



City Hall

Inside News: Learn about the people, policies, and politics running our town. Supervisors Mark Farrell and Aaron Peskin, plus finding answers in Solutions Provider. **7**



Food & Wine

New & Notable: Ready for Spaghetti Bros.? **13**
Real Estate
Inside Out: No right to a great view. **19**



Calendar

February events: Super Bowl festivities, Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day will provide countless opportunities to get out and enjoy the best of San Francisco this winter. **16**

MarinaTimes

MARINATIMES.COM : CELEBRATING OUR 32ND YEAR : VOLUME 32 : ISSUE 02 : FEBRUARY 2016



The Chinese New Year Parade returns to downtown San Francisco on Feb. 20. PHOTO: ERICMELDRUM / FLICKR

Year of the Monkey arrives

One of the world's great parades hits town

THERE WILL BE LITTLE TIME FOR city workers and residents to rest after the Super Bowl hoopla dies down. Later this month, the Chinese New Year Parade takes place in downtown San Francisco (Saturday, Feb. 20, 6–8 p.m.). About

150 years old and considered one of the don't-miss parades in the country, this nighttime extravaganza will once again bring together colorful floats, costumes, firecrackers, Miss Chinatown, and the ever-popular Golden Dragon.

The event's organizers suggest staking out your spot by 4:30 p.m. to be certain of getting a good view. See this issue's Calendar (page 16) for details and get additional information, including a route map, at chineseparade.com.

SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

S.F. homeless czar touts progress

Homeless numbers remain stubborn, but city performing better than peers in tackling the problem

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

IN A GEOGRAPHICALLY SMALL BUT WEALTHY CITY where even some middle-class families are struggling to find housing, addressing the homelessness issue is a challenge. San Francisco has been actively targeting the problem for years, but Mayor Ed Lee and District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell have placed renewed emphasis on it in recent years as public concern has grown about affordability as well as unpleasant social side effects of many mentally ill homeless in the city.

Over the past 10 years, the number of homeless in San Francisco has been relatively stable, floating between 6,200 and 6,600. There are an additional 800 to 900 homeless youth in the city. However, that does not mean there are more than 7,000 people on the streets at any one time. According to the 2015 San Francisco Point-in-Time Homeless Count & Survey, about 42 percent of the city's homeless were in shelters of one sort

SOLUTIONS, continued on 9

BELLINGHAM BY THE BAY : Ch-ch-ch-changes

People, get ready, there's a train a'comin'

BY BRUCE BELLINGHAM

JANUARY WAS A TIME to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. ... I'm only quoting Scripture to seek the evangelical vote. Yes, I'm getting on the political campaign train. Fascinating, no? The New Abnormal. I can't help but watch what certainly resembles a train wreck. The only problem is that we're on the train.

You may have heard that **David Bowie** died last month. **Robert Hemphill**, who owns the Monkey on Chestnut jewelry store in the Marina, remembers Bowie when the iconic fellow was a customer at Robert's former tribal art shop in North Beach, The Dreaming Room. Bowie

apparently heard about the store from regular customer **Nicolas Cage**, or some other luminary. Robert says Bowie was interested in "outsider art," the creations of the untrained, since he was a kid. That's why Bowie was fascinated by Robert's

Bowie introduced Robert as "a new friend I found in San Francisco."

collection of tribal artifacts. Bowie "ommmmed" over each piece as he inspected it. He explained he was meditating to achieve a connection with the soul that inhabited the bones. Then he bought a few. Bowie returned to Robert's

shop for several consecutive days, invited Robert and two friends to his sold-out show at the Warfield, invited all backstage, and introduced Robert to the audience as "a new friend I found in San Francisco." ... **Carole Vernier**, **Herb Caen's** longtime assistant, recalls a David Bowie impersonator who pestered her and Herb many years ago. The fellow was all over town, going to clubs, bars, and restaurants, throwing C-notes all over the place. Bowie

was constantly changing yet he was far beyond any imitators. Not even **Tina Fey**. ... San Francisco's most famous clothier, **Wilkes Bashford**, died last month. Le Central is still mourning. Wilkes used to join Herb, **BELLINGHAM, continued on 4**



RIP David Bowie, who sang to and for multiple generations. PHOTO: DAVID BOWIE / FACEBOOK

David Bowie remembered

BY SHARON ANDERSON

"Here are we, one magical moment, such is the stuff from where dreams are woven."
— David Bowie, *Station to Station*

DAVID BOWIE DIED ON JAN. 10. Two days earlier, he'd celebrated his 69th birthday and the release of his 25th and final studio album, *Blackstar*. Producer Tony Visconti called the album Bowie's parting gift to his fans. Terminally ill, Bowie worked until the end on his music. A ubiquitous presence in rock 'n' roll, film, visual art, and fashion, his singular influence on culture during the last

50 years seems as limitless and expansive as the stars.

My generation doesn't remember a world before David Bowie. When I was young, I was filled with wonder by a poster in my teenage brother's bedroom. An image of Bowie's bare torso stretched out, impossibly transforming into the hindquarters of a "diamond dog," (from the album *Diamond Dogs*). At my 12th birthday party, I got my first Bowie album, *Scary Monsters*, and listened with wide-eyed fascination to the dissonant opening track, "It's No Game." Musical notes mapped out my personal history and measured out the moments that

DAVID BOWIE, continued on 4

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



Osso STEAKHOUSE is a romantic hideaway tucked in the landmark Gramercy Towers, near The Fairmont, Mark Hopkins and Huntington Hotels. The stylish Art Deco-inspired design provides an elegant yet relaxed ambiance. The Bone-In Filet Mignon is their signature steak and has a flavor that is nothing short of a revelation.

“It’s osso good!”

Free Valet Parking—Private Dining for Large Parties
1177 California at Jones 415.771.6776 ossosteakhouse.com

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE



News

Around the Northside

News briefs on Super Bowl disruptions, affordable housing ballots, deaths in the Marina, solve a crime, and Supervisor Mark Farrell’s push to have more healthful vending options on city property. 3

Community

Police Blotter

Crime is up in San Francisco in general and on the Northside in particular. 6

City Hall

How it works

In our new section, we take you inside the city’s power centers and show what’s happening, who’s doing it, and what it means. District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell and returning District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin explain what they’re working on to change the city. Plus our new Solutions Provider column explores the ways people are working to fix the city’s problems. 7

Street Beat

Northside people and places

Lynette Majer highlights some great ways to spend your Valentine’s Day, and Ernest Beyl arm wrestles with Aaron Peskin. 10

Food & Wine

In with the new

The Tablehopper checks out the new location of Le Marais Bakery, highlights Black Bark BBQ, and more; Julie Mitchell heads to Scott Street to meet the Spaghetti Bros. 12

Arts & Entertainment

Love is in the air and on-screen

Michael Snyder finds love on the big screen; plus the best sellers. 14

Calendar

February events

San Francisco knows how to celebrate romance and how to have a great Chinese New Year’s parade, and you’ll find plenty of both this month. We’ll find out how the city does hosting Super Bowl mania. 16

At Home

Urban Home & Garden

Julia Strzesieski says your houseplants can help you clear the air. 18

Real Estate

No rights to a view

Susan Dyer Reynolds explains that views are not legally protected in the city; Carole Isaacs explains Zillow’s Zestimates; and the Roundup puts a price on it. 10

Business & Finance

Personal Finance

Jesus Guevara tells us what to keep watch for in our mailboxes this tax season. 23

Technology

Dating apps

Michael Snyder swipes right. 24

Wellness and Family

Making the best you

Thalia Farshchian looks at your DNA; Liz Farrell comes up with creative date-night tips. 26

Pet Pages

Fifty Shades of Skylar Grey

Susan Dyer Reynolds teaches Skylar to play hard-to-get. 27

ONLINE SPECIALS
marinatimes.com

MarinaTimes

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	Managing Editor John Zipperer john@marinatimes.com	Social Media Shelia Fox shelia@marinatimes.com
Editor in Chief Susan Dyer Reynolds susan@marinatimes.com	Senior Editor Lynette Majer lynette@marinatimes.com	Designer Steven Fromtling Web Designer Joe Bachman

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

NEWS BRIEFS : Football, crimes, deaths, and food

Dodging the Super Bowl

SUPER BOWL TRANSIT CHANGES

The Super Bowl will be played down in Santa Clara, but the fan gathering for Super Bowl City downtown the week before the Feb. 7 big game will be here in San Francisco at the end of Market Street.

Except for rush hours, the Market/Spear Streets BART and Muni station entrance will be closed. Shuttle buses will handle the F Market and Wharves streetcar line between Castro Street and the Embarcadero.

make-up items from a store on the 2100 block of Chestnut Street in late December. Surveillance video (viewable at sf-police.org/index.aspx?recordid=1415&page=3763) shows the man struggling with store employees after he put various cosmetic products into his jacket and tried to leave without paying.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Anonymous Tip Line at 415-575-4444 or text TIP411 and begin the message with SFPD.

MAN ARRESTED IN KILLING OF NORTH BEACH ARTIST

In early January, police made an arrest in the beating death of 74-year-old North Beach sketch artist Stuart Jackson. Collin White, 38, was arrested after he was identified in surveillance footage.

Jackson was standing at a downtown bus stop when he was struck by an assailant; Jackson's head hit the pavement, and he died at the hospital. White was charged with four felonies, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*: involuntary manslaughter, assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury (with an elder abuse "enhancement"), battery with serious bodily injury, and elder abuse.

TOURIST BUS DEATH IN PACIFIC HEIGHTS

In the second tragedy in three months involving tourist buses in the city, 82-year-old Pieter Roell was killed in January when he was hit by a tour bus while he was crossing a street in Pacific Heights. He died at the scene.

In November, another tour bus lost control on Post Street, injuring 20 people before crashing into a construction site in Union Square.

HEALTHFUL FOOD PUSH

If you're looking to take a Snickers and Pepsi break, you'll need to find a vending machine outside of city property if Supervisor Mark Farrell gets his way. He is proposing legislation to have minimum nutrition standards for food and beverages sold in vending machines on city property, as well as for food served at city meetings, sponsored events that use public resources, and it would encourage food service companies on the city's property to have a more healthful mix of food.

Unless differences are hashed out behind closed doors, voters will decide.

There will also be some bus stop relocations and other changes.

For details on getting around downtown during the Super Bowl activities, visit sfmta.com/sb50.

BACK TO THE BALLOTS FOR HOUSING VOTES

A new mayoral-supervisor disagreement will result in City Hall throwing two competing affordable housing measures on the ballot. One is Supervisor Jane Kim's plan to increase the minimum percentage of below-market-rate units in new residential developments. The other measure, from Mayor Ed Lee's office, would offer more flexibility in its implementation. Both would give the Board of Supervisors the ability to dictate the amount of affordable housing a development needed to include.

Unless the differing details of the measures are hashed out behind closed doors — a possibility, insiders say — voters will decide in June.

CITY MOVES TO IMPROVE QUAKE READINESS, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In late January, Mayor Ed Lee and Board of Supervisors President London Breed put forth a ballot measure to expand access to mental health services for city residents, including the homeless, and to seismically upgrade the city's public health-care facilities and emergency medical response infrastructure to make sure they can withstand a major earthquake and still function.

The \$350 million Public Health and Safety Bond will fund health, safety, and rescue efforts, including \$222 million to Zuckerberg San Francisco General for essential quake safety improvements, \$30 million for Southeast Health Center renovation and construction of an addition, \$20 million for homeless shelter modernization and services, \$20 million for neighborhood public health clinics, \$44 million for construction of a seismically safe fire department ambulance and medical facility to dispatch staff for emergencies, and \$14 million for repairs to fire department neighborhood stations.

The measure will be on the June 2016 ballot.

HELP CATCH THE MAKE-UP BANDIT

In mid-January, San Francisco police asked for the public's help in catching a male suspect who stole various

It was the second tragedy involving tourist buses in the city in recent months.

"San Francisco government should lead by example, and this policy solidifies our city's commitment to encouraging healthier lifestyles by making healthful choices more readily available," said Farrell. "Healthier employees are more productive employees, and lead to incredible cost-savings for taxpayers."

American Heart Association executives praised the move, calling it "one of the most robust healthy vending ordinances in the country."

Concession locations for selling Snickers right next to city property will likely be highly valued.

News tips? 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.

Reina Ceja
Branch Manager
2197 Chestnut Street,
San Francisco, 94123
415-287-8800
rceja@fbtnorcal.com



Find The One.



A decades old tradition
of custom craftsmanship
in California.



LB
La Bijouterie

Research

Learn about our
proven track record
of five star service &
a history of happy
customers.



Follow Us

Feast your eyes on
our bevy of one-of-
a-kind-custom fine
jewelry.
@LaBijouterieSF



APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED.
BOOK ONLINE AT WWW.LB-SF.COM

(415) 775-6622 | 1931 UNION STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

News

BELLINGHAM

CONTINUED from page 1

Willie Brown, and Harry de Wildt religiously at the front table overlooking Bush Street every Friday for lunch. ... Ernie Beyl recalls: "There was a time when Wilkes and I were on the same charge account page. I had a couple of Brionis and a Zegna. We parted company when the suits went into upper four figures. So I started patronizing Bernie, the North Beach street haberdasher who sells shirts, pants, and socks out of a roll-on airline bag." ... At the risk of being too funereal, Al Hart, a man who deserved the "iconic" moniker, has died. The great broadcaster was 88. I was Al's writer for years at KCBS, some of the best years of my life. People often asked me if Al was as nice as he sounded on the radio. It's rare in that biz, but he even transcended niceness. ... One day, I think it was my 30th birthday, a package arrived for me at the radio station. It was all the LPs Rosemary Clooney had recorded for the Concord Jazz label. Al had called Carl Jefferson, the president of the company, and requested the sides. "Bruce loves Rosemary Clooney almost as much as I do." Al loved to sing. While quite young, he made an album in Nashville, *Tears Are Only Rain to Make Love Grow*. A 19-year old Ray Stevens played the piano on the session. ... Lois Melkonian, who worked with Al on the air, has written a terrific memoir, *Hybrid*. She includes a beautiful homage to Al Hart — with a photo. *Hybrid* is the kind of life story that makes you turn the page to see what's going to happen to Lois next. Oh, *Hybrid* is not about an automobile. It refers to Lois's heritage — born in India to an Armenian father and a Danish mom. They had a great daughter in any language.

Metropolitan Opera star Patricia Racette was honored by the Merola Opera Program, a San Francisco treasure. Ms. Racette praised Merola for getting her her big break. She charmed everyone in the room at Herbst Theatre. It's easy to see why she's a star. The Merola has produced some of the most famous singers and musicians in the world, such as Deborah Voigt ... Thomas Hampson ... Carol Vaness ... Susan Graham ... and Anna Netrebko. ... Among the supporters in the room at the Herbst was David Stull, president of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. We exchanged music school stories. I was a voice major; Mr. Stull played the tuba. "I can tell you a tuba joke," he whispered. "I can assure you they are rare." ... I'll bet. ... Bobby "Bobcat" Goldthwait and

British comic genius Noel Fielding tore it up at The Social Club on Sutter one rainy Sunday last month. Fielding will be the biggest thing to hit the states since Monty Python. "Someone said I've been calling Bill Cosby a rapist for 20 years," said Bobcat. "I had no idea I was right." Noel observed, "All comedy is mental rape." I remember Bobby from his days at Cobb's Comedy Club when it was on Chestnut Street. Now, the site houses a Wells Fargo branch. So much for laughing all the way to the bank. ... "But that was back in the day," murmurs the sweet, sagacious Nicole Huebner. She monitors me for telltale signs of nostalgia. ... Yes, it was back in the day. Bobcat muses, "Back in the '80s, I accepted any gig. I know it's un-American, but I learned how to quit. Quitting is the way to happiness." It seems comedians have taken over the jobs that journalists once held. Jody Powell said to me: "The definition of a columnist is someone who hides in the hills during the battle, then comes down afterward to finish off the wounded."

I was surprised to see the name of Roger Boas, who was reading from his World War II memoir at Books Inc. on Van Ness. What came to mind when I saw his name in the store was not his service to his country (he won the Silver Star); it was the scandal that surrounded a vice squad raid on a house in the Mission in the 1980s where he, the chief administrative officer of San Francisco, was taken into custody for purchasing sex from underage girls. Boas had lost a mayoral bid to Art Agnos. I'm reminded of a 1951 James Cagney film where he portrays an alcoholic newspaperman (gee, what will they think of next?), Lou Marsh. "You pay, and you pay, and you pay," Marsh repeats under his breath through the movie. ... Ah, but that was back in the day.

Now we take you downtown, to Wings Plus on Jones Street. The sidewalk sign reads: "Here's Today's Special: Order Two Burgers — Pay for Both!" On the other side: "Come In and Try the Worst Chicken Wings A Yelp Reviewer Ever Had In His Life." ... In the Marina the other day: two strapping Kids accosting the locals for contributions "to keep kids away from the violence of drugs and from gangs." "The only gangs I see in the Marina are the property owners," smirked Cosmo Sostenuto. ... Now, that's not nice. Where's Al Hart, now that we need him? ... There was a message on Al's home answering machine, "Tell us what we missed." ... We miss you, Al. ...

Bruce Bellingham is the author of *Bellingham by the Bay*. Tell him what he missed at bruce@marinatimes.com.

DAVID BOWIE

CONTINUED from page 1

extended into years, and Bowie loomed large on that soundtrack. I saw him live two times in Detroit during the 1990s. During the second show, he sang my favorite song, "All The Young Dudes," and once again, it was my birthday. On that night, I shouted over the music to my friends in that club that I was so glad to be alive.

