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Fall Arts Preview

Get ready: The arts season kicks off in earnest this month, and we've got an expanded preview calendar highlighting the concerts, galas, dances, and more to enjoy this autumn. 20

MarinaTimes

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Superstar pianist Yuja Wang performs at the San Francisco Symphony's Opening Night Gala. PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Fashion, fun and philanthropy: The fall fundraising season begins

by maryann lorusso

SUMMER'S OVER. YOU'RE BACK from that final vacation, you've finished that last novel, and your tan is finally fading. It's back to work, back to school, back to reality. But here in San Francisco, with the autumn season comes yet another great reason to socialize and celebrate: the fall fundraising galas.

From now through the holidays, the city is awash in spectacular soirees designed to raise money for some truly important organizations. If you're fortunate enough to be able to purchase a ticket to one of the most charitable — and glamorous — seats in town, consider it. Whether you have a favorite cause or strongly believe in supporting the arts, there's no more festive way to welcome fall

while also helping folks who really need it. So put on that suit or dress, put on those dancing shoes, and get ready for some philanthropic fun.

San Francisco Symphony Opening Night Gala (Sept. 3): Kick off the season with the San Francisco Symphony's annual black-tie gala, benefitting the symphony's award-winning education and community programs that serve

GALA SEASON, continued on 21

POLITICAL ANIMAL

It's still Willie Brown's town

Personal politics runs amuck at City Hall

by susan dyer reynolds

REBECA KATZ WAS NO WALLFLOWER WHEN it came to advocating for the animals of San Francisco. During her six years as executive director of Animal Care and Control (ACC), the city's public shelter, she pushed for a bigger budget, more staff, and a new facility to replace the current one, which is crumbling and outdated. She frequently went to the press with important issues, and she developed private partnerships to fill in where the city would not.

When the Chihuahua overpopulation hit crisis levels, Katz partnered with Virgin Airlines for Operation Chihuahua Airlift, sending the little dogs to New York City where they were in high demand. After two pit bulls were shot in the back by San Francisco police officers in two separate incidents, Katz contacted me about the fact that the department was no longer participating in training for how to handle dogs in the field — despite knowing that SFPD's chief, Greg Suhr, would rather she kept quiet. I wrote two articles on the subject, and the SFPD reinstated its training.

When ACC couldn't afford to feed the more than 11,000 animals it takes in annually, Katz forged a relationship with Pet Food Express (PFE), which brought in Halo Foods to

POLITICAL ANIMAL continued on 34

Appreciating Robin Williams

by michael snyder

HIS UNTIMELY DEPARTURE, perhaps to dimensions unknown, was devastating to countless fans and admirers, but no one feels the recent painful loss of the protean actor and comedian Robin Williams more acutely than those of us who live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Robin was a very funny man, a fine actor, and a humanitarian. He was the pride of San Francisco, his adopted home, the place where he got his start in comedy and where he continued to live after achieving worldwide fame and acclaim in films and on television. For all of his talent, the one thing that his friends and colleagues have emphasized in the wake of his passing was his genial nature. He was, by all evidence, a sweet, kindhearted guy who found joy in making people happy, a quality that seemed to suffuse every fiber of his being. And the easiest and most immediate way he could

see the fruits of his labors was up close and personal in a comedy club — even a tiny closet of a joint like the now-defunct Holy City Zoo in the Richmond District.

A dropout from the drama program at the prestigious Juilliard School, he first rattled cages as a stand-up comic at the Zoo and other local establishments in the mid-1970s. His gifts as a comedian

Robin Williams was the pride of San Francisco, his adopted home.

were instantly evident: a lightning wit, an omnivorous topicality, a gift for impressions, and an inherently lovable essence and vulnerability that were palpable, no matter how scathing the jokes and routines or how brutally he skewered his targets — usually the pompous, the nasty, and the humorless. Those skills of his remained vital through decades of live sets at clubs, the-

aters and arenas; comedy albums; TV specials; late-night talk-show guest shots; USO tours; and charity events like his annual co-hosted Comic Relief benefits. He was electrifying, riotous, and relevant all the way into the 21st century.

After a few years of dazzling audiences in San Francisco clubs and at high-profile establishments like the entertainment-industry showcase the Comedy Store in Los Angeles, Robin became a TV star. Mork — his endearingly goofy alien character from the situation comedy *Mork & Mindy* — made him a household name and turned “Nanu-nanu!” and “Shazbot!” into inescapable catch phrases that were cheerfully parroted back at him by delighted strangers for much of his career. He seemed to take it all in stride, genuinely embracing the love that poured in his direction.

While he was still Mork-ing it up, he caught the attention of the movie studios and the renowned

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Williams in 1979. The photo was used for the March 12, 1979 cover of *Time* magazine. It was installed in the National Portrait Gallery to commemorate Williams after his death. PHOTO: MICHAEL DRESSLER / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TOP 10 STEAKS IN AMERICA

Osso Steakhouse - San Francisco, CA
Bobo's - San Francisco, CA
Peter Luger Steakhouse - Brooklyn, NY
Bern's Steakhouse - Tampa, FL
CUT - Beverly Hills, CA
Emeril's Delmonico - Las Vegas, NV
Mario Batali's Carnevino - Las Vegas, NV
Chicago Cut - Chicago, IL
The Precinct - Cincinnati, OH
Elway's Cherry Creek - Denver, CO



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Arts & Entertainment

Autumn arts

Ernest Beyl checks in with actor Claude Jarman Jr. of *The Great Locomotive Chase*, *The Yearling*, and *Rio Grande*; Michael Snyder previews the fall's movies to watch out for; and Sharon Anderson finds Chinese artist/activist Ai Weiwei at Alcatraz. **14**

Calendar

Special fall arts preview

Make sure you don't miss a minute of the best of the fall arts season; to help you, we've expanded our calendar to highlight the galas and concerts and more that will make the city sparkle this autumn. **20**

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ONLINE SPECIALS

Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter and more fall film openings, complete archives, and more.

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NEWS BRIEFS : Airbnb, soda, Uber, and more

Laws and orders

WILL SF MAKE AIRBNB LEGIT?

After more than six hours of public comment, the City Planning Commission voted in favor of supporting an altered proposed ordinance legalizing Airbnb, VRBO, and other short-term rental services. The proposal from Board of Supervisors President David Chiu would legalize and impose restrictions, such as limiting the number of days each year that a unit could be rented out.

The commissioners want added provisions limiting the use of below-market-rate units, funding enforcement, and giving landlords 30 days to register objections to their units being used for these services.

The proposal will be heard at the Land Use Committee in September before heading to the Board of Supervisors for a vote.

SODA TAX

This summer, the Board of Supervisors agreed to put to voters in November a measure that would tax nonalcoholic sugary drinks, with the revenue being used to fund health programs, water fountains, and recreational facilities.

Proposition E's supporters argue that the tax, if passed on to consumers, would reduce soda consumption by 31 percent and raise up to \$54 million a year. However, as CBS SF political analyst Melissa Griffin Caen pointed out

in a Week to Week political roundtable, the tax is actually levied at the distributor level, not the point of sale, so a retailer could keep soda prices the same or only slightly increased but still cover higher costs by raising the prices on unrelated items, such as bananas or potato chips.

UBER IS THE NEW AIRBNB

Uber, Lyft, and similar car-sharing services are facing a raft of proposed regulations. The companies have earned devoted followings since their smartphone-ordered rides first hit the scene.

Nobody is expecting local communities to copy the ban on Uber that Berlin just implemented, but California legislators have been considering bills that would require permits for some carriers that work with Uber and Lyft, as well as require clarification of insurance coverage.

Meanwhile, the *Examiner* reports that city taxi drivers are hoping to unionize and thereby increase their clout in union-friendly City Hall.

RENT IT OR PAY UP

Though the number of vacant commercial properties in the city is reportedly down dramatically over the past couple years, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors approved legislation by Supervisor Katy Tang to punish landlords who do not rent out empty

storefronts. Citing possible crime and reduced economic activity, the legislation fines landlords of empty stores. The property owners would be exempted under certain conditions, such as making "good faith" efforts to rent, lease, or sell the store, but they need to register the vacant space with the city and would have to either rent or pay a fine for the space within 270 days.

MAYOR, WIENER DUEL OVER MUNI

Many city leaders acknowledge that Muni has long-term funding problems, especially as ridership rises during the current economic boom. But they don't all agree on how to rectify it. This November, voters will be presented with two ballot measures affecting the service: One, promoted by Mayor Ed Lee and the full Board of Supervisors, supports a \$500 million bond for transportation infrastructure improvements. The other, sponsored by Supervisor Scott Wiener and opposed by the mayor, would expand the portion of the general fund that goes to transportation.

The mayor reportedly believes that Wiener's measure will restrict the budgeting flexibility city leaders need. In July, the mayor's budget director issued a notice to city agencies telling them to prepare for budget cuts if Wiener's law is passed.

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The In-Box: Letters to the *Times*

SOWING NOSTALGIA

I cannot believe you allowed the article by Michael Snyder to be printed in your newspaper ("Change and loss in the city of gloss," *Marina Times*, August 2014, page 1). First, you should abide by Tony Soprano's dictum: "Nostalgia is the lowest form of communication." Carl Nolte of the *Chronicle* and your own Ernest Beyl hoe that garden once in a while.

Second, the pejoratives flow like sludge when he has absolutely no proof that there were "carpetbagging, overpaid and profligate technoids" who have overrun San Francisco. And is it a "greedy, speculating, real-estate vampire" who bought the building? Does he know? Of course not. Did he write an article when the Thai restaurant moved into the space and paid \$4,000 a month, which dislocated another business who might have been paying only, say, \$2,000 a month? I think not. Those overpaid technoids he crabs about could be the

same technoids that keep his Twitter account running smoothly.

San Francisco has residential rent control but not commercial rent control, so if a business wants to pay \$15,000 a month, there is nothing to prevent that, and calling the landlord names does nothing. And I, for one, don't think it is worth printing in the *Marina Times*.

Harry Rabin
San Francisco

FLIP FLOP FLAP

What is wrong with fixing up buildings ("Flip Floppers," Real Estate Roundup, *Marina Times*, August 2014, page 26)? Bringing them up to current codes and making them safer? Oh, and by the way, each time a building sells for more money the city receives more money in property taxes. Right?

The 24 percent must be better money for the city. The sellers will just have to take the 24 percent into consideration and pass onto the buyers.

I don't get it.

Michael Kloepfer
San Francisco

E-mail: letters@marinatimes.com

REYNOLDS RAP ∴ City politics

Broadway corridor controversy: David Chiu's perspective

by susan dyer reynolds

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL months, I've written extensively for the *Marina Times* about the efforts of Jordan Angle to open a high-end lounge called Tryst in his grandmother's building located along the struggling Broadway corridor of North Beach, known more for crime and strip clubs than for the family-oriented restaurants that neighborhood groups like the Telegraph Hill Dwellers wish would open in the area's blighted, empty buildings.

District 3 Supervisor David Chiu, who represents the area, reached out to me in an effort to "set the record straight," and agreed to answer some questions on the topic. Here is my Q&A session with Supervisor Chiu:

In the case of Tryst Lounge, who are the "stakeholders" you refer to — besides Mr. Angle, his partners, and his grandmother — and what is their "stake"?

For the past six years, we have convened and worked closely with numerous stakeholders along the corridor, including many city departments, elected officials, neighborhood organizations, Broadway residents, and business owners who have been involved in a multi-year intensive effort addressing the problems we have all seen on Broadway.

More specifically, these "stakeholders" have included my office, District Attorney George Gascón's office, Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi's office, the Department of Public Works, Central Station, SoTel Neighbors, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, North Beach Business Association, and a majority of the property and business owners in the Community Benefit District, who represent the daytime businesses, restaurants, bars, and other nightlife establishments along Broadway.

Why are Mr. Angle and his partners being held to different standards and much higher scrutiny

than other similar businesses that are opening nearby without any interference? (For example, the projects by Future Bars and the Tosca Group.)

Unfortunately, Mr. Angle has repeatedly twisted the facts of our attempts to work with him. He is not being held to any different standard than other business.

Mr. Angle proposed his Tryst business within a two-block area that has significantly greater crime and nightlife-related issues than locations just one or two blocks away. In general, and particularly on weekend evenings, Broadway has a different atmosphere, attitude, venue size, and patron demographic than locations around the corner on Columbus. This is confirmed not only by the experiences of neighborhood residents and businesses, but also by San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) crime data; SFPD reports that Central Station rarely gets calls for service on Columbus, but describes those two blocks of Broadway as "ground zero" for problems.

SFPD Central Station recommended the denial of Tryst's appli-



District 3 Supervisor David Chiu; the boarded-up shell of Tryst Lounge.



PHOTOS: JOHNKLIN; © GOOGLE STREET VIEW

with related crime, public safety, and quality of life issues. The community of stakeholders described above has been working hard to avoid repeating the past.

As I understand, the key difference between the North Beach community and Mr. Angle appears to be over the level of entertainment intensity and frequency he proposes for Tryst. Mr. Angle has suggested that he will apply for a Type 47 license, which he has not yet done, but is simultaneously demanding that he be granted a full entertainment permit. The community believes a more appropriate approach would be thirty (30) one-night (general) entertainment permits per year (since Mr. Angle has requested two events a month), in addition to an unrestricted Limited Live Performance Permit, given the rich live entertainment history of the neighborhood. SFPD Central Station also prefers this approach

so they can know when large events will be happening and plan their staffing levels accordingly. Assuming all goes well with Tryst after some time has passed, the neighborhood and Central

Station have expressed openness to reconsider the frequency of entertainment.

Why are you "negotiating" rather than allowing Tryst to go through the normal city processes? (Or, in the case of those other two projects, no processes at all?)

There is nothing preventing Tryst from going through the normal ABC and city processes; however, since Tryst does not have broad community support, as I have done with other controversial projects, I offered to bring the opposing parties together to see if there might be common ground. It has been my hope that Tryst would be able to propose a business plan

that would be both financially successful and not create problems for the neighborhood, but Mr. Angle has not been able to do that yet.

Why are "stakeholders" like Stephanie Greenburg — who's only stake appears to be her condo several blocks away — not concerned about the enormous amount of crime that happens in and around the numerous strip clubs? (In fact, the vast majority of incident reports I read involve the strip clubs.)

Ms. Greenburg is the president of SoTel Neighbors, an organization that has worked hard to help clean up Broadway and improve quality of life for area residents. The neighbors in the area all share the concern about crimes that are taking place along Broadway. In the past, many establishments received permits and operated with very little oversight, leading to the situation in which we find ourselves today. SoTel Neighbors has consistently asked all nighttime venues, including the strip clubs, bars, and dance clubs, to be responsible for their patrons.

Do the stakeholders and your office feel entertainment until 11 p.m. at a high-end restaurant and lounge is more of a concern than what goes on in and around the strip clubs — stabbings, bombings, shootings, drugs, and "adult entertainment" which includes being able to get a lap dance until 6 a.m., not to mention prostitution?

Preventing crimes in and around any nighttime venue — regardless of the type of venue — is the goal of all of the stakeholders working along Broadway. We have asked the bars, nightclubs, and strip clubs all to step up in their responsibility for the corridor. It is my understanding that the stakeholders are not opposed to live entertainment until 11 p.m., and there has already been significant compromise on their parts regarding general hours of operation and meal service.

Why are the stakeholders and your office silent about the problems surrounding the strip clubs?

For example, not one word was said about the bombing at Fame connected to the FBI bust that made national headlines, and where the perpetrator was connected to the strip clubs.

No one has been silent about the public safety problems along Broadway, particularly me. SFPD, the DA, the Sheriff's Department, my office, and many others have been closely focused on the problems on those two blocks of Broadway. All of the currently existing clubs have been cooperating and instituting voluntary security protocols and funding additional security services (through the CBD), among many other actions. I expect SFPD and other law enforcement agencies to deal with crime equally, no matter where it originates.

Do the stakeholders and your office feel it is a conflict of interest for Joe Carouba to "donate" nearly a quarter of a million dollars to fund the CBD which you helped to create and which also employs Ms. Greenburg as its president and Joe Carouba as its vice president?

To the contrary, many of the neighborhood stakeholders thought it was entirely appropriate for the strip clubs to make a significant contribution to help pay for security services for the neighborhood. The voluntary contribution essentially doubles the budget of the CBD and allows for significantly more private security and other services to happen within the CBD. The board of directors determines how all donations are spent.

Regarding the CBD leadership, the board of directors of the Top of Broadway CBD are not compensated, but rather volunteer enormous amounts of their time to re-brand, clean, and improve Broadway. Officers are voted in to their leadership roles. All CBD meetings are open to the public, and anyone can get involved if they want to.

Chiu: Mr. Angle proposed his business within a two-block area that has significantly greater crime than locations just one or two blocks away.

30 Stockton Muni station changes changed again

by john zipperer

A CHANGE OF STATION STOPS BY the 30 Stockton bus appears to be short-lived, following rider reaction. Several folks complained that Muni failed to respond to their complaints, but apparently those complaints were still heard loud and clear.

The controversy involves the switch of a stop from Divisadero and Chestnut Street to Fillmore and Chestnut Streets. What should have been a simple switch of locations caused trouble for riders

who missed connections, were forced to exit the bus in the street because there wasn't room for the bus to pull up to the curb, and other inconveniences.

The complaints came flooding in; the *Marina Times* received numerous calls and letters from people upset with the changes. Resident Janet Maslow pointed out that when the driver stops to take a 15-minute break, passengers have to disembark and wait for the next 30 bus. "Sometimes there is a bus waiting and sometimes not. If one is waiting and you get on it you usually have a few minutes' wait because he is still on break. I don't have the

patience to wait, and I usually walk the rest of the way [home], which is OK during the day but late at night not OK. When I am almost home, a 30 drives past, very often empty because most people don't wait," she noted. "I understand that this is a pilot project, but it sucks; even the bus drivers detest it."

In late August, an SFMTA spokesperson told the *Marina Times* "We changed the location of the terminal temporarily to test its effect on the line as a pilot. Based on what we've heard from our riders, we plan to locate the terminal at the previous location. We should have this in place by October."

Patricia Vaughney, a resident who has been collecting rider and Muni driver reactions to the change, said the initial change fits a pattern by Muni of making unilateral changes without proper consultation with the public. She says she received a two-day notice before the trial. "Why now?" she asked. "They had already decided it." She said the disruption caused by the change included additional wait times and missed connections, meaning that for some people "it takes them 30 extra minutes to get to work if they ride the bus."

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Kill switch bill number 2

CALIFORNIA'S LEGISLATORS MADE a big switch of their own in August when they reversed their previous votes against legislation requiring kill switches on new mobile phones sold in the state. The bill, pushed by Sen. Mark Leno, had died earlier this year after strong lobbying by the tech companies — many of which happen to make quite a bit of money selling new phones to victims of smartphone theft.

Now, assuming Governor Jerry Brown signs the bill, new smartphones sold here would have so-called kill switch features installed and enabled. The feature would allow the owner to remotely disable the phone if it were lost or stolen. Some wireless companies had preferred an alternative in which the features would have to be "opt-in," in which case some consumers would not know or remember to turn on the feature. The legislation passed in August is opt-out, which not only covers more consumers but puts in the minds of potential thieves the expectation that that smartphone they are contemplating grabbing from a pedestrian probably is protected against this very eventuality.

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón has said that the majority of robberies in the city involve smartphones.

The crimes below are a small snapshot of what the officers of Northern Station are doing. For a more comprehensive list, visit sf-police.org; under Compstat, select the link to CrimeMAPS.

HE'S WITH THE BAND

June 10, 5:06 p.m.

Eddy at Polk Streets

Plainclothes officers observed a subject taking a guitar case from a vehicle and running away. As they got closer to the vehicle, the officers noticed broken glass next to the car; they followed the individual, who ran up Polk Street. He met up with another individual and both of them ran up Polk; they were soon joined by yet a third subject. When one officer yelled, "Police, stop" the subject with the guitar case dropped it and ran away even faster with his compatriots — one of whom dropped a backpack. All three were eventually caught and detained. The subjects were booked at Northern Station.

THIS IS WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

June 13, 7:43 p.m.

Fillmore at Bay Streets

A semi-intoxicated male was taken into custody after a report of vandalization of a Muni bus. The bus driver had stopped to take a bathroom break when the subject entered the bus through the rear door. The driver escorted him off the bus and left to take his break. When he returned, the subject had kicked out both main door windows. The subject was booked at Northern Station.

NAILED IT

June 20, 7:50 p.m.

2700 Block of Octavia Street

More than 20 witnesses told police a similar story: Three young male subjects had come into a nail salon, pointed handguns at victims and stole purses, laptop bags, wallets, and jewelry before fleeing. An officer spotted the getaway car with three occupants inside. Additional units were called. When officers turned on their siren and lights, the vehicle sped off at a high rate of speed. An on-again, off-again chase across the city ended near Ninth and Mission, where the getaway car had crashed into another vehicle.

Officers were able to locate and detain the three subjects, who were positively identified by witnesses from the nail salon and others who had observed them flee the car after it had crashed. Numerous stolen purses, cell phones, and firearms were recovered from the car, and the subjects were booked at Northern Station.

MORE GUNS

June 21, 2:20 p.m.

700 block of Turk Street

A citizen called to alert police of a gray car driving around the area with four armed males aboard. Officers

spotted the vehicle and noticed several mechanical violations on it, so they tried to pull it over; however, the car accelerated away. Heavy traffic forced it to slow down, and police were able to catch up and attempt to remove the occupants. A rear passenger bolted from the vehicle but was quickly detained, as were the other passengers without incident. A search of the vehicle found several loaded handguns and an assault rifle with a large capacity magazine. One of the subjects was already on federal probation for possessing a short-barrel shotgun. They were booked at Northern Station.

MORE CAR CHASING

July 13, 5:21 p.m.

1700 Van Ness Avenue

A citizen flagged down officers on patrol and told them his store was just burglarized. The officers saw two male subjects get into a vehicle and speed away. The officers pursued the vehicle, which did not stop when they turned on their lights and siren, and additional officers were called into the area. At one point the passenger got out of the vehicle and began to run away, chased on foot by one officer while the other continued after the driver of the vehicle.

Eventually, both suspects were taken into custody and were positively identified by the victim from the store. They were transported to Northern Station for further investigation and later booked at County Jail.

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Francisco Reservoir

A neighborhood dream becomes reality

by mark e. farrell

EARLIER THIS YEAR I wrote about a vision for the Francisco Reservoir on Russian Hill that has been in the works for almost 60 years. Since coming into office nearly four years ago, this project has been one of my main priorities, and I have been working closely with the surrounding neighborhood groups on Russian Hill, North Beach and Aquatic Park, as well as a number of citywide open space advocates, to aggressively move this project forward. I am a firm believer that access to open space is essential to our quality of life in San Francisco, and I will always be a strong advocate for additional open space across every neighborhood in our city.

After multiple hearings at City Hall, the approval of three separate commissions and finally the Board of Supervisors in late July, I am proud to announce that our dream is going to become reality: Over the next few years, we are going to turn the old Francisco Reservoir property into a brand-new 4.5-acre park.

