



S.F. Homeless Project

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# MarinaTimes

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2001: A Space Odyssey, directed by Stanley Kubrick (GB/United States; 1965–68). © WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

## Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition at the Contemporary Jewish Museum

BY SHARON ANDERSON

All you have to do is hear the name, or read it on a page, and a whole world opens up before your eyes. A vast, mysterious world, unlike any other in the history of cinema.

— Martin Scorsese

THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH Museum presents the first exhibition dedicated to the life and work of legendary filmmaker Stanley Kubrick beginning June 30. From his time as a teenage photographer for *Look* magazine through his pioneering films like *Dr. Strange-*

*love or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964), *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1965–68), and *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), the exhibition provides a detailed journey into the tools, machinations, and methods of the legendary director.

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### REYNOLDS RAP

## There but for the grace of God go I

Some of the homeless people you pass have been in your shoes

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

As I write this letter in my office on Market near Second Street, a “nut-case” is screaming his head off beneath my window ... when I walk to my office each morning on Market between Sansome and Montgomery ... I have to step over half-naked people and their body waste ... Then we have a nearly naked man who “lives” on Market Street in front of See’s Candies at Sansome. Stretched across the sidewalk, pedestrians have to hold their noses and walk around him ... When I need to go near Sixth and Market streets it becomes worse. Drug dealing in broad daylight. Hell on Earth ... If this city survives this era, future generations will look back and be horrified at what these people have done to San Francisco.

— Excerpt from a letter to the *San Francisco Business Times*

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

## District 2 Supervisor Homelessness in the city of St. Francis: Problems and solutions

BY MARK FARRELL

HOMELESSNESS IS AN INTRACTABLE ISSUE THAT has plagued San Francisco and cities and countries across the world for decades. Poverty, housing shortages, growing income inequality, substance abuse, and behavioral health issues all contribute to the vexing issue. Homelessness is not only an epidemic with incalculable human costs, but also has huge financial implications.

I believe that we have a moral imperative to do everything in our power to reduce homelessness here in San Francisco, not only because of the innumerable costs to our city, but most important because it is a human issue, and as the city of Saint Francis we need to do everything in our power to get these individuals off our streets.

### STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

The number of homeless individuals and families in San Francisco has stubbornly remained the same for more than a decade. Our last biennial homeless count in 2015 revealed that there are 6,686 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, and roughly half of them are unsheltered.

Despite the numbers of homeless remaining essentially constant for more than a decade, it does not mean that the city has not had some success in addressing

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### THE BACK STORY



Still from *The Maltese Falcon* starring Humphrey Bogart. PHOTO: ©WARNER BROS.

## The San Francisco private eye and the Maltese falcon

BY ERNEST BEYL

AUTHORS HAVE ALWAYS LOVED to write about San Francisco and have set the action of their novels in the city. A few that come to mind are *McTeague* by Frank Norris; *A Girl of Forty* by Herbert Gold, and his latest, *When a Psy-*

*chopath Falls in Love*; *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan; *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin, and my favorite with San Francisco as a backdrop, Dashiell Hammett’s *The Maltese Falcon*.

Hammett, the writer of hard-boiled detective novels, lived in San Francisco during the 1920s. He

was a private eye for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, and his office was located in the Flood Building on Market Street. He saw the seamy side of San Francisco close up. In his off hours, he applied himself to the typewriter. Among his works are *The Maltese Falcon*, *The Thin Man*, *Red Harvest*, and *The Dain Curse*. Hammett once said: “All my characters were based on people I’ve known personally, or known about.” The action of *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Dain Curse* take place in San Francisco. Hammett, who had a longtime romantic relationship with playwright Lillian Hellman, died in 1961.

### THE MALTESE FALCON

In *The Maltese Falcon*, a murder takes place in an alley off Bush Street above the Stockton Street tunnel. A character checks into the St. Mark Hotel — a combination of the Mark Hopkins and the Fairmont. Another is told to hock jewelry at a pawn shop at Fifth and Mission Streets, where the *San Francisco Chronicle* is located. Yet another has lunch at the Palace Hotel. A bad guy goes to a play in the Geary Theater. A taxicab takes a woman to the Ferry Building.

BACK STORY, continued on 13





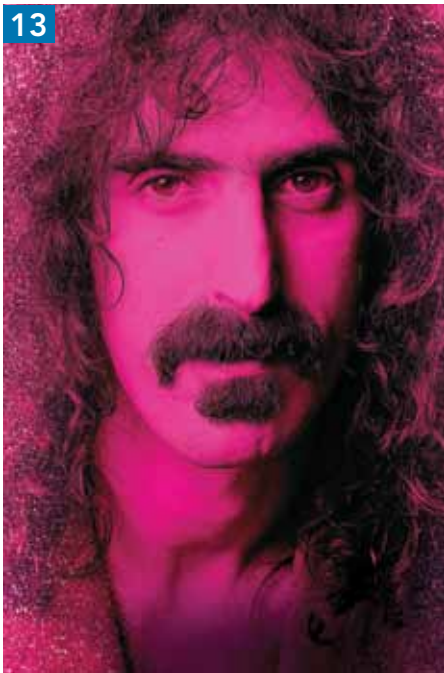
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NEWS BRIEFS : Coalition, Lucas, cop cameras

# Focus on homeless, crime

## S.F. MEDIA IN HOMELESS FOCUS

In this issue of the *Marina Times*, you will find a number of articles and columns addressing the homeless problem in San Francisco. This paper is an active participant in a coalition of more than 70 media and civic organizations that are producing stories on the topic of homelessness — its severity, costs, and possible solutions.

This is not the first time that the *Marina Times* has covered homelessness. Just in the past year we have interviewed Sam Dodge, head of the mayor's office dealing with this issue; looked at initiatives to change the way we treat mental illness among the homeless population; explored how to inform your children about this

and aggravated assaults increased 5 percent citywide (and jumped 27 percent in the Northern District).

Property crimes were mostly down, with one notable exception. Cases of arson increased 17 percent citywide, but were up 300 percent (from 1 to 4 cases) in the Northern District. Meanwhile, burglaries dropped 19 percent and 29 percent citywide and in Northern District, respectively; auto thefts were down 19 percent and up 10 percent, thefts from vehicles dropped 13 percent and 14 percent, and other cases of thievery were down 4 percent and 21 percent.

Captain Jaimerena asks citizens to help reduce robberies and other crimes by being "ever vigilant and to please report any sus-

by the Presidio Trust. Peskin said he thinks the Trust probably made the right decision for that place, but the museum could be just what is needed for Treasure Island. "If we could actually have an attraction on Treasure Island, it might be able to sustain a ferry service," he told Phil Matier in an appearance on CBS SF. "And if we could sustain that, we could make the entire island work."

As to whether San Francisco's famously fractious leadership could agree on this new option, Peskin replied "Well, if Ed Lee and Jane Kim, and Aaron Peskin are on the same page, that's a pretty good start."

## CAMERAS, NO TASERS, FOR POLICE

Repeated efforts to introduce the use of stun guns to the San Francisco police force as a way to reduce shooting deaths at the hands of officers have gone nowhere. Greg Suhr, who was recently forced out of his job after another fatality, was just the latest police chief in this city to have lost the battle to use Tasers. The *Los Angeles Times* reported in December that San Francisco is one of only two large cities in the entire country not to give its officers stun guns. Detroit is the other holdout.

But on May 31, Mayor Ed Lee announced that the city's police department and its officers' association had agreed on the use of cameras to be worn by the police officers. Lee framed it as being a part of an effort of "funding police department reform, rebuilding community trust, and bringing a culture change in how we handle conflicts on our city streets."

Martin Halloran, president of the San Francisco Police Officers Association, welcomed the move, adding that body cameras "are not a panacea, but they provide a key record of events for use in investigations — and are a clear signal to our community that police officers hold ourselves to the highest standards."

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

## Mayor Lee said it was part of an effort of 'funding police department reform, rebuilding community trust, and bringing a culture change.'

problem; reported on various legislative and real estate regulatory changes that are trying to alleviate homelessness; and more.

Regardless of the outcome of this journalistic coalition, it will not be the last time we cover this topic.

## CRIME REPORT

An increase in robberies in April appeared to abate in May, reported Northern Station Captain John Jaimerena. He had shifted some of his officers to focus on robberies and saturated prime robbery areas with officers.

In recently released statistics on the changes in various crimes committed in San Francisco between March and April of this year, homicides were up 75 percent citywide (but decreased from 1 to 0 in the Northern District); rapes were down 23 percent citywide (and dropped from 3 to 0 in Northern District); robberies increased 18 percent citywide (and increased 46 percent in Northern District);

picious activity to the SFPD non-emergency line at [415-]553-0123 or call 911."

## TREASURE ISLAND'S SPECIAL SAUCE?

Saying the addition of George Lucas's much-banded-about museum to Treasure Island might be the "special sauce" the island has needed, District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin threw his support behind the effort to salvage the museum as a San Francisco attraction. The museum is expected to attract millions of visitors a year.

Though Chicago is continuing to fight with itself over the proposal, Los Angeles is reportedly being considered as another option. *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist Michael Sneed reports that "the L.A. location being discussed is at a University of Southern California site, which is where Lucas went to school."

San Francisco had previously driven away the filmmaker when his preferred site in the Presidio was rejected

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MEMBER  
FDIC



Reynolds Rap  
continued from page 1

A few months ago I came across a letter to the *San Francisco Business Times*. The author, an understandably frustrated San Francisco resident named Richard Kales, went on at length about the perils of working downtown with its throngs of drug addicted, mentally ill, and sometimes violent denizens. Kales, it appeared, was yet another recent transplant complaining about the city's less fortunate citizens with that trademark lack of empathy. There have been quite a few. Take, for example, Justin Keller, a tech entrepreneur who made headlines last February after ranting on his personal blog that the homeless problem is the worst it has ever been in the three years he's lived here. Keller was angry that the "riff raff" disrupted his parents' visit from Santa Barbara and a trip to the movies with his girlfriend. "The wealthy working people have earned their right to live in the city. They went out, got an education, work hard, and earned it ... I shouldn't have to see the pain, struggle, and despair of homeless people to and from my way to work," Keller opined.

As I made my way through the letter to the *Business Times*, the tone was markedly similar. Along with a mutual disdain for stepping over indigents, Kales was unhappy with the large number suffering from mental illness. The majority of the homeless are, he said, "individuals who want to live on someone else's nickel" and the balance are "mentally ill and have no loony bin to be put in." He also asserted that homeless advocates "turned a world-class city into a dump" and took umbrage with the district attorney for saying he didn't believe San Franciscans wanted to

prosecute people who didn't have a place to stay. Yes, Kales said, he did want them prosecuted: "Anything to end this situation is fine with me." It wasn't until I saw the name of the district attorney — Terence Hallinan — that I realized this wasn't a recent missive. In fact, it had been written in 2001. For those who have lived in San Francisco many years or many generations, the fact that the Kales and Keller letters, written 15 years apart, are nearly identical comes as no surprise. For newer residents, however, it may indeed come as a shock that the homeless problem didn't start when they moved here.

FROM LACK OF EMPATHY TO  
KILLING WITH KINDNESS

Despite city lawmakers throwing millions of dollars at homelessness, nothing has worked. While residents and business owners grow angrier by the day over their declining quality of life and livelihood, homeless advocates often go to the other extreme, handing out shiny new tents and filing lawsuits against the city when it clears the resulting shantytowns (it violates their civil rights). These same people have also fought "tough love" solutions for years, including requiring the homeless to carry identification cards so their cases may be tracked (it violates their privacy) and giving them one-way bus tickets back to where they came from (another violation of their civil rights). But those working on the front lines say leaving the homeless on the streets is not only dangerous, it's inhumane.

Alan Byard says in his four decades as a patrol special police officer, he's noticed not only a dramatic increase in the homeless population but also in the number with psychiatric issues. "Many have serious mental health problems and

some are so incoherent when I speak to them that they can't comprehend or carry on a conversation when I ask them if they need city services," Byard said. He estimates that 80 percent of the homeless he encounters have alcohol, drug, or mental health issues. "I think it is a cruel thing to leave them to fend for themselves when it is so obvious that they need help," Byard said. "Sometimes you need to take an individual off the street, put them in a proper facility, and give them the care and help needed, even against their desires."

That, of course, would mean bringing back psychiatric hospitals for the sickest homeless, which is a hard sell to the bleeding hearts handing out tents and to the politicians afraid of alienating their liberal constituents.

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

The vast majority of mental patients in the United States were released from hospitals and into communities under a policy now considered a total failure. Many in the psychiatric field during the 1950s and 1960s who helped craft that policy blame, in particular, the overreliance on tranquilizers as a cure-all. Politicians, pressured by the troubling image and financial strain of state-run hospitals, were equally culpable. In California, the number of patients reached a peak of 37,500 in 1959 under Governor Edmund G. Brown, fell to 22,000 in 1967 when Ronald Reagan was

in office, and continued to fall during the first administration of Edmund G. Brown Jr.

