HAIGHT STREET VOICE



YEAR 5 #18

"HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

WINTER 2023-24

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IT'S A WONDER, WINTERLAND. THE HOLIDAY EDITION

Keeping the Dream Alive: Survival. Music. Creativity. Community. Love.

Long-time Haight resident, music and sports photographer extraordinaire, Michael Zagaris, who took this iconic photo of SF's legendary music promoter Bill Graham in front of Winterland on December 31, 1978, takes us down memory lane -- and into the future. **MZ:** This was late morning of the last show ever at Winterland. Even at the time taking the photo, I was in disbelief because Winterland was such a great venue, not only for rock and roll. They used to have the ice capades, which I didn't give a shit about, but I remember as a kid it was a big deal. They had boxing matches. I saw Ali vs. Frazier there in '76. Outside was like being at the fight: limos pulled up, every pimp and player in town was there. In between rounds, hundreds of people, 100-dollar bills flying around, people drinking, doing cocaine, smoking. And when the fight was going on, people were on their feet screaming and yelling. That was Winterland.

Bill had gone from the Fillmore, which needed to be upgraded, to the Fillmore West. Then if you were



Legendary SF music promoter Bill Graham: Last show at his venue, Winterland.

December 31, 1978 [Photo: Michael Zagaris]

a really big band, they'd move you from Fillmore West to Winterland because it seated more people.

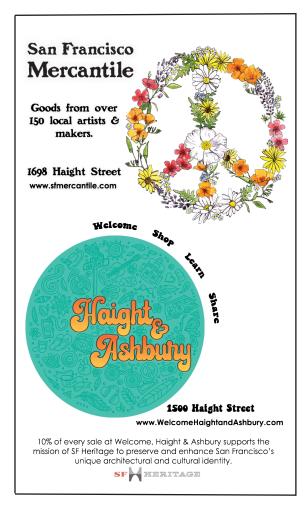
I was hanging out. I'd have a camera to document what I was doing. A tape recorder. I'd have two or three joints in my pocket and I'd hustle my way backstage. You could do that back in those days, hang out with the bands. We'd smoke weed and talk. I'd just turn on the tape recorder. We were all in our 20s, part of the same thing. Even if you were Eric Clapton with Cream, you were a kid! You were like, [English accent]: "Oh, fuck me! This is fuckin' amazing! Can you fuckin' believe this!?" [laughter]

HSV: You were there. What a trip. That'll never happen again. There will be no photographer who gets to see this explosion of rock and roll that happened here in SF like that.

MZ: None of what I did in photography would've been possible without Bill. He really helped me. He let me shoot. He saw me backstage a lot and never hassled me about "where's your credential?" Bill was cool.

(continued on Page 5 ...)





CONTRIBUTORS OF CREATIVITY

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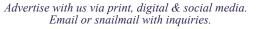
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The Bill Graham mural, unveiled in November. Located at the corner of Post and Fillmore, just blocks from original site of Winterland.

"We are in reality a group of misfits, crazy people, who have come together voluntarily to work this stuff out, and do the best we can and try to be as fair as we possibly can with each other, and just struggle through life." -- Jerry Garcia

I watched Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer the other night, the classic version with Burl Ives narrating, the one I loved as a kid back in the '60s. The Island of Misfit Toys — my kind of place. Maybe that's why I dig living in the Haight so much all these years (almost 40 years with 7 in New York thrown in). The Haight IS The Island of Misfit Toys, and I'm incredibly grateful to call it Home

This Winter edition is dedicated to Bill Graham, the mighty misfit! My first concert was the Sex Pistols at Winterland in 1978 when I was 16 and it changed the trajectory of my life. I'm ever grateful for all the mind-blowing concerts Bill fed us here in the Bay Area all those years. An apple to you, Bill, for sharing the gift of music and community, and reminding us to keep on keepin' on.

Let's keep the dream alive, People!