Jan. 11 was another moment, a different note, this time waking from sleep to the sound of my phone chirping like a mournful bird as friends sent messages of grief about our fallen hero. "Hey that's far out, so you heard it, too?" Music writer Mike Vincent wrote, "He was a chameleon that changed with us, transforming the

listener, always omnipresent and effortlessly cool." Recording artist and painter Tyson Meade had this to say: "In 1974 in Oklahoma, being a Bowie fan in middle school was punishable by taunting, name calling, and even physical violence. Even though I was the scrawniest, most fey kid around, I embraced Bowie and everything he represented molded me and became my world."

True individuality is often an act of defiance. I recently read an interview with painter and Picasso muse Francois Gilot about the elegant hats Frenchwomen wore during World War II. Far from being unconcerned about what was happening in occupied France, the women were reacting to the Germans' restriction on fabric. When they rode

the subways with wearing these flamboyant creations, they were sending the Germans a message that the French were "... not down on their knees." Paris was the city of fashion, and no regime would change that.

When we exercise our right to be creative beings, we send the message that we are not defined by our circumstances. Through art, we transcend. Bowie personified this through his extravagant, theatrical rebellion against all things ordinary. So go ahead, be an alien. He forged a glittering path.

We'll take care of it from here, David. Farewell.

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

COMING SOON!

PACIFIC HEIGHTS

LARGE 3 LEVEL VIEW SINGLE FAMILY HOME IN COVETED LOCATION

LOWER PACIFIC HEIGHTS

GORGEOUS FULLY REMODELED SINGLE FAMILY HOME WITH 4 BEDROOMS ON TOP LEVEL

LAKE DISTRICT

RARELY AVAILABLE 4 BEDROOM SINGLE FAMILY HOME FIXER WITH INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL AND CHARM

INNER RICHMOND

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED FULL FLOOR FLAT IN TWO UNIT BUILDING

**PRICES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED. PLEASE CALL FOR INFORMATION.*

Congratulations!

Coldwell Banker Lombard Street congratulates

David Bellings

for being their #1 Agent

Thank you for a successful 2015.

I look forward to seeing you
at my upcoming listings in 2016!

david@davidbellings.com
415.518.5600

DAVIDBELLINGS.com

#1 AGENT | BROKER | ATTORNEY | INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED IN TOP 1%

A MASTER IN THE FINE ART OF SELLING LUXURY REAL ESTATE



BRE#00877838

POLICE BLOTTER :: From the officers of Northern Station

The latest reports of people behaving badly

IF YOU TRACK THE INCIDENTS of crime in San Francisco, the statistics reported through the middle of 2015 won't make you happy.

From July 2014 through July 2015, citywide violent crime was up 10 percent. That includes homicide (up 22 percent), robbery (15 percent), aggravated assault (4 percent), and rape (no change). For the northern district, the overall violent crime rate was also up 10 percent, though rape was actually down 48 percent; the largest increase was in homicides, which saw a 150 percent increase.

Property crimes were also up during that time period. Citywide, though burglaries fell 4 percent, other property crimes rose a total of 21 percent, with the biggest rises in thefts from vehicles (45 percent) and arson (38 percent). For the northern district, overall property crimes rose 41 percent; again, burglaries were down 10 percent, but thefts from autos rose an eye-popping 72 percent and arsons were up 80 percent.

The crimes described below are only a small snapshot of what the police officers of Northern Station are doing. For a more comprehensive list, visit sf-

police.org; under Compstat, select the link to Crimemaps.

METHWALKING
Nov. 8, 2:12 p.m.
Eddy at Gough Streets

Plainclothes officers stopped and detained a jaywalker. They checked his driver's license and saw that he was on probation, so they did a probation search and found two baggies of suspected methamphetamine and three baggies of suspected marijuana. They placed him under arrest.

The officers also found items on him that belonged to other people—credit cards, debit cards, and a

Thefts from autos rose an eye-popping 72 percent on the Northside.

birth certificate. He was transported and later booked at County Jail.

BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH
Nov. 11, 2:40 p.m.
O'Farrell at Larkin Streets

Officers spotted two subjects smoking cigarettes near the entrance of a liquor store,

a violation of San Francisco Health Code 1009.22(d). The officers informed them they couldn't smoke there and asked for identification, which only one of them provided. They did a computer check on the first subject, which revealed that he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The second subject did not have identification and gave the officers two fake names.

Both subjects were taken to Northern Station for further investigation. Officers confirmed the identity of the second subject and discovered that he also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Both subjects were later transported to County Jail and booked according to the warrants.

CAUGHT WITH HIS PANTS DOWN
Nov. 12, 8 a.m.
Avila St. at Marina Blvd.

Patrol officers observed a white male standing on the corner with his pants down. They detained him. A computer check revealed he had several out-

standing arrest warrants. He was also reported as a missing person since Sept. 19, 2015. He was transported to Northern Station to confirm the warrants and his identity; he was later transported to County Jail, where he was booked.

THIS FRIENDSHIP'S OVER
Nov. 13, 4:25 a.m.
1800 Block of Pine Street

Dispatchers sent officers to a report of a man who had sprayed a fire extinguisher into an apartment and set off the building's fire alarm. The suspect was a white male, about 32 years old, and wearing blue clothes. The 911 caller told the officers that the suspect used to be his friend and he used to let him stay with him. The suspect had gone to the caller's door and started pounding on it, demanding to be let in. The caller had refused; there was a "stay-away" order

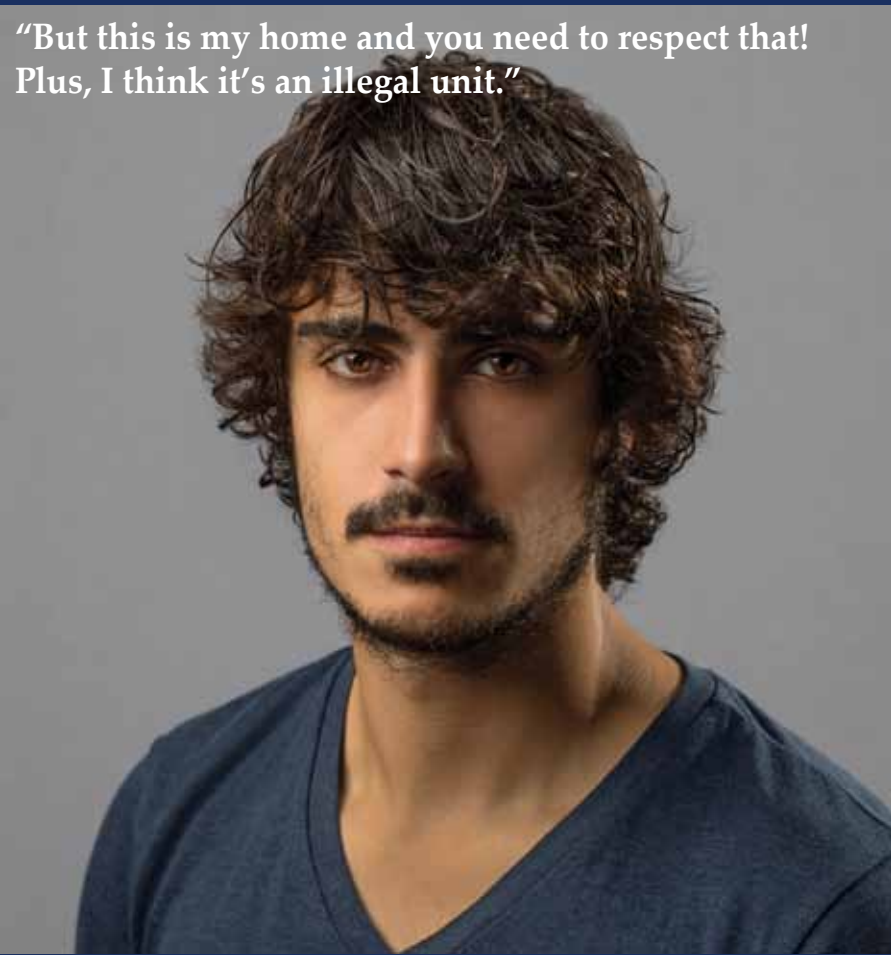
against the suspect, due to prior altercations. The suspect kept demanding to be let in, and then the caller saw smoke of some sort coming under the door into his apartment. So he called the police and the suspect ran away.

The police officers conducted a search of the building and found the suspect. He refused to comply with their orders to get on the ground, and he put his hands in his pockets. Fearing he might have a weapon, the officers tackled the suspect to the ground.

A fight ensued; the suspect refused to comply, he clinched his fists and kept tucking them under his waistband, and he bit the right hand of an officer. After a brief struggle and help from several other officers, they were able to put the suspect in handcuffs. The 911 caller and the owner of the building signed a citizen's arrest form for trespassing and vandalism. The suspect was taken to Northern Station, cited for the violations, and then transported to San Francisco General Hospital due to his altered mental state.

There are two sides to every story...

What you don't know can hurt you.



Call for a free initial consultation regarding landlord-tenant or real estate law today.

STEVEN ADAIR & MACDONALD
PARTNERS, P.C.
SINCE 1982

www.samlaw.net
(415) 956-6488

FROM THE DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR :: Improving the common roadways

A balancing act on Chestnut Street

BY SUPERVISOR MARK E. FARRELL

WITH OUR CITY’S POPULATION marching higher month after month, some of those growing pains are felt on our city streets in the form of traffic congestion, crowded Muni buses, and overflowing sidewalks with pedestrians. I firmly believe a responsive and accountable city government should and can impliment needed improvements to address problems. But the responses to the growing pains must take into account the reasonable concerns of the residents and neighborhoods affected.

For more than a year now, the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) has been working on designing improvements to the 30 Stockton line, which is one of the busiest routes and serves approximately 28,000 customers daily. As part of the SFMTA’s “Muni Forward” initiative, the SFMTA is proposing changes to the route that seek to speed Muni times, add pedestrian safety improvements, increase transit capacity and frequency, and to enhance the overall customer experience on the route.

Their original proposal, the 30 Stockton Transit Priority Project, was introduced to the community and my office in April 2015. Unfortunately, at the outset it was designed without the input of my office, the community, or the merchants along Chestnut Street. Though well intentioned, the initial proposal involved changes that

would have remarkably changed the character of Chestnut Street. It included prohibiting parking on the south side of Chestnut in the mornings, traffic signals at eight intersections between Divisadero and Gough Streets, bus bulbs at a number of intersections, and the removal of more than 40 parking spaces throughout the corridor.

Our office worked with the Marina Community Association, community members, and merchants to understand their concerns, and we worked with the SFMTA to try to find a balance between their concerns and the objectives of the proposal to improve service on the 30 and to enhance pedestrian safety in the corridor. After several meetings with my office, the SFMTA agreed to eliminate their idea for a transit-only lane along Chestnut Street in the mornings, and to eliminate their proposals to install traffic signals west of Fillmore through Divisadero. They also reduced the number of bus bulbs and turn pockets, which meant the project would no longer involve the elimination of any parking spaces.

One of the proposals that remained in the project included the traffic signals at the intersections of Laguna, Gough, and Octavia Streets. The SFMTA also plans to introduce the 60-foot articulated buses on the 30X in the spring to help reduce crowding. The plans to introduce the traf-

fic signals at Laguna, Gough, and Octavia Streets have come under great scrutiny by residents. The SFMTA advocates that traffic signals at these intersections will help improve transit reliability, but it admits that the gain in time may only be between 7 and 10 seconds.

I asked the SFMTA to take another look at their proposal to install traffic signals at these intersections and to further engage with the residents in the area. The proposal was scheduled to be heard at the SFMTA board of directors meeting on Jan. 19, but I asked Ed Reiskin, the director of the SFMTA, to postpone the matter to allow those discussions to take place. They have not yet scheduled another hearing date and will work with the community before setting another date.

Personally, I am very supportive of the goals to reduce transit travel time and to improve transit reliability on the corridor. I am also mindful and supportive of the need to improve pedestrian safety and over the past few years have successfully advocated for pedestrian improvements to many corridors around District 2, including Bay, Chestnut, and Lombard Streets. However, as someone who grew up in the Marina, eating at our local restaurants, working at our neighborhood stores, and riding the 30 Stockton,

I believe a balance must be struck between these improvements and maintaining the charm and character of our neighborhood that we all love.

Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors does not have any control over these decisions — due to a ballot measure years ago, all decisions around Muni and the SFMTA are made by the MTA board of directors, not the mayor or Board of Supervisors. I will continue to work with neighbors and residents on these proposals and advocate on your behalf, but if you have a strong opinion I would also urge you to contact the SFMTA directly with your thoughts on the Chestnut Street proposed improvements. The planner to contact is Sean Kennedy at sean.kennedy@sfmta.com.

As San Francisco continues to grow, we must continue to make appropriate changes to support that growth, whether it means repaving our city streets, updating our sewer system, making public transit service upgrades, or building new housing. However, those changes must incorporate not only the benefits to residents across our city, but also reflect the voices and input of our local neighborhoods that are impacted by these changes. The soul of San Francisco has always rested in our unique neighborhoods, and we cannot lose sight of their character as our city population continues to grow.

E-mail: Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org

Contact SFMTA directly with your thoughts on the Chestnut improvements.

TOP PRODUCERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

465 MARINA BLVD
SOLD

1773-75 GREEN
SOLD

3315 PIERCE
SOLD

133 RICHARDSON
SOLD

OUR RECENT SALES

BARBAGELATA
REALESTATESF.COM

2381 Chestnut Street @ Divisidero

Complimentary Evaluations
415.580.1112
info@RealEstateSF.com


CalBRE# 01259825

FROM THE DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR ∴ Return to City Hall

Tackling the affordability crisis in S.F.

BY SUPERVISOR AARON PESKIN

YOUR HUMBLE COLUMNIST

Thanks to the editors of the *Marina Times* for granting me a little corner of this fine periodical in my third term as District 3 supervisor. My intent is to share regular updates on the district and citywide work of my office, as well as my own personal musings on current events and politics in San Francisco.

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported our efforts — we worked hard to run a positive, issues-focused campaign and we are now bringing that energy to City Hall. After seven years out of office, City Hall has certainly changed, but the basic need for checks and balances has remained the same. It's been an exciting first month, and I remember why I love public service so much.

THE CITY THAT KNOWS HOW. OR THE CITY THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO NEGOTIATE?

Some of my colleagues have posited that criticizing the city's handling of the weeklong bonanza of Super Bowl promotional events is tantamount to "not being a real San Franciscan" because "this is a sports town." Apparently they didn't get the

memo that this sports town has officially been rebranded Super Bowl City — and at a whopping \$5 million (and growing) cost to taxpayers. Apparently, the city of Santa Clara is the city that knows how. Unlike San Francisco, Santa Clara negotiated 100 percent reimbursement for Super Bowl expenses. Not sure what our city officials have been doing the last two years, but it certainly hasn't been negotiating on behalf of our residents. Supervisors Kim, Avalos, and I are working to recoup the costs of this Super Expensive for Taxpayer's Bowl.

As a public servant, my job is to look out for the best interests of the city as a policy maker, troubleshooter, and yes, negotiator. That means asking tough questions of our departments, contractors, and our executive branch.

DO THE DARN DEAL!

My first day back in office, I was dismayed to see that an 18-month negotiation with an out-of-town developer had netted an objectively poor deal that flew through committee and was up for a full vote at the board. After researching the package, it became clear that the \$80 million price tag was not only \$7 million under the minimum bid, but

that it was netting less affordable housing than the city committed to. With a resounding 7-4 vote, the Board of Supervisors decided to send the 30 Van Ness development deal back to be renegotiated. I know we can get a better deal when we're selling off city land.

This is a perfect example of how the city's lack of oversight and negotiation prowess is furthering the affordability crisis. While the voters elected watchdogs to mind the store, the city is selling the farm in the best interest of developers. Well, some of us are listening, and I'm enlisting your help to pass an important tool. Supervisor Kim and I have introduced a Charter Amendment for the June ballot that would double the amount of inclusionary affordable housing required by developers in new residential developments. According to a recent poll, 71 percent of us feel this is exactly the right direction. In fact, several developers have demonstrated they can do better than 25 percent by making 40 percent affordability commitments like the Giants did on the Mission Rock development. During the time I was out of office, the inclusionary requirements were actually reduced from 15 to 12

percent. The current red-hot housing market has demonstrated that we can require affordable housing creation without bringing development to a halt. The housing crisis requires bold action now, and you can count on us to bring that action to the ballot this June.


SHORT-TERM RENTALS? MORE LIKE LONG-TERM HOUSING CRISIS

Another key component of my plan to tackle the affordability crisis is taking on the illegal cannibalization of our affordable housing stock by the likes of Airbnb and the Academy of Art. According to a report released this month by the American Hotel and Lodging Association, nearly a third of the revenue generated by Airbnb's top metro locales comes from full-time rentals. Let's call a spade a spade: The hotelization of rental housing is stealing the roofs from over renters' heads. When you compound that with the illegal conversions and massive decade-long planning violations of the Academy of Real Estate (or, as they are called in their promotional videos, the Academy of Art), it's no wonder we're losing 8 units of housing for every 10 that we build. The city simply hasn't had the cojones to regulate these illegal operations,

which ultimately escalated our housing crisis.

I'm looking forward to working with my colleague to the west of District 3, Supervisor Mark Farrell, on a wide range of issues that impact all of us. I've recently been assigned to serve on the Land Use and Transportation Committee, as well as to chair the Government Audit and Oversight Committee. My colleagues also voted to place me on the Golden Gate Bridge Authority Board. We've certainly got our work cut out for us, and I'm already enjoying rolling up my sleeves and digging in. We can't do it alone, though, so I hope you'll connect through the *Marina Times* and also drop by our office at City Hall. Feedback and suggestions welcome! I also hope you'll get to know my three amazing staff members, Sunny Angulo, Lee Hepner, and Connie Chan. You can reach us at 415-554-7450 or peskinstaff@sfgov.org, or e-mail me directly at aaron.peskin@sfgov.org. Twitter: [@aaronpeskin](https://twitter.com/aaronpeskin)

District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin represents the Russian Hill, Nob Hill, Telegraph Hill, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gateway, and Union Square neighborhoods.