The senior Brown later expressed regret. "They've gone far, too far, in letting people out," he told *The New York Times*. Then-director of the National Institute of Mental Health Dr. Robert H. Felix, who was a major player in the shift to community release, also expressed remorse. "Many of those patients who left the state

hospitals never should have done so," he said. "We psychiatrists saw too much of the old snake pit, saw too many people who shouldn't have been there and we overreacted. The result is not what we intended, and perhaps we didn't ask the questions that should have been asked when developing a new concept ..."

Even though the epidemic of mental illness among the homeless is in our faces every day, we have clearly learned nothing from our mistakes. Of the five new hospitals under construction in San Francisco, not one has a psychiatric bed requirement, while at current hospitals those beds have declined precipitously. Until we realize that homelessness is not one-size-fits-all and that mental illness is the largest component of the problem, nothing will change. We also must learn to see the homeless as unique individuals. While some fit the stereotypes proffered by Kales and Keller, others are there because of circumstances far beyond their control — and a few have even walked in the very shoes that now step over them.

Bringing back psychiatric  
hospitals for the sickest  
homeless is a hard sell to  
bleeding hearts and politicians.

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A DOODLE NAMED KRAMER

Several years ago while walking my pit bull, Skylar, in Buena Vista Park, I ran into an acquaintance with her Labradoodle and another doodle I didn't recognize. "I was coming out of a movie and there were these kids trying to sell him because they needed to buy drugs," she said. "They were so blatant about it, but I was scared for the dog and figured he might be stolen so I gave them twenty bucks."

According to his tags, the dog's name was Kramer. He was a goldendoodle — not your typical street dog — and the phone number on the tag was disconnected. At Animal Care and Control (ACC), we discovered that Kramer was microchipped with an address in Golden Gate Heights, but residents there said they weren't missing a dog. I agreed to foster Kramer through Rocket Dog Rescue, and after one adoption event he had a wonderful new home. A week later I received a call from ACC saying they had solved the mystery: Kramer's owner, a homeless man, had been badly beaten and, as my friend suspected, the dog was stolen. The man had been in the hospital but came to the shelter looking for Kramer as soon as he was released.

"He's happy where he is," I told the ACC officer. "I don't want him returned to some homeless man."

"His owner is not who you think," the officer said. "He used to own that house listed on the microchip. He had a wife and a couple of kids. He worked in high tech. Then the dotcom bubble burst, and he lost everything — his wife, the kids, the house, the cars. Kramer is all he has left." Now I understood why a goldendoodle was homeless — because his owner once had the fancy life to go along with the fancy dog. I reluctantly called Kramer's new adopters, who immediately lawyered up

and refused to surrender him. Just when it seemed a custody battle was eminent, Kramer's owner was hospitalized again. Just a few days later he died from his injuries. "That poor man. So many people die on the streets. It's no place for dogs or humans," said Rocket Dog founder Pali Boucher, and she would know.

Born to a homeless, drug-addicted mother in San Francisco, Pali remembers playing on Ocean Beach as a toddler while her mom slept off another high. When Pali was 10, her mother died, leaving her to grow up alone on the streets. She was addicted to drugs, in and out of jail, and every one of her knuckles was broken fending off attackers. She also contracted HIV. But a visit to the San Francisco SPCA changed her life. Wandering the halls to escape the rain, she made friends with a bloodhound baying mournfully from his kennel. She found herself visiting him daily, and on one of those visits she discovered he was slated for euthanasia. Pali faked an address and adopted the bloodhound, naming him Lead Belly after the renowned blues musician. She almost lost Lead Belly on another trip to jail, and that's when she decided things had to change. She asked for help, got sober, secured housing, and got Lead Belly back. Since founding Rocket Dog Rescue in 2001, Pali and a dedicated band of volunteers have saved thousands of dogs, and Pali has been featured on two Animal Planet television specials, was recognized for her work in the community by CNN Heroes, and received the Points of Light Award for outstanding volunteerism.

Before Lead Belly's love set her on the right path, the "wealthy working people" likely stepped over Pali and witnessed her pain, struggle, and despair. But my experience

with Kramer and getting to know Pali has made me see the nameless faces I pass every day in a much different light.

It also made me think about one of my mother's favorite sayings: "There but for the grace of God go I."

Perhaps when Keller's startup isn't the next Apple or Google and he has the luxury of moving back to Santa Barbara to live with his parents, he'll think about that.

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How You Can Help  
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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The coalition is looking for donations of everything from money to bicycles to books. ([cohssf.org/fun-ways-to-donate](http://cohssf.org/fun-ways-to-donate))

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thirty-year-old organization offering job training, counseling, education, and more to homeless people. ([ecs-sf.org/getinvolved/volunteer.html](http://ecs-sf.org/getinvolved/volunteer.html))

HANDUP

Direct giving that verifies and tracks donations. ([handup.org](http://handup.org))

LAVA MAE

San Francisco-based organization uses buses to provide mobile showers and bathrooms to the homeless. ([lavamae.org](http://lavamae.org))

MIRACLE MESSAGES

This San Francisco-based group makes videos of homeless people and uses them to reconnect the homeless with their families. ([miraclemessages.org](http://miraclemessages.org))

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Puts homeless people in touch with services, such as housing information, dental care, mental health services, SSI benefits, legal advice, and more. ([projecthomelessconnect.org/about/our-mission](http://projecthomelessconnect.org/about/our-mission))

SAN FRANCISCO 311

This app connects you with city services, and in the "other" section you can find out who to contact when you need to report someone in need of the city's homeless services. ([sf311.org/other-city-services](http://sf311.org/other-city-services))

ST. ANTHONY'S

Providing food, clothing, and connections to the city's poor and homeless. ([stanthonysf.org](http://stanthonysf.org))

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Every day, St. Vincent shelters, feeds, and supports hundreds of homeless, and it also offers health and personal services (shower, laundry, etc.). ([svdp-sf.org/what-we-do/msc-shelter](http://svdp-sf.org/what-we-do/msc-shelter))

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## Marina-Cow Hollow Insider Brew it to ya ;)



Visitors enjoy the pop-up beer garden with live music in Ghirardelli Square.  
PHOTOS: KENNET MAJEROWICZ

## Feeling good and doing good at the beer garden

BY LYNETTE MAJER

### BREWS FOR THE CAUSE

Have you discovered the pop-up outdoor beer garden in **Ghirardelli Square** (900 North Point Street)? If not, get thee hence. It's a perfect way to spend these warm, leisurely, long days of summer. Sponsored by Lagunitas Brewing Company and Hint Water, it's open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 7 p.m., with live music from 3 to 6 p.m. through Labor Day weekend.

Brews are \$7; peanuts, pretzels, and Hint Water are free, and picnicking is encouraged. And if all that's not good enough news itself, half of all the proceeds from brew sales are donated to a different charity each week. If you favor strong, hoppy brews, you'll be pleased: There are three on pour (including their well-known IPA, which they call "homicidally hopped"), as well as a Czech-style pilsner for us less courageous types. Unfortunately, the pilsner keg was dry when we stopped by (and the peanuts and pretzels were in hiding), but that didn't hamper enjoying the music and the venue.

### BEWARE OF THE ATTACK CAT

While we were stocking up on frozen raw cat food at our favorite **Wolf & Lion** (2460 Lombard Street), up saunters grey tabby Sasha, the resident shop cat. She flopped at our feet, rolled around all lovey dovey like we were her long-lost something, and next thing we knew, her jaws caught one of our hands like a bear trap. Apologetic staff offered a Mickey Mouse bandage, and Barry groused about firing "that cat." Evidently biting customers is not Sasha's only vice; she also breaks into the food at night, and once welcomed a nighttime mouse visitor to hang out with her and play that proverbial game, which she lost. So buyer beware of "sweet" Sasha — except to enter her name as a referral code for \$10 off same-day delivery through the store's app, W+L Snap (from the Apple App Store), which makes it all good.

### FRUITS OF THE FESTIVAL

We'll admit some of us were concerned when **David's Tea** (2272 Chestnut Street) set up shop (there were vague memories of a failed tea bar on Fillmore in years past), but we're happy to report that was three years ago, so the tea drinkers have spoken.

We rarely drink tea on the go, but at the Union Street Festival, we scored a cool purple tea tin and a few cards for a free cup, which admittedly, may have gone unused had they not been in the shape of a cup in David's signature turquoise color. So having a weakness for cleverness, we redeemed our clever cup card, and received a tea education from friendly staff. The shop offers not only more tea than you ever dreamed existed (in flavors like the seasonal cotton candy to variations on the classic Earl Grey), but also everything you need to make and drink that perfect cuppa.

The Union Street Festival gives us the opportunity to walk down the middle of the street for a different view than from the sidewalk. This led us to **Denim & Soul** (1829 Union Street), which, up until several months ago, was the Blue Jean Bar. They still have a wide selection of premium jeans in every style for every shape, and the inventory now includes items to wear with those jeans, and much more, for both men and women. So if you need some new jeans (which for many of us is like shopping for a bathing suit), head here, and let the friendly staff (who told us they love reading the *Marina Times*) make it an enjoyable rather than dreaded experience.

## The Union Street Festival gives us a different view than from the sidewalk.

### FILLMORE FASHION FIND

On a recent errand-running day, we dropped down into **Palette Boutique** (3027a Fillmore Street), next door to Fredericksen's, which had just opened in late May. Owner Tonya Milteer greeted us warmly with a welcoming smile, a card for 20 percent off, and a treat for our pup — a winning combo. The first thing we spied was a nice selection of Tano handbags (ours is getting a tad worn ...), but Tonya curates her inventory each season with real-life, fashion-forward styles from established and emerging designers like Ella Moss, Estheme Cashmere, Riller & Fount, Jen7 Denim, Joie, Paige Denim, Splendid, 2nostalgik, and Three Eighty Two. A resident of the city for almost 20 years, Tonya has an additional boutique in Mill Valley, so we're delighted to save a trip over the bridge. Local businesses and customers alike have given her a warm welcome, so be sure to stop in and say hello and find some must-have items for sprucing up your summer wardrobe.

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Supervisor

continued from page 1  
the issue — other cities, including Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle, have had major increases in their homeless populations over the past few years. However, I would be the first to agree that the status quo on our streets in San Francisco is simply unacceptable.

Since the city adopted the 10-Year Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness in 2004, more than 25,000 homeless people have left the streets or our city's shelter system for permanent housing with the assistance of the city's homelessness services and programs.

Since the sunset of the "10-Year Plan," the city has created 3,071 new units of supportive housing and has instituted new programs, such as the widely heralded Navigation Center, and reforms such as the Department of Public Health standardizing objectives for supportive housing providers and the Human Services Agency implementing a new tiered system for how the agency delivers homelessness services.

There is clearly and obviously more work to be done.

A NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Homelessness has remained a major issue of concern for our residents for years, and I want to make sure as a city that we never

take our eye off the ball. If we are going to significantly address homelessness, then I believe we need a long-term, sustainable strategic vision to reduce homelessness in our city.

Recently, I introduced and

I recently released a first-of-its-kind Budget and Legislative Analyst report that calculates the costs of homelessness in San Francisco. The results of the report are clear: It is less expensive to house the homeless than treat them on our streets. The report further details the benefits of supportive housing to homeless individuals and to the city: Following placement

in supportive housing, overall estimated homelessness services costs decreased by 56 percent. Following placement in supportive housing, homeless individuals and families were better able to access routine or ongoing care, which saves the city millions in emergency and urgent care services and helps the formerly homeless lead healthier and productive lives. Placement in supportive housing also helps to partially shift costs from the city's General Fund to federal and state programs — such as CalFresh and Medi-Cal — and helped decrease jail costs by approximately 64 percent.

This report also identifies the largest cost-drivers and cost-savers of our homelessness services system: emergency and urgent care services and supportive housing, respectively. We must

act quickly as a city to get the homeless off the streets and into housing to save significant taxpayer dollars and to improve people's lives. The cost savings we can realize over time from investing in supportive housing can free up city resources for other vital public services that our residents depend on.

The bottom line is that if we as a city continue to make investments in housing for the homeless, it is far and away the most cost-effective and humane investment we can make.

HOUSING, NOT TENTS

One particular issue that has proliferated on our streets and unfortunately become a symbol for our homeless issue is the tent encampments in our neighborhoods. I strongly believe that it is not compassionate to allow

November ballot, which aims to move homeless individuals out of tent encampments and into housing.

My initiative would mandate that shelter or housing be offered to individuals residing in an encampment before removing it. The acceptance of Homeward Bound — a city service that provides paid transportation to a destination outside of San Francisco when connected to a housing opportunity — would also trigger the removal of an encampment. It would require that the city provide 24 hours notice, in writing, of the city's intent to remove the encampment, provide notice to all individuals residing in the encampment and inform them of a specific available shelter or housing opportunity, and also requires the city to store an individual's personal property for up to 90 days after removal.

I believe it is important that we don't just push encampments from one neighborhood

to another. Encampments simply prolong homelessness, but Housing not Tents actually provides a solution. The city of Saint Francis needs to do everything in its power to get the homeless into housing and out of these encampments, and the time is long past for strong leadership on this issue.