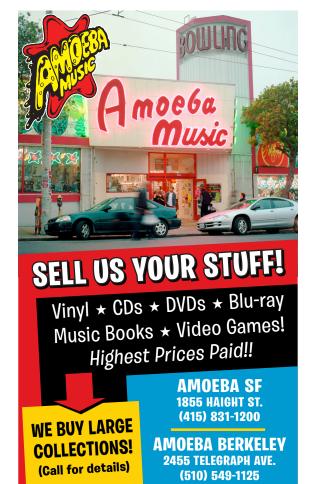


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REMEMBERING BILL: A CHAT WITH DAVID GRAHAM

HSV: You and I met through the whole Blues Traveler a show it was because I've seen a lot of rock & roll shows. / Spin Doctors scene in New York in the late '80s.

DG: I happened to be going to Columbia at the same time that they were all starting out. We were all young misfits on the streets of New York. Blues Traveler. the Spin Doctors, and many of those bands from that scene found success, and it's amazing for bands to find success, period! But before that success was found, they really built their strength in New York.

My dad really liked Blues Traveler I recall we were in Paris, must've been in 1990. They had this well-known cassette and I have this very specific memory of my dad

Traveler. He was really tuned into them.

Grateful Dead thing back in the day. Hanging out,

playing music, and all these bands started popping out

like Jerry Garcia found an avenue to do their thing.

DG: My father would often say he was "born" in 1965

along with the Dead, the Airplane, the Fillmore, all that.

HSV: [pull up photo of Bill in front of Winterland]

DG: That's an epic photograph. It was an amazing

night. I was only 10, and it's just a testament to how cool



A moment with David Graham talking about his father, Bill.

spent a lot of time at Winterland back in the day. That singular event remains the best show I've ever been to. Bill knew SF. He knew where to put a band. He knew what people wanted. He knew the people literally!

I think by catering to the local people and having a connection makes you do some of the things that Bill did, do things that are nice for the fans They were what he'd call a "hit" for the fans. He proudly monopolized the rock and roll

> scene here and did just about every rock concert. Dad gave back. He stood up for his community. He recognized the needs of the community and society in general. To-

listening on a Walkman with two headphones, and we wards the end of his career I think BGP was up to doing 300 were just jamming in his penthouse suite on top of some benefits a year. Dad brought a lot of flavor to a concert: crazy cool building in Paris. We're rocking out to Blues serving breakfast at dawn, giving posters away, having good sound and lights, having a security force that was HSV: That NY jam band scene parallels SF and the 60 percent female because their energy works better in terms of handling people.

A mystical thing happens in public congregation. You of the scene. Your dad was a big part of why folks can connect with people without even talking to them. You're like-minded in some way. You're there because you like the band, you want to be there, and there's a certain amount of positive energy that's gonna happen.

> Follow the QR code to watch the full video of my hang with David!



LOCAL LEGEND: PHOTOGRAPHER MICHAEL ZAGARIS

(con't from cover...)

MZ: In the time I graduated from high school here to when I started law school in September of 1967 in Washington DC, the nation started changing radically. California and SF started changing. It was monumental. It went from the Beach Boys and the beach culture to the Warlocks which I knew nothing about because I was still in DC when they were happening.

I knew by October "This isn't what I thought it was gonna be, but I'll stick it out." I'd worked for over a year with Bobby Kennedy in DC. When he announced his candidacy for president, I stayed in law school but went to work with him here. Ended up at the Ambassador Hotel the night of the election.

We all know what happened. I had to fly back the next morning to SFO from LAX because I had a contract final in law school. When I got off the plane, I'm walking through the terminal, I hear that Bobby has died in surgery. I'm numb. I get to law school, going to class. I remember I sat down, they passed out mimeographed sheets with the questions on it. I sat there for 10 or 12 minutes, and I had in my wallet these little square headshots from baseball cards. I had Watt Merishell, I had Roberto Clementi, I might've had Mays. I took Merishell out, put it on the first bluebook, took a quarter out [mimics rubbing paper], transferred the picture onto my bluebook, put a little balloon

on the mouth and wrote, "This is all bullshit."

