

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE RESIDENTS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

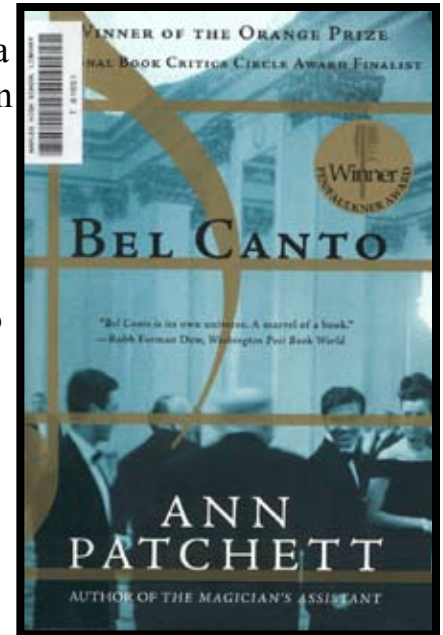
DECEMBER 2006

Excelsior Book Club Meeting February 20th 7pm . The February reading will be “Bel Canto” (2001, 318 pages) by Ann Patchett.

“This multiple-award-winning best-seller tells the transcendent and lyrical tale of a ragtag band of terrorists who take hostages at an opera recital at the embassy of a South-American country. As the occupation lengthens into days, then months, unlikely alliances and romances form, and an unexpected sense of community blossoms, while the menace of inevitable confrontation looms.

“Bel Canto” can be ordered from Amazon.com for \$11.16, and is also available at several SF Library branches, including one copy at the Excelsior branch. **The meeting will be held at the home of Samy Hernandez on February 20th, 7pm 123 San Juan (just across Alemany, one block north of the Ocean/Alemany intersection)**

Don't be shy if you've missed prior meetings ! We are eager to meet you and share in your insights. Looking forward to seeing you on February 20 !



Review of local restaurant **THANH TAM**



Atmosphere: The exterior is plain and somewhat obscured by signage and gauzy curtains. Inside the restaurant, colorful flower garlands and kitschy pop star posters decorate an old style american diner. The big TV on the back wall often shows asian soap opera stars in beautiful period costume, so enjoy the “eye candy”. The cooking facilities are first rate, featuring lots of spotless stainless steel. They have an unusual sink in which the chef seems to be cooking with a **sizzling wok on a burner that actually sits in flowing water**, so that it may be continuously cleaned. The cook never seems to stop either cooking or cleaning, it is impressively physical and steamy work.

Lito Baria lived in the Excelsior when Thanh Tam opened, about 10 years ago. He has moved in and out of several distant neighborhoods and comes back often to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and the company of the regulars. These include his brother and sister- in-law, who were converted just a few years ago and go there independently. Lito said it has become a custom to arrive for lunch or dinner and find the extended family already sitting down to eat, at which point there is a very large and festive meal. **In other words, this is a place people are loyal to. A place to bring your family, with lots of seating and room for the little ones.**

review cont page 3

SCENES FROM THE EDIA HOLIDAY PARTY TONS OF FOOD AND FUN!

Photos Randal Alan Smith
unless otherwise noted
www.furtographer.com



Fashion Santas: President Mary Harris from District 11 council and Linda Harte of Friends and Advocates of Crocker Amazon and Excelsior fame. See pg 3 for her project!



Ethel and Leo watching over the turkey and the game in the kitchen. Leo also brought and toted home a full "Toys for Tots" barrel thanks to EDIA contributors, which were given by the Fire Department to needy kids.

Photo Judy Berkowitz



Clockwise: Rose Anne Harris, Jackie Jack Wipf, Linda Harwood-Fini, Ethel Wallace, and Jean Carroll. Roseanne made constant eggs for all. Jean made the most dishes - great quiche! Ethel did all the work behind the scenes. Linda hiked 2 miles on foot with entree in hand - now that's dedication!



Jackie Wipf, John Consiglierie and Patty Devlieg



EDIA members Julian Cash, Randal Smith and neighbor Paul David parade in all their holiday finery

Littlest EDIA member explains "Santa's not at the North Pole silly! He lives in a furniture store in Inner Siberia.."