Follow Your Nose to



325 Columbus Avenue
North Beach | 415.781.7673
thestinkingrose.com



Left to right: Sam Dodge; The homeless presence is visible across the city.

PHOTO: HOPE, JCRUZHETRUTH

SOLUTIONS

CONTINUED from page 1

or another, ranging from emergency shelters to transitional housing to jail.

The heaviest concentration of homeless people — in fact, the place you will find the majority of the homeless in the city — is in District 6, with District 10 being a distant second place. But that doesn't mean there aren't homeless individuals to be found throughout San Francisco; in the city's 2015 count, they were found in every single district, from the ocean to the bay and all points in between.

Sam Dodge, who recently took over directing the mayor's Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) office after the retirement of Bevan Dufty, is optimistic about the city's plans, including its new emphasis on the Navigation Center model, in which the needs of homeless people beyond simply overnight shelter are met. For this inaugural edition of the *Marina Times's* new Solutions Provider column, in which we highlight people who are addressing vexing problems facing the city, we spoke with Dodge to learn more about the city's efforts.

What's the biggest challenge about tackling homelessness in San Francisco?

I think that the general public has gotten frustrated, and there's some feeling that we don't know what we're doing or that we're not making progress, but that's not true. So just helping people understand that we've got really successful programs and that we can make tremendous difference if we focus on it.

What are the one or two most important tools you have to address homelessness?

Our work on targeting interventions that work for different subpopulations. We've had tremendous success with time-limited subsidies ... to get people temporary housing. They last two years.

Nationally and locally there's been this tremendous success in housing veterans who are long-term homeless. Locally, we've had great success with the Navigation Center, helping people leave homelessness who were camped on the

street. All these add up to a picture of where we see success. For a long time we've had great success in our supportive housing in San Francisco, where our retention rates are [quite high] for all populations.

The Navigation Centers are being talked about as a long-sought solution to at least some of the problem. First, why are they needed?

We have people who are out on the street who have been homeless for a very long time, feel very alienated from our mainstream services — shelter and other services. [The Navigation Center can] provide a space that is attractive, is where people are, doesn't make them make sacrifices of their pets or their partners—they can bring their pets and their partners.

It's been a great tool for our homeless outreach programs. It's just filled through homeless outreach. It creates a place where we can bend the system toward their needs. A lot of these people have demonstrated they've been out for a long time, and they're going to continue to be out there unless we [do something].

Why didn't we have these years ago? Was it a conceptual hurdle or financial or something else?

I think it's a combination of conceptual and financial hurdles. It's tremendously helpful to have donations that allowed us to start from scratch, and take best practices we've seen around and the instincts we've had from working with homeless populations for years, and bring them together.

It's nice. I'm really proud of this work and of the mayor in trusting us to do that and give us a green light [to] try new things and recognize that you can do better. Part of it is the system and bending the system to be more client-focused instead of department-focused or program-focused.

Do you have plans for more Navigation Centers?

Yes. We're engaging with a bunch of different configurations and sites and seeing what would be best. We have some more time at our current location. They haven't gone through the entitlement process — they're eventually going to build

housing on that site. But it's a dynamic place, so we're able to house people there and invite new people in.

The important thing is growing the outcomes, not necessarily more buildings.

How will they be paid for?

A donation that came through the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a \$3 million donation. The city does a lot of in-kind services, but [it was] largely funded with the donation. The mayor has set aside \$3 million in this year's budget for expansion, so we have that to work with. He also set up a mayor's fund for Navigation Centers, which allows people interested in this to donate to it.

The statistics for the total number of homeless in San Francisco appear to be fairly steady over the past few years. Is that accurate?

That is correct. Those are point-in-time counts, and the homeless population is very dynamic. The population level has stayed relatively consistent, but it doesn't mean it's the same people who have stayed homeless all that time. Our sister cities on the West Coast have seen increases in that same time. Seattle saw a 20 percent increase in the last year. Los Angeles has seen an increase in homeless and in encampments.

I think although it's not a victory to stay the same, it is better than growing our population.

Many people have claimed that our homeless problem is exacerbated by the tech boom here. But those numbers suggest that's maybe not true.

I think that the important thing is to look up and recognize this is a national crisis. It's concentrated in urban centers. Every city has its own dynamics, but it's not causal. It means some of our local solutions need to be unique, but it also means some of our opportunities [are unique to this city]. Salesforce and Marc Benioff have been some of our biggest supporters. I don't know the anonymous donors for the Navigation Center, but I wouldn't be surprised if it was someone in the tech industry. We also have the record budgets here that help fund the solutions.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



Mike and Oren, joined in 2015

18 Years Of TODAYS

This love story began eighteen years ago and continues to be written every day at San Francisco Towers, the city's most appealing senior living community. Whether they're cooking at home or joining friends in our dining room, Mike and Oren will be delighted to tell you about their love of healthy, nutritious cuisine, travel, and their friendships. To learn more, or for your personal visit, please call 415.447.5527.



San Francisco Towers

The life you want, in the city you love.

1661 Pine Street San Francisco, CA 94109 sanfranciscotowers-esc.org



A not-for-profit community owned and operated by Episcopal Senior Communities. License No. 380540292 COA #177 EPSF724-01VE 020116

UNION STREET GOLDSMITH



25% OFF
All Earrings

Valentine
Sale



2118 Union Street, San Francisco
415-776-8048 unionstreetgoldsmith.com
*Excludes custom, special order & diamond studs

UNION STREET HAS A CRUSH ON YOU



VALENTINE WINE WALK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 2016 ~ 4:00-8:00 pm
Union Street from Gough to Steiner & Fillmore from Union Street to Lombard
Purchase Tickets online for \$25 or Day Of for \$30 ~ Visit Website for more info
Use PROMO CODE Online to Receive \$5 OFF: MarinaWine
SRESproductions.com ~ UnionStreetSF.com ~ 800-310-6563

MARINA-COW HOLLOW INSIDER



Stop by Sugarfina for some candy for your Valentine. PHOTO: LEXIE LEE

Valentine's Day spots

BY LYNETTE MAJER

FEBRUARY IS ALL ABOUT Valentine's Day, and you'll find everything you need here in our neighborhood and those nearby to make your celebration a perfect one.

SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEET

If candy is on your list for Valentine's Day (or Chinese New Year), the place to go is the appropriately named **Sugarfina** (1837 Union Street, 855-784-2734, sugarfina.com), which opened about a year ago and bills itself as A Luxury Candy Boutique. The store's gimmick, for lack of a better word, is in its packaging: The candies are contained in clever Lucite cubes, which can be purchased separately, or gathered together to create a bento box of several varieties, often with a theme (like Valentine's Day). But the candies and their ingredients are special, too: for example, the gummy bears come from Bavaria (those made with Dom Pérignon are a best seller, no surprise), hazelnuts from Piedmont, and fruit from the Greek Isles. These folks are serious about their candy.

UNION STREET VALENTINE WINE WALK

Start your Valentine's Day celebration early with the **Union Street Has a Crush on You Valentine Wine Walk** on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. Stroll with your sweetie as you shop and sip at participating locations from Gough to Steiner Streets and on Fillmore Street between Union and Lombard streets where merchants will offer wine samplings along with special treats. \$25 advance tickets at sresproductions.com and \$30 day of (cash only) onsite at 2040 Union Street.

VALENTINE'S DAY MENU SPECIALS

These restaurants are offering Valentine's Day menus and other specials (all prices are per person and are exclusive of tax and gratuity).

Here in the Marina, the crew at **Spaghetti Bros.** (3213 Scott Street, 415-400-8500, spaghettibrossf.com) plans to offer a prix-fixe menu featuring an amuse of Kumamoto oysters, arugula salad with pomegranates and goat cheese fritters, lobster mac 'n' cheese, New York steak with truffled mushroom tart and bordelaise, and chocolate bread pudding with vanilla bean gelato (\$75).

Around the corner at **Causwell's** (2346 Chestnut Street, 415-447-6081, causwells.com), in addition to its regular menu, the restaurant also plans to offer a few special dishes — whatever looks fresh to the chef that morning — to celebrate with your favorite person.

What could be better than a meal with the backdrop of the Golden Gate Bridge? In Fort Mason, **Greens** (Building A, 2 Marina Boulevard, 415-771-6222, greensrestaurant.com), recently reopened from a remodeling of several areas of the dining room, is planning a three- to four-course prix-fixe menu with three to five options that include an appetizer, entrée, and dessert, plus entertainment, in addition to their regular Sunday brunch service. A menu will be available by phone beginning Feb. 1 (\$130, \$45 wine pairing).

You can't beat the cozy, intimate interior of neighborhood favorite, the **Brazen Head** (3166 Buchanan Street, 415-921-7600, brazenheads.com), which also has late-night dining (until 1 a.m.). The regular menu will be available, which includes favorites like escargot, French onion soup, steaks (including their signature angus beef New York pepper steak), chops, prime rib, and more.

UP THE HILL IN RUSSIAN HILL ...

Cocotte (1521 Hyde Street, 415-292-4415, cocottes.com) plans a menu including beef Wellington, scallops, macarons, and more with a French-California flair (\$75).

La Folie (2316 Polk Street, 415-776-5577, lafolies.com) is offering a scrumptious menu

of French favorites, including Russian caviar, oysters, asparagus soup with crab royale, poached John Dorey with Champagne-fines herbs sauce, Snake River Farm beef tenderloin with lacinato kale and black trumpet mushroom ragout, and truffle Madeira sauce or lobster and mushroom risotto, and a special dessert, Rouge Emblazed, with yogurt mousse, pomegranate coulis, burnt rose ice cream, black pepper hibiscus-raspberry coulis, and red wine meringue (\$200).

Down the street at **Lord Stanley** (2065 Polk Street, 415-872-5512, lordstanleysf.com), enjoy an eight-course tasting menu featuring foie gras, caviar, vegetables, fish, beef, scallops, a vegetarian option, a pre-dessert, followed by the real dessert plus — yes, there's more — a gift for the morning (\$100 *tasting menu*, \$60 *wine pairing* featuring 100 percent organic biodynamic wines from the Loire Valley, Burgundy, and other quality French wine appellations, plus sherry).

OVER THE HILL IN NORTH BEACH ...

Rose Pistola (532 Columbus Avenue, 415-399-0499, rosepistolasf.com) will be offering a five-course tasting menu in addition to their regular menu along with live jazz starting at 8 p.m. (\$60).

Park Tavern (1652 Stockton Street, 415-989-7300, parktavernsf.com), whose New Year's Eve menu included such decadent dishes as Kobe beef tartare and roasted bone marrow, lobster-stuffed petrale sole, and maple crème brûlée, plans another similar prix-fixe menu available Feb. 1 (\$85 *tasting menu*, \$55 *wine pairing*).

Celebrate all weekend at **Calzone's** (430 Columbus Avenue, 415-397-3600, calzonesf.com) and **The Stinking Rose** (325 Columbus Avenue, 415-781-7673, thestinkingrose.com), both of which will serve their full menu continuously throughout the day and evening. The restaurants never charge a corkage fee, so BYOB, and enjoy!

E-mail: lynette@marinatimes.com

SKETCHES FROM A NORTH BEACH JOURNAL



Gino and Carlo's has the bloody best Bloody Mary. PHOTO: THOMAS HAWK / FLICKR

Arm wrestling with Aaron Peskin, a Bloody Mary at Gino and Carlo, and neckties in the neighborhood

BY ERNEST BEYL

AS I WRITE THIS, GINO AND CARLO, my favorite North Beach saloon, is looking for a cook to replace Denise Sabella, who died over the Christmas holidays and is sorely missed by all of us in the neighborhood. Being the cook at Gino and Carlo is a good gig. Denise prepared only one meal a month: The first Tuesday of each month she did a family-style, Italian lunch that attracted hordes of hungry folks. So if you are a good cook — and you'd better be — drop into Gino and Carlo and try out.

IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT NORTH BEACH BLOODY MARY

Those of you who know me will appreciate my ongoing quest for the perfect Bloody Mary. I have journeyed far and wide in this task — to the Hemingway Bar at the Ritz Hotel in Paris and Harry's Bar in Venice, where legend has it this morning after, eye-opener may have originated. Actually, it was popularized in this country at the King Cole Bar in New York's St. Regis Hotel, where it was called the Red Snapper. A good drink, but not in the same league as my favorite here in San Francisco.

Bartenders at the late Ed Moose's Washington Square Bar & Grill had a serviceable Bloody Mary, which I preferred mixed, shaken with ice, then poured through a sieve into a wine glass — the Moose way, we called it. And now, the guys and gals behind the bar at Original Joe's indulge me by serving my Bloody Mary the same way.

Then one day at Gino and Carlo, instead of my de rigueur Campari and soda with a brandy float, it seemed like Bloody Mary time. Ron Minolli was behind the plank, and I gave him a mandate to exercise his considerable experience. What I received in a short cocktail glass (with ice I should add) was the Perfect Bloody Mary. Quest ended. Here, in Ron's words, is how he does it:

"Well, first, most bartenders screw up this fine drink by making it too watery. And second, they don't mix the ingredients into the tomato juice the way they should. Here's how I do it.

"Get yourself a 12-ounce glass and fill it with ice. Squeeze in the juice of two limes, add four good shakes of salt, and three good shakes of pepper. Next comes about one-half ounce of Worcestershire sauce and a shake or two of Tabasco. Then, about a quarter teaspoon of horseradish right out of the jar. Now is the time to add two ounces of a good vodka.

"Here's the secret. Before you start pour-

ing in tomato juice, mix thoroughly all the ingredients you have sensibly put into the glass. And only after these are all mixed do you add the tomato juice and mix that in thoroughly.

"See what we've done here? We have mixed and blended all the spices and the vodka into the Bloody Mary."

Yes, Ron, I see.

ARM WRESTLING WITH AARON

Because new District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin met with Mayor Ed Lee at Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Cafe in North Beach for arm wrestling and politics, I thought I would test my juice on the same turf. It worked. At the appropriate time, Peskin showed up wearing his newly acquired toga and laurel leaf crown. "I read your book while I was in Tibet on vacation," he said. "Great! How did you like it?" I replied. "I loved it, so I gave it to the Dalai Lama," he said. Obviously we arm-wrestled and then discussed the state of the city. However, I am honor-bound not to reveal details because Peskin is joining me as a columnist for the *Marina Times*. So now he is not only a city supervisor, but also an ink-stained wretch. Read his musings elsewhere in this issue of the paper.

NECKTIES IN NORTH BEACH

I went downtown the other day for a celebratory lunch. I wore a sport coat, slacks, white shirt, and a necktie. It seemed like everyone on the streets was wearing a hoodie, blue jeans, and flip-flops. Nothing wrong with that I suppose, but I miss the downtown dress up. When I was a boy in short pants, my parents would take me downtown for lunch occasionally. My mother wore a hat (sometimes with a veil), a good dress, her best cloth coat, and gloves, white or black, depending on the season. My father wore a suit, with a white shirt and necktie, and a gray, snap-brim fedora. With my short pants, I wore a shirt with a necktie and a sport coat. I'd like to see more dress up here in North Beach — even neckties occasionally. North Beach is a classy neighborhood.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD TIDBITS

A sign at the entrance to the New Sun Hong Kong Restaurant at the corner of Columbus and Broadway advises: "Restrooms for Customers Only — Others \$5."

Overheard at the bar at Original Joe's: "Do you have a boyfriend?" "No, why do you ask?" "Because I want to apply for the job."

E-mail: Ernest@marinatimes.com

UNION STREET

Between Van Ness & Steiner

meet me in cow hollow

CAFE

Spend Valentine's Day on Union Street!

SHOP, EXERCISE, BEAUTIFY, RELAX, & DINE.

ALL ON ONE ROMANTIC STREET!

WITH OVER 200 SHOPS, SPAS, RESTAURANTS, SALONS & SALOONS

Art by Virginia Lindsay

UNIONSTREETSF.COM

suiGENERIS®

DESIGNER CONSIGNMENT

WOMEN'S 2147 UNION ST
INSIDE THE COURTYARD FILLMORE & WEBSTER
www.suigenerisconsignment.com

MON-SAT 11A - 7PM SUN 11A - 5PM SGCONSIGNMENT

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN	BOTTEGA VENETA
CHANEL	COMME DES GARCONS
DOLCE & GABBANA	DIOR
DRIES VAN NOTEN	GUCCI
HERMES	JEAN PAUL GAULTIER
JIMMY CHOO	LANVIN
LOUBOUTIN	LOUIS VUITTON
MARC JACOBS	OSCAR DE LA RENTA
PRADA	TOM FORD
VALENTINO	YVES SAINT LAURENT

AND MANY MORE !

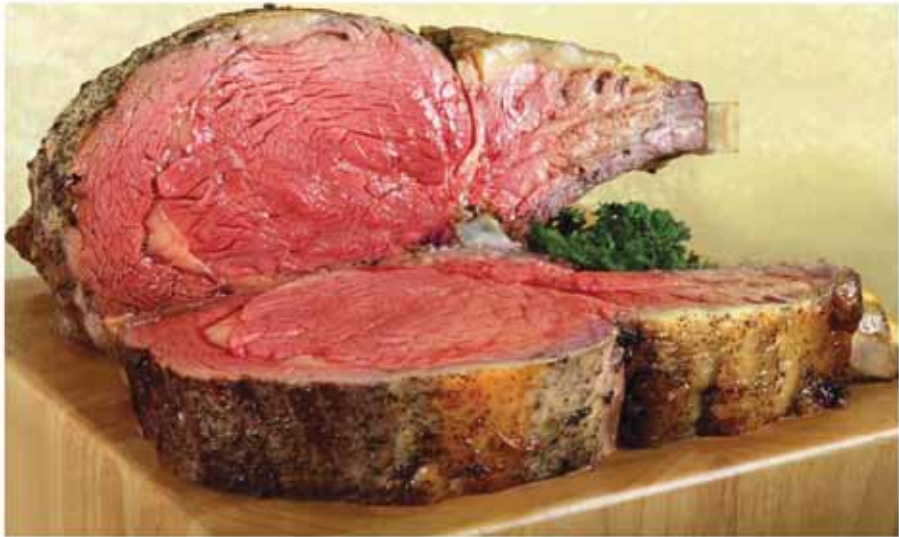
suiGENERIS® MEN'S 2231 MARKET ST

(415) 800-7584

The Brazen Head

"A place worth finding."