Obviously that was the end of law school. My parents freaked. My Dad said, "Now what are you gonna do, big shot?" I said, "I don't know but I'll know when I see it." I was immediately reclassified 1A. And then I dropped acid, not to escape, in search of truth, in search of self, like a sacrament. And it was all of those things. It

was like the veil had been pulled back.

HSV: How do politics relate to music? It seems to be the thing that catapulted you from law school into rock & roll and sports photography.

MZ: It's all the same. Everything is interconnected. Music is politics. And our music, what happened here in the Haight? It was one of the great experiments, although we didn't look at it

that way. We were conduits. What was going on at that particular moment in time was no different than what went on during the Renaissance. A very unique energy was moving through us, whether we were musicians, writers, filmmakers, politicians. I don't think any of us thought about it much because we were living it, we were IN it. We were really fucking living in a magic moment in time. That's all it is. It's moments. We're all spacedust. **HSV:** What's in your coffee, Michael Zagaris?

MZ: [laughs, holds mug up] Would you like some?

Come hang with Zagaris and hear more about his life as a rock n roll and sports photographer in our video interview....







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726 Cole St

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MUSIC CITY SF: KEEPING THE MUSIC SCENE ALIVE

about to

coming

A native San Franciscan, Rudy Colombini was 14 when he experienced the Summer of Love in 1967. Fast-forward 50+ years to his vision: Music City San Francisco. Located on Bush Street near Polk, "MCSF is the future HUB of music in SF. From a music-themed hotel to multiple live music venues, rehearsal studios, bar, restaurant, this building was made for musicians, music lovers,

and everyone in-between." Rudy gave us a personal tour of the joint.

HSV: Last time I saw you it was at the Bill Graham mural unveiling. Thanks to Bill, music is a very inherent part of SF. Where does Music City fit in?

RC: I see Music City as a continuation of all the Bill Graham stuff. We'll have 20 rehearsal spaces, 4 venues that are also rehearsal spaces when they're not venues. So you've got 24 points of interest that are also audio-visually recording, which is a big thing

about this place because this is the largest recording studio in Northern California.

There's this relationship between everything going on in the building – all the rehearsals and all the recordings – and what's happening out front. What's happening out front is this will be the SF Music Hall of Farne. We grab all the energy from the '50s, '60s, '70s, and the '80s, and we combine it in one moment in time in Music City. We're going to have 75 big beautiful exhibits, which are very important. We're cashing in on the equity of SF music. We've got 91

pictorials of some of the greatest artists that have ever come to SF. The tourists will want to come see the Hall of Fame, and it's also exciting because the musicians are here! When you put them both together, you've got something that's not happening any place else in the City. Where else can you have that many bands? And you're not even talking about the bands that we'll have out there playing for them.

What do we have in SF that we've never had before? A musical epicenter! Aha! You think this might make a difference in SF culture? Yes, I think so! [walks into restaurant, bar, still under construction]. Here we are! This is where we sell the real estate: hostel, hotel, student housing, rehearsal, classes, memorabilia, schwag, guitars, distortion boxes, jewelry, all the fun stuff, possibly even tickets to see bands.

HSV: (Pointing to sign on wall: "Miracles") RC: Miracles are important in the world. This place is a miracle, the fact that it came together. And if you want to make a living as a musi-

cian, you're gonna need miracles. So we're gonna set the stage for miracles. The five classes we teach are all about musicians learning to make money.

HSV: What would you like to say to the Haight Ashbury community and communities everywhere?

RC: Support your local venues! Know any oligarchs? I'd have no problem putting this thing into a 501c3.

Stay on the edge, stay to the truth, honor yourself because music IS the edge. If you don't have the edge, there's nothing to say.

Dig! Come on in and check out Music City SF for yourself!



