



THE WALT
DISNEY
FAMILY
MUSEUM

Home for the Holidays at Carolwood

104 MONTGOMERY STREET IN THE PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA | WALTDISNEY.ORG

Free admission on Mon, Dec 5 in celebration of Walt's Birthday

THROUGH
JAN 9

Image: Gustaf Tenggren, "My Dad Walt Disney" original artwork for The Saturday Evening Post, c.1956; collection of the Walt Disney Family Foundation. © Disney The Walt Disney Family Museum* Disney Enterprises, Inc. | © 2016 The Walt Disney Family Museum | The Walt Disney Family Museum is not affiliated with Disney Enterprises, Inc.

MarinaTimes

MARINATIMES.COM :: CELEBRATING OUR 32ND YEAR :: VOLUME 32 :: ISSUE 12 :: DECEMBER 2016



The Grim Reaper won no fans in 2016 by taking Muhammad Ali, Gene Wilder, and Leonard Cohen.

PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; LEONARD COHEN PHOTO: TAKAHIRO KYONO

2016: A year of profound change

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WHEN THE TIME COMES TO put on a silly paper hat, blow into a toy noise-maker, and raise a glass of champagne on New Year's Eve, will you be doing it to celebrate the end of a wonderful year or to welcome what

you hope will be a much better 2017 after a bad 2016?

The year did see some major high points. For the first time in our history, a major national party nominated a woman to be president of the United States. The Nobel Prize in literature was given to Bob Dylan. Our cos-

mic horizons were expanded by major missions to Mars and new unmanned craft throughout the solar system.

But there were many low points that will make many people feel that they can't be done with 2016 fast enough.

YEAR END, continued on 20

REYNOLDS RAP

My annual guide to gifts that give back

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

I HEARD FROM A LOT OF READERS ABOUT LAST MONTH'S Reynolds Rap ("The me-me-me millionaires"), mostly positive (the folks at Salesforce) and some surprisingly negative (tech folks who don't believe they should have to share). Some of the letters confirmed my lack of faith in humanity, like the one from William Halls titled, "Bums and dogs." Halls wrote, "I really don't give a damn about bums or dogs. ... If you care about bums and dogs, you and your friends should all get together and contribute to bums and dogs. Don't wait for others to do the contributions. ... You do it." Halls assumed that I don't contribute to causes, but in fact I do. Thanks to my Apple stock, I'm able to make donations each month to charities I care about.

I responded to Halls and reminded him about a little thing called karma. That didn't set well either. "Karma is another nonsensical belief system," Halls responded. "Keep on contributing to your priorities and understand not everyone shares those priorities. And stop begging and guilt tripping for the sympathy and money of others. It is unseemly." Ebenezer Scrooge couldn't have said it any better.

To be honest, I feel sorry for people like Halls. I agree with Salesforce founder and CEO Marc Benioff, who said of his fellow tech community's lack of empathy, "You're not really going to get the great feeling of life. The real pleasure

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

BELLINGHAM BY THE BAY

We can be heroes

BY BRUCE BELLINGHAM

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT MUSIC. IT'S ALSO ABOUT generosity of spirit, whether you can play an instrument or sing. But anybody can sing — as long as you want to sing. The only requirement for membership is a desire to do something sweet for somebody. And make a little joyful noise.

The holidays are traumatic for some. They're a joy for others. Sometimes the events coincide. That's the irony of life — a continuing dichotomy. It also marks the end of the year. And some year it was. More turbulence than any bad trip on an airplane could provide. Shouldn't mention that. Too many people crowd into the airports this time of year.

It's also a time to reflect on how this dear, beautiful, beleaguered, battered city of St. Francis keeps us here. Sometimes I think living in San Francisco is like living in a bad marriage. I'm sticking with her for the sake of my own intransigence.

I am heartened as the kids — linked together with innocuous ropes — are trundled through the Tenderloin by dedicated guides. Just to keep the children from all harm. ... These teachers, these volunteers, they are real heroes. ...

KJ Landis is an angel in her own class. And that is first class. I recall Christmas trees with the dangling angels — all filigree and magic. KJ believes in spreading the word of wellness. She's published three books on the topic. Her heart is a deep well of beauty.

BELLINGHAM, continued on 5

THE ART WORLD



Paul Klee, Laternenfest Bauhaus 1922 (Bauhaus Lantern Festival 1922), 1922; extended loan and promised gift of the Djerassi Art Trust.

PHOTO: DON ROSS

Paul Klee at Play through May 14, 2017 at SFMOMA

Puppets reveal playfulness

BY SHARON ANDERSON

AS PART OF AN ONGOING series dedicated to the artist's work, SFMOMA presents Paul Klee's paintings, draw-

ings, and prints alongside the handmade puppets he created for his son, Felix. While looking for frames at the Munich flea market, Klee dropped off his son at the local puppet show, creating a mutu-

al fascination between father and son. Crafted from fabric scraps, found objects, paint, and papier-mâché, the puppets combine the central theme of Klee's work — the idea of play, with his love of theater. (The puppets' stylized, angular forms appear influenced by Bauhaus theater.)

In his home, Klee invented stories, stage sets, and backdrops to bring his puppet theater to life purely to entertain his child, and although the puppets contain the same dreamlike whimsy of Klee's paintings, they have only recently been considered as art objects. The viewer's imagination finishes the story: clowns, ghosts, poets, and specters — it's easy to imagine the puppets, now still and silent, animated by the hand of the artist who created them so many years ago, and the joy they brought to life in the private world of Paul and Felix Klee.

Paul Klee at Play: Fri.-Tue. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. through May 14, 2017; \$25; SFMOMA, 151 Third Street, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

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



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

“It’s osso good!”

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

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE



23



13



12

News

Around the city

News briefs on the good and bad news about recent crimes in the city, plus a note about a possible hate crime at Fort Mason, and Mayor Lee says the city will stand resolute against Trump. 3

Northside

The Marina and Cow Hollow

Lynette Majer's Marina-Cow Hollow Insider goes holiday shopping; and Supervisor Mark Farrell says San Francisco must protect its residents and its values under a Trump presidency. 6

North Beach and Telegraph Hill

Ernest Beyl wishes happy holidays to everyone he's come across this year; and Supervisor Aaron Peskin recounts his achievements in 2016. 8

Food & Wine

Autumn eats

The Tablehopper highlights the new Saratoga in the Tenderloin; and Susan Dyer Reynolds presents a Fab Five of gift-worthy cookbooks this holiday season. 10

Travel

Another wine country

Patty Burness visits the rich wine-producing land of Portugal. 12

Arts & Entertainment

Food, music, books

Michael Snyder reviews two new movies: *Manchester by the Sea* and *Lion*; plus the Marina best sellers. 13

Calendar

December events

The holidays are hot and heavy this month, so it's time to break out the good party clothes and fill up your schedule. 14

At Home

Urban Home and Garden

Julia Strzesieski gives advice on indoor and outdoor holiday trees and plants. 16

Real Estate

Houses and housing

Carole Isaacs explains the value in paying attention to your old furnace and water heater; plus the Roundup reports on Airbnb, George Lucas's stalled affordable housing project, and more. 17

Beauty

Looking good for the holidays

Moanalani Jeffrey and Valerie Demicheva on putting your best face forward for the holidays. 21

Family

MomSense

Liz Farrell offers advice on holiday family time. 22

Pet Page

Political Animal

Susan Dyer Reynolds reports on on CNN Top 10 Hero Muttville and SFMTA's service dog ignorance. 23

ONLINE SPECIALS

Sharon Anderson on Bruce Conner at SFMOMA, Evalyn Baron, complete archives, and more.

marinatimes.com

- Like us on Facebook.com/MarinaTimes
- Follow us on Twitter.com/TheMarinaTimes
- Sign up for our newsletters at MarinaTimes.com

MarinaTimes

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

Publisher Earl Adkins publisher@marinatimes.com	Executive Editor John Zipperer john@marinatimes.com	Layout Designer Sara Brownell sara@marinatimes.com
Editor in Chief Susan Dyer Reynolds susan@marinatimes.com	Managing Editor Lynette Majer lynette@marinatimes.com	Web Designer Joe Bachman

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

NEWS BRIEFS : Police report, hate crime, Trump Crimes and misdemeanors

THE CRIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

Between August and September, San Francisco saw an increase in some high-profile crimes in the city, with homicides going from zero to 6 and rapes climbing from 27 to 33. Things were better on the Northside, where there were no homicides for either month, and rapes declined by 33 percent.

All other categories of crimes declined both in the city at large and on the Northside in particular.

Declines don't mean all's well. Thefts from automobiles did decline (by 17 percent in the Northside and 1 percent citywide), but according to Police Department reports, the Northern District still had 421 thefts from autos in August and 350 in September.

One Cow Hollow resident, owner of two cars, recently shared with the *Marina Times* a letter he sent to city leaders imploring them to do something about the rampant auto break-ins. "Our cars have been broken into 23 times as a resident of S.F.," he wrote. "Seventeen of those 23 break-ins have occurred since July 2013 in a four-block radius of our home."

Can the city find a way to pay for better protection out of its \$9 billion annual budget?

HATE CRIME AT FORT MASON

A Nov. 14 incident involving an alleged assault and hate crime against a Latina woman at Fort Mason's Great Meadow has drawn the condemnation of District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell.

"Hate, discrimination, and violence are not welcome and will never be tolerated in San Francisco," said Farrell. "With hate crimes unfortunately on the rise across the country, we must recommit as a city and country to fight against hate, discrimination, and violence anywhere it may rear its ugly head. Hate and discrimination fester and grow when we do not address and challenge it. We must never sit idly by when members of our community are targeted because of their ethnicity, or color of their skin."

"Thankfully, the San Francisco Police Department has the suspect who may have committed this hate crime in custody and are currently investigating the alleged crime further. If

it is indeed found to be a hate crime, I urge the full penalty for the individual who committed this disgusting act."

MAYOR LEE ON TRUMP

San Francisco leaders have been out front in their condemnation of the election of Donald Trump (see supervisors Mark Farrell and Aaron Peskin, pages 7 and 9). The common message of defending San Francisco values was echoed by Mayor Ed Lee, who issued a statement saying, "Today many San Franciscans are feeling anxious and nervous following this divisive and polarizing presidential election. But San Francisco will remain San Francisco. And the values that bind us together as San Franciscans — inclusiveness, tolerance, and compassion for one another — will carry us forward despite this election season. San Francisco will continue to be a beacon of light, a city dedicated to progress, and a leader on issues that have changed the landscape of our country for the better."

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

The In-Box: Letters to the Times

THE WE-WE-MILLIONAIRES

I'm writing in reference to the *Marina Times* November 2016 article by Susan Dyer Reynolds, entitled "'The 'me-me millionaires' still not taking charitable chances."

Aydin Senkut is a Turkish immigrant to the U.S. I'm surprised this was left out. Why didn't you reach out to him for an interview or his feedback on how you've characterized him and his financial decisions?

Contrary to common lore, not all tech people are born rich. Many are new to California and/or the U.S. in general. Many come from poor or lower-class working backgrounds who've clawed their way here. Some only have earned enough for themselves and their families to get ahead in life or reach their personal goals. Their income may seem like a lot to you from afar, but they don't necessarily have enough to start passing out checks to everyone who is in need.

You want them to give half of their income away as soon as they earn a million. Not feasible in California. If you make above \$100,000, you are taxed like a millionaire with 50 percent

of your income going to state and local taxes. Why doesn't our California state and San Francisco city governments do better with the taxes allotted to them? They take most of the paycheck, so the "techie" you deride in your article assumes foolishly that their money is going to helping the local economy and people in need. ...

The company gets the tax break. The individual citizen tech worker does not. This needs to be clarified.

It's shortsighted to think that 20-somethings who recently earned a large sum will help fix decades of troubles and ills that San Francisco, and California as a whole, have gotten itself into. ... Use our taxes to help. Use them to fix the roads, get proper care for the mentally ill, drug addicted and homeless; for children and, finally, fix the damn school system.

You personally don't know what Aydin Senkut, or others mentioned, do for volunteerism. Does a camera or news crew need to be present for you to approve of their charitable activities? They could be anonymous donors. You don't know. You didn't include any direct quotes. You didn't interview them. Your opinion fell flat and offered very little more than conjecture.

Asli Omur
San Francisco

E-mail: letters@marinatimes.com



norcal

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

It's the Season of Giving

And we're giving great money market rates



1.00%

Annual Percentage Yield Balances \$10,000 and above*

Please contact an employee for further information about applicable fees and terms.

Visit our Marina Branch and talk to Branch Manager Reina Ceja.

Your neighborhood bank.

2197 Chestnut Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
415-287-8800

fnbnorcal.com

MEMBER
FDIC



*This offer valid for new Promotional Money Market Accounts only when opened with money not currently on deposit at First National Bank of Northern California. 1.00 APY% (1.00% interest rate) is current as of October 15, 2016 and is subject to change at any time. This is a variable rate account so the interest can change daily. The minimum opening deposit is \$2,500. The minimum balance to obtain the APY is \$10,000. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Offer expires: March 31, 2017.

Find The One.



A decades old tradition
of custom craftsmanship
in California.



La Bijouterie

Research

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



★★★★★

Follow Us

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

@LaBijouterieSF



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

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

Reynolds Rap

continued from page 1

to help other people ...” And you don’t have to be rich to make a difference. As we enter into an uncertain time in our nation’s history, I believe we should be doing more than ever to help others. December is a natural time of giving. If you do your shopping online, consider Amazon-Smile.com, where you shop as you normally would, but Amazon donates a percentage from each sale to the charity of your choice (I do my Amazon shopping this way all year long). You can also visit online malls such as GoodShop, GiftBack, and iGive that allow you to shop thousands of stores and designate a portion of your purchase to affiliated charities.

