



# Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

## THE COVE ON CASTRO

*Application No.:* LBR-2015-16-026  
*Business Name:* The Cove on Castro  
*Business Address:* 434 Castro Street  
*District:* District 8  
*Applicant:* Solange Darwish, President  
*Nomination Date:* April 6, 2016  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Scott Wiener  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Cove on Castro is a home-style diner serving traditional American fare since 1971. The family-owned business is located on Castro Street between Market and 18th streets. After immigrating to the United States from France via Egypt, the Darwish family took over the storefront at 434 Castro Street that had previously housed The Norse Cove, a Norwegian deli. The Darwish family kept the Scandinavian deli theme but eventually introduced table service to the restaurant in 1988. The diner has since become a community institution known for their homemade soups, fresh bread, kindness, and compassion. As the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood shifted in the 1970s, the business began catering to the area's growing LGBTQ community. The Cove on Castro soon became a welcoming meeting spot for queer activists and residents, including Harvey Milk, Randy Shilts, Cleve Jones, Phyllis Martin and Del Lyon. During the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, the Cove on Castro provided support for victims by holding fundraisers on behalf of Project Open Hand, participating in Dining Out for Life to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and serving as a judge for the Bare Chest Calendar and Competition held at The Eagle. The Cove on Castro made perhaps its biggest impact by its display of care and compassion to many of its customers who had become ill with HIV/AIDS. Owner and food server Solange Darwish was known to send home large containers of soup with sick customers, had care packages of food delivered to the ailing, and added cushions to make the restaurant's wooden benches more comfortable for those in pain. Over the years, The Cove on Castro collected photographs that represent the people and the culture of the neighborhood, placing them on display for patrons to see. The photos originally decorated the interior walls of the restaurant, but have since been digitally scanned and transformed into a slideshow named "All Gay All the Time," which plays on three television screens within the restaurant. Original photographs were donated to the GLBT Historical Society. Since 1971, the family business has nourished the Castro community with old fashioned American food, compassion, and Gay pride.

**CRITERION 1: Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?**



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

Yes, the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

434 Castro Street from 1971-Present (45 years).

**CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?**

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Castro neighborhood's history and identity.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- The Cove on Castro is associated with the tradition of serving traditional American diner fare with kindness and compassion.
- The Cove on Castro has contributed to the Castro community's history and identity by serving as a neighborhood gathering spot and offering home-style meals in a welcoming and compassionate environment, particularly for its largely LGBTQ customer base.
- The property, considered a "Category A" building, has been previously evaluated for its architectural significance and was found to be a potential contributor to the California Register-eligible Castro Street Historic District. Further evaluation is necessary to determine if the business or property is associated with significant events or persons.
- The business is recommended as a destination in Betty & Pansy's "severe queer review" of San Francisco published in 1993, which is a guide to bars, clubs, restaurants, cruising areas, performing arts and other queer attractions.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
  - Castro Times, February 1981, "Home Cooking at the Norse Cove," by Gus Tremont.
  - Castro Courier, August 2014, "Dining In at The Cove on Castro," by Bill Sywak.
  - OurTownSF.org, 1/26/2006, "Café captures Castro's past," by Roger Brigham.

**CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?**

Yes, The Cove on Castro is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy as a neighborhood-serving restaurant and source of compassion and community pride.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that The Cove on Castro qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Traditional American fare and wide selection of soups.
- Storefront system (recessed entryway with two bay windows and blue tile).
- Photo display/digital slideshow.



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681  
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include The Cove on Castro currently located at 434 Castro Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager  
Legacy Business Program



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## Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

### THE COVE ON CASTRO

#### LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Application No.:</i>	LBR-2015-16-026
<i>Business Name:</i>	The Cove on Castro
<i>Business Address:</i>	434 Castro Street
<i>District:</i>	District 8
<i>Applicant:</i>	Solange Darwish, President
<i>Nomination Date:</i>	April 6, 2016
<i>Nominated By:</i>	Supervisor Scott Wiener
<i>Staff Contact:</i>	Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

#### **ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR THE COVE ON CASTRO, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 434 CASTRO STREET.**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on December 12, 2016, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission hereby includes The Cove on Castro in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at The Cove on Castro:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Traditional American fare and wide selection of soups.
- Storefront system (recessed entryway with two bay windows and blue tile).
- Photo display/digital slideshow.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 12, 2016.

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Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
Director

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes –  
Nays –  
Abstained –  
Absent –



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## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2015-16-026  
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*District:* District 8  
*Applicant:* Solange Darwish, President  
*Nomination Date:* April 6, 2016  
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**CRITERION 1:** Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?       X       Yes                      No

434 Castro Street from 1971-Present (45 years).

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?       X       Yes                      No

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?       X       Yes                      No

**NOTES:** NA

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** October 17, 2016

Richard Kurylo  
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

**SCOTT WIENER**  
**威善高**

April 6, 2016

Re: Nomination of The Cove on Castro to the Legacy Business Registry

Dear Director Regina Dick Endrizzi:

I'm writing to nominate The Cove on Castro for the Legacy Business Registry. The Cove on Castro has been warming hearts and stomachs for two generations, and has become a cultural landmark for regulars in the neighborhood. Always friendly and caring, many locals have been depending on this establishment for years and have one or more of their meals here every day.

The Cove on Castro is a local treasure, and would benefit greatly from being a part of San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Wiener".

Scott Wiener  
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

## Section One:

Business/ Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
The Cove Inc. dba The Cove on Castro		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Solange Darwish, Maurice Darwish		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:	
434 Castro St SF CA 94114	(415) 626-0462	
	EMAIL:	
	coveoncastro@gmail.com	
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
covesf.com	The Cove on Castro Cafe	The Cove on Castro Cafe
APPLICANT'S NAME		
Solange Darwish		Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE		
President		
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:	
434 Castro St San Francisco, CA 94114	(510) 387-2108	
	EMAIL:	
	coveoncastro@gmail.com	
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:		SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0952180		1967596

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:



## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
434 Castro Street	94114	June 1971
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	06/1971 to Present	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

## Section Three:

### Disclosure Statement.

#### San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for the Business Assistance Grant.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- ☒ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☒ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☒ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☒ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☒ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☒ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☒ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Solange Darwish

10.4.16

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

FY 2015-16

**BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**


RENEW BY DATE  
05-31-2016

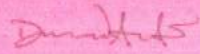
EXPIRATION DATE  
06-30-2016

BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER <b>0952180</b>	LOCATION ID <b>0952180-01-001</b>
TRADE NAME (DBA) <b>COVE CAFE</b>	BUSINESS LOCATION <b>434 CASTRO ST</b>
OWNERSHIP <b>COVE INC THE</b>	TAXPAYER SIGNATURE

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR**

COVE INC THE  
434 CASTRO ST  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94114-2020

  
**José Cisneros**  
Treasurer

  
**David Augustine**  
Tax Collector

POST CLEARLY VISIBLE AT THIS BUSINESS LOCATION

Read reverse side. To update addresses or to close a business, go to [www.sftreasurer.org/accountupdate](http://www.sftreasurer.org/accountupdate).



## **The Cove on Castro Historical Narrative**

### **CRITERION 1**

***a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquarterd location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.***

Since its inception in June of 1971, the Darwish Family has owned and operated this neighborhood diner and has been through all the changes that affected the area. The original three owners/operators were Leon and Germaine Darwish (my parents) and David Darwish (my brother).

The original name of the establishment was "The Norse Cove" which was the name of the deli that my Parents acquired from a Norwegian Family composed of a mother, (Astrid Karlsen) and her two daughters. As recent emigrants to the United States, my parents were fearful to implement any changes to the business and that included keeping the name as is, even though we were the furthest thing from Scandinavian descent. The business was originally conceived as a "Scandinavian Deli" showcasing all types of deli meats and salads (see photos). The hanging menu board behind the deli counter showed the price for a sandwich to be \$1.25 and a salad for \$0.35. It featured a central community table for singles to eat communally. The customers would come to the deli case and order their sandwich and salad and they would help themselves to the drinks from the cooler behind. A food runner would bring the food to them. The business operated on the "honor system" whereby the customers were not issued any checks but rather would go to the cashier and tell what they drank and ate so they could be rung up and pay the bill.

Soon the neighborhood changed dramatically with the influx of a large gay population from throughout the United States and the world. The spot became known as "The Cove" for short. The business continued for about 14 years under that ownership until my father became sick and my mother wanted to retire and stay with him. My mother sold her share of the business to one of the long-term employees in March of 1985, Mordechai Lichtenstein, who became partners with my brother, David Darwish. The name of the business remained "The Norse Cove." My father, Leon, passed away in October of 1985.

When David Darwish wanted to move on and open another business venture, he sold his share of the business to us, Solange and Maurice Darwish. This new partnership started in March of 1988 whereupon the name of the business was slightly changed to "The Cove Café." At this juncture, the business changed to a table service format which has not changed to this day.

The partnership applied for Subchapter (S) status and was incorporated on May 1st 1996 as The Cove Inc. dba The Cove Café with both Solange Darwish and Mordechai Lichtenstein as shareholders. This new entity remained in place until March of 2004 when Mordechai Lichtenstein wanted to retire from the business and Solange and Maurice Darwish acquired 100% of the shares. The name of the business was changed one more time to "The Cove on Castro" which it has remained since that time.

***b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?***

Not applicable.



***c. Is the business a family owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.***

The Darwish Family has owned and operated this neighborhood diner since June 1971. The original three owners/operators were Leon and Germaine Darwish and David Darwish, and the present owners are Solange and Maurice Darwish.

***d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family owned business.***

The Cove on Castro is a family-owned business.

***e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.***

Photographs and news articles document that the business has been in operation for more than 30 years.

***f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.***

We do not know if the property at 434 Castro is listed in any local, state or federal historic resources registry.

The business is located directly across The Castro Theatre, a popular San Francisco Palace which became San Francisco Historic Landmark #100 in September 1976. Located at 429 Castro Street in the Castro District, it was built in 1922 with a Spanish Colonial Baroque façade. Its designer, Timothy L. Pflueger, also designed Oakland's Paramount Theater and other movie theaters in California in that period. The theater has over 1,400 seats (approx 800 downstairs and 600 in the balcony). When giving directions to people, we use the "located directly across the Castro Theater" sentence.

## **CRITERION 2**

***a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.***

The business is located in the heart of the "gay mecca" of San Francisco, steps away from the Harvey Milk Plaza where the Gay Flag flaps proudly in the wind and across the Historic Castro Theater. The Cove catered to the largely gay customer base living in the immediate neighborhood and was a meeting ground for gay activists in the seventies and eighties.

***b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the City, or the business industry?***

Many of the gay activists such as Harvey Milk, Randy Shilts, Cleve Jones, Phyllis Martin and Del Lyon frequented The Cove during the seventies and eighties.

***c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, historical documents?***

The Norse Cove is mentioned in Chapter 25, page 171 of Lou Kief's book "Let no stranger wait outside your door," published May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is a fascinating tale about the history of San Francisco from the 1849 gold rush through the murders of mayor, George Moscone and the city's first openly gay politician, Harvey Milk, to the devastation caused by AIDS.

In Betty & Pansy's "severe queer review" of San Francisco published in 1993 – an irreverent, opinionated guide to the bars, clubs, restaurants, cruising areas, performing arts and other attractions of the queer mecca – The Cove Café and its staff is listed as one of the places to go to when in the Castro (page 126).

***d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?***

Harvey Milk used to be a patron of The Cove Café back in the mid seventies. His camera store (San Francisco Landmark #227) was located down the street at 573-575 Castro Street. Another less frequent diner is Armistead Maupin, the author of Tales of The City series of novels which were made into a TV series in 1993. Over the years, actors, playwrights and musicians such as Paul Rudnick, Stanley Kamel, Robin Williams and Santana have enjoyed the fare at The Cove.

