



15 Real Estate
Wild Wild Web:
 Four signs of dot-com bomb 2.0 13
Food & Wine
In the Spirit: Meet Clair Sprouse 15



34 Style
Style: Designer Showcase wows 24
Pet Pages
Political Animal:
 SFPD kills three dogs in three months 34



22 Calendar
June Events: In between hitting the streets for the city's many great fairs and festivals, take the time to see Michael Douglas, Hillary Clinton, the pope's astronomer, David Boies and Ted Olson, and much more this month. 22

MarinaTimes

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The Union Street Festival will once again attract thousands for food, music, and shopping PHOTO: STEVEN RESTIVO EVENT SERVICES, LLC

Let street festival season begin

by lynette majer

THE TRADITIONAL BEGINNING of summer in most parts of the country is Memorial Day, but in San Francisco, it's also our unique street festivals. We may see many of the same vendors at each festival, but each has its own personality depending on the neighbor-

hood. You'll find arts, crafts, food, and music at all of the festivals, as well as free admission, but occasionally one will incorporate new features or themes, as the Union Street Festival has done in its 38th iteration.

Gearing up a week later this year, on Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., the **Union Street Festival** again will stretch

from Gough Street to Steiner Street. What's new is that each of the six blocks will be themed a unique "world": Fashion World, Culinary World, Tech World, Local World, Craft World, and Health and Fitness World. This feature is attributed to Regan Caponi, owner of the Comet Club on Fillmore

STREET FESTIVALS, continued on 6

REYNOLDS RAP :: Business

The vacancy preservationists

David Chiu and North Beach cartel still making it tough to do business

by susan dyer reynolds

AT A CAFE IN MILL VALLEY, JORDAN ANGLE opens a large binder containing a business plan for Tryst, the high-end restaurant and lounge that he and his partners want to open at 493 Broadway Street in North Beach. The building is owned by Angle's 88-year-old grandmother, Alyce Craft, and has been in the family for 150 years. Angle points to a menu of tasty dining options such as eggs Benedict with crab and bacon, as well as to numerous pie charts displaying the results of extensive research he and his partners have done on everything from demographics to competition. "They don't care about any of this," he says. "They tell me that I don't know what I'm doing and they don't trust me."

The "they" Jordan is referring to is the incestuous neighborhood groups of North Beach — the Telegraph Hill Dwellers (THD), North Beach Business Association (NBBA), Southern Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association (SoTel), and Broadway Community Benefit District (BCBD) — and their allies, Kathleen Dooley of

VACANCY, continued on 4

The shape-shifting city

The evolving face of San Francisco brings home one message: It's always changing

by john zipperer

This is the second of a four-part series exploring the growth of San Francisco.

IF YOU ARE ONE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S 837,000 residents these days, you are probably white or Asian, earning about \$46,000 (or \$72,000 for your entire household), and identify as (or at least vote for) a Democrat. In 1970, you would have been white or African-American (Asians back then were only about a third of the population segment they are today) — and already probably voting Democratic.

It is harder to accurately predict the future than it is to sift through data from the past, but there are some forecasts being made about the Bay Area as a whole in the next few decades. For example, a report from One Bay Area (onebayarea.org) predicts that white residents of the Bay Area will decrease from 45 percent in 2010 to less than one-third in 2040. In that same time, Latinos will increase from 23 to 35 percent, and Asians will increase slightly from 21 to 24 percent. Other racial cat-

egories are not expected to change significantly during that time.

And yes, there's a good chance they'll still vote Democratic.

As San Franciscans watch their bustling city grow, as they argue about what should be done to deter or prepare for more people, they are also expressing interest in how the newcomers will change the world-famous face of the city. They are not the first generation to notice the change.

District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell has a lifelong perspective on the changing face of San Francisco in general and in particular where he grew up, the Marina. But when he returned to the neighborhood in the 1990s after being away, he found a different vibe on Chestnut Street.

"I remember coming back my first summer in college, taking a ride down Chestnut Street, and wondering what had happened to the neighborhood I had grown up in," he recalled. "A lot of the storefronts were the same, but the people were a lot younger and wearing college sweatshirts, compared to my memories of growing up, being one

SHAPE-SHIFTING CITY, continued on 6

BACK STORY



Vintage Finnochio's night club promotional postcard featuring female impersonators

Finnochio's: What a drag

by ernest beyl

RECENTLY I WROTE a column called "Broadway Kaleidoscope," the Back Story about what I called the Golden Years of Broadway in North Beach. I said

that in the 1960s — my Broadway's golden years — the street had a palpable, almost nonchalant ambience and was an exciting kaleidoscope of pleasures some might classify as naughty, but nice.

I believe that column got

more favorable comment than any other I have written for the *Marina Times*. I described the restaurants, the jazz clubs, and the places I just hung out. Those who wrote me about the column recalled their own

FINNOCHIO'S, continued on 18

IN THIS ISSUE

24



19



34



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- Osso Steakhouse** — 1177 California Street, San Francisco, CA
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- Peter Luger Steakhouse** — 178 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY
- Bern's Steakhouse** — 1208 South Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL
- CUT** — 9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA
- Emeril's Delmonico** — 3355 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV
- Mario Batali's Carnevino** — 3325 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
- Chicago Cut** — 300 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL
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News

Political moves

News Briefs reports on the cross-country mayoral struggle for George Lucas' museum, Union Street worry about AT&T towers, Vietnam veterans remembered, Coit Tower reopens, Laura's Law introduced, and more. **3**

Community

Crime and homelessness

Supervisor Mark Farrell lays out his aims for tackling the city's hardcore problems with homelessness, plus the Police Blotter. **8**

Street Beat

Northside potpourri

The Northsider welcomes Nike and Shipbird and the forthcoming Equinox, and Ernest Beyl gives the insight into Mama's, Poet's Plaza, and more. **10**

Business & Finance

The old new economy

John Zipperer says high-tech job interviews aren't the place to be hip, and Susan Dyer Reynolds shares four signs that we're headed for another dot-com bomb. **12**

Food & Wine

What's for dinner?

The Tablehopper uncovers a lot of new hotspots, Garrick Ramirez showcases bar manager Clair Sprouse at The Square, Ernest Beyl says you can get well fed at a museum, and Julie Mitchell investigates the new Stones Throw. **14**

Arts & Entertainment

City in motion

Sharon Anderson rediscovers vinyl; Michael Snyder discovers two good films; M. D. Caprario looks at a new book on Pan Am; Sandy Fertman Ryan finds even more festivals; plus the Marina's bestsellers. **18**

Calendar

June events

Film festivals highlighting black artists and LGBT filmmakers are on tap this month, along with the 10th Annual Pinot Days Grand Festival, a Father's Day Beer Brunch Cruise, the Gay Pride parade and ancillary festivities, and much more to kick off your summer. **22**

Living

Edgy and traditional at once

Maryann LoRusso visits the Decorator Showcase in Presidio Heights and discovers the designers in their "blue" phase. **24**

At Home

Taking care of hearth and home

Julie Mitchell looks at high-intensity workouts, Liz Farrell says family travel can be fun and not drive you crazy, and Julia Strzesieski extolls bee benefits. **26**

Real Estate

Renting, buying and selling

Carole Isaacs looks at the newly minted micro neighborhoods, John Zipperer shows what renters are up against, Stephanie Saunders Ahlberg talks house pricing, and the Roundup has the market news. **29**

Pet Pages

Animals in your life

Susan Dyer Reynolds wonders if the SFPD is trigger happy after they kill three dogs in three months, John Zipperer on one pushy cat's eternal mealtime, Marcy Schaff discusses her SaveABunny rescue group, and Skylar Grey loves her Uncle Steve very much. **34**

ONLINE SPECIALS
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NEWS BRIEFS :: History is never in the past

THE MAYOR STRIKES BACK

Reacting to reports that Chicago was aggressively wooing filmmaker George Lucas to be the site for his new \$700-million museum, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee stepped up his game in early May. Noting that the Presidio Trust has offered a site for the museum, the mayor said, "I strongly agree with the many educators, business leaders, parents, and families who have expressed their concern to me that we must not squander this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our city and region. To that end ... I have directed my staff and relevant city departments to develop a shortlist of additional potential

sites, public and private, that we may present to Mr. Lucas ... for consideration as opportunities for partnership to build and endow the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum in San Francisco."

In late May, a task force set up by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel recommended a site for the museum in that city's "museum campus" along the downtown lakefront.

Lee made clear that he's not willing to give up. "George Lucas is a citizen of the San Francisco Bay Area. His movies and his impact on our popular culture have been inspired by this region, his home," Lee said in a statement. "I wholeheartedly believe that this tremendous investment in the arts and education belong in only one place, and that is here in San Francisco."

PRESIDIO'S VIETNAM CONNECTION

Fifty years ago, U.S. President Lyndon Johnson began escalating American involvement in Vietnam, an involvement that wouldn't end until President Gerald Ford's time in office more than a decade later. When organizers planned the 146th Memorial Day Ceremony in the Presidio this past May 26, they made a point of recognizing the Presidio's role in that war.

"We are dedicating this ceremony to our Vietnam veterans and giving them a long-overdue 'welcome home and thank you,' ceremony coordinator Wally Levin said beforehand.

Many of the 536,000 U.S. troops that were sent to Vietnam came through the Presidio. The base also played a key role in

caring for wounded soldiers (more than 300,000 American troops were injured in Vietnam) as well as attempts to help refugees and orphans as the South Vietnamese government collapsed.



You can once more ascend Coit Tower to enjoy its views and historic murals PHOTO: FLICKERD! / FLICKER

LAURA'S LAW GETS SAN FRANCISCO INTRO

Supervisor Mark Farrell is promoting an initiative for the November 2014 election to implement Laura's Law in San Francisco; if he is able to pass the measure in the Board of Supervisors before August, Farrell will withdraw the voter initiative.

Laura's Law is a state law that allows court-ordered mental health treatment for people with serious mental illness and a recent history of danger to themselves or others. It is named for Laura Wilcox, a 19-year-old college student who was murdered in 2001 by a man who had fought his family's efforts to force treatment for his mental illness.

"Laura's Law will provide appropriate treatment services for our most vulnerable, reduce hospitalization and incarceration rates, and improve public safety for our residents," said Farrell.

"The proof is what we see on the streets every day in our city with too many people dealing with serious mental health issues like schizophrenia, often self-medicating with drugs and alcohol," said Mayor Ed Lee.

AT&T CELL TOWERS DRAW IRE ON UNION

Plans by AT&T to site cell towers on Union Street are meeting stiff opposition from locals. In a statement, the Union Street Association laid out its objections. "For the last 40-plus years, the Union Street Association has worked hard to preserve the unique character of our neighborhood and the buildings we have entrusted

to us. AT&T Wireless has disregarded our design guidelines and the need to preserve the historic nature of the buildings on Union Street. There are multiple other sites on other streets which would work as well, but they insist on placing these cell tower monstrosities on Union Street."

Despite AT&T changing its initial plans, the association says the second option was no better. "First it was 1700 Union, a beautiful Edwardian building at the corner of Gough. When that was voted down by the Planning Commission, AT&T Wireless withdrew that request and then moved their request to 1800 Union, at the corner of Octavia,

one block away and once again on a beautiful Edwardian multilevel structure," the statement continued. "The proposal of the mammoth structure they would put on this building would detract from the architectural design and significance of the building and ultimately detract from the entire neighborhood. Given the size and shape of their proposed monstrosity, it is unreasonable to put it in the 1700 or 1800 block of Union Street."

COIT BACK ONLINE

Locals and visitors who had to wait six months for restoration and structural work to be completed on Telegraph Hill's Coit Tower were rewarded in mid-May with the reopening of the iconic monument. Paint was touched up, asbestos and lead were removed, a gift shop added, and more was done in a \$1.6 million refurbishment.

Coit Tower holds a special place of affinity with San Francisco firefighters. Its namesake, socialite Lillie Hitchcock Coit, was obsessed with firefighting, especially in the days before San Francisco had a professional fire department. After her death in 1929, she left a bequest consisting of one-third of her estate to the city to add "to the beauty of the city which I have always loved." Coit Tower, built in 1933, was the result.

Visitors can once again see murals painted by 27 artists, many of whom focused on issues of racial equality and painted in the then-trendy style of Socialist realism.



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EDITORIAL

VACANCY

CONTINUED from page 1

the Small Business Commission, former Board of Supervisors president Aaron Peskin, and current Board of Supervisors president David Chiu.

“Peskin just joined the NBBA, where his friend Kathleen Dooley is now the president; Kathleen was appointed to the Small Business Commission by David Chiu, and she is also former president of THD,” Angle explains. “Aaron Peskin’s wife, Nancy Shanahan, is on the board of THD and she’s close friends with Stephanie Greenburg, who is president

Broadway Corridor’s dirty little secret. Donations and contributions benefiting key players have been known to make the difference between businesses that get what they want — and those that don’t. “I guess that’s how you play the game,” Angle says. “It truly is a cartel.”

Angle isn’t the only business owner in North Beach to come up against Chiu and his cronies — they kept the Pagoda Theater dark for years, forced the closure of the Piazza Market, and are now flexing their muscle with the family that owns Mama’s on Washington Square, who want to take over the

“I guess that’s how you play the game. It truly is a cartel.”

—Jordan Angle

of both SoTel and the BCBD. The vice president of the BCBD is Joe Carouba, who owns all of the strip clubs in North Beach, and David Chiu helped to create the BCBD ...”

If this tangled web sounds familiar, that’s because I wrote a story for the March issue of the *Marina Times* about Chiu and his cohorts trying to enact a liquor moratorium in North Beach. That plan has been put on hold, likely because the battle with fellow supervisor David Campos to represent California District 17 in the State Assembly is contentious, and Chiu doesn’t need any more controversy before the June 3 primary election. That’s also why, I assume, Chiu stomped all over the First Amendment after my article appeared.

“I’ve been trying to negotiate with David Chiu for two years,” Angle says, “and he’d pretty much cut me off — until your article came out. That’s when I got a call asking my attorney and me to come to his office. The first thing Chiu said was, ‘I’ll only negotiate with you if you stop talking to the press.’ I told him that was the only reason he was talking to me now. He said, ‘If you talk to the press again my door will shut.’ I told him that I would agree only if he would negotiate with me in good faith.”

As I mentioned last month in a story about Chiu’s attempts to regulate residential building owners with his Airbnb legislation, I don’t understand why the president of the Board of Supervisors has taken on the role of San Francisco property manager. Even more disturbing is the politics he plays, particularly with regard to his proposed liquor license moratorium.

“The Tosca Group is opening a bar in the old Lusty Lady, which is owned by Joe Carouba. They’re getting a brand-new type 48 liquor license, where they never had one before. The Future Bars group is opening another bar where [Jazz at] Pearl’s was and they’re getting a new 48 license, too, even though Pearl’s only had a 47, which is for restaurants,” Angle says. “These places are right by my grandmother’s building, which has always been a bar and has always had a 48 license, but Chiu won’t give us a 48 now. Chiu also wants our conditional use permit to state that we can never have entertainment, even though we’re located in an entertainment district.”

Both of those other projects are moving forward without a conditional use permit hearing before the planning commission, because zoning administrator Scott Sanchez says they received no complaints to trigger such a hearing. Back room deals are the

long-vacant Piazza space; they’ve also managed to keep another watering hole, the Crowbar, empty for a decade despite the fact that it’s had a number of serious suitors.

And why are these neighborhood and business “advocates” such vacancy preservationists? “They want everything to stay the same,” Angle says. “They wanted the Pagoda to stay a theater, even though it closed and the owner had people ready to turn it into condos and a restaurant; they insisted the new owner of the Piazza Market keep selling groceries like the previous owner, even though they went out of business and he was opening a restaurant. He tried to accommodate them, but the concept of a cafe selling groceries didn’t work and he went under, too; now they want Mama’s to sell groceries there.”

Adding to the frustration for Angle and other Broadway corridor property owners is the BCBD assessment. “They charge building owners thousands of dollars per year, and then they oppose new projects that don’t fit with their political agendas,” says Angle. “So we are basically paying them to keep our buildings empty.”

That frustration came to a head when Angle sent an e-mail to his fellow building owners stating that he wanted to work together to disband the BCBD. Almost immediately, Angle got a call from Chiu’s office requesting a 9 a.m. meeting at his office. “When my attorney and I arrived, Chiu’s face was bright red and he was really angry. He was yelling about how helping to create the BCBD was five years of his work, and then he said, ‘I’ll only continue negotiating with you if you send another e-mail saying you don’t support disbanding the BCBD.’ Somehow he got

Back room deals are the Broadway Corridor’s dirty little secret.

his hands on my e-mail. I couldn’t believe it.” After contacting the other business owners by phone to explain why he was doing it, Angle reluctantly sent out the email Chiu wanted, making sure to copy Chiu, Chiu’s aides, and Greenburg, but negotiations regarding Tryst remain stalled.

If Chiu did all of this to generate support among the leaders of the North Beach cartel for his upcoming election, it hasn’t worked. “This all goes back to Nancy; she’s the key to all of it,” Angle says. “But now she and Aaron have turned on Chiu and are supporting Campos for State Assembly. I guess I would just ask voters one thing: If David Chiu lied to me in San Francisco, will he lie to them in Sacramento?”

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The Union Street Festival comes round and round again in 2014

PHOTO: STEVEN RESTIVO EVENT SERVICES, LLC

STREET FESTIVALS

CONTINUED from page 1

Street and member of the Union Street Association, who was inspired by the different “lands” at last year’s Outside Lands music festival.

Also new this year after a three-year hiatus is the return of wine and beer in the form of “tasting pavilions,” to include food pairings of gourmet cheeses, nuts,

and olive oils. Each of the three pavilions will incorporate the décor of the world block on which they are located. Before you get too excited, you’ve got to pay to play at \$30 advance and \$35 onsite for a ticket of 10 tastings of one-ounce pours from over 12 wineries like Rosenblum, Howell Mountain, and Pope or two-ounce pours of craft beer. The pavilions are open from noon–5 p.m. each day with the last pour at 4:30 p.m.

The more traditional festival offerings include over 100 boutique artists from across the country offering their specialty arts, crafts, and products. Between the dozens of food vendors dishing out your favorite street-fair specialties from corn dogs to souvlaki to teriyaki, and the many cafes and bistros along Union Street offering a more refined dining experience, there’s no reason to leave hungry. Live music will also return; visit unionstreetfestival.com for the schedule.

Local chefs from Café Claude Marina, Dosa, and more will demonstrate their signature dishes each day at Culinary World (Fillmore Street). A fashion show both days (1–2 p.m. and 3–4 p.m., Gough Street) will feature the latest styles from Union Street’s finest and trendiest boutiques, many of which will be open, so don’t forget to stop in and visit after the show. You won’t want to miss the entertainment between each set, which includes a pet fashion show.

As with past years, the Union Street Festival proceeds help support the Union Street Association and its efforts to beautify, promote, and preserve Union Street.

Now in its 60th year and considered the country’s original street fair, the **North Beach Festival** follows the next weekend, June 14–15, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. More than 150 booths will feature fine arts, crafts, gifts, and of course, food and drink, spanning several streets (Columbus Avenue between Broadway and Green; Vallejo and Green Streets

between Grant and Columbus; and Grant Avenue between Columbus and Filbert) for a true North Beach experience.

The fair features traditional Italian street painting with chalk, and you can also buy space for your future Rembrandts to create their own masterpieces at the kids’ chalk area on Vallejo Street (between Grant and Columbus). There will be live music on two stages (visit sresproductions.com for the entertainment line-up), and you can enjoy your beer and wine in the beverage gardens. And of course you’ll want to bring your pets for the ever-popular traditional animal blessing at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi (610 Vallejo Street) each day from 2–3 p.m., perhaps to help absolve your furry friend of all past and future transgressions.

And, again, don’t forget to visit the local merchants who make up this vibrant and colorful North Beach neighborhood. Some of the artists in the many galleries on Grant Street will have booths outside — don’t miss the eclectic collection of photographs by Craig Fonarow and altered books and drawings by Elizabeth Ashcroft, who are also part of a group show at Live Worms Gallery (1345 Grant Avenue).

Proceeds from the fair benefit the North Beach Business Association, which funds many neighborhood projects from hanging flower baskets to holiday lighting to sidewalk steam cleaning, as well as providing financial support for neighborhood organizations.

SHAPE-SHIFTING CITY

CONTINUED from page 1

of but a few children I knew of in the Marina, [where I saw] a much older generation. From my experience, the demographics there really changed.

“I think from that time the Marina has maintained a grouping of very young individuals that continued to stay in the Marina and move in and raise children,” said Farrell. “You’re starting to see an evolution of different generations in the Marina District, which I think is healthy and great, but it certainly is very, very different from when I grew up in the Marina.”

In late April, the political news website Truthout (truth-out.org) expressed the worries of many on the left that the changing population of San Francisco is resulting in a whiter, more conservative, and meaner town. Headlined “The Bleaching of San Francisco: Extreme Gentrification and Suburbanized Poverty in the Bay Area,” the article contrasts struggling minority groups in the city with “the booming tech industry, whose workers’ average salaries are over \$100,000.” The city is lambasted for allegedly criminalizing the behavior of minorities and the poor, incarcerating or driving them out of the city so their apartments can be filled with richer, whiter people.

But the worries aren’t only heard from the city’s large and vocal left wing. In late May, *Newsweek* ran an article titled “Tech Boom Forces a Ruthless Gentrification in San Francisco,” which discussed the experiences of people — especially Baby Boomers who came here in the 1960s and 1970s and influenced the last few decades of the city’s

social and political development — who feel they are being pushed out of this city.

Almost everybody agrees that this is a significant moment in the city’s evolution; though people don’t all agree on whether the changes are good or bad or a muddle, there are some incontrovertible facts. The changes will keep coming.

Supervisor Scott Wiener, who represents District 8 (stretching from Corona Heights to Diamond Heights to Eureka Valley) moved from the East Coast to San Francisco in 1997; currently a resident of the Castro, he has become a keen advocate for dealing with the changes needed to accommodate a burgeoning population. “I live in the Castro. I’ve noticed there are more people in the city,” he told the *Marina Times*. “There’s more traffic; Muni is more crowded. I’ve also noticed — especially in [recent] years — there are a lot more young people in the city, which I find to be a good thing. It seems like, in my district or else-

The Commonwealth Club in February, Perkins pivoted from that controversy to other issues of growth, economics, and dislocation in San Francisco, saying the city is becoming a bedroom community for the Valley. “The people in Silicon Valley are living in San Francisco more and more. This is a trend that will continue,” he said. “And why not? It’s a great city — has wonderful restaurants, great culture, a beautiful bay, and everything. But the economic effect of that has been to drive up rents about 30 percent. I don’t think there’s much you can do about that. That’s inevitable. As Silicon Valley thrives, which it is, more and more people will want to live in San Francisco.”

According to U.S. Government census data, San Francisco’s population in 2010 was just slightly more male (50.7 percent) than female (49.3 percent); 73 percent of the population was aged 18 to 64 years, and the next largest age cohort was 65 years and over (13.6 percent). Depending on the source, exact figures can change a bit. But in 2010, median household income was \$71,304 according to the Census, while the per capita income was \$45,478. An estimated 11.9 percent of San Francisco’s population (or 92,600 people) were categorized as being in poverty. Just slightly more than 50 percent of the population had an undergraduate or graduate degree from college.