HAIGHT ASHBURY PSYCHEDELIC CENTER

A few words from our dear friend, Dr. David E. Smith, founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in 1967, and currently the Haight Ashbury Psychedelic Center (HAPC). Look to your right. That's Dr. Dave! Dr. Dave: Bill Graham was the patron saint of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic. When I first started the clinic we had no government funding. It was all volunteer. We were seeing about 200 to 300 patients a day. Bill organized benefits because he saw the people that were coming to our clinic for medical help were the same ones that were going to some of his concerts.

We had some of the most incredible benefits at Winterland with the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Carlos Santana. The initial ones were all at the Fillmore but the crowds got bigger and went to Winterland.

There was an increase in adverse drug reactions. Bad trips. As a result of all this, we named one of our buildings the Bill Graham Center for Health and Recovery.

When I started the clinic, I was very involved in psychedelic drug research. Today, the P.E.A.C. [Psychedelic & Entheogen Academic Council] Roundtable is the third psychedelic revolution, which is the use of psychedelics for therapeutic purposes, for PTSD, depression, substance abuse disorders, and we're starting psychedelics and recovery.

HSV: The P.E.A.C. Roundtable with HAPC is on January 5, 2024. Anyone who's reading, please come! Dr. Dave, what would you like to say to the Haight community and to communities everywhere in the world this holiday season?

DD: Recovery works. There are very serious addiction problems that are going on. We have to focus on individuals as human beings. Health care is a right not a privilege, and that's the whole purpose of what we're doing.

HSV: Bill Graham cared about people, and how important community is.

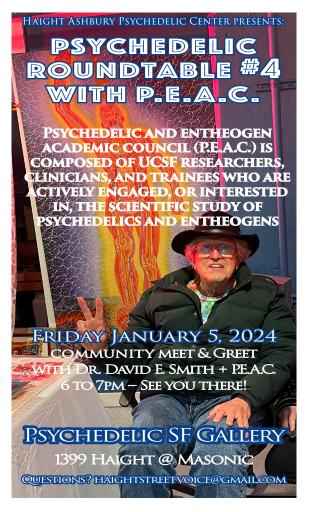
DD: Bill had a rough exterior but a heart of gold. He always rooted for the underdog.

HSV: The P.E.A.C. meeting on January 5 is your effort to heal people. Bill healed people through music and community, and your efforts are about healing through recovery.

DD: Yes. Psychedelics and recovery to overcome trauma and to seek spiritual solutions because recovery is focused on spiritual solutions. Those that benefit from psychedelics at the higher dosages, it's the spiritual experience that transcends their trauma. And much of the evidence at UCSF is that that's the dosage that re-wires the brain. It's fascinating science. **HSV:** How has music influenced your life, Dr. Dave? **DD:** Our clinic was built on rock and roll. In the early days, the psychedelic sound, the Grateful Dead taking LSD and having a different vision of what music is was very influential. I was a laboratory scientist living in the Haight. I observed the impact of psychedelics on music and culture. It was absolutely fascinating.

Follow the QR code to learn more about the Haight Ashbury Psychedelic Center.





We at San Francisco Heritage love every corner of this great city, including its most iconic

-0-

www.haightandashbury.org



Since 1971, San Francisco Heritage has defended, celebrated, and illuminated the city's architectural and cultural inheritance.



BIRD & BEAR: COFFEE & COMMUNITY

Dan Streetman is co-owner of that groovy garage on Cole that sells the scrumptious Bird and Bear Coffee (his twin girls are nicknamed "Little Bird" and "Little Bear"). We stopped by recently to do a little video interview and see what Bird and Bear is all about.

DS: Basically I just started selling my own coffee beans during the pandemic. We used to roast here in the garage but now over in Oakland on a commercial machine. I was a coffee buyer for over 10 years. I focused on buying from different families and farms I visited over the years.

I grew up in Texas and then moved to New York. I started working as a barista in college and then kind of fell into it. Met my wife and came out here to be closer to her parents.