Cleve Jones is a frequent diner. He conceived the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt which has become, at 54 tons, the world's largest piece of community folk art as of 2009. Cleve wrote a letter of support to The Cove.

***e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?***

During the late eighties and early nineties The Cove and its staff held three fund raisers on behalf of Project Open Hand headed by Joe Caruso at the time. The Cove has consistently joined the Dining Out For Life effort which supports the SF AIDS Foundation. Solange supported the Bare Chest Calendar and was a Judge in the competition held at The Eagle. In addition The Cove is part of the "Every Penny Counts" and has raised in excess of \$13,500 to date.

***f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.***

The community surrounding The Cove has remained mainly LGBTQ since the early seventies. Over the years, a small influx of straight residents have moved into the neighborhood. Today, one can see families with young children walking through the neighborhood on the weekends.

***g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/ object/or interior?***

The business is located in a Victorian built in 1909 that, according to the records, was a residential building with 35 rooms, 11 units with 11 bathrooms. At some point in the 1940s or 50s, the ground floor was changed to a commercial space where the Café is currently located.

***h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?***

The building housing The Cove has been with The Gordon Family since the early thirties. We are not aware of any immediate threat to the displacement of The Cove or the sale of the property. The Cove has historically been a meeting place for the gay community at large where one can get a good meal at a reasonable price. In the early years, many single gay men felt safe, welcome and at home when visiting The Cove. The central community table allowed for complete strangers to strike up conversations easily. The wait staff has remained loyal to The Cove, the neighborhood and its residents. Of the six waiters on the staff, one has been here for over 30 years, another over 25 years and two more over 20 years. Long lasting bonds have

been established between the staff and the clientele. Closing or moving the business would be a hard blow to all the long time residents as attested by the letters of support.

### **CRITERION 3**

#### ***a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.***

The Cove's interior walls were covered with 8 x 10 photographs featuring a cross section of its extensive clientele. It reached the point where we ran out of space and we decided to scan all the photos and play them on three newly installed TV monitors. Many of these photos date back to the seventies and eighties. In addition to old photographs, the monitors feature videos of old San Francisco as well as entertaining clips on a variety of topics.

The Cove has become the kitchen away from home for many of its patrons. The food is home-cooked American style cuisine that continues to this day (meatloaf, roasted turkey, chicken fried steak, etc.). One can enjoy a selection of four daily soups all cooked from scratch by the talented kitchen where the main chef has been with us for over 30 years. Many of our guests eat two meals a day and we have patrons that continually remind us of when they were coming in the early seventies.

#### ***b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)***

The business has been defined by the traditional American fare dating back to the fifties. The Cove is known for its Eggs Benedict and its incomparable Hollandaise. On weekends there are always four styles of Benedicts to choose from: San Francisco (smoked trout), New York (smoked salmon), Mexican (chorizo, salsa & avocado), Irish (house made corned beef hash.)

Traditional meatloaf with mashed potato and gravy, Chicken fried steak, beef liver and onions are items that are seldom found on menus and yet The Cove clientele continues to crave them. The Cove is also known for its vast selection of home soups, always made from fresh ingredients from scratch, starting with the chicken soup, the vegan bean soups, clam chowder, chickpea, mushroom, spinach, broccoli, albondigas, carrot ginger and many more.

#### ***c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.) Does the building occupied by the business relate to the immediate neighborhood?***


The business is housed in a Victorian built around 1909 and that was recently repainted to its original colors. The immediate neighborhood is full of Victorians artfully restored to their original splendor. The entrance to The Cove has the classic look of a recessed center door with two bay windows which have the most coveted tables in the café for people watching. The tiled walkway to the entrance dates back to 1909.

#### ***d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.***

Not applicable.

## Section Five: Historical Documents, Photos and Memorabilia

Please find attached, photographs from the 1970s and 1980s showing my parents and brother in action in the deli. The dining room features dark wood paneling on the walls which I believe was the style in the late sixties. My sister, Daniele, also had a helping hand in the operation during her summer vacations. Find also a menu for "The Cove Café" from 1988. Also attached is an article by Gus Tremont from the Castro Times of February 1981 with an article titled "Home cooking at The Norse Cove." Also a copy of an old business telephone reference book showing the listing for NORSE COVE delicatessen, the name Astrid Karlsen and the address 434 Castro Street. A more recent article by Bill Sywak in the Castro Courier of August 2014 titled "Dining at The Cove on Castro" reviews the history of The Cove and its roots in the neighborhood. An article in The Bay Area Reporter of January 26, 2006 by Roger Brigham details the history of the photo collection that were covering the walls at The Cove and their subsequent scanning by long time patrons, Bill Sanderson and Andy Wysocki. The scanned images are playing on the three TV monitors hanging on the walls. Currently long time friends and patrons Kevin MacLaughlin and Kevin Cox are maintaining the constantly changing videos and slide shows on the three monitors. Finally we have attached numerous letters of support from our vast community of customers in support of our application.

  
Solange Darwish  
Maurice darwish

October 5, 2016













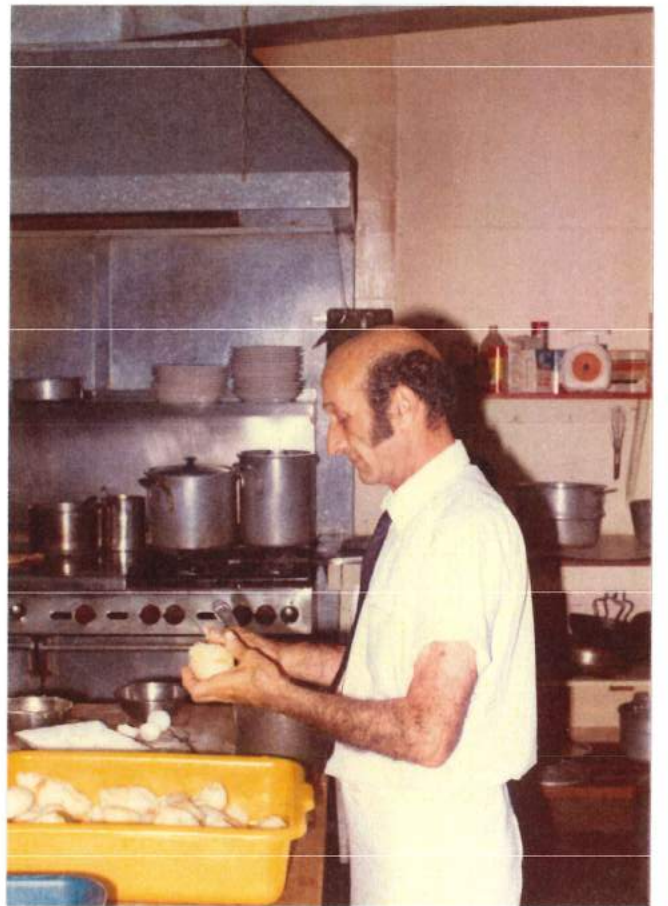
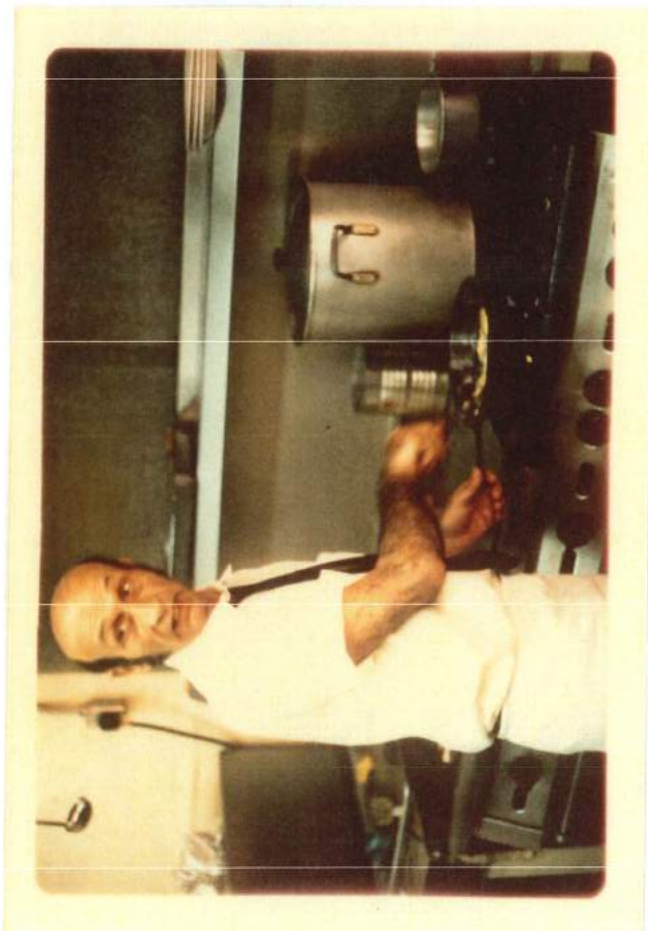
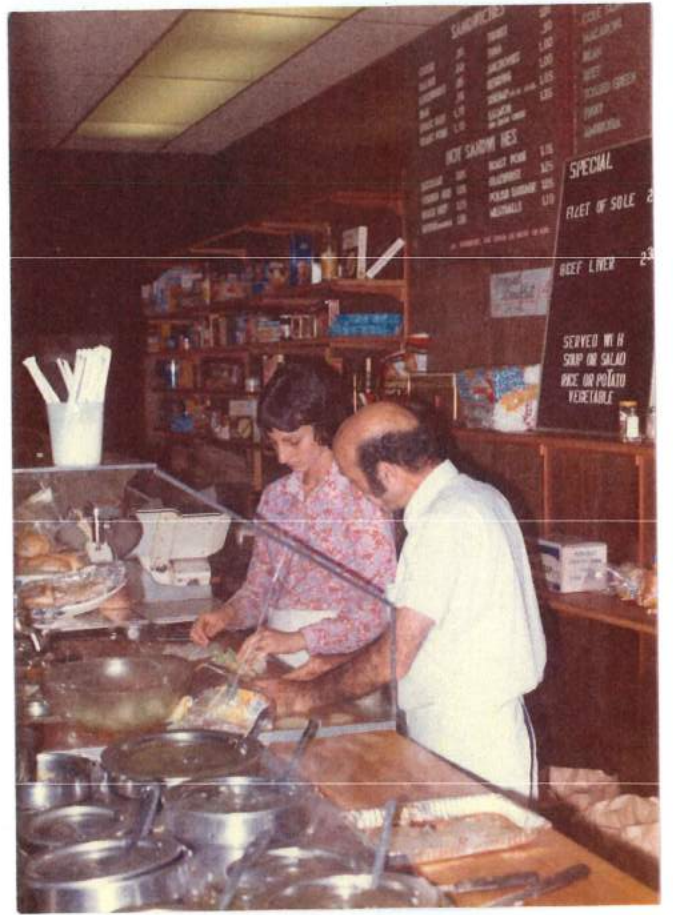




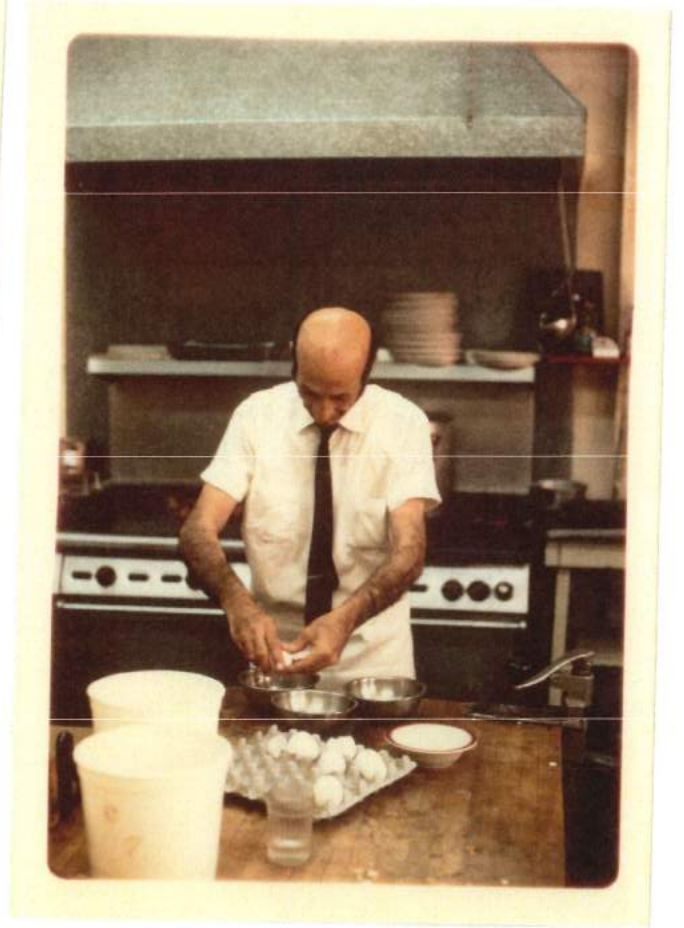












**NORSE COVE**  
**CATERING BY DAVID**  
**434 CASTRO ST.**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114**

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**434 CASTRO ST.**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114**



434 Castro Street  
San Francisco, California  
626-0462



## BREAKFAST

Served til 4:00 p.m.

