





# Eureka!

News for Eureka Valley, Upper Market, Castro, Duboce & Twin Peaks. Published by the **Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

*Serving the neighborhood since 1881. Join@[www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)*

Volume 121, Issue 1

January 2002

## President's First Gasp 2002, A Year of Getting Things Done.



**President Serina**

Happy 2002 to everyone. As your new President, I am excited about the growth of our organization. We have several new officers (Tom Hanus, VP, Joe Foster, Corresponding Secretary, and Herb Cohn, Treasurer) as well as our returning Recording Secretary,

Mike Babbitt. My predecessor, Lion Barnett, who provided a great deal of leadership continues on the Board, allowing us to benefit from his considerable experience in neighborhood affairs. Previous VP, Gerald Abbott also remains on the Board. New Board members Steve Hall and Richard McGee join returning members Drew Bertagnolli, Michael Crawford and Judy Hoyem.

As we begin 2002, I would like to share my aspirations for EVPA. I want us to be a positive force that effectively embraces change and shapes that change so that it benefits our neighborhood. I want to continue working with residents and merchants so that the natural interdependency of the two groups is strengthened and common goals are defined and met. I want EVPA to be an organization that can help get things done, either through direct leadership or by providing critical support to others. I want city agencies to work in partnership with us to resolve quality of life and other important issues.

I want to continue increasing EVPAs membership so that it truly reflects the diversity of our neighborhood. In 2002, we will see the completion of Pink Triangle Park Memorial, in which EVPA has played a crucial role. I would like us to channel that same energy into reclaiming other neighborhood spaces, in welcoming new businesses and helping existing ones prosper, and in reaching out to other organizations, both within Eureka Valley and in other neighborhoods, so that we can learn from them and share our own experiences.

Finally, I would like EVPA to be a place where neighbors can socialize as friends while making decisions in a respectful manner in the full knowledge that actions taken will be consistent with the directives of the membership.

*Gustavo*

## Jump in the Castro Bubble Bath! Sticky, Smelly, Icky Sidewalk Scrubdown to Move Around.

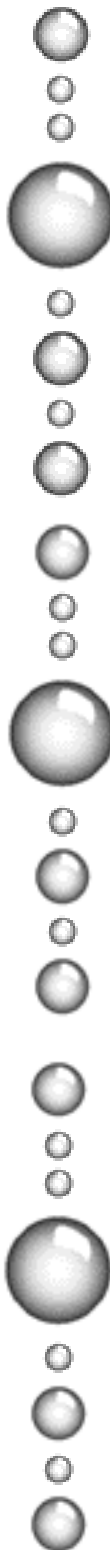


On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, an all-volunteer group will use hot water, soap and elbow grease to clean and brighten the sidewalks along 18<sup>th</sup> Street between Castro and Collingwood, as well as some frontages on Collingwood. Dubbed the "**Castro Bubble Bath**" the initiative targets stretches of sidewalk that have become increasingly grimy.

Volunteers are needed. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. The Bubble Bath begins at 8 am February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Collingwood. Wear your worst clothing and be ready for spraying water and bubble play. By 10 am, you will have made a huge difference in how this key section of our neighborhood looks.

The Castro Bubble Bath will rotate elsewhere in the neighborhood as EVPA members identify trouble spots. The goal is to break a cycle of grime that has become too common and to spur others into redoubling their own cleaning efforts.

The condition of many sidewalks has been a concern for residents and businesses alike. The quality-of-life initiative continues to move forward within the City's administrative maze, albeit slowly. Rather than waiting for the conclusion of this process, the Utilities, Transportation & Neighborhood Commerce Committee is launching the Castro Bubble Bath. The Board has approved the effort. Please volunteer your time or financial support for this grass-roots cleanup work. Learn more from Drew Bertagnolli, block captain for the first effort, at 552-9331 or Michael Crawford, UTNC Chair, at 701-9455. DPW is providing some supplies and assistance.



## **See the Renovations! Castro Theater Walking Tour for EVPA.**

EVPA members have a special opportunity to tour the restoration and renovation at the Castro Theater. The Theater, a Castro landmark in designation and visibility, is undergoing a multi-stage process to restore much of its original grand Spanish Renaissance/art deco styling.

Meet at the front door on January 22nd at 12:30 pm for a walking tour.

