



Think Community



Laurel Arch



## Get to know the Laurel. . .You'll like what you find here!!!

At the beginning of the last century, what is now called the Laurel district was just a handful of homesteads surrounded by vegetable gardens, lush hillsides, family dairies and grazing livestock. Refugees from the 1906 earthquake flocked to the area, and by 1910 the Laurel boasted sidewalks and streetlights. By 1920 a railway connected the area to downtown and established Hopkins Street (now MacArthur Blvd) as a bustling thoroughfare.

As industry in Oakland grew, so did the need for housing, and spectacular incentives were offered to stimulate home building. The district continued to grow through the depression, and the post-war period brought another housing boom to the Laurel. Businesses flourished. Many of the storefronts lining MacArthur were built in the forties and fifties. Glenn's Charbroiled Burgers, built in 1947, seemed to point to the future with its arrow for the "drive-thru"—though the car hops are gone, you can still get a darn fine burger and fries at the counter.

These days the Laurel is one of the most vibrant and culturally diverse neighborhoods in the Bay Area with easy access to freeways and public transportation. There are many mom and pop restaurants, businesses, and services lining MacArthur Blvd. Some, like Loard's ice cream and The Food Mill (natural foods) are practically icons. Farmer Joe's (2 locations now) has claimed its place as a fabulous alternative to The Berkeley Bowl and Whole Foods---a real neighborhood mecca. You can enjoy your morning java at World Ground. Sit at the bar or a booth at Fullhouse Café for red flannel hash or weekend eggs benedict. There's a good neighborhood library, and fabulous hiking in the nearby Oakland hills. The community just enjoyed its 2nd annual World Music Festival in August, and there are a number of other street festivals throughout the year.



Farmer Joe's Food Mecca



Java at World Ground