Resolutions for the new year
Susan Dyer Reynolds shares her favorite local tofu dishes. p. 8
Ken Major discusses wine and climate change. p. 9
John Zipperer says the city can do better on housing. p. 18

What to do
It's time for film noir, art fests, the ballet opening night, Ali Wong, and much more as we kick off 2020. p. 12

Gotham by the bay
With a rampant drug crisis and ineffective leadership, it will take a superhero to save San Francisco
BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

T he past September, police made a horrifying discovery inside a Santa Rosa home: Patrick O’Neill was unresponsive, and his 13-month-old son, Liam, was dead. O’Neill later died at the hospital from an overdose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 40 times more powerful than heroin. Liam’s death was attributed to accidentally ingesting the drug after his father took it.

At a press conference, U.S. Attorney David Anderson announced that three dealers were arrested and charged with the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. Federal agents were also able to trace the origins of the fentanyl to the notorious open-air drug bazaar in San Francisco’s Tenderloin, which acting DEA special agent in charge Curt Fallin says, ”has tentacles that extend far beyond its 40 to 50 square blocks in San Francisco.”

LACK OF COLLABORATION, ZERO GRATITUDE
Last August, the U.S. Attorney’s Office announced that 15 federal law enforcement agencies and an equal number of federal prosecutors would be moving in and cracking down on drug dealing in the Tenderloin. In a letter to the district’s supervisor Matt Haney, Anderson said the initiative has resulted in 108 arrests, with 46 dealers pleading guilty. Anderson also emphasized that there has been a lack of collaboration with local authorities, because of San Francisco’s overly broad interpretation of the sanctuary city policy.

You would think Haney would express gratitude to the agents, or at the very least make a public statement saying he was devastated that a baby died because of drugs that were sold in his district, but Haney has been silent except to say he worries about “small time” dealers getting caught up in the sweeps. “I hope that this isn’t a way to get around San Francisco sanctuary laws,” he said when Reynolds Rap, continued on 2

City Life
Save the date
Reasons to stay in San Francisco in 2020
BY JOHN ZIPPERER

HAVING JUST GONE THROUGH a busy holiday season, are you wondering what you’ll do in 2020 after you’ve caught your breath? In a city as busy and full of life as San Francisco, there are a lot of ways to enjoy living here. Let’s take a look at just some of the things you might want to note on your calendar for 2020.

GOLDEN GATE PARK ANNIVERSARY
San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park sprawls over 1,017 acres of land on the city’s west side, covering about 20 percent more space than Manhattan’s Central Park. It’s a major attraction for locals and visitors. This year, San Francisco will kick off a yearlong celebration of Golden Gate Park’s 150th birthday.

A highlight of the celebrations will be on Saturday, April 4 (which is apparently the park’s actual birthday, as such things are calculated), when a Community Day will be observed and we’ll get the first use of a new 150-foot observation wheel. This ferris wheel will be located on the park’s Music Concourse (near the de Young, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Japanese Tea Garden). The wheel’s 36 enclosed, climate-controlled cars seat six people apiece and will offer views of the city from downtown to the Pacific shore. A 12-minute ride will cost $18; $12 for seniors and children 12 and under. But if you can be there on April 4 for Community Day, the observation wheel rides will be free.

And that’s only one of the highlights of the birthday year. Find out about others at goldengatepark150.com.

Each year, Golden Gate Park attracts 24 million visitors. You can SAVE THE DATE, continued on 14

Marinated Times
Marination
Justice should be faster than a burrito
It’s time to modernize the SFPD
BY KEVIN FRAZIER

STARTUPS THRIVE WHERE GOVERNMENT FALLS short. Buses too slow? Grab an Uber. TSA lines too long? Clear will waive you through. Police not keeping you informed about crime? Join Citizen and have your neighbors tell you about crime in your neighborhood. The latter example is just the beginning of the privatization of public safety. It’s a troubling trend that is likely to continue unless San Francisco changes course and rapidly invests in the modernization and expansion of its public safety infrastructure.

The public safety needs and expectations of San Franciscans are not being met. According to the FBI, in 2017, there were 6,301 incidences of violent crime, 367 rapes, 54,356 property crime cases, and 4,834 motor vehicle thefts. On top of this, the San Francisco Police Department has seen a 38 percent increase in the number of high-priority service calls in the past six years.

Amid the high level of crime, people are limiting their activity to the small spaces they feel safe. It’s unsurprising to hear about places in the city that people avoid, times of night when people dare not venture out, and methods of transportation deemed too dangerous to merit testing. Some of these fears are grounded in bias and stereotypes, of night when people dare not venture out, and methods of transportation deemed too dangerous to merit testing.

Marinated Times, continued on 4

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

the feds first came to town. Likewise, you would expect the mayor of San Francisco, London Breed, to stand up in front of her constituents and say she finds it completely unacceptable that drug dealers in her city killed a toddler, but Breed stuck to the same script. “Crime happens no matter what and so to attribute it to a policy is, I think, unfair,” Breed said.

In fact, not a single city leader has openly praised the feds for doing the job they are unable (or unwilling) to do. Not a single city leader made a public statement about Liam’s tragic death. In July, District 9 supervisor Hillary Ronen got into the face of Texas Senator Ted Cruz after a chance meeting at LAX. “We are horrified with what is happening with the caging of children and separation of families,” Ronen told Cruz. “I don’t know how you can live with yourself.”

I would like to ask Ronen the same question. How do you live with yourself when children are dying and families are being separated in the city you represent? In a Facebook post after the incident, Ronen said she would “never miss an opportunity to confront those in power and appeal to their conscience.” Well, I’m taking this opportunity to appeal to her conscience and ask how many children must die before you and the rest of your colleagues on the Board of Supervisors take back control of this city from the throes of a rampant drug crisis?

A NEW D.A. WHO DOESN’T BELIEVE IN JAIL

According to a report released by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, overdose deaths from fentanyl increased 150 percent between 2017 and 2018, taking the lives of 89 people. Fentanyl is the leading cause of opioid overdose deaths in the city, killing more people than either heroin or prescription painkillers. Yet to observe the complete lack of urgency from city leaders, it’s like they’re waiting for Batman to swoop down from Salesforce Tower and save the day. The majority of San Francisco voters also seem apathetic regarding the current state of this once-great town. In November, they chose Chesa Boudin, a public defender attorney, as our new district attorney. Boudin has never prosecuted a case and was considered the most liberal D.A. in the country. Breed, however, makes Gascon look like a moderate. “It sends a pretty loud and clear message that the war on drugs and the tough-on-crime policies and rhetoric of the 1990s and early 2000s are on their way out,” Boudin told the Los Angeles Times after his election. Putting drug dealers in jail is the last thing Boudin wants to do. During campaign debates, he frequently said that instead of jailing dealers, city officials needed to work harder to understand why so many young men from Honduras are commuting from the East Bay to the Tenderloin to sell drugs in the first place.

He also wants to eliminate gang enhancements, where criminals face harsher punishment if their crimes benefit a street gang. Boudin says gang enhancements are racist, but proponents say they’ve been a valuable tool and have led to a deep decline in homicides, with killings in 2018 near the lowest number in more than 50 years. “Getting rid of the gang enhancement assumes that there’s no gang problem,” Eric Siddall, a Los Angeles prosecutor and vice president of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy District Attorneys, told the San Francisco Chronicle. As to Boudin’s belief gang enhancements are racist, Siddall said, “It just happens to be that most gangs are Hispanic or black . . . but most victims of gang crimes are also minorities from socially vulnerable communities.”