Who are the new residents? The booming city by the bay is attractive to lots of people, not just technology industry employees, but tech workers are not an accidental target of the anti-gentrification crowd. They are a tempting target because there are, in fact, a lot of them, and they often fit the model description:



When San Francisco police shut down street chess games, critics complained that the city was cleaning up its image to appeal to the newest generation of wealthier, whiter residents PHOTO: YAIR HAKLAI

young(ish), well-paid, often new to the Bay Area, hard working, eager to build a career, and more likely to lean libertarian (socially liberal, economically conservative) than Baby Boomers.

One Bay Area also expects San Francisco’s population to grow from 2010’s 805,235 (it’s estimated to be 837,000 today) to 1,085,641 by 2040. So further change is on the docket. San Franciscans are an outspoken and opinionated bunch, so they will continue to discuss, worry, plan, and expect various changes to be wrought in this old city as a result of its continued population growth and national success. Wiener is optimistic.

“We don’t get to decide who moves here. As much as all of us would love to decide exactly who lives in our city, people make their own decisions [about] where they live,” he said. “San Francisco has always been a changing city, where new waves of people come here, whether it was the Irish and the Swedes back in the day, or

Latinos moving into the Mission, or Chinese immigrating here, or hippies and gay people. Whoever it might be, people come here. It’s the best city in the world, and people come here to make lives for themselves. When new people come, it does mean change.

“But with all the change that’s happened in this city for 150 years, there are still basic core values that haven’t changed in this city,” Wiener continued. “In terms of respect for the individual, in terms of having innovative, creative, quirky people who make this city great. There are a lot of common themes that transcend all of the population changes we’ve seen. There’s something magical about San Francisco that attracts a unique kind of person to our city. I don’t think that’s going to change.”

Next issue: In Part 3, a more-crowded San Francisco deals with housing and transportation shortfalls.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

“People make their own decisions about where they live.” —Supervisor Wiener

where, just a lot more people in their 20s and 30s here trying to make a life for themselves. That’s a good and very healthy thing. To be a living city, you need young people and young families coming here, a fresh infusion of blood into the city.”

Venture capitalist and San Francisco resident Tom Perkins got himself into trouble earlier this year after an outrageously argued defense of the rich against criticism from the left. But in an appearance at

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Crime on the beat

AS WE HEAD INTO THE SUMMER months, Northern Station Captain Greg McEachern reports that crime in this district continues to be lower than at the same time last year. “However, we have traditionally seen crime increase as the weather warms up and the days become longer, so please continue to be vigilant about protecting yourselves and your property,” he warns.

Here’s how the crime rates compare, from April 2013 to April 2014.

- Homicide, citywide:** down 58%
- Homicide, Northern District:** down 50%
- Rape, citywide:** up 6%
- Rape, Northern District:** up 31%
- Robbery, citywide:** down 25%
- Robbery, Northern District:** down 33%
- Auto theft, citywide:** up 10%
- Auto theft, Northern District:** up 17%
- Arson, citywide:** down 5%
- Arson, Northern District:** up 22%

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

THE AUTO BOOST CLUB

May 3, 4:52 a.m.

Buchanan at Pacific Streets

A witness told officers that he had seen someone break the window of

a Toyota Prius. The witness yelled at the subject, who fled. Officers searched for the male subject, but instead they found two females hiding behind bushes near the Prius. Officers noticed a set of ski goggles, a flashlight, and a set of “shaved” keys, which are commonly used by criminals to unlock vehicles.

The female subjects told the officers that they live in Daly City, don’t have a car, and were in town visiting a friend who lived nearby. However, they could not provide an address for the friend. A computer check revealed that the subjects were on probation for auto burglary. A search of them found items that are typically used to break auto glass.

The witness said the subjects weren’t the ones he spotted breaking the glass but that they “were around it” after the breaking. The subjects were handcuffed and taken to Northern Station. The owners of the Prius were contacted.

“I FELL ON THE CAR”

May 4, 12:55 a.m.

2000 Block of Chestnut Street

A bouncer at a local bar watched a group of three men walk away after they had been escorted out of the bar. One of the men jumped from the sidewalk up onto the hood of a

nearby parked vehicle, causing the hood to partially cave in. The bouncer detained the man and called the police. The subject told the officers when they arrived, “I’m really drunk and I fell on the car.” He was booked at Northern Station.

THE AUTO BOOST CLUB, PART 2

May 4, 12:45 p.m.

Steiner at Geary Streets

Officers responded to a report of an auto burglary; they were given the descriptions of the two male subjects (including that they were carrying a yellow bag) as well as their direction of flight. The officers quickly detained one of the subjects, recognizing him from numerous prior auto burglary arrests. Witnesses identified the subject as the auto burglar, and police were able to contact the car’s owner, who arrived and said her yellow purse had been stolen from the car.

The first subject was booked at Northern Station. The second subject was not apprehended and got away with the purse. It’s yellow.

ONE-SIDED SHOUTING MATCH

May 9, 5:20 p.m.

Divisadero at Lombard Streets

A husband and wife contacted police to report harassment by a subject with a heavy build. Officers located the person matching the description and clothing given by the caller. The subject told the officers

that he hadn’t done anything wrong and that they should leave him alone.

The female victim refused to return to the scene, but she did meet an officer one block away, where she explained what had happened. She said that she and her husband were exiting their car when the subject approached her, swearing and yelling at her for no reason. The husband was holding their baby, and when the subject approached the husband, yelling and pointing his finger, the couple walked away and called 911.

Police ran a computer check on the subject and found an active vandalism warrant for \$10,000. He was booked at Northern Station.

THE AUTO BOOST CLUB, PART 3

May 12, 5:46 a.m.

Hemlock at Polk

As officers arrived to look into a reported auto burglary in progress, they were discretely flagged down by a witness. He pointed out a female subject who was walking away from the officers quickly. The victim said the female subject and a male companion had stolen two of his cell phones from the vehicle; the officers detained the female subject and found the cell phones.

Though the witness said it was the male subject who had actually broken into the car, he was not located. The female subject told officers that she was just “holding” the phones for him. She was booked at County Jail.



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A deeper dive on homelessness

by mark farrell

BACK IN JANUARY, I WROTE about homelessness in San Francisco, and the hearing I held on our city's 10-year plan to abolish chronic homelessness. Since then, we have increased our focus on the issue, with a goal of evaluating the policies and programs that currently exist, which of these programs are working, and most important, what other programs or policies we can put into place to actually reduce our homeless population. It is still mind-blowing that we have more than 3,500 people sleeping on our streets every night and greater attention hasn't been brought to the issue.

FIRST SET OF HEARINGS ON HOMELESSNESS

In March, I called for eight additional hearings related to homelessness in San Francisco. Sounds like a lot, but we needed to continue to take a deeper dive on the issue.

The first set of the hearings were focused on housing options, while the second set of the hearings focused on policies for the various subpopulations of our overall homeless population, including women, families, veterans, seniors, tran-

sitional-aged-youth, and our LGBTQ population.

As a city, we spend more than \$100 million combined in local, state and federal dollars each year on permanent supportive housing and transitional housing; and, as we learned from these first hearings, the most cost-effective strategy as a city for our homeless is actually to provide housing. It may sound counterintuitive, but various academic and research studies have proven repeatedly that targeting housing opportunities toward the most chronically homeless helps to realize cost-savings for local municipalities because of the reduction seen in incarceration and the utilization of emergency care infrastructure and services.

Admittedly, with the current housing crisis that our city's facing, it's been difficult to help to house the homeless because of an extreme lack of supply. Our second hearing focused on the policy concept of the "housing ladder," which strives to unclog the current supportive housing and shelter options for our homeless population, so that we can provide more housing opportunities and save the city money. To further the

housing ladder concept and help turn it into a reality, I am working on legislation that would provide homeless individuals with a preference for city affordable housing programs so that we can create more turnover in current housing units and get more individuals and families off the streets.

The number of staff was simply inadequate to meet the need.

Seeing a gap and an obvious solution, I sponsored a targeted investment at the Board of Supervisors to double the SFHOT team, which would allow increased homeless outreach workers in every neighborhood across San Francisco. Many residents do not realize how much our homeless population has expanded across the city into our neighborhoods, and I believe we need to address the

as well. This is a public safety issue, a civic pride issue, but foremost a human issue. We are the City of St. Francis, and we care about our most vulnerable. I believe we need to continue to be more effective with our current resources to tackle homelessness, eliminate those programs and policies that have proven to be ineffective, and invest in programs and policies that have proven to be both cost effective and produce the best outcomes.

There is no silver bullet to solving homelessness in our city or in others. We know that targeting the most chronically homeless and helping to provide housing opportunities will save San Francisco significant resources and will produce the best outcomes. That will obviously take time, but this issue needs to be viewed as a marathon and not a sprint. As we finalize the remainder of these hearings, I look forward to exploring more new policies and ideas to reduce our homeless population.

The list of ideas is endless, but San Francisco deserves a dedicated focus on the issue.

Mark Farrell is the District 2 supervisor and can be reached at 415-554-7752 or mark.farrell@sfgov.org

Our homeless population has expanded across the city into our neighborhoods.

EXPANDING THE OUTREACH

In preparation for these hearings, there was consensus among city department heads, service providers, and community advocates that the homeless outreach team (SFHOT) was understaffed and underutilized — even though the results they were producing were stellar. Increasing engagement with our homeless population is the first step needed to get individuals and families off the streets, and it saves our city money in the long run to do so. At any given time in San Francisco, there were only two to four individuals from the SFHOT team on staff doing outreach to over 3,500 homeless individuals sleeping on our streets.

problem everywhere.

My targeted investment also added more flexible housing opportunities to get more individuals and families off the streets. It's an obvious statement, but one of the simplest answers to help end homelessness is to help provide a home; this targeted investment will help to stabilize and eventually house those who are experiencing the most serious of health issues due to their chronic homelessness.

MORE LEGISLATION AND REFORMS TO COME

Homelessness affects everyone in our city, from those who are experiencing homelessness foremost, to our residents and visitors

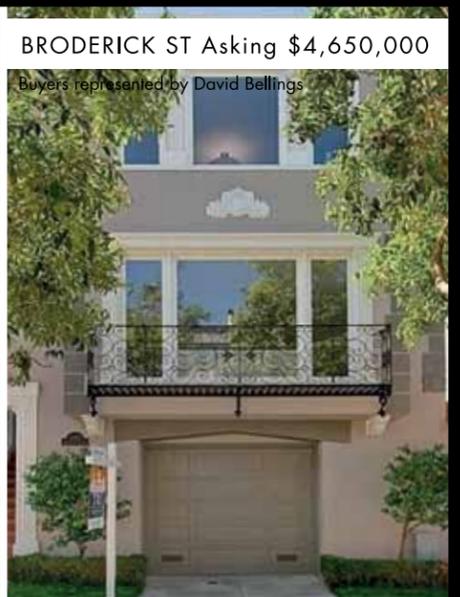


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NORTHSIDER ∴ Springtime openings



The new Nike boutique store at Union Street is combining retail with workout programming
PHOTO: NIKEINC.

That which does not kill us makes us healthier

by john zipperer

NIKE UP AND RUNNING

The new 2,000-square-foot Nike retail store opened May 16 at 2071 Union Street. In addition to selling a range of men's and women's running, training and sportswear products, Nike Union Street is starting a series of programs on June 2, including a running club on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.; high-intensity training on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; running training club on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.; Girl's Night In Workout on the first Friday of each month at 6 p.m., and a yoga class Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

The location is serving as a highlight for Nike's commitment to women athletes, especially younger ones. "Nike Union Street will provide a premium experience for female athletes through a unique blend of pinnacle product, premium services, and deep programming," said Nike executive Dennis van Oossanen. That involvement includes partnering with Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI) to inspire girls and youth with special needs to be active, drawing on local female athletes to volunteer their time to get girls active in sports and play.

OVERHEARD AT TOAST CAFE IN MILL VALLEY

Forty-something women having breakfast.
First woman: I need to get my mom in to my doctor for Botox. That "number 11" between her eyes doesn't bother her, but it bothers *me!*

Second woman: Have you been recently?
First woman: A few weeks ago.
Second woman: Oh. Wow. Because, like, your forehead doesn't move at all.

First woman: Yeah, it does! My mom is such a baby. She's scared. But I am more scared of that number 11 between her eyes than having a forehead with limited mobility.

SHIPBIRD TAKES FLIGHT ON UNION

Based at 1592 Union Street, a new company called Shipbird is marrying the ideas of crowdsourcing with good old-fashioned delivery. A bit like Uber for package deliveries, Shipbird takes orders for deliveries and matches them with delivery personnel already in the area. Launched on May 1, the company says it already has more than 800 delivery people in the Bay Area's nine counties, reaching 111 cities.
More info at shipbird.com.

EQUINOX COMING JUNE 11

The front facade on the old Metro Theater on Union Street remains, as do two giant indoor murals by artist Anthony Heinsbergen. But if you step into the refurbished building, you'll find that the 90-year-old space has been modernized and rebuilt in a sleek modern look. The new owners will probably frown upon you bringing in a giant box of buttered popcorn, a 20-ounce cup of soda, and a box of Milk Duds, because on June 11, the Metro reopens as the latest Equinox gym.

The Metro, located at 2055 Union Street, originally opened in April 1924 (it was known then as the Metropolitan Theater). In its new life, it will feature several floors of workout rooms, a yoga studio, steam room, pilates studio, a barre studio for ballet-inspired workouts, juice bar cafe (no Milk Duds), kids playroom, and more, including a room for community meetings and events.

Doors open at 12 noon on June 11.

ANOTHER MADAME DOES BUSINESS IN SF

No one can accuse Madame Tussauds of not knowing showmanship — and their audience. In anticipation of the June 26 opening of the new Madame Tussauds San Francisco in Fisherman's Wharf, Tussauds highlighted some of the San Francisco-specific attractions at the new location, including a Jerry Garcia figure that was unveiled with the participation of Garcia's daughter Keelin and wife, Manasha. "They've been doing this since the likes of Voltaire and Benjamin Franklin, and it's an incredible honor to have Jerry included," said Manasha Garcia.

A team of 20 artists used more than 200 different measurements and three months to create the Garcia wax figure, according to Tussauds. The late Grateful Dead singer will be joined by other wax figures such as Anne Hathaway, George Clooney, Whoopi Goldberg, Audrey Hepburn, ET, Adele, Serena Williams, and many others. The new Madame Tussauds San Francisco is located at 145 Jefferson Street.

OVERHEARD AT PETE'S COFFEE

First young techie: [So-and-so] at the office is getting real old-fashioned and traditional.

Second young techie: You mean he's consolidating power?

Have you got tips for the Northsider? E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

Mama's, Annie Hall, and the pornographic butterflies

by ernest beyl

THE OTHER DAY SOMEONE said she thought I was becoming the Herb Caen of North Beach. Good try on a compliment, but I could never match Herb's wit and wisdom. Bruce Bellingham could — perhaps. He's much more of a Herb Caen clone. And Herb himself thought he was more of a Walter Winchell clone.

Actually, I fancy myself more of a Marcello Mastroianni clone. Remember Marcello in the Fellini movie *La Dolce Vita*? Mastroianni played a gossip columnist in Rome who leads the sweet life. He attends a press conference for a visiting Swedish-American movie star played by Anita Ekberg and — well you know how that turns out. Moral of this Herb Caen-like item: If a good-looking Swedish-American movie star comes to town, invite me to the press conference.

NORTH BEACH FOOD PARADISE

The Travel Channel's top-rated TV show *Food Paradise* was prowling around a while back and zeroed in on Gigi's Sotto Mare on Green Street. Some of Gigi's regulars were tipped off and showed up for the filming, a large and distinguished cast that included the Gentleman Trencherman

James Melling, pal Joey De Roen, and Marco Rossi of Gino & Carlo, where some gathered for prefilming spirits for the hard work ahead. This humble columnist was filmed whipping into a Dungeness crab cioppino and describing the sensation on camera, but he mumbled and stumbled and may wind up on the cutting-room floor, thereby becoming a has-been in his own time. The production crew said the Gigi's episode would be on the tube mid-July. You might want to check with Gigi Fiorucci or the captain of his stalwart team, Louise Taylor.

DON'T PICK ON MAMA

Word is around the neighborhood that Mama's on Washington Square, which has been serving omelets, salads, and sandwiches for more than 50 years at the corner of Filbert and Stockton, is in a pickle. Mama's rent shot out of sight (another story) and the Sanchez family, which operates the popular restaurant, elected to move the operation to the Piazza Market site at Vallejo and Columbus. All systems were go. But now I'm told Mama's has run afoul of — are you ready to be not surprised — the byzantine Telegraph Hill Dwellers, which has its own flabby but starchy reasoning, and has the city Planning

Commission's ear clamped firmly in its teeth.

PORNO BUTTERFLIES

As an afterthought to my recent column on North Beach art galleries, let me tell you about the pornographic butterflies. A while back, the Telegraph Hill Gallery (491 Greenwich Street) showed the work of Vietnamese artist and poet Truong Tran. To produce the butterfly collages he has become known for, Tran tore apart hundreds of pornographic magazines, turned the porno photos face down on his art board and cut out thousands of small butterflies. Then he turned them over to the porno side and affixed them to his paintings. No, they are not X-rated.

POET'S PLAZA MOVES FORWARD

I'm happy to report that Piazza Saint Francis, Lawrence Ferlinghetti's vision for a pedestrian enclave on Vallejo between Grant and Columbus, is gathering a good head of steam. It's a civic project to be created by neighborhood volunteers, donations and community grants. The Chinatown Community Development Center, North Beach Merchants Association, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, North Beach Citizens, and hundreds of local residents have offered their endorse-

ments. Ferlinghetti, a poetic handyman with words that count, says: "Inner cities around the country are tardily learning that they do not have to allow the automobile and car culture to overrun them. Notable and successful strategies have been conceived to stem the automotive tide that is polluting so many cities around the world. We hope the city of San Francisco will be a leader in such a movement."

REAL JAZZ FOR REAL FOLKS

Trombonist Mal Sharpe and his swing and Dixieland band, Big Money in Jazz, are playing on Sundays at Original Joe's in North Beach. When I was there a few weeks ago, the band played the 1931 standard "When I Take My Sugar to Tea," and Sharpe sang new-and-improved sudsy lyrics like this:

*When I take my sugar to tea
We never go to Chez Panisse
Its Original Joe's for me*

A SINGER LIKE ANNIE HALL

Recently I met an attractive young woman named Chloe Hollingsworth at Colosseo Ristorante in North Beach. She's a singer — operatic arias, classic Renaissance folk music, and show tunes. She had been signed to perform at a private political event at the restaurant.

I was sitting at the bar and was bored. The young woman began to sing — a little Puccini, a little Verdi. No one gave her a listen. I thought she deserved some attention and some respect so I applauded wildly when she finished each number. I introduced myself, and told her that I probably wasn't going to write anything about the political event, but I might figure out a way to write something about her. And so here, I am doing just that.

As I sat there sipping wine and listening to her, I was reminded of Woody Allen's movie *Annie Hall*, in which Dianne Keaton, in a weak but moving voice, sings "It Had to Be You" in a nightclub. You can barely hear her over the din of conversation, glasses clinking, and persistent telephone ringing. One person listening to Annie Hall besides her boyfriend, Woody Allen, was a Hollywood music producer played realistically by the great Paul Simon. Simon discovers Annie and she is off to Hollywood for a career. I'd like to think that something like that would happen to Chloe Hollingsworth. But it didn't happen at the Colosseo event.

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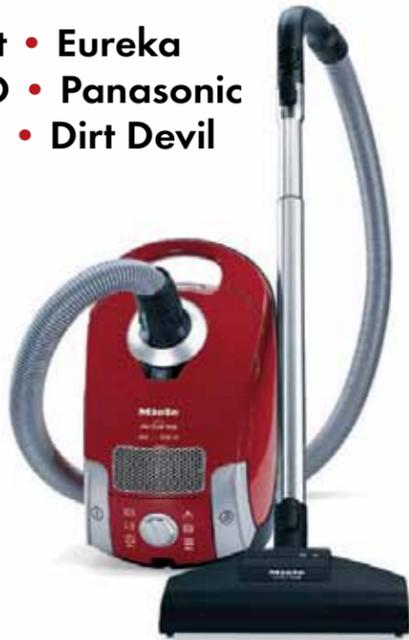
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BUSINESS AS USUAL ∴ Stupid hiring tricks

What kind of a dodo bird are you and why?

by john zipperer

TRUE OR FALSE: IF you put salt on your food before tasting it during an interview at Google, you won't get hired. It at least used to be true, according to a couple different sources. If it is no longer practiced as a way of winnowing job applicants, it might only be because the story has gotten around and any new recruit has learned about this trick.

Having the secret out is a poor reason to stop using this technique, because there is a much better reason to stop using this technique: It's stupid. The interviewer has no idea what the interviewee is bringing to the situation; perhaps they do put too much salt on their food? Whose business is that, other than their doctor's? Perhaps they were so nervous because of the interview they salted before tasting even though they almost never do that. Perhaps they've heard from friends that this restaurant's food is bland. Unless Google is hiring employees to work in its cafeteria, this is a poor way to winnow candidates who should be winnowed based on work history, talents, personal interactions, and things like references and past accomplishments.

Unfortunately, stories of silly, games-playing, random interview tactics are not difficult to find, especially in many of the online and tech firms. In May, *Fast Company's* Rebecca Greenfield told of another company's mind games. "When David Cancel interviews potential candidates for engineering jobs at HubSpot, he brings a cup of water into the interview with him. At the end of the meeting, the chief product officer leaves the cup on the table and waits to see what the interviewee does with the garbage. If the person picks up the trash, he is probably a good fit for the job. If he doesn't, that signals he probably wouldn't work well on the team."

Cancel says the test is "pretty accurate," because people who didn't try to remove the cup "were always the people who weren't a great cultural fit." It's a self-reinforcing view by the executive, who presumably doesn't track the people he didn't hire to find out if they work well elsewhere or if they ended up on Skid Row. In addition, there are all kinds of reasons a great



Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh's best interview question isn't even asked of the candidate PHOTO: DELIVERING HAPPINESS BOOK

team player might not pick up the cup; perhaps Cancel will come back for it; it's not the person's cup to do with as he or she wishes; it might be a test to see if the person throws it out and if so he or she won't be hired — that'd be just as useless a test as the one that HubSpot uses.

There are many ways companies mistake their own hopeless flailing with creativity. *Huffington Post* provided a set of odd interview questions companies ask, including LivingSocial inquiring "What's your favorite song? Perform it for us now." Or Bandwidth.com asking, "What kitchen utensil would you be?" which is an odder take on the Apple question, "What kind of animal would you be and why?" Zappos asks "What superhero would you be and would you dress up at work given the chance?"

Now, in a real world, the answer to most of these questions, asked not at a cocktail party but at a meeting in which your career and rent payment are at stake, would be "You're crazy," "Are you 12 years old?" and "Seriously, you're crazy."