Learn to mosaic - one of the oldest and most durable crafts in the world. Hang out with friends and neighbors while making something wonderful. FACE has applied for a grant to add mosaic tile to the concrete benches in Crocker Amazon Playground, turning the drab concrete slabs into art pieces (that will still work as benches). INTERESTED? Please call Linda Harte at 415-585-8005 and leave a message. The actual work should begin sometime in the summer months. Dont worry if you don't consider yourself an "artist" - you will be welcome and needed. Volunteers will get mosaic tips from the world famous Precita Eyes muralists!

LIVE! FREE! EXCELSIOR ENTERTAINMENT AT MAMA'S THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons Mamá Art Cafe brings some of the best neighborhood, bay-area and national acoustic artists to San Francisco's eclectic Excelsior District with it's on-going Free Music Program. Mamá Art Cafe is located at 4754 Mission Street (between Ocean and Russia). Excelsior artists and performers are encouraged to contact them in person or via their website : <http://www.mamasf.com>

Restaurant Review Continued from page 1

Not being able to afford a reviewers meal ticket, we surveyed 8 patrons at different times. Jackie said: "the Imperial Rolls have a skin, crispy enough on the outside to crunch but nicely and moist and gummy on the inside. They are fun to bite into. The inside filling of the rolls is somewhat sweet, but it tastes good. I really like them. I think they are my favorite." Zak Said: "The

Imperial rolls are fresh and nice and crisp, which are prime traits that I look for in a roll of this kind." Ethel Wallace said: These are tasty. And then she closed her eyes, and made little delighted sounds as she bit into another one. Roseanne Harris tasted one and also pronounced it good.

Julian said: "the Egg Flower soup is wonderful. It works for me. I'll be ordering this again. It's rich without being sweet. Its salty too, with lots of flavors, in it. I'm used to stuff like this being much more watery. In other places, they just toss lots of salt in it instead of flavor, and it ends up just being salty water." Zak said: "The egg flower soup is delicate and yummy."

Jackie said: "I love the little wontons in the BBQ Pork Wonton Soup, there are lots of them, and they are nicely wrapped with a delicate touch. I got big slices of pork in my soup rather than thin pink strips.

All agreed that the cold spring roll (#1 shrimp and pork roll) is quite fresh tasting. The first bite reveals mint. Zack said: Typically spring rolls taste of basil, but mint still works well as a flavor here. The spring rolls are served cold and have a soft white outer wrapper through which you can see the shrimp carefully laid out on a bed of leaves. It's a nice effect. This was the most popular item.

Dips: The spring roll came with a dipping sauce. It looks complicated, with carrots and chopped peanuts, and perhaps oyster sauce. It is standard with this dish, and is

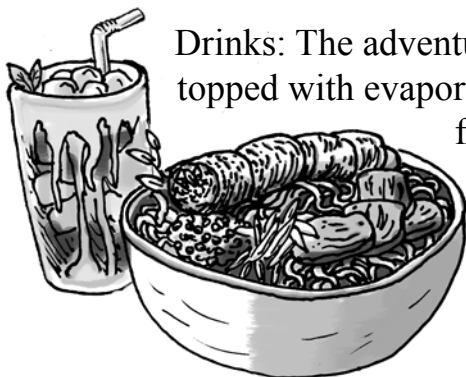
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too sweet for my tastes. The imperial roll dipping sauce is clear, orange and oily with chilies and possibly vinegar. Less sweet than the spring roll dip. These dishes can be enjoyed with or without the dip. Try it both ways and see what you think!

Rose Anne and Ethel had the #59 Grilled Beef and Egg Roll Noodle. This is a traditional Vietnamese delicacy which consists of grilled beef laid over a bed of cold vermicelli noodles, with greens layered on the bottom of the bowl - all liked the flavor and the way the meat was prepared. However, the cold noodles were not popular. Even though cold is traditional they recommend you try this dish with a hot noodle base.

