

DOWNTOWN RECOVERY

Yes, go to Union Square

San Francisco's primary retail district is still worth a visit — now and into the future.

by **Erica Sandberg**

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Courtesy of Union Square Ice Rink

never go to Union Square anymore, it's not like the old days.

Whether you've said this or have heard it from other people, it's true. Union Square and its environs have changed, and in many ways for the worse. Scores of empty storefronts have replaced active retailers, especially on Powell Street from Geary to Market streets. The ongoing hotel labor dispute is jangling nerves, as loud picketers do their best to drive away shoppers, visitors, and conventions in hopes of securing the contract of their dreams. Who knows how long that will take, so we now have a choice. Go or don't go.

I say go.

Union Square is not only worth the venture, but your presence can help reverse its downward course. You're more powerful than you may believe.

You may also be pleasantly surprised. If you haven't been lately, you will immediately notice the police presence. The SFPD command center is parked on Post and Stockton streets. Police are out in force ready to tackle what needs tackling. So are Union Square ambassadors, who will answer questions as they're on the lookout for issues that need mitigating.

Classical Sundays at the ice rink. KDFC, California's premier classical music radio station, has partnered with Union Square's Ice Rink to stream "A Classical California Christmas" every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Even if you don't take part in the skating, you can watch and listen at no cost to you.



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