



**10 Business**  
**Wild Wild Web:**  
 The danger of unicorns 10  
**Food & Wine**  
**Tablehopper:**  
 Expanded coverage of the city's dining scene 12



**22 At Home**  
**In Style:** Decorator showcase 22  
**Pet Pages**  
**Skylar Grey:**  
 The Kickie connection 34



**Calendar**  
**May Events:** From Mother's Day to Bay to Breakers, there's a full schedule of exciting, informative, and fun things to do this month. Take in the Asian Art Museum's Seduction exhibition, the Silent Film Festival, Smuin Ballet's Unlaced, and more. 20

# MarinaTimes

WWW.MARINATIMES.COM | CELEBRATING OUR 31ST YEAR | VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 05 | MAY 2015

## THE BACK STORY



Alfred Hitchcock's classic *Vertigo* was filmed in San Francisco. PHOTO: © PARAMOUNT PRODUCTIONS

## Hollywood's San Francisco roots: The enduring love of SF film

This is the third of a three-part series.

BY ERNEST BEYL

HERE'S AN UPDATE FROM PARTS one and two: San Francisco narrowly missed becoming the film capital of the world. Perhaps it's just as well. The city has enough narcissism and other "isms" without being Hollywood by the Bay. Nevertheless,

San Francisco, in fact most of the Northern California Bay Area, has had a long love affair with the movies. Motion pictures were invented down on the Stanford Palo Alto farm (1878). The first public motion picture exhibition took place in San Francisco (1880). The first complete movie studio on the Pacific Coast was not in Southern California but San Francisco (1906). The classic western with the strong, silent cow-

boy hero was first developed across San Francisco Bay in Niles Canyon (1907). Movies in color were developed across the Golden Gate in Marin County (1918). The first talkie, *The Jazz Singer*, was filmed near Union Square (1927). Ambitious and wanting a piece of the motion picture action, in 1902 four San Francisco brothers, Harry, Herbert, Joseph, and Earle Miles orga-

FILM HISTORY, continued on 18

## REYNOLDS RAP | Police politics

# Yes, Suhr, it's time for you to go

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

"In my 30 years plus in law enforcement, I have seen a good deal of misconduct by police officers. I have seen scandals. But the level of the problems and the frequency of the problems that we're facing here today are very unusual."

— San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón on the current state of the San Francisco Police Department

WHEN MY GODFATHER, WARD O'CONNELL, was the diving coach at Yale University, he often came home complaining to my godmother, Joel, about what everyone else was doing wrong in the department. "The damn kids don't listen," he would say, or, "The aquatics director doesn't get it." One afternoon when Ward walked in complaining, Joel looked at him and said, "Maybe it's the coach." That phrase became synonymous in my family for not taking responsibility from the top down.

"Maybe it's the coach" was certainly fitting last season for the San Francisco 49ers: As their record on the field sunk and their record off the field rose (eventually leading to the dubious distinction of "most arrested team in

SFPD UNDER FIRE, continued on 4

## California's drought hits home

San Francisco homeowners and businesses enlisted in water conservation emergency

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

THE CONTINUING drought threatening to turn the Golden State into the Brown State has a number of unpleasant or worrisome side effects. Rodents are heading indoors in search of scarce water and food; avocado growers and other agribusiness concerns are exempted from mandatory water cutbacks, but the cost of their water is going way up; wildfires could have a heyday in the drought; and talk of "publicly shaming" water wasters is spreading.

All of those impacts and more could be long-term challenges for the Bay Area and the state, because cli-

mate experts warn that drought could be the "new normal" — lasting longer and recurring more frequently. Now local and state officials are looking to residents and businesses to do their part.

### Talk of 'publicly shaming' water wasters is spreading.

Last year, Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency, but it wasn't until April 2015 that he imposed the state's first-ever mandatory reductions in water use. Cities and towns across the state will have to reduce water usage by 25 percent. To reach that goal, the gov-

ernor's executive order mandates the replacement of 50 million square feet of lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping; the creation of a rebate program to get consumers to replace old appliances with water- and energy-efficient models; force campuses, golf courses, and other large landscapes to make significant reductions in water use; ban the watering of ornamental grass on public street medians; and prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless efficient drip-irrigation systems are used. Water prices will also go up, as local water agencies respond to the

DROUGHT, continued on 25



The View From Bernal Hill kicks off the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Thursday Luncheon Concert Series on June 4. PHOTO: COURTESY YBGF

## Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

THE OUTDOOR YERBA Buena Gardens Festival kicks off its 15th anniversary season on Sunday, May 3. Dedicated to enhancing the vitality and quality of life in the parks and open spaces of Yerba Buena Gardens, the festival features more than 100 admission-free events from music, theater, dance, community and cultural

programs to circus and children's programs. Nearly every weekend throughout the summer has a scheduled performance or celebration. Weekday highlights include the **Thursday Luncheon Concert Series**, most Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on the Esplanade; **Poetic Tuesdays** (in partnership with Litquake) on the second Tuesday of each month,

12:30-1:30 p.m. in Jessie Square; and the **Children's Garden Series**, featuring interactive performances for kids and families, every Friday in the Children's Garden.

— L. Majer

**Yerba Buena Gardens Festival:** Mission Street (between Third & Fourth Streets); May 3-Oct. 31, free, 415-543-1718, ybgsfestival.org



## 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



COMPLIMENTARY  
VALET PARKING



"It's osso good!"

**Osso STEAKHOUSE**

1177 California at Jones

415.771.6776 • ossosteakhouse.com

## CONTENTS

# IN THIS ISSUE

19



14



32



## News

### Around the Northside

News briefs on the possible addition of a ferry site at Fort Mason, Aaron Peskin seeks a return to City Hall, Muni has plans for big changes on Chestnut, Lil's fire, and plans for a marijuana shop on Lombard. **3**

## Community

### Parking and crime

Supervisor Mark Farrell says the city is doing something about the dearth of parking; plus the Police Blotter. **6**

## Street Beat

### Tales of the Northside

Christine Roher highlights home decorating shops; and Ernest Beyl says goodbye to Capp's Corner and hello to District Three's supervisor. **8**

## Business & Finance

### Wild Wild Web

Susan Dyer Reynolds reminisces about life during dot-bomb 1.0, and notes some frightening parallels in today's tech frenzy. **10**

## Sports

### Opening Day

Steve Hermanos takes in the sights and sounds of Giants' Opening Day. **11**

## Food & Wine

### A dining mecca

An expanded Tablehopper features the must-know places to find great food experiences; Julie Mitchell takes in Reverb, the former Verbena; Susan Dyer Reynolds's Not to Miss Dish is gourmet udon; and tell PricewaterhouseCoopers to bring the envelopes — Ernest Beyl unveils the third annual Ernestos: The Best of North Beach Awards. **12**

## Travel

### Bugs and jugs of wine

Michael Snyder notes the roach-friendly places he's dined, and Patty Burness finds wine and dining pleasure in Healdsburg. **16**

## Arts & Entertainment

### A little song and dance

Michael Snyder on *Far from the Madding Crowd*, TV star Jane Lynch brings her cabaret act to San Francisco, plus the best sellers. **18**

## Calendar

### May events

Mothers' Day celebrations, concerts, and Beer Festivals — enjoy the merry month of May. **20**

## At Home

### Decorator Showcase

Maryann LoRusso finds a bold and fun showcase for home decorating; and Julia Strzesieski gives drought-proofing tips for your home. **22**

## Real Estate

### Building up or out

John Zipperer talks with Dr. Peter Linneman; plus Carole Isaacs and Stephanie Saunders Ahlberg on market tips. **31**

## Wellness and Family

### Destressing your life

Julie Mitchell explains the tai chi allure; and Liz Farrell has help for end-of-school-year anxiety. **36**

## Pet Pages

### You can go home again

What beloved dogs Jazzy and Skylar teach Susan Dyer Reynolds about her two moms. **34**

## ONLINE SPECIALS

[marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com)

# MarinaTimes

[marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com) | 3053 Fillmore Street #104, San Francisco, CA 94123  
Editorial: (415) 931-0515 | Fax: (415) 931-0987 | Letters to the Editor: [letters@marinatimes.com](mailto:letters@marinatimes.com)  
Advertising: (415) 815-8081 [advertising@marinatimes.com](mailto:advertising@marinatimes.com)  
Calendar submissions due by the 15th of the month to [calendar@marinatimes.com](mailto:calendar@marinatimes.com)

**Publisher**  
Earl Adkins  
[publisher@marinatimes.com](mailto:publisher@marinatimes.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Susan Dyer Reynolds  
[susan@marinatimes.com](mailto:susan@marinatimes.com)

**Managing Editor**  
John Zipperer  
[john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)

**Senior Editor**  
Lynette Majer  
[lynette@marinatimes.com](mailto:lynette@marinatimes.com)

**Social Media**  
Shelia Fox  
[shelia@marinatimes.com](mailto:shelia@marinatimes.com)

**Designer** Steven Frontling  
**Web Designer** Joe Bachman

MARINA TIMES IS A TRADE MARK OF JASMINE BLUE MEDIA LLC. COPYRIGHT ©2015 JASMINE BLUE MEDIA LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE MARINA TIMES OR JASMINE BLUE MEDIA LLC. THE MARINA TIMES NAME AND LOGO AND VARIOUS TITLES AND HEADINGS HEREIN ARE TRADE MARKS OF JASMINE BLUE MEDIA LLC. NO PART OF THIS PERIODICAL MAY BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE MARINA TIMES. THE MARINA TIMES IS DISTRIBUTED FREE IN SAN FRANCISCO'S NORTHERN NEIGHBORHOODS (MARINA, COW HOLLOW, PACIFIC HEIGHTS, RUSSIAN HILL, NORTH BEACH AND NOB HILL). PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TO [LETTERS@MARINATIMES.COM](mailto:LETTERS@MARINATIMES.COM) OR TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ABRIDGE FOR SPACE, CLARITY AND CIVILITY.



NEWS BRIEFS : Ferry, Peskin, Muni, fire, pot

## Fort Mason's ferry question

### ALCATRAZ FERRY PUBLIC COMMENT ENDS THIS MONTH

If plans to move the embarkation site for the Alcatraz Ferry to Fort Mason become reality, local residents and businesses worry that the area isn't prepared to handle an influx of foot and vehicular traffic every day.

Fort Mason's Pier 3 is only one of three possible new embarkation site options that are being considered. The other two are Pier 31 and Pier 41. All three options would include retrofitting existing structures and construction of new berths along the piers.

The public comment period ends May 20. Details on the project are available at [parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome). Documents relating to the project can be viewed at the San Francisco Public Library's Marina branch.

### AARON PESKIN BACK IN THE GAME

Former San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin is seeking to reclaim his District Three seat and return to City Hall. His move to challenge incumbent Julie Christensen has already set off a high-stakes and heated battle between the moderate and left-wing political forces in city government. Christensen was appointed to the seat by Mayor Ed Lee after its previous occupant, David Chiu, was elected to the state Assembly.

The *Chronicle's* Matier & Ross reported in April that Mayor Lee "grew a set of fangs" when he warned business, tech, and labor leaders that if Peskin wins the seat it would be a return to "the days of drunken calls at midnight." One Lee ally who has already stiffed the mayor is Chinatown powerbroker Rose Pak, who has thrown her influence behind Peskin. Though she has raised more than a quarter million dollars for Lee's reelection, she has broken with him over his choice of Christensen; she had wanted him instead to appoint an Asian-American candidate of her choice.

The District Three race is likely to be the most-watched supervisor race this year, one that puts the political balance of the board in play at a time when the city is dealing with strong population and economic growth while trying to address housing affordability problems.

### CHESTNUT STREET NEXT UP FOR MAJOR REDO?

As part of its Muni Forward program, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has proposed significant changes to Chestnut Street the agency says will increase pedestrian safety and improve Muni service. As with its changes in other major streets, the Chestnut modifications would include dedicated transit lanes during morning rush hour, widening sidewalks with "bulb outs" at bus stops, reducing the number of bus stops along the street to speed up service, reducing parking, and creating bulb outs at additional street corners.

SFMTA claims the changes will increase travel time in the project area by four minutes, allow it to provide 13 percent more service, and make eight intersections safer for pedestrian crossings and bus boardings.

The changes, in particular reduced bus stops, have not been welcomed by some Marina residents. One attendee at an open house on the project told SocketSite, "I've seen more polite crowds at a witch burning." Other residents have complained that the changes will actually make Chestnut more congested as buses stop all traffic behind them instead of pulling into pick-up lanes at bus stops.

SFMTA has a short online survey about the project at [surveymonkey.com/s/chestnutsurvey](http://surveymonkey.com/s/chestnutsurvey).

### FIRE HITS LIVERPOOL LIL'S

The Liverpool Lil's neighborhood pub (2942 Lyon Street) suffered a fire April 29 that was soon contained by the San Francisco Fire Department,



Liverpool Lil's after the late-April fire.

though not before the two-alarm fire caused additional damage to an adjacent building. No one was injured in the fire, but the restaurant overlooking the Presidio suffered smoke and water damage.

"We're down but not out," co-owner Eddie Savino told the *Marina Times*. He added that he's overwhelmed with

people's support and best wishes, and vowed, "we're going to reopen as soon as possible."

### APOTHECARIUM PLANS FOR LOMBARD

Plans for marijuana dispensary The Apothecarium's second San Francisco location have been much talked-about in the Marina; the proposed location is 2414 Lombard, which would join the group's existing Market Street location in the Castro. At 2414 Lombard, the store would share the block with some restaurants, a massage parlor, and other small shops.

The Apothecarium touts support from businesses and charities in the city, including the head of Castro Merchants, who says the Apothecarium is well-loved in the Castro: "We've had no trouble from them; in truth, we need more businesses like the Apothecarium." In March, the San Francisco Planning Department issued a report praising the Apothecarium for its openness. "Two [medical cannabis dispensaries] in particular, Apothecarium and Barbary Coast, show how an MCD can successfully blend into the community by complying with the Codes' existing transparency requirements. Both dispensaries have transparent windows and use half-opened blinds to provide some privacy. The Apothecarium even has an open door staffed by security that further increases the connection to the neighborhood. While privacy concerns should be considered, hiding medical cannabis behind obscured windows only increases the feeling that MCDs are an illicit business."

News tips? E-mail: [john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)

Getting nowhere with the big banks?

Break through with a neighborhood bank that looks beyond the numbers to get you great rates on Commercial Real Estate Loans.

**10-Year Fixed Rate\*** starting at **3.50%**

Reina Ceja  
2197 Chestnut Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
415-287-8801

MEMBER FDIC



**fnb** norcal

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\*Terms and Conditions: Building must be 100% owner occupied, maximum LTV will be 60%. Property type must be exclusively, Office, Retail, or Industrial. Rate will not apply to mixed use properties. Rate will not apply to automotive, assisted care, hospitality, or other special use properties. Amortization could be 10, 15, 20, or 25 years. There would be a 10-year maturity and a balloon payment if amortization is longer than 10 years. \$1,500 Loan Origination Fee. (No other bank fees, but borrower responsible for all out of pocket closing costs, (appraisal, title, escrow, etc.). Mandatory auto-payments from FNB checking account or rate will increase by .75%, other restrictions may apply. © 2015 First National Bank of Northern California. All rights reserved.





Chief Suhr appears before the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee to discuss racist and homophobic messages shared by his officers.  
PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO GOVTV

**SFPD UNDER FIRE**

CONTINUED from page 1

the NFL”), I suggested that it was time to take a look at Coach Jim Harbaugh (“Are the San Francisco 49ers a bunch of thugs?” May 2014). Six months later, Harbaugh was fired. Whether you agree that Harbaugh was the problem or you believe he was the sacrificial lamb, it is indisputable that when you’re the boss, you better run a tight, clean ship — because if you don’t, you’ll eventually be walking the plank. The beleaguered San Francisco Police Department is currently facing that dilemma, but so far Chief Greg Suhr has remained at the helm.

There’s a lot of San Francisco history behind the Suhr name.

His great-grandfather founded Tadich Grill in the 1880s, his grandfather served on the Board of Supervisors, and Suhr attended St. Ignatius and USF. Suhr joined the SFPD in 1981 and rose through the ranks to become captain of the Bayview and Mission stations, and Deputy Chief of Field Operations, the largest bureau in the department with more than 1,400 officers. In April of 2011, Mayor Ed Lee appointed Suhr chief of police to replace George Gascón, who had been elected District Attorney.

**REASONS TO WORRY**

While Suhr’s journey to the top may seem impressive, the path was wrought with missteps. In 2003, Suhr was charged with con-

spiracy to obstruct justice in the “Fajitagate” scandal, where three off-duty officers were accused of beating up two men in the Marina District over a bag of Mexican food. Suhr was later cleared in that incident, but in 2005 then-Chief Heather Fong stripped Suhr of his Head of Patrol title after an officer was badly beaten and suffered a fractured skull responding to a protest. He was given the *Hill Street Blues* equivalent of desk duty, reassigned to man security for the city’s Public Utilities Commission. In September 2012, Suhr became the highest paid police chief of any major American city with a salary of \$307,450 — nearly 10 percent more than the mayor who appointed him and one-third more than California Gov. Jerry Brown. Critics pointed out that New York City’s chief made just over \$200,000 in 2011 serving a city with 10 times the population of San Francisco.

In 2013, Kelly O’Haire, a former internal affairs attorney for the SFPD, filed a lawsuit against Suhr and the city, alleging she was fired in retaliation for her investigation of misconduct charges against Suhr stemming from his failure to report an incident of domestic violence. On a Friday night in 2009, then-Deputy Chief Suhr received a call from a female friend who said her boyfriend was beating and strangling her. The woman’s collarbone was broken, yet Suhr didn’t arrest the suspect

and he waited until Sunday to file a report. California requires law enforcement officers to immediately make an arrest in domestic violence cases where the suspect is known and to file a report within 24 hours. The suspect was later charged with attempted murder. O’Haire prosecuted the case before the Police Commission, which resulted in a demotion for Suhr. During the initial investigation, O’Haire said that Suhr’s politically connected attorneys repeatedly threatened her, even calling to say her actions against Suhr were “going to be a future employment problem,” and that she was “going to be sorry.” O’Haire spent more than two decades as an undercover officer and assistant district attorney in Marin County before joining the SFPD in 2006, where she was fired two weeks after Suhr was appointed chief. In March 2015, a judge refused to dismiss the lawsuit, saying a

grudge-holding firsthand. When a city department source alerted me to a problem related to the SFPD, I wrote an article about it. The problem was subsequently fixed, but my source received an unpleasant call from Suhr, who didn’t appreciate being painted in what he considered an unflattering light. Months later my source was fired, and while I can’t say for certain that Suhr was the reason, I have little doubt he was involved.

**DEPARTMENT IN CRISIS**

You’d think the chief would have better things to do than intimidate city employees, especially since his own department is such a train wreck. His predecessor, District Attorney Gascón, believes it’s so bad that he recently formed a task force to dig into allegations of corruption, misconduct, homophobia, and racism throughout the city’s law enforcement structure, and there’s plenty to keep them busy.

**You’d think the chief would have better things to do than intimidate city employees.**

jury could conclude that Suhr retaliated against her illegally. He also ordered Suhr to testify. On April 24, just before jury selection began, the city settled the case for \$725,000.

I’m not at all surprised at O’Haire’s accusations, having witnessed Suhr’s bullying and

The same day O’Haire’s case was settled, an attorney for the family of 20-year-old Guatemalan immigrant Amilcar Pérez-López, who was killed by police in the Mission last February, announced the filing of a federal civil rights lawsuit that claims three eyewitnesses, post-shooting photographs, and an independent autopsy directly contradict Suhr’s account. The autopsy determined that all six bullets entered Pérez-López from

*SFPD UNDER FIRE, continued on 5*

**Let Us Sell Your Home With Style**  
What We Can Do For You!

**Premier Client Services**

**RESIDENTIAL**

single-family homes, condominiums, TICs and more

**LUXURY PROPERTIES**

feature your home with our luxury marketing division affiliated with Who’s Who in Luxury Real Estate

**INVESTMENTS**

residential income/apartment buildings, mixed-use, and commercial properties

**BUYER REPRESENTATION**

first-time buyer program, second or vacation homes, and loan services

**RELOCATION**

rental tours and tenant hospitality services throughout the Bay Area

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

full-service property management and rental services

**NATIONWIDE REFERRAL SYSTEM**

helping you find the right agent, whether in California or throughout the U.S.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS**

available for qualified owners on a limited basis

BRE# 01259825



**BARBAGELATA**  
REALESTATESF.COM

**Marina/Cow Hollow**  
2381 Chestnut Street  
415.580.1112  
Info@RealEstateSF.com



## SFPD UNDER FIRE

CONTINUED from page 4

behind, including one to the back of the head, while his arms were at his side. At a Town Hall meeting days after the incident, Suhr told the community that Pérez-López was charging the officers with a knife held over his head, corroborating the report by his two plainclothes officers who said they shot a lunging, knife-wielding Pérez-López “in fear for their lives.”

Richard Hastings, a 13-year veteran of the SFPD, was named in a federal civil rights lawsuit stemming from the 2011 death of 19-year-old Kenneth Harding, who police say “accidentally shot himself” during a gun battle with Hastings and another officer after allegedly evading a \$2 bus fare. In April of 2012, San Francisco Police Commission President Mazzucco awarded the Gold Medal of Valor to six police officers, including Hastings. In January 2015, Hastings was charged with nine felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts on a 15-year-old boy and one felony count of possession of child pornography.

In February 2015, 32-year SFPD veteran Ricci Rodriguez “retired” after allegations surfaced that he took kickbacks from Nelson Towing, which got 84 percent of the jobs in the Bayview-Hunters Point area when Rodriguez handled the calls. Satellite technology for Google Maps also caught

an undercover vehicle parked at Rodriguez’s home on the Peninsula, where he allegedly kept it for personal use since it was assigned to the Bayview station five years ago.

In January 2015, former undercover officer Arshad Razzak was convicted of illegally searching the rooms of drug suspects and falsifying police reports to

### Not a single official or rank-and-file officer has called for Suhr’s resignation.

make the searches appear legal. In a separate case in February against another plainclothes unit, San Francisco police Sgt. Ian Furminger was sentenced to over three years in prison for his role in a series of thefts from drug suspects after a jury convicted him of wire fraud, conspiracy against civil rights, and conspiracy to commit theft. U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said the sentencing marked “a day of shame.” Judge Breyer also sentenced Furminger’s co-defendant, Edmond Robles, to 39 months in prison for “widespread and consistent” illegal activities.

On March 13 2015, racist, homophobic and threatening text messages recovered from Furminger’s cell phone were re-vealed in a court filing by federal prosecutors opposing Furminger’s bid to remain free on bail while appeal-

ing his conviction. The texts implicated as many as 14 SFPD officers. Furminger repeatedly calls another officer a “fag,” and makes racist comments about African Americans, Mexicans, and Filipinos. In one exchange an unnamed officer texts “White power,” (which Furminger later repeats a number of times). Furminger responds, “N—ers should be spayed. I saw one an hour ago with 4 kids.” The other officer replies “Cross burning lowers blood pressure! I did the test myself!” Furminger says, “All n—ers must f—ing hang.

Ask my 6 year old what he thinks about Obama.”

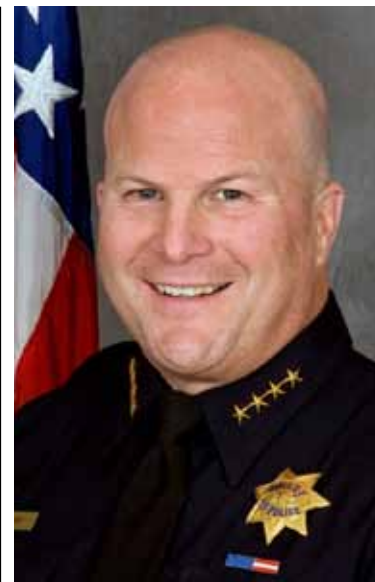
In early April 2015, Suhr vowed to fire the five officers “who engaged in such repulsive conversations via text messages” that “their conduct is incompatible with that of a police officer.” (Several other officers, Suhr said, participated in single events that didn’t rise to the same level, though they could face suspensions.) At a Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee meeting about the scandal, Supervisor Eric Mar asked Suhr if the texts represented “a broad-based problem.” Suhr didn’t answer the question, instead telling Mar, “I have bias; everybody has bias.” He also stated that the text messages in the federal filing took him “completely by surprise.” Lawyers representing the officers facing termination, however, say police brass knew

about the remarks as far back as 2012, when one of the officers received an internal affairs letter confirming that the department had the texts. As if the story isn’t cringe-worthy enough, under California’s Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, once a department is made aware of misconduct, it has only one year to act — which means Suhr may not be able to fire those repulsively racist, homophobic cops after all.

#### OFFICIAL SUPPORT

Despite all the disgraceful conduct under his watch, I have yet to hear a single official or rank-and-file officer call for Suhr’s resignation. This is in stark contrast to what happened to Fire Department Chief Joanne Hayes-White in October 2014, when firefighters voted that they had no confidence in her leadership and the fire commission met to discuss whether she should keep her job. The heads of every employee group as well as the battalion chiefs submitted letters to Mayor Lee expressing “a grave crisis of confidence” in Hayes-White. “It’s not a personal attack,” San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 secretary Lt. Floyd Rollins II said at the time. “It is a business decision about the direction of the department that we all work for.”

Appointed in 2004 as the city’s first female fire chief, Hayes-White’s tenure has not been with-



Chief of Police Greg Suhr.  
PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

out tribulations, from slow ambulance response times to firefighters accused of drinking on duty to the death of a young woman run over by two department trucks after the Asiana Airlines crash at SFO. Mayor Lee has thus far rejected calls for Hayes-White’s termination, but like other officials, he has remained silent regarding what responsibility Chief Greg Suhr bears for a troubled police department in which the entire city is having a grave crisis of confidence. Perhaps there is a double standard for Hayes-White, or it could be Suhr’s powerful political connections. Whatever the reason for the silence on Suhr, one thing is clear: Even if it is the coach, the team is standing behind him.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

# Staying fit shouldn't be a pain.

Whether you are a weekend warrior, a professional athlete, or just enjoy experiencing the Bay Area outdoors, the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine specialists at **Dignity Health Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco** can help you and your family maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. Join us to learn more about how to avoid injury, and what your options are for treating joint and foot pain. Food will be served and validated parking will be available.