Currently, the Francisco Reservoir is the large block of concrete and chain-link fence bounded by Bay Street to the north, Hyde Street to the east, Chestnut Street to the south, and Larkin Street to the west, square in the middle of Russian Hill. Originally a reservoir owned and operated by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Francisco Reservoir has been out of service for more than 60 years and has remained an eyesore for the neighborhood and entire city ever since.

From the beginning, I have viewed this project as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am proud to have worked so closely with these amazing neighborhood organizations and a number of key individuals who drove the project forward in the community. I still have vivid memories growing up playing with my friends near the Francisco Reservoir, and to think that future generations will be able to enjoy what will become one of San Francisco's largest parks, instead of concrete and chain-linked fence, is inspiring.

Under the terms of the approved agreement, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department will purchase the land for approximately \$9.9 million, with a payment term stretching over 12 years. These structured payment terms will ensure that the Open Space Acquisition Fund, which is being used to purchase the property, will remain structurally sound, and it will allow flexibility for more than \$38 million in additional acquisitions across every other corner of San Francisco over the life of the fund.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the four surrounding neighborhood associations that partnered together to form the Francisco Park Working Group, which was the lead neighborhood organization that coordinated all community efforts. The working group was made up of members from the Russian Hill Improvement Association, Aquatic Park Neighbors, North Beach Neighbors, and Russian Hill Neighbors. These neighborhood groups stepped up and committed to raise the funds to not only build the new park,

but also endow its future maintenance. To date, the working group has raised more than \$9 million and continues to aggressively raise additional capital to complete the grand vision of a park that will be an asset not only for the neighborhood, but the entire city.

During the last six months, together we built a broad base of community support of more than 40 San Francisco organizations that ultimately became involved with this effort, from the local neighborhood groups to organizations such as the Sierra Club.

The Francisco Reservoir project is a rare opportunity to create recreational space out of concrete, a park out of a dilapidated reservoir, and improve the open space balance and quality of life for all San Franciscans. The resulting park will be one of the largest pieces of open space in the area and will serve communities in the surrounding neighborhoods and across our city. Though the landscape of San Francisco may change over time, the advancement of this project ensures Francisco

Reservoir site will remain open space for generations.

Because the Francisco Reservoir project has been a principal area of focus during my first term, I wanted to ensure that everyone in the neighborhood knew about our progress, and invite everyone to stay involved as the ultimate designs are contemplated. In early 2015, we will begin to engage in a community-driven visioning process for the final design of the new park.

It has been an incredible experience working with our local neighborhood organizations and amazing park advocates, and the result is something I believe our neighborhood and the entire city can be proud of.

To learn more about the Francisco Reservoir project, including upcoming community meetings, visit franciscoreservoir.org, or subscribe to Farrell's monthly newsletter at mark-farrell.com, or follow him on Twitter @markfarrellsf. Call his office with questions at 415-554-7752 or e-mail him directly at mark.farrell@sfgov.org.

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Hundreds of Larkin Street Youth Services supporters showed up for the annual Friends of Larkin Street gala. PHOTO: FRIENDS OF LARKIN STREET

A very supportive neighborhood

by john zipperer

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

The Mexican Museum at Fort Mason has inked an agreement with Mexico City's Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico to bring artists and exhibits to San Francisco.

"Our initial vision for this pioneering program involves bringing Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico artists to our museum over the next year," said Andrew Kluger, chairman of The Mexican Museum's board of directors. "Each artist would participate in a five-day program that will include participating in guest lectures and classes, doing workshops with children, and mentoring gifted young San Francisco artists. In addition, UNAM is going to share their educational materials about the arts and culture of Mexico with supporters and friends of The Mexican Museum community."

The partnership includes a series of exhibitions at the Mexican Museum from UNAM's collections, and the two organizations will collaborate to invite notable artists and sculptors to showcase their work at the museum. For more info, visit mexicanmuseum.org.

BOOKPALOOZA AT FORT MASON

Even in tech-crazy San Francisco, we love books. That helps draw thousands of people each year to Fort Mason for the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library's Annual Big Book Sale. This year is the event's 50th iteration, and it will feature 70 categories of books and multimedia, all priced \$1-\$3.

Friends members get a preview and first dibs on Sept. 23, 4-8 p.m., with wine and refreshments (don't leave crumbs on the books, though). The sale itself then runs September 24-28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Fort Mason's

Festival Pavilion. Entry is free.

Friends hopes to raise about \$1 million, and as in previous years gift certificates from local organizations and restaurants are hidden among the items and clues are given out each day on Twitter (@friendssfpl) and Facebook (facebook.com/friendssfpl).

OVERHEARD ON MUNI BUS

Man talking to friend: People don't dress up any more. It's a real shame.

Friend. Uh-huh.

First man: I've been to other countries. You know who are the biggest troublemakers? The most corrupt people are the ones wearing uniforms.

Third man halfway up the bus: You just said people in uniforms are corrupt, and you said people don't dress up. Isn't a uniform dressing up? Isn't that a logical fallacy?

SUPPORTING LARKIN

The good work of Larkin Street Youth Services got a boost this summer when Friends of Larkin Street held its annual gala and raised more than \$70,000. The money will support Larkin's programs for homeless and at-risk youth.

More than 300 guests gathered at the Hotel Kabuki for food, wine, cocktails, raffle, silent auction, wine toss (sounds dangerous), and social gaming. "What could be better than bringing great food, great wine, and a night full of dancing together for an equally great cause?" said Anna Rembold, Friends of Larkin Street board member. "Since the commencement of Friends of Larkin Street in 2009, we have raised more than \$215,000 for Larkin Street Youth Services."

Friends of the library. Friends of Larkin. It's good to have friends.

CASTLES IN THE SAND

Did you know that on some north German

beaches, building sand castles is either illegal or, in other spots, are required to be under a certain size? That of course explains the worldwide reputation Germans have for uninhibited beach fun.

Here in the good ol' U.S. of A., we celebrate the ability to build McMansions of sand if we so choose. We also hold sandcastle contests — it's like we're waving our beach freedom in our German friends' faces. Well, whether you're German, American, or something else, you might want to start preparing for Leap's annual Sandcastle Contest, which takes place early next month — Oct. 11 — on Ocean Beach.

Leap, which supports arts education in schools, hopes to raise \$240,000 to support its programs for more than 7,000 students. More than 3,000 people attend the contest each year, and the sandcastle building teams are made up of prominent architecture, construction, and engineering companies in the city. More at leaparts.org.

DIVING INTO THE UBERPOOL

Uber doesn't like to be called a taxi service, but what else do you call a company that sells rides? Well, the app-directed service has announced a new service it's rolling out in San Francisco that might make you want to call them a bus service: UberPool. With this new offering, riders who are heading in the same or similar route share the ride and split the cost. Details at blog.uber.com/uberpool.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Actual Valleywag headline: "People Keep Getting Into Strangers' Cars Because They Think It's An Uber."

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SKETCHES FROM A NORTH BEACH JOURNAL

The Beats, Upper Grant, the martini, and Live Worms

by ernest beyl

NOT LONG AGO I HEARD FROM Ryan Russo, a young guy who operates Walk SF Tours. He liked something I wrote for my Sketches column and invited me to tag along on one of his tours, The Beats in San Francisco. Sounded like a good idea, so I met Ryan at the Beat Museum on Broadway and did his walk with a small group of tourists. I learned a lot. Ryan, who lives in North Beach, has done his homework, and is a personable and knowledgeable guy. He's been in San Francisco for seven years. "I followed a woman here from my hometown, Houston, and it didn't work out," he told me. Houston's loss is San Francisco's gain.

SAN FRANCISCO BEATS

On Ryan's Beat tour we visited the Beat Museum in City Lights bookstore, Vesuvio's, Jack Kerouac Alley, the site of the old Hall of Justice where the "Howl" trial took place, and a couple of Chinatown restaurants the Beats favored. Then we cut up to Broadway and over to Montgomery to look at the building where Allen Ginsberg wrote *Howl*. Then it was over to Upper Grant to reminisce at the sites for Beat hangouts: the Coffee Gallery, the Co-Existence Bagel Shop, The Place — and the crash pad where Jim Morrison spent an uneasy night long ago. Then over to the site of the Cellar on Green Street where Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Kenneth Rexroth recited poetry to live jazz. And so it went. I'm not giving you exact locations here because I think you would love to tour with Ryan.

If you want to spend a couple of hours with him on the Beat tour, it operates Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, starting at 1 pm. Reservations only (\$30 per person) online at walksf.com or 415-779-5879. A fluent French-speaking guy, Ryan also operates A Pied tours for Francophiles. Same contact numbers. The other tours are Chinatown and North Beach Tasting Tour (\$59) and the Gold Rush Drinking Tour (\$69).

And by the way, Ryan gave up a Silicon Valley tech job to hang out in North Beach, researching the Beats and offering walking tours.

UPPER GRANT AVENUE

Clearly Upper Grant Avenue, where the Beats hung out, is not your grandmother's white-gloved, department store or your Mill Valley girl's suburban mall. It's a gutsy few neighborhood blocks of bars, restaurants, and idiosyncratic shops where shopkeepers sell funny stuff. And "stuff" is defined loosely. I once almost bought a doctor's tray full of turn-of-the-century, anatomically correct glass eyes that I thought might work on my coffee table from the collectibles shop Aria.

Grant Avenue — which now stretches from downtown through Chinatown and North Beach and clear out to the Northern waterfront — began as Calle de la Fundacion (Street of the Founding)

in those early days when San Francisco was just a sleepy village. Later it was named Dupont Street for a prominent naval figure of the time, Rear Adm. Samuel Francis Dupont. The Chinese called it Dupon Gai. After the 1906 earthquake and fire, the name was changed to honor Ulysses S. Grant, the Union's great Civil War general and our 18th president. Don't call it Grant Street, by the way.

Upper Grant Avenue will forever be linked with the counterculture and memories of pot, red wine, jazz, poetry, and just plain sounding off about the state of affairs, the affairs of state, and all that.

THE MCCARTHY MARTINI

Let's have James Thurber open this paean to the martini: "One martini is all right. Two are too many, and three are not enough."

I have a buddy, Jerry Gibbons, who was one half of the celebrated ad agency

Pritikin and Gibbons back in the fifties. Jerry is a straight-up martini sort of guy. And when I saw him the other day, we toasted our longevity with a

couple of big ones — with lemon twists but no olives. "Never an olive in a martini," Jerry said decisively. "And never with vodka and never on the rocks."

That got me musing over the arcane subject of martinis. There's a considerable amount of scholarship asserting that the martini began life in 1874 as the "Martinez," named after the old Gold Rush town across the bay on the south side of the Carquinez Strait. Barnaby Conrad III wrote a marvelous book on the martini in 1995 and raised the martini flag for Martinez, which has a brass plaque claiming origin.

Conrad's father, Barnaby Conrad II, was a friend of mine, and as a devotee, I lifted many a martini mouthward in his classy club El Matador on Broadway.


This musing got me started on a delicate research project to answer the question: Who makes the finest martini in North Beach? What I concluded was this: George McCarthy, bartender at Capp's Corner, makes the best martini. A more proper verb in this case would be "create." George is a creator. Here, in his own words, is how he does it:

"I pour a good gin into my cocktail shaker and add a tiny drop or two of vermouth — or none at all. I always stir my martinis, unlike James Bond who preferred them shaken. Shaking lets in too much air. You don't want to drink air, do you?"


LIVE WORMS

A high point to anyone's visit to North Beach is a stop at artist Kevin Brown's Live Worms gallery at 1345 Grant Avenue. And if you don't know why it's called Live Worms, you haven't been reading my columns. The news is Kevin is taking a break to paint and travel. His painting buddy Paul Fujii will be in residence and will continue to show Kevin's work, his own work as well as that of other artists.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com



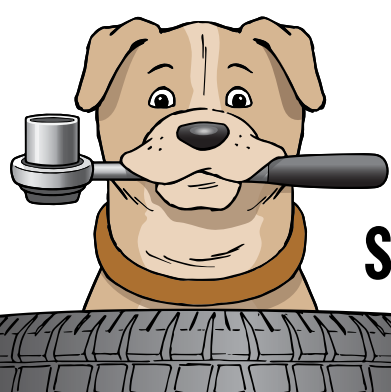
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Bonjour to Le Marais Bakery and Bistro, Monsieur Benjamin and new lunch spots

by marcia gagliardi

MARINA

Le Marais Bakery (2066 Chestnut Street, 415-359-9801) has added a bistro to its name and concept: It expanded into a space next door to include a kitchen and additional seating, and will be serving a bistro-style dinner menu starting Sept. 1.

The new **Le Marais Bakery and Bistro** team includes Nicolette Manescalchi as executive chef, Emily Riddell on pastry, and Ty Mecozzi as head baker. Manescalchi is taking inspiration from the many different food traditions along the Mediterranean. She previously worked at A16, and will offer a seasonal menu that will shift continually.

There's an oak wood grill in the kitchen, and they are butchering most of their meat in-house from whole animals (look for a fair amount of seafood too). Almost everything on the menu will be made in-house, including the pastas, cured fish, and, of course, the bread. Dinner service will also include wine; the bakery side is open daily 7 a.m.–7 p.m., but will begin closing earlier once dinner service begins.

Vegetarians and fans of Indian food will want to note that **Udupi Palace** (3242 Scott Street) has opened a new location in the former Cedar Hill Kitchen + Smokehouse space for you to enjoy their affordable meals of dosas and thali plates.

RUSSIAN HILL

Looking for a new lunch spot? **Belcampo Meat Co.** (1998 Polk Street, 415-660-5573) is now open for lunch from 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. daily. The menu includes sandwich choices like the fried chicken sandwich with slaw or a French dip with jus, a chopped salad, and of course, their cheeseburger.

NORTH BEACH

Lovers of seafood will be happy to know **Ferry Plaza Seafood** (653 Union Street, 415-274-2561) has opened its new location, practically kitty corner to Washington Square Park. The space seats 49, with room for 11 at the bar, and there are some outside tables. It has a minimalist look, with elements of the previous location incorporated throughout: The tables are made with marble salvaged from the bar, and the taxidermy marlin and salmon still grace the walls, although now there's a new salmon mural (by local artist Letty Samonte), too.

Many classics remain on executive chef Joey Ng's menu, along with some new choices, because there is a kitchen at this location. There is a larger oyster selection, with six current varieties and an additional six to nine coming soon (depending on availability). There will also be a rotating meat dish on the menu, and a house-ground burger will make an appearance. There's a new wine list, with white, rosé, bubbly, and red options, plus six beers on tap, and four by the bottle. There are plans to offer lunch and happy hour in September, too. Dinner is served Monday through Saturday from 5:30 p.m.

UNION SQUARE

Another spot for lunch is **Farallon** (450 Post Street, 415-956-6969), which just started lunch service in the Jellyfish Lounge and Oyster Bar. Whether you're looking for a spot for a leisurely ladies-who-lunch kind of vibe, a lunch date, a birthday lunch, or even a nicer business lunch, this should do nicely. The lunch menu includes small bites (\$6), like Dungeness crab toast with a piquillo aioli, and of course, there is a variety of oysters from the oyster

bar (\$2 each), including Coromandels from New Zealand and Fanny Bays from British Columbia. Caviar service, check. My lunch date and I enjoyed the little gems Caesar salad and the smoked sturgeon with brioche toast (both \$10), but the winner was the lobster roll (\$18) on a soft house-made brioche roll. The tuna panino (\$18) was also very good — it's a bit like a tuna melt with a layer of Parmigiano-Reggiano inside. And whatever you do, be sure to have some Champagne. Lunch is served Tuesday–Saturday 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

You can stick around and seamlessly slide into happy hour, which begins at 3 p.m., with \$6 specials on small bites, cocktails, beer, and wine.

HAYES VALLEY

Corey Lee (Benu)

has opened **Monsieur Benjamin** (451 Gough Street, 415-403-2233), and is working with chef Jason Berthold (RN74) — both share extensive French Laundry and Per Se training and experience. With Monsieur Benjamin, they are offering a modern bistro experience, which means they have updated the cooking methods and ingredients used with a modern sensibility, while making references to classic French flavor profiles. For example, the steak tartare (which Lee notes is a dish that has been done to death) is made with hand-cut beef, and there's a pudding of yolk that is seasoned and piped onto the plate. You'll also find a pissaladière that is sheeted (it has a crisp, lavash-like texture) with the flavors of anchovy and olive, and on the plate there are pulverized dried capers (which Lee says are more delicate) — when you take a bite with your eyes closed, you taste a delicious (but updated) tartare. Lee says: "We know the playbook of French flavors well, and have stayed connected to them."

It's an extensive menu with many small plates (from deviled eggs to oysters gratinées), a list of appetizers I want to try each and every one of (the sweetbreads and marrow bones "Blue Ribbon" with Della Fattoria bread were outstanding), plus 13 entrées that average around \$28 — you'll find steak frites (\$36) and a burger (\$18.50), as well as roast chicken and Arctic char amandine. These à la carte dishes are not compositions: You have a sauce, a garnish, and voilà. Dessert includes a palmier ice cream with Calvados caramel; mon dieu was that good.

Aidlin Darling Design (Bar Agricole, Bar Bambino) is behind the handsome urban 90-seat space. The dining rooms are in charcoal hues (including the hex-tiled floor), with deep brown wood panels around the center bar island, and chestnut banquettes along the walls, with glowing filament bulbs suspended from the ceiling. The tables are topped with paper, and the wood chairs are in a classic shape. There's definitely an urban aesthetic in play — especially noted in the custom metal shelving and the table legs of the communal table — mixing with references to classic Parisian style. Seamless windows surround the space with no breaks in the panels, creating a light-filled indoor-outdoor feeling; there will be outdoor seating added, too.

A big deal is that this modern bistro is serving until 1 a.m. nightly. Lee has longed for a late-night bistro since he moved here in late 2009. It will definitely be the spot to go after the symphony and opera. Hours for now are 5 p.m.–1 a.m. Brunch will also be added soon.

Marcia Gagliardi is the founder of the weekly tablehopper e-column; subscribe and get more food news and gossip at Tablehopper.com. Follow her on Twitter: @tablehopper.



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NEW AND NOTABLE ∴ The long and short



Basque-inspired plates and drinks from California and Europe are on the menu at The Commissary. PHOTOS: AUBRIE PICK PHOTOGRAPHY

The Commissary brings new age dining to Old World mess hall

by julie mitchell

IN KEEPING WITH ITS history as a former mess hall in one of the row of redbrick buildings in the Presidio known as “infantry row,” The Commissary has the wide-open feel of a dining hall, but in the best possible way. Dark Douglass fir tabletops are crafted from salvaged wood, lighting fixtures come from an old Presidio gymnasium, and the open kitchen with views from three sides are all show-cased by the restaurant’s clean lines, glossy hardwood floors, pale walls, and ample windows and light. Much of the seating is at communal tables. But probably the most exciting thing about this modern, Spanish-inspired restaurant is its partnership between the Presidio Trust and celebrated San Francisco superstar chef Traci Des Jardins.

Des Jardins, best known for Jardiniere in Hayes Valley and Mijita in the Ferry Building and AT&T Park, has created a menu at The Commissary driven by sustainable, locally sourced ingredients that deftly blends Spain’s influence on California cuisine.

The menu, like many these days, is divided into

small and large plates and truly meant for sharing. Appetizers (\$8–\$9, with the exception of the Fermin Iberico sausage with aged Manchego for \$16 and marinated olives for \$6) include savory bites like blistered peppers, salt cod fritters, and sweet pea and ham croquetas that literally burst in your mouth. Medium-sized plates (\$11–\$15) are creative and surprising — roast cuttlefish is paired with verde rice and squid ink; seared mackerel comes with cucumber, fennel, and marinated chickpeas; and clams are served with chorizo, aioli and grilled bread, reminiscent of paella.

Large plates (\$19–\$29) are just as inspired by Basque flavors. Lamb shoulder is accompanied by candied eggplant, faro and chermoula (a tangy mix of herbs, pickled lemons, olive oil, garlic, and salt), and roasted chicken comes with marcona almonds and dates. The vegetarian entrée is a chickpea galetta with summer squash and harissa vinaigrette. Desserts (\$7–\$10) range from seasonal granita to fresh churros and chocolate and a delicious olive oil almond cake with fresh fruit, caramel, and almond milk sorbet.

The Commissary has a full bar serving cocktails, beer, and a carefully culled wine list that offers up a nice mix of varietals from California, Spain, and Portugal. Some patrons have complaints about the restaurant’s small, juice-glass-like tumblers and small pours for the price by the glass (\$7–\$16), but pricey wine in scant amounts is pretty much par for the course in the city’s restaurants, and the tumblers are deceptive. If this is a concern, then it makes sense to order a bottle — usually a less expensive option — and take home what you can’t finish.

The Commissary is open for lunch, dinner, and coffee and light breakfast (pastries) service. Just walking up its front steps bordering the green of the Parade Grounds, the striking view of the bay, and the historic buildings is as much of a treat as the meal you’re certain to enjoy.

The Commissary: 101 Montgomery Street (Main Post in the Presidio), 415-561-3600, thecommissarysf.com; daily light breakfast 8–10:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., social hour (with drink specials) 4–6 p.m., dinner 5:30–9 p.m. (Fridays 9:30 p.m.)

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APPETITES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS



Crab Louis salad. PHOTO: MARJOTEKKEN / FLICKR

Signature San Francisco dishes

by ernest beyl

I ENJOY READING ABOUT FOOD. I'M assuming you do, too. So here are a few stories about signature San Francisco dishes, a bit of history on your plate.

CELERY VICTOR

If there was such a thing as a celebrity chef in the 1920s, it was Alsatian Victor Hirtzler. Instead of wearing a white toque, or a backward baseball cap as would-be superstar chefs do today, Hirtzler wore a red fez, a goatee, and an attitude.

Before coming to San Francisco and taking over as chef de cuisine for the Hotel St. Francis, he cooked for King Don Carlos of Portugal, for whom he created a dining experience in 1910 so elaborate it led to an assassination. For Don Carlos, Hirtzler prepared *mousse faison Lucullus* — pheasant breast stuffed with truffles and woodcock with a Champagne and Madeira sauce. It was said the dish cost \$180 per serving — a lot of money then, and now too — and that so incensed Portuguese patriots they tossed a bomb into the king's automobile and concluded that monarchy. Hirtzler got the message and immigrated to the United States. *Mousse faison Lucullus* notwithstanding, Hirtzler's most famous recipe, and one closely associated with San Francisco, is *celery Victor*. As far as I can determine there are no restaurants serving *Celery Victor* anymore, so here's the recipe, right out of his *Hotel St. Francis Cookbook*:

Wash six stalks of celery. Make a stock with one soup hen or chicken bones, and five pounds of veal bones in the usual manner with carrots, onions, bay leaves, parsley, salt and whole pepper. Place celery in a vessel and strain broth over same and boil until soft. Allow to cool in the broth. When cold, press the broth out of the celery gently and place on a plate. Season with salt and fresh ground black pepper, chervil, and one-quarter white wine tarragon vinegar to three-quarters of olive oil.