Such companies think they're getting insight into the candidate's character with silly game playing and oddball tactics, but all they're really doing is showing that their hiring process is random and unreliable. If they knew how to get the employees they wanted, they wouldn't ask them to estimate the color of music or calculate the number of golf balls in a bus. But at least for the tech titans (less so for the startups, most of which will be bust in a

few years), they are so big and rich, they can afford to screw up their hiring with silly games and it doesn't matter; when you have tens of thousands of employees, you can bury a lot of incompetence and mediocrity.

The one story I've heard recently about a smart if unusual tactic is described to *The Wall Street Journal* by Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh. He says the company will pick up the candidate at the airport in a Zappos shuttle, "give them a tour, and then they'll spend the rest of the day interviewing. At the end of the day of interviews, the recruiter will circle back to the shuttle driver and ask how he or she was treated. It doesn't matter how well the day of interviews went, if our shuttle driver wasn't treated well, then we won't hire that person."

Why is that an good unusual tactic, instead of just relying on how well they can hawk online shoes and luggage? Because though it isn't 100 percent effective (i.e., candidate might be fine with the shuttle driver only to be a beast to the flight attendant on the flight home), but for those who are rude to someone in a (presumably) lower station in the hierarchy than themselves, especially on the one day you'd expect them to be on their best behavior at a company, the prospects for them not displaying that rudeness once they're hired are very low. For a company that prides itself on a happy corporate culture and on high-touch customer service, that's an unusual tactic that can translate directly to the bottom line.

JOHN ZIPPERER:
We're certain to see at least a big attempt to get marijuana legalization on the ballot again.

JOE GAROFOLI: *Three that are in circulation right now. I think two more at the end of—*

ZIPPERER: *Do they all have the same goal?*

GAROFOLI: *They all involve smoking.*

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Four signs we are headed for another dot-com bomb

by susan dyer reynolds

THEIR INVESTORS INCLUDED Benchmark Capital, Sequoia Capital, Softbank Capital, and Goldman Sachs. In under two years, the company raised nearly half a billion dollars with an initial public offering — and spent more than a billion dollars.

Did you think I was talking about Facebook or Yelp or Twitter? I was talking about Webvan.com. Between 1999 and 2001, the online grocer went from an analyst darling valued at more than \$1 billion to bankruptcy, and saw its stock crash from an all-time high of \$30 to just \$6 per share. In 2008, CNET crowned Webvan.com as the largest dot-com flop in history, but I see it as the biggest flop in dot-com bomb 1.0, because I believe we are just now pricking at the bubble that will be dot-com bomb 2.0.

We're seeing some of the very things that occurred leading up to the first Internet stock bubble, where so many investors listened to analysts with ulterior motives, buying into profitless companies with big growth and even bigger spending habits. Here are four signs that

we're headed for another Internet stock bubble bust.

1. RIDICULOUS EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

LinkedIn, a social networking website for employment, has seen better days. Since its IPO in May 2011, the stock has gone from \$45 to an all-time high of \$253 per share, only to crash more than 30 percent since the beginning of 2014. Yet CEO Jeffrey Weiner took in nearly \$180 million, including \$169.8 million from stock options, \$9.4 million from vested shares, and \$49 million in compensation, adding up to one of corporate America's largest CEO pay packages. That pales in comparison to the golden parachute given to Henrique de Castro, Yahoo's chief operating officer. Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer hired de Castro — a former Google colleague — in 2012 and dismissed him just 15 months later with a severance package worth nearly \$58 million.

2. IPO FATIGUE

King Digital Entertainment, maker of the popular mobile game app Candy Crush Saga, was the most hotly anticipated IPO since Twitter, but it tanked, falling about

16 percent on its first day of trading. Chinese microblogging sensation Weibo scaled back its expected 20 million share offering and price of \$19 to 16.8 million shares priced at \$17, resulting in proceeds nearly \$400 million lower than expected. Back in 2011, when IPOs were flying off the shelves, analysts and financial publications lauded online coupon site Groupon as “the fastest growing company in history,” and the IPO priced its shares accordingly, offering 35 million shares at \$20, well above the expected 30 million shares at \$16. But Groupon has tumbled 50 percent, from a 52-week high of \$12 to around \$6. Other high-tech momentum darlings have also retreated from their peaks to bear country.

3. NOSEBLEED VALUATIONS

Along with those hot IPOs and venture capital boons come absurd valuations, one of the hallmarks of dot-com bomb 1.0. In February of 2000, Pets.com raised \$82.5 million in its IPO despite the fact that the year-old company lost \$42.4 million on \$5.2 million in sales during the previous quarter. In April of this year, home-sharing app and website Airbnb reportedly closed



What is Silicon Valley hawking today?

a \$475 million round of financing that values the profitless company at around \$10 billion, making it worth more than established hotel chains like Wyndham Worldwide or Hyatt. Ride-sharing service Uber is in talks for an additional round that will also value it at \$10 billion. And Pinterest, a scrapbooking website, said it raised an additional \$200 million, giving it a valuation of \$5 billion.

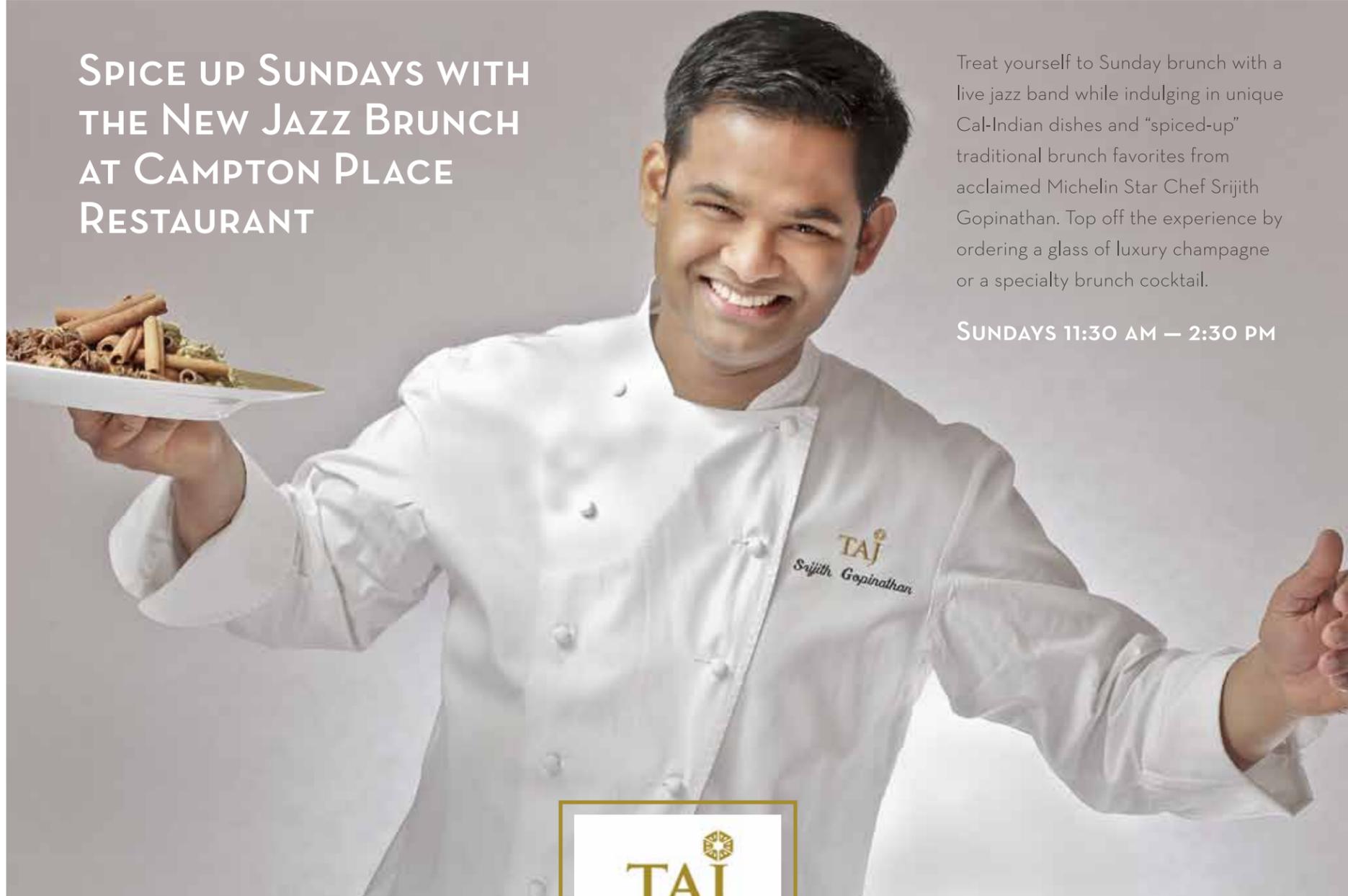
4. WHAT'S APP

Jan. 10, 2000, was the day that many people remember as the real beginning of the end for dot-com boom 1.0. On that day, AOL announced it would buy media behemoth Time Warner in an all-stock deal worth \$160 billion. The AOL-Time Warner merger imploded and, some 14 years later, is considered the biggest bust in merger history.

I believe the events of Feb. 19, 2014, will be seen as the beginning of the end of dot-com boom 2.0. That was the day Facebook's dictatorial CEO Mark Zuckerberg plunked down \$19 billion to buy a profitless texting application called WhatsApp. The following month, Facebook's stock slumped 12 percent, and even after a fairly good earnings report last month, the stock has continued to slide. Pundits saw the purchase as Zuckerberg's desperate attempt to stay relevant, but investors should be more concerned with the ease with which Zuckerberg throws around Facebook stock, which is about as good as Monopoly money when you consider that it's more expensive than 98 percent of those in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index.

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THE TABLEHOPPER ∴ Open for business

Palm House opens on Union Street; Big 4, Hog Island Oyster Bar return

by marcia gagliardi

COW HOLLOW

The former Nettie's Crab Shack has reopened as **Palm House** (2032 Union Street, 415-400-4355). By Bergerac/Foreign Cinema alumni Anderson Pugash, Bruce McDonald, Benson Wang, and Gayle Pirie, the tropical-inspired bar and restaurant has a seasonal California influence. Pirie worked on the menu with Lea Walker, and is running the kitchen. The menu includes many influences from warmer world regions — Cuba, Brazil, Indonesia, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. You'll find snacks like the fried jalapeños with smoked guava salt (\$6.50) or Calypso chicken wings with Thai-style chile sauce (\$7.50), and entrées with lots of seafood, like a West Indian jerk grilled mahi mahi (\$23) or Khalua duck tacos with pineapple salsa and pickled cabbage. Anthony Parks (Bergerac and Audio) heads up the bar, with plenty of fun and refreshing tropical flavors, like mai tais and margaritas, punch bowls for groups, and even a slushy machine for blended drinks. As for the historic space, the outdoor seating is under a Victorian-style pergola, and there's a relaxing, tropically inspired vibe inside.

LOWER PACIFIC HEIGHTS

Divisadero mainstay Tortilla Heights has been sold to partners Miles Palliser and Ezra Berman (Corner Store), along with a third partner, Neil Holbrook (The Kezar Pub). The new project is a sports bar, **San Francisco Athletic Club** (1750 Divisadero Street) but with lots of fun twists to make it a little different. A whopping 28 televisions will show the usual American sports like baseball, football, and basketball, as well as international favorites like soccer and rugby, with audio a priority. Clint Miller (Corner Store, Sabrosa) is redoing the space to include a 20-seat bar and pull-out bleachers for big games, a pool table, and a shuffleboard table.

The bar menu will include 12–16 beers on tap, and more by the bottle, with both local microbrews and lighter crowd-pleasing choices. And when we say crowd, how about beer by the bathtub? Yup, you can get beer by the bottle, by the bucket, or by the bathtub: For groups sitting in one of the four reservable booths, customers can order beer by the case, served in an ice-filled porcelain bathtub. Move over bottle service, now there's bathtub service. The cocktail/wine list will have something for everyone, with a focus on whiskey and tequila and eight wines on tap. As for food, Matt Rosson and Sam Kazik (Corner Store) are planning a menu that balances heartier pub fare with lighter, more produce-driven options. The current plan is to open by Thursday, June 12, when World Cup kicks off. Goal!

NOB HILL

All is well on Nob Hill, with the reopening of **Big 4** (1075 California Street, 415-771-1140) at the newly renovated Scarlet Huntington Hotel. The menu by new chef Kevin Scott has many of the previous staples but also some new twists. Fortunately the green leather banquettes remain in the dining room, and look at that, they decided to keep the white

tablecloths as well (small cheer over here). The bar, grand piano, and artifacts on the wood-paneled walls all remain in place, but you'll notice refreshed things like a newly carpeted floor. The big change was really with the plumbing, so that's why it was closed for some time. The new cocktail menu offers classic Big 4 cocktails, and some new ones speaking to Nob Hill's history, and the hotel's railroad and mining history, with drinks like the Golden Spike (Sheep Dip Scotch, apricot liqueur, Licor 43). The three sparkling options by the glass make it an excellent spot for celebration. Many of the beloved bartenders and staff remain, including Ty himself. For now, they'll be open for breakfast and dinner daily from 6:30–10:30 a.m. and 5:30–10 p.m. with lunch service coming later (yay again!). Welcome back, Big 4!

EMBARCADERO

The newly reopened **Hog Island Oyster Bar** (1 Ferry Building, 415-391-7117) took over the Ferry Plaza Seafood space and has therefore doubled in size, and it now has a full bar, with executive chef Christopher Laramie leading the kitchen (former chef-owner of Berkeley's Brasa and Eve). Menu cult classics like the clam chowder and the grilled cheese sandwich remain with new additions like an oyster po'boy on a special baguette-style roll developed with Acme Bread (a good neighbor to have), plus a spin on a Caesar salad with crispy white anchovy "croutons" and a creamy oyster-based dressing. There are even steak frites! You can enjoy the bay view while noshing on house-smoked potted sturgeon and fried smelts, and of course there are plenty of oysters. All the seafood is sustainably raised and harvested, with many small fish that are low on the food chain. Even the produce and herbs come from the restaurant's own gardener near the oyster farm in Marshall.

Designed by Cass Calder Smith Architecture, the expanded space now has 65 seats inside and 65 outside. There are three bars: a 16-seat oyster bar facing the bay, an 8-seat cocktail bar, and an 8-seat chef's counter with mirror-reflected bay views (ooh, trippy), plus communal tables, too. You'll see lots of recycled materials, with oyster shells in the concrete and an oyster bar top by Bohemian Stoneworks, and the shelves at the cocktail bar are from an original 1880s redwood foundation at the Hog Island farm in Marshall. Nautical elements include a hull-shaped ceiling of wood and rope and kelp sculptures woven by Inverness artist Lina Prairie. The cocktail list is by Scott Beattie and Michael Jack Pazdon (St. Helena's Goose & Gander). Look for spirits from Bay Area small-batch producers and lots of fresh produce; drinks are \$10–\$12. There are also West Coast wines, including a couple of custom collaborations, plus five microbrews on tap, a cider, and Boylan natural sodas (also on tap). Happy hour continues Monday and Thursday 5–6 p.m., with chef's choice of half-price oysters on the half shell (selection changes weekly), plus beer and wine specials.

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



Left: The Square's Claire Sprouse; Above: Apple-Tini PHOTOS: GARRICK RAMIREZ

Bar manager, Claire Sprouse

by garrick ramirez

CLAIRE SPROUSE, THE WHIP-SMART cocktailian and bar manager at The Square, is telling me what inspired her to create a menu of maligned 1970s drinks. She had just finished reading *The Square: The Story of a Saloon*, a book that chronicles the old Washington Square Bar & Grill, the legendary North Beach restaurant whose hallowed space The Square currently occupies.

"It really brings to life the drinking culture of the old Washbag and North Beach. I think the neighborhood is more tight-knit than any other in the city. I wanted to commemorate that legacy," she explained.

Sprouse has a keen eye for cultures and their legacy. She studied art history and anthropology in her home state, Texas. She moved to San Francisco to manage Rickhouse, where she surveyed another distinct culture. "We used to call it Businessmen Gone Wild," she says referring to the rowdy downtown crowd. "When skirmishes broke out, you'd see beefy bro types grappling with bartenders in vests and bow ties," she says with a smile.

As for the heritage of the Washbag space? Sprouse thought, *Why not do a cocktail menu that pays homage to the era celebrated by the book, make it accessible — everyone knows what a White Russian is — and have some fun by sneaking in current cocktail trends?*

THAT 70S SHOW

The first erstwhile cocktail she took on was a "White Wine" Spritz (sherry, pineapple, black pepper, bitter lemon tonic). The refreshing low-booze sipper has a prominent dry sherry flavor followed by sweet pineapple, slight lemon, and a gentle fizz. A perfect aperitif.

You'll likely raise an eyebrow when you note the menu's **Apple-Tini** (see recipe below), whose name alone is redolent of poor decisions. Claire ditches the usual neon green ingredients — the pink slime of cocktails — in favor of small-production spirits. The finished drink is crisp with a pleasing citrus taste and depth from apple brandy.

The drink responsible for so many bottles of Galliano lingering on 70s pantry shelves, the **Harvey Wallbanger** (vodka, Italian bitters, vanilla, orange, lemon), is a highlight. Claire's version is easy drinking, full flavored, and bursts with citrus peel and vanilla. Swap the vodka for mezcal and you have a **Freddy Fudpucker**.

One of the most popular drinks is the **Claire-ified White Russian** (vodka or rye whiskey, coffee, clarified milk, allspice, brown sugar, citrus). Clarifying milk strips

away proteins and impurities resulting in a light, clear body. The delectable drink is miles from the dark, heavy versions of the past. It's what Berber carpet is to shag.

Claire is also planning a special late-night drink menu that will include **The World's Greatest Cosmopolitan** and a sherry-based **Mind Eraser**.

THE CLAIRE ABIDES

Despite the expertise of her craft, Claire is as unassuming as they come. She hides great skill with understated grace and a friendly demeanor. She's able to bring together a wide mix of generations — each with varied expectations. A young foodie crowd sits at her bar. So does Jack, a North Beach fixture who literally wrote a book that decries mixology. And then there's the regular who comes in every day to note how The Square fails to live up to the Washbag. He doesn't approve of their glassware, so he brings his own. Claire even special-ordered his preferred scotch just for him. His response? He said it tasted better at the Washbag.

SPIRITED AWAY

I joked with Claire that I would write cheesy titles like "Claire at The Square" or "Sprouse in the House," but she really is in the house, as in she never leaves. But when she can eek out some time, she likes to gallery hop around the city. You can also catch her at LoLo for their mezcal selection and great hospitality as well as Beretta for pizza, cocktails, and a 1 a.m. closing time.

When Claire moved to San Francisco, only four prized bottles made the journey with her: Suze (a bitter French aperitif only recently made available in the states); rare productions of Tequila Ocho and Siete Leguas; and Havana Club, a contraband Cuban rum. She also admires Siembra Azul tequila for upholding traditional production methods, preserving sustainability of the product, and donating proceeds to local schools.

APPLE-TINI

Serves 1

2 ounces Clear Creek or other apple brandy
 ¾ ounces lemon juice
 ½ ounces "runny" honey (1 part honey and 1 part heated water)
 ½ ounce Leopold's New York Sour Apple
 2 dashes of St. George Absinthe

Shake and strain into a cocktail glass. Top with a fennel frond.

Garrick Ramirez can be reached on Twitter at @WeekendDelSol or at garrick@weekenddelsol.com.

Brunch Across the Bay...



IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER to Sausalito for a weekend brunch. **Salito's Crab House & Prime Rib** is the ideal destination that's just minutes from the city. For \$9.95 you can get three eggs with bacon and spicy sausage and iron skillet open face omelets all come with house made kettle toasted bread.

Specialties include bacon bruschetta benedict and crab benedict, served with crispy potato-litos and toast. There are other options and if you start with a chili

mary, a blood orange mimosa or a peach bellini, you will think you are truly on vacation.

If you're not in the mood for breakfast, the full menu is offered as well with a selection of cheeses and salumi with kettle bread to a full-blown feast of whole roasted Dungeness crab and prime rib. The menu is accessible. It's simple food, well-sourced, abundant and comforting yet sumptuous.

You can craft your dining experience by begin-

ning with oysters or sizzling iron-skillet roasted mussels, shrimp and crab and move to specialties such as a crab enchilada, fresh fish or prime rib. Sweets have their own category with freshly made beignets, Tortuga Caribbean rum cake and salted caramel vanilla crunch cake.

It's the perfect getaway on a foggy city day. You can take the ferry and pretend you're on vacation in a faraway village. At least for a day!

Salito's is fresh, bright and full of casual ambience. Large, multi-levelled decks overlook the water and the beauty of the area is absolutely breathtaking.

It's the perfect getaway on a foggy city day. You can take the ferry and pretend you're on vacation in a faraway village. At least for a day! Sitting on beautiful Richardson Bay, the blue sky and sparkling water are the perfect setting for an afternoon or evening of cocktails and dining *al fresco*.

Brunch is served on the weekends beginning at 10:00 am.

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APPETITES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS

San Francisco museum cafes and restaurants

by ernest beyl

I'M A BIG FAN OF CAFES and restaurants in museums. I have been known to go to a museum — ostensibly to stand in a long line to see a blockbuster show — only to become discouraged, give it a miss, and wind up happily in the chow line. Once, in an action-packed, all-day-on-your-feet visit to Rome, my family was chagrined when I insisted we visit the Vatican Museum twice in one week for the admitted reason of wanting another helping of the remarkable spaghetti Bolognese in the Vatican Museum Courtyard Restaurant. It was not exactly a private audience with the Pope, but the experience was almost as good.

But this column is not about Rome; it's about museum cafes and restaurants in San Francisco. What can the museumgoer in San Francisco expect to eat on the premises? I chose the following museums, not necessarily for their exhibitions but for the dining experiences.

And, by the way, these impressions are not big deal, official restaurant reviews. I haven't dined in each of these several times incognito and marshaled my taste buds to award them one, two, or three *Marina Times* diamonds. These are just comments by a man with an appetite — in this case, an appetite for museum food.

Here, then, in alphabetical order, are my favorite dining experiences in San Francisco museums.

ASIAN ART MUSEUM

At the Asian Art Museum, located in Civic Center, executive chef Melinda Quirino, formerly of the Hotel Nikko, directs operations for *Café Asia* where museumgoers and just hungry walk-ins will find Asian specialties from a variety of traditions. A seasonal menu — one might call it Pan-Asian — changes frequently and chef Quirino takes her shopping basket to the farmers' market in nearby United Nations Plaza to pick up fresh vegetables. Regularly she keys menu items to museum exhibitions. For the Maharaja exhibition, she prepared Kashmiri kari korma — leg of lamb braised in red pepper Marsala sauce and

a chutney with kumquat, figs, and fresh pineapple. Typical menu entrées: Bulgogi-Korean spicy beef (\$13.95), chicken angara (smoked chicken marinated with cashews, yogurt, and Indian spices; \$11.95), and the spicy seafood-udon noodle bowl (\$14). There's also an excellent selection of teas.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Not satisfied with an incredibly exciting building (architecturally) and cutting-edge exhibitions, the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate

is crusty and crunchy and piled high with a mountain of succulent thinly sliced pastrami. Add to this the regulation dill spears and a side of potato salad or coleslaw. It just doesn't get any better than this. But wait, it does: drinks are of the type found in serious Jewish delis in New York City or around Fairfax Avenue in L.A. — Fox's U-bet Egg Cream from Brooklyn (\$3.50) and Dr. Brown's Cel-Ray Soda (\$3). Sandwiches are \$10 to \$13.75.