It’s also time for my annual picks of gifts that give back and where to find them. Sorry to disappoint you, Halls, but here is my 2016 list:

For the cooks in your life: Sixteen million children in the United States struggle with hunger — that’s one in five. The No Kid Hungry (nokidhungry.org) campaign connects kids with nutritious food and teaches their families how to make healthy, affordable meals. They’ve teamed up with Williams-Sonoma to produce celebrity-designed spatulas to benefit the Share Our Strength campaign. This year’s lineup includes American Girl brand, Jimmy Kimmel, Chef Michael Voltaggio, Chrissy Teigen, and the Bay Area’s own Ayesha Curry. \$12.95, Williams-Sonoma.com

For the man who loves the smell of bourbon: The Barrel-Aged Oak Candle by Damn Handsome is 100 percent soy wax, hand-crafted in small batches using spent grains from Michigan breweries and organic hops. The scent captures the manly yet sweet notes of old bourbon barrels with balanced notes of bourbon, oak, and vanilla. And each Damn Handsome purchase provides soap to someone in need. \$18, societyb.com

For the lady who loves jewelry: The SA Foundation (SAF) offers recovery programs that include life skills development and job training to women who have escaped sexual exploitation and trafficking. Their Global Wonders products are one-of-a-kind handmade pieces made by the women in the Nepal program, with 100 percent of net revenue from the jewelry going back into the program. As a mermaid-loving Pisces, I’m partial to the Siren Song necklace, which features iridescent cream and grey pearls cascading from an elegant



Celebrity-designed spatulas that benefit the Share our Strength campaign. PHOTO: WILLIAMS-SONOMA.COM

tangle of gold chains. \$40, safoundation.myshopify.com

For the kid (or big kid) who loves cruising in style: Bureo’s Minnow Cruiser is the first skateboard deck made from recycled marine debris paired with 30 percent vegetable oil wheels and premium marine-grade hardware. Each board prevents more than 30 square feet of harmful plastic fishnets from entering our oceans while providing support to local Chilean fishing communities. It comes in four cool colors. \$149, bureo.co

For the kid (or big kid) who loves stuffed animals: Inspired by Lea Clark, American Girl’s 2016 Girl of the Year, choose from three animals she loves: sea turtles, margay cats, and sloths. One dollar from the sale of each limited edition plush animal benefits the World Wildlife Fund. I adore all animals, but I have to admit I’m partial to sloths. \$18-\$20, americangirl.com

For the iPhone lover (who also loves the color red): Founded in 2006 by socially conscious U2 frontman Bono, Red collaborates with iconic brands that donate a portion of the purchase price of special edition Red items to fight HIV/AIDS. To date the organization has raised more than \$300 million and impacted 70 million lives. The Red catalog is heavy on tech, so it’s a great place to shop for technophiles. The Special Edition Product Red Juice Pack Air by Mophie is a lightweight yet protective everyday case for iPhones that delivers more than 100 percent extra battery, and 5 percent of the retail price goes to the cause. \$99.95, mophie.com

For the animal rescue lover: It’s no secret that I support animal causes, especially local grassroots rescue groups that depend on donations to save the lives of animals at risk. Every year I buy cool T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, and more either directly from the groups or on custom printing hubs like Zazzle and CafePress (just search for the rescue you want to support). But if you want to do global good for animals while holi-

day shopping, check out TheAnimalRescueSite.com, part of the GreaterGood cause-related group of websites. Since launching in 1999, GreaterGood has contributed more than \$40 million to charities worldwide. Pet-themed gifts on TheAnimalRescueSite are broken down by category (clothing, kitchen, garden, jewelry, etc.), and each item purchased funds the value of at least 14 bowls of food for shelter and rescue animals. There are thousands of items to choose from, but I recently picked up a pair of cozy faux-suede purple paw midrise boots with a warm, fuzzy lining and a fold-over knitted cuff with button accents (perfect for wearing on winter walks with my rescued pit bull, Skylar Grey). It’s a gift that gives back times two — by entering the promo code GIVEAPAIR at checkout, Stride Rite Shoes donated a matching pair through Soles4Souls, a nonprofit that provides shoes and coats to people in need. \$26.99, theanimalrescuesite.com

For the wine lover: Onehope Vineyard is located in the Rutherford AVA in Napa Valley. In 2009, an idealistic group of friends who wanted to make great wine with a charitable angle got some unexpected help from Michael Mondavi, whose son Rob Mondavi Jr. became their primary consulting winemaker. To date, Onehope has made more than \$2 million in donations benefiting a wide array of causes, including breast cancer, autism, veterans, the environment, and shelter animals. The Onehope Glitter Bottle Editions are perfect for the holiday season, featuring Brut Sparkling Wine (available in gold, silver, and rainbow glitter bottles), California Chardonnay (pink), and Edna Valley Pinot Noir and Edna Valley Reserve Pinot Noir (red). \$59-\$360, onehopewine.com

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

There's Ofc. **Eric Robinson**, assigned to the Tenderloin Police Station. He watches over the children like an adopted dad. Big, tough cop, he loves his kids. ...

There's the sagacious **Nicole Huebner** at the Hotel Triton on Grant Avenue, who likes to remind me that it's all right to live in the present from time to time.

Of course, Christmas in San Francisco is about Union Square. It's about Macy's with the kids with their noses pressed against the front windows, and Gump's, Paul Smith — one of the coolest shops — and about **Kate Mosesova**. She's a visual merchandiser. Kate tried to explain to me what that means, but I am, sadly, too obtuse. Oh, Kate runs that little shop downtown called Dolce & Gabbana. Sure smells good in there.

And here's a new-found treasure. Yes, a gift under the tree. Two gals on Polk Street in Russian Hill. They run a shop called St. Lighting — 1813 Polk Street. That's **Jenni Witt** and **Sita Lindner**. They purvey the greatest stuff. It always smells good in there. So girl. It's about time women start running the world. We men haven't done so well.

And there's **Fillipa Simone**. Beautiful name. Remember **Simone Signoret**? Of course you do. Fillipa is a princess on

Nob Hill. She's the **Clara Barton** for woebegone trustees of the neighborhood. No one looks unhappy when they see her gorgeous face at the Hyde Out on California Street. She's one of those people who is not afraid to laugh out loud.

On Geary Street, you may find **Jessica Dale** charming everyone from behind the bar at Lefty O'Doul's. I often check in to see which great necktie she's wearing. Lefty's is one place where I still feel safe in the city. ... As I do on Nob Hill and in the ever-changing Marina, which constantly transforms itself before my eyes. ...

Back on the hill, **Tom Wolfe** still holds domain over the Fairmont. I am grateful for that.

One night, Tom and I went out looking for a styptic pencil for an elderly, venerable guest of the Fairmont. If you don't know what a styptic pencil is, don't worry about it: You never will. No one else knew, either. So we failed in our mission, but we tried. We were not discouraged. Christmas means one has to hope for the best. ...

And we had fun. That's what matters. ... Tom is a hero because he keeps San Francisco history, and shares it freely with the rest of us. ...

There are the people at the Downtown Senior Center. **Peggy Gallagher** ... **Sue Horst** ... **Ione Ishii** ... **Ginger Martin**, and **Erin Schiller**. All give gifts not just for the season, but for all days of the year. The gift is compassion. ...

Speaking of compassion, my favorite film this time of year is *A Christmas Carol* (year-round, I confess.) Of course, we all know it is based on the immortal Charles Dickens novel.

I love that opening line: "Marley was dead. As dead as a door nail."

Since I was a kid, I wondered what a door nail was. Still not sure. I'll leave that to the Con-tractor's Union.

Yes, Marley was dead. But through Dickens, he came alive. Dickens was hooked on compassion. Christmas is also about coming alive.

We can't resurrect the dead, but we resuscitate those who feel like they're close to it. I think of my friends, like **Dr. Samantha Bessega**, and how they deal with suffering all the time. And do so cheerfully.

The holidays have a suffocating effect on some of us. We feel we can't measure up to the mirth.

Let's cheer up. There's always the notion of redemption.

That's what Dickens was on about. That's what Scrooge had to face. In a political season fraught with recrimination, it seems reasonable to fight back with optimism.

And there's **Rachel Russell** at Citibank on Van Ness. I keep pestering Rachel about "home lending" — but she still won't lend me her home. Just for the weekend. Gee, I'll even do the dishes. ... I guess "wealth management" is out of the question.

But when I get that holiday restlessness — as I am wont to do —

I head back to Nob Hill, where the friendly ghosts live, and visit my old friends at the Big 4. That's where **David McCullough** once told me the Big 4 is "the best saloon in San Francisco." I'm invariably drawn to Huntington Park across the street. Between the supreme-

ly elegant Grace Cathedral and the rusty-looking Pacific Union Club.

Darkness is descending on an exquisite twilight on Christmas Eve. I wander around the park. What catches my eye is a couple on

one of the benches. They seem to be trying to keep the world away. With my usual nonchalance, I sit at a nearby spot, and shamelessly listen to them murmur to each other.

"Is it going to be a good Christmas?" she asks him quietly, anxiously. "It's been such a terrible year."

"Darling, it's going to be the best," he whispers. "We made it this far. We can carry it further."

She sighs, and rests her head back on his shoulder. ...

And yes, they are heroes. They brought their love this far. What can be more heroic than love? After all, it's a good time to be in love.

Bruce Bellingham is the author of Bellingham by the Bay. Talk to him about homelendingatbruce@marinatimes.com. Follow us on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes.

Of course, Christmas in San Francisco is about Union Square. It's about Macy's, and Gumps, and Paul Smith, and about Kate Mosesova.

The City's Best



Russian Hill
Offered at \$8,900,000
Stunning 3BD/3.5BA Home. Rare opportunity to buy a stunning full-floor apartment in one of San Francisco's most prestigious buildings, with views of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay, and Alcatraz.
1090Chestnut-6.com
Annie Williams
415.819.2663



Corona Heights
Offered at \$4,195,000
Nestled on Coveted Ord Street in Corona Heights, This Pristine Four Level 4BD/4BA Property Unfolds Dramatically. High ceilings and an airy feel throughout. Home includes a 2 car garage.
51Ord.com
John Dallas
415.939.5764



Mill Valley, Marin
Offered at \$1,750,000
View Townhome. Great indoor/outdoor Marin living with easy SF commute — minutes to the Golden Gate Bridge! 2BD+/3BA luxury townhome with sweeping views of Richardson Bay.
86DeSilvaIsland.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
415.321.4232



Dolores Heights
Offered at \$6,149,000
Luxury Townhome. This stunning home is like nothing you have ever seen! Over 5,000 sq. ft., with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 full bathrooms and 2 car parking.
LightHouseOnDolores.com
John Woodruff III
415.999.9827
Marcus Miller, MA
415.516.5760



Russian Hill
Offered at \$1,795,000
This Gracious 3BD/2BA Edwardian Flat Was Completely Renovated Using the Finest Finishes and Craftsmanship. Vintage architecture and modern finishes throughout.
909Union.com
William Diebel
415.699.5549



Hayes Valley
Offered at \$1,750,000
Perfectly Situated Duplex. This 2-unit Victorian has great natural light, decks, and is in a highly sought-after area. Upper unit (452) is a 2+ bedroom flat, lower unit (454) is a 1 bedroom flat.
LilyStreetVictorian.com
Marcus Miller, MA
415.516.5760

Introducing Hill & Co. Real Estate's Next Generation of Agents



Left to Right: Front Row Griffin Costello, Gosia Sroczynska, Veronica Valencia, Corey Ye.
Back Row Christine Hruscky, Amber Lum, Ryan Bakalarski, Joe Schedeler.



415.921.6000
www.hill-co.com

The City's Best

suiGENERIS®

DESIGNER CONSIGNMENT

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

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

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

suiGENERIS® MEN'S 2231 MARKET ST

The New York Times

goop

THE NEW YORK TIMES

 refinery29

7x7

Forbes

(415) 800-7584

A group of six people in Christmas costumes standing on a red carpet. From left to right: a large white teddy bear, a nutcracker, a girl in a red and green elf costume, a snowman, a brown rabbit, and a boy in a green and red elf costume.

Holiday shopping therapy

E-mail: lynette@marinatimes.com

Fighting for San Francisco values under a Trump presidency

BY MARK FARRELL

DONALD TRUMP IS OUR country's president-elect. His election shocked and surprised many. Unfortunately, his campaign and ultimate election has caused growing anxiety and fear for people across the country and here in San Francisco.

I have heard from many residents across our city after the election about their concerns and fear of living under a Trump presidency. Not only for themselves, but for their neighbors in our communities and neighborhoods. And, for San Francisco's way of life.

Make no mistake — the election of Donald Trump has far-reaching consequences. With a Republican president and Republican-controlled Congress, President Trump and congressional Republicans have more power than ever before to press forward with their policy agenda. If there is a meeting of the minds within the Republican Party on any of their stated ideas and policies, much if not all of their agenda can and will become the law of the land.

So what does a Trump presidency mean for San Francisco? Potentially, a whole lot.

HOW A TRUMP PRESIDENCY AFFECTS SAN FRANCISCO

Trump's ascent into the Oval Office is personally affecting many San Franciscans. From our immigrant communities to women to our LGBT community and various faith communities, many of our neighbors feel anxious and afraid for how they may be persecuted or targeted under a Trump presidency.

Words matter. The racist, misogynistic, and xenophobic words and rhetoric used by Trump during the course of his campaign has rightfully caused heightened concern for thousands of residents in the communities mentioned above and more. We need to acknowledge their fears as legitimate. Acts of violence, hate, and discrimination are unfortunately on the rise.

Just the other day we saw an assault and potential hate crime take place in Fort Mason against a Latina woman that was simply unacceptable. It is not San Fran-

cisco. We must pledge to stand as one San Francisco to fight against hate, discrimination, or violence wherever it may rear its ugly head. The same is true for discriminatory or racist policies put forth as well.

Under a Trump presidency, San Francisco faces threats to our city budget, which in turn threaten vital services and programs that our residents depend upon. We are preparing as a city to potentially receive less federal support for key areas such as transportation, housing, homelessness, and other important areas. As chair of our Budget and Finance Committee, I have already met with Mayor Lee and am working closely with his budget office to do everything in our power to keep these vital services and programs available to our residents in need.

Trump believes climate change is a hoax. It clearly and definitively is not. San Francisco has and should continue to be a leader in passing and implementing groundbreaking climate change policies. I want this earth to be around for my children and grandchildren, and to prepare for this future,



Your new commander in chief isn't a fan of San Francisco.
PHOTO: GAGE SKIDMORE

we cannot allow climate change skeptics or nonbelievers to win, because the future of our world depends upon it.

MORE THAT UNITES US THAN DIVIDES US

Many of the inside baseball political fights we have inside City Hall seem insignificant now in the grand scheme of things. The differences between San Francisco progressives and moderates are not much when compared to Trump's policies and positions. Does that mean we're going to refrain from vigorous debate on local issues that matter to our residents? Of course not. But I believe that there continues to be far more that unites us than divides us here locally.

We all care about the health and safety of San Francisco. We fight for communities of color, women, young people, faith communities, immigrant communities, and our LGBT community. We strive for inclusivity and diversity in all of our policies. We stand up to bullies. We celebrate our differences because we know they only make us stronger.

One thing I strongly believe a Trump presidency means for San Francisco is that now more than ever we must recommit to continuing to fight for the values and policies that have made San Francisco the shining city on the hill and a beacon of hope for many across the world. If we don't fight for what makes San Francisco and America so great — who will?



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



More than neighbors, San Francisco partners.

What would life be like without partners? At Sutter Health, our primary and specialty care doctors listen to you. And provide tools that connect you and your doctor quickly—like email messaging, online medical records, prescription refills and same-day appointments. And, when you need to visit your doctor, we're nearby with eighteen physician offices and four CPMC hospital campuses throughout San Francisco. Because partners help make life a little easier.

sutterhealth.org/sanfrancisco



California Pacific Medical Center
Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation

MARINA TIMES : MARINATIMES.COM

Season’s greetings follow a season of change

’Tis the season for reflection — and gratitude

BY AARON PESKIN

LOOKING BACK OVER THIS past year, I’m incredibly proud of what we’ve accomplished together. I co-authored legislation mandating the highest affordability requirements in the nation; I pledged to take on the short-term rental industry, and we have passed commonsense regulations, which other cities are now considering to protect their housing stock. I placed a moratorium on converting our valuable single resident occupancy hotels (SROs), the only form of housing for some of our neighborhood residents living on fixed incomes. We passed citywide accessory dwelling unit legislation to create upward of 33,000 potential new units of rent-controlled housing. I’ve taken on “corporados” like Airbnb, the Academy of Art, and Millennium Partners, and challenged government excess and mismanagement. I passed campaign finance reforms to eliminate politicians’ slush funds. And this past November, with the support of 76 percent of the electorate, we passed a \$261 million affordable housing preservation

bond — without raising taxes. Indeed, Proposition C was the *only* measure on the ballot that actually addressed our affordable housing crisis — and the *only* measure requiring a two-thirds majority vote that actually passed. Finally, we roundly repudiated attempts by the San Francisco Association of Realtors locally to halt and eliminate affordable housing in San Francisco by saying no to Propositions P and U with a 2-to-1 vote. San Francisco remains a beacon of sentient thought.

The last year has brought much to celebrate and be grateful for. But last month’s election brought a reminder that there is still much work to be done. Senator Bernie Sanders summed it up in *The New York Times* last month: “I am saddened, but not surprised, by the outcome. It is no shock to me that millions of people who voted for Mr. Trump did so because they are sick and tired of the economic, political and media status quo. Working families watch as politicians get campaign financial support from billionaires and corporate interests — and then ignore the needs of ordinary Americans.”