<b>Two Eggs, any style, with a choice of Ham, Bacon, Sausage</b> (Link, Patty, Polish), <b>Canadian Bacon, Burger Patty or Turkey Hash</b> .	<b>4.95</b>
Served with Hash Browns and Whole Wheat Toast*	
<b>Two Eggs any style</b> with Hash Browns and Toast* .	<b>3.55</b>
<b>Croissant &amp; Two Eggs any style</b> . . . . .	<b>3.05</b>
<b>6 oz. Top Sirloin Steak &amp; Eggs</b> . . . . .	<b>6.95</b>
<b>Pork Chops &amp; Eggs</b> . . . . .	<b>6.95</b>
<b>Broiled Breast of Chicken &amp; Eggs</b> . . . . .	<b>6.95</b>

<b>2-2-2 Special</b> . . . . .	<b>4.95</b>
2 Pancakes or French Toast, 2 Eggs any style, 2 Sausages or Bacon	
<b>2-2-Fruit Special</b> fruit instead of meat. . . . .	<b>4.95</b>
<b>Half a Belgian Waffle with Two Eggs, Sausage or Bacon</b> . .	<b>4.95</b>
<b>Eggs Florentine</b> with our homemade Hollandaise .	<b>6.45</b>
Served with Hash Browns	
<b>Eggs Benedict</b> with our homemade Hollandaise . .	<b>6.45</b>
Served with Hash Browns	

## OMELETTES

Our Omelettes are made with Three Eggs and Served with Hash Browns and Whole Wheat Toast\*.

<b>Cheese</b> (Cheddar, Jack, American or Swiss) . . . . .	<b>4.75</b>	<b>Ham &amp; Cheese</b> . . . . .	<b>5.65</b>
<b>Bacon, Spinach &amp; Cheese</b> . . . . .	<b>5.95</b>	<b>Spinach &amp; Cheese</b> . . . . .	<b>5.35</b>
<b>Mushroom, Tomatoes &amp; Cheese</b> . . . . .	<b>5.35</b>	<b>Western</b> ham, green pepper, onions and cheese . . . .	<b>6.25</b>
<b>Avocado, Salsa &amp; Sour Cream</b> . . . . .	<b>5.95</b>	<b>Greek</b> Feta cheese, black olives, spinach and tomatoes. .	<b>6.45</b>

\*Bagel or English Muffin - 25¢ extra

## PANCAKES, CEREAL AND FRUIT

<b>Buttermilk Pancakes (3)</b> . . . . .	<b>2.95</b>	<b>French Toast</b> with Sourdough . . . . .	<b>3.35</b>
Short Stack (2)	<b>2.55</b>	<b>Oatmeal</b> . . . . .	<b>2.25</b> With Raisins <b>2.75</b>
<b>Buckwheat Pancakes (3)</b> . . . . .	<b>3.25</b>	<b>Fresh Fruit Salad</b> . . . . . Small <b>1.95</b> Large <b>2.95</b>	
Short Stack (2)	<b>2.75</b>	<b>Fruit Salad with Yogurt &amp; Granola</b> . . . . .	<b>5.95</b>
With Blueberries add \$1.00		<b>Yogurt</b> . . . . .	<b>1.50</b>
<b>Belgian Waffle</b> . . . . .	<b>3.75</b>	<b>Cottage Cheese</b> . . . . .	<b>1.50</b>
<b>Belgian Buckwheat Waffle</b> . . . . .	<b>4.05</b>		

## SIDES

<b>One Egg</b> . . . . .	<b>.85</b>	<b>Two Eggs</b> . . . . .	<b>1.60</b>	<b>Salsa</b> . . . . .	<b>.75</b>
<b>Toast</b> , Rye, Wheat or White . . . . .	<b>.95</b>			<b>Avocado</b> . . . . .	<b>1.50</b>
<b>Bagel</b> . . . . .	<b>1.15</b>	With Cream Cheese	<b>1.60</b>	<b>Tomato</b> . . . . .	<b>.95</b>
<b>Croissant</b> . . . . .	<b>1.45</b>			<b>Mashed Potato with Gravy</b> . . . . .	<b>1.75</b>
<b>English Muffin</b> . . . . .	<b>1.15</b>			<b>Steamed Vegetables</b> . . . . .	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Bacon, Sausage, Ham or Burger Patty</b> . . . . .	<b>2.45</b>			<b>French Fries</b> . . . . .	<b>1.50</b>

## LUNCH PLATES

Served with vegetables, real mashed potatoes and gravy and French bread.

<b>Meatloaf</b> .....	<b>6.25</b>	<b>Fresh Turkey Breast</b> with stuffing. ....	<b>6.95</b>
<b>Liver &amp; Onions</b> .....	<b>5.95</b> With Bacon Add .95	<b>Pork Chops</b> .....	<b>6.95</b>
<b>Broiled Chicken Breast</b> .....	<b>6.95</b>	<b>Sirloin Steak</b> .....	<b>6.95</b>

**Health Plate 6.95**  
Broiled chicken breast  
with vegetables and green salad

**Diet Plate 5.25**  
Burger patty, cottage cheese, grated carrots  
and sliced tomatoes on a bed of lettuce

**Vegetarian Plate 5.25**  
Beans or lentils over rice  
and side of salsa

## SOUPS

All our soups are homemade with a beef or a chicken broth base,  
served with buttered light and dark rye bread.

Our lentil soup or black bean soup are served daily and are strictly vegetarian.

See soup board for our selection ..... Bowl **2.95**

## SALADS

<b>Green Salad</b> .....	Small <b>1.95</b>	Large <b>2.95</b>
<b>Fruit Salad</b> .....	Small <b>1.95</b>	Large <b>2.95</b>

<b>Chef Salad</b> .....	<b>7.25</b>
<b>Vegetarian Chef</b> cheeses and vegetables .....	<b>7.25</b>

## DESSERTS

<b>Creame Caramel</b> .....	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Bread Pudding</b> .....	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Apple Betty</b> .....	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Apple or Pumpkin Pie</b> .....	<b>2.25</b>

<b>Jenna's Chocolate Mousse</b> .....	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Cheesecake</b> .....	<b>2.95</b>
<b>Chocolate Velvet Cake</b> .....	<b>2.95</b>
<b>Chocolate Mint Cake</b> .....	<b>2.95</b>
<b>Raspberry Lemon Cake</b> .....	<b>2.95</b>

## BEVERAGES

<b>Coffee</b> .....	<b>.80</b>
<b>Decaf Coffee</b> water filtered .....	<b>.95</b>
<b>Hot Chocolate</b> with whipped cream .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Milk or Lowfat Milk</b> .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Tea &amp; Herbal Tea Assortment</b> .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Iced Tea</b> .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Mineral Water</b> .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Soft Drinks</b> .....	<b>.95</b>

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mug Root Beer, Lemon Lime Slice, Mandarin  
Orange Slice

<b>Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice</b> . Small <b>1.65</b> Large <b>1.95</b>	
<b>Grape, Grapefruit, Guava, Apple-Cranberry</b>	
<b>Pineapple or V-8</b> .....	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Domestic Beer</b> .....	<b>2.25</b>
Michelob, Budweiser, Miller, Miller Lite	
<b>Imported Beer</b> .....	<b>2.55</b>
Becks, Spaten, Corona, Heineken, St. Pauli Girl	
<b>House Wine</b>	

**Red or White**

**Glass...2.45 1/2 Liter...4.75 Liter...9.00**



## CHARBROILED HAMBURGERS

1/3 lb. patty on a sesame seed bun with mayonnaise, lettuce, onion, tomato and French fries. Cooked to order.

<b>Plain</b> .....	<b>4.35</b>
<b>Bacon &amp; Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Avocado &amp; Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Steak Burger</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>

1/2 lb. patty

<b>Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.05</b>
<b>Mushroom &amp; Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Patty Melt</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
Grilled rye topped with Swiss cheese and grilled onions	
<b>Steak Sandwich</b> on a French roll .....	<b>6.95</b>

## HOT SANDWICHES

Hot sandwiches include a salad or cup of homemade soup.

<b>Grilled Cheese</b> .....	<b>4.55</b>
<b>Grilled Ham &amp; Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Grilled Bacon &amp; Cheese</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Pastrami on Rye</b> .....	<b>5.55</b>
<b>Pastrami Reuben</b> on dark rye .....	<b>6.45</b>
<b>Club Sandwich</b> .....	<b>6.45</b>
<b>BLT</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>

Below served with French fries only.

<b>Fried Cod</b> on a hamburger bun .....	<b>6.65</b>
<b>French Dip Roast Beef</b> au jus on a French roll ..	<b>6.45</b>
<b>Chicken Breast Sandwich</b> on a bun .....	<b>6.45</b>
<b>Sourdough Special</b> .....	<b>6.45</b>

Bacon, turkey, tomato and Swiss cheese served on  
grilled sourdough

Open Faced with Real Mashed potatoes and Gravy  
**Hot Roast Turkey Breast, Roast Beef  
or Homemade Meatloaf ... 5.65**

## COLD SANDWICHES

Served on whole wheat bread with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomatoes, pickle.

Cold sandwiches include a salad or cup of homemade soup.

<b>Roast Beef</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>
<b>Fresh Roast Turkey Breast</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>
<b>Meatloaf</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>
<b>Ham</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>

<b>Tuna Salad</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>
<b>Turkey Salad</b> .....	<b>5.45</b>
<b>Cheese</b> .....	<b>4.45</b>
<b>Avocado, Tomatoes &amp; Sprouts</b> with cream cheese ..	<b>5.65</b>

Cheese 60¢ extra

All prices exclusive of sales tax. We accept Visa or MasterCard (\$10 minimum). Sorry, no personal checks.

15% service charge added to parties of 5 or more. We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone.

