



Property Superheroes
We highlight some Northside top producers who are making the market make sense. 16



Clam Slice
Contrada brings new taste to Union Street. 10

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Diane Arbus, *Taxicab driver at the wheel with two passengers, N.Y.C., 1956*. Gelatin silver print, 14¼ x 17¼ in. (36 x 44 cm). PHOTO: THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, GIFT OF DOON ARBUS AND AMY ARBUS, 2007

Diane Arbus: In the Beginning at SFMOMA

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THROUGH APRIL 30, THE SAN Francisco Museum of Modern Art presents an exhibition fea-

turing the first seven years of Diane Arbus's career as a photographer of subjects that confront our sense of normalcy. Her black-and-white portraits of New Yorkers feature indi-

viduals and their eccentricities, often with a sense of unease and alienation. Arbus, a lifelong New Yorker, worked in Times Square, the Lower

THE ART WORLD, continued on 12

POLITICS As Usual

San Francisco in the age of Trump

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

DURING THE INAUGURATION OF DONALD TRUMP as the country's 45th president, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell took to Facebook to comment, "I have the biggest knot in my stomach watching the events in DC. ... part of me still thinks it's not real, it's really not happening." In the days before Jan. 20, Mayor Ed Lee attended a national conference of mayors and noted that he and his fellow mayors were planning to resist federal efforts to dramatically change immigration policy or to introduce registries of certain minorities. State Senator Scott Wiener tweeted "Kicking off Trump inauguration week w a message: you're not gonna throw tens of millions of Americans off healthcare w/o a hell of a fight."

Welcome to ground zero of what some are calling the Resistance.

Determined opposition to the person and the policies of the president is nothing new in this country. Not every president is met with fierce resistance, but opponents of President Trump are at least as energized and organized as conservative opponents of President Obama; if the latter could evolve into the Tea Party movement and largely set the congressional agenda for much of Obama's time in office, the blue states of the country are looking to do something similar under Trump. And San Francisco

POLITICS AS USUAL, continued on 4

BELLINGHAM BY THE BAY

What you see is what you get

BY BRUCE BELLINGHAM

AS MY MENTOR, **HERB CAEN**, USED TO SAY, "GAWD, I love this town..."

For example, here comes the **Belli Belles** and the great gals that they are. They had a party the other day. Who are the Belli Belles? The women who supported **Melvin Belli**. And yes, he was a friend to me. This is the old Montgomery Street office. Seems like halcyon days.

Mel was outrageous. But like the King of Torts, he could be outrageous for all the right reasons.

"Are you still on Halcion, Bruce?" No, not anymore. I don't think my doctor, **Samantha Bessega**, at the Castro-Mission Clinic on 17th Street would approve.

Dr. B. is one of my favorite persons in the world. After all, she just saved my life. I'm sure that engenders mixed feelings from this readership.

When I played music on **Sedge Thomson's** show on KQED-FM, "West Coast Weekend," Sedge gave me the chance to perform on the the radio regularly with **Tom Constanten**. Yes, Deadheads. He was the keyboardist with the **Grateful Dead**. T.C. said to me, while we were driving through Nevada, "Life is unfair, Bruce, but once in a while it is unfair in our direction."

Halcyon days, indeed.

At this advanced age, I know this difference between infamy and Big Pharma. A small challenge.

BELLINGHAM, continued on 4

APPETITES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS



General Tso's chicken. PHOTO: FLICKR.COM/AVLXYZ

General Tso's chicken is a phony, but General Tso was the real deal

BY ERNEST BEYL

GENERAL TSO'S CHICKEN is a phony — but it still tastes good to me. And, I assume, to you, too.

Yes, there was a Ching Dynasty Chinese general named Tso. He was Tso Tsung-t'ang. In today's Romanized Pinyin Chinese, he is Zuo Zongtang. Unlike his chicken dish, General Tso was not a phony. He

was the real deal — a brilliant military tactician, and ruthless. When he was a boy, his wealthy parents sent him to a private school in China's Hunan Province where he studied Confucius. He later became a military genius and fought in several winning battles. A tough guy, he wound up as one of the most successful military commanders in Chinese history.

CHICKEN CONFUSION REIGNS

But the fact is, General Tso never ate General Tso's chicken. He had nothing to do with it. It wasn't even created until many years after his death. But let me add to the confusion — not the Confucian. If you don't believe me, ask my Chinese cookbook friends, Fuchsia Dunlop and Eileen Yin-Fei Lo. And if this doesn't satisfy you, do a little research yourself.

FUCHSIA DUNLOP'S VERSION

Here's the story as Fuchsia Dunlop tells it. This young English woman gained her Chinese cooking chops in Sichuan Province studying at the Sichuan Higher Institute of Cuisine. Later she branched out and spent time in Hunan Province — much like an American

APPETITES continued on 11



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.

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The latest from Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter tells the tale of two singers, complete archives, and more.

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News Briefs : Museum, bikes, and more

Comings and goings in the city

LUCAS MUSEUM MOVES TO A CITY FAR, FAR AWAY

After an extended search, filmmaker George Lucas has chosen Los Angeles over the Bay Area as the home for his new self-funded Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. Despite fairly broad support for a Treasure Island site, which was expected to help draw crowds to the island while spurring its development, Lucas went with a site in L.A.'s Exposition Park, near the University of Southern California, his alma mater.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee expressed his disappointment in the choice of Los Angeles over San Francisco, but added that he is "proud that our city came together like never before to deliver a bold vision and thoroughly viable plan for the museum, in an iconic location in the heart of the Bay Area, with 100 percent political and community support."

After the original planned location in the Presidio was rejected by the Presidio Trust and vocal opponents, Lucas got further in the process with Chicago, hometown of his wife, Melody Hobson. But neighborhood and parks activists there defeated the plan despite a strong effort by the city's mayor, Rahm Emanuel. Lucas then returned to California, pitting San Francisco against Los Angeles.

Mayor Lee tried to put a good face on the loss, stating, "I am pleased that the museum will be built in California for our state's residents to someday enjoy."

WOMAN KILLED BY TRUCK IN COW HOLLOW

A woman crossing the street at Union and Buchanan was hit by a truck a little after noon on Jan. 11. She was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where she died. According to Bay City News, the driver of the truck was reportedly cooperating with investigators, who were looking into what part of the vehicle struck the woman and whether a crime was involved.

SOME BIKES AREN'T WELCOME IN SAN FRANCISCO

Where else besides the pages of the *Mari-na Times* do you find supervisors Aaron Peskin and Mark Farrell side by side? In late January, they appeared together at a press conference condemning the plans of Bluegogo to launch a bike-sharing business in the city without permits. Opponents feared it would lead to thousands of bikes clogging up city sidewalks.

Peskin cast the issue as another tech company flouting local laws and seeking forgiveness later. Peskin was joined at the event by Farrell and Brian Wiedenmeier, representing the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

Ed Reiskin, director of Transportation at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, issued a letter to Bluegogo's CEO, Gang Li, requesting that the company notify the city of its business plan and comply with local law. He also demanded Bluegogo ensure its plans would not infringe upon an exclusive deal the city made with bike-share company Bay Area Motivate.

"While San Francisco actively promotes bicycle transportation and we would welcome the opportunity to learn more about your proposed operations, we want to make sure you familiarize yourself with San Francisco's requirements for use of its right of way and understand that San Francisco will actively enforce local laws protecting the city's right of way," Reiskin wrote.

The previous month, Uber launched and quickly curtailed the use of self-driving cars in the city without getting approvals.

SANCTUARY CITIES IN THE HOT SEAT

President Donald Trump campaigned in part on a promise to deport millions of undocumented immigrants and to punish sanctuary cities by cutting federal funds to cities that curtail cooperation with federal immigration author-

ities. When the new U.S. Congress started its session in early January, House Republicans quickly introduced three measures that would block funding for sanctuary cities.

Big city mayors have been defiant in the face of the threats. "We are not going to sacrifice a half million people who live among us, who are part of our community," said New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee said "San Francisco is a sanctuary city and will not waiver in its commitment to protect the rights of all its residents."

Experts have estimated that San Francisco could lose up to \$1 billion if the federal threats are carried out, but CBS San Francisco political analyst Melissa Caen told a Commonwealth Club audience that the actual amount lost in the foreseeable future would likely be minor because of a host of complicated reasons that will bog down the process in multiple lawsuits. The total amount for the state of California, however, "is far larger," she said.

JANUARY COMMUTES SNARLED BY MUNI GLITCH

The city's thousands of Muni bus and train riders were frustrated in much of January by the glitchy upgrade of the system's networking equipment from 2G to 3G service. SFMTA has known about the upgrade to 3G service by its vendor since 2012, but it claims to have been surprised by AT&T's deactivation of its 2G wireless. "We understood we had more time until the phasing out of the 2G network would impact NextMuni," according to an SFMTA blog, referring to the system that tracks its fleet of buses and trains.

At one point in early January, about 70 percent of the city's vehicles were unable to communicate with NextMuni due to the glitch. The agency said nearly all of its vehicles would be able to communicate by the end of the month.

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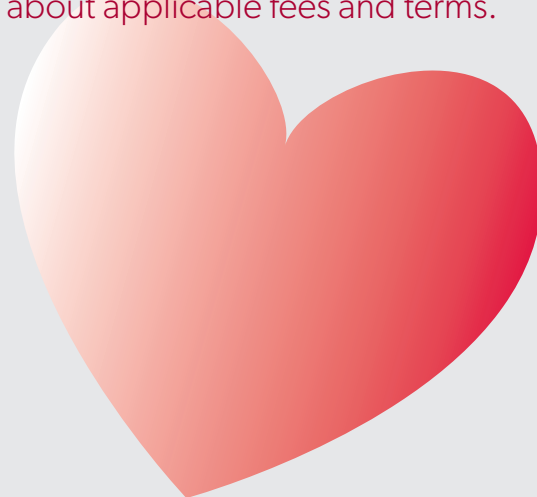


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Politics As Usual

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looks to play an outsized role in that resistance.

San Francisco — and the larger Bay Area, for that matter — is overwhelmingly liberal and Democratic voting, but it is not 100 percent so. Thousands of people in San Francisco voted for Donald Trump, though their votes were vastly outnumbered by their neighbors' votes. Proudly contrarian San Franciscans are found all across the political spectrum, and they include #NeverTrump Republicans, Peter Thiel-style conservatives, and many others. Whatever their political stance, as San Franciscans they will have a front-row seat for all of the fireworks that are sure to happen during the Trump administration.

FROM THE START

The deep antagonism felt by the left toward the new president is rooted in worries about Trump's stated plans to target undocumented immigrants, his controversial business dealings, his possible entanglement with Russia's authoritarian government, his treatment of women, and his demonizing of racial and ethnic minorities during the campaign, including the undefined suggestion that he would institute a registry for Muslims.

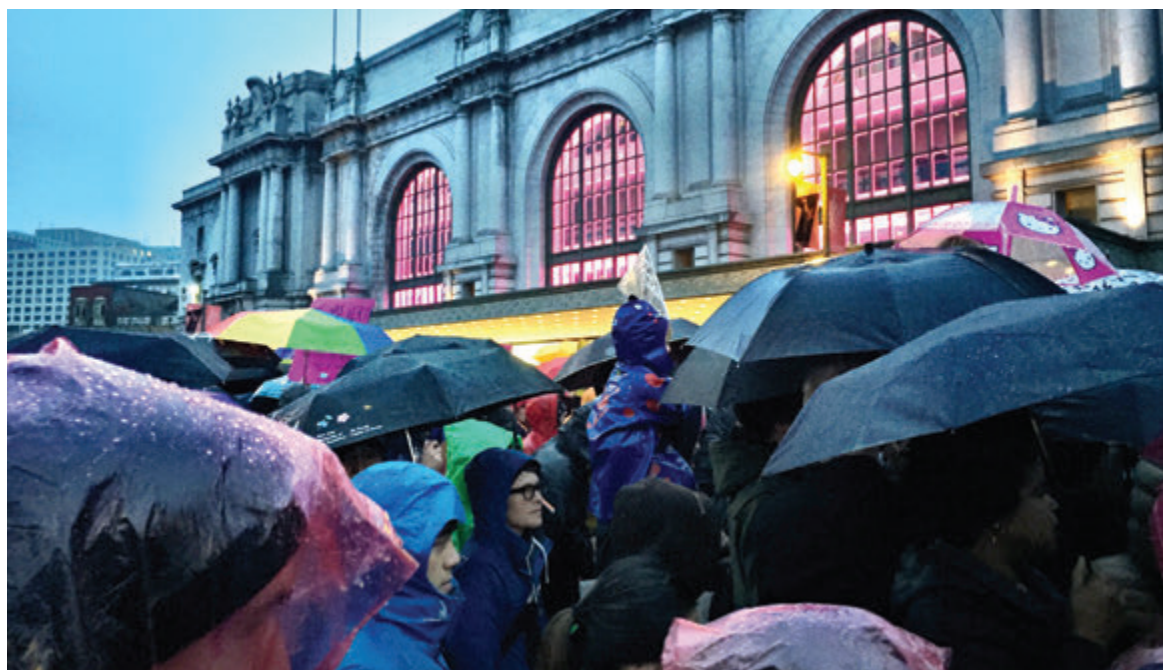
Former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who now makes her home in the Bay Area and is a senior CNN political analyst, said her daughter works at a bilingual school, and some students and parents are very afraid they are "going to be ripped out of their home, it's so horrible."