Architect Timothy Pflueger, who also designed Oakland's Paramount Theater, created the Castro Theater to be reminiscent of a Spanish castle. The interior was envisioned as the inside of a vast tent, with huge tapestries, trompe l'oeil murals and a glittering chandelier. The team that worked on Oakland's Paramount Theater also is working on the Castro. The UTNC Committee arranged the walking tour. The Theater is an EVPA member.

## **Diesel Idling.**

Clothing store Diesel has not yet signed the lease for the former Bank of America Building at Castro/Market. Renovations and negotiations continue according to Lurie Company, the property owner. Meanwhile, EVPA has been in conversations with Lurie to proactively address concerns about the impact Diesel's entry might have on smaller, existing neighborhood merchants as well as what on-going commitment Diesel would make to the area.

Some existing retailers support Diesel saying it would help retain local shoppers and attract new ones to the main strip. Some in the community philosophically object to a chain retailer arguing it diminishes Eureka Valley's uniqueness and fuels a cycle of higher commercial rents. Diesel does offer domestic partner benefits, and has indicated through Lurie that it intends to support and participate in the neighborhood's diverse activities. What that participation might be is unclear and the UTNC Committee is following the issue and pushing to get a presentation directly from Diesel rather than the landlord.

EVPA anticipates a representative from Diesel/Lurie to be at the February general meeting.

## **Billboard Ban Endorsement? Planning, UTNC Differ on Request.**

SF Beautiful has asked permission to use EVPA's name in material endorsing a city-wide ban on new billboards. The measure will be on the ballot in the March 5<sup>th</sup> elections.

The Planning Committee has approved the request. The Utilities, Transportation & Neighborhood Commerce Committee has voted against the request. The matter goes before the general membership at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for final vote.

Eureka Valley is not directly affected. No new billboards can be erected presently in the area. The proposed ban, if passed, is expected to impact the Third Street Corridor and Lombard Street most.

Advocates for the endorsement request believe allowing use of the EVPA name can raise the association's visibility and place it on the "winning side" of the issue. Additionally, some feel outdoor advertising represents an undue commercialization of public space and yields profits to the landowners that they should earn elsewhere. Endorsement opponents argue EVPA should not lend its name lightly to ballot measures, that the ban is likely to produce unintended economic consequences, and that the issue should be addressed by neighborhood associations in the affected areas and voters at large in the March 5 election.

## **AdHoc Committee on Homelessness Created by President.**

An AdHoc Committee has been created to work on Supervisor Gavin Newsom's proposal on homelessness. The Committee will make recommendations to the board and general membership. Contact Gustavo Serino for more information.

## **January Meeting January 17, 2002 EVRC Auditorium 100 Collingwood**

1. Budgets
2. Introduction of New Park Station Captain
3. Plans for 2002: PTP and Cleaning Sidewalks
4. Membership Concerns
5. 2500 Market Street
6. Introduction of New Board
7. New Business

## Thank You, Wells Fargo! Foundation Donates \$5K to PTP.

Pink Triangle Park has received a \$5,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Bank Foundation! Our thanks go to Wells Fargo folks Mario Diaz who helped guide our application through the process, to Pamela Erwin who approved the grant, to our new Castro branch WFB Manager, Chris Befumo.

EVPA gratefully acknowledges the support of the WFB Foundation as we create a memorial and park to those lesbians and gays killed in the Holocaust. Thanks also to Herb Cohn and the PTP Committee for writing the grant proposal. And so we put the question out there...Are there any other companies who care to match the WFB contribution? Just asking. ☺

## CarShare Adds Castro Lot. Turns Out We Share, Play Well W/Others

City CarShare, a non-profit vehicle sharing program, has placed two cars in the parking lot behind Walgreen's at 18<sup>th</sup> and Castro. The program opened a Davies Medical Center campus location in early 2001. According to Annie Bourdon with City CarShare, that location was the program's # 1 site in use and so an effort was made to find more locations nearby. Members place a \$300 deposit, and then minimum monthly fees plus modest fees based on usage. It's ideal for people who do not want the hassle and expense of car ownership, but need periodic use of a car for errands. Click [www.citycarshare.org](http://www.citycarshare.org) or call (415) 995-8588.

## Want to Move? Now May Be Time.

The rental market continues to weaken according to the number of apartment listing posted at [Craigslist.org](http://Craigslist.org), an online community bulletin board.

