# MarinaTimes



#### **Spring Spruce-up**

Make a change with new paint, p. 16 Clean out the old, in with the new, p. 22



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Claude Monet, *Houses by the Zaan at Zaandam*, 1871. Oil on canvas, 47.5 x 73.5 cm (20 1/4 x 28 1/2 in).

## Monet: The Early Years at the Legion of Honor

BY SHARON ANDERSON

HROUGH MAY 29, THE Legion of Honor will feature approximately 60 paintings representing Claude Monet's formative period as a painter. From 1858 to 1872, Monet honed his distinctive style that would help define the French Impressionist movement.

Rarely seen paintings representing Monet's early development will be on display, including *View near Rouelles* (1858, Marunuma Art Park, Asaka, Japan). Painted when Monet was only 18 years old, this work opens the show and is the first painting the artist ever exhibited. *An Oak at Bas-Breau (The Bodmer)* from 1865 is a stunning image of a gnarled tree bathed in dappled

light. This is only the second time this work has been shown publicly. *Luncheon on the Grass* (1865–66, Musée d'Orsay), one of the artist's early pleinair paintings, was inspired by Manet's controversial painting of the same name.

One of Monet's early large-scale figure paintings, *Luncheon*, depict-

THE ART WORLD, continued on 12

## Food trends 2017

Fast-casual concepts, Puerto Rican pique, and boozy brunches will dominate San Francisco restaurant trends

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

OOKING BACK AT MY CULINARY TREND PREDICtions for 2016, I was spot-on with the proliferation of poke bars, the more complex Korean chili paste gochujang replacing Sriracha as a chef favorite, and the increased popularity of farm-to-shop butchery. Let's see how I do with my 2017 predictions:

#### CAN I HAVE FRIES WITH THAT ROBOT? The high tech "fast casual" concept reigns supreme

In the Silicon Valley, fast casual has already overtaken sit-down restaurants, thanks to the latest tech boom. According to the *New York Times*, more than 70,000 square feet of Palo Alto retail and restaurant space became technology offices between 2008 and 2015, which now rent for more than \$7 per square foot. Restaurateurs are overwhelmed with narrow profit margins, skyrocketing rents, high fees, and a critical shortage of labor — sound familiar, San Francisco? That makes fast casual (food made with quality ingredients ordered from the counter) an appealing concept.

In Google's hometown of Mountain View, you can order a pizza at Zume that is cooked by robots.

FOOD TRENDS 2017, continued on 11

## THE BACK STORY

## Levis: The pants that changed the way the world dresses

BY ERNEST BEYL

#### U.S. PATENT NUMBER 139121

Jacob W. Davis, of Reno, Nevada, Assignor to himself and Levi Strauss & Company, of San Francisco, California. Improvement in Fastening Pocket-Openings: To all whom it may concern. Be it known that I, JACOB W. DAVIS, of Reno, county of Washoe and State of Nevada, have invented an Improvement in Fastening seams; and do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawing are sufficient to enable a person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvement without further invention or experiment. My invention relates to a fastening for pocket-openings whereby; the sewed seams are prevented from ripping or starting from frequent pressure or strain thereon; and it consists in the employment of a metal rivet or eyelet at each edge of the pocket-opening, to prevent the ripping of the seam at those points. The rivet or eyelet is so fastened in the seam as to bind the two parts of cloth which the seam unites together, so that it shall prevent the strain or pressure from coming upon the thread with which the seam is sewed.

THE BACK STORY, continued on 4



The only extant photo of the two-story Hindu temple of 1906, showing the auditorium entrance on Filbert Street. PHOTO: VEDANTA SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

## Original Hindu Temple in USA is overhauled after 111 years

BY PAUL W. LOVINGER

N ORNATE, MULTIDOMED house at 2963 Webster Street at Filbert, known as the first Hindu temple in the Western world, is being renovated. Dedicated Jan. 7, 1906, it avoided

the debacle that devastated San Francisco some three months later. It recovered from a malicious bombing in 1914. And it withstood the 1989 quake.

However, the effects of time, seismic precaution, and the man-

dates of municipal codes called for reconstruction of its interior. Among the problems were leaking water and earthquake vulnerability. In 1906 the structure had just two stories; two years later, it acquired a third story and new stresses. Its unique exterior now takes in up-to-date retrofitting, roofing, lighting, wiring, plumbing, heating, audiovisual aids, and other improvements.

The project at the "Old Temple" of the Vedanta Society of Northern California nears its end after more than two years of work, headed by Christopher's Construction of Elk Grove. Costs and financing are undisclosed.

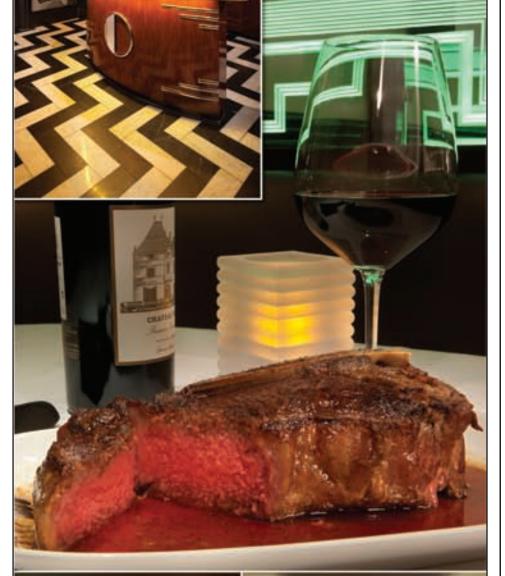
The reopening date depends on completion of the work. It was supposed to be finished in time for ceremonies on Oct. 29, but they were held anyway. Swamis came from far and near to worship at the old site and 320 people attended events at the "New Temple," 2323 Vallejo Street at Fillmore, Marianne Quinn, society secretary, related.

The Old Temple contains architectural elements of Hindu, Islamic, and Christian houses of worship plus a European castle, all superimposed on the Victorian residential style common in the early

HINDU TEMPLE, continued on 4



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#### **NEWS BRIEFS** Developers, tolls, and more

#### **Lombard neighbors meet with developer**

#### IS LOMBARD READY FOR THE BIG TIME?

Developing housing in San Francisco isn't easy for the developer or the neighbors. Case in point: Neighbors around a new Russian Hill development have met with the project's developer in the hope of learning more about its progress, hoping to reduce disruption, and ensure that their own properties don't suffer in the process. What started out as a potential legal mess looks like it could end in relative peace — if the communication is ongoing.

The project at the through-lot of 841 Chestnut Street to 950 Lombard Street includes extensive remodeling, additions, and shoring up of the hillside. Neighbor worries include possible damage to down-hill properties from disturbing the hillside to the large number of trucks parked near the property, causing noise pollution and creating street congestion.

Neighbor Christine Noren became concerned by the project, which involves the remodeling of two houses on the property with what she says is a total potential sale price of up to \$35 million. "I don't know that there's a villain here, but this is an example that this is a very out-of-scale project for our neighborhood," she said.

"The project has been enormously disruptive to the neighborhood," Noren told the Marina Times. "It's been going on for three years and counting." She said there are days when a dozen trucks are parked in the street making deliveries from 7 a.m. on. Another major concern was the stability of the hillside; with the developer planning to reinforce it with concrete and add a three-car underground garage, tennis court, and a cantilevered swimming pool, neighbors were worried about the potential damage to their homes if the hillside collapsed.

After a meeting of neighborhood residents and developer representatives in February, Noren sounded a bit optimistic. "I feel like they are taking us seriously and dealing with us," Noren said.

The developer, Troon Pacific, Inc., said it is "bringing a new life to the Willis Polk historic home, cottage and gardens at 950 Lombard — we are reconstructing a property that has been



San Francisco could be adding a toll system to drivers on Lombard's famous crooked street.

PHOTO: NICOLAS VIGIER

abandoned and unmaintained for approximately 20 years," the company said in a statement to the Marina Times. "We strive to achieve the highest degree of sustainability in our construction methods and, with respectful care, honor both the architectural history and the beautiful gardens and open space at the site. The project is pre-certified LEED Platinum and registered with the Living Building Challenge." Troon expects to complete the project by the end of this summer and are "confident that the finished product will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood".

#### DOG RULE ON HOLD

The National Park Service put a hold on new rules limiting the presence of dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. NPS said the move came in response to congressional requests for an extention before the Final Environmental Impact Statement is released.

#### CROOKED STREET TOLL COMING

Following the release of a report by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell announced his support for charging motorists a toll for driving on the famous swerving section of Lombard Street. The proposal would require state legislation to authorize a reservation and pricing system; Farrell is working with state Senator Scott Wiener on that legislation.

"With over two million people a year visiting the 'Crookedest Street," Farrell said, "this community and expert-driven approach is essential to maintaining public safety and ensuring that visitors can continue to enjoy this world-famous landmark for years to come."

In addition to the toll system, the Transporta-

tion Authority calls for better enforcement of existing laws, having professional tourism companies manage visitors, and improving signage and other infrastructure.

#### CRISSY FIELD PROMENADE FIX-UP

A \$5 million project to improve the Crissy Field Promenade is scheduled to kick off in the middle of this month and last through the summer. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area announced that visitors and locals enjoying the area should be prepared for detours as the work takes place in four phases.

The work includes replacing the current surface with one that the GGNRA says is "expected to perform better over time. This means a smoother, drier run, stroll, or bike for years to come."

Details and maps are available at go.nps.gov/crissypromenade.

#### FRANCISCO PARK TAKES SHAPE

Local residents got some insight into the new Francisco Park, which will replace the long-unused Francisco Reservoir, at an early February community meeting held by the Francisco Park Conservancy and San Francisco Recreation and Parks.