Meanwhile in the Tenderloin, there’s no sign of Batman, but Haney is doing his best impression of Batman nemesis Two-Face by talking from both sides of his mouth. Haney gleefully stood onstage at Boudin’s Nov. 5 election party (alongside the aforementioned Ronen) while fellow supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer led a profanity-laced chant against the Police Officers Association. Exactly one week later, Haney stood on the steps of City Hall demanding an “immediate fix” for rampant drug sales and use from federal and city leaders.

My question for Haney: How does supporting a D.A. who doesn’t believe in putting drug dealers in jail help your drug-infested neighborhood? I’ll answer for you: It doesn’t. Unless Batman is around the corner, I don’t see anyone brave enough to push aside the failed, decades-old policies, stand up to City Hall’s self-destructive rhetoric, and save San Francisco from itself.
PROTEST CONFUSES

A group of protestors claiming to be artists concerned about the social impact of e-commerce may have confused more than they enlightened with a recent action. Starting in the Tenderloin but spreading to other areas of the city, these protestors — operating under the shared name of #antiadvertisingcampaignnumbertwo — painted Amazon Prime logos on sidewalks and put up Amazon Prime signs on vacant storefronts.

The point of the holiday season action was to highlight what the protestors said was the loss of local businesses and jobs due to the rise of e-commerce. One of the group’s members was quoted by Hoodline’s Carrie Sisto as saying that it was logical to use a “shock tactic, given that there is so much apathy in the city.” The group also tried to tie its protest to the prevalence of drug dealing and homelessness on downtown streets.

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District took to Twitter to complain about what they thought was an Amazon advertising campaign run amok. “Hi @amazon! Our sidewalk cleaners have a pretty tough job as it is [without] having to handle sidewalk ads. Can you please message us a point of contact for this ad campaign in SF’s Tenderloin?” District 6 supervisor Matt Haney, whose district includes the Tenderloin, also took it as a real campaign and tweeted “Amazon, stop. And pay your taxes. “

Van Ness Update

Van Ness Avenue locals got a brief reprieve from construction disruption during the holidays, but the new year brings a schedule of more work, including nighttime work for several days a week.

In early January, long stretches of Van Ness Avenue will undergo work ranging from sewer and water main installation to tree removals and roadway replacements. This includes nighttime work from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. during which, SFMTA warns, “disruptive noise.”

The SFMTA states that the nighttime work is expected to bring “disruptive noise.”

FACTS AND FIGURES

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News tips? Email: john@marinatimes.com
right or wrong, they nonetheless prevent the city from flourishing. Corporations, aware of just how unsafe people feel in San Francisco, are opting out of exposing their employees and customers to the dangers — real and perceived — of the city. Case in point, Oracle recently opted to move its OpenWorld conference out of the city, taking its 60,000 guests and $64 million in anticipated economic activity elsewhere.

At a time where crime seems rampant, drug abuse uncontrollable, and homelessness unstoppable, many San Franciscans are directly challenging those charged with keeping us safe. For example, supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer recently scorned the Police Officers Association during a political rally. She later apologized to SFPD officers, but nonetheless succeeded in encouraging those who see the police as the enemy. This view is not without merit. It’s no secret that some police in the Bay Area have often struggled to mitigate their biases against people of color and low-income individuals. But rallying against the police and diminishing the community’s trust in our public safety officials will only expedite a world in which startups are policing our streets (or at least the streets of their customers).

The private sector has already started replacing the public safety sector. Consider that the wealthiest in the Bay Area are hiring their own firefighters. Others are using apps and gadgets such as Nest cameras and Ring doorbells to take control of their own safety. And Citizen, an app previously called Vigilante, is giving community members a platform for reporting crimes and flagging potential unsafe areas and people.

This trend will continue so long as the San Francisco Police Department is understaffed and underfunded. New York has 42.3 police officers per every 100,000 residents; Chicago has 49.3, Miami has 42.3. Meanwhile, San Francisco has just 26.3 officers per every 100,000 residents. These statistics underscore the shortage of people power required to address San Francisco’s public safety needs.

It’s time to modernize and enlarge San Francisco’s police force, although the upgraded version would be more accurately described as a community force. The city needs to pursue three courses of action: (1) bring the police force up to the staffing levels of similarly situated cities; (2) enlarge the scope of what it means to be a police officer, by providing officers with robust training in social work, homelessness intervention, and diversity, equity, and inclusion; and, (3) hire the most diverse community force in the nation to ensure that all San Franciscans feel as though there is someone from their community and background looking out for their well-being.

Right now, a burrito may be delivered faster than a police officer will respond to your call. As long as people feel unsafe, they’ll turn to whoever is offering them the greatest protection at the lowest cost. Currently, that is not the SFPD.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com. Follow Kevin Frazier on Twitter @KevinTFrazier.
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Captain Engler responds to concern over new D.A.

Here’s a sampling of recent crimes in the districts covered by the Central and Northern SFPD stations.

GET YOUR OWN COMPUTER

Nov. 7, 1:45 p.m.

Location not provided

A theft victim told officers that she was sitting inside a cafe near an open window, working on her laptop, when a subject approached her, reached through the cafe window, and took her laptop. The subject then jumped into a vehicle and fled the scene.

Video footage of the incident allowed the officers to immediately identify the subject, thanks to multiple incidents where they interacted with him in the past. They kept an eye out for the subject, and on Nov. 28 at 9:31 a.m., officers spotted the subject walking on Divisadero Street. The officers arrested him without incident.

COLLECTOR’S ITEMS

Nov. 27, 4:32 a.m.

Location not provided

While stopped at a traffic light, officers conducted a computer check on the vehicle ahead of them and found that it was reported stolen out of San Mateo County. They then performed a traffic stop and ordered both subjects to exit the vehicle, which they did.

The first subject was arrested for being in possession of a stolen vehicle. In a search of the first subject, officers found numerous drivers licenses belonging to various victims. While locating victims, they learned that the subject used the credit card of one victim to rent the vehicle that was later reported as stolen.

The second subject provided false I.D. information to the officers; various narcotics paraphernalia were also found on this subject. Both subjects were booked in jail on a series of charges.

A LITTLE WILD WEST

Dec. 3, 7:59 a.m.

Location not provided

A male victim flagged down patrol officers and told them that an acquaintance of his attacked him because of a dispute over the attacker’s girlfriend. The victim said he was walking in an alleyway when the subject approached him and punched him in the face; he then took off his belt and began to whip the victim with it.

The victim sustained minor injuries, including a bloody nose, and was taken to San Francisco General Hospital. Officers were able to arrest the subject on the scene.

BURGLARY STOPPED

Dec. 6, 12:34 a.m.

1450 Chestnut Street

Officers on patrol spotted what appeared to be a burglary in progress. They witnessed the subjects looking into the lobby of a building and appearing to be attempting to gain unlawful entry. When the officers approached them, the subjects began to walk away quickly. They were then detained for further investigation.

Both subjects turned out to be on parole or probation with a search condition, so officers conducted a search and discovered numerous burglary tools and narcotics paraphernalia on them. The subjects also had two bicycles, which were booked as property for safekeeping, because the subjects were unable to prove ownership of the bikes.