Following placement in supportive housing, overall estimated homelessness services costs decreased by 56 percent.

passed legislation requiring our new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to draft and implement a five-year plan to reduce homelessness in San Francisco. I would like to see our new department create a unified strategy for reducing homelessness and for our city to speak with one voice. A five-year plan will create higher-level accountability by ensuring our residents and policymakers are working diligently toward the goal.

COSTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Our city spends roughly \$241 million annually to address homelessness, with about 25 percent of that total coming from state and federal resources. Just over 50 percent of our homelessness spending is to keep people housed in supportive housing and to provide the supportive services necessary to keep them on a path toward self-sufficiency.

Encampments simply prolong homelessness, but 'Housing not Tents' actually provides a solution.

human beings to live in tents on our streets; it is dangerous, unhealthy, and nobody is getting better by sleeping on our streets in their tents.

My "Costs of Homelessness" report proved without a doubt that the answer to homelessness is housing, not tents. That's why I recently introduced a "Housing not Tents" initiative for the

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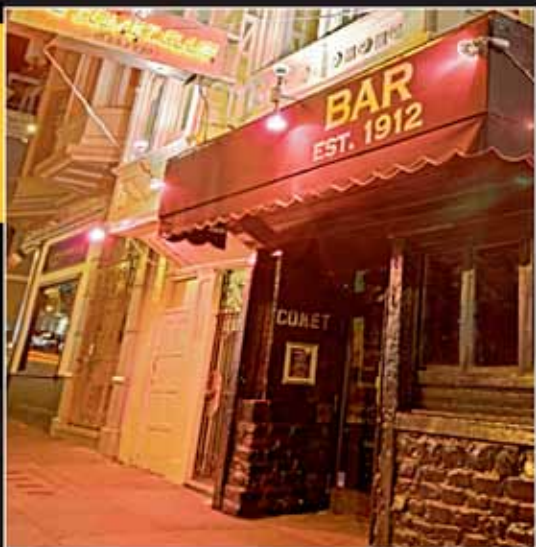
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## Sketches from a North Beach Journal

# Homeless people: Yes, they are our problem

THE LAST TIME I SAW ALPHONSUS McCourt was at the memorial for his celebrity bartender brother, Michael. Alphie, as everyone calls him, came out from New York and read one of his poems. Another brother, Frank McCourt, was the author of the well read *Angela's Ashes*. Malachy McCourt is an Irish raconteur and wrote an autobiography called *A Monk Swimming*.

Although Alphie and I exchange casual messages by e-mail, the one I received the other day surprised me.

### ALPHONSUS MCCOURT

Dear Ernest: I hope you are well and still working to save the world from zealotry. Yesterday I read in *The New York Times* about the upcoming media blitz on homelessness. (I once sent a letter to the *Times* asking that they use the term "homeless people" and not just "homeless," which is a class just like "disabled" and so on. To leave out the word "people" is to create another class and to dehumanize. That's my editorial for today.) I have written a poem about this issue that might be useful. It appeared in my book *The Soulfswimmer*.

### Heartscald

Homeless, hungry, handmedowned,  
Hawking heavensent havenotness,  
Handlettered "Help" Hoping;  
Haves, homeward bound,  
Hearken, hasten hearttended:  
Unsee, unhear, unknow.

### ENGAGING HOMELESS PEOPLE

Most of us seem to agree that there are several categories of homeless people — the mentally ill, addicts (perhaps also mentally ill), those citizens down on their luck and downtrodden, and perhaps a fourth, disaffected street people, maybe homeless, maybe not.

With Alphie's poem as a takeoff, I decided to do two things — I would try to engage some homeless "people," and I would speak to some prominent North Beach citizens about their thoughts on the issue.

I had trouble engaging homeless people in North Beach. There was a woman lying on pieces of cardboard in the entryway of a defunct bakery. Her wheelchair was next to her along with what I presumed to be all of her belongings. Perhaps mentally ill, she would not engage, just looked off into space. As I rose deciding to call Central Police Station, a black-and-white cruiser stopped. There was nothing I needed to say or do. The cops were on top of the situation.

On another occasion, I stopped at a corner to engage a man I frequently see sitting there. I asked him if he had a place to live and if not was he in touch with any organization that might assist him. "F---k off or give me five dollars," he said.

Later, I saw a man sitting on the sidewalk near the Wells Fargo Bank. I squatted down by him.

"Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?" I said.

"No," he replied.

"Do you have a place to stay and to sleep?"

"No. I'm homeless."

"Do you know about an organization called North Beach Citizens?"

"Yeah, I've heard about them."

"Why don't you visit them, and they will help you."

"You think I should?"

"Yes." Pause. "Are you hungry?"

"Yes." I handed him a five-dollar bill, and he thanked me.

"Get yourself something to eat, and then go to see North Beach Citizens."

"O.K. I'll probably go to Chinatown first. Food is cheaper there."

"Why are you on the street?"

"I lost my job."

"What job did you have?"

"I worked for the United States Postal Service but they laid me off."

I wanted to ask why, but while I debated that he said, "After that I spent all my pension."

"Are you going to go to North Beach Citizens?"

"I will."

I promised myself to keep trying to engage homeless people in North Beach, but maybe I'm losing my edge for the job.

### FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA

I talked to Francis Ford Coppola about the situation in North Beach. Coppola's organization, North Beach Citizens, is designed to help homeless people by treating each person as an individual rather than as a generic public annoyance, and then do something about each one individually.

Coppola told me: "For me the most effective way for the city to deal with all this is to do it on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis with the neighborhood itself a partner."

### LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI

When I discussed the issue with Lawrence Ferlinghetti, he said, "I think Francis Coppola's North Beach Citizens project is the best that can be devised (not that it can't be constantly improved). And the rest of the city should follow Coppola's idea of making every homeless person a citizen (with privileges, as long as the citizen remains in good standing). Beyond that, a larger vision would include Bernie Sanders's plans to narrow the gap between the Haves and the Have-nots."

### JOHN DUGGAN, JR.

For the point of view of a North Beach merchant, I asked John A. Duggan, proprietor of Original Joe's. Echoing the views of both Coppola and Ferlinghetti about neighborhoods and their responsibility, Duggan said, "After conducting business in the heart of the Tenderloin for 70 years, where it was often a contact sport just to make it into the restaurant ... we don't see much of a homeless problem in North Beach."

### HERBERT GOLD

I have a thoughtful friend in author Herbert Gold. Herb lives on Russian Hill but has long had an emotional stake in North Beach. Here is how he viewed San Francisco's homeless citizens:

"For reasons including weather, a traditional reputation for a welcoming spirit, and its westernmost last-stop location, San Francisco receives a ceaseless tidal flow of albies, drug addicts, psychotics, and the desperately down-on-their-luck. Reagan-era cuts to funding for mental hospitals need to undergo a makeover. Employment programs for those who want to work and can, need to be expanded. Since this is a national issue, not only a San Francisco problem, state and federal funding is an obligation."

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# How we fight back: accountability and love

BY AARON PESKIN

AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS meeting following the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the worst mass shooting in our nation’s history, my colleagues and I read the names of the victims aloud one by one. Twenty-seven years old. Thirty-four years old. Eighteen years old. Each name uttered in the Chamber was heavy with a story of a recent graduation, a new job opportunity, or the promise of some other exciting life milestone that would now never be realized.

We can’t bring back the 49 lives that were taken from their families and loved ones, but San Francisco can pledge its commitment to doing everything possible to strip the gun industry of its seemingly omnipotent influence. San Francisco Retirement Board member Victor Makras introduced a firearms-divestment resolution at a 2013 Retirement Board meeting following the Sandy Hook massacre and on the heels of several other large California public pension fund divestments. But shockingly, here in San Francisco there has been a lack of political will to act on the Makras resolution, and we

still hold over \$1 million in three gun and ammunition manufacturing companies. As *San Francisco Chronicle*/SFGate’s Kathleen Pender reported recently, it’s a tiny fraction of the fund’s \$20 billion portfolio, but clearly important to someone.

My colleague Supervisor Mark Farrell has introduced a resolution similar to the 2013 Makras one, and I will be supporting it whole-heartedly. I want to commend him for his action — it’s really the least this city can do.

In the meantime, I know our LGBTQ community will continue to celebrate its rich legacy of love and struggle in the cultural hubs, entertainment venues, and legacy businesses of San Francisco, because that is also a way to fight back and honor the memory of Orlando. Be out, be visible, and be united in love.

### SAN FRANCISCO MUST INVEST IN HOUSING FIRST

Kudos to the *Marina Times* for tackling the issue of homelessness via an all-media project sponsored by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

A recent *Chronicle* exposé on homelessness by Heather Knight countered many stubborn myths about homelessness, including

its cause and demographics. Our most recent homeless count, for example, revealed that 71 percent of the homeless population surveyed lived in San Francisco at the time they became homeless, with job loss and eviction cited as the top two causes.

That is a staggering number that underscores the need to prioritize tenant protections and housing preservation, as well as housing creation.

Nationwide, “Housing First” studies have confirmed that prioritizing housing before all else is the single most effective thing that a city can do to address homelessness — or in the case of Salt Lake City, Utah, virtually end it. That means creating permanently affordable exit housing from our shelter system that provides a stable living environment and launchpad from which residents can address the other destabilizing issues in their lives. In other words, we can build all the navigation centers we want, but without someplace to navigate to, folks will continue to end up back on our streets. While it’s expensive initially, a housing-first strategy can be cost-effective in the long run when targeted

correctly.

We should be prioritizing a significant investment in this year’s city budget with respect to exit housing and rental subsidies for low-income residents. By the time you read this, the budget will be

### We should be prioritizing a significant investment in exit housing and rental subsidies for low-income residents.

finalized, and San Franciscans will know whether their respective supervisor supported backfilling state and federal cuts and investing in supportive housing creation.

The rest of our work lies with legislating tools to preserve and incentivize housing. I’m fighting to keep people in their homes as well as maintain affordable housing stock for renters by strengthening enforcement of illegal conversions and local planning controls. Whether you are Airbnb, the Academy of Art, or a private SRO hotel owner looking to displace existing tenants for more lucrative tourist rentals, the city has turned a blind eye to illegal and unscrupulous activities for

far too long with a great cost to our rent-controlled housing stock and residents. I believe that is changing, though. The board recently unanimously voted to approve homesharing/hosting platform enforcement legislation

that I co-sponsored with Supervisor David Campos, over tremendous opposition from Airbnb.

I am also forging a city-wide compromise with respect to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) because — if done right — we can literally add thousands of

rent-controlled units to the market within the next few years. We must also continue to push for limited city-owned surplus property to be prioritized for affordable housing.

Finally, I want to take this post-June primary opportunity to thank you, the voters, for overwhelmingly passing Proposition C, the charter amendment I authored with Supervisor Kim, to more than double the amount of affordable housing developers are required to build in new construction. You have demonstrated your commitment to housing first; it’s time for your local government to do the same.

Have a great summer and see

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## The Tablehopper :: New and updated



Brown oyster stew, benne, and Charleston ice cream (Sean Brock, Husk).  
PHOTO: ERIC WOLFINGER

## Corey Lee's latest venture, In Situ, is like culinary art

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

### SOMA

As if the reopening of SFMOMA wasn't exciting enough, chef Corey Lee's (Benu) ambitious concept **In Situ** (151 Third Street, 415-941-6050, [insitu.sfmoma.org](http://insitu.sfmoma.org)) is now open. Each menu dish is from a different chef, painstakingly recreated (as much as ingredients allow) by Lee and his team. The menu is like a gallery of chef artwork from around the world.

There is a staggering and impressive lineup of global legends including Martin Picard (Au Pied de Cochon), Juan Mari and Elena Arzak (Arzak), René Redzepi (Noma), Massimo Bottura (Osteria Francescana), Anita Lo (Annisa), and locals like Alice Waters, David Kinch, and even Alex Hozven and Kevin Farley of The Cultured Pickle Shop.

In addition to a dining room menu, there is a lounge menu (for walk-ins). Lounge dishes include a lettuce sandwich with fermented romaine, goat cheese, and olive oil from Christian Puglisi of Relæ (\$12, Copenhagen, Denmark); while the dining room menu includes brown oyster stew with benne and Charleston ice cream from Sean Brock of Husk (\$28, Charleston, South Carolina); guinea fowl larp Chiang Mai from David Thompson of Nahm (\$24, Bangkok, Thailand); and Umami Soup with miso-marinated wagyu, asparagus, Inaniwa udon from Hisato Nakahigashi of Miyamasou (\$38, Kyoto, Japan). And, of course, there's an homage to Cecilia Chiang of The Mandarin with guotie pork, shrimp, and cabbage pot stickers (\$12). Take a look at In Situ's Instagram for more images, and visit the website for more menu items.

The restaurant is currently serving from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. and will be extending to 9 p.m. in the coming weeks.