**Foot & Ankle Tendonitis: Rehab or Repair** May 7, 2015 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

To learn more and reserve your seat, visit [saintfrancismemorial.org](http://saintfrancismemorial.org) or call 415.353.6755.

Hello humankindness™





**POLICE BLOTTER** : From the officers of Northern Station

# The ongoing story of vice in the city by the bay

**T**HE CRIMES BELOW ARE A SMALL snapshot of what the officers of Northern Station are doing. For a more comprehensive list, visit [sf-police.org](http://sf-police.org); under Compstat, select the link to Crimemaps.

**IT AIN'T LEGAL YET**  
**March 14, 12:26 a.m.**  
 100 block of Fell Street

Local residents had complained of narcotics sales occurring in their neighborhood during the day and at night. An officer with experience in local narcotics work spotted a suspect with whom she had had previous contact. The officer saw in plain view that the suspect had a baggie of suspected crystal methamphetamine. She placed him under arrest and transported him to Northern State, where the material tested positive for methamphetamine. The suspect was booked at County Jail.

**NO, YOU CAN'T HAVE A FREQUENT SHOPPER DISCOUNT**  
**March 14, 10:15 a.m.**  
 1300 block of Webster Street

A female subject was spotted by store security taking several items, walking past all of the registers but making no attempt to pay for what she had taken, and then leaving the store. The security

personnel were able to grab the bag she was carrying and recover the items in it that she had stolen; however, the subject herself fled on foot.

Officers arrived to take the report of the incident, and while they were there, the subject returned to the store. She was identified by the store's security staff and she was detained. There were no outstanding warrants for her; she was cited for shoplifting and released.

**CITIZENS' ARRESTS FOR ALL**  
**March 15, 1:43 p.m.**  
 Larkin at Golden Gate Avenue

Officers responded to a report that two women were fighting at a bus stop. They detained both women. One of the women told them that she had been standing at the bus stop when the second woman approached her and told her not to smoke. The first woman said she doesn't smoke, but the second one was acting belligerent and "getting in her face." The first woman pulled out pepper spray and warned the other woman to back off, but when the second woman hit her hand away, they began to fight. Several witnesses confirmed the incident.

Each of the women wanted to press charges against the other, and officers accepted the citizens' arrest from both parties and cited them for battery. They were released at the scene by the police officers.

**IT'S NOT JUST FOR BREAKFAST**  
**March 15, 10:07 a.m.**  
 Fillmore at O'Farrell Streets

A Starbucks employee told officers that a male suspect took an orange juice and left the store without paying. The employee followed the suspect and demanded the return of the juice, but the suspect refused, threw the juice at the Starbucks employee, and kicked her in the leg.

The employee and the suspect struggled, and another employee called the police, who arrived and took custody of the suspect. That suspect turned out to have an outstanding felony warrant for arrest, and he was sent to County Jail.

**MORE METH**  
**March 16, 1:14 p.m.**  
 400 block of Page Street

Housing officers spotted two subjects they knew to be on probation, one of whom had a restriction barring him from being in the area in which they saw him. The officers stopped the subjects, and a computer check showed that they were both indeed on probation. A search uncovered pills, possible marijuana, and suspected methamphetamine.

Further investigation at Northern Station showed that the suspected drugs were in fact what they were suspected of being, and the subjects were transported to County Jail.

**NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T**  
**March 17, 6:19 p.m.**  
 Laguna at Post Streets

Officers were dispatched to handle a report of a male subject who was sitting in a doorway exposing and touching himself. The person who had called police informed the officers that the subject is homeless and wanders around the neighborhood. She told the officers that she saw the subject touching himself and wanted him to be arrested.

The police searched the area before they located the subject a couple blocks away. The citizen positively identified the subject, somehow, and the officers then transported the subject to Northern Station, where he was cited and released.

**THE DREAMCOAT**  
**March 18, 5:15 p.m.**  
 2000 Block of Fillmore Street

Officers responded to a report of a shoplifting incident at a clothing store. They met with the store employee who told them that a subject took a coat off the rack and ran out of the store. Within minutes, officers spotted the subject, who had the coat behind his back tucked into his waistband, with its store tags still on it. The subject was on probation for assault, but he was cleared of any outstanding warrants and cited for theft before he was released.

## MUNIFORWARD

**JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE TO LEARN ABOUT PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM!**

**¡ACOMPÁÑENOS EN UNA SESIÓN A PUERTAS ABIERTAS PARA INFORMARSE SOBRE LAS MEJORAS PROPUESTAS A NUESTRO SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO!**

**請參加公開座談會來瞭解對我們公交系統提出的改進方案!**

Muni is working on multiple fronts to make getting around San Francisco safer, faster and more reliable for our customers. As part of this effort, we're improving transit corridors throughout the city.

Learn more about the details behind these improvements at one of our upcoming open houses. Your feedback is important to refining these Muni reliability improvements.

**30 STOCKTON**  
**May 9, 2015 | 10:00 - 11:30am**  
 Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf  
 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**22 FILLMORE**  
**May 16, 2015 | 10:00 - 11:30am**  
 Notre Dame Senior Plaza  
 347 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA

**14 MISSION**  
**May 30, 2015 | 10:30am - 12:00pm**  
 Marshall Elementary  
 1575 15th Street, San Francisco, CA

Muni está trabajando en varios frentes para hacer que el circular por San Francisco sea más seguro y más confiable para nuestros clientes. Como parte de este esfuerzo, estamos mejorando corredores de tránsito por toda la ciudad.

Conozca los detalles detrás de estas mejoras en una de nuestras próximas sesiones a puertas abiertas. Su opinión es importante para afinar estas propuestas.

**30 STOCKTON**  
**9 DE MAYO DE 2015 | 10:00 - 11:30am**  
 Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf  
 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**22 FILLMORE**  
**16 DE MAYO DE 2015 | 10:00 - 11:30am**  
 Notre Dame Senior Plaza  
 347 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA

**14 MISSION**  
**30 DE MAYO DE 2015 | 10:30am - 12:00pm**  
 Marshall Elementary  
 1575 15th Street, San Francisco, CA

Muni 正朝多方面努力, 期使為乘客打造一個更安全、更快速和更可靠的三藩市交通系統。這些努力之一, 即是改良本市各地的交通通道。

請前來參加我們的公開座談會, 以便進一步了解這些改進方案的詳細內容。您的意見對於改進這些增進 Muni 可靠性的方案非常重要。

**30 STOCKTON**  
 2015 年 5 月 9 日 | 上午 10:00 - 11:30  
 Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf  
 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**22 FILLMORE**  
 2015 年 5 月 16 日 | 上午 10:00 - 11:30  
 Notre Dame Senior Plaza  
 347 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA

**14 MISSION**  
 2015 年 5 月 30 日 | 上午 10:30 - 中午 12:00  
 Marshall Elementary  
 1575 15th Street, San Francisco, CA



For general information 24/7/365, dial 311 (415.701.2311 outside SF).

311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Tagalog / ความช่วยเหลือทางภาษาโดยไม่มีเสียค่าใช้จ่าย



# Ensuring more parking for city residents

BY SUPERVISOR MARK FARRELL

**I**N WHAT I AM SURE WILL come as a shock to no one – parking in San Francisco is scarce and often difficult to find in our neighborhoods and commercial areas. I know I have spent time circling blocks trying to find a parking space, and I know I am not alone. San Francisco is one of the densest cities in the country, and the sheer amount of new construction and repair the city is going through has made parking for residents more difficult than ever.

I hear from residents almost daily on the lack of parking in our neighborhoods, especially in front of their homes, and that frustration especially mounts when permitted parking spaces for construction or repair sit vacant all day long or drag on for months at a time. While everyone has the right to pursue new construction, home repairs, or improvements, I also believe the city needs to be more proactive in informing our residents and businesses when parking is going to be taken away for an extended period of time.

Earlier in March, I introduced legislation known as the “Construction Parking Plan

Law” that will mandate a contractor construction parking plan as a condition to receiving any temporary street space occupancy permit (an on-street space parking permit) for construction work that requests more than one parking space permit over the course of three or more months. This legislation aims to place greater controls on our construction parking permitting system, to ensure every neighborhood parking space possible is preserved for our residents.

Currently, there are 1,251 construction street-parking permits issued citywide, with an average of three parking spaces per permit, which is approximately 3,753 parking spaces. On average, there are roughly 13,000

## District Two has the highest number of street-parking permits issued compared to any other district.

street-parking permits issued every year in San Francisco. Without a doubt, some neighborhoods are more impacted than others. The supervisorial district that I represent – District Two – has the highest number of

permits currently issued compared to any other district.

The components of the construction parking plan will include the following:

- The number of parking spaces requested and the rationale.
- The average number of employees anticipated each day at the work site.
- The timeline and phasing of the entire project, and a requirement of an update from the contractor at the midpoint of the project to notify the city about any expected changes.
- Whether it is potentially feasible to use opportunities for carpooling, or other off-site parking arrangements like nearby garage parking.

- A proposal of how the applicant will make the on-street parking available to the general public by 4 p.m. if the space has gone unused or project work is complete for the day.

- Any other information that the city (or the specific affected department, such as the Municipal Transportation Agency) deems valuable for understanding the impact of the project on the neighborhood and neighborhood parking supply.

The idea behind the legislation is to give our Department



Supervisor Farrell is trying to ensure that residents can still park in their neighborhoods even as new construction continues. PHOTO: FRANCISCO ANZOLA

of Public Works the ability to more closely scrutinize construction parking permit proposals and create a new opportunity for the public to have a better understanding of the parking situation in their neighborhoods. The parking plans will be made readily available to members of the public who request them and will serve as a great resource to better understand the parking situation in your neighborhood.

Local government can and should be responsive to the

issues that we are feeling in our neighborhoods. The lack of parking is an issue I hear from my constituents on a daily basis, and I am encouraged the city is taking steps to preserve as many spaces as possible for our residents through common-sense proposals that allow necessary projects and also ensure the quality of life we all enjoy here in San Francisco.

*Mark Farrell is District Two supervisor. E-mail mark.farrell@sfgov.org or phone 415-554-7752.*

*LB*  
*La Bijouterie*  
Specializing in Custom Design



## Diamonds are Unique

We know selecting the right diamond can be a daunting task. We do our homework so you don't have to pay more. Reserve your consultation online at [LB-SF.com](http://LB-SF.com) and learn first hand why La Bijouterie is the Jewelry boutique of choice amongst San Francisco's cognoscenti.

**MASTER JEWELERS**

**MADE IN USA**

Look for La Bijouterie on Yelp and see what our customers are saying about our five star service.



1931 UNION STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94123 TEL: (415) 775-6622 WEB: [WWW.LB-SF.COM](http://WWW.LB-SF.COM)



UNION STREET GOLDSMITH  
 GLENDA QUEEN TERRY BRUMBAUGH

SALE

May 1st -10th



ALL Necklaces & Bracelets\*  
 30% OFF

1909 Union Street, San Francisco  
 415-776-8048 unionstreetgoldsmith.com  
 \*Excludes single diamonds over 0.25ct



A Full-Service Hair + Skincare Salon

CUTS COLOR EXTENSIONS FACIALS WAXING

— MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE \$25 OFF A CUSTOM FACIAL —

(415) 447 7748

1757 UNION STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94123  
 WWW.SALONMACIAS.COM

## MARINA-COW HOLLOW INSIDER

# Visit these Northside shops for your home decorating needs

BY CHRISTINE ROHER

**I**F YOU'RE DECORATING YOUR HOME, you can find much of what you may need on the north side of the city. And if you ask a designer where to shop, you may likely get a referral to one of these shops, which are just a sampling of what is right here in the neighborhood.

### RUBY LIVING DESIGN

Owned by husband-and-wife team James and Dee Dee Littrell, Ruby Living Design is a popular destination for the do-it-yourself designer as well as the professional designer. Eleven years ago, the Mill Valley couple was looking to start a small side business, and ended up buying a local furniture store that was "limping along," as James described it. The couple rebranded and renamed the store, and now has four Ruby Living Design locations throughout the Bay Area.

Ruby Living offers a wide variety of home furnishings — many custom order — and the design aesthetic is a blend of modern, classic, and traditional. "We like to take pieces maybe a little out of context, and make them work," said James.

Many Ruby Living customers come in looking for sofas and chairs, especially those designed by Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams. Ruby Living is the only California store north of Beverly Hills that offers furnishings by these high-demand designers. The designers' Alicia's sofa, which is a staple on the set of *The Good Wife* television series, is one of Ruby Living's biggest sellers. Customers also favor products by Verellen Home, Made Goods, and Oly Studio.

Working with the designers has been a surprising upside to running the business. "I thoroughly enjoy getting to know the designers and furniture makers," said James. "These relationships are really gratifying — just as much as the business success." (1525 Union Street; 415-922-2500, [rubyliving.com](http://rubyliving.com))

### LEFTOVERS

If custom-order design isn't in the budget, Leftovers, a consignment home furnishing store, is a must-see. The six-year-old store is now in its fourth location after a string of mishaps at other spots. "I feel like Goldilocks," said owner Kelly Hensley. "The first store was too small, the second one leaked like crazy, I was forced out of the third with a severe rent hike, and now the fourth one is just right."

So right, that Kelly bought the building. "We're here to stay, and business is booming," she said.

Customers never know what they'll discover at Leftovers — maybe a retired sofa from Pottery Barn, or a midcentury modern credenza from a Danish designer. Whatever it is, Kelly strives to keep the price in check. "I don't want you to not eat for six months to pay for a piece of furniture."

In fact, Kelly just sold that credenza for \$850, a price she insists would have been tripled at other stores. She also just sold a \$12,000 custom-made Will Wick sectional sofa for \$3,800.

But these are examples of her pricier products, because she mostly sells midline furnishings, even Ikea. Kelly

learned this lesson from her mother, who owns Goodbyes, a clothing consignment store on Sacramento Street. "My mom always said, 'Do you want to make a fast nickel or a slow dime?'" she recalls. "I'm not going to have an \$18,000 hand-painted chair from China sitting in my store. People want to pay \$900 for that chair."

Because Kelly picks the right pieces, her inventory is constantly changing. In fact, some customers come in every weekend, because they know the selection will be different. And the revolving inventory is fun for her, too. "We get five to ten deliveries a day," Kelly said. "It's

**Designing a home is more than just furniture; art and accessories matter, too.**

like Christmas morning every time you come to work."

And for customers looking to sell goods, rather than buy them,

Leftovers' consignment terms are generous and fair. (1350 Van Ness Avenue, 415-409-0088, [weloveleftovers.com](http://weloveleftovers.com))

### MODICA HOME

But designing a home is more than just furniture — art and accessories are a big part of it, too. Cheryl Modica, owner of Modica Home, scours the country looking for artists creating unique products. A former buyer at Nordstrom, Cheryl knows her customers and delivers what they want.

Modica is filled with tableware, decorative pillows, throws, wall art, and even jewelry and handbags. Customers particularly favor a line of handcrafted ceramics by Vermont artist Laura Zindel. The nature-inspired pieces are decorated with original, hand-drawn pencil sketches.

Another hit is a collection of hand-pounded stainless steel tableware by Mary Jurek, an artist in Los Angeles. She aims for her pieces to emit a vibe of "old world meets modern day."

But Cheryl is committed to supporting local artists, like Denise Fiedler, who uses vintage international magazines and newspapers to create collages featuring cities, animals, and even portraits of people.

It's items like these that Cheryl hopes will keep customers supporting local small businesses. "I have things that aren't sold on the Internet," said Cheryl. "My things are unique. You can't just find them anywhere." (2274 Union Street, 415-440-4389)

### Z GALLERIE

A fixture in the city for more than 20 years, residents rely on Z Gallerie to find unique furniture and a fresh selection of home accessories every season.

And this season, the color palette is fun — shades of aqua, aubergine, cherry, lemon yellow, and mandarin orange, mixed with metallic elements. "We've taken natural elements this season and elevated them in reflective finishes and textures," said a company spokesperson.

According to Z Gallerie, the San Francisco customer is drawn to the store's textiles — like bedding, pillows, and throws that are high style and high quality, yet affordable. (2154 Union Street, 415-567-4891, [zgallerie.com](http://zgallerie.com))

E-mail: [christine@marinatimes.com](mailto:christine@marinatimes.com)



## SKETCHES FROM A NORTH BEACH JOURNAL



From left: Donald Ellis, executive editor Grizzly Peak Press; Ernest Beyl, *Marina Times* columnist; Tony Serra, noted San Francisco attorney; Nancy Peters, former executive director City Lights Booksellers & Publishers, and the still-youthful Lawrence Ferlinghetti celebrate Ferlinghetti's 96th birthday at Capp's Corner.

# The times they are a changin' in the old neighborhood

BY ERNEST BEYL

### A REQUIEM FOR CAPP'S CORNER

The evening of Tuesday, March 31, I sat in the bar at Original Joe's in North Beach with my friend, *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Carl Nolte, and our wives, waiting for word that the lease allowing for the continuation of my favorite neighborhood saloon-restaurant, Capp's Corner, had been signed.

Wrangling and squabbling over the lease had been going on for more than a year. At last, (we believed) this uncertainty would end. Even as we sat in Original Joe's, attorneys, landlords, and tenants were meeting to sign the lease. Soon Maureen and Tom Ginella, the longtime proprietors of Capp's Corner, would join us. We would pop a bottle of champagne and celebrate.

Then the axe fell. Tom called with the bad news. The deal had gone south. Tom told me he and Maureen wouldn't be joining us for that celebratory champagne. He said more impossible demands would force Capp's Corner to close Sunday, April 19, the final day the iconic North Beach joint would welcome customers.

As I said in my April Sketches column, I am an optimist and I thought my beloved neighborhood hangout would be around forever. Not so! Things change, and not always for the better.

### THE FLAVOR OF NORTH BEACH

Brian St. Pierre and Mary Etta Moose, wife of Ed Moose who was also his partner in the long-gone Washington Square Bar & Grill, wrote a book in 1981 called *The Flavor of North Beach*. It was a guide to dining out in the neighborhood, listed Italian delicatessens, bakeries, and other food shops, and offered a few recipes by restaurant cooks. The book cost \$5.95 and was a bargain.

*The Flavor of North Beach* has been updated, and I bought one the other day on Amazon for a penny. Yes, a penny. How's that for a bargain?

The original book listed 29 North Beach restaurants. Among them are 20 that are no longer operating. Maybe you remember some of these: Amelio's, Gold Spike, Green Valley, Jovanelo's, La Felce, La Pantera, Little Joe's, New Pisa, Swiss Louis, Vanessi's, Washington Square Bar & Grill — and of course, the latest casualty, Capp's Corner. And I don't even want to think about the Italian bakeries, butcher shops and delicatessens we've lost over the years.

So if you have a penny to spare, you might want to get the updated version of the book. Things change so fast around here it will soon be out of date.

### NO POLITICAL BAGGAGE WITH JULIE CHRISTENSEN

Recently I met our new District Three supervisor and her pup, Porter, at Caffe Puccini in North Beach. I like her. She's energetic and a fresh voice in the neighborhood. We need that. I also like that she comes without debilitating political baggage. Lack of experience in politicians does not alarm me. Too much experience in politicians does. The more experience a politician has in office, the more alarmed I become. Frequently with political experience comes an attitude of "whatever works for me, my political cronies, sponsors, hangers-on, and the crafty lawyers — that will be my agenda, like it or not." Julie Christensen doesn't lack experience. She's worked with City Hall for years as a community activist, but she is untarnished by trickery that often creeps into the political system.

### MICHAEL MCCOURT THE IRISH BARTENDER

My favorite bartender Michael McCourt, who holds court at Original

Joe's, celebrated his 79th birthday in February. He gave us all a bit of a scare recently. He went through a sticky patch health-wise. As I write this, McCourt is back on his feet and holding court at O.J.'s again. On the same day that McCourt gave me the good news, I heard that another Irish celebrity bartender — Seamus Coyle — most recently of Gino & Carlo, went to that glorious heavenly saloon. This saloon-centric city just can't afford to lose any more bartenders — Irish or not.

### FERLINGHETTI AT 96

Speaking of things changing, Lawrence Ferlinghetti turned 96 on March 24. We held a birthday party for him at the late, lamented Capp's Corner in North Beach. He was in fine form. I always thought that the older you get the more conservative you become. That's not the case with Ferlinghetti. At 96, he continues to be a challenging radical presence speaking out against a war mentality, corporate greed, and the inanities of our political system. Good for him.

At lunch he told us he has a book coming out this fall (published by Liveright & Company, a division of W. W. Norton): *Writing Across the Landscape: Travel Journals (1950-2013)*. It features Ferlinghetti's purposeful wanderings in Cuba in the throes of the Castro revolution, Franco's Spain, Soviet Russia, Nicaragua under the Sandinistas, as well as adventures in Mexico, Haiti, and North Africa.

What else is new with Ferlinghetti? He's writing a novel. When I asked if it is set in San Francisco he replied, "It's set in the world."

This brings to mind a favorite line from the Bob Dylan song "My Back Pages": *Ah, but I was so much older then / I'm younger than that now.*

E-mail: [ernest@marinatimes.com](mailto:ernest@marinatimes.com)

## SPRING INTO ACTION

MAIL-IN REBATES! UP TO **\$120**

Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card by Mail-In Rebate with the purchase of a set of four select Goodyear or Dunlop tires on the Goodyear Credit Card between March 1 and June 30, 2015.

\*Mail-In Rebate paid in the form of a Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card. Get up to a \$60 rebate on a qualifying purchase or double your rebate up to \$120 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Subject to credit approval. Offers valid on purchases between 03/01/15 - 06/30/15. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. See store associate for complete details and rebate form. Additional terms and conditions apply.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>\$5 OFF</b><br/>ANY WIPER BLADE<br/>from our large wintery store supplies</p>   | <p><b>FREE</b><br/>Oil Change &amp; Filter with <b>\$25</b> Purchase of <b>39-Point Maintenance Check</b></p>                        | <p><b>FRONT/REAR BRAKE SERVICE</b><br/><b>\$60 OFF</b><br/><small>Get \$30 off Front Brake Replacement and/or \$30 Off Rear Brake Replacement (Most cars)</small></p>           |
| <p><b>ANY FLUSH \$15 OFF EACH</b><br/>Your choice:<br/>Cooling System<br/>Fuel System<br/>Transmission<br/>Power Steering<br/>Brake Fluid</p> | <p><b>THRUST ANGLE ALIGNMENT</b><br/><b>\$69.95</b><br/><small>Protect Your Tire Investment (Most Cars and Light Trucks)</small></p> | <p><b>SHOCK &amp; STRUTS</b><br/><b>\$60 OFF</b><br/><small>any pair of Shock or Struts in stock (at regular price) (Applies to most vehicles. No other discounts.)</small></p> |

**Visit and like our Facebook Page and claim a \$50 Savings Offer on Auto Repair. Good thru May 22, 2015.**

Be sure to ask our store staff for the details on these Great Tire and Service Specials!  
All Toscalito offers expire 5/31/15.

**44 Years of More Than Just Tires**  
Visit us at: [www.toscalito.com](http://www.toscalito.com)

**2342 Lombard St.**  
**San Francisco 922-2808**

San Rafael 456-2324  
San Rafael 479-3300  
Corte Madera 924-8810

Vallejo 707-643-8271  
Novato 883-8473



# UNION STREET SIDEWALK SALE

Saturday & Sunday  
May 16th & 17th  
10am-6pm both days

## 25%-85% OFF!

Shop early for the best deals, then  
dine at one of our fabulous restaurants!

SHOP

UNION ST-GOUGH TO STEINER  
FILMORE ST-UNION TO LOMBARD

- \* UNION STREET SPILLS OUT ONTO THE SIDEWALK FOR TWO DAYS ONLY
- \* VISIT ONE OF OUR ACCLAIMED HAIR SALONS, SPAS, GYMS AND PERSONAL SERVICES
- \* ENJOY DINING IN ONE OF OUR GOURMET RESTAURANTS
- \* REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE IN SELECT STORES
- \* PART OF THE CITY WIDE SIDEWALK SALE

unionstreetsf.com

UNION STREET  
Always a celebration  
UNIONSTREETSF.COM



Don't ask for whom the unicorn comes; the unicorn comes for thee. PHOTO: THISISWHYIMBROKE.COM

## Beware the unicorn knocking at your \$5 million door

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

"When the market turns, and it will turn, we will find out who has been swimming without trunks on ... Many high burn rate co's will VAPORIZE."

— Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen via Twitter in September 2015

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, A HOUSE in my old San Francisco neighborhood sold for \$4,650,000, all cash, merely days after it hit the market. That's over \$2,000 a square foot. Zillow.com, which tends to be very accurate, "Zestimates" the price at \$2,583,624 — 93 percent higher and 113 percent more per square foot than the area's median. Surprise, surprise, the buyer was a tech worker. Whether he was trying to swing his manhood around Buena Vista Park or he was afraid of a bidding war, this poor sap plunked down a million bucks over asking for a house worth about half of what he paid. He better stay until they take him out feet first, because he'll never get his cash back on a deal that crazy. God forbid he gets transferred, or his company lays him off or tanks, because that all-cash price tag doesn't include those pesky property taxes, which at his purchase price will be around \$60,000 per year.

Maybe he works for a unicorn, a term given to venture-backed firms valued at more than \$1 billion because they were once so rare, but lately are as common as rats in a Manhattan subway. While older unicorns are familiar names like Uber and Airbnb, the latest crop are smaller, even riskier enterprises, like clothing e-commerce website Farfetch.com. More than 80 private companies now boast valuations over \$1 billion, fueling fears of another tech bubble even from highly successful venture capitalists like Marc Andreessen. If it sounds like I am familiar with unicorns, that's because I saw a few during the first tech boom. I also saw some of my colleagues overpay for houses with their unicorn gold, and let's just say things weren't so pretty at the other end of that rainbow.

I joined a dotcom start-up called LookSmart in the late '90s, where a great deal of my compensation was based on stock. Before the IPO our underwriter, Morgan Stanley, sent an advisor to meet with employees one-on-one in the conference room behind the Foosball table for advice on turning stock options into the American Dream. For one friend — let's call her Jenny — it was intoxicating. "I can margin stock, even the unvested options," Jenny said. "My father taught me margining

is a bad idea," I replied, but Jenny was too high on her future as a gazillionaire to hear.