One subject was booked and the second was transported to San Francisco General Hospital due to an illness.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Oct. 15, 3:30 a.m., 1000 block of Larkin Street: A victim was followed and surrounded by several suspects. The victim fell to the ground and was assaulted by the suspects, who also took the victim’s wallet.

Oct. 16, 2:10 a.m., Jones at Pine Streets: A victim was loading items into his vehicle when he suddenly heard someone say, “What’s up, man?” As the victim turned, the suspect struck the victim with an unknown object.

Oct. 16, 1 p.m., 800 block of Jones Street: A victim was approached by an individual who demanded the victim’s wallet and then used a firearm to strike the victim in the face.

Nov. 27, 8:15 a.m., 600 block of Green Street: A victim was pistol-whipped by the suspect, who also took his chain.

Nov. 17, 5 p.m., Powell at Union Streets: Several suspects attacked a victim on a Muni bus.

Sustainable seafood, breath taking views, and impeccable hospitality!
From the District 2 Supervisor

Enforcing standards and safety

Marina Safeway: Please do your part

Businesses, neighbors, and elected officials need to work together

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

To Marina Safeway Management:

On the morning of Dec. 15, 2019, an individual defecated in the middle of an aisle in your store. I am writing to ask that you increase security both in your store and in your parking lot, commit to calling the police and to filing a police report when incidents do occur, and to continue to work with my office and our city departments to make your store safe for all our neighbors who rely on it.

I do not expect you to account for every private individual’s actions in your establishment. I know that, between ever-growing bureaucracy, homelessness, and property crime, San Francisco has more than its fair share of challenges that make it difficult for businesses to operate.

But much of the frustration I have heard from residents, customers, and community members is the result of your perceived lack of interest in addressing the persistent challenges in and around your store.

The homelessness, mental health, and addiction crises our city faces are not news to anyone in San Francisco, and no one person, agency, or business can be expected to solve them alone. Nevertheless, we must all do our part. I write today to urge you to be a good neighbor and to take a leadership role.

I encourage you to begin by increasing your investments in security. When I was a member of the Budget Committee, I successfully fought to deliver an additional 250 police officers to our force, as well as over $1 million to keep foot patrols on our streets on behalf of our community. But we know that our Police Department remains under-funded, and we rely on our partnerships with private institutions that must contribute to enforcing the most basic standards of behavior. I ask you to help to make sure that your store is safe and welcoming for all — for visitors, for children, and for families.

I recognize that private security will not prevent or be able to address all instances of crime. With that in mind, I ask that you instruct your employees to engage constructively with the San Francisco Police Department when necessary. Just as we encourage all residents to call 911 when they see crimes in progress, I urge you to do the same. Call the police when they are needed — when people threaten customers, use illegal drugs, or expose themselves mid-aisle, to name a few examples that we are all familiar with. Wait for the police to arrive, and file police reports. All of this matters when the Police Department decides how to allocate resources, and we need you to be a partner.

The fact that you called the police when an individual relieved himself in your store and then canceled the call just minutes later is baffling to me. By canceling the call for service, you didn’t give us a chance to help.

I appreciate your coming to meet with me. We — neighbors, community leaders, and patrons of your business — have had enough. The fact that you called the police when an individual relieved himself in your store is disgusting to your calls, as they must be to those of any concerned neighbor.

I will work with you until we finally implement much-needed solutions that alleviate the harms we are seeing at your store — the harms to your business, the harms to those suffering from addiction and mental health issues, and the harms to the children and families forced to become witnesses to incidents like those of Dec. 15.

No one alone can solve the problems we face as a city. They require continued, concerted effort over long periods of time. But they are not immutable. Whether elected leader, neighbor, or business, we all share in the responsibility of working together to take care of our city.

Permissiveness in the face of our challenges harms everyone — your neighbors, your customers, and your employees. Join me in making a commitment to improving our community.

I am not demanding that you do it alone. Rather, I ask that you face the challenges we are all too familiar with head-on, that you be a good neighbor, that you do your part. I look forward to working with you to make our community the best it can be for all.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Catherine Stefani

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JANUARY 2020 | 7
**Food & Wine**

**At the Table**

**Best in the city**

**Fab Five tofu dishes**

Plant-based may be trendy, but it’s certainly not new

**By Susan Dyer Reynolds**

**Back of the House founder Adriano Paganini recently shut-**

tered Belga, his popular four-year-old sausage and beer house on Union Street in Cow Hollow and opened Wildseed. Now one of the hottest restaurants in San Francisco, it’s packed every night with people chowing down on beet and orange pláté and ceviche of king trumpet mushrooms. While the “plant-based diet” is all the rage, it’s nothing new to the folks at Greens Restaurant. Founded by the San Francisco Zen Center in 1979 and located at Fort Mason Center, *The New York Times* credited Greens as “the restaurant that brought vegetarian food out from spout-infested health food stores and established it as a cuisine in America.”

**The Birth of Tofu**

A plant-based diet is also not new in most ethnic cuisines, where vegetables, along with rice and legumes, have been staples for centuries. Soy is especially important to the Chinese, who first cultivated the soybean 3,000 years ago in Manchuria. During early domestication, soybeans were plowed into the soil as enrichment for other crops.

A thousand years later, descendants of those early farmers would begin to fully realize its nutritional value. Because whole soybeans are largely indigestible and of little nutritional value, generations following the Zhou Dynasty learned to process them. Soy milk was an early method, made by boiling and mashing the beans. That led to dou pü, the skin from the top of boiled milk (better known today by its Japanese name yuba). Salted black beans, soy sauce, sprouts, and oil followed. The king of them all — tofu — appeared in a mural on a stone slab from the excavated Han Dynasty (A.D. 25–220). Scholars believe salt was added to soy milk and when curds formed, tofu was born.

**The Art of Meat Substitutes**

Around 2,000 years ago, two Buddhist missionaries named Kasyapa and Dhar-marakshā arrived from India after journeying on the Silk Road. They believed in the virtue of a meatless diet, and their teachings were well received by Chinese peasants, who saw meat as a luxury. This led to the art of meat substitutes, where tofu and other plant-based ingredients mimic the taste and texture of animal protein often with amazing likeness. Meat substitutes are common in Chinese food until this day.

People either love tofu or they hate it. I happen to love it. Here are five of my favorite tofu dishes around the city that I believe can make a tofu lover out of anyone.

**Vegetarian Goose from Shanghai House.**

PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

**Happy Family Tofu Special Trio (Puffed, Pressed, and Yuba) with Spicy Combo China Live**

444 Broadway Street (at Stockton), 415-788-8188, chinaalive.com

Yes, the name is long, but the dish is also long on flavor (not a word usually associated with tofu). Aary and spongy puffed tofu, pressed curd, and yuba are tossed with bell peppers and cabbage in a spicy, salty black bean sauce (tip: laddle it over steamed white rice to tame the heat and salt).