Conceptual sketches showed several different layouts, all including lots of open space. Results of a design survey showed that the most desired feature was a soccer field, but the space is not appropriate for a full-sized soccer field; instead, there will be space for soccer practice. Other concerns were an emphasis on safety and security, the presence of native plants, and having a dog run.

For more information, see franciscopark.org.

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#### FROM THE COVER

#### Hindu Temple

continued from cover

20th century. Initially a single tower topped the temple. The 1908 building, with the extra story — surrounded by a colonnaded, Moorish-style balcony — acquired five towers. The structure now gains a basement and a real foundation.

In 1914, Trigunatita

was preaching and

holding a copy of the

Bhagavad-Gita, when

a bomb exploded

at the rostrum.

"There was a small foundation, a foot or two at most, and it had deteriorated with time. In some places, we didn't see any foundation at all," said Swami Vedananda, of the society. "Now there is a reinforced concrete foundation,

following all the latest earthquake codes of the city." To allow digging for the foundation, the entire building was temporarily supported by steel beams. They had been slid through holes cut in the walls; cribbing supported the beams.

"We dug out a full floor," Greg Patterson, master carpenter, said proudly. "We stripped the building down, added steel frames, repaired all the plaster. ... It's top-to-bottom brand-new inside. We redid the cupolas. They were made of galvanized steel. Now they're copper."

#### THE SWAMIS AND THE UNIVERSE

Swami Trigunatita conceived the idea for the building and its design. Joseph A. Leonard, architect, put the concept in blueprints. Trigunatita was the society's third of 11 swamis, or religious teachers, all from India.

Trigunatita dedicated the temple to "the service of God ... for persons of all faiths ... to discover and realize that we are one; we are the children of one father. ..." He called it the first "Universal Hindu Temple in the West."

Swami Tattwamayananda, present head of the society, writes that the temple "was built as a symbol of the great Vedantic ideal that the ultimate reality is one and that every religion is an equally valid path leading to the same spiritual goal. ... The symbolism of temples, as well as all aspects of temple worship, are meant to help us to eventually realize the immanent presence of God in our own heart." Tattwamayananda calls Vedanta, to which Gandhi adhered, "Higher Hinduism." It is a philosophical system based on the Vedas, sacred Hindu writings.

The society is a branch of the Ramakrishna Math (order of monks) and Mission of West Bengal, India. Greeting the rededication, the president, Swami Atmasthananda, wrote, "Vedanta teaches that the ultimate truth is Oneness.' ... Although it is very difficult to grasp this Oneness behind the diversified universe, still it is the same consciousness that pervades everything. ..."

As Swami Vivekananda "Happiness belongs to him who knows this Oneness, who knows he is one with the universe." Vivekananda introduced Vedanta to America in 1893 at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago and

founded San Francisco's Vedanta Society in 1900. He died in India at 39.

Vedanta does not seek to convert people from their existing faiths. A bookstore at the New Temple sells volumes representing various religions. That temple, in use since 1959, houses the society's main office, monastery, convent, and 160-seat auditorium. The Old Temple seats about 95. Membership is placed at about 200.

#### THE MORTGAGE AND THE BOMBER

Vedantists were meeting in a rented house at 40 Steiner Street when Swami Trigunatita proposed their own building. Soon members raised money and bought a plot at Webster and Filbert Streets. Construction took under five

Trigunatita led a rigorous, ascetic life here for 12 years, though painful ailments developed. A jolly man, he made friends with neighbors and city elite. Among his temple innovations were a print shop; a monthly magazine, Voice of Freedom; and a monastery for young men. He led them in hymns and chants on the roof or by the harbor in early morning, surprising sailors and

Trigunatita added a third-floor apartment and balcony, hoping Swami Brahmananda, Ramakrishna president, would visit from India. He didn't. Some members thought the expansion unnecessary, feared foreclosure, and derided "Swami's palace."

Finances likely weighed on Trigunatita's mind, too. The society borrowed



The Old Temple at Webster and Filbert Streets, as recently renovated. What is green was formerly blue-gray. PHOTO: VEDANTA SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Trigunatita led a

rigorous, ascetic life

for 12 years. Among his

innovations were a print

shop, monthly magazine,

and monastery.

\$10,968 — an immense amount then including \$7,000 from a Mr. Juhl, at 6 percent for the land. Fortunately, a Los Angeles woman donated \$7,000. A version has an ill, elderly donor, assisted by a friend, walking in with a satchel con-

taining gold. A woman Vedantist gave \$900 anonymously. swami contributed \$2,500 from his savings, and the building was ultimately paid

Some call Trigunatita a martyr. On Dec. 27, 1914, he was

preaching on "The Divine Peace," holding a copy of the Hindu scripture Bhagavad-Gita, when a bomb exploded at the rostrum. The blast mortally wounded him, badly injured six followers, and killed the culprit, an insane ex-machinist from Oakland, who had hidden the bomb in his hat. He was formerly a Vedanta student, but Trigunatita knew of "no trouble between us."

Hearing the noise, firemen, stationed next door, rushed to aid the injured until ambulances arrived. Devotees vis-

> ited the hospitalized swami daily. He asked Mrs. C. F. Peterson to arrange repair (which was to take monks and members a year). On Jan. 10, 1915, 20 days before his fiftieth birthday, Trigunatita died. Many paid homage, including

Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish leaders. (Sources included interviews, Vedanta Society writings, and old newspapers.)

Paul W. Lovinger is a freelance writer, editor, and author in San Francisco. He has been a newspaper reporter for over 20 years. E-mail: words@mybluelight.com

#### The Back Story

#### **BLUE JEANS ON MARS**

What is it about blue jeans? Some are distressed with holes in the knees, and worn proudly by the hip, the hipsters, the hip-hoppers, and just plain folks. Blue jeans are the ubiquitous fashion statement, much like the little black dress and the boxer briefs. But, unlike the little black dress and boxer briefs, blue jeans are unisex and universal. Doubtless, when we colonize Mars, blue jeans will be the space uniform.

#### THE BAVARIAN IMMIGRANT

Levi Strauss was born in Buttenheim, Bavaria in 1829. When he was 17, he and his sisters immigrated to New York where two older brothers owned a wholesale dry goods business.

California Gold Rush, made his way to San Francisco. He founded his own wholesale dry goods business and also represented the family's New York firm.

That was the beginning of Levi Strauss & Company. It sold clothing, blankets, handkerchiefs, and other items to small general stores in the American West.

#### JACOB W. DAVIS **AND HIS RIVETS**

In 1872, or thereabouts, Jacob W. Davis,

a tailor, had invented a way of relieving stress on the pockets of what were then known as waist overalls. One day the wife of a local laborer in Reno asked the tailor to make a pair of pants for her husband that would not fall

Strauss learned the trade and apart from use. Davis came up applied for the patent and got stitched in white was placed in in 1853, filled with tales of the with the idea of placing metal it. The year was 1873, and that's the seam of the right back pocket. rivets at points of stress like the pocket corners and the bottom of the fly. The riveted pants were a success. So Davis began applying the rivets to the strain

> Davis needed a partner to help purchase the patent, and asked Levi Strauss to join him in the venture. Strauss was enthusiastic about the idea.

> > points, and he felt sure he could get a U.S. patent on the concept. He needed a partner to help purchase the patent, and asked Strauss to join him in the venture. Strauss was enthusiastic about the idea, and the pair

how Levi's blue jeans were born, almost 150 years ago.

#### THE CROTCH RIVET

Here are a few more significant dates in the Levi's saga.

1886: The two-horse logo was first branded onto the leather patch sewn onto the waist of the jeans.

1902: Strauss died at 73, and newspapers described him as a merchant philanthropist.

1906: The San Francisco earthquake and fire destroyed Levi Strauss & Company headquarters on San Francisco's Battery Street, which was rebuilt.

1936: The iconic small red tab with "Levi's" in capital letters

1937: The back pockets are sewn to cover the rivets in response to complaints they scratched furniture and sad-

1941: The crotch rivet was removed. The story goes like this: Levi's-clad cowboys crouching close to a campfire on cold nights received a painful shock when the crotch rivet heated and burned their private parts. That's the story anyway.

1960: The company replaced the word "overalls" with "jeans" on all labels.

Editor's note: This Back Story is adapted from a chapter in Ernest Beyl's new book, San Francisco Appetites and Afterthoughts: In Search of the Good Life by the Golden Gate, Grizzly Peak Press, 2016, \$17.95.

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**Police Blotter** From the officers of Northern Station

As of Feb. 9, 1,654

officers have been

trained and deployed

with cameras.

## The latest reports from the crime front

ETWEEN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER of 2016, homicides rose 125 percent of 2016, nonnetices rose 22 1 2 across the city, but they dropped 50 percent in the Northern District. Aggravated assaults were unchanged citywide but in our northern neighborhoods were up 40 percent. Burglaries were also up citywide (10 percent) with a small drop in the Northern District (3 percent). Otherwise, the news was largely positive on the crime front: Other categories reported by Northern Station were either unchanged

The following are some crime stats from November to December 2016 for the city

as a whole and for the Northern District respectively: rape (-62 percent, -60 percent), robbery (unchanged, -31 percent), auto thefts (-13 percent, unchanged), theft from vehicles (-21

percent, -12 percent), arson (-55 percent, -100 percent), and "other theft" (-18 percent, -11 percent).

In other news: The rollout of body cameras to the local police force continues. As of Feb. 9, 1,654 officers have been trained and deployed with cameras, according to the San Francisco Police Department. Those officers can be found in every district station, along with specialized and investigative units.