DE YOUNG MUSEUM

At the top of my list of museum dining in San Francisco is the *de Young Café* in the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. Not only is it stylish with indoor-

What can the local museumgoer expect to eat on the premises?

Park has two restaurants. First, there's the *Academy Café*, a workmanlike place to grab something for nourishment. There are salads (\$8–\$11), sandwiches, wraps, and spring rolls (\$9.50–\$11). Filipino chicken adobo (\$7.50) or mac-n-cheese (\$7) might be good choices. Pasta Bolognese (\$11). Good, but not like the real thing in the Vatican Museum.

Then there's the *Moss Room* operated by the omnipresent Charlie Phan. It presents an elaborate contemporary menu complete with many of the hotshot items I have come to love or not. Pork belly? Of course! And lots of roasted beets and wild arugula, not to mention quinoa. There are also a few good pastas and even a ranch burger, for which I am grateful. Entrées are \$11 to \$24.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM

Wise Sons, the Jewish delicatessen headquartered in the Mission, has opened an outpost in the Contemporary Jewish Museum at 736 Mission Street. And that's a good thing if you frequently crave pastrami as I do. *Wise Sons* co-founders Evan Bloom and Leo Beckerman smoke their own pastrami, bake their own rye bread, and cure all their own deli meats. And even if you are not going to the museum, you can dine in the restaurant or get takeout from the counter facing Yerba Buena Plaza. Consider the iconic pastrami sandwich if you will: The rye bread

outdoor areas, but also the food is unusually appealing both during the day and evening hours. The Bulgari exhibition a few months ago was a smash. For lunch, I went for the venison sausage cassoulet (\$14), a sensible portion of white beans, green garlic, carrots, bacon, tomato, and thyme with duck fat croutons. My daughter, who believes she may be entitled to a Bulgari broche one fine day, raved about the almond and grape gazpacho topped with crème fraîche (\$6), followed by cumin-spiced shrimp served with chipotle flatbread (\$12). And there's a good wine list favoring California but including French and Italian wines as well as one or two from Spain and South Africa. These are sold at modest prices by the glass, half bottle, or full bottle.

EXPLORATORIUM

In my wandering around San Francisco museums, I have noted that just as in the restaurant population at large, museum restaurants are devoted to buying and serving locally produced and sustainable fare. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Exploratorium on the waterfront at Piers 15–17.

In a slick operation overseen by executive chef Loretta Keller, noted for her work at the South of Market *Coco500*, the food is excellent and highly eclectic. *The Seaglass Restaurant*, which may be enjoyed without entering the museum proper, is a vast indoor

APPETITES, continued on 17



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NEW AND NOTABLE ∴ New to the neighborhood

Stones Throw worth a visit to Russian Hill

by julie mitchell

ANOTHER NEW standout in the growing cadre of chic yet cozy neighborhood restaurants focusing on small plates and unusual ingredients is Stones Throw on Russian Hill. Chef Jason Halverson, the former chef de cuisine at Michael Mina, offers a plethora of “snacks,” starters, mains, and desserts designed to delight the eye and palate alike.

Stones Throw feels at once intimate yet airy: floor-to-ceiling windows, an open-beamed ceiling, spacious bar, and a long communal table. An open kitchen links two dining rooms that seat 60.

Snacks (\$8) top the dinner menu, and two of note are the crispy tomato cream wafers with a bright green fava bean “dip,” and a slender slab of duck pâté and mousse served with cornichons and mini soft pretzels.

Next come starters (\$12–\$16), most of which are infused with deep colors and flavors, such as the black squid-ink pasta with capers, clams, calamari, and greens; five peas in a pod with ricotta, preserved Meyer lemon and almond-mint pesto; and sweet corn soup with

chorizo croquettes, piquillo peppers, and scallions.

Main courses (\$16–\$29) offer larger portions with the same inventive take on ingredients and combinations. Pan-roasted king salmon is served with corn and uni risotto, chives, lemon oil, and tomato water; and “Toad



Stones Throw feels intimate yet airy

The growing cadre of chic yet cozy neighborhood restaurants adds another.

in the Hole” lasagna with egg yolk, asparagus, mushrooms, and green garlic. There’s also a burger (“Da Burga” aka Da Disaster) served with “everything” baked potato tots.

Desserts (\$8) sound traditional, like apple pie, but are anything but. Chocolate bananas foster with warm brown sugar and caramel-soaked bananas is combined with a chocolate banana milkshake and a warm brownie on the side. Rather than flambéing the dessert tableside, the warm caramel melts

the chocolate, revealing the banana shake.

Selected by one of the restaurant’s founders, Jason Kirmse, Stone Throw’s wine list is extensive and categorized into sections: “left coast” California wine country; “classically trained” from France; “bizarrely unique” from Spain, Italy, and Greece; and the “bargain bin,” expensive wines at what the restaurant deems “absurdly great” prices, like a Burgundian Pinot Noir for \$92. The extensive beer selection is divided into clever sections like “An Apple a Day” for hard ciders, “Bitter Beer Face” for IPAs, and “Ask-ing for Trouble” for stouts.

Brunch (\$8–\$17) offers up not-to-miss treats like vanilla-sugar doughnuts, butter-fried pancakes, and asparagus and duck confit hash.

A word to would-be diners: Parking on Russian Hill is always tough, so a visit to Stones Throw might merit the use of Muni, Uber, Lyft, or taxi.

Stones Throw: 1896 Hyde Street (at Green), 415-796-2901, www.stonesthrowsf.com; dinner Tuesday–Sunday from 5:30 p.m.; brunch Sunday 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

E-mail: julie@marinatimes.com

APPETITES

CONTINUED from page 16

space — really an extension of the Exploratorium’s exhibition areas, with an outdoor area that hugs the bay. There is a wide range of offerings at several stations, which include rotisserie items like roast chicken, a pizza oven for those small pizzas called pizzettas, as well as tacos, quesadillas, salads, and desserts.

There’s also the impressive **Ocean Bar** with wild shrimp, oysters, ceviche, assorted sushi, and sashimi with special salads of quinoa and various pickled vegetables. This raw bar is under the direction of well-known sushi artisan Sachio Kojima. Here are two examples from recent visits: huge, unshelled wild shrimp (\$2.50 each) are briny and succulent. The roasted chicken (\$12.50/half; \$24/whole) is crisp

but juicy. There are seasonal menu changes and a full bar with a cocktail program. Entrées at both restaurants are \$9 to \$13.50.

For something more casual, there’s another dining spot near the museum’s entrance called the **Seismic Joint** featuring sandwiches, chowders, and other quickie items.

LEGION OF HONOR

The Legion of Honor is without doubt San Francisco’s most beautiful museum. The magnificent Beaux-Arts structure in Lincoln Park overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge, the Pacific, and most of San Francisco. It’s worth visiting if you only pause in the courtyard for a while to gaze worshipfully at Auguste Rodin’s incredible statue, *The Thinker*.

But what do you do when your stomach

grows? There’s a simple answer: Point yourself in the direction of the **Legion of Honor Café**, and contemplate some tasty pastries, ample fresh salads, and some fine quiches. There are also several good sandwiches, burgers, and hot dogs. But my favorite menu item is the chicken potpie (\$14.50). Lots of chicken, onions, carrots, leeks, and a bit of potato, all swimming happily in a light, well-made béchamel sauce, topped with puff pastry and browned nicely. Prices are \$7.50 to \$14.50.

And as a final note, here is a suggestion for George Lucas. If you build your Lucas Cultural Arts Museum in San Francisco, please install the best restaurant you can create. You’ll have me as a customer for life.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

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An original ad from Finocchio's heyday; Finocchio's club in 1958 PHOTOS: GAYMUSICHERITAGE.COM; ZAGARIA / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FINNOCHIO'S

CONTINUED from page 1

memories of those golden years. One reader stopped me on the street to praise the story. But he said I left out one of the bright spots that really made Broadway tantalizing in those days. It was called Finocchio's and was located on the second floor right above Enrico's. And, of course, he was right — Finocchio's, the saucy nightclub that featured female impersonators, was one of biggest attractions in North Beach.

GOLD RUSH ENTERTAINMENT

Female impersonation has a long history in San Francisco. It began right after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848. Two years later a druggist, Dr. D.J. "Doc" Robinson, who liked to do comic impressions of prominent San Francisco citizens, opened a small theater on California Street near the Customs House. It was called the Dramatic Museum and seated 280 wild and raucous gold and entertainment seekers. It featured topical satire. Doc Robinson's partner in the venture, James Evrard, was a female impersonator and performed there. Also, in 1850, the Jenny Lind Theater opened above the Parker House Saloon on Portsmouth Square. Before it burned down a few months later, it featured Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* — a comedy in which a

male actor, playing a woman, pretends to be a man.

Our city has nurtured a long list of female impersonators in this hilarious journey through the years. So here, with a wild leap through time, let's land at Finocchio's, 506 Broadway.

RED HOT MAMAS

Joe Finocchio, an Italian immigrant, worked in his father's North Beach speakeasy. One night a customer who had tasted a little too much of the "sauce" provided by the establishment, performed a shaky but moving performance mimicking the legendary vaudeville singer Sophie Tucker who was billed frequently as The Last of the Red Hot Mamas. This gave Joe Finocchio an idea for Red Hot Mamas in drag that would continue to excite San Francisco for more than 60 years.

(And, by the way, the word "finnochio" — and that was Joe's real family name — is the Italian word for fennel, the licorice-scented bulb used frequently to flavor Italian cookery. A less salubrious and now antiquated definition of finnochio is what most of us now call "gay.")

Joe Finocchio opened his own speakeasy in 1929 at 406 Stockton Street. He featured a female impersonator as part of a floorshow. It was a modest begin-

ning. When prohibition was repealed in 1933, he expanded it and then in 1936, exuberant with his success, moved to the Broadway location. There he began featuring elaborate productions with lots of pizzazz and glittery costumes. Despite San Francisco's tradition of risqué entertainment, there was a police bust shortly after the Broadway opening. Joe Finocchio was arrested for "keeping a disorderly house and selling liquor after 2 a.m." Apparently, the issue of the

One of the biggest attractions was Finocchio's, the saucy nightclub featuring female impersonators.

entertainers mingling with the customers was a no-no.

FINNOCHIO'S HEADLINERS

Joe promised to run his club in an orderly fashion — like a theater, he said. And down through the years he did, with scores of female impersonators appearing on his stage. Some became well-known personalities. Among Finocchio's headliners was Lucien Phelps, a Sophie Tucker expert who starred for 27 years. Another was Don McLean, whose stage name was Lori Shannon. He became known nationally after playing the Archie Bunker drag queen on TV's *All in the*

Family. He had a great opening line to his Finnochio's act: "Welcome to Boy's Town. I'm Father Flanagan."

THE MASTER OR MISTRESS OF SURPRISE AND DISGUISE

A favorite was Charles Pierce, who had trained as an actor in the well-regarded Pasadena Playhouse. Pierce appeared in several New York Off-Broadway shows and in the early 1950s, he was doing comedy sketches and impersonations all over the country. He loved San Francisco and first appeared here at Ann's 440 Club in North Beach. Never approving of the title drag queen, he preferred to call himself a male actress. But for his Finnochio's performances he was billed as The Master or Mistress of Surprise and Disguise. In time, his routines included Jeanette MacDonald, Bette Davis, Tallulah Bankhead, Marlene Dietrich, Katharine Hepburn, Joan Crawford, and Carol Channing. Pierce died in 1999 at 72.

No one has been able to fill his high heels. Carol Channing spoke at his funeral in North Hollywood and said, "He did Carol Channing better than I did."

Not only did locals flock to Finnochio's but visiting celebrities did as well. Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Bette Davis, and Tallulah Bankhead (the real ones) all made the scene. Howard Hughes escorted Ava Gardner to Finnochio's. There was a rumor in 1945 that Errol Flynn and David

Niven had escorted one of the Finnochio's stars (Pussy Kat) to a suite at the Fairmont Hotel. Hollywood gossip columnist Louella Parsons got wind of it but her publisher forbade her to run the story.

WHAT A DRAG

Joe Finocchio died in 1986 at 88. His wife, Eve, kept Finnochio's alive until 1999. Citing a rent increase and dwindling attendance, she finally closed it, packed up the props, swept up the glitter, and retired to live with her memories.

Female impersonation had reached the mainstream. One no longer had to seek it out on Broadway.

When poet-painter Lawrence Ferlinghetti heard the news that Finnochio's had closed, he responded, "What a drag."

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

Vinyl: The Sound and Culture of Records

by sharon anderson

WHAT'S THAT?
The question came from my nephew as he stood gazing at my turntable, the centerpiece of my life while I was growing up. "It's a record player," I explained, "and it plays music!"

In many ways, it's an age test. The Oakland Museum of California's exhibition dedicated to the history and culture of vinyl opened on April 19 in conjunction with Record Store Day and runs through July. The exhibition is less a typical gallery show and more an interactive experience with listening booths, lounge areas, and even kid-sized listening stations for the previously uninitiated.

Discs with spiral grooves inscribed with music came into

existence at the beginning of the 20th century. They became a popular commodity in the 1920s only to be replaced in the 1980s by a newer digital technology, compact discs. Before recordings became popular, music was live and songs were viral — something you caught on the air. Musicians learned tunes by listening to other musicians, and the experience was, by its nature and immediacy, communal.

Vinyl revolutionized the way people listened to music by allowing them to hear the same performance repeatedly and in the privacy of their homes. This medium, as we know, coincided with the rise of rock 'n' roll and the corresponding music industry boom from the 1950s-70s. You could find out a lot about your friends by looking

at their record collection, which became its own kind of social identity. For many, your record collection represented you.

The vinyl fad has returned. The Oakland Museum gallery, transformed into an experimental listening environment, invites the viewer to interact with history. Notable record collections are on view, including photographs of collectors in their homes complete with video and audio interviews. A film exploring the history of album cover art is included, along with a wide assortment of records for the public to view and play. Instructors are on site to teach the public how to use a record player and how to DJ with instructional videos. Six thematic listening stations contain boxes of records assembled by "crate curators" to tell a per-



Explore the social phenomenon of records at Oakland Museum of California PHOTO: MUSEUMCA.ORG

sonal story through their musical selections.

And while you're having fun listening and learning about music, you won't even notice that you've become a part of the exhibition.

Vinyl: The Sound and Culture of Records, Oakland Museum

of California, 1000 Oak Street, 510-318-8400, museumca.org; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Friday until 9 p.m.), \$15

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

'We Are the Best!' and 'Cold in July'

by michael snyder

HERE ARE SO MANY different genres in the world of cinema and such a wide range of quality (with mediocrity being the rule) that it's downright gratifying when a filmmaker takes on a specific type of movie and honors it. I'm happy to report that two features in local theaters this month do right by two familiar movie categories: the coming-of-age story and the film noir thriller.

'WE ARE THE BEST!'

With a deft hand, great wit, and prickly charm, Swedish director and screenwriter Lukas Moodyson adapts his wife, Coco's, graphic novel about a couple of disaffected 13-year-old girls who decide to start their own punk-rock band in early 1980s Stockholm. The androgynous Bobo (Mira Barkhammar) and Clara (Mira Grosin) are best friends who are disdained by the clique of pastel-wearing, New Wave pop-loving girly girls in their school. Which is fine with Bobo and Klara. Contemptuous

of gym-class competitions and crass materialism and soured by the dysfunction of their respective families, they decide to express their anger and frustration through rock music. Of course, in the tradition of many of their do-it-yourself punk predecessors, they are completely unschooled in music and have to borrow instruments. But undaunted, they thrash away in a publicly funded rehearsal space after snagging it on a sign-in sheet. In short order, they convince Hedwig (Liv LeMoyné) — a wholesome, reticent Christian schoolmate with actual skill on guitar — to join their nascent band. Their youthful exuberance is infectious, even if none of it might be enough to earn the respect of their peers, let alone commercial success. And the bond that the girls share as outsiders may not counter the hurt feelings generated when the trio meets the members of an all-boy punk band and adolescent romance enters the equation.

Some of Moodyson's previous films, particularly *Show Me Love* and

Lilya 4-Ever, addressed the mutability and perils of adolescence and interpersonal relations. The vivid and vital *We Are the Best!* deals with those concerns as well, yet is certainly sweeter and funnier than those earlier, considerably darker efforts. Like any good coming-of-age film, it's touching in its depiction of the travails, pain, and joy of growing up. And it's hard to imagine that the cast of *We Are the Best!* — especially the three precocious actresses who portray Bobo, Klara, and Hedwig — could be any better.

We Are The Best! opens June 6 at the Embarcadero Cinema 5.

'COLD IN JULY'

Though generally a hard-boiled American crime drama of the 1940s and 1950s, the film noir movie has become a Hollywood perennial with various latter-day interpretations coming down the pike and some notable British, French, and Italian examples of the stylish, often murky and amoral thriller. Now, we get a fresh iteration of film noir, com-

plete with the conflicted antihero undermined by his questionable decisions and caught up in forces beyond his control.

Set in 1989, *Cold in July* focuses on Richard Dane (Michael C. Hall of TV's *Dexter*), a small-town Texan extolled as a hero for shooting and killing a burglar in his home. But Dane starts to freak out when he meets ex-con Russel (Sam Shepherd), the grizzled, menacing father of the guy he shot. To protect himself and his family, Dane seeks a fixer in the form of private eye Jim Bob (Don Johnson) and a way out of what appears to be an inescapable bind.

Based on a novel by crime and fantasy author Joe R. Lansdale, *Cold in July* was directed by Jim Mickle, whose atmospheric 2010 effort, *Stake Land*, was a lean and mean take on vampirism as apocalyptic plague and whose 2013 feature, *We Are What We Are*, revealed the horrific secrets of a rural family. This time out, the threats Mickle presents are neither otherworldly nor uncom-



Liv Lemoyne, Mira Barkhammar and Mira Grosin in 'We Are the Best!' PHOTO: © MAGNOLIA PICTURES

mon, but they are no less dangerous and creepy. *Cold in July* is filmed in a brutal, economical, and visually stark fashion. Its violence is swift and graphic, while its emotional turmoil — as embodied by Dane's fears for his life and his family's well being — is palpable.

And there's no denying the full-bodied performances by the actors. If I have any quibbles with *Cold in July*, they'd be about an abrupt change in one of the characters and the presence of a few unanswered questions when all should be said and done. Those are rather minor complaints when it comes to an action-packed ride like

this one. Tense and exciting in a stomach-churning way (with a little fun courtesy of Don Johnson's good of boy), *Cold in July* does a bang-up job of carrying on the film noir tradition.

Cold in July is currently playing at a Landmark Theater (exact location not known at press time).

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

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Marina author pens 'Pam Am'

by m. d. caprario

PART-TIME SAN FRANCISCO resident Barnaby Conrad III, author of 11 books, debuts his newest title with neighborhood publisher Council Oaks Books this month, *Pan Am: An Aviation Legend*. Painstakingly compiled and richly illustrated with more than 240 color images, the book is described as a loving tribute to the iconic airline that changed the face of commercial aviation and became the greatest airline of the 20th century.

From its 1927 inception by Juan Terry Trippe, a Yale-educated pilot and entrepreneur who set out only to develop a single-engine plane Key West-to-Havana mail delivery empire, to its ascension with assistance of Charles Lindbergh to the greatest personnel aircraft in the world, Pan American World Airway's story is told in great detail. As with all of Conrad's work, this story is not only one about commercial aviation, it is also the story of America's rise to world dominance.

In its first 40 years of operation, the airline devised every aspect of commercial air travel innovation — safety, per-

formance, and fares for the mainstream traveler. *Pan Am* describes much of this and includes anecdotes such as the secret wartime mission Franklin Roosevelt made aboard a Pan Am Clipper. From its growth in ownership of these small-



PHOTO: PAN-AM: AN AVIATION LEGEND

er planes to the amazing 747 model, Pan American changed the way people could travel to see the world.

Though Pan-American World Airways ceased operation in 1991, like the Orient Express and the Titanic, it is an icon that is long remembered for its innovation and service, as well as its blue globe logo. Invoking the golden age of air travel, Conrad's

book includes images of the Clipper aircraft, interior shots, and original promotional brochures, and generally archives the experience of what Clare Boothe Luce called in 1941 "the most romantic voyage in history." In detailing Pan American World Airway's history, the book captures an era.

A San Francisco native, as a journalist in Paris Conrad wrote for Pam-American's *Clipper Magazine*. He has also written for many other well-known print venues, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and was founding editor of *Art World* and senior editor of *Horizon Magazine*.

Now living mostly on the East Coast but commuting and keeping a Marina place marker for literary pursuits, Conrad is active as senior editor at Inkshares, the new online book publishing company that was birthed recently in San Francisco.

Conrad's other books include *Absinthe: History in a Bottle*, *Ghost Hunting in Montana*, *The Martini*, and *The Cigar*. All are available online and at your favorite independent bookstore, including Books Inc. in the Marina.

E-mail: michele@marinatimes.com

THE BEST OF BOOKS :: Books Inc.



compiled by brian pettus

BOOKS INC. BEST-SELLER LIST

1. **Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics**, by Daniel Brown
2. **Creative Confidence**, by David Kelley
3. **City of Thieves**, by David Benioff
4. **This Is Where I Leave You**, by Jonathan Tropper
5. **Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt**, by Michael Lewis
6. **The Tender Bar**, by J.R. Moehringer
7. **Gone Girl**, by Gillian Flynn
8. **Meanwhile in San Francisco**, by Wendy MacNaughton
9. **The Goldfinch**, by Donna Tartt
10. **Fingersmith**, by Sarah Waters

NEW THIS MONTH

No Place to Hide, by Glenn Greenwald
Greenwald, the journalist who broke the original story of Edward Snowden and the NSA abuses of Americans' right to privacy, tells not only his side of the story, but also offers canny commentary on government overreach and the place of media as a check on that overreach.

The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance

by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman
The authors of *Womenomics* delve into the nature of confidence and its importance, especially for women in the workplace. They talk to successful women, as well as scientists and psychologists, and propose the best way to use your confidence.

Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain

by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
Another in the string of successful "Freakonomics" titles, Levitt and Dubner explain what it is that makes their approach so revelatory and interesting as a method for interpreting and finding useful data.

#Girlboss, by Sophia Amoruso
Amoruso dispenses her hard-earned business wisdom while also revealing the life experiences that made her who she is. *#Girlboss* is a great book for anyone interested in startup culture and what it really takes to bring a business from your bedroom to corporate offices.