**Hot Pot with Tofu Skin and Vegetables Sunset Shabu**

1360 Ninth Avenue (at Judah), 415-571-8100, sunsetshabu.com

Most hot pot spots are all-you-can-eat and offer just one broth per table, but Sunset Shabu has a shabu-shabu set for smaller appetites and up to two broths per cooktop. While there’s plenty of meat available, I go for the mixed veggies (which also includes soft tofu) and add a generous side of tofu skin. Dunk the stretchy, chewy yuba in a seaweed or miso-based broth along with enoki and king mushrooms, spinach, napa cabbage, and bok choy. (Bonus: They’re open until 10 p.m. nightly, and, at $28 it’s the best all-you-can-eat hot pot deal in town.)

**Bean Curd Roll Stuffed with Taro Root Lucky Creation Vegetarian Restaurant**

854 Washington Street (at Ross Alley), 415-989-0018 (no website)

Everything of the tofu universe, the skin is my favorite. At Lucky Creation, they take thin sheets of yuba, stuff them with taro root, and deep fry it crispy and golden brown. The delicate crunch of the skin and the creamy taro with its nutty and flavorful flavor make for a perfect bite.

**Tom Kha Pak Tofu Soup Lemongrass Thai**

2348 Polk Street (at Union), 415-346-1818, lemongrasssf.com

Lemongrass has been one of my two favorite Thai restaurants in San Francisco since they opened in 1994 (the other is Marne Thai). Their delicious vegetarian take on the classic tom kha soup features an array of fresh garden vegetables alongside creamy chunks of tofu simmering in a broth of coconut milk, galangal, lemon, grass, and lime juice.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com. Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes.
The Wonderful World of Wine

How climate change is affecting Sonoma and Napa vineyards

BY KENNETH MAJER

While there are some who reject mainstream climate science, the reality of climate change could possibly hit us right where it hurts: our Northern California wine industry. Viticulture, the cultivating and harvesting of grapes for winemaking, can be found on every continent except Antarctica, with the vast majority of the world’s winemaking regions existing between the temperate latitudes where the annual mean temperatures are between 50 and 68 degrees. Sonoma and Napa counties are in this sweet spot, and produce some of the finest fruit and wine in the world.

A WARMING WORLD

According to a 2014 joint publication by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of the United Kingdom, the global average surface temperature has increased approximately 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900. Despite climate change uncertainties, the gradient temperature rise is projected to continue in the future and is anticipated to affect viticulture worldwide. This means winegrowers will have to adapt to climate change using various mitigation strategies, such as growing grapes in cooler climates, changing how grapes are grown, harvesting earlier, and other strategies.

Wine composition — the taste, the aroma, the mouth feel — largely depends on microclimates. For high-quality wines to be produced, the balance of climate, soil, and grape variety has to be maintained. However, the interaction between climate-soil-grape may, in some cases, come under threat from the effects of climate change.

LOCAL EFFECTS

How is climate change impacting our mainstay market here in our Wine Country? I put this question to these vineyard managers and winemakers: David Parr, Dos Abuelos Wines; David Pirio, Chappellet Winery; Greg Stach, Landmark Vineyards; Phillip Titus, Titus Vineyards; and Bill Williamson, Williamson Wines. Here is what I learned:

While temperature, rainfall, and drought are deciding factors each year, the variations we are experiencing from a grape-growing perspective are well within the normal variances experienced over the past half century, according to Pirio. Short term, climate change impact is minimal at best, and as Williamson said, climate change will not significantly disrupt the industry until our “grandchildren have grandchildren.”

Long-term changes are important; however, and researchers are experimenting with various mitigation efforts, such as canopy protection to prevent vines from being burned by excessively hot sunlight, which reduces their yield. Other long-term strategies include rootstock grafting to create resilient vines and biodynamic farming practices.

VINEYARD REPLANTING

If you have visited the Wine Country recently and been curious about the looming piles of grapevines in excavated vineyards, it is due to climate but not climate change.

Growers are replacing vineyards to accommodate the terror (a combination of factors including soil, climate, and topography) to maximize the ability to produce high-quality grapes of specific varieties. Replanting rows to take advantage of sun direction and eliminating vines that are infected with common viruses, like red blotch and leaf roll, are essential to increasing yield and grape quality. What is most critical is managing the yield and making year-by-year winemaking decisions to maintain quality to meet market demands. This combination of skills is what has, and what always will, make great wine.

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

All the wine experts agreed that climate change is too slow for immediate concern. The last two years of wildfires, which had devastating economic effects from loss of vineyards to smoke taint of grapes and other damage, may be nothing more than normal annual seasonal variations. For example, 1972 and 2008 were years of heavy frost and cold damage. These years were followed by wet weather, and the wet years produced what Pirio called “too much vigor in the vines” — extra growth, more shoots, and larger berries as opposed to the more desirable and intensely flavorful smaller berries.

Our experts agree that climate change is real. However, it does not appear to be an imminent threat to our Sonoma-Napa wine-making industry. It is heartening that all were concerned about the negative effects of climate change and global warming on humans. The vines will survive. They are tough, they are rugged, and they are resilient. It seems our future wine industry is also resilient and, when properly managed, will survive and flourish.

Kenneth Majer is a consultant to the wine industry. E-mail: ken@kenmajer.com

Follow Your Nose to The Stinking Rose

325 Columbus Avenue
North Beach | 415.781.7673
thestinkingrose.com
**From big screen to stream: The best movies of 2019**

**1917**
Director Sam Mendes, his crew, and an ensemble of renowned actors have achieved a superbly shot feat of you’re-theremoviemaking that relentlessly follows a young British soldier during a perilous, tension-filled mission on the Western front in World War I.

**LITTLE WOODS**
What starts out as an intimate, wrenching story of two sisters (Tessa Thompson and Lily James) struggling to survive in an economically ravaged upper Midwest town turns into an engrossing caper movie when one of the women, just out of jail, decides to smuggle drugs across the Canadian border to help the other hold onto the family home.

**LORO**
This mix of biography and drama examines the rise of the civil rights movement, and the consequences of doing the right thing for the wrong reason.

**NEW RELEASES IN JANUARY**
- **Such a Fun Age**, by Kiley Reid (Jan. 1): A striking and surprising debut novel from an exhilarating new voice, this novel is a page-turning and big-hearted story about race and privilege set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to upend their lives — and each other’s.
- **The Last Black Man in San Francisco**, by James McBride (Feb. 4): A powerfully moving novel, McBride’s latest novel is set in the late 1940s and ‘50s, and follows a young single mom from Glasgow who carries this charming underdog-against-the-odds drama in breakout fashion as she takes on all current evidence, the seasons of the year have become about race and privilege set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to upend their lives — and each other’s.

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- **Where’s My Roy Cohn?**
- **The Brink**
- **The Great Hack**
- **The Farewell**
- **Booksmart**
- **Little Women**

**PARKS & RECREATION**
Poland to the rising nationalism and inequity of the 21st century.

For additional new releases in December, visit marinatimes.com.

Brian Snyder is the manager of Books Inc. in the Marina (2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, booksinc.net/marinam)

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture. Follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.
San Francisco Art Institute awarded grant to restore lost frescoes

BY SHARON ANDERSON

The San Francisco Art Institute was recently awarded a $94,000 Save America’s Treasures grant to restore two New Deal-era frescoes. The murals are located at SFAI’s historic campus in North Beach on Chestnut Street.

The murals were created under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which was founded in 1935 to provide financial relief to artists during the Great Depression. The Federal Art Project was a division of the WPA dedicated to visual art. This project created more than 200,000 works, building a legacy of public art in the United States.