Body cameras — along with the still-absent Tasers — are a response to public concern over police-involved shootings and the inevitable conflicting statements of suspects and officers. The SFPD says it "is confident that as we complete department-wide implementation of body-worn cameras, both officers and the community will benefit from this valuable resource. Body worn cameras will result in increased transparency, improve police accountability with the public, increase the public's trust in officers, and protect officers from unjustified complaints of misconduct."

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

#### STAY AWAY

Nov. 10, 11:20 p.m. *Iones Street (at Market)* 

While searching for a wanted domestic violence suspect, uniformed patrol officers spotted two males who were pushing and yelling at each other on the street corner. They stopped and detained the men, who continued to yell and attempt to fight. They were separated, and the officers ran computer checks on them. Neither had any outstanding warrants, but one had a "stay-away" order for the area of Jones and Market Streets. That suspect was transported to Northern Station.

The two never divulged the reason for their fight, and neither wanted to press

#### **CAR BURGLARIZED**

Dec. 12, 4:44 p.m. 3301 Lyon Street

Members of the street crimes unit were conducting an auto burglary operation in the rear parking lot of the Palace of Fine Arts due to the large number of auto burglaries in that area. The criminals are lured there by the valuable items that unwitting tourists leave in their locked vehicles.

One of the officers observed an adult male looking into the windows of numerous parked vehicles; the suspect was observed trying unsuccessfully to shatter the rear window of a BMW. He left and then returned and was observed looking into a black van. The suspect shattered the front driver's side window and entered the vehicle; he had his torso inside the vehicle and was rummaging through it. The officers were able to take him into custody without incident.

During an arrest search of the suspect, a

window punch was found in his pants pocket; a window punch is commonly used to break windows. Methamphetamine was also found, and a computer showed that he was

on felony probation for stolen property; there was an outstanding warrant for him. He was booked at County Jail.

#### SIDEWALK ARREST

Dec. 15, 1:10 a.m. Hemlock Street (at Polk)

Officers on patrol spotted a male subject on a sidewalk whom they recognized from prior contacts; the officer knew he had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for his arrest for vandalism. They stopped and detained the suspect, and he was later booked at County Jail.

#### **ASSAULT AND AGGRAVATION**

Dec. 17, 2:17 a.m.

600 block, Linden Street

Officers were dispatched to respond to a report of a stabbing, and the suspect had fled on foot toward Fillmore and MacAllister Streets. They officers located two female victims with stab wounds to their abdomens; both were transported to San Francisco General Hospital for treatment. They later told the police that they were standing in a parking lot when the suspect walked up and started to talk with them. They got into an argument and the suspect pulled out a knife and stabbed the two women.

Officers located evidence at the scene, including a folding knife, a pair of white Adidas shoes, a jacket, and condoms. The suspect was soon located — sans shirt and shoes. He was booked at County Iail.

#### THOSE WHO TRESPASS **AGAINST US**

Dec. 19, 9:10 p.m.

Octavia Street (at Washington)

Police were alerted to the presence of a trespasser, who was being chased on foot by a 911 caller. The building's security guard told the officers that he saw the suspect walking around the interior of the property and then sit on a bench; when the guard told the suspect he had to leave, the suspect refused and said he was waiting for his girlfriend.

When the guard repeated the request, the man started walking away and eventually running as the guard chased him. He jumped over a stone wall, fence, and hedges, while the guard continued to pursue.

Police were able to locate the suspect; he lacked proper identification and was transported to Northern Station, where he was cleared of any warrants and was cited and released.

#### From the District 2 Supervisor Around the bend

## Congestion management solutions for the 'crookedest' street

BY MARK FARRELL

as "the crookedest street in the world," is a famous tourist attraction and landmark. People from around the world recognize and visit this world-class destination for the classic views and experience.

Tourism is vital to our local economy — it is one of our biggest economic drivers. Thankfully, over the past couple years, tourism continues to be on the rise as more and more visitors come to visit our beautiful city. In our roughly seven-by-sevenmile city, residents and visitors alike can feel the strains of more people on city streets and at destinations. The "crookedest street" is no different.

In the last five years alone, visits to Lombard Street in Russian Hill have more than doubled. It is the second most-visited tourist attraction behind the Golden Gate Bridge and now welcomes approximately two million visitors annually. That's two million visitors a year in a largely residential neighborhood with no tourism infrastructure in place to support the sheer amount of traffic and visitors.

The behavior by some visitors and the amount of people frequenting the attraction has more recently created a "wild west" atmosphere and real quality-of-life concerns not only for the residents who live on the crooked block, but for the surrounding neighborhoods and residents as well.

My office regularly receives photos and reports of this behavior. We've seen children in strollers placed in the middle of the crosswalk at the top of a cresting hill for photo opportunities. We've seen elderly visitors pushed in wheelchairs right down the middle of the street. We've seen cars overheat and catch on fire in the summer months. Residents report tourists using their gardens as restrooms or knocking on doors of people's homes to ask to use their restrooms. I have witnessed skateboarders flying down the street at dangerous speeds and young people scaling retaining walls to get their selfies. The street presents a mix of dangerous behaviors and is a real public safety concern.

I believe we need real solutions on congestion management to give Russian Hill and surrounding neighborhoods relief while still managing visitor access to the street. I have been working diligently year after year to do just that.

You may remember that during the summer of 2014, the SFMTA piloted a closure of the block, making it accessible only to pedestrians. This just pushed vehicle congestion to the surrounding blocks and neighborhoods. It was not the overall best solution for the neighborhoods.

In 2015, I secured funding through the city's budget process to launch the Lombard Street Ambassador program. The program hires workers to serve as a go-between for residents and tourists to help make sure visitors stay off private property and out of the middle of the street. The ambassadors also help provide information to visitors and act as a deterrent to bad and disruptive behavior. While the ambassador program has been successful and is still running today, the program has its limits.

That is why I also secured funding in the same year for the Transportation Authority to do an exhaustive study of the corridor and give recommendations that will provide relief to our neighborhoods. For its report, the Transportation Authority did onsite observations of traffic circulation, traffic volume counts,

and intercept surveys and conducted various interviews with local residents, transportation experts, and small businesses. We just released the report late last month that provides short-term and mid-term recommendations to deal with the growing issues in and around the corridor.

For the short-term recommendations, we will be working with SFMTA and SFPD to beef up the enforcement of existing laws and are working with the entire tourism industry as partners in helping to educate visitors about the attraction and relevant rules. I am also fighting to secure more funds in the budget this year to staff the additional enforcement officers and add engineering and signage enhancements.

One of the mid-term solutions that recently got a lot of attention was the idea of creating a toll — through a reservation and pricing system similar to the Golden Gate Bridge — for visitors and noncity residents to pay to access the street. While the idea of a toll might cause some to double-take, the solution is backed by solid data, analysis, and deep community support.

The toll is not meant to be a cash cow for the city. The reservation system will be demand-driv-

en, so we can appropriately manage access to the street and pay for the staff and appropriate resources necessary to better manage the issues happening in the neighborhoods.

While the tolling system needs further study and legislative approvals to be implemented, I believe we should actively be working toward making it a reality. Later this month, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority Board (comprised of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors) will discuss the report in further detail and give further direction on which recommendations merit implementation and further study.

With more than two million people a year visiting Lombard Street this community- and expert-driven approach is essential to maintaining public safety, the quality of life, and ensuring that visitors can continue to enjoy this world-famous landmark for years to come.

I look forward to continuing my work with the surrounding neighborhoods, the Transportation Authority, and all relevant city agencies and departments to push for implementation of all the report's short-term and mid-

term solutions.

# Teach old joints new tricks

We can't make you younger, but our orthopedic experts can help you get your old moves back. Find your specialist at **DignityHealth.org/BayArea/SF-Ortho**.

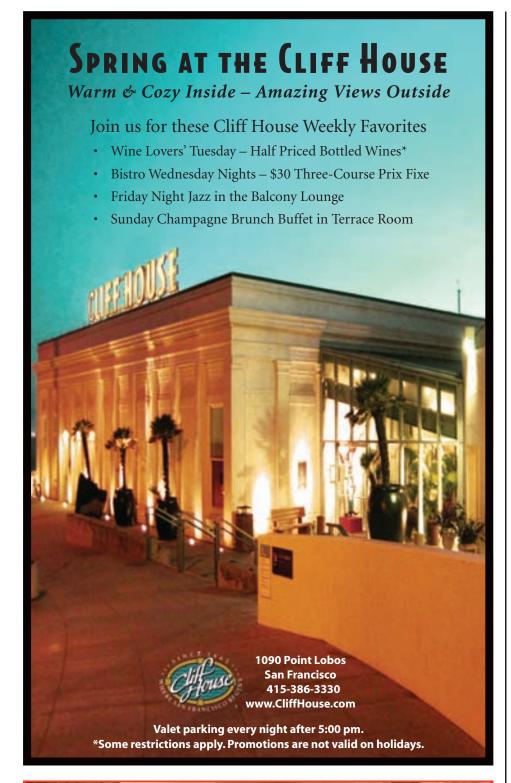
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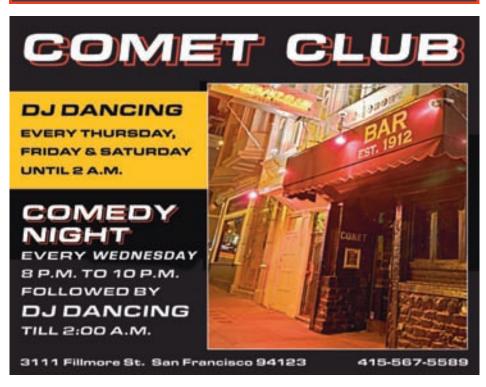
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital St. Mary's Medical Center



MARINATIMES.COM MARINA TIMES MARCH 2017 7







#### Sketches from a North Beach Journal

## A farmers' market for North Beach? Not so fast

BY ERNEST BEYL

#### **OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN ACTION**

If you're not terminally fatigued by watching our country's democratic process in action, you may want to turn your attention to North Beach. The old Italian neighborhood has been considering a once-a-week farmers' market. The idea has been bubbling along on the back burner like a good spaghetti

More than a year ago, the North Beach Neighbors, a business and just-plainfolk's association, got into the act and began promoting the concept. And our very own District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin — who ate his fresh veggies when he was a kid — climbed aboard the bandwagon. Things looked good. A farmers' market with fresh produce sounds like a good idea, right? But, like our national political discourse (or farce, whichever you prefer), things got contentious and squabbles arose even though a study by the North Beach Neighbors showed that the idea was favored overwhelmingly.

