Rebirth of the Sunnyside Conservatory

In late 1997 Arnold Levine moved to a house on Mangels Street, and on a ramble around the hilly neighborhood’s steps and stairs he saw a somewhat dilapidated gate.

“I stepped through and suddenly saw this octagonal building, and I was asking myself, ‘What? Why? What is this?’”

He’d stumbled upon the Sunnyside Conservatory, an eight-sided landmark at 236 Monterey Blvd., built circa 1898 by W.A. Merralls, at a cost of $7,000. It was part of a seven-lot site that also contained a large Victorian house with its own observatory tower.

On Saturday Dec. 5, 2009, from 11 – 2, rain or shine the entire neighborhood can make the same discovery, when the newly renovated conservatory and garden are unveiled at a gala reopening after a year’s work (and 10 years of advocacy!). Ribbon-cutting will be at noon.

The privately owned conservatory began to fall into disrepair in the 1950s. In 1975 the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association and Ken Hoegger won it landmark status. Then in 1978 the owners tried to tear it down, but were stopped by neighbors. In 1980 the City purchased the .19-acre site for $226,000. Partial rebuilding of the landmark structure was completed in 1986.

But by the time Levine found it 12 years ago it was once again covered with graffiti and infected with wood rot. In 1999 he posted a notice in the Sunnyside Association newsletter and called a meeting to start Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
Another year has come and (almost) gone in Glen Park, and we seem to be hanging on in this precarious economy. Some might even argue we’re thriving as an emerging destination neighborhood.

While some commercial enterprises in our village have closed, others are preparing to open—most notably Manzoni, the new Italian restaurant taking over the storefront on Diamond Street once occupied by Bird & Beckett Books, and Red and White, a wine bar that will occupy the Chenery Street space last used by Sangha restaurant.

We’ve been fortunate—knock on wood—that the rash of street robberies has been tamped down in Glen Park; this year. Our new top cop, Capt. David Lazar of Ingleside Station, has been overseeing an experimental approach to policing in San Francisco, with a lot more emphasis on community involvement. Problems, notably residential burglaries, auto break-ins and graffiti, are still present, but at least our district police station has been given more resources to tackle crime.

Glen Park’s own Bob Pritikin, the former advertising man who owns the Chenery House mansion between Randall and 30th streets, is trying to convince City Hall to grant him special permission to turn his digs into a museum. He wanted to name it the Only-in-San Francisco Museum, but the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau has a web site by that name, so now “The Pritikin Museum” name is being floated.

Chenery House, replete with an indoor swimming pool, is reputedly the largest residential property in the city and is full of, well, only-in-San Francisco art and memorabilia. Among its unique features: the blue neon sign that once adorned the front of the old Moose’s restaurant in North Beach; an exterior mural with depictions of notable San Franciscans ranging from Dianne Feinstein to Carol Doda; and a tree that spits fire. We’ll keep an eye on this proposed project as it moves through the City bureaucracy.

The Glen Park News staff extends a big thank-you to Susan Evans, whose last gardening column for us is in this issue. Susan’s volunteer work and dedication are greatly appreciated. In 2010, look for a new garden columnist (from the Glen Park Garden Club).

Also watch for a new police-beat columnist, who will have the daunting task of filling the space left by the irreplaceable Officer Mike Walsh, who died earlier this year.

Finally, the editors of the Glen Park News wish our all-volunteer staff of writers, photographers, columnists, ad sales representatives and delivery crew—as well as you, our readers—a Very Happy New Year. See you around the neighborhood.

Correction
A photograph in the fall 2009 issue, accompanying a story about an Arlington Street cleanup project, was erroneously credited. The picture, showing residents Michael Banda and Jennifer Gunn, was taken by Glen- non Sutter.
About 30 years ago, my wife and I and our 1-year-old son moved into a small Edwardian row house just off Mission Street in Bernal Heights. We could see the V-shaped Mission-Valencia convergence.

The day we moved in, the used-car dealer on that corner closed, and a sign went up: “Church’s Fried Chicken coming soon!” We had just bought a house across from fast-food fried chicken.

Well, we made friends with our neighbors, and found that the wind patterns mostly carried the frying odors away from our house. Fast forward: We moved to Glen Park, and Church’s is completely gone from the scene. (I like to think it could not sustain business with San Francisco’s local eating habits.)

The site was an empty lot again. Then a Planning Department notice went up. Now the location has a row of bay-window apartments. No used cars, no neon signs and no fried-chicken odors.

We’ve seen other changes over the years. Glen Park is nestled in the hills around us: Fairmont Heights, Bernal Heights, Mt. Davidson and Miranda, and back around to Diamond Heights.

Roadways take us around or over the hills. The streets need to meet a balance of traffic flow vs. a safe and welcoming environment. The Mission-Valencia-San Jose Avenue corridor is a different scale than Glen Park, but still connects us to other neighborhoods.

San Jose Avenue, once destined to be a freeway route, has been reduced from six traffic lanes to four, with bike lanes and new signals, crosswalks and a planted median. Valencia Street will soon have wider sidewalks.

Driving, I would assert, is still not a problem on those routes. Looking in other directions, Monterey Boulevard brings lots of traffic to, from and through our neighborhood. Do we use it to get to 1-280? City College? The beach? That median has been replanted, but it’s probably time to look at traffic patterns and speeds.

O’Shaughnessy Boulevard, a good route to the Sunset, West Portal and Golden Gate Park, years ago was four lanes between Portola Drive and Bosworth Street, and I knew people who were victims of accidents clipped by a passing car. Now there are two lanes and striped medians, but Bosworth between Elk and Diamond still carries lots of traffic.

Diamond Heights Boulevard, a busy route to Portola and Upper Market, the Castro and downtown, also is being narrowed from four lanes to two along selected stretches, with some turning lanes. The new configuration will work better.

Let’s look back at how good land use and transportation changes have been made, and work together to do more.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.

The Glen Park Community Plan Enters New Phase

The virtue of patience has been put to the test in Glen Park. Since 2003, when residents and merchants attended a series of workshops and a draft Community Plan was developed, the ever-busier neighborhood has awaited needed changes in traffic, transit, city streets, pedestrian safety, open spaces and parking.

The pace of the environmental review process, begun in spring 2009, stalled the Plan. The next draft is due in December or January and there will be a meeting to discuss it.

Meantime, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which operates Muni, unveiled concepts for improvements at a meeting at the Glen Park School on November 4. Sixty or so people showed up to see what might be in Glen Park’s transit future.
Glen Park Novelist Crafts a Cold-War Murder Mystery

Bob Davis once played ping-pong with Fidel Castro. His big game came in the summer of 1963, when Davis, a longtime Glen Park resident and a retired teacher, joined a group of young left-wing radicals who broke the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba that had gone into effect in December 1960.

The delegation also had a long question-and-answer session with Che Guevara, then a high-ranking official in Castro's Marxist government, and met with Raul Castro and other Cuban leaders. Those experiences have given rise to a new murder mystery, Among the Lost, by Robert Davis, which is on sale at Bird and Beckett Books.

The novel's sleuth is a reporter with the musical name of Dante Aucielo, who works at a San Francisco alternative newspaper. Following the murder of a political activist that the police don't seem to be investigating, the journalist begins his own search, which eventually leads him to Cuba at a time of Cold War intrigue.

To Davis, his hero's search reflects the radical-left politics of the 1960s—an attempt to answer the key question of how to get from where we are now to a better society, a question he says still has resonance today. Fidel Castro and Che Guevara both make guest appearances in his tale.

Davis remains an admirer of the physician-revolutionary who, he says, constantly refined his radical ideals based on real-life experiences. "For a leader of that stature not to get stuck was pretty remarkable," he says. "He was breaking through all the old Stalinist nonsense that the left movement was filled with."

Among the Lost is Davis' second mystery. The first, Kimura, about the 1943 murder of a young Japanese-American woman whose body was found in Golden Gate Park, came out in 1989. For his second work, a 1995 comic novel called Ia, he founded Lost Books Press, which also is the publisher of Among the Lost and next spring's sequel, Ia Too.