“SFAI played a central role advancing the fresco as an art form in the United States in the 1930s,” said SFAI President Gordon Knox. “…[F]aculty members brought Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to San Francisco for Diego’s first commission in the U.S., the incredible Making of a Fresco Showing the Building of a City, which is open to the public seven days a week at our 800 Chestnut Street campus.

Rivera’s presence in San Francisco stimulated the West Coast muralist movement. SFAI began to offer courses in fresco painting and turned classroom walls over to the exploration of the form. Nearly all of the 26 artists who worked on Coit Tower were affiliated with SFAI,” said Knox.

MURAL BY FREDERICK E. OLMSTEAD JR.

In 2013, SFAI’s vice president of operations and facilities, Heather Hickman Holland, noticed ghostly traces underneath the walls of a corner hallway. After closer examination, it became apparent the traces indicated figures and buildings—a painting underneath the whitewash. After research of the institute’s archives, Holland identified at least six of these lost frescoes throughout the building. Marble Workers (1935) has been positively identified as a painting by Frederick E. Olmsted Jr. Also called Marble Workers at Fisherman’s Wharf, the fresco measures 10 feet high and 9 feet wide, and depicts a group of nine men at work in the Musto Marble Works, just blocks from SFAI. A grandnephew of the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Frederick Olmstead Jr. had previously completed a small mural called Power at Coit Tower.

SOCIAL REALISM STYLE

The sociopolitical experience of the working class informs the artwork of the Social Realism movement. As a reaction to the hardships experienced between world wars, Social Realism depicts workers as symbols of power and strength. “Making the lost frescoes visible and accessible for the first time since the New Deal era will help further illuminate the stories, experiences and ethos of the Bay Area public mural artists at an important time in our collective history,” Knox says. “This extraordinary project will allow students, faculty and visitors from around the world to experience the work in the context of other Social Realist murals of the time.”

Marble Workers has been hidden for nearly 70 years and was likely whitewashed in the 1940s. Though it is unclear why the frescoes were painted over, the practice is surprisingly common. Miscommunication during renovations is often the culprit, with painters who are not instructed what areas to paint and what to leave alone. Also, frescoes become damaged over time, and painting over them becomes an option measured against the cost of restoration. The public perception of the murals’ value may also have changed over time. Social Realism was no longer in favor after the 1940s, but Abstract Expressionism became the popular painting style.

SECOND MURAL BY FEMALE ARTISTS

The first phase of restoration, the conservation assessment, was completed in 2015. Marble Workers and a second fresco called Lost Fresco #6 are the current subjects of this restoration. Lost Fresco #6, according to conservators, may have been painted by a woman as were two other SFAI frescoes by Marjorie Eakin (Sabre) and Eleanor Bates (Streloff). Archives show that several murals on campus were completed by female artists, including Suzanne Scheuer and Una McCann. Located on the northern entrance to the campus, Lost Fresco #6 is the largest mural on campus, second only to the Diego Rivera mural.

The New Deal-era frescoes represent an important era in the history of the United States, and the Save America’s Treasures grant will facilitate the city of San Francisco reclaiming what was lost through preserving the history of WPA artists.

Sharon Anderson is an artist and writer in Southern California. She can be reached at mindtheimage.com.
### January Events Not to Miss This Month

#### Major Events

**19th Annual S.F. Sketchfest**
- Daily, Jan. 9–26 (except Jan. 20)
- Various S.F. venues

**S.F. Ballet 2020 Opening Night Gala: Inspiration**
- Thursday, Jan. 16, 5 p.m.
- War Memorial Opera House

**20th Annual Edwardian Ball & World’s Faire**
- Tuesday, Jan. 21, 9 p.m.
- Regency Ballroom (1300 Van Ness Ave.)

**New Century Chamber Orchestra: Beethoven in the Presidio**
- Friday, Jan. 24–25, 7:30 p.m.
- Herbst Theatre

**Beethoven250: Violin Recital with Anne-Sophie Mutter**
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 7:30 P.M.
- Davies Symphony Hall

**When Does Cry: The Prince Tribute Show**
- Saturday, Jan. 4, 6 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)
- Great American Music Hall

**The Sacramento-based group holds the distinction of being the only Prince tribute band to have performed the entire Body of Work and Purple Rain albums in the same night — a must-see show!**

**40th Annual Edwardian Ball**
- Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
- Herbst Theatre

### Community Corner

**Omoichikku! Mochi-Pounding Ceremony**
- Saturday, Jan. 11, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Logan & Sutro Hall, Asian Art Museum

**Community Fair: Feb. 9**
- Thursday, Jan. 16, 5 p.m.
- War Memorial Opera House

**Women’s March San Francisco: Together We Rise**
- Saturday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
- S.F. City Hall Plaza

**SHNS: Mystery Science Theater 3000**
- Saturday, Jan. 23–Feb.
- Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)

**ेच्चेयाट चे चेयाट**
- Saturday, Jan. 24, 6–8:30 p.m.
- Peninsula Community Center

**Beethoven in the Presidio**
- Friday, Jan. 24, 6–8:30 p.m.
- Herbst Theatre

**Fexternal’s 25th Birthday with Two Unique Programs**
- Friday, Jan. 30, 6–9 p.m.
- The New Edition

**Love and Light**
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 1–3 p.m.
- Family & Children’s Center

### Music

**The 18th Annual S.F. Jazz Festival**
- Friday, Jan. 24, 6–8:30 p.m.
- Grace Cathedral

**Festival features over 100 performers (95 percent women), all areas of the cathedral will be transformed into a stage with multiple performances occurring simultaneously to six stages, including a large main stage, performing and rotating short pieces (four minutes or less).**

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### Film

**Fresh Focus: Small Works Exhibition of Recent Bay Area MFA Artists**
- Daily through Feb. 23.
- S.F. City Hall Plaza

**Lost at Sea: Art Recovered from Shipwrecks**
- Tuesday, March 22
- Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin St.)

### Theatre

**SF Playhouse: Groundhog Day, The Musical**
- Tuesday through Jan. 18
- sanfranciscoplays.org

**ACT: Warkey, Warkey**
- Thursday, Jan. 23–Tuesday, Jan. 26
- 404 Geary St.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Monday, Jan. 20**
- Various locations

**Japanese New Year Celebration with Otschi Ryoko**
- Saturday, Jan. 9, 6–9 p.m.
- Hotel Kabuki (1625 Post St.)

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### Dance

**11th Annual Fresh Festival 2020**
- Friday, Jan. 10–26
- Joe Goode Annex (401 Alabama St.)

**Braun Dance Center (2781 24th St.)**
- CCC Dance Company (561 Shattuck St.)

**Dance**
- Monday through Jan. 13
- 401 Van Ness Ave.

### Museums & Galleries

**James Tissot: Fashion and Faith**
- Thursday, Jan. 9–30, 5 p.m. (doors at 4 p.m.)
- Legion of Honor (Lincoln Park)

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## Films & Lectures

**Free Angela Davis & All Political Prisoners Film Screening**
- Saturday, Jan. 4, noon–3:30 p.m.
- Koret Auditorium, de Young Museum (Golden Gate Park)

**The film traces the high-stakes crime, political trial that catapulted in the 26-year-old philosophy professor at UCLA into a career as a principled and articulate interpreter of the great American Songbook. Enjoy selections from songs by Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, Frank Sinatra, Yo-Yo Ma, John Mayer, Steven Tyler, and the Boston Pops.**

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Maximize the value of your home.