#### A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR **EVERYBODY?**

Several sites were proposed, including Upper Grant Avenue, Joe DiMaggio Playground, Washington Square Park, the short street in front of the North Beach Public Library, and Green Street between Grant and Stockton.

Deeming the other sites unsuitable, the North Beach Neighbors went with Green Street and worked out a deal with the Agricultural Institute of Marin to provide farmers who would sell their produce. No booze, beer, or soft drinks. No hot dogs or chicken wings. Sounds like a win-win situation for the neighborhood, right? Wrong!

#### THINGS MOVE SLOWLY IN NORTH

Opposition raged up and down Green Street. It was led by Richie Azzolino, proprietor of the fish restaurant Sotto Mare on the Green Street block in question. And now it appears Richie and his followers stopped the project. Back to

Just as I was completing this column on an optimistic note, I received an e-mail from Tanya Small, chief operating officer for the Agricultural Institute of Marin. She wrote: "We are not moving forward with opening the North Beach market at

As I said, things move slowly in North

#### MORE ON OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN ACTION

And, if you think the North Beach farmers' market is moving slowly, how about the Piazza St. Francis, Poets Plaza planned for Vallejo Street between Grant and Columbus Avenues? Lawrence Ferlinghetti conceived the visionary plan in 1998, and a committee has been working actively on it since 2002. But Lawrence Ferlinghetti hasn't lost faith and neither have I.

#### AL'S ATTIRE MAKES THE BIG TIME

Fantastic Negrito, who won a Grammy this year for Best Contemporary Blues Album, accepted the award in a tuxedo designed and handmade by Al Ribaya of

Al's Attire on Upper Grant Avenue. The tuxedo was black moiré silk. The Grammy Award-winning album was The Last Days of Oakland. Let's hope not.

#### A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON MUNI

A while back I was returning from a lunch in the Financial District at Sam's Grill and jumped on the 8 bus for a ride back to North Beach. After a stop or two, my street haberdasher, Bernardo Quintana, boarded with his black, airline roll-on and began pulling out shirts for me to look at. I bought one and he threw in a pair of socks. It was probably the first haberdashery encounter on a Muni bus.

#### ANOTHER FUNNY THING ON THE MUNI

A few days later, I was riding Muni again. The driver looked at me and said, "How did the shirt work out?"

That's my Muni tax dollars at work friendly drivers.

#### **NOSTALGIA STRIKES AGAIN**

Those of you who know me will appreciate I'm always in pursuit of the real North Beach. While writing this column, I shed a tear for the old neighborhood. But then, things change, don't they?

I miss all the old meat markets in North Beach. At one time, there were five or six. Now only Little City Market remains. How about delis? Once we had a bunch of them. Only the mothership, Molinari, is still with us. I miss all the old drugstores. There were three bordering Washington Square Park. Now there's only Walgreen's on Stockton Street. And, am I the only guy who misses the old Pagoda Theater and the Cockettes, the outrageous but wonderful group that played there?

I miss the old Spaghetti Factory on Green Street, and I miss Figoni Hardware on Upper Grant.

#### THE DAYS WERE FULL OF SUN

Yes, I'm nostalgic. This morning I dug out of my files a bunch of old Stanton Delaplane columns from the San Francisco Chronicle. I found the last column Delaplane published before he died on April 18, 1988. In that column, he wrote about North Beach.

I walked in North Beach to sharpen my wits. The best cops drew North Beach. The restaurants spread a good table for them, as they did for reporters. Delicatessens sold 27 kinds of sausage — each one better than the last. A vinegar shop sold 50 flavors. There was a store where I bought fresh pasta. A French bread bakery where we stopped at four in the morning for a hot, crusty loaf. The days were full of sun.

If some of you think you've read this before in an earlier column, you are probably right. I try to write like Delaplane so I have it memorized. And, Delaplane's North Beach is so wonderful it bears

See you next month.

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

#### From the District 3 Supervisor Democrat vs. Democrat

## Lasting change starts at home

BY AARON PESKIN

VER A MONTH INTO THE new regime in D.C., and the effects of the Trump administration's antidemocratic agenda of hate, lies, corruption, and xenophobia are on full display coast to coast. Here in the blue state of California, we have found solace and community in protests and a renewed engagement in our democracy. Congressional town halls have been packed during the recess with record numbers of constituents who are organized and have clear demands of representatives that they didn't even know existed several months ago. Here in San Francisco, the Reform Dem-

ocrats have taken on the corporate Democratic agenda that has been rotting the party from the inside out.

Last month, the Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club was called on the

carpet for dishonoring Democratic values, and their bid to officially charter under the mantle of the Democratic Party was vigorously challenged.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported the Kennedy family's demand that the club change its name after revelations they were funneling dark money into politics from decidedly un-Democratic sources.

Operating as a political action committee, the RFK Democratic Club raked in more than \$900,000 in contributions last year, mostly from tech titan Ron Conway's Progress San Francisco PAC, as well as big developers. The same day that the Chronicle exposé came out, the RFK Democratic Club held a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club, in the hopes of establishing their street cred. As of the most recent filing deadline, they still have yet to take all the cash home to tally and then write them a personal check later for the proceeds.

I ran for the DCCC in June of 2016 with a slate of diverse

Democrats from different backgrounds and with different political goals. Our slate shared one critical goal, though, which allowed us to sweep that election cycle: reform. No more business

as usual. No more corruption. No more fake Democratic clubs. No more astroturfing. People over profits. San Francisco voters gave us a very clear mandate to

> take on corporate Democrats if we are ever going to have a shot at real and lasting social and economic change in this country. We are here to push our state and federal Democratic representatives to not

just tweet about "resisting" but to get out there and stand for something.

We have always had a strong Democratic presence in the California State Legislature, long

I still have yet to receive an apology

from the mayor. It makes me wonder

what else the staff discusses when

they think no one else is listening.

mer Senator Mark Leno's efforts

to reform the Ellis Act have both

repeatedly been shut down —

not just by Republicans, but by

the inaction and cowardice of

corporate Democrats, many of

whom were the beneficiaries of

the record amount of outside

campaign spending from tech

companies, charter schools, and

Today in the California Leg-

islature, we have a mighty two-

thirds majority of members who

claim they are ready to fight for

the people. Democrats control

all levels of government in Cal-

ifornia, but we have yet to see

that power manifest in a legisla-

tive agenda that takes on income

inequality, single-payer health

real estate interests.

before the Trump administration ever rose to power. Yet Assemblyman Tom Ammiano's efforts to reform Proposition 13 and for-

care, repealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act and the Ellis Act, or addressing progressive revenue for affordable housing and homelessness.

> I'm more ready than ever to "stand united" and to "resist" - but if we are going to take this call to action seriously, Democrats must walk the walk, and that commitment starts at home with some

necessary housecleaning.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to those of you who have reached out to express your profound disappointment, sadness, and anger at the clandestine bigotry on display from Mayor Ed Lee in a recent texting session with his top aides in which he referred to me, a Jewish American, as a Gestapo. Sadly, I still have yet to receive an apology from the mayor or even a return phone call. It does make me wonder what else the executive team of senior staff discusses when they think no one else is listening, while simultaneously holding press conferences about unity and tolerance. It's a truly sad sign of the times.

Keep resisting.

#### No more business as usual. No more corruption. No more fake **Democratic clubs. No more** astroturfing. People over profits.

report that fundraising — which I

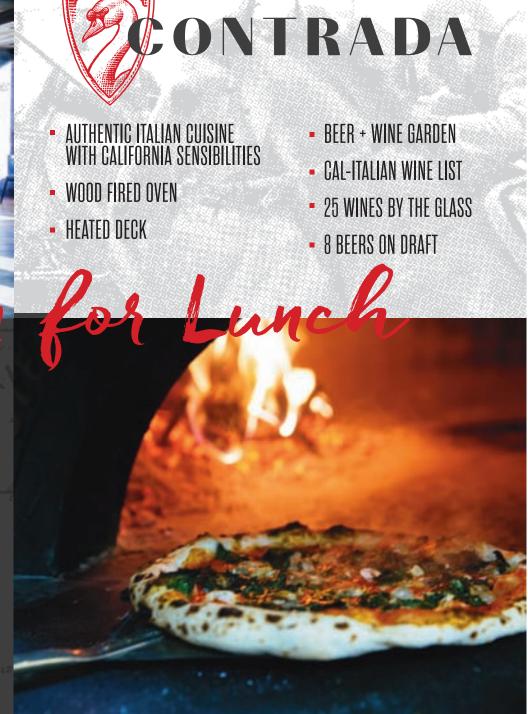
is not only unethical but further

suspicious given that RFK club

president Justin Jones decided it

would be best for folks to let him

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## North Beach Restaurant

Serving dinner until midnight\*



\*actually 'til 11:45 PM

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

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

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



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

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

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

www.northbeachrestaurant.com

#### The Tablehopper : Wall to wall



Caviar from The Caviar Co. PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/THECAVIARCOMPANY

## Champagne wishes and caviar dreams

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

#### **COW HOLLOW**

If you're lucky, you may have already met the charming sisters behind The Caviar Co. (1954 Union Street), Petra and Saskia Bergstein, at some swish culinary events around town. They supply national customers and a number of chefs and restaurants with their caviar, and care deeply about sourcing sustainable and quality caviar, but they also like to offer affordable options so everyone can enjoy it.

