



Street Beat

North Beach: The end of Capp's Corner? **9**

A&E

On the Town: The Edwardian Ball comes to San Francisco **14**



At Home

Our Kids: Liz Farrell's family resolutions **21**

Pet Pages

Skylar Grey: Jazzy helps counter bad neighbor blues **26**



Calendar

January Events: Kick off a new year with Restaurant Week, the ballet's opening gala, Roads of Arabia at the Asian Art Museum, Patti Smith, and Spandau Ballet, a night out in North Beach, and we've got a special arts preview. **20**

MarinaTimes

WWW.MARINATIMES.COM :: CELEBRATING OUR 31ST YEAR :: VOLUME 31 :: ISSUE 01 :: JANUARY 2015

THE BACKSTORY



San Francisco in 1849. LITHOGRAPH: GEORGE H. BURGESS

San Francisco then and now

Can the old San Francisco with its middle-class values coexist with the new San Francisco and the new San Franciscans?

by ernest beyl

RECENTLY I HAD LUNCH WITH Carl Nolte, who writes the Native Son column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Carl is a young whippersnapper compared to me, but we find common ground when we talk about the history of our city. We decided to don neckties and sports coats and go downtown to Sam's Grill, which had just reopened

after an unsettling time when we thought it might be gone forever.

Carl decided to give the Alaskan cod a vote of confidence and proclaimed it well deserved, flaky, and flavorful. I opted for the fried oysters and some creamed spinach. They were excellent.

From our choice of restaurants, you might surmise that Carl and I put value on the traditional. We do. And after lunch, with our neck-

ties still firmly in place, we got to reminiscing over a second glass of Sauvignon Blanc — just two old San Franciscans thinking about then and now in their favorite city.

Carl posed a question: Can the old-time San Francisco with its middle-class values (where he and I grew up) co-exist with the new San Francisco and the new San Franciscans? He answered his own question in the

BACKSTORY, continued on 4

THE WILD WILD WEB

Predictions for tech companies and stocks in 2015

by susan dyer reynolds

IT'S ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO MAKE PREDICTIONS with something as volatile as tech companies and the stock market, but it's that time of year, so here we go:

1. The raging bull market slows down.

The S&P 500 was up 11 percent in 2014 as of mid-December, and last year was even more unbelievable, with a 32 percent gain. I remain cautiously optimistic about the market in 2015, but I do expect the bulls to slow down — just not enough for the bears to catch them.

For 2015, I see a 5 to 7 percent gain in a more volatile environment that causes investors to move more of their money into stocks with strong fundamentals and rational valuations.

2. Investors continue backing away from "momentum stocks."

Because the environment will be more volatile in 2015, investors will continue backing away from "momentum stocks," most of which are social media companies, due to unattainable valuations and fears of inevitable slowing growth. Last year's most anticipated IPO, Twitter, is down more than 40 percent, with other once high-flying stocks such as Yelp, Zynga, Angie's List, and Groupon also suffering losses of between 20 and 60 percent. Amazon — the

TECH PREDICTIONS, continued on 5

Culinary trends in 2015

Food and restaurant trends to look for in the coming year

by dana eastland

LET'S TALK ABOUT TRENDS, SHALL we? The beginning of 2015 is an excellent time to discuss some new things happening in the food world, and look to what might be coming in the new year.

After years of increasingly casual restaurant experiences, it looks like **elevated tableside service** is back, as diners start looking for quality hospitality to match quality food. Gaspar Brasserie offers table-side cocktail service of their Café Brulot, a flaming coffee cocktail for two that originated in New Orleans with coffee, clove, orange peel, and lots of live flame. At The Progress, the brand-new project from Stuart Briozza and Nicole Krasinski of State Bird Provisions, a pork broth is poured over miso sausage meatballs,

pumpkin mochi, kimchi, fresh-grated pumpkin, black butter, and fresh pumpkin oil at the table.

Which brings us to another trend we've seen cropping up: **large format communal dining**, particularly large cuts of meat. After years of small plates designed for sharing, it looks like *large* plates designed for sharing are the new rage. Instead of serving lots of little dishes, à la State Bird, many new restaurants are offering large plates, served family-style.

Large plates for sharing are the new rage.

Think whole braised goat, leg of lamb, and whole birds. That's the format at the brand-spanking-new The Progress and is an option at Game, and will be the idea at Dirty Water, opening in Mid-Market in 2015.

This goes along with another trend that is cropping up everywhere, the **large format cocktail**. It often appears as a punch

ties still firmly in place, we got to reminiscing over a second glass of Sauvignon Blanc — just two old San Franciscans thinking about then and now in their favorite city.



Hip new bar and restaurant Dirty Habit exemplifies many new trends for 2015. PHOTOS: DIRTYHABITSF.COM

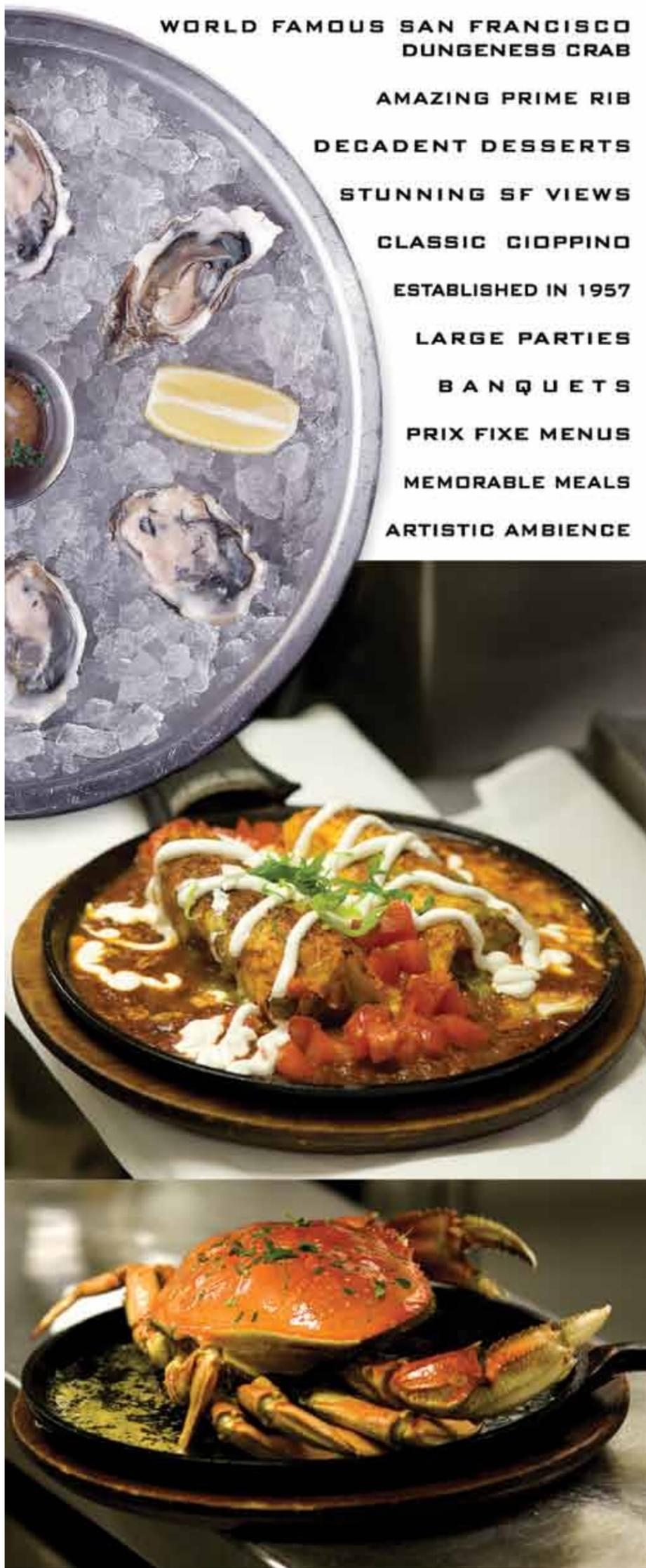
bowl, or prebottled cocktail. This is not the scorpion bowl of your college days, but a modern take on a cocktail intended for a group to enjoy together. Dirty Habit, the very packed, very hip new bar and restaurant in the former Fifth Floor space in the Hotel Palomar, is offering these large format drinks, but they are anything but stuffy. Check out the Karl "The Fog"

Cutter, made with Denizen rum, Cutty Sark prohibition scotch, orange, orgeat, and lime — it packs quite a, um, punch.

Vegetable-focused cooking has been on the rise for a couple of years now, and it seems each year brings a new "it" vegetable. Everyone knows about the ongoing trend that is kale, of course, and

CULINARY TRENDS continued on 13

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



WORLD FAMOUS SAN FRANCISCO DUNGENESS CRAB

AMAZING PRIME RIB

DECADENT DESSERTS

STUNNING SF VIEWS

CLASSIC CIOPPINO

ESTABLISHED IN 1957

LARGE PARTIES

BANQUETS

PRIX FIXE MENUS

MEMORABLE MEALS

ARTISTIC AMBIENCE

THE Franciscan
CRAB RESTAURANT

OPEN EVERY DAY 11:30AM - 10:00PM
PIER 43 1/2 AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF

415.362.7733 • FRANCISCANRESTAURANT.COM

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

8



14



26



News

Previewing the headliners

John Zipperer highlights a few of the political stories and personalities San Francisco will be following in 2015. **3**

Community

Streets and sanitation

Supervisor Mark Farrell says the city's got the funding and the planning and the will to fix its streets and other infrastructure; plus the Police Blotter shows you where you can track crimes in the neighborhood. **6**

Street Beat

What next for Capp's?

Ernest Beyl says the writing's on the wall for the legendary Capp's Corner; and the Northsider's eyes are aglow with holiday lights and Joe DiMaggio. **8**

Food & Wine

Back to business

The Tablehopper touts the city's biggest opening, The Progress, and checks in to Seed + Salt; Julie Mitchell visits the new Espressamente Illy in Cow Hollow; and Ernest Beyl delves into some teutonic tips for the cooking-savvy man. **10**

Arts & Entertainment

New year, new treats

Sharon Anderson unveils Neal Cassady's early Beat roots and the controversy over auctioning his famous 18-page letter to Jack Kerouac; Evalyn Baron previews San Francisco's Edwardian Ball and its "elegant whimsy"; critic Michael Snyder gives a rundown of the films — great and gross — to watch for in 2015; we showcase the 10th anniversary celebration of concerts at the Presidio; plus the Marina's best sellers. **14**

Calendar

January must-see events

This month, you can catch the Berlin & Beyond film festival and the Noir City film festival, or you can take part in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service as well as a march and festival in his honor, watch Cirque du Soleil's Kurios, or celebrate a quarter-century with the sea lions. And there's more. **16**

In-Depth

2015 arts preview

Exhibits of Japanese classic art, *The Trojans* at S.F. Opera, big bands, Fleetwood Mac, Phantom of the Opera, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and much more. **18**

At Home

Getting festive

Julie Mitchell highlights fitness trends for 2015, Liz Farrell makes family resolutions, and Julia Strzesieski says storage is all around you. **20**

Real Estate

Making the right choice

Carole Isaacs says new homeowners need a full contact list of fix-it people; the Roundup says rents are way up, except for the Northside; and the Property Extra has tips for people entering the market in 2015. **23**

Pet Pages

Kickie it up a notch

Susan Dyer Reynolds gets help from Jazzy and Kickie to deal with the type of neighbors you don't like to deal with. **26**

ONLINE SPECIALS

Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter, plus the Weekend Traveler visits Bodega Bay, complete archives, and more.

on www.marinatimes.com

MarinaTimes

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

Publisher
Earl Adkins
publisher@marinatimes.com

Editor in Chief
Susan Dyer Reynolds
susan@marinatimes.com

Managing Editor
John Zipperer
john@marinatimes.com

Editor, Arts & Entertainment
Lynette Majer
lynette@marinatimes.com

Social Media
Shelia Fox
shelia@marinatimes.com

Designer Steven Fromtling
Web Designer Joe Bachman

THE MARINA TIMES IS DISTRIBUTED FREE IN SAN FRANCISCO'S NORTHERN NEIGHBORHOODS (THE MARINA, COW HOLLOW, PACIFIC HEIGHTS, RUSSIAN HILL, AND NORTH BEACH). MEMBER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE MARINA TIMES OR NORTHSIDE PUBLICATIONS. PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TO LETTERS@MARINATIMES.COM OR TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE. COMMENTS OF 200 WORDS OR LESS HAVE THE BEST CHANCE FOR PUBLICATION. PLEASE INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS AND DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER FOR CONSIDERATION. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ABRIDGE FOR SPACE, CLARITY AND CIVILITY.

EDITOR'S NOTE :: 2015 political preview

Get ready for fireworks

Political developments we'll be watching this year: Ross Mirkarimi, Ed Lee, Mark Farrell, and more

by john zipperer

CALIFORNIANS JUST ENDURED WHAT might be the single most boring gubernatorial election in memory, with incumbent Jerry Brown winning in a walk. The big news — the GOP expanding its power in the U.S. Congress — largely didn't involve super-Democratic California. The action this time just wasn't here. That is about to change, and here are the political developments we will be keeping an eye on in 2015.

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE MIRKARIMI?

The headliner will be San Francisco's sheriff, Ross Mirkarimi, who will oblige by making many headlines as he seeks reelection. His incredibly public domestic violence problem that ushered in his term in office served to divide San Francisco liberals just as they were starting to play nice again after the Newsom-Peskin-Daly years.

Domestic violence advocates, left-wing Democrats, the mayor, moderates who never liked Mirkarimi anyway because of his politics, and others made for a very contentious period in recent city history as Mayor Ed Lee sought to have him removed from office but was thwarted by the Board of Supervisors.

Expect all of those old wounds to be reopened this year.

NO ONE CAN THREATEN THE MAYOR

There are already a number of small candidates who have announced campaigns, but nobody has yet entered the race who could present a threat to Mayor Lee.

A year ago, a poll released by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club showed the left's hero Tom Ammiano to be the most popular of the possible opponents to Mayor Lee. But even that hypothetical matchup had him trailing Lee by nine points.

In November, some news sites were suggesting that a run by State Senator Mark Leno for the mayor's office was a certainty, but by early December, Leno let it be known that he would be doing no such thing. (Look for speculation surrounding Leno to focus on what he will instead try to do after he leaves the state senate; will he stick around and try to succeed Nancy Pelosi — who seems in no hurry to start collecting her pension?)

Last month, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell told the *Marina Times* that he supported Lee's record and would not be entering the race against him.

Taken together, all of this nonaction suggests that the smart money is on Lee's reelection. Such a development might be unpalatable for the city's left, which has chafed under mayors Brown, Newsom, and Lee and now believes it has urgent issues that only a more progressive mayor could fix to their liking. These opponents of Lee

have no shortage of complaints, blaming him for high housing costs, changing demographics in the neighborhoods, seeking a second full term, and other things. But if the concern over such issues were really as broad as their proponents think, certainly there would be a major candidate willing to carry their flag in this election.

Instead, Lee has become the Clinton-like inevitable candidate, with a projected \$3 million war chest and broad backing enough to clear the field of major challengers. Facing a range of smaller challengers will do nothing to harm his chances of reelection. Unless there's some huge surprise entry into the race (and it would have to be on the Bruce Bochy level), Mayor Lee's reelection will be about as surprising as Governor Brown's.



Whether you like him or dislike him, you'll be seeing a lot of San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi as he seeks reelection this year.

PHOTO: BRIAN KUSLER

WHERE IS MARK FARRELL HEADED?

Easily reelected to his District 2 seat on the Board of Supervisors, Mark Farrell has established himself as a leader of the so-called moderates. But what will he do next? He has expressed interest in succeeding David Chiu as the next permanent president of the Board, but he was not elected as the interim president, which serves as an initial tea leaves-reading of his colleagues' desires. Whoever does get the presidency will select the committee chairman, and Farrell would like to return as chair of the Board's budget committee.

We'll also be keeping tabs on how Farrell deals with a campaign finance violation ruling. He was found not to have been involved in breaking the rules, so it shouldn't cause him serious harm. But how he handles it will serve as a good look into his ability to handle future crises — of which he will encounter the usual amount, if he chooses to remain in politics after he's termed out of the board.

I PROTEST!

The Occupy movement was a major story a few years ago, but that has largely fizzled. Now a new protest movement sprung up following heavily disputed grand jury rulings in two cases of white police officers killing African Americans elsewhere in the country. Some of those protests have turned violent locally, and some of them made a concerted effort to disrupt holiday commerce.

This movement might not last longer than Occupy did, but there are two things to remember. First, this movement includes veterans of Occupy, both for the better and worse. Second, even if it doesn't last longer than Occupy, that still leaves it plenty of time from now to try to change minds and public policy. We'll be hearing more from these folks.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

Find the right mortgage backed by neighborly service.

Now is the time to review your mortgage(s) and consider refinancing. Ask us about our historically low adjustable rate or fixed rate mortgage loans today.



Contact your neighborhood mortgage loan officer for more information.

Susan A. Kemp
Vice President
Mortgage Loan Officer
NMLS #442143
650-488-2303
skemp@fnbnorcal.com

MEMBER
FDIC





In 1850, San Franciscans built their houses and hotels from the hulls of the very ships that got them to the city. ILLUSTRATION: FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

BACKSTORY

CONTINUED from page 1

affirmative but said it would be a balancing act. I agreed. We parted, loosening our neckties, and deciding our next lunch would be at another classic, Capp's Corner in North Beach.

Since the Sam's Grill lunch with Carl, I've been reflecting on our conversation and have developed this column on the then and now of San Francisco.

THE INSTANT CITY

Right from its early days, the raw-boned, fog-bound town called San Francisco had a high degree of sophistication that belied its edge-of-the-continent isolation. The Gold Rush in 1849, the discovery of Nevada's Comstock Lode of silver in 1857, and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 had turned this tiny village into an instant city. Suddenly San Francisco became a western metropolis with worldly tastes and enthusiasms.

Early San Francisco was rambunctious and disorderly. It was overrun with a motley crowd of adventurers — both men and women — from all over the world. Along with the gold seekers, get-rich-quick ruffians and con artists came merchants, farmers, clerks, clergy, bankers, doctors, poets, prostitutes, lawyers, sailors, socialites, salesmen, speculators, and just plain seekers of the good life. Some just liked the climate and wanted to live in the European-styled instant city by the Golden Gate. By 1875, the population of San Francisco was 190,000. In 1900, it was 350,000.

PARIS OF THE PACIFIC

Obviously, all of these independent mavericks wanted to get rich, but they shared other desires as well. They sought good food and drink and good entertainment. Those who did not occupy tents or jerry-built wooden shanties lived in boarding houses and hotels, which sprang

up all over town. And suddenly there were restaurants to feed them. San Francisco became a city that eats out. Diners had money in their jeans and expected the best. That's what they got. Early San Francisco chefs tended to be Frenchmen from what were already fine restaurants on the country's East Coast. Some said San Francisco was on its way to becoming the Paris of the Pacific.

Not only were there skilled chefs here but the raw materials for their art was plentiful — oysters, crab, and many kinds of fish were to be found in the bay and nearby rivers. Game roamed the adjacent wilderness. Valleys to the north and south provided vegetables and fruit. The Hungarian Count Agostin Haraszthy brought European wine grape cuttings here from France in 1861. But even earlier knowledgeable San Franciscans

restaurant's true name was Poulet d'Or ("golden chicken"), but it is widely believed that unschooled miners corrupted the name thinking it sounded like "poodle dog." Soon the owners adopted the corruption and even installed a white poodle. But if many denizens of the instant city did not understand the French language, they did understand the language of French cuisine.

And there were other reliable temples of gastronomy in those days. Perhaps the most famous was Delmonico's, which was serving elegant French food here in 1850. (The original Delmonico's opened in New York in 1837.) Other San Francisco old-timers are Tadich Grill, which dates to 1849 and Jack's, which opened in 1864. Sam's Grill (the inspiration for this Back Story) opened in 1867. The Cliff House (1863), Old Clam House (1861), the Palace Hotel with its incredible, stained glass-enclosed Garden Court (1875), Schroeder's (1893), and Fior d'Italia (1893) are others.

ALONG CAME SHAKESPEARE

And while these citizens of the Paris of the Pacific were enjoying the pleasures of the table, there were many other entertainments

to occupy their time. Not only blackface minstrel shows and raucous comic skits and pantomimes (even a female impersonator, James Evrard in 1850) performed in saloons and dance halls like the Bella Union at Washington and Kearny Streets, but more refined and traditional entertainment was popular as well. In 1850, the Jenny Lind Theater opened in Portsmouth Square. Before it burned down a few months later, it featured Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* — a comedy, you will recall, in which a male actor, playing a woman, pretends to be a man. In three years in the 1850s, 14 plays by Shakespeare were produced in San Francisco.