Here at home, many of us were turned off by the outrageous amount of outside spending. Special interests poured a record \$24 million into California lawmaker races, with the real estate lobby, large corporations, and charter schools flexing their political muscle — a trend projected to continue breaking records. In San Francisco, the dark money from tech titans like Airbnb was primarily used to bolster friendly choices in key supervisorial districts and on ballot measures. Voters struggled to wade through millions of dollars of negative noise and mixed messages. On the one hand, we were told that we could only solve homelessness by passing a regressive sales tax, even as a progressive tech tax revenue measure was shot down at the board. Some \$750,000 was spent on demonizing the homeless with the ugly Proposition

Q, because certain opportunistic politicians needed a platform for their vitriol.

The outcomes of Nov. 8 require an urgent recommitment to serving our city with a fierce love of community. It means no one gets left behind. It means we must fight harder than ever to protect the neighborhoods that have helped define us, and that we have helped to shape. It means that tech employees must work hand-in-hand with our tenant activists toward defeating the real Scrooges at the top of the corporate pyramid, be it Ron Conway or the Association of Realtors. It means that we have to prioritize San Franciscans over special interests. And in a nation now controlled by a far-right-wing Congress, it means standing united against attempts to punish San Francisco for its values and groundbreaking humanitarian policies.

I pledge to stand with my colleagues and the mayor to defeat just this kind of hateful and divisive assault. I’m ready and fired up.

I also wanted to extend a sincere thank you to the community members who worked together to ensure that seven supervisors ultimately supported a \$100,000 emergency relief fund for the survivors and victims of the Italian earthquake. Our sister city of Assisi once came to our aid, and San Francisco is now able to support them in their time of need. The Italian consular general reiterated how moved he was at a special dinner at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club last month and asked me to thank our constituents for their generosity.

I also wanted to extend an invitation to come out to Great Star Theater in Chinatown for a special Dec. 8 screening of *Company Town* if you missed it at the Roxie Theater. We will be hosting a toy drive for the families of the Ping Yuen public housing projects and would love your support. Please contact Sunny Angulo in my office at 415-554-7450 for more info.

Best for the holidays and see you in 2017.

MUNI PRICE CHANGES JAN. 1, 2017

ADULT “A”
MONTHLY
PASS
INCLUDES BART
WITHIN SF

\$91.00

DISCOUNT
SINGLE
RIDE FARE
YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES (CASH
AND LIMITED USE CARD)

\$1.25

ADULT
SINGLE
RIDE FARE
(CASH AND LIMITED
USE CARD)

\$2.50

DISCOUNT
MONTHLY
PASS
YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES
(MUNI ONLY)

\$36.00



Clipper/MuniMobile Adult Single Ride Fare stays at \$2.25. Clipper/MuniMobile Discount Single Ride Fare stays at \$1.00.

sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes

311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков /
Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Libreng tulong
para sa wikang Filipino / การช่วยเหลือทางด้านภาษาโดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย / خط المساعدة المجاني على الرقم



SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency

North Beach Restaurant

*Serving dinner until midnight**



**actually 'til 11:45 PM*

North Beach Restaurant has served the finest Cucina Toscana in the Bay Area for more than 45 years. Famous for its home-cured prosciutto and the freshest caught wild fish in the Bay Area, the restaurant is a dining destination with great food, award-winning wine list, relaxed atmosphere and superb service.

Lunch in North Beach Although open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, our lunch offers a unique opportunity to try some new dishes in a relaxed setting and at lower prices. Many offerings are unique to our restaurant and not available elsewhere.

Some suggestions: Calamari Vinaigrette, Farinata alla Lucchese, Farro, Cold Fresh Pickled Halibut with Onions, Burrata Pugliese, Osso Buco.



*Serving continuously
from 11:30am-11:45pm.*

**Private Banquet Rooms (up to 135).
Valet Parking.**

**1512 Stockton Street, San Francisco
(415) 392-1700**

www.northbeachrestaurant.com

The Tablehopper :: New and updated



The Saratoga proudly displays its bottles of liquor. PHOTO: TABLEHOPPER.COM

Hot new Tenderloin destination: The Saratoga opens from Spruce team

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

TENDERLOIN

Now open is the latest beauty in the Bacchus Management Group portfolio, **The Saratoga** (1008 Larkin Street, 415-932-6464), which is unexpectedly nestled on the corner of Larkin and Post — yup, right there in the TenderNob.

When you see the space, you'll see why principal Tim Stannard couldn't resist the building, which was built soon after the 1906 earthquake — it dates to 1907 (when it was the Elk Hotel) and then rebranded one year later as The Saratoga. Stannard says when they discovered the spacious basement, it inspired them to make it into a two-level supper club and bar.

It's rather stunning. As you approach the building, you'll see the tremendous wall of backlit booze shimmering dramatically, along with a custom-tiered chandelier designed by Stephen Brady and Magnus Schevene, who did a lot of the metalwork, including the bar shelves and details.

Upstairs has a more dark yet warm industrial bistro vibe, with room for 64. Tables circle the stairwell that leads to the 23-seat downstairs — a more formal dining room with white tablecloths and a beautiful bar of Carrara marble and a tufted base. The lighting is sexy and flattering, and this swank downstairs bar is where you'll want to start your next hot date, mark my words. Stannard was inspired by a favorite bar in Paris, and the grey mohair walls adorned with vintage art, selected by Lost Art Salon, add to a timeless, salon-style vibe.

The menu by chef Mark Sullivan and chef de cuisine Jason Wittek is a playful take on New American cuisine, but of course using the best ingredients, with produce from BMG's SMIP Ranch.

There are bites good for upstairs or downstairs, like seven-spice chicken sliders with 'Bama white sauce and dill pickles, and of course there's a burger (with Taleggio cheese and slaw on an onion bun) and a fun Cubano frank, which is a deep-fried dog topped with slow-roasted pork, Swiss cheese, yellow mustard, and mojo relish on a Mayfield Bakery roll (yeah, it's pretty amazing).

Larger plates include berbere-spiced chicken paillard accompanied with labneh, while a classic Flannery dry-aged New York steak comes in Cognac-peppercorn sauce. Desserts are full American nostalgia, from their version of a Ho Ho to Cracker Jacks to fried apple hand pies.

Barman Brandon Clements, who has been with Bacchus since he started as an hourly bartender at Spruce in 2007, is now

a partner in this venture, and he has created quite the extraordinary list. He said he has been "hoarding" the past 1½ years and has sourced some vintage and extremely rare spirits, more than 800 bottles in all and focusing on Chartreuse — he even has a Chartreuse from the 1920s on the list. (His goal is to be the number one Chartreuse bar in the country.) Vintage bourbons, rums, and more will be added, too.

Obviously these come at a premium, so those who are just seeking a well-made cocktail will be happy to find an extensive and fairly priced list (\$12-\$14). The bar team is starting with highballs and some shaken and stirred numbers, and followed by Chartreuse cocktails from all over, including some New York bar recipes. Monday–Thursday 5–11p.m., Friday–Saturday 5 p.m.–1 a.m.

COW HOLLOW

The ever-changing series of dinners at **Mina Test Kitchen** (2120 Greenwich Street) continue. Up now is **Postcards from La Costiera**, a concept featuring coastal Italian cuisine. Chef Adam Sobel's menu highlights seafood like crudos, shellfish, pastas, and whole fish. The five-course, family-style menu is \$59, classic wine pairings are \$30, \$40 for the riserva. Italian-inspired cocktails by Brian Means are also available. Tuesday–Saturday dinner.

FILLMORE

The ladies at Lower Pac Heights' **Gardenias** (1963 Sutter Street, 415-621-7122), Dana Tommasino and Margie Conard, have launched weekend brunch. The menu will shift up a bit weekly, but the recent version includes a soft scramble with tarragon, chives, and Fontina (um, heaven), and pork pozole verde with a fried egg.

And then there's the socca cake with hen-of-the-woods mushrooms, roasted fennel, tatsoi, herbed tahini, shaved Parmesan, and a poached egg, because that's how they roll. Some toasts, salads, and sweeter options like a mixed grain porridge complete the story, and a grilled burger and even more light (low-ABV) cocktails will be coming soon. Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–2 p.m. — and don't forget that lovely back patio with flowers and vines, a little oasis of peace and quiet.

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. Follow @tablehopper on Twitter and Instagram for more culinary finds.

Fab Five gift-worthy cookbooks with local flavor

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WITH THE RISE IN popularity of Food Network and shows like *Top Chef* came a huge increase in the number of cookbooks published. It seems everyone has a cookbook these days. Some of them sound straight out of the SNL NPR sendup skit “Delicious Dish” with titles like *Rapper’s Delight: The Hip Hop Cookbook*, *The Sinatra Celebrity Cookbook: Barbara, Frank & Friends*, and *The Dead Celebrity Cookbook Presents Christmas in Tinseltown* (where’s Pete Schweddy when you need him?). There’s a *Game of Thrones* cookbook, an *Orange is the New Black* cookbook, an Aunt Bee from *The Andy Griffith Show* cookbook, and a cookbook called *What the F*#@ Should I Make for Dinner?* As bad as these all sound, I’ll still take them over *In the Kitchen with Kris: A Collection of Kardashian-Jenner Family Favorites*.

Cookbooks make terrific holiday gifts, but with the glut of entries from celebrities and wannabe celebrities, celebrity chefs and wannabe celebrity chefs, legitimate cooks and not-so-legitimate cooks, I thought it might be helpful to offer a hand-picked list

of excellent choices, each with a local connection.

The Seasoned Life: Food, Family, Faith, and the Joy of Eating Well, by Ayesha Curry

While she’s best known as the wife of Golden State Warrior and reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry, Ayesha Curry has been making quite a name for herself with a new series on the Food Network and with her first cookbook released in September. Curry shares 100 family recipes and offers an intimate look inside her life with her husband and two adorable daughters. I tested her signature brown sugar chicken, and it was a hit, as was the cabbage soup with meatballs. Many of the recipes encourage getting your little ones into the kitchen. This is a beautiful cookbook full of simple, creative, delicious recipes for the whole family.

The Millennium Cookbook: Extraordinary Vegetarian Cuisine, by Eric Tucker

When Millennium restaurant opened in San Francisco in 1994, it was a revelation for diners who had never experienced an innovative, elegant, exclusively plant- and grain-based menu. While veganism (no meat, eggs,



This year, pick up cookbooks with local flavor.

or dairy) is more common today, Millennium (now located in Oakland) is still a leader in the movement. This book was first published in 1998, but recipes like cabbage- and shiitake-filled spring rolls and baked madras-glazed tofu with saffron basmati rice are as fresh as ever. Many of the recipes are complex, so this book is best for the experienced, adventurous cook on your list.

Brown Sugar Kitchen: New-Style, Down-Home Recipes from Sweet West Oakland, by Tanya Holland

A love letter to the community gathering spot and soul food restaurant of the same name, tal-



ented and charismatic chef Tanya Holland’s 2014 cookbook features 86 recipes for rib-sticking comfort food favorites like shrimp gumbo, macaroni and cheese, and her famous fried chicken and waffles as well as updated takes like braised smoked tofu with roasted eggplant. The photographs are a stunning testament not only to the food but also to the people who inspire her and help to make West Oakland the vibrant, diverse place it is today.

The Mission Chinese Food Cookbook, by Danny Bowien


What began as a pop-up in the Mission District became a phenomenon, spawning a second

location in New York City and putting Danny Bowien on the map as one of America’s most creative and acclaimed young chefs. Born in Korea and adopted by parents in Oklahoma, Bowien draws from his varied influences for unconventional dishes like thrice-cooked bacon, fiery kung pao pastrami, and salt-cod fried rice. The book features these beloved recipes, but it’s also the fascinating story of the rocky yet meteoric rise of the restaurant as told by Bowien and his collaborators.

The Hog Island Oyster Lover’s Cookbook: A Guide to Choosing and Savoring Oysters, by Jairemarie Pomo


This 2007 cookbook is the bible for oyster lovers from the lords of oyster farming. The oyster aficionado on your list will learn how to choose, handle, store, and shuck the briny bivalves, and then apply those new skills in 40 recipes for raw oyster toppings and cooked oyster dishes from renowned chefs like Bobby Flay and Alice Waters. There are 40 photos ranging from food shots to the Hog Island Oyster Farm in Tomales and the restaurant in the Ferry Building.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com



Follow Your Nose to

THE STINKING ROSE



325 Columbus Avenue
North Beach | 415.781.7673
thestinkingrose.com

Spend the holidays in wine country

BY PATTY BURNESS

CHRISTMAS IN WINE country conjures images of spending festive time in Napa or Sonoma, maybe Paso Robles or Santa Cruz County. But how about this year exploring a totally different wine region, like the Alentejo in Portugal?

Right now, Portugal is one of the hottest destinations on the planet, and the Alentejo is only about an hour east of Lisbon (a city so similar to San Francisco, you'll almost forget where you are). The wines of Alentejo are great; the food is delicious, and the people, like all of the Portuguese, are beyond friendly.

The Alentejo, with its Mediterranean climate, consists of vast plains and rolling hills and is situated south of the Tagus River and north of the Algarve. You'll discover large cork forests — the Alentejo produces about half of the world's corks — as well as acres of vineyards growing some of Portugal's 250 native grape varieties. Here, towns are centuries old and reflect the rich cultural history of previous civilizations. Many of the towns retain the walls that protected them long ago, including Évora — a Unesco World Heritage Site and the capital of Alentejo.

Évora is filled with white-washed houses from the 16th century, narrow cobblestone streets, palaces, convents, monuments, churches (the building of the medieval cathedral was started in the late 1100s), many built in the popular Manueline style of architecture. There are even ruins from a Roman temple.

Wine tourism is immensely popular in the region with more than 60 wineries on the Alentejo Wine Route. Most have extensive programs to engage and educate their guests about their history and their wines. Some also produce olive oil and have restaurants to showcase their wines with high-end gastronomy. Reds predominate, with fewer whites due to the

challenge of the hot climate. Visiting charming towns such as Reguengos de Monsaraz and Montemor-o-Novo along the wine trail is a plus. Here's what my husband and I found.

THE WINERIES

(All have U.S. importers except where noted.)

Herdade do Esporão (about 40 minutes from Évora) produced its first vintage in 1985, though the property and history date to the 15th century. Archeological relics confirm the significance of the site. Today, Esporão is dedicated to preserving the land and forging strong bonds with the community. Sustainability is an integral part of their everyday life in how they farm their grapes and their olives to the materials used in their state-of-the-art buildings.

In addition to tours, biking, foraging, bird watching, and wine and olive oil tastings, the restaurant at Esporão is a favorite. The dining room is open and airy and extends to a patio, all overlooking acres of vineyards. The food is expertly prepared, the presentation beautiful; the fresh flavors represent the bounty of their garden and the local products.

Choose your tasting menu and delight in the



Evora's Praça do Giraldo. PHOTO: BO LINKS

2015 Reserve White (40 percent Arinto, 40 percent Roupeiro, 20 percent Antão Vaz) served with red mullet, mussels, and squash. The 2013 Reserva Red (40 percent Aragonez, 30 percent Alicante Bouschet, 20 percent Trincadeira, 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon) was paired with succulent aged beef. The peach and lavender tart for dessert tasted as luscious as it looked (esporao.com/en/).

It's unusual to have a foundation run a winery, but that's the business model at **Cartuxa**. That means the profits from wine and olive oil production go back into running the foundation and contributing to the fabric of the Évora community, including social, educational, agricultural, and cultural projects. Located right outside Évora's walls, the visitor center was once a refectory in a Jesuit retreat. Now it welcomes thousands of visitors each year to tour the modern interactive facilities, learn more about the history and its sustainability efforts, and taste the wine and olive oil.