### MARINA

There is something high profile going on in Mina land: The latest pop-up concept at **Mina Test Kitchen** (2120 Greenwich Street, 415-310-8371, [michaelmina.net](http://michaelmina.net)) is **International Smoke**, on which Mina is collaborating with cookbook author Ayesha Curry (*The Seasoned Life: Food, Family, Faith, and the Joy of Eating Well*, and yes, she's Steph Curry's wife). The focus is "the lighter side of barbecue, grilled, and smoked meats with flavors from all around the world and fresh seasonal produce." All dishes will be served family style; tickets are \$45 for the four-course menu, and additional courses for a supplemental price. Reservations are tough to land after Steph Curry and Drake came by on opening night, but you can try. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

### NORTH BEACH

A few months ago, Union Larder owner Jay Esopenko tipped me off that he had a new project coming, and now that the ABC paperwork has hit the wires, I can tell you more. Esopenko and his wife Melissa Gugin's first project, Little Vine in North Beach, is about to have a neighbor: **The Salzburg** (663 Union Street), which is moving into the former Cinecittà space.

Esopenko says it will be an Austrian wine tavern (heuriger) featuring food, wine, and beer influenced by Germany, Austria, and Northern Italy. "The drink focus will be on the wine regions surrounding the Alps and their American counterparts like Tatomer, Massican, Matthiasson, Forlorn Hope, and Teutonic. Our house wine is being made by Sandlands and we'll

also have a stellar beer selection with over 10 on tap."

As for executive chef Ramon Siewert's menu, look for house-made sausages and salumi, and because this location has a grill and fryer, there will be schnitzel, a burger, and other dishes, too, many inspired by Alpine wine regions. Union Larder's cheese director Kristi Bachman will be in charge of the Alpine-focused cheese program.

The same firm (8inc) that helped design Union Larder will be the architects for this project. They will completely demolish the interior and facade (the front windows will open completely), and they will add a 500-square-foot heated patio with a fireplace out back. There will also be a small dining area downstairs available for private events with room for up to 20 guests. I'll keep you posted as things take shape.

If you come to the iconic **Da Flora** (701 Columbus Avenue, 415-981-4664, [daflora.net](http://daflora.net)), you won't be seeing owner Flora Gaspar on the floor anymore. After opening the restaurant in 1994, she has sold it to her chef, Jen McMahon, and McMahon's husband, Darren Lacy. Scoop reports Gaspar just turned 60, and it sounds like she wants to ease up and focus on her new shop next door, **Rialto Mercato**, which we told you about late last year. Don't expect much to change (except maybe some more reservation-less folks will be let in — Gaspar was notorious for her watchdog stance at the door), and she will still be doing the wine list for Da Flora.

*Marcia Gagliardi writes a popular insider weekly e-column, Tablehopper, about the San Francisco dining and imbibing scene; get all the latest news at [tablehopper.com](http://tablehopper.com). Follow @tablehopper on Twitter and Instagram for more culinary finds.*



# Edsel Ford Fung, Zeppelin Wong, and a Chinatown jook joint

BY ERNEST BEYL

ONE OF THE OLDEST RESTAURANTS in San Francisco's Chinatown, Sam Wo, took great pride in featuring "the rudest waiter in the world." His name was Edsel Ford Fung — at least he said it was. Sam Wo was founded in 1912. The name in Chinese means "three in peace," which was a reference to the three immigrant brothers from Taishan, China who founded the restaurant. Soon after its founding, it became a popular late night Cantonese joint for both Chinese and Caucasians.

The original site was at 813 Washington Street in a narrow three-story structure. Over the years it catered to San Franciscans who enjoyed a bit of local color. In the fifties, it was popular with the Beats and their followers who came down from North Beach. *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen reported the comings and goings at Sam Wo, and Armistead Maupin, author of the popular *Tales of the City*, which appeared first in the *Chronicle* and later as a series of books, immortalized the jook joint and its rude waiter.

Sam Wo was open until 3 a.m. Diners entered through the tiny kitchen and took a narrow winding staircase up to shabby

rooms on the second or third floors. A sign taped to the wall read "no booze, no BS, no jive, no coffee, milk, soft drinks, fortune cookies." Food was delivered from the kitchen below by dumbwaiter.

### SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP

Meals were basic — wonton soup, jook (a rice porridge also known as congee), a few noodle dishes and what have you. Sam Wo closed in 2012 for various health and safety violations, but reopened recently at 713 Clay Street in Chinatown by the owner of 30 years, David Ho. At first, Ho tried to reopen Sam Wo at the original site. That didn't work out, but suddenly there was a groundswell of support for the old place, and Ho and his family, along with a few investors, sought a new site. They found it at the Clay Street building, which once housed the Anna Bakery. The site is across the street from Portsmouth Square and just a few blocks from the Financial District.

The menu was upgraded as were the prices. Specials include barbecued pork rice noodle roll, salt and pepper chicken wings, tomato beef chow mein, Mongolian beef, kung pao chicken, wonton soup, all manner of jook, and other dishes savvy San Franciscans take for granted. The new place even has a dumbwaiter to deliver

food. What made the old place so popular? Two elements — the dumbwaiter delivery in the narrow building, and the rude waiter whose welcoming line was usually "Sit down and shut up."

### UTOPIAN TURTLETOP

Edsel Ford Fung, who died in 1984 at 57, was the son of Sam Wo's owner and was born and raised in San Francisco's Chinatown. His name was really Edsel Fung, but adopting the name Edsel Ford was too good to pass up. You may recall that the Ford Motor Company came out with a dog of an automobile in 1957 and named it the Edsel after the son and only child of Henry Ford. Yes, that Henry Ford who developed the Ford Motor Company and built the Model-T Ford about which Henry said, "You can have it in any color you want — as long as it's black." Before settling on the name Edsel for the automobile, the company asked famed American poet Marianne Moore, editor of *Poetry Magazine*, to come up with a name for the new car. She did — Utopian Turtletop. The Ford Motor Company disagreed. And so the Edsel was born and almost immediately took a dive.

### THE EDESEL AND THE ZEPPELIN

But back to our notable waiter, his deportment, and his famous one-liners:

If a customer took too long perusing the food-spotted menu, Edsel Ford Fung would cry out, "What is this, a library?" He was also famous for insisting that customers clean their own tables and for making passes at women customers. He also had a habit of complaining about his tips, cursing, spilling

**If a customer took too long perusing the menu, Fung would cry out, 'What is this, a library?'**

soup on the tables, and refusing to provide forks or English translations of what was on offer.

Now, on to my friend Zeppelin Wong — this

San Francisco lawyer's first name really is Zeppelin. You can check his birth certificate.

In 1929, the huge German dirigible, Graf Zeppelin, became the first lighter-than-air craft to circle the globe. On Aug. 25 it made several dramatic passes over San Francisco. The Wong family, who lived in Chinatown, witnessed the Graf Zeppelin flyover. A week later, Sept. 1, a male baby was born to the Wong family and his mother named him Zeppelin Wai Wong. The young man went on to attend Stanford University and to become a lawyer. He also owned a San Francisco restaurant in the financial district called the Red Knight, but he was never rude to customers.

Email: [ernest@marinatimes.com](mailto:ernest@marinatimes.com)

**Sam Wo took great pride in featuring 'the rudest waiter in the world.'**







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# SUMMER SIZZLE

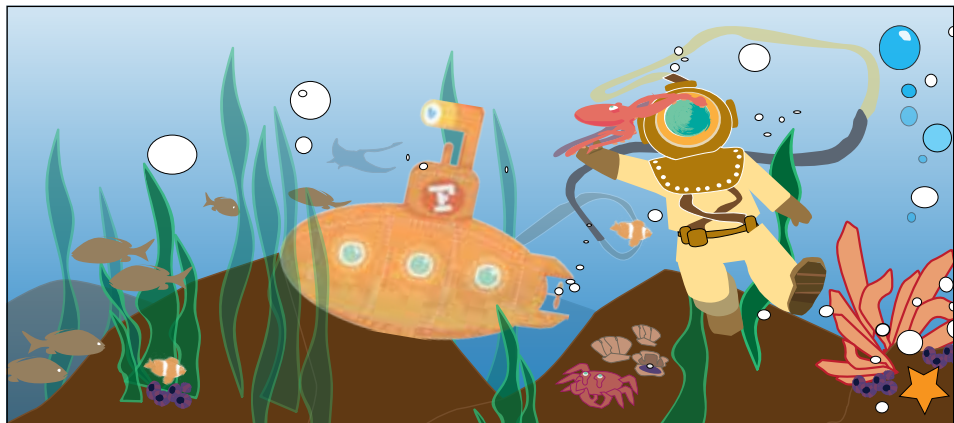
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## FROM THE COVER



*The Shining*, directed by Stanley Kubrick (GB/United States; 1978-80).  
PHOTO: © WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

### Kubrick continued from page 1

Materials from Kubrick's estate, inaccessible until 2003, will be on display. Nearly 800 objects include annotated screenplays, production photography, lenses and cameras, set models, costumes, and props, some of which are also on loan from international and private collections. Costumes — including the star child and the ape from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, the blue dresses belonging to the twin sisters in *The Shining* (1980), the survival kit from *Dr. Strangelove*, and the "Born to Kill" helmet of Private Joker from *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) — will also be on display.

Correspondence, sketches, plans, and other set objects draw the public into the processes of a meticulous multidisciplinary artist. See Kubrick's Bell & Howell Eyemo camera that he used to film *Killer's Kiss* (1955), the Mitch-

ell BNC camera, and the Zeiss f0.7 lens developed for NASA, which was used for shooting candlelight scenes in *Barry Lyndon* (1975). Cinema fans can also attend a 30-minute audiovisual presentation explaining Kubrick's use of music in his films and a picture show retracing his biography along with clips from films and documentary footage.

Related events include The Life and Legend of Stanley Kubrick on June 30. This discussion about the personal and professional life of the director features Jan Harlan, Kubrick's executive producer from *Barry Lyndon* onward; Tim Heptner, curator at Deutsches Filmmuseum; Katharina Kubrick, the filmmaker's stepdaughter; and Hans-Peter Reichmann, head of collections at Deutsches Filmmuseum.

The Exhibition Gallery Chat on July 1 invites the public to hear anecdotes from Harlan,

who also worked on *The Shining* and *Eyes Wide Shut*. Additional programming is scheduled throughout the exhibition, which closes on Oct. 30, and most are free with museum admission.

Film fans can at last step into the Korova Milk Bar from *A Clockwork Orange*, travel through outer space through the sets of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, or imagine themselves in the period costumes of *Barry Lyndon* or on the battlefields of *Full Metal Jacket*. This exhibition offers a one-of-a-kind immersive adventure into Kubrick's world.

**Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition:** 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (8 p.m. Thursday), Thursday–Tuesday, June 30–Oct. 30; \$12; *The Contemporary Jewish Museum*, 736 Mission Street, 415-655-7800, thecjm.org

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

### Backstory continued from page 1

Alcatraz foghorns blow.  
**JOHN'S GRILL**

And notably, two detectives, one from the San Francisco Police Department, the other a private eye, have lunch at John's Grill on Ellis Street. The private eye asks the waiter to hurry his order of ... "chops, baked potato, and sliced tomatoes." The brief passage that takes place in John's Grill has over the years since the book was first published in 1929 become a masterful marketing tool for the still-existing restaurant that was opened in 1908. The second floor features a museum of Dashiell Hammett and *The Maltese Falcon* memorabilia — including an impressive casting of the black falcon. And on the menu one will find Sam Spade Lamb Chops.

### IF THEY HANG YOU I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU

The best line from the book about the hard-boiled detective Sam Spade is, "I won't play the sap for you." Sam is speaking to the beautiful Brigid O'Shaughnessy, a devious counterbalance

for the tough detective.

A few moments earlier in the complicated murder mystery, with Brigid standing very close to Sam and inviting him to kiss her, he utters these unforgettable lines: "I'm going to send you over. The chances are you'll get off with life. That means you'll be out again in twenty years. You're an angel. I'll wait for you," and "If they hang you I'll always remember you."

### HUMPHREY BOGART, MARY ASTOR, SYDNEY GREENSTREET, AND PETER LORRE

I'm sorry if I spoiled this by revealing the book's ending. I'm assuming you are of literary bent and that you have probably read *The Maltese Falcon* or seen the classic 1941 movie directed by John Huston and starring Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade, Mary Astor as Brigid O'Shaughnessy, Sydney Greenstreet as the "Fatman" Casper Gutman, and Peter Lorre as the repulsive Joel Cairo.

It's time for you to read *The Maltese Falcon* once again. And time to go to John's Grill for the chops, baked potato, and sliced tomatoes.



Michael Snyder on ... Film

Fording the midsummer mainstream

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

THE SUMMER BARRAGE OF ACTION-driven, special-effects-laden epics and other buckets of box office bait is as inevitable as a chilly San Francisco night in July. Meanwhile, what of the little movies that offer big rewards? They're out there, and some are finding platforms, but the polarized state of the industry assures that most of the attention will continue to be on the heavy artillery.

We've already endured four blasts of wide-screen superhero action since the spring, including the less than satisfying face-off between DC Comics' icons, *Superman v. Batman*; the raucous, R-rated romp spotlighting Marvel Comics' mouthy mercenary, *Deadpool*; Marvel's spectacular intramural conflict of the mega-powered, *Captain America: Civil War*; and one more from Marvel, the latest installment in their saga of mutant do-gooders and miscreants, *X-Men: Apocalypse* — money makers all. And *Independence Day: Resurgence*, the long-awaited sequel to the 1996 alien-invasion hit, just dropped into your local multiplex June 24 and is probably packing them in right now.