When the day came for the new president to take his oath of office, downtown San Francisco

was the site of protests, with a handful of arrests. They targeted the former Bank of America headquarters (Trump is a part owner of the building). They also blocked Market Street in front of Uber headquarters (Uber's CEO is a Trump advisor); some of them chained themselves to Uber's front doors, which at least served to annoy Uber employees, rather than the vast majority of Market Street drivers, passengers, and pedestrians who were not remotely involved in giving Trump advice. In short, typical San Francisco.

But other critics of Trump took a different approach, one based on their need to understand what happened in the election, when several reliably blue states voted for Trump. Valerie, a local filmmaker who has had one of her movies screened at the Cannes festival, decided to travel to the East Coast with her camera and make a documentary about LGBT supporters of the new president.

Another woman, an independent media producer, began putting together a plan to travel across the country and engage



San Francisco Women's March participants stream into the crowded protest. PHOTO: EARL ADKINS

opposition, but they have found outlets by participating in the women's marches in late January, donating money to Planned Parenthood or the Southern Poverty Law Center, or other liberal causes.

THE RESISTANCE STATE

California's money and power lie in its big blue regions of the Bay Area and the Los Angeles metro area. Though there are many counties that qualify as red voting zones, Democrats hold a lopsided share of the power in Sacramento. Gov. Jerry Brown signaled long before the new president took office that

he was fired up and ready to lead the resistance to Trump's environmental agenda, which includes opposition to international agreements on climate change action.

Speaking to the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in mid-December, the governor responded to worries Trump would defund the satellites that collect climate data

by promising to do an end-run around the incoming president. "We've got the scientists, we've got the lawyers, and we're ready to fight. We're ready to defend," Brown said in a fiery speech. "And if Trump turns off the satellites, California will launch its own damn satellite. We're going to collect that data."

New Hampshire-based writer Bernie Quigley wrote in *The Hill* California was at the vanguard of using states' rights against a federal agenda they opposed: "Gov. Jerry Brown and California open the gate: New England and other sympathetic regions should follow their initiative."

On the private-citizen side, a group called TechSolidarity has been holding meetings in the Bay Area and in cities across the country for tech employees who do not want to play any role in helping the government create registries of Muslims. A petition has made the rounds of the "technorati," with signatories pledging not to take part in any such effort.

Quite a few politicians and nonpoliticians alike will be watching to see if President

Trump and some of his congressional allies carry through with threats to cut funding to liberal bastions such as San Francisco (see News Briefs, page 3). Those big cities are overwhelmingly Democratic, so it poses no political risk to representatives from a red district to push such a plan, and none to Trump to sign it into law. But the Bay Area has a tremendous amount of economic and political firepower, including the Democratic leader of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and it remains to be seen how much Congress wants to tangle with the rich urban areas that provide much of the funding for the government and its services.

Whatever happens, San Franciscans will be in the front row, watching or actively involved in the effort.

"We will persevere," Governor Brown told those geophysicists in December. "Have no doubt about that."

John Zipperer is the author/publisher of the free Zippererstrasse digital political magazine (available at bit.ly/2iXVa3X). E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

TechSolidarity has been holding meetings for tech employees who do not want to play any role in helping the government create registries of Muslims.

Trump voters in civil conversation. She was inspired, she said, by her realization that she didn't understand their motivations, and instead of just sharing Facebook memes or calling them names, she wanted to talk to them in-person, human-to-human.

Others have expressed a frustration with a lack of options for how they can express their

Bellingham

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The Belli Belles reunion party was at Fame on Broadway. Fame is on the site of the now-disappeared Mabuay Gardens. Known mostly as a punk music club, I once saw a drag show there — years ago, of course — with the obligatory Cher impersonator or two. What would drag queens do without Cher? ... Amazingly, the show was hosted by Milton Berle, who was famous for his drag act on Saturday night TV in the 1950s. I mention that for the benefit of readers under the age of 65. ... So famous was he that Berle

was known as "Mister Television." Berle came out on stage at the Mabuay, and did stand-up that had all of us falling out of our seats, convulsed with laughter. For the first, and last time, I got to see what burlesque was all about. Berle was one of the best. ...

Burlesque always meant strippers. When I was a kid, I used to read the *New York Daily News*, and see the ads for Times Square clubs. I recall one: "This

Was Burlesque with Ann Corio." That was at the World Theater on W. 49th Street. I'd think to myself, *I can't wait to grow up so I can see this*. But I didn't. I don't only mean I didn't see Ann Corio. I never grew up. ... I know; slightly self-effacing. As Maurice Kanbar likes to say, "I do the jokes around here." ... I marveled at the flashy names of the great ladies of the burlesque stage: Lili St. Cyr ... Blaze Starr ... Tempest Storm, whose signature phrase was, "What you see is what you get." That could apply to many things in life. Then there was Lotta Topp, who played the old Market Street Cinema. I can understand why she'd find her name

professionally useful. What I can't understand is why Mr. and Mrs. Topp would name their daughter Lotta. Surely she was teased, unmercifully, as a young girl on the playground. ... Of course, there was the most famous entertainer in the category — Gypsy Rose Lee. ...

I knew Lee's son, Eric Preminger. Yes, as in Otto Preminger. (I watched Preminger's *Laura* again the other night. Brilliant.) Eric

would come into the venerable, now-vanished Chestnut Street Grill. He wrote a very good book, *Gypsy and Me*. Eric told me he did not know who his father was until he was 20 years old. I guess the flamboyant and intellectually gifted Gypsy Rose Lee could be rather circumspect. Or maybe simply protective. Moms can be that way. ...

My old friend Cosmo Sostenuto also aspires to a career in music. He wants to be on the self-effacing hit parade. He has a song: "I'm So Loathsome, I Could Cry." ... Go for it, Cosmo. If you can see it, you can get it. ...

And what you see is what you get. O.K., is my heart broken about the closing of Lefty O'Doul's?

You bet. After all, Lefty's first name was Francis. You got it. This is the City of St. Francis. Francis of Assisi was always kind to animals, and that's all right with me.

Lefty O'Doul's is the Cooperstown of the West.

We know that baseball stars come from all over the world to pay homage. It's not a restaurant — not a hofbrau — it is a shrine.

They have barstools made out of baseball bats. What's the old saying? "You don't miss the water till the well's gone dry."

Let's hope it is not dry for too long.

Yes, but we will endure. San Francisco is a resilient city. It has survived earthquakes, fires, and evictions. But, all in all, it is still a friendly city. This city will always embrace people of different stripes. Yes, she will always welcome lovers and other strangers.

As time goes by. But, as my friend, T.C. said, "We will survive."

Let us slake our thirst at the font of purity. And hope for the best.

What you see is what you get? Not always. But it's worth the trouble to investigate.

Yes, Gawd, I love this town.

Bruce Bellingham is the author of Bellingham by the Bay. Show him something he should know at bruce@marinatimes.com. Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes.

Is my heart broken about the closing of Lefty O'Doul's? You bet. Lefty O'Douls is the Cooperstown of the West.

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In, out, redone, and relocated

BY LYNETTE MAJER

UNION STREET VALENTINE WINE WALK RELOCATED

If you were counting on wooing your sweetie at the Union Street Has a Crush on You Valentine Wine Walk, you'll just have to hike or bus straight up Union to the **Polk Street Valentine Wine Walk** to sip and shop all the way to Post Street (see our calendar, page 14 for details).

MORE ON UNION STREET

We didn't warm up to the **Lightning Tavern** with the dark interior illuminated with lots of unique lighting making it kinda cool but also kinda creepy (preferring instead the former establishment, **Unwind on Union**). Apparently, we weren't alone, and management problems ultimately resulted in the tavern closing last summer. Enter the **Hollow Cow** (1875 Union Street), late last year under new management with a new chef, and sporting five-stars on Yelp, with nods going to pizza, short-rib tacos, and more, including brunch, the remodel/decor, and friendly staff. Great news!

Yes, Virginia, it's true. Just when you thought Union Street was saturated with workout wear establishments, **Sweaty Betty London** seeks to disabuse you of that notion by taking up residence in the former **Nine West** space (2086 Union Street), claiming that such competition is good for business. They should know with 7 U.S. locations and 44 in Europe.

Further to that, look for Toronto-born **Titika Active Couture** to fill the space of **Covet Boutique** (2042 Union Street) in the lower level of the Cudworth Mansion. According to their website, Titika will offer “activewear and yoga clothes for women,” with an emphasis toward the athleisure trend.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE UPDATE

The former **Cabana** Home space is now home to Vancouver, B.C.-born **Noir Lash** (3024 Fillmore Street), which specializes solely in semipermanent lashes free of icky stuff (latex and formaldehyde).

The adorable kid's clothing store **Bubble** followed their Fillmore neighbors **Motion Wireless** to Union Street recently and are now located at 2163 Union Street. And good news: There's a job card in



Chicken and waffles at the Hollow Cow.
PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/HOLLOWCOWSF

the window of their former space, 3108 Fillmore Street.

Speaking of Motion Wireless, its former space is now occupied by **Salma & Company** (3048 Fillmore Street) real estate sales. Although the windows are papered, a note on the door says to "come on in, we are open!"

The popular salon **Mercer Street** (3012 Fillmore Street) surprisingly seems to have vanished in the night with a note on the door that two of their stylists can be found at **ML Hair Studio** (1771 Union Street), and according to their website, a third at **Lexington Place** (1980 Union Street). Kudos for staying in the neighborhood!

Pop-up **Glamour & Wit** (3151 Fillmore Street), offering home design and decor (and locally made cool custom throw pillows), has taken the place of the shared office space **Work Happy**, and expects to be around for six months or so.

Although **Cellar Door** was still in business when we first wrote of the vacancies, we had worried about it from the get-go with its limited hours and seeming lack of clientele. We're happy to see Dominique Crenn is expanding her next-door restaurant **Atelier Crenn** into the space and will open **Bar Crenn** (3131 Fillmore Street) sometime this spring (see Tablehopper on page 10 for more on that).

Meanwhile, the empty **Real Food** (3060 Fillmore Street) building looms large, its presence sorely missed by many. There was a recent notice posted on the building that Bi-Rite

would be occupying the space, but according to their Facebook page, they have denied that.

CHESTNUT STREET CHANGES ... OR NOT

After 30 years, the folks at **Animal Connection II** (2419 Chestnut Street) are looking to start another chapter by seeing if someone or some business is interested in buying that location as well as their other on Washington Street. It seems the Internet age of online buying (as well as the neighboring larger Wolf and Lion pet supply store) have taken a toll on the small business, and it's time to move on.

Hoodline tells us our favorite salad-sammie/sammich spot **Blue Barn** (2105 Chestnut Street) will soon take over the former (and larger) **Barnes's Gourmet Hamburgers** (3344 Steiner Street) space, where you will be able to sit, stay, and dine as opposed to grabbing and going on Chestnut.