The number of apartments for rent posting now averages 5000 per week compared to 800 posting weekly exactly one year ago. A review of listings in Eureka Valley shows that as quantity rises, some – but not all -- landlords are making significant reductions in asking price. A walk around the neighborhood shows even more "For Rent" signs in windows. View the changing market at [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) and follow the "Graph" link at the top of the "Housing" category to monitor overall trends.

tax preparation, planning + advice  
specializing in new businesses  
professional, friendly service  
in the heart of the castro

**TAX SPECIALIST**

**Herb Cohn CPA**

telephone: 415-621-6637  
e-mail: [herbcohn@pacbell.net](mailto:herbcohn@pacbell.net)

**RED GRILL**

4063 18th ST  
255-2RED

**WHISKEY LOUNGE**

4063 18th ST  
255-2RED

**BLUE**

2337 Market ST  
863-BLUE

**LYRIC**

A community center for lesbian,  
gay, bisexual, transgender &  
questioning youth 23 & under.

**Lavender Youth  
Recreation &  
Information Center**

127 Collingwood Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415)703-6150 [www.lyric.org](http://www.lyric.org)

## 2002 Officers & Board Members

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | Gustavo Serina   |
| <b>Vice President</b>          | Tom Hanus        |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary</b> | Joe Foster       |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>     | Mike Babbitt     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>               | Herb Cohn        |
| <b>At-Large Board Members</b>  |                  |
| Gerald Abbott                  | Drew Bertagnolli |
| Michael Crawford               | Steve Clark Hall |
| Judy Hoyem                     | Rich McRee       |
| Lion Barnett (past president)  |                  |

Please visit our advertisers and thank them for supporting EVPA. Advertise in *Eureka!* Contact [Michael@schatcafe.com](mailto:Michael@schatcafe.com) or 701.9455.

Deadline for the next issue is February 1. Ads submitted electronically encouraged.

## 2001 in Review - Our Neighborhood & Nation.

The events of 9/11 tend to overshadow all remembrances of 2001. It was a year marked with progress in our neighborhood even as we were rocked nationally. Step into our time machine and travel back.



In January, EVPA goes online at [evpa.org](http://evpa.org) courtesy of **Roger Yates**.

February sees the "Whereas" meeting and the seating of a full 12-member board of directors. The additional peoplepower fuels new efforts. A committee system for reviewing items and making recommendations is implemented.

Plans for the redevelopment of Davies Medical Center and possible legislation limiting the size of "monster homes" occurred under the watchful eyes and involvement of the Planning Committee.



A weedy lot at the corner of Castro and Market gets a clean-up from the Parks Committee to transform the space into the Pink Triangle Park, a place of reflection and remembrance for lesbian and gay victims of the Holocaust. The design is selected from a community-based competition that selects a memorial by artists **Susan Martin** and **Robert Bruce**.

The adjacent 2500 Market Street temporary housing facility enjoys the support of EVPA members working through the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

The Planning Committee, chaired by **Judy Hoyem**, successfully stops redevelopment of the Victorian at 4038 17<sup>th</sup>, persuading commissioners that more than just the façade should be preserved.

In April, the Castro Meeting Room opens above Sunglass Hut, providing meeting space to local non-profits for a nominal fee. The Room is the result of efforts from **Lion Barnett** and others who convinced Pottery Barn to cover the rent for several years.

Rolling electrical blackouts make throwing the light switch a considered decision. Do you remember your "Rotating Outage Block" number?

In July, we noted with regret the passing of **Lawrence Cohn**, father - and friend - of **Herb Cohn**.

The Bylaws Committee of **Herb Cohn** and **Tom Hanus** lead the successful effort to modernize the rules that govern the organization. Last revised in 1975, the Bylaws now reflect the organization's practices and close previous loopholes.

**Heidi Chipp** and **Joe Foster**, on separate vacations in Germany, meet up to hold the first international meeting of EVPA and to drink dark beer.

**Mike Babbitt** and **Nila Camino** tie the knot in Fiji, using that as an excuse to miss a board meeting.

The Quality-of-Life initiative begins in the Safety Committee, in coordination with **Supervisor Leno's** office and includes representatives from across the community.

"Rude Guy" appears. Blusters. Loudly tells us his net worth. Leaves.

Membership & Promotion revamps EVPA News into *Eureka!* and begins electronic distribution begins to those who live digitally. City officials and press members are added to the distribution list.

Tag-n-bag legislation fought with success. The Board of Supervisors, under pressure from residents and merchants, sends the bad idea back to committee.

Guidelines for a "Good Neighborhood Business" are developed by the Utilities, Transportation & Neighborhood Commerce Committee. MUMC won't sign on, but EVPA's business basics are established.

In August, **Thomas Landry**, the program director of the 2500 Market Street youth shelter resigns.