FRANCHISED FOR YOUR DOLLAR

This month will see the release of such franchise flicks as *Star Trek Beyond* (July 22), *Ice Age: Collision Course* (July 22), and *Jason Bourne* (July 29), continuing movie series with proven track records and built-in audiences. Regardless of buzz, patrons will presumably line up for *The Legend of Tarzan* (yet another reinvention of a hoary, but familiar property opening July 1); *The Purge: Election Year* (the latest of the low-budget, dystopian *Purge* horror films with a social-commentary subtext, also reaching theaters on July 1); and *Ghostbusters* (a female-centric reboot of the beloved 1984 paranormal comedy set for a July 15 release).

As implied, a lot of these movies are initially critic-proof. When reviews and word of mouth are uniformly bad, there can be a precipitous drop-off after a week, but generally, the target demographics and returning customers ensure mammoth ticket sales on opening weekends. Thus,

the tentpoles continue to be erected by the major studios, the sequels follow, and the slate of spectacles rolls on.

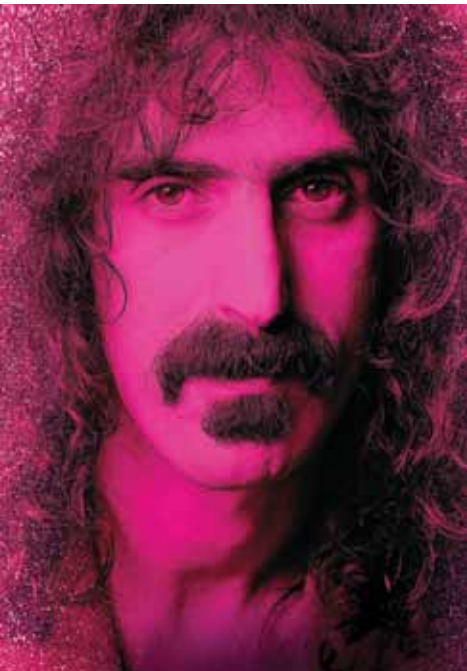
A FAN'S CONUNDRUM

Being a lifelong fan of sci-fi, spy fiction, cartoons, and comic books, I am informed about most films of that ilk and should be eager to see them. Although I usually have free access to the product in my capacity as a reviewer, and am not victimized by the sticker shock of rising ticket prices, I pride myself on the fact that my genre predilections and the gift of guest passes don't ensure a good review. For instance, *Batman v. Superman*, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, and the video game adaptation *Warcraft* received considerable disdain from me — each nailed for ponderous scripting and an excess of overwrought, meaningless sound, and fury. And even if I could somehow be pleasantly surprised, I am already dreading the June 2017 release of the next overblown, toy-spawned, computer-generated clash of world-threatening, skyscraper-razing rock-'em sock-'em robots, *Transformers: The Last Knight*. Last? Promises, promises.

None of the above cash cows will need or ever needed my endorsement, which is why I prefer to champion independent and foreign films and documentaries that deserve the attention. So while scores of moviegoers (and even some of your family members, friends, and neighbors) will be crowding in to see the latest round of nine-figure mainstream productions, you could be seeing something more offbeat and off the beaten track. By their nature, the following are more personal and certainly more intimate movies than those noted above. And each is worthy.

TAKE A BITE

If you ever wondered what makes a unique, virtuoso musician tick, you can catch a glimpse of the drive, dedication, and eccentricity that set one remarkable man apart in the documentary *Eat That Question: Frank Zappa in His Own Words*. Zappa was a classically schooled Los Angeles-area composer, a daring, unconventional, cheerfully visceral, and witty rock songwriter, a world-class guitarist, a theatrically broad singer,



Left: Frank Zappa; Right and counterclockwise: Gillian Jacobs (Samantha); Tami Sagher (Lindsay); Chris Gethard (Bill); Keegan-Michael Key (Jack); Mike Birbiglia (Miles); and Kate Micucci (Allison) in Mike Birbiglia's *Don't Think Twice*.

PHOTO: LEFT: COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS; RIGHT: COURTESY OF JON PACK

a notoriously meticulous and demanding bandleader, and an anticensorship crusader. Dying of cancer in 1993 at the relatively early age of 52, he left behind a prodigious discography, including albums with his psychedelic, progressive rock/jazz/doo-wop group The Mothers of Invention and, subsequently, more avant-garde ensembles. This feature from director Thorsten Schütte doesn't bother with conventional narration. Instead, it allows Zappa and his music to provide a portrait of the artist through historic and often obscure footage of interviews and performances spanning around 30 years.

The clips range from a pre-Mothers of Invention segment with the clean-shaven, sharp-dressed Zappa "playing" a bicycle on the old Steve Allen TV talk and variety show to the Mothers tearing it up at a legendary rock venue in the '70s; a bit of a European orchestral concert devoted to Zappa's symphonic music; his articulate and fearless testimony before the Senate; and to conversations from various periods in his career, including just before his death. You see him, and you hear his thoughts and music. Taken as a whole, *Eat That Question* — opening in San Francisco on July 1 — is probably the most insightful and honest depiction of this particular genius that one could want, short of a detailed, annotated auto-



biographical book.

THINKING, ACTING, AND LAUGHING

I have a particular affection for writer-director-actor Mike Birbiglia's lean, nifty *Don't Think Twice*, which opens in New York and Los Angeles by the end of July, but doesn't reach the Bay Area until Aug. 5. It's a bittersweet, astute ensemble comedy about a talented, dedicated, but struggling improvisational comedy troupe that starts to implode when one of its members passes the audition to join the cast of a high-profile late-night TV series in the mold of *Saturday Night Live*. The actors playing the improv group — including Birbiglia, Keegan-Michael Key (*Key & Peele* and *MAD TV*), Kate Micucci (*Garfunkel & Oates*), and Gillian Jacobs (*Community*) — are apparently well versed in the realm of ad-lib sketch comedy.

The inside showbiz backstage stuff rings true. But what really makes *Don't Think Twice* special is its depiction of the all-too-human emotions that swamp the troupe in the face of their colleague's newfound success. Love and respect turn to jealousy and anger as romantic and career frustration upend these once-devoted comrades — and we're there to see the trust and fealty unravel and to ruefully laugh.

The Best of Books : What's flying off the shelves

Best sellers: Marina Books Inc.

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

BEST SELLER LIST:

1. **City of Thieves: A Novel**, by David Benioff (paperback)
2. **111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss**, by Floriana Peterson (paperback)
3. **Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life**, by William Finnegan (paperback)
4. **The Sense of an Ending**, by Julian Barnes (paperback)
5. **Discovering Vintage San Francisco**, by Laura Borrman (paperback)
6. **Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice**, by Bill Browder (paperback)
7. **The Tender Bar: A Memoir**, by J.R. Moehringer (paperback)

8. **The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics**, by Daniel Brown (paperback)
9. **The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horde**, by Shannon Hale (paperback)
10. **When Breath Becomes Air**, by Paul Kalanithi (hardcover)

NEW RELEASES: FICTION

**The Girls**, by Emma Cline

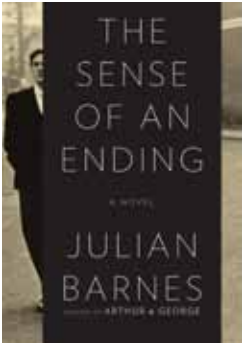
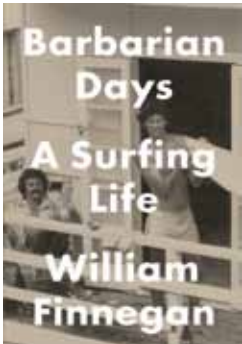
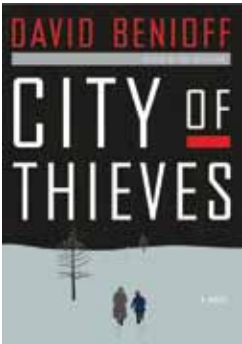
An indelible portrait of girls, the women they become, and that moment in life when everything can go horribly wrong, this stunning first novel is perfect for readers of Jeffrey Eugenides's *The Virgin Suicides* and Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. Set in Northern California in the

1960s, Emma Cline's remarkable debut novel is gorgeously written and spellbinding, with razor-sharp precision and startling psychological insight. *The Girls* is a brilliant work of fiction.

NEW RELEASES: NONFICTION

**The Secret War: Spies, Ciphers, and Guerrillas, 1939-1945**, by Max Hastings

Spies, codes, and guerrillas played unprecedentedly critical roles in the Second World War, exploited by every nation in the struggle to gain secret knowledge of its foes, and to sow havoc behind the fronts. In *The Secret War*, Max Hastings presents a worldwide cast of characters and some extraordinary sagas of intelligence and resistance to create a new perspective on the greatest conflict in history.



JULY EVENTS: MARINA BOOKS INC.

**July 7:** "Conquer your Chronic Pain," by Peter Abaci

Join pain expert Dr. Peter Abaci to talk about his new book, helping you deal with chronic issues and prepare for the future.

**July 26:** "Impact with Wings: Stories to Inspire and Mobilize

Women Angel Investors and Entrepreneurs"

Join us for a lively discussion and networking event with the authors of this new book about women-backed businesses and strategies for making the most of the opportunities San Francisco has to offer.

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



# JULY EVENTS

what not to miss this month

## MAJOR EVENTS

**Fillmore Jazz Festival**  
**Sat.–Sun., July 2–3, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.**  
**Fillmore Street (btw. Jackson & Eddy Sts.)**  
The West Coast’s largest free jazz festival returns with 12 blocks of music, fine arts and crafts, gourmet food, beverages, and more. *Free, 800-310-6563, fillmorejazzfestival.com*



4th of July Celebration

**Monday, July 4, 11 a.m.**  
**Pier 39**  
Celebrate with varied activities and live entertainment by Tainted Love (5–8 p.m.) and closing with a spectacular fireworks display (9:30 p.m.) *Free, 415-705-5500, pier39.com*  
PHOTO: DAVID YU; FLICKR.COM/ DAVIDYUWEB

**4th of July Golden Gate Park Band Concert**  
**Monday, July 4, 1 p.m.**  
*Spreckels Temple of Music*  
Bring the family and a picnic and enjoy a free musical tradition with patriotic and American music to celebrate the country’s birthday. *Free, 415-831-5500, goldengateparkband.org*

## LAST CHANCE

**Beauty and the Beast**  
**Daily through July 10**  
**SHN Orpheum Theatre (1192 Market St.)**  
Based on the Academy award-winning film, this classic musical love story is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers. \$45–\$212, 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

**20th PlayGround Festival of New Works**  
**Thu.–Sun. through July 20**  
**Thick House (1695 18th St.)**  
See more than 44 performances and readings by local writers; six fully produced 10-minute plays/ musicals; two world premiers; and staged readings of plays in development. \$25–\$45 (individual); \$120 (all-festival pass), 415-992-6677, playground-sf.org

## COMMUNITY CORNER

**Sunday Streets: Tenderloin**  
**Sunday, July 12, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
**Tenderloin (see website for streets)**  
Bike, skate, run, roll, or walk along this car-free route designed to get you out, moving, and exploring the neighborhood. *Free, sundaystreetssf.com*

**NERT Preparedness Training**  
**Mondays, July 18–Aug. 22, 6:30–10 p.m.**  
**St. Mary the Virgin (2325 Union St.)**  
Learn what you need to know to prepare personally, as a business, and as a community for a disaster, large or small. Must attend all six sessions for certification and must enroll by second session. *Free, sf-fire.org*

## GALAS & BENEFITS

**AIDS Walk San Francisco**  
**Sunday, July 17, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**  
**Starts/Ends: Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park**  
Walk this 10K to remember those lost, help those affected, and continue the fight to end AIDS. Benefits Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations. *Free (general walkers), 415-615-9255, aidswalk.net*

**Avon 39: The Walk to End Breast Cancer**  
**Sat.–Sun., July 23–24**  
**Starts: Fort Mason**  
Walk to help those affected by breast cancer worldwide and to raise funds for research. \$50 (individual), 888-540-9255, avon39.org

## ARTS & CULTURE



8th Annual J-Pop Summit

**Sat.–Sun., July 23–24**  
**Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center**  
S.F.’s premier Japanese pop culture event introduces the latest in Japanese music, fashion, film, art, games, tech innovations, anime, food, as well as niche subcultures, has become a landing platform for new trends from Japan. Visit website for details, venues, and ticket packages. \$25–\$30/day (summit only), j-pop.com

**39th Annual Playwright’s Festival**  
**Fri.–Sun., July 15–24**  
**Custom Made Theatre (533 Sutter St.)**  
Enjoy two weekends of outstanding readings of six new plays from some of the most talented emerging playwrights in the country. \$15/play; \$90/ all-access pass, 415-626-2176, playwrightsfoundation.org

## MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

**Cinco y Cinco/Five & Five**  
**Thu.–Sun. through Aug. 28, noon–4 p.m.**  
**The Mexican Museum (Fort Mason Center)**  
This exhibition features five invited artists, each of whom in turn nominated another artist to participate, resulting in diverse viewpoints, approaches, media, eras, and ethnic identities. *Free, 415-202-9700, mexicanmuseum.org*