A San Francisco native who grew up mostly in the Sunset and attended San Francisco State before graduating from UC Berkeley, Davis says he has "been writing forever." He was involved in radical 1960s politics, especially the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights movements, and was one of the organizers of the huge anti-war march in Golden Gate Park in 1971. He says his activism faded over the years.

He taught a variety of subjects before retiring in 2005 as an English teacher at Lowell High School. He and his wife, Carole Seligman, moved to Glen Park in 1975, and are the parents of three grown children, only one of whom still lives in the Bay Area.

To his neighbors on Whitney Street, Bob Davis is well-known as the guy with the three collies. He walks them every day in Glen Canyon Park, which is one of his favorite things about the neighborhood. And another? "We have a great bookstore."

Robert Davis will give a reading from Among the Lost at Bird and Beckett Books on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2:30 p.m.
New Eatery and Wine Bar Set to Open for Business

This holiday season, Glen Park wine-and-diners have two additional places to celebrate: A new Italian restaurant, Manzoni, and a new cafe and wine bar, Red and White.

Italian Cuisine
Manzoni is named for the 19th-century Italian poet-novelist Alessandro Manzoni, and was also the nickname of Manhal Jweinat when he was studying set design in art school in Milan. In those years, he worked in restaurants to support himself while he attended the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera.

The eye of a set designer is evident in Jweinat’s renovation of the space that once housed Bird & Beckett Books at 2788 Diamond St. He says he got the idea for the cafe and wine bar in art school in Milan. In those years, he worked in restaurants to support himself while he attended the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera.

Jweinat was still working out details of his menu, but said it will feature not only pastas but other dishes from all over Italy, not just the Milan region. Wine choices will include Italian and California vintages.

The space is designed to seat about 40–50 patrons, including those at the bar, and there is room for a couple of outside tables in a niche by the front door. Once interior painting is finished, some of his own artwork will be hung on the walls.

Manzoni will be open seven nights a week, and menu items can be ordered to go. Jweinat said. Higher Grounds will remain open as long as he has a lease, and will be operated by his son Raja, his sister Lena and current employees. Jweinat doesn’t have to worry about losing his lease for Manzoni—he owns the building and lives upstairs.

Wine and Treats
Red and White, the new cafe and wine bar in the space most recently occupied by the sushi restaurant Sangha at 678 Chenery St., was introduced to readers in the fall 2009 issue of Glen Park News. This November it too was getting a paint job in anticipation of its first day of business. Co-owner Peter Bell applied a dark, rich shade of brown-gray to one wall, leaving the others white. Wooden wine racks line the wall behind the bar.

Juliana Flores, Bell’s partner in business and impending parenthood, talked about the sort of ambiance the wine bar will offer. She pointed out comfortable-looking upholstered sofas and armchairs, still in their plastic wrapping while the finishing decorative touches took shape. She had been busy lining up small wineries and vendors for Red and White’s menu of quiches, gourmet grilled sandwiches, cheeses, charcuterie and chocolates.

One unexpected hurdle, Flores said, has been the backlog of applications at the state alcohol-licensing board because of furloughs of state employees caused by California’s budget crisis.

Indeed, the state of the economy these days offers a challenge to any new business. But with Glen Park gaining a reputation as a destination dining spot, the proprietors of both Manzoni and Red and White were looking forward enthusiastically to opening their doors and welcoming patrons before the end of the year.

Rec Center Activities
The Glen Park Recreation Center in Glen Canyon Park has become a full-service site.

The new hours of operation are as follows: Monday: 11 am–7 pm, Tuesday – Friday: 9 am–9 pm, Saturday and Sunday: 9 am–5 pm.

New staff members have been in place since October: Veronica O’Boyle and Briana Calabrese are full-time employees and Khalidun Rucker and Oskar Rosas are working part-time. Returning full-time employees are Bart Borg and Tommy Max.

The abbreviated full programming ends on Nov. 25—appropriately, the day before Thanksgiving. Drop out, say hello and check out their activities. No registration is required for the short-term fall programming.


You can register online for classes in the winter program, in December, at www.sfcconline.org or you can go directly to Glen Park and register with a director.

Programs for All Ages
Many new programs have been put into place. The Monday through Friday Tiny Tot classes offer varied types of activities. After-school activities are non-competitive games and arts and crafts. In the future the staff would like to add cooking classes for kids.

For adults 18 and over there are free guitar lessons, trail trekking, adult fitness (fitness boot camp and stretch-and-tone) and senior aerobics.

Continuing activities include adults’ and children’s tennis lessons, basketball teams, baseball teams, volleyball, badminton and senior bridge.

Visit the Rec Center, behind the tennis courts on Elk Street, and pick up a Community Programming Survey so you can give your input as to the kind of programming you would like to see added to the schedule. The new staff looks forward to meeting Glen Park neighbors and serving the needs of the community.

Final Funding after 2013?
So far there has been no further word on the sale of Phase 2 bonds from the 2008 Park Bond. Community meetings for the renovation of Glen Park will not take place until after the sale of the Phase 2 bonds.

I stay in touch with Rhoda Parhams, who is Capital Program manager for all park renovations. If you are interested in forming a group to discuss your vision of the renovation and the priorities please contact me at moss3x@earthlink.net.
Discovering Glen Park Elementary

Like Christopher Columbus discovering America, this year several Glen Park families, including mine, discovered Glen Park Elementary (GPE), joining a school that has served the neighborhood since 1910. Bucking the historic trend among San Francisco parents of sending their children off to private schools or a handful of “trophies” public schools, many Glen Park parents have opted to send our children to the “Big Blue” school on Lippard Street.

School administrators hope that this year’s enrollment by several Glen Park families signals the beginning of a trend.

Local mom and photographer Amy Friedman lives across the street from GPE. While touring elementary schools for her kindergartner during the annual selection process in autumn 2008, she liked what she saw right at home—a clean and neat facility, happy and engaged children and talented teachers.

“I was very impressed by Glen Park Elementary, but somewhat distressed that no one from Glen Park sent their children to the school. I asked about it on the tour, and I learned about the school’s push to attract more local students,” noted Friedman.

Friedman was impressed by GPE’s principal, Marion Grady, who has served at GPE with her exacting standards for more than 40 years. Mrs. Grady has long stressed the basics, and has worked tirelessly with the school staff to add a bounty of extras such as a staffed library and computer lab. In addition to having an “artisan-in-residence,” GPE is one of the first in the city to participate in School Loop, which allows students, teachers and parents to interact using the internet. Principal Grady has long encouraged Glen Park residents to seek assignment at GPE, and her efforts appear to have hit their stride this year.

Friedman shocked and surprised many of her friends when she selected GPE as her first-and-only choice in the San Francisco Unified School District “lottery”—the complicated school assignment system whereby children are assigned to schools in a lottery format based on a variety of factors, giving only minor weight to where they live.

“Someone has to go first. I consider myself an urban pioneer,” said Friedman, but she was pleasantly surprised to discover that she and her son were not the only locals enrolled.

As a lawyer-turned-stay-at-home mom, I relish the ease and convenience of a quality local school with a dedicated teaching staff. My daughter is having a great time and learning an amazing amount. The school is just blocks from our home. The school has strong fundamentals and my husband and I—both products of public schools—did not feel that it made any sense to send our kids anywhere else.

I have helped organize a kindergartner fall picnic and an upcoming movie night. I’ve really enjoyed volunteering at the school and getting to know the students and the parents. It’s a wonderful community that offers a rich diversity of experience. We’re looking forward to making a difference here.

Glen Park native Marina Karam did the crazy one million school tours,” but had her hopes dashed during the preliminary rounds of the SFUSD’s annual lottery for a school farther from home. However, when GPE opened a second class, the Karams got a spot, so their daughter could go in the neighborhood. Karam has been very pleased with the school, but has noted that it seems to lack some resources compared with other schools that raise tremendous amounts of money or that have many parents who volunteer. She has entered into the schoolyard fray—the area where she saw the greatest need—with several other parents to help supervise during one of the more challenging hours of the school day: recess.