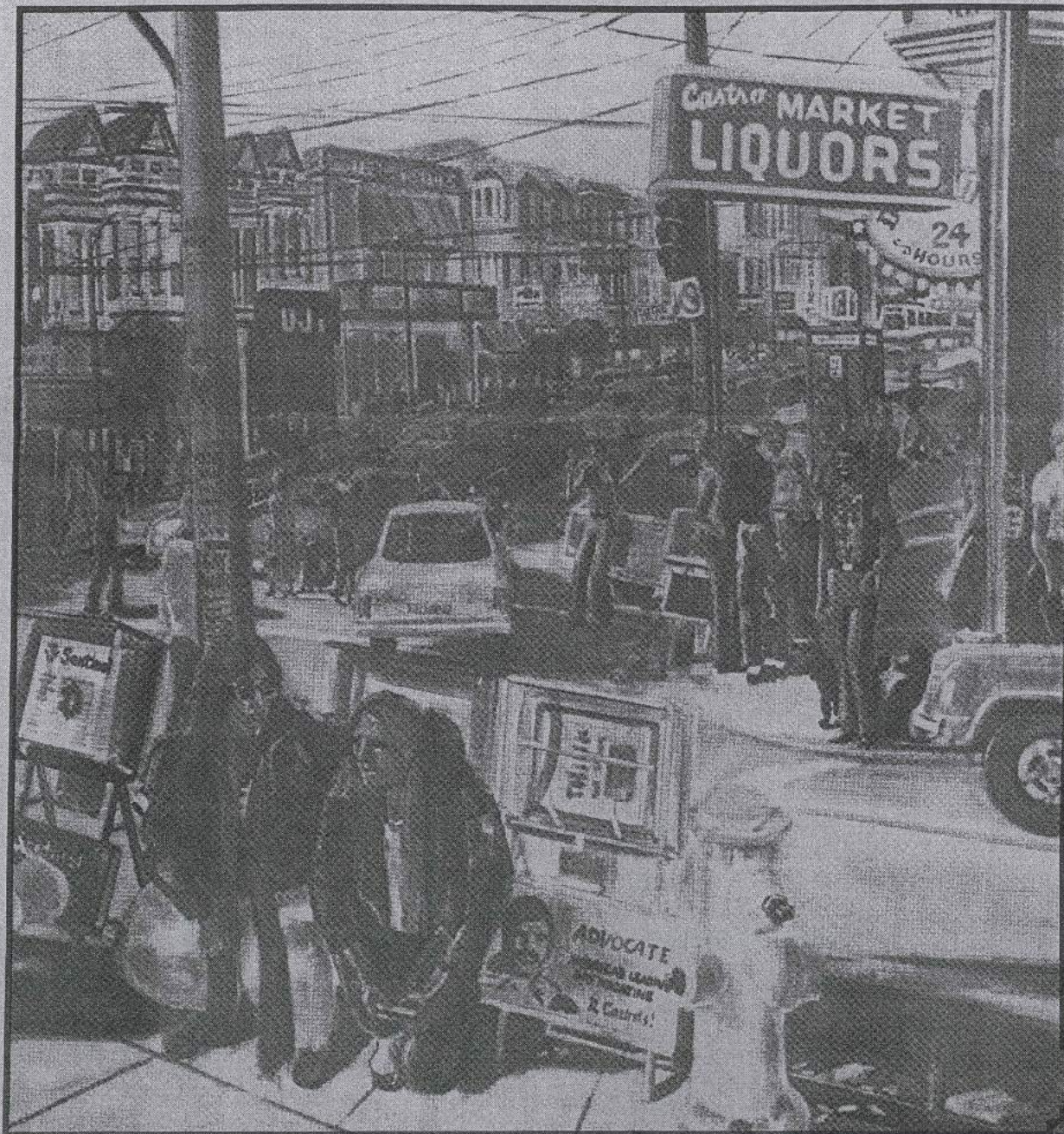
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February 1981

FREE

# castro times







## HOME COOKING AT THE NORSE COVE by Gus Tremont

We like the Norse Cove. The food is good, the atmosphere well charged, and the fact that our friends eat there suits us well. Some trends come and go faster than the setting sun. Items that hang from a pocket, gadgets that dangle around one's neck, paraphenilia worn on the right or the left; it doesn't make much of a difference. But, we have discovered the Norse Cove.

Who frequents Norse Cove? Well, just about everyone in the Castro. That's right, everyone. The Cove is more than a restaurant. It's a meeting hall for those who must have a meeting hall. We have noted many an assemblage at the "community" table, eavesdropping on a discussion about the political climate of the city or last night's event at the baths. It's an important place to many because this is where they interact at their best.

Groups or individuals are either loud or they are low key. This particular morning we preferred them to the latter. Equal balance is important even over breakfast.

As to the owners of the Norse Cove, we rate them a ten on a scale of one to. Mena and Leon Darwish know how to run an establishment of this nature. As proprietors of a family style enterprise, they are always there. However, they have such a natural knack about running the business that their presence is quiet and subtle. Mena is the more visible of the two. Watch this woman operate. You'd swear she had eyes everywhere. If she sees an empty plate, whoosh, off to the dishroom it disappears! If she feels you're sitting too long at one of the prized separate tables, she tells you, but in a manner that reflects the warmth of her personality. And, she never forgets what it is she's doing.

Leon is the less visible of this mom and pop team. Always quick with the smile, he's usually behind the counter or in the kitchen working with the crew. They are equally important as a drawing card for this successful operation.

It's interesting that many have made the Norse Cove a part of their daily regimen. Regular clients enter, order and find a place to sit without so much as a second thought. And, they are treated as such. Consider the procedure for dispensing orders from the kitchen.

Mena and Leon have devised a system where the customer places his or her order and their tickets are marked with a color code, usually from a piece of clothing that they are wearing. Therefore, John gets his two eggs over easy, Marc gets his scrambled egg breakfast and I am content with three four minute eggs.

The *CASTRO TIMES* is interested in receiving community related articles and interviews, short stories, and feature articles. Interviews should be topical and of interest to members of the gay community. They should be no longer than 3,000 words. Articles should be of local interest, but can have national appeal as the publication is mailed to Los Angeles, New York, the Russian River Area, and other parts of the country. 4,000 word maximum. Short Stories can be fiction

No questions asked. Very simple. Very family-like.

Norse Cove has been the life of Leon and Mena for the past ten years. They purchased the business from a Norwegian family; hence the name. They are often assisted by their two sons, David and Maurice, and a daughter, Danielle. And, like many of us, they are here via another part of the map. Once successful business people in Egypt, having operated a frozen shrimp plant, the Darwishes, being French nationals, were forced into exile in Paris after the Egyptian government confiscated their business during the Suez Crisis of 1956. They were later encouraged to immigrate to America by other members of their family who had already settled in the states.

We are all subject to a structure. It's one of the realities of life. It's reflective in a business, too. Mena and Leon run a very structured operation at Norse Cove. They maintain a close watch over their enterprise so nothing goes wrong. They do not believe in the theory of the absentee landlord; they are always there.

The success of the Norse Cove is pretty obvious. The place fills up fast during the peak dining hours. It's open from seven in the morning to ten at night. Self service is the rule until about six when they dim the lights and commence with table service. If you dine alone, you'll share the "community" table with those who are fun to rub elbows with, or share an interesting conversation with a mutual acquaintance. If you are dining with a group of several intimates, you'll get a table alone that allows you to chatter in private when that's exactly what you wanted to do.

We are often aware of the quiet background music that hums ever so lightly throughout the room. What a change of pace from the frantic wailing that we are so often subjected to in other local restaurants! But, such is the nature of the business.

Leon and Mena are aware of the importance that their small enterprise plays in the lives of those who have come to depend on it not only for the quality of its food, but the warmth and friendliness of those who frequent the Norse Cove.

For those of us who enjoy the uniqueness of the Cove, there isn't really much to add here. But to those who have fallen in by accident because of its availability or who were struck by the family-like atmosphere, sit down and stay awhile. After all, it's just home cooking amongst a whole lot of friends!

or non-fiction, but must relate to the community experience, 3 to 4,000 word maximum. Some poetry will be accepted. Photographs must be accompanied by captions. All material becomes the property of the *CASTRO TIMES* unless accompanied by a s.a.s.c. Allow two weeks for reporting. Payment is in copies. Submit all material to PATRICK DIEHL, EDITOR, *CASTRO TIMES*, P.O. Box 14452, San Francisco, CA, 94114.

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## Dining In at The Cove on Castro

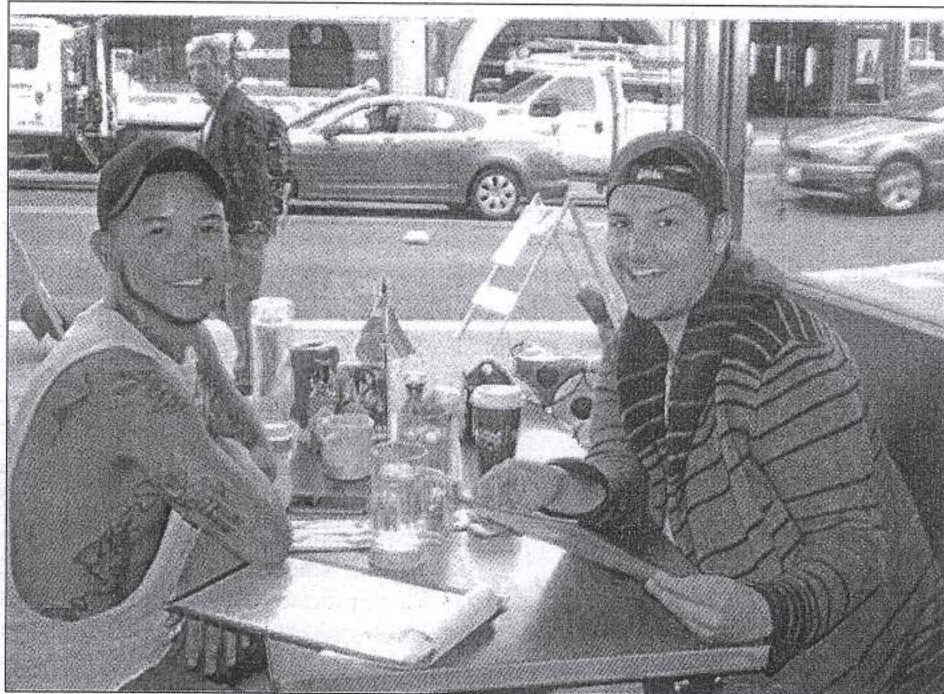


Photo: Bill Sywak

The Cove has been a neighborhood institution for over 40 years.

By Bill Sywak

If a well-intentioned tourist were to stop you on one of the wide new sidewalks and ask you where the Cove on Castro was, what would you say? First of all, there's no body of water much less a cove anywhere near Castro and Market. Secondly, the modest storefront with two tables in the windows is almost lost, looking demurely out on the sidewalk and across busy Castro Street to the Castro Theater. Even for residents, it can be hard to spot.

Perhaps that's because this breakfast-lunch-and-dinner cafe, with Norwegian roots, has been family owned and oper-

ated since 1971. That's when the current owner, Solange Darwish, accidentally met her future husband and wound up buying the place, eventually becoming a full owner only eight years ago.

What makes the Cove special is that it has become an image of home for decades of Castro history. Upon entering and watching the three large flat screens continuously screening different stills and video clips of major events and just plain daily life in the Castro over nearly fifty years, customers encounter a sense of authentic San Francisco history. The content is changed regularly and when done, given over to the LGBT Historical Museum to add to its collection.

What keeps this all a special community is still Solange and her dedicated staff, several of whom have been at the Cove over fifteen and even twenty years. You might get Richard as your server, or Alberto, or Scotty, or Annie or Derek. In this era of impersonal and disposable staff, the crew at the Cove always make customers (shall we call them guests?) feel at home, in many cases their second home here in the Castro.

According to Solange (her name is Egyptian, by the way), years ago customers started bringing in their 8-by-10 photos to decorate the walls, pictures of Castro happenings like the Bare Chest Contests, Pride Parades and Pink Saturday spectacles and more. "It just exploded," she says, and pretty soon there was no more room for the pictures.

The very special fact about all this is that Solange's customers felt a genuine neighborhood pride and attachment to the Cove, such that the video monitors were all donated by loyal customers and kept fresh by yet other customers who downloaded each video onto DVDs and maintained the flow of content.

Oh, and did I mention that the Cove is also a restaurant? Besides absorbing all the history and, for many an old timer, feelings of nostalgia every time the face of a familiar friend pops up on a screen, the Cove has a generous menu of breakfast choices. More than that, weekend brunch is one of their specialties, as is their homemade soup. Lunch and especially dinner entrees, which are served all day, fit in the current American comfort-food mainstream, another reason why including the Cove on a visitor's tour of the Castro can be a wise choice.