CIOPPINO

Some might say that I spend an inordinate amount of time thinking about cioppino. And I suppose I do. Cioppino occupies me more than, let's say, frozen fish sticks. The story behind this succulent, tomato-based fish stew is that it originated in San Francisco with Italian fishermen in North Beach, where it can be found on many menus today.

Now I don't want to be a spoilsport, and I bow to no one in my love of San Francisco's North Beach, not to mention its Italian fishing community. Nevertheless, I refuse to believe that along the coast of Mare Nostrum — that ancient sea, the

Mediterranean — no fisherman ever came up with the grandfather of all cioppinos.

As a devoted cioppino lover, I have been doing some research.

Giuseppe Bazzuro who, in 1850, turned an abandoned ship into San Francisco's first Italian restaurant, created cioppino, closely related to ciuppin, the fish stew of Genoa. He used whatever seafood was at hand, including Dungeness crab. My main man on just about anything gustatorial is the incomparable Waverley Root, who wrote the authoritative twin volumes, *The Food of France* and *The Food of Italy*. Root never mentions cioppino, but traces brodetto, ciupin, burrida, cassola zimini, ghiotti, zuppa de pesce and, of course bouillabaisse, which he describes as "... the very ancient fish chowder said to have been

invented in Athens and spread throughout the Mediterranean by Greeks ...". There we have it — precursors to what in North Beach is called cioppino.

All these noble elix-

irs include tomatoes in some way or another. Tomatoes were introduced to Europe in the 16th century from across the Atlantic in the New World. So it figures that a fisherman in a small boat netted a mixed bag of Mediterranean fish, boiled them with some seawater, and threw in a few chopped tomatoes, onions, and whatever else was at hand.

Perhaps this is more than you ever wanted to know about cioppino, but my defense is cioppino is sublime.

CRAB LOUIS

The Old Poodle Dog, a French restaurant that dated its founding back to 1849, is said to have created the Dungeness Crab Louis in 1908. The chef was Louis Coutard, and the salad and dressing were named for him. Another old San Francisco establishment, Solari's, had a Crab Louis on the menu in 1914. Today Crab Louis is ubiquitous in San Francisco restaurants. Louis dressing — something like Thousand Island — is usually mayonnaise, chili sauce (or ketchup), pickle relish, and a dash of Worcestershire sauce.

GREEN GODDESS SALAD

I remember Green Goddess salad from when I was a kid, and on special occasions, my folks took me to the Garden Court in the old Palace Hotel. That was good living and good eating. Chef Philip Roemer created the salad in 1923 for actor George Arliss, who was starring in a play here called *The Green Goddess*. Roemer's version is not found on menus today. Yes, you can find Green Goddess salad at the Garden Court in the Palace, but not like this: On a bed of shredded iceberg lettuce, place a sliced tomato and sliced hard-boiled egg. Position

SIGNATURE DISHES continued on 13

NOT TO MISS DISH :: A taste of Rhode Island

Clam bake cioppino at The Old Clam House

by susan dyer reynolds

MY GRANDFATHER was a Sicilian fisherman, and I spent my summers in Rhode Island with him pulling up lobster traps and clamming along the shoreline. Every weekend we had a clam-bake, sometimes on the beach and sometimes in my aunt's backyard — a briny broth loaded with steamers (soft-shelled clams), Maine lobster, red potatoes, corn on the cob, and hot dogs with a snappy casing.

During the winters here in California where lobster was rare and expensive and steamers were nonexistent, my mom made cioppino with the abundance of fresh Dungeness crab, often purchased right off the piers of Santa Cruz or Half Moon Bay. Unlike the clear broth of a clambake, she made her cioppino with a traditional tomato sauce redolent

with garlic and fresh parsley, and she added mussels, shrimp, and calamari.

For all the years I enjoyed both dishes equally, I never thought about how easy it would be to combine the



Clam bake cioppino. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

two — until a recent visit to The Old Clam House, San Francisco's oldest restaurant (serving in the same location since 1861), where I discovered their "clam bake cioppino." My dining companions and I ordered the family size (\$89.95), which

arrived at the table in a gargantuan, rustic cast-iron pot big enough to easily feed six to seven people (they also offer an individual portion for \$25.95 and a pot for two priced at \$49.95). Our server

removed the lid to reveal a steaming tomato sauce bursting with fresh clams, mussels, crab, shrimp, calamari, and fish filets nestled with potatoes, carrots, onions, corn on the cob, and black olives. The sauce had a spicy, garlicky kick but didn't overwhelm the delicate seafood. The shrimp, mussels, calamari, and clams were fresh and plump, cooked just until done, and the crab was sweet and meaty. If you're a clambake or a cioppino lover (or both, like me), it's well worth a jaunt across town.

The Old Clam House:
299 Bayshore Boulevard,
415-826-4880, theoldclam-housesf.com; daily 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

SIGNATURE DISHES

CONTINUED from page 12

an artichoke heart in the center. Fill it with Dungeness crab legs — legs only please. Smother this with Green Goddess dressing — mayonnaise, sour cream, chervil, chives, tarragon, anchovies, lemon juice, salt, pepper, and a bit of minced garlic.

HANGTOWN FRY

This intriguingly named dish can still be found on the menus of Tadich Grill and Sam's Grill. Basically, it's an omelet with bacon and oysters. But it's the story behind the dish that is worth telling. The Gold Rush town of Placerville up in El Dorado County was known as Hangtown — and that needs no explanation. Frontier justice was harsh. There are two versions of the Hangtown Fry story: The first is that a prospector who made his poke of gold nuggets invented the dish. Eggs were very expensive, so were oysters shipped on ice from San Francisco. So that's what this Gold Rush gourmand ordered from his hotel kitchen.

The second story is a stopper: A quick-thinking, condemned man in the local hoosegow was asked what he would like for his ritual last meal. An omelet with oysters. Granting his request delayed his hanging, but only for a day.

JOE'S SPECIAL

What's so special about Joe's Special and what's its origin? I spoke to the indispensable Alessandro Baccari Jr., retired San Francisco historian, whose knowledge of North Beach knows no bounds. This is what he told me:

"Joe's Special was introduced at New Joe's on Broadway by Joe Ingressia who ran the place. But the real origin of the dish was the old wholesale produce market, which was where Embarcadero Center is now. The produce workers were up all night

unloading vegetables from the San Joaquin and Salinas valleys. Around midnight they would drop into one of the small cafes that sprang up there and have a Midnight Special — eggs, a few vegetables like spinach or chard, a little ground meat, and maybe a few hot peppers, all scrambled together. Joe Ingressia put it on the menu at New Joe's around 1930, and that was how Joe's Special was born."

You can still find Joe's Special on menus around town, and when I'm in a Joe's Special mood, I go to Original Joe's in North Beach.

SOURDOUGH

Bagels are fine. English muffins have their charm. Warm tortillas have dotting fans, as do steamed pork buns. Even foamy white commercial bread has devotees and responds well to tuna salad. But it's the iconic San Francisco sourdough that turns on residents of this bread-wise city.

It began with the Gold Rush in 1849. Many believe the miners brought sourdough "starter" or "mother" north from Mexico. While panning for gold they had to do things for themselves, even making their own bread. Some say miners carried their mother under their saddles to keep it warm and alive. Others tell they kept mother in their armpits. Mother was just a bit of yesterday's bread dough — flour, water, salt, and wild yeast. But not all 49ers were miners. In 1849, a French immigrant, Louis Isadore Boudin, opened a bakery here. Boudin's is still going strong, and is the mother ship of sourdough bakeries. It says its mother dates back to the original 1849 supply. In 1941, the Boudin family sold out to Steve Giraudo. Steve's son Lou operates the bakery, but he doesn't keep the mother in his armpit.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

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THE BACK STORY ∴ A life in and after Hollywood

Oscar-winning movie kid Claude Jarman Jr.

Nashville's loss became San Francisco's gain

by ernest beyl

CLAUDE JARMAN JR. WILL BE 80 ON Sept. 27. He doesn't look it. He doesn't act it. He doesn't live it.

Many years ago I saw a movie with a youngster named Claude Jarman Jr. in a starring role. The movie, which came out in 1946, was *The Yearling*. It was based on a story about a backwoods kid named Jody who adopts a fawn and bumps up against the realities in the life of an impoverished family. Gregory Peck played Jody's father.

NATIONWIDE TALENT SEARCH

MGM Studios conducted a talent search for an unknown kid to play Jody. Jarman, son of a railroad accountant, was 10 years old and living in Nashville, Tenn. His only acting experience had been in school plays. The studio sent him to Hollywood for a screen test and he got the part. His terrific reviews won him a Special Juvenile Academy Award for his performance. With that success, the Jarman family moved to Southern California, and for almost a decade Claude Jarman Jr. was in 10 movies.

GOLDEN AGE OF MGM

Several other kids received Juvenile Oscars. Shirley Temple was the first in 1935. Jarman got his in 1947. Others were Deanna Durbin, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, and Hayley Mills, who won the last one in 1960. At that point, the Motion Picture Academy did away with kids' Oscars, and gave out the big ones regardless of the actor's age. Retroactively, in 1983, they gave Jarman the big one.

Now a tall, blue-eyed, senior citizen with a full mop of silver-gray hair, and rangy in the Gary Cooper mold, Jarman reflected on those Hollywood years. "I was lucky. It was the Golden Age of MGM, and I was part of it."

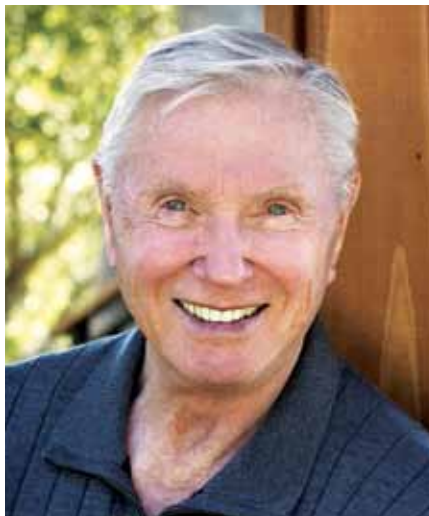
Asked what he thought of his success at the time, Jarman said, "I had nothing to compare it to. I thought, *Doesn't everyone have this?* I had my own dressing room, my own makeup person and wardrobe person. I went to a two-room school on the MGM lot.

"There were about 12 kids under contact to MGM. Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Powell, Margaret O'Brien, and Dean Stockwell among others," he recalls.

Adult stars were frequently matched romantically by MGM to gain press excite-



Claude Jarman Jr. with Gregory Peck in *The Yearling*; Jarman now.



ment. Occasionally, the studio arranged publicity photo dates for kid actors, and it arranged several for 13-year-old Jarman with 10-year-old Margaret O'Brien. "Hardly Richard Burton-Elizabeth Taylor stuff," Jarman says.

JOHN WAYNE TO LASSIE

Following his success in *The Yearling*, Jarman appeared with some of Hollywood's biggest stars like Van Johnson and June Allyson in *High Barbaree* in 1947, and Jeanette MacDonald and *Lassie in The Sun Comes Up* in 1949. Later, Jarman was picked for a young adult role in the big John Ford movie *Rio Grande*, starring John Wayne, who played a cavalry officer, and Jarman played his son.

"That was my favorite film to work in. It was filmed on location in Moab, Utah, and I got to ride horses, which I loved," Jarman remembers.

Another high point was a 1952 film, *Hangman's Knot*, which starred Lee Marvin. "I was 17 at the time. Marvin was a larger-than-life tough guy. He befriended me, and we rode around Hollywood in his red Thunderbird convertible," Jarman says.

There were a few other films like *The Great Locomotive Chase*, but that was about the end of Jarman's Hollywood career. He was growing up, and few youngsters make the transition to major adult roles.

NEVER BEEN TO SAN FRANCISCO

The family moved back to Nashville in 1950, where Jarman finished high school and studied prelaw at Vanderbilt, graduating in 1956. Having been in the univer-

sity's Officer Candidate School, he joined the Navy, became a lieutenant (j.g.), and served three years.

"Because I was colorblind, I was assigned to the P.R. staff and wound up in Hollywood, this time not as an actor, but as a member of the Armed Forces P.R. office, where I worked with studios making movies about the Navy," he recalls.

"My wife was from Birmingham, Ala., so when I was discharged we moved there, and I got a job with an advertising agency. One client I worked for was the John Hancock Insurance Company, which decided to open an office in San Francisco. They offered me a job there and I accepted. I had never been to San Francisco," Jarman says.

THE DORENBUSH DAYS

Immediately he met Glenn Dorenbush, a charismatic tippler, bar philosopher, and publicist. Dorenbush, always quotable, had an inside track with San Francisco columnist Herb Caen, so top saloons like Perry's and the Washington Square Bar & Grill employed him to get their names in the papers. Jarman was quotable himself and had that magic Hollywood background. Overnight he became part of San Francisco's well-lubricated saloon culture. Though not much of a drinker, he enjoys the sociability of bars and counts several bartenders among his friends.

FILM FESTIVAL

Soon Jarman became involved with the San Francisco International Film Festival, founded in 1952, and one of the oldest events of its kind in the country. He was named

to a film selection committee that included Shirley Temple, writer and nightclub owner Barnaby Conrad, and novelist Herb Gold. Jarman and Temple were on opposite sides of a controversy over the Swedish film *Night Games*, which had overtones of sexual perversity, lesbianism and incest, then considered highly controversial. Jarman voted to screen it; Temple denounced it as "pornography for profit," but while the others had watched the film, she had not. *Night Games* was shown and the world did not end.

Later that year Jarman was named executive director of the influential event.

In 1974, Mayor Joseph Alioto tapped Jarman for director of the city's cultural affairs department. He oversaw operations of the opera house and other civic arts organizations as well as the film festival.

Jarman took another shot at acting, appearing in an episode of the TV production *Centennial*. He also served as executive producer of the well-regarded "rockumentary" on Bill Graham and the Fillmore Auditorium. And, to bring you up to date on that earlier magical period in Jarman's life, he appeared as a past Oscar winner at both the 1998 and 2003 Academy Awards ceremonies.

A LONG WAY FROM NASHVILLE

Always a dedicated social saloonist, Jarman hung out at the Washington Square Bar & Grill and played shortstop for proprietor Ed Moose's quirky softball team, Les Lapins Sauvages. Once again he enjoyed the limelight. In 1980, he was recruited by the Shaklee Corporation to run its public relations and travel departments. In 1986, he founded and operated his own travel agency until earlier this year, when he finally shut it down.

These days Jarman is sitting back and smelling the roses of a career that took him from Hollywood actor to San Francisco public figure. Most weekdays he hangs out in North Beach, perhaps having lunch with buddies at Capp's Corner or Original Joe's. An Academy Award Oscar sits on the mantelpiece in his Marin County home. He has seven children, including two daughters with his present wife Katherine.

Asked the inevitable question, "What if?" he concludes: "If I had not been picked for that role in *The Yearling*, I would probably still be in Nashville."

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com.

THE BEST OF BOOKS

Fall look forward

compiled by brian pettus

In lieu of our best-seller list, here are some of the titles we are excited about for the fall.

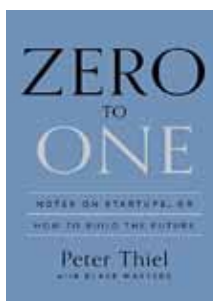
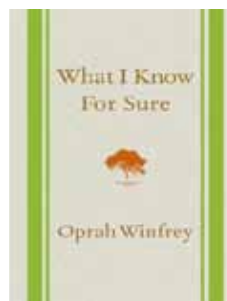
What I Know for Sure, by Oprah Winfrey (Sept. 2)

Over 14 years of *O, The Oprah Magazine*, Oprah Winfrey has written a monthly column about the things she knows for sure — which is to say, the things she has evaluated in her own life and found to be most true. This book collects those columns in a revised format, providing a spectacular array of wisdom, knowledge and pure humanity

from one of the most successful women of the last century. A great gift for anyone you love this holiday season.

The Dog, by Joseph O'Neill (Sept. 9)

Netherland took the world by storm when it was published in 2008, and the long-awaited next novel by Joseph O'Neill arrives this month. It tells the story of a young man looking for answers in Dubai, and O'Neill's marvelously humane style presents both his characters and their surrounding geography in stark light. He once again reveals the terrible cruelty of the world and the strength of people's spirit. Books Inc. is pleased to



welcome him to our store Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. for a reading and signing.

Zero to One, by Peter Thiel (Sept. 16)

Thiel, a noted venture capitalist and entrepreneur, reveals how to think about the start-up process and succeed where others have failed. He points the way toward true innovation and thus control of the new idea and concepts you have created, and explains how he looks at the business world of today and of the future. A crucial read for those interested in business and technology.

The Innovators, by Walter Isaacson (Oct. 7)

The handpicked author of Steve Jobs' biography, Walter Isaacson returns with a look inside the history of Silicon Valley and the personal computer. He starts with Ada Lovelace, and rockets to the modern day, looking at the talents and characteristics that allowed innovators like Jobs to exercise such influence and achieve such success. Absorbing, thoughtful, and intelligent, *Innovators* is another great book by Isaacson and a great book for the holidays.

Plenty More, by Yotam Ottolenghi (Oct. 14)

Building on the incredible success of his previous books *Ottolenghi, Jerusalem*, and *Plenty*, *Plenty More* is another collection of Ottolenghi's vibrant vegetable recipes, focusing on cooking method and with an emphasis on spices, seasonings, and bold flavors. Sure to be a huge hit, we're looking forward gift-wrapping many copies this holiday season.

Brian Pettus is the manager of Books Inc. in the Marina.

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MICHAEL SNYDER ON FILM :: Films and festivals that deserve your attention

Fall movie preview

by michael snyder

ALL ARTS PREVIEWS IN THE media are almost as inevitable as autumn itself — and they usually include a look at coming attractions in cinema, so here's one for the *Marina Times*. The hitch? When it comes to sheer forecasting, I wonder if a movie critic is any more reliable than a meteorologist, but I can tell you what looks good to me, what has the positive buzz, and, pedigree-wise, what should be a must-see owing to the talent involved in front of and behind the camera. Those are all good barometers of quality in my book.

So even though it's a bit of a gamble, let's roll the dice on a "lucky seven" of features that would seem to deserve our attention in the next few months. And we'll also address some of the intriguing Bay Area film festivals in store this fall.

FEATURE FILMS

This Is Where I Leave You (Sept. 19): This mix of drama and comedy concerning an extended family that gathers for its patriarch's funeral could be a crowd pleaser, aided by a top-drawer ensemble cast adept at conveying the dark and the light. Jason Bateman, Tina Fey, Jane Fonda, and Rose Byrne

star along with TV luminaries Adam Driver of *Girls*, Timothy Olyphant of *Justified*, and Connie Britton of *Nashville* and *Friday Night Lights*. Directed by Shawn Levy, whose all-ages-friendly *Night at the Museum* movies are broadly comic but genuinely funny.

Tracks (Sept. 19): The first of a number of biographical features slated to be released in the fall, *Tracks* is an account of a real-life odyssey. Its heroine is Robyn Davidson (Mia Wasikowska), a young woman who decides to travel alone across almost 2,000 miles of stark, unforgiving Australian desert, accompanied by her dog and four camels. During her journey, she meets a skilled photographer (Adam Driver) who proceeds to chronicle her adventure. Director John Curran should be a good choice as director, having helmed the faithful, heart-breaking and visually splendid 2006 adaptation of W. Somerset Maugham's novel *The Painted Veil*.

The Two Faces of January (Sept. 26): If you're a fan of film noir and suspense, director-screenwriter Hossein Amini's adaptation of a novel by Patricia Highsmith (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*) should be ideal. Set in exotic Greece and Istanbul during 1962, *The Two Faces of January* brings togeth-

er a couple of wealthy American tourists (Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst) and a crafty expat American tour guide (Oscar Isaac). Their initial encounter and subsequent relations result in serious consequences for all.

Gone Girl (Oct. 3): Based on the bestseller by Gillian Flynn and directed by David Fincher (*Seven and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), *Gone Girl* traces the descent of a marriage in free fall as a husband must grapple with the repercussions from the disappearance of his wife on their fifth wedding anniversary. Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike play the couple. Costarring Tyler Perry and Neil Patrick Harris.

The Book of Life (Oct. 17): From its trailers, *The Book of Life* appears to be one of the most gorgeous and fanciful animated movies in memory. Produced by Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Pacific Rim*), a master of spectacular widescreen imagery, it depicts the incredible, sometimes fear-fraught escapades of a young man who traverses three fantastic worlds. Partially inspired by the Latin American Day of the Dead celebration, it features voice work from the likes of Channing Tatum, Zoe Saldana, Diego Luna, Christina Applegate, Ice Cube, and Cheech Marin.



Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst in *The Two Faces of January*. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Interstellar (Nov. 7): Christopher Nolan is the visionary director responsible for *Inception* and *The Dark Knight* trilogy; he and his brother Jonathan cocreated TV's thrilling and provocative series *Person of Interest*. They've teamed up to produce this epic and highly anticipated science fiction investigation of interstellar travel. Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway star, along with an impressive collection of supporting players led by Jessica Chastain, Michael Caine, Casey Affleck, and Ellen Burstyn.

Foxcatcher (Nov. 14): A psychological drama based on actual events, *Foxcatcher* (directed by Bennett Miller of *Moneyball* fame) tells the story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum) who wants to escape poverty and is driven to compete with his brother Dave (Mark Ruffalo), also a wres-

ter. Schultz sees his chance when the oddly mannered multimillionaire John du Pont (Steve Carell) encourages him to move onto the du Pont estate and train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics, but tragedy results. With Vanessa Redgrave and Sienna Miller.

FILM FESTIVALS

The San Francisco Silent Film Festival's Silent Autumn 2014 (Sept. 20): Following its successful 19th annual festival this past May, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival will present a special Silent Autumn event on Sept. 20 at the historic Castro Theatre. The day will feature five silent film programs with live musical accompaniment. Highlights will include a series of Laurel & Hardy shorts; Rudolph Valentino's last film, *The Son of the Sheik*, from 1926, accompanied

MOVIE PREVIEW continued on 17

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MOVIE PREVIEW

CONTINUED from page 16

by the Alloy Orchestra with the world premiere of the group's new score; a British Film Institute program of a typical night at the cinema in 1914; Buster Keaton's immortal 1926 comedy feature, *The General*, with music by the Alloy Orchestra; and 1920's German Expressionist horror classic *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (415-777-4908, silentfilm.org).

The 37th Mill Valley Film Festival (Oct. 2-12): The renowned annual gathering of cinephiles — deemed one of the nation's Top 10 film festivals — is back, presented by the California Film Institute. With a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, the MVFF has long celebrated the best in American independent and world

cinema, alongside high profile and prestigious fare. More than 200 filmmakers represent more than 50 countries at the MVFF. In addition, this year's MVFF will spotlight new Latin American and Spanish cinema, as well as presenting the music film premieres and live concerts that have become traditional at the festival. Screenings will be held at CinéArts@Sequoia in Mill Valley, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael, and other venues throughout the Bay Area (877-874-6833, mvff.com).