Join us for Valentine's Day!



Prime Rib Every Night!
at the Marina's Best Kept Secret!

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

www.brazenheadsf.com

THIRD GENERATION

LUCCA *delicatessen*

2120 CHESTNUT STREET • 415.921.7873 • WWW.LUCCADELI.COM

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

TABLEHOPPER :: Belly up to the bakery



Tower of power — the raw bar at Parallel 37's new Second Sunday brunch buffet.
PHOTO: © TABLEHOPPER.COM

Say, 'Qui' at Le Marais Bakery and 'Come to Mama!' at Black Bark BBQ

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI AND DANA EASTLAND

WATERFRONT/FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Love croissants? Then you should visit the new location of **Le Marais Bakery** (900 North Point Street) in Ghirardelli Square. The small, 500-square-foot location is technically a pop-up in the former Kara's Cupcakes space while Patrick and Joanna Ascaso work on opening their bistro, also in the square. There is a possibility that they'll stay on after the new bistro opens in late spring. The bakery is smaller than their Marina location and focuses on pastries, including their excellent viennoiserie, as well as tarts, quiche, cookies, and some salads and sandwiches. There is also Stumptown coffee and espresso, indoor seating at bistro tables and black Thonet chairs, and outdoor seating when the weather improves. Hours are Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday–Sunday 8 a.m.–10 p.m.

FILLMORE

The new barbecue project from chef David Lawrence and his wife, Monetta White, **Black Bark BBQ** (1325 Fillmore Street, 415-848-9055) is here. On Jan. 13, the new fast-casual restaurant finally opened its doors after years (literally) of planning, recipe testing, and remodeling. Lawrence has been traveling and researching regional American barbecue, and even brought on barbecue expert Edith Cheadle from Dallas, with more than 20 years of smoke under her belt, to help open the restaurant and consult on the food.

The barbecue style gravitates toward Texas with dry rubs, but also looks to the Carolinas and Kansas City for inspiration. Lawrence calls this "San Francisco-style barbecue," and plans to offer his ribs, along with chicken, hot links, brisket, pulled pork, and a rotating pit master special, depending on mood and the best-looking cuts available. Many of the sides are made using Cheadle's recipes, including bourbon mac 'n' cheese with cornbread crust, smothered greens with ham hocks, and sweet potato casserole. Seasonal salads are also available. The drinks include 12 local beers on tap, as well as six wines, plus bottled options — look for plenty of ciders, too.

The space is casual, with room for 56 diners in the open dining room. Ordering is done at the counter, and the open kitchen allows a view into the pit. There are televisions for watching the game, if that's your thing, and on nice days there will be outdoor seating for 15. Hours are Wednesday–Monday 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

NOB HILL

Looking for somewhere new to brunch? Ritz-Carlton Hotel brunch buffet spreads are legendary, so I was pleased to hear the **Ritz-Carlton San Francisco** is launching a Second Sunday Brunch Buffet at **Parallel 37** (600 Stockton Street). And with chef de cuisine Michael Rotondo leading the charge, it's a good one. After you make your way to the Bloody Mary bar, it seems the raw bar will be your next stop, with oysters, crab claws, shrimp, and other fresh seasonal seafood on offer. You'll also be able to select dim sum, sushi, salads, local and international cheeses and charcuterie, smoked salmon with mini bagels, paddlefish caviar with blinis, and some hand-carved meats like prime rib and rack of lamb, along with king salmon Wellington and eggs Benedict.

As you have probably suspected, it's not inexpensive — the cost per person is \$115, exclusive of tax and gratuity, but think of it like this: It will be your one opulent meal of the entire day! Hours are 11 a.m.–2 p.m., and upcoming second Sundays of the month include Feb. 14 (how's that for a Valentine's Day date?) and May 8 (Mother's Day — book it now!). Visit parallel37sf.com or call 415-773-6198 for reservations.

INNER RICHMOND

Joyce Goldstein tells us that new location of Andy and Tanya Booth's **The Spanish Table** (130 Clement Street, 415-702-6199) is now open. Now you no longer need to drive over a bridge to get to their Berkeley or Mill Valley locations when you need some paella ingredients. And if there's someone in your life who deserves some awesome Spanish chorizo, or a cazuela, some Spanish wine, Portuguese port, or perhaps some vinegar, you know where to go. Pantry items in effect, from rice to cookies! And sherry fans, there's a huge selection for you.

The store includes a small deli, serving Spanish and Portuguese cheeses cut to order and meats like chorizo and jamón. There are also plans to serve bocadillos, seasonal dishes, and to offer coffee service, including café con leche and cortados. Open Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Marcia Gagliardi writes a popular insider weekly e-column, *Tablehopper*, about the San Francisco dining and imbibing scene; get the latest news at tablehopper.com and follow @tablehopper on Twitter and Instagram. Dana Eastland is the associate editor for *tablehopper.com*



Left to right: Negroni; oysters, eggplant Parmigiana, and toasted raviolis.
PHOTOS: SPAGHETTI BROS. / SLOANE MORRISON

Spaghetti Bros. hits the spot on Scott Street

BY JULIE MITCHELL

IF THE NAME SPAGHETTI BROS. EVOKES visions of hearty red sauce, beefy meatballs, and piles of pasta like Mama used to make, you'll need to revise your thinking. Despite the decidedly retro name, Spaghetti Bros. on Scott Street is anything but traditional.

Owned by Erick Lowe and Aaron Toensing and managed by William Sanders, this new bar and restaurant has a polished, urban vibe. Lowe was formerly chef de cuisine at Bix before helping to reopen the popular Fog City Diner. Toensing, a California Culinary Academy graduate, led the pastry program at Bix, where he met Lowe. The two teamed up at Fog City before deciding to open Spaghetti Bros. Sanders was the former general manager at Bix, where he met with Toensing and Sanders.

The Bix connection probably has a lot to do with the tony, upscale ambiance of Spaghetti Bros., which is highlighted by a wrap-around, copper-topped bar with cushy red booths, white tablecloths, and lots of banquet seating in the main dining room, gold metal ceilings, and glowing overhead lighting. The only tiny downside is that once inside, you could be in any classy restaurant in any city, including San Francisco.

Like Bix, the bar is a big draw. Here you'll find a lengthy list of beers, wine, bourbon, whiskey, and every other kind of spirit, aperitif, and liqueur — domestic and imported. The bar menu offers everything from aged Scotch to single-malt American whiskey to grappa to cognac and tequila, and a wine list that sports varietals from all over the world. The restaurant also has the requisite specialty cocktails, including the Paper Plane with bourdon, Aperol, Cadamaro, and lemon (\$13); and the Elixir No. 4 with rye whiskey, Benedictino, green chartreuse, and lime juice (\$13); and the Dubliner featuring Irish whiskey and hot-spiced apple cider (\$12).

The menu, which changes seasonally, has a modern, Italian bent with a strong California influence. Starters include pickled garden vegetables (\$7), prosciutto and griddled spiced pears (\$9), escargot (\$9), and two of the most "traditional" items at Spaghetti Bros.: Aaron's garlic bread (\$8), and toasted raviolis and marinara (\$8). This appetizer-sized plate of slightly crisped ravioli filled with creamy cheese resting atop a pool of flavorful red sauce is a winner.

Starters or light meals include a chopped salad with cucumber, radish,

garbanzo beans, feta, sharp Cheddar, and local salami (\$14); buratta with little gem lettuce, hazelnuts, Fresno peppers, and chervil (\$15); heirloom radicchio with crispy quinoa, toasted seeds, herbs, and buttermilk dressing (\$12); and black-eyed pea soup with ham hock tortellini and pickled cabbage (\$11) — just right for a chilly winter night.

Spaghetti Bros.' two spaghetti dishes, spaghetti cacio e pepe (\$14) and spaghetti with local uni butter (\$21) are both delicious and delightfully light. Richer choices are the green chili mac 'n' cheese (\$16) and the strozzapreti with blue crab, lemon beurre blanc, and chives (\$19). The richest pasta of all is the rigatoni with short rib sugo, Strauss butter, and breadcrumbs (\$22).

Other entrees include a dinner salad with farmers' market vegetables, Tuscan kale, and chickpea vinaigrette (\$17); McFarland Springs trout with grilled broccoli, fingerling potatoes, and warm olives (\$24); cioppino with grilled bread and vadouvan (market priced); Gulf flounder with cannellini beans, melted leeks, and lemon-caviar sauce (\$26); and duck scaloppini with red cabbage and lemon-caper sauce (\$25). Spaghetti Bros.' featured winter dish is "mom" chops — Rancho Llano Seco pork from Chico — with buttered house-made egg noodles and mushroom gravy (\$26). And you have to sample chef Toensing's tribute to his grandmother's cooking: the sweet and savory Swedish meatballs with chanterelle mushrooms, cipollini onions, and lingonberries (\$23).

There are plenty of sweets (those cutting out sugar, beware!) on the dessert menu, including house-made milk chocolate, pistachio, and brandied cherry gelato (\$7); spumoni (\$10); and a scrumptious combo of lemon olive oil cake and ricotta cheesecake with huckleberries (\$10). There's also maple semifreddo with allspice crumble, tiramisu with vanilla wafers, aged rum, chocolate pudding, and whipped cream (\$10); and one lighter choice; blood orange and oroblanca (sweet seedless citrus fruit similar to grapefruit) granita with vanilla meringue (\$9).

Spaghetti Bros. brings a touch of class to the Marina in the form of a bar and restaurant with ample space offering sensibly priced, well-prepared food and drink, and a nod to the neighborhood's Italian heritage.

Spaghetti Bros.: 3213 Scott Street, 415-400-8500, spaghettibrossf.com. Monday-Friday 5:30-10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 5:30-11 p.m., bar opens at 4:30 p.m. (valet parking available at 5 p.m.)

Voted Best Romantic Restaurant



CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES WITH THREE CLIFF HOUSE FAVORITES

The Bistro Wednesday Night Prix Fixe
Three courses for \$28.00 4:30 – 9:00 pm

\$5 Moonlight Cocktails
Featured Cocktail Changes Daily
Sunday through Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 pm

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

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 WEDNESDAY
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

MICHAEL SNYDER ON ... FILM

Finding romance on screen

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

VALENTINE’S DAY IS UPON US, AND that means romance is in the air. Romance means trysts, assignations, and dates — especially on the foremost holiday for lovers. And dates often mean date movies. You know ... the kind of passionate, relationship-driven dramas or sweetly scatterbrained comedies that inspire closeness between loved ones, leaving you and your companion in swoony affectionate mode by the time the credits roll.

Conveniently, there have been a few recent praiseworthy movies with romantic themes, and they ought to still be running in local theaters. One is *Brooklyn*, about a young Irish woman who emigrates to the titular New York City borough in the early 1950s and finds herself torn between two suitors — a working-class Italian-American in Brooklyn and a well-to-do fellow back in Ireland. Two additional features address amorous matters, although they are considerably more unconventional: *Carol* delves into a liaison between two women in 1950s Manhattan when such a thing was considered illicit; and *The Danish Girl* dramatizes the true story of a wife’s devotion to her husband who becomes a candidate for the world’s first gender-reassignment surgery.

As wonderful and heartfelt as all three of these current movies are, there are many alternatives — some of them landmarks in cinema history. Rather than follow a candlelit dinner at an intimate bistro with a trip to the multiplex, it could be a warmer, cozier move to follow desert with a return home for a nightcap and a silver-screen standard that will really put you and your partner in the mood for love. The choice might even be *In the Mood for Love* — Chinese director Wong Kar-wai’s elegant, languid 2000 rumination on an extramarital affair in 1962 Hong Kong.

GET IN THE LOVE STREAM

Pop a DVD into the player. Scour the cable listings. Run a search of Netflix, Amazon, or any other on-demand streaming service you can access. On the classic

comedy side, you’ll find Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert bantering, bickering, and falling for one another during a road trip in Frank Capra’s adorable 1934 rom-com *It Happened One Night*. Or there’s *The Lady Eve*, the piquant, surprisingly moving 1941 screwball comedy about a female con artist (Barbara Stanwyck) trying to fleece the nerdy heir to a brewery fortune (Henry Fonda) — a masterpiece from the masterful filmmaker Preston Sturges. Also of this wacky vintage ilk: *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), and *His Girl Friday* (1940).

Legendary tearjerkers include *An Affair to Remember*, the 1957 Cary Grant-Deborah Kerr drama about a man and a woman who fall in love on a cruise ship, must part company, agree to meet in six months at the top of the Empire State Building, and miss their connection. It inspired 1993’s *Sleepless in Seattle*, a dramedy co-starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan that doesn’t reach the heights of *An Affair to Remember*, although it’s still pretty charming. The 1942 wartime gem *Casablanca* is pure power and passion with its tale of reunited star-crossed lovers Rick (Humphrey Bogart) and Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman) who try to survive treacherous circumstances in that exotic North African city. Along similarly heart-breaking lines: the evergreen *Gone with the Wind* (1939), *A Matter of Life and Death* a.k.a. *Stairway to Heaven* (1946), and *Brief Encounter* (1945).

It’s hard to deny the chaste pleasures of *Roman Holiday*, Audrey Hepburn’s delightful 1953 coming-out party wherein she plays a princess who meets a smitten newspaperman (Eddie Albert) and goes among commoners for the first time. The grandiose, widescreen soap-operatics of 1967’s *Doctor Zhivago*, based on the epic novel of romance found, lost, and found again with Omar Sharif and Julie Christie can transport a willing viewer to its snowy post-Russian Revolution landscapes. For fantasy fans, Jean Cocteau’s *La Belle et la Bête* is the artist’s visionary, dreamlike 1946 take on the Beauty and the Beast fable, while *The Princess Bride* (1987) is a more comedic



Carol takes us to 1950s New York for an illicit love story. PHOTO: © NUMBER 9 FILMS

yet no less loving look at familiar fairy-tale tropes.

PUT A SONG IN YOUR HEART

You can go the musical route with the brightly colored 1964 French treat, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, starring a young Catherine Deneuve and featuring the bittersweet songs of Michel Legrand. *West Side Story* — the 1961 movie of the Broadway hit — adapts Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet* to New York’s inner-city neighborhoods, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. And 2006’s *Once* brings melody shaded with melancholy to the unexpected connection between a struggling Irish street busker (Glen Hansard) and a young Eastern European immigrant (Markéta Irglová) in Dublin.

Great couples and great couplings abound in film history: Bogie and Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*; Woody Allen and Diane Keaton in *Annie Hall*; Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in *Ghost*; Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*; Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine in *The Apartment*; and Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in *Titanic*. Same-sex pairings get their due in *Brokeback Mountain*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, and *Blue Is the Warmest Color*. Shameless romanticism fuels *The Notebook*, blissful serendipity

infuses *Before Sunrise*, and unbridled, youthful ardor drives *Say Anything* ...

The literary-minded should enjoy the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice*, the 1990 *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and at least three cinematic versions of *Romeo and Juliet*. Hipsters won’t be disappointed by the Gallic whimsy of 2001’s *Amelie*; the clever, science-fiction-tinged, meta-magic of 2004’s *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*; and the modern boy-meets-girl angst and wit of 2009’s *500 Days of Summer*.

If anyone is feeling particularly randy, the orgasm-at-a-deli scene between Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal in 1989’s *When Harry Met Sally* will either quell your erotic impulses or fire you up, even as it makes you laugh at our intimate foibles. Ultimately, you can’t help but root for these two crazy kids to stop butting heads and realize how right they are for one another. In that regard alone, *When Harry Met Sally* is a date movie for the ages.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on KPFK/Pacifica Radio’s David Feldman Show and on Michael Snyder’s Culture Blast, via GABnet.net, Roku, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.

THE BEST OF BOOKS : Flying off the shelves

Best-selling at Books Inc.

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

BOOKS INC. BEST-SELLER LIST

1. *City of Thieves*, by David Benioff (paperback)
2. *111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss*, by Floriana Peterson (paperback)
3. *The Tender Bar: A Memoir*, by J.R. Moehringer (paperback)
4. *The Sense of an Ending*, by Julian Barnes (paperback)
5. *Harry Potter Coloring Book*, by Scholastic Books (paperback)
6. *Mindfulness Coloring Book: Anti-Stress Art Therapy for Busy People*, by Emma Farrarons (paperback)
7. *Brooklyn*, by Colm Toibin (paperback)
8. *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, by Marie Kondo (hardcover)
9. *My Brilliant Friend: Neapolitan Novels, Book*

- One**, by Elena Ferrante and Ann Goldstein (paperback)
10. **Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up**, by Marie Kondo (hardcover)

NEW TITLES THIS MONTH

A Doubter’s Almanac: A Novel, by Ethan Canin (hardcover)

In this mesmerizing novel, Ethan Canin, the *New York Times* best-selling author of *America America* and *The Palace Thief*, explores the nature of genius, rivalry, ambition, and love among multiple generations of a gifted family.