*The Cove is located at 434 Castro St., directly across the street from the Castro Theatre.*

## Urban Green

*Continued from page 10*

politicians have looked to the State Legislature for changes. In late May, State Senator Mark Leno's SB 1439, aiming to halt such evictions within the first five years of a building's sale in San Francisco, passed the Senate in Sacramento. In late June it went to the Assembly, and 98-year-old Phillips traveled to the capitol building to rally support for the legislation. But it failed in the Assembly by one vote and is now effectively dead.

"Clearly it's a sign that the state Democrats get too much money from real estate," Sherburn-Zimmer said.

But a ballot measure for November's election is not. The Anti-Speculation Tax is a measure that, if approved by voters, would impose a graduated transfer tax on short-term sales of apartment buildings. If the sale of a building occurs within the first year of ownership, the tax would be 24 percent of the selling price, decreasing to 14 percent by the fifth year. It doesn't apply to single-family homes, condos, or TICs.

Gullicksen said it is imperative that voters pass this measure in November to discourage rampant real estate speculation.

"It goes at the profit motivation of speculators," he said. "If we can grab half of their profit, then we can limit the evictions."

But November is a long time off for Mary Phillips. There has been talk by Urban Green of allowing her to stay in one of the new units. But if there is one thing the 98 year old has learned in 50 years of renting in the city, it is that there are no guarantees.





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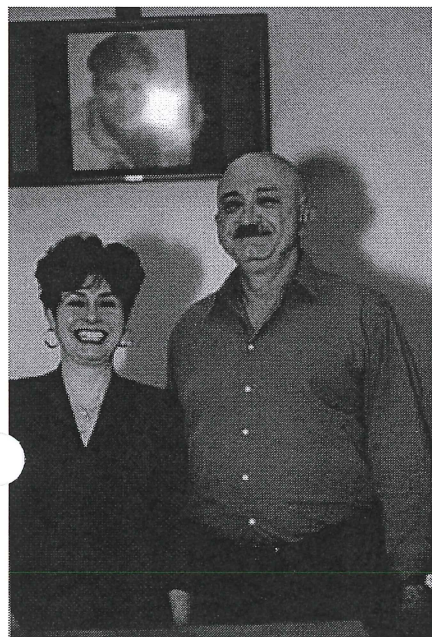
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## Cafe captures Castro's past

NEWS

by Roger Brigham

Published 01/26/2006



Solange and Maurice Darwish at the Cove Café. Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

### ARTICLE TOOLS

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Since the late 1980s, the Cove Cafe in the Castro has offered its customers a photographic peek at the passing panorama of life on Castro Street. On Friday, January 27, the transformation of the restaurant's photo collection from a wall of print images into a digital slideshow will be celebrated with an open house reception.

Cove owner Solange Darwish began collecting photographs of restaurant patrons and Castro Street residents in the late 1980s. "I was the judge of one of the Bare Chest Calendar competitions at the Eagle, and one of our patrons won. I told him, 'You should give me a picture of you.' So I put it up. Then one of the other customers said, 'I have a good photograph of me. Would you like it?' So then I put up a sign asking people to give us photographs to help decorate the restaurant, and that's how it got started."

What started as a handful of donated pictures ended up being, in the words of Humboldt State University associate professor Eric Rofes, a longtime restaurant patron who made a study of the photos, "a focus on a very special segment of mostly gay men. They captured a rich mix of divergent ways people styled themselves, from macho bears to porn stars. If you're looking for a way to capture the spirit of the Castro, the photos were a great way to do that."

Because the project started in the late 1980s, it ended up chronicling a period in which the Castro population was devastated by the onslaught of AIDS. The pictures, now numbering some 1,500 on four DVDs that run on three digital screens as nonstop slideshows, remain as a tribute to survivors and victims alike.

"I didn't Photoshop correct any of the images since I felt this was more a historical record of each person and they should be shown as is," said Bill Sanderson of [www.BigMuscle.com](http://www.BigMuscle.com), who with partner Andy Wysocki donated technical services and one of the big screen plasma monitors used for the display. "I was moved to tears at a few points in my scanning process just knowing that a good part of these people in the photos are no longer with us due to AIDS and time."

After Darwish bought out her former co-owner about two years ago, she began exploring ways to remodel the restaurant, which had been in her in-law's family since 1971 (when it was called Norse Cove) and which she bought into in 1987, when it was renamed Cove Cafe.

Waiter Rex Pender brought in the assistance of Sanderson and Wysocki and the transformation of paper memories into digital documentation began, taking the better part of a year to complete.

"This is tying the older generation to the younger generation," Pender said. "Ninety percent of the comments have been positive. They're not postage stamp sized now; people can actually see the images."

Wide mirrors now run the length of the restaurant, so that even folks

seated away from the screens can see the reflections of the pictures shown on the facing wall. Pender said that since the screens went up about a month ago, customers have already contributed 200 more images.

"I did all the scanning of the wall photos and several hundred other snapshot photos taken over the years," Sanderson said. "It took about five weeks to scan, then a week to test and build the DVDs. It was not a full-time process, more like a few hours a day. I would take a small set of photos from the Cove, scan them, and return them. I didn't want to have all the photos at my home at one time. I

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had to hand wash all the glass for all the wall photos before each scan. Most photos from over the years had adhered to the glass and couldn't be removed without destroying the photo.

"Solange has fed us breakfast for the past several months and never accepted our payment for food when we are at the Cove. I felt this was a project I wanted to do since Andy and I believe in giving back to the community, whenever we can. I wanted to secure the faces of these people for the future. They need to continue to shine over this special community they helped mold and we all enjoy day, called the Castro," Sanderson added.

Darwish said she hopes to collect all of the photographs from the printed past and the digital future into an album for the restaurant, then donate them to a collection one day.

"Without them [Sanderson and Wysocki], we could not have afforded this," she said. "I have the best customers in the world."

*Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served during the "Reel Life" reception at the Cove, 434 Castro Street, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Friday, January 27.*


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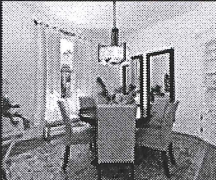
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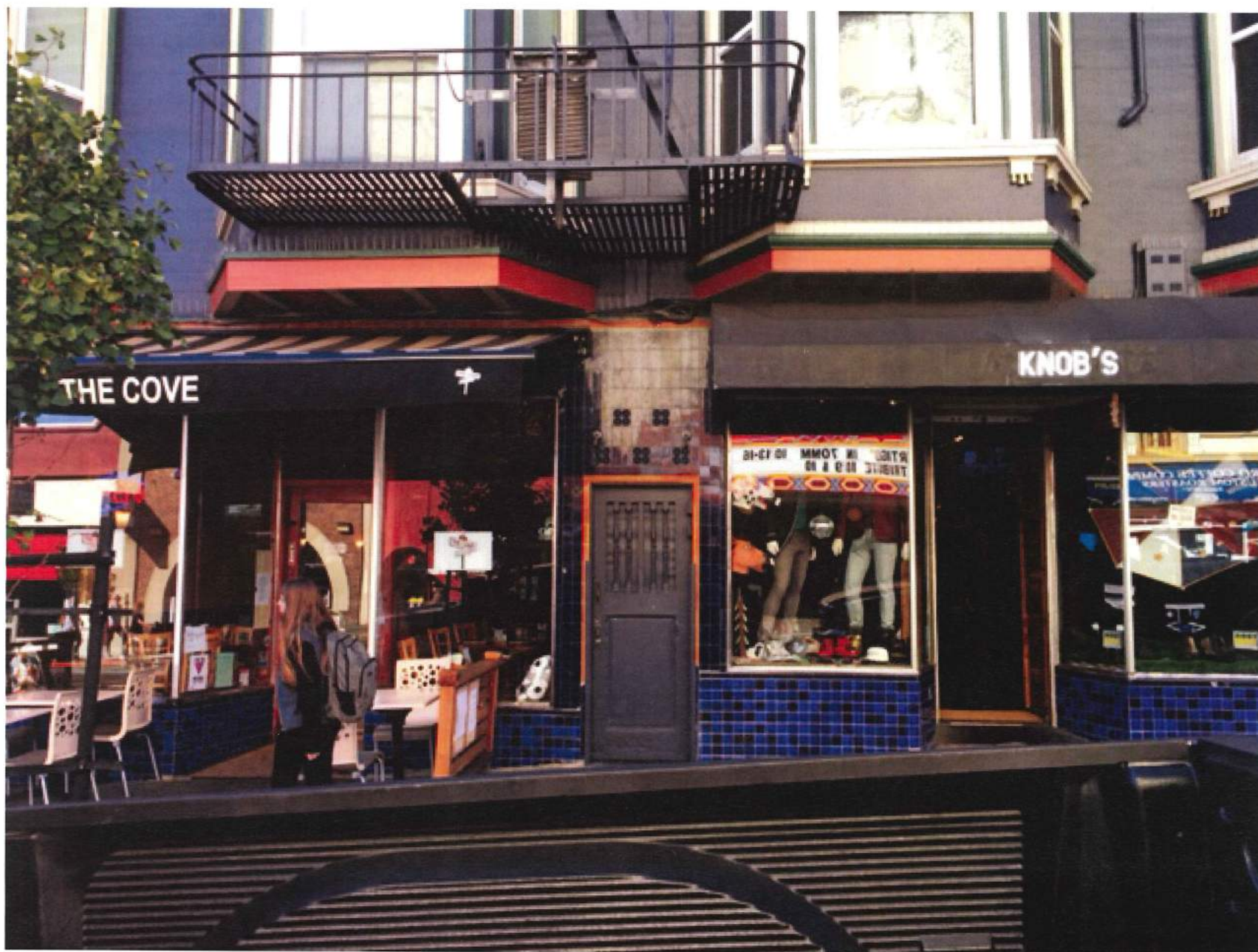