Last year, we bemoaned the loss of **The Chestnut Bakery** (2359 Chestnut Street) and their heartfelt farewell letter lamenting how their landlord refused to negotiate beyond their lease expiration. Now, exactly one year later, said space remains vacant, so we hope that landlord is happy. While we'll admit to being more word oriented rather than numbers oriented, isn't it better to receive some amount of rent rather than none?

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Transitioning from budget chair to land use and transportation chair

BY MARK FARRELL

FOR LAST MONTH’S COLUMN, I briefly touched on what was in store for my office in 2017. One of the biggest changes for the year ahead is that after four years as chair of our Budget and Finance Committee, I will now be serving as chair of our city’s Land Use and Transportation Committee.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO SWITCH FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE?

When I first ran for the Board of Supervisors, my goal inside of City Hall was to chair our Budget and Finance Committee. At the time, San Francisco was beginning to recover from the depths of the Great Recession, and no member of the Board of Supervisors had any private sector financial experience. I wanted to bring my private sector financial experience to City Hall, because I believe it was critical background to guide our city toward budget solvency and strength.

After four years, I had officially become the longest-serving budget chair in city history, and I was ready for a new chal-

lenge. Chairing our Land Use and Transportation Committee is a great opportunity to continue working on San Francisco’s most pressing issues — namely housing and development.

As I look back on my years as budget chair, I am proud that we more than doubled our reserves, placed funding priorities on core issues such as public safety and homelessness, authored and passed Proposition A — which will wipe out our \$4.4 billion retiree health-care liability in 30 years — and I feel very secure in saying that San Francisco is in a much better place financially than four years ago.

As chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, I look forward to taking a leadership role in helping working families afford to stay in San Francisco. This includes not only affordable housing, but also less congestion, better transportation options, safer streets, and diverse neighborhoods. As a San Francisco native who returned to raise my family here, I know the challenges working families face. My family is fortunate to have secure housing, and I want to ensure that our city’s housing and land use policies can pro-

vide that for all our residents. I’ll be working with my team, including my Legislative Aide Kanishka Karunaratne, who has extensive land use expertise and experience, to shape sensible land use policies that accommodate positive growth.

WHAT ARE SOME UPCOMING CHALLENGES AT THE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE?

The most immediate challenge will be the upcoming update to our city’s inclusionary housing ordinance, which is our citywide policy that sets affordable housing rates and targets in new housing development projects. Our inclusionary ordinance is one of our most important city policies, and it’s crucial that we get it right. If we set the rates too high, then we risk stifling housing development, which in turn leads to higher housing prices for our residents. When voters passed Proposition C in June, we committed to setting our inclusionary policy based on fiscal feasibility and economic studies, not political ideology, and I intend to see that commitment through.

In addition to the inclusionary discussion, we have major development and transportation projects that will be coming in front of the committee. I look forward to working with Supervisors Peskin and Tang to address San Francisco’s most pressing housing, land use, development, and transportation policies and projects.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES AS LAND USE CHAIR?

My priorities as land use chair are to make sure that our committee uses data, reason, and San Francisco values in every important decision we make. Addressing our city’s housing shortage and crisis through smart policies and good projects must also be top priorities. As a city, we must focus on ways that can streamline our development process, so we do not see needless delay after needless delay on good projects that deserve support. I firmly believe San Francisco is for all and will work to accommodate growth in a balanced and reasonable manner.

My requested economic impact report on our city’s zoning and land-use regulations

should be ready to release to the public in mid-February. I plan on using that report as a base for a number of new policy proposals and to make a strong data-based case to the public about why addressing our housing shortage will affect housing affordability, the cost of living, our local economy, and economic mobility and opportunity for our residents. Existing data already shows that while the market has naturally built housing for higher-income groups and public subsidy has built housing for lower-income groups, the middle class has been struggling to find affordable housing. I will prioritize finding ways to incentivize middle-income housing so working families can stay in San Francisco.

I also look forward to a process that includes the voices of all of our city’s diverse communities in these important land use and transportation issues. The success of these projects and policies depends strongly upon public input and inclusion. As land use chair, I want everyone to know my commitment to hearing from our communities on each and every issue.



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Sketches from a North Beach Journal

Eavesdropping in the neighborhood

BY ERNEST BEYL

I'M AN ARDENT EAVESDROPPER. ONE might even say as a columnist I'm a professional eavesdropper. Nothing wrong with eavesdropping as long as you're open about it. Smile a lot and tell the eavesdropee that you're writing a column for the *Marina Times*. Here are a few examples of my work. I picked them up last month.

EAVESDROPPING AT CALZONE'S

Regular customer: "We were at this quaint little bar in the Mission. A guitarist came to the table and with a great flourish he said, 'I will now play for you. What would you like to hear?' I looked up and said, *Flight of the Bumble Bee*."

AT GINO AND CARLO

Woman: “My cell phone says I’ve walked one-point-four miles today.” Companion: “You’ve been sitting on that bar stool since this place opened at 6 a.m. I guess you’re just moving your hips.” (Yes, Gino and Carlo morning bartender Danny Snell unlocks the door at 6 a.m.)

ON THE 39 MUNI

"My daughter is going away for the weekend and wants me to babysit her pet rabbits. How do you take care of rabbits anyway?" "Sauté them with a little white wine and serve with polenta."

AT THE NORTH BEACH LIBRARY

Author Thornton Wilder: “There’s nothing like eavesdropping to show you that the world outside your head is different from the world inside your head.”

AT THE SALOON

“What are you going to have?” the bartender asked.

“I’ll have a beer, and my friend will have a Mai Tai.”

Bartender: “What’s her second choice?”

AT CAFFE PUCCINI

The jukebox was playing Luciano Pavarotti singing *Che gelida manina* by Giacomo Puccini, of course. A customer listened for a minute, took a sip of his wine, and said to his lunch date, "It's probably Mario Lanza."

AT CITY LIGHTS

Customer to a man with a beard wearing a baseball cap and a safari jacket: “Excuse me, are you Lawrence Ferlinghetti?”

“No, I’m not. Why do you ask?”

“Because you look like him.”

“In North Beach every guy over 80 looks like Lawrence Ferlinghetti.”

AT THE NORTH BEACH LIBRARY

Tom Waits: "Anyplace is good for eavesdropping, if you know how to eavesdrop."

ON BROADWAY

One guy looks up and reads a sign on a stairway next to Enrico's: "Why does that lawyer Tony Serra call this place Pier 5 Law Offices?"

Other guy: "Were you here during the rains last month?"

AT TRADER JOE'S

Two 30-something women were shopping in the canned-soup aisle.

One said, "I'm getting a divorce, and I don't know what to do now."

The other said, "In the immortal words of Saint Elizabeth Taylor, 'Pour yourself a drink, put on some lipstick, and pull yourself together.'"



You never know who you'll run into at City Lights Bookstore — maybe even Lawrence Ferlinghetti. PHOTO: STACEY LEWIS

AT THE NORTH BEACH LIBRARY

Lemony Snicket: "The key to good eavesdropping is not getting caught."

AT THE BEAT MUSEUM

One tourist says to another: "Who were the Beats anyway?"

Companion tourist: "A bunch of dead-beat poets. That's why they called themselves the Beats."

SAME TOURISTS AT THE BEAT MUSEUM

First tourist: "Oh look, here's a book by Gertrude Stein. Was she a Beat?"

Second tourist: "No, but I seem to remember that she lived in Oakland."

Beat Museum attendant: "There's no there, there. That's what she said about Oakland."

First tourist: "Well, it must have been there when she was there."

AT THE NORTH BEACH LIBRARY

Black's Law Dictionary: "Eavesdropping is secretly listening to the private conversation of others without their consent. As defined by Black's Law Dictionary (1) This is commonly thought to be unethical (2) There is an old adage that eavesdroppers seldom hear anything good of themselves ... and eavesdroppers always try to listen to matters that concern them."

AT ORIGINAL JOE'S

Overheard at Original Joe's at book party
for *San Francisco Appetites and After-
thoughts*.

A guy buys the book and steps up to
have me sign it.

"What's your name?" I ask.

"Woody."

"Like Woody Allen?"

"That's right."

"Actually you look a lot like Woody
Allen — a handsome old guy with a big
nose and glasses."

"Sounds like me. Let's make a movie
together. You can be the star."

"Great. Have your people call my people."

"I don't have any people. I'll call you
myself."

"I don't have any people either. I'll answer
myself."

"Who do you want as your co-star?"

"Sophia Loren."

"Wonderful. We'll make a Spaghet-
ti Western. Remember, she said, 'I owe
everything you see to spaghetti.'"

You just can't make stuff up like this.

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Who we are: Tribute to community

BY AARON PESKIN

MY OFFICE SPENT 2016 in a near-constant state of bustling activity, tackling a robust legislative agenda that many of you are familiar with at this point.

What you may not be familiar with is the “why” — why choose service, choose policy-making, choose endless e-mails and meetings? As I reflect on last year’s work and the work ahead, I am grounded by a central compass: Community. And no, not just a flat catch-all word for speeches and soundbites. I’m talking about the fantastic tapestry of neighbors, characters, and behind-the-scenes people who make this city run.

One of the classic cornerstones of the Emmy-award winning show *Sesame Street* was the tune, “Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood,” popularized by Bob McGrath’s character. It’s an ode to the everyday people who make a neighborhood vibrant and healthy, and for millions of children everywhere it has been an opportunity to value equally myriad occupations that make a city tick. As a Berkeley kid raised on *Sesame Street*, it was a foreshadowing of the

many characters I would come to know and love later in life.

So who are the people that make up this community? I could go on forever about the people I look forward to seeing in my daily routine, the people I continue to miss after they are gone because they made the neighborhood special and unique. This community is a jumbled kaleidoscope of real people who overlap in fascinating ways. I saw this tapestry on full display at a memorial for a dear friend recently, someone that I’d like to tell you about. In many ways, she quite perfectly sums up what I love so much about District 3 and San Francisco and, yes, community.

I first met Mary Beth Marks (or “MB” as she was known to the many fortunate enough to call her a friend) one evening many years ago when my wife and I ate at Da Flora restaurant. I had the privilege of officiating a double wedding that included MB and her wife Flora Gaspar, as well as Patrick Marks of Green Arcade Books and his husband, Gent Sturgeon. It was a classic North Beach affair, taking place right in Flora and MB’s corner restaurant, complete with a DIY oyster bar. It was joyous and raucous, and filled with so much love.

It was filled with love again last month as many of those same community members came together to celebrate Mary Beth’s life. I was struck by the diversity of the local tribes intersecting in the tiny restaurant and thought to myself that MB was one of those very special people who managed to touch so many different people. That’s the kind of person she was. The LGBTQ community, the Dolphin Club swimming clan, the small business community, the host of artists, families, and North Beach regulars who treated that cozy restaurant at Columbus Avenue and Filbert Street as their personal home and meeting place — everyone was drawn to the big laugh and big love that MB emanated.

Flora and Mary Beth opened their restaurant with no real money, no experience, and no back-up plan. They literally built a community hub from nothing — and people came. On any given day, you could find MB in the back, caked in flour, prepping her famous focaccia bread or maybe throwing together a round of pear tarts

for the evening menu. She might have some friendly neighborhood gossip to share, or maybe she would press Flora to share her latest Hungarian recipe, which of course would require the sweet Hungarian paprika that Flora sold on site. Eventually, they turned the restaurant over to their chef, while simultaneously leasing the storefront down the block to local artists to ensure it was used as a community space, and not some corporate shell of an office.

Mary Beth was a magnet for those in need of a mother —

— could be tolerated. She had a wonderful sense of humor and she loved her wife very much. She also loved North Beach and San Francisco.

Sadly, we lost many community members in 2016, each one with their own special story and contributions. I’ve singled out Mary Beth here, but truly every person in this community has touched me (and one another) in some way. So, yes, sometimes I can be a little protective of this city and this community. I don’t view policy-making as a series of dry legislative digests or the requisite phone calls to push on problems. It is the human beings whose stories are reflected between the lines of each piece of legislation. Potholes, small business struggles, rent increases, evictions, street cleaning, taxes, and leash laws — every issue, no matter how big or small, has a direct impact on someone in this community. And now, more than ever, we will need community to get us through the dark days ahead.

I will continue fighting for this community because I love it. Very much.

Flora and Mary Beth opened their restaurant with no real money, no experience, and no back-up plan. They built community from nothing.



