



By Phil Faroudja

UNION STREET SHUFFLE: Someone told me the flower stand at the northwest corner of Fillmore and Union had closed. Well, I can report it is not closed but has just moved a few shops down. Called 'The Bud Stop,' the florist takes the place of a children's clothing store and has a wide selection of arrangements ... It's good to see that 2154 Union, empty for a while, now is occupied by boutique 'Kenlynn.' Near Luke's Local, the showroom features imaginative women's knitwear and every item is created by owner Kenlynn Wilson, a graduate of the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design ... It's also encouraging that the former Osha Thai restaurant space, vacant for 3 years, finally has a tenant. The building is being remodeled with fancy colors, and will be an upscale Asian-fusion eatery and lounge. A July opening is planned ... 'Warm Things' on Fillmore has shut down. It has been replaced by 'Cool, Rather Chilly Things.' Just kidding ... Overall the neighborhood looks in good shape. On a recent walk down the whole of Union I saw only two empty storefronts, so we seem to have survived the pandemic so far.

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GREAT GUESTS: We have had some very interesting presentations at our monthly meetings lately. In May we welcomed Siva Raj, who cleverly engineered the School Board recall (and used to gather signatures at Fort Mason). Siva now runs SF Guardians, which teaches public service newbies the tricks of the trade when it comes to winning elections. Effective campaigning, funding, proper advertising, and the like are all discussed in six week courses. The organization welcomes anybody committed to the community. Info: www.sfguardians.org.

A few months ago, folks from Quit Carbon also presented. They explained the many ways to electrify one's house starting with gas stoves, but also heaters and other appliances. The idea is to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve safety and efficiency, and just work with better technology. You can in addition cut costs. See www.quitcarbon.com ... And we recently met the founder of 'Small Business Boogie,' which promotes local commercial corridors. Every month on the third Tuesday, there is a small business crawl and participating shops offer steep discounts. So far this group has been to Chestnut, Union Street, the inner Richmond, Chinatown and North Beach. It's a great way to support different districts.

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"Bill went to Michigan, Jennifer went to Cal, and Jim went to... Jim went to... Jim went to....?"

OVERHEARD IN THE 'HOOD: "I don't eat vegan. I prefer the real stuff."
"I'm going to be in Miami on Friday, London on Monday, and then in France. But perhaps we can have dinner at Flores at the end of next week." "Now that we are both unemployed, we have the time. We can maybe have lunch -- or go for a stroll."

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