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

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HUMOR ∴ How locals really celebrate

The best new San Francisco festivals you've never heard of

by sandy fertman ryan

JUST BEING LUCKY ENOUGH to live in San Francisco makes every day seem like One Big Lovefest. Even the dense fog of winter — spring, summer, and fall — can't put a damper on our glee. But the most excellent time to be in the city is during the *true* San Francisco festival season.

Beginning in April, we San Franciscans stumble out of our overpriced apartments, condos and houses like bears waking from hibernation, flow into the city streets, and stuff our faces with 72 percent dark chocolate-covered kale bars, kombucha “salami,” and bacon-on-a-stick. The Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown provides the kickoff to the season, quickly followed by the Bay to Breakers, the Gay Pride festival, the Fillmore Jazz, Union Street and the North Beach festivals, just to name a few fan favorites.

In fact, this being San Francisco, where there's something for everybody, there are

also several micro-niche festivals that always seem to fly under the radar. So here are a few that you might want to put on the calendar for this summer and fall:

Fleece Week Festival: Don't mistake this one for October's Fleet Week, where brave Navy and Marine Corp jet pilots risk their lives just to see us smile. This is Fleece Week, the one week when wearing those insanely popular 2-for-\$15 “San Francisco” fleeces that are sold at Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown is deemed illegal. Come watch the tourists

offers Wi-Fi, so your relatives in Poughkeepsie can watch you get hammered in real time; receive a complimentary 72-ounce Google Glass of beer (after pounding a few of these, you'll have new meaning to the term “beer goggles”); and enjoy the virtual barf bags for when you *actually do* get sick.

Food Truck-Hook-Up Truck Festival: You've probably heard about San Francisco's new mobile “hotel” for very short-term rentals, aptly called the Hook-Up Truck. This festival combines San Franciscans' two favorite things, food trucks and sex. Just think: You won't have to wait for the Chinese food to arrive after you've worked up an appetite. Just be sure to leave the kids at home.

In Search of the Illusive Parking Space Festival: This is quite the daredevil event as participants rev up their engines starting on a Saturday at around 6 p.m. and circle the Marina to look for a parking spot. Whoever finds a space first wins a full-time job with FedEx. So far, no one has ever won the prize, but in this econ-

There are several S.F. micro-niche festivals that fly under the radar.

get fleeced — and enjoy the lamb soulvaki while you're there!

Google BusPub Crawl Festival: In an attempt to appease angry San Franciscans for the additional bus traffic they have created in the city, Google offers this drunkfest to prove that techies are real people, too. Hop aboard their sleek luxury buses for a pub crawl that



Just another lazy Sunday in San Francisco PHOTO: BHAUTIK JOSHI / FLICKR

omy, there *should* be a lot of motor-vation.

Specialty Cocktails Under \$10 Festival: This mixology fest should be a blast for people who like drinks like a Black Russian Hill, Sex On Ocean Beach and KamiKezar shots, but only beer and wine are served here as everyone knows there is no such thing as a fancy cocktail under \$10 in San Francisco.

Mad Men In Heels Festival: This is not what you're thinking. It's actually a women's appreciation day where the men in suits of our fair city are required to wear at least three-inch heels to navigate the hills of San Francisco, run for buses, and sidestep cable car tracks. Quick tip for the first-time festivalgoer: Leave your Christian Louboutins at home.

My Spouse Didn't Want To Travel This Summer, So All I Got Was This Lousy Festival Festival: This is just perfect for those of you who are stuck in the city this summer, but still want to purchase a funny t-shirt. Finally, a reason to toss that I'm With Stupid t-shirt you got last summer.

So who cares about vacationing in Cuba, Iceland, or Botswana this summer when you can hop into a pink-mustachioed car with your loved ones and hit all of those off-the-grid festivals you never knew existed. And don't miss the new Thank You, Global Warming! Festival coming next year. Everyone says it'll be a hot one.

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JUNE EVENTS

what not to miss this month

MAJOR EVENTS



38th Annual Union Street Festival

Sat-Sun, June 7-8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Union Street (Gough to Steiner)

Featuring over 100 boutique artists offering unique art, jewelry, pottery, paintings, photography, furniture, and more; enjoy gourmet food booths and continuous live entertainment. Free, 800-310-6563, unionstreetfestival.com

60th Annual North Beach Festival

Sat-Sun, June 14-15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Grant Ave. (btw. Columbus and Filbert), Columbus Ave. (btw. Broadway & Green), Vallejo & Green Sts. (btw. Grant and Columbus)

Considered one of the country's original outdoor festivals, this treasured tradition returns to the birthplace of the Beat Generation, and features quality entertainment, live music, Italian street painting, blessing of the animals, and over 125 arts and crafts booths, 20 food booths and beverage gardens. Free, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com

Stern Grove's 77th Season Opening Day Starring Smokey Robinson & Patty Austin

Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m.

19th Ave. at Sloat

Grammy-winning R&B legend Smokey Robinson and R&B great Patty Austin open the season of free music. Free, 415-252-6252, sterngrove.org

44th Annual S.F. Pride Celebration

Celebration: Sat-Sun, June 28-29, noon-6 p.m. Civic Center

Parade: Sunday, June 29, 10:30 a.m.

Market St. & Beale to Market St. & 8th

With over 200 parade contingents, 300 exhibitors, and 20 stages and venues, the Pride Celebration is the largest LGBT gathering in the nation. Free, 415-864-0831, sfpride.org

LAST CHANGE

3rd Annual S.F. Green Film Fest

Daily thru June 5

Various Bay Area venues

This young festival includes 50 films from around the globe, including talks by over 70 visiting filmmakers and guest speakers covering environmental topics surrounding clean energy, green chemistry, the future of food, housing, trash, water, and art in the environment. Free-\$20, 415-552-5580, sfgreenfilmfest.org

Magic Theatre: Pen/Man/Ship

Tue-Sun thru June 15

Building D, Fort Mason Center

A father and son board a ship in 1896 for Africa on a mysterious mission with an opinionated young woman. On the open sea, an unexpected detour resurrects family secrets and reveals true intentions, fundamentally changing the course of their journey and their lives forever. \$20-\$60, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

Custom Made Theatre Co.: The Crucible

Thu-Sun thru June 15

1620 Gough St.

Don't miss Arthur Miller's classic story of individuals confronting the corruption within their society and standing up for their convictions under even the direst of circumstances. \$10-\$35, 415-798-2682 custommade.org

FUN FOR DAD

3rd Annual Pig Roast

Saturday, June 14, 2 p.m.

Old Log Cabin Meadow, Golden Gate Pk.

Start your celebration the day before with pork, beer, music, a bounce house, lawn games, dominoes (highly addictive hybrid of dominos and dice), and good company. Free, BYOB and a side to share, RSVP at eventbrite.com

Cooking with Dad

Saturday, June 14, 2-4 p.m.

Sur la Table (2224 Union St.)

In this hands-on class, create a menu of mouth-watering favorites — from sliders and fries to homemade guacamole and a decadent dessert — that are as fun to prepare as they are to eat. \$39, 800-243-0852, surlatable.com

Father's Day Weekend BikeAbout

Sunday, June 15, 8:30-10 a.m.

S.F. Zoo

Spend your Sunday morning on a leisurely docent-led cycling tour through the zoo, and finish up with a relaxing continental breakfast. Bring your own bikes; includes zoo admission. \$30, 415-753-7080, sfzoo.org

Father's Day Beer Brunch Cruise

Sunday, June 15, noon

MS California Hornblower, Pier 3

Treat Dad to an enticing buffet and free-flowing beer in a keepsake pint glass. Relax with your family as you enjoy live entertainment and breathtaking San Francisco Bay views. \$78, 888-467-6256, hornblower.com

Father's Day Sail Together

Sunday, June 15, 1-4 p.m.

SRV Derek M. Baylis, Pier 40

Spend quality time with Dad aboard this 65-foot yacht. Includes father-child bonding activities, complimentary beer (up to 3), and light snacks. \$110, 415-580-0335, wyliecharters.com

Ivan Amodei: Intimate Illusions Magic Show

Sunday, June 15, 2 & 6 p.m.

Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel

This critically acclaimed show, accompanied by a concert cellist, cleverly combines razor sharp wit and laughter with sleight of hand, dynamic story telling, mind-games, and tons of audience participation. \$65-\$75, 866-811-4111, ivanamodei.com

COMMUNITY CORNER



Beach Blanket Babylon: 40th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, June 6, noon

City Hall

Join Mayor Ed Lee along with city, civic and arts leaders and the cast of Beach Blanket Babylon in a salute to the world's longest-running musical revue. Free, beachblanketbabylon.com

Home Preparedness in Earthquake Country

Thursday, June 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rm., S.F. Main Library

In this talk and slideshow, learn about precautions you can take to lessen damage from an earthquake at home and work. Free, sfpl.org

GALAS & BENEFITS



Ploughshares Fund Chain Reaction 2014

Tuesday, June 3, 6 p.m.

The Open Square at Futures Without Violence (100 Montgomery St., Presidio)

Actor Michael Douglas hosts this gala evening of conversation exploring common ground to resolve the conflict with Iran and other issues to benefit Ploughshares Fund, which invests in initiatives to reduce and ultimately eliminate the world's nuclear threats and to promote stability in regions of conflict. \$250 & up, 415-668-2244, ploughshares.org

Benefit Art Auction

Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.

Herbst International Exhibition Hall

Enjoy an evening of art, music, food, and good company in support of the Headlands Center for the Arts programs for artists and the public. Moraga & Montgomery Sts., Presidio, \$125-\$150, 415-331-2787, headlands.org

4th Annual FOGG Fest

Thursday, June 19, 7-10 p.m.

Crissy Field

Enjoy delicious food, s'mores, silent auction items, great views, and live music from The National Parks, an up-and-coming indie-folk band. Proceeds support Friends of the Golden Gate and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. \$45, 415-561-3051, parksconservancy.org

The Big Picnic Party

Sunday, June 22, 11:30 a.m.

West Meadow, Stern Grove

Experience the opening day concert from a reserved picnic-table seat with access to a VIP lounge after enjoying a catered picnic in support of the Stern Grove Festival and its 77-year mission to present admission-free concerts and outreach programs to the Bay Area. \$250 & up, 415-252-6252, sterngrove.org

ARTS & CULTURE

17th Annual National Queer Arts Festival

Most days thru July 6

Various S.F. venues

Enjoy a month-long festival of music, dance, visual art, spoken word, comedy, theater, and film featuring artists, exhibitions, and performances. 800-838-3006, qcc2.org

7th Annual Yerba Buena Art Walk

Saturday, June 7, 2-6 p.m.

Yerba Buena Arts District

(2nd to 5th Sts. & Market to Harrison Sts.)

This event features a colorful and creative array of exhibits, artists' talks, receptions, wine tastings, and other events, presented by over 15 galleries and institutions in the Yerba Buena neighborhood. Free, 415-541-0312, yerbuena.org/artwalk

83rd Annual California Book Awards

Monday, June 9, 6 p.m.

Commonwealth Club (595 Market St.)

Hear from literary giants and amazing writers at this special awards ceremony, which will bestow gold and silver medals in several categories, including fiction, nonfiction, first fiction, poetry, young adult, juvenile, Californiana, and contribution to publishing. \$5-\$10, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

64th Annual SF Juneteenth Festival

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fillmore Street (btw. Post & Turk)

This celebration honors African-American heritage by commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with live entertainment, arts, crafts and food vendors, car show, fashion show, parade, and more. Free, 415-931-2729, sfjuneteenth.org

17th Annual Native Contemporary Arts Festival

Sunday, June 15, noon-3 p.m.

Yerba Buena Gardens

This family-friendly event showcases the best in Native American art, music and culture and features artist vendors, picnic opportunities, and other activities. Free, 415-543-1718, ybgfestival.org

Poetic Tuesday

Tuesday, June 17, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Jessie Square, Yerba Buena Gardens

Enjoy line breaks during your lunch break, as some of the Bay Area's best poets and musicians share their work in the great outdoors. Free, 415-543-1718, ybgfestival.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Hiroshi Sugimoto: Acts of God

Tue-Sat thru July 3

Fraenkel Gallery (49 Geary St.)

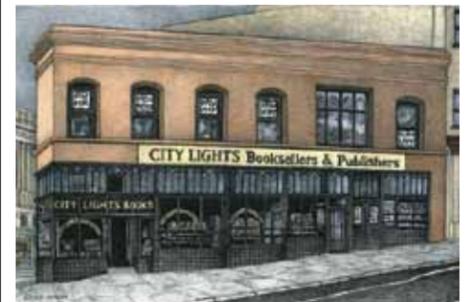
This five-panel photograph of a life-size reproduction of Leonardo's Last Supper sustained water damage from Hurricane Sandy while stored in a basement, which produced dramatic marks, colorations and ripples that have changed the character of the photograph. Free, 415-277-7230, fraenkelgallery.com

Guillermo Bert: Incubator

Tue-Sat thru July 5, 10:30 a.m.-6 pm.

The McLoughlin Gallery (79 Geary St.)

This solo exhibition highlights the artist's newest series of acrylic cubes laser-cut with matrix codes in which words and poems from indigenous peoples are embedded. The similarities between QR codes and the indigenous symbols are striking. Exhibited alongside barcode and textile pieces, linking technology with culture, consumerism and identity. Free, 415-986-4799, mgart.com, gbert.com



Delve(ations) x9

Thu-Sun, June 12-15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Live Worms Gallery (1345 Grant Ave.)

Nine artists present photographs, mixed media, prints, and altered books and drawings in this eclectic exhibition that depicts their unique responses to what whets their artistic appetites. Free, 415-263-8959, sflivewormsgallery.com

THEATER

ACT: The Orphan of Zhao

Tue-Sun, June 4-29

American Conservatory Theatre (415 Geary St.)

This reinvention of a classic Chinese legend with roots in the fourth century BCE is often described as the Chinese Hamlet. It is an epic story of self-sacrifice and revenge, as a young orphan discovers the shattering truth behind his origins. \$20-\$140, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

We Players: Macbeth

Thu-Sun, June 10-29

Fort Point

Multiple performance trajectories wind through the dark stone corridors, narrow passageways, expansive brick casemates, and inner chambers as Macbeth's Scotland collides with the Civil War Fort Point and modern San Francisco. \$45-\$75, 415-424-7249, weplayers.org

DANCE

Ballet Flamenco

Sunday/Saturday, June 1, 7, 22, & 29, 6:30 p.m.

Peña Pachamama (1630 Powell St.)

Join Carolina Lugo, her daughter Carolé Acuña, and their company of musicians and dancers for a special evening of entertainment featuring their high-energy Flamenco and Spanish dance. \$15-\$19, 415-646-0018, carolinalugo.com



36th Annual S.F. Ethnic Dance Festival

Thursday, June 5
Sat-Sun, June 14-15, 21-22, & 28-29
City Hall & YBCA Theater

This year's festival includes 10 world premieres, 16 festival debuts, and features dances from around the world and includes 9 to 10 performances in a show, with numerous cross-cultural, collaborative, and transitional pieces. Free-\$58, 415-978-2787, worldartswest.org

MUSIC

S.F. Opera: Show Boat

Various days June 1 thru July 2
War Memorial Opera House

A true classic of American musical theater, this tale of life on the Mississippi from the 1880s to the 1920s is both a poignant love story and a powerful reminder of the bitter legacy of racism. \$24-\$379, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com

Pocket Opera: The Pearl Fishers

Sunday, June 8, 2 p.m.
Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor

Bizet's opera tells the story of two friends who fall in love with a beautiful but seemingly inaccessible young lady. \$39-\$42, 415-972-8930, pocketopera.org

32nd Annual S.F. Jazz Festival

Daily, June 11-22
Various S.F. venues

See over 44 shows of legendary performers and up-and-coming artists referred to as "the preeminent event of its kind in the United States" by the *Los Angeles Times*. \$10-\$95, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

Ultra World X-tet:

Wise Dreams and Fables of the Sky
Friday, June 13, 8 p.m.

Old First Church (1751 Sacramento St.)

Don't miss this exciting cross-cultural experience combining jazz, world, experimental, and contemporary concert styles in a pioneering fusion of East and West. \$14-\$17, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

S.F. Guzheng Music Society: 32nd Annual Concert

Saturday, June 14, 1:30 p.m.

S.F. Conservatory of Music (50 Oak St.)

Pipa master Lui Pui-yuen and guzheng master Weishan Liu are joined by other pipa, guzheng and guqin performers in "The Exquisite Sound of Dancing Pearls." \$40-\$120, 415-668-8111, guzheng.org

NIGHTLIFE

NightLife LIVE

Thursday, June 12

California Academy of Sciences

Music and art mix in this monthly series of the Cal Academy's NightLife programs. This month, hear live music by Small Black and Beacon, a DJ set by Heathered Pearls, and see artist Azael Ferrer's exhibit. Ages 21+, \$12, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

Chivalry Club

Sat-Sun, June 21-22

The Dark Room Theater (2263 Mission St.)

Audrey Rufe, Alex Choi, and a cast of — well, six others take on modern life armed only with their wit and some timely costume changes. \$12, eventbrite.com

Chum

Saturday, June 28, 9:30 p.m.

Boom Boom Room (1601 Fillmore St.)

Chum is a Phish tribute band (get it?), and they'll bring their (or Phish's) music to San Francisco. \$12, 415-673-8000, boomboomtickets.com

FILMS & LECTURES

Jellyfish Eyes

Thursday, June 5, 6:30-9 p.m.

Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin St.)

Artist Takashi Murakami's first live-action film tells the story of Masashi, a boy who moves to a sleepy town in Japan's countryside, where he discovers a flying jellyfish-like creature and learns that his classmates all have similar magical pets. Free with admission (\$5 after 5 p.m.), 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Frameline38

Daily, June 19-29

Castro Theatre & other Bay Area venues

Kicking off with the documentary *The Case Against 8* and featuring a lineup of international LGBT films, the 38th Frameline LGBT film festival takes over the Castro this month. *Individual and series tickets available*, 415-703-8650, frameline.org

David Boies and Theodore Olson: The Case for Marriage Equality

Thursday, June 26, 6 p.m.

Fairmont Hotel (950 Mason St.)

On the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark gay marriage ruling, the two lawyers who argued the case before the court will be in conversation with Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, with an introduction by actor and activist George Takei. \$10-\$45, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT



Science and Scripture: Inside the Vatican Observatory

Monday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.

Nourse Theater (275 Hayes St.)

George V. Coyne is an astronomer and a Jesuit. He's the director emeritus of the Vatican Observatory who brings his unique background to discussing the dialogue between science and religion. \$24-\$27, 415-392-4400, cityboxoffice.com

World Oceans Day Beach Cleanup

Sun, June 9, 10 a.m.

Baker Beach

The giant Flying Iron Art Car will play positive music and give free cookies and coffee to all volunteers. Bring you friends, pets, food, and music instruments to celebrate. Free, worldoceanday.org/events/flying-iron-baker-beach

GSummit SF 2014

Tuesday, June 10, 8 a.m.

Concourse Exhibition Center (635 8th St.)

Learning that the keynote address will be by physics superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson is probably enough to get most people to sign up for this conference on "the science of engagement," but there will also be Dr. BJ Fogg from Stanford and 50 additional speakers from Amazon, Oracle, Google, and many others. Conference pass \$1,095 & up, gamification.co

FILM & LECTURES

Starring San Francisco

Thursday, June 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate Valley Branch Library

San Francisco has appeared in hundreds of movies and television series, from Eric von Stroheim's 1924 *Greed* to *Dirty Harry* to *Zodiac*. See film stills and clips that demonstrate the Bay Area's rich cinematic history. Free, 415-355-5666, sfpl.org

16th Annual S.F. Black Film Festival

Thu-Sun, June 12-15

Jazz Heritage Center (1330 Fillmore St.)

Burial Clay Theater (762 Fulton St.)

This film festival celebrates African American cinema and the African cultural diaspora and displays a diverse collection of films from emerging and established filmmakers. 415-400-4602, sfbff.org



A Conversation with Hillary Clinton

Wednesday, June 25, 7 p.m.

Orpheum Theater

Join a conversation discussing the crises, choices, and challenges Clinton faced during her four years as America's 67th Secretary of State, and how those experiences drive her view of the future. \$95-\$520, 888-746-1799, innovationae.com

POTABLES & EDIBLES

North Beach Walking Food Tour

Daily thru June, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Meet: 663 Union St.

Eat and drink your way through North Beach while enjoying the best coffee, chocolates, bread, pizza, pastries, and more, and learn some neighborhood history as well. \$59, 415-655-0480, sffoodtour.com

13th Annual Dine About Town

Daily thru June 15

Various S.F. restaurants

Over 100 top restaurants return with a second helping of specially prepared two-course lunch menus for \$18.95 or three-course dinner menus for \$36.95. 415-391-2000, dineabouttown.com

10th Annual Pinot Days Grand Festival

Saturday, June 21

City View at Metreon (135 Fourth St.)

Celebrate the amazing noble grape in all its gloriously diverse styles, with over 80 artisan winemakers representing every domestic Pinot Noir region pouring the fruits of their craft. \$75, 925-891-4553, pinotdays.com

4th Annual CUESA Summer Celebration

Sunday, June 22, 6-9 p.m.

Ferry Building

In this fabulous summer soirée, guests will feast on unlimited food and drink from some of the Bay Area's hottest chefs and bartenders at this lavish walk-around tasting. Proceeds support CUESA's ongoing education initiatives. \$125, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

SPORTS & HEALTH

Tiptoeing Through the Twilight Zone

Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m.-noon

Marina Branch Library

Learn tips for understanding and identifying dementia as well as techniques for learning to live with and care for someone with this baffling and exasperating disease. Free, 415-355-2823, sfpl.org

13th Annual MS Duskbuster Run/Walk

Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

Polo Fields, Golden Gate Park

Take a midweek break and help fight MS in this 5K run or 2-mile walk hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Check the website for location of the popular post-race celebration. 415-230-6678, duskbuster.org

Total Wellness Fair

Thursday, June 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Embarcadero Center

Incorporating all facets of physical and mental fitness, this seminar includes a variety of health screenings, fitness demonstrations, a collection of over 65 health-related booths, a blood drive, product demonstrations, and raffle prizes. Free, 415-772-0700, embarcaderocenter.com

Keeping Seniors Safe and Connected

Thursday, June 12, 3-4 p.m.

Enright Room, CHRC (2333 Buchanan St.)

This presentation will explain how connecting seniors with innovative technology is an efficient solution to keep elders safe and well cared for at home to age in place as an alternative to institutional living. Free, \$10 donation suggested, registration requested at 415-923-3155 or qpmcchrc@sutterhealth.org, chrcsf.org

Open Water Swimming in S.F.

Saturday, June 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

North Beach Branch Library (850 Columbus Ave.)

Curious about bay swimming? Join South End Rowing Club member Cathy Delneo for an informational session with short films and tips for getting started. Free, 415-355-5626, sfpl.org

Italian Heritage Night: Giants vs. Padres

Tuesday, June 24, 7:15 p.m.