The 5th San Francisco Dance Film Festival (Nov. 6-9): This festival at the Brava Theater Center showcases some of the best dance films from around the world, including a wide collection of shorts and documentaries about the legendary ballet star Rudolph Nureyev and choreographer

Vincent Patterson, who has worked with Michael Jackson, Bjork, and Madonna (844-567-3333, sfdancefilmfest.org).

The 12th San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival (Nov. 6-9 in San Francisco; Nov. 15 in Palo Alto): Whether offering art-house classics, documentaries, innovative and experimental visions, or cutting-edge Bollywood movies, the San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival promotes diverse images of South Asians through independent film. The festival's theme, Bollywood and Beyond, will take place at the New People and Castro theaters in San Francisco and the Aquarius Theater in Palo Alto. Approximately 15 programs of narrative and documentary features and shorts by independent filmmakers from the United States, South Asia, and the South

Asian Diaspora are scheduled. Special attention will be given to dance and music in film with some live performances incorporated, as well as a showing of the 1948 classic *Kalpana*, which recounts the story of Indian dance pioneer Uday Shankar (brother of the late Ravi Shankar) and his wife, legendary performer Amala. The autobiographical dance-drama is the only film written and directed by Shankar and was recently restored by Martin Scorsese's World Cinema Foundation (thirdi.org).

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on KPFK/Pacifica Radio's David Feldman Show and Thom Hartmann Show and on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, available online at GABroadcaster.com and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster

A message from

PIER 70 NEIGHBORS SUPPORTING PROPOSITION F



Dear San Francisco neighbors,

We, members of the **Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** and **Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association** and longtime residents of the neighborhoods, write to urge you to support Proposition F, the ballot measure regarding revitalization of Pier 70.

Today, the area is a mix of vacant land and deteriorating buildings behind chain-linked and barbed wire fences that block waterfront access to the public.

For the past several years, we've been participating in an extensive community planning process that will support revitalization of the site with waterfront parks, housing affordable to low and middle income households, rehabilitation of historic buildings, space for local artists, and the creation of new jobs for San Franciscans.

Our respective neighborhood associations — the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association and the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association — both recently endorsed Prop F. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

Janet Carpinelli, President, DNA
Susan Eslick, Vice President, DNA
Vanessa Aquino, Board Member
Jared Doumani, Board Member
David Siegel, Board Member

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Hundreds of flowers left in memorial to Robin Williams at the steps of the San Francisco house used for *Mrs. Doubtfire*. PHOTO: LYNETTE MAJER

ROBIN WILLIAMS
CONTINUED from page 1

Oscar-caliber director Robert Altman, who cast Robin as the title character in *Popeye*, the good-natured but tepidly received live-action interpretation of the classic comic strip about the squinting, heroic, spinach-eating sailor. Robin was undaunted by the less than ecstatic reaction to *Popeye*, and subsequently embraced his first truly serious film role as the conflicted, ill-fated lead in the 1982 adaptation of the tragicomic John Irving novel *The World According to Garp*. And when he showed uncommon depth and grace in that part, it was a revelation. The manic television clown had become a respectable and respected movie actor.

From that point on, Robin began to build a broad, impressive, and admittedly checkered filmography. Early high points ranged from his warm, earthy Russian immigrant in *Moscow on the Hudson* to

the manic real-life Armed Forces radio D.J. Adrian Cronauer he brought to theaters in *Good Morning, Vietnam*. The latter, which gave Robin a chance to flagrantly exercise his comic skills in a wartime setting with all the drama that entailed, brought him a 1987 Academy Award nomination for best lead actor — the first of four such acknowledgments. He would follow that with a best actor nomination for playing an inspiring, unorthodox English teacher in 1989's *Dead Poets Society*, and another best actor nod for his movingly embodied of a disturbed homeless man in 1991's *The Fisher King*, finally winning a best supporting actor Oscar as a dedicated psychotherapist in 1997's *Good Will Hunting*.

He made his share of less than stellar movies, particularly those comedies that went for cheap laughs like *Club Paradise*, and those dramas that went for cheap sentiment like *Patch Adams*. The visu-

ally stunning and heartfelt *What Dreams May Come* may have succumbed to treacle, but Robin himself was never less than earnest and committed to whatever role he undertook. And he worked with some major cinema auteurs, including the aforementioned Altman; Terry Gilliam who directed him in *The Fisher King*; and Woody Allen who cast him in *Deconstructing Harry* as an actor perpetually out of focus — a part that required someone of Robin's larger-than-life presence to have an impact beyond the blur.

If he was given comedic and emotional latitude in a jubilant and life-affirming project that didn't aim for the lowest common denominator, he was at his populist best. Thus, he nailed it with family-friendly comedy *Mrs. Doubtfire* that featured him as a beleaguered husband trying to keep his family together by impersonating an elderly female Scottish housekeeper, and the creative and whimsical all-ages action fantasy *Jumanji*, where he was the grownup Alan who was ensnared by a mystical board game when he was a kid

and trapped inside it for 26 years. His hilarious, rapid-fire voice work as the garrulous, pop-culture-infused Genie in Disney's animated *Aladdin* was a tour de farce probably unmatched by anyone before or since.

He eventually accumulated over 100 acting credits on the big and little screens, and did some of his best work in recent times — as the unhinged photo technician in *One Hour Photo*, the cunning crime writer in *Insomnia*, and the frustrated novelist/single father in *World's Greatest Dad*.

Ultimately, the guy won every significant American entertainment award out there other than the Tony: one Oscar, two Emmys, four Golden Globes, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, and five Grammys. Tony aside, he garnered favorable notices when he co-starred with his pal Steve Martin at Lincoln Center in a production of *Waiting for Godot* in 1988. Not too shabby.

His return to the TV sitcom format with the 2013 series *The Crazy Ones* didn't last beyond a single season, and he clearly had serious emotional and physical issues that plagued him. Yet the sense that Robin had so much more to give audiences only increased the widespread sadness at his death. Though he remained popular enough to sell out a concert hall, he still relished dropping into clubs unannounced and flexing his prodigious talent for hours — even when

his comedy peers outnumbered the paying customers.

Yes, his work and memory will live on. It's nowhere near enough to make up for what has vanished

This whirlwind, this genius, is now at peace.

from our lives. The only consolation beyond our continuing pleasure at his talent as it survives on various platforms is that this whirlwind, this treasure, this genius is now at peace.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on KPFK/Pacifica Radio's David Feldman Show and Thom Hartmann Show and on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, available online at GABroadcaster.com and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster

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@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz

by sharon anderson

"If my art had nothing to do with people's pain and sorrow, what is 'art' for?"

— Ai Weiwei

WITH AI WEIWEI'S arrest in a Beijing airport in 2011, questions arose. What could one artist do to be perceived as a threat to authorities? The Chinese government held him for 81 days, and he is currently unable to leave the country. Despite these obstacles, Ai has not been silenced.

His new work, @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz, opens on Sept. 27 and consists of seven site-specific sculpture, sound, and mixed media installations. It will occupy four locations on Alcatraz, spaces usually off limits to visitors on the tour, creating a new context for the famed federal penitentiary and its history. A team of art guides at each installation site will provide the viewer with additional understanding about the location's history and the meanings suggested by Ai. It is hoped that this extra effort will encourage a dialogue about broader social issues related to



Ai Weiwei in Beijing, 2012; Second and third floors of A Block in the cellhouse at Alcatraz, site for the exhibition @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz.

PHOTOS: JAN STURMANN, COURTESY FOR-SITE FOUNDATION



freedom of expression and our own country's prison culture.

Ai's sculpture, photography, film, artwork, ceramics, performance art, and messages via social media are an idiosyncratic output that emphasizes power through loss. Undermining the original intent of an object or space creates a disturbance that promotes evolution. *Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn* from 1985, for example, is a series of photos showing the artist dropping and shattering the ancient vessels on a sidewalk. Subverting the original intent of an object transforms it into a talisman for change, a

signpost pointing toward a kind of rebirth and departure from tradition. *Remembrance*, 2010, is a voice recording listing the names of over 5,000 students who died in collapsed, poorly constructed schoolhouses during the Sichuan earthquake. Stories taken from contemporary history mix with parts of China's distant past along with remnants of temples, found objects, and relics from antiquity — a collective history reinvented into new narratives.

Ai's sociopolitical art, cultural criticism, and human rights activism has made him a natu-

ral target for Chinese authorities that attempt to censor his output. Though he has never been to Alcatraz and cannot travel outside China, Ai developed these artworks in his Beijing studio with the support of San Francisco gallery owner and For-Site Foundation founder Cheryl Haines and an international team of collaborators from organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. For-Site Foundation, which seeks to bring art to public places, teamed with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate Parks

Conservancy to bring the work to Alcatraz.

Far from discouraging his voice, Ai continually transforms his activism and adversity into more art. Political struggle is an aesthetic essential to his artistry. For Ai, art is also an opportunity to deconstruct society's assumptions of value, mass production, information, and its impact on the human race. But it's not enough to present new possibilities for self-awareness. Ai Weiwei encourages all of us to "... do one small thing every day to prove the existence of justice."

@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz: Sept. 27–April 25, 2015. Daily, tickets \$30–\$37 at 415-981-7625, alcatrazcruises.com or Alcatraz Landing ticket office at Pier 33. Tickets include access to all Ai Weiwei installations and the award-winning Alcatraz audio tour. Exhibition organizers recommend allocating 3½ to 4 hours to experience both the @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz exhibition (minimum 90 minutes) and the Cellhouse Audio Tour (approximately 2 hours).

Sharon Anderson is an artist and writer in Southern California. She can be reached at mindtheimage.com

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

what not to miss this month

MAJOR EVENTS



Architecture and the City Festival

Tue-Sat (except Monday, Sep 16), Sept. 1-30
Various S.F. venues

The festival theme, "Home: My San Francisco," explores the shifting nature of home, the different elements that contribute to its definition, and its relation to the urban fabric. Enjoy tours, films, exhibitions, and lectures. 415-362-7397, aiasf.org/archandcity

S.F. Chinatown AT&T Autumn Moon Festival
Sat-Sun, Sept. 6-7, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Grant St. (btw. California & Broadway)
Pacific St. (btw. Stockton & Kearny)

A grand parade kicks off this festival, where Chinatown's streets become pedestrian-only bazaars with live entertainment, including acrobats, martial artists, ribbon and lion dancers, magic shows, cultural demonstrations, and more — like the dog costume contest. Free, 415-982-6306, moonfestival.org

Craft Spirits Carnival

Sat-Sun, Sept. 20-21, 2-5 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Try and buy over 100 spirits brands of all tastes, shapes and sizes as well as craft brews from the Bay Area and beyond. \$75-\$100, craftspiritscarnival.com



19th Annual Kaiser Permanente S.F. International Dragon Boat Festival

Sat-Sun, Sept. 20-21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Treasure Island

The largest competitive dragon boat festival in the U.S. features racing, cultural performances and fun-filled activities for the whole family, including arts and crafts, international food, and entertainment. Free shuttles from Kearny & Sacramento Sts. and outside the Parc55 Wyndham Hotel (near Powell St. BART station). Free, sfdragonboat.com

Oktoberfest by the Bay

Fri-Sun, Sept. 19-20
Pier 48

Celebrate in the true tradition of Munich's famed Oktoberfest with nonstop music, dancing, singing, and German food and drink — according to AOL this is one of the top 10 places in the country to enjoy this tradition — never mind it's held in Sept. tember. \$25-\$75, oktoberfestbythebay.com

34th Annual Comedy Day

Sunday, Sept. 24, noon-5 p.m.
Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

This original, longest-running, free outdoor comedy concert features 40 (or more) of today's top performers from the Bay Area and beyond. Free, 415-820-1570, comedyday.org

LAST CHANGE

SF Playhouse: Into the Woods

Tue-Sat thru Sept. 6
450 Post St. (in the Kensington Park Hotel)

In Sondheim and Lapine's beloved musical retelling of the Grimm classics, a parade of familiar folktale figures find their way "into the woods" and try to get home before dark. See this edgy production before the upcoming film later this year with Johnny Depp and Meryl Streep. \$20-\$75, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

Matisse from SFMOMA

Tue-Sun thru Sept. 7
Legion of Honor

Don't miss the 25 paintings, drawings and bronzes that trace four decades of the artist's career from his early, Cézanne-inspired still lifes to his richly patterned and brightly colored figural paintings made in the 1920s and 1930s. \$15, 415-750-3600, legionofhonor.famsf.org



Magic Color Flair: The World of Mary Blair

Wed-Mon thru Sept. 7
The Walt Disney Family Museum

This comprehensive exhibition explores the artistic process and development of one of Disney's most influential designers and art directors, whose most notable projects were *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, and the ever-popular Disney attraction, It's A Small World. \$20, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

Free Shakespeare in the Park: Taming of the Shrew

Monday, Sept. 1 & Sat-Sun thru Sept. 14, 2 p.m.
Main Parade Ground Lawn, the Presidio

Bring your family, friends, a blanket, and a picnic to enjoy some of your favorite Shakespearean twists, hilarious clowns and ridiculous disguises, along with a subversive and challenging love story. Free, 415-558-0888, sfshakes.org

Gorgeous

Tue-Sun thru Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Asian Art Museum

A collaboration with SFMOMA, this exhibition presents 72 uniquely stunning artworks from both museums' collections and spans over 2,200 years and dozens of cultures, inviting you to explore what "gorgeous" means to you. \$15, 415-581-3500, asianart.org



Motown, the Musical

Tue-Sun thru Sept. 28
Orpheum Theatre (1192 Market St.)

Don't miss the story of Motown founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, and many more. \$45-\$210, shnsf.com

COMMUNITY CORNER



3rd Annual S.F. Lawn Party

Wed-Mon thru Sept. 7
The Walt Disney Family Museum
Sept. 6, noon-5 p.m.
Marina Green

San Francisco's largest one-day waterfront party features a baggo tournament, bocce ball, volleyball, croquet, live music, and gourmet food trucks. Proceeds benefit The Guardsmen's programs for at-risk youth. \$40-\$80, sflawnparty.com

Sunday Streets: Western Addition

Sunday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fillmore St. (Geary St. to Fulton), Fulton St. (Fillmore St. to Baker), Baker St. (McAllister St. to Grove), Grove St. (Baker St. to Central), Central Ave. (Grove St. to Hayes)

Explore by biking, walking, skating, playing, or just people watching in this perfect opportunity to be outside in a car-free environment. Free, sundaystreetsf.com

S.F. Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.
Mission Creek Park (290 Channel St.)

Join the world's largest event held in over 600 communities to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Alzheimer's is the nation's sixth leading cause of death. 408-372-9900, alz.org



11th Annual S.F. Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Sunday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-noon
Mission Creek Park

Walk to honor loved ones and raise funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The event includes guest speakers, music, refreshments, and a prize drawing. 408-639-4644, outofthedarkness.org

GALAS & BENEFITS

Tour de Fat 2014

Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lindley Meadow, Golden Gate Park

This ballyhoo of beer, bikes and bemusement starts with a parade followed by a fun bike cruise in your most fabulous bike costume, then an all-day live music jamboree, tasty eats and more. Proceeds benefit S.F. Bike Coalition and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Free (ride only), 415-431-2453, newbelgium.com

9th Annual Party for the Parks: Wild in the City

Saturday, Sept. 13, 6-11 p.m.
Randall Museum (150 Museum Way)

Help raise funds for S.F. parks in this event that highlights the natural world that survives and thrives in the city and the magic of the urban wilderness while enjoying some of the best views in the city, a tented buffet with music and dancing, and special appearances by the animals of the museum. \$275 & up, 415-621-3260, ext. 104, partyfortheparks.org

Lunafest

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:30
Palace of Fine Arts Theater

This program of eight short films, by, for and about women celebrates the unique, touching and inspirational roles of women in our local, national, and international communities. Proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Fund. \$25, 510-596-6607, lunafest.org

50th Annual Big Book Sale

Wed-Sun, Sept. 24-28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Find over 500,000 quality books of all media at \$3 or less, including \$1 books on Sunday, literary crafts and ephemera, and collectible and rare books. Proceeds benefit S.F. Public Library education programs. Free, 415-626-7500, friendssfpl.org

Komen S.F. 24th Annual Race for the Cure

Sunday, Sept. 28, 7:30 a.m.
Starts: Ferry Building, Embarcadero
The largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, this race raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates survivorship, and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease. \$10-\$40, 415-397-8812, komensf.org

ARTS & CULTURE



Jonas Faber: Inuit sculpture

Tue-Sat, Sept. 13 thru Oct. 9, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Images of the North Gallery (2036 Union St.)
Known for his bold and expressionistic sculpture and his creative and sensitive treatment of cultural themes and myths of the Inuit, this controversial artist uses a beautifully veined and colored soapstone he mines on his property in British Columbia. Free, 415-673-1273, imagesnorth.com

Festa Coloniale Italiana

Saturday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Stockton Street (btw. Union & Filbert)
The S.F. Italian Athletic Club Foundation invites you to celebrate the rich Italian and Italian-American heritage in this festival featuring Italian music and dancing, a pizza toss, and more, including Italian wine tasting. Free, 415-781-0166, sfiaifesta.com

7th Annual Beat Museum Poetry Festival

Sat-Sun, Sept. 27-28
Beat Museum (540 Broadway St.)
This celebration of poetry, art and music seeks to promote social, environmental, and political change. Free, 415-399-9626, kerouac.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



The Poetry of Parmigianino's "Schiava Turca"

Tue-Sun thru Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.
Legion of Honor
On loan from the Galleria nazionale di Parma in Parma, this painting provides a glimpse into the painting style of Francesco Mazzola, an originator of Mannerism. "Schiava Turca" refers to the head-dress worn by the subject of the painting, a young Italian noblewoman. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org



Picturing the Presidio

Daily thru Oct. 31

Forest Gallery, the Presidio

This public art installation features eight 52-inch panoramic images captured by photographer Lyle Gomes and are displayed along the Presidio's trails in the location where they were originally made, enabling viewers to consider the past, present, and future of key forest landscapes. Free, 415-561-5300, presidio.gov/picturing

Natural Expressions

Tue-Sun thru Nov. 23, noon-4 p.m.

Museo Italo Americano (Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center)

View paintings and sculpture by Alberto Cristini, photography by Vincent Galassi, and stain paintings by John Malveto. Free, 415-673-2200, sfmuseo.org

PERFORMANCES

10th Annual S.F. Improv Fest

Eureka Theatre (215 Jackson St.)

Daily, Sept. 10-20

Don't miss a lineup of longtime favorites and new acts from around the country. \$20-\$30, 415-788-7469, theeurekatheatre.com

39th Annual S.F. Standup Comedy Competition

Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.

S.F. Jewish Community Center

Laugh until it hurts as the best new comedic talent from across the country hits the stage in the preliminary round of head-to-head competition. For mature audiences only. \$25-\$35, 415-292-1200, jccsf.org

MUSIC



Opera in the Park

Sunday, Sept. 7, 1:30 p.m.

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Bring a picnic and enjoy arias al fresco while previewing a sampling of the upcoming fall season. Free, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com

Noontime Concerts: Bertamo Baroque Trio

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m.

Old St. Mary's Cathedral (660 California St.)

Hear Works by Telemann, Bach and other 17th and 18th century composers. Free, 415-777-3211, noontimeconcerts.org



Oakland Jazz Choir

Sunday, Sept. 14, 4 p.m.

Old First Church (1751 Sacramento St.)

Don't miss exquisite five- and six-part harmonies performing original and contemporary arrangements from Herbie Hancock, Sonny Rollins, Hoagy Carmichael, Pat Metheny, Thelonius Monk, Bobby McFerrin, Tears for Fears, and more. \$17, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

DANCE

21st Annual Dancing Poetry Festival

Saturday, Sept. 20, noon-4 p.m.

Florence Gould Theater, Palace of the Legion of Honor

This festival is a showcase for prize-winning poetry and visual art partnered with inspired dance. Original artworks on canvas and silk will be featured by being woven into choreographed performances. \$15, 415-681-0618, naticaaei@aol.com,

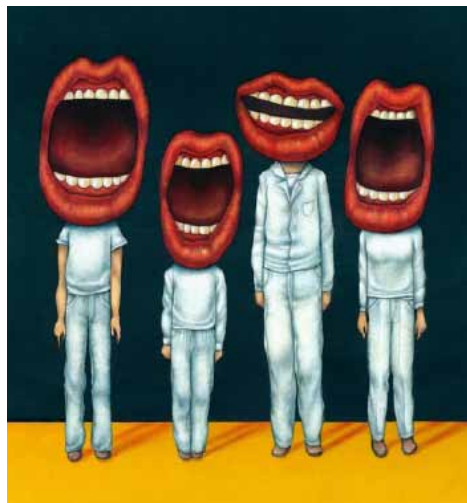
Yatra: Masters of Kathak and Flamenco

Sat-Sun, Sept. 27-28

Palace of Fine Arts Theater

This highly anticipated collaboration between kathak icon Pandit Chitresh Das and flamenco star Antonio Hidalgo Paz will take audiences on a journey of spellbinding dance, powerful rhythm and evocative music. \$28-\$58, 415-333-9000, kathak.org

NIGHTLIFE



Naive Melodies

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9:30 p.m.

Boom Boom Room (1601 Fillmore St.)

From Arcata, Calif., comes this Talking Heads tribute band, performing the art-rock music from New York. \$10 (free before 9 p.m.), boomboomtickets.com

Kabul Dreams and Rana Mansour & Karmandan

Sunday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Yoshi's (1330 Fillmore St.)

Get an earful of this post-Taliban Afghan rock music group, joined by Iranian-American Rana Mansour and the Karmandan. \$30-\$45, 415-655-5600, yoshis.com

Son Lux

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 p.m.

The Independent (628 Divisadero St.)

Catch this inveterate collaborator as he prepares to release his latest recording. \$12-\$14, 415-771-1421, theindependentsf.com

Super Diamond

Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

Come hear 30 years of Neil Diamond interpretations. \$22, bimbos365club.com

FILMS & LECTURES



Film Night in the Park: Grand Budapest Hotel

Saturday, Sept. 6, dusk

Washington Square

Grab a blanket and a picnic to enjoy this comedy starring Ralph Fiennes as Gustave H., the concierge of a fictitious hotel in the Republic of Zubrowka. Free, sfntf.squarespace.com



Fall Arts Preview – Galas

GALA SEASON

CONTINUED from page 1

more than 75,000 students in the Bay Area. This year, the celebration honors Michael Tilson Thomas's 20th anniversary as music director. The evening begins at 8 p.m. and includes a pre-party, a concert featuring singer-songwriter Bonnie Raitt, and superstar pianist Yuja Wang performing alongside the symphony, and an after-party with entertainment, dancing, cocktails, and treats from favorite San Francisco restaurants. A variety of ticket packages are available at sfsymphony.com.

San Francisco Opera's Opening Night Gala (Sept. 5): Celebrate the start of the opera's 92nd season at Bravo! Club's Annual Opening Night Gala. This elegant black-tie affair begins at 6:30 p.m. with a formal pre-performance reception on the outdoor balcony of the War Memorial Opera House, followed by the opening-night performance of Bellini's masterpiece *Norma*. After the opera, an after-party at Jardinière restaurant includes hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, and dancing (415-865-3330, sfopera.com).