While brothels and honky-tonks dominated the performing arts of the times, the largely male population of the town soon began patronizing productions of more classic offerings. Theaters and opera houses sprang up, seemingly overnight. The first opera performed in San Francisco was Vincenzo Bellini's *Somnambula* in 1851.

In the 1850s the art of dance was represented by Lola Montez, who did her famed spider dance act (the spider was believed to be crawling about beneath her

tainers of the time journeyed to the camps to perform. Famed Shakespearean actor Edwin Booth and child singer-dancer Lotta Crabtree played the camps and were paid handsomely.

There were gold miners who had staked claims and were doing well and preferred to live in comfortable San Francisco. They journeyed to and from the gold fields in what today would be Google buses — horse and buggy or by river steamboat to San Francisco Bay.

Many miners, merchants, and professionals the Gold Rush attracted later became part of the San Francisco community where they could not only participate in the good life — but also get their laundry done. They involved themselves in civic affairs and paid big bucks (or a lot of gold nuggets) to build McMansions.

Those not politically oriented set up shop as doctors, lawyers, or merchants. Some did what Silicon Valley techies do today: they got into politics. One miner, Andrew Jackson Bryant, made a poke and later became mayor.

And that's the way it was.

HAS SAN FRANCISCO CHANGED?

These days San Francisco's new citizens — whether they're techies or some other types of end-of-the-rainbow seekers — are not unlike those who followed their dreams west

The city's new citizens are not unlike those who followed their dreams in the early days.

flesh-colored costume) and somewhat later by the free form, freethinking Isadora Duncan, famous for being famous.

The birth of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra traces back to 1881, when the Philharmonic Society presented a well-received series of concerts offering pops of the day and works by Mozart or Handel.

THE SAN FRANCISCO GOOD LIFE

The mining camps in the Sierra foothills were the Silicon Valley startups of the time. And while life panning gold could be rigorous, the miners dined on top-quality foodstuff from San Francisco. Oysters, fish, game, and vegetables arrived by riverboat up the Sacramento and American rivers and then overland by oxen-pulled wagons.

Booze was plentiful, and so was entertainment, both raucous and refined. Many of the top enter-

in those early days. For every roughneck miner and adventurer there were smart, creative, self-motivated, self-starters: merchants like Levi Strauss who changed the way the world dresses; businessmen like railroad barons Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, and Charles Crocker; bankers like A.P. Giannini, who financed San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire; publishers like Sam Brannan who ran San Francisco's first newspaper. And Charles James Brenham, a ship's captain who ferried miners from San Francisco to Sacramento.

Now, just as they did then, ambitious folks come here for the food, entertainment, the good life, and to get rich. Has San Francisco changed so much? No, I don't think so. Can this diverse group coexist? Yes, I do think so.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

Early San Francisco was overrun with a motley crew from all over the world.

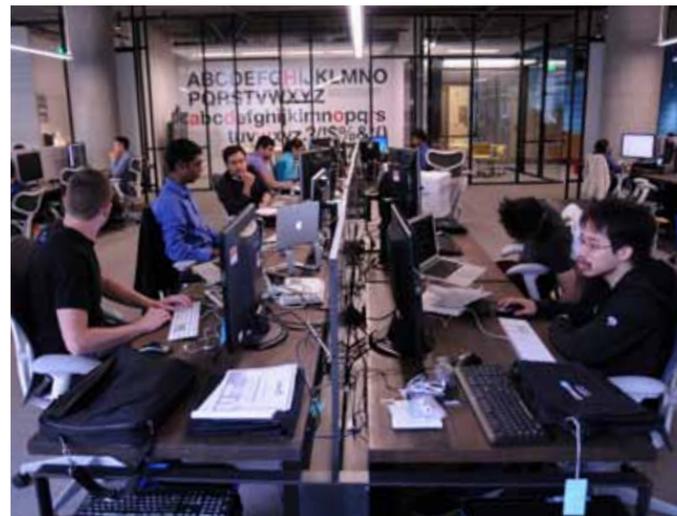
were drinking French wines that came around the Horn by sailing ship, or a bit later by transcontinental rail.

THE POODLE DOG

One of the first San Francisco restaurants was the Poodle Dog, which opened in 1849. The res-



From prospectors seeking gold to tech workers seeking the next big app, San Francisco has long been the destination for those seeking their fortune. ILLUSTRATION: FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA; PHOTO: SYLVAIN KALACHE / FLICKR



TECH PREDICTIONS

CONTINUED from page 1

most notable survivor of the first tech boom in the late 1990s — trades at 341 times expected earnings (Amazon doesn't technically have a P/E ratio because they don't expect any earnings for the 2014 fiscal year). Amazon's market cap is a lofty \$142 billion, yet after 15 years as a public company, it continues to lose money. Until a few quarters ago, analysts and investors were still drinking the Kool-Aid of Svengali-like leader Jeff Bezos, but that's starting to change, as followers grow weary of waiting for profits.

Newcomer GoPro took the 2014 IPO market by storm with its wearable camera, but its P/E ratio of 66 values the company at more than 50 times next fiscal year's expected earnings. GoPro has a market cap of \$8 billion with total revenues for 2015 anticipated to be just \$1.6 billion. While GoPro is revered by sports enthusiasts around the world for its very cool product, some analysts worry it could also be just another fad (remember the Flip camera?). GoPro also faces competition from rival iON Cameras and Polaroid's new Cube camera, and there's always the chance of a cash-flush giant such as Apple, Samsung, or Google to enter the fray. And then there's the lock-up expiration, where insiders can start selling their shares.

As it was during the dotcom era, crazy high valuations accompanied by aggressive insider selling is a common scenario in the latest tech boom — which is great for insiders, but potentially disastrous for retail investors. In 2015, smart investors will stay away.

3. Karma will be a bitch for Uber.

Perhaps the most anticipated IPO of 2015 is also one of the most controversial — the ridesharing app everyone loves to hate, Uber. After its most recent round of financ-

ing, the five-year-old company's \$41 billion valuation makes it worth more than Tesla, Netflix, Charles Schwab, American Airlines, Adobe Systems, Kraft Foods, General Mills, Yum! Brands (parent company of Chipotle Mexican Grill, KFC, Taco Bell, and others), and Marriott International, and, most astonishingly, more than rental car behemoths Hertz and Avis combined.

But Uber has issues — a lot of them. For starters, the company is morally challenged. Just in the last few months alone, they've tried to sabotage their biggest rival, Lyft, by ordering more than 5,000 rides and then cancelling them; at a dinner party he thought was off the record, Senior Vice President of Business Emil Michael suggested that Uber spend a million bucks to hire "four top opposition researchers and four journalists" to dig into the personal lives of media members and their families (Uber has a notoriously combative relationship with the press); and prosecutors in Los Angeles and San Francisco have sued the company, alleging that Uber lied to consumers about the strength of its background check system and charged UberX users a \$1 "Safe Rides Fee" that falsely advertised those checks. There have been accounts of drivers, some with criminal records, raping and kidnapping female passengers and assaulting male passengers (in one case here in San Francisco, a man was clobbered over the head with a hammer).

The lawsuit also accuses Uber of illegally operating at airports, charging riders fraudulent airport fees, and calculating fares without consulting with state agencies. Consumers are also starting to question the company over its "surge pricing," a practice of dramatically increasing fares during times of high

demand. This past Halloween, a Baltimore woman named Gabrielle Wathen caught a 20-minute ride home from her birthday celebration that, after 9-times surge pricing, cost her \$363. After surge pricing during Hurricane Sandy, New York's attorney general suggested Uber was engaged in price gouging. As a result, Uber promised not to raise prices during "disasters and emergencies," and was expected to implement the policy elsewhere — but during San Francisco's biggest storm in ages, Uber jacked its rates by 3.8 times, and in Sydney, Australia, they quadrupled prices for passengers trying to escape a hostage crisis. Surge pricing earned Uber an "F" from the Better Business Bureau (as well as from some very angry customers).

If you think Uber is ruthless now, wait until they're public.

In 2015, I expect states to start banning surge pricing, pushing legislation that levels the playing field for taxi companies, and filing more lawsuits over Uber's sketchy background checking. (And if you think Uber is ruthless now, wait until they're a public entity beholden to shareholders.)

4. Tech firms will face more sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuits.

According to data from the Computing Research Association, of the technology workers at seven Silicon Valley companies that have released staffing data, just 2 percent are African American and 3 percent are Hispanic. But last year, 4.5 percent of all new recipients of bachelor's degrees in computer science or computer engineering from prestigious research universities were African American, and 6.5 percent were Hispanic.

The majority of workers at tech companies are white (55 percent) and male (70 percent). Former Zillow employee Rachel Kremer is

suing that company for sexual harassment, comparing the internal culture to "an adult frat house." According to the federal court filing, Kremer says her former bosses ranked women by breast size, repeatedly made overt sexual comments, asked her for sex, and sent explicit texts — at least one of which included a picture of a penis. When she spoke out against Zillow's boys-behaving-badly culture, Kremer says she was fired.

The real estate search site was also recently hit with an age discrimination lawsuit alleging that sales employees at its Irvine, Calif., office openly engaged in age discrimination of coworkers. According to the 41-year-old complainant, her manager would ask if she was "too old to close" and frequently asked her to "try and keep up with us."

Zillow isn't alone: Next month a gender discrimination and retaliation lawsuit by former partner Ellen Pao against Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers heads to court, and earlier this year, dating app Tinder settled a lawsuit from Whitney Wolfe, its former vice president of marketing, after she alleged she was routinely subjected to a pattern of sexist behavior.

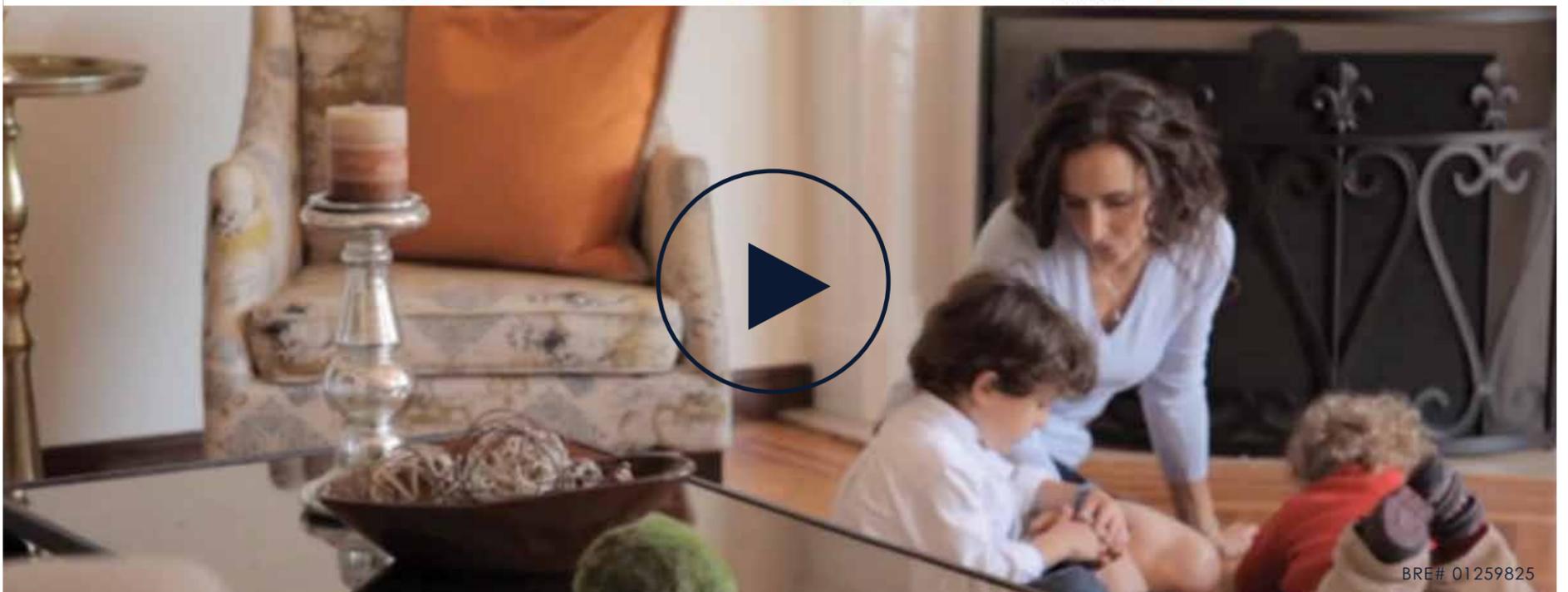
Because I don't expect the demographics to change at tech companies any time soon, I predict a flood of similar lawsuits to hit in 2015.

If San Francisco's history has taught us anything, it is that what goes up must come down — and when the good times are too good for too long, chances are, it's too good to be true. From the Gold Rush to the Dotcom Bomb, this always has been and always will be a boom-and-bust town. So keep that in mind next time you consider putting your money into the latest trendy tech stock in hopes of making a fortune. You're odds are better at a blackjack table in Vegas.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

Check Out Our **New** "Sell With Style" **Commercials** at RealEstateSF.com

AS SEEN ON TV:



BRE# 01259825

FULL SERVICE DESIGN & HOME IMPROVEMENT TEAM
Residential • Condos • Investment Properties • Property Management

BARBAGELATA
REALESTATESF.COM



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

POLICE BLOTTER : Crime and punishment on the Northside

How to spot crime after it happens

WE ALL KNOW HOW TO identify a crime after it happens, but it can still be helpful to know what a neighborhood's crime profile is before moving into it or visiting it for a night out. There are several online resources that San Franciscans (and out-of-town visitors) might find useful to get a quick look at the numbers and types of crimes across San Francisco. Spot Crime (spotcrime.com/ca/san+francisco) is a rather confusing source. Its map provides little information when clicking on the blue icons on the map, and when you go to a linked page for more information, it appears mostly designed to feed you to advertisers. But you can still get a Google Streetview photo of the crime location and a very brief description of the crime (such as "proowler") and the case number to use to get more information from police records.

The San Francisco Police Department's CrimeMAPS feature (sf-police.org/index.aspx?page=1618) is arguably the handiest source (which is no surprise; it is accessed from the police department website, after all). You can determine

the timeframe of the crimes you want to see displayed; the crimes are shown categorized with easy-to-read icons for different types of offenses (theft/larceny, vehicle break-in/theft, burglary, and so forth). Click on the icons for more information about the crime.

San Francisco Crimespotting (sanfrancisco.crimespotting.org) has a different interface from some of the other sources, but here too you can set timeframes and search by type of crime.

Of course, real estate companies also have an interest in giving people information about potential neighborhoods they might move into (or reasons to move out of other neighborhoods). For example, Trulia (trulia.com/local/san-francisco-ca/tiles:1%7Cpoints:1_crime) includes crime mapping along with info on neighborhood amenities, demographics, commuting, and more.

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

WORSE THAN A TICKET
Aug. 25, 12:27 a.m.
Broadway St. at Van Ness Ave.

Officers on patrol attempted to catch up to a car after they observed it make an illegal u-turn. The car sped up and slowed down, making random turns, appearing to try to lose the officers. They were nonetheless able to keep up and get the license plate number, and then turned on their siren. While traveling the wrong way on a one-way street, the car finally pulled over.

Traveling the wrong way on a one-way street, the car finally pulled over.

The driver got out of the car and began to walk away from the vehicle before officers ordered him to return to the car and turn it off. He complied. The male subject was apologetic, saying, "I'm sorry, I screwed up. I just don't want a ticket." Smelling a strong odor of alcohol from his breath and person, the officers said they believed he might have been driving under

the influence. He submitted to a series of field sobriety tests, in which he performed unsatisfactorily. He was arrested and given a breath test. He was over the legal limit, and he admitted having four beers. He was booked at County Jail.

TARGETING TOURISTS
Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m.
Palace Drive at Lyon Street

A large number of auto burglaries in this area resulted in the deployment of plainclothes officers. Tempting targets are provided by the tourists and other visitors who flock to the area around the Palace of Fine Arts, often leaving bags and luggage visible inside their vehicles. Officers watched a car driving slowly through the area; eventually, the driver got out and the officers recognized him as someone they had arrested previously for auto burglary. He approached several vehicles and peered inside them, then walked back to his car, possibly scared that he was being watched. Officers approached him on

foot and detained him. They ran a computer check and discovered he was on probation with a warrantless-search condition; during a search, they found a window punch, which is commonly used to break auto glass. He was booked at Northern Station.

MILK CRATE MADNESS
Aug. 26, 7:30 a.m.
1800 Block of Sutter Street

Officers responded to a call about two older males in a fight. They discovered one who was down on the ground bleeding heavily from his head. They applied direct pressure to the head wound and called for paramedics. Witnesses explained that the fight began in front of the cultural center. One subject became angry and believed the other had cut in line in front of him. A verbal argument ensued, and then the subject went and retrieved a milk crate. He returned and proceeded to hit the other man twice in the head with the milk crate.

A witness was able to point out the subject, who was still in the area. The subject was booked at Northern Station.

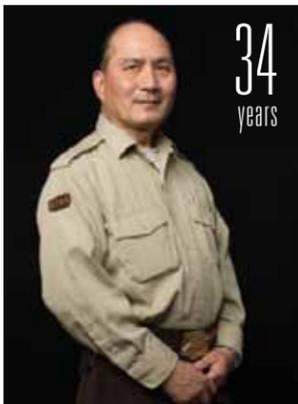
HONORING MUNI'S SAFE DRIVERS

THANK YOU FOR DECADES OF SERVICE, DEDICATION & SMILES

The SFMTA congratulates its 2014 Safe Driver honorees. This year, 169 Muni Operators were recognized for 15 or more years of safe driving without an avoidable accident.



43 years



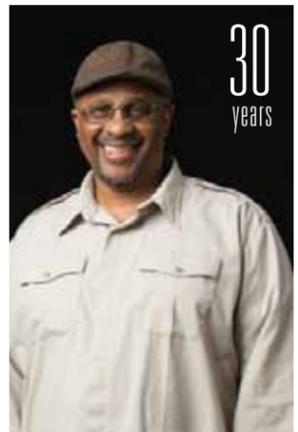
34 years



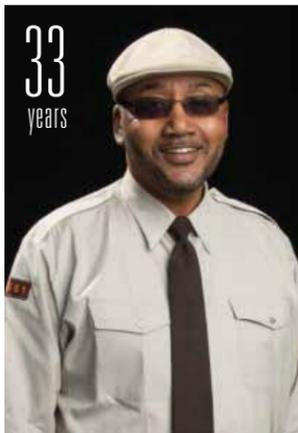
42 years



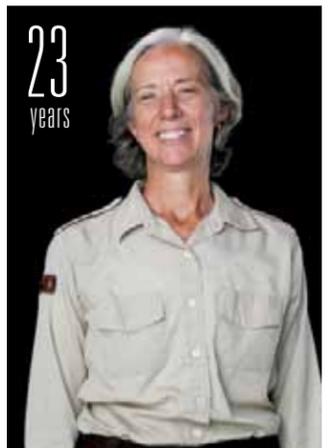
24 years



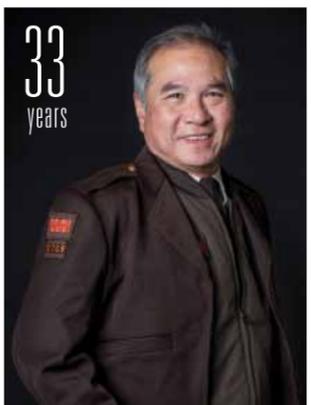
30 years



33 years



23 years



33 years

www.sfmta.com



Improving our city's infrastructure

by supervisor mark e. farrell

THOUGH THE RECENT RAIN STORMS have been a blessing due to the extreme drought our state has been experiencing, it has also highlighted some of our city's vulnerabilities in public infrastructure. Across the country, municipalities are dealing with aging public infrastructure and are grappling with how to make improvements to keep their communities safe and functioning properly. Thankfully, San Francisco has been at the forefront in terms of planning for the future to ensure that our infrastructure, including our sewer system and city roads, are adequately prepared to meet the demands of our growing city.

STREET SAFETY BOND

In 2011, city voters overwhelmingly supported a \$248 million Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond to ensure much-needed capital improvements are made to provide safe, accessible, and well-maintained city streets. So the construction you see and feel in your neighborhood is by design, but much needed. The bond funds that became available in 2012 are now allowing the city to make long-overdue repairs to our city streets to ensure a safer driving, walking, and biking experience for all of our residents. The bond also goes to fund much more than just the repaving of our city streets, though the majority of bond dollars (\$149 million) is dedicated to that effort.