Money Matters

Financial Planning Tips for 2017

by Jeff Burke

If you’re like 92% of the U.S., you don’t keep the resolutions you make each year, especially the financial ones. While financial planning can seem daunting, here are some resolutions from a UBS financial advisor that you can actually keep to improve your fiscal outlook this year:

- **Make Time for Financial Planning.** It doesn’t take much, but setting aside time to plan can ensure you stay on target with long range goals.
- **Review 2016 Potential Tax Liability.** How much income did you receive? Did you have a capital loss or gain? Reviewing and planning for a potential refund or tax liability will help you be prepared come April 15th. Don’t wait until April 14th to find out you owe money and don’t have it handy.

• **Establish a Budget for 2017 Matching Cash Flow with Expenses.**

- Hold a family meeting and review 2016’s expenses and look at needs verse wants.
- Work with a financial advisor who can help you develop an objective plan that is tailored to your overall risk tolerance.
- **Don’t Put Off Your Retirement or College Saving Contributions.**
- The earlier you start to save, the better off you’re going to be. If you get a raise, bonus, or gift from a relative, use it to increase your 401(k)/IRA contribution or set aside money to start a 529 college saving plan.
- **Finally, Never Panic.**

A new post-election UBS *Investor Watch* report found that over 68% percent of investors are expecting strong returns in the stock market.

Even so, people get nervous when they hear what’s going on in the world and how that will impact their investments.

If you’re nervous and sitting on excess cash, a good strategy is to start by investing 20% and then invest the remaining amount every two weeks, month, or every other month based on your tolerance for risk.

Jeff Burke is a Sr. Vice President – Wealth Management, Senior Portfolio Manager for UBS Financial Services in San Francisco, CA.

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The Tablehopper :: Lots of openings



The clam pizza at the new Contrada on Union Street. PHOTO: ©TABLEHOPPER.COM

Cow Hollow starts the year with a bang

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

COW HOLLOW HAS A sudden burst of new restaurant openings, starting with **Contrada** (2136 Union Street, 415-926-8916) in the former La Cucina. The casual-chic restaurant is from managing partners Dena Grunt and Mick Suverkrubbe, with chef Jason Tuley (TBD, Parlour in Oakland, and most recently Picco Restaurant and Pizzeria in Larkspur) leading a Tuscan menu with house-made pasta, wood-fired pizza, and other items such as slow-roasted meats.

Sample menu dishes include farro-juniper rigatoni with wild boar sugo and aged pecorino (you want to get this, it's perfect for winter!); squid ink bucatini with Dungeness crab, chilies, and smoked bread crumbs; local clam pizza with Calabrian chili, wild nettle, the pop of cured lemon, and tomato sauce; and wood-oven grilled Romanesco with capers, charred lemon, and bottarga. The pizzas are quite notable, with the crust striking this balance between Neapolitan elasticity and a thin and crisp structure so you can actually pick up a slice.

Look for a Cal-Italian wine list from consultant Shawndra McCrorey (A16), with a bunch of quality selections on tap. There is also a back deck that seats 40 (have to wait for the weather to improve), with two communal live-edge walnut tables and a wine garden. Open Wednesday–Monday 5–10 p.m. (until 12:30 a.m. Friday–Saturday).

I was happy to see chef Dominique Crenn recently announce her upcoming project, **Bar Crenn** (3131 Fillmore Street). It will be opening next door to Atelier Crenn (3127 Fillmore Street), in the space of what was the Cellar Door wine bar. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports further that Bar Crenn will feature biodynamic and natural wines (curated by wine director Matt Montrose), older wines, low-ABV cocktails, ports, and Madeiras. There will also be some small plates and dishes to share. The atmosphere will be relaxed and a place to hang out with friends, or for a drink before or after dinner. The opening is looking like sometime in April; I'll keep you updated.

The newly opened **Flores** (2030 Union Street, 415-796-2926) is now serving Mexican brunch Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Dishes include pancake de elote (corn pancake, maple crema, powdered sugar; \$13), huevos poblanos

chicken mole, mini quesadilla, pickled onion, oregano; \$13), and carne asada (six-ounce skirt steak, rice, refried beans, two eggs any style, house-made tortillas, pico de gallo; \$19). The Vida Fuerza (cold-brewed coffee, coconut milk, cinnamon; \$6) will get you back in the game. There are also large-format beverage options, like a passion fruit mimosa for six (which is basically a bottle of bubbles and a carafe of passion fruit purée — so it could be good for just two people, or even one, heh).

RUSSIAN HILL

Back in 2015, I reported on **Kinjo** (2206 Polk Street, 415-921-2222), a sushi restaurant coming to Russian Hill from the chef-owner of Saru (Noe Valley) and Ijji Sushi (Divisadero Street), Billy Kong, and the chef-owner of Seiya (San Carlos), Kuo Hwa Chuang. Takatoshi Toshi of Sausalito's Sushi Ran (who has been there for over 10 years) will be running the kitchen serving Edomae-style omakase sushi (\$120). The restaurant was due to open at the end of January, and will be open Tuesday–Sunday 5:30–10 p.m., with specific seating times at 5:30, 6, 8, and 8:30 p.m.

FILLMORE

New York's Deuki Hong, of the awesome Kang Ho Dong Baekjeong, is coming to San Francisco. He's opening a Korean fried chicken joint called **Sunday Bird** in the back of the upcoming **Boba Guys** (1522 Fillmore Street) space, just next door to Wise Sons Bagel and Bakery. Think whole Mary's birds, used for fried chicken (half or whole), chicken soup, fried chicken skin, and more. It's due to launch in February, and because it will be a pop-up space, Sunday Bird will be there indefinitely (the plan is to find a permanent space for the concept). Hong is also about to sign a lease for a **Korean barbecue restaurant** (also on Fillmore Street), which will have a fermentation lab and late-night vibe. Look for San Francisco's Korean BBQ game to get upped significantly by the end of 2017.

Marcia Gagliardi writes a popular insider weekly e-column, Tablehopper, about the S.F. dining and imbibing scene; get all the latest news at tablehopper.com. Follow @tablehopper on Twitter and Instagram for more culinary finds.

cook from San Francisco might decide to go to New Orleans and explore Creole and Cajun cuisines. When Dunlop lived in Changsha, capital city of Hunan Province, she tried to find General Tso's chicken on menus. Not only could she not find it, but she couldn't find anyone who even knew about it.

Peng's Restaurant was near the UN building and attracted diplomats. One was U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. When Dunlop sought out Peng Chang-kuei many years later — after he had made a pile of money and closed his New York City restaurant and moved back to Taiwan — he couldn't remember exactly when he had created General Tso's chicken. He told her, "Kissinger visited us

Finally, Dunlop says, "The final twist in the tale is that General Tso's chicken is now being adopted as a 'traditional' dish by some influential chefs and food writers in Hunan." This is akin to the miners in the California Gold Rush being convinced chop suey was part of authentic Chinese cuisine.

EILEEN YIN-FEI LO'S
VERSION

Eileen Yin-Fei Lo, the wife of my friend Fred Ferretti, himself a food writer, has a somewhat different take on the general and his chicken. In her book *Chinese Kitchen*, she says the dish is a Hunan classic and explains that "zongtang" was not a reference to Zuo Zongtang's given name, but to *zongtang*, which means "ancestral meeting place." She says, therefore, it refers to "Ancestral Meeting Place chicken."

HOT, SWEET, AND SPICY

I found more than a dozen recipes for General Tso's chicken, the sweet, slightly spicy chicken dish, served in Chinese restaurants all over the United States and usually credited as being of Hunan origin. Nevertheless, most people in Hunan Province have never heard of it. And if they have, they don't associate it with the traditional hot, spicy, salty Hunan cuisine.

And, by the way, Peng died late last year at 98. The *New*



An 1875 photo of General Tso Tsung-t'ang, who incidentally had nothing to do with the recipe for General Tso's chicken.

PHOTO: ADOLF-NIKOLAY ERAZMOVICH; WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

York Times — which goes with Fuchsia Dunlop's version of the origin of General Tso's chicken — gave him a half-page obit.

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Peng's Restaurant attracted diplomats.
Kissinger visited every time he was
in New York. It was he who brought
Hunanese food to public notice.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT
BLAME KISSINGER

In her book *Revolutionary Chinese Cookbook: Recipes from Hunan Province*, Dunlop says General Tso's chicken was created by a Chinese Nationalist chef from Hunan named Peng Chang-kuei who fled China for Taiwan when the Communists took over the mainland in 1949. In Taiwan, he catered Chinese banquets for government officials. In 1973, Peng moved to New York City and opened — of course — a Chinese restaurant. At that time Hunan cuisine was little known in the United States.

every time he was in New York, and we became great friends. It was he who brought Hunanese food to public notice."

GENERAL TSO'S FAMED
CHICKEN AND GOLD RUSH
CHOP SUEY

Peng added, "When I began cooking for non-Hunanese people in the United States, I altered the recipe [for his creation General Tso's chicken]." Hunan food is not sweet. It provides a slow, incendiary burn that creeps up on you. For the Kissinger version — the one most of us know today — Peng added sugar for the familiar Chinese sweet and sour taste.



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The Art World
continued from page 1

East Side, and Coney Island, where she focused her aim at the people who contributed to her powerful signature style. Street performers, unusual beauties, disheveled children, and stern-faced adults are all treated with a kind of objectivity that makes her photographs believable. Each image seems to tell a story that the viewer invents during the dreamlike process of taking in Arbus's surreal cast of characters. We, the viewers, learn more about ourselves and our assumptions in the process.

This early period, from 1956 to 1962, represents nearly half of the photographs that Arbus printed in her lifetime. Having abandoned commercial photography, (Arbus and her husband, Allan, had contributed fashion photography to magazines like *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*), Arbus and her portraits were seen as a part of a new movement

of documentary photographers, which included other New York photographers such as Garry Winogrand.

SFMOMA has an ongoing dedication to the artist reaching back to the groundbreaking exhibition *Diane Arbus Revelations* in 2003–04. Corey Keller, curator of photog-

The exhibition will be on view at the museum's new Pritzker Center for Photography. SFMOMA has been collecting and exhibiting photography since its founding in 1935, one of the first to acknowledge photography as a museum-worthy art form. Most of the photographs included in the exhibition are part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's vast Diane Arbus archive, a gift from the artist's daughters. An additional gallery is devoted

“A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know.”
—Diane Arbus

raphy at SFMOMA, says, “Arbus made some of the most potent photographs of the 20th century, and this exhibition provides a unique opportunity to consider the origins of her vision and to explore a tremendously rich but largely unfamiliar body of early work.” This exhibition includes some lesser known early works including *Lady on a bus*, N.Y.C. 1957, *Boy stepping off the curb*, N.Y.C. 1957–58 and *The Backwards Man in his hotel room*, N.Y.C. 1961.

to artists Arbus admired along with her contemporaries in New York such as Walker Evans, Winogrand, Weegee, and Lee Friedlander.

Diane Arbus: In the Beginning: Fri.–Tue. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Thursday until 9 p.m.) through April. 30; \$25; Pritzker Center for Photography, 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.

The Best of Books : Flying off the Shelves

Books Inc. Marina 2016 best sellers

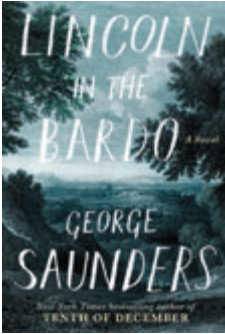
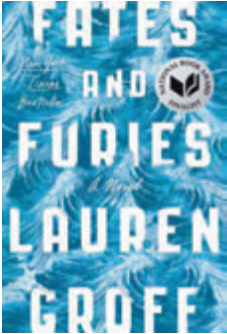
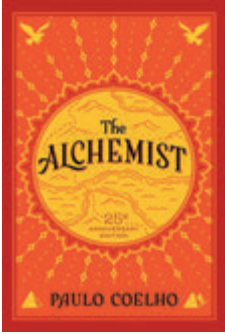
COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **City of Thieves: A Novel**, by David Benioff (paperback)
2. **The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest that Will Bring Purpose to Your Life**, by Chris Guillebeau (paperback)
3. **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis**, by J.D. Vance (hardcover)
4. **Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness**, by Sy Montgomery (paperback)
5. **Underground Railroad: A Novel**, by Colson Whitehead (hardcover)
6. **Season of the Witch: Enchantment, Terror, and Deliverance in the City of Love**, by David Talbot (paperback)
7. **The Alchemist** (25th Anniversary Edition), by Paulo Coelho (paperback)
8. **Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice**, by Bill Browder (paperback)
9. **The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics**, by Daniel Brown (paperback)
10. **Fates and Furies: A Novel**, by Lauren Groff (paperback)

NEW FEBRUARY RELEASES

Lincoln in the Bardo, by George Saunders

The long-awaited first novel from the author of *Tenth of December* is a moving and original father-son story featuring



Abraham Lincoln and an unforgettable cast of supporting characters, both living and dead, historical and invented, in an astonishing feat of imagination.