Macy's Passport Presents Glamorama 2014: Fashion Rocks (Sept. 12): Glamorama is a high-end fashion show and musical production benefitting the AIDS Emergency Fund, Glide Foundation and Project Open Hand. This year's event celebrates 32 years of fashion and compassion for HIV/AIDS. The event kicks off on the red carpet at the SHN Golden Gate Theatre at 7 p.m. The evening also includes a fashion show starring award-winning designers such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Weekend Max Mara, and Diesel, performances by pop star and headliner Jason Derulo and other musical acts, and a pre-party at the Warfield Theatre (888-346-1799, macys.com/glamtickets).

Bay Area Arthritis Auxiliary Fashion Show (Oct. 1): Carmen Marc Valvo is bringing his 25th anniversary fashion show from the runways of Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in New York to San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel for the Bay Area Arthritis Auxiliary. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with a champagne reception and continues with a luncheon, live auction and, of course, a runway show featuring cocktail dresses, couture gowns, and more of the designer's stunning fall 2014 silhouettes (415-356-5484, arthgwr.ejoinme.org/2014fashionshow).

San Francisco Performances 35th Season Gala (Oct. 17): San Francisco Performances celebrates the start of its fall season with its annual gala featuring cocktails, dinner, a Fund-A-Need drive, and a jazz concert starring the Kenny Barron and Stefon Harris Duo. The party takes place at the Julia Morgan Ballroom at the Merchant's Exchange Building from 6-10 p.m. All proceeds from the event benefit San Francisco Performances' award-winning arts education programs (415-677-0326, sfperformances.org).

Ronald McDonald House Home Away From Home Gala (Oct. 17): This year

marks the silver anniversary of the annual gala benefiting Ronald McDonald House of San Francisco. This national organization supports critically ill children and their families by providing them with temporary housing during the child's medical treatments. The black-tie-optional 20th annual event takes place at the Four Seasons Hotel starting at 6:30 p.m. The evening includes a reception and silent auction, dinner, live auction, and entertainment until midnight (415-673-0891, ronaldhouse-sf.org).

This Old Bag: The Power of the Purse (Oct. 17): Benefitting the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, the 10th Annual This Old Bag Gala celebrates a decade of handbags and philanthropy. Designers, retailers, fashionistas, and celebrities gather at the Bently Reserve at 6:30 p.m. for a great cause: to help low-income women maintain life-extending medical care and living expenses while they're fighting cancer. At the silent and live auction, guests will have the chance to bid on beautiful bags, vacation packages, and more (415-558-6999, bcef.org).

San Francisco Fall Antique Show Preview Gala (Oct. 22): Recognized as the oldest and most prestigious continuously operating international art and antiques show on the West Coast, the San Francisco Fall Antique Show holds its annual Preview Gala to benefit Enterprise for High School Students. This year's show will be open to the public from Oct. 23-26 at Fort Mason's Festival Pavilion. The preview gala will be held from 7-10 p.m. on Oct. 22 (415-989-9019, sffas.org).

Root Division's 13th Annual Art Auction Fundraiser (Oct. 23): Root Division's mission is to improve appreciation and access to the visual arts by providing subsidized studio space to working artists in exchange for their service in "creating shared learning opportunities for the community." The organization hosts its 13th Annual Art Auction Fundraiser to support its after-school art classes for Bay Area youth. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a VIP cocktail hour, and includes both silent and live auctions featuring original artwork from more than 100 established and emerging artists (415-863-7668, rootdivision.org).

Lamplighters Annual Champagne Gala & Auction (Nov. 2): The fall fundraiser benefitting Lamplighters Music Theatre, held at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater, features an original satire set to the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan (415-227-4797, lamplighters.org).

San Francisco Ballet Encore! Opening Night Gala (Jan. 22, 2015): Held at San Francisco City Hall and the historic War Memorial Opera House, this black-tie event is one worth waiting for. The evening starts with a cocktail reception and dinner at City Hall, ramps up with a Prosecco Promenade in the Opera House lobby and an opening-night ballet performance, and culminates with an after-party at City Hall (415-865-2000, sfballet.org/events).

E-mail: maryann@redtypewriter.com



Fall Arts Preview – Music & Art

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

Celebrating Michael Tilson Thomas's 20th season, the **San Francisco Symphony** celebrates throughout September and beyond with an impressive lineup of concerts, including **Ravel & Stravinsky** (Sept. 5–6) and **Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony** (Sept. 18–21). October brings two Rachmaninoff programs with Garrick Ohlsson (Oct. 10–12) and a violin program (Oct. 15 & 17–18). Also scheduled is **Copeland's Appalachian Spring** (Oct. 22–24); and **MTT conducts Mahler 7** (Oct. 29–Nov. 1). In November, violinist **Gil Shaham** (Nov. 6–9) joins the symphony before it embarks on its national tour (415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org).

No fall season would be complete without our beloved San Francisco Opera, whose season opens with Bellini's **Norma** (Sept. 5–30), which shares the month with Floyd's **Susannah** (Sept. 6–21). October brings Verdi's **A Masked Ball** (Oct. 4–22); Handel's **Partenope** (Oct. 15–30); and Puccini's **Tosca** (Oct. 23–Nov. 8). Rossini's **Cinderella** (Nov. 9–26) and Puccini's **La Bohème** (Nov. 14–Dec. 7) round out the year (415-864-3330, sfopera.org).

The **New Century Chamber Orchestra** stages a repeat performance of the company's biggest hit featuring composer and clarinetist **Derek Bermel** and Schedrin's **Carmen** suite for strings and percussion, written for a balletic version of Bizet's opera (Sept. 10–14) to open its season (415-392-4400, ncco.org).

Singing in a choral music tradition, the male a capella group **Chanticleer** opens their season with **The Gypsy in My Soul** (Sept. 19–28), which explores the influence of the gypsy culture in music and celebrates wanderlust, curiosity, nostalgia, and reverence for the natural world from the Renaissance to today (415-392-4400, chanticleer.org).

JAZZ

Moving on to jazz, the **SF Jazz Center** opens Sept. 11 with a sold-out performance of Eliane Alias, who also performs Sept. 13–14. **Paula West** (Sept. 11–14) will offer a loving tribute to the pioneering jazz vocalist and actress Ethel Waters. More season headliners include **The Cookers** (Sept. 26); the **Joshua Redman Trio** (Oct. 2–4); **Dennis Perrier** (Oct. 18) with a tribute to Dinah Washington; and the second annual **San Francisco Boogie Woogie Festival** (Nov. 9) for the fall season lineup (866-920-5299, sfjazz.org).

The **Monterey Jazz Festival** (Sept. 19–21), the longest continuously running jazz festival in the world, celebrates its 57th season with some 50 jazz greats, including **Michael Feinstein**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Robert Glasper**, and **Cecile McLorin Savant** (Sept. 19); **Booker T. Jones**, **Davina** and the **Vagabonds**, and **Aaron Diehl**

Quartet (Sept. 20); **Eric Harland**, **Marcus Miller**, **Charles Lloyd Quartet** (Sept. 21). Performances take place in the arena or throughout the festival grounds (831-373-3366, montereyjazzfestival.org).

Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award-winner **Mavis Staples** (Oct. 30) and trumpeter **Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra** (Nov. 16) in their fall programming (510-642-9988, calperformances.org).

CONTEMPORARY

The **San Francisco Electronic Music Festival** (Sept. 11–14) at the Exploratorium features laptop-generated sound, analog synthesizers, and amplified found objects combined with performance art and improv (415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu).

A fall staple, **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass** (Oct. 3–5) is back for its 14th year in Golden Gate Park and is sure to promise its typical spectacular lineup, which was not available at press time (hardlystrictlybluegrass.com).

The **Warfield** will feature some oldies but goodies with **Pink Floyd** (Sept. 22); **King Crimson** (Oct. 3–4); and **Cheap Trick** (Nov. 22) for the fall season (415-345-0900, thewarfieldtheatre.com). The Fillmore features **Tribal Seeds** (Sept. 5–9); **The Airborne Toxic Event** (Sept. 18–20); **Patty Griffin** with **John Fullbright** (Oct. 30), and **Citizen Cope: Clarence Greenwood Recordings 10th Anniversary Tour** (Nov. 4–5) among many others (800-745-3000, thefillmore.com).

On the lineup at the popular **Treasure Island Music Festival** (Oct. 18–19) is **Outkast**, **Massive Attack**, **Zedd**, **Alt-J**, **Janell Monae**, **The New Pornographers**, **Washed Out**, and a host of others (treasureislandfestival.com).

Over at UC Berkeley's **Greek Theatre**, the **Avett Brothers & Brandi Carlile** (Sept. 13) and New Zealand's teen sensation **Lourde** (Oct. 2) share the fall bill (510-642-9988, thegreektheatreberkeley.com).

CABARET

It's a Linda lineup at **Feinstein's at the Nikko**, with **Linda Edar** (Sept. 4–6), **Linda Lavin** (Sept. 18–19), and **Linda Kosut** (Oct. 15) highlighting the fall performances (415-394-1111, hotelnikko.com/feinsteins).

ART

ASIAN ART MUESUM

Roads of Arabia: Archaeology and History in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Oct. 24), which features more than 200 objects ranging from one-million-year-old stone tools to 17th-century gilded doors from the Ka'ba, Islam's holiest sanctuary uncovered in the past 40 years and transforming our understanding of the region (415-581-5000, asianart.org).

Sheryl Sandberg & Marianne Cooper Talk: The Anxieties of Modern Families

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Castro Theatre (429 Castro St.)
Stanford sociologist Cooper and Facebook COO Sandberg dive into the struggles facing families today. \$5–\$75, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org



4th Annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging

Fri–Sun, Sept. 12–14 2014
New People Cinema (1746 Post St.)
This one-of-a-kind festival celebrates older adulthood and addresses the challenges and triumphs of aging. The 15 films from five countries include short- and feature-length documentaries, comedies and dramas by award-winning filmmakers. \$10–\$50, 415-338-2467, legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org

MadCat 13 Women's Film Festival

Daily, Sept. 16–early October, 8:30 p.m.
El Rio (3158 Mission St.)
Catch the latest avant-garde videos and films in this edgy showcase of female creators from around the world. 21+, \$8–\$20, 415-282-3325, madcatfilmfestival.org

San Francisco Irish Film Festival

Daily, Sept. 18–20
Delancey Street Theater (600 Embarcadero)
This three-day celebration of Irish films ranges from the opening night screening of *Good Vibrations* (the punk godfather Terri Hooley story) to the documentary *Natural Grace*. sfirishfilm.com

S.F. Neighborhood Newspapers: Creating Healthy & Informed Environments & Neighborhoods

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.
Commonwealth Club (595 Market St.)
Join S.F. media and news publishers who have created and maintained a "hometown view" of what is happening in the city and its diverse communities. \$20, 415-597-6700, commonwealthclub.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT



A Deep View on the Early Universe: Extreme Makeovers and Overweight Galaxies

Monday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences
UC Berkeley astronomer Mariska Kriek explores the very different types, shapes, and sizes of galaxies and explains what they mean — how they were formed and evolved. \$8–\$12, 877-227-1831, calacademy.org

Deepak Chopra & Rinaldo Brutoco: Changing Energy, Changing Consciousness

Monday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m.
Commonwealth Club (595 Market St.)
Fossil fuels and nuclear plants? Renewable energy? Chopra and Brutoco believe that changing consciousness about energy is key to changing your consciousness about everything. \$10–\$50, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

California Coastal Cleanup Day 30th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.–noon
Various coastal locations
Pitch in and lend a hand throughout the Golden Gate National Parks and help keep our parks, neighborhoods and shorelines clean, safe and beautiful for everyone. Free, register at 415-561-3077, volunteer@parksconservancy.org, or parksconservancy.org; presidio.gov

Off the Screen: Impossible Light

Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Exploratorium (Pier 15)
See the reality of 25,000 LED lights on the Bay Bridge while watching Filmmaker Jeremy Ambers's documentary explaining how it all came to be. Ages 18+, \$10–\$15 (included in museum admission), 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Rock Wall Wine Company: Urban Paradise

Saturday, Sept. 6, 1–4 p.m.
Rock Wall Wine Company (2301 Monarch St., Alameda)
Taste nine new releases in addition to the winery's 30+ wines paired with gourmet food bites from local restaurants and food purveyors. Includes tours, barrel tasting, chocolate tasting, music, and more. 21+, \$45–\$55, 510-522-5700 ext. 22, rurbanparadise2014.eventbrite.com



Taste Around Town Festival

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2–6 p.m.
Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
This walk-around tasting event offers artisan wines and beer paired with cuisine from some of San Francisco's favorite food trucks and features wines from around the world, craft beer, culinary activations, gourmet bites, and more. \$75, 650-329-0400, bottlenotes.com

What Makes a Perfect Loaf?

Friday, Sept. 12, noon
Commonwealth Club (595 Market St.)
Journalist Samuel Fromartz and renowned baker Chad Robertson delve deep into bread attempting to define a great loaf and what it takes to make it. \$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

19th Annual Ghirardelli Square Chocolate Festival

Sat–Sun, Sept. 13–14, noon–5 p.m.
Ghirardelli Square
This chocolate celebration features sampling by some of the finest local dessert companies and of course Ghirardelli chocolate. Come enjoy live music, chef demonstrations, ice cream eating contests, and more to benefit Project Open Hand. \$20–\$40, 888-402-6262, ghirardellisq.com

SPORTS & HEALTH

S.F. Mountain Bike Festival

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, McLaren Park
This unique urban event features mountain biking opportunities for all ages and abilities, including competitive events, noncompetitive rides, youth programming, and lots of fun spectator action. Proceeds benefit SF Urban Riders and the McLaren Park Bike Park project. Free–\$60, sfurbanriders.org

Rolex Big Boat Series 50th Anniversary Regatta

Thu–Sun, Sept. 11–14
S.F. Bay
The St. Francis Yacht Club hosts this premier West Coast regatta showcasing top sailing talent and over 100 boats from smaller sport boat fleets to catamarans to 40-foot sailboats. Free bay viewing, rolexbigboatseries.com



10th Annual Peak2Peak

Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Glen Park Canyon Park to Park Chalet
Discover hidden stairways, explore little-known pathways, and take in breathtaking views over 12 miles and 10 peaks, while you support Walk S.F.'s work to create safer streets and more walkable, livable neighborhoods. Includes breakfast, lunch, snack, one-year membership to Walk S.F. and more. \$95, 415-431-9255, walksf.org

Mini Medical School on Women's Health

Saturday, Sept. 20, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Enright Room, CPMC (2333 Buchanan St.)
This program offers clinical examples and physician insights on women's health concerns. Topics include digestive disorders, arthritis treatment, healthy aging, and more. \$25 donation, register at 415-600-0500 or cpm.org/chrc

Pedaling the Presidio

Sunday, Sept. 21, 1–3 p.m.
Meet: Beach Hut Cafe, Crissy Field East Beach
Spin your pedals and explore history and scenery on this six-mile, moderately strenuous bicycle ride through the Presidio. Helmet required. Free, reservations required at 415-561-4323, parksconservancy.org

3rd Annual Yoga Day at the Park

Saturday, Sept. 27
AT&T Park
Join instructor Janet Stone and Bay Area musician Michael Franti for a private on-field yoga session 30 minutes after the final out of the 1:05 p.m. Giants vs. division rival San Diego Padres game. Includes limited edition Giants-themed yoga bag and game admission. \$47.75–\$160.50, 415-972-2298, sfgiants.com

CHILD'S PLAY

James and the Giant Peach

Sat & Sun, Sept. 12–28
Young Performers Theatre
(Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center)
A magical peach, an imprisoned boy, insect friends, and an incredible journey — this delightful dramatization reveals wickedness, goodness, and indecision encountered when faced with crises. \$10, 415-346-5550, ypt.org

Mountain Lake Science Saturdays

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2–3 p.m.
Meet/Park: 14th Ave. (at 1080 Wedemeyer St.)
Join the Dirt Dude, soil scientist and natural resources educator Stephen Andrews, and learn about wetland soils, which provide important habitat to many plant and animal populations specifically adapted to the anaerobic conditions found in wetland areas of the lake. Meet a guide at 1:45. Free, jlisenby@presidiotrust.gov, presidio.gov



Exploratorium Market Days: Homespun

Saturday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Public Plaza in front of Pier 15
Enjoy this open-air mini-festival bringing together scientists, artists and educators that features curated art, science demos, hands-on activities, exhibits, and craft displays. Free, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

San Francisco Symphony: The Wizard of Oz

Saturday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Celebrate the 75th anniversary of this classic by watching it on a big screen with music performed live by the symphony. \$53–\$168, sfsymphony.org

3rd Annual Marina Family Fest

Sunday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Marina Green
Enjoy a variety of entertainment, including bounce houses, a petting zoo, climbing wall, music, gourmet food trucks, a beer and wine garden, as well as local merchant-sponsored booths. Paid wristbands required for child participation in the child-focused attractions. Partial proceeds benefit SF SAFE. mca-sf.org

CREATURE FEATURES

SF/ACC 25th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Delancey Street Foundation (600 Embarcadero)
Join ACC's spokesperson, the cockatoo Pineapple, in a garden reception, silent and live auction, special guests, and dinner to support SFACC, the only organization in the city that accepts all animals in any condition, and provides food, shelter, and medical attention to over 11,000 animals annually. \$150, sfanimalcare.org/25



6th Annual Moolah for Mutts: Mutt Magic

Saturday, Sept. 27, 6:30–10 p.m.
S.F. Design Center (101 Henry Adams St.)
This annual fundraiser for senior dog rescue Muttville is an award-winning gala — a fun-filled evening of food, drink, music, auctions, raffles, and goody bags. \$125, moolahformutts.org

JUST FOR FUN

Walking Tour: Palace of Fine Arts/Marina

Saturday, Sept. 6 & 20, 1 p.m.
Meet: Corner of Bay St. at Lyon
Discover and learn about the site of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition and the surrounding neighborhood. Free (donations welcome), 415-557-4266, sfcityguides.org



KUSF Rock 'n' swap

Sunday, Sept. 14, 7 a.m.–4 p.m.
McLaren Hall, USF (2130 Fulton St.)
This giant music lovers' fair with vendors offering music-related items in various formats and genres, many hard-to-find and rarities supports KUSF-FM (90.3). \$3, 415-386-5873, kusf.org

Urban Air Market

Sunday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Octavia Blvd. at Hayes
This curated marketplace for sustainable design features independent designers of clothing, accessories, jewelry, and home decor selected based on their quality, originality, cleverness, and method of sustainability in design. Free, urbanairmarket.com

2nd Annual Historic Home Tradeshow

Sunday, Sept. 14, noon–5 p.m.
Golden Gate Club, the Presidio
Featuring lectures and demonstrations for homeowners, craftspeople, historians, and artists, this premier event provides an opportunity to network and showcase products and services. Food and refreshments available at Off the Grid Picnic at the Presidio. \$5, 415-474-4435, historichometradeshow.com



Fall Arts Preview – Art & Performance

ART

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

On display at the **de Young Museum** is **Celebrating the Spectrum: Highlights from the Anderson Collection** (Sept. 13–Apr. 5), which opens in conjunction with the Anderson Collection at Stanford University. The exhibition includes works from Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Josef Albers and more, and focuses on the use of color in printmaking (415-750-3636, famsf.org).

Houghton Hall: Portrait of an English Country House (Oct. 18–Jan. 18): *Downton Abbey* fans are sure to flock to this show at the **Legion of Honor** that re-creates some of the interiors of the 18th century home of England's first prime minister, along with other rarely exhibited treasures and furniture (415-750-3600, legionofhonor.famsf.org).

S.F. MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

SFMOMA has temporarily moved — everywhere. Under construction but not forgotten, the museum's collection continues to make appearances in the Bay Area. At the **CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts**, Vienna-based artist **Markus Schinwald** (Sept. 9–Dec. 13) presents his first major museum commission in the United States. His installation is an architectural invention that changes the size, shape, and overall feel of 19th century paintings and sculptures in surprising ways. **Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California** (Sept. 20–Apr. 12) shows up at the **Oakland Museum of California**, where the exhibition combines works from both museums to tell the stories of four creative Bay Area communities from the 1930s to the 1990s and includes works from Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Mark Rothko, Richard Deibenkorn, Wayne Thiebaud, Barry McGee, and more (415-357-4000, sfmoma.org).

Opening at the **Artist's Gallery** in Fort Mason is works by **Willard Dixon**, **Chiyomi Longo**, and **Anthony Delgado** (Sept. 6–Oct. 23), which will display the landscape oil paintings on panels by Dixon, abstract paintings on panels using mixed media by Longo, and Delgado's photographs of holy days (415-441-4777, sfmoma.org/visit/artists_gallery).

PERFORMANCE

THEATRE

This area's long tradition of live performances continues and this season gets off to a vibrant start with exciting productions. Fort Mason's **Magic Theatre** opens its 2014–15 season with the new comedy **Bad Jews** (Sept. 9–Oct. 5), which pits religious and secular relatives as they battle it out Old Testament-style over what it means to be "chosen." Naomi Wallace's **I and Silence** (Oct. 9–Nov. 23) about two women in 1950s segregated America wraps up the fall season (415-441-8822, magictheatre.org).

The **American Conservatory Theatre** opens its new season with the delightful **Old**

Hats (Sept. 10–Oct. 5) featuring the artistry of Bill Erwin and David Shiner and combining magic, slapstick, and hilarity with inventive technology and original music. Also scheduled is **Testament** (Oct. 29–Nov. 23) by Colm Toibin about a mother who believes fanatics have taken her son (415-749-2228, www.act-sf.org).

After a successful production of last season's **Bauer**, which plays in New York this fall, **San Francisco Playhouse** opens with Aaron Loeb's compelling and dark comedy suspense thriller **Ideation** (Sept. 23–Nov. 8). The company closes 2014 with the perfectly entertaining **Promises, Promises** (Nov. 22–Jan. 10), a musical comedy classic based on Neil Simon's book with music by Burt Bacharach and lyrics by Hal David (415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org).

The ambitious **42nd Street Moon Theatre**, which produces only American classical musicals, starts their lineup with the only collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Stephen Sondheim, **Do I Hear a Waltz** (Oct. 1–29), set in 1960s Venice, and continues with English flappers afoot in the French Riviera in the farce **The Boy Friend** (Oct. 29–Nov. 16) followed by Cole Porter's farce **Something for the Boys** (Nov. 26–Dec. 14), filled with World War II spirit and quirky characters to close their fall season (415-255-8207, www.42ndstmoon.org).

Across the bay at the **Berkeley Rep, An Evening with Meow Meow** (Sept. 5–Oct. 19) opens the season with a cabaret-style show featuring the international award-winning singing sensation. **Party People** (Oct. 17–Nov. 16) mixes live video, hip-hop, jazz, rock, gospel, blues, Latin rhythms, and spoken word to tell the story of the 1960s activists the Black Panthers and Young Lords. And last but not least, Tony and Oscar nominee Kathleen Turner stars in **Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins** (Nov. 21–Jan. 14), portraying the sassy, quick-witted political journalist and author (510-647-2900, berkeleyrep.org).