## PERFORMANCES

**Intimate Illusions**  
**Sat.–Sun., July 9–10**  
**The Fairmont San Francisco (950 Mason St.)**  
Accompanied by classical cello, this theatrical show, with audience participation, spontaneous and unplanned moments ensure no two shows are alike. \$65–\$75, 866-811-4111, ivanamodei.com

**BATS Improv: Warp Speed: Improvised Trek**  
**Saturday, July 9–30, 8–9:45 p.m.**  
**Bayfront Theater (Fort Mason Center)**  
Beam into an alternate universe and join the crew of an audience-named starship on a voyage to the outer limits, where danger, bizarre life forms, and intense relationships lurk behind every black hole and mysterious planet. \$17, 415-474-6776, improv.org

## DANCE

**Sketch 6: Use Your Words**  
**Fri.–Sun., July 8–10, 8–9 p.m.**  
**Cowell Theater (Fort Mason Center)**  
See three premieres inspired by this year’s theme created by Amy Seiwert (Amy Seiwert’s Imagery, Smuin Ballet), legend Val Caniparoli (S.F. Ballet) and emerging choreographer Nicole Haskins (Smuin Ballet). \$35, fortmason.org

**ODC: Summer Sampler 2016**  
**Thu.–Sat., July 23–25, 8 p.m.**  
**ODC Theater (3153 17th St.)**  
Enjoy this curated sampler of ODC/Dance’s most celebrated works: “Going Solo,” “Waving Not Drowning,” and a piece by KT Nelson. \$30, 415-863-9834, odcdance.org

## MUSIC

**79th Annual Stern Grove Festival**  
**Sundays through Aug. 21, 2 p.m.**  
**Stern Grove (19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.)**  
July performances include the S.F. Symphony, S.F. Ballet, and more at the beautiful Sigmund Stern Grove outdoor amphitheater. *Free, 415-252-6252,*

*sterngrove.org*  
**S.F. Opera: Carmen Live Simulcast**  
**Saturday, July 2, 7:30 p.m.**  
**AT&T Park**  
See this racy production about the seductive gypsy who captures the heart of soldier Don José under the stars in a truly one-of-a-kind S.F. experience. *Free, register at sfopera.com; 415-864-3330*

**Merola Opera Summer Festival**  
**Thursday, July 7 & 21**  
**Saturday, July 9 & 23**  
**S.F. Conservatory of Music (50 Oak St.)**  
The Schwabacher Concert presents scenes from beloved operas; Transformations sets Grimm’s fairy tales to Pulitzer Prize-winner Anne Sexton’s poetry. \$25–\$65, 415-864-3330, merola.org

**Steven Tyler: Out on a Limb**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 8 p.m.**  
**The Masonic (1111 California St.)**  
Backed by his Nashville-based band, Loving Mary, Grammy Award-winning Tyler gets up-close-and-personal as he shares his real-life heartaches, trials, and tribulations from his piano upbringing to worldwide fame. \$39.95–\$250, sfmasonic.com, 415-776-7457

**An Evening in Paris with Madeleine Peyroux and the San Francisco Symphony**  
**Thursday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Davies Symphony Hall**  
Enjoy the artist who honed her musical chops on the sidewalks of Paris’s Latin Quarter in an evening dedicated to music from and inspired by Paris. \$18.75–\$75, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org



American Tripps: The “Berlin-Style” Ping Pong Night

**Monday, July 4 & 11, 6 p.m.–2 a.m.**  
**Pop’s Bar (2800 24th St.)**  
Born in the back rooms of dive bars in Berlin and perfected in the secret semilegal art spaces of the Mission, this is a brand of ping pong built for happy hours and late nights. *Free, facebook.com/americantripp*  
PHOTO: BETH LABERGE; BETHLABERGE.COM

## NIGHTLIFE

**Space Cowboys’ 20th Anniversary**  
**Friday, July 8, 9 p.m.**  
**Public Works (161 Erie St.)**  
From their humble beginnings creating art, playing music, and producing events, the Space Cowboys have thrived over the ensuing two decades, and they now have many thousands of in-person and online fans. \$9.99–\$29.99, 877-987-6487, ticketfly.com

## FILMS & LECTURES

**A Series of Catastrophes and Miracles**  
**Tuesday, July 12, 6 p.m.**  
**The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)**  
Journalist Mary Elizabeth Williams was one of the first people in the world to receive cancer treatment that would later be used by former President Jimmy Carter. She’ll discuss her personal journey from diagnosis and back to health via immunotherapy. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

**10th Annual S.F. Frozen Film Festival**  
**Fri.–Mon., July 21–23**  
**Roxie Theatre (3117 16th St.)**  
This festival focuses on independent filmmakers, youth, filmmakers of conscience, and artists from underserved communities. *Contact for films and prices, frozenfilmfestival.com*

## SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

**Epigenetics: How our environment can affect future generations**  
**Sunday, July 10, 1–3 p.m.**  
**Latino/Hispanic Rms, SFPL Main Library**  
Hear about a new theory of genetic makeup, which posits that some characteristics of individuals result from chemical modification of the surface of an individual’s DNA before birth. Dr. Barbara-Ann

Lewis will discuss this phenomenon in language that can be understood without a background in science. *Free, 415-557-4388, sfpl.org*  
**Is California Entering a Megadrought?**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.**  
**The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)**  
Hear a discussion of whether we have a “new normal” of more dry and more wet times, or if the state is headed into an extended dry period known as a megadrought. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

**The Beauty of the Universe as Revealed by Hubble**  
**Monday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**California Academy of Sciences**  
What impact has the 26-year-old Hubble Space Telescope had on our knowledge of the universe? Learn about the telescope’s discoveries and its role in influencing public appreciation of space science.



Tacolicious Guest Chef Series

**Thursdays through Aug. 11, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
**Ferry Plaza Farmers Market**  
Taste some of the most delicious and creative tacos around, made by the Bay Area’s hottest chefs. Proceeds benefit CUESA’s Schoolyard to Market and seller scholarship programs. 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

\$8–\$12, 877-227-1831, calacademy.org

## POTABLES & EDIBLES

**Classic Seaside Supper**  
**Sunday, July 10, 2–4 p.m.**  
**Sur la Table (2224 Union St.)**  
Using the season’s bounty, create a delicious meal of sweet corn risotto, salt-block-seared scallops, and blueberry cobbler. \$69, 800-243-0852, surlatable.com

**The F Word: Fermented Foods**  
**Tuesday, July 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**SFPL, North Beach Branch (850 Columbus Ave.)**  
Fermented foods provide the intestines with many strains of good bacteria called probiotics, essential to vibrant health and well-being. Learn to make your own sauerkraut, pickles, and more. *Free, 415-355-5626, sfpl.org*

## SPORTS & HEALTH

**Nutrition & Healthy Choices**  
**Monday, July 11, 18, 25, 11 a.m.–noon**  
**Main Floor Learning Studio, SFPL Main Branch**  
Learn how to live a healthy life through making better choices. Topics: Where Our Food Comes From; Flavoring and Preserving Food; and How We Choose What Food to Buy. *Free, 415-557-4388, sfpl.org*

**S.F. Marathon & Expo**  
**Expo: Fri.–Sat., July 29–30**  
**Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center**  
**Race: Sunday, July 31**  
**Starts: Embarcadero & Mission St.**  
The expo features the best in running, health, and nutrition. Full course winds through the city and across the Golden Gate; choose from several race types. *Free (expo), \$45–\$180 (races), 888-958-6668, thesfmarathon.com*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Renegade Craft Fair**  
**Sat.–Sun., July 18–19, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.**  
**Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center**

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.



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Urban Home and Garden :: Managing pests



Ladybugs and tansy flowers help to keep your garden pest free.

Pest management and a healthy garden

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING A less-toxic approach for pest control are plentiful: a more healthful home for you, your kids, and pets; an ecologically balanced garden where less pest control will be necessary in the future; and a clear conscience from doing your best to reduce pollution. Everything done in a garden environment will eventually have an impact on the garden's pest population. Resistant, suitable plants and good soil and plant care are powerful preventive measures.

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

A healthy garden filled with a variety of flowering plants will be significantly more resistant to pest and disease damage. Diversity will also help attract beneficial creatures to your garden, creating a balanced ecosystem and reducing the need for chemical controls. Also, if you should have a pest problem on one type of plant it will not decimate your entire garden.

Pest insects have always been with us and so have beneficial insects to maintain the balance of nature. They fill two main roles in the garden ecosystem: pollinators of plants and predators of pest insects.

The first step in attracting beneficial insects is to reduce or eliminate the use of broad-spectrum pesticides. Not only will your garden be free of chemical residue, but birds, pollinators (like bumblebees), and good insects are often more susceptible to pesticides than the insects you are trying to eliminate.

INSECT PREDATORS

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

**Praying mantises** eat a wide variety of insects — virtually any pest that moves. Since they don't fly, they stay in the area where they are released. **Beneficial nematodes** assault flea larvae in the soil, bark, or ground litter. They also attack more than 200 kinds of garden pests.

COMPANION PLANTING

Like people, plants favor some companions over others. Some plants emit poisons, called phytotoxins, that can stunt or even kill nearby plants. Other plants thrive in each other's company. Companion planting is the art (or science, if you will) of planting mutually beneficial plants together. Here are a few time-tested combinations:

- Rosemary, sage, and thyme planted among cabbage plants repel cabbageworms.
- Marigolds planted thickly around roses

will help repel aphids, will keep Colorado potato beetles away from potatoes, and repel rabbits from your garden.

- Radishes planted among cucumbers discourage cucumber beetles.
- Tomato plants keep asparagus beetles away from asparagus.
- Potato plants keep Mexican beetles away from beans.
- Tansy keeps many insect pests away.
- Garlic plants keep aphids away.

CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes have long been an annoying summer pest. With the Zika virus outbreak, concern for mosquito control has intensified. Mosquitoes thrive in dark, wet areas, so be sure to empty any standing water that may accumulate in your yard.

A natural biological control, *Bacillus thuringiensis* is a bacterium that attacks mosquito larvae, but not beneficial insects, and is harmless to other living things. Float a biodegradable Mosquito Dunk in water troughs, koi ponds, birdbaths, rain barrels, or wherever water collects and remains for periods of time. As the Dunk slowly dissolves, it releases a bacterium toxic to all mosquito larvae species. When the larvae hatch and begin to eat the bacterium, it will kill the mosquito larvae before they can grow up to become biting and disease-spreading adults. Each Dunk lasts 30 days or more.

INDOOR PEST MANAGEMENT

If you have indoor pest problems with cockroaches, ants, or other insects, deny them access to your home and the food and water they seek with these best practices:

- Store food in the refrigerator or tightly sealed containers.
  - Keep your home clean and tidy. Thoroughly clean counters and floors daily in eating and food preparation areas. Don't leave dirty dishes out overnight.
  - Remove compost containing food scraps nightly.
  - Clean recyclables before storing them.
- At night, place pet food and water bowls in a moat of soapy water.
- Keep areas dry. Fix leaky plumbing.
  - Seal cracks and crevices. Caulk and paint cracks around baseboards, cupboards, pipes, sinks, and so forth. Use mildew-resistant caulk in moist areas.
  - Weather-strip around doors and windows, and repair holes in screens.

**Remember:** If you must use a pesticide, look for the least toxic option, and do **not** put pesticides in the trash. Dispose of pesticides at the San Francisco Household Hazardous Waste Facility (501 Tunnel Avenue, 415-330-1400). To schedule a free pick-up, visit [sfrecycling.com](http://sfrecycling.com) or call 415-330-1405.

Email: [julia@marinatimes.com](mailto:julia@marinatimes.com).



# Multiple offers follow summer cooling

BY CAROLE ISAACS

HERE WE ARE IN JULY, and there is talk of a cooling in the real estate market. San Francisco continues to be different. So what does a softening or cool-down really mean here?

First it is about summer, but not just about the fog rolling in and creating a blanket over the city for the summer months.

Typically after Memorial Day, both buyers and sellers take a few months off. Then it is all about multiple offers. Only a few months ago, agents would be sending out 15, 20, or even 30 disclosures on desirable properties. I can hear you asking “What do you mean ‘desirable?’” The answer I give to my clients is that it is any place you want to live. Today it is difficult to find an undesirable property. Moving into June and now summer, that number has shrunk to 3, 5, or on a special property 10 disclosures. Generally you can figure that between 25 and 30 percent of buyers requesting disclosures will write an offer. The end result is that there are

still multiple offers, but not as many offers on a given home, and some properties receive only one offer.

Buying a home is always stressful and facing a multiple offer situation magnifies the stress. It is difficult enough to wade through negotiating with a seller for a home. Add to this the great unknown of other buyers and trying to figure out how much they are willing to pay for a home might feel like an impossible task. It should, because there is no way to know what another buyer will pay for a home.

One of the most difficult things for new buyers to

betting against each other to raise the price. Ouch!

To relieve stress and be successful, buyers need a plan. Here is what I recommend to my clients:

1. Commit to going to as many Sunday open houses as possible. You need to get to know the market before you will feel comfortable making an offer on a home.