There's a lot of foot traffic on Cole Street, people coming down from the train or coming up from Haight, so we get a lot of visitors.

HSV: What is it about coffee that's kept you enticed all these years?

DS: The people. I got into coffee because of the flavors, but now that I've been traveling all over the world and getting to meet different people, it's been really cool to make friends, like my buddy Panchito [points to bag of coffee named Honduras Panchito Villeda] and watch his kids grow up.

HSV: Wow, Honduras? Exotic!

DS: It is! Getting to travel to Ethiopia and Korea and all these different places for coffee is pretty special.

HSV: And who's this over here?

BIRD # READ

DS: This is Aria, one of our team members.

HSV: What do you like about working here?

Aria: I like the community. I was so surprised when I started working, everyone was familiar with everyone. And when Dan and Carson are down here, they always have people come into the garage and they chat. There's just this really nice community atmosphere.

HSV: I feel like the community is coming back.

DS: Yes! The thing about the pandemic was that people were in their neighborhoods and they felt the need to connect in their local community.

HSV: Right! Like Sandy's, the muffaletta place. They were selling mufalettas out of their garage. Have you been there yet? **DS:** I have! It' SO good!

HSV: Shoutout to Peterson! We love ya'll! I love that place. It's got that good New Orleans vibe. What would you like to say to the Haight community?

DS: Keep it mellow [holds up peace sign]

HSV: [To Aria] Is he never not mellow?

A: He's always mellow! [laughter]

Bird and Bear Coffee at 726 Cole is open Fridays, Saturdays, Mondays, 10 to 6pm, Sundays 10 to 4pm.



TRIX AT TRAX: FAB DRAG SHOWS IN THE HAIGHT!

Fabulous founder of Trix at Trax, Casey Trujillo aka Cassidy LeBlanc gets us hip to the program.

CT: Trix at Trax is a drag show I started in January of 2020. We stopped cuz of the pandemic for over a year but then I brought it right back. Trax Bar has been here for many, many decades.

HSV: I used to go there in the early '80s!

CT: Trax is an institution on Haight Street!

HSV: What brought you to SF? How long have you been here?

CT: 11 years this month. I was on Haight at Masonic for 8 years!

HSV: Next to Pipe Dreams! Shoutout to Pipe Dreams!

CT: I always loved SF from afar. The first time I discovered this city, I was on a choir tour when I was in college in Minnesota.

It was springtime. I remember seeing all the beautiful rolling hills and cream-colored houses and the beautiful water surrounding the land. I absolutely fell in love. I set the intention that I was gonna move here after college, and five days after my last test I did!

HSV: What was the impetus for Trix at Trax? CT: I guess starting with the origin story of me doing drag. I discovered my first queer family in college. A friend of mine, Dave, was starting to get into drag. I was really resistant to it! I was going to school for theater and I thought, "I'm an actor! I don't want to do drag!" [laughs] Dave kept on asking me. Finally I surrendered

to the experience. He put me in a smokey eye and a wig and I saw a side of myself that I'd been longing to see and experience for such a long time, and that's when Cassidy LeBlanc was born.

HSV: Is the vibe different for you when you're in the Haight, the hippie thing, the Grateful Dead, and all that? **CT:** I'm a New Age hippie, so I feel like I fit right in! When I lived on Haight, I was very proud of

that as an artist and drag performer because I felt like I was keeping the vibration of the counterculture movement and all of the beauty that has happened here on this street alive. What we do here is rough around the edges. I like to call it "the Coyote Ugly of Drag". No matter the changes that have happened here on the street, there are people here

who are very much keeping the spirit of Haight Ashbury alive. It's deeply important to me to continue to hold that torch for everybody that came before me here. I'm so proud to do that. I'm so grateful to be part of the Haight-Ashbury community to keep everything live, funky, weird, fantastic, fabulous! One of my missions in life is to uplift people, lighten the load. Celebration is the name of the game. I'll throw a party for the opening of an envelope!