The sisters are opening their first brickand-mortar shop on Union Street, by Perry's and right in the thick of things (they have just been online up to now). Visitors to the store will be able to ask questions and buy caviar and caviar-related items, like potato chips and mother-of-pearl spoons. The shop will stock their best sellers, like white sturgeon, local hackleback, spendier golden osetra, and smoked trout roe — perfect for your weekend brunch at home. And because they pack to order, their product is always fresh. Guests will also be able to pick up special orders at the shop, and their caviar club members will be greeted with a glass of Champagne (it will be their Caviar Clubhouse).

The room will be very Hollywood glam, with velvet and a large marble table (with brass legs!) with room for 10, which is where they will hold special caviar tastings. When you book the experience, guests will have their own small jars to taste from and explore. Don't have 10 friends to taste with? No problem, just talk to the sisters about what you want to do, and they'll work with you. They also offer caviar catering for events and private parties and have a custom trike for events that you will see in the shop as well.

They plan to open the first weekend in March. Hours are TBD, but are looking like 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for now.

#### **RUSSIAN HILL**

Night owls and partiers: Mezcalito (2323 Polk Street, 415-441-2323) is now open late, until 2 a.m., with food available until 11 p.m., like octopus tostadas, tacos de pescado, and confit pork belly tacos!

Affordable and awesome meals are always appreciated, so here are a few to have on your radar. At Belcampo (1998 Polk Street, 415-660-5573) they are starting a weekly Home-Cooked Sunday Supper series, a comforting three-

course dinner for \$35 per person. Each week, the menu will feature a recipe from Belcampo founder and CEO Anya Fernald's cookbook, Home Cooked (and with the purchase of the Home-Cooked Sunday Supper, diners will receive 50 percent off the cookbook). Sample dishes include beef tartare or market salad, steak frites, spaghetti Bolognese, the Belcampo Burger, wild-caught fish, and dessert (like warm seasonal crisp or flourless chocolate cake).

#### **FILLMORE**

First Fridays is when 1300 On Fillmore (1300 Fillmore Street, 415-771-7100) hosts Fried Chicken Friday. You get a threecourse prix-fixe menu for \$29: mixed green salad, David's fried chicken with mashed potatoes, and chef's selection of dessert. And look at that: This Friday, March 3 is a first Friday. Bwok!

#### **NORTH BEACH**

Rose Pistola (532 Columbus Avenue) has decided to close its doors after 21 years in business in North Beach. In their farewell note, they say, "While it's been an amazing experience, with many friends and great memories made over the years, we have decided that due to rising costs it is no longer feasible to continue to operate. We have loved being part of this neighborhood and are so grateful for the support of the North Beach community over the past two decades. Many thanks to all our employees, vendors, and customers for their support and patronage over the years."

Kudos to the team for such a long run. Rose Pistola was an integral part of the North Beach scene and the home of so many memories for people, both locals and tourists who would return again and again. I remember being so in love with their wood-fired pizzas and family-style dishes, the jazz and cocktails, and outdoor seating. They did a lot of things right, and chef Steve Walker was doing a great job with his salumi and pasta dishes. Thanks to the team for taking such good care of so many people over the years.

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

#### Food Trends 2017

continued from cover

In downtown Palo Alto along main drag University Avenue, robots the size of adult humans greet shoppers with screens in various languages and escort them into an unmanned Beam store where those robots sell themselves. Expect to see robots selling quinoa and kale bowls downtown San Francisco in the near future.

#### FOCUS, FOCUS Limited menu concepts continue to explode

Venerable restaurants like the House of Prime Rib figured out a long time ago that if you do one thing and do it better than anyone else you will thrive, even in a competitive food scene like San Francisco's. To go along with the fast-casual counter service, many restaurateurs are narrowing their focus to just one thing, like 2016's craze, the fried chicken sandwich.

At The Bird, from the folks who created the Super Duper Burger chain, you only have four items to choose from: an \$8 "free range" fried chicken sandwich, curly fries, a salad, and hot wings. I expect to see a bistro dedicated to the oh-so-trendy avocado toast hit the city this year (avocado toast with crab; avocado toast with bacon and runny poached egg; avocado toast with ... you get the point).

## HERE'S THE BEEF Meaty nonmeat burgers will head to the masses

I went to a press event at the Redwood City headquarters of Impossible Foods a few months ago and couldn't believe my eyes (or ears or mouth) when I watched them put a patty on the grill that sizzled, smelled, and looked like ground beef but was completely vegan. Even more surprising, it was cooked to medium-rare, juicy perfection and tasted just like beef. It's made from simple ingredients like wheat, coconut oil, and potatoes, but the secret is "heme," the building block of all living organisms, from cows to plants. Impossible Foods figured out how to ferment plant heme, which gives their burger the characteristic color, taste, and texture of meat.

The burger is currently only available at two San Francisco restaurants — Jardinière and Cockscomb — but expect to see the beefy plant-based burgers (not to be confused with veggie burgers) in more eateries, as well as in high-end grocery stores like Whole Foods in the near future (grocery stores may have to wait a little longer, so that might be a better 2018 prediction).

#### BELLY UP TO THE BAR Artisanal neighborhood lounge food boozes it up a notch

When chef Adam Hubbell, his brother Mark, and their friend Chris Snowden opened The



The Bloody Mary at LunchPad with candied habanero bacon and house-made pickles. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

LunchPad inside the charming, cozy Hayes Valley Noir Lounge in 2013, they weren't the first chefs to take over bars by day (think Nick's Crispy Tacos at Rouge and Naked Lunch at the former Enrico's), but they have boozed it up a notch by incorporating their tasty, creative, artisanal sandwiches and luscious morning treats like huevos rancheros with a full bar for their boozy weekend brunch. From

the best Bloody Mary I've tasted (spears of their family recipe pickles and a dash of the juice, topped with chef Hubbell's signature habanero candied bacon) to a tender, fluffy cheddar jalapeno breakfast biscuit with gooey smoked cheddar, fried egg, and garlic aioli, I predict the boozy weekend brunch at LunchPad will inspire more chefs to take over the bar as well as the kitchen on weekend mornings in 2017

(remember, it's the sincerest form of flattery).

#### **PIQUE MY INTEREST**

National hot sauce of Puerto Rico will replace gochujang (which replaced Sriracha last year)

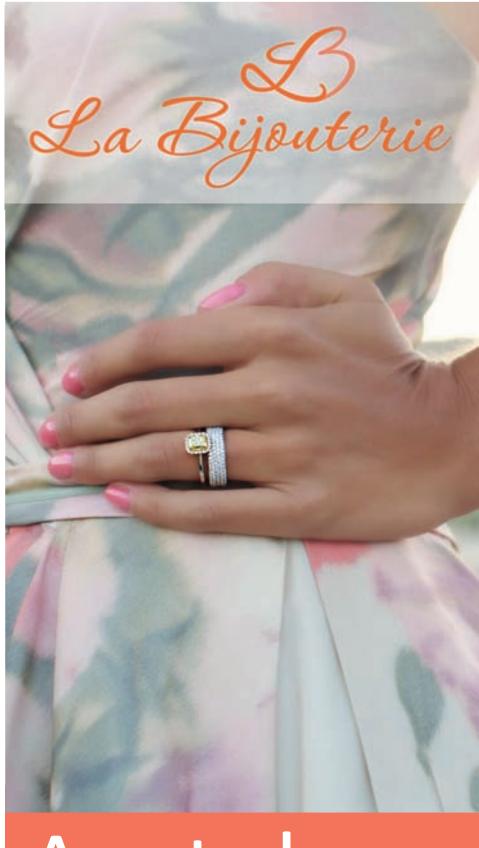
I'd love to say that Puerto Rican cuisine will become the latest Latin sensation, overtaking the gourmet Mexican craze, but I might be a year or so ahead on that trend (or wishful thinking).

When we stopped for dinner at the San Rafael outpost of the Puerto Rican eatery Sol Food, I fell in love with the cuisine. but I became obsessed with their homemade pique, the delightfully vinegary just-hot-enough Puerto Rican pepper sauce. The traditional recipe includes caballero peppers and/or habanero peppers, pineapple (the skin or small pieces), vinegar, oregano, peppercorns, garlic and/or onions. Whatever Sol Food puts in their version, it's addicting. I sprinkle it on Carolina Gold rice; use it to marinate tofu; and dash it on grilled meats. When I run out a certain panic sets in. Fortunately, Sol Foods sell 12-ounce (\$10) and 5-ounce (\$6) bottles at both the San Rafael and the Mill Valley locations. And yes, it is worth driving across the Golden Gate Bridge for — trust me.

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#### The Art World

continued from cover

ed his future wife, Camille, and friends Gustave Courbet and Frédéric Bazille. The painting was given to Monet's landlord as collateral for rent, and when Monet eventually was able to repurchase it, the canvas had become moldy. Monet cut the canvas into several pieces, two of which survive and are presented in this exhibition. During this prolific period, he also produced several lesser-known still-life paintings also featured in this exhibition.

This large, unique collection of the artist's work, with its portraits and scenery, map out the story of Monet's early life. The Cradle — Camille with the Artist's Son Jean (1867, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.) depicts Monet's wife and infant son. In 1870, Monet and his family moved to London to escape the Franco-Prussian War. There, he enjoyed the vast public parks the city had to offer as shown in Hyde Park (1871, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, R.I.) and was also influenced during his stay by local painters like John Constable and J. M. W. Turner.