Among the wines we sampled from the various labels were the 2013 Pêra-Manca Vinho

Branco (70 percent Antão Vaz, 30 percent Arinto) and these 2012s: Cartuxa Tinto Reserva (60 percent Alicante Bouschet, 40 percent Aragonez Tempranillo) and the 2012 Cartuxa Tinto Colheita (50 percent Aragonez, 30 percent Alicante Bouschet, 10 per-

cent Alfrocheiro, 10 percent Trincadeira).

At the olive oil mill, the latest technology extracts all of the goodness from each olive. It produces several labels, but our favorite was the grassy, spicy extra virgin Cartuxa, a blend of several green olives (Picual, Arbequina, and Cobrançosa), available online (cartuxa.pt/en/).

Not far from Esporão, find **Carmim**, the largest winery in the Alentejo. Originally started by 60 winemakers, the cooperative now boasts more than 900 members who play a vital role in the regional agricultural community. The high-tech facility boasts sophisticated production in the winemaking and richly styled tasting areas (think dark woods, arches and columns, and lots of stone). Only one wine is currently imported to the United States: the 2012 Reguengos DOC Tinto (carmim.eu/sobre/carmim/).

Ervideira is about 20 minutes outside Évora. Currently, there is no U.S. importer, but stop at the cozy wine-country themed tasting room for interesting wines (wonderful.land/ervideira/?lang=en/).

At the **Rota dos Vinhos** tasting room in the heart of Évora, find a wealth of information about the region and winery visits (along the Wine Trail) as well as taste several local brands (vinhosdoalentejo.pt/index.php?lang=en/).

EAT

Évora and the Alentejo region are known for dishes mixing pork with clams and coriander, rustic bread, and fish soups and aromatic herbs. Also popular is lamb stew,

black pig, and wild rabbit; local cheeses made from sheep's milk from a variety of breeds such as Merino, French, and others; and sweets made from lots of egg yolks. Pão (bread) is another favorite, usually quite dense and made into specialty loaves and rolls for each meal. During the holiday season, savor chestnuts roasted in the streets and the Bolo Rei (Portuguese King) cakes.

Just before you get to Évora, make it a point of stopping at L'and Vineyards, one of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World. This ultra-luxe property has an incredible restaurant. The contemporary dining room overlooks the property and is lit with unusual copper fixtures said to resemble the starry Alentejo sky. At lunch, we indulged in an array of local seasonal ingredients perfectly prepared and artistically presented.

The wine at L'and is an important part of the overall experience, but not the driving force at the eco-chic hotel. The grapes are estate grown, and they bottle a red, white, and rosé (none of which have U.S. importers). The restaurant has an international wine list.

Several amuse bouches whetted our appetites, followed by sumptuous starters — pork terrine under langoustine roe tartar then grilled sardines on an onion cake with an amazing organic tomato salad. Red mullet was the star of the entrée served with a cockle panade and sautéed squid with fish sauce and crispy peppers. Every bite was memorable. Dessert was a knockout: Peaches in lavender syrup

and bourbon ice cream (l-and.com).

Located in a historic building near Évora's wall, **Vinoteca Porta de Moura** is a unique haven to kick back, enjoy the sounds of jazz and bossa nova, and sample wines and foods distinct to the Alentejo. Like a private home, find comfortable seating areas with oversized chairs and sofas and an intimate outdoor patio space.

Experience the flavors of the region by trying petiscos (tapas) made with local breads, black pig, grilled sausages, prosciutto, mussels with garlic and coriander, smoked salmon, and plates of meats and cheeses. Choose from Portuguese wines, including many from the area (facebook.com/vinoteca.portademoura/).

Another local favorite is **Boutequim da Mouraria**. Tucked on a side street near the main square, get there early to score one of the few seats in this tiny restaurant. Domingos does it all and will shower you with tasty treats and the hospitality of the Alentejo (facebook.com/Boutequim-Da-Mouraria-Evora-1646157175624959).

STAY

Inside the wall, try the **Pousada Convento Évora**, once a convent, now a high-end hotel. With ample amenities, the refurbished guestrooms were former monks' cells. Located across from the Roman Temple (pousadas.pt/en/hotel/pousada-evora).

About 20 minutes outside the wall, the **Ecorkhotel** sits in groves of olive, holm (oak), and cork trees. Aptly named, cork was used in the exterior of the building and works in tandem with the natural heat of the earth and solar panels to be an energy-efficient property. It's a casual, relaxed environment with modern amenities (ecorkhotel.com/en/eco-hotel-evora).

OTHER ESSENTIALS

Tourism of Portugal: visitportugal.com/en

Wines of Portugal: winesofportugal.info/

Alentejo Tourism: visitalentejo.pt/en/

Small Luxury Hotels of the World: slh.com/

Patty Burness can be found @pattygb (twitter.com/pattygb) or reached by e-mail at patty@marinatimes.com.



Above: L'and's red mullet, cockle panade and sautéed squid; Below: Cartuxa wines.

PHOTOS: BO LINKS

experience. We started with cured and lightly breaded mackerel in a savory broth of fish bones and tomato water paired with the 2015 Monte Velho White (40 percent Antão Vaz, 40 percent Roupeiro, 20 percent Perrum). Next was the

Michael Snyder on ... Film

Two for the ballot

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

AS DECEMBER TUMBLES IN TO THE sound of jingle bells and cheer, awards season ramps up in Movieland. Holidays mean blockbusters and prestige releases from the major studios. But there are also top-quality foreign and independent offerings that could garner nominations and will satisfy grown-up cineastes who don't care about the size of a movie's budget or the "chore" of reading subtitles.

Here are two films that just hit theaters and will doubtless capture the attention of Oscar and Golden Globe voters looking to fill out their ballots and entice critics making their best-of-the-year lists.

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

Screenwriter-director Kenneth Lonergan, having already earned praise for his first two feature films (*You Can Count on Me* and *Margaret*), reaffirms his commitment to quality moviemaking with another memorable character study that sticks with you long after the end credits have rolled. *Manchester by the Sea* — a contemporary interpersonal drama set in New England — feels like the best thing Lonergan's done so far.

Though it's primarily the story of an ordinary, well-meaning man with ordinary passions and weaknesses who is transformed by tragedy, the movie's greatest accomplishment is how it goes beyond his struggle to do the right thing and shows the ways that his actions impact the people he knows and loves. Casey Affleck plays Lee Chandler, a janitor leading a mundane, solitary under-the-radar existence in Boston. But Lee gets word of his brother's death and must return to the fishing village where both men were born and raised. In short order, we learn that Lee has been named guardian of his teenaged nephew, and it's a responsibility that he can't imagine undertaking. Lee was once a husband and father in his hometown, and that seemingly cozy life was undone by his heedlessness and by an unthinkable accident.

Over the course of the movie, Lonergan plumbs the depths of a handful of unforgettable characters populating Manchester, and, in doing so, draws us deeper into the truth and consequences of Lee's history. In flashback, the relationships between Lee, his wife, Randi, and his brother, Joe are laid out in short, effective scenes, as is the offhand connection Lee has with his nephew Patrick. There is pain in watching their intertwined fates unravel and fascination in the way they try to cope with the circumstances they face.

To say that Affleck is on-point throughout is an understatement. His exploration of Lee's inner and outer conflicts is a career high point. Kyle Chandler is rock solid in the role of Joe, and Lucas Hedges is natural and likeable as 16-year-old Patrick — a smart kid with a bright future who is burdened by loss, wrestling with justifiable anger and bitterness, and looking for ways to get past his sadness. Finally, in one of her most powerful and tender performances, Michelle Williams makes an indelible impression as Randi — a woman whose genuine love for Lee lingers, even if it's forever tainted by their shared past. Williams is not on screen for very long. Nonetheless, this is as praiseworthy as a supporting actress turn could be.

In consideration of its maritime setting and bleaker moments, the movie is given an appropriately dark, chilly air by cinematographer Jody Lee Lipes. The dank exteriors are in pronounced contrast to the heated emotions of Lee and his extended family, making their conflicts and resolutions even more impactful when they finally flare up.

Manchester by the Sea isn't a vacation from our troubles. Lonergan and his cast are not trading in escapism. They're offering a very moving examination of flawed people in stressful situations. The fact that they are capable of earning your affection and concern is a mark of how good a job they've done.

LION

The biographical docudrama *Lion* brings to mind the line, "If you made it



Casey Affleck in Kenneth Lonergan's *Manchester by the Sea*. PHOTO: CLAIRE FOLGER, COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS AND ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

up, no one would believe it." Even though I know that the movie was based on a true story and specifically on an autobiography written by its protagonist Saroo Bierley, and it recreates real events in roughly the same order as they occurred in his remarkable life, it remains an astonishing tale that defies belief. Directed by Garth Davis from a script by Luke Davies, *Lion* stars the accomplished actors Dev Patel, Rooney Mara, Nicole Kidman, and David Wenham, and an unaffected Indian child named Sunny Pawar in his acting debut. And it will raise your spirits, even as it breaks your heart.

The record shows that Saroo Bierley was born in a very poor, rural area of India and was raised, along with his older brother and younger sister, by a single mother who labored in a quarry to keep her family fed and sheltered. Saroo's mother also counted on her oldest son to find work, and on one of his expeditions to earn some money at a menial job, he brought 5-year-old Saroo (Pawar) with him. But the brothers got separated. Thinking himself abandoned, the frightened and confused Saroo boarded an empty train that took him to Calcutta, thousands of kilometers from his home, setting the boy on a perilous odyssey that eventually resulted in his adoption by a kindly suburban couple (Kidman and Wenham) in Australia.

Twenty-five years later, the completely assimilated Saroo (Patel) is his adoptive

parents' pride and joy. He's on track for a successful career in hotel management, and he's got a loving girlfriend (Mara). Still, he feels something is missing and decides to seek out his roots and the family he left behind, despite not knowing the town of his origin nor the train route he traveled as a lost, scared kid. Thus begins a journey of self-discovery that is daunting and ultimately inspiring.

As the grown-up Saroo, Patel has taken on a part that echoes his first high-profile screen lead in *Slumdog Millionaire*, yet *Lion* offers a more complex set of challenges to navigate as he portrays a young man torn between two cultures. Pawar is guileless, guarded, and adorable as Saroo at age 5. Kidman is particularly fine, playing against type as a middle-class wife and mother, and she never overplays the boundless love the woman feels for the son she rescued from a potentially horrible fate. With its exotic locales and determined hero, *Lion* is one of the more impressive depictions of resolve and devotion that I've seen in some time — and I'm not lyin'.

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

- 1. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid #11: Double Down**, by Jeff Kinney (hardcover)
- 2. **City of Thieves: A Novel**, by David Benioff (paperback)
- 3. **The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest That Will Bring Purpose to Your Life**, by Chris Guillebeau (paperback)
- 4. **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis**, by J.D. Vance (hardcover)
- 5. **111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss**, by Floriana Peterson (paperback)
- 6. **The Tender Bar**, by J.R. Moehringer (paperback)
- 7. **Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life**, by William Finnegan (paperback)
- 8. **The Narrow Road to the Deep North**, by Richard Flanagan (paperback)

- 9. **The Narrow Corner**, by W. Somerset Maugham (paperback)
- 10. **Good Night San Francisco (Good Night Our World)**, by Adam Gamble (paperback)

NEW RELEASES IN DECEMBER

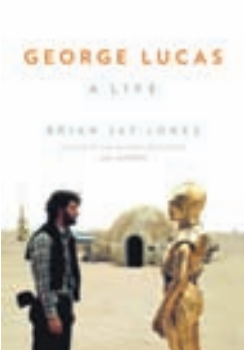
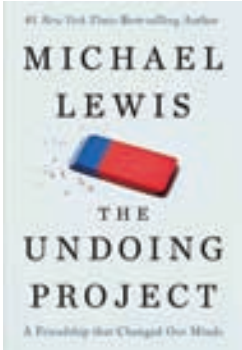
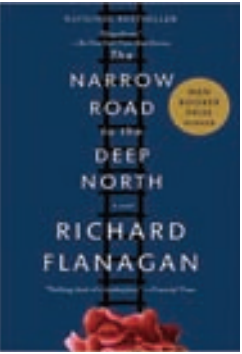
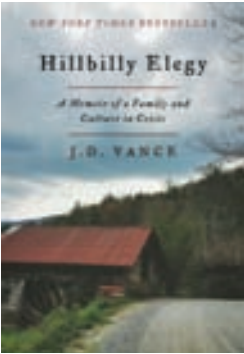
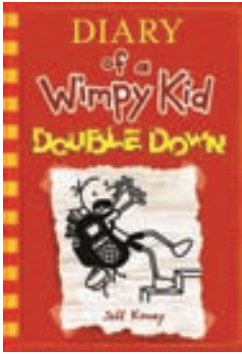
Undoing Project, by Michael Lewis

The Undoing Project is about a compelling collaboration between two men who have the dimensions of great literary figures. They became heroes in the university and on the battlefield, both had important careers in the Israeli military, and their research was deeply linked to their extraordinary life experiences. This story about the workings of the human mind is explored through the personalities of two fascinating individuals so fundamentally different from each other they seem unlikely friends or col-

leagues. In the process they may well have changed, for good, mankind's view of its own mind (available Dec. 6).

George Lucas: A Life, by Brian Jones

The author of the best-selling biography *Jim Henson* delivers a long-awaited, revelatory look into the life and times of the man who created Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Indiana Jones. Lucas's colleagues and competitors offer tantalizing glimpses into his life. His entire career has been stimulated by innovators including Steven Spielberg and Francis Ford Coppola, actors like Harrison Ford, and the very technologies that enabled the creation of his films — and allowed him to keep tinkering with them long after their original releases. Like his unforgettable characters and stories, his influence is unmatched (available Dec. 6).



When an Elephant Falls in Love, by Davide Cali

From the best-selling author of *I Didn't Do My Homework Because ...* comes a meditation on the quest for connection. When an elephant falls in love, he does many foolish things. He hides when the elephant-object of his affection is around. He writes dozens of letters

that he will never send. He tries to be healthy, but ends up finishing the cheesecake. This book is relatable and revealing, a reminder that love is worth striving for and the best things in life will come to those who wait (available Dec. 20).

