



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

FRESH & EASY OPENS HERE MARCH 9

Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market has announced opening dates for several of its first stores in Northern California in March. These store openings will create more than 275 jobs throughout Northern California. Fresh & Easy is accepting applications for positions on its website at freshandeasy.com. Opening dates include Pacifica (Pedro Point Shopping Center) on March 9. Entry-level positions start at \$10 an hour in California and offer quarterly bonuses of up to 10 percent as well as a 401(k) with company match. The company believes everyone deserves access to affordable and comprehensive health care and provides all employees the opportunity to work at least 20 hours per week, which entitles everyone to vision, prescription drug, dental and medical coverage, with Fresh & Easy paying at least 75 percent. For each new store opening, Fresh & Easy invites neighbors to nominate a local, nonprofit organization to receive a \$1,000 donation. Based on nominations from the neighborhood, store employees will select the winning charity. Charity nominations are accepted at freshandeasy.com/goodneighbor.

Neighbors and customers are invited to join Friends of Fresh & Easy at freshandeasy.com/friends. By joining, customers will have access to exclusive offers, the latest news on their favorite products, and a free canvas bag.

FIRE THE COPYEDITOR

“How one program curtails the sex abuse that skyrocketed after Haiti earthquake...Melanie Megevand brings women and their husbands together to talk openly about sexual abuse, which helps to relieve tensions at home.” (from the Christian Science Monitor, posted on Bay Area Editors’ Forum)

UNCLE SAMTRANS WANTS YOUR OPINION

SamTrans is conducting an online survey to determine the best way to deliver information to customers and to understand their reasons for riding the countywide bus system. Through January 28, customers can take the brief survey by visiting the transit agency’s website at samtrans.com and clicking the survey link on the main page. Participants will be entered in a drawing to win one of two SamTrans monthly passes

by filling in the optional information at the end of the survey; only one chance per customer. Nearly 45,000 people ride SamTrans on an average weekday. If you are one of those people, SamTrans wants to hear from you.

BAY NATURE TURNS 10

The Bay Area is home to 7.5 million people, who own 5.7 million personal computers, and newspapers and magazines are folding like the paper they’re printed on. One notable exception is Berkeley-based Bay Nature magazine, which marks its 10th Anniversary January 22 with a fundraising gala at Oakland’s Lakeside Theater in the Kaiser Center, featuring local food, wine, and presentations by local writers, artists, and musicians. Bay Nature was conceived 14 years ago as a collaboration between Heyday Books publisher Malcolm Margolin and Loeb, who is executive director of Bay Nature Institute, the nonprofit that publishes the magazine. With recent environmental disasters such as the Gulf oil spill and the toxic sludge spill in Hungary, Loeb stresses that it’s vital for people to connect with nature right where they live. Loeb attributes Bay Nature’s ongoing health to the tremendous community support it has received over the years from readers, writers, photographers, conservation groups, green businesses, and more. The lineup at Bay Nature’s 10th Anniversary Gala on January 22 will be emceed by Doug McConnell and features a host of local talent, including music by Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum, presentations by Heyday Books publisher Malcolm Margolin, a drawing lesson by John Muir Laws, and an awards ceremony

for conservationists Harold Gilliam, Doris Sloan, and Dr. Marty Griffin. In addition, Nancy Skinner is slated to present Bay Nature with a state Assembly resolution that recognizes the magazine’s 10 years in publication. For more information about the 10th Anniversary activities, visit baynature.org/gala.

GUBERNATORIAL POST-MORTEM

This is the much-anticipated postmortem conference, January 21-22. Come join fellow political junkies and find out from the campaign pros, pollsters, and journalists what really went on during the 2010 race. Check out the entire conference schedule and register now at igs.berkeley.edu (space is limited). Hotel Shattuck Plaza, 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley.

TALL SHIPS ARRIVE IN SF BAY

The brig Lady Washington and the topsail ketch Hawaiian Chieftain bring one-of-a-kind living history experiences to Redwood City for two weeks starting January 21. The official ship of the state of Washington and her companion ship are scheduled to tie up at the Port of Redwood City near the intersection of Seaport Court and Seaport Boulevard. The ships will host school groups from surrounding communities and offer three-hour sailing excursions for the general public. The ships are taking reservations for one-hour and three-hour living history education programs during the school week. Students learn hands-on how 18th-century mariners explored the west coast of North America. For more information, contact Roxie

Underwood, education programs manager, 800-200-5239, ext. 201, education@historicalseaport.org

ETHNIC MUSIC AND DANCE

First: Kitka and Milla Milojkovic with the Chicago Tamburasi, Friday, January 28 at 8 p.m. This is the culminating event of the Culture at the Crossroads concert series. Second: San Francisco Tamburitza Festival, Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20, all day. For the past decade, the Croatian American Cultural Center has annually showcased the best tamburitza music in California and presented nationally renowned orchestras. The festival is highlighted by two rare West Coast performances by Šarena, the all-women tambura group from Cleveland. Third: Children’s Celebration of Ethnic Dance, Sunday, March 6 at 12 noon. (Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Avenue at Alemany, San Francisco; visit croatianamericanweb.org or call 510-649-0941)

SITeseer

■ Eyes on the beach: surflife.com

SWAMI SEZ

“My great-grandfather did not travel across 4,000 miles of the Atlantic Ocean to see this country overrun by immigrants.” (Steven Colbert, testifying on September 2010 before the House subcommittee on immigration)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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