While their parents are volunteering and fundraising, the kids have started on the real meat-and-bones of elementary school: reading, writing and arithmetic, while having fun. Grady says her goal is to create and encourage “joyful learners,” and it’s an apt description of what happens at GPE.

With the process under way to “green” the schoolyard and turn it into an outdoor learning and play area, with a new and enthusiastic Parent-Teacher Organization, and with strong leadership and a strong teaching staff, we look forward to seeing more families from the neighborhood joining us next year.

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Hunger for Food and Love Sparks a Family’s Odyssey

Family legend has it that Turk Tergis, 96, hopped a freight train in New Jersey, hoboing his way across the country to arrive in San Francisco in 1938. Befriended by an American Can Company machinist, they climbed windswept Castro Hill. There, on its working class bluffs, Turk saw a young woman, Sarah Benezra, whose Sephardic-Jewish family owned two cows, several goats and lots of chickens.

A footloose Greek-American, Tergis hadn’t eaten all that well on his odyssey across the continent. He stared at those cows, took an even longer look at Sarah and knew he had reached a West Coast Ithaca.

“Turk saw those milk cows,” says Luke Tergis, 31, Turk’s grandson and a U.C. Santa Cruz anthropology graduate, “and knew he’d never have to look for a meal again.”

Turk and Sarah married and had two sons, Paul and Jerry, who eventually gave Turk and Sarah six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

And therein lies the story, a quintessential American one. It began when Sarah’s mother, Esther, fleeing Ottoman Turkey before the beginning of World War I, arrived in San Francisco in 1914. She married Joseph, a tailor, and moved to the barren 2000 block of Castro Street. During the depths of the Great Depression, Sarah scavenge lumber from a dairy barn in Glen Canyon, using the clapboard to build a house on the 200 block of Beacon Street. The house was one of the few dwellings within eyesight of Billy Goat Hill, a name probably given to the hummock because Esther tethered her goats there to forage.

Paul Tergis, 67, was born there in 1942. Because the boy reminded him of a proud deer, Turk nicknamed him Buck. Except for a sojourn to Manhattan to earn his PhD in chemistry from Hunter College, Buck, who now lives on the first block of Laidley Street in a house once fittingly owned by feminist, leftist labor activist and author Tillie Olsen, never really left Billy Goat Hill.

“We had the hill to ourselves,” says Buck, whose boyhood memories of his early Glen Park idyll include watching red-tail hawks swoop down for meals of ground squirrels, playing near a 30th Street quarry that housed derelict Model Ts and abandoned kitchen stoves, and descending the steep dirt path that eventually morphed into the Harry Street steps.

“Beacon Street was a dirt road then,” recalls Buck, a building contractor. “It was apart from the city but in the city...
Holiday Time in Glen Park:
Gift Giving and More!

by Ashley Hathaway. Photos by Ellen Rosenthal

The holidays are a joy for some and a hectic hassle for others, but regardless of your take on this time of the year, be sure to check out what Glen Park has to offer this season!

Most of us have felt the tightening of our belts in this struggling economy, but the holiday season is upon us and gift-giving and celebrating are inevitable. Glen Park merchants and businesses really do have something for everyone, on any budget!

Here is our list of Glen Park merchants, alphabetical by category, with address and contact information.

Keep this list in mind for a creative lift while making your own holiday list. A stroll around Glen Park might save time and effort and produce unexpected treats.

Season's greetings!

Hong Sing Restaurant
Traditional Chinese cuisine; eat in or take out.
2794 Diamond St., 333-1331

Osha Thai Cafe
Traditional Thai cuisine.
2922 Diamond St., 586-6742

Cheese Boutique
Shopping for food or gifts is easy here – so much to choose from. Catering platters, large & small, made to order.
Gift cards available
2815 Diamond St. 586-9999

Canyon Market
The perfect place for seasonal cakes, custom gift baskets or made-to-order party platters. Home-made hummus a specialty. Gift certificates available.
666 Chenery St., 333-3390

Critter Fritters
Treats and plush holiday toys for all those loveable critters. Gift certificates available.
670 Chenery St., 239-7387

Destination Bakery
Homemade Italian Panettone - it doesn't get better than this! Specialty pies, signature tarts and holiday cookie platters.
598 Chenery St., 469-0730

Egglettes
For authentic Asian fruit drinks and food. Kids love the toy vending machines.
2810 Diamond St., 839-5282

Dr. Cowan, Holistic Family Medicine
Make an appointment for preventative health or a nagging ailment.
661 Chenery St. 334-1010
www.fourfold-healing.com

Egrettes
Homemade Italian Panettone - it doesn't get better than this! Specialty pies, signature tarts and holiday cookie platters.
598 Chenery St., 469-0730

Glen Park Corner Market
For authentic Asian fruit drinks and snacks.
586-9999

Glen Park Hardware
Find what you need for that fix-it job, or pick up a practical gift.
685 Chenery St., 585-5761

Mallory's Cafe
A beautifully eclectic mix of gifts & home accessories, from soap and candles to dinnerware, baby clothes & bracelets.
654 Chenery St., 586-9000 www.malloryscafe.com

SPICY SNACKS:

Critter Fritters
Treats and plush holiday toys for all those loveable critters. Gift certificates available.
670 Chenery St., 239-7387

Destination Bakery
Homemade Italian Panettone - it doesn't get better than this! Specialty pies, signature tarts and holiday cookie platters.
598 Chenery St., 469-0730

Egglettes
For authentic Asian fruit drinks and food. Kids love the toy vending machines.
2810 Diamond St., 839-5282

Glen Park Corner Market
For authentic Asian fruit drinks and snacks.
586-9999

Glen Park Hardware
Find what you need for that fix-it job, or pick up a practical gift.
685 Chenery St., 585-5761

Mallory's Cafe
A beautifully eclectic mix of gifts & home accessories, from soap and candles to dinnerware, baby clothes & bracelets.
654 Chenery St., 586-9000 www.malloryscafe.com

UV Protection
Consider using your flexible spending account here for an eye exam or contact lenses - take advantage of your benefits before year’s end!
Gift certificates available.
2786 Diamond St., 334-2020
http://eyedentityvision.com

Kiko-yo Personal Training, Fitness and Yoga studio
A little time out for some yoga can do wonders during a hectic schedule. Gift certificates available.
605 Chenery St., 587-5454 www.kikyo.com

Sol Gym Personal Training & Fitness
Work off stress or burn off those extra calories. Gift certificates available.
2838 Diamond St., 334-7697 www.solgyms.com

Other Services:

Clean 'N Save Dry Cleaning
647 Bosworth St, 584-8827

Diamond Dental
2790 Diamond St., 333-1877

Glen Park Cleaners
Don’t forget about that tablecloth that might need cleaning and pressing.
701 Chenery Street, 329-8247

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
The Call of the Blue Tower Combines Robust Exercise with Neighborhood Tours

We’ve all seen that big blue tower with a flying train of trees. It’s the one on top of that peak in McLaren Park, light blue against dark green.

It’s a water tower placed on top of a hill so that it can give a tremendous boost to the water pressure in all the homes and fire hydrants of the Excelsior district and Visitacion Valley.

Hike way up there? Of course; we must explore our neighborhood and all its beckonings. The height of that hill looks daunting, but we’re explorers, right? So here we are at Chenery and Diamond, elevation about 200 feet, and we’re looking at a peak of about 500 feet.

First question: What route to get there? The point-to-point distance is about 1.5 miles. That’s the direct assault on the summit. Or we can take the scenic-and-odd-bits route for the curious; it’s a bit longer.

Both routes begin on Bosworth Street and duck under the San Jose Avenue and I-280 overpasses to Alemany Boulevard. The direct way is to turn right on Alemany to Silver Avenue, then up to Mission Street. Right in front of you is the Jewish Home for the Aged, where the residents live out their lives in relative comfort with good care in a comfortable and artistic home. Inside, we could find a glass-and-wire wall populated by many colorful and busy songbirds. You will not find a sign designating this place, out of consideration for the privacy of the residents.

Walking up Silver from Mission is the easy way to the tower. But turn right on Mission to Excelsior Street; take a long look up the ever-narrowing street toward the top, where trees of McLaren Park stand. This is the direct route, but it is not terribly interesting. Here is the last chance to buy a snack.