MUNI begins its "Castro Shuttle" service, prompting an enthusiastic "Thank You" letter from EVPA to **Michael Burns**, MUNI's general manager.

EVPA's website at [www.EVPA.org](http://www.EVPA.org) gets a makeover from Membership & Promotion. Haven't been there? Click [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org) and see.

Everything you always wanted to know about EVPA but were afraid to ask, are answered in a new Membership Guide developed by M&P. Don't have one yet? Sounds like you need to go to the January meeting.



The events of September 11<sup>th</sup>... Planes become missiles of steel and bone, twin towers fall and the Pentagon is attacked. In a field in Pennsylvania, there is a hole in the ground in the shape of a plane. The worst attack in U.S. history rocks through the

neighborhood as it seem so many people have friends in New York. Eureka Valley searches for ways to mark the event, and to remember San Franciscans who were killed such as **Mark Bingham**.

In October, EVPA'ers manned the gates and shook down visitors to the Castro Street Fair. The annual non-profit event returned \$1,500 to EVPA based on the number of hours worked by **Lion Barnett, Mike Babbit, Steve Bowling, Heidi Chipp, Herb Cohn, Joe Foster, Jim Hurley, Liz Janes, Diane Oswald, Linton Stables and Roger Yates**.



The Association also marked "120 Years of EVPA" in October with cake and champagne punch at CHAT Café hosted by **Tom Hanus** and **Michael Crawford**. Photos of Eureka Valley from the 1880s through today show the evolution from pasture to urban heartland. **Lion Barnett** receives a plaque for his service. And **Mike** and **Nila** trounce the competition in the pumpkin-carving contest showing that knives and marriage can go together peaceably.

The air war in Afghanistan begins.

EVPA votes to make its first donation to the Holiday Tree raised annually at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Castro. In doing so, the Association "hopes to add some cheer at this difficult time."

The **Castro Theater** joins EVPA, linking the oldest neighborhood association and the neighborhood's most well-known landmark.

The Nominations Committee extorts, tricks, cajoles and entices members to run for office. The November election produces another full board with membership consent.

As the year closed, the Pink Triangle Park is dedicated, with politicians aplenty gathered around for the photo opportunity. The first column arrives and is positioned for surveying. The City's newest park takes form, and all from the sweat of many volunteers and the tenacity of people like **Joe Foster** and **Pauline Shafer**.

Throughout the year, business like Chow, Wells Fargo, Patelco Credit Union and many residents seek and receive support to get appropriate permits to make reasonable changes to their businesses or homes.

Want to predict the future? Read the President's "First Gasp" article.

## Davies Plans Outlined Online.

Curious about the plans for the Davies Campus? Click on [www.EVPA.org](http://www.EVPA.org) and follow the "Research" and "Neighborhood" links to see how the medical center may change. The Planning Committee has been following the evolving development plans and provides this information for on-going member review.

## Police Captains Rotate. EVPA Thanks Roth & Dudley.

Captain Ron Roth is moving from his post at the Mission Police Station to the Airport Station, while Police Captain James Dudley of Park Station is headed to moving to Southern Station. SFPD rotates their Captains every year or two so that each develops a better overall view of the City. The Captains are usually the pool of candidates for Chief.

Pink Triangle Park borders the patrol areas of both precincts and both Captains were helpful in reclaiming the park area from vagrants and drug users so the area could be transformed into Pink Triangle Park, dedicated to the memory of the Gay and Lesbian victims of the Holocaust. Thank You, Captain Roth! Thank you, Captain Dudley! EVPA wishes you well.

The new Captain of Mission Station is Greg Corrales, while Captain Lawson will head Park Station. EVPA looks forward to working with both new captains and will invite them to an upcoming membership meeting.

## March 5 Consolidated Elections. Last Day to Register is Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Yet another election is almost upon us. The March 5<sup>th</sup> General Election includes state races and local ballot propositions. The last day to register is February 26<sup>th</sup>. Have you moved recently? Are you tired of voting provisionally? Update your voter registration. Print out a form from <http://sosdev3.ss.ca.gov/votereg/OnlineVoterReg> and mail it in, stop by City Hall Department of Elections, or call 415/554-4411.

## Mark Calendars for EVPA Meetings.

Upcoming general membership meetings will be on:

|            |                 |              |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| January 17 | February 21     | March 21     |
| April 18   | May 16          | June 20      |
| July 18    | August 15       | September 19 |
| October 17 | and November 21 |              |