Fifty million of the bond dollars are also dedicated to streetscape projects, such as sidewalk widening, landscape improvements, and safety improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians. The remaining approximately \$50 million of the bond dollars are dedicated to curb ramps to help our residents with disabilities easily navigate our streets, street structures — such as stairways, retaining walls, and tunnels — as well of the installation of new traffic signals to help the city better manage congestion and improve the overall reliability of our transportation system. For a full, detailed rundown of the streets bond, please visit: streetsbonds.org.

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Department of Public Works and its implementation of the streets bond is not the only city department working to actively upgrade badly needed improvements to our public infrastructure; the Public Utilities Commission is busy at work as well. Officially titled the Sewer System Improvement Program, the PUC is moving forward on implementing the multibillion dollar citywide investment that is upgrading our 100-year-old sewer system to make it more reliable and seismically safe now and into the future for our residents. The PUC garnered eight years of community feedback and input, as well as expert third-party analysis, before ultimately crafting the program that is now in its implementation stages.



The city has the preparation and the funding to fix its roads. PHOTO: SHARON / FLICKR

The day-to-day, routine repairs are simply not enough to keep up with the aging sewer system. Situations like the sink hole that recently happened on Lake Street at Sixth Avenue were in part created and exacerbated by our aging infrastructure. The PUC confirmed that it had no record of problems reported in that specific area, but the improvements it is making with the SSIP will go a long way to ensuring that a situation like that never happens again.

From a public policy perspective it is absolutely common sense to make the upfront investments needed to improve our sewer system, because the costs to doing so would be much higher if we were to take a piecemeal approach rather than the systematic, comprehensive approach being taken from the PUC. For more detailed information on the SSIP roll-out and projects happening in your neighborhood, please visit sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=116.

MANAGING CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

With the high amount of construction — both public and private — happening in our neighborhoods, I am actively work-

ing with each respective city department to make sure that as projects roll out, neighbors are adequately notified and that the projects are implemented in the most efficient way possible. I have heard from many of our constituents about the impacts they face in their neighborhoods due to the construction. I am working on legislative proposals that I will introduce in the new year to minimize construction impacts and provide better notification to our city residents, so that as we move forward with much needed public infrastructure improvements, there is as little disruption to our daily lives as possible.

While other cities across the country have struggled to find the resources for necessary public infrastructure upgrades, I am proud that as a city we have always looked toward the future and prioritized resources for infrastructure improvements that will improve our quality of life and make the city safer for everyone. I want to ensure that situations like the sink hole that happened on Lake Street never happen again, and the improvements underway are part of the systematic solution to ensuring our world-class city has world-class public infrastructure.

La Bijouterie
Jewelry Boutique

**Thank You
for Another
Wonderful Year!**



Specializing in Custom Design

Diamonds are Unique

Visit our Union Street boutique and view our hand picked selection of world class diamonds. We can help you make an informed diamond decision.

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



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



A Full-Service Hair + Skincare Salon

CUTS COLOR EXTENSIONS FACIALS WAXING
 - MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE \$25 OFF A CUSTOM FACIAL -

(415) 447 7748
 1757 UNION STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94123
 WWW.SALONMACIAS.COM

NORTHSIDER ∴ Around the neighborhood



Clockwise: Perry's, Enchanted Crystal; Ambiance. PHOTOS: EARL ADKINS; CAROLINE DEGHAN; EARL ADKINS

Union Street lights up

Plus: Sweaters and paintings and baseball

by john zipperer

A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHTS

Members of the Union Street Association gathered in mid-December to award a prize for best holiday lighting and decor. With umbrellas in hand and cell phone cameras poised, the judges toured Union Street from Steiner to Gough and Fillmore Street from Union to Lombard, identifying those shops whose exceptional holiday decor were Best of the Best. The 2014 winners are Perry's, Ambiance, Salon Macias, Fredericksens Hardware, Jest Jewels, The Courtyard, Enchanted Crystal, Marengo, and Cudworth Mansion. These businesses really stepped it up and deserve special recognition. Thanks for helping to make the Union Street holiday experience special. Congratulations. You are all winners.

KIT AND ACE

Kit and Ace opened its new Marina store this month. Located at 3108 Fillmore Street, this is only its second U.S. store (the first opened in late November in New York).

Kit and Ace is a t-shirt store featuring what it calls "the new luxury cashmere line" from JJ and Shannon Wilson, the son and wife of Lululemon founder Chip Wilson. The fitted tees are made from a fabric called Qemir, a cashmere-blended cloth designed by Shannon Waison. The store assures us that the fabric can be machine washed and won't shrink or stretch.

This t-shirt-only store will be followed in 2015 with the company's full studio, where you will find a wider variety of products. More info at kitandace.com.

ART OF THE NORTHSIDE

At 2200 Franklin Street, students at St. Brigid's — one of the oldest schools in the city — teamed up with the Fine Art Mural Painting class at Academy of Art University to create a 66-foot playground mural.

Called "The Animal Race," the mural was unveiled on Dec. 18, and it features members of the animal kingdom moving at various paces. It is dedicated to the memory of Sister Mary Jo Wise, a longtime supporter and instructor at St. Brigid who passed away in May 2013.

How often do you get to see artwork that is blessed by a monsignor?

HELP JOLTIN' JOE'S PLAYGROUND

Here's your chance to help build a legacy for a local legend.

He was born Giuseppe Paolo DiMaggio, but he became known as Joe and even better

as the Yankee Clipper. Though he was born in Martinez, Calif., his family moved to San Francisco when he was just a year old. His father wanted him to carry on the family's male legacy of being a fisherman, but Giuseppe/Joltin'/Yankee Clipper Joe had his eye on baseball and went on to become an immortal on the field of dreams.

San Francisco has lots of Joe DiMaggio stories. He eloped with an actress you might have heard of called Marilyn Monroe at San Francisco's City Hall in 1954. When the United States went to war against the Axis powers in World War II, his Italian-born father was classified as an "enemy alien" and barred from fishing in San Francisco Bay. (In one of the strangest and greatest things about America, his parents nonetheless became citizens of this country in the mid-1940s.) He married his first wife, actress Dorothy Arnold, at North Beach's Sts. Peter and Paul Church (which, we're told, featured a mere 20,000 friends and fans jamming the streets nearby). That church was also the place of Joltin' Joe's funeral in 1999, and he was interred at San Francisco's local version of heaven, Colma.

This month, the Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground (which might include some actual friends of Joe DiMaggio) are supporting a major renovation of the North Beach Joe DiMaggio Playground. Ninety percent of the cost will be covered by a parks bond, but the remaining \$500,000 needs to be raised.

So on Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m., these same Friends are holding a Night Out in North Beach Party to benefit the playground. It takes place at Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Avenue). There will be snacks from Original Joe's, Park Tavern, Tony's Pizza, Don Pisto's, and Mama's, as well as tastings of local beer and wine. Reminisce about the late baseball great while you listen to music by GG Amos. Pitch in by participating in the silent auction.

Tickets start at \$60. And you can also purchase a commemorative tile at the park (a great way to inflate the ego of the baseball fans in your life, by the way). More information is available at dimaggioplayground.org.

OVERHEARD DURING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON

Mother to son: I'm not sure, but I think they use a special kind of reindeer for Santa's sleigh ...

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

MUNIFORWARD

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

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

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

22 FILLMORE

January 14, 2015 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 Marshall Elementary School
 1575 15th Street
 San Francisco, CA

30 STOCKTON

January 28, 2015 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 North Beach Library
 850 Columbus Avenue
 San Francisco, CA



For general information 24/7/365, dial 311 (415.701.2311 outside SF).
 311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp thông dịch miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Librang tulong para sa wikang Tagalog / ความช่วยเหลือทางภาษาโดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย



MUNIFORWARD.COM

The last of Capp's Corner?

by ernest beyl

IF YOU RUN ACROSS A restaurant where you often see priests eating with priests, or sporting girls with sporting girls, you may be confident that it is good." I am indebted for that quote to A. J. Liebling, the famed *New Yorker* writer in his book *Between Meals* — required reading for anyone who enjoys good food and drink. I would only add to Liebling's exacting concept the word "cops." Cops know how and where to eat, and cops have been eating at Capp's Corner since the North Beach landmark opened in 1963.

I take the time to lay out Liebling's axiom because we may have seen the last of that exemplary North Beach saloon-restaurant. And I have personally witnessed priests and cops dining in Capp's and just plain folks in search of a well-presented beverage, a decent meal, and some conviviality. As to Liebling's sporting girls, well perhaps — but then, it is difficult to tell.

Tom Ginella has been the proprietor of Capp's Corner since 1986 when he took it over from original owner Joe Caporale, better known as Joe Capp, a salty North Beach character. Ginella has done a good job maintaining the spirit of this classic. He operates a surprisingly good restaurant. Italian red sauce pastas are excellent. So is the meatloaf. The linguine with clams and mussels is the best to be found in North Beach — possibly in this entire food-crazed city. At Capp's Corner flavor is never hesitant.

Capp's Corner is a text-book saloonist's saloon. Life there proceeds at a measured pace. No one is in a hurry. Patrons feel as though they are characters in a three-act drama with comic overtones. Everyone knows each other. Newcomers are treated like regulars and soon become old-timers.

The antique, mirrored back bar is a beauty. Looks like it came around the Horn on a sailing ship. Black and white photos and drawings of the greats and near-greats cover the walls: Joe Louis, Joe DiMaggio, Vernon Alley, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, cast members of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, long-gone bartenders, long-gone journalists, and politicians. Capp's is a memorial to the "long-gones" but "not-forgottens." At the rear, there's a neon advertising display by a beer company featuring a clock with a sign reading "Earthquake Time" — its hands frozen at 5:04 p.m. — the exact time of the

Oct. 17 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.

Speaking of Earthquake Time, I recall entering Capp's the morning after that catastrophe. There was no power in much of the city. All the bars in North Beach were shuttered, but not Capp's Corner. Someone had brought in a load of ice from Marin County. And we loyalists were drinking our bloody marys in the morning-after gloom. The sound system was playing softly — big band swing and Frank Sinatra — just as it does today.

If Capp's Corner goes dark, we all will miss staff members who have become close friends. Bartenders George McCarthy, Randy Harris, Rose Lynch, and Jeff Brown. Waiters Wilson Ton and Nick Aleves. And the cooks who turn out that astonishing food — Fermie Montes and Jose Gonzalez.

Why is Capp's Corner in danger of closing? Well, you've heard this story before — unreasonable rent hike. "It's one thing to pay market rate," Ginella told me, "It's another thing to get driven out of business."

Capp's Corner anchors that short block of Green Street at the western end between Powell and Columbus. The street is home to Fugazi Hall, where *Beach Blanket Babylon* is featured and to the Green Street Mortuary. The gravity of the mortuary, which has its own famed marching band for funerals, contrasts sharply with the exuberant mirth of *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Capp's Corner fits right in as a contributor to the only-in-San Francisco street scene. It is louche and loopy and the bar conversation moves happily from the banal to the brilliant.

If Capp's Corner closes — it could be as early as the end of January or February — priests, cops, sporting girls, governors, mayors, attorneys, business tycoons, socialites, authors, journalists, and poets will be looking for a new place to experience North Beach.

Patrons will long remember the sign displayed near the door: *Emergency Instructions: Get your coat, don't forget your hat. Leave your worries on the doorstep. Just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street!*

Without Capp's Corner, the street wouldn't be very sunny anymore.

OUT ON THE TOWN

James Melling and I — two North Beach bon vivants out on the town — dined at Capp's Corner a recent evening then ambled down to the basement night-

club called Doc's Lab to hear our friend Jessie Silva sing with a band known as the DonCats.

Doc's Lab occupies the Columbus Avenue space of the old Purple Onion where Phyllis Diller, the Smothers Brothers, and the Kingston Trio once performed. Inexplicably, Doc's Lab is named for the late marine biologist Ed "Doc" Ricketts' Cannery Row Laboratory in Monterey, which was not a nightclub but a working laboratory. I suppose the same logic — none — applies here as the name Jefferson Airplane for the 1960s rock band that created the San Francisco sound.

GOODFELLAS GO NIGHTCLUBBING

When Melling and I descended to Doc's Lab to hear Jessie, we ran into wall-to-wall Saturday night North Beach celebrants. Tiny tables were all occupied and it was standing room only. That is until Melling had a word with someone and suddenly — like the famous nightclub scene in the movie *Goodfellas* — a waiter weaved through the crowd holding a table over his head, plunked it down in front of the stage, found two chairs, James and I were seated, and the show began.

Jessie and the DonCats are somewhat reminiscent of Emmylou Harris and Gram Parsons — indie folk rock with a bit of country thrown in. Jessie has a pure, broad-range delivery that reminded me of the Airplane's Grace Slick. When I told her that later, she deadpanned predictably, "Who's Grace Slick?" I explained and added that at a White House party during the Nixon years, Slick considered spiking the punch with LSD. Don't invite Jessie to the White House.

Drop into Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store and Cafe. She works there days.

AND THE BEAT GOES ON

There are almost daily reports of a long-lost, but now found, 18-page letter that Beat prototype Neal Cassidy wrote to Jack Kerouac. Presumably, the letter inspired Kerouac to write stream-of-consciousness prose for his iconic novel *On the Road*. The letter was to be auctioned to the highest bidder but has been delayed by threats of lawsuits by both the Cassidy and the Kerouac estates who want a piece of the action. I say give the letter to City Lights Booksellers and Publishers, which was ground zero for the Beats.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com



IS YOUR CAR READY FOR WINTER?

The Professionals at Toscalito Have You Covered!

MAIL-IN REBATES! UP TO \$120 ON TIRES

Goodyear® Visa® Prepaid Card by Mail-In Rebate with the purchase of a set of four select Goodyear tires on the Goodyear Credit Card between January 1 and February 28, 2015.

Mail-In Rebates paid in the form of a Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card. Get up to a \$60 Rebate on a qualifying purchase or double your rebate up to \$120 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Subject to credit approval. Offers valid on purchases between 01/01/15 – 02/28/15. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. See Store Associate for complete details and rebate form. Additional terms and conditions apply.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER. CABLE SNOW CHAINS STARTING AT \$42.95 (Most Cars)

Super Service Specials - Valid Thru 1/31/15

<p>FREE Oil Change & Filter with \$25 Purchase of 39-Point Maintenance</p>	<p>THRUST ANGLE ALIGNMENT \$69.95 Protect Your Tire Investment (Most Cars and Light Trucks)</p>	<p>\$5 OFF ANY WIPER BLADE from our large wintery store supplies</p>
<p>SHOCK & STRUTS \$50 OFF any pair of Shock or Struts in stock (at regular price) (Applies to most vehicles. No other discounts.)</p>	<p>FRONT/REAR BRAKE SERVICE \$80 OFF Get \$40 off Front Brake Replacement and/or \$40 Off Rear Brake Replacement (Most cars)</p>	<p>Any Flush \$15 OFF Each Your choice: Cooling System Fuel System Transmission Power Steering Brake Fluid</p>

Be sure to ask our store staff for the details on these Great Tire and Service Specials!
All Toscalito offers expire 1/31/15.



43 Years of More Than Just Tires
Visit us at: www.toscalito.com



2342 Lombard St.
San Francisco 922-2808

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

Vallejo 707-643-8271
Novato 883-8473

THE TABLEHOPPER ∴ The Progress

A look at the most important opening right now, The Progress

by marcia gagliardi

THE PROGRESS (1525 FILLMORE Street, 415-673-1294) from Stuart Briozza and Nicole Krasinski of State Bird Provisions, opened on Dec. 16. The two restaurants are actually right next door, with The Progress to the left, State Bird Provisions to the right, and now

You'll need to form a quorum at your table about which dishes to order (you will check off little boxes on the menu) because the dishes will be served in a communal fashion. Yes, it's the next generation of share plates, and the kitchen pays keen attention to how many people are dining at your table and then tailors your dishes accordingly.

You'll need to form a quorum at your table about what to order, because it will be served in a communal fashion.

Wine director and general manager Jason Alexander has emerged from the wine world and returned to the restaurant floor with this project. It's an exciting time in California right now, and his

above, a new butchery room, pastry room, and a (distant) future event space.

Walking into The Progress, you'll see the first new addition to the house: the inviting and quietly

elegant bar. Some seats and tables flank the front milky glass window, which refracts the outside lights and the silhouettes of passing cars and people into an ambient cinematic backdrop.

The bar manager is Bryan Hamann, most recently at Monsieur Benjamin and previously at Starbelly and RN74. His menu exhibits the same zeitgeist as the kitchen: experimental, handcrafted, and creative. Hamann is there at 5 p.m. daily, before the dining room opens, with his talented and friendly bar team ready to greet you with cocktails (\$10-\$12) that are either twists on classics like his Negroni made with umeboshi vermouth (the salty notes bring an aperitivo-like vibe to the drink, whetting your appetite), or original creations like The Mezzanine, an homage to the space's former theater incarnation that brings mezcal, house-made banana liqueur, a nocino rinse, lime, and all-spice into a smoky yet unexpectedly bright cocktail. There are 12 seats at the bar, plus plenty of counters where you can stand (meet your new waiting room) and a little niche with two tables.

The main dining room has 54 seats, and the 23-foot vaulted ceiling makes such an impression. On the right is a wall of exposed lath, with a curving portion in the middle that resembles the hull of a vintage ship. The ceiling is lacquered and bright white, charmingly revealing the imperfections of its century-old surface. To the left are banquettes and tables, and to the right, four booths with curving steel benches tucked under the "hull."

In the back is the kitchen, open and alive, with some softly smoky notes coming from the custom J&R wood-fired grill (Stuart had J&R turn its rotisserie into a kind of smoke box, where ingredients can bask in the wafting smoke from the grill for hours without being traditionally smoked).

Above the kitchen is a mezzanine with a round chef's table that seats eight — kitchen staff will serve the initial courses to those diners. There's another mezzanine in the front of the restaurant with two tables (seating 16 to 20 total), which will be opened in time. It's apparent that they're looking forward to serving large groups.

Where State Bird is all about feeling like a culinary cocktail party of your dreams, with waves of canapés, The Progress is more like an adventurous family meal. Your table can choose from five dishes (\$54 per person), seven dishes (\$68), nine dishes (\$82), or the imperial menu (\$108). There are three different sections (plus dessert), grouped by lighter to meatier dishes, around 15 in all, and there are additions, too, like oysters.

list reflects that, with about 50 percent of the selections pulled from our crop of California winemakers who are pushing boundaries and exploring new expressions. The remainder of the list will look worldwide to places like the Loire (and even the Canary Islands), where young winemakers are doing their own thing, and highlighting exciting, unusual, and personal wines with a story and soul.

For now, there are about 120 selections, which will grow, with lots of bubbles, and some racy Rieslings that finish bone dry. There is a tight by-the-glass selection, with nightly selections poured en magnum, likely a sparkling and a red, and other fun presentations. Value is important, with bottles mostly ranging from the \$30s to the \$50s. With Jason's polished background (Cyrus, Gary Danko), there is a curated list of cellar selections, featuring great properties and vintages, and yes, some values there, too.

Dinner service begins nightly at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Reservations are available online; walk-ins allowed at the bar.

In case you need a break from all the holiday indulging, check out the new **Seed + Salt** (2240 Chestnut Street, 415-872-9173) from owner Mo Clancy and executive chef Ariel Nadelberg (Al Di La in New York City) that's now open in the Marina. It's all about healthful and plant-based eating, so this is the place to find flavor-focused vegan, gluten-free, and cane sugar-free foods. They've also made sure nothing contains GMO products. The space (designed by G. Paoletti Design Lab) is small, with only 14 seats inside and benches outside, and the menu will be available for dine-in or takeout.

In addition to their afternoon menu, they also serve breakfast. Because of the unique menu quality, most items are made from scratch, including spreads, dips, "cheeses" from nut milk, and a gluten-free seed and nut loaf. Clancy and Nadelberg have been collaborating on recipes and refining techniques for a year. They are also making gluten- and cane sugar-free pastries. For breakfast, check out a chickpea frittata or their house-made granola. In the afternoon, offerings include a beet burger, seasonal salads, and a "BLT" made with smoky eggplant in place of bacon. Hours are Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 8pm and Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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; e-mail: marcia@marinatimes.com.



The Original Old Clam House CLAM BAKE CIOPPINO

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



The Old
CLAM HOUSE
Since 1861

299 Bayshore Boulevard | San Francisco
415.826.4880 | theoldclamhousesf.com



Celebrity-designed coffee cups displayed to look like a chandelier.
PHOTOS: COURTESY ESPRESSAMENTE ILLY

New Espressoamente Illy cafe serves up coffee, treats with Italian flair

by julie mitchell

SAN FRANCISCO HAS had a love affair with coffee that dates back to when the Hills Brothers Coffee was founded here in 1878 and subsequently built their headquarters along the Embarcadero in the 1920s. Lately boutique chains such as Stumptown Coffee Roasters and Blue Bottle Coffee have been the darlings of the city's cafe society, featuring single-origin, fair-trade coffee served in individual pour-over servings, pleasing the palates of those who eschew the likes of Peet's and Starbucks.