The day LookSmart went public, employees were high-fiving over their fortunes. "I am worth \$3 mill," one cocky engineer said. "But I'm not gonna sell because I know it's going up!" The following Monday, our parking garage looked like a luxury car lot: Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, Mercedes, BMW. The company's owners, a married couple from Australia, even bought themselves matching Jaguars. Jenny swooped by my desk. "I bought a house," she said gleefully. "In Oakland." She paid half a million bucks. "Why would you pay that much?" I asked. "Because my Realtor told me 20 other people wanted it," she said. The cottage, in a sketchy area off MacArthur Boulevard, was listed for half what Jenny eventually paid.

A few months later, the dotcom bomb exploded. LookSmart's trendy, unsustainable stock dropped like a Pet Rock, and people started getting those scary e-mails — the ones that drained all the color from their faces. A group would rise from their desks simultaneously and head into a conference room like lambs to a slaughterhouse. They came out an hour later, sometimes crying, sometimes mad, gathered their things in a cardboard box, and were escorted from the building by security.

Seeing the writing on the wall, I left LookSmart to take a position at eFrenzy.com, an online marketplace for services that was Yelp and Angie's List 1.0, where businesses paid to be listed or advertised on the site and customers wrote reviews. One Friday afternoon I received a tearful call from Jenny asking if I could come to her house. "Of course," I said, knowing she had received one of the dreaded electronic pink slips. When I arrived, Jenny was sitting on her brand new sofa with a bottle of wine and her laptop. "What am I going to do?" she asked. But she didn't have to make a decision, because the bank made it for her by foreclosing on her house. Homeless and unemployed, Jenny moved in with a guy she wasn't all that crazy about, and we eventually lost touch.

Things were shaky at eFrenzy, too. Like most tech start-ups, we were burning through our funding by over-hiring, throwing lavish parties, increasing marketing expenses to keep up with competitors, and buying Foosball tables. I got one of those electronic pink slips, which led me to a \$150,000-a-year job as brand manager at iSyndicate.com, even though I had no idea what the company

UNICORN, continued on 11

jest jewels  
for the girl in all of us

# ALEX AND ANI



Available Jest Jewels!  
The perfect gift for Mother's Day!

AUTHORIZED RETAILER  
©2015 ALEX AND ANI, LLC.

FREE ear piercing with the purchase of piercing earrings!

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1869 UNION ST<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-563-8839 | 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-986-4494 | 1791 4TH STREET<br>BERKELEY<br>510-526-7766 | 356 SANTANAROW<br>#1007 SAN JOSE<br>408-249-4800 |
|--|---|---|--|



## SPORTS CORNER :: Opening Day

## Crowning the champs

BY STEVE HERMANOS

THREE WORLD SERIES trophies glittered in the sun. Canons fired metallic streamers from the second deck. Stunt jets ripped the sky. Madison Bumgarner mounted a police horse while, on a stage in left field, his favorite rock group, The Marshall Tucker Band, cranked out a tune. And for the third time this decade, a flag declaring the San Francisco Giants as the championship team of the world was raised above the ballpark, reemphasizing that ours is the only set of fans basking in recent baseball glory.

Then the Giants transformed into miserable hosts at their own party by failing to score a run against the Colorado Rockies, a team that has won exactly 0 World Series. The score was 2-0.

Meanwhile, I asked folks around the ballpark a single question: With three World Championships in five seasons, what's the significance of it all to you, personally?

"Very few teams for five years would have mostly the same players and coaches. It's such a unique situation."  
—Peter Magowan, former Giants' managing general partner

"Definitely a dynasty."  
—Rob Marrs, jet flyover coordinator

"Personally it's a family tale. My father took me to Giants games when I was little. When he was older, I took him. I took my son to his first baseball game when he

was 10 days old. It's a cycle of generations."

—Larry Baer, Giants president and CEO

"Our children don't realize what an unbelievable era we're living in."

—Pam Baer

"It all seems very surreal. I grew up a Giants fan. I also feel extremely fortunate to cover a winning team rather than the other way around."

—Amy Gutierrez, reporter, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area



Madison Bumgarner acknowledges the crowd. PHOTO: STEVE HERMANOS

"It just feels good to have a team that rocks."

—Suzanne R., fan, Fresno

"I feel proud."

—Jean C., beer vendor

"A dream come true. My first game was in 1960. A lot of great teams, and Mays, McCovey, Marichal. Now we've hit the top."

—Jim C., usher

"It didn't really change my life. But it's fun to watch."

—Todd O., fan, Fremont

"My mom, God rest her soul. She's here with me. It enhances everything."

—Mark J., Giants photographer, San Jose

"I never thought I'd see it. The first one was a realization of a dream. The rest are just icing."

—Gary H., fan, El Dorado Hills

"This is the greatest time of my life. I went to Texas [to see the World Series in 2010], and Kansas City [to see the World Series in 2014] and it's in my body. We have a grace of God on our side."

—Conrad Z., a minute after having caught a batting practice home run with his old mitt, San Jose

"I grew up at Candlestick Park and all this winning is validating a lot of cold, disappointing nights."

—Dieter R., Outer Richmond

"Just hanging with my buddy Dieter."

—David B., Outer Richmond

"Sucks. I'm a Dodgers fan, but I married into a beautiful Giants family. It's fun to be a part of it."

—Simion F., Sacramento

"It's been very fun. I'm a schoolteacher and my kids all know why I wear orange."

—Ashley W., Sacramento

"A joy to follow a team and their exuberance. They suddenly came out of nowhere, and it's pretty amazing magic."

—Eric K., Petaluma

"2010 meant a lot. I was here in 2012, Game 1, when Panda [Pablo Sandoval] hit three homers. Everything else has just been gravy."

—Justin C., Arcata

"I hate Opening Day."

—Field official

Steve Hermanos is the author of Orange Waves of Giants! The 2012 Championship Season. E-mail: steve@marinatimes.com

Miller tumbleweeds. We chitchatted for a while about the crash-and-burn start-up landscape, and then he offered me a chair. "The Aeron is in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York," he said, rubbing the mesh suspension on a sleek teal green number I was eyeing. "They were, like, almost a thousand bucks each."

I called my boyfriend and he loaded the teal green seat of art into his rockabilly band's van. At my Victorian in the Haight, we set the Aeron in front of the lime green iMac my manager from iSyndicate tossed into the trunk of my VW Beetle the day we got those electronic pink slips. "I think I want to work for myself," I said.

Years later, the boyfriend is an ex-boyfriend and I gave away the computer, but I still have the Aeron, I still work for myself — and I'm still more afraid of subway rats than unicorns.


E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

## UNICORN


CONTINUED from page 10

did (actually, I still don't). Start-ups were trying to hold on after the downturn, but venture capital was scarce. Once willing to throw millions at dreamy-eyed kids with a domain name and an idea, investors were now cautious about "burn rates." One spring afternoon, iSyndicate sent me one of those electronic pink slips, along with half the company.

A week later I headed back to SoMa for lunch with a former eFrenzy associate who fell victim to a second round of layoffs. Afterward, I wandered in a daze by all the empty office spaces, including one where I once interviewed. I didn't get the job (I can't even remember what they did, either), but the jovial 24-year-old CEO was happy to show off the 200 new Herman Miller Aeron chairs he recently purchased with his first round of seed money. Now, he was in a dotcom ghost town with Herman



**jest jewels**  
for the girl in all of us



FREE

Ear Piercing

with purchase of piercing earrings!

Peace of mind piercing from trained & certified Jest Jewels experts!  
The Inverness ear piercing system is the safest, most advanced piercing device!

Brought to you by  
**inverness**  
Safe & Gentle Ear Piercing  
A Warren Buffet  
Berkshire Hathaway Company  
**AGES 3+**

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1869 UNION ST<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-563-8839 | 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-986-4494 | 17914 TH STREET<br>BERKELEY<br>510-526-7766 | 356 SANTANA ROW<br>#1007 SAN JOSE<br>408-249-4800 |
|--|---|---|---|



**jest jewels**  
for the girl in all of us





\$575  
\$595  
\$575  
\$595  
\$750

*Happy Mother's Day!*

Diamond & 14k Gold 16-18" Layering Necklaces. Because she deserves it!



\$70      \$85      \$110

14k Gold Dipped 16-18" Layering Necklaces

FREE ear piercing with the purchase of piercing earrings!

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1869 UNION ST<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-563-8839 | 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER<br>SAN FRANCISCO<br>415-986-4494 | 17914 TH STREET<br>BERKELEY<br>510-526-7766 | 356 SANTANA ROW<br>#1007 SAN JOSE<br>408-249-4800 |
|--|---|---|---|



THE TABLEHOPPER :: Restaurant roundup



The Original Old Clam House  
**CLAM BAKE CIOPPINO**

Clams, Mussels, Crab, Shrimp, Calamari & Fish Fillet  
Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Corn, Garlic & Black Olives  
In a Spicy Cioppino Sauce



299 Bayshore Boulevard | San Francisco  
415.826.4880 | [theoldclamhousesf.com](http://theoldclamhousesf.com)



Salt + Seed's natural goodness. PHOTO: SALT + SEED

Melissa Perello opens  
Octavia in Pacific Heights,  
and it's a beaut

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI WITH DANA EASTLAND

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHEF-OWNER Melissa Perello on opening her second beautiful restaurant, **Octavia** (1701 Octavia Street, 415-408-7507). Her new Pacific Heights restaurant (which is in the former Baker & Banker and original Quince location) has a little bit more of everything: more dishes (there is quite the array of stunning small plates to start, like squid ink noodles with fennel vinaigrette, green garlic, Marash chile, and Cortez bottarga, and grilled beef tongue with charred broccoli in a flavorful marrow broth), more seats, and the bigger cellar means more wine selections from beverage director Paul Einbund (plus some tasty vermouth cocktails to start). The dining room (designed by Michael Baushke of Apparatus Architecture) has classic American good looks, and feels airy, rustic, spacious, and welcoming. Reservations are recommended, and there are also seats reserved for walk-ins. Dinner nightly 5 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

**PRESIDIO**

Traci Des Jardins has reopened the casual cafe **Transit** (215 Lincoln Boulevard, 415-561-5300), after taking it over earlier this year. It offers an easy spot to grab a bite, coffee and espresso (by Equator Coffees and Teas), pastries, wine, and beer. You'll find salads, sandwiches, grilled burgers, and pizza from the wood-burning oven in the afternoon, breakfast items, as well as a tightly edited selection of beer and wine on tap. There's an outdoor patio with views, and indoor seating if it's too breezy. Takeout is also available. Hours are Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

**COW HOLLOW**

Coming soon is **Belga** (2000 Union Street), Adriano Paganini's latest project in the old Cafe des Amis space. Freedom Rains has been appointed as chef of this Belgian brasserie — his previous experience includes Flour + Water, Boulevard, RN74, and Incanto,

and he will be bringing a California focus to the Belgian-inspired offerings. The menu is all about celebrating hospitality and “conviviality” (a word that's been turning up a lot lately), with dishes that encourage sharing, like house-made sausages cooked in the wood-fired oven, a rib eye for two, and his takes on classics like salad Lyonnaise and moules frites. It will all pair well with beverages, of course, with a substantial beer list of Belgian and

**Belga's menu is all about celebrating hospitality and conviviality.**

Belgian-inspired suds selected by bar manager and cicerone Ryan Murphy (Abbot's Cellar). There will also be cocktails from Nora Furst designed to pair well with food. The space and other menu details are still in development, but we'll have a closer look soon. Get ready for the opening in mid-May.

**MARINA**

Good news for fans of **Seed + Salt** (2240 Chestnut Street, 415-872-9173), the “clean,” vegetable-based eatery: Your beet burger just got tastier, thanks to the restaurant's new gluten-free baguettes and hamburger buns, which, as of the end of April, they are using to craft their tasty sandwiches. Made with whole grain (rice, psyllium, and chia), with no processed fillers (like xanthan gum), and unlike most dense and dry gluten-free breads, these hand-shaped artisanal beauties are moist but with a golden crust, light texture, and a sweet, nutty flavor. You can also enjoy the bread at home if you order online ([seedandsalt.com](http://seedandsalt.com)) by 10 a.m. for same-day restaurant pick-up or next-day delivery by Caviar. Only a limited number of the six-inch sandwich loaves (\$6) are available daily with a maximum of 12 per person. Look for full-sized baguettes in June.

**RUSSIAN HILL**

Local mini-chain, **Rangoon Ruby** (1608 Polk Street, 415-610-4333), took over the former Sushi Rock space on Polk Street. According to Chowhound, the space is now open, serving Burmese staples like tealeaf salad, noodles, and stews.

TABLEHOPPER, continued on 13



## TABLEHOPPER

CONTINUED from page 12

### NORTH BEACH

**Teague Kernan** of Tupelo has a new project called **Belle Cora**, opening in the former Dell'Uva (565 Green Street) space. The name refers to the novel by Phillip Margulies about a notorious madam from the 19th century, and Kernan says the restaurant "will be a comfortable, inviting place to come share drinks and food." Chef John Kenner's menu will focus on lighter dishes, with an emphasis on vegetable-driven preparations (he's vegan). Don't worry, though, they'll play nice with meatier items, too, and everything will be designed for sharing. The wine list features about 25 bottles from consultant Paulina Krol, and it's intended to be approachable and affordable. Craft beers will also figure prominently.

The space has been designed with assistance from Julie Brown of Re:Design and will be warm and inviting, with some nods to the neighborhood's history and old-world ambience. They will take full advantage of the restaurant's great outdoor seating, too; sidewalk tables will definitely be available. The plan is to open in early June, but they are realistic about how

long construction and permits may take.

Hoodline caught the details on **Acquolina**, the new project moving into the former Cafe Divine (1600 Stockton Street) space. It comes from a trio of Italians from Livorno — Rutilio Duràn (whom you may recognize from C'era Una Volta Ristorante Italiano in Alameda), Marco Marianelli, and Dario Nicotra — and will serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. They'll have eggs and a breakfast pizza in the mornings, with pizza

## Acquolina wants to appeal to a broad range of diners.

and pasta at lunch. At dinner, you'll also find meat and seafood plates. The wine list is mostly Italian, with selections priced for everyday consumption as well as special occasion choices. There is a special stone-lined oven for pizza and an imported Stylema machine for espresso. They want to appeal to a broad range of diners, including families with kids and those looking for a date night. The bar is having some adjustments made to it so it will be easier for dining. Opening is planned for the first week in May.

### UNION SQUARE

**BDK Restaurant & Bar** (501 Geary Street, 415-292-0101) has opened in the former Grand Cafe in the Hotel Monaco, with chef **Heather Terhune**



Bar BDK got a big design refresh from Ken Fulk Inc. PHOTO: KIMPTONHOTELS.COM

(Chicago's Sable Kitchen & Bar). She has put together an American menu with some fun updates, like bacon croutons in an iceberg salad, and avocado and Calabrian chile in the steak tartare. The braised lamb poutine and smoked ham and Brie pop-tarts also sound like good trouble. Mains include pickle-brined fried chicken thighs with coleslaw and mini buttermilk biscuits (\$22), spaghetti and meatballs (\$21), and I am all over the potato and cheese pierogies (\$19) with caramelized onions, sour cream, and dill.

The space got a big refresh from design firm Ken Fulk Inc. (Marlowe, The Battery), and now

has an energetically patterned tile floor, leather banquettes in dark butterscotch, and stylish dining room chairs. The dining room has 72 seats (with high-top tables and pub-style booths and banquettes), and there is still a spa-

in the early 1900s). Bar manager Kevin Diedrich is behind the cocktails (\$11-\$12), and the wine list will emphasize Chianti (seems Bill Kimpton, the man behind the BDK initials, was a fan). You'll find wine, beer, and Diedrich's spin on an old-fashioned all on tap. Open for breakfast and dinner; bar open daily at 4 p.m. Brunch is coming soon.

## BDK's braised lamb poutine and smoked ham and Brie pop-tarts sound like good trouble.

acious bar and lounge area, with 17 seats at the California granite bar and 20 seats in the lounge. The huge dining room has been converted back to its original ballroom state (it was the grand ballroom of the Bellevue Hotel

*Marcia Gagliardi is the creator and Dana Eastland is the associate editor of tablehopper.com, a popular insider weekly e-column about the San Francisco dining scene; subscribe for more news and updates. Follow Marcia on Twitter: @tablehopper.*

EXPERIENCE THE BEST FOOD YOU'LL FIND ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF



THE *Franciscan* CRAB RESTAURANT  
Since 1957

WORLD FAMOUS SAN FRANCISCO DUNGENESS CRAB

AMAZING PRIME RIB

CLASSIC CIOPPINO

BANQUETS

STUNNING SF VIEWS

VALIDATED PARKING

SINCE 1957



OPEN EVERY DAY 11:30AM - 10:00PM

PIER 43 1/2 AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF • 415.362.7733 • FRANCISCANRESTAURANT.COM



# The Brazen Head

"A place worth finding."

Join us for Mother's Day



Prime Rib Every Night!

at the Marina's Best Kept Secret!

Bar opens at 4pm | Dinner nightly 5pm-1am  
3166 Buchanan Street at Greenwich | (415) 921-7600

[www.brazenheads.com](http://www.brazenheads.com)

THIRD GENERATION

SINCE 1929

**LUCCA** *delicatessen*

2120 CHESTNUT STREET • 415.921.7873 • [WWW.LUCCADELI.COM](http://WWW.LUCCADELI.COM)

To all the fabulous, healthy and vital women in our neighborhood who work, take care of family, volunteer and make life better for so many,

Happy Mother's Day!  
We appreciate your support!

From the Union Street Association,  
our merchants, restaurants & personal services

## NEW AND NOTABLE :: Restaurant 2.0



Crispy pork ribs, greens, and galangal-tamari; mushroom risotto with poached egg and crispy kale.

## Verbena reinvents itself as the charming Reverb

BY JULIE MITCHELL

**I**F AT FIRST YOU DON'T succeed ... reinvent yourself. This is perhaps the motto behind Reverb Kitchen & Bar on Polk Street, most recently known as Verbena. When the chef of 18-month-old Verbena, Sean Baker, departed this spring, co-owners and partners Eric Fenster and Ari Derfel listened to feedback from their Russian Hill community and transformed the restaurant into a more downscale, casual neighborhood spot. According to the owners, "We chose the name 'Reverb' for three reasons. First, as homage to our first take as Verbena, and second, we value and welcome feedback from our community of guests so that we can truly offer something that resonates with them. Third, we define re/verb as 'the second note of an expression, action or state of being.'"

The restaurant's decor hasn't changed much; it features an illuminated reclaimed wooden architectural wall, long bar, and mezzanine dining room. But executive chef Ryan Shelton, (former pastry chef at Chez TJ in Mountain View, and chef de cuisine at Baumé in Palo Alto), has developed a new menu offering a balance of omnivore and vegetable dishes largely inspired by Gather, Reverb's sister restaurant in Berkeley, and veering away from Verbena's decidedly

vegetarian slant. The full bar features a combination of classic and craft cocktails and small-producer wines.

Reverb's dinner menu is divided into Snacks, Farm & Garden, Ranch & Sea, Pasta, and Mains. A charcuterie trio (\$9) and brassica fritters made from chickpea flour and served with chutneys and yogurt (\$7) both make for good starters. Farm & Garden items feature a smooth asparagus soup with lemon-coconut ice cream and grilled asparagus (\$12); a kale salad enlivened by carrots, pumpkin seeds, capers, and cheese (\$13); and caramelized heirloom carrots (\$12). The Ranch & Sea category includes tasty small plates such as grilled octopus with gigante beans, salsa verde, and romesco (\$17); and charred Marin Sun Farms strip steak served with wilted baby roots and a red-wine reduction (\$22).

There are three pastas on the menu, including pappardelle with braised broccolini, breadcrumbs, and fennel (\$14/\$22); and orecchiette with red-wine-braised oxtail and horseradish cream (\$17/\$25).

Main courses range from wild black cod with artichokes, lemon, and butter (\$28); mushroom risotto with a poached egg and crispy kale (\$19); and a burger with local cheddar, aioli, house ketchup, onion rings, and potato sticks (\$16). The risotto is a creamy delight heightened

by the savory kale, but the cod had to be sent back after it arrived too rare to cut. The kind and attentive waiter brought us a new plate, but I found the dish on the bland side. Desserts include brioche doughnuts (\$9) and a kumquat chocolate tart (\$10), also served for brunch.

Brunch-goers can enjoy French toast (\$12); carrot cake pancakes (\$12); an English pea frittata (\$15); slow-poached eggs with pork belly (\$18); and fried chicken with amaranth waffle, charred kale, and butterscotch-apple maple syrup (\$23; also on the dinner menu). Eggs any style, crispy potatoes, and bacon are also available, along with other sweet and savory choices. Reverb serves local Saint Frank coffee and a variety of espresso drinks and teas, and vegan and gluten-free diners are accommodated.

If you liked Verbena, you'll like Reverb, and if you never got a chance to try it, Reverb has plenty to offer all.

*Editor's note: Diners may find slight variations in the dishes described above (for example, the fish type, pasta shape, or vegetables) but can expect to find representative menu items.*

**Reverb Kitchen & Bar:**  
2323 Polk Street, 415-441-2323, [reverbsf.com](http://reverbsf.com); daily 5:30-10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

E-mail: [julie@marinatimes.com](mailto:julie@marinatimes.com)

## NOT TO MISS DISH :: Noodle nirvana

### House-pulled udon with uni cream sauce at Udon Mugizo

**I**F YOU'RE A FAN OF UDON (THICK, chewy-yet-soft Japanese wheat noodles) and you've never had them fresh, head over to Udon Mugizo, the latest venture from Eiichi Mochizuki (Shabuway, Waraku, Ramen Izakaya Kagura). Located in the Japantown west mall across from Kinokuniya Bookstore, you can watch them making the udon in the front window.

If you adore uni (sea urchin), you must try the house-pulled udon with uni cream sauce (\$14.50) — a rich, decadent dish easily shared by two people with smaller appetites, or as part of a multicourse meal. Knowing my love

of udon and uni, my friend Tony took me to Mugizo for my birthday lunch and, I must confess, I slurped down the entire bowl (though I did skip dinner that night). The pieces of uni on top were plump, bright orange, buttery, and sweet — all signs of freshness. I ordered it with a soft-cooked egg, which added even more depth to the dish. The simple udon managed to shine equally with the urchin: At once chewy and tender, each noodle perfectly coated with the creamy, slightly briny sauce.

**Udon Mugizo:** Japantown Mall, 1581 Webster Street (at Post), 415-931-3118

— S. Reynolds



# The third annual Ernestos: Best of North Beach Awards

BY ERNEST BEYL

**W**HO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT? Here we are in the third year of my Ernestos: Best of North Beach Awards. The Ernestos started out in 2013 as an idea for a column. Now it's an institution — imbedded in the fragile fabric of North Beach. I'm working on having the Ernestos included in next year's Oscar ceremonies. We could have my editor friend Susan Dyer Reynolds introduce them. Meanwhile: The envelope please!

**BEST PIZZA:** As you realize, North Beach is much ado about pizza. Last time I counted, more than 20 restaurants served pizza. They range from the modest to the upscale, including one that dishes out pretentious publicity along with its pies. These days my favorite North Beach pizza monger is **Rose Pistola** (532 Columbus Avenue).

**BEST SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS:** **U.S. Restaurant** (515 Columbus Avenue). I have written about this open-kitchen, Italian joint several times, and it has been awarded Ernestos before. It is consistently excellent with all kinds of Italian-American dishes.

**BEST BURGER:** **Buster's** (366 Columbus Avenue) is burger heaven. A half-pound! The way you like it! With all or nothing at all to add!

**BEST CHEESESTEAK:** **Buster's**. I can't resist Buster's cheesesteaks.

**BEST HOT DOG:** Are you ready for this? Buster's again. **Buster's** is to burgers, cheesesteaks, and hot dogs as the 49ers were under coach Bill Walsh — incomparable!

**BEST MINISTRONE:** **Caffe Puccini** (411 Columbus Avenue). Graziano Lucchesi is the proprietor and an inspired chef. He knows what he is doing and everything at Caffe Puccini is first rate. The minestrone is superb. But I could just as easily award Caffe Puccini Best Pasta.

**BEST RAVIOLI** **U.S. Restaurant**. Try it. You'll like it. In fact, try just about anything at U.S. Restaurant, and you will be pleased. Tripe with polenta is one of my favorites.

**BEST CRAB LOUIE:** **Gigi's Sotto Mare** (552 Green Street). This is a simple but effective Crab Louie — shredded iceberg lettuce and a bunch of Dungeness crab topped by Louie dressing. Excellent!

**BEST CIOPPINO:** **Gigi's Sotto Mare**. Last year I voted Gigi's as having the best cioppino. In fact, way back in my first Ernestos, I voted Gigi's as having the best cioppino. I see no reason to change this now.

**BEST STEAKS AND CHOPS:** **Original Joe's** (601 Union Street). Again a no-brainer.

**BEST SIDEWALK DINING** **Calzone's** (450 Columbus Avenue). This is the place. If Anita Ekberg were with us today, she would be sitting out front at Calzone's — and I would be sitting with her.

**BEST CALZONES:** **Calzone's** — the calzone palace of North Beach — is my choice. Calzone's is to calzone as Buster's is to cheesesteaks.

**BEST SALOON:** **Gino & Carlo** (548 Green Street). Bartenders are Ron Minolli, Marco Rossi, Frank Colla, Frankie Rossi, Orla Nyland, and Silvio Maniscalco. The joint opens at 6 a.m. if you're thirsty that early.

**BEST JOINT:** **Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store and Cafe** (566 Columbus Avenue) is my choice. A sandwich board out front at the corner of Columbus and Union reads: "Hot Soup, Cold Beer and Good Times." But there's more. There's the meatball sandwich.

And there's a staff of happy, somewhat kooky, servers that keeps you going back: Jessie, Bonnie, Jas, Vi, Jacob, Vida, Jimmy, and the imp Vanessa.

**BEST VALUE MEAL:** **Gino & Carlo** is a full-time saloon but not a full-time restaurant. On the first Thursday of each month, it serves an Italian, family-style lunch for about 100 lucky patrons. Salad, pasta, meat or fish, wine, and bread. Twenty-five bucks. Denise Sabella is the cook. It's a great deal. Recently I had osso buco. My buddy had grilled salmon. Reservations are a must.

**BEST BARTENDER:** **Frank Colla** at **Gino & Carlo** gets the award this year. Not only is courtly Frank a fine bartender but he's a fly fisherman as well. And that counts with me.

**BEST SERVER:** My choice this year is **Jeannie Ghiladucci** at **U.S. Restaurant**. Jeannie is old school. She used to serve me breakfast at U.S. Restaurant's original location at the intersection of Columbus and Stockton: scrambled eggs, hash browns, Italian sausage, and a glass of red.

**BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT:** **Firenze By Night** (1429 Stockton Street), is a first-time Ernesto winner. Chef-owner Sergio Giusti has caught my attention and now his restaurant is on my rotating list of North Beach dinner houses. And it's at the top of the Italian genre. Here are a few of Sergio's dishes for your consideration: fagioli Toscana (a salad of white beans, tuna, and red onions), gnocchi Firenze (potato dumplings with a light tomato-cream sauce), and bistecca alla Fiorentina (a monster porterhouse steak marinated in olive oil and various herbs).

**BEST FISH RESTAURANT:** **Gigi's Sotto Mare** takes the award. Gigi Fiorucci sold this landmark last year. It's still the best fish restaurant in the neighborhood. My comparison above about Buster's and the 49ers applies here. Gigi's Sotto Mare under the new ownership — Richie and Laura Azzolino — is like 49er football under coach George Seifert. All you have to do is not screw up the team.

**BEST RESTAURANT:** **Original Joe's**. Like last year, when I proclaimed a tie between Original Joe's and the North Beach Restaurant, both of which dominate the neighborhood with their class, this year I could have gone either way. But I'm giving my vote this year to Original Joe's. Not only is the food terrific but also O.J.'s brings an extra frisson of excitement to the dining experience.

The other day I ran into a neighbor who asked me what the best restaurants in North Beach were. When I said the North Beach Restaurant and Original Joe's, he snorted and said they were "too expensive." I responded by saying that both were bargains. I explained it this way: A restaurant, or any other product or service, is only too expensive if it is no good — if it doesn't please you or satisfy you. If a restaurant delivers an incredible experience, you don't walk out the door yelling about the cost. I feel about North Beach Restaurant and Original Joe's that way. Yes, they cost more, but they are worth it.

#### COLUMBUS CUTLERY NOT CLOSING

In a recent column, I wrote that Columbus Cutlery (358 Columbus Avenue) in North Beach was closing. It is not. A family illness forced a change in its business hours. But it remains open. Sometimes you just get things wrong. This was one of those times. Sorry!

— E.B.

E-mail: [ernest@marinatimes.com](mailto:ernest@marinatimes.com)



## SPRING AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

Warm & Cozy Inside – Amazing Views Outside

### Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Wine Lovers' Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines\*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$28 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

Valet parking every night after 5:00 pm.

\*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

### The Lands End Lookout

Be sure to visit the Lookout Cafe at the Lands End visitor center. Operated by the Cliff House team, the cafe serves a delicious selection of locally sourced grab-and-go items including the famous *It's It* originally for sale at *Playland at the Beach*.

The center, under the direction of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, offers educational and interactive exhibits, a museum store, stunning views, and the amazing Lands End Trails.

Open daily from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Located at Point Lobos and Merrie Way



1090 Point Lobos  
415-386-3330  
[www.CliffHouse.com](http://www.CliffHouse.com)



## COMET CLUB

**DJ DANCING**  
EVERY THURSDAY,  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
UNTIL 2 A.M.

**COMEDY NIGHT**  
EVERY THURSDAY  
8 P.M. TO 10 P.M.  
FOLLOWED BY  
**DJ DANCING**  
TILL 2:00 A.M.



3111 Fillmore St. San Francisco 94123

415-567-5589

## FREDERICKSEN HARDWARE & PAINT

A GENERAL STORE  
Since 1896

San Francisco, CA 94123  
415.292.2950



THE COASTAL COMMUTER ∴ Bugging out

# When roaches are your dining companions

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

**T**HE DESTRUCTION OF Candlestick Park to make way for new development — shopping, corporate, residential, whatever — brought back many great memories of Giants and Niners games I had the pleasure to attend. Seeing the ruins was a bittersweet experience. Yes, there was little need for the crumbling dump since the Orange & Black decamped for the best ballyard in Major League Baseball: Pac Bell/SBC/AT&T Park, home of multiple World Series championships. And, for better or worse, the turmoil-ridden Niners are now ensconced in their sterile, sun-baked, high-tech Santa Clara stadium, along with the five Super Bowl trophies that were won when the Red & Gold played at the Stick. So let the wrecking balls swing, the bulldozers plow forward, and the rising dust conjure dreams of past glories.

Those glories aside, the Stick's demise also reminded me of a rather unique Bayview eatery I'd always motor past on my way to see my hometown teams play. It was a run-down building on Third Street, a cou-

ple blocks north of the main access road to Candlestick. It actually looked like a shack, a hobo hideaway, or an abandoned bait and tackle shop even though it was quite a few blocks from the bay itself. Emblazoned across the front

## A crudely lettered sign read, 'You Need No Teeth to Eat Our Beef ... Bar-B-Q.'

of this less-than-inviting one-story eyesore was a crudely lettered sign that read, "You Need No Teeth to Eat Our Beef ... Bar-B-Q."

Appetizing? Not so much. But late one afternoon after a Giants victory, I was paused at the traffic light on the corner next to this sketchy-looking joint, and I could smell the smoky-sweet-and-spicy fragrance of somethin' cookin'. So I parked and went in. The interior was not particularly well lighted. There were a few patrons, including a family of four sitting at a shaky wooden table and absolutely wolfing down a mountain of ribs. No one appeared particularly toothless. I went to the counter and ordered a side of beef ribs with collard greens

and cornbread after considering a catfish dinner listed on the yellowing paper menu. Questions of hygiene aside, the food was spectacular with the most tender fall-off-the-bone meat and a barbecue sauce that provided a perfect balance of molasses sweetness and peppery bite.

I wondered if there was a story behind the establishment and its name, but I was too busy reveling in the flavors to ask. As soon as my plate was emptied of all edibles, I left to meet some friends in SoMa for a postgame beer. I doubt that "You Need No Teeth, etc." sign is still there. So be it. The memory of that magnificent meal sticks with me. And I didn't spot a rat or a roach in a restaurant that, from the outside, seemed like a perfect place to breed them.

I should always be so lucky.

I've long been a patron of Tu Lan, the recently renovated Vietnamese restaurant on rough and raw Sixth Street at Market. In addition to being a destination lunch spot for my fellow journalists and me when I worked at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Tu Lan was extolled by no less a food authority than

legendary chef Julia Child, whose visage and endorsement are printed on the menus there. I'm not sure if Child ever encountered the cadre of cockroaches that would boldly skitter about the place during business hours in the years before the renovation, but they never stopped me (or so many others) from eating there. I thought the risks were worth it, especially when it came to Tu Lan's Vietnamese cold chicken salad. The health inspectors clearly thought differently; thus, a closure was followed by a remodel and reopening. Though I've heard no word about any uninvited dinner guests at the new Tu Lan, I'll be dining there again at some point in the near future, and will see for myself.

Hugh had initially recommended Damiano, and I had enjoyed quite a few slices there over the years. I also noticed that the lighting in the pizzeria got dimmer and dimmer with each visit. It's amazing that I could even see the creature crawling on my last slice, considering how dark the room was. And in that darkness, who knows how many other creepers lurked just beyond my reach — and how many I might have eaten over the years? As it happens, the owners shuttered Damiano in 2013. If it wasn't closed for sanitary reasons, it should've been.

It's the threat you don't know that can be the most treacherous. At least Tu Lan was always brightly lighted. You could see the roaches before they reached your plate, and block them from sharing your grub. There was something comforting about that.

## In that darkness, who knows how many other creepers lurked just beyond my reach?

I wasn't so sanguine about returning to Damiano Mr. Pizza on Fairfax in Los Angeles after I discovered a roach masquerading as an anchovy on a slice of what was, at the time, the closest thing you could get to New York-style pizza in L.A. My pal

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

## Who answers the call?



## San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center

You can help The General save lives.  
Find out how at [HeartOfOurCity.org](http://HeartOfOurCity.org)



Capital Campaign for  
San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center





Left to right: It's a sensory experience at Shed; Nonna's Vaso di Marina. PHOTOS: BO LINKS

# It's happening in Healdsburg

BY PATTY BURNES

**H**EALDSBURG IS HOT. THIS VERDANT area has award-winning wines, acclaimed restaurants, a zeal for local products, and friendly residents. And it's an easy drive from San Francisco when you gauge the traffic correctly.

Pomo Indians inhabited Healdsburg thousands of years ago. After the Gold Rush of 1849, the town prospered and grew exponentially. And in 1872, the railroad reached Healdsburg. Farming has always been important, but what started as mostly fruit orchards has now turned to vineyards.

The town is centered around a lush 19th-century plaza with streets lined with boutiques, restaurants, tasting rooms, bookstores, and more. The valleys surrounding Healdsburg are known for the quality of the grapes. It's fun driving in the countryside from winery to winery, but this trip my husband and I stayed in the vibrant downtown area to savor what the region has to offer.

## STAY

We chose the eco-chic **h2hotel**. Not missing a beat in the quest for LEED gold certification, the property includes reclaimed wood and other materials throughout, an undulating roof with succulents, solar panels, and smart sensors for in-room electricity control.

Our spacious patio room featured bamboo flooring, organic sheets, towels, and robes, and refillable carafes of sparkling and still purified water (there are water stations on every floor). The artwork reflects the hotel's hip, green philosophy — the *Spoonfall* waterfall uses rainwater collected from the roof, which falls over espresso spoons from their **Spoonbar** restaurant (see "Dine").

In the morning, the hotel offers newspapers, coffee, fruit, and muffins at their complimentary breakfast bar. (219 Healdsburg Avenue, 707-431-2202, [h2hotel.com](http://h2hotel.com))

## PLAY & SHOP

**Wine Walk Healdsburg** ([winewalkhealdsburg.com](http://winewalkhealdsburg.com)) is a great inspiration to put together your own tour. From more than 30 wineries, here's what we chose:

Before hitting the streets radiating from the plaza, we stopped just south of town at **Old Roma Station** across from the Russian River. (It's only a half-mile walk from downtown.) Dating from the early 1900s, the buildings first housed

the French-American Wine Company, then Roma Wine Company until prohibition. Now find boutique wineries with plenty of outdoor space to linger over a glass. (*Hudson & Front Streets, oldromastation.com*)

**Hudson Street Wineries** showcases five small-lot wineries, and they all have standout wines. Among some favorite Zinfandels were the Kelley & Young 2011 Alexander Valley and the Shippey Vineyards 2008 "Rocking Z" Family Reserve. (428 Hudson Street, 707-433-2364; [hudsonstreetwineries.com](http://hudsonstreetwineries.com))

Just around the corner, **Front Street Wineries** encompasses several tasting rooms, including **Skewis**, producing single-vineyard Pinot Noirs from various Northern California appellations. Don't miss the Wiley Vineyard Mendocino County and the Salzgeber-Chan Vineyard Russian River Valley — both 2012s. (57 Front Street, 707-431-2160; [skewis.com](http://skewis.com))

Next door, **J. Keverson Winery** and **Hart's Desire Wines** share space. Be sure to try J. Keverson's Starkey's Court 2012 Zinfandel Widlow Ranch Dry Creek Valley and Hart's Desire 2008 Pinot Noir Rockin' H Ranch Sonoma Coast. (53 Front Street, 707-484-3083, [starkeyscourt.com](http://starkeyscourt.com); 707-433-3097, [hartsdesirewines.com](http://hartsdesirewines.com))

Once downtown, we parked the car and walked to other tasting rooms. First up was **Portalupi Wine**, where the owners are equally passionate about their Italian heritage as their wines. Inspired by their "nonna," the Vaso di Marina (red and white blends) is bottled in milk jugs, reminiscent of Nonna's early days in Italy, when she put her wine in milk bottles. Also, be sure to try the 2013 Barbera Shake Ridge Amador County. (107 North Street, 707-395-0960, [portalupiwine.com](http://portalupiwine.com))

**Hawley** is a fun space to taste wine and enjoy some of the owner's artwork. The small-lot wines celebrate the grapes that the owners grow in Dry Creek Valley as well as those sourced from elsewhere in Sonoma County. Try the 2010 Estate Meritage Dry Creek Valley among other varietals. (36 North Street, 707-473-9500, [hawleywinery.com](http://hawleywinery.com))

Along the Wine Walk, save time to enjoy fashion and home decor shops, bakeries, cafes, and bookstores. Discover an interesting selection of artisan goods made locally and globally. Later, grab one of the complimentary bikes from the hotel and go for a ride. And depending on what day you're visiting, the **Healdsburg Farmers' Market** will be in full swing, with one location kicking off its sea-

son this month while another location opens in June. (*North & Vine Streets, & North Street btw. Grove & Foss Streets, 707-694-9763, [healdsburgfarmersmarket.org](http://healdsburgfarmersmarket.org)*)

## DINE

**Shed** is bursting with everything food related. It's a high-energy sensory experience. You can feed your needs with books and tools as well as find delicious food — most everything is sourced locally. The interior is open, full of light with an industrial-chic design (roll-up steel garage doors extend the indoor space outside). The owners are farmers who are passionate about every aspect of Shed — it's part marketplace, gathering place, and cafe.

We sat at the counter and began with drinks from the fermentation bar, all made in-house: Kombucha on tap, several shrubs including one with huckleberry-bay and apple cider vinegar, and a sampling of freshly made juices like one with Sibley squash, Asian pear, ginger, and lemon (a beautiful orange color). The daily mezza plate with feta, olives, and house-made crackers comes with beet tzatziki, quinoa salad, and squash hummus, a great play on the Greek dish. The cocotte of smoked trout mousse is yummy on a seeded toast. Save room for the mozzarella, tomato sauce, ricotta, and basil pizza with a savory crust. Enjoy with wines and beers from neighboring regions.

Before you leave, peruse the selection of goods at Shed. You're bound to take home specialty foods and other artisanal products, also available online. (707-431-7433, [healdsburgshed.com](http://healdsburgshed.com))

A popular local destination, **Spoonbar** is located off the **h2hotel** lobby. It's named for the *Spoonfall* sculpture described earlier. Open, airy, and bustling on a recent Sunday evening, the marketplace drives the cuisine. Whatever is fresh from nearby farms you'll find on the menu as well as in the handcrafted cocktails like the New East Side with gin, lime, mint, yuzu, and cucumber-elderflower foam.

The sashimi (served with trout roe, Kampachi, barbecued eel, fluke, and more) comes with yuzu and sesame gelée, picked herbs, fermented chili, scallion vinaigrette, and grilled citrus. Or indulge in the grilled quail and crispy pork belly with pasta, trumpet mushrooms, and cabbage. Save room for the decadent dark chocolate torte with banana fluff ice cream, toasted coconut consommé, and banana crisps. Luckily we could take the elevator "home." (219 Healdsburg Avenue, 707-433-7222, [spoonbar.com](http://spoonbar.com))

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Taste Alexander Valley:** May 15–17, [alexandervalley.org](http://alexandervalley.org)

**Antique Fair:** May 24, 707-431-3325

**Healdsburg Jazz Festival:** May 29–June 7, [healdsburgjazzfestival.org](http://healdsburgjazzfestival.org)

## AREA INFORMATION

**Healdsburg Visitors Bureau:** 707-433-6935, [healdsburg.com](http://healdsburg.com)

**Sonoma County Tourism Board:** [sonomacounty.com](http://sonomacounty.com)

*Patty Burnes can be found on Twitter at @pattygb or reached by e-mail at [patty@marinatimes.com](mailto:patty@marinatimes.com).*



The eco-chic h2hotel. PHOTO: BO LINKS





Top to bottom: Humphry Bogart in *The Maltese Falcon*; Cate Blanchett in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine*, filmed in San Francisco. PHOTOS: © WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT; © SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

FILM HISTORY

CONTINUED from page 1

nized a company to rent films to exhibitors. This was a revolutionary idea at a time when exhibitors purchased movies directly from the manufacturers. In addition to their rental business, they formed the Miles Brothers Motion Picture Company. Soon they were making simple, single-reel travel films. Then, in 1905, planning to add fictional story lines to their films, the brothers built a complete film studio in San Francisco on Mission Street. Bad timing: April 18, 1906 changed everything. The catastrophic San Francisco earthquake and fire stopped motion picture making in Northern California for several years. Meanwhile, Southern California became dominant in filmmaking.

THE FIRST TALKIE

The year 1927 changed movies forever. It was the year of *The*

*Jazz Singer*, the first motion picture talkie. It featured Al Jolson, son of a cantor, who ran away from home to join a circus, became a black-faced minstrel, and then a New York stage legend. In *The Jazz Singer*, much of it shot in San Francisco around Union Square, Jolson ad-libbed, "You ain't heard nothin' yet." It was true: From *The Jazz Singer*

A major lure of Los Angeles to filmmakers was the area's proximity to Mexico.

onward, film audiences heard more and more.

SOME SAN FRANCISCO FILMS

How many movies have been shot, at least in part, in or around San Francisco over the years? Who's counting? But here's an even dozen good ones on a personal short list: *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), *All About Eve* (1950), *Pal Joey*

(1957), *Vertigo* (1958), *The Graduate* (1967), *Bullitt* (1968), *Dirty Harry* (1971), *What's Up Doc* (1972), *American Graffiti* (1973), *Birdman of Alcatraz* (1979), *Basic Instinct* (1992), and *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993).

HOLLYWOOD BY THE BAY?

So why isn't San Francisco Hollywood by the Bay? What went wrong? Or, depending upon your viewpoint, what went right? Pioneers like D.W. Griffith, Mack Sennett, and Cecil B. De Mille favored Southern California for their filmmaking. Yes, the weather was good for outdoor shooting, and local booster groups did much to encourage filmmakers. A major consideration was the area's proximity to Mexico. Lawyers in the East were diligent about tracking down infringements against the Thomas Edison motion picture camera and projector patents, so the movie people could easily skip over the border for a while. Then the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 put the skids to Northern California's ambitious moviemaking — at least for several years.

THE REAL HOLLYWOOD

So how did Hollywood get to be Hollywood? In 1887, Horace and Daeida Wilcot, who had migrated to Southern California from Kansas a few years earlier, bought 160 acres of fig and apricot orchards and planned to build a house and subdivide the rest. Mrs. Wilcot planted English holly bushes by her house and named the place Hollywood. In a few years, the movie people began arriving. D.W. Griffith was the first. An actor turned motion picture director, Griffith had 288 films to his credit by 1908 with the Biograph Company of New York. He rented facilities in the small, sleepy village of Hollywood in 1910. Mack Sennett, a Griffith disciple, soon was producing his famous Keystone Comedies nearby with Charlie Chaplin. Cecil B. De Mille, a stage actor of modest

ability who had never directed a film, joined the pioneers. It was the start of what would become mythic Hollywood, the world's film capital. By 1915, film companies in or near Hollywood included Fox, Goldwyn, Metro, Paramount, United Artists, Universal, and Warner Brothers.

are acting, San Francisco offers — well, whatever San Francisco offers. The San Francisco Film Commission, overseen by City Hall, has a program to encourage filmmakers to film here. It has had considerable success and benefits the city in fees and the hiring of local talent and production personnel. Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine* starring Cate Blanchett, who won an Academy Award for her role in the picture, worked here for more than a month.

Perhaps filmmakers living here and working in SoCal have the best of both worlds.

San Francisco had been outmaneuvered, out-smarted, and out-gunned with some help from an earthquake and fire.

HOLLYWOOD IN SAN FRANCISCO

However, over the years, there was never a time when San Francisco was not a mecca for ambitious filmmakers wanting to produce films here, use the area as a film location, or for visiting movie stars up from Hollywood just wanting to dine out or hang out.

The area abounds with movie societies, organizations, and events: the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, the Bay Area Film Alliance in San Francisco, the San Francisco International Film Festival, the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, and others.

Today, while Hollywood cosets actors who want to become politicians and politicians who

Many moviemakers and movie stars live and work in the area. Perhaps those producers, directors, actors, and technicians living here and only occasionally journeying to Southern California have the best of both worlds. They can immerse themselves in the Hollywood magic broth when and if they choose. If they don't, they don't. Among these are George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola, the late Saul Zaentz, Phil Kaufman, John Korty, Sean Penn, Robert Redford (we are told he has a residence in Marin County), and the late Robin Williams.

Although shooting films in San Francisco has dropped off in recent years, these days, a week doesn't go by — so it seems — without a movie star sighting in San Francisco, a carefully choreographed car chase, a virtual bridge collapse, or a rogue detective trying to make someone's day.

E-mail: [ernest@marinatimes.com](mailto:ernest@marinatimes.com)



San Francisco's own Robin Williams starred in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, which also filmed in the city he called home. PHOTOS: © 20TH CENTURY FOX

See Jane sing in S.F. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, May 9

FANS OF ACTRESS JANE LYNCH WILL get something both familiar and perhaps unexpected when they settle in for her single concert debut appearance in San Francisco this month. Lynch and her five-piece band will mix her trademark comedy with music from Broadway to cabaret classics.

Lynch has been working constantly since her big-screen debut in 1988's horror cheapie *Taxi Killer*. That story of killer female taxi drivers wasn't the dream Hollywood experience; in 2009, she told A.V. Club, "I recall that they didn't finish paying me. They left town without paying anybody, and I had to go after them."

Things certainly improved after that, and she has had roles big and small in such hits as *Fatal Instinct*, *A Mighty Wind*, *Julie & Julia*, and others. Since 1993, she has been a near-constant presence on television, appearing in everything from *Married ... With Children* to *NewsRadio* to *The X-Files*. Today she is best known for the six years in which she portrayed the iconic Sue Sylvester on Fox's *Glee*, bringing stinging wit to her role as the coach of the cheerleading squad. Her work there was rewarded with an Emmy, Golden Globe, People's Choice, and a zillion fans.

But Lynch has been actively musi-

cal since at least high school, when she was in choir and performed in the school's stage musicals. Most recently, she appeared in her Broadway debut as the villainous Miss Hannigan in a limited-run revival of the classic *Annie*, and her San Francisco cabaret appearance is one of only 10 performances scheduled across the country.

—J. Zipperer

**Jane Lynch, See Jane Sing:** *Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon Street; May 9, 7:30 p.m.; tickets \$59.50–\$109.50 subject to on-demand pricing; shnsf.com, 888-746-1799*



Jane Lynch. PHOTO: JAKE BAILEY



# Close to the madding crowd

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

**T**HERE'S SOMETHING EXTREMELY attractive about the tried and true when contemporary movie companies are deciding to green-light projects. As far as the suits are concerned, the whole proof-of-concept thing makes best-selling novels, vintage TV series, hot graphic novels, long-running superhero franchises, and beloved old movies the most palatable properties for investment and production. And timeless material in the public domain — fables, folk tales, the literature classics, religious tracts, and so forth — doesn't require compensating the original creator. To be fair, this gambit can bear tasty fruit.

So it's no surprise that we have a new movie version of Thomas Hardy's beloved, somewhat melodramatic 1874 novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd* — the tale of Bathsheba Everdene, an independent woman of the Victorian era, her various suitors, and their changing fortunes. Insightful, elegantly written and yes, a wee bit soap operatic, it's a natural for the big-screen treatment. And even more than a century after it was written, it has some pertinent things to say about love, duty, gender roles, and determination in the face of challenges.

For the record, this is the latest cinematic take on the material to attempt a faithful adaptation of the book. The first was a British silent film

made in 1915, although the 1967 interpretation directed by John Schlesinger is far more renowned, starring a spiffy and accomplished cast led by Julie Christie as Bathsheba and Alan Bates, Terence Stamp, and Peter Finch as the men in her life. Schlesinger's rendering wasn't a big hit in the United States, but it was well received in its country of origin, Great Britain, and scored various awards and nominations when it was first released. In retrospect, it may have been a little too dry and stately for mass appeal.

In any event, a new *Far from the Madding Crowd*, with its strong-minded and self-sufficient heroine, is a good

fit for the 21st century marketplace, despite being a period piece set in the era of the novel. Our heroine's complications fuel the story's engine. After inheriting a farm in England's sprawling West Country, willful bachelorette Bathsheba is determined to make it as the head of her household in a male-dominated society. It ain't easy, as the mores of the time and the power of nature itself toss roadblocks her way.

## A FORMIDABLE CAST

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg (*The Celebration*) is blessed with a savvy, bright-eyed, endearing, yet sturdy Bathsheba in the form of Carey Mulligan — an actress who has fully matured past her adorable ingénue phase and brings pluck, passion, and an honorable demeanor to the central role. She's near irresistible on camera. Furthermore, Mulligan is in fine company when it comes to her co-stars.

Belgian actor Matthias Schoenaerts is rough hewn and steadfast as simple, noble sheep farmer Gabriel Oaks who loves Bathsheba and cannot match her assets and marry her after he encounters a run of bad luck, but dedicates himself to her. Michael Sheen delivers his typically spot-on performance as William Boldwood, Bathsheba's wealthy, decent, socially awkward neighbor —

an older man whose marriage proposal comes off as less than enticing. And Tom Sturridge is the swaggering, opportunistic, and handsome soldier with

a checkered past, Sergeant Troy, who manages to dazzle and entice Bathsheba, regardless of her wary nature.

It's worth a ticket just to see Mulligan going toe-to-toe with Sheen and matching the inevitable emotional complexity of his acting. They're two standouts among the ongoing flow of exceptional actors from the U.K., and they do not disappoint here. But Mulligan also brings it opposite Schoenaerts and, especially, Sturridge's ne'r-do-well as his conniving, callow side surfaces.

How will this love rectangle untangle? Who, if anyone, shall win her hand? Will Bathsheba make it as a landowner and farmer? All of these questions are



Carey Mulligan as Bathsheba Everdeen and Tom Sturridge as Sergeant Troy in *Far from the Madding Crowd*. PHOTO: BY ALEX BAILEY. © 2014 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

answered in good time with a diligent, loving, and respectful approach that honors the source and, as far as the cinematography goes, conjures up an appropriately rural, murky, wind-swept setting.

*Far from the Madding Crowd* opens May 1 at the Embarcadero Center Cinema.