Walk one block up Excelsior. The homes here are from the 1920s, more or less. Just to your left is a complex of school buildings, the Excelsior Youth Center and the headquarters of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco. Turn left and walk past them to Avalon Street, then continue the journey uphill.

The architecture around here is motley, mostly early 1900s, ’20s, ’30s. There are a few Spanish styles and the occasional older English cottage set back a bit. The further up the street, the more street trees.

Avalon crosses streets named for major world cities, turns northeast at the intersection of Moscow and levels off (whew!).

In front of us is, of all things, the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple or Mandir. It’s super-plain, with well-remodeled old-store architecture. Its teachings are of the Vedic Bochasanwasi Shee Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha—an old and highly respected tradition. Consult its web site (swaminarayan.org) for a more thorough description of this far-flung and influential religious group.

Back to the hike, keeping the eye on the Blue Prize, we see streets that are even more twisted than Glen Park’s. La Grande heads uphill from Avalon to our objective, the tower. It’s looming above us, at Ina Court and Mansfield Street.

Reaching Big Blue, gentle paved paths beckon us around a bend to the base, surrounded by a tall blue metal fence, functional and pretty. The tower itself rises 80 feet above the hill’s summit. It is connected to the City water supply.

West of the tower is a flat area dotted with big rocks, outlining the site of a previous water tower. You may have seen the activity when the new tower was built a few years ago. Neighbors would not hear of anything but an exact replacement.

Admire the view—it stretches from Mt. San Bruno, past the stack of City College buildings, across the Excelsior (below us) and Glen Park’s blue elementary school and Bernal Hill, to downtown and off to Mt. Diablo.

To the east is a parking lot by a crescent-shaped lake, called “the Reservoir.” Not far away is the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, attainable by a different entryway. For details of this second-largest City park, see www.bahiker.com/sfhikes/mclaren.html.

We can leave McLaren Park by a less steep route, taking a winding path along...
at the same time. When the bus let me off at the top of the hill, I walked home on well-worn trails.”

The street was peaceful and rural in the 1940s. With its scenic views of downtown San Francisco, the landscape hadn’t changed all that much when Buck returned to Beacon Street in the late 1970s with his wife Judy, a Hunter College geology student.

“Buck was my chemistry tutor and he was wrong when he told me I would never pass. I did,” Judy jokes. “I got a baby instead of a husband,” Judy jokes. “Two years,” Buck corrects his nephew.

Buck remains a member of the Lark in the Morning Camp, a Civilian Conservation Corps-built music facility 30 minutes east of Mendocino. In family photographs, Buck and Athena are conspicuous, pictured fiddling in the glow of forest campfires.

Buck’s passion for his Glen Park natural world is evident by taking a turn around the base of Billy Goat Hill Park. With the help of a neighbor, Chip Demarest, he planted a Homeric succulent garden that surrounds and reinforces a Tergis-designed rock wall and bench.

About his uncle, Luke says: “He has an aversion to spending money. He and my father kind of grew up in the Third World. Buck is totally quixotic. He would rather spend six hours of labor than go to Home Depot.”

On an afternoon he is scheduled to visit Turk, Buck uses Gorilla glue to cobble a pair of weathered Italian sandals that were probably a decade old when Constantinoole was renamed Istanbul.

As further proof of the pudding, Luke points to one of his uncle’s amateur telescopes: “He’s been grinding the mirror for eight years now,” Luke says. “Two years,” Buck corrects his nephew.

Turk Tergis was born William Tergis in 1912. “Tergis doesn’t exactly roll off the lips,” says Buck. “So Tergis sort of became Turk.”

With Sarah gone since 1986, Turk...
The Cat Whisperer of Chenery Street

Whittington at Bird and Beckett Books and Records.

“I always stop and pet the cats,” Bebb fesses up, possibly thinking of Wanda Gag’s Millions of Cats, the 1928 children’s book that hops from Eric Whittington’s bookshelves with its familiar refrain: “Cats here, cats there, cats and kittens everywhere, hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats.”

While Marsh doesn’t come close to such exponential numbers, he owns up to being guardian to “many, many cats,” and neighborhood kids love stopping by and befriending Bella and Sweet Pea, Hope and Oreo.

“I see lots of children and their parents playing with Don’s cats,” says Manhal Jweinat, owner of Higher Grounds, preparing his signature French crêpes for a hungry Saturday morning breakfast crowd.

Strolling over from across the street, fresh from a Tyger’s breakfast, seven year old Lola and her dad, Adam, say good morning. “Can I give Rocky a piece of bacon?” Lola beams, as she picks up Tuffy, a striped alley cat, and begins cuddling him.

Before Marsh nods, Rocky jumps from his perch on his Chronicle box. A passerby leans down and pets him. “This little guy is so friendly,” he says. “It’s amazing that he’s not freaked out by the traffic.”

Therein lies the $64,000 question. How do Marsh’s many, many cats stay out of harm’s way at the Glen Park crossroads? Having rescued cats for a decade now, including Rusty, who he saved from being put down, Marsh has his theories: “They give me love and I give it back to them and so does the neighborhood.”

So also does the occasional canine, Karen Zerrudo, who lives above Critter Fitters, walks over, trailing behind her muscle-bound Doberman, Earl Valentine.

“Look Earl,” she says. “It’s Rocky.” The two, dog and cat, engage in a nose-sniffing, cross-species détente that would warm the heart of Frenchman Legendre.

“Glen Park is like a village,” Legendre says. “We keep an eye on each other.”

You’d better believe it.

Big Nate Greenberg, behind the counter at Critter Fitters, who is known to leave feline care packages on Marsh’s doorstep, believes it: “Don does a great job with his cats, particularly in this down economy.”

Don Marsh herds cats.

Describing himself as the “Cat Man of Chenery Street,” Marsh, a 54-year old record producer, is a familiar Glen Park presence, seen most mornings and afternoons sitting on his stoop at the corner of Chenery and Diamond streets, corralling cats by his apartment’s front door.

Don Marsh makes herding cats look easy. A graduate of John O’Connell High School, Marsh has lived one flight above Le P’tit Laurent for eight years.

“Growing up in the Mission District,” Marsh says, “I always had a soft spot for cats.”

Now he rescues cats—frolicking cats, frisky cats like Rocky, an acrobatic black and white stray, who entertains indulgent neighbors every morning by testing his agility leaping atop a Chronicle newspaper box.

“I don’t do anything special,” Marsh says, gently cajoling a circle of milling cats to remain near. “I treat them with dignity and they give me joy.”

Marsh’s whiskered throng doesn’t go unnoticed by neighbors on either side of him.

“Don’s hand-raised them, covering all the costs,” says Hal Tauber, co-owner of Glen Park Hardware. “On sunny days, he lets them out. Some even walk to the back of the store, sniff around and then leave.”

Restaurateur Laurent Legendre, owner of Le P’tit Laurent, hardly sees Marsh’s cats anymore, they’ve become so everpresent. “They’re unobtrusive,” Legendre says good-naturedly.

Undoubtedly, Tot, a Siamese, went on a walkabout not long ago. She went missing for seven days, heading for Le P’tit Laurent, no doubt attracted by the epicurean aroma of the French bistro’s gourmet sauces wafting from next door. A week later, Sonia, one of Legendre’s servers, returned Tot to her family.

It’s wayward felines like her that prompted the sign taped to Marsh’s front door: “Be on the lookout for escaping babies!”

The bevy of felines also doesn’t go unnoticed by weekday commuters hurrying along Diamond Street to BART. Sarah Cole, a nurse who lives on Mizpah Street, leaned down one October morning on her way to work, a quilt of meowing balls of fur caressing her. Dora, a purring kitten, nuzzled Cole palm, rubbing her velvet cheek back and forth across the nurse’s knuckles.

“Stopping here,” Cole smiled, “is the highlight of my day.”

The same goes for Blanche Bebb, who frequently spells Eric and Nick by Murray Schneider

Photo by Michael Waldstein

Lola, age 7, and her dad Adam visit with Marsh’s cats on their way to breakfast at Tyger’s.
The 26-Valencia bus line is scheduled to make its final run on Dec. 4 and be added to the roster of eliminated Municipal Railway lines.