And now Cow Hollow is home to San Francisco's third Espressoamente Illy, a high-end coffee bar serving authentic Italian espresso along with a selection of food in a sleek, modern environment based on a concept by renowned Italian architect/designer Luca Trazzi. (The other two locations are on Market Street and Battery Street; Joe Gurdock, who also owns the Prima Cosa cafes, owns all.)

Dr. Ernesto Illy, whose father, Francesco Illy, founded his eponymous coffee cafes in Trieste, Italy in 1933, espoused that "coffee inspires socializing, friendship, and stimulating conversation, and therefore, one should never drink coffee alone." No two Espressoamente Illy cafes are alike, with each

striving to offer a local take on the traditional Italian coffee bar.

Certainly, the Espressoamente Illy on Union is inviting, with red walls, bright-yet-not-glaring lighting, and a unique 96-cup "chandelier" featuring colorful, unique



Red walls and modern furniture welcome you.

ty of tables and booths with high and low seating for 49, and free Wi-Fi. Espressoamente Illy serves a full range of traditional espresso drinks like cappuccinos and espressos — after all, Francesco Illy invented the modern-day espresso machine —

Illy invented the modern espresso machine.

the preserved floor-to-ceiling mural by Anthony Heinsbergen, considered the foremost designer of North American movie theater interiors.

Bright silver, black and red Illy coffee cans complement the decor. Food is showcased in an attractive, circular glass display case, and there are plen-

along with brewed coffee, and specialty drinks like lavender-mint, clove, and jasmine-vanilla lattes. Mediterranean-inspired snacks and light meals are available all day and range from fruit, pastries, and granola and yogurt parfaits (\$2.50-\$5), panini and salads (\$5-\$8) based on recipes by respected San Francisco chef Joyce Goldstein; and a sampling

of delectable desserts ranging from tiramisu made with a shot of Illy espresso to macaroons (\$1.95-\$6). Local vendors provide the baked goods (Semifreddi's), dairy products (Clover Farms), and bread (Acme).

In addition to coffee drinks and food options, Illy's full range of espresso machines and coffee in the form of whole beans, ground coffee, and single-serve coffee pods are available for purchase.

Brave the wet weather and stop by Espressoamente Illy for a cuppa and a snack, Italian style.

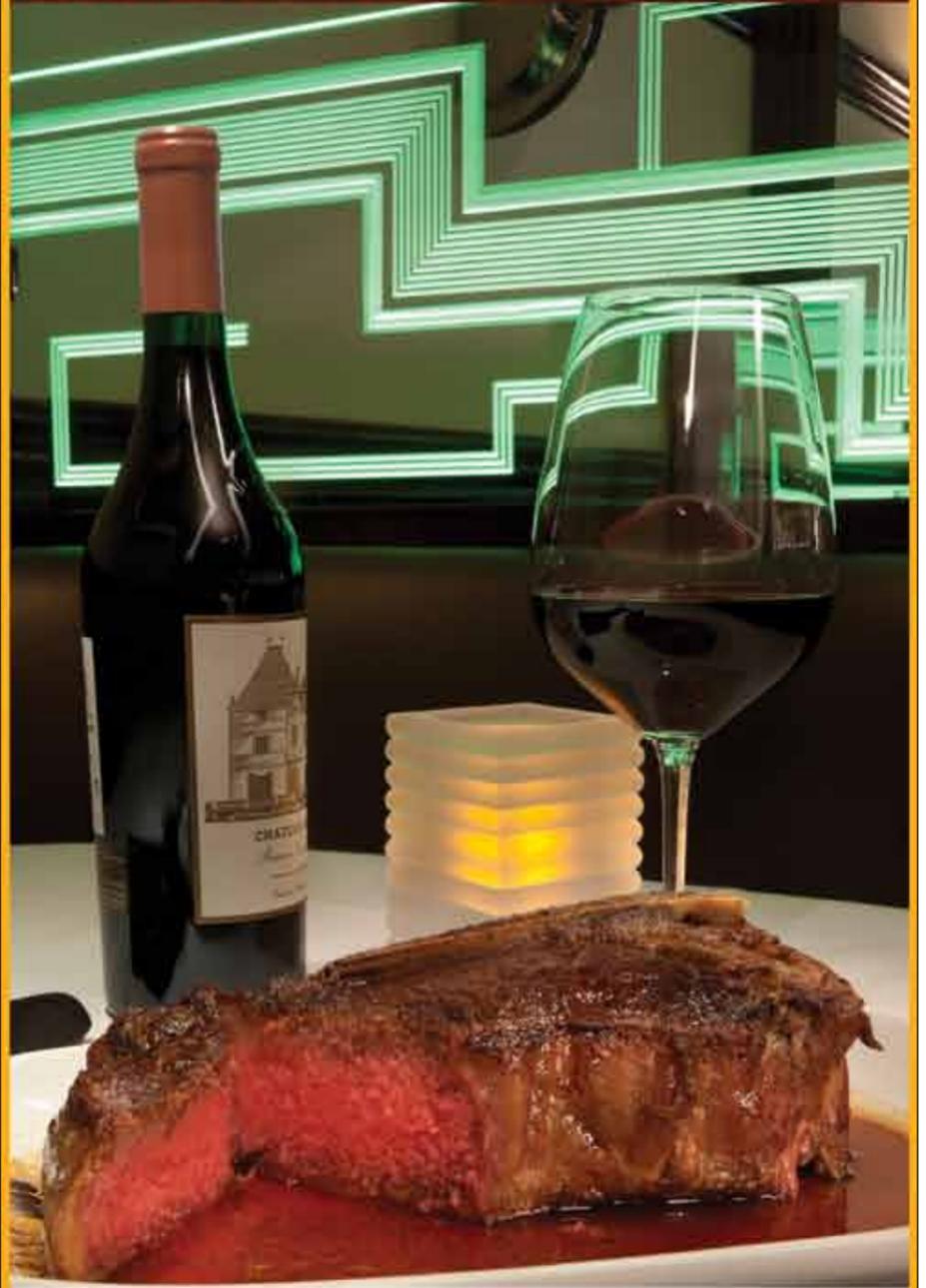
Espressoamente Illy:
2055 Union Street, daily 6 a.m.-9 p.m., 415- 500-2788, illy.com



Illy is intimate yet open.

TOP 10 STEAKS IN AMERICA

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



COMPLIMENTARY
VALET PARKING



"It's osso good!"

Osso STEAKHOUSE

1177 California at Jones

415.771.6776 • ossosteakhouse.com



Spectacular Bay Views



World Famous Restaurant

NO. 9 FISHERMEN'S GROTTTO

415.673.7025

Free Validated Parking

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

fishermensgrotto.com Banquet Facilities Available

The place where locals eat seafood!



THIRD GENERATION

SINCE 1929

© OGCI DESIGNHOUSE

LUCCA *delicatessen*

2120 CHESTNUT STREET • 415.921.7873 • WWW.LUCCADELI.COM

GRAND OPENING!



LOMBARD BEAUTY SALON

WOMEN, MEN & KIDS

(415) 816-8663

2447 Lombard Street (between Scott & Divisadero)

Come by and meet Maggie and her team in her new salon!

Hair Cuts • Color & Highlights

50% off

Women's, Men's & Kids'

With this coupon only & valid one time per person. Not valid with any other offer. With coupon, for a limited time.

APPETITES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS

'Helpful Hints to Housewives'

Resurrecting lost kitchen advice

by ernest beyl

NOT LONG AGO ON A CLOUDY afternoon, I happened to be thumbing my way through *Helpful Hints to Housewives*, the 1928 edition. It belonged to my mother, and when she gave it to me along with a pile of old cookbooks, she probably believed I was going to be the eternal bachelor. These days I like to keep *Helpful Hints*

indeed? And here is what I prepared one night not long ago.

APPETIZER

Stuffed Celery: You know about this one. You stuff your celery with some kind of yellow-orange cheese with pimientos. In this case, with the ladies who wrote *Helpful Hints to Housewives*, it was cream cheese with a tablespoon of A-1 sauce added. Not a bad idea.

SOUP

Brown Flour Soup: "Heat two tablespoonsful of butter. Add two tablespoonsful of flour. Heat and stir until brown. Then add gradually one pint of boiling water. Season with salt and nutmeg. Boil about five minutes and serve hot." Well, on the hand-printed menu I provided, I told Joan this would be one of the courses. Just kidding, I admitted. We skipped the soup course.

ENTRÉE

Pot Roast No. 1 and Pot Roast No. 2 (combination of the two recipes): Recipe No. 1 calls for one cup of cold coffee. Recipe No. 2 suggested covering the pot roast with water. I substituted the black coffee for the water. It worked.

VEGETABLES

Mashed Potatoes with Peanut Butter: What you do here is make your regulation mashed potatoes the way you like them, and then add one-and-one-half tablespoons of peanut butter. I skipped the peanut butter. I just couldn't add peanut butter to mashed potatoes.

DESSERT

Ginger Ale Fruit

Salad (yes, real ginger ale): Mix a can of pineapple juice and some ginger ale. Boil and then pour in one package of lemon Jell-O. Cut up some pineapple and oranges and pour everything into a mold and refrigerate. For the dressing, mix pineapple juice, orange juice, lemon juice, two eggs, and some sugar. Boil until thick and add some whipped cream. Joan passed on the whipped cream, so I did, too.

I am what my Germanic parents called a haussmann.

to *Housewives* handy because I am what my Germanic parents called a *haussmann*. Actually, I am a *haussgatte*, a househusband.

I have the luxury of working at home and like to give my spouse a hand. Because I like to cook, I try to provide her with a good dinner most evenings. I am also a cleaning man. I mop, dust, and do the dishes. Yes, I really do have a life.

But back to *Helpful Hints to Housewives*. The first section of the book features just that — helpful hints — and I thumbed through it with interest. The first one that caught my eye was this:

"Never make a French seam when joining lace. Try to patch the design over on the same design on the other end; carefully whip one on to the other. If this is done the joint can scarcely be seen."

OK, got it. I moved on:

"Cucumber peelings placed where ants appear will quickly drive them away."

That's good to know. Or how about this helpful hint:

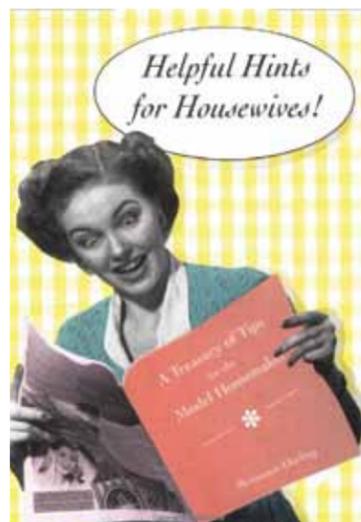
"If you are unfortunate enough to possess a pair of 'musical shoes' place them in a dish with just enough linseed oil to cover the soles and let them stand all night."

I haven't tried this one yet. Next: "Peel onions in a pan of cold water, or under a cold water faucet and they will not affect your eyes."

Well, of course, everyone knows that.

Then I found a three-by-five card bookmark. And in my mother's hand was her recipe for pear salad. It was signed "Mollie" — her baptismal name was Amelia. I would repeat her pear salad recipe here except your mother probably practiced on you with the same recipe: a can of pears, package of lemon Jell-O, some cream cheese, etc.

Well, to cut to the chase, in the back of *Helpful Hints to Housewives*, I found "Menu Suggestions." And therein lay the germ of an idea as they say. Because I like to cook dinner for my wife, why not create the entire menu out of *Helpful Hints to Housewives*? Why not



Although *Helpful Hints to Housewives* is long out of print, *Helpful Hints For Housewives* offers much of the same motherly advice. PHOTO: © CHRONICLE BOOKS

The ladies who wrote the book knew what they were talking about.

A JOHN RUSKIN CODA

Helpful Hints to Housewives concludes with a statement by 19th century essayist John Ruskin. "... cookery means the economy of your grandmothers and the science of the modern chemist; it means much testing and no wasting, it means English thoroughness, French art and Arabian hospitality; and it means that you are to be perfectly and always ladies ..." Got that?

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com



Tartine is a great way to get more whole grains in your diet this year. PHOTO: LEON WONG / FLICKR

DINING TRENDS
CONTINUED from page 1

we won't try to predict the "next big vegetable." Let's just say that vegetables are here to stay, and we couldn't be happier about it. But it's good to remember that just because a chef or restaurant is paying close attention to vegetables doesn't mean meat is ignored; rather, vegetables and meat are given equal attention. Verbena, from Gather's Sean Baker, is one such place: vegetarians, meat eaters, and true omnivores will all be happy here.

The publication of Yotam Ottolenghi's most recent *Plenty More* as a follow-up to 2011's *Plenty* and 2012's *Jerusalem* only confirms that richly spiced and seasoned vegetable-focused dishes are here to stay, and the **flavors of the Eastern Mediterranean** are especially suited to this new vegetable focus. We've seen these flavors appearing on menus at restaurants throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area. Ingredients that have particularly stood out include savory-spiced yogurt, the addition of sumac berries in dishes, and saffron in baked goods. Want to add some of these flavors to your home cooking? Spice up simple roasted root vegetables like carrots and parsnips with spiced yogurt. Stir a teaspoon of cumin, smoked paprika, and a dash of

Aleppo pepper and salt into a cup of whole Greek yogurt. After roasting the vegetables, drizzle over the top and sprinkle with herbs to serve.

Another trend in the more healthful direction is a move toward **whole grains**. As conversations about health concerns and gluten continue to escalate, one thing that seems clear is that whole grains, "heritage" grains, and other alternatives to processed

including a hen-of-the-wood mushroom version at Alta CA, as well as others at Game and Spruce. They're usually made with richly flavored whole grains, like farro, cracked whole wheat, rye, and many more. We anticipate this comfort dish will be making appearances in many forms — and using increasingly unusual grain combinations — in the coming year.

And last but not least, it seems this is also the year of the **modern French bistro**. Americans have had an interesting relationship with French

It seems this is also the year of the modern French bistro.

white flour are wildly popular — and definitely better for you. There are, of course, lots of health benefits, but also incredibly rich flavors that chefs can't get enough of. Nicolaus Balla and Cortney Burns at Bar Tartine have started using even more interesting grains in their dishes in the last year, and have been experimenting with sprouted grains and seeds. The publication of their new book, *Bar Tartine: Techniques and Recipes*, offers some great tricks and tips for bringing home some of their whole grain techniques. We're also seeing whole grains pop up in porridge. Yes, you read that right: Dickensian **porridge** seems to be the latest "peasant" food to make the leap to high-end dining. It's appeared on menus all over town,

food in recent years: On the one hand, France is a culinary mecca; on the other, French technique and structure has seemed a bit stuffy to many of the new crop of young chefs and diners. But with the opening of Monsieur Benjamin from Corey Lee on the high end of the spectrum, to Le Marais Bistro & Bakery on the more casual side, we may be seeing a full-on trend in the works. The twist is that while these places are grounded in French technique, chefs are not afraid to take on the more daring flavors of California — and that's definitely a good thing.

Dana Eastland is the associate editor of the Tablehopper, a weekly food and restaurant e-column. E-mail: dana@tablehopper.com



Le Marais Bistro & Bakery is your modern French bistro for 2015. PHOTO: LE MARAIS



Voted Best Romantic Restaurant

CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES WITH THREE CLIFF HOUSE FAVORITES

Wine Lovers' Tuesday

Every Tuesday bottled wines are half price* all day with purchase of an entrée!

The Bistro Wednesday Night Prix Fixe

Three courses for \$28.00 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm Begins January 7, 2015

Live Jazz in the Balcony Lounge

Every Friday night from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Visit cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html for more information.

Valet parking every night after 5:00 pm.

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



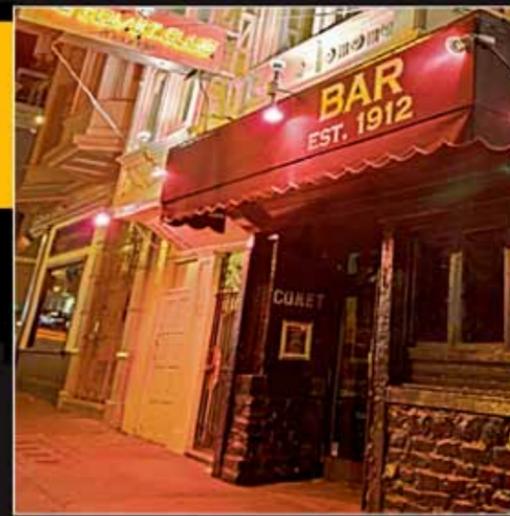
1090 Point Lobos
415-386-3330
www.CliffHouse.com



COMET CLUB

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

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



3111 Fillmore St. San Francisco 94123

415-567-5589

**FREDERICKSEN
HARDWARE & PAINT**

A GENERAL STORE
Since 1896

San Francisco, CA 94123
415.292.2950

Debussy, Dvořák, and Don Giovanni in our own backyard

AT THE PRESIDIO'S VENERABLE and historic Golden Gate Club, a noteworthy — albeit somewhat under-the-artistic-radar-screen — concerts series celebrates its tenth year of classical music productions. **Concerts at the Presidio** was launched in 2005 at this storied venue situated just off the Main Post by Bryant McOmber, regional vice president at Pacific Union Christie's International Real Estate's flagship Presidio office. McOmber sought to produce high quality classical music concerts and make them accessible to the public as well as to provide performance opportunities

for young musicians and singers, believing that these talents are often under appreciated in today's environment.

This artistic/community-service impulse aligned well with one of the Presidio Trust's mission state-

ments: to provide significant artistic and cultural amenities to San Francisco and environs. The beneficial collaboration that ensued resulted in a succession of concert pianists, chamber ensembles, classic Broadway repertoire, big band-era reviews, and operatic "reductions." Among the most popular productions of the series have been compact versions of such operas as *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Don Giovanni* and *Die Fledermaus*. Lengthy recitative parts of the operas are replaced with narration, which links the important arias and ensemble pieces. As a result, an otherwise three-and-a-half-hour opera is heard in about 100 minutes.

The last 10 years have brought 100 concerts and over 120 vocal and instrumental musicians to the Golden Gate Club. Over half of the musicians are students

A three-and-a-half-hour opera is heard in about 100 minutes.



The beautiful Golden Gate Club in the Presidio.

or alumni of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, which McOmber describes as "a reliably extraordinary source of exceptional talent." The conservatory has become an important collaborative resource for Concerts at the Presidio. In addition to SFCM-trained musicians, the concert series has hosted singers who have performed with such impressive companies as the Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the Chicago Lyric Opera, English National Opera, Opera San Jose, and others.

To celebrate the group's 10-year anniversary, a concert of operatic favorites and Broadway show tunes is planned featuring the return of Grammy Award-winning tenor Thomas Glenn (Metropolitan Opera), baritone Eugene Brancoveanu (San Francisco Opera), and lyric sopranos Jennie Litster (Opera San Jose), and Erin McOmber (Utah Ensemble Opera).

Concerts at the Presidio's 10-Year Anniversary Gala: Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop, the Presidio; Jan. 14-15, 7:30 p.m., \$15, reservations at 415-447-6274.

A portrait of Neal Cassady rediscovered

by sharon anderson

IN DECEMBER 1950, NEAL CASSADY wrote a letter to his friend Jack Kerouac. Like a message in a bottle, these pieces of paper traveled, lost in time, only to resurface years later in a group of discarded poems.

Cassady famously inspired the character Dean Moriarty, Jack Kerouac's protagonist in his classic Beat novel *On the Road*. Though Cassady is commonly viewed as the muse of the Beat Generation, the re-emergence of this 18-page, single-spaced typed letter is further evidence of Cassady the gifted writer. Jean Spinosa discovered the letter, known as the "Joan Anderson letter" (named after Cassady's girlfriend who is referenced in the correspondence), in her father's belongings, which included discarded publishing submissions from the Golden Goose Press, with which he had shared an office.

Jerry Cimino of the Beat Museum in San Francisco said, "This is the greatest find in the history of the Beat Generation. This is even more important than Jack Kerouac's original scroll version of *On the Road* that sold



Jean Spinosa and Jerry Cimino in front of items from The Golden Goose Press, including Neal Cassady's "Joan Anderson Letter" (left foreground), which were to be auctioned last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE BEAT MUSEUM

at auction for \$2.4 million in 2001. This is the letter that caused Jack Kerouac to shift his writing style from a rather staid, Thomas Wolfean style of writing to what Kerouac called 'bop spontaneous prose,' which he used for *On the Road*."