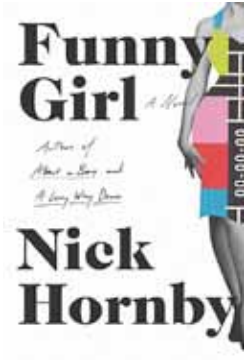
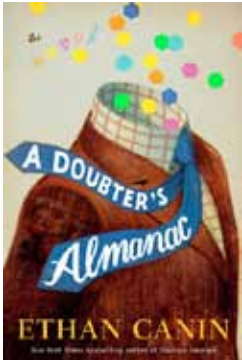
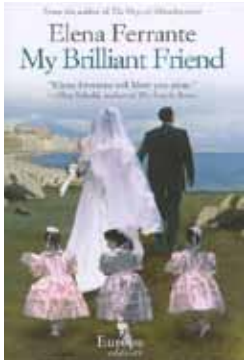
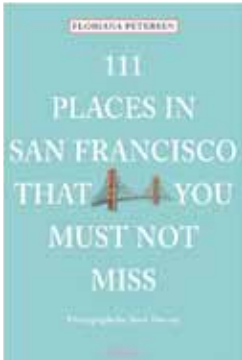
Funny Girl, by Nick Hornby (paperback)

Set in 1960s London, *Funny Girl* is a lively account of the adventures of the intrepid young Sophie Straw as she navigates her transformation from provincial ingénue

to television starlet amid a constellation of delightful characters. Insightful and humorous, Nick Hornby’s latest does what he does best: endears us to a cast of characters who are funny if flawed, and forces us to examine ourselves in the process.

The Life of Elves, by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson (paperback)

Seven years after the publication of her international bestseller, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, Muriel Barbery returns with a lyrical novel about the quest for enchantment in a world that seems to have forgotten such a thing ever existed. With its cast of unforgettable characters, each fighting to preserve a sense of enchantment, *The Life of the Elves* is a poetic meditation on art, nature, dreams, and the role of the imagination.



Glass Sword (Red Queen), by Victoria Aveyard (hardcover)

The electrifying next installment in the Red Queen series escalates the struggle between the growing rebel army and the blood-segre-

gated world they’ve always known, and pits Mare against the darkness that has grown in her soul.

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

REED & GREENOUGH

3251 SCOTT STREET at CHESTNUT



LIVE PIANIST NIGHTLY

**HAPPY HOUR
\$9 WINES BY THE GLASS**

**SPECIALTY COCKTAILS including
THE BEES KNEES
made with honey from our roof**

FRESH SQUEEZED JUICES

GREAT WHISKEY SELECTION

SHUFFLEBOARD & BILLIARDS

Open Every Night except Monday

FEBRUARY EVENTS

what not to miss this month

MAJOR EVENTS



Super Bowl 50

Daily through Feb. 7

Moscone Center, Justin Herman Plaza

The NFL Experience offers an interactive theme park with historical exhibits, participatory games, autograph signings, youth football clinics, and NFL merchandise; Super Bowl City is a free village with family-friendly NFL-themed activities, interactive games, cultural performances, locally grown food, and local arts displays. \$25–\$35 (NFL Experience), sfbaysuperbowl.com
PHOTO: SFBAYSSUPERBOWL.COM

S.F. Chronicle Wine Competition Public Tasting

Saturday, Feb. 13, 1:30–5 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

As the largest competition of U.S. wines in the world, this public tasting is a wine and food experience featuring artisan food purveyors. \$70–\$95, 650-548-6700, winejudging.com

Tulipmania Festival

Daily, Feb. 13–21

Pier 39

Come stroll down the pier and enjoy a spectacular and colorful display featuring over 39,000 tulips and seasonal garden favorites. Take a self or guided tour and learn helpful gardening tips. Free, 415-705-5500, pier39.com



Chinese New Year Festival

Various days through Feb. 28

Various S.F. venues

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Celebrate the Year of the Monkey with three weeks of festivities including, a street fair, flower fair, and the colorful Chinese New Year Parade Feb. 20. See website for pricing, 415-986-1370, chineseparade.com
PHOTO: VHINES200 / FLICKR

LAST CHANCE

ACT: Satchmo at the Waldorf

Tue.–Sun. through Feb. 7

405 Geary St.

This richly imagined biographical one-man show features a collision between two jazz titans, Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis. \$20–\$160, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

SHNSF: Jersey Boys

Tue.–Sun. through Feb. 14

Orpheum Theatre

This award-winning musical tells the true story of what a group of blue-collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop music sensations of all time — Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. \$45–\$212, 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

Chasing Justice

Thu.–Tue. through Feb. 21

The Contemporary Jewish Museum (736 Mission St.)

Inspired by Deuteronomy 16:20 to “pursue justice,” this exhibition presents work by three artists who have explored different approaches to this Jewish commitment that have resulted in engagement with the government. Works include collages inspired by FBI files to images of abstract paintings in the CIA to drawings based on a grandmother who led the first strike against the auto industry. \$12, 415-655-7800, thecjm.org

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART

Handmade Valentine’s Day Cards

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2–4 p.m.

Children’s Area, Marina Branch Library

Create your own Valentine’s Day pop-up card for that special someone. Paper, patterns, templates, stamps, markers, and colored pencils will be provided. Limited to 15 participants. Free with registration at 415-355-2823, sfpl.org

5th Annual Valentine Broadside Printing Event

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2–4 p.m.

S.F. History Center, S.F. Main Library

Come experience letterpress printing on the library’s 1909 Albion hand press and take home a unique keepsake for your valentine. Limited to 100 participants. Free, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

7th Annual Union Street Has a Crush on You Valentine Wine Walk

Thursday, Feb. 11, 4–8 p.m.

Union Street (Gough to Steiner Sts.)

Fillmore Street (Union to Lombard Sts.) This evening stroll features wine samples, finger foods, and special treats offered by our local merchants, so don’t forget to thank them with your support! \$25–\$30, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com, unionstreetsf.com

Dianne Reeves: Songs of Love

Thu.–Sun., Feb. 11–14

SFJazz

For swooning romance and pure sensuous delight, no voice in American music can rival this Grammy-award winner who has embodied jazz’s enduring values of elegance, class, and improvisational poise for more than three decades. \$30–\$95, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

NEXT Village S.F. Valentine’s Party

Friday, Feb. 12, 7–10 p.m.

The University Club (800 Powell St.)

Enjoy an elegant yet casual evening with Denise Perrier and Mike Greensill performing Valentine-themed music, dance lessons, hors d’oeuvres, and a no-host bar. Festive attire encouraged. \$75–\$1,000, 415-2868, nextvillagesf.org

SF Heart Sculpture Race

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2:45 p.m.–5 p.m.

Meet: Northwest corner, Union Square

Grab your main squeeze(s), and join other teams of two to six to see who can solve the most clues in the least amount of time to find the famous heart sculptures in the city. \$10 & \$15, eventbrite.com



Valentine’s Day Sock Hop

Saturday, Feb. 13, 7–10 p.m.

Presidio Officer’s Club (50 Moraga Ave.)

Hop back to the 1950s and be there or be square with live music from The Ely Brothers & The Doubletake Band and the San Francisco Jitterbugs with dancing and retro cocktails available for purchase from Arguello restaurant. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free with registration, 415-561-5300, presidioofficersclub.com
PHOTO: PESIDIO.GOV

Lesbian/Gay Chorus: 13th Annual Love Bites

Sat.–Mon., Feb. 13–15

Martuni’s (4 Valencia St.)

This a hilarious anti-Valentine’s Day cabaret is about heartache, bitterness and revenge. Tickets at the door, 415-779-5428, lgcsf.org



Pa’ina Paint Club: Lover’s Moon

Sunday, Feb. 14, 3:30–6:30

Pa’ina Lounge (1865 Post St.)

Celebrate with a special friend by painting your own masterpieces of this quaint image with the guidance of a professional artist, and enjoy a romantic dinner afterward. All materials provided and participants keep their finished works. Food costs not included. \$35, 415-890-4512, painsf.com
PHOTO: PAIMAPAINCLUB.COM

GALAS & BENEFITS

33rd Annual Dinner à la Heart

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Various S.F. restaurants

Enjoy a pre-fixe dinner (including wine and coffee/tea) and help low-income Bay Area seniors live independently. Proceeds directly support the Institute on Aging’s programs. \$75–\$200, 415-750-3443, ioaging.org

28th Annual Guardsmen Celebrity Dinner & Sports Auction

Thursday, Feb. 11, 6–10 p.m.

Ritz-Carlton

This event typically raises enough money to send over 750 at-risk youth in the greater San Francisco Bay Area to summer camp. Proceeds also benefit the Guardsmen’s longtime partner, the Giants Community Fund. \$250 & up, 415-856-0939, guardsmen.org

Heroes & Hearts Luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

AT&T Park

This luncheon honors community heroes and features heart art created by local artists as well as a special performance of Beach Blanket Babylon to benefit the S.F. General Hospital Foundation. \$300, 415-206-5928, sfghf.org

36th Annual Academy of Friends’ Gala: A Century of Radiance

Sunday, Feb. 28, 5–11:30 p.m.

S.F. Design Center Galleria (101 Henry Adams St.) Join the excitement of watching the Academy Awards while enjoying an evening of cocktails, tasty treats, entertainment, and more, all in support of Bay Area HIV/AIDS services. \$300–\$750, 415-995-9890, academyoffriends.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Pierre Bonnard: Painting Arcadia

Tue.–Sun., Feb. 6–May 15, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

Legion of Honor

The first major international presentation of Bonnard’s work on the West Coast in half a century, this exhibition will feature approximately 75 works spanning the artist’s complete career, from his early Nabi masterpieces, through his experimental photography, to the late interior scenes for which he is best known. \$25, 415-760-3600, famsf.org

I Am San Francisco

Daily through March 10

African American Center, S.F. Main Library

This exhibition captures the home and soul of native Black San Francisco with personal stories that were assigned to various artists from various places to interpret using various media. Free, 415-557-4300, sfpl.org

In the Footsteps of Masters

Exhibition: Wed.–Sun., Feb. 11–March 17

Opening reception: Friday, Feb. 12, 7–9 p.m.

The Dryansky Gallery (2120 Union St.)

This group exhibition celebrates the human figure with works by three emerging artists: oil paintings by L.A.-based Sarah Awad (in attendance for opening reception), spray paintings on paper by Bangkok-based Daniel Sewell, and etchings by French artist Mija. Free, 415-932-9302, thedryansky.com

THEATER

S.F. Playhouse: The Nether

Tue.–Sun. thru March 5

450 Post St. (in the Kensington Park Hotel)

This crime drama and sci-fi thriller explores the consequences of living out our private dreams in a world of total sensory immersion where you can log in, choose an identity, and indulge your every whim. \$25–\$120, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

Magic Theatre: Dogeaters

Feb. 3–28

Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center

The theater is transformed into a mythical Studio 54 with cabaret-style seating where you’ll find drag queens, beauty queens, and movie stars alongside statesmen, activists, and rebels. Explore the inner workings of power, culture clash, sex, and celebrity as a country unravels at the end of the Marcos regime. \$20–\$55, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

ACT: The Unfortunates

Tue.–Sun. Feb. 3–April 10

Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)

The darkly comic musical is based on an old blues song, “St. James Infirmary,” and transports audiences to a world of memory and mythmaking in which courage is tested in magical ways. \$35–\$95, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org



The Illusionists: Live From Broadway

Daily, Feb. 17–21

SHN Orpheum Theatre

This mind-blowing spectacular showcases the jaw-dropping talents of seven of the most incredible illusionists on earth and has shattered box office records across the globe while dazzling audiences of all ages with a powerful mix of levitation, mind-reading, illusion, disappearance, and more. \$45–\$212, 888-746-1719, shnsf.com
PHOTO: SHNSF.COM

DANCE

Rotunda Dance Series: Chinyakare Ensemble

Friday, Feb. 12, noon

S.F. City Hall

The series opens with a suite of traditional dances from Zimbabwe whose themes range from honoring the earth to celebrating deliverance from colonization. Free, 415-920-9181, dancersgroup.org



S.F. Ballet: Swan Lake

Daily (except Feb. 26), Feb. 19–28

War Memorial Opera House

Helgi Tomasson’s glorious Swan Lake returns for the first time since 2010 with love, sorcery, and betrayal in what is probably the best known and most beautiful story ballet of all time featuring sublime dancing and splendid costumes set against a sleek and modern set design. \$39–\$390, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org
PHOTO: SFBALLET.ORG



Yo. Soy. Flamenca.

Sat.–Sun., Feb. 20–21

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

This performance honors the 30-plus year career of Emmy-winning Bay Area flamenco dancer-choreographer and international artistic director, Yaelisa, whose story is told through traditional flamenco with guest artists from Spain in a 10-member ensemble. \$35–\$75, 510-910-2514, fortmason.org

PHOTO: FORTMASON.ORG

MUSIC & MORE

Dynamic Guitars 1st Edition

Saturday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

This guitar party of the year features artistry, virtuosity, and a guaranteed good time by four amazing performers: Martin Taylor, Badi Assad, Frank Vignola, and Vinnie Raniolo. \$35–\$45, 415-242-4500, omniconcerts.com

Aaron Neville: Fat Tuesday Celebration

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Herbst Theater

Having one of the most evocative and recognizable voices in American music, the Grammy-winning Neville is an international ambassador of New Orleans R&B, and returns to celebrate his new album. \$25–\$55, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

24th Annual Noise Pop Festival

Daily, Feb. 19–28

Various S.F. & Oakland locations

S.F.'s favorite indie music, arts, and film festival that explores the intersection of music and art, returns with art gallery shows, happy hours, and much more. \$55–\$375, noisepop.com

Champion: An Opera in Jazz

Daily, Feb. 19–28

SFJazz

This groundbreaking work tells the real-life story of world champion boxer Emile Griffith, who struggled to reconcile his sexuality in a hyper-macho world and features elaborate staging and video elements with a jazz trio, orchestra, and chorus, bringing out the full glory of Terrence Blanchard's soulful score. \$30–\$185, 888-920-5299, sfjazz.org

Yula Wang

Sun.–Mon., Feb. 21–22, 8 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

The international superstar pianist joins the Russian National Orchestra for a program of Russian masterpieces, including Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Stravinsky's ballet score The Firebird, inspired by Russian folklore. \$59–\$219, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org

NIGHTLIFE

Graves Drop, The Ogres, The Teutonics

Thursday, Feb. 11, 8:30–11:30 p.m.

Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St.)

Graves Drop pulls in influences from The Beach Boys, the Flamin' Groovies, the Everly Brothers, and other sounds of the 1950s through the 1970s. \$7, 415,923-0923, hemlocktavern.com



Pop Rocks at The Chapel

Saturday, Feb. 13, 9 p.m.

The Chapel (777 Valencia St.)

Pop Rocks is an S.F. homegrown high-energy rock and dance band. Get set for some over-the-top antics and retro 1980s attire — and modern fun. \$15, 415-551-5157, thechapelsf.com

PHOTO: POPROCKS.ME

Astronauts, etc.

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.

The Independent (628 Divisadero St.)

Music by Astronauts, etc., plus Hunny, Naytronix, and Kid Trails. \$13–\$15, 415-771-1421, theindependentsf.com

FILMS & LECTURES

Berkeley Rep's Macbeth: An Evening with Conleth Hill and Frances McDormand

Monday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Marines' Memorial Theatre (609 Sutter St.)

A behind-the-scenes discussion with Olivier Award winner and Tony Award nominee Conleth Hill and Tony, Academy, and Emmy Award-winner Frances McDormand, who star in Berkeley Rep's new production of Macbeth. The Rep's artistic director, Tony Taccone, will interview them. \$15–\$30, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

San Francisco Independent Film Festival February 11–25

Various S.F. venues

A film festival for independent, alternative, and subversive filmmakers from around the globe, featuring screenings, parties, and more. \$12–13, 415-662-3378, sfindie.com

Lovesick Cinema

Saturday, Feb. 13, 1, 2, and 3 p.m.

The Exploratorium

Infatuation and its aftermath are explored on the big screen with family-friendly animations and short films. Free with museum admission (\$29), 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu



Mostly British Film Festival

Daily, Feb. 18–25

Vogue Theatre (3290 Sacramento St.)

Watch foreign films that don't need subtitles in this festival drawing from the U.K., Ireland, Australia, and India. \$10–\$12.50 individual tickets, \$100–\$125 festival pass, mostlybritish.org

PHOTO: MOSTLYBRITISH.ORG

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Magnificent Magnolia Tour

Saturday, Feb. 13, 3–5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20, & 27, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m.

S.F. Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park

Meander through the garden's paths of fragrant and beautiful magnolias. Evening tour includes hot, fragrant tea and snacks. \$25 (Feb. 13), \$15 (Feb. 20 & 27), \$20 (Feb. 22), register at 415-661-1316 ext. 412, sfbotanicalgarden.org

Everything Matters: Sodium

Thursday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.

The Exploratorium

Ron Hipshman leads demonstrations exploring sodium and its role in our lives. Also available is the Tactile Dome, where you navigate totally by your sense of touch. Ages 18-plus. \$15 (\$10 additional for Tactile Dome), 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

The San Francisco Foundation: Building Climate Equity and Community Resilience

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)

Learn about the work of The San Francisco Foundation, which invests in communities and the environment to build climate equity and resilience. Find out what it envisions for the future and how it affects you. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Lesbians Who Tech Summit San Francisco 2016

Thu.–Sun., Feb. 25–28

Castro Theatre

More than 1,500 LGBTQ women and allies from across the technology industry will gather to network and learn, with a focus on space, science, and hardware. \$349–\$499, lesbianswhotech.org

64th Pacific Orchid Exhibition: A Legacy of Orchids

Thu–Sun, Feb. 26–28

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

The largest orchid show in the U.S. features more than 150,000 blooms and promises to be a showstopper. Events include a silent auction, docent tours, horticultural demonstrations, and a diverse variety of orchids for sale. \$14–\$25, orchidsanfrancisco.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES



Food from the Heart 2015

Friday, Feb. 12, 5–7:30 p.m.