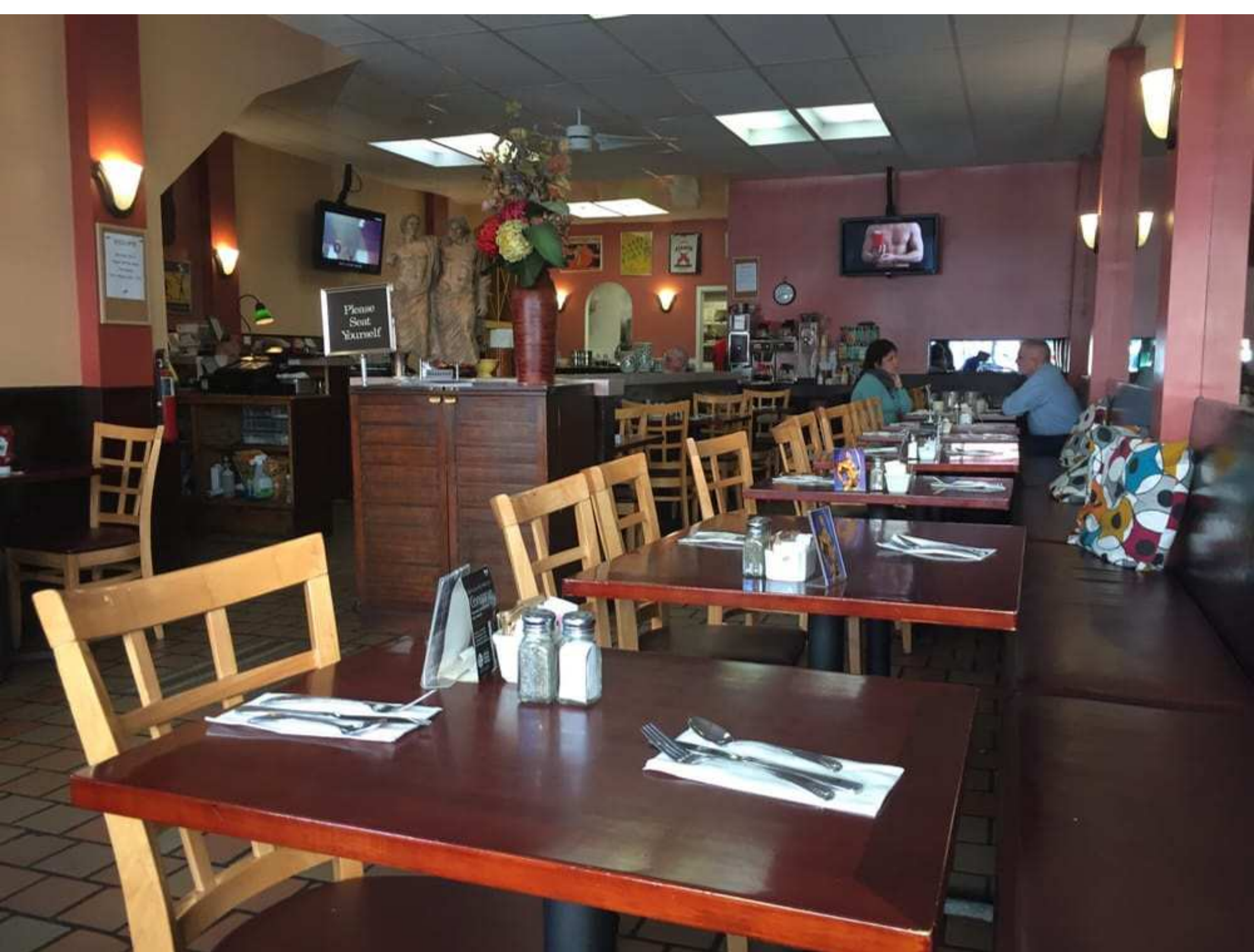


















## The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry

Inbox x



Peter Sichel <[psichel@planeteria.net](mailto:psichel@planeteria.net)>

8:25 PM (11 hours ago)

to me, Peter

When I heard The Cove on Castro was being considered for 'The Legacy Business Registry' I had to lend my support.

For 33 years since 1983 I have been hosted by the Family Darwich, Solange and Maurice; their close relations, staff, customers, visitors and friends as they carry on the tradition of welcoming one and all to San Francisco and the world famous Castro neighborhood.

Above and beyond all other institutions this is so much more than a simple local business. It is, at heart a community, where at first I found a communal table when as someone new to the city I immediately made friends, learned about the virtues of the neighborhood and the city and found myself welcome and made to feel at home more here than anywhere else ever.

As the years passed I became aware of the community involvement starting on a personal level. A tradition of hanging photos on the wall donated by patrons grew to be a celebration of the community. With the emergence of new technology, videos replaced the photos extolling the virtues of the city as in old San Francisco travel films and photo montages to clips celebrating the neighborhood and the forward thinking values the city extolls.

All nourished by the heart and soul of the owners, their passion and energy, their joyous involvement in the lives of their patrons and friends; celebrating the milestones and anniversaries, sharing in loss when it happens, and reaching beyond their business to somethings so much greater.

That is why I wish to lend my voice to support the inclusion of The Cove on Castro on The Legacy Business Registry.




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## The Cove on Castro

Inbox x



 **David Differding** <djdifferding@yahoo.co

Oct 2 (1 day ago) ☆



to me ▾

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a customer at this restaurant since the early 1980's.

I keep coming back because the food is great, reasonably priced, and the staff is always welcoming!

Growing up in a small town in Minnesota, we had places like The Cove.

Coming to the San Francisco, I found that same "small town warmth and hospitality" at The Cove on Castro.

This business is truly a "Legacy" in the neighborhood, and deserves to be a part of "The Legacy Business Registry".


***David Differding***

3990 18th Street #5

San Francisco, CA 94114-2592

415.863.9772

"I enjoy cooking with wine, sometimes I even put it in the food"

 **Jeffrey Lilly** <jeffrey.lilly@me.com>  
to me ▾

Oct 2 (1 day ago) ☆



Avenue, Apt. 4

94131

Maurice Darwish  
434 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Jeffrey Lilly

815 Burnett

San Francisco, CA.

Dear Maurice,

I want to thank you and Solange for providing a warm and welcome atmosphere at the Cove during the many years that I have been coming to your restaurant. As you know, I began coming to the Cove in the 1980's and have been coming there ever since. I am there almost every day for breakfast or brunch. As a gay man who is very careful with his diet, I find many of the menu's selections to be perfectly suited to my health needs. The flexibility that is provided enables me to receive the meals most suited to my dietary requirements.

Not only do you and Solange provide a welcoming atmosphere, but you have chosen and trained staff who are both personable and attentive. Many of your staff were at the Cove in the eighties and are still there today. I know you feel great satisfaction in knowing that you provide so many people of varying ethnicities and sexual orientations a place to work.

I often recommend the Cove to friends and acquaintances as a place for a well balanced, healthy, and tasty meal at an affordable price. It's welcoming atmosphere to those in the GLBTQ community and those outside makes it one of Castro's treasures. As someone who is well travelled, I also enjoy meeting some of the many tourists from abroad who stop off at the Cove for a good meal.

Thanks again to you and your staff.

Best Wishes,

Jeffrey Lilly





**martha rose** <martharose7@icloud.com>

Oct 2 (1 day ago) ☆



to me ▾

Hi Solange & Maurice,

Just a note to thank you for the many years I've enjoyed your restaurant.

I moved into the Castro in 1973 when I bought my first house. So I started eating breakfast there on the weekends in the seventies. The food was great and you and your employees made me feel so welcome. Scot, Richard, Derek and even the cooks are gems.

In 1999 I retired and now every day I have breakfast AND lunch there. The food is so fresh and delicious and sometimes you even help me with my I phone. What would I do without you?

Love, Martha

---

The Cove

Inbox x



**Frank Latko** <franzita@mac.com>

7:55 PM (18 hours ago) ☆



to me ▾

Dear Cove Staff—

I just want to thank you for being there. I have been a regular diner for about 15 years and irregular for about 10 years before that.

You all are like my family. I'm from New Jersey and have no family in S.F. The Cove has been my home away from home for a long time. You all are so friendly and always have been. We can joke around and kid while I have my meal — i never was able to do that in my New Jersey home! (a long story). When I had my 2 knee replacements several years ago I was so appreciative and moved when Solange or a staff member would bring me meals because it was about a month before I could navigate the 52 steps to and from my apartment. Who does that? Where? Never before have I had anyone do that for me.

Anyway, besides the ambiance, friendliness and thoughtfulness of everyone the food is grrreat! The variety is amazing too. There really is no place in the Castro like it or any other part of the city as far as I know. I don't know where I would be without you — really mean it and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.


Your friend,

Franzi

## "The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry"

Inbox x

---

 **Arno R Kracht** <arnorkracht@gmail.c 8:07 AM (6 hours ago)   

to me ▾

I've been a loyal customer of "The Cove" since at least 1994, if not longer. My partner and I took to referring to it as "the kitchen" because we ate there so often! In the intervening years, we've not only been frequent customers but also happily became good friends with both Maurice and Solange Darwish. Over those years, it became less of a restaurant with good, basic food and more of a "home," where I'm greeted with affection and good-natured ribbing whenever I come in. The staff, Solange and Maurice, and many customers make it that way. I can't imagine The Castro without "The Cove;" a simple look at the number of Castro restaurants that have come and gone since 1994 -- while "The Cove" remains -- tells more about it, I believe, than just words.

I left the Castro and San Francisco almost exactly ten years ago and retired to the Midwest, where there are NO places like "The Cove," and I miss it, terribly. But I return as often as possible, and make it a point to go "home" while I'm there. I'm genuinely pleased to learn of its nomination as a "legacy business."

---



## Legacy Business Registry

Inbox



**Michael L Newman** <mnewman@sl> 10:57 AM (3 hours ago) ☆  
to me ▾



Hello Maurice and Solange,

I strongly support your application for registration as a legacy business. I have been a customer at the Cove since the 1980s and a frequent customer for about the past five years. The Cove has always been a welcoming space for LGBTQ patrons and an important contributor to the community. Particularly now, as San Francisco is changing rapidly, it is very important to be able to visit the Cove, where all customers are welcome and the staff feels like family. I wish you success with your application.

Michael Newman


Michael Newman  
Head Librarian and Bibliographer  
Falconer Biology Library/Mathematics & Statistics Library  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305-5021  
[\(650\) 723-1110](tel:6507231110)

## Letter of Support for Cove on Castro

Inbox x



 bmcgrath506@aol.com

11:20 AM (3 hours ago) 



to me ▾

We have been going to the Cove On Castro for over 10 years. We have always found the Staff and Owners Very Friendly, and Helpful. Always smiling and upbeat. Also the Best BLT's in town. Always a Wonderful Experience. They are truly the Best. Sincerely, Brian McGrath and Vince Schmidt.

Ingu Yun  
1314 Noe Street  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
October 3, 2016

RE: The Cove Café

To Whom It May Concern,

After growing up in the Bay Area (mostly in San Rafael) I returned to live in San Francisco after completing college and medical school in 1982 to serve my medical internship at San Francisco General Hospital.

Like so many gay men I was attracted to the Castro neighborhood, and this is where I lived, shopped, and dined. I frequented what was then the Norse Cove, a homey and comfortable place that was notable for its communal table where many of us single guys could eat without feeling alone, and for its "honor" policy of just going up to the register to pay when you were finished, telling the proprietor what you had consumed. (Of course she knew *exactly* what you had had, so there was little chance of cheating.)

I can't remember exactly when Solange and Maurice Darwish took ownership of the restaurant. The name was changed to simply "The Cove," and it was updated – the communal table taken out, but still maintaining a welcoming feeling for all. I continued to be a regular at the Cove.

Of course the 1980s and 1990s were a devastating time for the gay community in San Francisco, with so many men sick and dying of AIDS. And this is where the most remarkable thing happened at the Cove. I saw Solange become mother or sister to all these men who seemed sick and alone in the world. I watched so many acts of kindness and love all coming from a straight woman towards gay men during a time when it wasn't so fashionable, even in San Francisco. The Cove, through Solange, touched so many lives and cemented its important place in our community.

Restaurants in San Francisco seem to be getting more and more impersonal. Not at the Cove. Solange and Maurice to this day both continue to know their patrons, take interest in their lives, and shine as a beacon in our community. I now live over the hill in Noe Valley. I continue to eat there frequently, and I see that there are some who I suspect may go there every day!

I have organized an annual fundraising event since 1997 that raises about \$20,000 for charitable organizations. The Cove has always supported this event without any hesitation with a donation to the silent auction, even during the recession when I'm sure it wasn't easy for them.

For as long as I have lived my adult life in San Francisco – almost 35 years now – the Cove has been an important part of my life here, and an institution in the historic Castro.

Sincerely yours,



Ingu Yun



 Art Cheroske <artido@sonic.net>

Oct 3 (1 day ago) ☆



to me ▾

TO: Maurice and Solange Darwish  
434 Castro Street.  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Hi Folks!

I am writing in support of the Cove Cafe's nomination for inclusion the Legacy Business Registry.

My name is Art Cheroske and I have been customer of the Cove on Castro Cafe for ten plus years.

There are many cafes in the neighborhood with good diner food and the Cove is one of these.

The food is hearty and satisfying and they will happily prepare your order just the way you like it.

But the Cove has several additional qualities that are lacking in most big city restaurants.

The Cove nourishes the sense of community and well-being of the Castro neighborhood. Solange, Maurice and the Staff pride themselves on knowing the regular patrons by name and even which seats they prefer to sit in. When possible, as you enter, they will call out your name and point to your favorite seat. In addition to keeping your coffee cup filled, both Maurice and Solange and the waiters will stop by your table to ask how you are and will stay and chat or return and chat as time permits.

