

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



TIME TRAVEL

“There is a little storefront bakery in San Francisco’s Richmond District that will take you back in time when you walk through its front door. If you’ve ever wondered where to buy real Irish scones or real Irish brown bread, there is a place outside of Ireland, next to a bar called The Blarney Stone on Geary Boulevard. It is an Irish bakery started two years ago by a product of Belfast’s legendary apprenticeship system. Master Baker John Campbell holds an Order of The Master Baker from Belfast City and a Guilds Bakery Certificate. What this means to you and me is an honest-to-God trained journeyman Irish baker who specializes in aromatic, flavorful time machines of authentic Irish baked goods that will send you to the stony fields of Eire for as little as \$1 per scone or \$5 for a loaf of brown bread. A modest, well-made scone or slice of

warm brown bread can be a powerful thing. Scoff you may, guffaw you might, but having lived in Ireland for eight years as a teenager, I feel qualified to vouch for just how real and authentic the baked goods are that Mr. Campbell produces locally. The storefront is also authentically Irish, with its style of font and window display. Of special note are the raisin scones, soda and brown breads, sausage rolls with either pork or beef sausage filling, raspberry chocolate bread, Guinness bread, traditional pasties, soups, and rhubarb crumble. Experience the aromas and flavors of food perfected over the centuries, the product of a country that has populated the United States with people, music, and food—great food. John Campbell’s Irish Bakery is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. between 20th and 21st avenues at 5625 Geary Boulevard in San Francisco’s Richmond District. You can call ahead

to 415-387-1536. If you want to try Mr. Campbell’s scones and other baked goods locally in Pacifica, patronize Tranquillitea Tearoom on Francisco Boulevard at Paloma next to El Toro Loco. Tranquillitea has been open for a while now.” (Todd Bray, PacificaRiptide.com)

COASTSIDE CLINIC

“Greetings, Neighbors: I am looking for others who were affected by the closing of the Coastside Family Health Clinic. Mostly I am thinking of those of us who are on Medicare, MediCal, self-pay, or uninsured. On March 27 I went down to file for the release of my medical records, as the recording on the clinic’s phone message requested. There I was told that the files would not be released to individuals, only to a doctor or institution. I don’t know any other doctors. My doctor at the clinic, Lorraine Page, was the only full-time doctor there. Being a lifelong surfer and a career chef, I’m familiar with a lot of emergency rooms far and wide, usually for stitches or minor broken bones, which meant two or three visits, less when I started removing my own stitches and staples. I was a patient of Dr. Page for 18 years, and one of her first. Those folks

in that clinic worked HARD every day, working for free often when needed just to keep the doors open. I don’t know the exact details, but what was printed in the San Francisco Chronicle was not very accurate. If you are in a similar position, or have information to share, please contact me at my email address below. There are folks down there without means to get over the hill to a hospital, many of them Spanish-speaking-only families with no care. Maybe we can help those without voices also. I would just like to know what the facts are. Thanks.” (Jeff Bagshaw, bagscooks@aol.com)

GREEN FLASH

“Well, I’ve always wondered about this so-called green flash phenomenon, and Friday, March 27 I witnessed not just one flash but two. It was a wild sunset. Started out plain as could be with a foggy haze on the horizon. I decided to get my butt off the couch and go for a stroll even though the sunset didn’t appear noteworthy. Was I in for a surprise. The atmosphere squished the sun pancake-like and just below it was a half-circle of a lighter shade of pale. The sun set with no big blaze of color and then right before my eyes it blinked a neon green flash and a second

later blinked again. Holy cow, that was so incredibly cool! Location: West Avalon Drive at Esplanade.” (Joyce Robison)

AMERICAN VIOLET

RSVP to 415-621-2493 to see an exclusive, advance screening of a movie that the District Attorney of Robertson County, Texas doesn’t want you to see. American Violet is a fictional account of real injustice that the ACLU fought and won. And if you can’t make it to this advance screening, make sure to see American Violet in a theater near you May 1. Advance screening is Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m. at Embarcadero Center Cinema, San Francisco. Post-screening discussion is with filmmaker Bill Haney and ACLU attorney Graham Boyd. American Violet is about a working-class African-American woman who gets swept up in a drug bust conducted by an out-of-control narcotics task force. The officers, at the behest of the Robertson County District Attorney, target low-income African-Americans, and the authorities rely on the word of one drug-addicted, mentally ill informant to make their cases. But the heroine prevails. With the help of a team of committed civil-liberties lawyers, she takes on the drug task force, the District Attorney, and the criminal justice system and wins.

REAL EARTH DAY

At San Pedro Valley Park, Earth Day is celebrated on April 11, starting with trail work led by rangers and Joseph Piro at 8 a.m., a bird hike with Judy Spittler at 9 a.m., a nature hike with Jim Mackey at 10:30 a.m., and a barbecue for “Friends of San Pedro Valley Park” members and all regular park volunteers at noon.

SWAMI SEZ

“Foreign aid is a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.” (Douglas Casey)

SITeseer

- Virtual parties: usurprise.com
- Beatles band: plasticionion.com
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- All dogs: woofreport.com
- Healthy food: goodguide.com
- S.F. mural art: precitaeyes.org
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