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

WHAT NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

LIGHTING AND MORE

30th Annual Macy’s Holiday Windows
Daily through Jan 1 (except Dec 25)
Macy’s Union Square
The SF/SPCA’s magical Holiday Windows adoption outreach program returns to find homes for kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs while raising funds for the shelter’s programs. SPCA volunteers will be on hand to introduce the animals and the adoption process. *Free viewing, 415-554-3000, [sfspca.org](#)*



Home for the Holidays at Carolwood

Wed.–Mon. through Jan. 9, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Walt Disney Family Museum (104 Montgomery St., the Presidio)
The intricate scale model of Walt’s Holmby Hills home will be decorated with seasonal lights, and beginning Dec. 7, the museum will invite one lucky family to be the first to flip the switch each morning following. Exhibition includes family and company Christmas cards and more, including December screenings of Christmas with Walt Disney. *Free with admission (\$20), 415-345-6800, [waltdisney.org](#)*
PHOTO: OXFORDPOETRYELECTION.COM

87th Annual Golden Gate Park Holiday Tree Lighting
Thursday, Dec. 1, 4–8 p.m.
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park (501 Stanyan St.)
Don’t miss one of the most anticipated holiday events in the city: the lighting of the Monterey cypress in Golden Gate Park. *Free, [sfrecpark.org](#)*

Presidio Holiday Tree Lighting & Forest Walk
Friday, Dec. 2, 5:30–8 p.m.
Lincoln Blvd. (at Funston Ave.)
Join in this decades-old Presidio tradition featuring the Golden Gate Carolers. Light refreshments and kids’ activities will follow at the Presidio Community YMCA (63 Funston Ave.) as well as a lantern-lit 20-minute forest walk at 6 p.m. Bring a flashlight and meet in the YMCA gym. RSVP requested. *Free, 415-561-5300, [presidio.gov](#)*

14th Annual Parol Lantern Festival & Parade
Saturday, Dec. 10, 5–9 p.m.
Yerba Buena Gardens, Jessie Square, & St. Patrick’s Church
The Bay Area’s Filipino community gathers for a festive celebration of holiday spirit, hope, unity, and pride to the glow of hundreds of lights from colorful handcrafted parol lanterns. Enjoy holiday treats, live music, and an exhibition of parol lanterns. *415-239-0249, [kularts.org](#)*

Lighted Boat Parade
Friday, Dec. 16, 6–8 p.m.
Pier 39 to Crissy Field & return
The oldest and largest lighted boat holiday parade returns and features more than 60 boats festooned with lights and holiday decorations. *Free, 415-673-3530, [visitfishermanswharf.com](#)*

Hanukkah Candle Lighting
Daily, Dec. 25–Jan. 1, 4 p.m.
JCCSF (3200 California St.)
Celebrate illuminating the darkness of eight of the darkest days of the year with candle lighting, storytelling, singing, and festive treats. *Free, 415-292-1200, [jccsf.org](#)*

NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATIONS

31th Annual Japanese New Year Bell-Ringing Ceremony
Saturday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.–noon
Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum
Participate in the striking of the 16th-century bronze bell to leave behind any negative experiences, wrong deeds, and ill luck of 2016. First come, first served; pick up tickets at admission desk. *Free with museum admission (\$15), 415-581-3500, [asianart.org](#)*

BATS: New Year’s Eve Special
Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
Bayfront Theatre, Fort Mason Center
Ring in the new year with a night of improv and laughter with scenes and stories sure to capture your heart and imagination (scheduled to end before midnight). \$35, 415-474-6776, [improv.org](#)

New Year’s Eve Dinner Cruise
Saturday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.– 1 a.m.
S.F. Belle (Pier 3)
Enjoy live entertainment, dancing, a huge roof deck for fireworks viewing, open cocktail bars, a buffet dinner, festive party favors, a boarding photo, and more. \$248, 415-438-8300, [hornblower.com](#)

Eye Heart New Year’s Eve Party
Saturday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.–2 a.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Celebrate in style with top-shelf cocktails and tunes spun by some of the best DJs in the Bay Area at this dance party with state-of-the-art lighting, visuals, sound system, art installations, and interactive, multimedia displays. \$125 & up, [fortmason.org](#)

COMMUNITY CORNER

Christmas Card Drop-off
Wed.–Mon. through Jan. 31, 11:30–5 p.m.
Diamond Massage & Wellness Center (1841 Lombard St.)
Drop off your greeting cards (front side only, no envelopes) to send to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Nev., where they will be recycled to create new holiday and all-occasion cards then recycled sold to support St. Jude’s programs and services for abused, neglected, and homeless children, young adults, and families. *415-921-1290, [diamondwellness.com](#)*

Toy Drive
Daily, Dec. 2–20, (call for hours)
Hill & Co. (2107 Union St. & 1880 Lombard St.)
Drop off unwrapped and new toys or books for distribution to needy children. *415-921-6000, [hill-co.com](#)*

Project Glimmer: Boxing Joy
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 3–4, 10 a.m.–noon & 1–3 p.m.
Fort Mason Center
Sort, clean, and wrap holiday gifts for at-risk teenage girls and women. Refreshments provided. Registration required. *Free, [projectglimmer.org](#), register at [eventbrite.com](#)*

Christmas Outreach
Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30–3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
City Impact (230 Jones St.)
Help cook, prepare, and deliver hot meals to inner-city residents, disperse gifts, and serve sit-down meals to the homeless. \$25 donation, *415-292-1770, [sfcityimpact.com](#)*

S.F. Firefighters Toy Program
Daily
Any S.F. firehouse
In its 67th year of helping children, the S.F. Firefighters Toy Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys. *415-777-0440, [sffirefighterstoys.org](#)*

GALAS & BENEFITS



32nd Annual Cable Car Caroling

Saturday, Dec. 3, 12:30–4:30 p.m.
Meet: Roosevelt Middle School (460 Arguello Blvd.)
Tour the city on motorized cable cars, stopping to carol for isolated and disabled older adults at their residences followed by a hosted dinner and celebration. Proceeds benefit the Institute on Aging. \$75, 415-750-4141, [cablecarcaroling.org](#)

Holiday Heroes
Monday, Dec. 5, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
AT&T Park
Raise funds and awareness for Bay Area at-risk children and enjoy arts and crafts activities, video games, photo opportunities, food and beverages, a candy bar, a silent auction, rare access to the Giants batting tunnels and dugout, and the chance to meet your real-life sports heroes and team mascots. \$175 & up, *650-321-4142, [wenderweis.org](#)*

Help is on the Way for the Holidays XV
Monday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Marines’ Memorial Theater (609 Sutter St.)
Benefiting Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center and Larking Street Youth Services, this 15th anniversary gala includes entertainment by the cast of The Lion King, The King and I, and Scrooge in Love with special guests, Jason Brock, Paula West, and more. \$60 & up, *415-273-1620, [richmondermet.org](#)*

THEATER

ACT: A Christmas Carol
Most days, Dec. 2–24
Geary Theater (405 Geary St.)
Featuring a lively cast of dozens, gorgeous costumes, and those deliciously spooky ghosts, the Bay Area’s favorite holiday tradition returns with a sparkling, music-infused production of this timeless classic. \$25–\$115, *[act-sf.org](#)*

42nd Street Moon: Scrooge in Love
Wed.–Sun., Dec. 7–23
Marines’ Memorial Theatre (609 Sutter St.)
A year after A Christmas Carol, Scrooge’s life takes a turn for the romantic — new ghosts (and old pal Jacob Marley) arrive to help him find his lost love, Belle. \$25–\$75, *415-447-0188, [42ndstreetmoon.org](#)*

SHN: Irving Berlin’s White Christmas
Wed.–Sun, Dec. 14–18 & Tue.–Sun., Dec. 20–24
Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)
This timeless tale of joy and goodwill is a must-see classic that tells the story of a song-and-dance team putting on a show in a magical Vermont inn and falling for a stunning sister act in the process. \$45–\$214, *888-746-1799, [shnsf.com](#)*

24th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy
Thu.–Sat., Dec. 23–25, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
New Asia Restaurant (772 Pacific Ave.)
Enjoy this uniquely Bay Area holiday tradition of Jewish comedy and delicious Chinese cuisine. Visit website for guest lineup. \$49 & \$69, *925-743-1292, [koshercomedy.com](#)*

MUSIC

S.F. Bach Choir: Christmas by Candlelight
Fri. & Sun., Dec. 2 & 4
Calvary Presbyterian Church (2525 Fillmore St.)
Performing with the Renaissance wind band, The Whole Noyse, this program features contemplative, lush, mystical, jubilant Christmas music from many periods and countries. \$35, *855-473-2224, [sfbach.org](#)*

Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir Candlelight Concert
Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.
Old First Presbyterian Church (1751 Sacramento St.)
Ring in the season with the sweet sounds of children singing from this internationally acclaimed organization. \$18, *415-474-1608, [oldfirstconcerts.org](#)*

Kitka: Wintersongs
Saturday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m.
Old First Presbyterian Church (1751 Sacramento St.)
This critically acclaimed and wildly popular winter holiday program highlights seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. \$23–\$25, *415-474-1608, [oldfirstconcerts.org](#)*

S.F. Girls Chorus: A Highlands Holiday
Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
The program features new music for voices and bagpipes, seasonal favorites, and sing-alongs with the 350-voice, Grammy-winning chorus. \$30–\$60, *415-863-1752, [sfgirlschorus.org](#)*

A Chanticleer Christmas
Saturday, Dec. 17 8–10 p.m.
St. Ignatius Church (650 Parker St.)
The program includes old, new, and familiar music from Nanino. Byrd, Poulenc, Jennings, Shaw, Sametz, and others in this popular Christmas program. \$35–\$75, *415-252-8589, [chanticleer.org](#)*

Handel’s Messiah
Wed.–Fri., Dec. 14–16, 7:30 p.m.
Grace Cathedral
American Bach Soloists present their celebrated annual performance of Handel’s masterpiece. \$20–\$118, *415-621-7900, [americanbach.org](#)*

Holiday Sing-Along
Thursday, Dec. 15, 6-8:30 p.m.
Presidio Officer’s Club (50 Moraga Ave.)
Gather around the piano to share music and holiday cheer, led by performers from 42nd Street Moon. Festive drinks from Arguello restaurant will be available for purchase. *Free, registration required, 415-561-4400, [presidio.gov](#)*

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir
Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
Slim’s (333 11th St.)
This multiracial and multicultural choir promotes a message of faith, hope, love, and joy in a rollicking, feel-good, energy-packed show that’s the best way yet to spend a Christmas Eve. *Ages 6 & up. \$15, 415-255-0333, [slims-sf.com](#)*



Brian Setzer Orchestra: Christmas Rocks

Saturday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m.
The Warfield Theatre
Expect a wild evening from one of music’s great guitarists and vocalists, the ex-Stray Cats front man in this annual extravaganza of the band’s top hits as well as classic Christmas songs, plus inspired guitar work by Setzer himself. \$49.50–\$69.50, *[thewarfieldtheatre.com](#)*

DANCE

31st Annual Dance-Along Nutcracker
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 10–11
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
This year’s show, The Fantastic Adventures of Captain Nutcracker is a zany superhero quest blended with Tchaikovsky’s classic fairytale. \$30, *415-978-2700, [ybca.org](#)*

S.F. Ballet: The Nutcracker
Daily, Dec. 10–29 (except Dec. 25)
War Memorial Opera House
A tradition since 1944, this annual production is set in early 20th-century San Francisco. Join the adventures of the Nutcracker, the Mouse King, and Clara. *Ages 5 & up, \$42–\$498, 415-865-2000, [sfballet.org](#)*



Smuin Ballet: The Christmas Ballet

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 15–18
Tue.–Sat., Dec. 20–24
YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)
This enormously popular holiday celebration returns with equal parts sugar and spice, and something for both the naughty and nice, from ballet, tap, and swing to other dances drawn from holiday traditions from around the world, and exciting new additions, including three world premieres, including Joy to the World (pictured) by Smuin's dancer Nicole Haskins. \$25–\$89, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

Moscow Ballet: Great Russian Nutcracker
Monday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
The Warfield Theatre (982 Market St.)
Enchant the whole family with larger than life magical props, a 60-foot growing Christmas tree, and spectacular Russian-made costumes and sets. \$40–\$175, 888-929-7848, thewarfieldtheatre.com

POTABLES & EDIBLES

2nd Annual Holiday Brunch Market
Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
The Progress (1529 Fillmore St.)
Get your holiday shopping done early and pick up some treats for yourself offered by 20-plus local vendors. There will also be walk-around brunch dishes and drinks for sale, so come hungry! 415-673-1294, theprogress-sf.com

Annual Crab Feed
Thursday, Dec. 8, 6–11 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
This event held among the Christmas trees sells out every year. Start with cocktails, then enjoy a fresh crab and pasta dinner, and finish with dancing to benefit at-risk youth. \$85–95, 415-856-0939, guardsmen.org

North Beach Holiday Wine Walk
Thursday, Dec. 15, 4–8 p.m.
Grant & Columbus Aves. & Vallejo & Green Sts.
The tasting event will include merchants offering wine samples and special treats inside their stores throughout North Beach. Pick up tickets, map, and glass at Belle Cora (565 Green St.). \$20–\$25, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com

SPORTS

Run Wild San(ta) Francisco 5K
Sunday, Dec. 4, 8 a.m.
Starts/Ends: Crissy Field
This flat loop around Crissy and out to Fort Point offers stunning views — strollers welcome. Kids' 100-Yard Dash starts at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit S.F. Fire Fighters Toy Program. \$42 (5K), \$5 (Kids' Dash), entrants encouraged to bring toys, runwildsf.com

Great Santa Run 5K
Sunday, Dec. 11, 8:30
Starts/Ends: Crissy Field (across from Sports Basement)
This figure eight loop around Crissy Field is flat, fast, and scenic; the Rudolph one-miler along the dirt trail starts at 9 a.m. (\$25). Santa suits provided in race packet. Proceeds benefit Opportunity Village. Family/team discounts available. \$45–\$50, 415-246-1390, titanium-racing.com

Miracle Mile/5K Holiday Classic
Sunday, Dec. 18, 8:15 & 9 a.m.
Starts: Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park
Run in either race or both to benefit the UCSF Diabetes Center. \$40 (Miracle Mile), \$40 (5K), \$45 (both). 415-760-9000, miraclerace.ucsf.edu

CHILD’S PLAY

ODC: The Velveteen Rabbit
Thu.–Sun. through Dec. 11
YBCA Theater (701 Mission St.)
Celebrate this Bay Area holiday tradition though music, dance, and a powerful narrative, in a story that celebrates the unique relationship between a little boy and his stuffed rabbit, and the enduring power of love. \$15, 415-978-2700, ybca.org

SantaFest
Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.–noon
Golden Gate Club (135 Fisher Loop, the Presidio)
Take the kids for gingerbread house decorating, Santa photos, and crafts to support homeless children. \$125, 925-935-9938, childrenofshelters.org

Deck the Hall
Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Davis Symphony Hall
Members of the S.F. Symphony Orchestra and special guest artists will dazzle and delight with holiday favorites in this family-friendly concert and party. Tickets include a postconcert party with entertainment, arts and crafts, and refreshments. \$42–\$60 (VIP packages available), 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.com

Mark Foehringer Dance Project: Nutcracker Sweets
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 10–18 & Mon.–Tue., Dec. 19–20
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center
This unique 50-minute production of the classic holiday ballet is designed for families with young children. \$21–\$31, 415-345-7575, nutcrackersweets.org



Peter and The Wolf with the SFS Youth Orchestra and Linda Ronstadt

Sunday, December 11, 11 a.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Don't miss S.F. resident Linda Ronstadt in her fourth year narrating, but her first since 2009, of this children's classic. The SFSYO accompanies and performs other holiday classics. \$15–\$70, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

Presidio Forest Wreath-Making Workshop
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 17–18, 11a.m.–4 p.m.
Main Parade Ground
Create holiday decor with trimmings from the Presidio forest, with help from our merry volunteers. Greens, wire, clippers, and frames are provided. Bring your own trimmings — ribbons, cards, and mementos. Food is available for purchase. Free, registration required. 415-561-5300, presidio.gov

Mittens & Mistletoe: A Winter Circus Cabaret
Daily (except Dec. 27), Dec. 21–31
Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St.)
This charming, light-hearted, all-ages variety program features innovative clowning, spectacular circus feats, and holiday hijinks performed by some of the most talented Bay Area and international theatrical circus artists. \$18–\$65, 415-225-7281, sweetcanproductions.com

JUST FOR FUN

Mercatino di Natale
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 3–4
Museo Italo Americano, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C
Inspired by the famous Christmas markets in Northern Italy and throughout most of Europe, this event will exude the warm atmosphere of Christmas, where you can find the perfect gift: artisanal Italian food, handmade jewelry, Italian fashion and accessories, art objects, and other unique craft items all made by Italian artisans. Free, 415-673-2200, museoitaloamericano.org

Annual SFMade Holiday Gift Fair
Sunday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Calif. College of the Arts (111 8th St.)
Discover locally made gift items including jewelry, gourmet gifts, coffee, chocolate, wine, home items, bags, body products, men's and women's apparel, children's wear, pet gear, and stationery from more than 50 vendors. Free, 415-408-5605, sfmade.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

Calendar listings

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



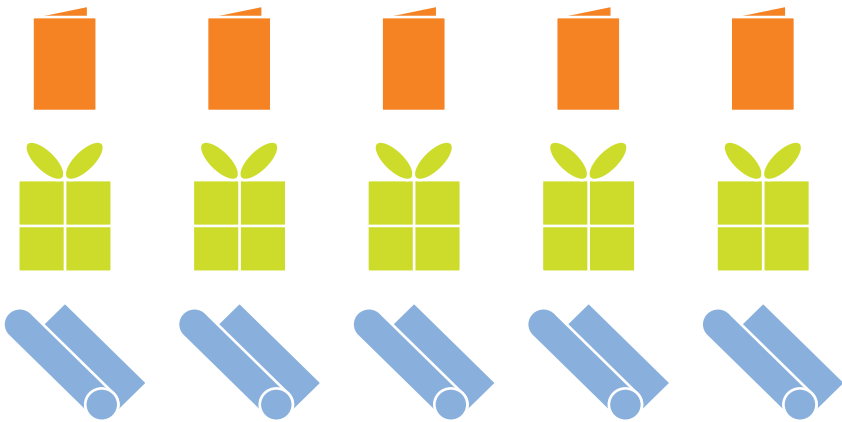
COME RIDE WITH ME

HERE IN THE WILD WEST...
SELLING REAL ESTATE IS A HIGH-STAKES GAME.
It takes a cowgirl to get you the highest price and close the deal without a hitch. I rope in the buyers, steer them your way, and do all the wrangling it takes to win. If you are planning to sell your home and hit the trail, let's talk soon!