It is hard to find this level of small town TLC in a busy city like San Francisco.

The wait staff are relaxed, friendly, helpful and efficient. They know their jobs well and many have worked at the Cove for decades.

All of them, owners and staff alike, have worked hard over the years to create, offer and maintain a sincere, family atmosphere where all are acknowledged, welcomed and fed.

They've been around for forty plus years and I hope they continue on for forty more.

Sincerely,

Art Cheroske

Long Time Patron of the Best Diner in the Castro.

Gmail

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COMPOSE

## The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry

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maurice

Harry Breaux &lt;hbreaux94114@yahoo.com&gt;

to me

RE: The Cove on Castro (434 Castro Street) nomination for The Legacy Bus

Dear Supervisor Weiner,

For nearly 40 years, I have had the joy of being served some great meals at "The Cove Cafe" and now "The Cove on Castro". By the way, what happened far as I can remember since the early 70's when I first arrived in San Francis

Through all of most of those years, the tireless efforts of Solange and Maurice visitors and residents. They have consistently given meals, service and smile

I was honored for many years to have my picture in the center of their "wall c so many of their "regulars" pass away and disappear from the neighborhood.

If "The Legacy Business Registry" has any validity whatsoever as a tribute to what was asked, these two people and their many staff members deserve to

After living for a long time with HIV and AIDS (over 35 years) here in the Cas support and recommend that The Cove on Castro be added to this honorable us, but for giving back so much more than they received.

As a Castro Ambassador, it is always a pleasure to offer The Cove on Castro to a safe, calm, reasonably priced and worthwhile consideration for their nex

Placing **The Cove on Castro** and the names of **Solange and Maurice Darw** Castro and the city of San Francisco.

As one of the SF Chron's "Last Men Standing", a long-term PWA and Castro can't imagine a more deserving recipient.

Please, just do it!!!

Sincerely,  
Harry Breaux

[hbreaux94114@yahoo.com](mailto:hbreaux94114@yahoo.com)

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## The Legacy Business Registry

Inbox x



Michael Frangella <frang3019@att.net>

12:44 PM (1 hour ago)



to me

My dear friends, Maurice and Solange Darwish,

Where do I begin? You and your family have been serving me since i moved to San Francisco in June of 1981! Right from the beginning, we became family. Over the years there have been many changes in design and staff, but service with a smile always remained exactly the same. I am always made to feel as if I were your best customer. You and your staff, the photo gallery, now the flat screen televisions and of course great food and grand portions bring me back as often as I can. I run into friends, share tables and continue to enjoy every visit to Cove on Castro. I sincerely hope to see you on "The Legacy Business Registry", you deserve the recognition. I look forward to many more visits and great meals.

Your support of the neighborhood, the fund raising, the contest judging and all you have done for the LGBTQ community make me love you all the more. Thank you seems inadequate.

I remain a fan forever,

Michael Frangella  
[frang3019@att.net](mailto:frang3019@att.net)



## Legacy Business Registry

Inbox x



**Larry Kenney** <larry@larrykenney.cc>

12:58 PM (1 hour ago)



to me

The Cove On Castro for The Legacy Business Registry  
434 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

I have been a patron of the Cove On Castro since its inception, and before that when it was just The Cove.

I've been eating at the restaurant since I moved to San Francisco in 1979.  
They have provided tasty food and drink for me for all of these 37 years.

The staff is friendly and efficient and provides excellent service. The same servers have been working there for years so they must like their jobs. The owners are also friendly and recognize their regular customers.

I look forward to eating at the Cove for many years to come.

...

October 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have lived in San Francisco since 2007 and began coming to The Cove on Castro shortly after that time. Though my husband and I do not live in the Castro, we visit often to see friends and enjoy the nightlife. Sitting in the front window at The Cove and watching the parade of passers-by is one of my favorite weekend activities. One particularly memorable occasion was on Pride Sunday 2015, when Cleve Jones and Armistead Maupin stopped to chat with each other on the sidewalk just outside the window from our table. I felt there could be no more quintessentially San Francisco moment. On many other occasions, friends passing by outside often come inside to chat and grab a bite or some mimosas. Everyone on staff is extremely friendly and happy to see us, especially the ever-gracious Solange. Even when we see Cove employees out and about at other spots around town, they are always warm and friendly, working and socializing in the same vibrant neighborhood. Expanding the Legacy Business Registry to include The Cove would be an excellent use of city resources to ensure that this local business continues to thrive for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Bernie Morrissey

305 Santa Rosa Ave, #1

San Francisco CA 94112



October 3, 2016

Supervisor Scott Wiener

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Re: Letter of support re: The Cove on Castro to be  
Included in the Legacy Business Registry

Dear Supervisor Wiener:

I have writing this letter of support regarding The Cove on Castro. I have been going to this great small restaurant since the 1970s. This was back when Solange Darwish's mother in law ran the register and we all sat on a big table in the middle of the restaurant. It was called the Norse Cove back then.

And I've been a regular customer ever since. It's been more than 40 years for me! Solange always used to joke about how many chef salads she made for me!

My fond memory of this establishment was during the AIDS years. These were hard times and so sad for everyone in the neighborhood. What I remember is that very very sick men would come to the Cove and Salange would welcome them with full hugs and real love. People had a lot to say – and Solange listened. This restaurant was a home for so many who no longer had a home. Solange would serve them delicious and nutritious food. I was a volunteer with Shanti and I would bring my client there, and it was always such a loving atmosphere. At the end of the meal, Solange would often send huge containers of soup home with people. This soup was truly made with love.

I'm so glad to be able to tell this great story of how the Cove was such an inspiration to me, and how it was a huge resource to the mental health and nutritional health of so many. They're not all here to speak now, so I'm doing it for them.

I just ate breakfast at the Cove yesterday before the Castro Street Fair. It was a pleasure as usual.

I hope that The Cove on Castro would be included in the Legacy Business Registry.

Very truly yours,

\*\*\*

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## The Cove on Castro for the Legacy Business Registry

Our names are Merle Adams & Jed Davies. We have lived in San Francisco since 1962, 15 years on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 38 years at 1243 Douglass Street in Noe Valley.

We have been eating at the Cove since the mid 70's when it was called the Norse Cove and was owned by the parents of the current owners Maurice and Solange Darwish.

We held our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the Cove in June 1997 with 50 guests. We also held our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the Cove with 100 guests and were honored to receive a declaration from Mayor Gavin Newsom declaring July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 as Merle Adams & Jed Davies Day in San Francisco.

In addition, one of our guests was Senator Mark Leno who also presented us with a declaration honoring our 50<sup>th</sup> from the State of California.

So you can see that we are very fond of the Cove on Castro, its owners and its wonderful staff. We consider ourselves privileged to eat there 6 days a week and they are certainly eligible for the Legacy Business Registry.

Merle Adams & Jed Davies

Legacy letter....

Inbox x



**JEREMY WILKINS** <jwilkins.bc@sh>

8:45 PM (17 hours ago) ☆



to me ▾

Maurice and Solange....The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry....

I have been a patron of The Cove for 18 years and have always enjoyed the good food and the welcome from the owners and staff. There is an amazing feeling of "family" there and it is obvious that the staff are very much a part of the extended family. They have a gift of making me feel part of that family and I find it both wonderful and unique.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wilkins.

3571-16th Street #12  
San Francisco CA  
94114



**Subject:** LEGACY CASTRO BUSINESS

**From:** Tom Norwick (tomnorwick@sbcglobal.net)

**To:** coveoncastro@gmail.com;

**Bcc:** akaute@aol.com;

**Date:** Monday, October 3, 2016 9:00 PM

Since the mid 70's i have been a regular customer at the COVE , in the early days called Norse Cove. Two generations of the Darwish family have served delicious and reasonably priced foods to me and to a list of friends of today and of many yesterdays ...they have no match on Castro street for the number of great breakfasts and healthful dinners & lunches served in a warm clean & comfortable setting and we as a community have no better location to watch the ebb/flow of Castro foot traffic and celebrity sighting.

The Darwish family has been an employer of more food service jobs than anyone can name in our hood. There has never been a customer or friend who i have sent to this location for coffee lunch or dinner who has not remarked to me on the good luck we have to have them part of our community.

Tom Norwick ZEPHYR on 24th St. 415.238.1096(cell) 415.695-7707 ( office) CalBRE LIC #00683637

195

Schlange & Maurice

Tom Norwick

10/3/16

## Legacy Business Registry

Inbox x



 **Cleve Jones** <cjones@unitehere.o 11:35 PM (14 hours ago) ☆  
to me ▾

Dear Solange and Maurice,

I write to support your application for Cove on Castro to the Legacy Business Registry.

Back in the 1970s I was a frequent customer of the Norse Cove Cafe, one of the last of many businesses that once catered to the Scandinavian families who originally settled in Eureka Valley in the early 1900s. Decade after decade, the restaurant stayed open as the neighborhood around it changed.

Throughout those many years, the Cove was a reliable place to go for friendly service, good food and affordable prices. When you took over ownership of Cove on Castro, it was a blessing for the neighborhood. You maintained the warm and casual atmosphere that sincerely welcomed all the diverse residents and visitors of the Castro neighborhood. You've supported and welcomed the LGBT community, celebrated our history and shown respect for our elders and most vulnerable neighbors. After hundred of meals, I continue to enjoy dining at Cove on Castro and hope to do so for the rest of my life. It would be heartbreaking to lose the Cove and I hope that inclusion in the Legacy Business Registry will assist your efforts to continue to provide jobs, support the community and serve up kindness and tasty meals.

Sincerely,

Cleve Jones



## The Legacy Business Registry letter of support



Inbox x



**Mathews, Edward** <Edward.Mathews@

7:36 AM (6 hours ago) ☆



to me ▾

To Whom It May Concern:

Ever since moving here in 2008, there has been one consistent local restaurant that serves more than just food. The Cove is an establishment that serves food and community with a rich history of catering the LGBTQ and greater community. On its monitors, you can see rotating photo montages of people and events both current and long past and always with a sense of community, humor, reverence and a sweetness that deserves to be recognized. It is my understanding that the establishment has seen and helped people through some of the darkest times in SF LGBTQ history and is always a supporter of AIDS charities, as evidenced by their continued support of the Bare Chest Calendar, one of the oldest fundraisers in San Francisco for AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center. The owners are sweet and always greet you with a smile. Holidays are special for those of us orphaned from family as it is a hub for those of us who are either unable to travel due to work or who are estranged from loved ones. You form your own circle of friends and family and it is one of those places that encourages such integration. It is my honor to recommend The Cove for the Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,

Ed Mathews

Mr. January 2012

Mr. December 2014

Bare Chest Calendar

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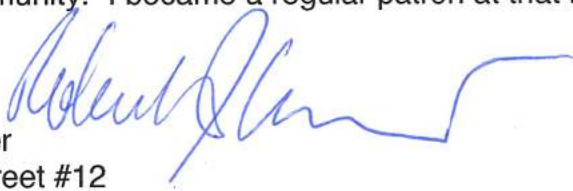
The Cove  
434 Castro St.  
San Francisco, CA 94114

**Re: The Cove on Castro for the Legacy Business Registry**

I have been a resident of the neighborhood (I live at Market and Noe) for over twenty years. I have been a regular patron of the Cove on Castro all these years, and I have long been impressed by their food, the service, and, most of all, by their support for the community, and the neighborhood. Maurice and Solange are so warm and welcoming that I know everyone, even first time patrons, feels at home right away. And they treat all the staff with such human kindness that most of the staff are very long-term employees, an unusual trend in the restaurant business.