Nicole ordered a similar item – the #67 Grilled Pork Chop over Rice “The pork chop has got a good brown salty flavor. I like the #115 Beef with Bok Choy, it was cooked just right, very pleasant, nice and crispy and bright green like it’s supposed to be. The beef is very thin sliced and salty.” Roseanne said: “I liked the fried rice, and I liked the chow mein. It tastes the way I would expect. There’s nothing wrong with it. I’d eat here again.” Ethel said: “Yes I am coming back.”

Salads: They are very proud of their traditional Vietnamese salads. This is not just an arrangement of leaves! It’s a special blend of chopped peanuts, noodles, cilantro, etc. Our own Jean Carroll tried most of their salads and has pronounced them “fantastic”.



Drinks: The adventurous may want to try the sweet tea poured over a glass of ice and topped with evaporated milk. Take note that the rich orange color of the tea is from food coloring. The tea mix is made of black tea roasted with anise or licorice flavorings. Like most of the homemade drinks here, including the lemonade, it is staggeringly sweet. They also offer a complete selection of canned cold sodas, ranging from Coke to soy drinks.

Who would be willing to donate a few hours to sprucing up a school

garden at a public school? Tasks that need help: replacing planter boxes and garden borders, replace wheel on wheelbarrel, replacing bent ends on hoses, re-enforcing shelving unit in storage shed, etc. If you can only advise, the nice volunteers would gratefully accept instruction, contact comm-267148582@craigslist.org

Purebred German Shepard needs home – owner must relocate – friendly, well-behaved, 8yr female spayed in excellent health. Brandy is great for a family – loves humans - best as sole dog. call Michael 415-584-1885

Thank Tam restaurant was reviewed for the EDIA by Ethel Wallace, Rose Anne Harris, Julian Cash, Zak Greant, Nicole Johnson, Randal Smith, Lito Baria and Jackie Wipf. Jackie is technically the author but feels more like a compiler. If you have a restaurant you’d like to review, please contact:

prezjack@jackiejack.com

LOST DOG, Poodle Mix, White/Tan, 14 lbs, Brown Eyes. Lost 1/1/07 around midnight Location: Lisbon & Geneva. She may have been stolen or being kept away and is dear to our 4 year old daughter who raised her. Please help! 415-652-8198

FOUND CAT: housecat found on SOMERSET ST near SILVER AVE. White cat with grey ears and paw with pink and white flea collar but no tags, found sickly on sidewalk. It is now at the SF Animal Care and Control pound on 15th and Harrison and is very ill! Act fast - it’s a high kill shelter. 415-554-6364



I ♥ my fleet of For Sale signs

Good news from our local Police Captain Chignell:

“Ingleside station has a new program to remove the blight of abandoned cars. Many folks have called in abandoned cars only to find the owners move them one block every three days to thwart the ability to tow them away. Cars with registration expired by six months can be towed immediately without being marked. Many of these cars are abandoned. Please email me with any cars that you see parked on a public street that have a registration of June 2006 or before. We will tow the cars the next day unless the computer tells us they have paid the fees and have forgotten to affix the tab on the license plate or if they have an application in process. Officer Anthony LaRocca and I spotted one on Trumbull this afternoon from February 2006 and towed it away, to the delight of the neighbors. So, please, avail yourselves of this new program to clear the streets of urban vehicular blight.”

Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org Telephone 404-4000

Alemany Housing Development can life get better for residents?

Five city agencies convened to walk through the Alemany Housing Development and tried to find out what would help residents there. If you want info or you want to help out please contact Robert Ortega, he's the Liason for District 9, in which the Housing Project is technically included:

(415) 554-6556 robert.ortega@sfgov.org

Excelsior Clean Team! page 5

Coming March 10 9am

The Community Clean Team visits a different district of the city each month, coordinating volunteers to sweep streets and sidewalks, tend to neighborhood trees and plants, work on gardening projects, and paint out graffiti in parks, schools, and neighborhoods all over the district. This event has lasting effects every time it is performed! Residents, businesses, community groups, and students take ownership of their community and help to maintain and improve it for months afterwards. For location call (415) 552-9201 write info@sfcleancity.com

Anyone remember Scorpio's? Anyone want a bar there again? Care to comment?