Sell your home faster and for a higher price. From painting to flooring, #OTTOCONCIERGE helps transform your home with zero upfront costs and no interest.
Save the Date

expect that number to be considerably higher in this anniversary year.

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY

There’s another San Francisco legend with an anniversary this year. The Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival is having its 20th anniversary gathering on Oct. 2-4. The free public music festival, created and subsidized by the late venture capitalist Warren Hellman, draws hundreds of thousands of people. They appreciate the live music and the rare opportunity to attend a music festival that isn’t sponsored by 101 corporations.

NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS

The city’s many street fairs and festivals are a great way to show off your own neighborhood or get to know another area of town. There are many festivals each year in the city, but some of the best are within easy walking/commuting distance of the Marina.

Chinatown is one of the neighborhood gems of San Francisco, and if you don't get there often for food or shopping, you might want to go there Feb. 8-9 for the Chinatown Community Street Fair. Held around Chinese New Year, it’s a great time to take in Chinese folk dancing, opera, drumming, dragons, giant pigeons, and much more. The same weekend will feature the Chinese New Year Parade.

Early June will see the 2020 Union Street Fair. This family-oriented festival features live music and other entertainment, delicious food, children’s activities, arts and crafts, and more. For many of us, this fair takes place in or near our front yards; but it is also a great time to show up Union Street after hours from across the city and around the Bay Area.

Later in the month — June 20-21, to be exact — North Beach gets to strut its stuff with the North Beach Festival, the original and first street festival in the country. Along with gourmet food, enjoy two stages of live entertainment, the Blessing of the Animals, poetry readings, arts and crafts, children’s chalk area, and of course more.

On July 4-5, join more than 100,000 other visitors for the Fillmore Jazz Festival. Located — you guessed it — on Fillmore Street, it features 12 blocks of live music on multiple stages, plus of course gourmet food and drink and fine arts and crafts.

In early August, you can head to Japan-town for the 46th Nihonmachi Street Fair. This volunteer-run event has a special commitment to mentor Asian-Pacific Islander children, so you can also take in its Doggie World Parade and Pageant.

Save the Date

FUN CONVENTION

It would seem like a sign of the times that the San Francisco Comic Con moved to . . . Oakland. But there are some San Francisco originals that are still here, showcasing the creativity and spirit of our local artists.

San Francisco Zine Fest started in 2001, and it is an annual expo (also with panel discussions and workshops) for independent writers, artists, and other creators. If you don't like the over-hyped magazines and comics and books you find at your usual stores and online shops, then check out the Zine Fest for table after table of independently produced publications. It is one of my favorite places to be recharged with enthusiasm about the creativity of people of all ages and backgrounds. Some of them will always prefer to be working in the indie world, some of them will one day have their work featured in major publications and on the big screen. Either way, this is your chance to put some cash directly into their pockets and meet them face-to-face. Find out more about this Labor Day weekend event at sfzinefest.org.

LET’S NOT FORGET

For more family fun, don’t forget the Union Street Easter Parade and Spring Celebration, which takes place of course at Easter time in April. It’s a fun and eclectic mix of children’s activities, pony rides, Easter bonnet competitions, and more, including a relaxed parade down Union Street.

Seafood lovers know that our local Dungeness crab season will be a mouth-watering time to take in (literally) this popular crustacean. It runs from late 2019 through mid-summer. This past fall, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife delayed the start of crab fishing due to “a significant risk of marine life entanglement,” in particular the presence of whales in the area. So just note that actual start/stop dates of the season are not written in stone.

One thing you can forget about happening this year is the long-anticipated opening of the Central Subway. Scheduled to take place this year, in September 2019 the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency announced that it will happen in mid-2021 instead. But that just gives us one more thing to look forward to next year.

This was just a small selection of the many fairs, celebrations, and additional events that will be taking place in 2020. You can find out more about these and other events that make San Francisco special place to be by checking out our calendar pages (and at marinatimes.com) or by visiting any of these organizations online. Tell ‘em the Marina Times sent you.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com. John Zipperer has perfect 2020 vision. Email john@marinatimes.com.

FROM THE COVER

Shoes-n-Feet

Comfortable Shoes From Athletic To Casual and Dress.

Wide Widths Available In Many Styles.

Come In For Your Gait Analysis And Professional Fitting.
GETTING MY JANUARY KICKS FROM FOOTBALL

ROOTING FOR THE NINERS – WHO ELSE?

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

I may not be kosher or even halal, but I do enjoy a regular diet of pigskin in the autumn and winter months from late August to February. For all of you who don’t jibe with the ancient pigskin, this is an old-timers euphemism for that elongated spheroid actually made of leather these days and carried, kicked, and tossed around the gridiron in that all-American game, football. And I mean the professional brand of football — not the amateur variety, whether collegiate, high school, or pee-wee.

No love for college-level football? Some will presume I would be sky-high that the NFL is the greatest, but I don’t see it that way. I enjoy the NFL because of the hours-long, no-mortgage Monday Night Football games on Disney+, via GABnet.net, and on Roku, Spotify, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter @cultureblaster

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THE NINERS’ SOUTHERN RIVALS

The relatively new Levi’s Stadium is starting to give the Niners a true home-field advantage.

THE Brazen Head

“An Irish pub in San Francisco.

Voted 2019 Winner Nextdoor Favorite

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Named one of “The 38 Essential San Francisco Restaurants” – Eater San Francisco

Happy New Year wishing you a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2020

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

Celebrating a Legacy:
Community, Culture, Education & Service

Italian Community Services continues to assist Bay Area Italian-American seniors and their families navigate and manage the resources needed to live healthy, independent and productive lives.

Additionally, we are committed to preserve our community’s strong Italian traditions, language and culture to ensure they remain a source of strength and identity for future generations.

Learn about services and how to get involved:
ItalianCS.com | (415) 362-6423 | info@italiancs.com

Italian Community Services
Preserving Our Culture. Sustaining Our Community.

TRAVEL

The Coastal Commuter

Go Niners!

The Coastal Commuter

Go Niners!

MARNATIMES.COM | MARINA TIMES

JANUARY 2020 | 15
The new year for many means new fitness resolutions. Runners and walkers alike will crowd the trails from Crissy Field and the Marina Green to deep inside the Presidio. But for those who aren’t runners or hard-core gym-goers, there is an alternative activity that can bring many of the same effects of more intense exercise to muscles, and even better, to the mind: yoga. Its many benefits have been documented by both the fitness and medical community for years. Yoga can increase flexibility, build strength, up lung capacity, and offer relief from stress and anxiety. And one of the best things about this ancient practice is that anyone can take yoga classes; many studios offer classes geared to beginners, and any yoga pose, or asana, can be modified to accommodate anything from creaky joints to minor injuries. For those who want a stronger workout, practices such as vinyasa, power yoga, and hot yoga ramp up the action.

**SOME LIKE IT HOT**

Cow Hollow and the Marina are home to myriad yoga studios. They offer many different styles of yoga, but most focus on vinyasa yoga, which involves moving from one pose to another in what’s called a “flow,” where practitioners rarely stop moving. Breath, alignment, and staying present are key tenants of vinyasa and most other forms of yoga. So-called “hot yoga” involves taking a class in a studio heated to 85–90 degrees, which loosens joints and purportedly releases toxins. Experts differ on the actual benefits of hot yoga versus regular yoga classes, but there’s no denying that a heated studio on a chilly winter day feels pretty darn good.