AT&T Park

Join the Museo Italo-Americano in this special event that includes a pregame festival. \$55 (advance purchase required), 415-673-2200, sfmuseum.org

CHILD'S PLAY

Family Fun Day

Sunday, June 1 & 15, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Asian Art Museum

Designed for pre-school and kinder families, explore art and ideas through immersive storytelling, fun gallery activities, creative art making, and more. Free with museum admission (\$12, children under 12 free), 415-581-3500, asianart.org

38th Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival

Saturday, June 21, noon-10 p.m.

Presidio Middle School (450 30th Ave.)

Enjoy two full days of folk music from around the world, performances for children, singing, dancing, music workshops, and more. Free, sffolkfest.org

JAMband Family Festival

Sunday, June 8, 3-5 p.m.

Park Chalet (1000 Great Highway)

Celebrate summer with a special family show where children's musician Charity Kahn serves up handmade music and dance outside under the open skies. Free, jamjamjam.com

Presidio Dance Theatre: The Little Lantern

Friday, June 6, 7 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Enjoy an evening of classical and folk dances from all corners of the globe featuring a cast of multigenerational, international artists and outstanding youth artists. \$40-\$120, 415-561-3997, presidiodance.org

Bean Sprouts Family Days

Saturdays thru October, noon-3 p.m.

S.F. Botanical Garden

Enjoy nature crafts, garden care, outdoor games, and exploration in the Children's Garden with a variety of activities to do at your own pace — water plants, create a crazy critter, dig in the dune sand pit, or share a book in the Living Room. Bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic in the garden. 415-661-1316, sfbotanicalgarden.org

JUST FOR FUN

Billionaires Row Walking Tour

Saturday, June 7 & 21 3-4 p.m.

Presidio Branch Library

Discover the most exclusive corner of Pacific Heights, where San Francisco's wealthiest families have built mansions with spectacular bay views. Find out which society family runs a nursery school from their home and which rehab program had its headquarters here, and more. Free, 415-355-2880, sfpl.org



S.F. Crystal Fair

Sat-Sun, June 14-15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Conf. Cntr., Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center

Discover a magical mix of crystals, beads, minerals, jewelry, and metaphysical healing tools. Enjoy massage services, psychic readings, singing bowls, and more. \$8 weekend pass, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

STYLE



Clockwise from left: Best seat in the house: Jaimie Belew's "Master Bathroom and Salon"; Subdued notes: "Music Room" by Steve Henry and Michael Booth of BAMO; Oceanic Inspiration: "Woman's Office" by Laura Larkin; Tile style: "Master Bedroom" by Antonio Martins Interior Design; Room with a view: "Artist's Home Studio and Observatory" by Matthew MacCaul Turner



Design fusion on display

Decorator Showcase: Presidio Heights mansion transformed into an eclectic work of art

by maryann lorusso

A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED annual event, the San Francisco Decorator Showcase outdid itself this year as an array of local talent transformed a 9,000-square-foot Presidio Heights mansion into an eclectically chic abode. At once edgy and earthy, trendy and traditional, the house at 3660 Jackson Street embodied a range of styles as diverse as the city itself.

Dozens of the Bay Area's top interior and landscape designers prepared the elegant red brick house, built in 1907 by Bliss & Faille, the architectural team behind the St. Francis Hotel and the Masonic Temple. The estate, which boasts a façade of climbing focus, a three-story staircase and coffered skylight, exquisitely detailed woodwork, and sweeping views of the Presidio and San Francisco Bay, flaunted a make-

over that included design sensibilities both old and new, with some unexpected twists along the way.

Visitors experienced the first surprise upon entering the house and stepping into designer Jonathan Ranchman's "Heroin-Chic" entry hall, a collision of fashion and music featuring gold accents, mirrored walls, and other details inspired by model Kate Moss and the song "Royals" from singer-songwriter Lord's album, *Pure Heroine*. Then, ascending the stairs to Five Senses art consultant Alex Ray's second floor landing, guests encountered a playful mish-mash of alphabet letters one might expect to see in a playroom. Equally unexpected was the dramatic "Mixologist Quarters," an illuminated red room lined with alcoholic infusions and drink recipes, Reba Jones's homage to the increasingly popular cocktail-blending culture. And a passage

through a canopy of rhododendrons led to an unanticipated abstract sculpture reflecting light and shadows in Kate Webster and Thayer Hopkins's series of garden spaces.

Other rooms in the house ingeniously blended the classic with the contemporary. For

At once edgy and earthy, trendy and traditional, it is as diverse as SF itself.

instance, the California coastline met the City of Light in the "Artist's Home Studio and Observatory" by Matthew MacCaul Turner. Inspired by the natural beauty of our state, as well as 1920s Paris, the soothing room featured peeling plaster walls, a salon hanging of art, and a sloped floor painted blue. And in the "Master Bedroom" by Antonio Martins

Interior Design, a 17th-century bed was juxtaposed with a contemporary sculpture, and traditional blue-and-white Portuguese tile was shuffled into a piece of modern art.

Kids' rooms were a special treat this year. Shelly Chan's "Little Boy Blu" bedroom, an "upscale retreat for the little gentleman of the house," mixed preppy details such as Hermes bedding and a Ralph Lauren wardrobe with playful elements like an oversized clock and hanging letters. Tineke Trigg's "Lily's Pad" was inspired by a fictitious young girl who expresses herself through whimsical design elements and fun colors (her favorite, blue, broken up by calming green and pops of orange and pattern to stimulate her creativity). And Regan Baker Design's "Little Roamer's Room," a safari-themed adventure featured movable furniture,

a nomadic tent and rugged materials like denim, canvas and rope.

Other highlights included Laura Larkin's "Woman's Office," whose mallard walls, wavy drapery and light made of cascading crystal bobbles mimicked the ocean; the calm and creative "Music Room" by Steve Henry and Michael Booth of BAMO, the sophisticated glamour suggested by Jaimie Belew's "Master Bathroom and Salon," and SagreraBrazil Design's "With Good Company" dining room whose spring colors and breezy design details evoked the feeling of an enchanted garden.

Since its inception over three decades ago, the San Francisco Decorator Showcase has raised over \$12.5 million for University High School's financial aid program.

Maryann LoRusso is a writer, editor and the founder of RedTypewriter.com, a fashion, culture and lifestyle magazine for women.

Five exciting trends in home decorating

1. Blue notes. From dreamy aqua to the most dramatic cobalt, blue was the color of choice this year. The relaxed hue found its way onto a huge range of home décor—from upholstery and rugs, to pillows and tiles and even floor paint. While some designers used it as an accent color, others bathed entire rooms in this heavenly hue.

2. Cocktail couture. In what felt like a flashback to the 1960s, the cocktail culture revealed itself in several spots throughout the house. The latest bar craze—creative mixology—is now working itself into the home, and a couple

of rooms were dedicated to the art of drinking. Vintage, manly touches such as humidor trunks, cocktail shakers, and pinup-girl wallpaper are putting a decidedly more sophisticated spin on the man-cave concept.

3. Ladies' luxe. Why should the guys have all the fun? This year's showcase turned on the charm for the girls as well — at least the ones who appreciate ample closet space, boudoir-like room accessories, and bathrooms built for a spa queen. Sensuous touches like dripping chandeliers and master-bathroom reclin-

ers overlooking lush gardens made these female-inspired spaces worthy of relaxation.

4. Kids with personality. The children's spaces this year tapped into the wild minds of the kids who were envisioned to live in them. Whether the theme was adventure safari or little prepster, the rooms reflected the specific interests and personalities of the littlest home dwellers. From tent-like window treatments to wall and ceiling decorations worthy of Kay Thompson's *Eloise*, the execution was both fashion-forward and fun.

5. Conversation pieces. The art and lighting throughout were awe-inspiring. Consider a mesh sculpture that could be moved and manipulated into an infinite number of shapes, or a menagerie of alphabet letters that occupied prime real estate on the wall of the second-floor landing. And how about an oceanic crystal chandelier whose strands swayed like the legs of a deep-sea creature? Show-stopping pieces, often with an interactive element, are what this trend is all about.

— M. LoRusso



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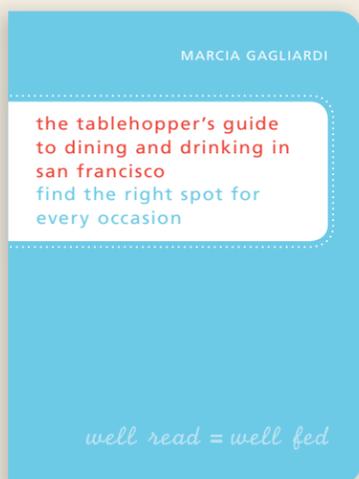
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by julie mitchell

IT'S A QUESTION CURRENTLY being asked by personal trainers, gym instructors, and gym goers alike: Which is better — a longer, consistent workout like walking, running, or biking for 30–60 minutes, or a shorter routine involving intense bursts of cardio exercise like jumping jacks interspersed with moderate activity or rest?

More and more the answer is HIIT, or High-Intensity Interval Training, which alternates low-to-moderate intensity intervals with high-intensity intervals. HIIT is often incorporated into group exercise classes or as part of CrossFit or Tabata circuit training workouts. It's based on a 1996 study by professor Izumi Tabata from Japan's Ritsumeikan University, initially involving Olympic speed skaters using 20 seconds of ultra-intense exercise followed by 10 seconds of rest, repeated continuously for four minutes.

In a recent study by Queens University in Canada, high-intensity, circuit-style training helped improve both cardio-respiratory fitness and strength, even with workouts totaling less than 30 minutes a week. Other studies have shown that just four min-

utes of interval training can boost fitness levels as much as 30 minutes of running on a treadmill. While a long run will help you burn more calories than a HIIT workout, an interval program will improve your overall fitness. So for those who use lack of time as a reason not to exercise, a HIIT program can offer a whole body work-

effective than normal cardio because it increases both aerobic and anaerobic endurance while burning more fat. "It's easy to incorporate HIIT into your workout routine," Greenfield says. "At the gym, if you're on the treadmill, jog or walk at your normal pace for four minutes, then sprint for one minute, then return to jogging for the duration of your workout. Once that becomes comfortable, increase the sprint portion by another minute or two. The goal is to increase endurance."

Greenfield adds that even if you don't have a gym membership you can still add high-intensity training to your workout. "High knees, fast feet, jump squats; those will get the job done. Just focus on

Our days are packed. It's nice to know we can get a solid workout in a reasonably short time.

out in half the time of an hour-long fitness class or long run.

HIIT classes have invaded gyms across the country and the Bay Area, including the San Francisco JCC and Presidio YMCA. According to Laura Greenfield, fitness and community wellness manager at the SFJCC, HIIT is considered to be much more

increasing your intensity and your heart rate for a few minutes during your workout. Aim for 8-to-10 cycles of low-to-high intensity during your exercise session."

Our days are packed with work, family, and everything else life throws at us. It's nice to know we can get a solid workout in a reasonably short time. Check out the high-intensity interval workouts offered at most gyms in the city. Or create your own!

E-mail: julie@marinatimes.com



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Kids? Check. Canoe? Check. Dogs? Check. Wait, where's mom? PHOTO: LAUREL FRAZIER

Favorite family friendly apps for summer travel

by liz farrell

SCHOOL IS ALMOST OUT FOR SUMMER and that means many families will be hitting the road. No matter where your travel takes you, getting there with children in tow can sometimes be challenging, especially during the summer months. Navigating long lines, delays, and the inevitable question, “Are we there yet?” can all be frustrating. As parents, we have to pack some patience along with an arsenal of fully loaded technological devices — iPads with movies and phones fully charged with plenty of games, which seems to be a staple for family travel these days. Technology can also be used to help explore a city, send memories back to loved ones, and increase enjoyment of family time together.

Here are three of my family’s must-have travel apps to ensure everyone enjoys the ride:

MOMMY NEAREST

Whether you want to venture to a new neighborhood in the city or you are packing your bags for back East, this new app, geared primarily for families with young children, is one you will want. It’s free and uses “mom experts” from each city to find the best kid-friendly resources. Parents use their location to find restaurants, indoor/outdoor activities, doctors, and even the nearest changing tables or nursing areas. Mommy Nearest CEO Josh Milstein, says, “We want to be a community for parents by

The app uses “mom experts” from each city to find the best kid-friendly resources.

parents, so think of it as a combination of Yelp and Four Square geared to kid-friendly resources.” There are resources for New York, Chicago, and now San Francisco with more cities coming later this year.

POSTCARD ON THE RUN

Everyone loves receiving mail, especially grandparents. This app makes sending postcards as easy as a click and a signature. Gone are the days searching for the perfect postcard and

then trying to find a stamp and a mailbox. This new-wave app is a great way to share your summer adventures with family and friends at home — especially those who may not be on Facebook or Instagram (gasp). It uses your custom photos to send hard-copy postcards that can be personalized with a message and even your signature. The app is free, but you need a credit card or

The app gives you the ideas, and then you enjoy some device-free family game time.

PayPal to pay for the actual postcards and mailing.

Families might even want to send postcards to their home address — this will make for a great surprise when you get back to relive the adventures and fun memories with keepsake postcards.

FAMILY CAR GAMES

This app includes instructions for over 100 creative games that can be played anywhere. What I love about this app is you don’t actually play the games on the device; the app gives you the ideas and the directions and then you can enjoy some “device-free” family game time. There are games for all ages, and no one has to fight over the phone or tablet. It does cost \$1.99, but the variety and fun it will bring is well worth the nominal cost.

We recently used this on a road trip, and it was great because we could all play together and it kept everyone in the backseat happy and distracted. There are some classics like I Spy, Rock Paper Scissors and Tic-Tac-Toe, but it also includes some fun new games like Grandma Is So Weird! and License Plate Addition.

Apps can be a great way to access information and entertain — two musts for summer travel. However, summer is also a great time to unplug and create memories that can’t be found on a screen. Sometimes as parents, we need to not only remind our children but also ourselves the importance of putting away the technological devices and to just be present.

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

Fort Mason once served as an Army Post for more than 100 years. Recognizing the geographic and economic importance of the San Francisco Bay, the land was originally named the Port of San Francisco by President Millard Fillmore and was known to locals as Black Point. By 1855, large and expensive homes were built and soon became the preferred location for San Francisco's elite and well educated. To this day, three of Fort Mason's oldest buildings still stand and were once homes in this private and wealthy community - Brooks House, Haskell House and Palmers House. Fort Mason now serves as a living community, popular park and the Center houses an art museum, music school, bookstore and Greens Restaurant.

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THE URBAN HOME & GARDEN



Beekeeper Terry Oxford tends to one of his hives

Honeybees and other helpful garden insects

by julia strzesieski

BEE POLLINATION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE for more than \$15 billion annually in increased crop value. This translates to about one mouthful in three of our everyday diets that directly or indirectly benefit from honeybee pollination. Commercial farming of many specialty crops like almonds and other tree nuts, berries, fruits, and vegetables, are dependent on honeybee pollination. These are among the foods that give our diet flavor, nutritional value, and diversity. Almonds, for example, are completely reliant on honeybees for pollination. The California almond industry requires 1.4 million honeybee colonies, or roughly 60 percent of all managed honeybee colonies in the United States.

Honeybees are not native to the United States and first came from Europe with the early settlers. The United States does have native pollinators, but the European honeybees are more prolific and easier for commercial-level pollination of a wide assortment of crops.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a phenomenon in which worker bees from a beehive abruptly disappear. The total number of managed honeybee colonies has decreased from 5 million in the 1940s to only 2.5 million today. Because a great many of our food sources are directly tied to honeybee pollination, CCD is of great concern. Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides with properties similar to nicotine. The use of these insecticides in some countries is restricted due to some evidence of a connection to CCD.

Although it might not seem that honeybees are prevalent in San Francisco, they actually do thrive in the city — thanks to the efforts of beekeepers and honeybee activists like Terry Oxford (urbanbeesf.com). Oxford tends to healthy rooftop colonies atop some of the city's finest eateries: Quince, Cotogna, Jardiniere, Nopa, and Tony's Pizza Napoletana. Oxford is just one of several urban beekeepers that include the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which also keeps rooftop hives.

What can you do to help the honeybees? Plant flowers, vegetables, and herbs that attract honeybees. When purchasing your plants, make sure to confirm with the garden center that neonicotinoids insecticides are not used on the plants that they offer. Here are a few honeybee favorites:

Herbs: anise hyssop, bee balm - monarda, borage, catnip, cilantro, echinacea, fennel, lavender mint, oregano, pennyroyal, rosemary, sage, and thyme

Flowers/Annuals: calendula, marigold, poppies, sunflowers, and zinnias

Vegetables: cucumbers, melons, peppers, pumpkins, squash, and watermelons

Perennials: lavender — French and Provence, scented geraniums, and sedum autumn joy

BENEFICIAL, BEAUTIFUL BUGS

Both pest and beneficial insects have always been around, maintaining nature's balance. Beneficial insects fill two main roles in the garden ecosystem: plant pollinators and pest insect predators as a natural form of pest control. When native and other desirable plants are allowed to bloom, they attract beneficial insects with their nectar and pollen.

Ladybugs add attractive color to a garden while fighting pests. Release them at night (so they don't fly away), at the base of plants. They naturally climb up plants and will eat aphids, mites, thrips, leafhoppers, and many other destructive soft-bodied insects. They continue until the bad guys are gone, laying their own eggs in the process. When new pests arrive, fresh ladybugs will be waiting.

Praying mantids are an all-purpose garden guardian and eat a wide variety of insects, including crickets, aphids, and spiders — virtually any pest that moves. Because they don't fly, they stay in the area where they are released.

These plants will attract beneficial bugs to your garden:

- Parsley family (parsley, fennel, coriander, dill, and chervil)
- Sunflower family (sunflowers, daisies, asters, and cosmos)
- Sweet alyssum, native buckwheat, baby blue eyes, and tidy tips

These insects can be purchased to add to your garden:

Beneficial nematodes assault flea larvae in the soil, bark, or ground litter. They also attack more than 230 kinds of garden pests and go to work quickly.

Earthworms, such as Red Wigglers, burrow 24 hours a day and aerate the soil, bringing oxygen to the roots. Organic material is turned into nutrient-rich casting.

It is important to note that beneficial insects do not tolerate residual pesticides well. If you have been using one, discontinue use and wait a month before introducing beneficial insects to your garden.

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

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Techies give birth to micro neighborhoods

Where is the Mastro, Baja Noe and the Quad?

by carole isaacs

A FEW YEARS AGO I WORKED with an older — now retired — agent who said, “There are no bad neighborhoods in San Francisco anymore.” It felt like a bit of an over-generalization to me, but considering his senior status I politely agreed by not disagreeing. Those who know me will think this must have involved extraordinary self control on my part, because rarely do I find a reason to hold my tongue. Here we are today, and I feel this agent’s comment would be an understatement in the current real estate market. Owning a home anywhere in San Francisco is a fabulous thing, and if the area feels a bit edgy it is a plus for many buyers.

This does not mean that gourmet vanilla is out of fashion. Homes in the Northside are selling at between \$5 million and \$10 million, and currently there is a home at 2724 Pacific listed on the MLS for \$30 million.

The real news here is that the recently reconfigured boundaries of the San Francisco MLS (multi-

ple listing service) neighborhoods are already out of date in some areas. Who would not expect the new residents of the Upper Market, Castro, and Mission Dolores and the agents who work these areas to come up with names and boundaries to describe their gentrified neighborhoods?

The San Francisco MLS has added Mastro (the upper market and Castro area) and Baja Noe (borders between 21st and 23rd Streets and Dolores and Valencia) to their online maps. However, these are not searchable areas of the MLS. More recently the Quad has sprung to life. Exact borders here are difficult to name, because they do not all follow specific streets. The area partly covers from Mid-Market to the Castro, parts of Eureka Valley/Dolores Heights, the Inner Mission, and Noe Valley. In fact, the Quad is so new it is not on the MLS online map. Key to the new neighborhoods, more than being walk-to-coffee areas, is that they include the routes of the corporate shuttles and are walk-to-shuttle areas.

This is curious stuff, but what do these neighborhood name

changes mean to sellers and buyers in San Francisco?

- As far as the San Francisco MLS goes, the boundaries of neighborhoods on the real estate map are even more important today than ever. Over 90 percent of all buyers begin their searches online. In San Francisco it is probably more like 99 percent, so these new neighborhood boundaries are important to learn. For example, if a search is for Noe Valley, it will not show listings in a several block area that is now being called Baja Noe and overlaps into the Inner Mission. This can be costly to homeowners who live in Baja Noe, but not Noe Valley. They will more likely than not miss out on reaching a group of well-heeled buyers unless their agent is carefully marketing their home while keeping in mind the importance of the micro neighborhood districts using the keyword “Baja Noe” in their online advertising.

- Sellers can certainly advertise their homes as being in the Mastro, Baja Noe, or the Quad, and buyers may search these keywords online for homes.

Anything that will draw buyers to a home for sale is a benefit for sellers. This will also help buyers narrow the focus of their search.

- Online, both sellers and buyers are at the mercy of real estate search engines, where a location search must be configured by defined San Francisco neighborhood districts, zip code, or radius. To my knowledge, it is not yet possible to search online a free-form area such as the Quad that does not follow exact streets.

- Buyers who are looking to find a home in the Quad must search three areas: Mission Dolores, Eureka Valley/Dolores Heights, and the Inner Mission. This cuts a large swath of area in the city, and I recommend that buyers become familiar with the names of the streets and alleys and even the street numbers so they can quickly scan new listings that come up in their search parameters. Also, this is when buyers really need an agent who is keeping up daily with new listings and will let them know as soon as a new home comes onto the market that meets their needs. The same is true of the Mastro and Baja Noe, of course.

Buyers shopping for a home in San Francisco know neighborhoods like the Mission and Bernal Heights have almost overnight become incredibly desirable, but only buyers on the cutting edge will be talking about Baja Noe, the Mastro, or the Quad. One thing we have all come to accept as the norm is that in San Francisco we are on the cutting edge of the universe as far as real estate goes, and to buy a home here it is important to know and understand the most current information available.

There is no easy solution to finding a home in San Francisco, but staying up-to-date with the evolution in the neighborhoods is important. Yesterday’s edgy neighborhood may well be tomorrow’s hot spot — with prices to prove it. How does a buyer keep up? Connect with an agent who works in San Francisco and understands the nuances of the San Francisco real estate market.

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



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Edwardian Duplex with Stellar Views. 2 vacant full floor view flats with charming studio below. Upper level is a 2BD/2BA unit with a pano view deck. Hardwood floors, remodeled cerulean blue kitchen. Lower flat is 2BD/1BA updated with dining room views to the east. 2-3 car parking.
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Hidden Architectural Gem. Ideally located contemporary 2BD/2BA 2 level home. Cutting edge design featuring a steel spiral staircase. Dark hardwood floors throughout with an abundance of light from all 3 exterior walls. Private garden, with 1-car private garage.
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Lowrie MacLean
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Quintessential Top Floor 1BD/1BA Condominium. Flooded with natural light, this beautiful and spacious condo is located in a classic six unit 1920s building. It features an open and flexible floor plan with hardwood floors & wonderful period details throughout. Formal dining room and in-unit laundry.
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Waterfront
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1050NorthPoint1207A.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
415.271.5117



Nob Hill
Offered at \$510,000
Stunning Top Floor Studio Condominium. The exquisite condo, in the quiet back of the building, features deeded parking, an enchanting private brick balcony, wood-burning fireplace, plantation shutters, crown molding, a large walk-in closet and extra storage. The building features a lovely landscaped courtyard. Great location!
930PineStCondo.com
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The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: April 2014

By Hill & Co.