## THE VIDEO OPTION

My favorite cinematic creation inspired by Hardy's darkly romantic fiction is actually one step and decades removed from the original tome. *Tamara Drewe*, directed by Stephen Frears of *Dangerous Liaisons* and *My Beautiful Laundrette* fame, is a 2010 charmer based on a graphic novel by Posy Simmonds, which in turn was based on *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

The differences? *Tamara Drewe* is set in modern times, and, even if its main characters, plot, and socially astute sensibilities are reflections of those conjured by Hardy, it's as much a satirical comedy as a tale of a feisty woman facing romantic trials. Bathsheba is reimagined as London newspaper columnist Tamara (Gemma Arterton) who inherits and returns to her late parents' rustic home

with plans to sell it. She reconnects with her girlhood crush, a farmhand (Luke Evans) who serves as this film's Gabriel; is hit on by its Boldwood, an older, married best-selling novelist (Roger Allam) who's running a nearby writers' retreat with his wife; and falls for a latter-day equivalent to the dashing Sergeant Troy, a rock drummer (Dominic Cooper) with voracious appetites and questionable morals. Its affection for its protagonist and her struggles and its blithe skewering of human foibles would probably please Hardy if he were around to see *Tamara Drewe*. For whatever reason, it received next to no play in U.S. theaters. No matter. Today, we can watch it via a variety of platforms: DVD, VOD, and others. You'd be wise to seek it out. It's a treat.

*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 GABnet.net and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster*

## The new 'Madding Crowd' is a good fit for the 21st century.

## THE BEST OF BOOKS

# What you're reading

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

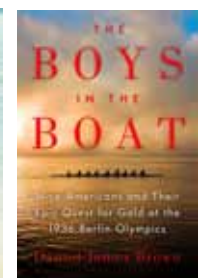
### BOOKS INC. BEST-SELLER LIST

- 1. Brown Girl Dreaming**, by Jacqueline Woodson
- 2. French Coast: A Novel**, by Anita Hughes
- 3. The Girl on the Train: A Novel**, by Paula Hawkins
- 4. The Tender Bar: A Memoir**, by J.R. Moehringer
- 5. The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing**, by Marie Kondo
- 6. Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics**, by Daniel Brown

- 7. City of Thieves: A Novel**, by David Benioff
- 8. The Sense of an Ending**, by Julian Barnes
- 9. All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel**, by Anthony Doerr
- 10. Girlboss**, by Sophia Amoruso

### NEW HARDCOVER RELEASES FOR APRIL

**A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life**, by Brian Grazer and Charles Fishman  
Hollywood mega-producer Brian Grazer has a knack for finding and nurturing ideas and talent, and in this wide-reaching book, he explains his keys to success both as a creative and as a manager of cre-



ative people. A quick, interesting, and insightful read.

### The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House

by Kate Brower  
A journalist who covered the first term of the Obama presidency, Kate Brower became fascinated with the men and women who managed the daily life of the Obama household. Here she profiles and talks with the staff who make the life of the first family a highly managed but fulfilling one.

### The Harder They Come: A Novel

by T.C. Boyle  
T.C. Boyle is one of the great American writers, and he delivers another meaty story of America and its malcontents. Set in Northern California, and exploring themes of authority and freedom, Boyle is at his best in this novel.

### At The Water's Edge

by Sara Gruen  
The author of *Water for Elephants* needs no introduction; in her latest work, she

dives into Scotland at the tail-end of World War II, a man's desperate need for validation from his distant father, and his wife's life-changing discovery of the wider world beyond high-society life. Filled with local detail and stirring prose, this seems like a great read, not only for lovers of *Water for Elephants*, but indeed, for anyone who loves a great story.

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



# MAY EVENTS

## what not to miss this month

### MAJOR EVENTS



#### Annual Uncorked! Ghirardelli Square Wine Festival

**Saturday, May 9, 1–6 p.m.**  
Ghirardelli Square

Enjoy live music, wine seminars, cooking demonstrations, and wines from over 50 top-tier wineries. Partial proceeds benefit Save the Bay. \$60–\$90, 415-775-5500, [ghirardellisq.com](http://ghirardellisq.com)

#### 104th Annual Bay to Breakers 12K & Expo

**Expo: Fri.–Sat., May 15–16, Fort Mason Cntr.**  
**Race: Sunday, May 17, 7 a.m.**  
**Starts: Main & Howard Streets**

The city's best-known athletic spectacle returns with world-class runners leading a pack of jogging centipedes and jiggling Elvises over the treacherous Hayes Street hill to the finish at the Ocean Beach parking lot. \$59–\$139 (discounts for children and groups), 415-864-3432, [baytobreakers.com](http://baytobreakers.com)

#### S.F. International Arts Festival

**Daily, May 21–June 7**  
Fort Mason Center

This festival brings together a global community of artists and audiences and features multiple performance artists in theater, dance, film, and music; visual arts exhibits; and installations. \$20–\$25 (most performances), 415-399-9554, [www.sfiarf.org](http://www.sfiarf.org)

#### Wanderlust 108: A Mindful Triathlon

**Saturday, May 26, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.**  
Marina Green

This event combines a 5K run, outdoor yoga, and a guided meditation with an emphasis on community, inner peace, and self-awareness rather than competition, power, and strength. Includes entertainment, craft food vendors, and lawn games. \$34, 855-926-3375, [sf.wanderlustfestival.com](http://sf.wanderlustfestival.com)

### LAST CHANCE



#### 58th Annual S.F. Int'l. Film Festival

**Daily through May 7**  
Various Bay Area venues

This longest-running film festival in the Americas features hundreds of films as well as events of international and local distinction and brings hundreds of filmmaker and industry guests. Contact for pricing and times, 415-561-5000, [sffs.org](http://sffs.org)

#### Seduction: Japan's Floating World & The Printer's Eye: Ukiyo-E from the Grabhorn Collection

**Tue.–Sun. through May 10, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**  
Asian Art Museum

These two concurrent exhibitions from Japan's Edo Period (1615–1868) explore "the floating world," the pleasure quarters in major cities and a pleasure-seeking way of life. \$15, 415-581-3500, [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)

#### 42nd St. Moon: Where's Charley

**Wed.–Sun. through May 18**  
Eureka Theatre (215 Jackson St.)

An Oxford student dresses up as his aging aunt to chaperone his Friends and their paramours, but the situation becomes complicated when he becomes the object of attention for more than one elderly suitor, and approaches chaos when the real aunt arrives on the scene. \$21–\$75, 415-255-8207, [42ndstmoon.org](http://42ndstmoon.org)

#### Botticelli to Braque: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland

**Tue.–Sun. through May 31, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.**  
de Young Museum

Spanning more than 400 years of artistic production, this exhibition includes works by many of the greatest painters from the Renaissance to the early 20th century. Some, including Botticelli's *Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child* (ca. 1490), have never before been seen in the United States. \$21–\$24, 415-750-3600, [famsf.org](http://famsf.org)

### JUST FOR MOM

#### Mother's Day 5K & Kids' Run

**Sunday, May 10**  
**5K: 9–9:45 a.m.**

**Kids' run: 9:45–10 a.m.**

**East Beach, Crissy Field**

Start Mother's Day with this flat-course run that starts at Crissy Field circles the Marina Green, and returns. \$3–\$5, 415-978-0837, [dserunners.com](http://dserunners.com)

#### Mother's Day Brunch Cooking Class

**Sunday, May 10, noon–3 p.m.**

**Parties that Cook (241 Francisco St.)**

Celebrate the person who has made countless meals for you by treating her to a Mother's Day Brunch that you prepare together. Students are greeted with a complimentary glass of bubbly. \$110, 415-441-3595, [partiesthatcook.com](http://partiesthatcook.com)

#### Annual Mother's Day Rose Show

**Sunday, May 10, 12:30–4 p.m.**

**County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park (1199 9th Ave.)**

The S.F. Rose Society presents a variety of miniatures, grandiflora, floribunda, and hybrid tea roses, with the top honor taking "Queen of Show." Show flowers will be available at 4:30 p.m. Free, 415-831-5500

#### Mother's Day Sail Around the Bay

**Sunday, May 10, 1–4 p.m.**

**SRV Derek M. Baylis, Pier 40**

Give Mom a special day she won't forget aboard this 65-foot yacht. Includes a flower for each mom, champagne, and light snacks. \$115, 415-580-0335, [wyliecharters.com](http://wyliecharters.com)

#### Pa'ina Paint Club: A Tulip Bouquet for Mom

**Sunday, May 10, 3:30–6:30**

**Pa'ina Lounge (1865 Post St.)**

Create your own masterpieces of this popular floral design with the guidance of a professional artist. All materials provided and participants keep their finished works. Happy hour menu available. \$35, 415-890-4512, [painaasf.com](http://painaasf.com)

### COMMUNITY CORNER

#### SF Made Week

**Daily, May 4–10**

**Citywide**

Celebrate S.F.'s vibrant manufacturing sector and discover locally made products, the people who make them, and where to buy them. Events include factory tours, demos, classes, and more, including the beer and wine trail. Visit the website to find manufacturers and sales. 415-408-5605, [sfmade.org](http://sfmade.org)

#### Cow Hollow Assoc. Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.**

**Starting Line Room, St. Francis Yacht Club**

Meeting includes board elections; guest speaker Supervisor Mark Farrell and Presidio Trust Executive Director Craig Middleton; complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks; and an overview of major issues and developments in Cow Hollow. \$35 (includes yearly membership), 415-749-1841, [cowhollowassociation.org](http://cowhollowassociation.org)

#### 21st Annual Bike to Work Day

**Thursday, May 8**

**Citywide**

May is National Bike Month, so leave your car at home and join thousands of others in this premier event. Visit the website to find the nearest Energizer Station on your way, and enjoy free coffee and snacks and receive a free canvas tote bag. [youcanbikethere.com](http://youcanbikethere.com)

#### Salute to Veterans Memorial Cruise

**Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

**S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien (Pier 45)**

Honoring the Merchant Marine and the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, come honor the brave men and women of WWII and beyond who built, sailed, and maintained Liberty Ships. Live entertainment, complimentary beverages and food. World War II and Korean War veterans sail free, others \$125 (special pricing for children and groups), 415-544-0100, [ssjeremiahobrien.org](http://ssjeremiahobrien.org)

#### 11th Annual S.F. Small Business Week

**Sat.–Fri., May 16–22**

**Various venues**

Business seminars and workshops, networking events, business and technology forums, and district sidewalk sales are planned to highlight the impact small business has in the city. The kickoff networking event, "Flavors of San Francisco," features sample food from local restaurants. [sfsmallbusinessweek.com](http://sfsmallbusinessweek.com)

#### Presidio Memorial Day Commemoration

**Monday, May 25**

**Parade: 10:30 a.m.**

**Program: 11 a.m.**

**Starts: Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)**

**Finish: S.F. National Cemetery (1 Lincoln Blvd.)**

Join veterans, families, and the community for a Memorial Day parade and program to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. 415-561-5300, [presidio.gov](http://presidio.gov)

### GALAS & BENEFITS



#### 49th Annual Edgewood Fair: Derby Days

**Fair: Tue.–Wed., May 5–6**

**Luncheon: Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

**Golden Gate Club, Presidio**

This shopping Kentucky Derby-themed event features vendors from around the country with goods for everyone in the family; proceeds benefit Edgewood and its programs that support Bay Area children and families in crisis. \$30 & up, [edgewood.org](http://edgewood.org)

#### 32nd Annual S.F. Int'l. Beer Festival

**Saturday, May 9, 7–10 p.m.**

**Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Cntr.**

Enjoy a bottomless mug of hundreds of craft brews, delicious eats and music while supporting Telegraph Hill Cooperative Nursery School. \$75–\$175, [sfbeerfest.com](http://sfbeerfest.com)

#### TNDC's 34th Birthday Dinner

**Tuesday, May 12, 6–9 p.m.**

**Westin St. Francis**

Enjoy dinner, dancing and more at the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation's annual fundraiser hosted by ABC 7's Cheryl Jennings and support its efforts to preserve and provide permanent, affordable housing and supportive services to low-income individuals and families. Tickets TBD, 415-358-3907, [tndc.org](http://tndc.org)

### ARTS & CULTURE

#### Gary Snyder

**Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.**

**Nourse Theatre (225 Hayes St.)**

Hear the Pulitzer prize-winning poet, Zen Buddhist, mountaineer, environment activist, and founding member of the Beat Generation who has written 16 collections of poetry and prose that are deeply rooted in elements of nature and preservation. \$27, 415-392-4400, [cityarts.net](http://cityarts.net)

#### Asian Heritage Street Celebration

**Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.**

**Civic Center**

A showcase of all Asian and Pacific Islander cultures, this celebration is the largest gathering of Asians in the country and features music, arts, crafts, food, a kids' area, and more. Cultural attire welcomed. Free, 415-581-3500, [asianfairsf.com](http://asianfairsf.com)

#### 37th Annual Carnaval San Francisco

**Festival: Sat.–Sun., May 23–24, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.**

**Harrison St. (btw. 16th & 24th Sts.)**

**Parade: Sunday, May 24– 9:30 a.m.**

**Start: 24th & Bryant Sts.**

Experience the best of Latin American and Caribbean cultures with food, music, dance, arts, crafts, and more, including the king and queen competition. This year's theme is Agua Sagrada — ¡Cada Gota Cuenta! / Sacred Water — Every Drop Counts! Free, 415-206-0577, [carnavalsf.com](http://carnavalsf.com)

### MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



#### Miriam Cabessa: Hands On: Works from 2007–14

**Wed.–Sun., noon–6 p.m. through June 4**

**The Dryansky Gallery (2120 Union St.)**

The artist's first exhibition in S.F. features works created using the artist's body, found objects, and fabric in combination with liquefied graphite on paper or oil and gold dust on canvas or linen. Free, 415-932-9302, [thedryansky.com](http://thedryansky.com)

#### Operation Babylift:

#### Perspectives and Legacies

**Tue.–Sun. through Dec. 31, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.**

**Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)**

Through photos, artifacts, a multimedia timeline, and StoryCorps dialogues, this exhibition explores the diverse experiences and lasting impacts of a dramatic airlift that removed more than 2,000 Vietnamese children for adoption by American families as Saigon fell in April 1975. 415-565-4400, [presidioofficersclub.com](http://presidioofficersclub.com)

### THEATER

#### We Players: Ondine

**Fri.–Sun, May 1–June 7, 4:30–p.m.**

**Lands End, Sutro Baths, & Sutro Hgts. Park**

Based on a French fairy tale from the 13th century of a knight who falls in love with Ondine, a mystical water sprite, who is dangerously attracted to the mortal world, this site-integrated production, where the audience moves along with the play to different settings, promises magic, hilarity, and heartbreak. \$40–\$80, 415-547-0189, [weplayers.org](http://weplayers.org)

#### Best of Playground 19

**Thu.–Sun., May 7–June 14**

**Thick House (1695 18th St.)**

This year's expanded festival features more than 44 performances and readings by over a dozen local writers; six fully produced 10-minute plays/musicals; two world premiers; and staged readings of plays in development. \$25–\$55 individual; \$60 all-fest pass, 415-992-6677, [playground-sf.org](http://playground-sf.org)



#### ACT: A Little Night Music

**Wed.–Sun. through May 20–June 14**

**405 Geary St.**

Don't miss Sondheim's seductive melodies in this sexy, witty, bittersweet tale of lost love, scandalous infidelity, and dying passions. \$20–\$160, 415-749-2228, [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

#### Custom Made: Grey Gardens, The Musical

**Fri.–Sun., May 22–24; Tuesday, May 26;**

**Thu.–Sat. through May 28**

**1620 Gough St.**

Based on the famous 1975 cult documentary and the true story of Edith Bouvier Beale (Jackie Kennedy's aunt) and her daughter, Little Edie, who lived in a crumbling estate surrounded by cats and raccoons, *Grey Gardens* is a musical exploration of the American dream gone wrong and what it means to become a social pariah. \$20–\$50, 415-798-2682, [custommade.org](http://custommade.org)



## DANCE



### S.F. Ballet: Romeo & Juliet

Daily (except May 4), May 1–10  
War Memorial Opera House

Don't miss Helgi Tomasson's bravura interpretation of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* with its passionate choreography, spine-tingling swordsmanship, and celebrated score. \$40–\$375, 415-865-2000, [sfballet.org](http://sfballet.org)

### Smuin Ballet: Unlaced

Fri.–Sun., May 8–10 & Thu.–Sun., May 14–17  
YBCA Theater

Enjoy Michael Smuin's *Romeo and Juliet* interpretation and *Hearts Suite*, set to an Edith Piaf vocal score; a world premier from Adam Hougland set to indie-rock music; and Helen Pickett's *Petal*, which sets pairs of dancers into sensual, lyrical motion. \$24–\$67, 415-556-5000, [smuinballet.org](http://smuinballet.org)

### Ruth Aswana S.F. School for the Arts Dance Concert

Thu.–Sun., May 14–17  
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Cntr.

The program, *Daring Power and Strength*, features the Bay Area's most talented and beautiful young artists and choreography by artists in residence. \$25, 415-695-5700, [sfsota.org](http://sfsota.org)



### Hope Mohr Dance's 8th Home Season

Fri.–Sat., May 28–31  
ODC Theater (3153 17th St.)

Mohr's dances mix postmodern aesthetics, technical rigor, and humanity; the spring season features two world premieres: *Stay*, Mohr's response to the paintings of Francis Bacon, and *The Material of Attention*, a collaboration between Mohr and improviser Christian Burns. \$20–\$45, 415-863-9834, [odcdance.org](http://odcdance.org)

## MUSIC: CLASSICAL

### City Opera

Saturday, May 16, 3–5 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, S.F. Main Library

Join artists Mete Tasin and Jennifer Muhawi for a performance of romantic classics to include opera pieces by Bizet, Puccini, and Verdi as well as pop-opera and classic pop songs such as *La Vie en Rose*, *Besame Mucho*, and other favorites. Free, 415-557-4400, [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org)

### S.F. Symphony: Chamber Music

Sunday, May 24, 2 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

For a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon, hear symphony members perform a program of Taneyev, Crumb, and Brahms. \$38, 415-864-6000, [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org)

## MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY

### Dwight Yoakam

Thursday, May 7, 8 p.m.

The Regency Ballroom (1300 Van Ness Ave.)

The two-time Grammy Award-winner, actor, and director, whom, according to *Vanity Fair*, "strides the divide between rock's lust and country's lament," performs. \$48–\$62.50, [theregencyballroom.com](http://theregencyballroom.com)

### Lavay Smith

Thu.–Sun., May 21–24, 7 p.m.

Joe Henderson Lab, SFJazz (201 Franklin St.)

S.F.'s own chanteuse performs a different program each night: Ladies of Song; Men of Blue; Nola; and Country-Soul. \$30, 866-920-5299, [sfjazz.org](http://sfjazz.org)

### Celtic Woman

Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

Marin Center (10 Ave. of the Flags, San Rafael)

The group will perform traditional Irish tunes, timeless pop anthems, and inspirational songs including the return of fan favorites. \$40–\$100, [marincenter.org](http://marincenter.org)

## NIGHTLIFE

### Tainted Love and Lef Deppard

Saturday, May 23, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

Return to the 1980s with Tainted Love's party music, and then catch Lef Deppard's Def Leppard tribute. No cameras allowed, so the only way to get your "photograph" is to hear it. Ages 21+, \$25, 415-474-0365, [bimbos365club.com](http://bimbos365club.com)

### The Dear Hunter and Northern Faces

Sunday, May 24, 8 p.m.

The Independent (628 Divisadero St.)

The Dear Hunter's new album, *Migrant*, expounds with sounds on the glorious return to home. Ages 21+, \$20, 415-771-1421, [theindependentsf.com](http://theindependentsf.com)

### Jake Nielsen's Triple Threat

Wednesday, May 27, 9:15 p.m.

Boom Boom Room (1601 Fillmore St.)

Thirty-year-old Jake Nielsen hasn't let being born with cerebral palsy slow him down. From riding in rodeos to forming bands, he has been a wonderkind, who now is spreading his blues work throughout California. Ages 21+, \$5, 415-673-8000, [boomboomblues.com](http://boomboomblues.com)

## SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

### Photography

Thursday, May 7, 6–10 p.m.

Exploratorium (Pier 15)

What is photography and how does it work? Learn all about it, from tintypes to photographing atomic bombs (it could happen). Free–\$15, 415-528-4444, [exploratorium.edu](http://exploratorium.edu)

### The Science of Sleep

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

California Academy of Sciences

Dr. Matthew Walker is the professor of neuroscience and psychology at UC Berkeley. Did reading that put you to sleep? Find out all about the awesome and mysterious phenomenon of sleep, as Walker talks with cognitive neuroscientist Indre Viskontas. \$24–\$27, 415-379-8000, [calacademy.org](http://calacademy.org)

### Dr. Sylvia Earle: One Big Ocean

Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)

Meet the person who holds the women's record for the deepest ocean dive and who has led countless undersea expeditions. \$12–\$65, 415-597-6700, [commonwealthclub.org](http://commonwealthclub.org)

## FILMS & LECTURES



### Jane Smiley

Thursday, May 7, 6 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Smiley talks about her latest book, *Early Warning*, which continues the story of the Langdon family, taking them through the social and sexual revolutions of the 1960s and 1970s — and even to S.F.'s notorious Peoples Temple. \$7–\$30, 415-597-6700, [commonwealthclub.org](http://commonwealthclub.org)



### Jewel City: Light, Color, & Design at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Thursday, May 7, 7–8 p.m.

Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave., Presidio)

Laura Ackley, author of *San Francisco's Jewel City* leads a visual tour of the innovations in lighting, color, and design created for the PPIE, which dazzled visitors and set the standard for decades to come. Free, registration required, 415-565-4400, [presidioofficersclub.com](http://presidioofficersclub.com)

### Silent Film Festival

Daily, May 28–June 1

Castro Theatre (429 Castro St.)

Shhh! It's the 20th annual collection of great silent films, including the German classic *The Last Laugh*, Siegmund Lubin's 1913 *When the Earth Trembled*, the British production *The Ghost Train*, and more. \$10–\$22, 415-777-4908, [silentfilm.org](http://silentfilm.org)

### Renewal

Saturday, May 30, 1–5 p.m.

New People (1746 Post St.)

In this TEDxPeacePlaza event, speakers explore the theme of renewal, providing bold approaches and reflections of what it means to uncover and support hidden vibrancy in moments that are seemingly dull and stagnant. \$35–\$100, [ted.com/tedx/events/12811](http://ted.com/tedx/events/12811)

## POTABLES & EDIBLES



### 16th Annual Oysterfest

Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Featuring oysters from a variety of Pacific farms, premium beer, wine and spirits, gourmet food, the festival also includes live entertainment, live art exhibit, cooking demos, the ever-popular Shuck and Suck challenge, and more. \$45, [oysterfest.com](http://oysterfest.com)

### Plated: Dosa's Anjan Mitra

Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.–noon

Urban Patio, Two Embarcadero Center

This Q. & A. and cooking demonstration with the chef of S.F.'s first South Indian Restaurant features tastes for the first 100 people and a copy of the chef's recipe. Donations support Project Open Hand, which provides meals to seniors and the critically ill. Free (tickets required), 415-772-0700, [embarcaderocenter.com](http://embarcaderocenter.com)



### Talking and Tasting with the California Artisan Cheese Guild

Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

JCCSF (3200 California St.)

Join cheese makers from Pt. Reyes Farmstead and Pugs Leap in conversation with Vivien Straus of the Sonoma–Marin Cheese Trail Map and Civil Eats' Naomi Starkman for a discussion on their craft, cultural heritage, the animals they raise, and the land on which they depend. Includes tastings and wine. \$25, 415-292-1200, [jccsf.org](http://jccsf.org)

## SPORTS & HEALTH

### Mindful Eating

Thursdays in May, 6–7:30 p.m.

CHRC (2100 Webster St.)

Eating while feeling stress or during emotional situations can often leave us feeling out of control and unhealthy. Learn how mindful eating can change the way you look at food and have an enjoyable eating experience. Space limited to six participants, intake interview and registration required. \$120/class, \$440/series; 415-929-3155, [chrscf.org](http://chrscf.org)



### Urban Biking: Street Skills 101

Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.–noon

Steve Silver Music Cntr., S.F. Main Library

Learn about the rules of the road, how to choose a bike, picking a route, and how to lock up in this class for anyone already riding to hone their skills, or for new riders interested, but intimidated, by urban traffic. Free, 415-557-4400, [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org)

## CHILD'S PLAY

### Mayfair 2015 at Claire Lilienthal

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Claire Lilienthal Elementary (3630 Divisadero St.)

Bring the whole family and enjoy games, food, entertainment, a dunk tank, a rummage sale, a cakewalk, and more, at the school's yearly "fun"-raising spring carnival. Free, 415-749-3516, [clairelilienthal.org](http://clairelilienthal.org)

### Rock Your Weekend with Justin Roberts

Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

JCCSF (3200 California St.)

Hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as "among the kid-rock royalty," join the Grammy-nominated performer for a show of clever, funny songs dealing with important kid issues, like the horrors of school picture day or making friends with the monster under the bed. Ages 3+. \$15, 415-292-1200, [jccsf.org](http://jccsf.org)

### Date Night at the de Young

Friday, May 29, 6:15 p.m.–7:45 p.m.

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park

Bring the entire family: Drop off the kids for an hour of supervised play while you and your partner roam the museum and enjoy a glass (or two!) of wine. Arrive early for dinner at the cafe, which opens along with the museum at 5 p.m. Ages 4–12. \$40 (includes admission for two adults to the *Botticelli to Braque: Masters from the National Gallery of Scotland* exhibition), 415-750-3600, [famsf.org](http://famsf.org)

### Community Day Celebration

Sunday, May 31

S.F. Botanical Garden (Golden Gate Park)

Enjoy a daylong celebration featuring family activities including games; giant puppets and a sing-a-long; a variety of docent-led walking tours; a special stage featuring world music and dance performances reflecting the global nature of the collection; a photo booth; and much more. Free, 415-661-1316, [sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## JUST FOR FUN

### Art Deco Marina Walking Tour

Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m.

Meet: Marina Library (1890 Chestnut St.)

Admire stylish and elegant buildings while learning to recognize the Art Deco style made popular in the 1920s and 1930s. View the shops on Chestnut Street in a new light. Free (donation suggested), 415-557-4266, [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org)

### Calendar listings

Send your event listings to [calendar@marinatimes.com](mailto:calendar@marinatimes.com) with succinct specifics about your event, location, dates, times, prices, and contact information (telephone and Internet).

Visit [marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com) for additional calendar listings.



IN STYLE :: Fun, dramatic designs

# Decorator Showcase goes off the wall



Left to right: A jetsetting theme dominated Eche Martinez's masculine space in "A Gentleman's Room"; Relaxing, boudoir-like spaces dominated the show; Fun wallpaper, like this whimsical lip-print version in a bathroom by Nest Design. PHOTOS: INGA LIM

BY MARYANN LORUSSO

**T**HE DECORATOR SHOWCASE IS always fun, but this year's event is a colorful, decade-surfing ode to the good life that shouldn't be missed. Some 38 designers put their personal touches on a 1917 Elizabethan-style mansion at 3630 Jackson Street that was designed by famed architect Julia Morgan for the "Dried Fruit King" Abraham Rosenberg and his wife, Alice. Now through May 25, visitors can explore the house inside and out and witness the transformation (Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sundays and Memorial Day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). From quirky wall coverings and dramatic lighting to vintage furnishings and nature-inspired accessories, a variety of eclectic looks both enliven and ground these sumptuous, highly livable rooms. Here are the 10 top trends at this year's Showcase.