Homo Deus: A History of Tomorrow, by Yuval Harari

The author of the critically acclaimed *New York Times* best seller and international phenomenon *Sapiens*, returns with an equally original, compelling, and provocative book on humanity's future and our quest to upgrade humans into gods. It asks the fundamental questions: Where do we go from here? And how will we protect this fragile world from our own destructive powers?

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

Found in translation

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

GLOBALIZATION CAN BE SEEN AS A curse or a blessing, but in the television business, it's been a welcome business model. The thought came to me as I was catching up to the Franco-British TV crime drama *The Tunnel*, which had two short series runs for a total of 18 episodes on Sky Atlantic in the U.K. and Canal+ in France beginning in late 2013. In this bullish era of prestige TV with so many superb offerings through network, cable, and streaming services, I was only able to get to *The Tunnel* after polishing off the final, wrenching episode of the HBO miniseries *The Night Of*. Though I was watching these programs in the good old U.S.A., the two shows were fine examples of cross-pollination in the international video market.

The Tunnel concerns a dead body found exactly at the midpoint of the EuroTunnel under the English Channel, within the jurisdiction of British and French police departments alike and forcing a cavalier U.K. cop (Stephen Dillane, *Game of Thrones*) and an emotionally damaged French cop (Clémence Poésy of the Harry Potter movies) to work together to solve the murder. In a notable wrinkle, it was preceded a few months earlier by *The Bridge*, a Mexican-American interpretation of the story, set between El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico after a corpse is found in the middle of the bridge that links the two cities. Demián Bichir (*The Hateful Eight*) played the Mexican detective on the case with his usual mix of subtlety and gusto, and the German-born actress Diane Kruger (*Inglorious Basterds*) acquitted herself beautifully as the American policewoman. Both series are polished and compelling, and deal with sex slavery and drug crime while addressing the killings that trigger the investigations. Despite their similarities, they are different in setting, cultural issues, tone, and certain plot elements, which justifies watching the two variations.

BRIDGE AND TUNNEL

The truly remarkable thing about *The Bridge* and *The Tunnel* is the fact that each series was a remake of a Swedish-Danish co-production titled *The Bridge* (in Danish, *Broen*; in Swedish, *Bron*), which has been shown in more than 100 countries to date. There must be something so clever and resonant about the plot and characters of the Scandinavian version of *The Bridge* that it has a certain universal appeal that also lent itself to adaptation or reinvention. The same goes for *The Night Of*, which was developed from the 2008 debut season of the British crime series *Criminal Justice*. The latter starred Ben Whishaw (*The Hours*) as a young man accused of murder in London after he steals his father's cab to attend a party and picks up a young woman on a bender. *The Night Of* changes the locale to New York City and reimagines the young man from a white working-class college kid to a collegiate Muslim-American, giving the show an extra layer of topicality.

It's an interesting turn of affairs after numerous stateside shows have been dubbed or subtitled in other languages and exported overseas since the Golden Age of TV in the 1950s. I have to say it's pretty hilarious to see an old episode of *I Love Lucy* with Lucy and Ricky Ricardo arguing in Japanese, or, in a worldwide hit of more recent vintage, Homer Simpson strangling Bart while blurting out an invective in Italian. And having watched an installment of *Raumschiff Enterprise* — sorry — the original *Star Trek* dubbed in German, I can

tell you that there was a concerted effort on the part of the production company in Germany to find actors who actually could emulate the distinctive-voiced histrionics of William "Captain Kirk" Shatner and the coolly even tones of Leonard "Spock" Nimoy.

OF MICE AND MEN BEHAVING BADLY

Certainly, America has been entertaining the world since the early part of the 20th century, exporting the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Mickey Mouse to appreciative audiences worldwide. Good ideas appear to travel well. So do bad ones, evident in the success of (and excuse my bias against reality-TV programming) *America's Got Talent*, *American Idol*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, *Big Brother*, *Wife Swap*, *The X Factor*, and *The Voice* — all of which were reworked for the U.S. market from foreign TV shows. I'm not impressed there, though that should not diminish the value of the turnabout when it comes to quality drama and comedy.

The Great Britain to America export-import paradigm has existed for a while. In the early 1970s, producer Norman Lear scored his first across-the-board sitcom triumph with an across-the-pond reinvention, transforming the domestic class-war humor of the U.K. series *Till Death Us Do Part* into the controversial, thoroughly American ratings giant for CBS, *All in the Family*. Lear followed that with the junkyard hijinks of *Sanford & Son*, adapted for NBC from the BBC show *Steptoe & Son*. Apparently, the model worked. There were less profitable takes such as NBC's attempt to do a U.S. version of the randy Brit hit *Men Behaving Badly* in the 1990s. Not every imitation can have the staying power — for better or worse — of ABC's *Three's Company* (inspired by the English sex-com *Man About the House*).

THE OFFICE MAKES A KILLING

It's conceivable that the runaway success of NBC's *The Office*, based on creator-actor Ricky Gervais's U.K. workplace comedy of the same name, reopened the floodgates (and, for the record, spawned variations in France, Germany, Canada, Chile, Israel, and Sweden). In the past decade, we've seen the Israeli terrorist-espionage drama *Prisoner of War* turned into Showtime's popular *Homeland*; the subtle French zombie show *Les Revenants* become A&E's *The Returned*; the politically charged Danish mystery *Forbrydelsen* shifted to a Seattle setting as AMC's *The Killing* (enhancing the careers of its co-leads Mirielle Enos and Joel Kinnaman); Sweden's A.I./sci-fi drama *Real Humans* get a British makeover as *Humans*, now airing in the U.S.; Venezuela's *Juana la virgin* give birth to the CW's *Jane the Virgin*; and the Columbian soap opera *Yo soy Betty, la fe* spun into ABC's winsome dramedy *Ugly Betty*.

There are further examples, particularly in the U.K. to U.S. pipeline: trans-Atlantic editions of *House of Cards*, *Shameless*, *Being Human*, *Skins*, *Life on Mars*, and others. I'm particularly partial to HBO's sharp-toothed all-American political comedy *Veep*, which was inspired by the BBC's even more scathing romp through the corridors of Parliamentary power *The Thick of It*. This is more than a trend. It's a worldwide revolution, and the viewers are winning.

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 GAB-net.net, Roku, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

WHAT NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS

Chinese New Year Festival
Various days through Feb. 28
Various S.F. venues
Gung Hay Fat Choy! Celebrate the Year of the Rooster with a street fair, flower fair, and more, including the colorful Chinese New Year Parade Feb. 11. See website for details/schedule, 415-982-3000, [chineseparade.com](#)



31st Annual Tribal & Textile Arts Show

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 10–12, 11 a.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
More than 70 international dealers and galleries will showcase rare historical and contemporary art by tribal cultures and indigenous peoples from the Americas, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East. Proceeds benefit the de Young Museum. \$15–\$25, [sanfranciscotribalandtextileartshow.com](#)

S.F. Beer Week
Daily, Feb. 10–19
Various Bay Area venues
Brewski lovers unite: This event kicks off at Pier 48 with a gala of over 120 breweries pouring over 300 brews and features subsequent events/tastings from beyond Santa Rosa to Hayward to Santa Cruz. Bottoms up! [sfbeerweek.org](#)

Tulipmania Festival
Daily, Feb. 11–19
Pier 39
Stroll down the pier and enjoy a spectacular and colorful display featuring over 39,000 tulips and seasonal garden favorites. Take a self- (visit website for a link) or guided tour (10 a.m., crab statue) and learn helpful gardening tips. Free, 415-705-5500, [pier39.com](#)

S.F. Chronicle Wine Competition Public Tasting
Saturday, Feb. 18, 1:30–5 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
As the largest competition of U.S. wines in the world, this always-sold-out public tasting is a wine and food experience featuring artisan food purveyors. \$70–\$95, [winejudging.com](#)

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART



6th Annual Valentine Broadside Printing Event

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2–4 p.m.
S.F. History Center, S.F. Main Library
Come experience letterpress printing on the library's 1909 Albion hand press and take home a unique keepsake for your valentine. Limited to 100 participants. Free, 415-557-4400, [sfpl.org](#)

DIY Valentine's Day Cards
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2–3:30 p.m.
Marina Branch Library
Create your own Valentine's Day pop-up card for that special someone. Materials provided. Free with registration at 415-355-2823, [sfpl.org](#)

Polk Street Valentine Wine Walk
Thursday, Feb. 9, 4–8 p.m.
Polk Street (Jackson to Polk Sts.)
Grab your sweetie for an evening stroll of wine samples, finger foods, and special treats offered by local merchants, so don't forget to thank them with your support. \$25 (advance); \$25 (day of), 800-310-6563, [sresproductions.com](#)

Valentine's Day Sock Hop
Saturday, Feb. 11, 7–10 p.m.
Presidio Officer's Club (50 Moraga Ave.)
Hop back to the 1950s and be there or be square for dancing with live music from The Ely Brothers & The Doubletake Band and the San Francisco Jitterbugs. Retro cocktails available for purchase from Arguello restaurant. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; dance lessons 6:30 p.m. with the Jitterbugs. Free with registration, 415-561-5300, [presidioofficersclub.com](#)

50 Shades of Green: Valentine's Day Happy Hour & Plant Love Tour
Sunday, Feb. 12, 3–5 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
S.F. Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park
Enjoy a guided tour full of steamy tales of pistils, stamens, and plant reproduction. Then co-create a special Valentine garden gift with your date as you enjoy beer, wine, and small bites under the fragrant blooming magnolias. \$50, 415-661-1316, [sfbotanicalgarden.org](#)

Love Bites: Bite Me Cupid
Sat.–Mon., Feb. 12–13 & Thursday, Feb. 16
Martuni's (4 Valencia St.)
Presented by the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of S.F., this hilarious anti-Valentine's Day cabaret is about heartache, bitterness, and revenge. Tickets at the door, 415-779-5428, [lgcsf.org](#)

Anti-Valentine's Day Power Ballad Sing-a-Long
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 9:31 p.m.
Roxie Theatre (3117 16th St.)
For those who can't stand Valentine's Day, this is for you. Come sing the power ballads of Journey, Guns 'n Roses, Bon Jovi, Warrant, and many more while holding lighters in the air, swaying, and pounding your fist at the sky in defiance of those who would dare not love you. \$15, 415-863-1087, [roxie.com](#)

GALAS & BENEFITS

Annual Dinner à la Heart
Tuesday, Feb. 9
Various S.F. restaurants
Enjoy a pre-fixe dinner (including wine and coffee/tea) and help low-income Bay Area seniors live independently. Choose a restaurant and reserve through the Institute on Aging. \$80–\$250/person, 415-750-3443, [ioaging.org](#)

Heroes & Hearts Luncheon
Thursday, Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
AT&T Park
This always-a-sellout-event honors community heroes and features heart art created by local artists to support the Zuckerberg S.F. General Hospital and Trauma Center. \$300, 415-206-5959, [sfghf.org](#)

37th Annual Academy of Friends' Gala: A Gathering of Royals
Sunday, Feb. 26, 5–10 p.m.
The Midway (900 Marin St.)
Join the excitement of watching the Academy Awards while enjoying an evening of cocktails, tasty treats, entertainment, and more, all in support of Bay Area HIV/AIDS services. \$300–\$750, 415-995-9890, [academyoffriends.org/2017-gala](#)