Cassady died when he was just 41, cementing his place in the counterculture of the 1950s and '60s. His early death seemed to reinforce his legend as muse. Poet and publisher Charles Plymell lived with Cassady on Gough Street in San Francisco in the early '60s and recognized

his enormous talent and his somewhat tense relationship with his identity as a Beat legend. "No wonder he had an underlying hostility for being the 'errand boy' for the famous names who had no story but him. All of whom could not hold a candle to this writing, which is not a Benzedrine rush as much as an accomplished prose of a great writer," said Plymell.

Cassady's instinctive, feverish writing style as presented in the Joan Anderson letter might help to redefine his place in the world of 20th century literature as a talent extending beyond that footnote to Jack Kerouac's development and as a presence larger than the inspiration behind Dean Moriarty.

The Beat Museum has started a crowdfunding campaign (kerouac.com/lostletter) and hopes to purchase the letter at auction. Spinosa originally planned to auction the Joan Anderson letter last month, but the auction has been called off indefinitely because the Cassady and Kerouac estates are disputing ownership of the document.

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

Step into another time and have yourself a ball

by evalyn baron

SAN FRANCISCO IS RENOWNED for its interesting events, so it's no surprise that another occasion for unique enjoyment is soon upon us: **The 15th Annual Edwardian Ball and Edwardian World's Faire** (Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17). And make no mistake, that's "faire" with an "e," in case it's already not alluring and other-timely enough.

Here's your chance to enter an unusual experiential world, play the role of your choice as a commoner or a royal, a bum, or a baronet, from the British era of 1901

to 1910, and dress up in some awfully wonderful costuming. That is if you can find someone to sew you a "look" or you happen upon a store that sells steampunk fashions and Edwardian corsets and waistcoats. No doubt you can attend both these celebratory events unclothed, but certainly you have more fun if you dress the part.

Described as "an elegant, whimsical spectacle of a madhouse slapdashery of costumery and cocktails, circus and storytelling, ribald music and daring exhibitions that promise to entice and enchant — a feast

for the senses with the style and panache of the turn of the 19th century," and that's saying a mouthful. So expect both evenings to be full of tremendously unusual and stimulating fun.

This year's ball will feature a presentation of *The Beastly Baby*, a macabre story from the pen of the American writer and artist Edward Gorey, whose life and work is honored at every year's ball. *The Beastly Baby* is a short Gorey tale (pun intended) about a particularly unpleasant infant called "it" who is so wicked that it cuts the head off a cat. If the slightly morbid and askew

view of Gorey's imagination and world appeal to your sense of humor, as it does to mine, then this event is definitely for you.

Folks of all ages are welcome, so you can dress your own beastly (or angelic) infant in cunning Edwardian baby clothing and bring him or her along for the festivities. Go enjoy life like the Edwardians did, and waltz your way into the new year. Just remember, wearing a corset makes it hard to breathe, so pace yourself!

15th Annual Edwardian Ball and Edwardian World's Faire: *The Regency Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Avenue; Friday-Saturday, Jan.*



Elegance and whimsy.

PHOTO: NEIL GIRLING / THEBLIGHT.NET

16-17, 8 p.m.; \$38.40-\$95 (faire), \$55-\$100 (ball); 415-673-5716, edwardianball.com

Preview of 2015 films and best 2014 films

by michael snyder

A NEW YEAR CAN MEAN REBIRTH and renewal, although in today's movie business, those words tend to actually mean resuscitation, regeneration, and retreat. The concept of "new" is apparently mutable in Hollywood, as prequels, sequels, and remakes tend to get the studio green light over untested original content. If there were a way that the decision makers in the entertainment sector were compelled to make New Year's resolutions, I'd hope they would take more chances, foster previously unheard voices, and vow to go beyond the need for proof-of-concept over fresh and exciting ideas. But that's wishful thinking.

Unconvinced? In January, we'll see *The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death* and *Taken 3*; in February, *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water* and *Hot Tub Time Machine 2* will show up; in March, expect *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension*, *Insurgent* (the second movie based on the *Divergent* books), and Disney's live action version of *Cinderella*. April means the seventh installment of the *Fast & Furious* series, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*, and on and on and on and on into the year with a new *Avengers* film in May, followed by *Mad Max: Fury Road* (a return to a familiar post-apocalyptic world), *Pitch Perfect 2*, and *ad nauseam*.

All that aside, here is a preview

of some significant or promising feature films on the horizon for 2015. In selecting the titles to tout, I kept it to the first third of the year. Movies are postponed, and release dates change. And keep in mind that sometimes the most highly anticipated project will turn out to be a stiff.

2015 CONTENDERS

The earlier part of the year will see wide release for a few highly regarded Oscar contenders that received awards-qualifying runs in Los Angeles and/or New York in December to assure 2014 eligibility.

They include *Selma* (Jan. 9), the stirring docudrama concerning Martin Luther King's conflict-fraught leadership of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, fueled by a vivid, multifaceted performance by David Oyelowo as King; *American Sniper* (Jan. 16), director Clint Eastwood's tense evocation of the struggles and dangers faced by a real-life Navy SEAL marksman in a Middle Eastern war zone and how it impacts his life back home; and *Mommy* (Jan. 23), the painfully intimate story of a heedless, self-centered single mother's dysfunctional relationship with her emotionally stunted, willfully destructive teenage son from French-Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan.

STAR POWER

Familiar screen stars — rising, falling, and everywhere in-between — will be well-represented (for better or worse) by the premieres of the aforementioned *Taken 3* (Jan. 9), with Liam Neeson reprising his vengeful black-ops character in another rescue/revenge mission; *Vice* (Jan. 16), a sci-fi action film featuring Bruce Willis in a lead role; *The Boy Next Door* (Jan. 23), a psychological thriller headlined by Jennifer Lopez; *Mortdecai* (Jan. 23), an action comedy with an impressive cast led by Johnny Depp, Ewan McGregor, and Gwyneth Paltrow; *Black or White* (Jan. 30), a drama of racial and familial conflict anchored by Kevin Costner; *Seventh Son* (Feb. 6), a fantastical,

mystical adventure that includes turns by Julianne Moore and Jeff Bridges; *Focus* (Feb. 27), a mix of romance and criminal chicanery revolving around a con artist played by Will Smith; and *Serena* (March 27), reteaming *Silver Linings Playbook* leads Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence in a turbulent period drama of empire building that gets started in the late 1920s.

AUTEURS

Big-name directors (in addition to Eastwood) are on the docket as well with Michael Mann's *Blackhat* (Jan. 16), an inter-



Hollywood will be rolling out the spectacles, like *Jupiter Ascending* due out in February. PHOTO: © VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES

national cyber-crime caper flick; Barry Levinson's *The Humbling* (Jan. 23), based on a Philip Roth novel about an aging actor (Al Pacino) facing a personal crisis; David Cronenberg's *Maps to the Stars* (Feb. 27), a dark-hued ensemble drama set in Los Angeles with John Cusack and Julianne Moore among the players; Ron Howard's *In the Heart of the Sea* (March 13), a fact-based oceanic adventure about an imperiled whaling ship in 1820; and Kenneth Branagh's *Cinderella* (March 13), the classic fairy-tale once again, given a new coat of paint and some sure-to-be-palpable bad vibes courtesy of Cate Blanchett as the wicked stepmother.

FREAKY AND FUN

And those looking for the amazing and otherworldly can anticipate *Jupiter Ascending* (Feb. 6), an intergalactic odyssey with Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, and Eddie Redmayne, created by Andy and Lana Wachowski of *The Matrix* fame; *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (Feb. 13), from director Matthew Vaughn (*X-Men: First Class*, *Kickass*), an over-the-top romp into the world of espionage starring Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Caine, and Colin Firth, based on the comic book series about a street kid recruited to be a superspy by a global peacekeeping agency; *Chappie* (March 6), a science-fictional look at the growth and development of a sentient robot with free will and emotions, directed by Neill Blomkamp of *District 9* fame, with Hugh Jackman and Sigourney Weaver; *Goosebumps* (April 15), a family-friendly metatextual diversion inspired by the monster-populated kid-oriented book series by author R. L. Stine, with Jack Black as a fic-

tional version of Stine; *The Age of Adaline* (April 24), with Blake Lively and Harrison Ford in the strange and possibly poignant tale of a woman who appears a youthful 29 years old for almost eight decades.

Yes, there will be animated romps, unexpectedly accomplished indie features, stunning foreign-language offerings, must-see documentaries, and best-seller adaptations (*Fifty Shades of Grey* is on the way) — although there's no room to list all of them here. When it comes down to it, you pay your money, and you take your choice.

MICHAEL'S FINE FIFTEEN FILMS OF 2014

(listed in alphabetical order)

- A Most Violent Year*
- Big Eyes*
- Big Hero 6*
- Birdman*
- Boyhood*
- Citizenfour*
- Convergence*
- Foxcatcher*
- Guardians of the Galaxy*
- Mommy*
- Nightcrawler*
- Selma*
- The Imitation Game*
- The Two Faces of January*
- Whiplash*

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

Cate Blanchett provides some sure-to-be-palpable bad vibes.

THE BEST OF BOOKS

What you're reading

compiled by brian pettus

BOOKS INC. BEST-SELLER LIST

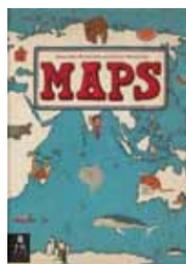
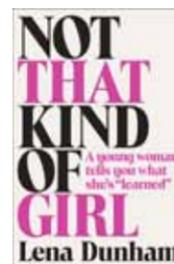
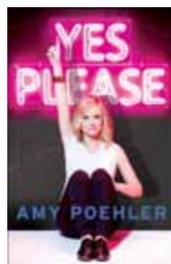
1. *Yes Please*, by Amy Poehler (hardcover)
2. *Panorama: Tales from San Francisco's 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition*, by Lee Bruno (hardcover)
3. *Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's "Learned,"* by Lena Dunham (hardcover)
4. *The Princess in Black*, by Shannon Hale (hardcover)
5. *Maps*, by Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski (hardcover)
6. *Santa Is Coming to San Francisco*, by Steve Smallman (hardcover)
7. *Gray Mountain: A Novel*, by John Grisham (hardcover)

8. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, by Dr. Seuss (hardcover)
9. *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg (hardcover)
10. *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, by Anthony Doerr (hardcover)

NEW TITLES TO LOOK FOR IN 2015

Note: publication dates are subject to change

Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances, by Neil Gaiman (Feb. 3): Gaiman's first collection of short fiction since *Fragile Things* in 2006, this includes an all-new story set in the universe of "American Gods," which won Gaiman the Hugo and Nebula awards. Fans already



have this on order; if you don't know Gaiman, do yourself a favor and pick this up for an amazing read.

Buried Giant: A Novel, by Kazuo Ishiguro (March 5): The first novel by Booker prize-winning author Ishiguro (*Remains of the Day*, *Never Let Me Go*) in more than a decade, this is a tragic tale of love and loss in a war-torn land. Compelling characters combine with Ishiguro's gift for contemplative writing to make this a great pick for book lovers.

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania, by Erik Larson

(March 10): Erik Larson revitalized popular history writing with his *Devil in the White City*, which read like a novel while telling an impressive amount of history. He returns in 2015 with *Dead Wake*, marking the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania* with this richly told book. Don't miss it.

The Penderwicks in Spring, by Jeanne Birdsall (March 24): Another March release, Jeanne Birdsall returns to the wonderful world of the Penderwick family and their adventures. Charming

and serious in turn, the Penderwick books have created a new classic for children ages 8 to 80.

The Water Knife: A Novel, by Paolo Bacigalupi (May 26): Another of Bacigalupi's gripping near-future tales, this one deals with "the water knives," assassins and enforcers of Las Vegas's water supply in a parched future. When a new source of water is rumored, one is sent to investigate. Mayhem ensues. Great for adults young and old.

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

JANUARY EVENTS

what not to miss this month

MAJOR EVENTS



Shen Yun Performing Arts

Thu–Sun, Jan. 8–11

War Memorial Opera House

Don't miss this spectacular colorful and exhilarating performance of classical Chinese dance and music. \$60–\$280, 888-633-6999, shenyun.com

FOG Design+Art Fair

Preview Gala: Wednesday, Jan. 14

Thu–Sun, Jan. 15–18, 11 a.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

This fair features prominent 20th-century and contemporary design dealers from the Bay Area and across the country; a selection of leading modern and contemporary art galleries; and 21POP, a special pop-up shop created by celebrated designer Stanlee Gatti; plus a sit-down restaurant by the award-winning chefs Michael and Lindsay Tusk of Cotogna and Quince. Proceeds benefit SFMOMA. Fair: \$15–\$20, Gala: \$150 & up, 415-551-5190, fogfair.com

2015 Zinfandel Experience

Thu–Sat, Jan. 28–31

Four Season Hotel & the Presidio

This one-of-a-kind event is the largest single varietal tasting of its kind, bringing together renowned Zinfandel producers and the enthusiasts. Experience food pairings, flights, a winemakers' dinner, tastings, sales, gourmet food trucks, and more. \$80–\$295, zinfandelexperience.com

S.F. Ballet 2015 Opening Night Gala: Infinite Romance

Thursday, Jan. 22

City Hall & War Memorial Opera House

Start with an elegant cocktail reception and dinner at City Hall, then head to the Opera House for free prosecco followed by a performance that celebrates the ballet's love affair with the Bay Area, then head back to City Hall for an after party and mingle with ballet dancers while enjoying live music, dancing, complimentary cocktails, refreshments, and desserts. \$155–\$1,250, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org



14th Annual Sketchfest

Daily (except Feb. 1), Jan. 22–Feb. 8
Various S.F. venues

This nationally recognized comedy festival that mixes hundreds of national headliners, local favorites, and the best up-and-coming groups from throughout North America for a month of sketch, improv, stand-up, and alternative comedy. \$10–\$50, sfsketchfest.com

LAST CHANCE

Promises, Promises

Tue–Sun thru Jan. 10

Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)

Infused with the swinging energy of 1968 Manhattan, this musical is based on Neil Simon's book and features Burt Bacharach's music as it follows the tale of a lovelorn young executive and a romantically troubled waitress. \$20–\$125

The Lost Notebook: Secrets of Disney's Movie Magic

Wed–Mon thru Jan. 12, 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

Walt Disney Family Museum

Learn about the special-effects wizardry behind Fantasia, Pinocchio, Dumbo, and Bambi, which was found in the covert scrapbooks of Herman Schultheis, a technician who worked at The Walt Disney Studios in the late 1930s. \$20, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

La Cocina: The Culinary Treasures of Rosa Covarrubias

Wed–Sun thru Jan. 18, noon–4 p.m.

The Mexican Museum, Fort Mason Center

On display are vintage photographs and an immense collection of more than 2,500 paintings, ceramics, folk art, and personal photos. Free, 415-202-9700, mexicanmuseum.org



Cirque du Soleil: Kurios — Cabinet of Curiosities

Tue–Sun thru Jan. 18

Grand Chapiteau, AT&T Park (74 Mission Rock St.)

Step into the curio cabinet of an ambitious inventor who defies the laws of time, space and dimension to reinvent everything around him. Suddenly, the visible becomes invisible, perspectives are transformed, and the world is literally turned upside down in a place that's as beautiful as it is mysterious. \$65–\$180, cirquedusoleil.com

Roads of Arabia: Archaeology and History in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Tue–Sun thru Jan. 18, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Asian Art Museum

This exhibition features over 200 objects ranging from one-million-year-old stone tools to 17th-century gilded doors from the Ka'ba, Islam's holiest sanctuary uncovered in the past 40 years and transforming our understanding of the region. Free–\$12, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Houghton Hall: Portrait Of An English Country House

Tue–Sun thru Jan. 18, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

Legion of Honor

This exhibition re-creates some of the interiors of the 18th century home of England's first prime minister, along with other rarely exhibited treasures and furniture. \$15–\$18, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

COMMUNITY CORNER



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 21

Several S.F. locations

Commemorate MLK day in these family-friendly events to help grow and restore cherished natural parklands. Registration required; visit website to sign up for project details as they become available. Free, 415-561-3077, volunteer@parks-conservancy.org, parksconservancy.gov

Personal Readiness for a Resilient Community

Thursday, Jan. 29, 6–8:30 p.m.

S.F. Jewish Community Center (3200 California St.)

Be prepared for emergencies big or small, and get to know your neighbors on your block to maximize resiliency after a disaster. Free, enroll at 415-970-2024, sf-fire.org, or eventbrite.com

GALAS & BENEFITS

Night Out in North Beach Party

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6–9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

Enjoy snacks from Original Joe's, Park Tavern, Tony's Pizza, Don Pisto's, and Mama's plus samplings of local beer and wine, music by GG Amos, and a silent auction. Proceeds support renovation of the Joe DiMaggio Playground (commemorative tiles available). \$60, 415-308-9019, dimaggioplayground.org

5th Annual the Science of Cocktails

Friday, Jan. 30, 9 p.m.–midnight

Exploratorium (Pier 15)

Enjoy an evening that mixes the artistry of craft cocktails with the science behind the beverage by taking an in-depth, hands-on look at the physics, chemistry, and biology of cocktails, and explore your favorite libations in ways you've never experienced before. Proceeds benefit the Exploratorium's education programs. \$120, 415-528-4444, cocktails.exploratorium.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Art About Place: For-Site Foundation at the Presidio

Thu–Sun thru March 8, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Presidio Trust Gallery (103 Montgomery St.)

This exhibition looks back at six years of artistic collaborations with the Golden Gate National Recreational Area in partnership with the Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the National Parks Service. The For-Site Foundation fosters the creation, understanding, and presentation of art about place. Free, 415-561-5300, presidio.gov

Catherine Richardson, Sandra Russell, J. Nick Taylor

Thu–Sat, Jan. 10–Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Opening reception: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5–7 p.m.

SFMOMA Artists Gallery (Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center)

See works in oil and mixed media by Richardson, abstract painting by Russell, and sculpture from fallen wood by Taylor. All artists are based in Northern California. Free, 415-441-4777, sfmoma.org/artistsgallery

Janet Delaney: South of Market

Tue–Sun, Jan. 17–19, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

M. H. de Young Museum

This Bay Area-relevant exhibition relates the complex history of a changing S.F. neighborhood through a selection of more than 40 photographs from the 1970s and 1980s. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

Embodiments: Masterworks of African Figurative Sculpture

Jan. 31–July 5, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

M. H. de Young Museum

On display will be 120 classical and iconic sculptures spanning several centuries that pay homage to the figure in African art and represent approximately 110 cultural groups. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

THEATER



50 Shades! The Musical Parody

Fri–Sun, Jan. 2–4

Marines' Memorial Theatre

Here's your chance to experience the sexy and hilarious send up of the best-selling novel that has audiences rolling on the floor and dancing in the aisles! \$55–\$85, 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

ACT: Indian Ink

Tue–Sun, Jan. 14–Feb 8

405 Geary St.

This time-travel romance by Tom Stoppard follows Flora, a free-spirited English poet on her travels through India in the 1930s, where her intricate relationship with an Indian artist unfurls against the backdrop of a country seeking its independence. \$20–\$160, act-sf.org, 415-749-2228

Magic Theatre: A Lie of the Mind

Tue–Sun, Jan. 18–Feb 22

Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center

The "Shepharding of America" celebration continues with Sam Shephard's work that the New York Times calls "his richest, most penetrating play." \$20–\$60, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

S.F. Playhouse: Tree

Tue–Sun, Jan. 20–March 7

Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)

In this story of beginnings and endings, betrayal and love, three generations twist and grow in astonishing ways after an unexpected knock at the door turns the family upside down. \$15–\$125, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.com

DANCE

Wendy Whelan: Restless Creatures

Jan. 15–16, 7:30 p.m.

YBCA

The highly acclaimed and recently retired New York City Ballet principal dancer performs a new program, a suite of four duets, created by and performed with four rising choreographers/dancers. \$40–\$60, 415-392-2545, sfperformances.org

D.I.R.T — Dance in Revolt(ing) Times

Fri–Sat, Jan. 23–24 & Jan. 31–Feb 1

Dance Mission (3316, 24th St.)

Three different programs will ask the question, what happens when artists gather in revolt? \$20–\$25, 415-826-4441, dancemission.com

MUSIC



Chamber Music with Members of the S.F. Symphony

Sunday, Jan. 11, 2 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

This program of Mozart, Nikolai Kapustin, Handel/Halvorsen and Dvorák features the majesty and power of a full symphony orchestra distilled down to its most intimate and beautiful elements: chamber music, the music musicians love to play, where every interaction and every audience reaction is magnified in intensity. \$38, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

Vonda Shephard

Fri-Sat, Jan. 16-17, 8 p.m.

Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)

You may know her from the TV's Ally McBeal, but this Grammy- and Emmy-Award winner has sold over 12 million albums and played keyboards and sung with scores of artists from Rickie Lee Jones to Al Jarreau to Chubby Checker. \$35-\$50, 866-777-8932, hotelnikkosf.com/feinsteins.aspx, ticketweb.com

Alexander String Quartet: Mozart Transcendent

Saturday, Jan. 17, 10 a.m.

Miner Auditorium, SFJazz Center

The quartet embarks on its second season of exploring Mozart's Viennese years with four programs through May; this performance features Andrew Duckles, viola, Quartet in D Major, K. 499 "Hoffmeister" and Viola Quintet in C Major, K. 515. *Individual programs \$25-\$55; series \$120-\$200, 415-398-6444, sfperformances.org*



Patti Smith

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 9 p.m.

The Fillmore

The author, musician, artist, and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee performs with her band. \$39.50, 800-745-3000, thefillmore.com

Chris Botti

Thu-Sun, Jan. 22-25

SFJazz (201 Franklin St.)

Don't miss this trumpet superstar and the world's top-selling jazz instrumentalist who has collaborated with everyone from Yo-Yo Ma and Herbie Hancock to Paul Simon and Sting. \$50-\$120, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org



Spandau Ballet

Friday, Jan. 23, 9 p.m.

The Warfield (982 Market St.)

In their first North American tour in 30 years, the group performs a collection of their synth pop and dance music from their six multi-platinum albums and 23 singles. \$42.50, 415-345-0900, thewarfieldtheatre.com

NIGHTLIFE

Designer DeeJays

Fridays, 10 p.m.

Circa (2001 Chestnut at Fillmore)

Get your weekend started with a bang. Free, 415-351-0175, circasf.com

The New Deal

Fri-Sat, Jan. 16-17, 9 p.m.

The Independent (628 Divisadero)

The Toronto-born band hot in the Jam scene with a range that includes electro house, trance, drum and bass, and more. \$25, 415-771-1421, theindependentsf.com

Pride & Joy

Friday, Jan. 23, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

Featuring Motown sounds of the 1970s-90s, Pride and Joy has an electrifying high-energy show that energizes audiences. \$25, 415-474-0365, bimbos365club.com

FILM & LECTURES



Steven Brill

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (595 Market St.)

He's one of the most outspoken voices in the world of journalism; meet the man who is now explaining what's wrong with the U.S. health-care system. \$7-\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Noir City 13: To Death Do Us Part

Daily, Jan. 16-25

Castro Theatre (429 Castro St.)

From a world premiere of the 35mm restored 1950 film *Woman on the Run* to the closing night double feature of *Seconds* and *The Honeymoon Killers*, view a killer lineup of noir classics. \$12 (double feature), noircity.com

19th Berlin & Beyond Film Festival

Daily, Jan. 29-Feb. 1

Castro Theatre (429 Castro St.)

The best German-language films from around the world will once again light up the Castro. *Contact for prices, goethe.de, castrotheatre.com*

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Biotech Showcase 2015

Mon-Wed, Jan. 12-14

Parc 55 Wyndam San Francisco (Union Square)

Investors and partners in the Bay Area's booming biotech industries meet to set the stage for the coming year. \$1,550-\$1,750, ebdgroup.com

Propagation and Transplanting at Sutro Nursery

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

3Get your clothes dirty and help tend the plant life — tools and instructions provided. *Free admission and parking, 415-665-1077, sutrostewards.org*

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.

Fairmont Hotel (Gold Room)

The chair of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change talks about climate skeptics, politics, and the state of the planet. \$10-\$35, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org



Magnificent Magnolia Tour

Saturday, Jan. 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

S.F. Botanical Garden

View over 100 rare and historic magnolias at this floral spectacle as dazzling pink and white blooms burst into bloom with their sweet fragrance. \$20, 415-661-1316, sfbotanicalgarden.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Good Food Awards

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Marketplace: Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ferry Building

Meet the Good Food Award winners from across the country that push their industries toward craftsmanship and sustainability while enhancing the agricultural landscape and building strong communities. Sample and take home their winning cheeses, chocolates, coffees, pickles preserves, and more. \$5, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

S.F. Restaurant Week

Daily, Jan. 21-30

Various S.F. restaurants

Dine at over 100 restaurants offering \$25 two-course lunches, \$40 three-course dinners, and an \$85 "Discovery Menu" highlighting the chef's creativity, farm/wine relationships, and new dishes/cocktails. 415-781-5348, sfrestaurantweek.com



Bay Area Brew Festival 2015

Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-5 p.m. & 6-9 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

This festival features dozens of international and domestic beer and the city's best food trucks (food sold separately). \$40, bayareabrewfestival.com

CHILD'S PLAY

Otto Seibold and Mr. Lunch

Thu-Tue thru March 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thursdays until 8 p.m.)

The Contemporary Jewish Museum (736 Mission St.)

East Bay native J. Otto Seibold is one of America's most beloved and influential authors of children's books; his *Mr. Lunch* books (written with Vivian Walsh) are the first children's books designed using computer software. Along with original artwork, the exhibition will include interactive areas for children designed by Seibold with new content relating to *Mr. Lunch*. \$5-\$12, 415-655-7800, thecjm.org



Hot Chocolate 15/5k

Sunday, Jan. 11, 7:30am

Golden Gate Park

The 2nd Annual Hot Chocolate Run includes both a 15k and a 5k run. Once you complete the run, you can enjoy yummy, delicious hot chocolate. \$49-\$74, hotchocolate15k.com

Very First Concert: Bang on a Pan

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m., 2:45 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Tunes for tots! These delightful mini concerts for toddlers presented by members of the S.F. Chamber Orchestra teach musical concepts, offer hands-on activities, and encourage lots of movement and dancing. Free, 415-692-3367, thesfco.org

MLK Day March and Festival

Monday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m.

Yerba Buena Gardens & YBCA

Visit the gardens and surrounding museums for a full day of remembrance and activities. Program includes the annual march/parade, MLK Dream address and program, a children's reading festival, and more. Free, including admission to area museums, 415-691-6212, sfmlkfoundation.org

SPORTS & HEALTH



Nutrition and Healthy Choices

Mondays thru January, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learning Studio, S.F. Main Library

This four-week course will cover alternatives to soda and sugary beverages, the danger of fast food, eating in moderation, and diet and exercise. Free, 415-931-8679, sfpl.org

Meditation

Wednesdays thru January, 12-12:30 p.m.

Gay & Lesbian Cntr., S.F. Main Library

Practice wakefulness and tranquility for 30 minutes, beginning with a Tibetan bell and instructions. Encouraging words are interspersed with periods of silence in a secular approach to an old tradition. 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

Brain Fitness

Monday, Jan. 12 & 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Latino-Hispanic Mtg. Rm., S.F. Main Library

In this very social class, you will exercise your brain in fun, challenging, and creative ways to maintain and improve your cognitive vitality and your memory. Free, 415-931-8679, sfpl.org



Yoga Journal Live

Thu-Mon, Jan. 15-19

Hyatt Regency (5 Embarcadero Cntr.)

If yoga's your thing, this is the place to be with nearly 50 master yoga teachers and presenters who will help you flow your way into the new year. Choose from all-day yoga intensives, a free marketplace, and more. \$85-\$920, 800-561-9398, yjevents.com

JUST FOR FUN



25th Anniversary of the Sea Lions' Arrival

Daily, Jan. 16-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pier 39

Watch these playful pinnipeds as they lounge on K-Dock while entertaining and delighting all. Come check out the new sea lion center or take a seal lion encounter walking tour. Free, 415-262-4734, sealioncenter.org, pier39.com

Candlelight Tour

Saturday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.

Fort Point

See Fort Point by the light of candles and stars on this popular evening tour, which fills up fast, so reserve early. Free, 415-556-1693, 415-561-4323, parksconservancy.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

2015 PREVIEW art to watch out for

ART



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

Tue-Sun, Feb. 20-May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Asian Art Museum

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

Botticelli to Braque: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland

Tue-Sun, March 7-May 15, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

M. H. de Young Museum

Spanning more than 400 years, see works by many of the greatest painters from the Renaissance to the early 20th century, with some never before seen in the United States. \$20-\$24, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

High Style: The Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection

Tue-Sun, March 14-July 19, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.
Legion of Honor

Explore the glamour and sophistication of one of the world's preeminent costume collections, whose fashions worn by American women reflect the nation's tastes and transformations over the course of the 20th century. \$10-\$23, 415-750-3600, famsf.org



J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free

Tue-Sun, June 20-Sept. 20, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

M. H. de Young Museum

One of the greatest British artists of the 19th century, Turner's paintings are revered for their spectacular effects of light and color, and have influenced generations of artists. This exhibition is the first to focus on his later years (1835-50), when he created some of his most iconic works. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

Luminous Worlds: British Works on Paper, 1770-1870

Tue-Sun, July 18-Nov 22, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.
Legion of Honor

Complementing the de Young's Turner painting exhibition, see J. M. W. Turner's drawings, watercolors, and oil sketches, along with those from Gainsborough, Blake, Constable, and others. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org



Jewel City: Art from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Tue-Sun, Oct. 17-Jan. 10, 2016, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

M. H. de Young Museum

Coinciding with the 100-year anniversary of the Pan-Pacific Exhibition, this exhibition will feature works representing a cross section of the original exhibition with artists Sargent, Whistler, Homer, Monet, Pissarro, Rodin, and many more. \$10, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

S.F. Opera: The Trojans

Various days, June 7-July 1

War Memorial Opera House

This rarely staged epic is presented for the first time in 45 years the way it was originally meant to be seen — two of Berlioz's visionary masterpieces in one evening: The Fall of Troy and The Trojans at Carthage. \$32-\$480, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com



S.F. Symphony: Beethoven Festival

Wed-Sat, June 10-13 & 17-20

Thu-Sun, June 25-28

Davies Symphony Hall

A month of Beethoven will feature *Missa solemnis*, the Pastoral Symphony, the Fifth Symphony, and a Beethoven marathon, which re-creates an 1808 Viennese concert that featured the Fourth Piano Concerto, the Choral Fantasy, and the Fifth and Sixth Symphonies. \$36-\$163, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

JAZZ



New Frequencies Fest: Jazz@YBCA

Thu-Sat, Feb. 5-7

YBCA & other Bay Area venues

Dedicated to present jazz while paying homage to the legacy of visionary artists of the 1960s and '70s, this festival will feature Guggenheim Fellow Henry Threadgill, Jason Moran, Curtis Macdonald, and dozens more, as well as a variety of other programming. \$15-\$40, 415-978-2787, ypca.org

John Zipperer: *Tim Draper's Six Californias plan failed to qualify for the ballot. What happened?*

Larry Gerston: *He spent about \$5 million. Put aside the merit [of the proposition] for a second. There is no reason when you're spending that kind of money that you don't qualify for the ballot. Somebody walked away with a big smile, a big bag of money, and Tim Draper is looking kind of silly.*

Josh Richman: *I hope he gets much better advice next time. I covered one of his press conferences. I [couldn't] decide if this is on the level or if this is some intricately planned and very expensive satire on the ballot measure process. It became clear that he is serious.*

Live political roundtable with the Bay Area's experts

JOE GAROFOLI • JOSH RICHMAN • CARLA MARINUCCI • DR. LARRY GERSTON
BILL WHALEN • DEBRA J. SAUNDERS • MARTIN G. REYNOLDS • MOLLIE REILLY
MELISSA GRIFFIN CAEN • DR. TAMMY FRISBY • C.W. NEVIUS • & MANY MORE

NEXT WEEK TO WEEK: January 14, 6:30 p.m.



The Commonwealth Club
putting you face-to-face with today's thought leaders
www.commonwealthclub.org

City and County of San Francisco December 2014 Monthly

Stay Connected To the City through SF311

The SF311 Customer Service Center is the single stop for residents to get information on government services and report problems to the City and County of San Francisco. And now, we have even more ways for you to stay connected to the City with our SF311 App and SF311 Explorer website.

The SF311 App lets you get information on City services and submit service requests on-the-go right from your smartphone. You can track your service requests through the app or through our new website, SF311 Explorer.

SF311 Explorer not only lets you check the status of your own requests, it enables you to see what issues are being reported throughout all of San Francisco and what the City is doing to resolve them.

Download the SF311 App from your smartphone's app store and visit the SF311 Explorer at explore311.sfgov.org today!

Department of Elections

Coming in 2015: San Francisco Election Materials in Four Languages. Choose to vote in English, Chinese, Spanish, or Filipino!

Beginning with the November 3, 2015, Municipal Election, San Francisco ballots, the Voter Information Pamphlet, and other elections materials will be available in Filipino, in addition to English, Chinese, and Spanish. The City has recently certified Filipino (Tagalog) as the third language required under the San Francisco Language Access Ordinance, in addition to Chinese and Spanish. If you are a San Francisco voter and want election materials in a language in addition to English, please update your language preference at selections.org/language.

Healthy Foods and WIC Nutrition Services at No Cost To You

Eating well during pregnancy is important. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program can help. WIC serves pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children under five years old who meet 185% or below of the federal poverty income level. WIC benefits include nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, checks to buy-healthy foods (such as fresh fruits and vegetables) and referrals to low cost or free health care and other community services.

Enrolling in WIC early in your pregnancy will give your baby a healthy start. Also, WIC staff can show you how you and your family can eat healthier meals and snacks. Migrants are welcome to apply as well.

San Francisco WIC has six offices throughout the City. For more information, call (415) 575-5788.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings January and February 2015

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action.
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., City Hall Chamber, Room 250.

- January 8 (43rd Inaugural Meeting)
- January 13
- January 27
- February 3
- February 10
- February 24

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions

CNS#2699567

**Concerts at the Presidio:
Big Band Extravaganza**

Wed–Thu, March 18–19

Golden Gate Club (135 Fisher Loop, the Presidio)
Hear a nightclub chanteuse, big-band crooner, and the “Andrew Sisters” perform 1930s–50s Hit Parade favorites backed by the six-piece Presidio Jazz Band. \$15, reservations recommended, 415-447-6274



Charles Lloyd

Thu–Sun, April 23–26
SFJazz (201 Franklin St.)

In residency, the jazz legend will present three programs: Wild Man Dance Suite, written for American and Greek musicians; New Quartet, his working all-star ensemble; and a fellowship with his favorite musical partners, Friends with Bill Frisell, guitar luminary. \$25–\$65, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

**CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC**

Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band

Friday, March 13, 8 p.m.

The Masonic

The former Beatle performs with Toto's Steve Lukather, Mr. Mister's Richard Page, original Santana singer Gregg Rolie, instrumentalist-songwriter Todd Rundgren, drummer Gregg Bissonette, and vocalist-saxophonist-flutist Warren Ham. \$79–\$459.80, 800-745-3000, livenation.com

Fleetwood Mac: on with The Show

Tuesday, April 7, 8 p.m.

Oracle Arena

Christine McVie has rejoined the band on their world tour, making it the first time in nearly 20 years the band has toured together. \$118.40–\$449.90, ticketmaster.com



Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga

Thursday, May 28, 8 p.m.

Concord Pavilion

This unlikely generation-spanning duo will perform standards from their recently released album, Cheek to Cheek. \$49.50–\$74.20, 800-745-3000, livenation.com

The Who: The Who Hits 50!

Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Oracle Arena

One of rock's most legendary and defining bands, the Who celebrates their 50-year legacy tour. Joan Jett & the Blackhearts also perform. \$61.85–\$175.95, 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com

THEATER



ACT: A Little Night Music

Tue–Sun, May 20–June 14

405 Geary St.

Stephen Sondheim's most rapturous and seductive musical tells a tale of lost love and scandalous infidelity in 1900's Sweden. \$20–\$120, act-sf.org, 415-749-2228



Phantom of the Opera

Aug. 9–Oct. 4

SHN Orpheum Theatre (1192 Market St.)

Following an acclaimed sold-out U.K. tour, critics say this new production is “bigger and better than ever before.” pricing TBD, 888-746-1899, shnsf.com

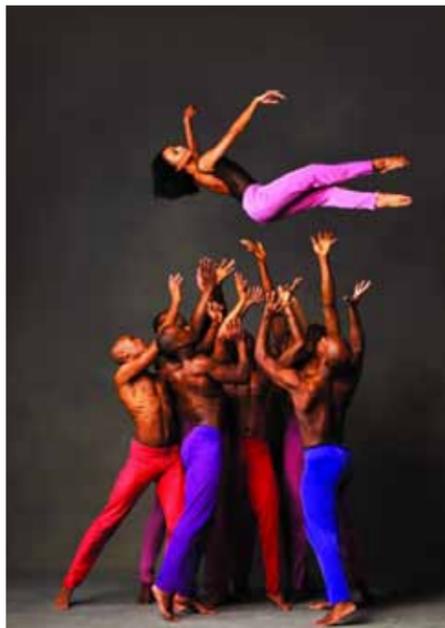
DANCE

S.F. Ballet: 2015 Season

Jan. 27–May 10

War Memorial Opera House

Programming includes Giselle (Jan. 29–Feb. 10), Don Quixote (Mar. 20–29), and Romeo & Juliet (May 1–10). \$22–\$365, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Tue–Sun, April 21–26

Zellerbach Hall (UC Berkeley)

The famed company, which conveys the American cultural experience through masterpieces like Revelations, returns for its annual residency. \$40–\$96, 510-642-9988, calperformances.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO



Jennie Litster



Thomas Glenn



Erin McOmber

**TEN-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY GALA!**

Four virtuosic singers raise their voices to mark **Concerts at the Presidio's** tenth year of bringing music to the historic Golden Gate Club. In a fitting and festive tribute to the **one hundred** performances launched from its stage, lyric sopranos **Jennie Litster** and **Erin McOmber**, tenor **Thomas Glenn** and baritone **Eugene Brancoveanu** present a potpourri of favorites from both the opera house and the Broadway stage: *Tosca*, *Porgy and Bess*, *La bohème*, *South Pacific*, *Rigoletto*, *Candide*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and more. **James Welch** accompanies. Come celebrate with us!



Eugene Brancoveanu



7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, January 14 and 15, 2015

at the historic Golden Gate Club
135 Fisher Loop, Presidio of San Francisco
(intersection of Sheridan and Infantry Terrace)

\$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$5 Children

Limited seating. Reservations recommended

Call (415) 447-6274

“IT’S HER FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE...”

I’d be in tears right now, but I know how much it would embarrass her.

Twenty years ago, I got MY degree at City College of San Francisco. The skills I learned gave me the opportunity to make a better life for myself and my family. Today, she’s taking the first step toward her degree in architecture, and I know all of my hard work was worth it.

I’m so proud of my daughter. And with City College, I know her future is unlimited.”

Standing Strong, Moving Forward.

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Just head over to CCSF.edu to get started at City College this semester.

Relieve Pain and Unlock your Body's Potential with Massage

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

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

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



Clinically Oriented Massage Therapy
Book an appointment today:
www.oxygenmassagetherapy.com
(415) 738-7708
1905 Union St at Laguna.
By appointment only

tablehopper™

A weekly insider e-column packed with SF restaurant and bar news, reviews, and culinary happenings.

Subscribe (for free!)
at tablehopper.com

well read = well fed

Alfred's

STEAKHOUSE

Since 1928



659 Merchant Street (off Kearny)
www.alfredsteakhouse.com • 415.781.7058

Complimentary 3-Hour Self-Parking at the Hilton Hotel's Public Parking Garage With Dinner Purchase (entrance on Washington past Montgomery)

FITNESS FIRST :: Planking that's good for you



The plank position is one of the best bodyweight training exercises to work the abs, shoulders, and legs. PHOTO: AMY PLEVIN

Fitness trends for 2015: Bodyweight training tops the list

by julie mitchell

WITH THE START of the new year, many of us have resolved to make fitness a priority. And whether we are longtime gym rats or just starting a new wellness regime, the array of workouts can be overwhelming. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has published its annual survey of more than 3,400 health and fitness professionals worldwide to guide us in the top fitness trends for 2015.

Bodyweight training is the next big trend according to the survey. Anyone can do it because it uses minimal or no equipment and focuses on basic exercises such as push-ups, lunges and squats, mountain climbers, and planks. According to New York-based trainer and fitness instructor Jason Tran, quoted on the Well+Good website, bodyweight training "is a full-body workout that can be done anywhere, using no equipment. It's also very efficient — it's highly effective in burning calories, increasing your metabolism, and building strength and endurance." Tran's 15-minute workout includes squats, mountain climbers, plank jacks (holding a plank position while you jump your feet apart and then back together like a jumping jack), lateral lunges, and burpees (formerly known as squat thrusts). Bodyweight training can be done alone or with help from a personal trainer, and is often incorporated into group fitness classes.