**1. Nature-inspired decor.** Candace Barnes of Living Green Design said it best when she described the idea behind her grand entryway design. By bringing natural elements, including a Japanese maple tree, inside the house, "guests can make the transition from the outside to the inside less harsh ... and keep everyone in the room just a little longer." Like Barnes, several designers take this Mother Nature-loving approach: On the walls of "A Gentleman's Private Lounge" by Eche Martinez is an oversized mural composed of a 19th-century Acadia arboretum etching. A gorgeous glass chandelier depicting branches dripping with icicles is a focal point in Phillip Silver's living room.



A children's playroom by Allison Caccoma offers plenty of room for getting creative.

And floating white peonies in a shallow pool lend a touch of Zen to the "Ode to Innocence" garden patio by Alex Ray and Frank Eddy.

**2. Unexpected art.** As in past years, three-dimensional, colorful art makes a splash. This year's offerings are more whimsical than ever, with unexpected wall art and sculptures that encourage visitors to stop and admire. Three-dimensional art made from colorful spray-paint cans enlivens Cecilie Starin's "Street Soirée" space. A wall sculpture made from strips of paper maps punctuates the wall near a stairwell. An attention-grabbing sculpture constructed of gold metallic leaves hangs above a mantle in Phillip Silver's living room. And the compelling eye images in Jane Richardson Mack and John Romaidis's art installation, "Stare Well," make you do a double take on your way down to the lower level.

**3. Dramatic lighting.** Show-stopping lighting is all the rage at this year's Showcase. Barnes chose a contemporary Bohemian glass chandelier from Prague, courtesy of Lasvit, for ultimate effect in her grand entryway. For her "Jeune et Sophistique" bedroom, Amy Weaver shipped in from France a fanciful ceiling light in the form of a white dress by Parisian artist Geraldine Gonzalez, while the light in a neighboring closet takes the form of a blue Tiffany box wrapped in ribbon. And Martinez selected a jet engine light fixture to complement the jet-setting theme of his "Gentleman's Room."

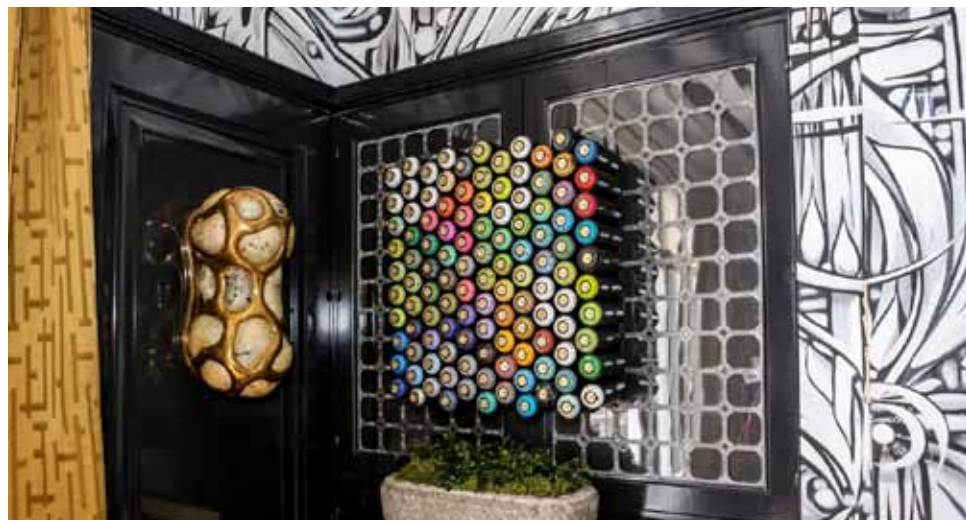
**4. Creative walls.** If these walls could talk, they would surely have something inspirational to say. Designers Jennifer Wundrow and Heather Brock of Nest Design Co. selected a daring lip-print wallpaper by Voutsas for a sexy look in their bathroom entitled "Lip Service." Evars + Anderson Interior Design chose a Christian Lacroix wallpaper with a colorful butterfly print and 3-D effect to make a small utilitarian laundry room more fun to fold clothes in. Barnes's staircase pays homage to Morgan, with quotes by the architect hand-drawn by calligraphy artist Shannon Kaye. And Starin added drama to her "Street Soirée" by wrapping the walls in a compelling mural by San Francisco street artist Ian Ross.

**5. DIY.** Yes, even exclusive designers are getting into the do-it-yourself act, with several at this year's Showcase creating or commissioning one-of-a-kind accents for their rooms. Wundrow and Brock constructed a striking metal backdrop for a cast-iron tub by nailing light super-thin sheets of brass to the walls. Tineke Triggs of Artistic Designs For Living transformed a James Malone fab-

ric depicting Vogue magazine covers into wallpaper in her "En Vogue Salon." And Italian-born designer Glenda Flaim created her own red silk drapes (called *Fatto a Mano* for "Made by Hand") in a Julia Morgan-inspired dressing room.

**6. Groovy colors.** While this year's palette runs the gamut from sophisticated blue-grays to nature-inspired neutrals, mod colors stand

a lived-in atmosphere where the television is actually turned on in the living room and music plays in various areas of the home. The focal point of the "Pent Room" by Jeff Schlarb of Green Couch Interior Design is a pool table, but guitars and other playful elements are also on display. Allison Caccoma's kids' playroom includes a karaoke machine, art supplies,



3-D art made from colorful spray-paint cans and a room-wrapping mural by San Francisco street artist Ian Ross enliven Cecilie Starin's "Street Soiree."

out. Perhaps this is an appropriate trend, as the hit series *Mad Men* wraps up, and 1960s fashions continue to come off the runways, but bright, almost-psychedelic colors like pink, fuchsia, tangerine, turquoise, and teal seemed to have jumped off an Emilio Pucci dress directly into many of these rooms. Acid-green silk velvet benches jazz up Starin's dining room. Shades of crimson, tangerine and blush brighten Nest Design's lip-themed bathroom. Hot pink and teal enliven Kathleen Navarra's family room. And lots of pink and orange punch up Silver's Yves Saint Laurent-inspired living room.

**7. His and hers.** The girls and boys get their own spaces inside the house this year. For the ladies, several designers went back to the boudoir for inspiration. Glamorous soaking tubs, feminine colors (think pink), and sultry ornamentations find their way into powder rooms, closets and bedrooms, from Triggs's high-fashion-inspired salon featuring gem-like pendants and a dramatic glass chandelier, to the soaking tub and girly lipstick theme of Nest Design's powder room, to Hilliard Design's elegant dressing room glammed up with fashion prints. For the guys, "Gentleman's Bathroom" by Nancy Evars and Dimitra Anderson feature masculine elements like a black-and-white mosaic floor and a black-stained wood vanity topped with polished black marble.

**8. Hobbies on display.** Many of the rooms flaunt recreation and playtime, and

and music-themed pillows. A skateboard collection is displayed inside the closet of a boy's bedroom by William Racké and Susan Chastain. And we mustn't forget Jane Richardson Mack's wine cellar, an elegant space likely designed with Bay Area wine collectors in mind.

**9. Heavy metal.** Industrial-inspired accents revved up many of the rooms. From Barnes's custom bronze Pyramid table in the "Grand Entry" to the striking metal chandelier hanging over the dining room in "Street Soirée," solid and mixed metals are everywhere. Metal niche shelving lends an edge to Julie Rootes's powder room. An oak and metal island punctuates Kathleen Navarra's kitchen, and a sleek wood-and-metal bar gives Alison Davin's tea salon a refreshingly modern look. Found cast iron was also used to create Gale Jesi's sculptures in the third floor landing/gallery.

**10. Vintage accents.** Designers can't get enough of surfing the decades — and centuries — for inspiration. This year, Eche invited into his gentleman's quarters a Frits Henningsen settee from the 1940s. Evars and Anderson added glamour to their men's bathroom with a vintage crystal-and-bead pendant light. Racké and Chastain chose a mid-century desk and chair for their boy's bedroom, while Triggs's salon includes a 1962 vintage chandelier. Look for these and other vintage furnishings and accessories peppered throughout the house.



# SEE OUR PROGRESS in the Marina

**Lauren Cunningham**  
Senior Meter Program Manager  
MARINA RESIDENT

“ I live in San Francisco and work every day to improve the experience our customers have with PG&E. I want them to know we’re working hard to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy. ”



“PG&E” refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. ©2015 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved. Paid for by PG&E shareholders.

At PG&E, our customers are our neighbors. The communities we serve as PG&E employees are where we live and work too.

That’s why we’re investing \$4.5 billion every year to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure across northern and central California. It’s why we’re helping people and businesses gain energy efficiencies to help reduce their bills. It’s why we’re focused on developing the next generation of clean, renewable energy systems.

**Together, we are working to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure—for your family and ours.**

## SEE THE FACTS IN SAN FRANCISCO



**Replaced** approximately 28 miles of gas distribution pipeline



**Invested** more than \$167.5 million into electrical improvements



**Connected** more than 4,500 rooftop solar installations



Together, Building  
a Better California

[pge.com/SeeOurProgress](http://pge.com/SeeOurProgress)



Looking for a Realtor who knows your Neighborhood?



Representing Buyers and Sellers in the Marina and Cow Hollow Neighborhoods.



**Silvana Messing**  
 CalBRE#: 01141928  
 415.305.8702  
 SilvanaMessing@SothebysHomes.com  
 117 Greenwich Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94111  
 SothebysHomes.com

**Sotheby's**  
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Sotheby's International Realty does not guarantee the accuracy of square footage or other information.

## URBAN HOME AND GARDEN : Water-tight Saving water in a drought; every drop counts

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

**D**UE TO BELOW-AVERAGE rainfall and a dismal snowpack multiple years in a row now, the Bay Area is officially once again in drought status. Our water shortage has caused Gov. Jerry Brown to impose a 25 per-

- reducing your use of potable water (water safe to drink) used for nonpotable usage applications like gardening or car washing;
- reducing the energy and chemicals needed to treat storm water in San Francisco's combined sewer system;
- minimizing flooding and combined sewer discharges by decreasing the volume of storm water entering the sewer system;
- reducing your

If you're fortunate to have a lawn in the city, you can still water as long as there is no runoff onto the sidewalk. Watering once or twice a week should be sufficient to keep your lawn and plants green and still reduce your water usage. Though "brown is the new green."

### Keep in mind a rain barrel for collecting next season's rain.

cent mandatory reduction in water usage throughout the state. Making your home water-efficient can help you reduce usage and wastewater runoff.

utility bill; and  
 • the water is free!

Though we are entering our dry season, and always with the hope of seeing one or two spring showers, keep in mind a rain barrel for collecting next season's rain. Consider where you could install

### GRAY WATER SYSTEMS

Gray water is the water that would normally go down the drain, literally, into our sewers from the bathroom sink, shower or tub, and washing machines. This water is safe enough for use in outdoor landscaping to upkeep lush foliage. Installing a gray water system from your washing machine does not require a permit from the city and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission offers a free design manual on their website, [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org). Starter kits can also be purchased for around \$100.



Fix a leaky faucet. PHOTO: EARTHDAYS.ORG

Systems installed using water from a shower, sink, or bath do require a permit. The Department of Building Inspection can answer any questions on permitting for a gray water system. (415-558-6088, [sfdbi.org](http://sfdbi.org))

one to collect runoff from downspouts, and be prepared when our first rains hit.

### SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

If you are planning to landscape, consider native and drought-tolerant plants that require less water. Succulents are all the rage these days, so by planting these, you can be water efficient and in fashion at the same time.

For watering, use a hose that has a shut-off nozzle to prevent wasting water when watering landscaped areas. These devices are inexpensive and allow for a variety of sprays. If you have an irrigation system, make sure that there is no excessive runoff onto hardscapes. This is a great time to consider a drip irrigation system if you don't have one.

### SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS

The most water-efficient method to clean a sidewalk, driveway, or hardscape is using a broom. Using water to clean these areas should be done only when required for health and safety purposes.

### WATER-SAVING DEVICES

Did you know that a leaking toilet can cost you thousands of dollars in water and sewer charges each year? Fixing leaking toilets and dripping sinks is often a simple fix that you can undertake yourself. Your local hardware store can probably talk you through the process.

Installing water-saving devices is an easy way to conserve and to lower your water bill. Toilets can be easily fitted with a dual flush handle. This allows two water levels to be used for flushing as needed. San Francisco residents can also qualify for these water-saving devices free from the

San Francisco PUC:

- high-efficiency showerheads;
- faucet aerators for kitchens and bathrooms;
- garden hose shut-off nozzles; and
- standard toilet leak repair parts.

You can even schedule a free water-saving inspection from the San Francisco

## By planting succulents, you can be water efficient and in fashion.

PUC. Information on the free devices and inspections can be found at [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org).

Take these steps to preserve this precious resource while lowering your energy bill at the same time.

*Julia Strzesieski is the marketing coordinator at Cole Hardware and can be reached at [julia@marinatimes.com](mailto:julia@marinatimes.com).*

### Re-COLE-mend...

**Cole Hardware Repair Referral Service**

Independent contractors and tradespeople for...

- home, business, and property repairs
- maintenance
- remodeling/room additions
- locksmiths, electricians, plumbers, handymen, painters & more
- Visit [www.colehardware.com/homerepair](http://www.colehardware.com/homerepair) for a full listing of service

Contact us at 415/753-2653 ext. 3 or  
 Email: [homerepair@colehardware.com](mailto:homerepair@colehardware.com)

All of the vendors and trades people in our Home Repair Referral Service have been pre-screened and carefully selected. Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Period.

**Four locations to serve you!**

- 956 Cole Street (at Parnassus) 415/753-2653  
 Weekdays 8:00am-8:00pm Weekends 8:00am-8:00pm
- 70 4th Street (Market & Mission) 415/777-4400  
 Weekdays 8:00am-7:30pm Weekends 9:00am-5:30pm
- 3312 Mission Street (at 29th St.) 415/647-8700  
 Everyday 8:00am-8:00pm
- 2254 Polk Street (at Green St.) 415/674-8913  
 Weekdays 8:00am-8:00pm Weekends 9:00am-7:00pm

**COUPON**

**SAVE \$5** on your next purchase of \$20 or more!

Excludes sale items, gift cards, special orders, Muni meter cards or parking passes, Clipper. Not valid with any other offers.

Expires 5/31/15 sku MT5



**DROUGHT**

CONTINUED from page 1

order's direction to adjust rate structures to reflect "conservation pricing"; and the state is rolling out a series of enforcement mechanisms to increase standards for toilets, faucets, and outdoor landscaping in residential communities and taking action when those standards aren't met.

"As Californians, we have to save water in every way we possibly can, and we have to pull together," Governor Brown said in April. "We have to become more resilient, more efficient, and more innovative, and that's exactly what we are going to do."

"San Franciscans are some of the most efficient water users in the state of California," notes District Two Supervisor Mark Farrell. He said that residential daily use of 45 gallons per person is one of the lowest in the state, thanks to investments the city made in conservation programs and education. He also points to Mayor Ed Lee's January 2014 executive order for municipal departments to reduce water use by 10 percent, a goal that was even exceeded by a number of departments, including Recreation and Park Department (18 percent reduction), the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (19 percent), and Public Works (a huge 46 percent).

"San Francisco sips water

compared to many cities, but we could still do more," said Greg Dalton, founder and director of Climate One at The Commonwealth Club, a dialogue between climate scientists, policy makers, activists, and business. "Climate disruption increases the probability that this drought

idents and businesses have a number of concrete steps they can take to lessen the impact of the drought: no washing driveways and sidewalks except for health and safety purposes; no runoff from landscape irrigation; no nonrecirculating fountains; no hoses without shut-off nozzles; people have already begun to notice restaurants only serving water if it's requested; hotels give guests the option of not washing linens and towels every day; and people should limit irrigation to two days a week. Farrell directs people to [sfwater.org/conservation](http://sfwater.org/conservation) for more tips and guidelines.

Residents who think this crisis will pass quickly or that the conservation efforts don't have to include them because the state will come up with some other solution are likely to be disappointed. One option that is mentioned often is the desalination of seawater, but desalination plants are expensive to build, consume huge amounts of energy, and create potential destabilization of ocean habitats. Midwestern states have long feared plans (real or imagined) to pipe their Great Lakes water to the West Coast; now actor William Shatner has advocated the construction of a \$30 billion pipeline to bring water to California from Seattle. It



Governor Brown announces statewide water conservation rules. PHOTOS: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

**By 2017, many residents will have their water blended with groundwater.**

could be wicked-bad and long. The idea that this is 1977 again and we can ride it out is tempting and foolish."

City leaders say they not only aren't waiting, they have been ahead of the game. In a statement supporting the governor's order, Mayor Lee said the city had reduced its residential per capita water use by more than 20 percent over the past decade, and he said the SFPUC's "retail and wholesale customers surpassed the goal of a voluntary 10 percent reduction and achieved 14 percent in savings, a total of 9.9 billion gallons of water."

By 2017, the mayor said that many San Francisco residents will have their water blended with groundwater from an aquifer on the city's west side as the result of a water recycling project scheduled to begin construction in 2016.

Farrell added that local res-

idents and businesses have a number of concrete steps they can take to lessen the impact of the drought: no washing driveways and sidewalks except for health and safety purposes; no runoff from landscape irrigation; no nonrecirculating fountains; no hoses without shut-off nozzles; people have already begun to notice restaurants only serving water if it's requested; hotels give guests the option of not washing linens and towels every day; and people should limit irrigation to two days a week. Farrell directs people to [sfwater.org/conservation](http://sfwater.org/conservation) for more tips and guidelines.

Residents who think this crisis will pass quickly or that the conservation efforts don't have to include them because the state will come up with some other solution are likely to be disappointed. One option that is mentioned often is the desalination of seawater, but desalination plants are expensive to build, consume huge amounts of energy, and create potential destabilization of ocean habitats. Midwestern states have long feared plans (real or imagined) to pipe their Great Lakes water to the West Coast; now actor William Shatner has advocated the construction of a \$30 billion pipeline to bring water to California from Seattle. It

**Large-scale remedies take lots of time, and water savings are needed now.**

California bashing the way Southern Californians waste 'our water,'" said Dalton. "The hard truth is Southern California has come a long way and in some cases has done more on water efficiency than Northern California — because they had

to. Orange County recycles waste water. It's a smarter option than desalination. Los Angeles has a million more people and uses the same amount of water as 20 years ago."

Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger once noted that he imposes a five-minute rule on showers in his household. He made that statement before the current drought, but it is just one of the realistic ways that individuals can have an impact in the current water emergency. Additional guidelines and ideas for conservation are available at [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com).


E-mail: [john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)



**Pacific Heights**  
Price Upon Request  
**Spacious and Gracious Remodeled Home.** Ideal layout for family living or formal entertaining. 5-6 bedrooms (4 on one level), 3 full and 2 half baths, all remodeled. Stunning formal living and dining rooms. Rich period details include high ceilings, moldings, hardwood floors and 3 fireplaces. Playroom and yard. Wonderful location. [3007Jackson.com](http://3007Jackson.com)  
**Annie Williams**  
415.819.2663




**Presidio Heights**  
Offered at \$4,710,000  
**Handsome and Spacious Two-unit Building.** This is a rare opportunity for owner occupancy or as two potential TICs. Located near the Presidio, enjoy the stylish restaurants and boutiques on Sacramento and Clement Streets, as well as the convenient shopping at Laurel Village. See website for details. [3959-61WashingtonStreet.com](http://3959-61WashingtonStreet.com)  
**M.J. Thomas**  
415.860.5560




**Presidio Heights**  
Offered at \$3,995,000  
**Grand 4-level Victorian.** Located on a prime block, this 4-level 5BD/4.5BA Victorian offers buyers a unique opportunity to totally customize the home to their specifications. Major upgrades have been made, including electrical, plumbing, structural & foundation. East facing deep garden and 2-car tandem garage. [314Walnut.com](http://314Walnut.com)  
**Marilyn Hayes**  
415.652.3537




**NOPA**  
Offered at \$3,845,000  
**Stunning Architectural Renovation.** Ultra-modern 2-unit building located in NOPA. 2BD/2BA top floor penthouse. Lower level: 3BD/3BA house-like townhome style 2-level flat. 2 private garages, fireplaces, views and garden. Sold separately. Upper: \$1,850,000. Lower: \$1,995,000. [TinyURL.com/10-12-Loyola](http://TinyURL.com/10-12-Loyola)  
**Paula Pagano**  
415.860.4209  
**Lowrie MacLean**  
415.305.3326




**Mission Bay**  
Offered at \$1,749,000  
**Sophisticated, Luxury Living at the Madrone.** Soaring above the City on the 11th floor - picture perfect city and water views are the backdrop that combine with a blend of comfort, class and luxury to create your amazing new 2BD/2BA home! Large 1-car independent garage parking, spectacular Madrone amenities. [Madrone1108.com](http://Madrone1108.com)  
**Rachel Swann**  
415.225.7743



**West Portal**  
Offered at \$1,349,000  
**Impressive 3BD/2BA Jewel.** Beautiful light drenched detached house. Formal entry, living and gorgeous dining room with ocean views. Newly remodeled kitchen. Garden and patio. Garage off private drive in back. [194Granville.com](http://194Granville.com)  
**Ron Wong**  
415.321.4368  
**Mike Tekulsky**  
415.321.4369



**NOPA**  
Offered at \$1,095,000  
**House-like 2-level Condominium.** In one of the City's best locations, this house-like 2-level 3BD/2BA condo offers two exclusive outdoor spaces and is situated in the rear of the building. The main level has an open floor plan and is great for entertaining. Additional flex room, deeded parking, laundry and extra storage. [1171OakHome.com](http://1171OakHome.com)  
**Missy Wyant Smit**  
415.321.4315



**Sunset**  
Offered at \$899,000  
**Sunny in the Sunset.** This sun-drenched single family home in the Sunset is just a half a block from Golden Gate Park. It is a center patio classic, 2+BD/2BA with a fireplace, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen. The yard has an organic garden ready to plant with a smart irrigation system. [1258-43rdAve.com](http://1258-43rdAve.com)  
**John Dallas**  
415.321.4357

**The City's Best**  
To see homes for sale in your neighborhood, make your smartphone smarter using our mobile App. Text: HILLCO To: 87778  
Hill & Co. is a proud member of the Who's Who In Luxury Real Estate international network.  
**HILL & CO.**  
REAL ESTATE  
415.921.6000 • [www.hill-co.com](http://www.hill-co.com)



# The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: March 2015

By Hill & Co.

## SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

| NEIGHBORHOOD             | ADDRESS  | BEDROOMS/<br>BATHROOMS   | SALE PRICE  | ABOVE/AT/BELOW<br>ASKING PRICE                           | DAYS ON<br>MARKET                   |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Cow Hollow               | 2555 Union Street  | 4BD/3.5BA  | \$9,750,000   | Below  | 19                                  |
| Lake (no sales)          |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Laurel Heights           | 551 Spruce Street<br>45 Parker Avenue  | 4BD/2.5BA<br>5BD/5.5BA   | \$2,800,000<br>\$3,365,000  | Above<br>Below   | 11<br>22                            |
| Lone Mountain (no sales) |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Marina                   | 3157 Baker Street<br>3633 Divisadero Street<br>240 Cervantes Boulevard   | 5BD/3BA<br>2BD/1BA<br>4BD/3.5BA  | \$2,425,500<br>\$2,430,000<br>\$4,400,000   | Above<br>Above<br>At                                     | 49<br>0<br>0                        |
| Nob Hill                 | 115 Bernard Street   | 2BD/1BA  | \$1,210,000   | Above  | 51                                  |
| North Beach (no sales)   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Pacific Heights          | 2452 Green Street<br>2838 Sacramento Street<br>2542 Fillmore Street<br>1900 Green Street   | 4BD/2BA<br>4BD/5BA<br>5BD/4.5BA<br>3BD/3.5BA   | \$3,250,000<br>\$4,975,000<br>\$5,600,000<br>\$5,650,000  | Above<br>At<br>Below<br>Above                            | 0<br>27<br>31<br>11                 |
| Presidio Heights         | 3880 Jackson Street<br>316 Walnut Street<br>3475 Jackson Street<br>200 Laurel Street   | 4BD/4.5BA<br>5BD/5.5BA<br>4BD/3.5BA<br>7BD/3.5BA                                       | \$4,611,000<br>\$5,200,000<br>\$6,175,000<br>\$6,700,000  | Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Below                            | 14<br>13<br>12<br>47                |
| Russian Hill (no sales)  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Sea Cliff                | 290 28th Avenue<br>291 31st Avenue<br>261 32nd Avenue<br>214 28th Avenue<br>2800 Lake Street<br>2845 Lake Street<br>66 Seaview Terrace | 4BD/1.5BA<br>3BD/2.25BA<br>2BD/2.5BA<br>3BD/2.5BA<br>4BD/3BA<br>5BD/3.5BA<br>4BD/4.5BA | \$1,825,000<br>\$2,250,000<br>\$2,300,000<br>\$2,619,000<br>\$3,398,000<br>\$4,450,000<br>\$4,800,000 | Below<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Below | 6<br>18<br>17<br>21<br>20<br>0<br>0 |
| Telegraph Hill           | 28 Prescott Court  | 3BD/2BA  | \$2,100,000   | Above  | 14                                  |

## CONDOS

| NEIGHBORHOOD           | ADDRESS  | BEDROOMS/<br>BATHROOMS  | SALE PRICE  | ABOVE/AT/BELOW<br>ASKING PRICE   | DAYS ON<br>MARKET  |
|------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Cow Hollow             | 2415 Van Ness Avenue #302<br>2701 Van Ness Avenue #604<br>2395 Filbert Street<br>2328 Union Street   | 0BD/1BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>4BD/2BA  | \$540,000<br>\$920,000<br>\$1,356,000<br>\$2,761,000  | Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above   | 28<br>14<br>6<br>48  |
| Lake                   | 5241 California Street<br>948 Lake Street<br>52 7th Avenue   | 1BD/1BA<br>3BD/2BA<br>3BD/3BA   | \$888,000<br>\$1,410,000<br>\$2,200,000   | Above<br>Above<br>Above  | 13<br>16<br>8  |
| Laurel Heights         | 100 Parker Avenue #301<br>28 Parker Avenue #102<br>58 Iris Avenue  | 1BD/1BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>4BD/3.5BA   | \$840,000<br>\$880,000<br>\$2,650,000   | At<br>Above<br>At  | 0<br>0<br>23   |
| Lone Mountain          | 40 Annapolis Terrace   | 3BD/2BA   | \$1,200,000   | Above  | 30   |
| Marina                 | 1540 Lombard Street #L<br>1487 Chestnut Street<br>3254 Octavia Street<br>3615 Buchanan Street #305<br>3208 Pierce Street #102<br>255 Mallorca Way<br>2360 Bay Street<br>3135 Franklin Street   | 2BD/1BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>2BD/1BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>2BD/2.5BA<br>2BD/1.5BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>3BD/2BA                                  | \$972,000<br>\$1,050,000<br>\$1,223,254<br>\$1,410,000<br>\$1,540,000<br>\$1,650,000<br>\$2,275,000<br>\$2,500,000  | Above<br>Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above                      | 20<br>18<br>0<br>14<br>13<br>7<br>12<br>14                 |
| Nob Hill               | 1510 Jackson Street #2<br>1342 Broadway<br>1601 Pacific Avenue #203<br>52 Pleasant Street<br>54 Pleasant Street<br>850 Powell Street #104<br>1200 California Street #19C<br>1170 Sacramento Street #7A<br>1100 Sacramento Street #508  | 2BD/1BA<br>2BD/1BA<br>2BD/2.5BA<br>2BD/1.5BA<br>2BD/1.5BA<br>3BD/3BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>3BD/3BA                     | \$610,000<br>\$1,155,000<br>\$1,333,333<br>\$1,410,000<br>\$1,600,000<br>\$2,050,000<br>\$2,595,000<br>\$2,745,000<br>\$4,595,000                                 | Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>Below<br>At<br>At<br>At                   | 13<br>8<br>2<br>20<br>46<br>8<br>51<br>2<br>65             |
| North Beach (no sales) |  |   |   |  |  |
| Pacific Heights        | 1945 Washington Street #604<br>2801 Jackson Street #301<br>3045 Jackson Street #602<br>1940 Sacramento Street #1<br>2235 Jackson Street #1<br>1946 Green Street<br>2829 California Street #9C<br>2266 Jackson Street<br>2190 Broadway #1E<br>3234 Washington Street #5<br>2427 Divisadero Street | 2BD/2BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>3BD/2BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>3BD/2BA<br>3BD/2.5BA<br>3BD/3.5BA<br>4BD/4BA<br>4BD/3BA | \$1,050,000<br>\$1,199,000<br>\$1,260,000<br>\$1,603,000<br>\$1,700,000<br>\$2,000,000<br>\$2,135,000<br>\$2,410,000<br>\$2,800,000<br>\$2,825,000<br>\$3,000,008 | Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Above<br>Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Above<br>At<br>Above<br>Above | 10<br>29<br>29<br>4<br>10<br>0<br>13<br>7<br>0<br>11<br>11 |
| Presidio Heights       | 3916 Sacramento Street   | 3BD/2BA   | \$1,675,000   | Above  | 11   |
| Russian Hill           | 1050 North Point Street #1604<br>892 Green Street<br>1438 Green Street #6B<br>1450 Greenwich Street #601<br>1450 Green Street #7<br>2444 Leavenworth Street<br>1372 Green Street   | 0BD/1BA<br>2BD/1.5BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>1BD/1BA<br>2BD/2BA<br>3BD/2BA<br>2BD/2BA   | \$654,000<br>\$1,000,000<br>\$1,010,000<br>\$1,061,800<br>\$1,375,000<br>\$1,800,000<br>\$1,850,000   | Above<br>Below<br>Above<br>Above<br>Below<br>Above<br>Above                            | 15<br>56<br>11<br>13<br>91<br>41<br>21                     |
| Sea Cliff (no sales)   |  |   |   |  |  |
| Telegraph Hill         | 1440 Kearny Street<br>1960 Grant Avenue #15  | 3BD/2.5BA<br>4BD/3.5BA  | \$2,500,000<br>\$4,700,000  | At<br>Below  | 47<br>218  |

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, hill-co.com.

## REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP : Property news

# Where the in-laws are welcome

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

### IN-LAW EXPANSION THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 3 AND 8

Last year, District Eight Supervisor Scott Wiener told the *Marina Times* that his legislation that allowed limited expansion of in-law units in the Castro was a first step; if it worked there, then it could be tried elsewhere. Today, San Francisco has already given the green light to new in-law units in the Castro neighborhood and citywide to buildings that are doing seismic retrofits. Now Wiener and his District 3 colleague Julie Christensen want to expand that experiment to additional neighborhoods in their districts.

Wiener's plan, which was introduced in mid-April, seeks to expand in-law housing in a sustainable, neighborhood-focused way. Christensen announced that she is drafting legislation to include District 3 in a similar expansion of these units. Both supervisors note that such housing is one of the

best ways to create affordable housing in this dense city. This could result in many hundreds of new units of housing in the affected neighborhoods, and they would be created within the buildings' existing "envelope," which means the buildings wouldn't be expanded up or out to create the space for the units.

### MAYOR LEE, SUPERVISOR FARRELL PROPOSE AIRBNB CHANGES

San Francisco's so-called Airbnb law is already in the shop for repairs. The bill, originally proposed by then-Board President David Chiu, sought to legalize short-term home rentals while instituting regulation and taxation of the transactions. Now San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and District Two Supervisor Mark Farrell have introduced a package of amendments that would streamline the short-term rental ordinance.

The amendments would impose a 120-day annual "hard cap" on the number of days residents could rent out their homes for fewer than 30 days a pop. Also, they would eliminate the difference between "hosted" and "unhosted" short-term rentals in the law, create the Office of Short-Term Rental Administration and Enforcement, and allow for redress in cases of violation of the short-term rental laws.

"With all eyes on San Francisco and how our innovative city continues to approach regulating short-term rentals — it is important that we get this law right," said Farrell. "I look forward to the many discussions ahead with home sharers, our residents, interested parties, and my colleagues, that will make this law as strong as possible."

### SAN FRANCISCO MEDIAN HOME PRICES NEAR \$1 MILLION

Stop me if you've heard this one already: San Francisco's housing prices

es have reached new stratospheric levels. Yes, well, at least we have new numbers to put with the headline. In February, the median sale price of San Francisco homes increased 16.2 percent from February 2013, reaching \$979,750, according to Redfin Research. "At this rate, next month it will surpass \$1 million," according to Redfin. That compares to the national growth over the year of 5.4 percent to \$258,300. Though S.F.'s median price was nearly \$140,000 higher than nearby San Jose's, the South Bay city's median price growth rate was actually slightly higher at 17.1 percent.

Nationally, Redfin reported that the numbers of newly listed homes increased more than 11 percent over the year, which should benefit buyers by providing a bigger selection. But in the Bay Area? Don't get your hopes up. "Nine out of 10 offers written by

## San Francisco's so-called Airbnb law is already in the shop for repairs.

Redfin agents in Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose encountered competition from another buyer," said Redfin's report.

"Bidding wars increased 8.7 percentage points in Oakland, 4 percentage points in San Jose and 1.9 percentage points in San Francisco year over year."

### GEORGE LUCAS'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING GIFT TO BAY AREA

What good is being part of the 1 percent if you can't upset other members of the 1 percent? Film legend George Lucas plans to build 224 affordable housing units on a portion of his Marin County ranch, drawing accusations of class warfare from angry neighbors. The space had previously been planned as an expansion of his famed Skywalker Ranch film studio, but neighbors blocked the studio plans. Lucas' housing plan would cover 52 acres and would include both workforce housing and senior housing, along with community space.

Lucas' lawyer, Gary Giacomini, told the local CBS affiliate that "we've got enough millionaires here. What we need is some houses for regular working people." Lucas sold his film studio Lucasfilm to Disney for \$4 billion in 2012, giving him more than enough spare cash to foot the projected \$150 million bill for the homes.

Lucas previously gave up on building a film museum in the Presidio after his plan faced withering opposition; he later chose to build it in Chicago, his part-time home and the hometown of his wife, Mellody Hobson.

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

"People are fearful of putting their home on the market, because they won't have a place to move after."

—Mark Co. President Alan Mark, quoted in the *San Francisco Business Times*

Real estate news tips? E-mail: john@marinatimes.com





THINK  
CURRENT &  
AUTHENTIC

Think Zephyr.

**Z**  
ZEPHYR  
REAL ESTATE

Highly competitive and famously complex, the San Francisco real estate market can be both challenging and rewarding. Zephyr turns savvy, informed Bay Area urbanites into successful homeowners, investors and sellers. [ZephyrRealEstate.com](http://ZephyrRealEstate.com)



REAL ESTATE UPDATE :: Market math

# Home prices vs. wage growth and the Millennial buyer

How does the real estate market function with the disconnect between earnings and prices?

BY STEPHANIE SAUNDERS AHLBERG

**C**ITY LIVING HAS so many pluses: fun neighborhood shopping, theater, music, abundant restaurants, and much more. Most people want to live in a “walk-to” neighborhood, where they can stroll down the street for brunch, meet a friend for a glass of wine, or walk the dog. However, these great amenities come with a price, especially in San Francisco.

Recently Leslie Appleton Young, chief economist for the California Association of Realtors, spoke to the agents of Hill & Co. Real Estate. She had many interesting statistics and facts to share, but one that stood out most was the widening gap between wage growth and home prices.

Nationally, between the second quarter of 2012 and second quarter 2014, home prices rose 17 percent, but wages only rose 1.3 percent. Prices rose most in markets attracting cash and international buyers — markets such as San Francisco. Most economists suggest that the housing markets with the largest “disconnects” between wages and home prices will reach a plateau in 2015, while wages catch up.

San Francisco is home to many Millennials (people aged 18–34). Most of the tech industry is comprised of people from



And after they're done raising you, they'll lend you money to buy your San Francisco condo. PHOTO: CHA GIA JOSE

where their Baby Boomer parents come in. Sixty-seven percent of their parents will use savings to help their children buy a home. Seventy-five percent of the Millennial home buyers surveyed said their parents' help made it possible for them to buy. I have clients who fit right into this model. Parents know what I've already suggested: home ownership is the most effective way to build wealth. They know that helping their kids with the purchase of a home will do more than just

put a roof over their heads. thing that you want to live in, you might consider buying an investment property. Or you might consider buying a duplex together with others, which could expand the number of properties you could potentially buy. If it's a TIC building, when both units are owner-occupied, you could potentially convert to condominiums and add even more value to your net worth.

In addition to parents, there are other sources for assistance. If you are having trouble with your loan, you can contact the California Association of Realtors helpline at (213) 739-8383. It has helped save many loans and assisted in getting transactions completed. You can also get down payment assistance; visit [downpayment.car.org](http://downpayment.car.org) to view the assistance programs.

My hope is that Millennials and others will purchase a home or investment property to begin building their wealth. There is no doubt that San Francisco real estate is expensive, but historically the returns have been generally spectacular.

*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 [realtysanfrancisco.com](http://realtysanfrancisco.com).*

## S.F. rents are high, making it even harder for Millennials to save.

this group. What do they think about home buying? In a recent nationwide survey, 44 percent said they did not think they could afford to buy a home. One can imagine the percentage would be even higher here in San Francisco, where the home ownership rate for this age group is down.

Though it is clear that home ownership is one of the most effective ways to build wealth, what can a Millennial do? San Francisco rents are high, as we know, making it even harder for Millennials to save for a down payment. This is

Support from parents is playing an important role in the housing recovery. Without parental help, the pool of Millennial home buyers would be even smaller. It is expected that the desire to own a home for this group will pick up once they begin to form their own families.

Here are some other considerations: First-time buyers who are having a difficult time finding a home that meets their wish list should consider buying something that might not be on that list just to get started building equity and to take advantage of value appreciation. If you're a first-time buyer and you can't find some-



My life here

Our dining room chefs answer to our own resident food critics.

Great Food

# BETTER

Company.

Our very own food critics find some of the best dining right here at San Francisco Towers. In a city known for its cuisine, you might like to meet a few of our residents who get together to enjoy their favorite small bites and talk about their newest discoveries; shared with smiles, lively conversation, and laughter. And thanks to our own terrific culinary team, some of their best “excursions” happen right here. Great food and wonderful company are the perfect ingredients for a life well lived. To learn more, or for your personal visit, please call 415.447.5527.



San Francisco Towers

The life you want, in the city you love.

1661 Pine Street San Francisco, CA 94109 [sanfranciscotowers-esc.org](http://sanfranciscotowers-esc.org)



A not-for-profit community owned and operated by Episcopal Senior Communities. License No. 380540292 COA #177 EPSF723-01QE 050115



# It's all about inventory

BY CAROLE ISAACS

**T**HE THING I HEAR EVERYONE TALK about whether they are a buyer, seller, agent, or real estate spectator is how little there is on the market. Given the number of new condo units being built, it is especially dramatic that the inventory continues to be low. No matter how fast the new construction is completed, it is not fast enough to increase the inventory of homes on the market in San Francisco. Everyone wants to know why inventory is so low, will it change, and when will it change.

Why inventory is low is easier to answer than will this change and when. Here are six things that contribute to low inventory:

1. The most obvious factor is the technology boom bringing new buyers into the Bay Area.

2. Days on market, often referred to as DOM, is a factor. Both single-family homes and condos are selling faster than at any time since 2005. If it takes two months to sell a property, there is an opportunity for a build-up of inventory. Today when homes regularly sell between 7 and 21 days, there is little opportunity for inventory to increase. Many banks are offering 15-day escrows to help their clients compete with cash buyers.

3. Older people are working longer, and if they retire they are not leaving the

city unless absolutely necessary. Buying another house within the city doesn't make sense, either, because the increased property taxes would likely be thousands more per year.

4. Sellers who would like to move up to bigger homes are not able to find a home to buy and instead are adding rooms to their current homes.

5. Older homeowners whose homes have increased in value to the point where they will have to pay capital gains on their sale are waiting until one spouse passes away to sell their homes. This way they will have a step up in tax basis for half of the value of their home.

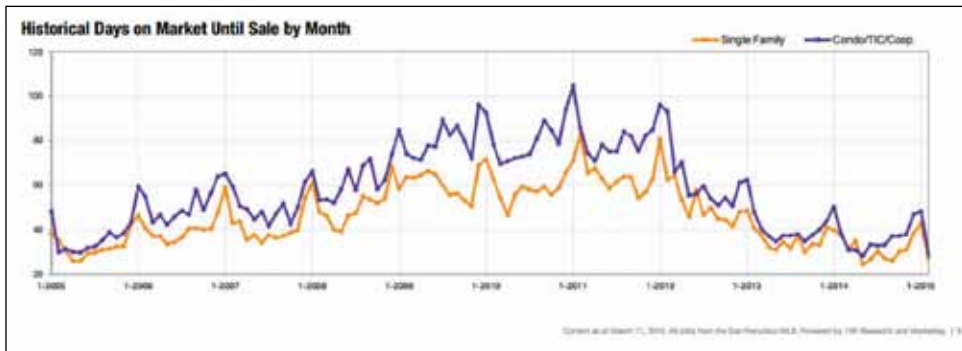
6. Potential sellers are staying on the sidelines trying to time the market, waiting for an even higher high.

Low inventory coupled with high demand has caused the price of housing to continue to rise. At the end of February the San Francisco Association of Realtors reported the one-year

median price change in homes and condos. Single family homes were up 6.2 percent and condos a whopping 17.4 percent. The low inventory coupled with the increase in the price of housing is a double whammy for buyers. Sellers are reaping the rewards, but this also contributes to low inventory.

What does the low inventory and decrease in DOM mean for buyers and sellers?

**Unless your home is very over-priced, you can count on it selling.**



The chart shows the historical days on market before a sale; data is current as of March 11, 2015; all data from the San Francisco MLS, powered by 10K Research and Marketing. SAN FRANCISCO MLS

**Sellers.** Don't think for a minute that you will put your home on the market and "wait and see what happens." Unless your home is incredibly over-priced, you can count on it selling. Sellers need to work closely with their agents to make sure their home will look its best to get top dollar even in what some people like to call this overheated market. Keep in mind that buyers have expectations about what a home should look like when they walk in the door. A home will sell faster at a higher price if it is visually appealing to buyers.

**New buyers.** Don't be afraid that the low inventory means that the day after you have bought a home there will suddenly be a glut of homes on the market. Even if there is an increase in housing inventory, it is unlikely that a more desirable house will be for sale than the one you just bought at a better price. Here we are on the way to summer, and there is no indication this will happen. The best thing to do is focus on buying a home in a neighborhood that will work for you for the next 5 to 10 years. Remember, it is unlikely that you will buy only one home in your lifetime. The idea of building equity in a home and moving up is still a plan worth consideration.

**Downsizing buyers.** You are lucky! This is a great time to both sell your home and buy in a new condo building with an elevator, plus transfer your tax basis in San Francisco if you are over 55 years old. Market Street, the Van Ness corridor, and the neighborhoods South of Market offer choices. Also the area along the Embarcadero is ready to sprout wings and fly as the Warriors Stadium area comes to life.

Whether you are a buyer or seller, at some point you need to shut down your computer and go out and look at Sunday open houses. No amount of surfing the Internet beats seeing a home in person. Understanding market value is a necessary part of making a decision to buy or sell a home. This is especially true today, when it is likely that you will be making an offer quickly within a few days of a home coming on the market. As with sellers, there is no time to "wait and see what happens."

*Carole Isaacs is a Realtor with McGuire Real Estate, where she is a Top Producer. Follow her on Twitter @CaroleIsaacs or visit her online at caroleisaacs.com or call 415-608-1267.*



**PARAGON**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP

**LUXURY**  
**PORTFOLIO**  
INTERNATIONAL

*I need a bigger closet.*

Paragon is with you as you move through life's stages & places.

*Agents of Change*

PARAGON-RE.COM



# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

*Honor & Remember*



Monday, May 25, 2015

Grand March 10:30AM/Program 11AM  
San Francisco National Cemetery  
(at the Presidio)

415.561.5300 - [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)



Spectacular Bay Views



World Famous Restaurant

The place  
where locals  
eat seafood!



# NO 9 FISHERMEN'S GROTTO

415.673.7025

Free Validated Parking

No. 9 Fisherman's Wharf at the foot of Taylor

[fishermensgrotto.com](http://fishermensgrotto.com) Banquet Facilities Available

REAL ESTATE INVESTOR ∴ Where to put people

## Something's gotta give

Dr. Peter Linneman on taking the mystery out of our housing crisis

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

**A**BOUT A DECADE AGO, BEFORE the Great Recession and the related implosion and rebound of the real estate market, the matter of how to house burgeoning populations was a topic of concern only to a relative few people. Today, with San Francisco housing rents and sales prices reaching new heights, it is a concern to very many people in the city. But like the weather, everyone talks about it but no one does anything about it.

They have reason to be concerned. Rental rates increased by nearly 15

wanted to be. Now Silicon Valley is its own place. But 35 years ago it was the cheap alternative to San Francisco.

Look at places like Hong Kong. It's a fabulous place. San Francisco's not really a dense place when you get down to it. Among dense cities, it's not a dense city. Hong Kong's topography is no easier than San Francisco's. It also has earthquake issues and so forth, and they accommodate massively higher density and people want to live there.

Clearly a market like the San Francisco area is a market that has more restrictiveness in its [development regulations. Despite] the extent that the economy is strong and people start building — there's not a lot of building going on anywhere, but one of the concerns people have is if these good times continue, I get the curse of a lot of development and if they don't continue, then I'm screwed.

### Linneman said you can either stack people up, spread them out, or kill them.

percent over the past year, compared to a national average of about 3.7 percent, according to Zillow research. The *Wall Street Journal* reported at the end of March that home sales prices here were up nearly 8 percent over the past year, one of the highest growth rates in the country. The twin drivers of an ongoing influx of residents and severely restrained housing supply have served to make San Francisco's housing prices a challenge for buyers, renters, and city leaders.

But back when only a few were concerned, prominent real estate expert Dr. Peter Linneman noted that with populations continuing to expand (and with California itself expecting to grow by many millions in the coming decades), there are inescapable choices for cities.

To deal with those new arrivals' housing needs, Linneman said, you can either stack them up (build taller buildings in denser cities), spread them out (converting farmland, woodland, and wetlands into less-dense housing developments), or you can kill them. The last option, of course, was specious, but it made his point that city voters, businesses, and policy makers cannot avoid making a choice between the first two options.

For 33 years, Linneman was on the faculty of the Wharton School of Business. Today, in addition to heading up the Philadelphia-based real estate advisory firm Linneman Associates and serving as chief economist of NAI Global, Linneman does charitable work for overseas children in extreme poverty. The *Marina Times* slowed him down long enough to ask him for his thoughts on the man-made housing crisis.

**In your NAI Global Report for population growth from 2013-30, you wrote about the relationship between stringent regulations and growth rates. Could you explain your thoughts on San Francisco's regulations?**

They've choked off growth. Take Silicon Valley — originally nobody moved to Silicon Valley because they wanted to live there; they went there because they couldn't get where they

If you want to protect yourself, you want a place where if the good times continue, at least get the benefit out of it.

San Francisco has overbuilt commercial, just later than most markets. The housing there is just ridiculous. People complain about how expensive it is, and yet they don't let people build housing.

Houston [and] San Francisco are the same size, as a population base. Houston has been a more vibrant economy than San Francisco. But the reason Houston has affordable housing and San Francisco doesn't is that you can build housing very rapidly in Houston and you can build it pretty dense if you want to. And you can build it "out there" if you want to.

On its face, same general size of population and Houston growing faster, you'd think Houston should be the place with the more expensive housing. But in Houston, if a new family is coming in, they can build a new house. In San Francisco if a new family is coming in, San Francisco allows that they can build a quarter of a house or half of a house. It benefits the people who already have housing at the expense of newcomers.

It's all about supply and demand, and you don't have to look for the culprit.

### It's all about supply and demand, and you don't have to look for the culprit.

It's all on the supply side. It's not like there aren't developers who would like to build in San Francisco if they could.

In the San Francisco area, if I let you build a house in a year, from start to finish, you get your permit and you're on with it. If I let you do it in a year, it's a lot less risky for the developer than if I let you take three years, because I can see what it'll be like in one year [better] than in three years. Sure things look fine now, but by the time it comes online and I've sunk all these costs — lawyers, engineering, etc., and I've got to wait three to five years to know what it's like — that's risky. But in Houston,

*HOUSING CRISIS, continued on 31*



## HOUSING CRISIS

CONTINUED from page 30

you can get a home built in nine months from when you decide to build one.

**You once said that when it comes to housing growing populations, you can either stack them up, spread them out, or kill them. Do you have any policy suggestions for San Francisco?**

You can kill them, stack them up, or spread them out. But if they're coming, they're coming.

You've got this notion of San Francisco saying we don't want people to build, even as people complain that they can't afford to live there. I have a nephew out there who can't afford to live there, and yet he complains every time they build out there. It's a fascinating socio-political question.

There's no mystery to lower housing prices. Just make it easier and faster to build. I stress the faster and the easier for the risk dimension. Risk is huge. It's really easy for someone else to say "Put up all the study costs and design, and it'll be fine." But wait, why don't *you* put it up? It's real money that's at risk.

If you [raise] the entry fee, fewer people will come. Places like San Francisco

have a very high entry fee for housing, and you have to jump through a lot of hoops and entry fees up front. First of all, that entry fee has to be captured eventually, but the extra risk discourages even more so.

I've never really understood the political dynamics of it. There are people who make

been going on for two years. They want safety and confidence, and yet because there's so much money pouring in there, they're frustrated on return. The Federal Reserve had so manipulated interest rates so the safe stuff — you're not getting good returns.

So you're forced to go elsewhere. Everyone is trying to read a manipulated financial market where you can't find returns where you would normally find it, so you start going to where that money isn't, and you start worrying about that economy. Depending on their courage, they're deciding they are or are not going outside of that zone.

**Do you see much interest in San Francisco from your clients?**

Institutional money definitely wants to own the best properties in San Francisco; San Francisco is viewed as one of the strong markets. It's added jobs quite well compared to the rest of the economy. Tech has done a lot of good in terms of growth.

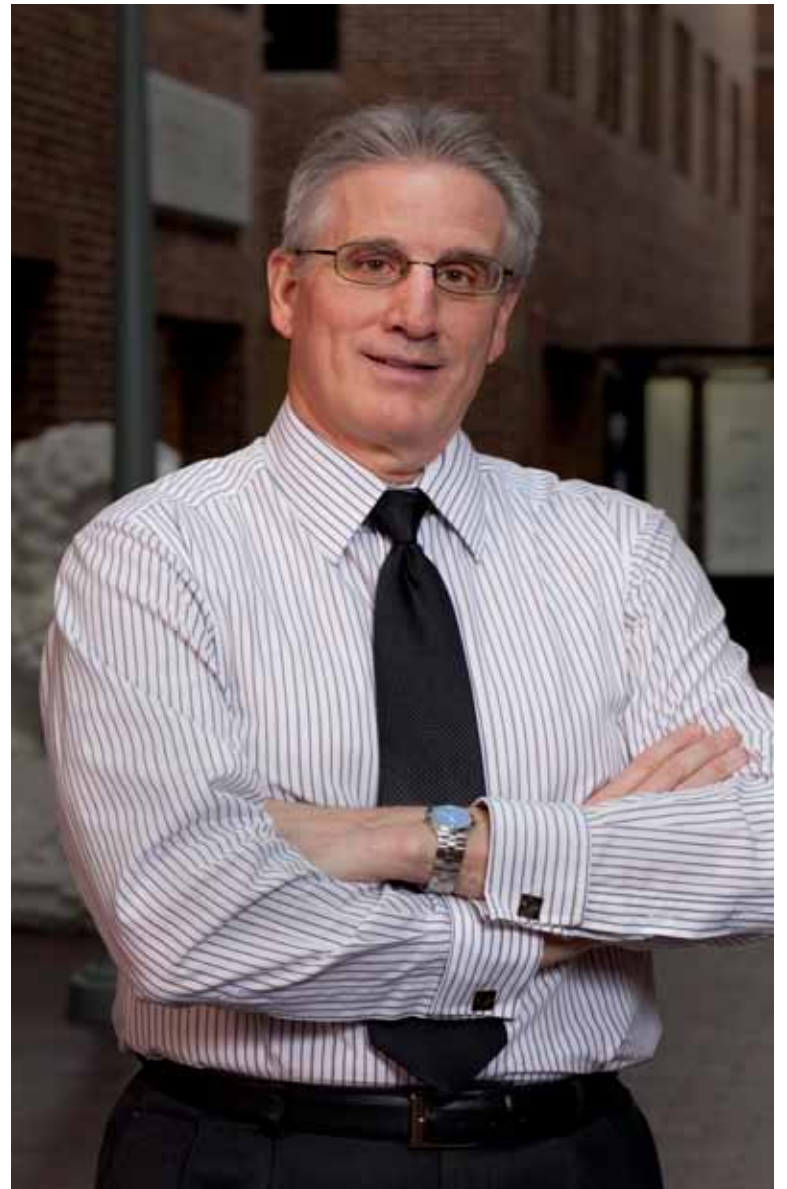
I would say San Francisco, DC, Boston, New York City, and West L.A. have been the in-favor markets. But even there, for the better buildings, they don't have to be trophies. Two years ago they had to be trophies. Now they don't have

fortunes out of it. They bought in 1975 — nothing special, anywhere else in the country it's \$300,000, but there it's \$1.2 million. They have an incentive to [restrict new buildings].