The demise of the No. 26 comes as Muni is looking for ways to save on operating costs. Faced with a $129 million budget deficit heading into the fiscal year that began July 1, the City-run transit agency decided to purge some lines altogether, truncate the routes and service frequency of others, and raise fares.

The budget-driven service changes are the most extensive undertaken by Muni in more than 20 years.

Officials announced in early November that the projected deficit has grown since the budget was adopted, and that additional cost-saving measures will have to be enacted. There’s no word yet on how deep the next round of cuts will be. First, Muni must implement those that are planned.

As of now, the city’s annual budget eliminates the 26-Valencia service. To connect the 36-Teresita line to add the lost 26-Valencia service through the neighborhood. The route will connect the Glen Park BART station with St. Luke’s Hospital at Cesar Chavez and Valencia streets.

Scheduled service will not be as frequent. The 36-Teresita is scheduled to run every 30 minutes; the 26-Valencia, on the other hand, was scheduled to arrive every 20 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes at night. And unlike the 26-Valencia, passengers cannot ride the 36-Teresita all the way downtown and back.

That leaves transit users heading to and from downtown with the option of transferring to a Mission Street bus a block away. Other options include taking the F-Market & Whittier to and from the Glen Park Station or riding Muni’s J-Church streetcar, a notoriously slow line. The Muni rail stop in Glen Park also is not very convenient.

Located on an inhospitable island in the middle of traffic-heavy San Jose Avenue, the open-air platform can be accessed only by a flight of 38 stairs.

“It’s not going to be the same,” said Marisa Mendoza, who lives with her parents in Glen Park and works as a receptionist downtown. “I’ve been taking the 26 all my life. It doesn’t have all the craziness like the Mission Street buses. It’s not all crowded and rowdy.”

The walk back and forth between home and the BART Station, she said, is too long, especially at night.

Muni Budget Woes Doom the Little-used 26-Valencia

**Blue Tower**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the park margin, to Burrows Street and down Madison Street to Silver. Gambier and Cambridge streets are good alternatives—they’re not so steep.

If you’re game for more sightseeing in this area, go east on Burrows to what I call “Institution Walk.” At University and Bacon is the University Mound Ladies Home (originally Lick Old Ladies Home)—a brick mansion lifted from colonial Virginia. It’s a fine home (my mother-in-law spent her last days there) overlooking the huge flat expanse of the City’s University Mound Water Storage facility. “University” comes from the row of streets named for universities.

Bacon Street, a block uphill from Burrows, sports a row of colorful, identical homes, framed by small trees.

Along Cambridge is a collection of institutions, most formerly something else, but some now a part of the Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church. The Most outstanding structure is the tall Italianate church on the southeast

end of the complex. The buff-colored buildings (formerly Catholic Ridgemont High School) are now devoted to the Cornerstone High School and Middle School.

Down Cambridge Street is the bland but serviceable gray Fellowship Academy, presently unoccupied. Then we pass the Hillcrest Butterfly Garden (still under reconstruction) and adjacent Hillcrest elementary school (public), and finally a segment of Cornerstone School itself at Silver. Across Silver is the large expanse of more Cornerstone educational, worship and administrative buildings that at night form a bright pattern on the skyline to the east of Glen Park.

Across the street is the Cambridge Market, whose rear wall features a mural with the Golden Gate bridge in an orange that leaps out at you.

At Cambridge and Silver you can take a No. 44 bus back to Glen Park. Or you can begin your hike up to the Blue Tower here if you prefer to reverse the itinerary. Either way, average total walking time, including sightseeing, is a bit over 2 hours.

**Tergis Family**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

lives alone. Buck or grandsons Ben and Sean, also musicians, regularly check in with the Tergis patriarch. Still light-of-step, Turk has a perennial twinkle in his eyes. He recently completed a 12-volume autobiography that he gave to Judy to type.

He doesn’t live in the past and when asked how he wants to celebrate his 100th birthday, he responds: “I want a big family meeting.” Given the Tergis clan, scattered across the world, it will be one epic get-together. When asked the reason for his longevity, Turk’s response doesn’t come as a surprise, given his Aegean origins: “Olive oil,” he says, the sparkle in his eyes becoming brighter. Buck begs to differ, offering a prescription for long life that has less to do with diet and more to do with both his and his father’s lifestyles: “Curiosity,” Buck says.

As Buck leaves, his father reaches for a book about 19th century U.S. imperial expansion in the Philippines. After a few steps, Buck returns, checking the front door lock. Four years from now there’s going to be a centennial party, a party from which panegyric myths are spun. Buck wants Turk there, asking lots and lots of questions.
BART Station Emerges as Unnamed Masterpiece

The average commuter may not pay much attention to the building, which opened in 1973, but there's growing recognition that the Glen Park BART station is a masterpiece of 1960's modernist architectural design.

Glen Park resident Tim Kelley and his partner, Chris VerPlanck, operate a historical resources consulting firm on Monterey Boulevard, just around the corner from the BART station. They are among the station's biggest boosters.

A past chairman of San Francisco's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, Kelley initiated the process of adding the Glen Park BART station to the City's roster of official landmarks in 2002. But it has yet to work its way to the top of the list.

Kelley also pointed out the station's virtues to Chronicle columnist John King, who wrote in an October 2009 "Cityscape" feature: "Tucked deep inside the earth, below a muscular, skylighted shell, trains pull in and out amid a brooding grandeur of rough concrete against polished stone, thick structural arches and sharp shafts of light. BART has 43 stations; this surely is the best." The architectural style, King noted, is Brutalism. That strain of modernism was most popular from the 1950s through the 1970s.

BART Director Tom Radulovich voiced his praise this past August: "The excellent design of Glen Park station secures its place in the history of architecture ... it is the crown jewel in the BART system."

On Yelp.com, best known for its user reviews of restaurants and stores, 31 people had posted comments about the Glen Park BART station by the start of November. They generally agree that the station is among the system's best: clean; uncrowded; free of panhandlers, bums and associated noxious odors.

Even the stairs receive Yelp accolades. Matthew J. uses them as his "local gym" and never takes the escalator. A similarly energetic rider from Pleasant Hill posted this almost-Haiku:

I luv you Glen Park:
You work my calves so good
With your 75 stairs.

Not all Yelp reviewers appreciate the station's design. An Oakland rider mentions its "weird architecture" and a San Francisco woman posts that it is "nothing special." There are comments about the soot-covered leaves of the plastic plants on the concourse level.

Some people point out that the station was the location for scenes in the 2006 Will Smith movie, "The Pursuit of Happyness." For those interested in enhancing their appreciation of our neighborhood modernist landmark, Radulovich describes significant aspects of the Glen Park BART station design in a May 2009 historical essay, posted on the web site foundsf.org. More information and photos are at designbythebay.com/2009/09/glenpark-bart-station.

BART Lot Development Dominates Glen Park Forum on Future Plans for the Neighborhood

A meeting coordinated by the Glen Park Association to review progress on the Glen Park Community Plan drew 65 people to the Glen Park Recreation Center on Sept. 14, 2009.

The crowd at the planning meeting had one major thing on its mind—whether the BART parking lot on Bosworth Street at Arlington would be turned into a condo complex. Unfortunately for San Francisco Planning Department staffs John Bilovits and Jon Swae, who had come prepared to discuss the Glen Park plan, any future development of the parking lot will be BART's project, and they explained that they couldn't really address it.

The Glen Park Plan

What Bilovits could tell the audience was that the environmental review process, one of the steps to creating a new Glen Park Plan, began a year ago. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be published in 2010. Comments will be solicited, then considered and integrated into a revised EIR, a process of three or four months, leading to the final report.

The entire planning process is meant to create a sense of what the neighborhood wants and then codify it, Bilovits said. The original Glen Park Plan was put together after numerous meetings in 2003, but was not finished because of budget constraints. Picking up the process now, after the long hiatus, the City planners seemed somewhat blindsided by people who said that the 2003 process hadn't spoken for them and therefore wasn't valid. But others said many people in the neighborhood took part in the 2003 meetings and that today's plan is a reasonable snapshot of what the community said it wanted six years ago.