Claude Monet, Still Life with Flowers and Fruit, 1869. Oil on canvas, 100.3 x 81.3 cm (39 1/2 x 32 in.). COURTESY: THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES

Monet's signature style emerged after 1872. By the 1880's, he had moved to Giverny, where after developing gardens on his property, he began painting some of his most recognizable works, such as his waterlily series. Representationalism became secondary to the play of light on surfaces.

Monet: The Early Years, the first major U.S. exhibition devoted to the initial phase of Monet's

career, takes the public on a path through the painter's evolution into one of the pioneers of Impressionism.

Monet: The Early Years, Legion of Honor, 100 34th Avenue, Lincoln Park; 415-750-3600, famsf.org, Tuesday-Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m., \$15.

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

#### The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

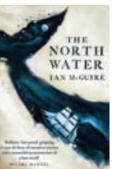
COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

- 1. City of Thieves: A Novel, by David Benioff (paperback)
- **2. The Tender Bar**, by J.R. Moehringer (paperback)
- 3. 111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss, by Floriana Peterson (paperback)
- 4. The North Water: A Novel, by Ian McGuire (hardcover)
- **5. 1984**, by George Orwell (paperback)
- 6. Drop the Ball: Achieving More by Doing Less, by Tiffany Dufu and Gloria Steinem (hardcover)
- 7. Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J.D. Vance (hardcover)
- Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising **Exploration into the Wonder of** Consciousness, by Sy Montgomery (paperback)
- 9. Overview: A New Perspective of Earth, by Ben Grant (hardcover)
- 10. My Grandmother Asked Me to **Tell You She's Sorry,** by Fredrik Backman and Henning Koch (paperback)

#### **NEW MARCH RELEASES**

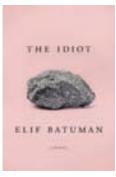
One-Eyed Man, by Ron Currie

After his wife dies, K. loses his metaphorical capacity, becoming so wedded to the notion of clarity he infuriates everyone. After intervening in an armed robbery, K. finds himself both an inadvertent hero and the star of a new reality television program. He travels the country, ruffling feathers and gaining fame at the intersection of politics and entertainment. Through a conflagration of biblical proportions, he soon discovers









the world will fight viciously to preserve its delusions.

**The Idiot**, by Elif Batuman

It's 1995, and e-mail is new. Selin, the daughter of Turkish immigrants, arrives for her freshman year at Harvard. Almost by accident, she begins corresponding with Ivan, an older Hungarian mathematics student, and with each exchanged e-mail, the act of writing takes on new and increasingly mysterious meanings. The Idiot is a heroic yet self-effacing reckoning with the terror and joy of becoming a person in a world that is as intoxicating as it is disquieting.

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

#### Michael Snyder on ... Film



Louis Hofmann in Land of Mine. PHOTO: COURTESY SONY PICTURE CLASSICS

## The message is the medium

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

THE MESSAGE MOVIE ISN'T QUITE A staple of Hollywood filmmaking, which is an enterprise generally dedicated to crowd-pleasing entertainment for over a century. But that doesn't mean the industry hasn't benefited from, embraced, and exulted over-earnest, ever-relevant cinematic efforts that purport to reveal societal truths, no matter how ugly, to enlighten spectators.

To that end, we've seen such renowned features as 12 Years a Slave, addressing the horrors of slavery in 19th century America; A Face in the Crowd, which showed the cynical political manipulation of media and citizenry that could get an empty, crass figurehead elected in a democracy; Norma Rae, an impassioned look at union organization in the face of oppressive management; The Best Years of Our Lives, delving into the peacetime struggles of returning war veterans; Silkwood, about one woman's fight for worker safety in the potentially dangerous nuclear power industry; and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, a personal look at race relations through the prism of a family's reaction to interracial romance.

Some may say that there's a thin line between message movies and propaganda, and that's a fair point. If there is a distinguishing characteristic that sets them apart, it's that the intentions of a good message movie are generally noble, and its makers want the viewers to draw their own conclusions after weighing what's onscreen. Propaganda is unleashed to persuade an audience to buy what it's selling and do so without the use of critical thinking.

#### 'LAND OF MINE'

Like a number of message movies, Land of Mine — the current foreign film Oscar nominee from Denmark — is a powerful drama inspired by actual events. Writer-director Martin Zandvliet's script begins right after World War II has ended. A group of young German POWs are forced by their Danish captors to remove 2 million land mines that the Nazi army planted on the coast of Denmark. And they have to dig them up with their bare hands. It's a shoe-on-the-other foot situation as a Danish officer, Sgt. Rasmussen (Roland Møller), now has a chance to torment these dazed, chastised, relatively inexperienced recruits who were among Hitler's invading troops.

The historical aspects of the movie are chillingly true, and deserved to be disseminated. According to reports, more than 2,000 German soldiers were compelled to remove the mines, and roughly half of the contingent lost life or limb. As such, the dangerous task given the prisoners has serious moral complications because these enlisted men were doing the bidding of their German commanders. Yes, it's the old "just following orders" conundrum for a soldier, but insubordination likely meant imprisonment or death. None of it seems particularly fair insofar as the war

was over, and perhaps these kids should have been repatriated. This perspective arises in Rasmussen's increasing unease with his command, its mission, and its consequences.

Even aside from the inherent philosophical and moral implications, Land of Mine has the tension of the 1953 Jean-Pierre Melville classic The Wages of Fear (with its pair of truckers who must drive a haul of volatile explosives over a rocky mountain road in South America), as something or someone could blow up at any moment. And it's thoughtful regarding the ethics of the task depicted, not to mention the limits and nature of revenge. Shot in stark, bleak fashion, Land of Mine is a haunting piece that's beautifully acted by its cast of Scandinavians and Germans. And the depiction of wartime horror and its aftermath place it firmly in the realm of the message movie.

Land of Mine opens March 3 at the Clay Theater.

#### 'KEDI'

Not everything needs to be dark, gloomy, and fraught with importance. With that in mind, I'd like to heartily endorse Kedi — a delightful documentary about the cats that roam the streets of Istanbul with sublime independence and/or live in harmony with their human friends. Apparently, the kitties have been a facet of life in those parts since the days of the Ottoman Empire, when the great ships (with their rat-killing cats on board) sailed in and out of the Turkish port. Many of the cats scampered onto the docks, never to return to their vessels, and thus was a pride born, one that grew and grew over the centuries to the point where there are now hundreds of thousands of them wandering everywhere by the Bosporus.

Some of the cats have made stores or restaurants their territory and feeding ground, others are at home as pets in apartments where they are free to come or go as they like. Many of them are cared for by locals and willingly interact with the people doting on them. And there are the cats that are loners left to the alleys and abandoned buildings of the city. In all cases, the cuteness factor is massive. Istanbul itself is lovely as seen through the lens of the film's director Ceyda Torun, who manages to get up close and personal with the felines and the men and women who love them. There's even a cat-cam for that cat's-eye view of the area. Whether you're a cat-lover or not, Kedi is a treat to watch, offering up all of the charm, antic behavior, and occasional stubbornness common to the species — without stirring up any allergies you might have.

*Kedi* opens March 3 at the Embarcadero Center Cinema.

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



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## MARCH EVENTS

#### WHAT NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

#### **MAJOR EVENTS**

#### Hamilton

Tue.-Sun., March 10-April 25 SHN Orpheum Theatre

The wildly entertaining Broadway blockbuster about Alexander Hamilton and the birth of our nation with a score that blends hip-hop, pop, blues, jazz, and Broadway comes to San Francisco. Tickets available only through thirdparty resalers. 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

#### 166th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Market Street (at Second) to Civic Center Plaza

Find a hub of Irish culture at the Civic Center Plaza with corned beef sandwiches, Irish bands and dancers, kids' activities, arts and crafts booths, and community and cultural information. Parade begins at 11:30 a.m. Free, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com



#### **Bouquets to Art**

Daily, March 14-19, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. de Young Museum

Now in its 33rd year, this highly anticipated event features a dazzling display of floral arrangements inspired by the museum's diverse collection of paintings, objects, and sculptures, as well as the building's architecture. \$15, 888-901-6645, famsf.org PHOTO: DOUGLAS SANDBERG

#### 11th Annual S.F. International **Chocolate Salon**

Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Hotel Kabuki (1625 Post St.)

Indulge in chocolatey concoctions from dozens of chocolatiers, and attend demos and lectures on everything from chocolate pairings to craft chocolates as well as wine and spirit parings. \$25-\$30, 415-345-7575, sfchocolatesalon.com

#### Macy's 71st Annual Flower Show Daily, March 26-April 9

Macy's Union Square

Take time to smell the flowers at Macy's iconic spring flower show. Visit website for special event information. 415-397-3333, social.macys.com/flower-show/

#### LAST CHANCE

#### Magic Theatre: Fool for Love

Tue.-Sun. through March 5 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

#### Custom Made Theatre: Isaac's Eye Wed.-Sat. through March 11

533 Sutter Street

This hilarious and poignant exploration of love, greatness and the nature of truth playfully combines contemporary language, historical fact, deadpan humor, and scientific inquiry with the young upstart Isaac Newton pitted against establishment scientist Robert Hooke, in a battle of wits calling attention to the way we establish truth onstage through deception and imagination. \$32-\$42, 415-798-2682, custommade.org

#### S.F. Playhouse: The Christians

Tue.-Sun. through March 11 Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)

After growing his ministry into a megachurch, Pastor Paul is moved to preach a sermon that shakes the foundation of his congregation in this play backed by a live choir about the power of faith to unite or divide. \$20-\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

#### **COMMUNITY** CORNER

#### S.F. History Days

Sat.-Sun., March 4-5, 11 a.m. Old Mint (88 Fifth St.)