**You now head up a real estate consulting and research firm with major institutional clients. What are those clients looking for these days? What is their risk appetite?**

I think everybody's torn in that they want safe properties, with safe cash streams, because on the one hand everyone is still a bit leery about the economy and what's going on in the world, and yet they want return. As a result, the mass of money is pouring into what I would call the best properties and the best markets, and this has

## There's no mystery to lower housing prices. Just make it easier and faster to build.



Dr. Peter Linneman. PHOTO: LINNEMAN ASSOCIATES

to be trophies, but still the better half of the properties.

John Zipperer is the former senior editor of Apartment

Finance Today and Affordable Housing Finance, and the former new media editor at the CCIM Institute. E-mail: john@marinatimes.com.

# Staying fit shouldn't be a pain.

Whether you are a weekend warrior, a professional athlete, or just enjoy experiencing the Bay Area outdoors, the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine specialists at **Dignity Health Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco** can help you and your family maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. Join us to learn more about how to avoid injury, and what your options are for treating joint and foot pain. Food will be served and validated parking will be available.

**Foot & Ankle Tendonitis: Rehab or Repair** May 7, 2015 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

To learn more and reserve your seat, visit [saintfrancismemorial.org](http://saintfrancismemorial.org) or call 415.353.6755.

Hello humankindness™



**Dignity Health**  
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital



# STINSON BEACH



**18 Calle del Prado: Jewel Box at the Beach!** Just steps from the ocean, this mini-compound of two cottages set in a large garden with decks and stone patios, is a masterful blend of charm and sophistication. Offered at \$1,300,000 [www.18calleldelprado.com](http://www.18calleldelprado.com)  
 Hannah Crutcher 415.418.0991 [hannah@seadrift.com](mailto:hannah@seadrift.com) CA.BRE #01837018



For a complete listing of our Real Estate and Premium Vacation Rental properties, visit [www.seadrift.com](http://www.seadrift.com)

## Relieve Pain and Unlock your Body's Potential with Massage

Most common muscular pains, i.e. that kink in your neck or tightness in your back, are muscles locked in a spasm. Through expert touch, massage therapy re-educates your muscles and joints and guides them back to optimal levels of flexibility and performance.

For athletes, massage is a key component for optimal performance. While training hard is essential, massage increases recovery time, stamina and strength by providing your muscles with increased circulation to rebuild faster. Massage also helps athletes avoid injuries from overuse and heal from the ones they have more rapidly.

Oxygen Massage Therapy has been unleashing the potential locked in our clients' bodies for over 8 years. All of our massage therapists are extensively trained and have years of experience to help you reach and exceed your goals for wellness and athletic performance.



### Clinically Oriented Massage Therapy

Book an appointment today:  
[www.oxygenmassagetherapy.com](http://www.oxygenmassagetherapy.com)  
 (415) 738-7708  
 1905 Union St at Laguna.  
 By appointment only

## FITNESS FIRST ∴ Mindfulness in motion

# Tai chi offers offers a gentle, healthful workout for everyone

BY JULIE MITCHELL

**W**E SEE THEM IN parks all over the city, especially early in the morning. Groups of mostly older Asian men and women, moving slowly and deliberately, limbs extended, torsos gently twisting in unison, practicing the ancient art of tai chi. But what is this exercise, who is it good for, and can anyone join in?

### MEDITATION IN MOTION

Often referred to as “mediation in motion,” tai chi (shortened from tai chi chuan) originated in China centuries ago as a martial art. Most of us think of martial arts as kicking and punching designed to fight off an enemy, and while tai chi began as a means of self-defense, its slow, relaxing, flowing movements have long been used by the Chinese to also benefit health. Legend has it that ancient tai chi masters were able to use internal energy or force to throw an attacker to the ground. While historical accounts of the origins of tai chi vary, and there are different styles of the exercise, its movements are said to support qi (pronounced “chee”), the life force or energy that flows throughout the body, and yin and yang, opposing elements in the universe that when kept in balance aid the flow of qi.

Like yoga, which also originated in Asia, tai chi links deep breathing, mindfulness, and movement. All styles of tai chi, such as yang, wu, and tai chi chih, incorporate a set of specific movements (the longer forms include 108 movements; basic tai chi style has closer to 20), involving slow, graceful motion, each movement flowing into the next with careful attention to posture and breath. Because the poses are relatively easy to learn and adapted to those of varying fitness levels, tai chi is an excellent exercise for people of any age. And all you need to participate is loose-fitting clothing that allows you to move and a pair of comfortable, flexible shoes.

### ROOTS IN MEDICINE

In an article published in *Harvard Magazine*, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School Peter M. Wayne, who directs the tai chi and mind-body research program at the university, said, “Tai chi’s roots are also intertwined with traditional Chinese medicine and philosophy, especially Taoism, and with another healing mind-body exercise called ‘qigong.’ Though these roots are thousands of years old, the formal name tai chi chuan was coined as recently as the 17th century as a new form of

is an independent consultant providing services to financial institutions and government organizations who travels frequently from his home in San Francisco to the East Coast. He is also a long-time tai chi practitioner and instructor, teaching up to five free classes a week in Golden Gate Park when he’s in town. He has developed tai chi programs for many corporations, health care providers, community groups, and schools and helped to develop California Pacific Medical Center’s Chi Kung Wellness program in 1997.



PHOTO: MATTHIAS WEINBERGER / FLICKR

How did Lynch discover tai chi? “Early in my career I was living in New York and working 18–20 hours a day, six days a week, and despite running and cycling, I still had a lot of stress,” he says. “I became interested in tai chi, and when I transferred to the West Coast, I found a tai chi teacher at a gym in Los Angeles, and I actually would fly down to L.A. to train with him in the evenings and then fly back to the city. I teach in the

park because I think practicing tai chi outdoors is the best place to do it; I’ve practiced in alleyways in New York wearing a suit and in zero-degree weather in mittens. Tai chi is the perfect exercise because it focuses awareness on the body and the mind.”

Lynch leads his morning classes in the area between the California Academy of Sciences and the deYoung Museum; his weekly schedule can be found at his website, which is best accessed by an Internet search of his name followed by the name of his company, Ancient Advantage. Regular tai chi classes are also held at Spreckles Lake in Golden Gate Park on Saturday mornings at 36th Avenue and Fulton Street through the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA ([taoist.org/usa](http://taoist.org/usa)) and at other gyms and community centers throughout the Bay Area.

According to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, part of the National Institutes of Health, much scientific research is being done of the health benefits of tai chi for the elderly, including its potential for preventing falls, improving cardiovascular fitness, and overall well-being.

### STRESS RELIEF

But you don’t need to be old or ailing to benefit from practicing tai chi. Christopher S. Lynch

regular tai chi classes are also held at Spreckles Lake in Golden Gate Park on Saturday mornings at 36th Avenue and Fulton Street through the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA ([taoist.org/usa](http://taoist.org/usa)) and at other gyms and community centers throughout the Bay Area.

If you like the idea of combating stress and being mindful outdoors, you might want to try tai chi.

E-mail: [julie@marinatimes.com](mailto:julie@marinatimes.com)

SAN FRANCISCO'S ORIGINAL "SWANK JOINT" JACK KEROUAC "ON THE ROAD" © 1955

# Alfred's STEAKHOUSE

659 Merchant Street (Off Kearny)

Open 7 nights a week  
 Cocktails at 5 | Dinner at 5:30  
 Lunch on Thursdays from 11:30-2:00

[alfredssteakhouse.com](http://alfredssteakhouse.com)  
 415.781.7058

Complimentary Self-Parking @ Hilton Financial District (Enter on Washington)



CARING FOR OUR KIDS ∴ Pre-summer blues



The last day of school can bring up a lot of emotions. PHOTO: GALLERYHIP

# Helping your child cope with end-of-the-year anxiety

BY LIZ FARRELL

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE CLOSING in on the end of another school year. It always seems to go by so fast. Endings can be challenging for children, especially when the ending is as impactful as a school year. For the last two years, my daughter has missed the last day of school. One year, we were so worried and in the emergency room several times with her suffering severe stomach pains. The doctor turned to me and asked, "Is she stressed?" I had to hold back the laughter — stressed? What could a 7-year-old possibly know about stress? It turns out she had severe constipation, and one contributing factor was uneasiness about the end of a school year. Stomach pains and headaches are common ways that anxiety or stress can manifest itself. So what can we as parents do? Here are some tips we have learned that might help someone in your house who is feeling a bit anxious.

**Slow down.** The end of the year is full of parties, special activities, and extra events both in and out of school. It is important to try to keep your child's routine as normal as possible. If your child appears exhausted or run down, then cancel some activities outside of school. Make sure your children continue to get enough sleep at night and have some down time on the weekends. It is also important to make sure they are drinking enough water, eating healthful foods, and not loading up on too many sweets. Slowing down will help ensure that life isn't so hectic that you miss some signs of stress. The majority of young children aren't able to communicate feelings of anxiety or stress, so look for other signs such as behavior changes. Last, keep the communication lines open — make sure there are opportunities, maybe before bedtime, for your children to talk about their days and how they are feeling.

**Utilize the village.** As parents, one of the most amazing tools or resources we have is our "village." We all have one, whether family members, friends, neighbors, or teachers. One lesson I have learned is that if you think your

child is having a hard time, don't suffer alone; instead, reach out and ask for help. Teachers or school counselors are a great resource for issues around end-of-year anxiety. They are with our children and their peers all day, so they can help identify any behavioral changes at school. If you do see changes, address them immediately, and don't wait in hopes that they will "blow over." Other parents are also always a great resource, as you may quickly find you are not alone, and your child may not be the only one having a hard time.

## You may find your child may not be the only one having a hard time.

**Say goodbye.** If goodbyes or endings are difficult, you or your child may be tempted to take the easy route and therefore just skip them. Try to avoid letting this happen. Saying goodbye and having closure, especially on a school year, can be a valuable lesson and a tool your child will continue to need throughout life. If your child is sad about saying goodbye to a teacher, encourage him or her to write that person a note to say what a great year it has been. If your child is worried about saying goodbye to friends, organize some summer playdates or coordinate attendance at summer camp together. Another part of being able to successfully say goodbye is knowing what comes next. As parents that may mean taking time to talk to your children about summer plans and letting them play an active role in choosing camps or planning activities.

All children react differently to change and crave consistency at different levels. Some can't wait for school to end, but for others it may be harder to say goodbye to the routine and to friends. It could also be mixed with anticipation of the next year or grade level especially if there are significant changes like moving from elementary school to middle school. The best thing parents can do is be there to listen and help our children develop coping tools so that the transition to summer is smooth and stress free.

*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*

MARIN CENTER PRESENTS

# Mother's Day with Deana Martin



### A Tribute to Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra

Performing such classic hits as *It Had to Be You*, *Strangers in the Night*, *Mack the Knife*, and more, Deana Martin will take us on a musical journey honoring her father Dean Martin, and his Rat Pack cronies and woo us with stories of her days with "Uncle Frank," Sammy Davis Jr. and the others.

**Sunday, May 10, 3 pm**  
\$60, \$45, \$35, \$25, students (20 and under) \$20



Join us before the show for a special Champagne brunch at the Embassy Suites San Rafael. \$36 adults, \$19 children (12 and under), 11 am and 1 pm

**ORDER NOW FOR BEST SEATS!**  
**marincenter.org**  
Find Us On Facebook

**Marin Center, San Rafael**  
15 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge  
Plenty of FREE Parking

**City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising**

May 2015

**Stay Connected To the City through SF311**

The SF311 Customer Service Center is the single stop for residents to get information on government services and report problems to the City and County of San Francisco. And now, we have even more ways for you to stay connected to the City with our SF311 App and SF311 Explorer website. The SF311 App lets you get information on City services and submit service requests on-the-go right from your smartphone. You can track your service requests through the app or through our new website, SF311 Explorer. SF311 Explorer not only lets you check the status of your own requests, it enables you to see what issues are being reported throughout all of San Francisco and what the City is doing to resolve them. Download the SF311 App from your smartphone's app store and visit the SF311 Explorer at [explore311.sfgov.org](http://explore311.sfgov.org) today!

**Port of San Francisco**

Port of San Francisco announces **Contract #2774, Pier 94 High Mast Lighting Project**. Located at Pier 94, the scope of work will consist of removing two (2) 100-foot high lights and installing two (2) 80-foot high modern lights. Bidders may either be Class A or Class C-10 licensed, and **only San Francisco certified Micro-LBE contractors are eligible to bid on this Set-aside contract**. Bid discounts, LBE goals, Local Hire, & Partnering do not apply. **Pre-bid meeting: 5/26/15, 10:30 AM at the Contractor Assistance Center** located at 5 Thomas Mellon Circle in San Francisco. **Bids Due: 6/30/15, 10:30AM, Pier 1**. For questions contact Arnel Prestosa, (415) 274-0627. Information located on [www.sfport.com](http://www.sfport.com) and [www.sfgov.org/oca](http://www.sfgov.org/oca).

**San Francisco Youth Commission**

"Are you a young person 24 or younger who is interested in improving services and programs for youth in San Francisco? The newly forming Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) has three positions for youth representatives.

The OAC will oversee the policies of the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families and ensure the Children and Youth Fund, passed in November 2014, is administered in a manner accountable to the community.

The commitment is approximately 5 hours/month. There is a \$500 annual stipend for participation as well as training and leadership opportunities. Applications are open until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Desired qualifications include: direct experience with after-school, summer, and youth-focused programs in San Francisco; a passion for youth-inclusion in decision-making; and connection to the diverse experiences of youth in San Francisco. For more information, please visit the SF Youth Commission webpage: [www.sfgov.org/yc](http://www.sfgov.org/yc)

**Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings**  
**May**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC —Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.  
• **May 5**  
• **May 12**  
• **May 19**

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions

CNS#2744357



# Phil's Electric Vacuum Center

**SAN FRANCISCO'S OLDEST**

Family Owned Since 1941

**SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**

All Makes - Commercial & Household

**Miele Specialist • Eureka**  
**Royal • Oreck • SEBO • Panasonic**  
**Electrolux • Kenmore • Dirt Devil**

**Lamp Rewiring & Repairs**  
**Electric Shaver Sales**  
**Allergy Control Products**

**Complete C3 Cat & Dog**  
 Designed exclusively for pet owners

1,200-watt Miele-made Vortex Motor  
 Suction control via +/- controls with 6 settings  
 \$949



**415.921.3776**

[www.philselectric.com](http://www.philselectric.com)

We can make a lamp out of almost anything!

**2701 Lombard St. @ Baker**

Open Mon - Sat 9:00am-5:30pm

1 Block from Presidio Gate • Convenient Parking



## Join Us for Building Safety Month!

Attend our lunchtime brown-bags to learn about **FIRE | EARTHQUAKE | WATER | SOLAR** safety to prepare and protect your family, home and business.



Visit [www.sfdbi.org/buildingsafetymonth](http://www.sfdbi.org/buildingsafetymonth) for event information and safety tips.

[f](#) [t](#) @sfdbi #sfbuildingsafetymonth

# Your Man Friday

HOUSECLEANING & SERVICES

- ★ HOUSECLEANING
- ★ HOUSE AND PET SITTING
- ★ LIGHT MOVING AND PACKING
- ★ GARDENING
- ★ ERRANDS
- ★ APPOINTMENTS
- ★ ORGANIZING



Please call Steve Russell: 415-373-2610

## THE ADVENTURES OF SKYLAR GREY :: Chapter 24



Postsurgery, Skylar makes herself at home on Kickie's white carpets.

# You can go home again

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

*Hold on to me as we go  
 As we roll down this unfamiliar road  
 And although this wave is stringing us along  
 Just know you're not alone  
 Cause I'm going to make this place your home*  
 — "Home," by Phillip Phillips

NOT LONG AFTER SELLING MY condo on Buena Vista Avenue, I found out that Skylar Grey needed surgery for elbow dysplasia. The timing couldn't have been worse. I was staying at Steve's apartment, which was a fourth-floor walk-up. Dr. Andrew Sams, Skylar's surgeon, made it clear: "No stairs for a while would be best." Of course, I was familiar with canine postsurgical recuperation because Jazzy had two TPLOs done at the Sams Clinic. While elbow dysplasia wasn't as invasive, it still made sense not to push the stair issue. I called my stepmother, Kickie, and asked if Skylar and I could come home. "Of course," Kickie said. "Stay as long as you want." And so, Steve and I loaded up a small U-Haul truck with necessities and headed down to South San Jose.

I grew up in Silicon Valley in Sunnyvale, but my mother passed away when I was quite young. When mutual friends introduced my father to Kickie, I liked her right away. In her 60s then, she had a vivacious personality, a Jessica Rabbit figure, waves of auburn hair, and a pair of gams that put most of my twenty-something friends to shame. She complemented every outfit she wore with matching accessories, from her earrings to her belts to her shoes. Between her southern charm and movie-star looks, her given name — Mildred — definitely didn't fit. Lucky for baby Mildred, her two-year-old brother, Milford, couldn't say it. Little Mildred kicked her feet a lot, and her mother would hold them and say, "Kickie!" One day, Milford echoed his mother, saying "Kickie!" repeatedly, and the nickname stuck. My father was always a handsome man, tall and athletic with black hair and twinkling baby blue Irish eyes. Like Kickie, he was outgoing and extremely charismatic, so they made a good pair, although getting a word in edgewise with the two of them was frustrating, as one might imagine.

Kickie and my dad were together more than 20 years, and during that time, he

lived with her. Filled with antiques and landscaped with fragrant roses and white birch trees, every inch of the elegant ranch house in the Santa Teresa neighborhood said "Kickie." I now had known her almost as long as I knew my mom, and I had spent more time in her home than I had in my childhood home. As Steve, Skylar, Blue, and I passed my former workplace, the Apple campus off Highway 85 in Cupertino, I started thinking about how different Kickie and my mom were — and yet, my dad loved them both. My

### 'Kickie is like Jazzy, and my mom was like Skylar,' I suddenly blurted out.

mom was beautiful, too, with cocoa-hued Sicilian skin, a petite but curvaceous figure, and long, flowing locks of jet-black hair. A natural beauty, she rarely wore makeup, preferred simple shift dresses and sandals, and allowed my dad to work the room while she sat quietly, often reading a book. She was passionate about medieval history, her vegetable garden, and teaching me how to make old family recipes, and she possessed both a quick, dry, wit and a fiery Italian temper (the latter of which rarely came out, thank goodness).

"Kickie is like Jazzy, and my mom was like Skylar," I suddenly blurted out. Steve smiled, because he knew what I meant. Jazzy was vivacious, bold, and beautiful, working a room and charming the bully sticks off everyone she met. Skylar was beautiful, too, but she was shy and quiet around strangers, and just a little afraid of the world. "Even though they were very different, I loved Jazzy and I love Skylar — just like my dad loved both Kickie and my mom," I said. "Yes," Steve nodded. "And just like you love Kickie and also loved your mom."

It was true. Over the years, I had come to think of Kickie as my second mother. She was always there for me as I grew from a girl to a woman, and she played a pivotal role in every aspect of my life. Now she was letting me move into her beautiful home to nurse my postsurgery pit bull puppy back to health — tempting tassels, coveted antiques, beautifully manicured yards and all. And white carpets. "Oh dear," I said. "White carpets and Skylar Grey ..." As we turned the corner onto Kickie's tree-lined street, Steve chuckled. "You're just thinking about that now? Well, she loves Skylar, so I'm sure it will be fine. At least until it rains ..."

E-mail: [susan@marinatimes.com](mailto:susan@marinatimes.com)



## Announcement: We need foster homes now!

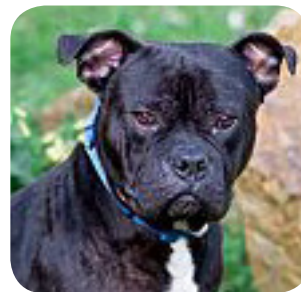
Grateful Dogs Rescue is the oldest all-breed rescue group in San Francisco. Since 1990 our mission has been to save the lives of local dogs, primarily at San Francisco Animal Care and Control, that are at risk of euthanasia. We save as many of these dogs as possible, place them in experienced foster homes, and provide veterinary care as needed until loving adopters can be found. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, so donations to Grateful Dogs Rescue go towards the care of our dogs.

## Here are just a few of our wonderful, available dogs:



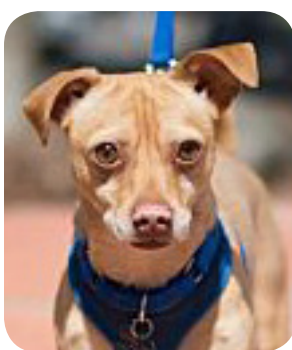
### BRADLEY

Bradley, our super cute youngster, is about a year and half old. He weighs about 16 pounds. Bradley's Corgi mix gives him the look of a miniature Corgi. Bradley was the cuteness star at our last adoption event. He is a bit shy but never snappy or barks. Once comfortable, he is very loving and will follow his person everywhere. He really wants to play and would love to have a dog in his home to play with. Bradley is currently fostered in a doggy daycare. He is the favorite of the staff and all his doggy friends.



### STEVE

Is there something missing in your life? Do you ever come home from a hard day at work and wish that you had someone who was there to meet you at the door and shower you with love? Look no further: Meet Steve, a sweet 2-year-old Staffordshire terrier (just like the *Marina Times'* own Skylar Grey!). Steve is a laid-back pup who would love to curl up with you, but he would also love to join you on a run at Crissy Field. He's great on and off leash. Steve is house and crate trained. He is not a loud, barksy dog, preferring to get your attention by being adorable.



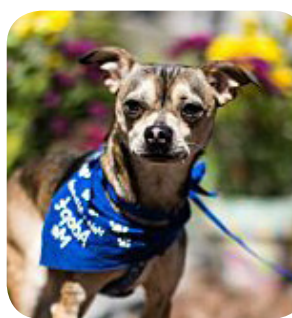
### RUSTY

Rusty is a ginger-colored 4-year-old, 13-pound Basenji mix. He can be hesitant in new places but is a great dog and bonds quickly with his family. He gets along wonderfully with strangers, cats, and young children. Rusty is an affectionate, loyal companion, and would do best in a stable home with lots of love to give! Rusty has progressive retinal degeneration, but his vision is still fine in the daylight. He only takes supplements to slow down the vision loss (no regular medicine or vet visits required). In addition, due to Rusty's coloring, he will need a dab of sunscreen on his pink nose when he is outside. This gentle boy is sure to steal your heart!



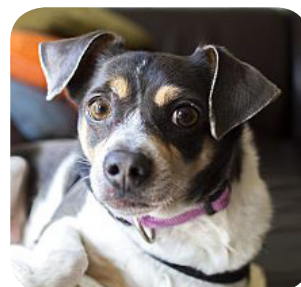
### WHITNEY

Meet Whitney, our adorable 7-year-old little "Malti-Poo." She is a sweet girl who loves to cuddle with you on the couch or under the covers. Whitney also enjoys long walks. She can be a little strong willed at times, but is very calm, well mannered, and doesn't bark much. Whitney had a little bit of a head tremor when we first got her, but it's rarely even noticeable now. She had a grand mal seizure in mid-February but there hasn't been a recurrence and she is not on any medication. Whitney will need a loving and supportive adopter, but promises a life-time of joy and happiness.



### SNICKERS

This sweet treat is 3 years old and just over 14 pounds. Snickers is a gentle and playful boy and very friendly with both big and small dogs. Snickers is a little shy with people, but when he's comfortable he's very loving and sweet. He is crate-trained and potty-trained, and loves to go on walks. He generally does not bark and is very relaxed. Snickers is ready to be your best buddy.



### TURTLE

Turtle is a loving 15 pound approximately 4 year old snuggly pup. Her coloring and behavior suggest she might have beagle in her as she loves a good sniff. She's super sweet and loves to get in your lap and give you licks. She's good with kids and other animals and would be a great addition to any home looking for a well behaved and loyal companion.

**Adoption Event: The annual MADDIE'S ADOPTATHON happens over the weekend of May 30th and 31st. GDR will be there with our dogs, by the San Francisco SPCA, on Sat. May 30th only. Any adoptions completed at the event that weekend will have the fee waived!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER DOGS:  
 415-587-1121 • [www.gratefuldogsrescue.org](http://www.gratefuldogsrescue.org)  
[info@gratefuldogsrescue.org](mailto:info@gratefuldogsrescue.org)





As the resident feline at Wolf & Lion,  
I can confirm it's the "cat's meow!"  
(Dogs give it four paws up too!)

– Sasha The Cat (Rescued, Berkeley Humane)



Come in and see Sasha soon. You'll usually find her on one of the locally sourced cat trees, or playing in the aisles!

It's hard to miss our big orange building at the corner of Lombard and Divisadero. We'll be announcing many special neighborhood events for animals, their owners and caretakers this Spring! [Facebook.com/WolfandLionPetSupplies](https://www.facebook.com/WolfandLionPetSupplies)

**Get 25% Off  
On All Cat Trees!**

Our huge sale is back! Make a beeline for your feline to find the best selection including our one-of-a-kind locally made furniture!

Coupon expires 5/31/2015



2460 Lombard St. (By Divisadero)

Open 10am-7pm daily

415.590.2748

[www.wolfandlionpet.com](http://www.wolfandlionpet.com)