BART Development

In terms of a possible building on the BART parking lot, Bilovits made it clear that nothing can happen there until 2011 at the earliest, because the EIR has to be done first. One audience member asked...
Memo from City Hall

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and Planning Department met about the Community Plan at Glen Park Elementary school in October. MTA officials provided the public with a list of ideas for possible transportation improvements. Among them:

- Pedestrian enhancements (bulb-outs, sidewalk extensions and modifications) at the intersection of Bosworth and Diamond streets.
- Improvements to the Joost/Monterey and Arlington/Wilder intersections.
- Traffic calming options for Bosworth Street between Arlington and Lyell that could include speed tables (long, flat-topped speed bumps), a roundabout and new traffic signals.
- A bus loop that would run on the south side of the BART station to help alleviate the traffic congestion that is the norm on Diamond Street in front of the BART Station.
- Changes to create an accessible connection between the J-Church streetcar and BART.

The purpose is to develop a "menu" of neighborhood improvements that would be effective and have a good chance of clearing the environmental review process. While not all the concepts would be enacted, we want to cast a wide net so that the environmental document going forward would be both complete and accurate. Once the required review is completed, we will be able to adopt the plan and move forward with the envisioned improvements. At this time, the Planning Department anticipates the document to be completed in about a year.

Ultimately, we will use the funds that I was able to secure with the help of the late U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos to build some of these transportation improvements that will enhance the experience for pedestrians, transit users and drivers in Glen Park.

I am encouraged about the potential improvement these projects can bring to Glen Park. Your feedback is essential to help us identify the most beneficial projects for both residents and merchants.

If you were unable to attend the meeting on Nov. 4, please visit http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=9842 to see the plan and the potential transportation-improvement concepts.

The Planning Department will release a new draft of the Glen Park Community Plan later this month or in January. A community meeting will be held to discuss the content of the revised plan early next year. For more information on the updated Community Plan, please visit http://glenpark.sfplanning.org or call Jon Swae of the Planning Department at 575-9069.

BART Parking Lot

While the BART parking lot has received a great deal of attention from the Community Planning Process, it is critical to note that BART leadership has vowed to engage with Glen Park neighbors through its own process. The Glen Park Community Plan EIR will consider options for alternative uses of the BART parking lot, but there will not be a project approved as part of the Glen Park Community Plan.

Most feedback I'm hearing from residents and merchants favors retaining the BART parking, but I will continue to listen to all voices.

A Leader in New Approaches

I am continually impressed with the innovation and new ideas coming from the Ingleside Police Station under Capt. David Lazar's leadership.

As the test station for implementing recommendations from several studies to improve policing in San Francisco, we are seeing even higher levels of community engagement. Capt. Lazar has led the effort to have officers ride Muni lines affected by criminal activity, and I am grateful that he is offering action rather than excuses.

Bevan Dufty represents Glen Park and other District 8 neighborhoods on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.
Conservatory
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Completion of the landmark’s restoration has been a long time coming, says Stacy Garfinkel, Levine’s co-chair from the beginning. “I have a picture of a friend who came with her preschooler to our first workday on the Conservatory grounds in September, 1999; the daughter is now a freshman in high school.”

There were numerous and heart-breaking funding hurdles. Finally, in the last of the City’s good budget years, the Recreation and Park Department got $10 million from the Supplemental Budget, and $4 million went to rebuilding of the Conservatory, Levine says.

It was worth the wait. What was once a dark, scary-looking wreck of a building is now a fantastic site that befits its history as a unique neighborhood landmark.

“It’s been wonderful seeing people who’ve lived in the area for 30 or 40 years coming into the space and just being amazed and enchanted by it,” says Levine.

The Conservatory’s main entrance features a new staircase and entry plaza on Monterey Boulevard. The locals’ unmarked approach is along Joost Street, between Baden and Congo. On that seemingly ordinary San Francisco block, a break in the row of attached houses on the south side of the street suddenly reveals a black, wrought-iron gate, created by neighbor Mary Revelli of One Off Design.

Through the gate is a meandering garden of huge flowering bushes. These lead down a series of stairs and landings. “It’s like Alice slipping down the rabbit hole and discovering a garden from another place and time,” says Garfinkel. “Some of the trees have been there for 100 years.”

At the bottom there’s a turn, and suddenly this astoundingly beautiful building, all wood and windows, surrounded by towering palm trees, springs into view. What was once a green leftover Rec and Park paint job has become a handsome four-tone makeover.

“We’ve already had people call up and say ‘Please give me the colors of the paints,’” says Garfinkel.

Local arborist Ted Kipping labored without pay for years to keep the plantings up and the garden alive. Vera at Arterra and Edward Chin with the City are responsible for the gorgeous, low-water plant palette. Inside, architect Andrew Maloney has created a soaring space of light and redwood. One look and anyone contemplating marriage will want to snag it for their ceremony.

On top of the building is a copper finial that’s an exact replica of the building’s original redwood finial. When the then-owner began to illegally tear it down (to be replaced by nine condos) in the 1970s, the finial ended up with neighbor Roger Pacheco as a keepsake. He used it as the door stop in his garage for 30 years. When the Friends of the Conservatory held their first clean-up day in 1999, Pacheco brought it back and the architect used it as a model for the one that now adorns the very top of the building.

The garden features a series of fantastical creatures made of forged bronze playfully hidden throughout, by the Wowhaus collective of husband-and-wife team Scott Constable and Ene Osterass-Constable.

The one painful point tempering the joy of reopening the newly refurbished space is that there’s currently little money for Rec and Park to keep it open. The Friends of Sunnydale Conservatory are raising money for programming.

Because it’s a premium location, the general rental rate for the Conservatory will be $550 for the first two hours and $100 per hour after that, says Eric Anderson, Neighborhood Service Area 5 manager for Rec and Park. Because of budget constraints, there’s no staff person regularly assigned to the new facility. However the department is working to find ways to allow community access to the building. “For instance, the facility will be open at a reduced rate to bona fide local community groups for meetings and events,” says Anderson, adding, “They will be required to pay the staffing fee of $27 per hour.”

The Conservatory itself will be open for community events up to four times per month. But anyone can enjoy the sight of the renovated treasure and stroll through its lovingly restored gardens. More information is at www.sunnyside-conservatory.org.

Glen Park
News
Classifieds
End Homework Hassles

check it out at the library
Season’s Greetings! With the weather beginning to turn cold and wet, what better time to visit the library for a DVD or book to read?

To help you get into the holiday spirit, here are some books (and their reference numbers so you can find them easily) that are available at Glen Park Library. They provide some ideas for entertaining, cooking and gift-giving. Please visit our blog to see a more complete list with links. You also can reserve any of these books online at sfpl.org; you just need your library card number and pin number to log in.

Gifs with Meaning: How to Choose Unique and Thoughtful Presents for Any Occasion (394 L19952g).


Holidays: Recipes, Gifts and Decorations, Thanksgiving & Christmas (641.568 S498).

The Christmas Table: Recipes and Crafts to Create Your Own Holiday Tradition (641.5686 M8216c).

Hometown Recipes for the Holidays (641.568 H753).

Joan Nathan’s Jewish Holiday Cookbook (641.5676 N195jh).

Christmas Cookies: 50 Recipes to Treasure for the Holiday Season (641.8654 Z99c).

For the third consecutive year, we are offering our Winter Reading Program. There will be readings program for children, teens and adults. Children ages birth – 12 can read on their own or have books read to them. They can read to earn a small prize and to enter their name in a raffle to win a snow owl puppet.

Those 12 – 18 years old can win gift cards and other prizes for participating in the reading program. Adults who complete their reading can enter a raffle to win a gift basket. Sign-ups for the program begin Dec. 12. The program ends Jan. 16.

We also are hosting “Studio 101” for teens at 3:30 Friday afternoons through Dec. 18. Teens can create music on an Apple laptop using MIDI keyboards, drum machines, studio microphones, audio interfaces, studio headphones, Nintendo Wii + Wii. For ages 12 –18. For more information or to register, contact Marla at 355-2858 or mbergman@sfpl.org.

