

The Montcarion

Neighbors

A fun thing to do while in the Glenview

The Glenview's got it going on. Most of you know it's a hot dining destination, but this Park Boulevard neighborhood is fast becoming a draw for the Bay Area's top singer/songwriters.

In a funky little upstairs performance venue, guitarist Caren Armstrong is hosting a monthly songwriters showcase called Celebrating Songwriters that's rockin' the floor boards. The other night she brought in two amazing musicians — Tony Marcus and David Maloney — and the three of them packed the house. The best moment for me was when



GINNY PRIOR
THE TOWN CRIER

Caren sang "Ode to Billy Joe" and Marcus sawed and plucked the fiddle while Maloney tapped a beat on his guitar. That was some of the best acoustic country I've ever heard —

outside of Nashville. Check it out at www.celebratingsongwriters.com.

You may know that I'm no stranger to the live music scene. I've played a few gigs of my own over the years, including stints with the Purple Finks (my first all-girl band in junior high); the Jack Down Cats (we were huge at the Ekalaka, Mt., High School prom) and Minnesota Road Gang (Known for our

breakout performance at the Lutefisk festival).

Although my flute has been sitting silent these days, I did dust it off the other night to join Oakland drummer Brad Blemker and his band for a gig at the Pig and Whistle in San Francisco. I'd forgotten what a trip it is to play before a whiskey-swilling, beer-spilling bar full of bikers. And those were just my friends. Now I know why musicians keep playing till their arthritic fingers can't wrap around their guitar necks. They'd rather be rockin' on stage than in their chairs.