Ferry Building Marketplace

Stroll down the candlelit nave and sample seasonal hors d'oeuvres and local wines, all to the sounds of music and tango dancing. Proceeds benefit Slow Food San Francisco. \$2–\$6, 415-693-0996, slowfoodsanfrancisco.com

PHOTO: FERRYBUILDINGMARKETPLACE.COM

SFINoir Wine and Food Event

Daily, Feb. 26–28

Various S.F. venues

This unique culinary event celebrating the best in Black and Southern-inspired cuisine from eminent Bay Area chefs returns for Black History Month and features chef demos, a wine-tasting forum, jazz brunch, and more. Free–\$40, sfnoir.org

Great Wines of Italy

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2:30–7 p.m.

Golden Gate Club (135 Fisher Loop, the Presidio)

Savor and discover hundreds of Italy's most sought-after wines (90 points and above) from prestigious brands as well as chosen premium boutique wineries. Includes food, entertainment, and Lalique event glass. \$125–\$200, jamessuckling.com

SPORTS & HEALTH

Paleo for Modern Living:

Super Foods for Optimal Health

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6–8:30 p.m.

JCCSF (3200 California St.)

Learn fact from fiction on gluten sensitivity, carbohydrates, meat eating versus vegetarianism, good and bad fats, super foods, supplements, and gut bacteria from physician-author Akil Palanisamy, MD and author Michelle Tam, PharmD. Includes reception with Paleo foods. Free, registration required at myhealthandhealing.org, 415-600-2100

Mindful Eating Class Series

Thursday, Feb. 11, 18, 25 & March 3, 6–7:30 p.m.

CPMC (2100 Webster St.)

Learn how to overcome stress-related eating in this series led by an experienced dietitian and learn how mindful eating can change the way you look at food and contribute to an enjoyable eating experience. Participants will bring their own dinner and practice eating mindfully in a judgment-free environment. \$240, intake interview and registration required, 415-600-2100, cpmc.org



23rd Annual KNBR Giants FanFest

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

AT&T Park

Join the fun with player Q&As, viewing of the World Series trophies, free player autographs, photo ops, a kids' zone, and more. Roam the field and meet players while KNBR broadcasts from home plate. Free, 415-972-2000, sfgiants.com

PHOTO: SFGIANTS.COM

Fort to Fort 10K

Sunday, Feb. 20, 9–10:30 a.m.

Starts: Great Meadow, Fort Mason

Run this flat, scenic route from Fort Mason to Fort Point and back. \$5, 415-978-0837, dserunner.com

CHILD'S PLAY

Family Movie Night: Ratatouille

Friday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Presidio YMCA (63 Funston Ave.)

Join host Supervisor Mark Farrell and come early for the food trucks at 6 p.m. and cartoons at 6:30 p.m. before the animated Disney movie about Parisian chef Remy the rat. Free snacks and popcorn. Free, 415-561-5300, presidio.org

Linda Tillery & The Cultural Heritage Choir

Saturday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

SFJazz

In honor of Black History Month, the amazing Cultural Heritage Choir presents an exciting and interactive experience in celebration of African American children's folk music as well as spirituals and work songs. \$5–\$15, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org



Chinese New Year Concert

Saturday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Monkey at this family event that includes a preconcert festival reception (2 p.m.) with lion dancing, Chinese calligraphy, entertainment, and more before Mei-Ann Chen leads the symphony with special guest soloists, pipa player Wu Man and soprano Pureum Jo. \$30–\$74, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org

PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

The Great Baby Romp

Saturday, March 1, 2015, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Observation Post, the Presidio (211 Lincoln Blvd.)

This fun-filled family event will give parents a chance to compare sample classes selected from the over 140 programs in S.F. to find the perfect activity for their child's unique personality. \$60 per family, thegreatbabyromp.com

CREATURE FEATURES



Coats for Cubs

Daily through April 22, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Buffalo Exchange (1555 Haight St. & 1210 Valencia St.)

Give your furs back to the animals! Used furs will be donated to rehabilitation organizations across the country to use for bedding and comfort to orphaned and injured wildlife. 415-431-7733, 415-647-8332, coatsforcubs.org, buffaloexchange.com

PHOTO: COATSFORCUBS.ORG

JUST FOR FUN

Genealogy & Family History Research

Monday, Feb. 22, 1–3 p.m.

North Beach Branch Library (850 Columbus Ave.)

Learn how to conduct genealogical research and find people using billions of records of U.S. census data, vital records, directories, photos, and records, as well as how to access the library's databases and resources. Free, 415-355-5626, sfpl.org

The Great S.F. Crystal Fair

Sat–Sun, Feb. 27–28, 10 a.m.

Conference Center, Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center

A magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, jewelry, and the healing arts features over 40 vendors, while psychics bring their cards, aura cameras, and magic for your entertainment. \$10, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

Calendar listings

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

Visit marinatimes.com for additional calendar listings.







leftovers

consignment home furniture

415.409.0088

OPEN DAILY 10-6

1350 VAN NESS AVE

SHOP ONLINE: WELOVELEFTOVERS.COM

Cow Hollow Private Sale



Situated on a 3,772 square foot oversized lot, this exquisite single-family home is located on one of the finest historic blocks in San Francisco. Precisely in the Cow Hollow neighborhood and steps to The Presidio, this home offers 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and charming character throughout. The south facing, deep, enclosed garden is extraordinary with numerous tulips and colorful rhododendron, thereby creating tranquility and privacy. The home is within blocks of delightful shopping and restaurants on Union and Chestnut Street, and easy access to public transportation.

- Cow Hollow Private Sale
- Lot size of 3,772 square feet
- Currently 4 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms
- Well maintained home
- Deep, enclosed, south-facing rear yard with mature garden
- Steps to The Presidio, Palace of Fine Arts, Union & Chestnut Street retail

Please call me to learn more or schedule a showing.



Dino Zuzic, MBA / Realtor
Broker Associate
Cell: 415.317.4546
Email: dino@dinozuzic.com
Website: www.dinozuzic.com
BRE #01854090

URBAN HOME AND GARDEN :: Breathe easy



The great indoors: Clean the air with houseplants

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

IF THE WEATHER IS TOO STORMY TO BE outside, give some attention to indoor houseplants not only to keep your green thumb in shape, but also to clean the air of impurities. Many of the furnishings in our homes (floor covering, drapes, insulation, and furniture), as well as the chemical solvents used to clean, give off gas and pollutants into our living spaces.

The most common VOCs (volatile organic compounds) are **formaldehyde**, a chemical commonly used in manufacturing various products such as melamine, carpet adhesives, glues, chemical-based cleaners, paints, plywood, foam insulation, lacquers, varnishes, gasoline, and more; **benzene**, an odorless pollutant and a known carcinogen used in the production of styrene, resins, and adhesives and is found in inks, paints, plastic, dyes, detergents, gasoline, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and more; **trichloroethylene**, a solvent found in dry cleaning fluid, adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids, and spot removers; and another solvent, **xylene**, which is used in the printing, rubber, paint, and leather industries.

NASA scientists have found that indoor houseplants can greatly purify and renew stale indoor air by filtering out toxins while at the same time adding the humidity needed to combat respiratory and allergic conditions. Just 15 houseplants can provide better air quality in an 1,800-square-foot home. Because plants absorb air pollutants and harmful gases through their leaves, which then get sucked down to the roots, keep indoor plants free from dust by wiping gently with a damp cloth.

Here are some common houseplants that are relatively easy to care for that will purify the air from these pollutants. As an added bonus, some are blooming or have variegated leaves, which will help to add color to your home and brighten the dark winter days.

Aloe: This sun-loving succulent helps combat formaldehyde and benzene. Beyond its air-clearing abilities, the gel inside its leaves can help heal cuts and burns.

Azalea: This beautiful flowering shrub combats formaldehyde and needs a bright, but cool area in your home with a temperature of 60 to 65 degrees.

Bamboo palm: This small palm thrives in indoor spaces without sun and often produces flowers and small berries. It's high on the list of plants that best filter benzene and trichloroethylene, but it also filters formaldehyde, commonly found in furniture and upholstery, so it's a good choice to place around furniture.

Chrysanthemum: These flowers are available year round, do well in pots, and

their colorful blooms last about six weeks. Like all blooming plants, it needs bright light, and for the buds to open, sunlight. The blooms help filter benzene.

Dracaena: There are several varieties of this plant, some with red or white stripes that form clusters atop a thin stem. Dracaenas are easy to grow, reaching 12 feet in height in a properly sized pot, and do not require sunlight. These plants remove trichloroethylene, formaldehyde, and xylene.

English ivy: A popular groundcover in some areas, an English ivy plant also looks lovely indoors, with its vines daintily cascading over the edge of a shelf or mantel. It is also an air-cleaning plant that will absorb benzene as well as formaldehyde and reduce airborne fecal-matter particles. This plant prefers moist soil and medium light.

Gerbera daisy: This cheerful, flowering plant is effective at removing trichloroethylene as well as benzene. Gerberas also emit oxygen constantly, (most plants decrease their output at night), so they're a good choice for a well-lighted bedroom for those with sleep apnea or breathing disorders.

Peace lily: Peace lilies boast elegant white blooms and dark curving leaves. They do well in low, indirect light, and the soil should be kept moist throughout. This plant topped NASA's list for removing formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene, and can also combat toluene (found in paint thinners) and xylene.

Pothos: This fast-growing impervious vine will grow even in the dark (although it will lose its yellow leaf variegation) as it tackles formaldehyde. Let the soil dry before drenching.

Philodendron: With pretty heart-shaped leaves, this sweet plant helps rid formaldehyde from the air. It can do well in low light, and soil should be allowed to dry out between waterings.

Snake plant: This hardy plant is one of the best for filtering out formaldehyde, which is also common in cleaning products, toilet paper, tissues, and personal care products, so is a good choice for a bathroom. Indirect sunlight is best, but it will also grow in minimal light and doesn't require much water.

Spider plant: Almost impossible to kill, this plant multiplies by developing plantlets at the ends of its arching stems. These new growths root readily in water to start new plants. Place it in a spot that gets medium light and keep the soil steadily moist. The spider plant battles benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and xylene.

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

Now you see it, soon you won't

Your views aren't protected in San Francisco

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WHEN STEVE AND CHERRIE Badolato bought their Marina District condominium 11 years ago, they paid a premium for views of the San Francisco Bay, Tiburon, and Angel Island. They also considered the views an investment should they wish to sell the property down the road. What they didn't realize was that those valuable views could be taken away at a moment's notice because San Francisco has no view rights.

For 88 years, the top floor condos at 3734 Broderick Street have peacefully coexisted with the home in front of them located at 685 Marina Boulevard, which is the former Kilroy residence (if that name sounds familiar, Kilroy Realty is the developer seeking to tear down the historic SoMa Flower Mart and replace it with a 27-story tech office complex). On July 2, 2015, Mark Dempster, a former partner at venture firm Sequoia Capital and current chief counsel for Founders' Consigliere, and his wife, Kim, purchased the house for just over \$7 million. On July 13, the couple

sent neighbors a Notice of Pre-Application Meeting to discuss proposed changes to their roofline, required because the project, led by Stephen Sutro of Sutro Architects, includes a vertical addition over 7 feet and a deck over 10 feet above grade or within the required rear yard. The existing height of the building is 58 feet; the new owners are proposing an increase to 64 feet (the maximum permitted) as well as a five-foot extension off the back of the home.

At the meeting, held on July 27 at 685 Marina Boulevard, the Badolatos voiced their concerns over the plans. "Their views are unobstructed from the front of their home," Steve Badolato points out. "Ours is much less, but it's just as important to us." Badolato says he and his wife were shocked to see Sutro's drawings. "Along with raising the deck level by a foot and extending the back of the house, they want to take down the existing stairwell hut and build a tower that will completely block our views."

On Oct. 18, Badolato met with City Planner Chris May. "He

suggested maybe the Dempsters could slant and follow the old rooflines opening a partial view," Badolato says. "Cherrie suggested perhaps a glass skylight that would not only preserve some of our views but also be beautiful." Badolato purchased a copy of the plans and presented them to the Dempsters at an Oct. 26 meeting held at Sutro's office. "Stephen Sutro said he would get back to us in two weeks," Badolato says, "but no contact was ever made." The next day, the Badolatos received a note from the Dempsters stating that the Planning Department had approved the plans as-is.

The Badolatos received a copy of the building permit application from the Planning Department on Dec. 19 earmarking details of the plan and their options, such as filing a discretionary review, the authority of the

Planning Commission to review projects and take action if the plans "impact nearby properties or occupants." Unfortunately for the Badolatos, views are not protected by San Francisco code unless they are public and from a public location (scenic vistas, open spaces, rights-of-way), so it's unlikely a discretionary review will stop the Dempsters from moving forward.

Some 25 years ago, the Badolatos built a large home in Laguna Beach, Calif., with unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean, utilizing a glass roofline skylight. In Laguna Beach, views are protected. In the late 19th century the California Supreme Court ruled (*Kennedy v. Burnap*) that there was no inherent property right to a view or passage of natural light, but a few cities in California besides Laguna Beach have passed view ordinances. The city of Rancho Palos Verdes allows homeowners to apply for a "view restoration permit" from the city, which, if granted, gives the view-challenged claimant the right to trim or remove a neighbor's trees at their own expense. In the Bay

Area, the town of Tiburon passed an ordinance prohibiting landowners from planting or maintaining trees that "unreasonably" obstruct the view or sunlight from another person's property. Other Bay Area cities with some form of view rights legislation include Albany, Atherton, Belvedere, Berkeley, Carmel, Fairfax, Hayward, Hillsborough, Lafayette, Livermore, Los Altos, Napa, Oakland, Orinda, Piedmont, Ross, San Anselmo, Santa Clara, Sausalito, and Walnut Creek. Conspicuously absent from that list is San Francisco — famous for some of the most breathtaking (and expensive) views in the world — which has no view- or light-protection ordinances.

I reached out to Mark Dempster via e-mail for this article and he quickly replied, "Hi Susan. Delighted to speak with you." Dempster offered dates and times that worked for him and I selected Dec. 2 at 2 p.m., but Dempster never responded. I reached out again on Jan. 16, but as of press time he still hadn't responded.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

Views are not protected unless they are public and from a public location.

The City's Best in 2015

Congratulations to all of our top producers!



Missy Wyant Smit
#1 Top Producer



Annie Williams
#2 Top Producer



Rachel Swann
#3 Top Producer



Ron Wong
#1 Team

Mike Tekulsky
#1 Team



Stephanie Ahlberg



David Archibeque



Thomas Cooke



Donna Cooper



Eva A. Daniel



Brooke Krohn Dougherty



Barbara Stein Friedman



Marilyn Hayes



Rebecca Hoffman



Beth Kershaw



Tal Klein



Meagan Levitan



Michelle Long



Lowrie MacLean



Charlie Mader



Marcus Miller



Jennet Nazzal



Jacqueline NeJaime



Paula Pagano



Ron Sebahar



Grace Shohet



Kilby Stenkamp



M.J. Thomas



Robert Vernon



John L. Woodruff III



Lucy Yeung



Joan Gordon
#2 Team



David Cohen
#2 Team



Sandra Bagnatori



Scott Brittain



Sharon Levins



Amy Levins



Vickie Tucker



Joan Foppiano

Local Ownership. Global Reach.



415.921.6000 • www.hill-co.com



The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: December 2015

By Hill & Co.

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2953 Broderick Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$3,000,000	Below	84
Lake	78 22nd Avenue	5BD/4.5BA	\$4,300,000	Above	31
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	146 Avila Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,025,000	Above	26
	59 Rico Way	3BD/1.5BA	\$2,550,000	Below	86
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2820 Jackson Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$4,000,000	Below	41
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 (no sales)					
Lake (no sales)					
Laurel Heights	3 Lupine	3BD/2BA	\$1,750,000	Below	48
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	3835 Scott Street #105	1BD/1BA	\$1,125,000	Above	28
Nob Hill	1200 California Street #24A	1BD/1BA	\$2,000,000	Below	21
	1250 Jones Street #802	1BD/1BA	\$1,680,000	At	0
	1177 California Street #501	1BD/1BA	\$900,000	Below	35
	1527 Jones Street	2BD/1BA	865,000	Above	47
	1177 California Street #423	0BD/1BA	\$738,000	At	131
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2311 Scott Street #1	3BD/2BA	\$2,720,000	Above	21
	3016 Sacramento Street	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,853,000	Below	0
	2801 Jackson Street #303	2BD/1BA	\$1,418,000	Above	64
	1950 Gough Street #306	1BD/1BA	\$1,150,000	Above	23
	2149 Lyon Street #4	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,100,000	Above	39
	2101 Baker Street #6	1BD/1BA	\$825,000	Above	37
	1945 Washington Street #411	1BD/1BA	\$665,000	Below	54
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill	1268 Lombard Street #2	3BD/2BA	\$3,195,000	At	36
	1070 Green Street #1402	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,600,000	Below	38
	1055 Lombard Street #C	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,195,000	At	34
	1436 Vallejo Street	3BD/3BA	\$1,850,000	Above	53
	1124 Chestnut Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,750,000	Above	10
	1050 North Point #1606	2BD/2BA	\$1,350,000	At	0
	876 Lombard Street	2BD/1BA	\$890,000	Below	55
	874 Lombard Street	2BD/1BA	\$800,000	Above	43
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	455 Vallejo Street #111	1BD/1BA	\$875,000	Above	28
	1821 Grant Avenue	1BD/1BA	\$835,000	Below	56

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

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP : Sky-high rents & more

Everyone has a price

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

MARKET REPORT CHECK-IN

San Francisco’s residential real estate ended 2015 at or near all-time highs, according to a new market report by Paragon Real Estate Group. The median house sales price of \$1,250,000 was up about \$125,000 from December 2014, though it was down about \$75,000 from a peak of \$1,325,000 in the second quarter of 2015.

Condominium median sales prices in the city rose by roughly an equivalent amount as houses, about \$130,000, according to Paragon. As of December 2015, the median condo price was \$1,125,000.