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow (no sales)					
Lake	180 8th Avenue	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,240,000	At	0
	118 17th Avenue	3BD/3BA	\$2,375,000	Above	6
	138 16th Avenue	5BD/4.5BA	\$3,110,000	Below	36
	20 16th Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,150,000	Above	14
	152 7th Avenue	4BD/4.5BA	\$3,650,000	Above	10
Laurel Heights	66 Cook Street	2BD/1BA	\$915,000	Above	32
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	230 Capra Way	3BD/4BA	\$3,050,000	Above	12
	3715 Broderick Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,150,000	Above	13
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2339 Laguna Street	4BD/4.5BA	\$3,200,000	Above	19
	2557 California Street	4BD/4BA	\$3,610,000	Above	13
	2800 Pacific Avenue	6BD/5BA	\$8,600,000	Below	609
	2330 Lyon Street	6BD/6.5BA	\$10,117,400	Below	180
Presidio Heights	3867 Jackson Street	6BD/5BA	\$5,125,000	Above	8
	3725 Washington Street	5BD/7.5BA	\$8,400,000	Below	203
Russian Hill	717 Bay Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,350,000	Above	57
Sea Cliff	287 28th Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$2,500,000	Below	35
	420 El Camino Del Mar	4BD/3BA	\$6,500,000	Above	13
Telegraph Hill	305 Filbert Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,750,000	Below	125
	41 Castle Street	4BD/4.5BA	\$3,625,000	Above	5

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2945 Baker Street #5	0BD/1BA	\$324,000	Below	78
	2831-2833 Webster Street #4	3BD/2.5BA	\$1,161,000	Above	31
	3025 Broderick Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,200,000	Above	4
	2769 Union Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,320,000	Above	23
Lake	2233 Lake Street	1BD/1BA	\$600,000	Above	65
	2415 Lake Street	2BD/1.5BA	\$899,000	At	28
	4132 California Street #Upper	2BD/1.25BA	\$975,000	Above	13
	155 24th Avenue #4	3BD/2BA	\$1,625,000	Above	23
Laurel Heights	63 Cook Street #A	2BD/1BA	\$1,000,000	Above	14
Lone Mountain	155 Wood Street #155	3BD/2BA	\$735,000	Above	30
	15 Loyola Terrace	2BD/1BA	\$1,060,000	Above	22
Marina	1500 Bay Street #202	0BD/1BA	\$518,000	At	53
	3324 Octavia Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$840,000	Above	26
	2230 Francisco Street #111	1BD/1BA	\$930,000	Above	13
	1921 Jefferson Street #105	2BD/2BA	\$968,000	At	26
	3132 Franklin Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,200,000	Above	29
	1500 Francisco Street #11	3BD/2BA	\$1,625,000	Above	25
	1934 Jefferson Street	3BD/3BA	\$2,475,000	Below	49
	1738 Lombard Street #4	2BD/2BA	\$1,235,000	Below	52
Nob Hill	1260 Clay Street #207	1BD/1BA	\$640,000	Above	11
	1440 Broadway #406	1BD/1BA	\$760,000	Above	36
	1250 Sacramento Street #4	1BD/1BA	\$875,000	Above	63
	1776 Sacramento Street #608	3BD/2BA	\$1,190,000	Above	32
	1201 California Street #1401	2BD/2BA	\$1,195,000	At	50
	1788 Clay Street #608	2BD/2BA	\$1,226,000	Above	62
	1242 Sacramento Street #3	1BD/1.5BA	\$1,250,000	Below	38
	1601 Pacific Avenue #401	2BD/2BA	\$1,350,000	Above	26
	1355 Pacific Avenue #405	2BD/2BA	\$1,600,000	Above	8
	1100 Sacramento Street #304	3BD/3BA	\$2,225,000	Below	151
	1170 Sacramento Street #6C	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,425,000	Above	34
	1100 Sacramento Street #208	3BD/3.5BA	\$3,200,000	Below	71
	North Beach	460 Francisco Street #303	1BD/1BA	\$740,000	Above
520 Chestnut Street #401		2BD/2.5BA	\$1,445,000	Below	33
28 Vandewater Street		3BD/2.5BA	\$1,725,000	Above	32
Pacific Heights	2211 California Street #403	0BD/1BA	\$407,500	Above	14
	1800 Washington Street #414	0BD/1BA	\$550,000	Above	15
	2145 California Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$600,000	Above	0
	2217 Pacific Avenue #6	1BD/1BA	\$715,000	Above	29
	2999 California Street #302	1BD/1BA	\$750,000	Above	20
	1800 Washington Street #219	2BD/2BA	\$962,500	Above	24
	2200 Sacramento Street #506	2BD/2BA	\$1,000,000	Above	2
	1701 Jackson Street #409	2BD/2BA	\$1,038,000	At	1
	2299 Sacramento Street #18	2BD/1BA	\$1,075,000	Above	12
	1770 Pacific Avenue #302	2BD/2BA	\$1,080,000	Above	27
	3065 Clay Street #101	1BD/1.5BA	\$1,100,000	Above	18
	2111 Franklin Street #4	2BD/2BA	\$1,180,000	Below	137
	1990 Green Street #101	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,200,000	Above	15
	1940 Sacramento Street #5	3BD/2BA	\$1,370,000	Below	8
	2665 Sacramento Street	4BD/1.25BA	\$1,400,000	Above	11
	2049 Vallejo Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,730,000	Above	12
	1999 Broadway #62	3BD/3BA	\$1,975,000	Above	20
	3230 Washington Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,010,000	Above	7
	3042 Jackson Street #4	2BD/2BA	\$2,020,000	Above	25
	2990 Clay Street #2	2BD/2BA	\$2,075,000	Above	18
	3042 Jackson Street #1	3BD/2BA	\$2,150,000	Above	17
	2302 Divisadero Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$2,400,000	Above	42
	2139 Green Street #F	2BD/2BA	\$2,900,000	Above	7
1960 Broadway #8	3BD/3BA	\$4,995,000	At	55	
2000 Washington Street #3	3BD/4.5BA	\$9,400,000	Below	189	
Presidio Heights	3351 Clay Street #2	3BD/2BA	\$1,498,000	At	0
	3920 Sacramento Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,550,000	Above	21
	3565 Sacramento Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,555,000	Above	23
	3480 Clay Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,010,514	Above	5
	3997 Washington Street	4BD/2BA	\$2,125,000	Below	26
	3467 Jackson Street	4BD/2BA	\$2,325,000	Above	9
	3284 Jackson Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$2,350,000	Above	19
Russian Hill	2340 Larkin Street #1	1BD/1.5BA	\$1,100,000	At	31
	1000 North Point Street #701	2BD/2BA	\$1,200,000	Above	13
	935 Union Street	2BD/3.5BA	\$1,400,000	Above	64
	1834 Mason Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,635,000	Below	2
	1150 Lombard Street #9	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,600,000	Below	46
	1070 Green Street #1201	3BD/3.5BA	\$3,600,000	At	0
	2390 Hyde Street #3	3BD/3.5BA	\$5,500,000	Below	61
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	369-377 Green Street	2BD/1BA	\$699,000	At	0

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

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP : Property briefs

The cost of living ... here

by john zipperer

EARNING POWER

You need an annual income of \$137,129 to purchase a home in San Francisco, according to mortgage research firm HSH.com; that number lands this city in the number-one spot nationwide — and by quite a margin. Second place is occupied by San Diego, where you'll need to pull in \$98,534 to purchase a home.

Consider that the median household income in San Francisco is about \$72,000 (see "The shape-shifting city," page one of this issue). The

estimates are based on median home prices, mortgage rates, and standard assumptions of debt and 20 percent down payments.

If it matters, Cleveland's house buyers only need to earn \$29,788.

MAYOR LEE SAYS THE HOUSING IS COMING

Speaking at the opening of the new Rene Cazenave Apartments complex, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee said the city was making progress toward reaching his goal of developing or rehabilitating 30,000 new homes by 2020. "With more than 2,000 homes completed for residents in the first quarter of 2014, we are well ahead of our annual goal of completing 5,000 units a year," the mayor said. "And by continuing to prioritize housing projects such as the Rene Cazenave Apartments, we are delivering on our pledge to help San Francisco families and residents from all levels of the economic spectrum call San Francisco home." Those numbers compare to just 2,499 new housing units constructed in all of 2013.

A key part of the mayor's pledge is that at least one-third of the 30,000 new or rehabbed units will be affordable to low-income families and a majority to people in the middle class.

CONDO PRICES ZOOM UPWARD

Available units are down and prices are going ever-higher for San Francisco condominiums, reports *San Francisco Business Times* real estate reporter Blanca Torres. In April, condominium prices were up 19 percent over April 2013, reaching an average of \$1,115 per square foot for new condos. Not surprisingly, the law of supply and demand was having its revenge in this notoriously difficult-to-develop town; Torres writes that inventory (available units) was down by 45 percent from a year earlier.

NOT SO SPRAWLY AFTER ALL

As America's population expands past 311 million and its cities continue to grow, some of them are doing better than others at containing sprawl

onto nearby farmland and natural habitats. In the large-metro area category, the San Francisco area (defined as "San Francisco/San Mateo/Redwood City") ranked as the second most compact, non-sprawling area in the



Mayor Ed Lee says he's speeded up the development of new housing in the city
PHOTO: ZBORALSKI

country, according to the report "Measuring Sprawl 2014" released in April by research and advocacy organization Smart Growth America. The metro area ranked first is the New York City region.

The number-one most compact medium-sized metro area (with population between 500,000 and 1 million) was Madison, Wisc. — a fact worth

noting only because this writer was born there.

Meanwhile, holding up the other end of the scales among large metro areas and taking home the award for the most sprawling is Atlanta, GA; Madison is counterweighted by sprawling Baton Rouge, LA, in the medium-sized category.

There are benefits beyond just not taking away the habitats of wildlife. "People in compact, connected counties tend to live longer," the report notes. For every doubling in the score used to index metropolitan areas, "life expectancy increases by about four percent. For the average American with a life expectancy of 78 years, this translates into a three-year difference in life expectancy between people in a less-compact versus a more-compact county."

MORTGAGE CALM

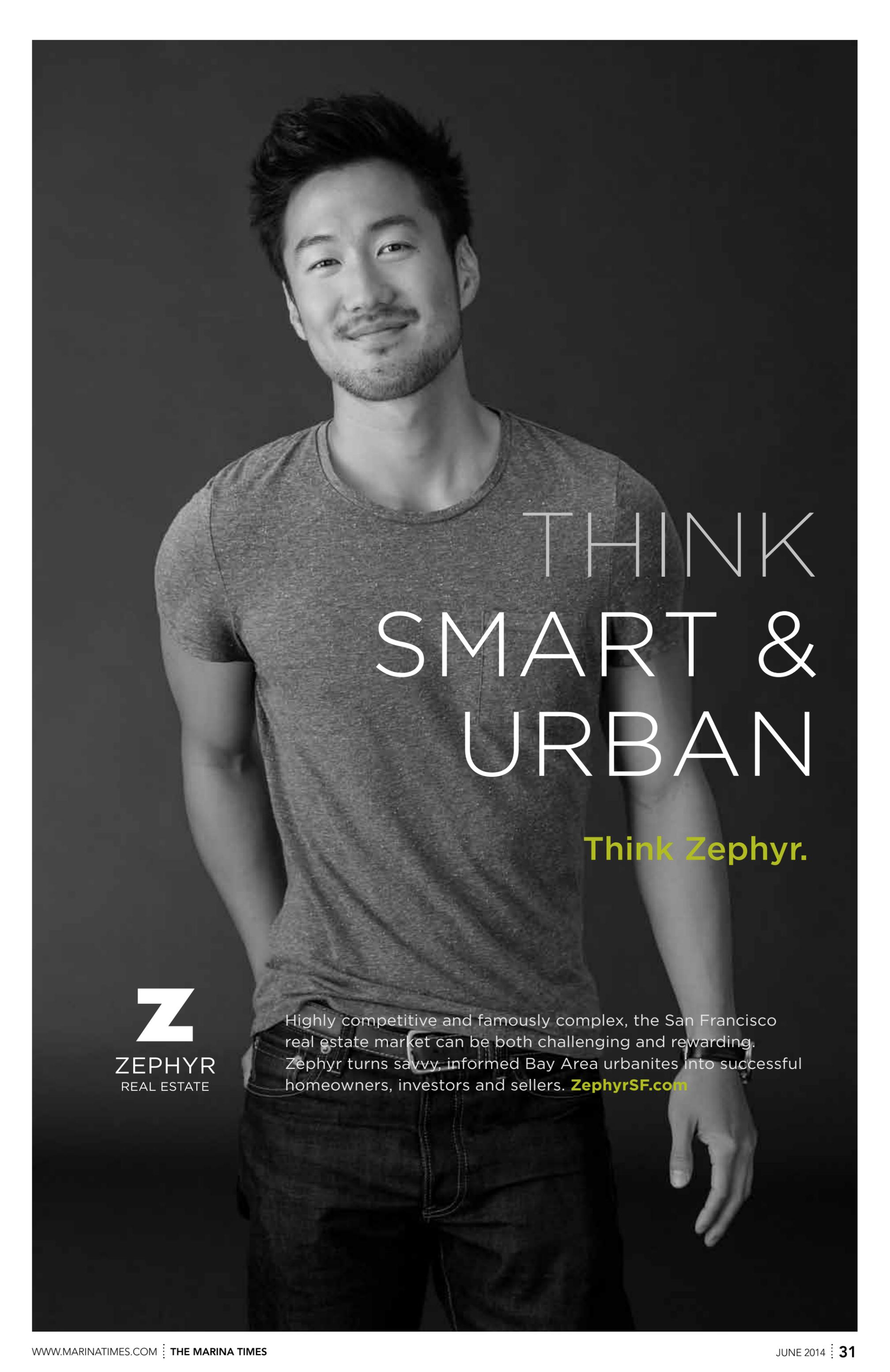
Mortgage rates have continued to edge downward, reaching levels last seen 11 months ago, according to research firm HSH.com. The company's Weekly Mortgage Rates Radar reported in late May that the average rate for conforming 30-year fixed-rate mortgages fell seven basis points to reach 4.20 percent.

"Mortgage rates have now bypassed six-month lows, heading all the way back to levels seen last June," said Keith Gumbinger, HSH.com vice president. "Of course, rates were on the rise at that time, after then-chairman Ben Bernanke discussed coming changes in Federal Reserve policy, most specifically that the Fed's [emergency bond purchase] program would end at some point. We're now about midway through that 'tapering' process, and mortgage rates are lower than they have been in months."

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Pricing a home in today's market

by stephanie saunders ahlberg

PRICING A HOME IS TRICKY in any market, but more so in a market like we have right now. In today's market, if the home is priced well, it will sell quickly. The good news for sellers is that buyers are not shy about bidding over the asking price. However, if priced too low, you may simply get too many offers — like a recent property in Pacific Heights that received more than 35. That sounds wonderful on paper, but it really doesn't serve anyone well. It takes the seller and agent quite a lot of time to sort through all of the offers, and all but one buyer will end up disappointed. Of course, if priced too high, a property can sit around for a while even in this brisk market. So what is the best approach to pricing?

Ideally, your agent will come to your home, possibly with some colleagues, to evaluate it for pricing. They then go back

and look at comparable sales and make a plus/minus analysis comparing the features of the home against the comparables. This will enable the agent to develop a pricing strategy and recommendation. Most agents try to price the home at market value and then let the offers come as they may. The plan is usually to expose the home to the market for a given period of time and set an offer date. The agent will be able to judge, by the interest level

times less, but this seems a good rule of thumb.

What about preemptive or off-market offers? With increasing frequency, homes are being sold before they appear on the multiple listing service, for everyone to see. Why? There are a lot of qualified and cash buyers in the market today, and many of them are tired of not getting the winning bid. In some cases a seller will take an off-market offer if he or she feels it is high enough — and that typically means more than both the seller and agent feel it will fetch on the open market. I call it a “buy-it-now price.” I recently had such a sale, and the seller was delighted — didn't have to spend a lot of money getting the home prepared for sale, and didn't have to keep it “show ready” while on the market. It was truly a win-win situation.

Why are homes selling for over asking? Well, that's easy to explain. Supply is low and demand is high. This creates multiple offers. As I explained in



Great location, fixer-upper in garden district PHOTO: HAECKDESIGN / FLICKR

my May column, buyers simply have to be prepared to make clean, aggressive offers over the asking price. Until supply increases or demand lessens, we will continue to see this happen. The experts think this will continue in San Francisco for a few more years.

Now, what if a home is not selling? Even that can happen in this crazy market.

The answer is usually price, and it is possible to price your home too high. Sometimes it is overpriced because the seller “assisted” in the pricing and wants more than it is worth, or it's a number that's simply too high to attract offers. Sometimes the agent may not be familiar enough with a given neighborhood, and may not price the property properly.

In any event, if your home is not selling, I would suggest

that you and your agent review the pricing process, look at any new comparables, find the most recent sales data, and then adjust the price accordingly.

Of course, there may be other issues with the home that prevent it from attracting offers. It might be the home itself or even the neighborhood. Regardless, it ultimately always boils down to price. Any property will sell at the right price. Your agent will help you determine a good price for your property, but at the end of the day, the market will always have the last word.

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

If a home is not selling? The answer is usually price; it is possible to price your home too high.

and number of disclosure packages given out, approximately how many offers the property might receive. Of course, this is only a guess. We figure about one offer for every two or three disclosure packages requested. Sometimes it is more and some-

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There is no such thing as cheap

by john zipperer

THE HEADLINES ARE depressing if you're a renter and exciting if you're a landlord. "New numbers show San Francisco has nation's highest rents," reported the *Examiner* in late 2013. "Rent At Dilapidated San Francisco Lower Haight Apartment Unit Raised To \$6,200 A Month," says CBS San Francisco Bay Area. And, in what might have been intended as a positive sign, *Curbed SF* wrote "SF Now Only the Fourth Least Affordable Rental Market in US."

Nearly two-thirds of San Francisco housing units are occupied by renters. Compare that to the national figure that more than two-thirds of the country's housing is owner-occupied.

When house purchase prices are sky-high, as they currently are in San Francisco, that generally means the rent versus own balance tips in favor of renting. Renters who want to buy are advised to stay put and bank their extra cash until housing prices deflate,

then they can make their move. But when a market is as inventory-restricted as is San Francisco, where constrained and very costly development has led to a severe shortage of competing units, prices for both for-sale and for-rent units are sky-high.

And rent prices are high. As of April of this year, the average rent for apartments within 10 miles of San Francisco is \$3,437, according to Rent Jungle; a one-bedroom in the city can cost \$2,897 and two bedrooms average \$3,898. Rent Jungle's listing of the most expensive rents in the city by neighborhood has Presidio Heights at more than \$4,500, with the Marina in second place. South of Market is the least expensive rental neighborhood tracked, and it is also well over \$3,000.

Different sources will track different data, but whatever your source, San Francisco still pops up among the leaders in the nation in terms of high rents — and pain for both developers and renters.



Do you have \$100,000?

According to Rent.com, a three-bedroom unit in the city will cost \$4,962 a month, less than number-one New York City but it still makes one wonder what was in that dilapidated Lower Haight apartment to corral \$6,200 a month.

In late May, *The New York Times* reported:

In the San Francisco Bay Area, home of the sharpest recent price increases, the sale price of a home is about 20 times what it would cost to rent a home of the same size for a year. That ratio, based on an analysis of data from Zillow, is the same as in

2003, when the San Francisco real estate market had yet to become an out-of-control bubble but was well on its way there.

When low mortgage rates are taken into account, buying a home in San Francisco looks somewhat more attractive — but with a 10 percent down payment and prevailing interest rates, buying a home is 6 percent more expensive than renting a place of the same size, the same premium for buying as there was during the dot-com boom in 1999. Just two years ago, buying in the San Francisco area was 24

percent cheaper than renting an equivalent place.

Earlier this year, a San Francisco landlord caused much forehead slapping and exclamations of "He's crazy" when he distributed a letter to his tenants of a rent-controlled apartment on Fillmore Street in the Lower Haight telling them they needed an income of at least \$100,000 and a high credit score to rent. (The letter has reportedly since been rescinded — not surprising, considering that it was blatantly inappropriate if not illegal.)

The political effects of this sticker shock involve a never-ending tug-and-pull between people who say the city needs to build a lot more housing at all income levels and people who say the city has to focus on affordable housing. For now, Mayor Ed Lee is attempting to walk the line between the two, trying to speed up planning and increase production of units at all price points.

The urban advocacy group SPUR outlined its suggestions in a policy proposal called "8 Ways to Make San

Francisco More Affordable." Solutions include retaining the city's 172,000 rent-controlled units of housing; reinvesting in public housing; doubling the amount of subsidized affordable housing; increasing housing supply at all income levels; experimenting with new types of group housing; and using property taxes to improve growing neighborhoods.

But even the optimists at SPUR conclude that "the only solution that will actually benefit the vast majority of people who need help is to fix the supply problem. Most of the measures we can enact will take years, if not decades, to show results."

So there's no quick fix. The prices aren't going to deflate significantly. And you can look forward to many more headlines like "Anti-eviction group publishes list of tech landlords with history of evictions in San Francisco" and "San Francisco artists struggle with rising cost of living" and "City employees say they can't afford to live in S.F."

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

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— WILLIAM SAROYAN

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YAPPING WITH ...



Honey Boo Boo, a former meat rabbit breeder, was recently adopted PHOTO: RENEE DODGE

Marcy Schaaf

Founder and executive director, SaveABunny

by susan dyer reynolds

How did you get involved with bunny rescue?

I found a rabbit while walking my dog. I knew virtually nothing about rabbits except that this particular rabbit was not a wild rabbit (she was white and brown). Many people don't know that wild rabbits and domestic rabbits are not even the same species. They can't interbreed with wild rabbits. Domestic rabbits can't survive if

released, and wild rabbits don't tame as indoor pets.

My only other experiences with rabbits had not been that good. As a very young child, my family had an outdoor hutch rabbit, which met a very common fate for outdoor rabbits — she was killed by some sort of predator. And when I was in third grade, we took home the class rabbit. I remember sitting outside with her feeding her grass and raisins (not good). She died overnight. Given what I now know about rabbit care, her life

as a class rabbit was stressful, unnatural for a prey animal, and the care she received was inconsistent as she went from home to home. I was a bit traumatized and as such, as an adult, I took great pains to teach myself proper rabbit care. The rabbit I found was incredibly smart, got along great with our cats and dog, and opened my eyes to how special these misunderstood little beings are — and how much they deserve equal love and advocacy devoted to other companion animals.

