



Friends & Advocates of Crocker-Amazon & the Excelsior

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*Having Fun in the Neighborhood*

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**Volume 9 – Number 3**

**March 2011**

**Little City Gardens Open House & Tour - Saturday,  
February 26<sup>th</sup> Noon-3PM**

Brooke Budner and Caitlyn Galloway of Little City Gardens to invite you to see the urban farming taking place in their Mission Terrace garden Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. They are hosting an Open house from 12-3PM, with a garden tour 1-1:30PM. The Garden is located on Cotter Street between Cayuga and San Jose.

Little City Gardens transformed a Cotter Street lot from an unused field of weeds and brambles to an abundant garden. Families and children are welcome, but, as a food production garden, please leave your dogs at home.

**OSCAR MADNESS comes to Bernal - Sunday, February  
27<sup>th</sup> 5-9PM Four Star Video**

**Four Star Video** hosts an Academy Awards© Party and Benefit for the 8th Annual Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema season, **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 5 to 9 pm at Four Star Video, 402 Cortland Avenue.**

Predict the winners — win prizes \$5 donation/ballot. Enjoy snacks, drinks, live broadcast indoors and outdoors (weather permitting)

**Download your ballot** at <http://www.bhoutdoorcine.org/oscarballot.pdf>.

To be eligible for prizes, turn in your ballot(s) and \$5 donation /ballot by 4pm, Sunday, 2/27 at Four Star Video.

Brought to you by Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.bhoutdoorcine.org>

**Meet Ellen Dumesnil, Excelsior Action Group/EAG's New  
ED Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5 7-8PM**

**SAVE the DATE...**Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm and come meet the new Excelsior Action Group Executive Director, Ellen Dumesnil, at the EAG office at 4702 Mission St. (near Persia).



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There will be a reception from 7-8:30pm with light refreshments. Come chat with Ellen, the staff and Steering Committee. Find out about upcoming committee work and planning for the 2011 Excelsior Festival

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**Loving San Francisco Event - Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30PM-2AM Project 1 Art Gallery**

Join SF Beautiful, Neighborhood Parks Council, San Francisco Parks Trust, San Francisco Heritage, Friends of the Urban Forest and [EuroCircle](#) in a networking event among like-minded San Francisco non-profits from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Free for current SF Beautiful members, \$5 for non-members.

Live DJ's will provide entertainment well into the evening follows from 9PM to 2 AM \$5 for current SF Beautiful members, \$10 for non-members.

The Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> event takes place at [Project 1 Art Gallery](#), 251 Rhode Island Street, SF 94103. Further details can be found on the [Facebook page for the event](#).

If you are not an SF Beautiful member, you can inquire at the door about becoming one. More events are planned for SF Beautiful members, so become SFB members to participate in like-minded events in the future!

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**District 11 Family Night Out -Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-  
8:30PM–Geneva Family Steak House**

Why spend your money outside the district when there plenty of great restaurants are right here in our neighborhood? **Join Supervisor Avalos and his family** for a night out in the district! This month's dinner is **Thursday, March 3rd, 6:30-8:30 pm Geneva Family Steak House, 5130 Mission Street**. These monthly dinners are a way to highlight local restaurants, meet your neighbors, and chat with the Supervisor in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

For more information or to submit your favorite D11 eatery for a future "Family Night Out," please email Frances Hsieh, Legislative Aide to Supervisor John Avalos at [frances.hsieh@sfgov.org](mailto:frances.hsieh@sfgov.org) or call (415) 554-6975.

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**Excelsior Rec Connect Open House-Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Noon-4PM-Excelsior Clubhouse**

Please come to an open house at the Excelsior Clubhouse, hosted by the YMCA from noon-4pm and see what programs are being offered for the Excelsior community.

The Excelsior Clubhouse, located at 579 Madrid Street at Russia, will be open and activities offered to community members and friends. For more information contact Laura Padilla, Y Program Coordinator at 415 850-2490 or e-mail lpadilla@ymcasf.org. Light refreshments will be served.

**Free Concert Tickets for Friends of the Library Members-  
Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 4PM – Herbst Theater**

Friends of the Library Members are eligible for **Free Four Seasons Concert Tickets** Four Seasons Arts has generously offered complimentary concert tickets for members of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

*Music of Living Composers* Sunday, March 6 - 4:00 p.m. Herbst Theatre, San Francisco, 401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister)

One pair of tickets per person. To receive your tickets, email ccarpenter@fsarts.org or call 510-845-4444 and say you're a member of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

**Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> - District 11 Council Meeting**

Join the council of all District 11 neighborhood groups at their monthly meeting Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-Noon at Ingleside Police Station Community Room (Sgt. John V. Young Lane/San Jose Avenue)

Coffee & Pastries ☕ will be served

**IMBIBE at the Library, Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - Eureka  
Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library**



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Raise your glass and **IMBIBE** with Friends at a first-of-its-kind, after-hours library cocktail party in the **Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library - March 18 from 6:30-9:00 pm!**

Boogie down to great tunes, grab tasty bites and enjoy beer & cocktails, compliments of Ikes Place, New Belgium Brewing and Blue Angel Vodka.

All IMBIBE events are free to Friends members. Already a member? RSVP to [imbibe@friendssfpl.org](mailto:imbibe@friendssfpl.org). Not a member yet? Join online today or call 415.626.7500 for a special IMBIBE membership offer!