ARTS & CULTURE

From Generation to Generation: Inherited Memory and Contemporary Art
Thu.–Tue. through April 2
The Contemporary Jewish Museum (736 Mission St.)
This exhibition presents work by 24 artists who search, question, and reflect on the representation of truths related to ancestral and collective memory while ultimately attempting to deal with their own pasts. \$14, 415-655-7800, [thecjm.org](#)

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirit Powwow
Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
This celebration of traditional Native American culture also provides a gender-affirming experience for the two-spirits community and features performers in traditional Native American regalia, dancing, singing, drumming, contests, and more, including food and craft vendors and health screenings. Free, [baaits.org](#)

Monet: The Early Years
Tue.–Sun., Feb. 25–May 29, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
Legion of Honor
Through approximately 60 paintings gathered from international collections, this exhibition demonstrates the radical invention that marked the artist's development of his unique visual language and technique during his formative years of 1858 to 1872. \$35, 415-760-3600, [famsf.org](#)

THEATER

ACT: A Thousand Splendid Suns
Tue.–Sun. Feb. 1–26
Geary Theater (405 Geary St.)
This epic story of three generations of Afghan women who are bound together by marriage, family, and a secret past, amid the war-torn streets of modern-day Kabul features live music from composer and saw player David Coulter of the Kronos Quartet. \$19–\$115, 415-749-2228, [act-sf.org](#)

Magic Theatre: Fool for Love
Tue.–Sun., Feb. 1–28
Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center
This legacy revival of Sam Shepard's acclaimed play mercilessly skewers feuding lovers in an epic showdown at a desolate motel in the Mojave Desert and premiered at Magic Theatre in 1983, where Shepard was playwright-in-residence. \$75–\$90, 415-441-8822, [magictheatre.org](#)

BATS Improv: Improvised Shakespeare
Saturdays through Feb. 12, 8–9:45 p.m.
Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center
Audiences supply the title and the BATS thespians turn it into Elizabethan magic, complete with flowery language, crazy coincidences, scheming courtiers, doomed romances, and more. \$18–20, 415-474-8935, [improv.org](#)

SHN: Rent
Tue.–Sun., Feb. 7–19
SHN Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)
The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning reimaging of Puccini's La Bohème returns to the stage in a vibrant 20th anniversary touring production. \$45–\$214, 888-746-1719, [shnsf.com](#)

DANCE



Nancy Karp & Dancers: Memory Place

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 10–12
B. Way Theater (3153 17th St.)
This world premiere is inspired by the current era of human mass migration and accompanied by award-winning musicians with large-format abstract paintings as the scenic design. \$30–\$45, 415-863-6606, [odc.dance](#)

S.F. Ballet: Frankenstein
Various days, Feb. 17–26
War Memorial Opera House
Liam Scarlett, the youngest choreographer ever to have a full-length ballet commissioned by The Royal Ballet, helms this darkly beautiful and adult exploration of Mary Shelley's Gothic classic. \$35–\$398, 415-865-2000, [sfballet.org](#)

MUSIC

Lang Lang in Recital
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
The international piano phenomenon brings his trademark showmanship and heartfelt artistry to Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor, considered one of the composer's greatest works for solo piano. The program also includes Falla's Danza ritual del fuego and selections from Granados' Goyescas. \$69–\$195, 415-864-4000, [sfsymphony.org](#)

Dianne Reeves
Thu.–Sun., Feb. 16–19, 7:30 p.m.
Miner Auditorium, SFJazz
The multiple Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist returns for her signature intimate concerts. \$30–\$185, 888-920-5299, [sfjazz.org](#)

25th Annual Noise Pop Music & Arts Festival
Daily, Feb. 17–27
Various S.F. & Oakland locations
S.F.'s favorite indie music, arts, and film festival that explores the intersection of music and art, returns with art gallery shows, happy hours, and much more. \$175–\$375 (all-access), [noisepop.com](#)

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MASQUERADE BALL: Festa di Carnevale

Saturday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.
Museo Italo Americano (Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center)
The Museo Italo Americano presents an evening of costumes, music, dancing, and fun: music by D.J. Peter Haley, typical Carnevale treats, no-host bar, silent auction, and raffle. Costumes encouraged, masks will be provided, and prize for best costume! \$75 (Museo members), \$100 (nonmembers), RSVP to 415-673-2200 or [info@sfmuseo.org](#).

NIGHTLIFE

The Speakeasy
Thu.–Sun. in February, 8 p.m. (5 p.m. on Sundays)
A discreet S.F. location
The Speakeasy recreates an authentic Prohibition-era club, complete with illicit bar, crooked casino, and back-room cabaret. Inside its maze of subterranean rooms unfolds a fully immersive theatrical experience involving more than 35 actors, chorus girls and croupiers, busboys and bouncers, and a host of vaudeville acts. \$85–\$110, 415-891-9744, [thespeakeasysf.com](#)

Because Techno
Friday, Feb. 10, 9 p.m.–3 a.m.
Public Works (161 Erie St.)
Because there's plenty of house music. Because not all techno is nosebleed. Because people want to dance! Do you need a better reason? With Alicia, Smoob, and K-NOS. \$10–\$15, 415-496-6738, [publicsf.com](#)

S.F. Beer Week Nightlife
Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.
California Academy of Sciences
Taste your way through the Bay Area's master brewers and distillers to learn all you can about the tastiest microbrews around. Ages 21 and up, \$12–\$15, 415-379-8000, [calacademy.org](#)

FILMS & LECTURES

S.F. Indie Fest
Daily, Feb. 2–16
Various S.F. venues
The 19th San Francisco Independent Film Festival presents 50 films of all types showing the creativity and quality of the independent film scene. \$55 (5 tickets), \$105 (10 tickets), \$200 (all-access pass), 415-552-5580, [sfindie.com](#)

Berlin & Beyond Film Festival
Daily, Feb. 3–8
Various Bay Area venues
It's the 21st year for this popular festival that showcases films from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. \$10 (individual films), \$100–\$240 (priority pass), \$500 (silver package), \$1,000 (gold package), 415-263-8760, [goethe.de/sanfrancisco](#)

A Valentine's Day Call-to-action for the Baby Boomer Generation
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)
Boomers came of age wanting to make a difference in the world. John Tarnoff and Marc Freedman will explain how Boomers are redefining late-life careers. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Mostly British Film Festival
Daily, Feb. 16–23
Vogue Theatre (3290 Sacramento St.)
From the poignant *The Daughter* to the classic *A Hard Day's Night*, this film festival features movies from the U.K., Ireland, Australia, India, South Africa, and New Zealand. \$12.50–\$15 (individual tickets), \$150–\$175 (festival pass), mostlybritish.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Our Constitution, Our Climate, Our Kids: Is There a Right not to Be Harmed by Climate Change?
Thursday, Feb. 9, 6 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)
Go behind the scenes of a movement of young people using lawsuits to require governments to implement plans to phase out pollution in line with science. \$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Full-Spectrum Science: The Last Doubling
Thursday, Feb. 23, 6–10 p.m.
The Exploratorium (Pier 15)
Exploratorium scientist Ron Hipschman examines the growth of the human population on Earth, the exponential function, and the conclusions we can draw from it. Ages 18 and up, Free–\$15, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

65th Pacific Orchid & Garden Exposition
Fri.–Sun., Feb. 24–26
Hall of Flowers, S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.)
The largest orchid show on the West Coast features more than 100,000 blooms and promises to be a showstopper. Events include docent tours, potting demonstrations, and more plus a diverse variety of orchids for sale. \$11–\$30, orchidsanfrancisco.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony
Saturday, Feb. 4, 3–5 p.m.
Western Addition Branch Library
In recognition of Black History Month, experience a presentation of a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Lecture and tasting follows. All ages, free, 415-355-5727

Food from the Heart 2017
Friday, Feb. 10, 5–7:30 p.m.
Ferry Building
Shop and stroll to music while sampling seasonal hors d'oeuvres and local wine. Proceeds benefit Slow Food San Francisco. \$2–\$6 (bites); \$4 (wine), 415-846-6396, slowfoodsanfrancisco.com

A Library of Libations: Winter Cocktails of the Farmers Market
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 5:30–8 p.m.
Grand Hall, Ferry Building
Sip on literary-inspired libations and devour bookish bites from some of the Bay Area's hottest bartenders and chefs. From *A Tale of Two Citruses* to *Infinite Zest*, the novel use of winter produce will make for a page-turning celebration of books, booze, and the bounty of the winter farmers market. Includes three full-sized cocktails. \$60, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

Save the Whales Almanac Sourfest
Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.
Gallery 308, Fort Mason Center
Featuring more than 40 rare and special beers, the festival focuses on sour- and barrel-aged rarities paired with food from local restaurants. \$75, almanacbeer.com

SF Noir Wine and Food Event
Daily, Feb. 23–26
Various S.F. venues
This unique culinary event celebrating the best in Black and Southern-inspired cuisine from eminent Bay Area chefs returns for Black History Month. Last year's event featured chef demos, a wine-tasting forum, jazz brunch, and more. Visit website for pricing and schedule. sfnoir.org

SPORTS & HEALTH

24th Annual KNBR Giants FanFest
Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
AT&T Park
Join the fun with player Q. and A.s, viewing of the World Series trophies, free player autographs, photo ops, a kids' zone, and more. Roam the field and meet players while KNBR broadcasts from home plate. Free, 415-972-2000, sfgiants.com

Fort to Fort 10K
Sunday, Feb. 12, 9–10:30 a.m.
Starts: Great Meadow, Fort Mason
Run this flat, scenic route from Fort Mason to Fort Point and back. \$5, 415-978-0837, dserunner.com

The Great S.F. Crystal Fair
Sat.–Sun., Feb. 25–26, 10 a.m.
Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center
A magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, jewelry, and the healing arts features over 40 vendors, while psychics bring their cards and aura cameras. \$12, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

CHILD'S PLAY

Chinese New Year Concert
Saturday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Rooster at this family event that includes a pre-concert festival reception (3 p.m.) with lion dancing, entertainment, and more before a diverse concert featuring an Eastern and Western repertoire (4 p.m.). \$15–\$76, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org

Carnival
Sat.–Sun., Feb. 4–19
Eureka Theatre
This revival of the Broadway musical gem from 1961 is based on the 1953 film *Lili*, starring Leslie Caron and features 43 young performers, ages 9–14. Proceeds from the Feb. 19 performance (\$40) benefit the S.F. Arts Education Project. \$25, 415-392-4400, cityboxoffice.com

Sponsored _____



Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp

Saturday, Feb.25, 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
A fun musical about a young boy, Aladdin, and his monkey, who outsmart a powerful magician to win the hand of Princess Jasmine. Hop aboard a magic carpet and join us in ancient Arabia as Aladdin meets Genies and a Dragon on his magical journey! Great for children of all ages. \$15, ctasf.org, facebook.com/ctasf

Marcus Shelby Orchestra
Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.
SFJazz
In honor of Black History Month, the orchestra celebrates the musical stories of the Underground Railroad, and honors the memory of one of history's most important champions of freedom: Harriet Tubman. \$5–\$15, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

CREATURE FEATURES

Coats for Cubs
Daily through April 22, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Buffalo Exchange (1555 Haight St. & 1210 Valencia St.)
Give your furs back to the animals! Used furs will be donated to rehabilitation organizations across the country to use for bedding and comfort to orphaned and injured wildlife. 415-431-7733, 415-647-8332, coatsforcubs.org, buffaloexchange.com

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. For sponsored listings, call 415-815-8081.

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Children's Theatre of San Francisco Presents

Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp

SATURDAYS
January 28, February 25, March 11
10:30 am and 1pm

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Presented at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
3301 Lyon St.,San Francisco

Tickets \$15
(service charge included)
For tickets and information
visit www.ctasf.org
or call (415) 248-2677
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Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Englewood, Colorado
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Top Producers ∴ Best of the best

Movers and shakers

Showcasing San Francisco's real estate top producers

SEVERAL THOUSAND homes were bought and sold last year in San Francisco, and the California Association of Realtors expects home sales to increase slightly in 2017. The local market remains very competitive, and convoluted for many, so buyers and sellers are relying on local real estate agents to provide the market expertise to guide them.

San Francisco boasts many great real estate agents. Those who perform at the top of the field are called top producers; this issue we present five of San Francisco's top producers.

