



## Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

### SHOPPING UPGRADE

Shopping for groceries can be one of the more mundane aspects of existence, so why not enjoy the experience—celebrate the pleasures of good food and good eating. That’s why I shop at grocery stores like Oceana in Eureka Square, Pacifica Farmer’s Market in Manor, Sun Valley Market in Park Mall, and Coastside Farmer’s Market in Rockaway (in season). I did try Fresh & Easy a couple of times when it first opened but didn’t like its nonunion hiring policy, and frankly it didn’t offer anything special except low prices. So when I heard Fresh & Easy was being sold, I wasn’t too surprised or unhappy. Check out the online chatter about the fate of Fresh & Easy. Will Walmart, Whole Foods, or Trader Joe’s move in? I honestly don’t care, because I am sticking with my hometown favorites. They offer much of the variety and fun of a Trader Joe’s, plus friendly local service (and tax revenue for our city). So if you want to save some time and gas, don’t drive over the hill and don’t mourn Fresh & Easy, just try Oceana, Farmer’s, and Sun Valley, and make your grocery shopping fun again. SHOP LOCALLY!

### ANCIENT PERSIAN FRUIT

Imagine my surprise when I went into Oceana Market for groceries and found a few round, red pomegranates in a straw basket. The produce guy said some

enterprising farmer had stored the unique winter fruits and just now released them to the store. So I bought a bagful, plus a green plastic Cleverco deseeder (seedout.com), available for \$3.99 at Oceana. The device works perfectly and the little jewels of pomegranate are crisp, juicy, and sweet. Bravo, Oceana! But hurry on in, because I plan to buy as many of the pomegranates as I can fit in my Radio Flyer. The produce guy says he will get more pomegranates soon.

### SURF SPOT GETS NATIONAL INK

Congrats to Surf Spot for the nice write-up in the Wall Street Journal (April 25). WSJ’s Sharon Massey wrote: “Built into a mountainside along the ocean in Pacifica, Surf Spot keeps patrons coming back for its ahi tuna poke and pizza—along with a round of beach volleyball.” I got a big kick out of her description of Rockaway Headland as a mountain, but I guess it looks like one to a New York writer.

### WORST JOB IN THE WORLD?

A recent CareerCast.com survey of 200 occupations reveals that newspaper reporters are considered the bottom of the barrel in pay, working conditions, future prospects, job security, prestige, etc. No surprise. Newshounds may not get rich or famous, but they still love the journalism profession. I know; I speak from personal experience. None of us ink-stained wretches do it for the money, that’s for sure. Working in this field since the days of typewriters and carbon paper, I have discovered that other kinds of job satisfaction can be worth more than any amount of money.

### FROM MY MAILBOX

“Just read about your Forester Blues. We got a 2011 Forester and love it, but we had to add oil in between oil changes since the first time. We bought the full

maintenance, so we just go to the dealer and they add it. They have no explanation but that they burn oil, which I find simply not right. We are considering selling it and buying a used one because if it is already burning so much oil now, in a few years it could get much worse. I always liked the old models anyway, more station wagon than SUV.” (Angela M. Eslava)

### REAL TIME

Scott McKellar says, “I used to tell acquaintances that many of the people I chauffeured in Rolls-Royces would regularly appear on the cover of People magazine. Now I’m spotting them on the cover of AARP magazine.” (Scott is also spotting eagles flying over Crystal Springs Reservoir.)

### CURTAINS FOR GREEN ENCHILADA?

Green Enchilada is for sale on Craigslist, but I hear it has been for sale for some time now. Several other Pacifica businesses have closed: Rock-n-Fit, Masala, Boston Bill’s, Barolo, Acapulco, JAC Asian Cuisine. And what’s up with Lovey’s Tea Shop? I learned that it has been on spring break for the entire month of April.

### SWAMI SEZ

“Society is like a lawn, where every roughness is smoothed, every bramble eradicated, and where the eye is delighted by the smiling verdure of a velvet surface; he, however, who would study nature in its wildness and variety, must plunge into the forest, must explore the glen, must stem the torrent, and dare the precipice.” (Washington Irving)

### WASTING AWAY IN MAYBURRITOVILLE

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