DANCE

The **Smuin Ballet** kicks off their 21st season with six performances at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater. Their **Untamed** (Oct. 3–Sept. 26) dance series features **Serenade for Strings** set to Tchaikovsky; the evocative **Objects of Curiosity**; and Michael Smuin's sinister Latin saga **Frankie & Johnny**, dedicated to dancer/choreographer Gene Kelley (415-912-1899, smuinballet.org).

Fort Mason Center with **Mark Foehringer Dance Project** (Sept. 13) present **Dances of the Sacred and Profane**, inspired by the music and art of the Impressionist period. Six performances are scheduled at the Cowell Theater (800-838-3006, mfdfs.org).

At **Cal Performances**, you'll find their usual varied and prolific programming with dance performances by **Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble** (Sept. 25), the Australian Ballet performing **Swan Lake** (Oct. 16–19), and **Sasha Waltz & Guests** (Oct. 24–25) performing a program set to Schubert's Impromptus (510-642-9988, calperformances.org).

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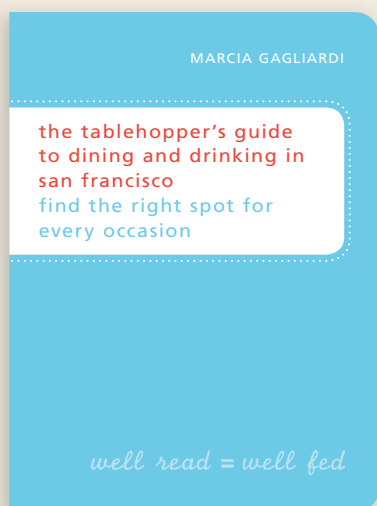
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THE HEALTHFUL LIFE :: What's in a pill?

The skinny on supplements

by thalia farshchian

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THERE HAS been a lot of controversy around the benefits and efficacy of taking supplemental vitamins. An argument is that they provide no additional health benefits or can even be deleterious.

As a naturopathic doctor, supplemental vitamins are one of the many tools in my practice, and I have found them to make impactful changes in my patients' health. Supplements and herbs are powerful and have their place in the medical field as alternatives to medications with high side effects.

Here are a few points about safely and effectively taking herbal and nutritional supplements.

WE LIVE IN A DIRTY WORLD

As humans, we have mastered the art of innovation unlike any other creature on the planet, but often our innovations

have harmful effects on our world. Many medical advances have saved our suffering from acute diseases that cut our lives short. The issues we face now are extremely different from those of our ancestors. With increased toxic exposures in our air, water and food, chronic diseases have increased, making it necessary to work extra hard to stay healthy. Supplements assist in maintaining a healthy nutrient status, and can support detoxification from soil degradation and heavy metals in our water supply.

SUPPLEMENTS NOT REPLACEMENTS

There is extensive media coverage surrounding the next new drug or supplement for just about every health concern. The advertising is tempting — take a pill and your concerns disappear. Unfortunately, whether it is a pharmaceutical drug or a nutritional/herbal supplement, no pill can be a substitute for a healthy diet, environment, and lifestyle. When we have physical health concerns, they are often signs of underlying issues, and it is best to address core issues directly.

KNOW THEIR PURPOSE

I often have patients walk in with a long list of supplements, and I commend them for taking a health initiative, but I am also happy to help them understand what supplements best suit their personal health goals. It can be draining both energetically and financially to take a handful of pills at each meal. It is often more effective for the health of you and your pocketbook to seek a professional to help you determine your best regimen.

SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE HARMFUL

Just because something is naturally derived does not make it safe. Many of our strong pharmaceutical drugs are actually derived from plants. For example, digoxin, a powerful drug still used for people affected by irregular heartbeats, stems from the digitalis plant. Herbal formulas are incredibly healing, but should be managed under professional care to minimize potential interactions with other herbs and medications.

In the last 10 years, calcium supplementation has been recommended to prevent osteoporosis. Recent research finds that the recommended supplemental dosage was too high at 1,000 milligrams and was causing arterial plaque formation and cardiovascular disease. The current recommendations have been lowered to 500 milligrams and include complementary nutrients like vitamin D, vitamin K, and other minerals.



Will it help your body or hurt your wallet?
PHOTO: TREASURE / FLICKR

NUTRIENT ABSORPTION

You are what you consume, but you are more so what you absorb. This past year, a study emerged stating that a multivitamin has no health benefits, and often people ask me if we just pass everything through our urine.

I want to stress the importance of good quality vitamins because there are different chemical forms of nutrients with various absorption levels.

Vitamin B12, for example, has three common forms — cyanocobalamin, hydroxycobalamin, and methylcobalamin. Cyanocobalamin is the least absorbed form and methylcobalamin is the most easily absorbed by the body. It is best to take vitamins with bio-available nutrients so your body can easily assimilate them.

With water-soluble vitamins like B vitamins, your body takes what it needs and excretes the excess. This is what changes the color of your urine. With fat-soluble vitamins like vitamin D, E, K, and A, your body has the ability to store the excess for later use. For therapeutic doses, it is important to monitor blood levels of these nutrients to avoid toxicity.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

In the end, your health is your absolute best investment. Because supplements are not as strongly regulated as pharmaceutical medications, you can potentially impose more harm than health. For example, I have seen generic fish oil supplements with added hydrogenated oils. Hydrogenated oils are extremely harmful to our health, and it is counterintuitive to add them to a supplement geared toward providing healthy fats. Other fillers in supplements could include heavy metals.

In my practice, I use professional supplement lines that go through the same testing as pharmaceutical drugs. It is important to read labels for heavy metals, potential allergens, and other chemicals. In terms of bio-availability, less expensive supplements will also use less expensive ingredients that your body may be unable to properly assimilate.

I use supplements in my practice because they therapeutically create space for my patients to make the other more important changes in their diet and lifestyle. Over time, I try to minimize the amount of supplements they take and ensure we are truly targeting their individual needs.

Thalia Farshchian is a naturopathic doctor at Discover Health. Her background includes both conventional and alternative modalities, and her practice is primarily focused on weight management, hormone imbalances and gastrointestinal conditions. E-mail: drthalia@discoverhealthmd.com



Planning ahead saves headaches. PHOTO: DOGBERRYJR / FLICKR

Back-to-school resolutions

by liz farrell

HEADING INTO A new school year can be exciting and invigorating, similar to the start of a new year. There is much to look forward to, hopes for what to accomplish, and a time to wipe the slate clean and start over. However, it can also be overwhelming,

to take more responsibility. For example, this year I am going to try to have my children help with their lunches and assist with some of the laundry.

Spice up school lunches: Part of the back-to-school routine that many parents tend to dread most is packing school lunches. It is hard to balance what you know your children are

a snack and some down time or play time before sitting down to tackle assignments. This is our first year with two children who will have nightly homework, so we decided to set up a homework station. They picked an area in our house that was quiet, well lit, and close enough to me in case they needed help. It helps if this area is predetermined so the kids aren't trying to undertake a frustrating homework assignment at the dinner table while you are trying to cook and set the table. To make the area more appealing, I

had my children help organize it. We bought different bins and compartments to hold what they may need to complete their assignments, like sharpened pencils, erasers, crayons, and extra paper.

Whether you adopt these resolutions for your family or create your own, the best way to stick with them is to hold each other accountable. After a few weeks, check in with yourself and your family to find out what is working and what needs some fixing. Try not to slip back into bad patterns that can create frustration and undue stress. Teaching our children responsibility, eating

going to eat with healthful options. I know if I wait until morning, I am just throwing in things that are easy and convenient but not always the most nutritious. A key to keeping lunches interesting for those making and eating them is to mix it up and not pack the same thing everyday. Another thing we are going to try is to pack them the night before and have the kids help. I find they are much more likely to eat the food if they have prepared and packed it. Luckily, many websites offer great suggestions for school lunches. There is also a new market of hot/cold containers, bento

daunting, and laden with anxiety — and not only for our children. For me, just the thought of packing lunches again makes my stomach swirl. To balance the excitement and trepidation, I have created some back-to-school resolutions for our family. My hope is that these goals will help get our family, and maybe yours, too, off to a great start.

Make a checklist: After a few months of slow, relaxed mornings, the best way to get everyone back into a routine is to create a checklist — one for the morning and one for the evening. Determining what to put on the checklist can be a family project. This gives the children some of the power as well as making them aware of what is expected to get out the door in the morning and to bed on time in the evening. For me, one of the hardest parts of the before and after school routine is feeling like I am a drill sergeant barking orders. This is not fun for my children or me. The checklist should include the basics that need to get done — getting dressed, brushing teeth, and putting things in their backpacks, but remember it is a new year, so try to include a few things that encourage them

going to eat with healthful options. I know if I wait until morning, I am just throwing in things that are easy and convenient but not always the most nutritious. A key to keeping lunches interesting for those making and eating them is to mix it up and not pack the same thing everyday. Another thing we are going to try is to pack them the night before and have the kids help. I find they are much more likely to eat the food if they have prepared and packed it. Luckily, many websites offer great suggestions for school lunches. There is also a new market of hot/cold containers, bento

boxes and reusable bags, which can help spice things up and keep it interesting.

Create good homework patterns: One of the biggest changes in transitioning from summer to back to school is getting into the homework routine. Establishing a regular study time from the beginning can be very helpful. Some children want to get it done early and out of the way. Others may need

healthfully, and establishing good study habits are life lessons, and the sooner they learn them the better off they will be.

Here's to hoping it is a great school year for everyone in your house.

Liz Farrell is the mother of three young children. She was formerly a television producer in Washington D.C. and San Francisco. E-mail: liz@marinatimes.com



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URBAN HOME AND GARDEN :: Drip, drip



Minimize water loss with drip irrigation

by julia strzesieski

THE BEST WAY TO water your plants is drip irrigation because it minimizes water loss through evaporation, eliminates erosion from overspray and excessive runoff, reduces weed growth, and results in healthy plants and higher yields. Well-designed drip irrigation systems direct the right volume of water exactly where each plant needs it, and you can save up to 70 percent in water use. Drip irrigation can be tailored to just about any garden, landscape or container garden situation.

While we hope for an abundant rainy season, the generally pleasant month of September is an ideal month to undertake an outdoor garden project. And should we have a great winter in rainfall, your system will be ready for spring. Before you purchase any drip irrigation components, assess your needs.

SKETCH OUT EXISTING CONDITIONS

Consider area dimensions, including various elevations; size, type and location of beds, plants and soil types; water source location; best place to run the main line; and your water pressure level.

BASIC DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Familiarize yourself with the following components so you can determine the best system for your needs.

On-off valve: For small systems, look for a low-flow shutoff and an anti-siphon device. This keeps water in the system from flowing back into your clean water supply.

Filter: City water pipes contain sediments that can clog your system.

Timer: This is essential. Multiprogramming automatic controllers work the best.

Pressure regulator: Unless you plan to use multiple-outlet emitters designed for high-pressure operation, the pressure from your household line will probably blow your drip irrigation system. A regulator will reduce this pressure before it hits the system and will maintain the correct pressure. It's best to have one pressure regulator for each

lons of water per hour) you want to direct to each plant. This will depend on the type and size of plants and type of soil. Use higher flow emitters in sandy soil and for deep-rooted plants and lower flow emitters in clay soil and for shallow-rooted plants. In most cases, you want to wet at least 60 percent of the root zone.

Misters, minisprays and minisprinklers: These are good for continuous low vegetation (such as ground cover), plants with shallow root systems and vegetation that benefits from overhead water and high humidity (e.g., ferns). These components operate more like

September is ideal to do an outdoor garden project.

conventional sprinklers but run with low pressure, low flow, and lose less water through evaporation. They are especially effective in sandy soils.

Polyvinyl chloride pipe: PVC pipe is a rigid type of pipe, usually buried a foot below the surface. Risers attach to this pipe and bring water to the surface where it is delivered to the plants through emitters. Buried PVC pipe is especially good for permanent installation and where foot traffic, children's play or vandalism may break or disconnect a surface system. Extra time is required to bury this type of system.

Polyethylene tubing: This is a flexible plastic pipe commonly installed on the surface and covered with mulch. Emitters connect directly to the main line or to smaller lateral branches. This system is easy to access but may be vulnerable to damage in high activity areas.

Emitter: This lets you choose exactly where you want the water from the main and branch lines to go. Water drips into the soil and plant foliage stays dry, stopping the spread of fungal diseases. Emitters come in many configurations. Purchase emitters according to the flow rate (gal-

lons of water per hour) you want to direct to each plant. This will depend on the type and size of plants and type of soil. Use higher flow emitters in sandy soil and for deep-rooted plants and lower flow emitters in clay soil and for shallow-rooted plants. In most cases, you want to wet at least 60 percent of the root zone.

Continuous-flow pipe: This type of pipe oozes water into the soil continuously and is best used with a filter and pressure regulator. You don't need to add emitters, so set-up is easy. The downside of this method is that the holes have a tendency to clog.

Calculate what you'll need to set up your system: number of emitters, size and amount of pipe, etc. Next, measure the flow from your water source: Turn water on to full flow and let it run into a big bucket for exactly one minute. Measure the volume of water and multiply by 60 to get gallons per hour (gph). That number is the number of emitters you can use in your system.

Maintain your system by checking it regularly for blockages. Repair leaks immediately and flush the lines twice a year.

Julia Strzesieski is the marketing coordinator of Cole Hardware and can be reached at julia@marinatimes.com.

Tenant improvements

by john zipperer

IN THIS DENSELY POPULATED, BUILT-UP city, some of the most desired property is something you can't have. The Presidio is land like any other land, but it's run by the Presidio Trust on behalf of the government (which ultimately means on your behalf). This autumn, we will get to see one of the most significant improvements in the Presidio when the Presidio Officers' Club reopens and begins its new life as a public cultural center.

The Trust spent \$19 million between 2011 and 2014 to rehabilitate the building known as California Historical Landmark No. 79. Spanish explorers created the establishment all the way back in 1776, where they set up their military presence in what would eventually become San Francisco. They were followed by the U.S. military, whose officers used it as their gathering space for much of the past century.

Revitalizing this 238-year-old building included preserving its adobe walls (for which the Trust earned a 2011 Preservation Design Award from the California Preservation Foundation), a seismic upgrade, and repairing the front portion of the building and the newer rear addition, which had been added in 1972 by the U.S. Army. The two sections are now tied together by a new connecting structure, and a basement was added for mechanical and storage purposes.

After this renovation, San Francisco's oldest building will now feature spaces for education, entertainment, science, and food. Classrooms will be available for elementa-

ry-through-high-school students to learn directly from Presidio Trust educators, and a state-of-the-art archeology lab "will support ongoing research and enable the community to observe archeologists at work through live digs," according to the Trust. Thursdays through Sundays, the site will also host live music and dance programs, discussions with public figures, theater, films, and family programs. A new ballroom will be available for private celebrations and business meetings.

Officers and their families are no longer the only people getting good service there; a new restaurant, Arguello, will feature Mexican dishes and a bar with craft cocktails. Arguello is a partnership between the Trust and chef Traci Des Jardins.

"The Officers' Club was a beloved social destination for the Army as well as for San Franciscans for decades," said Craig Middleton, Presidio Trust's executive director. "By expanding the purpose of this revered place, we will welcome our entire community — visitors from across the region and around the nation. This is a flagship offering and a critical part of our mission to offer the public meaningful experiences in this beautiful park setting."

The Presidio Trust is inviting the public to the opening festivities the weekend of October 4-5. You can find details about events at the Officers Club, located at 40 Moraga Avenue on the Main Post, at presidio.gov/poc.

LUXURY HOMES GETTING HOTTER

There might be some moderation in the high cost of housing in San Francisco (see



Artist's rendering of the refurbished Presidio Officers' Club. IMAGE: PRESIDIO TRUST

Real Estate Roundup, page 28), but the luxury market segment is still going gangbusters. The second quarter of 2014 saw a 23.6 percent increase in sales activity for homes selling for more than \$2 million, according to a new market report from Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. And there were nearly twice as many second-quarter sales as there were in the first quarter of this year.

Here are some of the notable findings in the Coldwell Banker luxury report:

- San Francisco's most expensive second-quarter sale was an \$11 million transaction in Presidio Heights for a six-bedroom, eight-bath, 4,000-square-foot home;
- Presidio Heights/Inner Richmond boasted the most luxury sales with 25, followed by Pacific Heights and the Marina with 23 each, Noe Valley with 18, Embarcadero/SOMA with 16 and Russian Hill with 13;
- Luxury homes are selling faster, too — they sold in an average of 51.8 days during the quarter, down from 55 days a year ago;

• Sellers received 110 percent of their asking price on average, up from 105 percent a year ago and 106 percent the previous quarter.

OFFICE TECH IMPACT

It's not just housing that has been impacted by an influx of tech business and an artificially restricted inventory of available property. San Francisco's office space has a low vacancy rate and prices per square foot have risen about 81 percent in the past four years, notes Kevin Montgomery over at Valleywag.

Six companies — Dropbox, Google, LinkedIn, Salesforce, Twitter, and Uber — are credited or blamed for taking up most of the available office real estate here lately.

In the 1980s, city voters approved Proposition M, which capped the amount of new office space allowed each year. So don't look for the shortage of inventory to change any time soon.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



Jordan Park
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Gorgeous Home in Fantastic Location.
Just one block to Fillmore Street shops, cafes, schools, Lafayette Park and more. This beautiful 4BD/3.5BA home features hardwood floors, moldings and soaring ceilings throughout! Spacious, recently updated eat-in kitchen opens to a bright, sunny patio and garden.
MyPacHeightsHome.com
Rachel Swann
415.225.7743



Pacific Heights
Offered at \$3,395,000
Contemporary 3-Level View Home.
This 3BD/3.5BA townhome is like a single family home. There are no common walls or roof, and the garden is all yours. The home features beautiful craftsmanship and refinished hardwood floors, high ceilings, skylights, granite counters and two fireplaces. 2-car garage.
1911-bVallejo.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
415.321.4232



Presidio Heights
Price Upon Request
Coming Soon! Elegant 2-Level House-like Condo.
A lovely private entrance and wide staircase lead to a large foyer with graceful stained glass windows. This 3BD/2.5BA home includes a pentroom with City views, a grand living room, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen. 1-car deeded pkg.
315Cherry.com
Elle Ghandi
415.321.4287
Eileen Mougeot
415.302.9086



Pacific Heights
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Chic Luxury Property.
Just steps from beautiful Alta Plaza Park and all the best of Pacific Heights, this grand 3BD/3BA property is appointed with the finest materials and finishes by a highly-regarded local designer. Gorgeous hardwood floors, designer lighting fixtures throughout, 2-car garage parking.
287OWashington.com
Ron Sebahar
415.279.4579



Corona Heights
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89RooseveltWay.com
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204Roosevelt.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
415.321.4232



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1050NorthPoint306.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
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The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: July 2014

By Hill & Co.

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow (no sales)					
Lake	159 21st Avenue	3BD/2BA	\$1,727,000	Above	10
	1926 Lake Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$2,850,000	Below	22
	135 14th Avenue	5BD/3.5BA	\$3,018,000	Above	15
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain	238 Parker Avenue	3BD/2BA	\$1,355,000	Above	12
	233 Stanyan Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,462,000	Above	13
Marina	290 Avila Street	3BD/3BA	\$3,430,000	Above	26
	435 Marina Boulevard	3BD/2BA	\$5,400,000	At	27
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2018 Webster Street	0BD/3BA	\$2,750,000	Above	3
	2608 Sacramento Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,450,000	Above	8
	1909 Vallejo Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,625,000	Below	66
	1641 Green Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$4,200,000	Above	38
	68 Presidio Avenue	5BD/5.5BA	\$7,750,000	Below	60
	2602 Pacific Avenue	6BD/6.5BA	\$8,250,000	Below	32
	2090 Vallejo Street	6BD/6BA	\$9,500,000	Below	286
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill	40 Glover Street	3BD/1.5BA	\$1,425,000	Above	15
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2728 Gough Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$975,000	Above	14
	2060 Union Street #4	2BD/1BA	\$1,015,000	Above	15
Lake	335 Lake Street	2BD/1BA	\$995,000	At	0
	1352 Lake Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,160,000	Above	23
Laurel Heights	105 Palm Avenue #2	2BD/1BA	\$785,000	Above	18
	38 Heather Avenue	2BD/1.5BA	\$845,000	Above	38
	189 Commonwealth Avenue #6	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,161,000	Above	25
Lone Mountain	664 Arguello Boulevard	2BD/1BA	\$835,000	Above	48
	656 Arguello Boulevard #3	2BD/2BA	\$1,104,713	Above	21
Marina	2253 Francisco Street	1BD/1BA	\$755,000	Above	15
	400 Avila Street #305	1BD/1BA	\$810,000	Above	47
	2165 Beach Street #5	2BD/2BA	\$1,370,000	Above	12
	142 Mallorca Way	2BD/2BA	\$1,670,000	Above	11
	1960 Jefferson Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,735,000	Above	47
	3470 Scott Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,200,000	At	0
Nob Hill	1645 Pacific Avenue #4C	1BD/1BA	\$855,000	Above	32
	850 Powell Street #500	2BD/2BA	\$880,000	Below	21
	1454 California Street #2	2BD/1BA	\$900,000	Below	61
	1601 Pacific Avenue #207	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,030,000	Above	64
	1562 Jones Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,200,000	Above	24
	1548 Jones Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,250,000	Above	12
	1645 Pacific Avenue #2B	2BD/2BA	\$1,395,000	At	16
	1250 Jones Street #701	1BD/1BA	\$1,500,000	At	29
	850 Powell Street #303	3BD/3BA	\$2,425,000	Above	17
	North Beach (no sales)				
Pacific Heights	1895 Pacific Avenue #203	1BD/1BA	\$825,000	Above	38
	1945 Washington Street #606	2BD/2BA	\$920,000	Above	47
	2111 Franklin Street #A	2BD/1BA	\$1,000,000	Above	29
	2921 Washington Street #4	1BD/1BA	\$1,075,000	Above	18
	1998 Broadway Street #607	2BD/2BA	\$1,140,000	Above	38
	2040 Franklin Street #1205	2BD/2BA	\$1,175,000	Above	78
	1901 California Street #2	3BD/2BA	\$1,349,000	At	220
	2040 Laguna Street #401	3BD/3BA	\$1,635,000	Above	14
	1902 Lyon Street #C	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,750,000	Above	28
	1940 Broadway Street #3E	3BD/3BA	\$2,400,000	Above	31
	2349 Vallejo Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,500,000	Above	16
	1960 Broadway Street #6	3BD/2.5BA	\$4,795,000	Below	95
Presidio Heights	3878 Sacramento Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,307,000	Above	11
Russian Hill	733 Chestnut Street #7	1BD/1BA	\$600,000	At	0
	2363 Larkin Street #31	1BD/1BA	\$756,000	Above	13
	2542 Hyde Street	3BD/1BA	\$820,000	Above	34
	1050 North Point Street #1207A	1BD/1BA	\$827,000	Above	34
	2 Fallon Place #34	1BD/1BA	\$1,000,000	Above	13
	2701 Larkin Street #200	1BD/1.5BA	\$1,040,000	Below	121
	1328 Greenwich Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,207,500	Above	21
	1045 Filbert Street	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,425,000	Above	13
	2701 Larkin Street #202	3BD/2.5BA	\$1,600,000	Below	55
	36 Houston Street	4BD/3BA	\$1,700,000	Above	18
	827 North Point Street #3	3BD/2BA	\$2,250,000	At	0
	1750 Taylor Street #1902	2BD/2BA	\$2,500,000	Above	26
	1855 Jones Street	4BD/3BA	\$2,650,000	Below	71
	827 North Point Street #1	3BD/3.5BA	\$2,700,000	At	0
1269 Lombard Street #A	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,375,000	Below	140	
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	439 Greenwich Street #1A	0BD/1BA	\$520,000	Below	148
	1980 Grant Avenue #7	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,200,000	Above	16
	1725 Kearny Street #1	4BD/4BA	\$3,525,000	Below	31

The data presented in this report is based on the San Francisco Multiple Listing Service and is accurate to the best of our knowledge, but cannot be guaranteed as such. For additional information, contact Hill & Co., 1880 Lombard Street (at Buchanan), 415-321-4362, www.hill-co.com.