We were promised by Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control that there would be no liquor license issued to that location. A license application is up in the window of the former Scorpio's Bar. While the license application says restaurant, our members were explicitly told this will be a bar. An overwhelming number of our constituents want no liquor served at that location on 4370 Mission. The area is saturated with alcohol providers at the present time. **If you choose to lodge a complaint please note that ABC will deny a license in situations when there is evidence that normal operation of the licensed premises will be contrary to public welfare and morals.** For example the premises is too close to a school, church, hospital, playground, nonprofit youth facility or residence and would disturb the facility or resident.

Comments? call Carolina Suson 356-6578 And please be polite. You can also print out a form from their website.

<http://www.abc.ca.gov/FORMS/ABC510.pdf>

Excelsior District Improvement Association



Founded in 1942

Incorporated in 1962

<http://www.excelsiordistrict.org>

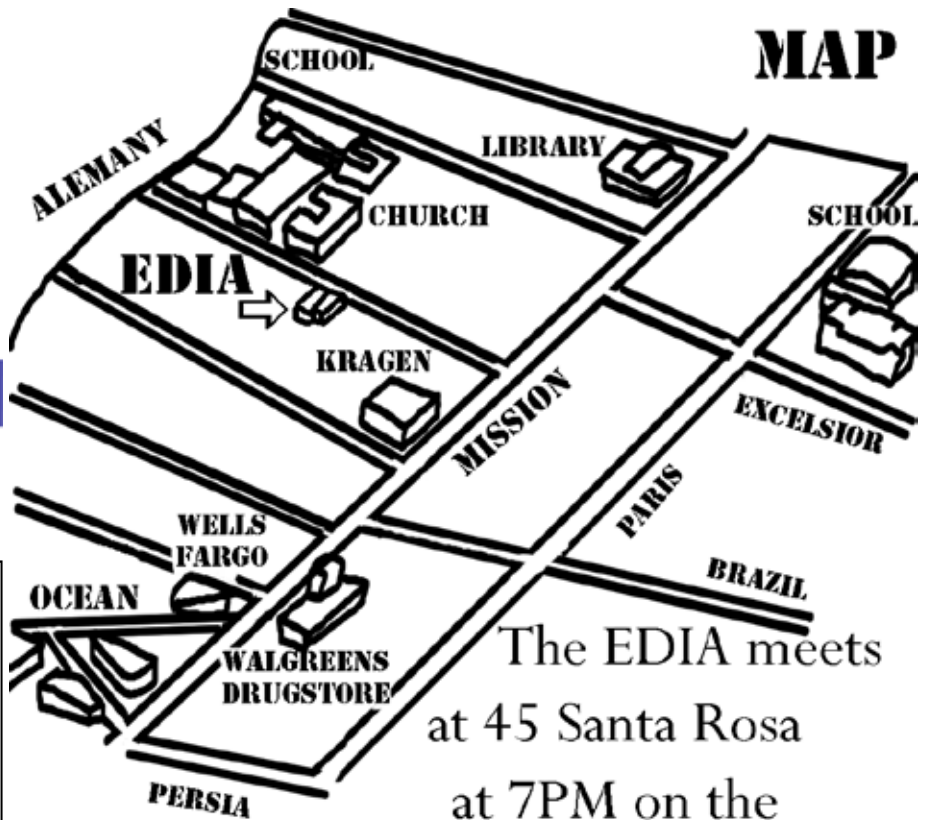
email president at prezjack@jackiejack.com

President	Jackie Wipf
Vice President	Patty DeVlieg
2nd Vice President	Angelique Mahan
Trustee	Jean Carroll
Trustee	Catherine Consiglierie
Trustee	Leo Martinez
Sergeant at Arms	John Consiglierie

P.O. Box 12005

San Francisco CA 94112-0005

MAP



The EDIA meets
at 45 Santa Rosa
at 7PM on the
4th Tuesday of the month

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See you at the next meeting on February 27th 7:00pm at 45 Santa Rosa