BARBARA DUNLAP
Listing Maverick



LICENSE # 01175481
Barbara.Dunlap@pacunion.com
www.BarbaraDunlap.com
415-359-6445
@barbara.dunlap



Cards. Gifts. Wrap. By the Thousands.

Create your own or find something unique.
Flax is the one stop shop for the holidays.



FLAX art & design | FLAXART.COM
FORT MASON CENTER • 415.530.3510
FMC hours: Mon–Sat 10am–6:30pm, Sun 10am–6pm
FLAGSHIP IN OAKLAND IS NOW OPEN!



DECEMBER 7 HIPPIE HOLIDAY SALE!

20% OFF! GROOVY!

2254 Polk Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 200-3370

70 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 200-3444

956 Cole Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 319-6705

5533 College Avenue
Rockridge District, Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 230-0145

Shop with us anytime at COLEHARDWARE.COM!

COMET CLUB

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

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



3111 Fillmore St. San Francisco 94123 415-567-5589



THE UNION STREET INN

Bed & Breakfast

The Union Street Inn with its beautiful English Garden welcomes your family and guests to stay with us for the “Holidays”, refurbished rooms with private bath en suite, a full breakfast, wine/cheese and Wi-Fi are included. A **10% discount** for Marina residents. Please take a look at us online, rates are from \$249 to \$319.

You can contact us at
reservations@unionstreetinn.com
or by phone (415) 346-0424

Come stay with us for the Holidays!

www.unionstreetinn.com

Urban Home and Garden :: Brrrr

Holiday tree and plant care

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

DURING THE HOLIDAY and winter months, we tend to turn our focus indoors as the rains (we hope) set in. With a little love, you can keep the plants and trees you purchase for the holiday season fresh and well cared for to enjoy as long as possible.

FRESHLY CUT TREES

Select the freshest-looking tree available. To test for freshness, gently grasp a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pull it toward you. Very few needles should come off in your hand. Shake or bounce the tree on its stump. You should not see an excessive amount of green needles fall to the ground. Some loss of interior brown needles is normal.

Care for your cut Christmas tree as you would a bouquet of fresh flowers. Make a straight cut across the base of the trunk, taking off about an inch, and immediately place the trunk in water. Check the water level often. (Most tree retailers or lots will make a fresh cut for you on the spot.) Place the tree in a cool spot, away from appliances. Keep your tree fresh with a liquid tree preserve, which will keep needles green with its quick absorption. A polymer granule tree preserve will also keep a tree fresher by absorbing and then slowly releasing water.

LIVE POTTED TREES

Buy a live tree that is suited to your climate zone. Choose the healthiest-looking tree available and test for freshness as described above for cut trees. Think about where you'll eventually plant your tree, because live trees will grow to full-size trees before you know it. With proper care in a large enough container, you should be able to move your tree from outside to indoors to enjoy as your Christmas tree for several successive holidays.

Keep your live tree indoors for no more than 10 days, keeping it well watered and away from heat. After the holidays, move your tree outdoors

where it will get filtered sunlight and protection from wind. Allow it two to three weeks to acclimate, and then put it where it will stay until next December — or plant it. You can keep the same live tree in its container through several holiday seasons, depending on how fast it grows (but plant it before it becomes root bound). Be sure it gets the right amount of light and water.

Pick up your live tree by the pot — not by the



Poinsettias should avoid drafts and dry heat.

stem. Many live plants start their decline during careless transport. Protect your tree en route to your home.

POINSETTIA CARE

Keep your new poinsettia in bright, indirect light and away from pets (they're poisonous). Keep the temperature around 65°–70°F and the soil just moist. Avoid drafts and dry heat, such as too near a fireplace or heater, and feed it a well-balanced

giving it 14 hours of darkness and 6 to 8 hours of bright sun, keeping the temperature about 70°F. With luck, your poinsettia will be blooming again in December.

FORCING BULBS FOR WINTER COLOR

Certain bulbs can be “forced” in pots — tricked into thinking that they have gone through a winter season and that it is spring and time to blossom. These include amaryllis, crocus, daffodil, dwarf iris, freesia, grape hyacinth, paperwhite narcissus, scilla, and tulip bulbs.

To force bulbs, plant in a shallow container or bulb pan (a pot that is wider than it is tall), with the roots facing down. Amaryllis should be planted in pots with drainage holes. Put a small amount of soil in the pot, then the bulb, then more soil, firming it around the roots and bulb. Leave the upper half to two-thirds of the bulb above the soil.

Crocus, daffodil, freesia, hyacinth, paperwhite, tulip, and most other smaller bulbs go in pots without drainage holes, with decorative stones, gravel, or potting soil. Cold and dark treatment: A dark, unheated garage or refrigerator is ideal for this.

Treatment times vary per bulb: crocus 4–6 weeks; daffodil 12–14 weeks; dwarf iris 15 weeks; hyacinth 12 weeks; tulip at least 8 weeks (15 weeks is better). Once you see sprouts or roots growing, you can take them

out of the dark. Bring the pots into the coldest part of the house (50°–60°F is preferable) with indirect sunlight. Gradually accustom them to warmth and light. Once the

shoots are 4–6 inches tall, move them to a bright, sunny window with lots of direct sunlight to stimulate blooming.

To keep the blooms lasting longer, move the plants to indirect light from time to time and to a cooler part of the house during the night; water through the blooming period.

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

Care for your cut Christmas tree as you would a bouquet of fresh flowers.

fertilizer. With luck and dedication, you may be able to get your poinsettia to bloom again next year.

In March or April, when the bracts begin to turn a muddy green, cut the plant back to 8 inches tall. Keep it near a sunny window, and by May it should have new growth. Transplant it to a larger pot, and during the summer put it outside. Fertilize it with a balanced fertilizer twice a month until December. Around the first of October, start

A furnace is not just a furnace in San Francisco

BY CAROLE ISAACS

MEDIUM-PRICED HOMES OFTEN include some remodeling. It is common to find a home with an upgraded kitchen or bath or both, but a trip to the basement might reveal a different picture.

My goal is to bring to your attention upgrades that at first glance may not be as exciting as a new kitchen or bath, but cost much less and will have a positive effect on quality of life, add value to your home, and save money over the long term.

As the price of housing in San Francisco has continued to rise, buyers are forced to choose smaller homes. Everyone is challenged to stretch their imaginations to make every square inch of space count. Often I tell my new buyers that any place that sells home-organizer systems is worth a visit to warm up their minds to city living, where space is at a premium.

It is common knowledge that a coat of paint is the most economical way to make a positive change in the look and feel of a home. Next in line, there is the kitchen and bath remodel. Often in no time at all, the idea of knocking down a wall to make an open floor plan becomes a “must have.” What started out to be a \$25,000–100,000 remodel can double or triple in cost if you don’t keep a tight grip on your budget.

Basements normally do not get buyers excited, but I hope my column will give you food for thought. To get an idea of the cost to replace a gravity furnace and a water heater, I checked in with a client who recently bought a single-family home and had made the switch to a new furnace and tankless water heater. He told me It cost \$17,500 for both, including labor. This was a high-end furnace (97 percent efficiency modulating 3.5 ton 80,000 BTU) with a HEPA filter and humidifier attached. The cost included removal of old furnace and asbestos. I found at the low end a new furnace could cost as little as \$3,500 (not including removal of old furnace and ducting).

The interesting thing with this particular buyer is that he passed up many homes that had nice remodels because they had an old gravity furnace with asbestos-covered ducts. He was afraid of the health hazards related to asbestos and asbestos removal. Eventually he found a beautiful home that had everything his family needed. It also had the original gravity furnace complete with asbestos-covered ducts. My client found that asbestos removal is closely controlled by the government and can be done safely. This old furnace, heating ducts, and water heater were something that could not only be replaced, but liberated space to use for another purpose.

A 60-year-old gravity furnace and an old water heater will take up considerably more floor space than a new energy-efficient furnace and tankless water heater. Also, an old furnace will more likely than not have large asbestos-wrapped ducts taking up headroom in the basement. Considering that the average price per square foot of a home is running at more than \$1,000, every inch of floor space liberated is money in the bank and provides new opportunity.

When I asked my buyer how much space he gained when he upgraded the furnace and water heater, he said “Probably around 100 square feet actual space, but really more than that because the old furnace was taking up a lot of space in the middle of the basement, while the new (much smaller) one is against a wall. Also, the new ducting is recessed in the ceiling. The old ducting was chewing up ceiling height.”

The end result was a large open basement ready to develop into a garden apartment, making \$17,500 seem like a small price to pay for the positive upgrade with benefits of enjoying a warm home and instant hot water at a reduced cost.

The moral to this story is quite simple: Check out the basement closely when you are considering making an offer on a home. Do not let an old furnace or ancient water heater scare you off. I know buyers today like to do their own research. I found many websites that had detailed calculators to compare the energy savings and cost of a new furnace and instant hot



A water heater isn’t sexy, but buyers like to know it’s new and won’t cause them headaches. PHOTO: TOMWSULCER

Check out the basement closely when you are considering making an offer.

water heater to old energy hogs. This does not include added value to your home by liberating space or the benefit of being warm and cozy in the winter in your home.

If you have personal experiences on how to add value to a home that you would like to share, please e-mail me at callingcarole@gmail.com.

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.



I’m focused on a better career.

Bigger opportunities.
Higher salary.

CITY
COLLEGE
OF SAN FRANCISCO

Future Focused

Classes start January 17. Visit ccsf.edu to get started.

The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: October 2016

By Hill & Co. Real Estate

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow (no sales)					
Lake	115 14th Avenue	4BD/2.5BA	\$2,850,000	Above	42
	76 6th Avenue	4BD/3BA	\$3,525,000	Above	15
Laurel Heights	147 Parker Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,400,000	Above	8
Lone Mountain	140 Stanyan Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,100,000	Above	10
Marina	2070 Beach Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,125,000	Above	3
	3741 Broderick Street	5BD/4BA	\$5,100,000	Above	14
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2225 Divisadero Street	2BD/2BA	\$2,300,000	Above	6
	2611 Divisadero Street	4BD/5.5BA	\$4,125,000	Above	23
	2640 Divisadero Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$4,975,000	Above	0
	2342 Octavia Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$5,000,000	Above	32
	2609 Scott Street	5BD/3BA	\$5,750,000	Above	7
	2244 Steiner Street	5BD/4.5BA	\$6,000,000	Below	36
	10 Normandie Terrace	3BD/5BA	\$7,600,000	Above	2
	2808 Vallejo Street	6BD/4BA	\$8,500,000	At	0
	2480 Broadway Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$11,742,500	Below	126
	2250 Vallejo Street	7BD/7BA	\$21,800,000	Below	213
Presidio Heights	27 Presidio Terrace	7BD/4.5BA	\$6,500,000	Above	17
	37 Presidio Avenue	7BD/5.5BA	\$7,625,000	Above	9
	3323-3325 Clay Street	6BD/5BA	\$9,250,000	Below	116
Russian Hill	14 White Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,608,889	Above	17
	33 Montclair Terrace	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,133,000	Above	7
Sea Cliff	425 El Camino Del Mar	4BD/3BA	\$3,360,000	Above	11
	85 25th Avenue	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,400,000	Above	8
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2945 Baker Street #4	0BD/1BA	\$399,000	At	31
	1568 Union Street #202	2BD/2BA	\$1,365,000	Above	14
Lake	182 8th Avenue	2BD/2BA	\$1,359,983	Above	15
	6324 California Street #1	3BD/3BA	\$1,510,000	Above	117
	1501 Lake Street	4BD/3BA	\$2,000,000	Above	15
Laurel Heights	28 Parker Avenue #201	2BD/2BD	\$950,000	Above	38
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	80 Retiro Way #3	1BD/1BA	\$940,000	Above	33
	2143 Bay Street	2BD/2BA	\$2,145,000	Below	17
	129 Retiro Way	4BD/3.5BA	\$2,650,000	Above	11
	1456 Jefferson Street	3BD/3BA	\$2,800,000	Above	29
Nob Hill	1333 Jones Street #T321	0BD/1BA	\$310,000	Above	82
	1508 Jackson Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$960,000	Above	12
	1635 California Street #41	2BD/2BA	\$980,000	Above	49
	1335 California Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,100,000	Above	97
	1439 Sacramento Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,200,000	Below	29
	1333 Jones Street #1503B	1BD/1BA	\$1,242,000	Below	25
	1151 Taylor Street #1	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	Below	59
	1355 Pacific Avenue #401	1BD/2BA	\$1,300,000	Above	11
	1520 Taylor Street #603	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,755,000	Below	20
	1250 Jones Street #1402	2BD/2BA	\$2,100,000	At	80
North Beach	690 Chestnut Street #109	1BD/1BA	\$735,000	Above	33
	520 Chestnut Street #406	1BD/1BA	\$859,000	Below	17
	26 Vandewater Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,080,000	Below	62
	530 Chestnut Street #C312	2BD/2BA	\$1,160,000	Above	24
Pacific Heights	1950 Gough Street #406	1BD/1BA	\$1,140,000	Below	32
	2155 Buchanan Street #7	2BD/1BA	\$1,305,000	Above	24
	2106 Jackson Street #1	1BD/1BA	\$1,325,000	Above	13
	3046 Jackson Street #B	3BD/2.5BA	\$1,330,000	Above	19
	2205 Sacramento St. #301	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,400,000	Above	13
	1900 Broadway #3	1BD/1BA	\$1,415,000	Above	18
	2919 Pacific Avenue #10	2BD/2BA	\$1,520,000	Above	7
	2050 Divisadero Street #2	3BD/2.5BA	\$1,675,000	Below	47
	3294 Clay Street #6	3BD/2BA	\$1,798,000	Below	55
	1925 Pacific Avenue #3	3BD/2BA	\$1,950,000	Above	7
	1650 Broadway #101	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,088,000	Below	15
	1925 Pacific Avenue #4	3BD/2BA	\$2,100,000	Above	13
	2462 Sacramento Street	3BD/4BA	\$4,295,000	At	0
Presidio Heights	214 Arguello Boulevard	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,010,000	Above	11
Russian Hill	1925 Leavenworth St. #7	1BD/1BA	\$708,800	Above	27
	2831 Polk Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$895,000	At	12
	1000 North Point St. #1007	2BD/1BA	\$1,088,000	Below	53
	58 Allen Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,121,250	Above	3
	999 Green Street #1005	1BD/1BA	\$1,175,000	At	0
	1830 Mason Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,305,000	Above	10
	1180 Greenwich Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,100,000	Above	11
	1150 Lombard Street #35	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,795,000	At	84
	44 Macondray Lane #6W	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,825,000	Above	6
	1150 Lombard Street #38	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,000,000	At	0
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	1819 Stockton Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,395,000	At	29
	1909 Stockton Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,850,000	Above	23

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 : Property news

Housing at any price

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

GEORGE LUCAS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT ON PAUSE

Grady Ranch, filmmaker and philanthropist George Lucas’s ambitious plan to build affordable housing on his property in Marin County, has hit a snag. PEP Housing calls it a “once in a lifetime opportunity to create quality, environmentally conscious housing for our local teachers, nurses, police officers, and other essential members of our community who are being priced out of Marin.” But those potential residents will have to wait a while longer; the developer’s website notes that “This project is currently on hold. Please be patient while we continue to work through the logistics in making this property a reality.”