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP : News briefs

Take it to the ballot

by john zipperer

S.F. TAKES TO THE STREETS OVER PROPOSITION G

Proponents and opponents of this November's Proposition G have held rallies regarding the proposed law that would impose high taxes on certain housing transactions in the city.

The tax, which would range from 24 percent to 14 percent, depending on how long the property was held, seeks to impose a high price on so-called property "flippers," people who buy properties, usually upgrade them, and then resell them at a profit.

In August, supporters of the tax protested outside an apartment building where a family was evicted under the controversial Ellis Act. Elsewhere in the city this summer, small property owners rallied at City Hall to protest the proposition as well as the assumption that they were heartless "speculators."

WATERFRONT ALPHABET GAME: F FOLLOWS B

When San Francisco voters strongly endorsed Proposition B, giving themselves the right to approve or disapprove of any waterfront development above existing height limits, some folks predicted that this would create a lot of new business for lawyers, media and political consultants, and local power brokers. Skip three letters and this November voters will be asked to approve Proposition F, a project that wants to develop above height limits.

Forest City Enterprises is seeking an OK to develop its big mixed-use housing and office project at Pier 70 to 90 feet; it had already scaled down the height from the original 230 feet. Forest City says nearly one-third of the 1,000 to 2,000 housing units will be affordable to low- and middle-income individuals, and there will be a walkway along the waterfront. It will include between 1-2 million square feet of commercial and office space. The project's sponsors tout support from the Sierra Club, SF Beautiful, and the San Francisco Taxpayers Association. They also say the project will spin off \$20 million for better transit and nine acres of parks and open shoreline with "permanent public access." They hope all of that will convince voters to support Proposition F and thus this development.

No word yet if this means the city will be able to save money by laying off all of the professionals who were hired or elected to make these decisions themselves.

A SOLID D FOR ZONING AND LAND USE

It's no surprise that building or adapting property is difficult for local businesses, and San Francisco small businesses say the city lives down to its reputation in

that area, according to an annual national survey on the small business environment from Thumbtack, a San Francisco-based company that connects customers with service providers. When asked, "How unfriendly or friendly is your state or local government with regard to zoning or land use regulations?" the San Francisco respondents gave their city a D. That's pretty miserable, considering that even this regulation-heavy city got a D+ for the friendliness of its regulations. One respondent, a building contractor,



Local small property owners rallied against a measure that would punish house "flippers."

With regard to zoning or land use regulations, S.F. got a D.

summed up the zoning and land use frustration with a comment that this place "is very difficult to comply with codes, permits and required inspections."

In terms of other aspects of small business friendliness, San Francisco was pretty terrible across the board, getting a D or D+ in licensing; health and safety regulations;

employment, labor and hiring; and tax code. It's highest score — a B — came in training and networking programs.

Yet, despite those poor grades, Thumbtack says, "San Francisco business owners were among the most optimistic in the country, rating 10th in expectations of hiring over the next 12 months, and having the 12th brightest view of their local economy and the national economy."

COOL BUT HOT

Bay Area housing prices cooled slightly over the summer, though paradoxically they are still considered hot. How's that?

Single-family homes leveled off a bit in July, the *Contra Costa Times* reported. But there was still a gain — it was just the smallest annual pace in nearly two years.

Also, REReport.com notes, "Notices of sale, which set the date and time of an auction and serve as the homeowner's final notice before sale, [declined] 24.3 percent from May, and they were down 37.8 percent year-over-year. There were 28."

The website noticed another trend, one that will be welcomed by nearly everybody: "Notices of default, the first step in the foreclosure process, in San Francisco continues to drop. They plummeted 30 percent in June from May. Year-over-year, notices were down 26.3 percent."

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"I live and work in San Francisco, California. I've rezoned and rebuilt a brick and mortar in North Beach and believe that it is the city's intent to support local small business but that the web of bureaucracy and difficulty in navigating the complexity of a myriad of departments creates a hindrance on the average small business entrepreneurs."

— *Caterer interviewed for Thumbtack 2014 survey of small businesses*

News tips? E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



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San Francisco Neighborhood Newspapers:
Creating Healthy & Informed Environments and Neighborhoods

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE :: A concise dictionary



It seems sometimes like you need to bring a dictionary with you when you get involved in real estate. PHOTO: TREVOR / FLICKR

That means what?

by stephanie saunders ahlberg

AS WITH MANY PROFESSIONS, REAL estate has many of its own terms. Sometimes I have to remind myself that the general public might not understand what I'm talking about. My husband is a doctor. He might be telling me something about his job, and he will use medical terminology, not layperson language. For example, he will say, *febrile* instead of "has a fever."

If you have never bought or sold a house, you may not be familiar with the terms *escrow* and *title*. *Escrow* is a neutral third party that handles all the money and documents necessary to conclude the sale and transfer title to the new owner. *Title* is the research of the ownership, loan records, and other recorded documents on a property.

In Northern California, the same company handles both escrow and title, and it's referred to as the title company.

You will work with an escrow officer who will collect documentation in order to pay off any existing seller loans, confirm that property taxes are paid in full and prorate them so that both the

I have to remind myself that the general public might not know what I'm talking about.

It is a word he uses everyday, but we would typically not use that term. It is the same with real estate.

I thought I would explain a few terms that real estate agents use on a daily basis that might sound a bit mysterious to you at first. I try to remember to assure my clients that there are no silly questions. If I use terminology they don't understand, I invite them to please ask me what it means. One common acronym used by real estate agents and lenders alike is *PITI*. You would call it your payment, but it stands for principal, interest, taxes, and insurance. Normally your payment would be interest-only, or principal and interest if it is an amortized loan. But *PITI* is the full monthly obligation. If you are not having taxes and insurance collected (impounded) monthly in your payment, and most people don't, then you should set that amount aside so that when those bills come due you are prepared. Lenders will use this full *PITI* amount when they calculate how much of a loan you can qualify for.

buyer and seller pay their correct portions, collect information on a condo or co-op to prorate homeowner's association dues, and collect if there are any transfer fees, and so forth. The escrow officer will also prepare the *grant deed*, which is the official document recorded at the county recorder's office to change the ownership from the seller to the buyer.

The title officer will have his or her staff research all the pertinent records filed with the recorder's office to be sure that the seller can give clean and clear title to the buyer. If the research finds that the seller has *unmarketable title*, and it can't be cleared up, then the buyer can walk away from the deal without penalty. Both of these components of the transaction — escrow and title — are obviously extremely important.

I have put together a small handout about words you may need to know and on the legal aspects of real estate. If you

I have put together a small handout about the words you may need to know.

would like a complimentary set, please contact me through the website below and let me know, and I will be happy to provide them to you.

Stephanie Saunders Ahlberg has been a real estate agent for over 30 years and joined Hill & Co. in 1983, where she has consistently been among the top 10 salespeople. She can be reached at www.realtyinsanfrancisco.com.

My explanation of course leads to the next question, "What is amortization?" When a loan is *amortized*, it means you are paying the principal (loan amount) plus interest, but you will have paid the full amount of the loan at the end of the loan term. An *interest-only loan* would mean you are not paying off any of the principal, just the interest that is being charged on a monthly basis. Having an interest-only loan will result in a *balloon payment*, which means that at the end of the loan term you will have to pay back the total amount of money you borrowed.



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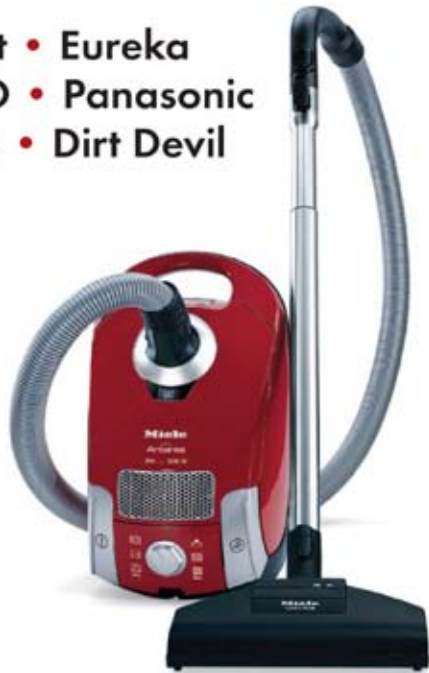
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REAL ESTATE TODAY :: Let's get small

San Francisco meets the tiny house movement

by carol isaacs

HERE WE ARE BEGINNING September, and the race to buy a home in the fall is off and running. Now is the time to give serious thought to your list of must-haves when you go out searching for a home. The months of September and October will fly by, and then the holiday season begins, when the number of homes coming on the market drops dramatically.

If you are a first-time home buyer or a homeowner thinking seriously of expanding your choices by downsizing, now is the time to get started.

Enter the tiny-house movement.

My interest in the Tiny House Movement began when my daughter, who lives in Boulder, Colo., told me that she and her soon-to-be engineer husband were looking at land and talking about building a small, possibly tiny house. This sounded like a great idea to me, because homes are quite expensive in Boulder, and like most buyers in San Francisco, a first home purchase was likely to involve family financial gifts. As a parent, I was on board for anything that would keep the price down.

When I fly I try to resist picking up the *Skymall* catalog, but on my last flight after an hour or so in the air, I told myself: "It's OK, no one will ever know." As I leafed through the pages, I found myself thinking: *People obviously buy this weird stuff or the magazine wouldn't be here.*

Then the 1965 VW bus tent with a built-in floor jumped out at me. The designer had to be thinking *baby boomers won't be able to resist this.* Yes, I am a baby boomer, and the VW Bus Tent captured me. What a curious idea! Just think: For the cost of dinner for two with a bottle of wine in one of San Francisco's pricier restaurants, it would be possible to have a play house or guest room in your backyard. No one wants guests to overstay their welcome. A VW bus tent may be just the ticket to guarantee your visitors are short term. In the Mission, I have heard creative owners and tenants are rent-

ing or subletting tent space in their yards to desperate would-be renters. For a bonus they could offer a tent that looked like a '65 VW Bus. What a concept!

Why am I even thinking, let alone sharing, what must sound like crazy thoughts? The answer is not so strange. Rarely do I meet a buyer who says, "This house is the perfect size." What buyers more often say, is "Can I add a room? How can I make this house bigger?" Many first-time buyers hope to find a home with a third bedroom, a second bath, office space, or a guest

"micro," but they are finding a place in the hearts of developers, architects and buyers in San Francisco.

In May I sold a tiny house on a one-block street between Powell and Mason on Nob Hill. The happy buyers measured the TIC/house at 383 square feet plus the deeded yard; the total was a whopping 607 square feet. The sale price was \$470,000. All of you price-per-square-foot fanatics are screaming, "OMG, that is ridiculous!" *Everyone needs to keep in mind: The smaller the property the higher the price per square foot.* This tiny house is detached on all sides and even has a deeded garage space in the associated TIC building.

By tiny house standards, S.F. living is opulent and has prices to match.

room as well as a backyard. Unwarranted bonus rooms that once caused concern are now looked on as an asset.

In 1950, houses averaged 983 square feet, according to the National Association of Home Builders. In San Francisco, the majority of single-family homes and condos built over the years ranged from 800 to 1,200 square feet, often with little or no yard. This is especially true in neighborhoods such as Bernal Heights (very small homes on small hilly lots), Glen Park (many small homes under 1,000 square feet, on hilly small lots), and Noe Valley (900 to 1,200-plus square-foot homes on lots 25 by 125 feet deep). In neighborhoods such as Nob Hill, North Beach, Russian Hill, and Telegraph Hill, small homes on postage-stamp lots are a given. None of these areas match the suburbs, where homes range upward from 2,500 square feet to 5,000 square feet or more situated on quarter-to-half acre or even one-acre lots.

As San Francisco's population grows, micro-condos and apartments are getting a foothold. Everyone agrees that with soaring rents and home prices going up, the city needs to think outside of the box to provide its newcomers with homes. Cubix, a new building at 766 Harrison, featured sub-300-square-foot condos, and for the most part they were snapped up as quickly as they came onto the market. Five-hundred-square-foot condos are not truly

Tiny-house advocates have ideas that can benefit San Francisco buyers. By tiny house standards, San Francisco city living is opulent and has prices to match. Admittedly it is difficult to think small while living in a city where tech start-ups boast newly minted millionaires, as if they are as common as fleas on a dog. Obviously the bulk of buyers do not fall into this category. It is possible, maybe even a necessity, for many buyers to think small as prices continue to rise.

There are things to consider when thinking about living small:

- Paying off a mortgage in seven years or less; lower interest rates also is a bonus with short-term loans.
- Experience peace of mind. Accept the size of your home and stop agonizing over how to make your house bigger while meeting zoning regulations.
- If you are not working to support a bigger home or home expansion, you may have more time for friends and family or hobbies.
- Learn to optimize the use of space. Is it possible that you don't need as much space as you think?

Give yourself more choices once you expand your search to include homes less than three bedrooms/two baths with a large (by San Francisco standards) backyard and parking.

Here are some places to go where you can find out more about Tiny Houses and living small:

- Tiny House Designer: Jay Shafer Architect, designing Tiny Houses

TINY HOUSES continued on 33

A tale of five cities

by John Zipperer

IN MY LINE OF WORK, I MEET a lot of people who have recently moved to San Francisco or who are hoping to move here as soon as they find a place to stay. Newcomers usually are looking for a place to rent, not buy. My advice to them — after first suggesting they take a swig of some strong liquor — is that they understand the uniqueness of finding a rental in this market. It's not like most other places they've lived.

I was a renter until two and a half years ago. Before finally buying a condo here in the city, I had rented my housing ever since I moved into the dormitories at the University of Wisconsin. Over the following couple decades, I moved from city to city often enough that you might suspect I was fleeing something, but in reality I was just following the dictates of new jobs or existing relationships. From Madison to Indianapolis to New York to California, I paid my monthly fee to live in apartments, and I have learned that things can be very different in different cities.

ROOMMATES

Madison: In college, you expect to have a roommate. In my case, my freshman year roommate was a friend from high school,

and we weathered the first-year dorms together, where the biggest danger was running afoul of the official line that they were to be called “residential halls” and not “dorms.” The next year I had my own dorm room, but after that it was apartment living all the way.

Indianapolis: Like the millennial whiners of today, I was graduated from college during a time of recession. There were no editorial jobs to be had in Madison, so I moved to Indianapolis when a friend offered a job at a think tank based there. In Indianapolis, housing was so cheap and the market so weak that you didn't need a roommate; landlords were offering a couple months free rent just to get you to sign a 12-month lease.

Chicago: After a couple years in Indy, I got a new job and moved north to the Windy City. The rent was about the same as in Indianapolis, but the space was dramatically less. I went from a one-bedroom unit to a cramped studio along the lake. But I loved it.

New York: Life is complicated. For a number of reasons, I eventually ended up in New York around the turn of the century. This was my first roommate situation since college. Before moving there, I interviewed with five potential roommates. There was the older man who was a collector of art and artifacts from his world travels, which it was clear



San Francisco renters need to be on their toes.

to me he would be *very upset* if I damaged in any way or touched. There was the young man from Virginia who was renting out his couch in the living room and who mentioned having to call the police because the apartment below him was being used as a brothel. There was the French guy who had the most charming accent but whom I could barely understand. There was the unfriendly looking businessman. And there was the friendly looking store manager on the Upper East Side, who became my roommate for the next two years.

Frankly, I would have moved to New York City right after college if I had thought of the roommate route. But for whatever reason, I didn't even think of it and instead ended up in Indianapolis. Let this be a lesson to you.

San Francisco: When I moved to San Francisco, I was already partnered up, so a roommate situation would not have been in the cards. But I have hired a number

of younger employees and interns here who can only make it work if they have roommates. Whether it's the artist I know who lives in a shared artist loft — sort of a glorified squatter, really — or the cartoonist who rooms with a changing menagerie of roommates in Noe Valley, sharing the rent and the home is the key to living in this ridiculously expensive city, especially when you're young.

Then again, I have a friend who is about to retire after a long career in biotech sales, and she is a great example of the other side of the San Francisco rental experience. She made good money and could have bought a place here at almost anytime since she arrived here as a young woman in the 1970s. Instead, she got a great second-floor apartment (without a roommate) and after her retirement she will probably buy a place elsewhere with her saved money.

Might I suggest Indianapolis?

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

TINY HOUSES

CONTINUED from page 32

since 1999. Jay has two websites: tumbleweedhouses.com and fourlightshouses.com

• *Living in a Nutshell:* Janice Lee's book is an excellent resource for living in smaller spaces. Janice has perfected posh, portable and affordable decorating ideas to help you live big when you live in a shoebox.

• TinyHouseBlog.com and TheTinyLife.com

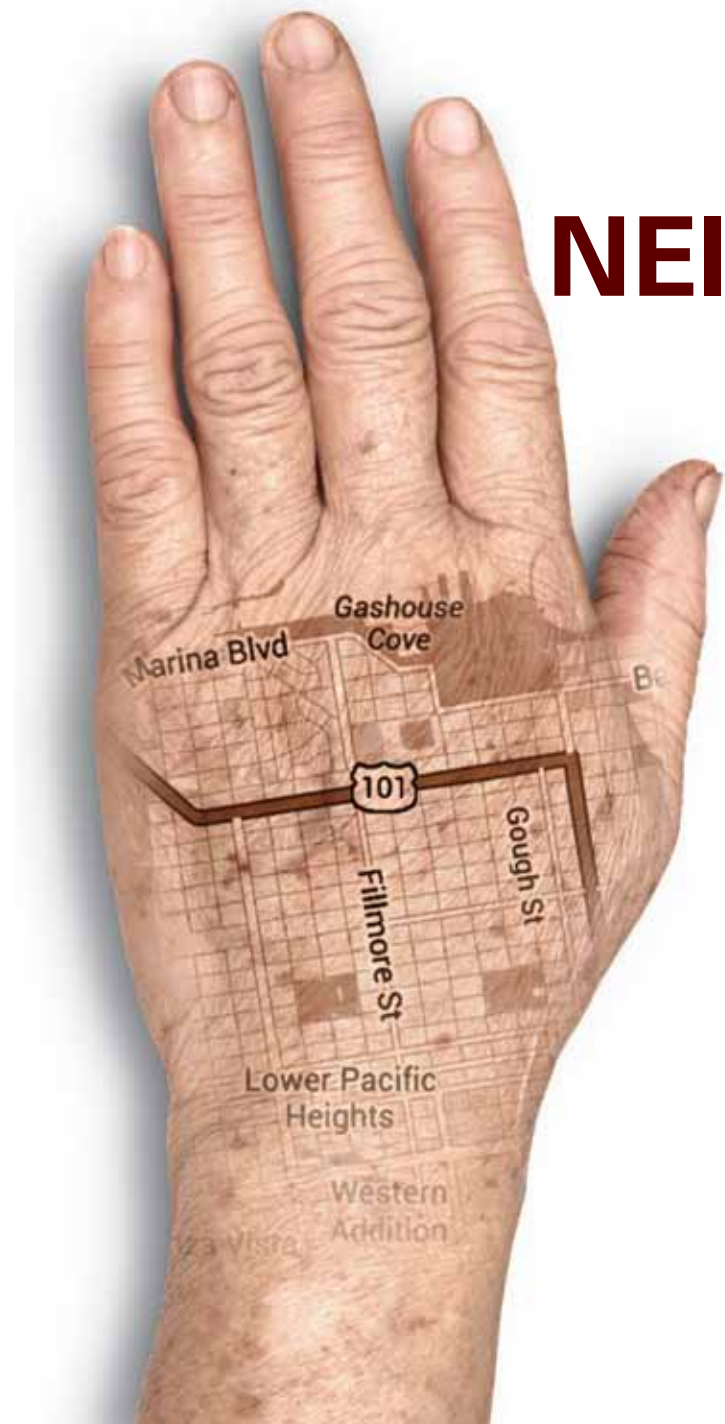
• Facebook has tiny house pages, plus of course there is plenty of information on the Internet.

• Google “tiny house San Francisco” for fun. I came up with a tiny house looking for temporary parking here. What a way to travel!

These ideas will give you a place to begin your research. When you have a plan, it will be much easier to quickly make an offer when the home of your dreams comes on the market and is taking offers in what feels like an impossibly short time from a few days to a week or so.

It is important to remember what you lose in square feet will be made up for with city adventures. Living in San Francisco, you can call the whole city your backyard if not part of your home too.

Carole Isaacs is a Realtor with McGuire Real Estate. Visit her online at caroleisaacs.com or call 415-608-1267.



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PFE co-owner Michael Levy, Mayor Ed Lee, and ACC director Rebecca Katz at the grand opening of the ACC-PFE cat adoption center on Market Street. PHOTO: COREY STULCE

POLITICAL ANIMAL

CONTINUED from page 1

donate the necessary provisions. She also worked with PFE to create a cat adoption center at its Market Street store. That's where I first met interim mayor Ed Lee, who was on the campaign trail. As city administrator, Lee had been Katz's boss when she worked as a city attorney, and he later appointed her as ACC's director. As he posed for photos with a kitten on his shoulder, Lee told me how proud he was of Katz. "She's doing an amazing job for the animals of San Francisco," he said. "It's something we both care a great deal about." Lee was indeed elected mayor, but despite telling me how much he cared about animals — at PFE, during a subsequent interview for a profile of him that I wrote, and on a voice mail thanking me for that article — when he finalized his first budget, there was no money for ACC.

Katz continued her tireless, even relentless, efforts to get more funding, and it finally paid off when District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener took up the cause, holding

a meeting at City Hall where person after person, including Katz, spoke about the dire needs of the shelter. Despite attempts by the private, multimillion-dollar San Francisco SPCA to dissuade the city from building a new shelter for ACC and to take over ACC's adoption services (they went so far as to hire renowned lobbyist Alex Clemens), the city approved the additional funds.

