



NEWSLETTER

August 2020

By Phil Faroudja

GRAND OPENINGS: What, me worry? New businesses keep cropping up and owners don't seem to mind the pandemic, protests, etc. Titika Couture at 2072 Union, for example, set up in July and now sells stylish sportswear for women. Over here where jogging is fundamental, they should do well. Eatery Palm Acai, on the former Lite Bite site at 1796 Union, will shortly open doors. They focus on healthy cuisine with lots of fruits and organics. An upscale specialty shop replaces the one-time Fog City Leather. And Luke's Local grocery heads towards completion; construction began in June ... It is encouraging to see this entrepreneurial enthusiasm from proprietors in problematic times. As they say in the military, We salute your warrior spirit ... Dining (and life) certainly have returned to Union Street. My doctor recommends against eating out, but what does he know? My g.f. and I lunched at Flores, and their vegetarian burrito and flan were outstanding. This is not a bad place to quarantine.

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ATTACK OF THE 50 FOOT CONDOS: Don't look now, but new apartment buildings are quietly encircling the neighborhood. There's the high rise at Van Ness and Union (41 units), the Lombard and Broderick complex (43 units), and the nearly-finished edifice at Lombard and Pierce (22 units). But will anybody move in? Since the epidemic began, people have parted from the city and rents have plummeted ... The SF Ballet has received over \$5,002,000 in donations since March. That buys a lot of slippers ... Driving down Van Ness past the symphony the other day, I noticed a spider web of bus lines above. Is this new, part of the "Van Ness Improvement Project?" Meanwhile, the SFMTA declared 75% of routes will permanently shutter ... The Gap had been rumored to go bankrupt, but their

Chestnut store remains open. Interestingly, chains have struggled and closed branches nationwide -- Williams Sonoma, Sur La Table, Sweaty Betty, Brooks Brothers, Neiman Marcus -- while local businesses have proven durable ... Our good friend Captain Joseph Engler moved to the sheriff's office last month. His presentations were always a highlight of our annual dinners. His career has included stints at SFO, homicide division (his favorite), Northern Station, and finally Assistant Sheriff. Enjoy your new job, Joe! ... But our next meeting remains in place, so join our conference call on Wednesday, August 19 at 7 pm.

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"I think the cat ate my face mask."

OVERHEARD IN THE 'HOOD: "Maybe we should get unemployment, Jeffrey. We should file a claim with the EDD." (said in front of Loving Cup Yogurt) "If it were World War 2 right now, the USA would lose. The federal response to this outbreak has been pathetic." (discussion outside Perry's) "Your blood type does not get the coronavirus. You are type O." (cell phone conversation at Allyne Park)

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