2. Figure out your real limit on price. It is amazing to me how many buyers miss opportunities because they are hoping to find a home at a lower price.

3. Don’t be afraid to make offers. It is the rare buyer who is successful on the first offer. It is reasonable for your first offer to be more cautious. Once you make an offer you will learn how many offers there were on the home and where your offer was in relation to the others. Was your offer on the bottom, the middle, second from the top? Were you offered a back-up position? If not, why? Nothing is more educational than a real-life experience. Eventually you

will become more aggressive once you fully understand the process.

4. Decide whether you are comfortable making your best offer first or leaving some room

buyer a second chance if the home falls out of escrow. How do back-up offers fit into the big picture of buying a home? If there are many offers on a property, the seller may offer

a back-up position to as many as three or more buyers. They would be in first, second, or third back-up position.

There is no downside to being in back-up position. There are only three things that can happen: You find another home and withdraw from back-

up position; the seller closes escrow and you are no longer in back-up position; or you are lucky, the home falls out of escrow, and you will be in contract.

Recently I had a client who, after several offers and two back-ups, bought a home when a cash buyer backed out of escrow. It might happen for you, too.

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

## Decide whether you are comfortable making your best offer first or leaving some room to respond to a counter offer.

to respond to a counter offer. Ask your agent for advice. Your agent will be able to help you figure out the best approach for each offer. One size does not fit all.

5. Try to remove yourself from competing with other buyers. Decide what a home is worth to you and make your offer. Remember there is no way to know what other buyers will pay for a home.

The good news about multiple offers is that typically the sellers will make a back-up offer to one or more of the buyers who made an offer on their home. This gives a

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# The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: May 2016

By Hill & Co.

## SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2775 Union Street 2371 Greenwich Street	4BD/4.5BA 2BD/2BA	\$6,100,000 \$1,450,000	Above Below	0 56
Lake	138 23rd Avenue	4BD/1.5BA	\$2,050,000	Above	13
Laurel Heights	182 Jordan Avenue	5BD/4.5BA	\$4,300,000	Below	62
Lone Mountain	225 Ewing Terrace 46 Roselyn Terrace	2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$1,850,000 \$1,750,000	Above Above	4 43
Marina	3624 Scott Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,700,000	Below	21
Nob Hill	1155 Washington Street 1335 Jackson Street	3BD/3BA 4BD/3.5BA	\$3,695,000 \$3,200,000	At Below	55 21
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2627 Steiner Street 2244 Steiner Street 2970 Jackson Street 2321 Webster Street	3BD/4BA 4BD/4.5BA 4BD/2.5BA 3BD/1BA	\$8,100,000 \$6,000,000 \$3,100,000 \$2,126,000	Above Above Above Above	11 2 34 21
Presidio Heights	3610 Washington Street	4BD/4.5BA	\$11,300,001	Above	10
Russian Hill	1132 Green Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$6,300,000	Above	33
Sea Cliff	161 28th Avenue 244 32nd Avenue	5BD/3BA 3BD/3BA	\$2,950,000 \$2,800,000	Below Above	17 14
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

## CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2661 Union Street 2929 Pierce Street 2927 Pierce Street 42 Service Street 1501 Greenwich Street 2916 Fillmore Street 2701 Van Ness Ave. #203	4BD/3BA 3BD/2.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 0BD/1BA	\$4,025,000 \$3,500,000 \$2,550,000 \$1,310,000 \$1,300,000 \$1,050,000 \$599,000	Below Above Above Below At Above At	33 20 20 22 67 21 64
Lake	170 21st Avenue	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,300,000	Above	21
Laurel Heights	59 Iris Avenue 28 Parker Avenue #301	2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA	\$1,528,000 \$970,000	Above Above	11 18
Lone Mountain	2484 Fulton Street 2486 Fulton Street 3052 Turk Street	3BD/3BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/1BA	\$1,362,000 \$1,025,000 \$845,000	Below Below Above	59 67 31
Marina	1778 Beach Street 52 Toledo Way 3614 Webster Street 2200 Beach Street #303 1529 Beach Street #A	2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 1BD/1BA 1BA/1BA	\$2,170,000 \$1,750,000 \$1,700,000 \$1,125,000 \$935,000	Above Above Below Above Above	6 0 21 16 28
Nob Hill	1333 Jones Street #1506 1100 Sacramento St. #1004 1150 Sacramento St. #202 1788 Clay Street #511 1635 California Street #43 1350 California Street #105 1530 Jones Street #6 1177 California St.#1204 1550 Jackson Street #5	3BD/3BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA	\$4,795,000 \$2,350,000 \$2,255,000 \$1,565,000 \$1,050,000 \$1,008,000 \$875,000 \$849,000 \$745,250	At At Above Above Above Above Above At Above	0 38 66 4 14 38 33 0 0
North Beach	445 Francisco Street #F305	2BD/2BA	\$1,361,185	Above	19
Pacific Heights	2170 Jackson Street #4 2170 Jackson Street #3 1940 Broadway #2E 2049 Vallejo Street 2932 Washington Street 2617 Sacramento Street #A 1902 Lyon Street #B 1770 Pacific Avenue #401 2735 Clay Street #7 3295 Clay Street #5 1855 Sacramento St. #11 2550 Gough Street #5 322 Presidio Avenue #1 2145 California Street #3 1817 California Street #207	3BD/4.5BA 4BD/3.5BA 2BD/3BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA	\$5,200,000 \$3,800,000 \$2,830,000 \$2,675,000 \$2,200,000 \$1,935,000 \$1,785,000 \$1,600,000 \$1,475,000 \$1,020,000 \$950,000 \$950,000 \$950,000 \$950,000 \$870,000 \$685,000	Below Above Below Below Above Above Above Above At Above Above Below Below Below Above Above	76 32 77 12 12 21 8 13 109 26 10 36 49 23 28
Presidio Heights	3341 Jackson Street 343 Presidio Avenue 3878 Clay Street 3720 Sacramento Street #4	3BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/1.5BA 1BD/1BA	\$2,710,000 \$2,485,000 \$2,100,000 \$630,000	Above Above Below Above	11 17 71 43
Russian Hill	1750 Taylor Street #1402 2033 Leavenworth St. #F 44 Macondray Lane #4E 1828 Mason Street 1172 Greenwich Street 1101 Green Street #1402 1155 Filbert Street #402 1438 Green Street #2B 2164 Hyde Street #A	2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA	\$2,595,000 \$1,600,000 \$1,475,000 \$1,400,000 \$1,250,000 \$1,105,000 \$975,000 \$920,000 \$907,990	At At Above Above Above Above Above Above Above	73 48 2 54 29 20 25 25 83
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	116 Alta Street 1360 Montgomery St. #10	1BD/1.5BA 1BD/1BA	\$1,875,000 \$1,500,000	Above At	33 35

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

Politics and property

# Economy gets cooler

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

### WILL THERE BE A SOFT LANDING FOR THE BAY AREA?

You can finally see the signs that some have predicted and others have feared (and a few have cheered) for some time: the local economy is beginning to cool, and its impact is being felt in the real estate market. It might just bring more buyers into the market. We're seeing downward price reductions in some condo rentals, we're hearing reports of properties — especially condos — being on the market longer before they are sold. It is no surprise that the same things that drove up the economy are now cooling it off, and buyers and sellers can take note of it.

The tech industry in the Bay Area has been slowing for at least a year, with IPOs dropping, valuations of startups declining, hiring slowed a bit, and venture capital firms becoming stingier with their dollars, notes Paragon Real Estate Group in a new market report. "Some of the wild exuberance leaked out of the general economic optimism, and in the city, demand began to soften a little, while listing inventory started to pick up," the company notes. All of those blocks

(or, on Market Street near Castro, those angled wedges on corners) of new condominiums coming online have begun to have a supply-and-demand impact as well.

Price appreciation has slowed down dramatically, according to Paragon, which notes that the combined house-condo median sales price in spring of 2016 of \$1.28 million was still up 5 percent from a year earlier, but the previous year's increase had been a startling 23 percent. "Since 2012, the spring selling season has been the most dynamic period of median home price appreciation," said Paragon. "In spring 2016, after years of major increases, year-over-year house and condo price appreciation basically plateaued."

Of course, there are plenty of markets around the country where home sellers would be thrilled with an annual 5 percent increase. But it is one more indication that people are holding their money a little more tightly these days, whether they be venture capitalists, home buyers, renters, or employers.

### GOVERNOR BROWN'S HOUSING PLAN ADVANCES

Gov. Jerry Brown and the state legislature agreed on a budget that also moves forward the governor's plan announced in May to speed up approvals of new housing developments if they include a certain amount of affordable housing (see "Gov. Brown's hail Mary," *Marina Times*, June 2016). In return for advancing the plan, which is expected

to receive a vote in August, Brown included an extra \$400 million in the budget to be spent on affordable housing.

Meanwhile, opponents and supporters of the plan have been gearing up for a fight. Dozens of housing advocates have urged state leaders to drop the bill. The Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles, a coalition of 31 Southern California organizations, wrote a letter to Brown warning that the proposal would undercut affordable housing programs, environmental goals, and transportation policies. "Generally, this proposal takes away communities' ability to provide their input on development projects in exchange for extremely low amounts of affordable housing," the coalition complained.

## Dozens of housing advocates have urged state leaders to drop the bill. The governor also heard from business leaders who expressed support.

"Requiring less affordable housing than the state density bonus law and existing or proposed local 'value capture' policies require may in fact undermine these key tools for attaining critically needed affordable housing."

The governor's mailbox also included a letter from Bay Area Council, a group of business leaders who expressed support for the plan. "This idea respects

local control and community values while cutting the 'excess process' that creates lots of controversy but too little housing too late at too high a price," the council wrote, adding that businesses find it difficult to hire because of the limited and expensive housing in the Bay Area and the state in general.

### MARKET IS THE MARKET'S LEADER

Market Street, the famous commercial road cutting through San Francisco from the Ferry Building to Twin Peaks, is the city's leading place for office rents. Asking rates for office space on Market Street have earned a 9 percent premium compared to the rest of the city since 2012, according to research by Jones Lang LaSalle.

Not surprisingly, the real estate research firm chalks up the reasons for the street's office prices to a number of factors, chiefly easy Muni and BART access.

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

"What we have seen in city after city is that without data from Airbnb — which the company refuses to provide — these sorts of [legislative] interventions have not been effective. If San Francisco wants to regulate Airbnb, it must be willing to 'go to the mat' — legally speaking — to get the data from Airbnb."

— Steven Hill, Senior Fellow, New America Foundation

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





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# Going green: Not just for energy saving anymore

BY STEPHANIE SAUNDERS AHLBERG

THERE IS MORE AND MORE TALK about “off the grid,” “going green,” and “energy efficiency” these days. It applies to cars, appliances, devices, and homes. As with recycling, it was something a self-selected type of person did to be eco-friendly. But now, I see more and more solar panels on homes, as well as other energy-efficient improvements. These not only save money and energy but also add value to your home.

It’s worth noting that new legislation is expected to go into effect in January that calls for all new buildings up to 10 stories tall, both residential and commercial, to either use solar panels for electricity or a solar system to heat water. San Francisco has a goal of meeting 100 percent of its electricity needs with clean energy by 2025. So going green is something of a fait accompli.

The good news is that it’s worth it in many ways. A new study from *The Appraisal Journal*, a professional publication for appraisers, shows that homes with solar panels sold for \$14,329 more than comparable homes without them. Please keep in mind that this is a national figure. On a national scale, that equated to 3.74 percent more than the average sales price. Also, a recent study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory entitled “Selling into the Sun” concluded

that buyers will pay an additional \$4 per kilowatt of solar panel installed. When we put solar panels on our homes in 2007, we were told they would pay for themselves within 10 years from energy cost savings. I have been keeping track of this statement by looking at my own home, and it does appear to be true. After next year, it will be money in the bank as well as increased value to our home.

There has been a big change in the procedure of installing solar panels in the

Millennial buyers consider green homes the new norm. Even the Department of Energy announced that it is partnering with the National Association of Realtors (NAR) to try to quantify the value of green features in homes, so buyers and sellers can see the intrinsic value of these energy-saving features. The rising cost of energy is also contributing to the demand for more homes to be energy efficient. The average American home consumes nearly one quarter of all energy. Buyers are more eco-conscious.

What are some other ways to “go green”?

1. You can start by getting a home energy score. This will help you put your home improvement dollars to good use.

2. A simple way to start is by changing your light bulbs to the new energy-efficient, long-lasting brand. These last 10 times longer and use 75 percent less energy than a standard bulb.

3. Substitute your windows with modern double or triple pane. This will not only save energy but will also improve the look of your home. In addition, it will cut down on the outside noise — another great feature. NAR has estimated that, in comparison to all home improvements, replacing windows provides the best return on investment. It can increase the value of the home by as much as 97 percent of the cost of the windows.

4. Get an energy-efficient home automation package such as Vivint, which includes a thermostat you can control from any web-enabled device. These packages include 12 energy-efficient light bulbs, too.

5. Install solar panels, which we have already discussed.

6. Buy energy-efficient appliances, including washers, dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, and especially home heating units. Often there are rebates on the purchase of these items.