**Yoga Flow** is a family-operated, community-based chain of three studios with one located on Union Street. It offers beginner yoga classes every day. The majority of its classes are heated, vigorously, and fast-paced with modifications for both beginners and advanced practitioners. The goal is to offer physically challenging full-body workouts as well as a moving meditation. Yoga Flow teachers move students through a series of postures at a rapid rate in addition to holding poses to build strength and flexibility (Yoga Flow, 1892 Union Street, 415-440-9642, yogaflowsf.com).

**ADD PILATES TO THE MIX**

The Pad on Union Street offers challenging power vinyasa yoga classes in a room heated to 85 degrees, and private and group Pilates reformer classes set to upbeat contemporary music. The Pilates reformer machine has a bed-like frame with a flat platform that rolls back and forth on wheels within the frame. This carriage is attached to one end of the reformer by a set of springs. These springs — along with a set of adjustable straps with handles — provide different levels of resistance during a series of exercises designed to work every muscle in the body.

In addition to vinyasa and Pilates, The Pad has other classes like Align and Flow, an all-level vinyasa class that emphasizes proper alignment and activation in yoga poses. This class is geared toward newer yoga students or those preferring a flow class at a slower pace.

The Pad also offers hatha yoga classes, which teach proper alignment with a strong focus on binding breath and movement. Hatha yoga is based on classic, ancient yoga practices and offers instruction in practice with emphasis on yoga philosophy and meditation techniques. Both the Align and Flow and hatha yoga classes are taught in studios heated to 85 degrees. Other classes at The Pad include prenatal yoga, postnatal yoga, with babies, hot Pilates, and private yoga instruction (The Pad, 1694 Union Street, 415-929-1690, thepadstudios.com).

**SOME LIKE IT HOTTER STILL**

**Body Temp Yoga and Movement Studios** on Chestnut Street is a combination of a hot yoga studio and gym, with two locations directly across the street from one another. It offers classes in Bikram yoga, hot sculpt yoga with weights, hot and regular vinyasa, candlelight vinyasa, hot Pilates, and several other stretching and strengthening classes. Body Temp heats its studios with infrared heat that is purportedly better for promoting healthier skin and is environmentally friendly. Bikram yoga is a proprietary system of hot yoga classes consisting of a fixed sequence of 26 postures practiced in a room heated to 105 degrees. Extra-hot Bikram classes are taught at 110 degrees and followed by a cooldown (Body Temp Yoga, 2425 Chestnut Street, 415-922-1958, bodietylpyoga.com).

**YOGA FOR ALL**

Other nearby yoga studios include Karma Yoga on Union Street and Core Power Yoga in various locations including Lombard Street. If all this fiery yoga sounds too hot to handle, the city is literally bursting with yoga studios that offer all styles of practice in cooler spaces. Always get your physician’s take on any new workout, but the good news about yoga is that there is a practice for everyone, and it’s a positive start to a brand-new year.

E-mail: julie@marinetimes.com
The secret to creating lifelong readers

How to connect with your children over a good book and make it fun and enjoyable

BY LIZ FARRELL

O ne of my New Year’s resolutions is to read more. It sounds so simple, so how hard can it be? Life is full of distractions, and one of the first things to go is giving myself time to read, which I want to change. I love getting lost in a good book — that feeling where you don’t want to put the book down and can’t wait to get to the next page. I also feel strongly that one of the best ways for our children to develop a love of reading is by watching us enjoy it and modeling that for them. Here are some tips to help your child develop a lifelong love of reading.

KEEP IT INTERESTING

Finding books about topics that interest your children is key. They are much more likely to read if it is something they are interested in. But how do you find those? Children’s librarians, especially those at our local libraries, are great at making recommendations. Books, Inc. in Laurel Village and Chestnut Street have amazing and knowledgeable employees who are always willing to help. Another great resource for girls is the Mighty Girl blog (amightygirl.com), which features thousands of girl-empowering books for all levels and ages.

Another way to keep it interesting is by letting your children use technology. This is tricky for me, and call me old school, but I do agree that allowing your children to use technology in moderation can be an important part of their reading experience. For example, we always enjoy a trip to the library or bookstore together to pick our next book. My oldest goes to bed too late now, so I point them to a full bookcase and not a device. I hope your new year is filled with more special.

READ TO THEM

One of my favorite childhood memories is my dad reading to my sisters and me every night. It lasted until each of us was in junior high and was a tradition I wanted to pass down to my children. It is not always easy finding the time, but we try to never skip it. It is great one-on-one time with each child, and a wonderful way to connect before bedtime.

You can start early. The American Academy of Pediatrics advises parents to start reading to their children from infancy. For my 7-year-old, making this a nightly ritual and a priority has had many helpful benefits, including calming him down before bed, modeling the importance of reading, and developing a positive attitude about reading. I ask questions while we read to work on comprehension, and we always enjoy a trip to the library or bookstore together to pick our next book.

My oldest goes to bed too late now, so I no longer read to her, but we have started reading the same books, so we still have conversation and connection. We recently both read The Old Man and the Sea, which I loved reading again and seeing it through her eyes made it that much more special.

Help your children develop a love for reading by surrounding them with books so when they say they are bored, you can point them to a full bookcase and not a screen. Keep books handy so when you are waiting at the doctor’s office or at dinner, you can hand them a book instead of a device. I hope your new year is filled with many great books and time to connect and read together.

Liz Farrell is the mother of three young readers and the founder of TechTalks, a consulting group to help schools and families have productive and thoughtful conversations around social media and technology. Email: liz@marinatimes.com

Outreach January 2020

Engage with the Port of San Francisco regarding waterfront resilience. Join the Port for a 1.5-hour walking tour on January 11 around Islais Creek to learn more about the neighborhood history and ecology as well as the City’s work to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise. Meet at 10:00am at Islais Creek Promenade, located at 1668 Indiana Street. Additionally, the Port, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other City partners are hosting an upcoming community meeting on January 20 from 5:30pm-7:00pm located at the Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale Avenue to encourage engagement on coordinated resilience projects in the Islais Creek/Bayview neighborhoods. For more information and the Exploratorium in the northern waterfront for a Royal Walk with the King Tide on January 10 from 10:00-11:00am and January 11 from 10:45-11:45, located between Piers 3 and 5. Stay engaged at sfportresilience.com!

APPLY TO BECOME A CENSUS TAKER!

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the nationwide census. The Census Bureau is recruiting now to fill important temporary positions in San Francisco with great pay ($30/hour) and flexible hours for Spring 2020. You do not have to be a US citizen to apply. Be a Census Taker and make a difference in your community! Apply online NOW at 2020census.gov/jobs.

GET THE SALARY AND BENEFITS YOU DESERVE

Learn to identify your value, how to conduct objective market research and develop persuasive strategies with AAWU Work Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops presented by the FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, in partnership with the Commission/Department on the Status of Women. Take the FREE self-paced e-course at friendsscsw.org or register for an in-person workshop at friendsscsw.org/equalpay. For more information, call 415.779.6636

Make a Difference, Become a Literacy Volunteer

Half of San Francisco’s 3rd and 4th graders are not reading at grade level. By volunteering to tutor through the Library’s award-winning FOQ Readers program, you can help students in grades 1-4 increase their confidence and gain a half a grade level within the first three months. Currently, there are over 300 children waiting for a volunteer to help change their lives. For more information, visit sfbpl.org/foq. To get started, email readers@sfpl.org.