This community event includes presentations on local architectural, transit, neighborhood, and maritime history; exhibits addressing the Summer of Love 50th anniversary and more; displays of neighborhood and community archives; and a resource center to history organizations, homes, and educational centers around the Bay Area. Free, sfhistorydays.org

#### **ACT: A Golden Anniversary Open House** Saturday, March 18

ACT (415 Geary St.)

Celebrate the theater's 50-year anniversary with a behind-the-scenes tour, performances, readings, and more, including a special Humphry Slocomb ice cream flavor. Free with reservations, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

#### **GALAS & BENEFITS**

#### YMCA 6th Annual Y for Youth Luncheon

Friday, March 17, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Come celebrate your support of youth empowerment and the future leaders of the Bay Area. See website for pricing or contact Matt

#### Hitchcock, 415-281-6766, ymcasf.org/yforyouth 23rd Annual Art Inspiring Hope Gala

Saturday, March 25, 5 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Support Camp Okizu, a summer program for Bay Area children with cancer and their families at this gala featuring gourmet food, specialty cocktails, headline entertainment, and more. \$275, 415-382-1503, okizu.org

#### **ARTS & CULTURE**

#### 14th Annual Crossroads Irish-American **Festival**

Various days, March 2-April 2 Various Bay Area venues

3774, irishamericancrossroads.org

Exploring and celebrating the history of the Irish diaspora, this cultural and literary event includes creative performance, music, readings, storytelling, films, and more. Free-\$30, 415-810-

#### **MUSEUMS & GALLERIES**



#### Japanese Photography from Postwar to Now

#### Fri.-Thu. through March 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **SFMOMA**

Organized thematically, this exhibition explores topics such as Japan's relationship with America, changes in the city and countryside, and the emergence of women. \$25, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

PHOTO: UNTITLED, 1977; ESTATE OF TSUNEHISA KIMURA

#### **Tomb Treasures: New Discoveries from** China's Han Dynasty

Tue.-Sun. through May 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Asian Art Museum

On view for the first time in the U.S., 160 rare selections from recent excavations reveal the extravagance, artistry and elegance of the Han royal clan, which achieved profound cultural and artistic influence, technological advancements and military might 2,000 years ago. \$20-\$25, 415-581-3500, asianart.com

#### **Monet: The Early Years**

Tue.-Sun. through 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: John**

Tue.-Sun. through April 23 Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)

When a couple stays in a creaking Civil War-era bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg amid the shelves of smiling dolls and the ghostly landlady, every crack between the couple starts to surface. Echoing with tension, humor, and unease like a modern-day Chekhov, this haunting drama took Broadway by storm. \$15-\$90, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

#### We Players: Beowulf

Thu.-Sun., March 11-April 16, sunset S.F. Maritime National Historical Park

This sweeping site-integrated production will begin at the Maritime Museum and Aquatic Park; audiences will travel along the northern waterfront experiencing this ancient epic, exploring darkness and light, power and conquest, and monsters and humans. \$30-\$80, 415-547-0189, weplayers.org

#### **MUSIC**

#### The Fab Four: Ultimate Beatles Tribute Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

The Emmy Award-winning Fab Four has amazed audiences in countries around the world and is elevated above every other Beatles tribute due to their precise attention to detail, including three costume changes representing every era of the Beatles ever-changing career. \$34.50 & 49.50, palaceoffinearts.org

#### Sponsored



#### **Concert: Italian Cantautori**

Sunday, March 12, 4:30 p.m. Museo Italo Americano

(Bldg. C, Fort Mason Cntr.)

The Museo Italo Americano presents an afternoon of Italian music featuring singersongwriters of the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Dennis Criteser, general manager of Blue Bear School of Music, and his trio, Bella Strada, will perform some of the most iconic tunes and set the cultural context for each song. \$5 (members), \$10 (nonmembers), RSVP to 415-673-2200, info@sfmuseo.org

#### **András Schiff**

Monday, March 13, 8 p.m. Davies Symphony Hall

The world-renowned and critically acclaimed pianist, conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer returns to his beloved city with an all-Schubert program in what can aptly be described as a song recital without words. \$35-\$99, 415-864-6000, 415-392-2545, sfperformances.org

#### Harmony Sweepstakes A Capella **Festival**

Saturday, March 18, 8 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

From vocal jazz to doo wop, gospel to pop and all styles in between, you will be amazed at the versatility of the human voice on display in this most exhilarating evening of vocal harmony singing. This event always sells out so get your tickets early. \$34.50 & \$39.50, 415-392-4400, harmony-sweepstakes.com/bayarea/

#### Anne-Sophie Mutter

Sunday, March 26, 7 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Together with longtime musical partner, pianist Lambert Orkis, the renowned violinist returns to the United States to give 11 performances across seven major cities, with San Francisco her first stop to perform a program of Currier, Mozart, Respighi, and Saint-Saëns. \$35–\$119, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

#### Steve Tyrell

Thu.-Sun., March 30-April 2, 8 p.m. Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)

The Grammy Award-winning producer and vocalist, with nearly five decades in music, and multiple American Standards albums, will perform his annual Feinstein's engagement. \$55-\$95, 415-403-1800, feinsteinsathenikko.com

#### DANCE

**Smuin Ballet: Choreography Showcase** 

Fri.-Sat., March 10-11

ODC Theater (3153 17th Street)

Smuin dancers invite audiences to experience their talents as choreographers. \$30-\$45, 415-863-9834, odcdance.org

#### S.F. Ballet: Must-See Balanchine

Wed.-Sun. March 16-20 & Tue. March 22 S.F. Ballet (War Memorial Opera House)

Three very different but equally seminal works (Stravinsky Violin Concerto, Prodigal Son, and Diamonds) celebrate the extraordinary genius George Balanchine. \$25–\$375, 415-865-2000,

#### **ODC: Dance Downtown**

Thu.-Sun., March 23-April 2 YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)

Celebrating its 46th season, the company presents two world premieres, live music, and the reprise of Brenda Way's Walk Back the Cat and Kate Weare's Giant. \$25-\$80, 415-978-2787, odcdance.org

#### **Rotunda Dance Series: Nava Dance Collective**

Friday, March 24, noon

Rotunda, City Hall Kicking off the 7th season of the series, the

collective will perform Transcendence – Charkh e Falak (Turning of The Cosmos), a dance installation in honor of Nowruz (New Day), a celebration of the Spring equinox observed by peoples across the Middle East and Central Asia. Free, 415-920-9181, dancersgroup.org/rotunda

#### **NIGHTLIFE**

Tia Carroll

Sunday, Mar 12, 7 & 9 p.m. Biscuits & Blues (401 Mason St.)

Over the past decade, Tia Carroll has become a sought-after singer on the West Coast. \$12, 415-292-2583, biscuitsandblues.com

#### St. Patrick's Day PubCrawl

Friday, Mar 17, 2 p.m.-2 a.m. Bar None (1980 Union St.)

Get drink specials at half-a-dozen or more venues around Union Street and in the Marina. Ages 21 & up, \$10–\$85, 415-573-0740, sfnightlife.com

#### Lepracon: St. Patrick's Day San Francisco Pub Crawl

Saturday, Mar 18, 2-10 p.m.

Maye's Oyster House (1233 Polk St.) Lots of drink specials and no cover at a promised long list of bars. Ages 21 & up, \$9-\$12, lepraconsf.com

#### FILMS & LECTURES

#### **International Ocean Film Festival**

Daily, March 9-12

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason

From sharks to surfing to women's programs, immerse yourself in the 14th iteration of this festival devoted to all films aquatic. \$8-\$16 (individual films), \$295 (festival pass), oceanfilmfest.org



#### **CAAMFest 35**

#### Daily, March 9-19

Various venues, San Francisco and Oakland

More than a week's worth of film screenings, food, music and more, including the premiere of The Chinese Exclusion Act, a CAAM co-production. \$13-\$14 (individual films), \$75–\$450 (festival pass), caamfest.com PHOTO: THE TIGER HUNTER; CAAMFEST.COM

#### Film Stories from Your Dinner Plate

Thursday, March 16, 6 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)

Filmmakers and representatives from the upcoming S.F. Green Film Festival will discuss stories that shape our eating and healthy sustainable food choices. Also: Catch a sneak preview of the film festival, with a celebration of the interaction of food, film, and the arts. \$7-\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

#### **SCIENCE** & **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Magnificent Magnolias**

Daily through March, 7:30 a.m.-5-6 p.m. S.F. Botanical Garden

Celebrate spring with the sights and scents of this spectacular annual bloom of nearly 100 trees, whose branches burst into a profusion of saucer-sized pink, white, and magenta flowers. Free-\$8, 415-661-1316

#### **Brain & Body Nightlife** Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.

California Academy of Sciences

Nightlife explores human health and wellness, complete with brain-expanding talks and yoga classes around the museum. (Bring your yoga mat.) Ages 21-plus, \$12-\$15, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

#### Lisa Mezzacappa

Thursday, March 9, 8 p.m. The Exploratorium (Pier 15)

Musician and producer Lisa Mezzacappa presents Organelle, an exploration of time from the nano to the cosmic scale. She will also perform an intermedia solo bass version of a work she designed for the Exploratorium. Ages 18-plus, \$20-\$25, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

#### 30th Annual Pi Day

Tuesday, March 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exploratorium

Enjoy pi-themed activities. And pie. Free (entry subject to capacity; admission not guaranteed), 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

#### Youth in the Streets and in the Courts

Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)

Learn how teenage environmental advocates are attempting to apply an ancient legal doctrine to their fight for protecting the environment. \$7-\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

#### **POTABLES & EDIBLES**

#### **New Zealand Wine Tasting**

Monday, March 13, 6 p.m.