The project has been controversial with neighbors from the start, with threats of lawsuits and grumbling about bringing the great unwashed masses into that tony section of Marin. But if completed, the 224-unit project on Lucas Valley Road would include 120 units for people earning 80 percent of the area median income (between \$65,700 and \$101,400); the remaining units would be for seniors at a variety of incomes; 70 percent of the land would be kept as open space.

AIRBNB, SAN FRANCISCO SHIFT STANCE

Airbnb is not the only short-term rental firm operating in San Francisco, but it is the poster child of the short-term rental industry and concerns that such activities result in the loss of normal rental units. The company has resisted efforts to get it to forbid unregistered “hosts” from using the service, and it says it has removed hundreds of illegal hotels or “hacker hostels.”

Now Chris Lehane, Airbnb’s head of policy and public affairs, wrote in a *San Francisco Chronicle* op-ed article that “Airbnb is ready and willing to do more to address the specific problems that remain.” He wrote that Airbnb hopes to simplify the registration process and “work directly with city government to prevent bad actors from abusing the Ellis Act and be more proactive in helping ensure hosts don’t exceed the 90-day cap on rentals.” (In mid-November, San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors voted 6–2 to reduce the cap to 60 days per calendar year.)

USA Today noted that the company’s shift came a week after “a judge indicated he would likely rule against Airbnb in a lawsuit against San Francisco over the regulations.”

ONLY THE CHEAP ONES LEFT

San Francisco’s most expensive home is no longer on the market. A 9,000-square-foot mansion on Vallejo Street sold for more than \$21 million, a price that had dropped from \$28 million, according to the *San Francisco Business Times*. The purchaser is reportedly local tech entrepreneur Kyle Vogt.

But don’t despair if you have more money than you know what to do with; the *Business Times* also notes that for a mere \$15 million, you can purchase a seven-bedroom home on the edge of the Presidio.



If filmmaker George Lucas succeeds in his Marin project, Grady Ranch will be the largest privately funded affordable housing project in the country.

PHOTO: JOEY GANNON

NEW HOUSING FOR VETS

Over the past two years, San Francisco has found housing for 700 formerly homeless veterans, according to Mayor Ed Lee’s office. With an estimated 300 more homeless vets in the city, Lee and the city’s Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing looked to make a dent in that number with 75 new units of supportive housing for veterans. The Tenderloin Housing Clinic will manage the Crown Hotel (528 Valencia Street), which opened in late October with 50 units, 30 of which are for veterans, and the Winton Hotel (445 O’Farrell Street), which will have 45 units for veterans among its 104 total units when it opens before the end of the year.

LAND OF THE \$150,000 RENTER

There has been a sharp uptick in the quantity of renters in San Francisco with household incomes of at least \$150,000, rising 35 percent from 2014 to 2015, according to Curbed San Francisco. Curbed reports that about 25 percent of the city’s rental population is from households with incomes at \$150,000 or more.

CITY OUT OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING BUSINESS

In early November, San Francisco completed the transfer of its ownership and management of all 29 public housing projects (with 3,500 units) from the San Francisco Housing Authority to community-based groups.

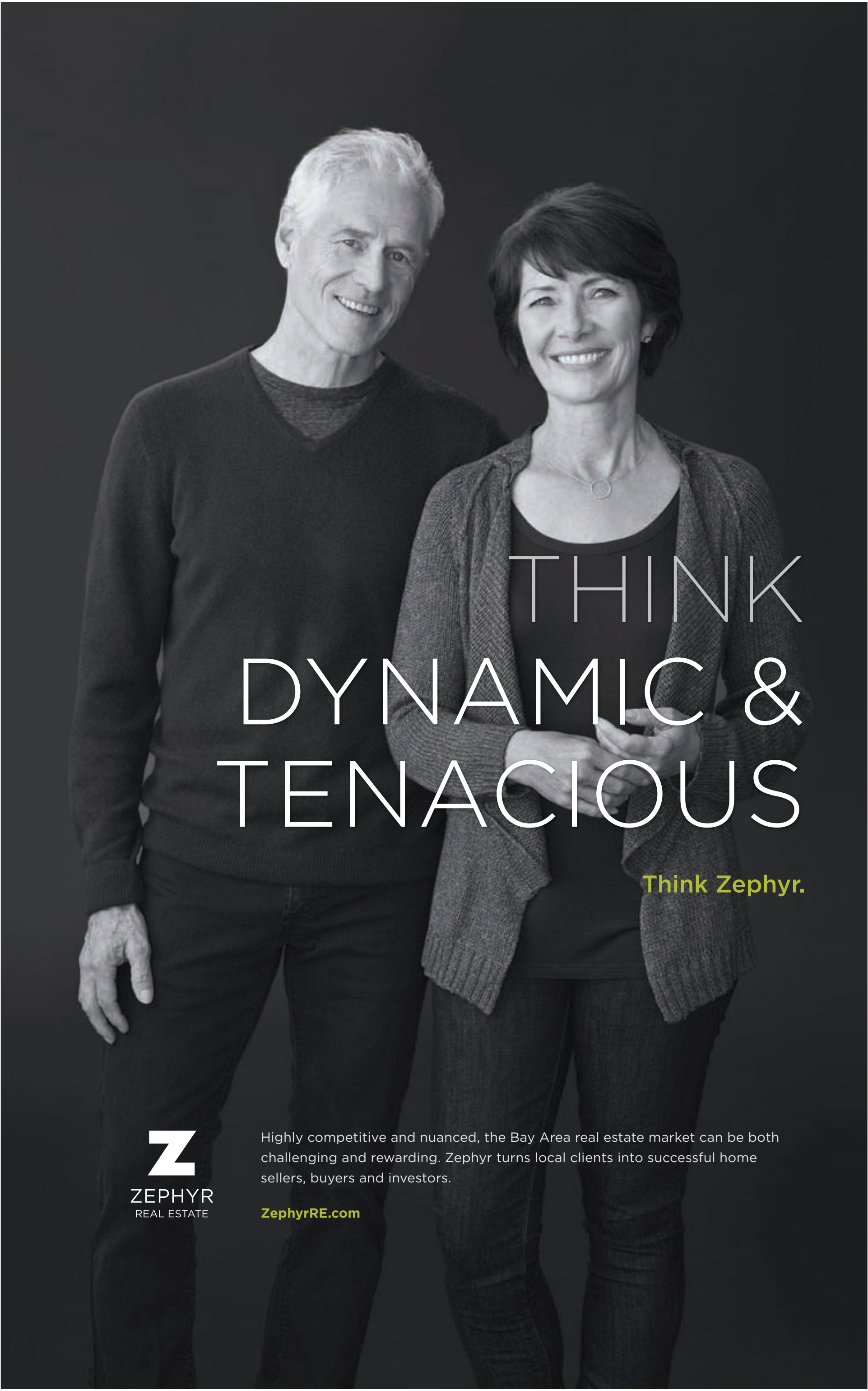
“For decades, San Francisco’s public housing has been under-funded, but today we take a significant step towards revitalizing and rebuilding distressed public housing for extremely low-income families and residents,” said Mayor Ed Lee. The move was part of an effort between the city and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to mix various funding sources and subsidies to deal with underfunded public housing stock.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Right now, U.S. real estate is looked upon as a safe haven investment for foreign buyers. Any uncertainty created around the safety of that investment, such as concerns about the ability to liquidate their assets or even occupy their homes could cause shocks to the luxury housing market in particular.”

—Nela Richardson, Chief Economist, Redfin, quoted in SFGate.com

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



THINK DYNAMIC & TENACIOUS

Think Zephyr.

Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

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

ZephyrRE.com

The Brazen Head

"A place worth finding."

Join us for New Year's Eve!



MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6-9pm

***San Francisco Fire Fighters
Toy Program fundraiser***

**BRING AN UNWRAPPED GIFT FOR
DESERVING CHILDREN.**

Food and beverage specials • Raffle for great prizes

Bar opens at 4pm | Dinner nightly 5pm-1am

3166 Buchanan Street at Greenwich | (415) 921-7600

www.brazenheadsf.com

THIRD GENERATION



© SINCE 1929

LUCCA

delicatessen

2120 CHESTNUT STREET • 415.921.7873 • WWW.LUCCADELI.COM

FREDERICKSEN

HARDWARE & PAINT

A GENERAL STORE

Since 1896

San Francisco, CA 94123

415.292.2950

Year End
continued from page 1

MEET THE NEW BOSS

On the political scene, 2016 saw the strengthening of power by authoritarian, populist-nationalist governments in Russia, Turkey, Hungary, the Philippines, Thailand, and China — and in November, Americans finally decided to join the party. The election of businessman and television personality Donald Trump to the presidency shocked Democrats across the country. It also shocked Republicans across the country. It shocked America's allies around the world. Perhaps the only person who wasn't shocked was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is widely believed to have made good use of his KGB experience to deploy skullduggery to undermine Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Surprise or not, the election took the wind out of a lot of San Francisco residents. The implications of the national election for this city could be considerable. Trump rode a wave of right-wing populism, lambasting immigrants in general and Muslims and Mexicans in particular, threatening sanctuary cities such as San Francisco with the loss of federal funds, and, once he was elected, filling his cabinet with strongly anti-immigrant figures. One estimate is that San Francisco could lose up to \$1 billion a year from the federal government, but CBS San Francisco political analyst Melissa Caen told a recent town hall meeting that the actual figure if Trump tries to carry out his threat is likely to be much smaller, due to the structuring of funding, contracts, and other bureaucratic matters. Never before have liberals loved bureaucracy so much.

Many San Franciscans are also worried about discrimination, racist violence, intimidation, and the rollback of civil rights. Those are all causes that have long been identified with this notoriously liberal city, and the support that Trump received from white nationalist groups has stoked those fears. The Board of Supervisors and Mayor Ed Lee have made clear their intention to fight any threats from the Trump administration; the city was even considering setting up a special legal team to defend its immigration policy and local immigrants.

In other local politics news, San Franciscans decided you can never be too young to vote, so 16-year-olds were given the right to vote or, if they follow the example of their elders, the right to stay home and not vote but to complain about politics anyway. Statewide, voters approved a proposition to make recreational marijuana legal, which was a self-serving

of film and television lost Kenny Baker, Doris Roberts, Alan Rickman, Robert Vaughn, Gene Wilder, Anton Yelchin, Garry Marshall, and many others.

The death of singer Leonard Cohen toward the end of the year was greeted with repeated airing of his big hit "Hallelujah," whose sad, sweet lyrics encapsulated the grief that millions felt

not only for Cohen but for 2016.

There was positive news from the land of science, however; self-driving cars continued to conquer the world, even with the set-

Voters made recreational marijuana legal, which will help many of them weather the next four years.

move that will help many of them weather the next four years.

At press time, San Francisco election officials were still counting thousands of late-arriving ballots for three supervisor seats, and the results of those races could tip the balance of power back in the moderates' favor. With the failure of Proposition D, an attempt to weaken the mayor in the eternal twilight struggle between moderates and leftists on the Board of Supervisors, Mayor Ed Lee retains the power to appoint the successor to supervisors who leave office mid-term. So even if the election results don't tip the balance, Lee could still change the calculus by appointing a moderate to fill Jane Kim's seat if she succeeds in beating fellow supervisor Scott Wiener in the race for state senator. (At press time, Wiener had declared victory, but Kim had not yet conceded.)

ARTS & SCIENCE

Back in June, comedian Chris Rock tweeted a photo of Muhammed Ali and Prince with the words "I wish this year would stop already it's just too much." Ali and Prince both died in 2016.

We should have known that the year was going to be a rough ride right at the start, when the legendary David Bowie died on January 10, 2016. Throughout the year, he would be joined by local favorite Paul Kantner, Merle Haggard, Maurice White, Sharon Jones, Leon Russell, and Glenn Frey, among others. Just when America decided it would rather follow fake Facebook news posts than genuine news, PBS *Newshour's* Gwen Ifill left us for good. Former 49er Bob Harrison passed away, as did former Giant Jim Davenport. The world

back of accidents involving Tesla cars in self-driving mode. Automation took further leaps, however. Bay Area writer Robin Sloan has put forward an idea to use artificial intelligence to help writers finish their works. And three decades since it was invented, a Rubik's Cube was finally solved in less than a second by a robot. That gives the 'bot plenty of time to help me finish writing this article.

FIRST YEAR OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

In 2008, British author Tom Holland examined the state of Europe as it approached the year 1000. In *The Forge of Christendom: The End of Days and the Epic Rise of the West*, he recounted how Europe was weak, fractured, surrounded by hostile nations, and having a crisis of faith. For millions of people, the millennium was supposed to herald the return of their savior, but when that failed to happen, the continent's people and leaders and institutions had to reorient themselves to that fact and try to change their lives themselves. A.D. 1000 appeared for many of them the worst of times, but Holland points out that we can see now that it was an important time in which many of the seeds of Europe's rise to global prosperity and power were sown.

So in future years, people might well be looking back at 2016 and 2017 as the time when America undertook a serious rejuvenation of its democracy, its media got refocused on facts and real news, and its economy was retuned to help everyone. David Bowie will still be dead, but maybe your lifelike David Bowie household robot will sooth the hurt.

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

Looking Good :: Beauty is skin-deep

Put your best face forward: Facials to look your holiday best

BY MOANALANI JEFFREY
AND VALERIE DEMICHEVA

Nature gives you the face you have at 20. Life shapes the face you have at 30. But at 50 you get the face you deserve.

— Coco Chanel

WE DARE CONTRADICT CHANEL and say we believe there are three core factors affecting appearance at every age: your natural features, your character emanating from within, and the appearance of your skin, which — genes aside — depends on how well you take care of it.

With this edition of our beauty quest, we aim to give readers a handful of options to help attain nearly flawless skin with the aid of the best professionals in the business. From the latest in microneedling to an LED laser, we've tried every high-tech treatment available to find those most effective to recommend.

VAMPIRE FACIAL

We dove straight into the deep end of the fountain of youth, starting with one of the most powerful treatments on the market today: the Vampire Facial from Serenity MedSpa, which is celebrating an expansion with a recently opened new wing. The procedure uses a medical-grade automated microneedling pen to infuse skin with your own platelet-rich plasma taken from a centrifuged blood draw.