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit our office at 617 Mission Street to learn how we can help you. Information is also available online at www.sfgov.org/dcss.

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.
The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: November 2019
By Compass

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

**REAL ESTATE**

**MARKET REPORT: November 2019**

**THE MARINA TIMES REAL ESTATE**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES**

**T**

**C**

**Telegraph Hill**

**P**

**P**

**N**

**M**

**CONDOS**

**L**

**M**

**Cow Hollow**

**Compass Real Estate, 1880 Lombard Street, 415.321.4274, jay.costello@compass.com, www.compass.com**

**Coit Tower State Historic Park**

**THE NEW ROMAN RUINS OF NORTH BEACH**

There is a building at 659 Union Street (between Columbus Avenue and Powell Street) known as the Verdi Building. It used to contain retail and residential units. But a 2018 fire left it a burned-out shell waiting to be redeveloped. Like the Coliseum, it appears that locals prefer a ruin to a usable building. Efforts to rebuild the building by adding four stories to part of the roof — thus making it place an eight-story building — have set the typical San Francisco outrage about the building being out of character or for casting a shadow across a fairly wide street and over part of Washington Square Park. That last bit is being used as the main stick with which to hit developer Red Bridge Partners, thanks to a 1984 proposition that forces buildings higher than 40 feet to get special Planning Commission approval if the buildings would cast a shadow on a public park. It is a weapon used by any antidevelopment voter, neighborhood group, or politician to stop projects that do what buildings in big cities are supposed to do: rise higher as the most economical and environmental way to do density.

The proposed eight-story development would include nearly 100 units of housing, about twice the amount that would be possible if the building were rebuilt within its current envelope.

After the Board of Supervisors — who is full of members who bleat repeatedly about the need for more housing for city residents — recently voted unanimously to kill another proposed project elsewhere in the city because it would cast a shadow over a nearby park for a minimal amount of time, it is clear that the supervisors and their constituents don’t want more housing.

The Coliseum is a historic site, and it is a focal point for some key incidents in Roman history. It was awesome architecture, and it is good and honorable to keep it as it is. The Verdi Building had a liquor store.

**HAUSING VERSUS OFFICE**

In 1986, San Francisco voters passed an anti-office ballot measure called Proposition M that limited the amount of new office space in the city. Proponents said they wanted to prevent “speculators” from building tons of unused office space that would then be left unused in an economic downturn.

Now, the logical fallacy of that is if you hate speculators, the best thing to do is feed them. If there is tons of unused space during a downturn, guess who gets hurt? The speculators. Guess who wins? Companies and nonprofits that get cheap office leases during those economic downturns. You know, the companies and nonprofits that were forced out of San Francisco over the past decade because of rapidly rising office rents? Yes, them.

When supply is artificially limited it is the speculators who win out speculatively, because when they are allowed to develop, they’re pretty much guaranteed casino rates of return.

This past fall Mayor London Breed floated the idea of putting a cap on office space in the city. But she backed off in early December, right before the deadline for filing to get it on the ballot.

Oh, city of real estate irony, what could have stopped her in her tracks?

There is another ballot measure that would seek to restrict the amount of office space that can be built. Called Proposition E, it is based on the spurious idea that we don’t have enough affordable housing because there’s too much office development. Instead of doing something to demand the city meet its state-mandated affordable housing goals, the measure would restrict economic development and do nothing to spur housing development.

So everybody loses.

**SPEAKING ABOUT OFFICE SPACE . . .**

The researchers over at real estate firm Avison Young reported that in the third quarter of 2019, overall office rents hit $88.73 per square foot (with class A — the newest and best properties — space going for $90.08 per square foot).
In the near future, "we should expect to see the inverse trend of vacancies declining and office rates climbing." As San Francisco's booming economy shows no end in sight, the demand tech companies will place on premium spaces will outpace the limited supply. With traditional tenants moving out and tech companies moving in, the San Francisco office market has undergone a significant demographic shift.12

So do people still think it was a good idea to limit the amount of office space? "The median sales price of a house in San Francisco reached a Bay Area-high of $1.58 million in the third quarter of 2019, according to Compass, San Mateo County was in second place with $1.51 million."

When Compass looked at the sales price trends since 2012 in terms of sections of the city, "the area blew away every other area in terms of median sales price. Yes — the area encompassing Pacific Heights, Presidio Heights, Cow Hollow, and the Marina had median sales prices more than twice as high as the next-highest-priced area (which happened to be tony Noe Valley, Eureka and Cole Valleys, Glen Park, and other neighborhoods). If you're reading this and thinking, My home isn't valued at $5 million, don't worry. Our Northside median prices are thrown off by a few of those "most expensive penthouses in the city" stories you see from time to time on SFGate.

MORE NUMBERS

Redfin reports that, no surprise, San Francisco rates are among the most competitive in the nation's top cities. Our fair city ranked 91 on a 1-100 scale, with 100 being "most competitive." Redfin notes that homes here typically get multiple offers, and homes "sell for about 8 percent above list price and go pending in around 21 days."

And if you still don't believe in supply and demand, note that Vanguard Properties produced a market report in December that said there were 222 single-family properties for sale in November 2019, compared to 376 in November 2018. Condominium units and TICs were below, and the Marina/Twin Peaks, Glen Park, and other neighborhoods were "most competitive."

Valleys, Glen Park, and other neighborhoods were "most competitive."

Condo homeowners associations (HOAs) typically hire and oversee the contractors doing the retrofitting. But the current PACE financial company will not pay HOAs; it will only pay the contractor directly. It is a little difficult to get info about the program from the financiers. ESIP's website doesn't even list the current funder, which is something called E3, it still lists the previous funder, Alliance/NRG, a representative of which sent me to E3. As near as I can figure, previous PACE finance companies had different rules. HOAs in the city have successfully used PACE and have been paid by PACE, according to a property management representative I spoke with. So why the change? And why this change — one that literally breaks a no-go rule with HOAs? Why couldn't the PACE funder simply recognize the HOA as the general contractor, because that's the entity with the contracts and the oversight of the work that is being done, not to mention the legal responsibility to be in compliance?

At press time, requests for info from two different San Francisco supervisors have gone unanswered. That is not necessarily as heartless as it might seem; my inquiries were admittedly made around the holiday time, when many offices are short-staffed.

Meanwhile: Rock, hard place, and San Francisco homeowners in between.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"Some markets are clearly positioned for exceptional longer term performance due to their relatively housing affordability bonded with solid local economic expansion. Drawing new residents from other states will also further stimulate housing demand in these markets, but this will create upward price pressures as well, especially if demand is not met by increasing supplies."

—Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist, National Association of Realtors

Send feedback to letters@marinetimes.com. Real estate news tips? E-mail: john@marinetimes.com

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1. SNYDER ON FILM, continued on 13
2. SNYDER ON FILM, continued on 13
3. SNYDER ON FILM, continued on 13
Let’s talk cannabis.

THE APOTHECARIUM DISPENSARY

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