For more Glen Park library events, see the Community Calendar on the last page of this issue. To find out more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library Blog at: http://glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com/.

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond Street (near Bosworth)

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 1-7
Friday 1-6
Saturday 1-6
Sunday – Closed

Denise Sanderson is the Glen Park Branch Librarian.

Glen Park Planning Meeting
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

how tall a condo or apartment building could be constructed within the transit corridor around BART. Bilovits replied that normally a building could be 40 to 60 feet, or four to five stories, about the side of the library/Canyon Market complex. But he reiterated that the Planning Department is not proposing any buildings—it is tasked only with developing an overall plan for Glen Park.

A substantial number of people at the meeting—often those who have lived her for several decades—said that Glen Park is plenty dense enough and they don't want more housing or traffic. Others, often newer neighbors, said they would be happy with higher housing density and the better transit connections and businesses it could attract.

Glen Park Association officer Mic Ames said that one local merchant had suggested to him that BART consider putting a commercial parking lot on the space. Bilovits said that would be extremely unlikely; a parking structure would cost so much to build that the owner would have to charge $30 a day for parking to make it financially feasible. “It doesn’t come close to penciling out,” he said.

Besides, he added, “if you want more congestion, build a parking structure.”

Community Plan Dates
Presentation of Draft Plan: Jan. 2010
Update Presentation of Environmental Review: Summer 2010
Environmental Review of Plan Completed: End of 2010
in glen canyon park

by Alma Hecht

October's rain awakened promise for the canyon's native plants after they slumbered through a droughty summer. Soon coyote brushes' creamy sprays and flowering currants' pink pendants cheer winter mornings.

Along the paths and up the hills, blue-gum eucalyptus, Monterey pines and cypress, buckeyes, coast live oaks, willows, holly-leaf and Catalina cherries hold evening dew, drip from downpours, willows, holly-leaf and Catalina cherries harvested the coast live oaks' acorns, and formed the willows' branches into baskets, the Ohlone Indians who lived here transplanted to the canyon, the Ramaytush tribe of the greater San Francisco nonprofits as Friends of the Urban Forest, complicated politics come into play and contribute to the demise of our necessary and healthy urban forest ecosystem.

The urban forest is a major capital asset that offers invaluable benefits. Its trees provide us with air to breathe; absorb storm-water runoff; create windbreaks; provide nesting and landing for large birds; offer colors, flowers, forms and textures; screen out harsh scenery; focus the eye; and define spaces.

Trees impact our moods and emotions. A healthy urban forest is an integral element of our mental and physical health and contributes to a sense of community pride and ownership that balances the concrete and steel of urban life with the leafy and soft sensibility of nature.

Eco-Notes

If your trees need pruning, be certain to have it done by a certified arborist. Unlicensed pruners can do irreparable harm to your tree and set you up to receive a minimum $500 fine for every tree that is mutilated. The dollar you save today with a cheap fix threatens the tree's healthy future and is a case of "penny-wise and pound-foulisht." A tree reacts to such treatment by sprouting numerous twig-like branches at the cut that look like No. 2 pencils and require more frequent maintenance. Check the International Society of Arboriculture's website, www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx to learn more.

Planted bump-outs (bulbs) in large intersections mitigate pedestrian hazards, look great and build community. Why not become a neighborhood urban forester and spearhead one for the giant intersection on Chenery at Miguel, or the wide crossing where Arlington Street meets Wilder, Natick and a San Jose Avenue exit? For more information, or to plant a tree, open your existing tree's well, and/or green your block with sidewalk pocket gardens, check out the web sites www.plants.org and www.fuf.net.

Remember that Friends of Glen Canyon Park meet every Wednesday morning and every third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. Just show up with work gloves and enjoy this wonderful way to be part of your community.

Alma Hecht is a member of Friends of Glen Canyon Park, a neighbor, and owner of Second Nature Design, http://secondnature.bz. She developed Friends of the Urban Forest's Tree Care program. Alma can help with your tree questions; e-mail her at alma@secondnature.bz.

digging the dirt:

news from the garden club

by Susan Evans

Wha? Who? Me? Tipsy? In the garden?

Yes, my garden drives me to drink sometimes. This is the season of entertaining, and wouldn't it be great to bring a little of your garden expertise into the house for real "terroir" at your party?

Fresh-squeezed juices, garnishes at their peak and fresh herbs can make otherwise "decent" cocktails spectacular, and you cannot get any fresher than harvesting fruits, vegetables and herbs from your own garden.

I'm thinking of mint. It will grow almost anywhere in your garden—so well that you might want to give it its own pot so it doesn't take over. Mint can be mulled with rum, limeade and sugar syrup to make a mighty mojito. It can be calmed down with fizzy water or a lemon-lime soda. It's good in iced tea or hot tea for the sedate.

Rosemary is a great utility plant. Pruned sprigs will enliven an easy mix of simple syrup, vodka and pink grapefruit juice.

My backyard has at times been impassable with a bramble that produces blackberries. While there have been too few for a pie or jam, they add up to just about the right number for drinks. These are good when pureed and strained for variety in a mojito, or with vodka, lemon, simple syrup and a sprinkle of thyme.

An infusion of rosemary and lavender can transform vodka. Steeping takes a week usually, but it should be tested every day starting with the second day. When it tastes good to you, strain it, and use it as you would other vodka.

Fennel also can be infused in vodka. Then mix it with lemon juice, sour mix and muddled basil leaves with sugar. I dare the adventurous among you to mash up our neighborhood's wild fennel bulbs for this infusion. It's a plant that is too fibrous to eat, but the flavor might just be right for cocktails. And wouldn't it be good to finally find a use for it?

Don't forget that your garden's edible flowers, such as nasturtiums and violets, float very nicely on many drinks to add a dash of color.

Now that I'm loosened up, I'd like to ask: Have you ever thought about your yard as a Greek amphitheater? Since this is my last column, here's my pet peeve: wind chimes. Our houses are too close together for them. When I hear them—and they keep me awake on those rare occasions when there's a light breeze, the weather is hot and my windows are open—I want to climb the three fences separating me from the noisemakers and use them for target practice.

I like the idea of wind chimes—ones that make a small, sweet sound. But in reality, the loud ding-dinging drowns out the night's quiet like an activated car alarm. I'm sure many people don't hear their own wind chimes for whatever reason. But some people have them in the amphitheater type backyards that characterize our neighborhood. They are heard much, much better by those who live uphill from the source, even people a few blocks away!

Don't forget that the wonderful Sunnyside Conservatory opens Dec. 8. It's a historical landmark, just redone, and a beauty! Go by and admire it and be proud of our neighborhood history.

Susan Evans is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, which welcomes new members. We're sad to say that this is her final column for the Glen Park News. E-mail Susan at ske1@pacbell.net.

Alma Hecht is a member of Friends of Glen Canyon Park, a neighbor, and owner of Second Nature Design, http://secondnature.bz. She developed Friends of the Urban Forest's Tree Care program. Alma can help with your tree questions; e-mail her at alma@secondnature.bz.
Happy Holidays!

from Howard Reinstein

Call me anytime for advice!
415-296-2105

Howard Reinstein
#1 Glen Park Agent
hreinstein@mcguire.com
415-296-2105
www.howardreinstein.com

#1 Glen Park Agent | Top 2% Nationally
More Glen Park Homes Sold Over $1 Million
Chairman of Sponsor Development, The Glen Park Festival
20 Year Glen Park Home Owner
Partner Chenery Park Restaurant
All up-to-date Glen Park sold prices are available at
www.glenparkneighbors.com

100 Clipper Street | howardreinstein.com
Glen Park Celebrates Halloween

The home of the Dalere family, of Dalere’s Beauty Salon, is one of several in Glen Park known for Halloween displays.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Is a Will still on your to-do list? Need to nominate guardians for your kids? Don’t have a lot of money right now but still wake up at night worrying about the ‘what-ifs’?

Don’t panic!

Panic-free Planning Workshops
Get the basics in place without breaking the bank. $215 per person or $330 per couple
check website for Winter schedule

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Community Plan
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Also attending were representatives of the Planning Department, BART and Supervisor Duffy’s office.