High-intensity interval training (HIIT), last year's most popular fitness trend, comes in second on the list. HIIT involves alternating short, intense bursts of exercise with short periods of recovery. Gym-goers have really taken to these workouts because they can be done in as little as 20–30

minutes and incorporate both aerobic intervals as well as strength training. HIIT workouts often use many of the same moves as bodyweight workouts but include weights or other equipment. One form of a HIIT workout can include Tabata training where you complete a 20-second burst of intense activity like a sprint on a stationary bike, followed by a plank or squat, followed by a 10-second rest with the goal of completing eight rounds.

Circuit training, which is similar to high-intensity interval training but done at a lower intensity, has moved up in popularity. This type of workout consists of completing a set of 6 to 10 exercises one after the other in a predetermined sequence. Each exercise is performed for a specific number of repetitions or for a set length of time before taking a quick break and moving on to the next one.

Strength training, whether with machines or free weights, is still very much a part of the fitness landscape. Most fitness experts recommend including strength training as part of a fitness program for all physical activity levels, ages, and genders (unless you are injured). The other key components of a balanced workout are aerobic and flexibility training.

The ACSM survey also found that more fitness buffs are turning to educated, experienced **personal trainers** for customized workouts. **Group personal training**, where personal trainers train two or three people at once rather than one-on-one training, is another trend for 2015, which makes economic sense both for the trainer and his or her clients.

Yoga, ever popular, is still on the list, including power yoga, Bikram, Kripalu, Kundalini, Hatha, and others, all of which focus on a specific set of postures or poses designed to stretch

and strengthen the body. Some forms of yoga also place a strong emphasis on proper alignment, breathing and meditation.

Fitness programs for older adults are growing in number as Baby Boomers age, and **functional fitness**, or strength training designed to improved balance and the ease of daily living — such as lifting free weights from the floor with bent knees as you might lift a heavy grocery bag or grandchild — is tied into this trend.

While **core training**, or moves that strengthen and condition abdominal and back muscles, has moved down on the list, most trainers believe that a strong core is critical to any workout or physical activity that requires strength, agility, and speed, including running and HIIT workouts. Exercising the core includes working the hips, lower back and abs, such as crunches, planks, and using weights, and helps to improve the overall stability of the trunk. Core training often uses equipment such as exercise balls, BOSU balls, and wobble boards.

If you're not a gymgoer, **outdoor activities** rank high, including everything from hiking and running to kayaking and boot-camp classes.

And, in addition to boutique studios that specialize in one specific type of workout such as ballet barre training or indoor cycling (spinning), a new trend not mentioned in the survey but gaining traction is treadmill training or indoor running. High-intensity treadmill studios devoted to runners are opening across the country, and clubs like Equinox on Union Street offer classes such as Precision Running.

So no matter what your age, interest, or fitness level, make 2015 the year to try a new workout.

E-mail: julie@marinatimes.com

CARING FOR OUR KIDS ∴ Promises to keep

Family resolutions for the new year

by liz farrell

A GOOD FRIEND SAID RECENTLY, “the days are long but the years are short.” I couldn’t agree more, because this is exactly how I feel looking back over 2014. It was an exciting but crazy year for our family, and I can’t wait to see what 2015 brings our way. Looking ahead and setting some resolutions as a family can be a great way to ring in the new year. It can be a time to set goals or talk about bad habits you want to change. As with any goal or resolution, the key is to start small and make sure it is realistic and achievable. Here are a few things you may want to try for 2015:

Stay active: This can be a great family goal and is possible for children of all ages. The key to success here is to make it a priority and make it fun. It can be as simple as playing catch at the park or planning a family bike ride. Hiking is also a great way to stay active. As a family, you can scout out and research hikes together and make a checklist that will help keep you all accountable. Our family decided this year to do a family fun run and work up to a certain mileage. The goal especially for older children can be improving their time or increasing their distance. It is also important to let your children see that exercise is a priority for you. They are much more likely to want to stay fit and active if they see you doing the same.

Less screen time: This is definitely easier said than done but something I am really going to work on in 2015. It seems like some days I am constantly

babysitter when we are out to dinner or need to get something done around the house. Obviously sometimes it is unavoidable, but we also need to encourage our children to draw, read, or create with blocks or Legos. So much of our lives are technology based that going back to the basics of building blocks or paper and crayons can be beneficial.

We have to do a lot of dividing and conquering to make it all happen.

More family time: It is very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life. In our house, we have to do a lot of dividing and conquering to make it all happen — the sports practices, birthday parties, and errands. Just as we schedule and put all those things on the calendar, we are also planning to schedule family time. This could be an afternoon

hike, a family game night, or even playing the question game in the car. It also could be as easy as scheduling a regular family meal. For us, week-night meals are difficult, so we plan a Saturday morning pancake breakfast. It is something we all look forward to and has become a fun family tradition. Giving children an

opportunity to talk about their days or share experiences encourages open communication, which is especially important as your children get older.

Last, we can set resolutions as families, and we can also set some as parents. Mine for the new year is “let it go.” Call it *Frozen* fever but it is a good reminder for daily life.

Don’t sweat the small stuff and try to do it all: Focus on what is important and accept that not everything is perfect all the time. This goes for housework, dealing with the kids, and the general things in day-to-day life that can cause stress and frustration.

So set some resolutions as a family and some for yourself. Make them fun yet simple. Happy New Year!

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



Families everywhere can celebrate the new year and make resolutions to benefit the family. PHOTO: GEORGEANDDANA / FLICKR

I am constantly prying a phone, iPad, or some sort of screen out of their hands.

prying a phone, iPad, or some sort of screen out of everyone’s hands — even my two-year-old’s, I have to admit. So my plan has two parts. The first is to set specific rules on time limits and stick to them. The second part is to lead by example — sometimes we parents have to be reminded to put down our devices as well. We can be an example that every second of down time does not need to be filled up using a screen. It is so easy to use these devices as a



KICKSTART Your New Year

LOSE 3 to 7 POUNDS PER WEEK

DATES: Thursday January [8th] at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday January [13nd] [20th] [27th] at 6:00 p.m.

RSVP and receive a free Body Composition Analysis. Bring a friend and you both receive **25%** off your initial consultation with the Doctor.

Call Discover Health at [415] 732-7029 or learn more at SanFranciscoMedWeightloss.com



Mention this ad and receive

\$2.00-OFF ANY JUICE

(limit one per customer | not valid with any other promotion)



Our juices are 100% Organic Cold-Pressed, Non-Pasturized



Located at 3330 Steiner Street
Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Weekends: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Re-COLE-mend...
Cole Hardware Repair Referral Service

Independent contractors and tradespeople for...

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

Contact us at 415/753-2653 ext. 3 or
 Email: homerepair@colehardware.com

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

Four locations to serve you!

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

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

Excludes sale items, gift cards, special orders, Muni meter cards or parking passes, Clipper. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 1/31/15 sku MT5



Reclaim your space

by julia strzesieski

GETTING ORGANIZED IS A COMMON New Year's resolution. The less space you have, the more creative you need to be, but the more organized your living area, the more spacious it will feel — and having an organized space helps to create an organized, less stressful life. The lack of sufficient closet and cabinet space is often a problem in apartments and older buildings, so creating storage solutions is a challenge familiar to many San Franciscans.

Any empty area in your home is a candidate for storage.

and whatever else you've carried through the door. And then there are the miscellaneous things, which may end up in a miscellaneous drawer — if you are lucky. Design an organizing system for these things, where they naturally accumulate. A well-placed coat rack, shelf, hanging basket, key hook, or bulletin board can make all the difference in locating items when you next need them.

CULL AS YOU GO — AND RECYCLE

If you don't need stuff, get rid of it as soon as you can. Locate a recycle box and mail pocket right inside the front door — and do a quick sort of mail as soon as you bring it into the house. Keep an empty donation bag in your closet, and drop clothing and other items into it as soon as you recognize you've "had it" with them. And donate often!

MAXIMIZE YOUR AREA

Any empty area is a candidate for storage. Take advantage of the high ceilings found in many older buildings. Use decorative wooden brackets to put shelves over doors and windows, or try a long run of shelving about 12" under the ceiling line to display collectibles (don't forget to secure these treasures). Organize stored items by making use of the many available storage trays, bins, boxes, baskets, and more.

CLOSETS

Increase a closet's hanging space by adding an extra rod. Short items like jackets and skirts can be hung above and below. A hanging rod can be easily made: Cut a closet dowel to size, screw eyebolts into the ends and attach chains with S-hooks. Use large S-hooks on the other end of the chain to hang the dowel from the existing rod.

UNDER-BED STORAGE

Make the most of space that too often becomes the black hole in a home. Many boxes, drawers and wheeled containers are designed specifically to fit under beds. If necessary, you can raise your bed a few inches by using ready-made risers or with plumbing parts: a threaded base piece to sit on the floor and short threaded pipes that will hold the caster pin on the bed frame.

DO YOU NEED IT?

If you have trouble letting go of stuff, think of it as "passing it on." You may have friends who would love to take these items off your hands. Or donate them to charity. If you need the money and have time, sort out items of particular value and take to a consignment shop. Do the sorting when you are in a discriminating mood. If you don't have the time or room to sort stuff out, get rid of "pass it on" items as soon as you identify them. The advantage of this is getting these items out of your sight before you change your mind.

IS IT WHERE YOU NEED IT TO BE?

Think systems, big picture. Consider how you use and move through your living space. Do you have things in the most convenient places now? If not, where would you like them to be? Even if there isn't a storage system in that spot now, you might be able to create one.

IS IT CONVENIENT TO GET TO?

Don't organize piecemeal. If it's a closet you need to organize, start by pulling everything out. Sort, purge, and then take a long look at what you are left with, and assess the space. The idea is to retrofit the existing storage space to make it easy to access your possessions. There are a range of organizing and storage products, including flexible shelving systems, storage totes, baskets, clear boxes and drawers, hooks, and much more. If you are so inclined, you can custom build your own shelving, and hang rods, hooks, nets, baskets, and so forth, right where you need them.

REDUCE CLUTTER

Every home has at least one place where clutter accumulates — items you set down when you come into the room — keys, mail, coat, umbrella, backpack,

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

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS TAXES ARE CHANGING

BE IN THE KNOW

www.sfbiztax.org or call 311

Los impuestos a los negocios de SF están cambiando. Entérese!

三藩市商業稅正在改變。了解變化!

Nagbabago ang mga Buwis ng Negosyo sa SF. Alamin Ang Pagbabago!

REAL ESTATE TODAY ∴ Keep a list of tradespeople handy

Rain, rain go away, come again another day...

by carole isaacs

AFTER THREE YEARS OF little rain, the sky opened up in December and the rain came down in what sounded and felt like buckets complete with thunder and lightning.

At 8 a.m. I sat down at my computer to find an e-mail from a remarkably calm new homeowner. He had been up at 5 a.m. to get ready for an early morning flight at SFO, stepped into his bedroom closet, and found it flooded. *Yikes!* The sump pump had failed. My buyer asked my advice on whom he should call to fix the sump pump. I e-mailed back saying that I would get to work on finding someone to help him out.

My first call was to my reliable handyman. It was barely 8 a.m. and, though he immediately answered my call, he told me he was already busy and on the way out the door to fix a roof in Hayward. There was no way he could help today — or even tomorrow. The next call was to a plumber who had solved unpleasant problems for me in the past. The plumber immediately answered and said he already had 10 emergencies lined up for the day and couldn't help. It was barely 8 a.m. I pleaded "Just tell me your next opening." He said he could not help until after 5 p.m., which

sounded fine to me. I made an appointment for my client.

Once the immediate problem was under control, I remembered that in my rush to secure an appointment with a plumber I had forgotten that the buyer had a one-year home insurance policy. Good news: The sump pump was covered. I e-mailed my client to remind him of his home insurance and to tell him to call the insurer immediately. Insurance companies have specific rules about reporting trouble and handling repairs. If their rules are not followed, they will not pay for the claim or will pay at a greatly reduced rate.

It turned out that the insurance company had a list of contractors who must be used. Within a short time an appointment was set up for the next morning. The cost saving was considerable, and my clients decided to go with their insurance company's contractor even though they had to wait.

It would be wonderful if this story ended happily here, but it didn't. The plumber sent by the insurance company advised the seller that his policy only covered sump pumps within the foundation of the home. The problem was with an additional sump pump that was installed outside.

By now every plumber in the Bay Area was busy, and it was

another day and a half later before the first plumber could return to fix the problem. Repairing the sump pump permanently turned out to be bigger than could be handled that day. The plumber would have to return to finish the job the following week to tune up the whole system. My client e-mailed to tell me that with the plumber's help and a few trips to a home builders supply store, the sump pump was working.

To finish up on the sump pump disaster, my client e-mailed to say he had hardwood floor damage and was going to contact his home insurance hoping he could recoup some of the expense in repairing the floor. This sounds like a logical response. However, I cautioned him before he made a claim to ask the insurance company what admittedly sounds like a ridiculous question: Will the company refuse to renew his policy if he makes a claim or greatly increase the yearly premium? Unfortunately this does happen.

With the immediate problem of who would fix the plumbing solved, I thought of the mess that must be in the bedroom closet. Though I knew there are companies that do construction and disaster cleanup, I did not have any in my personal database. Sending out an e-mail to all McGuire real

estate agents netted me two recommendations within five minutes, plus a phone call from a company that had been referred to me by a McGuire agent. The representative of the cleanup company who was calling to offer his service was both joyful and tired at 9 a.m. He told me his phone began ringing at 1 a.m. and he and his crew had been out since early morning fixing various problems caused by the torrential rain.

The December rain was a reminder that we are very lucky to live in a mild climate, but even in San Francisco "nature happens"! Only recently I was commenting that it has been so long since we have had a rainy winter I had forgotten how to dress for a rainy day. Now is the time to take a walk around your home, survey any damage from the winter's rain, and see if there are problems waiting to happen.

There are four lessons to learn from this sump pump failure:

One: Read the fine print on both short- and long-term homeowners' insurance.

Two: Question your home insurance carrier closely before making a claim. Being reimbursed for a small loss may result in a greater loss if the yearly premium is raised, or your insurance is canceled and you have to find a new

carrier who will ask if you ever made a home insurance claim in the past.

Three: Keep a list handy of tradespeople who can help with household emergencies. A plumber, an electrician, and a reliable handyman on whom you can call in an emergency will go a long way toward helping you calmly solve household problems. Even an unfortunate event such as a sump pump failure will be so much easier to deal with when you have a reliable group of people to call for help to fix the problem.

Four: Expect to make more than one trip to the hardware store to complete even the smallest job around the house.

I always tell my new homeowners to call me for advice when something unexpected happens in their homes. In a pinch, if you don't know what to do, call the agent who sold you your home. Full service real estate agents make a living by having long-term relationships with their clients and will be happy for the opportunity to help.

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



Forest Hill
Offered at \$1,495,000
Wonderful Mediterranean Home. Located in one of San Francisco's most beautiful neighborhoods, this 3BD/2BA home features a large formal living room with fireplace and high ceilings, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and two sunrooms. Huge patio and level rear yard. Convenient to transportation hubs and routes.
159Castenada.com
Thomas Cooke
415.823.1624



Cole Valley
Offered at \$1,395,000
Stunning Top Floor 3BD/1.5BA Condominium. Located a few blocks from the shops and restaurants of Cole Valley and one block to the Google and Facebook shuttle stops. Beautifully updated while maintaining gorgeous period details. 1-car parking, large storage room, in-unit laundry.
263Carl.com
Missy Wyant Smit
415.321.4315



Pacific Heights
Offered at \$1,198,000
Prestigious Location! Enter this elegant building and ascend the stunning curved staircase to this charming top floor 2BD/1BA corner condominium. Offering a Pacific Heights lifestyle in an idyllic low-rise setting, this home features high ceilings with crown moldings and Edwardian architectural details. 1 deeded parking space.
2919PacificAve.com
Jacqueline NeJaime
415.321.4343



Diamond Heights
Offered at \$1,100,000
3BD/2.5BA View Home. This multi-level view home has great bones and is waiting for a new owner's cosmetic touch. The main living space has a combo living/dining room spanning the width of the house with beautiful vistas of the hills and bay. 2-car side-by-side garage.
179TopazWay.com
Beth Kershaw
415.260.2321
Don Gable
415.350.3854



Pacific Heights
Offered at \$899,000
Bright Remodeled Condominium. This 2BD/2BA condo is situated on the quiet backside of the building. It features a chef's kitchen that opens to the spacious combo living/dining room, a large master suite with big walk-in closet and adjacent walk-out deck, beautiful hardwood floors, storage and much more. 1-car parking.
1835Franklin403.com
Ron Sebahar
415.279.4579



Bernal Heights
Offered at \$895,000
Stylish Bernal Bungalow. The split level floor plan offers privacy for the public and private spaces. The living room has a stylish, modern fireplace, view of the bay and connects nicely with the newly remodeled eat-in kitchen. A bonus room downstairs could be a third bedroom or office.
TinyUrl.com/1676York
Beth Kershaw
415.260.2321
Don Gable
415.350.3854



Noe Valley
Offered at \$ 699,000
Chic and Stylish Noe Valley Condo. Lovely 1BD/1BA home with an easy flow and clean lines in one of San Francisco's most desirable neighborhoods. Includes deeded storage and parking and freshly refinished hardwood floors. Close to tech shuttle stops, public transportation and easy freeway access.
1049DoloresCondo.com
Debra Lee
415.321.4232



Lower Pacific Heights
Offered at \$639,000
Immaculate Remodeled 1BD/1BA Condo. Spacious living room with charming bay window seat, original hardwood floors and lovely traditional detailing. Light-filled breakfast room, adjacent to remodeled kitchen and living room. Exceptional closet and storage space. Well-maintained and well-loved 12-unit building.
1730-Broderick-2.com
Donna Cooper
415.375.0208

The City's Best

To see homes for sale in your neighborhood, make your smartphone smarter using our mobile App. Text: HILLCO To: 87778

Hill & Co. is a proud member of the Who's Who In Luxury Real Estate international network.



415.921.6000 • www.hill-co.com

The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: November 2014

By Hill & Co.

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2837 Greenwich Street	3BD/3.5BA	\$4,350,000	Below	158
	2829 Divisadero Street	5BD/3BA	\$5,600,000	Above	7
	2735 Baker Street	5BD/4.5BA	\$8,750,000	Below	31
Lake	142 11th Avenue	3BD/1.5BA	\$1,765,000	Above	31
	4526 California Street	4BD/2BA	\$1,795,000	At	6
	160 27th Avenue	3BD/2BA	\$2,900,000	Below	12
	2206 Lake Street	5BD/3.25BA	\$3,807,000	Below	82
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain	63 Paramount Terrace	2BD/2BA	\$1,175,000	Above	6
	66 Rossi Avenue	4BD/4BA	\$3,300,000	Above	17
Marina	1660 North Point Street	4BD/3BA	\$3,500,000	Above	16
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2215 California Street	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,861,000	Above	28
	2113 Broderick Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$2,700,000	Above	10
	2418 Webster Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,350,000	At	1
	2826 Sacramento Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$3,600,000	Above	52
	2197 Divisadero Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$3,950,000	Above	22
	2111 Broderick Street	4BD/4BA	\$4,850,000	Above	14
	2040 Jackson Street	5BD/6.5BA	\$14,000,000	Below	78
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill (no sales)					
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	3134 Scott Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,150,000	At	55
	1501 Filbert Street #3A	2BD/2BA	\$1,279,000	At	31
	2856 Scott Street #3	1BD/1BA	\$1,333,000	Above	8
	1501 Filbert Street #6A	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,464,000	At	5
	2278 Greenwich Street	3BD/3.5BA	\$2,360,000	Below	38
Lake	5245 California Street	4BD/3BA	\$1,320,000	Above	27
Laurel Heights	34 Heather Avenue	2BD/2BA	\$920,000	Above	22
	40 Collins Street	3BD/3BA	\$1,915,000	Above	29
Lone Mountain	515 Masonic Avenue #3	1BD/1BA	\$592,000	Above	42
	24 Loyola Terrace	2BD/1BA	\$1,125,000	Above	40
	115 Masonic Avenue	2BD/1BA	\$1,151,000	Above	14
	141 Willard North Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$1,495,000	At	64
Marina	3208 Pierce Street #201	1BD/1BA	\$820,000	Above	7
	7 Casa Way #5	2BD/2BA	\$1,350,000	Above	12
	35 Mallorca Way	2BD/1.25BA	\$1,500,000	Above	3
	218 Mallorca Way	3BD/2BA	\$1,600,000	Above	33
	3553 Divisadero Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,875,000	Above	53
	2147 Beach Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,325,000	Above	10
Nob Hill	1177 California Street #729	1BD/1.5BA	\$1,005,000	Above	26
	1556 Jones Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,125,000	Above	42
	1177 California Street #1431	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,657,500	Below	5
	52-56 Pleasant Street #56	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,790,000	Below	310
North Beach	807 Columbus Avenue #203	2BD/2BA	\$1,250,000	Above	14
Pacific Heights	3051 California Street #A	2BD/2BA	\$643,000	Below	141
	2200 Sacramento Street #205	1BD/2BA	\$805,000	Above	16
	1973 Clay Street	1BD/1BA	\$825,000	Above	22
	1895 Pacific Avenue #306	1BD/1BA	\$875,000	At	27
	2990-2990 Jackson Street #1	1BD/1BA	\$890,000	Above	21
	2200 Sacramento Street #208	1BD/2BA	\$990,000	Below	47
	2170 Vallejo Street #202	1BD/1BA	\$1,150,000	Above	42
	2040 Franklin Street #1101	2BD/2BA	\$1,200,000	Above	8
	1770 Pacific Avenue #103	2BD/2BA	\$1,231,000	Above	33
	2200 Sacramento Street #603	2BD/2BA	\$1,255,000	Above	15
	2145 California Street #1	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	Above	31
	2155 Buchanan Street #6	2BD/1BA	\$1,300,000	Above	14
	2016 Pacific Avenue #405	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,600,000	Above	4
	1835 Franklin Street #601	2BD/2BA	\$1,611,395	Below	60
	2134 Green Street #2	3BD/3BA	\$1,970,000	Below	60
	3141 Jackson Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,995,000	Above	7
	2063 Broadway	3BD/4BA	\$2,300,000	Above	5
	2632 Laguna Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,475,000	Above	13
	1940 Broadway #3W	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,998,100	Above	78
Presidio Heights	440 Locust Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,525,000	Above	46
Russian Hill	1050 North Point Street #306	1BD/1BA	\$530,000	Below	107
	1310-1314 Greenwich Street #202	2BD/1BA	\$875,000	Above	21
	1310-1314 Greenwich Street #302	2BD/1BA	\$923,000	Above	23
	1845 Leavenworth Street #203	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,150,000	Above	13
	975 Union Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,200,000	Above	0
	900 North Point Street #409	2BD/2BA	\$1,850,000	Below	130
	770 Bay Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,850,000	Below	61
	1750 Taylor Street #1802	2BD/2BA	\$1,895,000	At	38
	1100 Union Street #901	2BD/2.5BA	\$4,995,000	At	37
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

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

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP : News briefs

Onward and upward

by john zipperer

ZUMPER: S.F. APARTMENT RENTS TAKE BIG JUMP

A bit of news from real estate site Zumper brings two tidbits. First, there is a website called Zumper. Second, San Francisco one-bedroom apartment rents increased by 13.5 percent in 2014.