These are just a few ways to make your home more eco-friendly. After an energy consultation, you may find more ways to make your home LEED certified or an Energy Star home. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Energy Star-certified homes meet rigorous energy-savings standards as prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency. These certifications will also add value and appeal to your home.

I hope these energy-saving ideas give you food for thought — not just about saving energy and having a more comfortable home, but about adding value and demand for your home as well.

*Stephanie Saunders Ahlberg has been a real estate agent for more than 30 years and joined Hill & Co. in 1983, where she has consistently been among the top 10 salespeople. She can be reached at [realtyinsanfrancisco.com](mailto:realtyinsanfrancisco.com).*

## Millennial buyers consider green homes the new norm. The rising cost of energy also contributes to the demand for homes to be energy efficient.

nine years since we got ours. Now there are companies that will waive upfront costs. For example, in 2014, Solar City partnered with Bank of America Merrill Lynch to fund an estimated \$400 million in solar power projects that year and in 2015. Homeowners were able to install solar panels without paying any upfront costs. Other companies are allowing homeowners to lease solar panels to waive the potential \$35,000 installation investment. It has become much easier and more affordable for nearly everyone to harness the power of the sun.



## THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

### MUMMIES AND MEDICINE

Ancient Egypt meets modern medicine in this exhibition that makes use of state-of-the-art scientific techniques to explore two of the Fine Arts Museums’ mummies. An interdisciplinary team of scientists, Egyptologists, physicians, and museum curators and conservators presents new information about how these embalmed individuals lived, died, and were prepared for eternity.

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Image: Coffin of Irethorrou (detail), Egyptian, Akhmim, ca. 500 BC. Wood with polychrome. FAMSF, Gift of First Federal Trust Company (from the Estate of Jeremiah Lynch), 42895



# Micro apartments: New but not new

Small units are one way to deal with a popular and dense city

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WHEN I MOVED TO Chicago as a twentysomething, I knew the neighborhood I wanted to be in: the obviously titled Lakeview a few miles north of downtown. Friends of mine already lived there, so I had a realistic idea of what I would be able to afford. I knew it would be a small space, but the location would make up for it. I ended up with a studio apartment, and I loved it.

It was in a vintage building — and those of you from the upper Midwest or East Coast know that “vintage” means nicely aged brick walls and old wooden floors; probably a noisy old radiator that pumped out so much heat that in the middle of Chicago’s worst winters I still had to crack open a window (because there was no way to turn down the heat); and all of the grand old wooden trim was buried under many layers of paint. But it was one building away from Lake Shore Drive, where I could catch any of several buses downtown for work and play, and there was a fantastic lakeside park perfect for running or walking or people-watching.

Today, when we talk about small starter apartments, the au courant term is “micro apartments,” but it’s much the same thing. You can see (and maybe even touch) the stove and refrigerator while sitting on your bed; your bathroom has barely enough space to turn around; and there’s absolutely not enough space to dance a tango. Critics hate them. But if I were a twentysomething new to the city, I’d love it. It’s that or finding a roommate — a dicey proposition when you have to play roommate roulette.

I lucked out when I moved to New York and had a roommate. He and his family had had the apartment for decades, and with rent control I’m sure the amount I paid him in rent for my bedroom was more than the entire unit’s rent, but I was fine with that because I knew it was competitive with other roommate deals in the city.

Micro apartments have a bad rap. They are sometimes talked about as if they were a sign of downsizing. For people who grew up in small cities and towns across the country, coming to a big city like San Francisco, Chicago, or New York often has culture shocks of

many kinds, but housing is usually the most visible.

Some of the criticism comes from people wanting to express surprise at the transformations they see in San Francisco. The city is changing, even without the current influx of tech people. It’s no longer the place where Mary Ann Singleton can move here, rent a room in a dramatic old Victorian from a dramatic old pot-growing landlady Anna Madrigal. Today’s newbies to the city are likely sharing with other newbies, perhaps as many as four or six roommates, in the Marina or in SoMa, or they are getting a micro apartment.

Curbed San Francisco recently noted a 240-square-foot apartment in SoMa that rents for \$2,250 a month. It is (judging from the photos) one big room with a kitchenette along a wall, behind which is the bathroom. There is no separate dining room, bedroom, or office. But it does look like a new or recent build.

Or, who knows, you might find people interested in a new plan by “Professor Dumpster,” Jeff Wilson, who designed a transferable home that is like a decked-out modernized shipping container that can be moved — literally — and slotted into another building



A tiny apartment in Montreal. PHOTO: SHADIAC

in another city. It’s an unusual way to avoid roommate roulette, but it could work. (Wilson’s nickname comes from an experiment he conducted of living in a dumpster-sized space.) The obvious rejoinder is that these small units are generally not what one envisions as long-term homes; they are your first places, where you get your feet on the ground and then start building your career and your life.

In 1972, Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa’s Nakagin Capsule Tower was completed. It had 140 housing pods that could be removed without affecting the other units. It was targeted at what the Japanese call bachelor “salarymen,” professional people needing a place to live but who spent most of their time elsewhere. It was an admittedly extreme example of the micro unit, but it was an interesting attempt to design some-

thing aesthetically interesting while addressing the high costs of housing and Tokyo’s density.

San Francisco doesn’t need to get to that point, though if you think about it, San Francisco is even more densely populated (18,451 versus 16,000 people per square mile in San Francisco and Tokyo, respectively), so if we don’t build up, we’ll shrink the living spaces we have.

Micro apartments are nothing new. They are how we get people into the city, give them a space to sleep and hang their hats, and let them become a part of the fabric of a changing town. We called them efficiencies or studios; now they’re micro apartments.

As for that studio I rented for \$460 a month in Chicago? It’s now a condo unit for sale for a mere \$528,000.

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## MomSense :: Outdoor season



Don't forget the right sunscreen when you and your family are outside.

PHOTO: CATHERINE YEULET; ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

# Summer safety tips

BY LIZ FARRELL

SUMMER IS SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME for children to savor a more relaxed schedule with time to enjoy outdoor activities. With that comes a challenge for parents, especially with younger children — keeping them safe. No one wants to think of summer as an “unsafe” time while enjoying a family camping trip or beach vacation, but there are plenty of dangers lurking out there that can be avoided. As parents, our number one job is protecting our children, so here are a few simple tips on how to make that happen:

### WATER SAFE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drownings are the leading cause of injury and death for young children ages 1 to 4, and three children die every day from drowning. These are scary statistics, and the thought of one's child drowning is unimaginable. So for parents, especially with little ones, the golden rule is children need constant supervision around water, no matter how well they may swim. Also, remember that if you are at a pool or beach where there is a lifeguard, these are added eyes but shouldn't give us an excuse to turn away or not pay attention.

Making sure kids feel safe in the water and knowing what to do if they get in trouble is also key. Enrolling your child as a toddler in swim lessons or a water safety course is a great idea. We are fortunate to have great swim schools like **La Petite Baleen** (866-896-3603, [swimlpb.com](http://swimlpb.com)) and the **Presidio YMCA** (415-447-9622, [ymcasf.org](http://ymcasf.org)) right in our backyard. Both of these organizations offer lessons and teach water safety skills. For us, having our children be water safe was a huge priority, as their grandparents in the East Bay have a pool, and we often spend vacations near pools or an ocean.

### SUN SAFE

This is something I have recently learned the importance of after having children and a few family scares of skin cancer. Parents, remember overexposure to sunlight is most damaging to the skin before age 18. The best tips to avoid this are to find shade when possible, cover up with hats, sunglasses, and UV clothing, and of course wear and reapply sunscreen. I was recently struck by a new report from the Environmental Working Group about sunscreen, which revealed that none of the sunscreens I was carrying in my car or beach bag made the top 20 on their best

sunscreens list. In fact, those I was using (the easy-to-apply sunsticks and sprays) were ranked among the worst. I highly encourage you to check out their list of best sunscreens, which can be found at [ewg.org/sunscreen](http://ewg.org/sunscreen).

Another key point to remember is sunscreen isn't just for the beach — it should be applied daily for exposure at a park, sporting event, or any extended period of outdoor time. Last, don't forget about yourself. There have been numerous occasions where after getting all three children lathered in sunscreen I have forgotten to put it on myself and paid the price with a painful sunburn.

### SCREEN SAFE

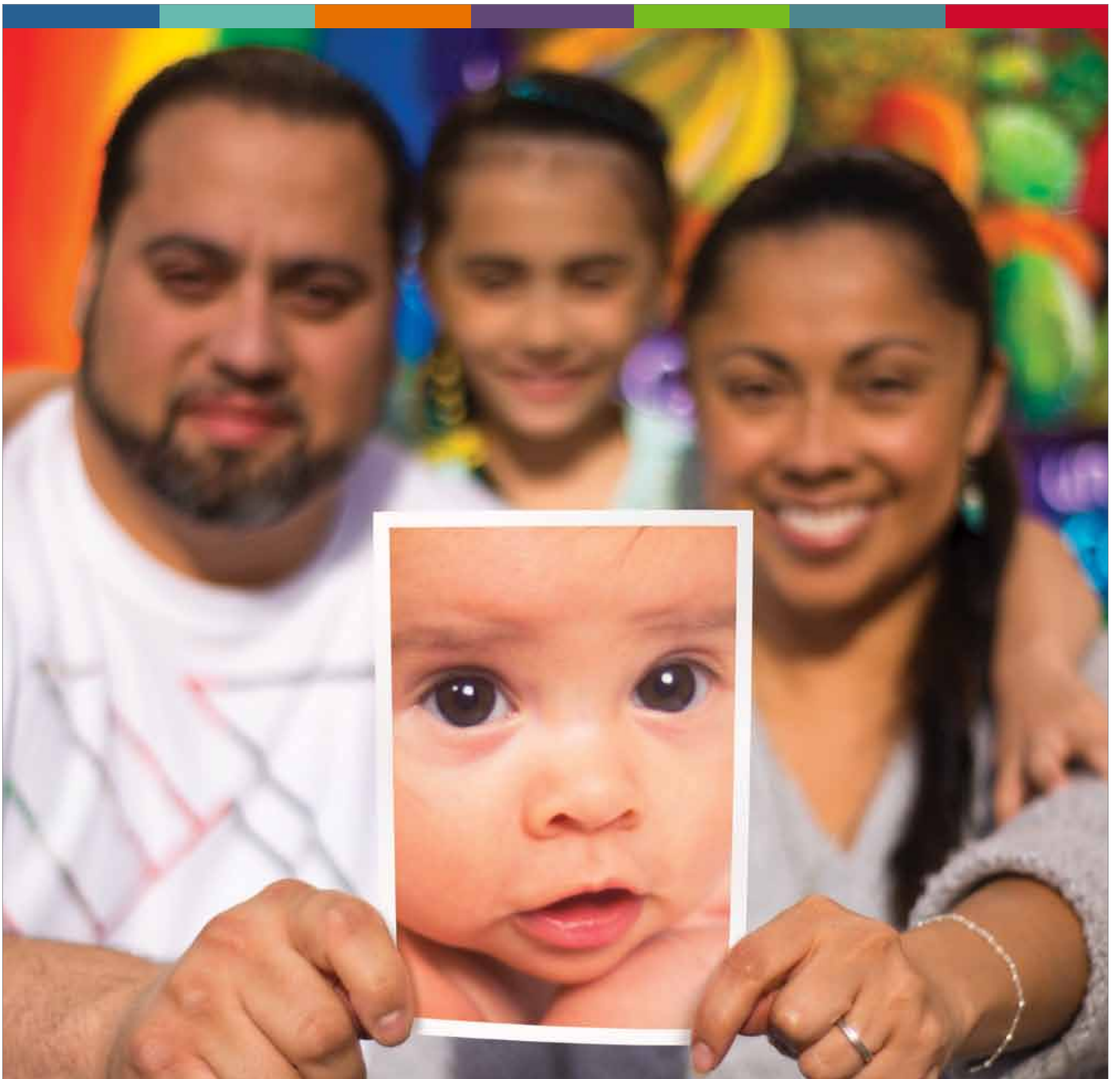
Summer safety doesn't just apply to outside elements. With more time on their hands, children can encounter safety issues on their screens and devices, too. One of the best things we can do is talk to our children about Internet safety and what that means. Give them clear guidelines, including never giving out their full name, address, phone number, or school to anyone online. Another important tip is to make sure to enable child safety controls. On YouTube, parents can turn on the safety mode that filters out inappropriate videos and helps keep kids from stumbling onto inappropriate content.

Another tool we utilize in our house is Google's Safe Search, which allows our children to search the Internet but avoid explicit videos and content. For older children who may be just starting to utilize social media sites, as a family, make sure to talk about what is appropriate to share. And finally, set time limits. There is no harm in vegging out with a device after a long day of camp or having some downtime on a super-hot day, but remember everything is best in moderation.

Summer is a wonderful time for children to try new things, to discover, and explore. I hope your child gets an opportunity to do all of these things this summer. After all, doing this is what allows them to create lifetime memories. And while they are busy making those memories, we can be right beside them to relish it all, constantly making sure they are safe and loved.

*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](mailto:liz@marinatimes.com)*





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