ANNIE WILLIAMS



Annie Williams
Hill & Co. Real Estate
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awilliams@hill-co.com
anniewilliamshomes.com

Years in real estate: 14

Your most memorable sale: Honestly, every sale is memorable, because it means so much to the buyer or seller I'm representing. The purchase or sale of a home is literally life-changing, and it's always gratifying to be a part of that process.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: No two properties are the same, and the buyers and sellers I meet are a diverse and interesting group of people.

When and why did you get into real estate: I had much success in the corporate world, but as a new mother I wanted a more flexible schedule. I have always been entrepreneurial and wanted to run my own business and control my own destiny in a career that did not involve travel.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: To do my best every day on every deal, don't be lazy, and don't be careless. Take the long-term approach — it takes a long time to build a

reputation and only a minute to ruin it.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a home: Trust your agent and follow their advice. They do this every day and you don't.

Your hobbies: Many sports, reading, traveling, cooking/entertaining, watching my kids play sports, watching the Warriors, and attending theater.

DAVID BILLINGS

Years in real estate: 30

Your most memorable sale: Two stand out: sold the highest-priced single-family home in San Francisco in 2014, and successfully negotiated for my clients against 27 competing offers.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: The people and their diversity, our entire market is a 7x7 land mass and there are no two properties the same.

When and why did you get into real estate: After practicing as a CPA and an attorney, it was inevitable because my mother was a very successful real estate agent on the East Coast and my father was a developer; therefore real estate is in my blood.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: I'm only as good as my last transaction, and I pride myself in making sure all my clients feel like they are my only client. It has been my passion from the beginning and still puts a lift in my step.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a home: Work with a competent broker and take their advice.

Your hobbies: Photography, movies, travel, hanging



David Billings
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out with my dog and my wife, who says that work might as well be my hobby.

REBECCA SCHUMACHER



Rebecca Schumacher
Sotheby's International Realty
415-928-3800
rebecca.schumacher@sothebyshomes.com
schumacherproperties.com

Years in real estate: Over a decade.

Your most memorable sale: That's a tough one to answer. In 2016, it was 3741 Broderick (3741broderick.com). I had met the now-late owner a few years ago after her husband passed away, and helped with a valuation for the estate. After she passed, her heirs contacted me. I competed for their listing and was chosen based on my top-notch resources for preparing the property in combination with Sotheby's International Realty's unsurpassed brand and truly global reach. The home had wonderful bones, and we went to work with those. The transformation was exhilarating, and it sold for \$5.1 million on a list price of \$4.95 million in record time. Everyone was happy. The buyers will have a "forever home."

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: The people and the architecture. My mother said I was conceived, but not born, here and after over 30 years in San Francisco (most of it in the Marina), this community is deep in my soul.

When and why did you get into real estate: After years of renovating properties while enjoying corporate leadership positions, I decided to dedicate myself to working with the only

MOVERS, continued on 18



The City's Best in 2016

Congratulations to all of our top producers!



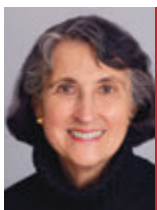
Annie Williams
#1 Top Producer



John Woodruff III
#2 Top Producer



Meagan Levitan
#3 Top Producer



Joan Gordon
#1 Team



David Cohen
#1 Team



Stephanie Ahlberg



Lee Bender



Thomas Cooke



Donna Cooper



John Dallas



Eva A. Daniel



Travis Hale



Marilyn Hayes



Elaine Larkin



Michelle Long



Lowrie MacLean



Marcus Miller



Sheri Mitchell



Grace Shohet



Robert Vernon



Dianne Weaver



Sandra Bagnatori



Scott Brittain



Ron Wong



Mike Tekulsky

To see Hill & Co.'s 2016 San Francisco Real Estate 4th Quarter Report, please visit <http://bit.ly/2jMsYCG>



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

SF DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

The annual citywide Summer Resource Fair is coming up on Saturday, March 11 from 10am to 2pm at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park. The Summer Resource Fair is a free, family-oriented event that showcases the multitude of summer programs and other opportunities for young people in and around San Francisco. This year the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families will bring in 200 exhibitors from summer programs, camps, and classes for every age group, from toddlers to teens to teenagers. The Recreation and Park Department will host their rock climbing wall, sports stations, and arts & crafts activities, the San Francisco Public Library will give away books, and there will be food trucks, entertainment, and more! Please visit www.dcyf.org for more information about the Summer Resource Fair, or call Emily Davis at 415-554-8991.

Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)

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

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings February and March 2017 Meetings

- February 7
- February 14
- February 28
- March 7
- March 14
- March 21

There will be no scheduled meetings on February 21 and March 28.

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-2967269#

Movers

continued from page 16

product I truly love — homes. I had been matching senior corporate positions with senior executives while running my own retained executive search firm. Now I match senior executives and properties. So much more satisfying!

Your philosophy or approach in your work: My team and I are all about client service. There’s nothing more satisfying than making a listing shine to attract the very best buyers, or handing over the keys to a client after an arduous and creative search.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a home: The difference a seasoned, intelligent, and market-savvy Realtor can make in their outcome. It makes all the difference in the world. Buyers are exposed to properties that are exceptional and not yet known to the public. I provide the invaluable vision for how a house can be transformed into their home. Sellers enjoy the maximized returns from a home prepared and positioned for exactly the right target market, with the look, advertising, and even the marketing copy tailored to that segment. It’s not just about features, size, room count. It’s about the satisfying lifestyle a home can provide.

Your hobbies: Entertaining at home with my husband, a now retired renowned restaurateur. Listening to jazz; travel to new places in the world.

ROBIN HUBINSKY



Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

Robin Hubinsky

Zephyr Real Estate
415-939-4028
rhubinsky@hotmail.com
robinhubinsky.com

Years in real estate: 15

Your most memorable sale: Many are memorable, because each deal is unique; but one that stands out was a building that I sold in the Mission. The building had great bones and a lot of deferred maintenance, but offered at a price that

fit my client’s budget. We had to negotiate mandatory repairs in order to get financing with a seller that did not have any liquid capital to do any repairs, find a way to structure that component of the deal, get the work done, and close the deal. And we did. There was cooperation all the way around — agents, buyers, sellers all working to close the deal. Ten years later, I got to sell the building again. It came full circle. I felt good to be a part of the whole process from beginning to end. I drive by the building often, like many that I have sold, and feel like they are old friends that I can share and tell stories about.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: The different types of housing, the city development/building cycles, and neighborhoods make my job enjoyable. I learn about the topography, demographics and variety of people, and history of the city. Each place and transaction has a story.

When and why did you get into real estate: I got my real estate license in 2002 because I was interested in architecture, building, and history, plus it allowed me to explore the city that I loved and has always been my home. The added bonus was possibly making a living doing it on my own terms. Once I got the bug, I was hooked. I felt it was important to bring a sense of hope, professionalism, and superb customer service to the process for clients, along with a belief that no matter who you are, real estate is more than just a building, it is about community, stability, and financial opportunities, and that each transaction no matter how big or small deserves the same service and attention.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: Patience, professionalism, and listening are a given, but a determination to exceed clients’ expectations, along with having a stellar reputation among my colleagues and the ability to navigate the nuances of each deal drives me. I have no ego in the game. I am driven to be known for my integrity to do right by my clients, and for that my success has resulted in their trust and continued support.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a home: How long it might take to buy a home and how emotional it is to sell a home. It is not easy, compromises are always part of the process, but the journey is a rewarding one.

Your hobbies: Reading, exploring all of the city parks, supporting families and children in San Francisco, going to Camp Mather.

SHAMERAN ANDERER



BARBAGELATA
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Shameran Anderer

Barbagelata Real Estate
415-297-9791
shameran@realestatesf.com
realestatesf.com

Years in real estate: 27

Your most memorable sale: I was fortunate to represent buyers in one of the most unique properties in all of San Francisco called The Lighthouse on Dolores Street. Extraordinary renovation of a former church. It was one of the highest condo sales ever in the city, making it historic in many ways.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: Our neighborhoods are little cities within our city. Architecturally, demographically, the restaurant scene, parks, views, shopping list, etc. It’s never boring showing property in this great town.

When and why did you get into real estate: I have always been intrigued by all the wonderful aspects of helping people realize their dreams and purchasing a home or benefiting from a great sales experience. As a teenager I worked with my husband and Paul Barbagelata for John Barbagelata’s brokerage in the mid-80s. We would help clean and prepare homes for sale as a part-time job. I definitely was exposed to all aspects of the business before making this a full-time career.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: Always be available, prioritize your clients’ needs as you would your own, and most of all be a good listener.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a home: Understand the emotional roller coaster that is associated with selling your personal home or becoming a buyer in a competitive market. I always talk through all of the scenarios that could come up in an intense transaction (good and bad). There’s nothing like empowering clients with knowledge before it actually happens to them.

Your hobbies: Cook, travel, and experience the great restaurants in the city.

Compiled by John Zipperer.
E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

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The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: December 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	2810 Laguna Street	2BD/2BA	\$2,250,000	Above	20
Lake	4639 California Street	3BD/3BA	\$2,350,000	Above	10
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	2225 Bay Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,550,000	Below	49
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2319 Washington Street 2476 Broadway	4BD/3.5BA 6BD/7BA	\$3,905,000 \$18,100,000	Above Below	8 168
Presidio Heights	3941 Sacramento Street 3810 Washington Street	4BD/2.5BA 4BD/3BA	\$2,025,000 \$3,775,000	Below Below	110 69
Russian Hill (no sales)					
Sea Cliff	54 Seaview Terrace 2740 Lake Street 269 29 th Avenue	6BD/4BA 3BD/3.5BA 3BD/2BA	\$5,600,000 \$3,650,000 \$2,300,000	Above At Below	21 25 20
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2134 Filbert Street 3026 Laguna Street 1861 Filbert Street	1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 4BD/3.5BA	\$675,000 \$1,250,000 \$2,800,000	Above Above Below	49 28 69
Lake (no sales)					
Laurel Heights	117 Palm Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$1,995,000	At	84
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	1734 Bay Street #106 1921 Jefferson Street #105 1655 Chestnut Street #302 126 Mallorca Way 3515 Pierce Street 1572 Chestnut Street 1307 Bay Street #2 3419 Scott Street 2136 Beach Street	2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/2BA	\$825,000 \$1,188,000 \$1,300,000 \$1,400,000 \$1,425,000 \$1,450,000 \$1,830,000 \$2,200,000 \$2,575,000	Below Below Below Above Above Above Below At Below	35 73 42 34 44 22 32 0 28
Nob Hill	1108 Pacific Avenue 1177 California Street #1533 1350 California Street #304 1120 Broadway 10 Miller Place #1801 1101 Pacific #501	2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$659,000 \$930,000 \$1,060,000 \$1,225,000 \$1,665,000 \$1,775,000	Below Above Above Above Below Below	73 14 34 0 38 57
North Beach	600 Chestnut Street #404	2BD/2BA	\$1,250,000	Above	37
Pacific Heights	2544 Washington Street 2999 California Street #314 2029 Pierce Street #201 2295 Vallejo Street #308 3045 Jackson Street #203 1840 Washington St. #403 1650 Broadway #406 2400 Webster Street #6 2882 Jackson Street 1701 Broadway #4 3172 Sacramento Street 1835 Franklin Street #102 1859 Green Street 2144 Broderick 3252 Clay 2326 California 3228 Washington 2003 Broadway Street 2459 Buchanan Street 2855 Jackson Street #301 1650 Broadway #501 3234 Washington Street #5 2121 Webster Street #107	0BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 4BD/3BA 3BD/2BA 4BD/3BA 3BD/2BA 4BD/3BA 3BD/2.5BA 4BD/4BA 3BD/3.5BA	\$516,000 \$605,000 \$813,000 \$880,000 \$1,015,000 \$1,050,000 \$1,160,000 \$1,287,000 \$1,490,000 \$1,560,000 \$1,575,000 \$1,575,000 \$1,700,000 \$1,700,000 \$1,875,000 \$2,000,000 \$2,049,000 \$2,300,000 \$2,395,000 \$2,495,000 \$2,550,000 \$2,744,757 \$3,595,000	Below At Above Below Below Above At Below Below Below Above Above Below Above Below Above At Below Below At At Below Below At	14 69 19 19 145 20 166 39 62 54 7 12 42 6 68 32 25 53 152 56 33 217 0
Presidio Heights	3439 Sacramento St. #402 3369 Jackson Street	3BD/2BA 3BD/3BA	\$2,245,750 \$3,100,000	Below Above	40 15
Russian Hill	1933 Jones Street #1993b 1000 North Point Street #1107 2 Fallon Place #53 2444 Leavenworth Street 1080 Chestnut Street #3C 1090 Chestnut Street #6	3BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2.5BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/3.5BA	\$850,000 \$1,035,000 \$1,650,000 \$2,500,000 \$3,450,000 \$8,825,000	Above Below Above Above Above Below	56 0 70 7 31 31
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	36 Vareness Street 126 Pfeiffer Street #2 186 Francisco Street #1	2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA	\$815,000 \$920,000 \$2,180,000	Above Above Below	72 28 31

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 : Housing news

Gov. Brown keeps on the pressure

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

GOVERNOR BROWN AGAIN TARGETS HOUSING COSTS

While unveiling a budget that he called “the most difficult that we have faced since 2012,” California Gov. Jerry Brown also let state legislators know that he was keeping his tough line on housing development and affordability. The governor killed any hopes that he would increase spending on affordable housing without a deal.