MARCY SCHAAF, continued on 36

CATHOUSE : Food for thought

The cat that ate the whole world

by john zipperer

THE STORY POPPED UP IN MY FACEBOOK FEED one day. It told of a dog that loved his food dearly, always wolfing it down in one go. Then the dog's family noticed that he wasn't finishing his food; he always left a little bit, no matter how much they coaxed him to eat it. One night, they spied a cat slipping in the kitchen window and finishing off the dog's food. The dog had been leaving the extra food for the stray cat. The family adopted the cat, which was pregnant, and the dog took care of the kittens and the mother as if they were his very own.

Like you, I thought, *Aww*, and I looked down to where my big cat Charlie was sitting beneath my desk. Charlie also loves his food dearly, but he'd walk over the heads of blind nuns to get to his food and make sure no one else touched it.

It's not just a general cat thing. Other cats we've had have been much more laid back about food. Our second cat, Ashes, usually prefers to run around the house and rub against our legs than eat.

For Charlie, it's always Thought Number 1, and it borders on the pathological.

He can't read a clock, but he has a good sense of when it's his mealtime. At our old apartment, the first morning bus rumbled past each morning about 20 minutes before I got up, so he was always ready on weekdays; weekends he would sleep in a bit longer, because the bus drove past later.

I haven't figured out how he tells time in our new location, where the bus schedule is quite different. It might be a neighbor's dog barking after it's let outside first thing in the morning, or perhaps someone else in the building gets up at the same time to shower, and he can hear the water in the pipes.

However Charlie does it, he does it, and he is very serious about this thing called Eating. At his meal times, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., he will employ every one of the many cat languages he knows, from meowing to chirping to squeaking. If I am sitting reading, he will occasionally rise up and stick his head and front paws on the chair's

FAT CAT, continued on 36

POLITICAL ANIMAL : Trigger-happy

Three dogs dead in three months by SFPD (and no officer training in sight)

by susan dyer reynolds

DUKE WAS A GOOD DOG," Raymond Jojola said, his voice trembling. "He was Santana's dog, so he had to be."

Santana was the three-year-old son of Jojola's best friend, Esther Ioane. Both, along with one of the family dogs, perished in a fire on April 17 that ripped through a unit of the Sunnydale public housing complex in Visitacion Valley. The only survivor was the second family dog, a 13-month-old male pit bull mix puppy named Duke. Left without an owner, Jojola took Duke in.

On April 23, San Francisco police officers responded to Sunnydale on a domestic violence call in a building approximately 80 feet away from Jojola's residence. In the police report, Officer Karl Ma says that he

and six other officers were at the scene. "As I went to the front door to attempt to make contact with the other party, Ofc. Dominguez and Ofc. Hart went around the building to cover the rear door," he says. "I heard numerous gun shots from the other side of the building ... Ofc. Dominguez advised me that he had discharged his firearm at an off leash pitbull that advanced toward him and Ofc. Hart in an aggressive manner."

Officer Ma later says that he spoke to Jojola, who "apologized for Duke charging at the officers," and that Jojola said, "Duke ran out the front door off leash and charged the officers." But Jojola and other Sunnydale residents tell a very different story.

"We just got back from the wake," Jojola said in a phone interview.



San Francisco Animal Care and Control planned to put Duke up for adoption, but he died during surgery to amputate his badly damaged leg

"Duke was in the living room. People were coming in and out and the door was open. Duke got spooked when he heard the commotion and ran outside, and I followed him to bring him back in the house. I was right behind him, calling his name, and all of a sudden there was a gunshot, which scared him; he was heading back to me — his back was to the police — when there was a bunch more shots. I think it was the second or third

shot that got him in the backside."

Other people with Jojola during the interview corroborated his story, saying they witnessed Duke returning to the house after the first gunshot, but that numerous shots were fired after that (something Officer Ma also says in his report), and it was one of those subsequent shots that hit him. The residents were also concerned that so many people, including children, were in the vicinity. "There were a lot

of people around who could have been shot, too," one woman said. "My stepson was right there when they were shooting," said another.

In the police report, the type of incident is listed as "stray or vicious dog," but Duke was neither stray nor vicious. According to behavior assessment notes obtained by the *Marina Times* from San Francisco Animal Care and Control (ACC), Duke was a sweet, loving dog who

TRIGGER-HAPPY, continued on 36

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—Ellen DeGeneres, Animal Advocate, co-owner, Halo

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Heaven Lee was rescued as a critically wounded baby in 2011 and is still waiting for her forever home PHOTO: RENEE DODGE

MARCY SCHAAF

CONTINUED from page 34

Tell us about your organization.

SaveABunny is an award-winning, 501(c)(3) nonprofit rabbit rescue organization based in Northern California. We work with over 30 shelters to make sure abandoned, abused, and neglected rabbits get the second chance they deserve. In addition to helping adoptable rabbits find their forever homes, we specialize in healing physically wounded and emotionally traumatized rabbits by integrating extraordinary Western veterinary care with Eastern healing arts.

Rescue work is both heartbreaking and hopeful. Since being founded in 1999, SaveABunny has been involved with the life-saving rescue of close to 5,000 rabbits. Yet, we are still a small, scrappy, resourceful, volunteer-based (yet professionally run) group. We are funded by donations and we rely on community involvement, compassion, and support. We welcome volunteers from all walks of life who want to

share their time and talents to save precious lives. Saving the life of a gentle, loving animal that would otherwise be euthanized is a profound experience that will change your life for the better.

What is the biggest challenge facing your rescue right now?

While there is a high level of public awareness and resources for dogs and cats, there are few options for rabbits. Although rabbits are now one of the nation's most popular pets, they are also the third most euthanized animal. There are few shelters that assist rabbits and virtually no funds for the care of sick and injured bunnies. For example, San Francisco Animal Care and Control (ACC) is the only shelter that assists rabbits in San Francisco. The San Francisco SPCA and Maddie's Fund are limited to cats and dogs. SaveABunny is the only rescue resource for all injured, abused, and neglected rabbits in San Francisco, and we are funded completely by donations.

Also, awareness of and proper care of companion rabbits lags far behind other pets. Unfortunately, bunnies hold a sad and unique place as the only companion animal and American pet still killed for its fur and meat. If restaurants served dog, cat, or horse meat on their menus, there would be widespread outrage and condemnation. This is not true for rabbits. The trend for rabbit meats as an "organic, sustainable meat" is growing in San Francisco and beyond. The rabbits raised and slaughtered for meat are the exact same breed as those loving, adorable rabbits available as family pets. We have rescued "meat" rabbits that have been the most loving rabbits I have ever met. Terms like "organic," "humanely raised," and "sustainable" do not mean "cruelty free." People should be aware that when they eat rabbit meat they are essentially eating a pet.

What are some of the qualities that make bunnies great companions?

Just like a cat or a dog, each rabbit has a very distinct personality. Some are shy, some bold, some quiet, some goofy, etc. They are as intelligent as cats and dogs and bond with their human guardians and rabbit friends for life. They are sensitive, opinionated, and affectionate. When spayed or neutered, rabbits can use a litter box, just like a cat. They are clean, quiet, vegan animals (no stinky food or poop!). With proper care, rabbits can live to be more than 10 years old. They are an ideal companion pet for an adult caregiver who enjoys allowing an animal to be itself and doesn't need to "control" the animal, as one might a dog. In some ways, rabbits are more similar to cats.

They choose to be with you. Rabbit fans appreciate that bunnies are inquisitive, sometimes naughty, always persistent, forgiving, loving creatures. Rabbits are also most active morning and evening, though they are not nocturnal. They sleep a lot during the day, so they make great pets for people who work. There's no walking a pet in the rain at 11 p.m.!

What is the age range of the bunnies at your rescue?

Babies to 14 years old.

A bunny I'd really like to see adopted is ...

Heaven Lee. She came to SaveABunny on Sept. 11, 2011, as a critically wounded baby. A Good Samaritan found her near Candlestick Park at a homeless encampment and took her to ACC. She had been attacked by something, and the entire front part of her body was ripped open from her groin to her neck. ACC called us to see if we wanted to attempt to save her. We took her, got her emergency surgery (\$1,000) and incredibly, she healed within a month. I was so protective of her that I was reluctant to let anyone adopt her, so she's now been here longer than ideal. She is a bunny diva and princess. She's gorgeous, opinionated, funny, active, and ready for a home of her own where she will be protected and treasured!

A bunny that is a great success story is ...

Honey Boo Boo, who was adopted along with another bunny in May. We rescued her and 28 other rabbits in February from horrific conditions in Sacramento where they were being raised for

meat. She was one of the breeder mothers. She lived in a tiny wire cage where she could just barely turn around. She was right next to where her babies were butchered. Despite her sad beginning, she blossomed into a sweet, gentle, patient, and very loving bunny, and she now lives with a family that adores her and two rabbit friends. She has free run of their house and lots of toys to play with!

Where can people find out more, see adoptable bunnies, volunteer, foster, or donate?

Our website is saveabunny.org, and there are sections for adopting as well as volunteering and fostering. You can also make a donation online. SaveABunny is an approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization (EIN# 80-0243372). Please check with your employer for corporate matching donations. We also have a very active and fun Facebook page at [Facebook.com/SaveABunny](https://www.facebook.com/SaveABunny).

What are the upcoming events for SaveABunny?

Maddie's Adoption Event at the San Francisco SPCA (201 Alabama Street) and San Francisco Animal Care and Control (1200 15th Street) — the cross street for both is Harrison Street — Saturday and Sunday, May 31–June 1, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Bunny Day at the SPCA on Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.. You can find more information about events at saveabunny.org/events. We also see potential adopters seven days a week by appointment.

SaveABunny: P.O. Box 2143, Mill Valley, CA 94942, 415-388-2790, saveabunny.org E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

TIGGER-HAPPY

CONTINUED from page 34

showed no signs of aggression at all. "Duke is awesome. He is [a] very gentleman type. I have never heard his barking in the kennel or outside," one volunteer said. "He loves fetch and always drops the tennis ball in front of me ... He loves treats and takes gently from my hand ... He does sit, down and shake paw," said another. All of the observers stated that Duke had no reaction to other dogs, loved people, loved head scratches, and, as one recalled, "liked to sit with his head on Brad's knee (and drool!)." Repeatedly, volunteers pointed out that Duke was a gentle soul. "He's an all-around good dog and I felt comfortable going into his kennel," one volunteer observed. "It was horrible to hear what happened to him — I really hope he's doing OK."

Due to all of Duke's positive behavior feedback, ACC wanted to put him up for adoption. Unfortunately, the bullet mangled one of Duke's back legs, rendering it useless, so he required an amputation before that could happen. Jojola, who said he only

wanted what was best for Duke, surrendered him to ACC. It seemed a puppy that couldn't catch a break in his short 13 months of life was finally about to have things go his way, but it was not to be: Duke died on the operating table during surgery.

Duke was the third dog in as many months shot by SFPD; all three dogs died. Two of the dogs were shot in the back. (The third was with a transient who was squatting at a public housing building in the Potrero Hill neighborhood.) Officer Dominguez, who shot Duke, said that Duke was "charging aggressively," but it doesn't take a genius to realize that can't be possible, because a charging dog would be shot in the front of his body, not the back. Perhaps the police think Duke was just another pit bull in the projects and no one will care, but as a pit bull owner, I care, and anyone who has a dog should care, too. If the police come through your backyard chasing a suspect and your dog gets in the way, it's likely they will shoot first and ask no questions later, which has been their modus operandi in all three recent incidents. The fact that numerous shots

were fired — not only at a retreating Duke, but also in the direction of people — strikes me as out of control and reckless.

When Oakland's police faced a public relations backlash after shooting several dogs and a fawn, they turned to San Francisco's renowned Vicious and Dangerous Dog Unit, headed by Officer John Denny. Along with ACC, Denny assembled guidelines for their department on how to recognize signs of aggression (as opposed to scared or nervous barking and other standard dog behaviors) and to teach officers how to deal with the dogs (discharging a firearm is a last resort).

I called Captain David Lazar, former head of the San Francisco Police Academy, and asked him why the department didn't include such training for its officers, especially in light of the recent spate of dog shootings. He told me that they currently do no training on how to deal with dogs for new recruits, and that they have "tentative" plans to add it to their continued professional training program — in January 2015.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

FAT CAT

CONTINUED from page 34

arms; his planning has gone no further than that, because if I don't get up to feed him and just stare at him, he looks confused and goes back to prowling around the room, squeaking and meowing and purring loudly. Five minutes later, his head and paws appear on the chair's arms again. Repeat that cycle four or five times, and it becomes obvious to the most dedicated reader that they won't be able to concentrate until they satisfy the cat's demands.

You would think he would have built up just a little bit of trust in us over the past decade. He has been in our house and family for almost exactly 10 years, and not once in that time have we failed to feed him twice a day. Never. And he gets (healthful) treats in between meals. But he's on dinner lookout before mealtime, and he puts all of his energy into ensuring that we don't forget it's time to feed him. As if it's a novel idea.

When I started running again in the mornings, it slightly changed my routine with Charlie. I get up a little earlier, start warming up his food, head to the bathroom on the first floor to wash up, and I go back to the kitchen to finish preparing and then serve his food. But when I have to break the routine by going upstairs to get my asthma medicine from the second-floor bathroom, Charlie runs up the stairs after me, with a look of panic in his eyes as if he doesn't know how to convince me



Hello, my name's Charlie, and I eat too much food PHOTO: JOHN ZIPPERER

I have broken our agreement. I can't read his mind, and I can't translate his meows, but he definitely doesn't like breaking the food routine.

One night, after going to bed, I was awakened by a loud bang and a scattering sound, as if someone had emptied a jar of nuts and bolts on the floor. I rushed into the kitchen to find that Charlie had knocked from a counter onto the floor a big canister containing dry cat food. When it hit the floor, the top had popped off and the entire kitchen floor was covered with a layer of food pellets. There, in the middle, was Charlie, crouched on the floor contentedly eating away at the sea of food before him. He was also purring loudly, and I needed no translation for that. I knew he was saying "Best. Day. Ever."

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

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AIDEN

Aidan is a sweet red Pomeranian mix. This handsome 4-year-old stands tall, weighs 8 pounds, and seems to be all fur and legs. He loves to cuddle, give kisses, and play. Another playful dog in his home would be a bonus. He loves walks and is well mannered on leash. Aidan came to us with crystals in his urine. A special kibble easily remedies his condition. His special kibble is similar in cost to other premium dog food. Aidan is such a little guy, but the love he has to share with you is worth its weight in gold.



PIPER

Piper is such a fun little lady. This four year old has amazing attention-getting ears! Piper weighs about 11 pounds. Her personality is confident, friendly, and playful. She is comfortable in new situations. Piper loves to lie in the sun, fetch the ball, go on a hike, or lounge in your lap. Piper knows sit and stay, is comfortable in a car or on a leash, and responds well to corrections. She is house and crate-trained. Piper would be happiest in a home where she is not left alone very much that offers consistent structure and regular exercise. Precious Piper is just about everything you could want in a dog.



FIONA

Fiona is a delight! This energetic three-year-old beagle mix has the playfulness of a puppy. Fiona needs plenty of exercise, and afterwards she is happy to curl up next to you or relax in the sun to soak up the warmth and fall asleep. Fiona has allergies when the weather is warm and windy. She has medication to control this condition. She is crate-trained and house-trained. She responds well to dog-savvy children that approach her slowly. Fiona gives so much love to humans and dogs. Is yours the dotting family (with maybe a doggie playmate) she is looking for?



RUFUS

Super-cutie Rufus is looking forward to becoming some lucky person's best friend! He's a handsome 2-year-old min-pin/rat terrier mix and weighs in at 12 pounds. Rufus is high energy and might have the potential to excel at agility training! He would love to be in a home with another energetic dog so that they can entertain and exercise each other. At the end of the day he is happy to settle down quietly in your lap or next to you while you both relax. Rufus has perfect leash manners. Are you the active family he is looking for?



KIKI

Kiki is one spirited little girl. This 4-pound Maltese has been through more than any 10-month-old pup should ever experience. Kiki was surrendered to a shelter with two broken front legs. One leg was so badly infected that it had to be amputated. That didn't slow Kiki down one bit, though — she still loves to go on walks. She also loves to be picked up and carried, to sit in your lap, and to play with her squeaky toys. She is house-trained. Being a typical Maltese, she likes to be the center of attention and needs to be an only dog. This little tripod is healed, healthy and ready to get on with her life — all she needs is her forever home.



YOGI

Meet Yogi! This handsome love bug is a chocolate Lab-German shepherd mix (we think); he's about two years old and weighs 60 pounds. He is the sweetest guy and will love you so much! Yogi is recovering from surgery to fix a hip injury, but is doing great. Yogi needs a home to show him that life is good! He is currently living in an active home with multiple dogs. His foster mom says she has never had an easier dog in the house. He needs a bit of leash work, but is a very fast learner and is treat motivated. Yogi is an easy dog who will live harmoniously with dogs and people of all sizes.

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER DOGS:

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Business Tax Change Ahead

This year San Francisco will phase in a Gross Receipts Tax and reduce the Payroll Expense Tax over the next five years. The Gross Receipts Tax applies to businesses with more than \$1 million in San Francisco gross receipts, exempting most small businesses. Business Registration Fees are also changing for all businesses. The City is providing free seminars to inform businesses about these changes the first Thursday of every month at 3pm in the San Francisco Main Public Library Latino Room, 100 Larkin Street. For more information, go to www.sfbiztax.org, call 311 or (415) 701-2311, or contact your tax professional.

Invitations for Bids

The Port of San Francisco, announces an Invitation for Bids for construction on the **PIER 35 BUILDING & ROOF REPAIR PROJECT**, Contract No. 2765, in San Francisco, CA. The proposed Work will consist of modernization and repair of two existing elevators, removal of existing roofing materials, hazardous material abatement, selective dry rot repair to the roof deck, refurbishment of existing historic features including windows, and provision for tenant protection. Estimate for the base bid is \$2.25M. Bid documents are available for free download by going to the Port of San Francisco Website at <http://www.sfport.com/index.aspx?page=18>, where updates will also be posted.

Special Site access for facility inspection must be requested through the Project Architect. The LBE subcontracting goal = 19%, and the project is subject to the requirements of the First Source Hiring Program. The Port reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any minor irregularities in any bid.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BID, the bidding General Contractor (GC) shall possess a valid Class B license from the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), and shall have verifiable experience as specified under **Document 00100** of the Bid Documents.

OPTIONAL PREBID CONFERENCE: 5/28/14, 10:30 AM, Port of San Francisco office, Pier 1 at San Francisco, CA 94111. **BIDS DUE: 6/25/14, 1:30 PM**. For questions, contact **Wendy Proctor (415) 274-0592**.

Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)

Notice is hereby given of 6 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call 415-554-6778.

From the Department of the Environment

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**Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings
June & July 2014**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action.
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- June 3
- June 10
- June 17
- June 24
- July 8
- July 15
- July 22
- July 29

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CNS#2626640

THE ADVENTURES OF SKYLAR GREY Chapter 13



Steve, Skylar and Blue on the beach in Half Moon Bay

There's no psychiatrist like a puppy licking your face

by susan dyer reynolds

STEVE AND I MET WHILE I WAS THE community manager for a company called eFrenzy during the first San Francisco tech boom. I say first because, as we learned in 2000, what goes up must come down — especially when it's valued at 100 times earnings. Like most dot coms then (and now), eFrenzy had no earnings. I'd tell you what my job there entailed but to be honest I'm not even sure what I did as "community manager." That lack of earnings eventually caught up to us and resulted in a short tenure for everyone at eFrenzy. In fact, Steve is the only good thing that came out of my experience there.

I do recall that part of my job involved surfing eFrenzy's website to make sure everything worked and to monitor customer reviews. I happened to be looking for a housecleaner, so I decided to start there. Steve's ad stood out to me because it said he had many years of experience, excellent references, and, most important, he loved pets. Plus, he had the same name as my cat. Yes, I had a cat named Steven. That love of pets was important because the last housecleaner I had didn't understand "Please keep the front door shut" in Spanish or in English, and Steven, who was only allowed in the backyard, escaped on several occasions. So I sent Steve (the man, not the cat) an eFrenzy message, and after a few glowing reference calls I hired him. That was more than a decade ago, and over the years, we've become best friends. When Jazzy was sick with cancer, Steve was the only person I trusted with her, and Jazzy loved her Uncle Steve more than anyone on earth besides me.

Several years ago I recommended that Steve put an ad in the *Marina Times* listing his services, which included housecleaning, pet sitting, running errands, and working as a personal assistant. He'd done all of those things for me with aplomb. Because Jazzy and I loved him so much, I knew our readers would, too. Steve is intelligent, funny, honest, and one of the nicest people you could ever meet. Jazzy happily gave him the Jazzy Paw of Approval for the ad, and I let him list me as his reference. At first, people called out of curiosity, mostly about Jazzy. It took several months for Steve to get his first job, but after that came a steady stream that continues until this day.

Sometimes Steve took Jazzy to work because many of his clients wanted to meet her, even if she just lounged on the sofa while Steve cleaned around her. When Steve adopted one of my foster dogs, Blue, in 2009, she and Jazzy became inseparable, frequently

accompanying Steve to work until Jazzy's death in 2012. As I've often said in this column, I adopted Skylar Grey immediately because it didn't bring Jazzy back or honor her memory to let another pit bull die in a shelter. Because only 1 out of 100 pitties gets out of a shelter alive, what really honored Jazzy's memory was saving another life, so that's what I did. Now Blue plays mama the way Jazzy did with her, and Blue and Sky are two peas in a pod. (Like Jazzy, Sky loves her Uncle Steve and was happy to give him the Skylar Paw of Approval for his ad.)

Some of Steve's clients need help running errands, which means a few hours driving around the city. Many of them request that the dogs come along, so Blue and Skylar are working girls. One of his clients, Mary, is a bright, witty, elegant woman who has lived in the Marina for many decades. She enjoys having Blue and Sky in the backseat while she and Steve drive around town, and she particularly enjoys Blue's famous stealth behind-the-ear kisses. "You sweet creature," she will say, and Blue, also known as Wiggles McGee, wags her entire behind (something I'm sure she learned from Jazzy).

Another client, Krista, had knee surgery, which makes driving difficult. She and Steve do errands every Friday and, like Mary, she enjoys having the dogs along for the ride. Rain or shine, the day often ends with a trip to Baker Beach after dropping Krista at home, but one day Krista asked if she could come along. She wasn't able to walk down on the sand, she said, but she would love it if Steve could park his car where she could watch the dogs playing. And so, one sunny Friday afternoon, Steve did just that, and Krista was able to watch as Steve propelled a tennis ball, and Blue and Skylar chased it — and each other — in and out of the surf. While recovering from knee surgery sometimes takes its toll emotionally, Krista said watching the dogs playing on the beach made her happy.

Just months before Jazzy passed away, I gave Steve a poster featuring a drawing of a pit bull that resembled her, right down to that signature patch over one eye. It reads, "There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." Steve has the poster hanging in his apartment, a testament to the many people whose lives Jazzy touched during their trips to work, as well as to those still smiling at Blue's stealth behind-the-ear kisses or the sight of Skylar's Eighth Wonder of the World tongue flapping in the breeze as she pops her head out the window to see who's getting in next.

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