Trix at Trax happens every last Friday of the month. Follow the QR code and see what a blast this drag show really is!







Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by Michael Sollazzo



Hello, Haight-Ashbury!

With several outer-planet retrogrades ending soon, you may start to notice a shift in energies as things progress forward again. If some of your seeds have been germinating, they may be getting ready to sprout.

By the time you're reading this, Neptune will have gone direct for the first time since early July. Neptune is often related to inspiration and spirituality, both personally and across generations. The last time Neptune was around where it is now was ~1860.

If Neptune features prominently in your chart, you may notice the funk you've been experiencing

lately is starting to subside, and it may get a little easier to access your spirituality. Where will your dreams take you?

Around New Year's, Jupiter goes direct after being in retrograde since early September. Jupiter is generally related to expansion and good fortune. Those affected most by Jupiter may start to feel a sense of growth or unfolding after a period of withdrawal... perhaps both psychologically and fiscally. How you share this bounty may be part of your practice.

Finally in late January, the Uranus retrograde that began late August will come to its completion. Uranus is the planet most associated with revolutions and sudden change. The last time it was around where it is now was ~1940. Resisting change doesn't often work, so what can you do to prepare yourself for

the shifts ahead, both in your life and in the world at large? How do you show up for yourself and your community when things get wonky?

With all these cycles overlapping, if the pace gets intense, remember it's okay to take care of yourself and to ask for help. We're all going through these times together.

so you are never truly alone. Also, it's important to remember that astrology is a type of "weather" forecast... not everyone is affected similarly, and a little preparation can go a long way.

I hope you enjoy the holiday season!

If you would like to schedule an astrology reading or spiritual counseling, please email me at hello@michaelsollazzo.com or visit www.michaelsollazzo.com





SPORTS DESK

by

Cynthia Johnston

ARHOOLIE AT AMOEBA: DOWN HOME MUSIC "Lightnin' was the flashpoint that started it off," said Joel Selvin about the day Arhoolie Records founder Chris Strachwitz saw Lightnin' Hopkins

for the first time. It wasn't a deal with the devil down at the crossroads, but it did inspire a 60-year mission to record and preserve American vernacular, aka roots, music for all time. Indeed, Stratchwitz (1931-2023) is a foremost American musicologist. In 1976, he founded Down Home Music in El Cerrito, a retail outlet for roots music

from various labels around the world. His final project features over 150 photos taken over 60 years.

On Sunday, November 19 at Amoeba Music on Haight Street, renowned music journalist Joel Selvin discussed the book he co-authored, titled *Arhoolie Records Down Home Music: The Stories and Photographs of Chris Strachwitz* (Chronicle Books.) Music afficionados lined up to have co-author Selvin sign the sumptuous 240-page book, while Juan Antonio Cuellar serenaded the assembled faithful with a live DJ set. Cuellar spent 22 years digitizing vintage vinyl: Blues, gospel, Cajun, zydeco, hillbilly, Texas-Mexican norteño and more, all lovingly recorded by Chris Strachwitz.



In 1990 Amoeba Music set up shop on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, and opened its SF location on Haight in 1997. Adding to the unique neighborhood's history of music and free

expression, AmoebaSF specializes in "the experimental frontiers of rock, hip-hop, electronica and jazz, underground indie, garage, emo and art-punk bands, cutting-edge hip-hop and turntablism ... a world-class selection of Japanese rock & pop, the best roots reggae selection on the West coast, and deep experimental libraries

In other words, THE store for the dedicated music fan!" One of the City's great places to see live music – on a stage decorated like a psychedelic Victorian living room – Amoeba SF is also a meeting place where musicians, DJs, collectors and artists of all kinds can get together and keep the musical spirit of SF rolling. Amoeba is "devoted to bettering our community through collective action and of course, musical and artistic experimentation of every kind. Through spreading good music and great energy, we want to change the world!"

Check out Cynthia's badass website: www.mywayisthehighway.com.