Instead, Brown once again put the focus on attempts to make it easier to build homes and lower costs for creating low-income housing. “What we can do is cut the red tape, cut the delays, cut whatever expenses we can afford to do without to make housing more affordable and therefore increase the stock and therefore hopefully bring down the costs,” he said at an early January press conference.

Last year, the governor proposed reducing local interference and the associated costs that slowed and even prevented developing new housing in the state’s cities; as long as the housing met certain affordability targets and some other goals, those projects would be fast-tracked for approval. Brown had promised to spend \$400 million more on affordable housing if the legislature approved his plan, but legislators rejected it.

In November, Los Angeles residents approved a measure that would impose affordability requirements on developers seeking exemptions from planning rules, but Santa Monica rejected a measure that would have required a citywide vote for each and every development more than three stories in height.

\$920,000 FOR A FIXER-UPPER

Paragon Real Estate had some good news, bad news in its 2016 year-end market recap. The good news is that fixer-upper single-family homes are still relative bargains — as they should be, because by definition they need further investment and work. Ranked among a number of factors that can reduce a home’s sales price, being a fixer-upper was second to last, with only a tenant occupied home forcing a bigger discount.

The bad news? The median sales price for a fixer-upper home in San Francisco was \$920,000. Savvy buyers should look for a fixer-upper that is also tenant occupied. Paragon said that fixer-uppers still sold at an average of 15 percent above their listing prices. Probate sales and homes without parking were also price-reducers. The median sales price for all San Francisco homes in 2016 was \$1,325,000, according to Paragon; for other properties, the median sales prices were \$1,095,000 for condos, \$1,378,500 for co-ops, and \$939,000 for TICs.

SAN FRANCISCO RENTS DROP 4.9 PERCENT

No one was surprised to see a headline in December that Bay Area housing prices had reached record heights. But “San Francisco Prices Decreased 4.9% in 2016” was probably not a headline many people expected to see. But in fact both headlines are real.

Real estate website Zumper reports that though San Francisco was still the



Gov. Jerry Brown renewed his push to increase housing development in California. PHOTO: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SACRAMENTO DISTRICT

nation’s most expensive rental market at the end of 2016, “the median price of one-bedroom units in the city has cooled off substantially, down 4.9 percent since this time last year.”

Rents were still climbing in some neighborhoods, such as Bayview, the Marina, Telegraph Hill, Glen Park, and Outer Richmond, among others. But Cow Hollow, Pacific Heights, North Beach, Russian Hill, Nob Hill, and other neighborhoods all experienced rental price drops.

SHEEHY REPLACES HOUSING ADVOCATE WIENER

Following District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener’s election to the state senate, Mayor Ed Lee appointed Jeff Sheehy to fill his seat. The replacement on the board of Wiener, a policy wonk who strongly backed developing more housing at all levels, has housing activists of all stripes watching to see if the city’s policies change.

In accepting the position, Sheehy signaled some degree of continuity, saying, “It is a privilege to follow Senator Wiener, and I hope to build on his legacy and his outstanding leadership on housing, transportation, and public safety.” Sheehy is a longtime activist in the city, working on HIV/AIDS, victims’ advocacy, and LGBT rights issues. He lives in Glen Park.

LONGER ON THE MARKET

The number of days it takes to sell a home in San Francisco has gone up, rising from a low of 22 days in September 2016 to a high of 70 in December, according to the National Association of Realtors.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Billions of neurons, hundreds of billions of interconnections, can process more than 2 million bits of information in one second. Any brain can do that. ... If you learn one new fact every second, it would take you more than 3 million years to challenge the capacity of your brain. ... There’s an assumption you can only do one thing and that we have these very limited brains and they’re incapable of learning anything else. I find that a tad humorous.”

—Dr. Ben Carson explaining his capabilities to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

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



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Urban Home and Garden : Plan now

Emergency preparations

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

MANY OF US DON'T think about our emergency preparations until there is a natural disaster somewhere in the world. Besides earthquakes, which we are all aware can occur at any time, we can experience power outages during even mild rainstorms. A major earthquake could leave us without electricity for days at a time. Once a year, it is a smart idea to make sure your emergency kits are up to date.

LIGHTING

It is important to have backup lighting sources available. Have a working flashlight on hand in every room of the house, if possible, and for every family or household member (see below).

LED lighting: Battery-operated LED lighting is much safer than lit candles during an emergency or power outage, as well as for lighting under a cabinet or in a dark closet or hallway. Peel-and-stick lights are ideal for providing light during outages. With the many options of lanterns, flashlights, and headlamps available these days, there is no reason for candles, which can be dangerous. Review your home and work emergency kits and update if necessary.

Personal flashlights: All family members and coworkers should have easy access to a flashlight, which should be checked regularly. Compact flashlights can be kept in a purse, backpack, or desk drawer for easy access. There are also flashlights with magnetic backs that can be kept on a refrigerator. Make sure to keep a flashlight or small lantern in a nightstand or under the bed to grab in the middle of the night.

Area lighting: Dedicated area-type lanterns can be set on a high shelf and illuminate a large space. This will allow you to perform tasks or play a board game with the family while the power is out.

Headlamps: A well-fitting headlamp makes it a lot easier to read, cook, or perform any task because your hands are free. Many headlights offer various settings and pivoting lights.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Regardless of whether your home has a fully prepared emergency kit in

Make sure you are prepared for any likely emergency.

the event of an earthquake, power outage, or other disaster, the following items are basic essentials that everyone should keep on hand.

Gas/water shutoff tools: Keep the gas shutoff wrench near your gas meter for quick access, and know how to use it if you have a leak. There are three ways you can tell if you have a gas leak: smell — natural gas has a rotten-egg smell; listen — you might hear a hissing sound; and look — if the unnumbered wheels on your gas meter are spinning rapidly, this could indicate a leak. If you do have to shut off your gas because of a suspected leak, only PG&E can turn it back on.

Water: Keep at least one gallon of water per person per day on hand to last for three days.

Radio: A battery-operated radio will keep you informed of what is happening. The Red Cross-approved Eton radio has a rechargeable battery that is solar- or crank-charged. They even contain flashlights and phone chargers, too.

Food and can opener: Canned foods that are easy to prepare are good as an emergency food source and have a long shelf life. Don't forget to have a good hand-operated can opener on hand as well. (Make sure your canned-food supply is food you actually like. Those old cans of split pea soup or garbanzo beans might not look so tasty.)

First-aid kit: In addition to a basic first-aid kit, also keep a supply of your prescription medications.

Batteries: Make sure you are well stocked with batteries for flashlights and radios. Batteries do have a shelf life, so keep your supply fresh.

Backup phone charger: Many households do not have landline telephones these days, so if we're out of power for an extend-

ed period of time, your phone charge may run out.

Cash: ATMs will probably not work and retailers might not be able to accept credit or debit cards.

GET YOUR NERT TRAINING

The NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) training program teaches people how to deal with a major disaster. NERT was developed by the San Francisco Fire Department in response to concerned citizens who, as a result of the 1989 earthquake, discovered they had no knowledge or skills to deal with a major disaster. The goal of the NERT training program is to help San Franciscans be self-sufficient in a major disaster situation by developing multifunctional teams, cross-trained in basic emergency skills. Individuals learn hands-on disaster skills that will help them as members of an emergency response team or as a leader directing untrained volunteers during an emergency. The 20-hour comprehensive program consists of six class sessions lasting approximately three hours each. Instructors are professional firefighters. There is no cost for neighborhood training classes. For information on NERT and to find out about the next class in your San Francisco neighborhood, see sfgov.org/site/sfnert.

AND, FINALLY ...

Make sure all members of your family know where the emergency kit is stored. Also, make a plan on what to do in the event that an earthquake happens during the day, when most folks are at work and children are at school. Review your plan on a regular basis.

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

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Families can sign up to send homemade Valentines to seniors across the country at DoSomething.org. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

A new meaning of Valentine’s Day

BY LIZ FARRELL

VALENTINE’S DAY TAKES ON A whole new meaning once you have children. Although I do believe celebrating as a couple is important, finding a babysitter and a dinner reservation for Feb. 14 can be difficult. So plan your date night for another night around the actual day, and use Feb. 14 to celebrate or do something fun as a family. It’s a good occasion to make memorable traditions and a wonderful opportunity to create more love in your family, especially between or among siblings. Here are a few fun ideas that will have everyone in your family feeling the love:

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Make the day special with little touches that let everyone know this is a special day. Make a special breakfast with heart-shaped pancakes or pink smoothies. For lunch, add a little note in your child’s and spouse’s lunchbox letting them know how much you love them and why. For dinner, plan a special family-favorite meal and eat by candlelight with cloth napkins. Have everyone share three reasons each family member is loved. These can also be written using a separate sheet of paper for each person. Younger children might need some help, but given the chance, they sometimes come up with the most honest and heartfelt responses.

One of my favorite activities is a family scavenger hunt after dinner. The kids can help make and hide the clues that include notes of love and appreciation or homemade coupons for extra chores or even hugs. End the evening with a new book your family can read together or a sweet treat for everyone to enjoy.

FAMILY DATE NIGHT

If going out is more your preference, plan a fun family night with something you wouldn’t normally do so it feels special. This could include a family-favorite restaurant — and these tend to be a little easier to get reservations for on Valentine’s night.

Other family date night ideas include going to a museum like the DeYoung or the Academy of Sciences, or if you prefer something more active, maybe it’s a night at the bowling alley. We recently did this as a family and had so much fun. With bumpers and light balls, even our 4-year-old could play along and enjoy. It created

a little bit of a competitive spirit and lots of laughs.

The night can be as simple as going to the bookstore and everyone getting a new book and then sharing the choices. It could also be attending a sporting event at the local high school or college. These tickets are less expensive than professional sports tickets, and there is probably something close to home.

SPREAD THE LOVE

A great way to spend Valentine’s Day is not just by spreading love to each other but as a family spreading love to others. This is a simple and effective way to teach your children the importance of giving back and how sometimes even the simplest things can make someone’s day. Most of us must bring Valentines for our children’s classes, so have your child make a few extra and send them to older relatives, especially ones whose spouse has passed away. Valentine’s Day can be tough on those who have lost a loved one, so it’s nice to let them know they are being thought of.

We recently discovered a great organization, DoSomething.org (dosomething.org/us/campaigns/love-letters-challenge). They have a love letter campaign where you can sign up to send homemade Valentines to seniors across the country. Also, many local hospitals and nursing homes have programs where you can drop off Valentines.

Another group often forgotten around Valentine’s Day is our veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has a program every February around Valentine’s Day where volunteers can contact their local VA medical centers for information on distributing Valentines and other ways to show our veterans love and support.

Before children, Valentine’s Day possibly had a different meaning and was marked by dinner, flowers, and a box of chocolates. Now that you have children, it can still be a special day. Sometimes, it is as simple as remembering to say “I love you” despite the hustle and bustle of daily life. I hope this Valentine’s Day holds a romantic dinner and box of chocolates for you, but I also hope one of these ideas inspires you and your family to celebrate together and create a new meaning of Valentine’s Day.

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

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