For comparison, the real estate firm’s report notes that the median sales price for existing homes across California was \$476,000 as of September 2015; the comparable national price was \$220,000 as of October.

THE PRICE OF RENTING IN S.F.

In mid-2015, the Priceonomics.com website reported that the median monthly rental in San Francisco was \$3,452

for a one-bedroom apartment, \$4,400 for a two-bedroom, and \$5,215 for a three-bedroom. “For some context,” the website noted, “if you make \$100,000 per year, a three bedroom in San Francisco would eat up 100 percent of your post-tax salary.”

It’s not just the city. Rentjungle.com reported that “As of October 2015, average apartment rent within 10 miles of San Francisco, California, is \$3,457.” It tagged one-bedrooms as being priced at \$2,896 a month.

Meanwhile, Zumper.com’s national rent report for November 2015 put San Francisco in the number one slot for the cost of a one-bedroom, which it gave as \$3,670. Close behind was New York City at \$3,280. San Jose was in fourth place at \$2,180 and Oakland was right behind in fifth place at \$2,160.

San Francisco’s rents are high because of its strong economy, constrained inventory, and high cost of development. But Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies reported that there is an increase in renters due to a continued fall-off in homeownership nationwide. It noted that 2014 saw the 10th consecutive drop in homeownership, and “the downward trend continued in early 2015 with a first-quarter reading of just 63.7 percent—the lowest quarterly rate since early 1993. The 233,000 drop in homeowner households last year brought the total decline since the 2006 peak to 1.7 million.”

THE \$1 BILLION BUILDING?

Millennium Partners, the developers of a 190-unit condominium skyscraper at 706 Mission Street, expect a March start to the construction of their 501-foot building, according to latest reports. The project has been delayed for years by lawsuits and other considerations.

The developers expect completion by early 2019, reports Roland Li in the *San Francisco Business Times*. “With units averaging 2,700 square feet and prices expected to exceed \$2,000 per square foot, sales at the tower could break an average of \$5 million per unit and \$1 billion in total sales.” The developer’s cost would include a \$5 million payment to the city for affordable housing.

The Mexican Museum is expected to fill four stories of the building, moving there from its current location in Fort Mason Center.

DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS

Developments that are believed to have impacts on city infrastructure and community facilities are assessed impact fees, and with the city undergoing considerable building of late, those fees are adding up. In early January,

Mayor Ed Lee’s office reported that more than \$250 million from development impact fees will be invested in several neighborhoods.

San Francisco Planning Director John Rahaim said, “As our neighborhoods grow with

new residents and jobs, so does the need for improved public infrastructure.” The neighborhood projects expected to benefit from the impact fee funding include the 17th and Folsom Street Park, Harrison Street improvements on Rincon Hill, transportation improvements at Market Street intersections, streetscape improvements, and more.

MOVE TO DOUBLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim is hoping to have voters in June approve a plan to double the percentage of units that market-rate housing developers must provide at below market rates. Currently, 12 percent of units need to be below market rate; Kim’s plan, if approved, would raise that to 25 percent.

Sarah Karlinsky, senior policy advisor for the nonprofit urban planning group SPUR, argued in December that such a plan could damage the consensus behind 2012’s Proposition C, which set aside \$1.2 billion for affordable housing and reduced the on-site inclusionary housing requirement. “There is significant risk of destroying the coalition of market rate and affordable housing advocates that has been able to do so much good for San Francisco by replacing the loss of redevelopment funding,” Karlinsky wrote in a SPUR brief.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Bubble 2.0 is being driven by the exact same thing that drove Housing Bubble 1.0 ... unorthodox, unfundamental demand using unorthodox capital.”

—Mark Hanson, real estate analyst, quoted in Zillow Market Trends

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



THINK ENERGETIC & DRIVEN

Think Zephyr.

Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

Highly competitive and nuanced, the Bay Area real estate market can be both challenging and rewarding. Zephyr turns local clients into successful home sellers, buyers and investors.

ZephyrRE.com



www.colehardware.com

956 Cole Street 3312 Mission Street 70 Fourth Street
415/319-6705 415/200-3344 415/200-3444
2254 Polk Street Now in Rockridge! 5533 College Avenue
415/200-3370 510/230-0145

Offer does not apply to gift cards, postage stamps, Muni passes, Clipper cards, meter cards, special orders, or sale merchandise.
Not valid with other coupons or offers. Rewards points do not accumulate.

City and County of San Francisco
Outreach Advertising
February 2016

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.

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

Count on WIC for Healthy Families

WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. You may qualify if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or just had a baby; or have a child under age 5; and have a low to medium income; and live in California. Newly pregnant women, migrant workers, and working families are encouraged to apply. WIC provides Nutrition Education and Health information, breastfeeding support, checks for healthy foods (like fruits and vegetables), and referrals to medical providers and community services. You may qualify for WIC if you receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh (Food Stamps), or CalWORKS (TANF) benefits. A family of four can earn up to \$3,739 before tax per month and qualify. Enroll early! Call today to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. Call City and County of San Francisco WIC Program at 415-575-5788. This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Give Kids a Smile Day 2016 PSA Blurp:

On February 18th, 2016 from 10am to 3pm, the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, together with the SF Dental Hygiene Society, will be hosting the Eighth Annual Give Kids a Smile Day at the San Francisco General Hospital WIC Office (2550-23rd St. Bldg. 9). This event combines community outreach, health education, and delivery of health services into one fun activity-filled day for San Francisco families. Children ages 0-10 can receive free dental screenings, cleanings, and fluoride varnish treatment, as well as health education for the whole family! Volunteers will also help connect children to dental homes if they are not already seeing a dentist. There will be giveaways such as toys, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and a raffle for more prizes! For more information please call 415-575-5713.

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings
February 2016 Meetings

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC –Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.
• February 2
• February 9
• February 23

There will be no scheduled meetings on February 16.

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#2838932

REAL ESTATE TODAY : By the numbers

The 'Zword' on Zestimates

BY CAROLE ISAACS

WHETHER YOU LOVE OR HATE Zillow and their Zestimates, it looks like they are here to stay. I am often asked my opinion of Zestimates. "Are Zestimates the last 'Zword' in telling you the value of a property?"

To answer to this question, I spoke to Svenja Gudell, Zillow's chief economist. For balance, I checked in with several of my clients for their opinion of Zillow and Zestimates.

Here are my questions. Zillow's answers are followed by my clients' thoughts.

What criteria does Zillow use in arriving at a Zestimate?

Gudell spoke about Zillow nationwide. "Zillow uses three types of data — homes' characteristics, public records, and the MLS [multiple listing service] — to calculate Zestimates. In addition to this, 60 million users have logged onto Zillow and updated home facts. Three times a week Zillow recalculates the value on over 100 million homes. Prior to the recalculation of home values, the data is cleansed or scrubbed." This corrects or removes corrupt or inaccurate records from Zillow's database.

I interrupted at this point in the interview and asked that we focus on San Francisco, because the city is different. There are no suburbs here where square miles of homes are the same.

It turns out the Zillow model is the same both locally and nationally. However, to address the complexity of San Francisco's housing, the city is broken down into small areas to individually calculate the value of homes in microneighborhoods. Zillow uses more than 1,000 models in San Francisco to calculate Zestimates.

"This is a very intricate process," Gudell emphasized. "Zillow takes great care and pride to make sure Zestimates provide the best possible data available."

Does Zillow find that its users are satisfied with Zestimates? Please answer on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the most satisfied).

I was a bit surprised to hear that Zillow never polled its users. Maybe the proof is in the pudding, or in this case the number of users. There are more than 142 million unique users. The numbers speak for themselves. This may be enough for Zillow.

How does Zillow address complaints about a Zestimate?

This question was not directly answered. However, if homeowners are not satisfied with their home's Zestimate, they may update the value of their property on Zillow. As far as addressing the general issue concerning the accuracy of Zestimates, it is important to remember that Zestimates are not the final Zword on the value of a property. In a city like San Francisco, where it is rare to find two homes that are the same, Gudell said, "It is important to think of Zestimates as an initial point to go on."

WHAT MY CLIENTS SAY ABOUT ZILLOW

In a small sampling of my clients, who for the most part work in technology and finance, I found the responses

below summed up the points I hear most often.

1. "Zestimates are O.K. for the most part, though quite often it appears Zillow is unaware of remodels, in which case the estimate is way off. I would give them a 7/10. Zillow is the best for Zestimates, Zestimate forecasts, and for price/tax history. Redfin has the best interface for making personalized open house schedules. Trulia is the only one with crime maps." (See my October article, "A crime query.")

"Redfin and Xome (newest real estate app I've come across) both seem to get updated pretty quickly when a home is pending/contingent. Zillow lags behind, and sometimes shows homes on sale weeks after they're pending or even sold!"

Note to Zillow: Zillow, how do you explain the time lag?

2. "I do use Zillow. The worst part of the site is that it is using Flash, which slows my machine down terribly or crashes.

Zillow recalculates home value three times a week.

"As for the Zestimates, I do not pay much attention to them. I find they are most reliable when the housing stock in a particular neighborhood is all similar. If you have

houses, apartment buildings, commercial mixed with different ages and conditions, the Zestimates are often very wrong.

"I would give the usefulness a 4."

3. "Unfortunately I do not use Zillow, as it doesn't work well for apartments. Only houses!"

4. "I do use Zillow on occasion. With the Zestimates, I feel like they are a 6 in terms of accuracy.

"Overall it is good for getting a trend, but not an exact number. During a time of increases, it under-estimates and during declines it over-estimates a price. It also does not take into account finishes or similar things."

My personal experience: Driving across town, sometimes it feels like there is a major remodeling project taking place on almost every block. Keeping the data current in San Francisco, where rarely two homes are alike, has got to be a challenge for Zillow. If homeowners are contemplating selling their home, I would recommend they go to Zillow and check the value of their property. If it is too low, it is possible to change the value by adding new information that will be evaluated by Zillow. Remember the site recalculates home value three times a week.

The housing market in San Francisco is complex. Microneighborhoods, small lots, remodels, unwarranted rooms, and bathrooms are the rule. No website alone can fulfill the job requirements of real estate agents, who have a major role to play helping clients deal with the reality of buying or selling a home.

To pin down the most accurate value of a home, a licensed appraiser is the best choice. Next in line is your real estate agent who can provide you with comparable sales in your neighborhood. Unless there is a specific reason you need an appraisal, your real estate agent will be the best choice for finding the value of your home in the current market.

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.

PERSONAL FINANCE ∴ Preparing for your tax appointment

Watch your mailboxes

'Tis the season — important tax documents arrive

BY JESUS GUEVARA

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T THROW it out. Taxpayers should remember these words when a document shows up in their e-mail or traditional mailbox and they wonder if they will need it to fill out their tax returns.

Whether taxpayers get help from a tax professional or go the DIY route, having the right documents is critical. Without documents that substantiate what happened over the year, taxpayers could end up overpaying or underpaying what they actually owe in taxes.

In addition to having all W-2 and 1099 reporting forms — including those from banks, brokers, and bosses — tuition receipts for higher education, receipts to back up any tax breaks claimed (e.g., for charitable donations), and personal property tax receipts will help taxpayers file accurate tax returns.

The envelopes of some of these important documents

will actually have “important tax document” printed on the front. Also, be on the lookout for e-mails from financial institutions and others saying that tax documents are available via their websites.

Retirement income

- Pension/IRA/annuity income and contributions (1099-R, 5498)
- Social security/RRB income (SSA-1099, RRB-1099)

Other income

- Unemployment compensation (1099-G)
- State tax refund (1099-G)
- Gambling income (W-2G)
- Health savings

account and long-term care distributions (1099-SA or 1099-LTC)

Savings and investments

- Interest income, dividend income (1099-INT, 1099-OID, 1099-DIV)
- Income from sales of stock, mutual funds, or other property (1099-B, 1099-S)
- Consolidated broker statements

Education

- Tuition paid or billed and scholarships received (Form 1098-T)

- Student loan interest statement (Form 1098-E)
- Contributions to or distributions from 529 plan or Coverdell Education Savings Account (Form 5498-ESA, Form 1099-Q)

Itemized deductions

- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
- Receipts for state/local income tax paid (other than wage withholding)
- Receipts for real estate tax paid
- Receipts for personal property tax paid
- Bank statements showing investment interest paid

Without documents to show what happened, taxpayers could overpay or underpay in taxes.

The following is a partial list of tax-related documents to keep an eye out for in mailboxes — traditional and electronic.

Employee wages

- W-2

Self-employment and other business information

- Forms 1099-MISC
- Schedules K-1

Health insurance coverage

- 1095-A – marketplace statement
- 1095-B – other insurers
- 1095-C – offers of coverage/coverage from large employers



Keep an eye on your mailbox (actual and virtual) for documents to ensure your taxes get filed with all the necessary information.

PHOTO: ORAN VIRIYINCY

experience major life changes, such as going to college, getting married, and having a baby. To see a more complete list of what individual taxpayers and small business owners need to prepare their taxes accurately, taxpayers can use these H&R Block checklists at hrblock.com/tax-offices/tax-prep/tax-prep-checklist.html.

Taxpayers might need different documents from year to year due to income and other changes.

- Receipts for unreimbursed health care expenses

Taxpayers might need different documents from year to year due to income changes, and if they

Jesus Guevara is a Tax Professional with H&R Block, the world's largest tax services provider. Jesus provides expert tax advice and service in San Francisco and can be reached at 415-268-0756, or at the office on 2151 Lombard Street, San Francisco, 94123.

This is a sponsored article by H&R Block.

Spring into action.

Learn more for free about maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle at the Saint Francis Spring Health Education and Wellness Series. The specialists at Saint Francis are available to help you learn more about how you can keep that spring in your step.

Update on PSA and Prostate Cancer Screening
Curtis Ross, DO
February 10, 2016

Robotic Myomectomy and Fertility
Leslie Kardos, MD
March 10, 2016


Understanding and Preventing Shoulder Problems
Robert J. Purchase, MD
February 24, 2016

Waterworks-Overactive Bladder and Urinary Incontinence
Heidi Wittenberg, MD
March 16, 2016

All classes begin at 5:30 p.m. and are located at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. Food and beverage will be served and parking is validated. To learn more or to reserve your seat, visit dignityhealth.org/saintfrancis, call 415.353.6755 or email robin.oconnor@dignityhealth.org.


Hello humankindness™








jest jewels



for the girl in all of us





 315.
 315.



Custom made
name plates by
Sydney Evan!
850-2280.




 525.
 60.

The Look of Love!

 315.
 315.



 525.
 295.


 950.

14k Gold, Sterling Silver, & Vermeil 16-18" Necklaces, 14k Gold, Vermeil, & Diamond Earrings, 14k Gold & Diamond Stacking Rings


SUPERBOWL

50!

 18.
 16.

 16.

Exclusive SF
Football
Shirts! 35.



Are you ready For your Super Bowl Party?!

WWW.JESTJEWELS.COM

415-563-8839

JESTJEWELS@AOL.COM

1869 UNION ST, SF * 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER, SF * 1791 4TH ST, BERKELEY * 356 SANTANA ROW, SJ

THE COASTAL COMMUTER : Swipe right



Which dating app is the best match?

PHOTOS: MATCH.COM / TINDR / OKCUPID

The haps with dating apps

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

SHORTLY AFTER FEBRUARY makes its entrance, thoughts of love are inevitable — like they're hard-wired into us. Or maybe it's simply pop-agenda. The 14th of the month arrives, accompanied by a buying-and-giving frenzy of Hallmark cards, candy-filled heart-shaped boxes, and flower bouquets, followed by a rush of champagne-and-caviar (or something comparable in your price range) tête-à-têtes with special someones. It's a nationwide plague of warmth and yearning, perpetuated by commercial interests.

Romantic possibilities for the single man or woman can be especially tantalizing in San Francisco and Los Angeles, cities where youth and beauty abound. It can also be frustrating — when love is hard to find (a problem in any corner of the civilized world), it can be downright disheartening. If St. Valentine is the patron saint of lovers, he and his winged, bow-and-arrow-toting emissary Cupid are often the avatars and harbingers of disappointment and dashed prospects.

The search to find a mate is part of our nature. Most of us crave companionship, and desire love — or an approximation. We wish for a magical chance encounter, and might be open to a fix-up by friends, family members, or business allies. All are long shots, at best. As far as proactive pursuits, nobody bothers much with personals ads in newspapers anymore. They're so last-century, although, to be fair, one of my best buddies met his wife that way. Really. And online personals through Craigslist and other cyber bulletin boards have earned a certain risky vibe, making them less appealing. Anyway, they're so last decade, although, to be fair, one of my best buddies met his wife that way. Truly.

ONLINE AND ON TRACK

Online dating services — the tried-and-true like Match.com and Zoosk, specialty sites such as JDate and ChristianMingle (where God enters into the equa-

tion), and the rest — remain viable. You sign up, fill out your details, initialize the search function, see what the algorithms send in the way of options, and start the arduous weeding-out process through e-mails, phone calls, and possible real-life meetings. You connect, or you don't. But gratification is forestalled. As with most interpersonal relations, there are no guarantees of success.

Today, the modern humanoid hungering for that amorous connection turns to the latest wrinkle in a tradition that goes back to ancient times and includes arranged marriages, matchmakers, and drunken bar hook-ups at 2 a.m. Seekers, I give you ... the smart phone dating app, intended to generate everything from a cafe encounter to a one-night quickie to a stars-in-your-eyes lifetime commitment. Say, "Hello. Please set me up with the perfect partner, or failing that, get me laid."