But I particularly want to mention my early encounters with the Cove. This was before I moved to San Francisco, when I visited my parents living in Oakland. This would have been in the late 1970s or early 1980s—when AIDS was having a major effect, and there were only limited options for treatment. The very first time I visited the Cove, I noticed a large number of the men having lunch were clearly very ill, but the Cove had provided a multitude of comfortable cushions, so that the benches were not too hard on bony hips. And it was clear that many of these men had few or no other social interactions, but they came to the Cove as a way to connect, with each other, and with the community. I became a regular patron at that moment.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Currier  
3571 16th Street #12  
San Francisco, CA 94114



## Fwd: The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry



Inbox x

Solange Darwish

6:31 PM (44 minutes ago) ☆

to me ▾

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Todd Faeger <[tfaeger@gmail.com](mailto:tfaeger@gmail.com)>

**Date:** October 4, 2016 at 3:57:10 PM PDT

**To:** Solange Darwish <[sdarwish50@gmail.com](mailto:sdarwish50@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** The Cove on Castro for The Legacy Business Registry

I'd like to add my two cents to nominating the Cove on Castro for the Legacy Business Registry.

Historical

I have been a patron of The Cove on Castro for 30 years (since 1986.) The Cove has become and has remained my favorite neighborhood restaurant. The restaurant is core to the gay community. It is a place of gathering and a safe space where patrons of all walks, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & queer feel free and safe to be and celebrate themselves. For many years, pictures of patrons adorned the walls, though today, video screens fulfill that function, while adding videos of San Francisco, and the community. The Cove is truly an integral part of the gay community.

### Community

The staff at The Cove treat you like family, welcoming you into their hearts and lives. Solange and Maurice are beautiful souls who ensure that, even as people come and go, the core of the restaurant staff is based on family love. Solange greets her regular patrons with a huge smile and a warm hug. The staff ask about your week, and are interested in knowing what's new and how you are. Long time patrons often linger to mingle and chat with the staff. Maurice and Solange always make sure that the food is good and is respectful of the dietary concerns of their customers. Care and attention is given to everything. When hard times happen, everyone rallies around. When one staff member was battling cancer, Solange held a benefit to raise money for support. The restaurant was packed with supporting patrons for the event; because everyone cared to help out where they can. How many places generate that type of love, loyalty and concern for a beloved staff member?

### Identity

The compassion, the love, and the warmth that emanates from The Cove always makes you feel like coming home to family. Nothing quite compares. It is truly part of the heart and soul of the Castro, I cannot imagine what would become of the Castro without the Cove. To me, it would just be an empty shell. The Cove is one of the few places that define and are invested in the Castro and its community. Others include Cliff's, Orphan Andy's, Twin Peaks. The Cove, Solange, Maurice and the staff are truly an essential part of the gay community.

I, for one, will be forever glad to be part of the wonderful Cove family.

Hugs!  
Todd



geokellys1@aol.net

6:27 PM (42 minutes ago)

to me

The Cove,

I agree 100% with Supervisor Scott Wiener's nomination of The Cove on Castro to be included in The Legacy Business Registry.

The Cove has been a favorite restaurant of mine for over two decades. Solange and Maurice are endeared members of our community. They along with their friendly and efficient staff create a welcoming and familial atmosphere. Everyone is welcomed and treated like old friends. The menu of The Cove offers a variety of healthy and delicious choices. Their homemade soups change daily and are served with their homemade

soda bread, umm yummy. Their menu is varied as are their daily specials.

I enjoy eating at The Cove alone and with friends. I highly recommend The Cove to friends and neighbors.

Solange and Maurice are supportive members of the community. They have sponsored, donated and contributed to the many events that I have personally participated in. They are like family to me. They have a respected voice in the community and they are loved and appreciated by their patrons.


Thank you for this opportunity to boast about The Cove on Castro.

George Kelly

## The Cove on Castro should be part of the Legacy Business Registry....



Inbox x

 **DJL** <david@djlsfo.com>

9:40 PM (15 minutes ago) ☆



to me ▾

Dear Maurice and Solange,

There is no restaurant more deserving of being part of this registry than the Cove On Castro.

Through the decades, from one century to another your restaurant has been a centerpiece for the community, and a place that welcomes everyone from around the world. Wonderful food, a staff that seems more like family. Whether it's a conversation about politics or community causes, or just watching the incredible heritage videos on the big screens the Cove on Castro feels like home.

With my full support from this Native San Franciscan,

DJL

David J. Lipschultz  
Managing Director - Aviation and Consular  
Client Services  
Avalon Chauffeured Transportation  
415-999-9910 mobile direct



## The Legacy Business Registry

Inbox x



**edmorgan** <edmorgansf@aol.com>

10:42 PM (13 hours ago)



to me ▾

I AS LONG TIME SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENT HAVE BEEN EATING AT THE COVE FOR MANY YEARS. WHEN I FIRST STARTED TO FREQUENT THIS RESTAURANT IT WAS KNOWN AS THE NORSE COVE . I FOUND IT THEN TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE AND THE FOOD WAS VERY HOME LIKE. UNLIKE ANY OF THE OTHER EATERIES ON CASTRO ST. UNDER THE MANAGEMENT SOLANGE AND MAURICE THE COVE IS STILL THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN I FIRST ATE THERE SO MANY YEARS AGO. OF COURSE OVER THE YEARS SOME CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE. BUT THE COMFORT FOOD IS STILL THE BEST . FOR ME THE COVE IS A TREASURE AND DESERVES TO BE KNOWN AS A LEGACY BUSINESS.

ED MORGAN

## Support letter

Inbox x



Kevin McLaughlin

10:11 AM (2 hours ago) ☆



to me ▾

Just found this hope it is not to late.

To whom it may concern,  
The Cove on Castro above ALL other restaurants on the Castro has done more to support LGBT history and honor those lost to AIDS than any other. First by covering their walls with the faces of the epidemic along with never ending donations and free food and holding support events when ever requested. The current video productions extend the education and support of LGBT causes and accomplishments. Their undying showing of support love for the community is beyond any others I know of in the whole city. Not to mention his is a second generation operation. I strongly support the idea of this establishment be acknowledge as a legacy business. I feel they have been overlooked in the past.

Sincerely,

Kevin McLaughlin

775 Burnett Ave #12

San Francisco, CA 94131

650-740-3510



From: **Ann Cordova** <akaute@aol.com>  
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016  
Subject: Document1.docx  
To: [coveoncastro@gmail.com](mailto:coveoncastro@gmail.com)

Solange and Maurice Darwish  
The Cove on Castro

Your place is like home away from home. Your part in the neighborhood goes way above the food you serve. It's a meeting place for the neighborhood. It is a family place where you look around the room to make sure the daily are faces are all present and doing well. You may not know the names but look around to make sure the two handsome guys who have been a couple for close to 60 years are here for their daily meal, the woman with short hair comes in to have lunch and read her paper, the rabbi and his partner, the guy who loves to give bear hugs to the staff, and many more regulars who see The Cove as the go to place. Everybody has their favorite table and favorite dish on the menu. It's like going home to see Mom. An equally important part is the respect and kindness with which the staff is treated. Their treatment is reflected in the service guests receive always trying to please and make you feel special. I have lived in the neighborhood for 35+ years, can't remember when I first started to be a regular but can't imagine not coming to this legendary place at least once a week. Thank you for being part of this lovely neighborhood.

Ann Cordova  
415-308-9925

**Legacy Business Registry  
November 16, 2016 Hearing**

2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR;  
2016-014320LBR; 2016-013558LBR; 2016-013561LBR; 2016-013587LBR;  
2016-013588LBR; 2016-014214LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR;  
2016-013785LBR; 2016-013788LBR; 2016-013922LBR

*Filing Date:* October 17, 2016  
*Case No.:* 2016-013557LBR  
*Business Name:* The Cove on Castro  
*Business Address:* 434 Castro Street  
*Zoning:* NCD (Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial)  
65-B Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 2647/004  
*Applicant:* Solange Darwish, President  
434 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8  
*Staff Contact:* Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093  
desiree.smith@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

## **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

The Cove on Castro is a home-style diner serving traditional American fare since 1971. The family-owned business is located in a three-story commercial over residential Edwardian building on Castro Street between Market Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. After immigrating to the United States from France via Egypt, the Darwish family took over the storefront at 434 Castro Street that had previously housed The Norse Cove, a Norwegian deli. The Darwish family kept the Scandanavian deli theme but eventually introduced table service to the restaurant in 1988. The diner has since become a community institution known for their homemade soups, fresh bread, kindness, and compassion. As the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood shifted in the 1970s, the business began catering to the area's growing LGBTQ community. The Cove on Castro soon became a welcoming meeting spot for queer activists and residents, including well-known change agents, Harvey Milk, Randy Shilts, Cleve Jones, Phyllis Martin and Del Lyon. During the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, the Cove on Castro provided support for victims by holding fundraisers on behalf of Project Open Hand, participating in Dining Out for Life to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and serving as a judge for the Bare Chest Calendar and Competition held at The Eagle. The Cove on Castro made perhaps its biggest impact by its display of care and compassion to many of its customers who had become ill with HIV/AIDS. Owner and food server, Solange Darwish, was known to send home large containers of soup with sick customers, had care packages of food delivered to the ailing, and added cushions to make the restaurant's wooden benches more comfortable for those in pain. Over the years, The Cove on Castro collected photographs that represent the people and the culture of the neighborhood, placing them on display for patrons to see. The photos originally decorated the interior walls of the restaurant, but have since been digitally scanned and transformed into a slideshow named "All Gay All the Time," which plays on three television screens within the restaurant. Original photographs were donated to the GLBT Historical Society. Since 1971, the family business has nourished the Castro community with old fashioned American food, compassion, and Gay pride.



## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

1971

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes, The Cove on Castro qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The Cove on Castro has operated for 45 years.
- ii. The Cove on Castro has contributed to the Castro community's history and identity by serving as a neighborhood gathering spot and offering home-style meals in a welcoming and compassionate environment, particularly for its largely LGBTQ customer base.
- iii. The Cove on Castro is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy as a neighborhood-serving restaurant and source of compassion and community pride.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the tradition of serving traditional American diner fare with kindness and compassion.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

The property has been previously evaluated for its architectural significance and was found to be a potential contributor to the California Register-eligible Castro Street Historic District. Further evaluation is necessary to determine if the business or property is associated with significant events or persons.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

The property is considered a "Category A" building and is a contributor to the California Register-eligible Castro Street Historic District.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. The business has been cited in multiple publications, which include but are not limited to: Castro Times, February 1981, "Home Cooking at the Norse Cove," by Gus Tremont; Castro Courier, August 2014, "Dining In at The Cove on Castro," by Bill Sywak; OurTownSF.org, 1/26/2006, "Café captures Castro's past," by Roger Bringham.

The business is also recommended as a destination in Betty & Pansy's "severe queer review" of San Francisco published in 1993, which is a guide to bars, clubs, restaurants, cruising areas,

Legacy Business Registry  
November 16, 2016 Hearing

2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR;  
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2016-013588LBR; 2016-014214LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR;  
2016-013785LBR; 2016-013788LBR; 2016-013922LBR

performing arts and other queer attractions.

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

**Location(s) associated with the business:**

- 434 Castro Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Traditional American fare and wide selection of soups
- Storefront system (recessed entryway with two bay windows and blue tile)
- Photo display/digital slideshow

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Logo





# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2016

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2016-013557LBR  
*Business Name:* The Cove on Castro  
*Business Address:* 434 Castro Street  
*Zoning:* NCD (Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial)  
65-B Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 2647/004  
*Applicant:* Solange Darwish, President  
434 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8  
*Staff Contact:* Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093  
desiree.smith@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE COVE ON CASTRO, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 434 CASTRO STREET (BLOCK/LOT 2647/004).**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the Castro neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 16, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends that the Cove on Castro qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for the Cove on Castro.

*Location (if applicable)*

- 434 Castro Street

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

- Traditional American fare and wide selection of soups
- Storefront system (recessed entryway with two bay windows and blue tile)
- Photo display/digital slideshow
- Logo

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission's** findings and recommendations are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2016-013557LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 16, 2016.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: