

## Handy Resources for Home

Report Litter 28-CLEAN  
 Report Graffiti 241-WASH  
 Police Non-Emergency 553-0123  
 Police/Mission Station 558-5400  
 Help A Homeless Person 431-7400  
 (Mobile Assistance Patrol dispatched)  
 Street Cleaning 695-2017 or 695-2020  
 S.F. Supervisor Bevan Dufty's Office  
 Bevan Dufty 554-6968  
 bevan.dufty@sfgov.org  
 Diana Parker, Chief of Staff  
 diana.parker@sfgov.org  
 Hersh Al-Barazi, Deputy Chief 559-6987  
 hersh@sfgov.org

### 2003 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Joe Foster  
**Vice President:** Drew Bertagnolli  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Thomas Kocon  
**Recording Secretary:**  
**Treasurer:** Mike Babbitt  
**At-Large Board Members:** Gerald Abbott, Adam Hagen, Judy Hoyem,  
 Richard McRee, Gustavo Serina, Pauline Shaver and David Weiss

**EVPA** P.O. Box 14137  
**San Francisco, CA 94114-0137**

[www.EVPA.org](http://www.EVPA.org) [www.PinkTrianglePark.org](http://www.PinkTrianglePark.org)

**Next General Membership Meeting:**  
**Thursday March 18, 2004**  
**@ 7:30pm**

## Join EVPA by Sending Us This Completed Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

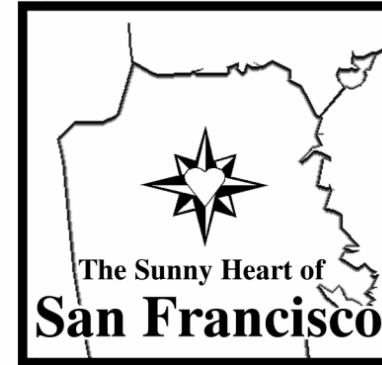
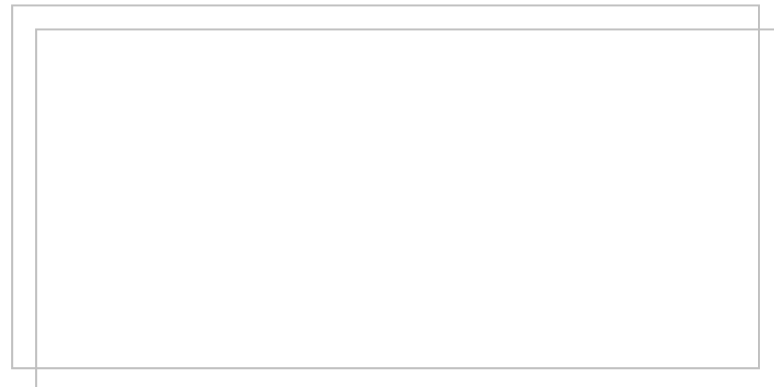
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: San Francisco, CA Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (EVPA does not share your contact information with other groups)  
 My concerns for the neighborhood include \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working on the following issues:  
 City Planning/Zoning  Transportation, Utilities & Neighborhood Commerce  
 Public Health/Safety  Education/Recreation  Membership & Promotion  
 Finance  Internal Affairs  Pink Triangle Park

Renewing membership.  New membership.

**Annual Membership dues are \$15 per calendar year for individuals or \$24 for households, businesses or nonprofits in Castro, Upper Market, and Duboce Triangle (Eureka Valley).** EVPA is a non-profit California corporation. Please return this form with your check payable to EVPA to: **EVPA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114-0137.**



# Eureka!

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*Serving the neighborhood since 1881.*

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## A TALE OF TWO MARRIAGES

BY MIKE BABBITT

It was the best of times, **it is the best of times.** This paraphrase of Dickens' opening line from "A Tale of Two Cities" is an apt description of my marriage to my wife Nila about two and a half years ago, and the marriage of Gustavo Serina and Bob Melbourne on Friday, February 13, 2004.

Because of a courageous decision by Mayor Gavin Newsom, Gustavo and Bob, along with more than 2500 other same-gender couples, were allowed to experience the same respect and dignity afforded Nila and me in our relationship. Gustavo and Bob's 37-year commitment was finally validated by a simple and yet awesome slip of paper called a marriage license.

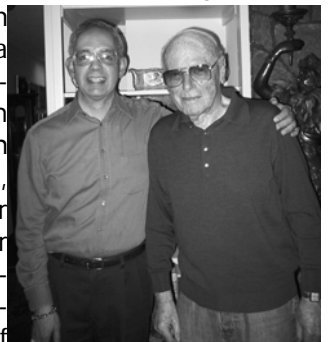


I imagine our story to be fairly typical of many straight couples, and quite boring in comparison to Gustavo and Bob's. Nila and I met in the summer of 1998 while we were getting our hair cut. She was getting ready to see the Rolling Stones in Amsterdam while I was going on a business trip. We arranged to meet after our trips, dated for about a year, moved in together in 1999 and because we're a straight couple and our relationship isn't "controversial", we got married in Fiji on September 1, 2001.

Like most couples, we have faced several challenges, not the least of which had been getting used to living with another person and partnering with them in life. But the occasional personality clash and compromise are what every couple works through on their journey together, irrespective of whether they are of the same or opposite gender. A couple who has committed their love and their lives together is no different than any other couple. It's a continuing path of compromise, respect, discovery and

love, with some rocks along the way, and the longer the path, the easier it becomes. Indeed, if longevity is any measure of the solidity and righteousness of a marriage, then Bob and Gustavo are and have been more married than most straight couples can ever hope to be.

Gustavo Serina and Bob Melbourne were introduced by mutual friends in August of 1966 and were married in City Hall after what Gustavo describes as a "38-year courtship." Bob Melbourne is an honest-to-goodness American Hero, although he does not feel he merits that distinction. He had served his country as a Marine during World War II for three years in the Pacific theatre, and saw combat in Bougainville, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. When they met, Bob was a manager at a Marin construction firm and Gustavo had just moved to SF from Manhattan. They supported each other and made a family together, sharing and reinforcing each other as all couples do, and yet their long-term relationship was not recognized as a marriage until February 13, 2004 when, in the words of Gustavo's sister-in-law, they "eloped."



What specifically is it that makes a marriage between opposite gender couples more worthy of recognition than one between same gender couples? I know that my marriage to Nila has not suffered or been otherwise threatened by Bob and Gustavo's marriage. In fact, as Nila and I see their obvious love and commitment to each other, our marriage is strengthened. Indeed, while divorce rates increase and Britney's marriage to what's-his-name lasts all of a few hours, it's ironic that marriages between people who love each other and are committed to each other are being characterized as threats to the very fabric of society.

Defense of marriage acts and constitutional amendments defining marriage are attempts to legislate some people's idea of morality, as was done by Nazi Germany. In an age where many people cannot get along, we should embrace the statements of love and commitment whenever they occur in an otherwise turbulent world.

## NOTES FROM EVPA PRESIDENT

Over the last couple of months, I have been reporting to you on EVPA's financial prospects and rather anemic cash flow. I am happy to say that in March, we have seen a sizeable increase in dues payments. More of our membership is deciding to renew in 2004, and the result has been an increase in our bank balance as well as a much brighter financial picture.

EVPA's 2004 budget has been reviewed by the board and will be presented for approval at the general membership meeting on March 19. It now appears that the staff of our *Eureka!* newsletter will have the funds they need to bring you the excellent neighborhood updates that you receive each month. EVPA will also be in a position to continue its traditional support of projects such as the Castro Christmas Tree as well as contribute to new initiatives such as a memorial to deceased Eureka Valley police officer, John Cook. Finally, we will be in a position to support volunteers in maintaining our neighborhood open spaces such as the Pink Triangle and Seward Street Parks.

This improved budget picture would not have been possible without the generous gifts that several of our members elected to send along in February and March. I would like to thank the following individuals for providing contributions in excess of their normal annual renewal dues: **David Weiss, Olof C.J. Hansen and John D. Calaway, Christine and Donald Czerkies**

Best Regards, Joe Foster

## EUREKA VALLEY PIONEER

Effie Kuriloff, a long time resident of Eureka Valley and member of EVPA, died on February 26 in her Douglass Street home. She was 72. The Brooklyn-born Effie was a highly regarded early childhood educator and the 2002 recipient of a Life Time Achievement Award from the California Council of Parent Participation in Nursery Schools. She was also the subject of a video documentary, "The Tricycle Solution: Teachable Moments for Parents and Preschoolers."

Like so many who moved to our unique neighborhood from elsewhere, Effie cared a great deal about its quality of life in the broadest sense. She, former husband Bert Shimon Schwarschild, EVPA Board Member Richard McCree, and other neighbors were instrumental in creating the Seward Street Mini-Park and Slide. In July, 2003, at EVPA's 30th anniversary party for that park, Effie received a citation from District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty honoring her work. Mayor Willie Brown proclaimed July 19, 2003 "Effie Kuriloff Day" in recognition of her contributions to the city and to teaching. Effie also played a key role in the planting of trees along Market Street and was active in EVPA affairs for many years. She is survived by her daughters, Nomi and Daria Schwarschild of Oakland and her brother, Aaron Kuriloff of Amagansett, New York.

Effie Kuriloff's passion for and commitment to our neighborhood made her a Eureka Valley Pioneer.



## General Membership Meeting Minutes: Thursday, February 19, 2004

**7:30PM: President Joe Foster called the meeting to order.** Member Gustavo Serina agreed to serve as Recording Secretary. After introductions were made, and upon motion made and seconded, January minutes were approved. Upon motion made and seconded, Thomas Kocon was elected Corresponding Secretary. President reviewed Roberts Rules of Order, which, under EVPA's by-laws, govern the way meetings are held, motions made, seconded, debated, and voted upon. He reminded those present that the General Membership is the organization's decision making body.

The President discussed pedestrian and automobile safety issues in Eureka Valley and showed a video of an automobile accident caused by a car going too fast along 17th Street. It was reported that District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty would be having the first of four Automobile and Pedestrian Safety workshops on Monday, February 23, at 7PM at the Community Meeting Room on Castro and 18th Streets. Steve Ferrario of Supervisor Dufty's office explained how the meetings would work and what participants should expect to discuss.

Steve Ferrario and member Jimmer Cassiol advised membership that Mayor Gavin Newsom will be holding his first Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, February 28, from 11AM to 1PM at James Lick Middle School on Noe Street. Supervisor Dufty and most city department heads will be in attendance to hear about issues of concern to District 8 residents.

### Committee Reports

**Finance:** Joe Foster reported that deposits since the last meeting were a robust \$342, including eight or nine new members and two special donations—one for \$100 and another for \$40 from members. The proposed fiscal year budget will be presented to GM for approval at the March meeting. Assuming Castro Street Fair proceeds are consistent with those of prior years, EVPA will close the year with a healthy cash balance.

**UTNC:** Chair David Weiss discussed Dolores Street lighting. In response to concerns raised by neighbors about the inappropriateness of the proposed Cobra lights, DPW has agreed to review other options prior to final installation. DPW will hold another meeting with neighbors to discuss these options. David reported that member Marc Epstein, an attorney, informed him that EVPA would not qualify as a 501 C (3) organization, but that the Pink Triangle Park & Memorial would and he would look into what that would entail. As a 501 C (3) organization, the PTP&M could accept tax deductible donations without using a fiscal agent. David also mentioned that no action has been taken on demolishing the building on 18th Street between Castro and Hartford that previously housed the Body Shop.

**Planning:** Chair Adam Hagen reported that Planning had met and decided not to take a position on housing density at transit corridors or on Proposition J, Work Force Housing, appearing on the March ballot.

**Education and Recreation:** Chair Pauline Shaver reported that the committee had not met, but is preparing a budget for PTP&M. She also said that EVPA had been approached by a group planning a digital survey of pocket parks in Eureka Valley. This issue and any EVPA involvement will be discussed at the Board Level for recommendation to general membership. Member Mike Babbitt reported that Tor Hansen is once again appealing—to the Board of Permit Appeals—to have the healthy Chinese Elm Tree in front of the 17th Street side of 2500 Market Street. EVPA previously took a

position opposing such action. Upon motion made and seconded, membership voted to send a letter to the Board of Permit Appeals, opposing removal of this tree. Mike, member Judy Hoyem, member Gustavo Serina, plan to attend to protest this action. Mike Babbitt will email members with information as to where to send letters and what suggested wording should be to maximize effectiveness.

**Membership:** As reported earlier, approximately nine new membership checks were received since the January, 2004 meeting.

**Safety:** Chair Mike Babbitt reported that no meeting was held. **New Business:** Member Gustavo Serina discussed a donation from EVPA of \$100 towards a memorial bench in Dolores Park honoring officer Jon Cook, who died in a car crash while attempting to apprehend a dangerous criminal. After brief discussion, it was agreed to defer action on this item until the March General Membership meeting.

**Old Business:** Member Lion Barnett pointed out that the Food Wagons at the Chevron and Arco Service Stations at Castro, 17th Street, and Market Street intersections are gone. David Weiss said that Supervisor Dufty had encouraged the food wagons to go elsewhere.

**8:45PM:** Motion made, seconded, and approved; meeting adjourned.



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