## Letter from the Chair: FACE unveils its 2011 Plans at 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting at Henry's Hunan

Over some tasty Chinese dishes at the newly-opened Henry's Hunan, the annual FACE Steering Committee met. Here's a quick recap from Linda Litehiser, Chair.

Hi, everyone...so glad to have you as regular readers of our little newsletter. We thought it was a good idea to give you an update on what our group has been up to...and thank you for your continued support.

**Successes:** We were awarded funds for better signage in McLaren Park in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Recreation and Parks Dept. Community Opportunity Fund grant. Work starts soon installing 4 signs with maps at key sites in McLaren Park and two kiosks at the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater. FACE also took the lead on launching **The McLaren Park Collaborative**. This "umbrella" group has its goal to link communication between all the park and user groups surrounding McLaren Park. There is now a Facebook page, a Google Group ("McLaren Park Collaborative" for both), where people can post events, see minutes, documents and share information. A website is in the works, and the Neighborhood Parks Council has set up a dual link at their website: [www.sfnpc.org](http://www.sfnpc.org) (Click **Park Information**, then **Minutes**). The group has begun reviewing previous park master plans and setting up committees to work on specific issues.

FACE continues its support of the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater with its dedicated "Friends" group. The group recently made some exciting changes. **Friends of the AMP** is the new name, ("Amphitheater at McLaren Park") and is now fiscally sponsored by Neighborhood Parks Council. This will allow tax-deductible donations to future projects and offers the group opportunities available to a 501c3 non-profit. The amphitheater group is forming committees to focus on the venue. Meeting dates and committee information for both of these groups will be announced in coming additions of the newsletter & we look to add members.



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**Projects this year:** In addition to work with McLaren Park and Crocker Amazon Playground committees, FACE has identified two exciting projects for 2011.

1. Historic Excelsior Street Signs: For many years neighbors were aware that street signs in the Excelsior were changed from their original names. **China, Japan and India**, to Excelsior, Avalon and Peru. So, we are working on a project to get some recognition for these original names with creative ideas on how to make this bit of history more visible.. Please note: no one is proposing changing the names back.
2. Park Volunteer Recognition Project: FACE is working with RPD on some interesting ideas for getting more attention and appreciation for folks who volunteer city-wide in our parks and rec centers. Stay tuned for more info on this too.

And FACE is about "Having Fun in the Neighborhood" so we're planning a FACE picnic, annual membership meeting & get-together to take place in the coming months. Details will follow. As always, if you have questions on any of these projects and groups, please call: 415-585-8005 or e-mail us at: [info@facesf.com](mailto:info@facesf.com). ...and again, thank you for your continued support.

## ***Crocker Amazon Spring Fling Easter Party*** **Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> Crocker Amazon Clubhouse Rec Center**

**Come & enjoy the Spring Fling fun Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Noon-3pm at Crocker Amazon Clubhouse 499 Moscow @ Italy and support the new and expanded arts & crafts at the Clubhouse.**



**Activities:** Arts-n-Crafts Easter **E G G** hunt, Wii Games and food. Join us for another fun and social community get-together! 

**For info contact  
Warren Robinson, Facility Coordinator  
(415) 337-4708**



## **OMIE Community & Family Resource Fair Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Noon-3PM OMIE Beacon Center**



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Please join neighbors on Saturday, April 9, 2011 for a **Community & Family Resource Fair** hosted by James Denman Middle School & OMIE Beacon Center. This event is to provide an informative and fun fair for families and community members in the Oceanview, Ingleside, Merced Heights and Excelsior neighborhoods. The event will be from 12:00pm- 3:00pm with set up starting at 11:00am on the school yard at JDMS which is in the back of the school off of Seneca Street.

Community based organizations and public agencies have been invited to join the event & provide information on local programs for individuals, families and kids, upcoming 2011 summer programs, resources, and health care information. Please invite others to join us and feel free to pass this invitation along to any partners we may have missed.

For more information contact Joni Tam Chu, Associate Director Urban Services YMCA - OMI/Excelsior Beacon Center, E-Mail: [jtamchu@omiebeacon.org](mailto:jtamchu@omiebeacon.org) Tel: (415) 406-1290x103. The Beacon Center is at 241 Oneida Avenue, Room 18, San Francisco, CA 94112 Fax: (415) 406-1295 Web: [www.omiebeacon.org](http://www.omiebeacon.org)

## **Take a Walking Survey & Improve Pedestrian Safety With The WalkFirst Project Team**

WalkFirst is a new project underway that is identifying key locations to improve pedestrian safety and walking conditions in San Francisco and encourage walking as a way of getting around the city. WalkFirst wants to know where you walk and the conditions you face -- take the WalkFirst survey to help figure out the best places to make pedestrian safety improvements!

WalkFirst is collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Municipal Transportation Agency, Planning Department, and County Transportation Authority. WalkFirst started October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 & runs for one year, until September 30, 2011. Funding was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information about the project, please visit the project website at <http://walkfirst.sfplanning.org> or email at [walkfirst@sfplanning.org](mailto:walkfirst@sfplanning.org)

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**As always, if you have any ideas or want to submit an article, a comment or just want to contact us, please send an e-mail to [info@facesf.com](mailto:info@facesf.com).**

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