Then, on Friday, July 25, 2014, with ACC at the most critical moment in its history, City Administrator Naomi Kelly abruptly fired Katz. The meeting, called by Katz, was supposed to be about the lack of support she felt she was receiving from Kelly's office. For example, when ACC needed a new \$36,000 blood machine, which would have cost \$18,000 with rebates offered during a short window of time, Deputy City Administrator Ken Bukowski told Katz that she was out of money for the year and, despite the fact it was the city's responsibility,

instructed her to buy the blood machine from ACC's donations. Yet, they found the funds to hire Kelly a new administrative analyst, Lih Meei Leu, to "oversee projects and programs related to immigrant inclusion" at a salary of over \$114,000 per year. In stark contrast, Mara Lamboy, a 25-year veteran and assistant supervisor for ACC, makes \$59,000.

Even the reproduction department, also under the city administrator, has a larger budget than ACC — nearly \$7 million to ACC's \$5 million (and that \$5 million includes capital planning for the new facility).

Katz was also concerned that Kelly frequently was unavailable to meet with her, despite the fact she met a number of times with leaders from the SF/SPCA without Katz's knowledge. Katz planned to discuss all of this at the meeting, but as she headed to City Hall, Kelly had already phoned Eric Zuercher, ACC's animal care supervisor, and appointed

him acting director. When she arrived, Kelly told Katz that she "didn't have confidence in her," and that "she wasn't a team player." Because Katz served "at the pleasure of the city administrator," Kelly didn't need a reason to fire her other than not being pleased. Katz was then accompanied back to ACC to collect her things. Shortly after, Katz posted a letter on ACC's Facebook page explaining her departure and thanking her team, but Kelly quickly removed the letter (you can read the letter on page 36).

To find out if others perceived Katz to be as incompetent and difficult to work with as Kelly did, I called more than a dozen current and former colleagues, from longtime City Hall insiders to kennel attendants to a former boss. What I heard was startling: nothing but positive comments about Katz, and nothing but negativity toward Kelly. Several City Hall insiders spoke to me on condition of anonymity. "Naomi Kelly is a 'Willie Girl,' and that's how she got the job," said one person who currently works at City Hall. "Amy Brown, who was interim city administrator

POLITICAL ANIMAL, continued on 36

When Lee finalized his budget, there was no money for ACC.

CATHOUSE :: Comical critters

Everything I know about cats I learned from Krazy Kat

by john zipperer

WHENEVER CHARLIE does something particularly wild or stupid, I tell him he's a crazy cat. Except in my mind, I'm spelling it "Krazy Kat," even though I know he and perhaps most of you don't get the reference.

My late stepfather was a political cartoonist. Like most such artists, he would use characters out of the day's news to populate his graphic editorial commentary, but he also occasionally needed someone to act as a one-character Greek chorus and comment on the other characters. For that, he usually added a mouse. When he needed someone to talk back to the mouse, it was often a cat.

In addition to his political cartoons, in the late 1970s he also briefly did a regular comic

strip for one of the weekly papers owned by the company he worked for in northeastern Wisconsin. He once told me that he had always wanted to do a strip, so he jumped at the chance, even if it appeared in a weekly devoted to farm reports and was surrounded by ads for tractor parts.

The comic ran for four years, but it was pretty devoid of cats;

do. Then you'll know what I'm talking about.

His love for comic strips was evident in his reading material. He was a constant reader (and to the end of his life last year, he would often spend the early evening working on some project around the house and then finish up in the living room with my mother, both of them

reading books). He read politics, novels, science fiction, magazines, newspapers, and more. But he would also bring home from the library large coffee-table books of reprinted comic strips from

the early days of comics. I've never cared for superheroes, but it was fun to read Superman's or Batman's earliest adventures in those big color reprints. Or *Little Nemo in Slumberland*? If you love awesome art and mind-bending comic stories, do yourself a favor and find a

In Hollywood terms, Krazy Kat was "Salvador Dali meets the roadrunner."

it did, however, take a farm kid around the world and surround him with a space alien, a gorilla, a band of cannibals, and some spies from Maoist China. Before he passed away, he and my mother gave me permission to collect the *Bunky* comics into a book, which I plan to



Krazy Kat put the mouse in charge, but the heart was all kat.

reprint edition of *Little Nemo*. And there was *Krazy Kat*.

If you were pitching a *Krazy Kat* film to Hollywood in so-called "high concept" manner, you would cite the comics that were "a tale of frenemies in the Southwest." Or perhaps "Salvador Dali meets the Roadrunner." Debuting in 1913 and running until 1944, *Krazy Kat* had a deceptively simple setup, involving the sweet title character of alternating genders who is in love with his antagonist Ignatz Mouse — a mouse — and Offissa Bull Pupp — a

dog that forms the third part of what became a love triangle of sorts. A recurring action is Ignatz hurtling a brick at *Krazy Kat*, who thinks it's a sign of love. (And I thought it would be difficult to explain Maoist spies chasing a Wisconsin farm boy.) Set in a surrealist version of the American Southwest, the landscapes were spare, colorful, and very, very weird. The strip, in short, was smart and funny and not at all the well-behaved comic story we've come to expect in our newspapers.

KRAZY KAT, continued on 36

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 —Jane Tobin, Friends of ACC

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Bella (A349760) is a delightful 2 yo Chi mix who loves to play, go for walks, & have cuddle time. She lives up to her name!



Kittens! Kitten season is still in full swing. ACC has a variety of kittens available. Come on in to meet them all!



From the time she was a child, Rebecca Katz loved animals.

POLITICAL ANIMAL

CONTINUED from page 34

prior to Mayor Lee's appointment of Naomi, was infinitely more qualified, but she didn't have the Willie Brown connections. Naomi wanted the job so she got it, but she's insecure because she lacks the skills the job requires, and I think she was threatened by Rebecca, who is a strong, capable, intelligent woman who wouldn't keep quiet or back down."

Another insider, who worked more than 20 years at City Hall and continues a "strong relationship with government," had even harsher words: "Kelly was a Willie Brown ornament much like Kamala Harris, and we who worked in city government were skeptical of her credentials ... She was usually seen getting on the elevator late mornings and returning with bags and fancy purses mid-afternoon from a shopping spree. The words most commonly used to describe her were 'pedantic,' 'sycophant,' 'dim,' and 'imperial.'" He believes Katz was fired because she was not part of Brown's cabal. "Rebecca is very talented. She has managed what was a broken entity with great skill and professionalism. Her only 'error' was to be vociferous in her advocacy for increased resources to properly run an underfunded agency. But the real focus here needs to be on the loosely cobbled government structure of those who hold jobs only because of connections to Brown, [Gavin] Newsom, and Lee. The firing of Rebecca, who was well respected, is another example of political decisions based on who kow tows the best."

Since Kelly reports directly to Mayor Lee, he obviously knew she was planning to fire Katz — the person he appointed as ACC's director and commended often for her efforts — yet he did nothing to stop it. "Brown is still the puppeteer," the 20-year City Hall veteran said. "When Lee was director of purchasing under Willie, I think all he did was approve contracts for Willie's friends and clients; Lee was rewarded by moving up through the ranks into jobs he wasn't qualified for and where he had little impact. Willie wanted Lee to be mayor, and he used his influence to make sure it happened."

Kelly, who makes \$270,000 per year, and her husband, Public Utilities Commission General Manager Harlan Kelly (also appointed by Lee), who makes \$313,000, he says, aren't qualified for their positions and are only where they are because of Lee's relationship with Brown. "Both of them are Willie protégés. But what credentials does Harlan Kelly have to be G.M. of the PUC? It also takes a lot of skills to be city administrator; you have to know a lot about bonds. Do you think Naomi Kelly knows anything about bonds? Not unless it's a store she goes to."

Amy Brown says she had no problem working with Katz when she was interim city administrator. Now the director of agriculture and environment for Santa Clara County, where she oversees some of the county's animal shelters, Brown is an animal lover and saw that same quality in Katz. "You couldn't find someone who worked harder for the benefit of the animals," she said. "I have nothing but the highest admiration and respect for her. In my opinion, she's the epitome of a great public servant and an incredibly dedicated animal welfare proponent."

ACC's lead animal care attendant Sandra Bernal also praised Katz's dedication. "Rebecca is very passionate about animals," Bernal said. "And she always wanted to do the right thing for her staff. She had an open-door policy for anyone who wanted to talk to her at any time. We lost a great leader. It's extremely sad."

Another ACC employee who asked to remain anonymous also spoke highly of her former boss. "She raised awareness about the shelter; she got people to come visit, and it surprised us. She made us want to come to work everyday, and you don't see that at other shelters. She made us better." She recalled the day Katz returned to retrieve her belongings. "We were all just in shock and so upset. We could see how emotional she was. I'm sure they didn't want her to do it, but she called us all into the lobby to thank us and say goodbye. It meant a lot to us. That is Rebecca."

Kat Brown, ACC's deputy director until her recent retirement, said the firing doesn't make sense. "Things are lined up in a way it's never been in my 15 years at the shelter. Her dedication, her tirelessness, her advocacy, her leadership, brought the additional funding and the promise of a badly needed

"Naomi Kelly is a 'Willie Girl,' and that's how she got the job."

new facility. She built up Friends of ACC to a solid nonprofit; she started behavioral and fostering programs, she forged great private partnerships like PFE, and now when ACC has everything lined up they have no leader."

Brown also says that Kelly showed little interest in ACC. "When Amy Brown was city administrator, she was down at ACC a lot and we got a lot done under Amy. She truly cared about animals. Naomi did one ride-along with one officer for a couple of hours. There's an expectation by the city of San Francisco that the public will support by donation what is mandated by law."

As for the future of ACC, Brown says she is concerned. "Rebecca was there 12 hours a day, and when she wasn't there she was texting and calling. It was a mission and a passion. She was an advocate for her staff and for the animals in their care. Who are they going to get? That's the other part of this. They left the agency rudderless at the most crucial time. I feel really sad for the city; they've lost a real leader."

The *Marina Times* reached out to the city administrator's office for comment regarding the termination of Rebecca Katz. Project Manager Bill Barnes said in an e-mail: "The City Administrator cannot comment on Ms. Katz's departure because it is a personnel matter."

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Rebecca Katz's farewell

The following letter was posted to ACC's Facebook page by outgoing ACC head Rebecca Katz.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2014, WAS MY LAST day at SF/ACC. Many of you may know that despite my commitment to the department and its objectives, I did not feel that there was support for me from my supervisor to fulfill the agency's mission and our difference of opinions led to her asking me to leave.

Nonetheless, I want to take a moment to let everyone who follows this page know that it has been my great honor and privilege to serve in an agency that makes such a tremendous difference for so many residents of San Francisco. I have often said that SF/ACC has the most amazing and compassionate staff who are underappreciated and under-recognized but continue their work out of a commitment to the mission of improving the lives of both animals and people. Similarly, I have praised the dedication of volunteers who steadfastly support the animals and the agency. And, I have thanked the partners whose allegiance and assistance has allowed SF/ACC to continue protecting animals from inhumane treatment as well as preserving safe relationships between animals and humans. But I'd like to emphasize it again to pay tribute to those who are too often taken for granted.

Over the past six years, the team of staff, volunteers, and supporters has accomplished amazing feats. With the economic downturn that began in 2008, the number of dogs coming into the shelter increased dramatically. Despite a nearly 31-percent uptick in dogs impounded, SF/ACC's save rate increased from 83 percent to 88 percent for canines. Much of that success is due to the strong outreach efforts of staff and volunteers that resulted in a 37-percent increase in dog adoptions. For cats, the intakes dropped significantly (37 percent) but both the save rate and adoption numbers increased as well. The save rate for small animals has increased also due to the heavy lifting of ACC staff, volunteers, and of course partners. I proudly note that SF/ACC has always been mindful of the value of all animals' lives, including those that often go unnoticed such as pigeons, rats, mice, lizards, rabbits, etc. Even with its success, SF/ACC recognizes that there is more to do and refuses to rest on its laurels. SF/ACC has programs in place to constantly try to help all the animals regardless of age, condition, or species in addition to enforcing animal welfare laws, investigating complaints, and more.

In addition, the SF/ACC team created innovative programs such as WOOE, which paired shelter dogs with people in supportive housing and gave training and life skills to both. In collaboration with the mayor's HOPE office, WOOE helped to demonstrate that the relationship we have with animals and the bond we form with them can help us to better ourselves.

Improving the lives of both animals and people is something the agency does every single day in so many different ways. Also, with the support of partner Pet Food Express, SF/ACC opened its first satellite adoption center on Market Street, which has helped to place hundreds of felines as well as many rabbits and raise awareness of SF/ACC's work. SF/ACC also increased attention to the sudden overpopulation of Chihuahuas in California shelters when, with its partner Virgin America, "Operation Chihuahua" moved over 50 dogs from the shelter here to the East Coast where there is demand for them. Another success over the past six years was the growth of Friends of SF/ACC's assets by over 500 percent — an achievement that allowed the agency to expand behavior and training resources for dogs as well as for cats and small domesticated animals. The board members of that 501(c)3, and the co-presidents Jane Tobin & Lisa Stanziano in particular, have worked tirelessly to support the agency and the absurdly high number of hours they give are without any personal financial compensation. The increase in funds has allowed Friends to establish a special medical fund for animals that the city won't pay to treat and to work on developing a foster program that has, heretofore, been improvised at best. Those programs are in addition to the support Friends has given SF/ACC for many years, including purchasing equipment the city should have provided, awarding grants to rescue partners, sponsoring low-cost veterinary clinics and more. This year, SF/ACC received funding to increase staffing by 6+ employees — a boost greater than any since SF/ACC opened its doors 25 years ago. The list goes on....

The general public often misunderstands the work of open-admissions shelters, especially when the public is inundated by the marketing of well-funded, private agencies. Further, government officials rarely appreciate the work done by their municipal departments, instead assuming that staff spends their days playing with animals and feeling privileged to receive any salary whatsoever. Meanwhile, I can tell you that the staff at SF/ACC faces extraordinarily challenging situations every day — people with mental illness, violent criminals, peculiar rituals, and haunting cases of abuse. They don't do it for the glory, they don't do it for the perks, and they certainly don't do it for satisfactory salaries — they do it because they feel devotion to the animals and to all residents of San Francisco. And for that, I do not regret one day of working with this outstanding crew over the past six years. I thank them all and wish them continued success under the skilled leadership of Eric Zuercher — another dedicated and caring animal advocate — and hope the city will recognize and support this amazing department of which it should be very proud!

With gratitude and sincerity,
Rebecca Katz

KRAZY KAT

CONTINUED from page 34

Cat, mouse, brick, jail, possible homosexual subtext, great art.

We're talking here about a comic strip that has been written up in the *New York Review of Books* numerous times.

The *Comics Journal* gave *Krazy Kat* the top spot in its

ranking of the best strips of the 20th century. *Krazy Kat* should be on *anyone's* short list for the greatest comics of all time. Mine would include *Krazy Kat*, *Little Nemo*, *Bloom County* (which featured the oddball character of Bill the Cat, a cat that was, well, dead but nonetheless a continuing character), and of course *Calvin and*

Hobbes (and even *Hobbes* is a cat of a sort).

Many comics artists have cited creator George Herriman and his *Krazy Kat* as influences, but *Bloom County's* Berke Breathed went a step further in his *Bloom County* sequel strip *Outland*, which regularly featured those bizarre, zigzaggy, spartan Southwestern backgrounds.

There have been other great cats to follow. *Garfield* has zillions of followers (and somewhere in our home there is a stuffed *Garfield* doll). Patrick McDonnell's *Mutts* features a dog and a cat, Earl and Mooch; in that strip, the cat is a lovable but stupid companion to the titular dog. McDonnell, too, lists *Krazy Kat* as an influence,

and he is the co-author of 1986's *Krazy Kat: The Comic Art of George Herriman*.

All of us who have ever had a cat in our lives know that they make great characters; for about a century, comics creators have known the same thing.

It all started with *Krazy Kat*.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

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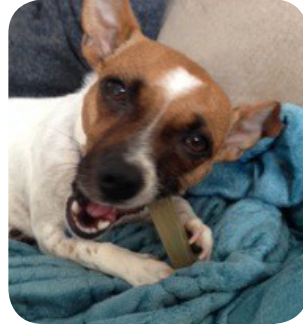
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BLOSSOM

Blossom is a very friendly and loving Chi-mix. This endearing girl is 7 years old and weighs 10 pounds. Blossom is a dog that loves people. Blossom doesn't bark or jump around much,

but she is gently curious about people. She has kind eyes and will approach people of all ages with gentle interest. We've recently discovered that she loves bus drivers and buses, making her a great city dog. She is also drawn to children, even very young children. Check out Blossom's cute little dance on the GDR web site. We think she may be a future YouTube star!



FEFE

Fun little Fefe! This girl has a lot of personality packed into her 10-pound frame. Being a 1-year-old Jack Russell-Chi Mix youngster, Fefe has lots of playful energy. Fefe will

need to continue learning her doggy manners so she can continue maturing into a well-mannered dog. She will do best in a household that can give her plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation and of course lots of love. Fefe would be an ideal dog to share and create fun times with.



BORIS

Boris is as cute and playful as can be. This young 1-year-old is about 27 pounds. He seems to be a Tibetan spaniel, mixed with Corgi. Boris is house-

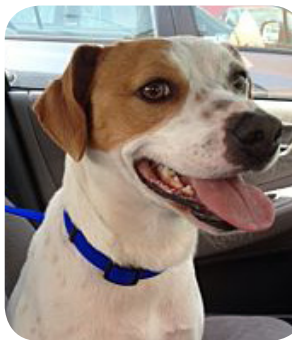
trained and is neutered. He can be mouthy when he wants attention so he needs a placement with no small children. Boris has a lot of energy and loves to run around. He needs room to play in a yard or park when the mood strikes him. He is fine with other dogs and plays well with them. Boris settles down nicely for quiet time. Boris is a handsome young guy that gets lots of compliments where ever he goes.



HARLOW

Lovely Harlow, a 3-year-old platinum blonde mini-Lab mix, is ready for her close-up! Harlow weighs a slender 32 pounds and is a perfect size for most households.

She was found as a stray and frozen with fear in the shelter. But now that she's settled into her foster home her true loving Labrador personality is emerging. Harlow loves her walks, wagging her lovely, plummy tail along the way. She's gentle and sensitive and craves human companionship. Harlow has developed into a loving and devoted friend. She is the perfect companion for Lab lovers to spend time with enjoying the changing seasons.



ELLIE MAE

Ellie Mae is the cutest little hound mix. She is a very affectionate dog, 4 years old and at 35 pounds just the right size for city living. Ellie Mae is a high-energy dog with a need

for lots of exercise. She would do best in a home with another active, secure dog that she can run and play with. She loves going to the dog park, and could spend hours running and chasing the other dogs! This smart girl's fun energy would be an ideal addition to an active household. Enjoy the seasonal changes walking and playing outdoors with Ellie Mae.



TIMMY

Timmy is a unique little 7-pound, 2.5-year-old, chocolate brown Chihuahua. He loves to cuddle and he's super smart. Timmy is just discovering the freedom and joy of rac-

ing around the park looking to make friends. He's proud and happy walking on leash, and that's the way Timmy will make you feel...happy. He's a bit shy around strangers but warms up quickly. He will definitely make your life much brighter and full of love. Timmy will help you make special memories for years to come.

Check the Grateful Dogs Rescue website for our upcoming adoption events!



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Near the second anniversary of her death, Jazzy's morning glories came up purple instead of blue. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

Letting her go

by susan dyer reynolds

*Staring at the bottom of your glass
Hoping one day you'll make a dream last
But dreams come slow and they go so fast
You see her when you close your eyes
Maybe one day you'll understand why
Everything you touch, surely dies*

*But you only need the light when it's burning low
Only miss the sun when it starts to snow
Only know you love her when you let her go*
— "Let her go," by Passenger

SEPT. 1, 2014, WAS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY of Jazzy's death from cancer. I still think of her every day, I still miss her every day, and I still find myself crying more often than I'd like to. The Mother's Day before she passed away, "Jazzy" bought some morning glory seeds to put inside her card for "Grandma Kickie," my dad's longtime girlfriend. Having lost my mom so young, Kickie has been a second mother to me, and since my dad's passing we've grown even closer. While she wasn't thrilled I adopted a pit bull based on what she'd heard about the breed in the mainstream media, Jazzy quickly won her over, just like she did with everyone she met. And so every year since her adoption in 2006, Jazzy sent a card for Mother's Day, and in 2012, she thought the seeds would be a nice touch.

The morning glories, called "Clarke's Heavenly Blue," came in a packet with a picture of flowers the same shade as Jazzy's heavenly blue eyes, and one warm May morning we planted them by the back fence (when I say "we," I mean I planted them while Jazzy supervised from the chaise lounge). Over the next few months the green tendrils unfolded into bright green leaves, and the vines began to wind up the white metal trellis. When I called Kickie the afternoon of Sept. 1, 2012, to tell her that Jazzy passed away, she began speaking before I could. "Jazzy's first morning glory bloomed today!" she said, her voice filled with excitement. "It's beautiful baby blue, just like her eyes." I couldn't help but think that Jazzy's spirit was in that morning glory.

The following Mother's Day, I planted a packet of the very same seeds in Jazzy's honor, and in late August the light blue flowers began to bloom. By then I'd had Skylar Grey for nearly a year and had grown to love her, eccentricities and all. She was different than Jazzy in so many

ways. Jazzy loved kids; Sky was afraid of them. Jazzy was brave; Sky was a scaredy-dog. Jazzy was independent; Sky was clingy. Jazzy wore shades of pink to match her princess personality; Sky wore shades of purple and lavender, which complemented her grey coat.

When Mother's Day rolled around this year, I bought the same packet of "Heavenly Blue" morning glories and planted the seeds in the same spot against the back fence (Skylar was like Jazzy in one way — she liked to supervise from the chaise lounge). Every time we visited Kickie I checked the seeds, but nothing happened. "The morning glories aren't coming up," I told Kickie after waiting patiently for several weeks. "The seeds might be bad," Kickie said. "Maybe you should get some more." I went back to the same store I'd gone all three years and got the same packet of seeds. Once again I planted them against the back fence, and in a week I saw the seedlings emerge. Over the next few weeks, the tendrils unfolded into bright green leaves and the vines began to wind up the white metal trellis.

One warm evening in late August, I was playing fetch with Skylar in the garden, and I noticed the vines looked different than before — they were thicker and hairier, and the leaves had turned deep emerald rather than the usual lighter shade of pear green. I shrugged it off and threw Sky's round rubber frog toy, which she gleefully caught on the first bounce. "Jazzy didn't like to play fetch," I told her. "Unless it was in the ocean. Otherwise she'd just lay on the lounge and make me go get the ball." I'd always wanted a dog that liked to fetch, and I remember being disappointed when Jazzy wasn't interested. I loved that Sky would fetch for hours, but I felt a twinge of guilt even thinking that.

The next night when Skylar and I went out to the garden to play fetch, I noticed the first morning glory had bloomed and, at a distance in the dusk, it looked purple. I squinted and began walking toward the back fence. Sure enough, the morning glory was purple, and it was the same shade as the collar Sky was wearing. I thought perhaps it was just a freak thing with the first blossom and the rest would be light blue, but within days the trellis was awash in purple, and I couldn't help but think Jazzy's spirit was in those morning glories, telling me it was OK to let her go.

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