However, it wasn't all upward. "Some of the most in-demand neighborhoods actually saw modest price drops this year," reports Zumper. "For example Nob Hill (-6.3 percent), Russian Hill (-4.3 percent), the Marina (-1.4 percent), and Pacific Heights (-1.4 percent)." Huge price jumps elsewhere (topped by a giant 29.2 percent leap in Noe Valley rents) drove the city's overall increase to that 13.5 percent.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN PLAIN ENGLISH

If you're still mystified by all of the numbers and claims (and accu-

sations) thrown about in discussions about the affordability crisis in San Francisco housing, we've got some help for you. The San Francisco Planning Department has created an easy-to-follow video that explains the reasons for the housing costs, market pressures, and the reasons things aren't going to change dramatically in the near future.

You can watch the video at youtube.com/watch?v=5XKkJfkLWW4.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"It appears what they bring primarily is money."

— Joel Keller, BART board president, discussing the Chinese company chosen to develop on a BART station property, quoted in *San Francisco Business Times*

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

PROPERTY EXTRA : How to prepare

Six steps to success

If you're thinking of entering the property market in 2015, here's some help

by carol isaacs

BUYING A HOME takes time and many decisions.

When you are thinking about buying a home, it is important to commit a certain amount of time to make the many large and small decisions necessary, plus you need to figure out where that time will come from. Just to begin the fabled first step to buying a home — loan preapproval — takes time, and decisions must be made that are not to be considered lightly. Even the most organized CPA will have to answer questions never dreamed of when filling out a loan application.

I don't know if I would go so far as saying all agents tell new buyers the first step in buying a home is getting preapproved for a mortgage. I am sure many do, and in the past I have. In fact, my first serious question when I met with a new buyer was: Are you pre-approved for a loan? It is not possible for a buyer to know what they can afford until they have applied for loan preapproval.

After reviewing my 2014 sales, I have new ideas about the first step in buying a home. To be successful, it is important to keep in mind that it is possible to make a choice about where to spend your time and decision-making energy. Once this is clear, you will be ready to begin.

What are the steps to being successful in buying a home in 2015?

1: The first step is to commit a certain amount of time to consider the various tasks and choices involved in the purchase of a home. Until you are actually making offers, 30 minutes once or twice a week may be enough time to set aside to make decisions about your home purchase. Once you have made an offer, you may need 30 minutes or more every day.

2: As you consider the tasks and choices, make a list of all the things you will need to do to buy a home. This is a time for free association.

3: Work on one decision at a time. This is the most difficult part of my plan for success. It is fun to think about kitchens, baths, and gardens, or driving into the garage you dreamed of, but you will never get these things if you don't focus on picking the location for your home.

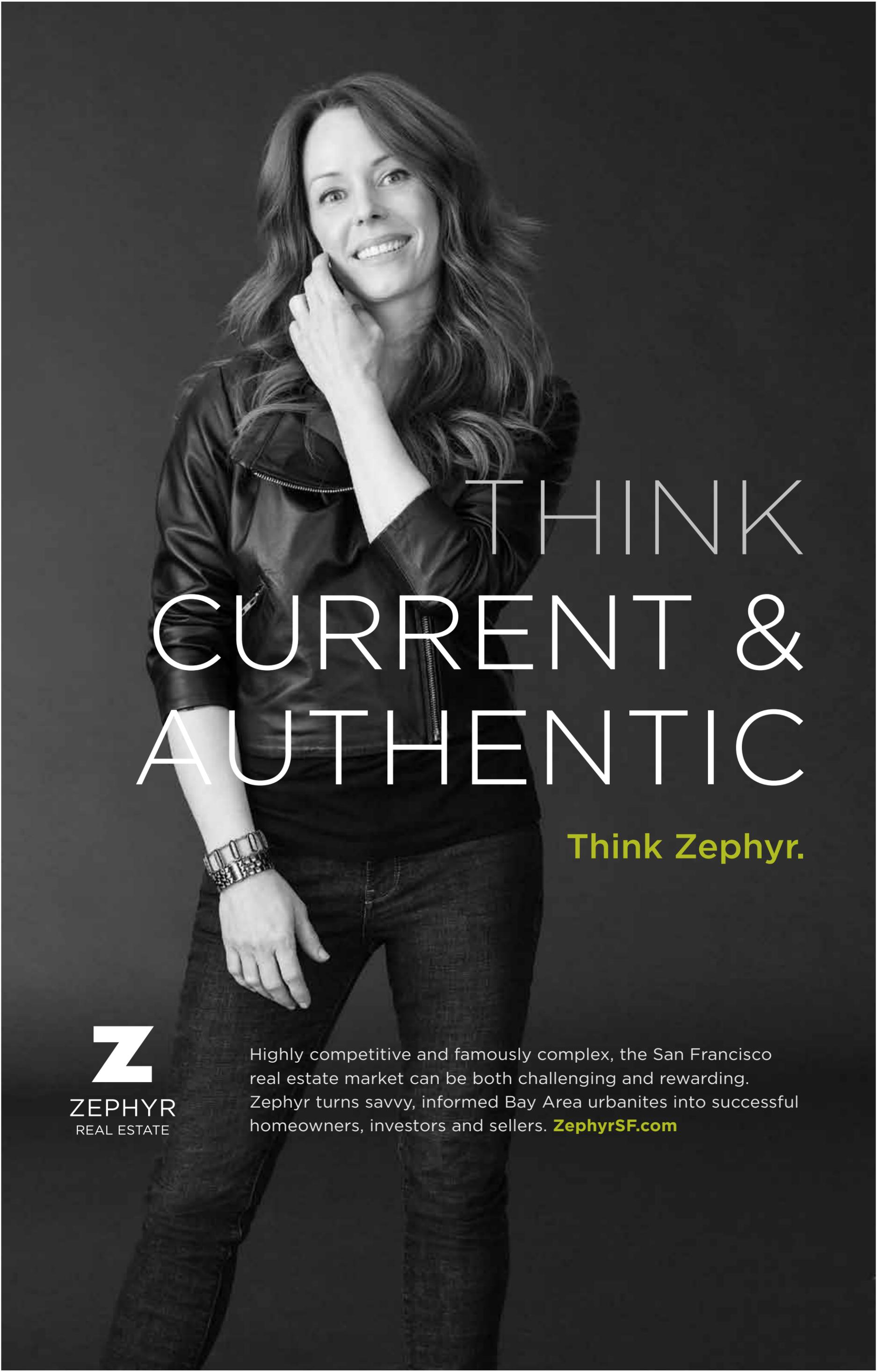
4: Armed with your list, I strongly recommend that you talk to both a real estate agent and a banker or mortgage broker for a reality check. These professionals have long-term relationships with their clients. I guarantee that speaking to a professional will save you time, give you answers, and relieve anxiety in a way that no amount of time spent in online research will do.

Remember these professionals are your allies. Their goals and livelihood depend on your success and satisfaction with their service. They are not your family or friends with ideas about how much you should spend or where you should live.

5: Explore the neighborhood of your choice. Go to Sunday open houses. I always recommend my buyers combine open house visits with walks in the neighborhood and coffee or lunch at a cafe. You may have friends who rave about life in the Mission or Noe Valley, but deep down inside you may find that you are a person who would love to live near Golden Gate Park, South of Market, or even near Ocean Beach where walking along the shore with your dog and family is the thing you love most for the long term.

6: The two big questions now are: Can you afford the neighborhood of your choice, and do you feel at home there? If the answer to these to questions is yes, then you are ready to move to the next step. If your answer is no, repeat step five until you are ready to narrow your focus and search.

Carole Isaacs is a Realtor and Top Producer with McGuire Real Estate. Visit her online at CaroleIsaacs.com or call 415-608-1267. Follow her on Twitter @CaroleIsaacs.



THINK
CURRENT &
AUTHENTIC

Think Zephyr.

Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

Highly competitive and famously complex, the San Francisco real estate market can be both challenging and rewarding. Zephyr turns savvy, informed Bay Area urbanites into successful homeowners, investors and sellers. ZephyrSF.com



love at first sight.



shop online: WELOVELEFTOVERS.COM

415.409.0088
OPEN DAILY 10-6
1350 VAN NESS AVE

leftovers
home consignment

Phil's Electric Vacuum Center

SAN FRANCISCO'S OLDEST
Family Owned Since 1941

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

All Makes - Commercial & Household

**Miele Specialist • Eureka
Royal • Oreck • SEBO • Panasonic
Electrolux • Kenmore • Dirt Devil**

**Lamp Rewiring & Repairs
Electric Shaver Sales
Allergy Control Products**

**WE REPAIR AND
REWIRE TABLE &
FLOOR LAMPS,
CHANDELIERS**



415.921.3776

www.philselectric.com

We can make a lamp out of almost anything!

2701 Lombard St. @ Baker

Open Mon - Sat 9:00am-5:30pm

1 Block from Presidio Gate • Convenient Parking

THE ADVENTURES OF SKYLAR GREY :: Chapter 20



Jazzy steals a Christmas kiss from Kickie while I deal with the Fix-Its.

The neighbors who stole Thanksgiving (and Christmas and New Year's Eve)

by susan dyer reynolds

Part 2 of a 3-part series

THE FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING, Jazzy seemed almost embarrassed to bring yet another soggy letter. "Again?" Kickie said, shaking her head. "These people are Mr. and Mrs. Fix-It! And why does this always happen during the holidays?" When I opened the letter it read, "Stairs in light well need replacing. We have a guy we use." I was furious, but I didn't want to ruin the holiday, so I made myself a stiff martini and stuck the letter in a drawer.

Three days later, Mr. Fix-It knocked on my door. "The stair guy is here," he said. "Do you want to come down and see what he has to say?" I nodded and followed him to the light well. "These need to be completely replaced," the guy said. "You're looking at ten grand ..." I felt my blood boil. "We need to get other estimates," I said. "Besides, these stairs lead up to your kitchen," I told the Fix-Its. "They only benefit you, so I don't see why I have to pay half." Mr. and Mrs. Fix-It were stunned that I was standing up for myself. "These are common," Mr. Fix-It said condescendingly. "Is this guy even licensed?" I asked. Mr. and Mrs. Fix-It looked down. I took that to mean "no."

The next day I brought a contractor friend over to look at the stairs. "These are fine," he said. "Maybe a few boards could be replaced, maybe some paint ..." I sent his comments to the Fix-Its in an e-mail. Several days later, I was in the kitchen when I heard hammering. I looked through the window to see the Fix-Its' 24-year-old daughter's ex-boyfriend hanging precariously from the railing. I pushed the window up. "What are you doing?" I asked. "I'm fixing the stairs," he said. "Are you a licensed contractor?" I asked. "No," he responded, wrapping one leg around the banister to steady himself. "But I've done a little construction work here and there." I watched

as he tried in vain to pull one of the boards up with his scrawny arms and an old hammer. "Are you insured?" I asked. He looked down. I took that to mean "no."

I sent a text to the Fix-Its: "Why is this guy working unlicensed and uninsured where he can kill himself? Not only did you not inform me about this, you didn't get my approval. Don't you dare put a bill through my mail slot." The Fix-Its never responded,

"I wouldn't go all Tiny Tim yet," I warned Kickie.

and the ex-boyfriend worked in the light well for a month, taking long breaks to talk to friends on his cell phone about his ex-girlfriend, Miss Fix-It. "I want her back," he said one day. "That's why I'm doing this job for her crazy-ass parents." A week later, the Fix-Its pushed a letter through my mail slot. "Here's your half for the stairs," it read.

Kickie and Jazzy were snuggled up in the garden room watching the 1938 version of *A Christmas Carol* when I stomped down the stairs. "Your dad didn't like the Alastair Sim version," Kickie said. "This was his favorite." I stopped briefly to hear Reginald Owen as Scrooge say, "Bah! Humbug!," which suited my mood perfectly, and then I held up the letter. "Now what?" Kickie asked. "They think I'm going to pay that kid for 'fixing' their stairs," I explained as I crumpled up the letter and threw it in the trashcan. Kickie shook her head, and Jazzy took a deep sigh as if she, too, were dismayed. I sat down at the end of the bed, stroking Jazzy's velvety ears. "I don't know how much more of this I can take Kickie, seriously."

"Well, hopefully all the work is done and they won't ruin another Christmas," she said. "I wouldn't go all Tiny Tim yet," I warned Kickie. "This is like the Fix-It Mystery House. The work never stops."

I had a bad feeling that the Ghost of Christmas Future would soon pay me a visit and take me to a hardware store...

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

We urgently need short and long term foster homes!

Good dogs land in shelters for many reasons. Grateful Dogs Rescue pulls dogs from the San Francisco and other local municipal shelters and we work hard to match the right dog with the right humans. **Help us save dogs by becoming a GDR foster parent, either short-term or long-term. Apply today!** GDR provides guidance throughout the fostering process and pays for all vet care, grooming, training, etc. for our foster dogs. GDR is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit San Francisco organization, so please make your tax-deductible donation today. **New volunteers are always welcome!**

Here are some of the wonderful dogs waiting for their forever homes. To see more of our adoptable dogs, please visit our website: gratefuldogsrescue.org.



BODIE

Bodie looks like a spaniel-corgi mix, long of body and short of legs, approximately 15 pounds and about 2 years old. Due to no fault of his own, Bodie was surrendered by his owner. During his time at the shelter, he became “shut down” and shy. Once Bodie arrived in his foster home, his happy, exuberant personality came through. He loves other dogs, seems receptive to children in the street, but has not been cat-tested. He sleeps in his crate at night, and is active during the day. He likes exercise, walks well on a leash and loves to play with his toys. Celebrate the New Year with fun-loving Bodie.



TIKA

Tika, a 1-year-old, 6.5-pound Chihuahua/terrier mix, is sweet and loving. She is playful and quite silly. She is great with dogs of all sizes and would love a home with another dog that she can play and cuddle with. Tika walks well on leash, and likes dog savvy children. She is house trained and knows how to use a doggy door. She is not a “barky” dog. Be prepared for a dynamo that will keep you laughing, give you lots of kisses and cuddles, and bring loads of love to your life in the New Year.



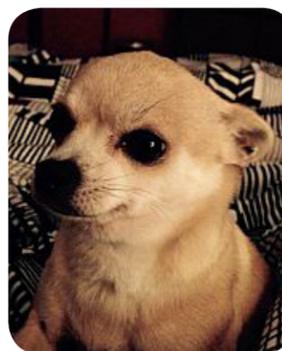
DECLAN

Declan is 11 weeks old and about 20 pounds, which puts him on track to be a 60-pound plus dog. He is believed to be a “boxador” (a boxer/black Labrador retriever mix). He is sweet and playful and loves playing with other dogs. He offers kisses to people he meets. He will need a home where he gets plenty of exercise — a yard and another dog to play with would be ideal. He is a young, smart guy that will need to attend training classes. If you love boxers or Labs, this fantastic mix of both breeds might make Declan the perfect new running buddy to keep you motivated for those New Year’s resolution jaunts along the Marina Green.



FRANCIS

Francis is a sweet, cuddly Bichon mix around 5 years old and weighing about 12 pounds. He gets along well with the other dogs at his foster home as well as at the dog park. He has excellent leash manners, and sticks close to his foster mom. Francis was diagnosed with juvenile cataracts and examined by a specialist. Unfortunately he has detached retinas in both eyes and therefore isn’t a candidate for cataract surgery. Although he is almost blind, he adjusts easily to new surroundings and very quickly learns his way around. His forever guardian should have some experience or be willing to learn simple tricks for living with a blind dog. Anyone who has adopted a special needs pet can tell you how rewarding it is, so please consider making Francis part of your family this New Year!



ELOISE

Eloise, a sweet, gentle, three year-old Chihuahua mix, is incredibly cute and wins friends wherever she goes. Eloise loves to cuddle and receive belly rubs. Her ideal home would be quiet, away from the sounds of the city. She is quiet as a mouse, but may bark if left alone. Her foster mom is working on helping her with her separation anxiety. She sleeps well in her crate. Eloise mostly ignores other dogs, but might be fine sharing a household with a confident dog to befriend her. Share Eloise’s merriment to start off 2015.



EMMA

Emma is a 1-year-old terrier mix with a playful and bouncy personality. Emma came from a hoarding situation so she is used to living and playing with other pups. She is not house-trained but is working hard to learn. She is a bit shy but oh so sweet. Emma is adjusting very well to her new foster home, where she is getting lots of love and making lots of friends! Celebrate Emma’s new beginning by bringing her home for the New Year.

Check the Grateful Dogs Rescue website for our 2015 upcoming Adoption Events Calendar.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER DOGS:
 415-587-1121 • www.gratefuldogsrescue.org
info@gratefuldogsrescue.org



The Biggest Little Pet Store In San Francisco.

The story began with three animal lovers who thought the Marina needed a place where you could always find everything you want for your pets.

They opened Wolf & Lion because they believe that inside every dog is a wolf and every cat is a lion. When you come in, Spyq, Barry, or John (and the store cat Sasha) will be there to welcome you.

Your pet's favorites are always here. Or we will order them for you.

We have one of the largest selections of premium dog and cat kibble, canned and alternative/raw foods in San Francisco. You'll also find toys, grooming supplies and a selection of cat furniture that should be in Architectural Digest! We'll surprise you with something new every time you visit us.

Our Prices Are Low. The Parking Is Free (Too good to be true?)

We carry premium brands and sell them at some of the lowest prices in San Francisco. Yes, it's true, we have a huge, free parking lot.

It's hard to miss our big orange building near Lombard and Divisadero.

We'll be announcing many special neighborhood events for animals, their people and caretakers in the New Year.

@Facebook.com/WolfAndLionPetSupplies

Wolf & Lion
— Pet Supplies —

2460 Lombard Street (by Divisadero)
wolfandlionpet.com | Phone: 415-590-2748

MAKE A

RAW RESOLUTION



Take

\$3

OFF

Offer expires Jan 31, 2015

any one Primal Formula*



*Choose one of any size of Primal Raw Frozen Formula, Pronto or Freeze-Dried Raw Formula!

or get a **FREE** Starter Pak!

PRIMALPETFOODS.COM

*** Improve your pet's health and wellness in the New Year. ***