This presentation was aimed only at transportation projects, which will need to be analyzed in the environmental review of the Glen Park Community Plan. Review is expected to take 18 months, after which the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors must approve the plan. It will then become the guiding document for future investments in neighborhood transit-related improvements.

The money for upgrades originates with the $3 million federal grant obtained by the late Congressman Tom Lantos. It has to be matched by City funds and is to be doled out in $800,000 increments.

The SFMTA’s purpose in this phase was to strip out those items from the Community Plan that addressed problem intersections, traffic calming and making better transit connections, and to give alternatives for Glen Park residents’ consideration. These would then go into environmental review and be ready by the end of 2010. Another update is expected to be presented to the neighborhood next summer.

Parking was not supposed to be addressed in this go-around, though many residents felt that this issue is integral to solving the other problems and they voiced this concern persistently over the course of the evening. Kim Walton, project manager for SFMTA, assured the group that parking would be taken up in the January meeting.

Other concerns were raised but were not within the scope of the discussion: traffic flow along the entire O’Shaughnessy/Bosworth corridor, the traffic light at Elk and Bosworth, bicycle lanes, and a suggestion for 45-degree parking on Joost Street.

Ms. Walton and Darton Ito, capital planning manager for SFMTA, pointed to diagrams that depicted possible solutions for several traffic and transit headaches: The intersection of Bosworth and Diamond streets; traffic calming at the Joost/Monterey and Arlington/Wilder intersections as well as Bosworth Street; and making better transit connections at the BART station and the J-Church streetcar line. When someone asked for the pros and cons of each proposal, Walton said they would be fully worked up in the environmental review, as well as in a stand-alone transportation study.

Putting it all in perspective, Lisa Gibson of the Planning Department reminded residents that state law mandates environmental review, and it is a long process. Although there are concerns about many of the concepts presented, she said, we have to start somewhere with project descriptions and make refinements as we go along.

Diagrams of concepts for traffic improvements will be posted at www.sfmta.com/glenpark. Traffic calming is a citizen-initiated activity; details are at www.SFMTA.com/calming.

For information about the Glen Park Community Plan and Environmental Review, go to www.sfgov.org/site/planning and search “glen park community plan.”

real estate in glen park

by Vince Beaudet

Real estate activity in Glen Park has been picking up. The results have been mixed when it comes to whether properties are selling above or below asking price. One house hit the mark exactly. Listed below are the 12 properties that sold in Glen Park in late summer/early fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 Brompton</td>
<td>$1,195,000</td>
<td>$1,075,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179 Brompton</td>
<td>$829,000</td>
<td>$825,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>195 Beacon</td>
<td>$1,650,000</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204 Chenery</td>
<td>$819,000</td>
<td>$795,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>331 Chenery</td>
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<tr>
<td>1874 Church</td>
<td>$829,000</td>
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<td>590 Laidley</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>136 Whitney</td>
<td>$849,000</td>
<td>$832,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Realtor Vince Beaudet is a Glen Park resident who works for Herth Real Estate. He can be reached at 861-5222, ext. 333 or vincebeaudet@berth.com.
Vince Loves the Holidays in Glen Park
Wishing you & your family a joyous holiday season!

Glen Park Festival
SF Association of Realtors
Canyon Market Advisory
Glen Park Graffiti Watch
National Association of Realtors
Glen Park Association
SF Apartment Association
Glen Park Garden Club
SF Property Owner’s Assoc.

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415.861.5222 x333
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DRE# 01447775

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community calendar

Glen Park Association
Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of just $10 support the Association's important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7–9 pm, St. John's School, 925 Chenery St.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon.

Next dates: Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20. Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction are provided. Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon. For the current week's meeting place contact Richard Craib at 648-0862.

To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or Jean Conner at 584-8576.

Sunnyside Conservatory
Saturday, Dec. 5, 11–2; Dedication of the restored 19th century landmark at 236 Monterey Blvd. Ribbon-cutting at 12 noon. Take this special opportunity to admire the Conservatory, which will not be open to the public on a regular basis due to budget constraints. See story on page 1.

Performance Showcase
The Jazzcracker and Other Delights: Friday, Dec. 4, 8 pm, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr. $18 advance, $20 (cash only) at door. The Terry Disley Experience performs Tchaikovsky "with a jazz twist." Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/82712 or 800-838-3006. Web site: www.performancehighlight.com.

SFPD Community Forums
Third Tuesday of every month, 7 pm. During even months—February, April, etc.—meetings are held at Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. In odd months meetings rotate among various community locations. For details call the station at 404-4000, or subscribe to the captain's daily e-mail newsletter at david.lazar@sfgov.org.

All residents are encouraged to participate in these informative monthly Community Relations Forums hosted by Capt. David Lazar. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe.

Next date: Dec 15.

Glen Park Branch Library
Denise Sanderson, manager of the Glen Park Branch at 2825 Diamond St., lists other coming events in her column on Page 15. Check with the library for a full schedule. All programs at the library are free.

Here are a few more planned events:

Baby Rhymes & Playtime: Every Tuesday, 10:30 am. Rhymes, stories, fingerplays & music, for ages birth–3 years.


How-To Holiday Workshop for Teens: Thursday, Dec. 17, 4 pm, for ages 12–18. Teens will make bath scrubs and homemade soaps, decorate contain- ers and make instructional tags for their products. For more information, contact Marla Bergman, Teen Librarian, at mbergman@sflpl.org or 355-2858.

Gingerbread Craft Class: Saturday, Dec. 19, 3 pm, for ages 5–up. Kids will make their own oversized Gingerbread man or woman that they can decorate and take home. Sign up in advance at the reference desk or call 355-2858.

Library Databases: Saturday, Feb. 13, 2 pm. Learn how to use the Rosetta Stone language learning database and the Ancestry database for genealogical and historical research. If time permits, other databases will be explored. Sign up in advance at the reference desk or call 355-2858.

Woody Guthrie and the Great American Folk Song: Saturday, Feb. 20, 3 pm. Tim Holt will present a musical performance and discussion celebrating the life of Woody Guthrie and the history of the American folksong.

Bird & Beckett Events
Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., presents a potpourri of literary and musical events under the auspices of the nonprofit Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project. Admission is free, but requested donations make the series possible, and your purchases help keep the bookstore open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com, pick up a monthly events schedule at the bookshop, or call owner Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 10 am–9 pm Monday–Saturday, 10 am–7 pm Sunday. Check for early closings on holiday weekends.

Coming Events:
- Three book groups meet monthly, at 7 pm:
  - Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month's selection. Dec. 2 - Who Would Have Thought It, by Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton.
  - Political Book Discussion Group: 2nd Thursdays. Call for the title.
  - Eminent Authors' Birthdays: 4th Thursdays. For these open readings, bring short pieces from the works of a favorite writer born during the month to read aloud.


- Which Way West?: Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music, and more. Dec. 6 - The Studio 5 jazz quintet featuring Glen Park resident Mark Reynolds on guitar. Dec. 20 - A Winter Lute & Vocal Concert.

- Poetry with Open Mic: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. Featured readers, then open mic; Dec. 7 - Poets Clark Coolidge & David Meltzer accompanied by jazz bassist Don Prell.

- Literary Talks: Last Sundays, Sept. 27 - 2 pm. Walker Bents III explores the idea of India in the Western literary imagination.

Special Events:
- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 pm - A World Aids Day presentation by photographer Karen Andre.
- Sunday, Dec. 6, 2:30 pm - Glen Park resident Robert (Bob) Davis reads from his new mystery novel, Among the Lost.

Santa in Glen Park
On Dec. 8, from 4:30– 7:30, Santa Claus will appear at Modernist at 677 Chenery St., courtesy of the Glen Park Merchants Association. Bring your kids and your camera.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
St. Aidan's, 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, offers a variety of programs that may be of interest to their Glen Park neighbors. For information, please contact the church. Programs include these:

- After-School Program: For children in the neighborhood and beyond. St. Aidan's is partnering with Si Se Puede.

- Food Pantry: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94115 ZIP code.