a prolonged period of time, yet failing to get what you go after, bring chaos and confusion into your life and is the cause of endless suffering—mental, emotional, and physical.

Emerson said, "Man is what he thinks all day long," and the Bible says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he . . ." (Proverbs 23:7). The word "heart" in the Bible is a Chaldean word meaning the subconscious mind—that place where thought, feelings, beliefs, and impressions you have, or have permitted others to impregnate upon you live. They have a life of their own in your Deeper Mind, and they dictate, control, and manipulate all your conscious actions.

In other words and in utter simplicity what is impressed in your subconscious is also expressed outwardly in form, function, experience, and event. Over a hundred years ago, Dr. Phineas Parker Quimby said, "Man is belief expressed."

Your future, therefore, is your present habitual thinking projected on the multi-dimensional screen of space.

In other words, it is your present thought and belief made manifest. Your future is your present thought patterns

grown up, and this is accomplished in the same way as a field reproduces a harvest in consonance with the seed deposited therein. All seeds (thoughts) grow after their kind.

I would suggest that you inscribe in your heart this quotation: "Anything I can conceive and believe possible, I can achieve." Realize the Cosmic Giver, your God-Self, can give you all the wealth, happiness, success, and opportunities in life without hurting a hair on the head of any living being in the world.

There is no block holding you back other than a false belief or an abnormal fear enthroned in your mind. Go with your desire, believe that it is yours, and know that it will come forth as your personal reality. ■

Japantown—from page 1

brane should have been installed when the plaza was redesigned a couple of years ago, but wasn't. The contractor, who reportedly caused a similar problem at Portsmouth Square, no longer exists and the bond covering the work has been exhausted.

Jofuku noted that the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation, which operates the garage, had contributed more than \$500,000 to the plaza renovation because the previous reflecting pool leaked. The "friendly" suit would be a means of extracting funds from The City's Park and Recreation Department, which has jurisdiction over the plaza. ■



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IN CONGRESS

BY CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI
DEMOCRATIC LEADER, US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In San Francisco, the environment is a core value, not just an issue

In San Francisco, the environment is a core value, not just an issue. It is a matter of justice, and it is a civil right. We all have the right to breathe clean air and drink clean water. Our survival as a nation requires that we protect this right.

San Francisco leads by example. According to the Department of the Environment, San Francisco recycles more than it throws away (63 percent). The City of San Francisco has invested in more than 1,000 zero- or low-emissions vehicles, and has more electric buses than the rest of the nation combined. San Francisco also has led the state and the nation by banning the sale of mercury thermometers and the purchase of arsenic-treated wood.

Several weeks ago, I met with many of San Francisco's environmental leaders to discuss how to strengthen the debate on environmental legislation during the rest of the 108th Congress, and to update them on environmental issues in Congress. Our meeting focused on the urgency of this issue.

Sadly, most work on the environment these days is defensive. The Republican leadership in Congress is relentlessly anti-environmental. It has rammed through massive tax cuts that ensure that environmental initiatives are left unfunded or underfunded, and they prevent good environmental legislation from coming to the House floor.

Meanwhile, President Bush has engaged in a relentless assault on the environment which began the moment he took office. Quietly but quickly, he is rolling back 30 years of bipartisan environmental progress.

After years of giving lip service to upholding the Roadless Rule while consistently working to undermine it, the Bush administration has finally admitted that it has no intention of protecting our national forests. Having repeatedly failed to defend the regulations in court—in fact agreeing with the rule's opponents—and having already exempted Alaska's magnificent forests from protection, the Bush Administration is now throwing the door wide open to unlimited exploitation of national forests in every state.

Last year, the Bush administration issued proposed regulations on controlling mercury from power plants that would put off real reductions for years to come. The Bush regulations probably are not legal under the Clean Air Act, but the main goal of the polluters is to delay.

The administration has also proposed regulations to remove millions of acres of wetlands and streams from protection under the Clean Water Act. The list of rollbacks goes on and on. There are literally hundreds.

In San Francisco, we are privileged to have so many outstanding national leaders on the environment, and so many committed residents. We demand an administration that is committed to protecting our health and to preserving our most precious natural resources. It is our shared responsibility, a global responsibility, and I am proud to say that San Franciscans are leading the way. ■

Library—from page 1

Disabilities Act. Construction funds will come from a bond measure passed in November 2000. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will solicit private donations to pay for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Western Addition is one of several branches that will close between December 2004 and April 2005 for renovation. Work is expected to take 14 months, not including moving out and moving in time. During the closure, hours in neighboring branches will be extended and bookmobile service will be stepped up. The library staff has not decided what to do with the branch's unique Japanese and Russian language collections during the closure.

At the peak of the renovation cycle, 12 of The City's 26 branches will be closed. The Western Addition branch was constructed in 1966. ■



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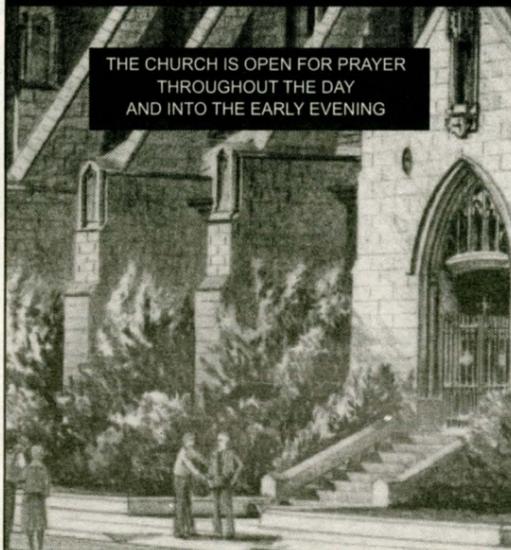
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-SATURDAY-

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Evening Prayer, 4:45 p.m.

-Reconciliation-

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