There are bunches of these meet-and-get-sweet apps, many of which link to your preexisting social media presence for images and contacts, most of which have a geographical orientation, and all of which have cutesy names: Tinder, Hitch, OkCupid, Bumble, Grindr, Coffee Meets Bagel, Happn, Fliqpic, PlentyOfFish, HowAboutWe, and so on. And there are a few designed to appeal to specific audiences: Grindr targets gay men; Tindog is all about canine fanciers; and HighThere! is purportedly for those who appreciate marijuana, although one might expect stoners of all types to weigh in about their stimulant (or depressant) of choice — laws and propriety be damned!

APTITUDE OR INEPTITUDE?

Most of the apps utilize an opinion-and-decision functionality wherein you swipe a finger across incoming photos of potential connections to establish interest or lack of it: Go right to investigate someone's profile, and go left to dismiss unwanted options. Unfortunately, a slip of the digit can banish a potential true love (or solitary evening of bliss) to oblivion, so one must be careful. And even if you're matched up with someone, they

may not respond to your entreaties to get together and see if there's any chemistry. Just like in authentic physical love, rejection is a fact of online love.

From what I've heard, Tinder, which was intended as a means to easy sex and is now being used by people desirous of serious relationships, is one of the most popular apps among my peers in Los Angeles. With that in mind, a single-and-looking colleague who swears by Tinder expressed caution about the unrealistic expectations one might get from using one of these smartphone-dating programs in Los Angeles, as opposed to San Francisco or, for that matter, Sacramento, Fresno, Bakersfield, and so forth. The preponderance of actors and models in Los Angeles trying to live the show-business dream makes for quite an aesthetically pleasing parade of portraits cycling through the phone screen. Of course, the likelihood of scoring on any level with one of those visually impressive specimens of humanity is not great for a regular guy or girl with all of the flaws "regular" might entail. And that presupposes there would be mutual "like" swipes and a digital match to start anything.

My colleague is relocating to Boston in a number of weeks. In preparation for the move, he recalibrated his dating apps for his new hometown, and was frankly unimpressed with the caliber of Tinder profiles from the Massachusetts area. Call him shallow, but a constant diet of Hollywood glamour on his dating apps has spoiled him. He may even need to go out to a cafe or bar and meet people ... in person! I hope he's up to the task, on his best behavior, and ready for the pain of face-to-face rejection. A slap will sting much more than a swipe.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on KPFF/Pacifica Radio's David Feldman Show and on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via GABnet.net, Roku, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.



Spectacular Bay Views



World Famous Restaurant

NO 9 FISHERMEN'S GROTTO

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!



THE HEALTHFUL LIFE :: How you became you

Genetics and you

BY THALIA FARSHCHIAN

THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT was finally completed in April 2003 after 13 years with much excitement in the science and health care community. This enormous undertaking is expected to help physicians and scientists understand how our family history impacts our own health to prevent disease and develop more successful treatments. One of the findings includes the fact that humans all share 99.5 percent of the same DNA, and there is only a 3.1 percent difference between humans and apes. With that, there is still a wealth of information in that 0.5 percent.

REVIEWING YOUR GENETICS

The genomics company 23andMe received negative press because they offered individuals an opportunity to uncover their genetics without professional counseling. The information elicited fear in some people because they believed they have little control over their genetic fates. In fact, none of us is immune to having some degree of genetic mutations but by understanding them, we can change their course.

The FDA issued a cease and

desist order to 23andMe to stop providing the Personal Genome Service (PGS) in 2013. The company has since been working with the FDA to modify its reporting information. It is important to understand that in using this service, 23andMe has the right to use your data for research and anything else they desire. It is speculated that your data could be used for product marketing purposes.

YOUR PERSONAL BLUEPRINT

Understanding genetics can give us an upper hand, but we still find that nurture is a powerful influence, because many genetic expressions can be modified by our diet, lifestyle, and internal and external stressors. Genetic expression is termed epigenetics. For example, the body uses genetics to code eye color and the epigenetic expression is blue eyes.

I describe genetic testing to my patients as getting the blueprints to a building. Though the blueprints for two buildings could look identical, the aesthetics (lighting, wall color, furniture design) can make the two spaces feel completely different. Genetics are our blueprints, but the way we live can affect the way we experience them. In general practice, genetics are used to help under-

stand a person's physiologic tendency to emphasize prevention.

At this point, we are able to see the genetic blueprint via testing, but we still have a difficult time seeing the exact epigenetic expression. Doctors try use the blueprint in tandem with clinical information like family history, personal history, and lab results to properly interpret the whole picture. Having a better understanding of the expression is why it is important to have a doctor or genetic counseling specialist on board to help you understand the information.

GENETICS FOR A HEALTHFUL DIET

Aside from disease risk, different subsections of genetics have emerged that can impact disease risk, such as nutrigenomics, which explores a person's capacity to utilize nutrition from food. Nutrigenomic markers can analyze a person's ability to tolerate foods containing caffeine, lactose, and gluten. It can also help you understand what diet is more compatible with your body and its ability to absorb certain nutrients.

For example, a common nutrigenomic marker is the methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) gene. This gene indicates whether a person could have difficulty creating active folate from folate-rich foods like kale, asparagus, spinach,



The secret to your health is found in your genes.

and broccoli. If a person has difficulty creating active folate levels, we can see health effects like cardiovascular inflammation, nutrient deficiency related anemia, anxiety, depression, poor sleep, and fatigue. Most of these health issues are extremely common, and knowing you need extra nutrient supplementation can help treat or prevent these symptoms.

It is important to work with a professional because genes cannot be compartmentalized, and they often work together. There are companies like Vitagene, which partner with doctors to create customized wellness regimens for patients based on genetic data and the patient's current lab results.

MORE TO UNDERSTAND

Mapping the human genome was quite the feat, but there will be much more to understand in terms of utilizing the information for the betterment of society. It

has been vastly helpful in helping people understand their likelihood of developing chronic illnesses like breast and ovarian cancer, Celiac disease, age-related macular degeneration, psoriasis, bipolar disorder, and Parkinson's disease. The next steps will be tailored treatments using the genetic information.

In terms of everyday nutrition and health, technological advancements continue to encourage the basic principles of continued health — eat clean and fresh, keep active, and stress less. These three things that nurture our bodies can have a great impact on our nature.

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



PRIMARY & SPECIALTY CARE
1375 Sutter Street
Call 1-888-699-DOCS

We've got your back San Francisco.

Ruptured disk? Irregular heartbeat? Cancer diagnosis? No one likes to think of "what-ifs", but that's our calling. With four CPMC hospital campuses and eighteen physician offices throughout the city, you'll find expert care close by. Comprehensive cancer services. Advanced stroke care. Transplant specialists. So whether you need a cardiologist in Noe Valley or joint replacement in Pacific Heights, we're ready for you. Expert care, when you need it most — it's another way we plus you.

sutterhealth.org/sanfrancisco

Sutter Health
We Plus You

California Pacific Medical Center
Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation

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

What causes self doubt?

Find out.

BUY AND READ

DIANETICS

The Modern Science of Mental Health

L. RON HUBBARD

Price: \$25.00

Hubbard Dianetics Foundation

Phone: (415) 864-3940 • Scientology-sanfrancisco.org

Advertise in the MarinaTimes

Reach over
30,000 readers in
 San Francisco's
 thriving northern
 neighborhoods



To inquire about our advertising rates and for more information, contact us at advertising@marinatimes.com or call our offices at (415) 815-8081

Caring for Our Kids :: Mom and Dad time



Try The Great Houdini Escape Room for challenging fun. PHOTO: HOUDINI-ESCAPE.COM/

Creative date nights

BY LIZ FARREL

ONE OF MY NEW Year's resolutions was to be better about planning date nights with my husband. As parents, we take a lot of time and care looking out for our children, and sometimes that means that one of the last things we tend to is our partner or our relationship. Dinner and a movie is a great date night — easy to plan but sometimes they don't always lend themselves to a lot of conversation. If you are looking to mix it up a bit this month or even this year, then try one of these "out of the box" date night ideas:

LEND A HAND

Some people call it a "do good" date night, but giving back to your community can be a great bonding experience and also very rewarding. There are endless options here in the city where there are so many nonprofits doing amazing work. Start by finding a cause or an organization you both are interested in or care about, and then find out how you can help. It may be spending an evening at the food bank, serving a meal at a homeless shelter, or planting new trees in the Presidio.

Last year, my husband and I spent Valentine's night walking the Tenderloin counting homeless people for the census survey. We both care deeply about homelessness, and it truly was an eye-opening experience. It sparked a lot of conversation between us about what it would be like to live on the streets and what we think could be done to fix the problem. It also made us grateful for each other, for what we have, and also to realize how much more needs to be done to solve this problem in our city.

GET PHYSICAL

If you are looking to break a sweat and need help with your New Year's resolution, try one of these ideas — they are mutually beneficial as you get in a workout and get to spend time together. Two years ago, I told my husband all I

Giving back to your community can be a great bonding experience.

wanted for Valentine's Day was for him to come to the date night class at Bar Method (3333 Fillmore Street) in the Marina. I had been going for a few months and loved it, and I wanted him to try it. To this day, it is an experience he won't let me forget. I think he really liked it, and was definitely glad there were other guys in the class to share the pain with.

Another great idea is the Reboot class at **The Pad** (1690 Union Street). This is a 75-minute yoga class with a live DJ. There were many couples in the room, and it was a fun way to spend an evening. You leave feeling relaxed, centered, and there is no guilt about grabbing a glass of wine afterward. If you are looking for something on the more competitive side, try the Marina's newest fitness sensation, **Barry's Bootcamp** (2246 Lombard Street). This is where we will be for Valentine's Day this year. It is a one-hour heart-pumping workout that involves alternating between a treadmill and a floor workout with weights.

INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING

If you really want to get to know your partner and maybe a few other couples, then give **The Great**

Houdini Escape Room (3601 Lyon Street) located inside the Palace of Fine Arts a try. You need a minimum of six people, and you should know it is not scary, and you won't feel claustrophobic. The group is given a limited amount of time (80 minutes) to try to solve fun and challenging puzzles. Trust me, it is not as easy as it sounds, and truly puts your strategy skills to the test. I did

it recently for a friend's birthday and immediately thought it would be fun to come back and try again with my husband and a group of couples. Grabbing dinner or drinks after is definitely a fun way to rehash the experience and laugh about it. I don't suggest drinks ahead of time, as you really need all your mental capacities to "escape" the room. They also have a scavenger hunt, if you are looking for something a little less intense. You use an app on your phone to get the clues, and it is all centered on the grounds of the Palace of Fine Arts.

No matter how you choose to spend your date night, the best thing you can do is to make it a priority and make it happen. If you are like I am, we are very good about scheduling meetings, school events, and sporting events but not as good at planning one-on-one time together. My husband and I are going to take turns planning date nights each month and aim to keep them fun and exciting!

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

THE ADVENTURES OF SKYLAR GREY :: Chapter 29



Skylar plays hard-to-get while her hound dog love, Mako, gets some water.

Fifty shades of Skylar Grey

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT SKYLAR Grey is kinky, but when it comes to romance, she definitely has her quirks. At the tender age of 6 months, I noticed that she had a thing for grey muzzles.

FIRST PRESTON THEN LUKE

It started with Preston, the 12-year-old black Lab who lives kitty-corner from Kickie's house in San Jose. On a walk to the park one summer afternoon, Sky spotted the handsome older fellow lounging on the lawn while his dad, Renee, worked on a car. As we passed in front of the driveway, Skylar started doing her famous twirls, bouncing from left to right and right to left until she was completely entangled in her leash. Preston wasn't impressed. "He's old," Renee said. "Hey Preston, look at that pretty girl!" Preston cocked an eyebrow and slowly stood up. I let Skylar off the leash and she ran up to Preston with that Eighth Wonder of the World tongue unfurled in all its glory. As Preston backed away from the whirling dervish, she was undeterred, sliding under his chin and lapping at his mouth. At first Preston didn't know what to think of the big sloppy kisses, but after a minute or so he grew annoyed, let

out a growl, and flashed his front teeth. Sky was familiar with that look because she got it often from Blue. Steve and I call it "The Vampira" — top lip curled up and teeth fully bared. Skylar rolled over on her back to show Preston that he was the boss.

Several weeks later, we attended the casual Saturday morning puppy meet-up in a field next to the school. A strong, much older alpha husky named Luke caught her eye. Again, she twirled her way toward him and in one fell swoop ducked under his chin and started lapping at his mouth. Luke, unlike Preston, seemed to enjoy the adulation. "That's a sign of submission," someone said. "She's letting Luke know that he's the boss." That seemed to be a recurring theme with Skylar.

STRIKES OUT WITH BEAR BEFORE BUDDY

After Sky had surgery for elbow dysplasia, she started swim therapy at AquaDog. Most of the dogs that come to see therapist Connie Frank are older, and many are Labs and shepherds, including Connie's own dog, a 10-year-old German shepherd-Great Dane mix named Bear. Every time we visited, Skylar went crazy trying to get over to Bear, but her feelings were unre-

quited. Bear didn't just ignore Skylar — he went out of his way to avoid her. "Miss Sky, you need to learn the art of playing hard to get," Connie said as Skylar swam in the pool, her big green bug eyes fixed on Bear. The good news is there were plenty more dogs in the pool, and one, a sweet yellow Lab named Buddy, actually liked her pestering. Skylar would lie down beside Buddy and bestow her strange fetish upon him: incessantly licking the inside of his mouth. "Gross," Buddy's dad said. "I feel like I'm watching puppy porn."

MAKO'S THE ONE

Just when it seemed Skylar was only interested in finding a sugar daddy, along came Mako, a pretty-boy hound mix just six months older. "She usually likes Labs and shepherds 6 years older, or even 10 years older, so this is very interesting," I said to Mako's dad. "Well," he said, "Mako is a charmer, that's for sure." As Skylar followed Mako around the field, it was obvious she still hadn't learned to play hard to get. After half an

hour, Mako grew bored with her and galloped off, nose to the ground, looking for gophers. "Give him some time, Sky," Mako's dad said as Skylar plopped down beside us tuckered and dejected. Then, from across the field, Mako

looked up and realized his shadow was missing. He spun his head from side-to-side, big hound ears flopping in the wind, and then he spotted her. "Don't you even think of chasing him, Missy," I said sternly. Suddenly Mako was lumbering toward us. "Now ya see, Sky? You've piqued his interest," Mako's dad chuckled. "There's no reason a pretty little girl like you should have to do the chasin'..." Mako hurled himself at Skylar and the two tumbled on the ground a bit, then Skylar did the play bow and took off with a serious case of the "zoomies," her butt tucked under as she darted around the field with Mako in tow.

When we returned after two weeks in San Francisco, I wasn't sure if Mako would still be waiting or if he had moved on. As we got closer, I spotted Mako running toward Skylar and the two lovebirds met, tails wagging a mile a minute as they ran side-by-side along the chain-link fence until Skylar was inside. I greeted Mako's dad and we watched Sky and Mako run and play in the field until they collapsed, exhausted, at our feet. That's when Skylar moved in for some sloppy kisses. "Makin' out with Mako," I said. "Yep," Mako's dad laughed. "I guess she's done with older men."

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

Your Man Friday

HOUSECLEANING & SERVICES

- ★ HOUSECLEANING
- ★ HOUSE AND PET SITTING
- ★ LIGHT MOVING AND PACKING
- ★ GARDENING
- ★ ERRANDS
- ★ APPOINTMENTS
- ★ ORGANIZING

Skylar
PAW OF APPROVAL

Excellent local references, including *Marina Times* editor-in-chief, Susan Dyer Reynolds!

Please call Steve Russell: 415-373-2610

Love Keeps Us Together



Adopt-A-Manatee® this Valentine's Day



Call 1-800-432-5646 (JOIN)
savethemanatee.org

Photo © David Schrichte

Apothecarium to Marina: We're Listening

Dear Neighbors,

Back in November, The SF Planning Commission approved The Apothecarium's plan to open a medical marijuana dispensary on Lombard St, near Scott St. Today I'm writing about that decision and what happens next.

I founded The Apothecarium because I wanted to create a safe place where seniors, professionals and people living with serious medical conditions could access medical cannabis. Every day people come into our Castro store on one of the worst days of their life: they've just begun chemotherapy or received a new diagnosis. They need help, compassion and information. It's a privilege to serve them.



The San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared October 1 "Apothecarium Day." Left to right: Chase Chambers, General Manager, The Apothecarium; Scott Wiener, San Francisco Supervisor; Ryan Hudson, co-founder & executive director, The Apothecarium; Michael Thomsen, co-founder and CFO, The Apothecarium.

Around 800 people wrote letters in support of our project -- including dozens of Marina residents, 19 neighboring merchants, and several Board members from the Marina Community Association and The Cow Hollow Association. I want to thank them all.

We also heard from neighbors opposed to our plans. Some are worried a dispensary could negatively influence children or the young adults who live at the Edward II affordable housing development (18-24 year-olds with a history of housing insecurity).

These concerns, while understandable, are not backed up by research or experience. For instance, in June 2015, the The New York Times reported on a study showing that "Marijuana use did not increase among teenagers in the states in which medical marijuana has become legal...."

Also, there is no link between dispensaries and neighborhood crime. The Apothecarium has served more than 40,000 patients since 2011 and has never had a single police incident.

That said, I want to assure you that we are listening. In response to concerns from neighbors, we've agreed to several changes to plans for our Lombard dispensary including:

- We will not sell to patients under 21
- We will not make any deliveries from this location
- We will hold monthly meetings with the leadership of Edward II to address any issues

We've also invited our opponents to mediation. We hope they will attend and engage in good-faith efforts to resolve our differences.

So what's next? The Planning Commission approved our project by a 4-2 vote. That decision will probably be appealed sometime during the first three months of 2016. We expect to win the appeal and hope to open our dispensary a few months later.

You can learn more about the project at 2414Lombard.com. If you've got questions or concerns, please email me at ryan@apothecariumSF.com or call me on my cell phone: 415-928-3300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RH".

Ryan Hudson
Co-Founder and Executive Director
The Apothecarium