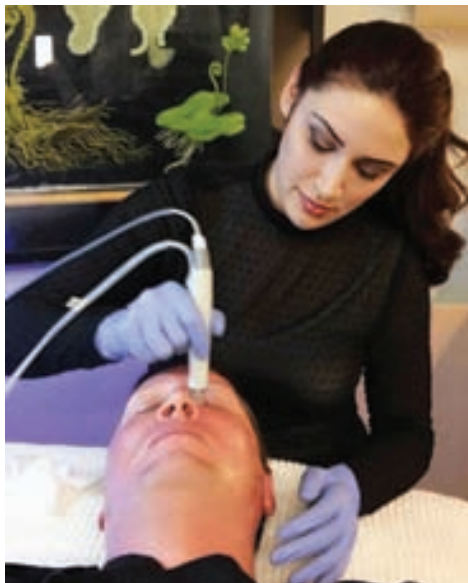
Microneedling is a popular trend, causing rejuvenating microinjuries to the skin that stimulate collagen and elastin production to tissue, grow new cells, and improve deep wrinkles. We noticed an immediate change in our most abhorred little lines within a day after the treatment. Five days later, we felt like we'd truly aged backward: Our mild pigmentation almost disappeared, and our skin was as plump and dewy weeks later as it was the first few days after the treatment (Serenity MedSpa, 126 Post St., 2nd Floor, serenitymedspa.com).

REVERSE ANTI-AGING FACIAL

After such an intense, high-yield procedure, we opted for a calming luxury treatment to further rejuvenate our skin and relax our muscles. Nob Hill Spa truly hit the spot with their ReVerse anti-aging facial using Babor Re-Youth complex technology, which is said to retain and extend skin cell lifespan and reactivate the skin's antiaging mechanisms. The aestheticians were especially skilled and used classic facial massages to safely bring circulation to the skin. We felt like we were on top of the world — and with views of San Francisco throughout the facility, we were very close (Nob Hill Spa, 1075 California Street, 415-345-2888, nobhillspa.com).

PURE RADIANCE

Each facial does its share to perfect acne-prone skin, and Pure Radiance from Kayla Jeanne Aesthetics might just work overtime. By using diamond tip microdermabrasion to polish away dead skin cells and increase blood flow, the facial works to improve tone and texture. Followed by LED light therapy and Intraceuticals oxygen, skin achieves a clearer tone, texture, and overall appearance. The treatment vir-



HydraSweep facial at Epi Center MedSpa. PHOTO: COURTESY EPI CENTER MEDSPA

tually dissolved old hyperpigmentation and stubborn acne scars. Just be sure to use sunblock — skin is sensitive for several days after treatment (Kayla Jeanne Aesthetics, 1905 Union Street, 415-370-6559, kaylajeanneaesthetics.com).

HYDRAFACIAL MD

Epi MedSpa was the first in the nation to offer medical treatments in a spa-like setting, and have been bringing revolutionary procedures to the forefront since 1998. One of their newest offerings (touted by the aesthetic guidebook *New Beauty Magazine* as one of the best in-office options), HydraFacial MD delivers immediate results with no downtime for all skin types. This core

hydrating facial can be customized with add-ons concentrating on key concerns like wrinkle reduction, tightening, pigmentation, acne, and the back. What sets it apart

is the Vortex-Fusion suction and delivery system used to resurface, remove debris, extract, and deliver potent serums deep within pores in only 30 minutes.

This gentle treatment didn't leave a single mark, and we were ready to go out and about that night. We'd recommend this facial to anyone seeking a quick and efficient treatment, without downtime. Also, the HydraFacial MD infusion is a superior way to combat your biggest concerns and the drying effects of our city this time of year (Epi Center MedSpa, 450 Sutter Street, Suite 800, 415-362-4754, skinrejuv.com).

There is a range of price points and experiences for these treatments. Should you choose to indulge in all, we recommend them in the order described here and waiting a week between each one. This will allow you to get the optimal outcome by applying beneficial serums to an exfoliated surface, thereby attaining a glowing complexion just in time for the holidays.

Moanalani Jeffrey is the founder of her eponymous photography agency, writes a fashion and lifestyle blog, *CliqueMJ*, and can be reached through moanalanijeffrey.com and followed on Instagram: @moanalanijeffrey. Valerie Demicheva is a branding strategist and culture journalist. Her work can be seen in the San Francisco Chronicle, WWD, and SF Weekly. Follow her beauty adventures on Instagram: @vanitymonger.



Recreated from an original Cliff House postcard c. early 1900s.

Holiday Parties at the Cliff House



The Terrace Room

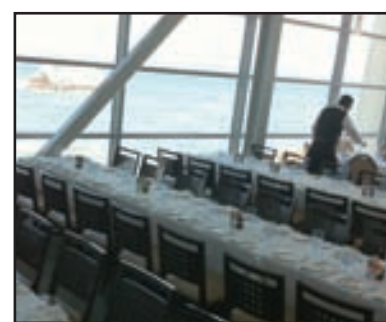
Offering sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, historic ambiance and delightful cuisine, the Terrace Room is a truly unique private event venue for groups up to 120.

Private Events Direct 415-666-4027
virginia@cliffhouse.com

The Lands End Room

Located in the Sutro's Restaurant the Lands End Room is a semi-private space for smaller parties of 17–50 offering California cuisine, awesome ocean views and Sutro Baths history.

Large Parties Direct 415-666-4005
lauraine@cliffhouse.com



Call soon to book your event!



1090 Point Lobos • San Francisco • 415-386-3330
www.CliffHouse.com



SHOP & DINE ^{in the} 49

WHERE CHARACTER MEETS LOCAL CONVENIENCE.



SHOPDINE49.COM
#SHOPDINE49 #SHOPSMALL

PROUD SUPPORTER



Phil's Electric Co.

SINCE 1941 **SALES SERVICE PARTS**

SPECIALIZING IN

**MIELE • SEBO • ELECTROLUX • BLUEAIR
ORECK • RICCAR • DYSON • SANITAIRE
ROYAL • HOOVER • KENMORE**



Expert
**LAMP
REPAIR**

ELECTRIC SHAVERS:
BRAUN • NORELCO • REMINGTON

Happy Holidays
**FROM THE ELVES AT
PHIL'S ELECTRIC!**

2701 Lombard Street @ Baker • (415) 921-3776
Open: Monday-Saturday 9am-5:30pm • philselectric.com

auer family law

Traditional representation
Collaborative divorce
Mediation
Consulting
Premarital agreements
Postmarital agreements

Lisa J. Auer

Attorney and Mediator

12 Funston Avenue, Suite B
The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129

415 772 5686

lisa@auerfamilylaw.com
www.auerfamilylaw.com

Visit us at MarinaTimes.com

- Additional content from featured writers
- Expanded calendar of events
- Archives of past issues
- Special offers and much more!



Like us on Facebook.com/[MarinaTimes](https://www.facebook.com/MarinaTimes)
Follow us on Twitter.com/[TheMarinaTimes](https://twitter.com/TheMarinaTimes)

MomSense :: Family time

Holiday family fun

BY LIZ FARRELL

ALL ALWAYS FEELS like a sprint, and as soon as Thanksgiving is over, it's time to put our heads down and get to the finish line of the new year. All that racing and hustle and bustle of the holiday season can leave us and our kids craving those quiet and less chaotic moments. In December, these times can be hard to find unless we carve them out and make them a priority. We all need a break from the frenzy of holiday shopping, parties, and endless to-dos, so call timeout for your family and spend some time together. Here are some ideas for simple family fun around the holidays:



Holiday lights: Tree lighting ceremony in the Presidio.
PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/PRESIDIOSF/

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

There are so many great family-friendly holiday movies and no better way to slow things down than to snuggle up with a Christmas classic. Because the ages in our house range from preschooler to tween, we have to choose wisely. For help making those choices, I always rely on Common Sense Media. Every year it puts together a great list for all ages of family-friendly movies for the holidays, which can be found at commonsense-media.org/lists/best-holiday-movies-for-kids. This site not only lists all the great movies, but it tells parents what to look out for. One of my favorites, *A Christmas Story*, takes on a whole different meaning when watching it as a parent with my kids. Or how *Home Alone* can be very funny with all the slapstick humor but can also leave kids with questions like, "Could this happen to me?" In the site's reviews, it's all laid out so you can find the best pick for your family. Whether it is *Frosty the Snowman* or *Love Actually*, watching these movies together immediately puts my family in the holiday spirit.

LIGHTINGS AND LIGHTS

If you are looking for a little outdoor fun to feel festive, there are plenty of tree lightings. Some of the big trees (Union Square, Pier 39, and Ghirardelli Square) were lighted last month, but the Ritz-Carlton tree lighting will be Dec. 1. However, our family's favorite is kid-friendly

and close to home. We love the Presidio tree lighting, which consists of carolers and a countdown to light the tree and then includes

We all need a break from the frenzy of holiday shopping, parties, and to-dos.

snacks, arts and crafts, and even a lantern-lit evening forest walk. This year it will be held on Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Another one of our favorite festive traditions is to pack a "car picnic" and drive around to see some of the amazing Christmas lights in different neighborhoods. Yelp.com has reviews of some of the best houses or places to check out. We have found some amazing displays in Marin and in the East Bay, but there are plenty right here in San Francisco, including the famous Tom and Jerry Christmas House in Noe Valley.

TRIM THE TREE

One of our family's favorite traditions has always been the day we set aside to pick out our tree and decorate it. Recently, with my son and his allergies, we have had to go the fake route. One of the upsides is the amount of time saved getting the tree set up and putting the lights on. This used to be a few-hour ordeal (I like a lot of lights), and now it takes 15 minutes, which leaves a lot more time to decorate.

We all take turns hanging favorite ornaments on the tree. The kids love hearing stories about where the ornaments came from, who made which ones, and seeing pictures of their younger selves. Ornaments can hold so much meaning. My favorites are those we received our first married Christmas, the one after our oldest was born, and the one we got the first year we moved into our home. Ornaments are great ways to commemorate special events, so creating a family ornament each year is a great tradition to start. Each child can take turns for "their year" deciding how the family will commemorate the year. They can be made with pictures or as a craft with signatures or made online.

Each year before the mayhem of December hits, I promise myself I won't let the craziness of the season overtake the true meaning, which is spending time with the people we love and who matter most. Just as we schedule holiday parties, don't forget to schedule some family time. You may find that in the simplest, quietest moments are when some of the best memories can be made and traditions evolve.

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

Muttville makes top 10 CNN Heroes; man with service dog hassled on cable car

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

MUTTVILLE SENIOR DOG RESCUE, one of our very favorite rescue groups, has made the top 10 finalists for **CNN Hero of the Year**. While volunteering at the San Francisco SPCA, **Sherri Franklin** noticed that older dogs didn't get adopted. Watching the dogs lose hope broke her heart, so in 2007 Franklin started Muttville. Since then, the group has found forever homes for more than 4,000 senior dogs, allowing them to live out their golden years the way all faithful companions deserve. From humble beginnings in Franklin's home, Muttville now has its own facility where dogs roam freely in big rooms filled with comfy beds and sofas. They have a network of more than 100 foster families (though, like every rescue, they can always use more).

One of Muttville's most successful programs is pairing senior dogs with senior citizens. I know from taking care of my stepmother, Kickie, that dogs can make a huge difference in elderly lives. Since my rescued pit bull Skylar and I began staying with Kickie part-time, her blood pressure — once dangerously high — has stabilized. And she's not only healthier, she's happier. Her doctor credits the dog.

Muttville also has a program called "Fospice" (hospice and foster combined) to care for terminally ill dogs. Franklin and her dedicated band of volunteers find homes with loving families and cover the cost of palliative care. Sometimes dogs given two months live much longer. I can also relate to that — my beloved Jazzy was given two months to live with her cancer diagnosis, but she lived another two years, largely because she had great care and a loving home.

You can vote for Muttville through Dec. 6 up to 10 times per day on Facebook, Twitter, or on the CNN website (cnn.com/specials/cnn-heroes) for a maximum of 30 votes combined using all three platforms. The winner will be announced during a televised special, *CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute*, on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. Pacific Time. Each finalist receives \$10,000, and the winner takes home the grand prize of \$100,000. You can meet the mutts on weekends from noon to 4 p.m. at Muttville headquarters (255 Alabama Street at 16th). For more information, visit muttville.org. ...

SERVICE DOG KICKED OFF MUNI

Last month a reader sent me video of a San Francisco police officer and a Muni supervisor confronting a man with a service dog on a cable car as the dog lies calmly across the man's lap.

According to a Facebook post by **Gina Tomaselli**, who took the video, the cable car driver refused to continue the trip as long as the dog was on board, even after the man identified the dog as a service animal. The Americans With Disabilities



Muttville Senior Dog Rescue founder Sherri Franklin is a finalist for CNN Hero of the Year. PHOTO: DOGTIME.COM

Act clearly states that service dogs don't need to be wearing identification and only two questions may be asked: "Is this animal required because of a disability?" and, "How does this animal assist you?" According to San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) policy regarding service animals on cable cars, animals may be "on the owner's lap on the exterior of the car," which is exactly what was happening in this case.

In an Oct. 31 interview with *San Francisco Examiner* reporter **Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez**, owner **Tad Tadesse** says he and his service dog, Rosie, have been removed from Muni vehicles more than 20 times, but certainly not because of Rosie's behavior — when Tadesse visited the *Examiner* office, Rodriguez says that Rosie "sat, twirled, hugged, shook hands and gave kisses on command."

Paul Rose, spokesperson for the SFMTA, told the *Examiner* the operator "did not feel safe," but "at no point was service denied."

Tomaselli says otherwise in her Facebook post, writing: "Cop insists that this man get off the cable car (run by SFMTA) because, according to the dog owner, the driver is afraid of

Watching the dogs lose hope broke her heart, so Franklin started Muttville.

his pit bull service dog — and refused to operate the cable car unless the dog owner got off the car — even after he presented written documentation of the dog's status."

Tadesse didn't have to show documentation, but he did. He also complied with all the rules, as did Rosie. So let's face the facts: If Rosie were a golden retriever, this incident never would have happened.

Whether the driver was indeed "afraid of pit bulls" is irrelevant — he violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by refusing transportation to Tadesse and his service animal.

I hope the SFMTA is upping their training on this issue, and teaching drivers that breedism (service dog or not) is never O.K.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

YOUR MAN FRIDAY

Housecleaning & Services

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



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

CALL STEVE RUSSELL: 415.373.2610

City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising December 2016 Stay Connected To the City through SF311

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

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

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

Count on WIC for Healthy Families

WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. You may qualify if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or just had a baby; or have a child under age 5; and have a low to medium income; and live in California. Newly pregnant women, migrant workers, and working families are encouraged to apply.

WIC provides Nutrition Education and Health information, breastfeeding support, checks for healthy foods (like fruits and vegetables), and referrals to medical providers and community services.

You may qualify for WIC if you receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh (Food Stamps), or CalWORKS (TANF) benefits. A family of four can earn up to \$3,747 before tax per month and qualify.

Enroll early! Call today to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. Call City and County of San Francisco WIC Program at 415-575-5788. This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings December 2016 Meetings

- December 6
- December 13

There will be no scheduled meetings on December 20th and 27th.

LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST CHINESE.... SPANISH.... FILIPINO

Requests must be received 48 hours in advance required for interpretation. For more information see the Board of Supervisor's website www.sfbos.org, or call 415-554-5184.

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

CNS-2950125#

Helping you be prepared

“As a meteorologist, I work to make sure PG&E crews are **ready for any weather**. We want our customers to be prepared too.”

SCOTT STRENFEL

Meteorologist



Whether we're in a historic drought or facing severe storms in an El Niño year,

the weather can have a serious impact on our electric system. That's why PG&E and its team of meteorologists monitor the weather 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We send crews out ahead of storms and extreme weather to minimize any outages.

We want our customers to be ready and stay safe. In the event of extreme weather, a natural disaster or an emergency, planning ahead is the key first step. Learn how you can be prepared at pge.com/beprepared.



Make a plan



Create a kit



Be prepared



Together, Building
a Better California

pge.com/beprepared

"PG&E" refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation.
© 2016 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved. Paid for by PG&E shareholders.