Gallery 308, Landmark Bldg. A, Fort Mason Cntr. The New Zealand Winegrowers sponsor a walkaround wine tasting event featuring current releases from more than 40 New Zealand wineries accompanied by bite-size treats from the acclaimed Farallon restaurant. \$50, fortmason.org

#### **Date Night: Ireland**

Friday, March 17; 5-7 p.m. & 8-10 p.m. Sur la Table (2224 Union St.)

Grab a pal and learn how to prepare classic and contemporary Irish cuisine from classic colcannon, salmon with a Guinness and maple glaze and more, like a chocolate Irish whiskey cake. \$79, 800-243-0852, surlatable.com

#### 18th Annual Whiskies of the World Expo

Friday, March 31, 6-9:30 p.m.

Hornblower yacht S.F. Belle (Pier 3)

Sample over 200 whiskies and meet the distillers who make them in this event featuring pairings, seminars, dinner, live music, and more. Proceeds benefit Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. \$140, whiskiesoftheworld.com

#### **SPORTS & HEALTH**

5th Annual Nutrition & Wellness Fair Thursday, March 9, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lobby, CPMC (2100 Webster St.)

Celebrate National Nutrition Month and enjoy food demos, healthful recipes, local health and wellness resources, free glucose and blood pressure screenings, raffle prizes, and more. Free, 415-923-3155, cpmc.org

#### Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon Sunday, March 26, 8 a.m.

Starts: Golden Gate Park

Race continues over the Golden Gate and back to end in Civic Center Plaza. Runners who commit to fundraising for St. Jude run for free. Registration closes March 19. \$119 800-311-1255, runrocknroll.com

#### CHILD'S PLAY

#### Young Performers Theater: Hansel and **Gretel**

Sat.-Sun., March 4-19, 1 & 3:30 p.m. Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

Come see this classic tale performed by kids for kids about a cruel stepmother who abandons Hansel and Gretel in the woods to fend for themselves. \$12, 415-346-5550, ypt.org

#### Film Screening: Girl Rising

Thursday, March 9, 6-8 p.m. Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)

Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned actors give them voice. Free (reservations encouraged), 415-561-4400, presidio.org

#### S.F. Symphony: Music for Families: How to Build an Orchestra

Saturday, March 11, 2 p.m.

**Davies Symphony Hall** 

Experience a family musical adventure and collect clues to solve a whimsical, musical mystery. With music inspired by Lemony Snicket and selections by John Williams (Harry Potter), families will interact with the musicians and learn about the symphony orchestra in new and fun ways. Come early to enjoy lobby activities. Ages 5 & up. \$13.5--\$64, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

#### Sponsored



#### Aladdin and His Wonderful, **Magical Lamp**

Saturday, Mar. 11, 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

#### JUST FOR FUN

#### **Murder Mystery 5K**

Saturday, March 18, 1 p.m. Ferry Building Marketplace

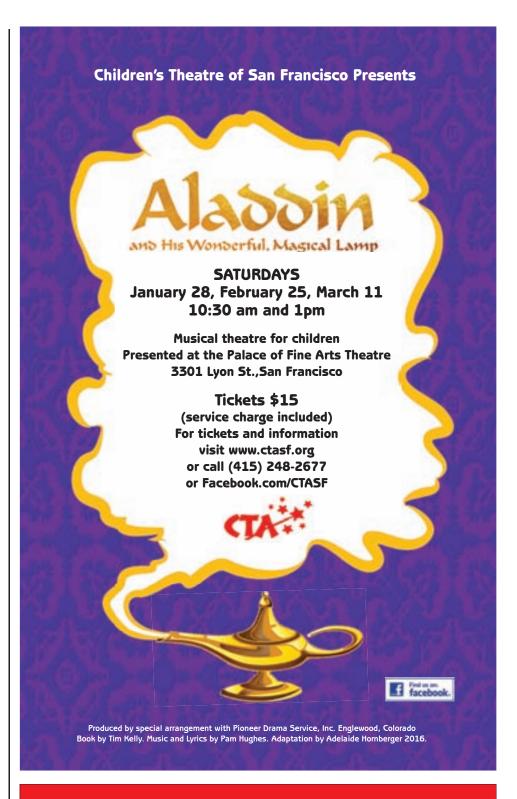
Solve a mystery from a set of clues using your smartphone and smart friends to answer riddles in this team walking race. \$37.50, 541-946-3702, murdermystery5k.com

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.



## **ROAD CLOSURE** IN EFFECT

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017** 5:30AM-11:30AM\*

UNITED



The race starts at 6:15 am and temporary road closures will be in effect during the race. There will be access lanes and metering points along the course in specific areas. Streets will reopen on a rolling basis, as soon as the last participant has passed and all course support materials have been removed.

Please be aware of the road closures in your area and plan ahead for parking and access routes on race day.

Visit our website for more information, course map, and detailed list of road closures.

RunRocknRoll.com/community



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RunRocknRoll.com/san-francisco

\*Road closures times are approximate, for a complete list visit our website

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info@ratepayeradvocatesf.org



## **Proper paint preparation**

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

PRING IS A GREAT TIME to undertake a paint-Uing project, and one of the simplest ways to achieve dramatic changes in your living space. Not only is a paint project easy even for a novice, but it is also one of the most inexpensive ways to update a room. You'll also feel a sense of accomplishment when the job is complete. Once the hard part of picking the paint shade is over, the job will go a lot more smoothly if you are well prepared.

A few things to consider when choosing your color include:

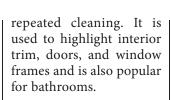
What items are not being replaced? This includes furniture, carpeting, and drapes, which are larger investments. Unless you plan to replace these items, you'll want to keep these in mind when choosing a color so it doesn't clash.

What is the lighting like in the room? A room's natural lighting will change throughout the day as the sun's angle changes. Also, the direction of the room's sun exposure will cause a paint color to appear differently. Artificial light will also affect the appearance of a color.

How is the space used? For example, if you are painting your bedroom, you might want to choose a calming color, such as blue. If you're not a morning person, you may want to use a cheerful bright color for your kitchen to get your morning started on an energizing note.

What is the traffic like in the room? Paint comes in various sheens so you can choose the one that is right for you. A room with a lot of traffic, such as a hallway or child's room, will require a finish that can be easily cleaned.

**Flat** is the least-reflective finish and provides excellent depth of color. It's a great choice for hiding surface imperfections on walls. Matte is more reflective than flat and is also great for minimizing surface imperfections, while providing a durable finish. Eggshell imparts a softly polished glow and provides an easy-to-clean surface. It's perfect for busy areas such as kitchens, dining rooms, and family rooms. Satin, or pearl, is a medium finish ideal for high-traffic areas like hallways when the full sheen of a semigloss is not desired. **Semigloss** creates a smooth, highly reflective finish that is



#### **PREPARATION**

This is the most important step — nearly all paint jobs that go awry are the result of a surface that wasn't properly prepared. Here are the supplies to have on hand when you begin your paint project: drop cloth, blue painter's tape, paint scraper, sanding sponge, spackle, putty knife, TSP wall cleaner, rags/sponges, and gloves.

#### PATCH CRACKS AND HOLES

No matter the size of the crack or hole, fill it with a surfacing compound. When dry, sand the filledin spot to a smooth finish.

#### SAND ROUGH SPOTS

To ensure paint adhesion, be sure all rough spots are sanded down to a smooth finish. This includes any paint runs from prior paint jobs. A sandpaper grit of 80 or 100 will work best on walls and trim.

#### WASH THE WALLS WITH TRI-SODIUM PHOSPHATE

This is a crucial step that should not be skipped over. TSP is a heavy-duty surface cleaner that will remove grease, soot, and mildew on walls, woodwork, and painted surfaces. Rinse with clean water after applying.

### REMOVE COVER PLATES

It's easy to want to skip this step, but your paint job will have a more professional look if you take the time to remove all light switch and electrical outlet cover plates before painting.

#### TAPE WOODWORK

ly reflective finish that is Using painter's tape that and can be reached a durable and withstands is easily removed, tape julia@colehardware.com.

all woodwork trim, baseboards, and window and door woodwork.



Proper painting projects need planning, preparation.

Apply primer to patchedover areas if needed. Many of the high-end paints on the market now do not require a primer.

#### **PAINT**

Ensure excellent coverage by choosing the proper brush or roller. A good tip for even coverage is to roll a "W" in a three-by-three square, then fill in the square with consistent vertical rolls. Be prepared with these supplies when you begin the actual painting process: brush, roller, paint tray, disposable liners, painter's pole, ladder, brush cleaner, and bucket.

#### PAINT ADHESION TIPS

To achieve the highest-quality results, keep in mind these general guidelines to ensure a fabulous finish:

- Surfaces should be clean, dull, dry, sound, and smooth before recoating.
- Previous peeling areas that are not stripped down to a bare surface will most likely continue to peel over time and require periodic touch-ups.
- Chalky surfaces should be cleaned thoroughly or paint will fade.
- Take proper lead-based paint precautions if your home was built before 1978.
- Latex paints dry quickly to touch but take at least a week to cure (harden). The more colorant added, the longer the cure time.

Good luck on your paint project, and enjoy the results!

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



#### **Real Estate Today** : Working with the city

#### Attention: Buyers, sellers, and homeowners thinking about remodeling a home

BY CAROLE ISAACS

PENDING AN HOUR OR SO IN THE waiting line sitting in front of the ✓ San Francisco Planning Department information desk at 1660 Mission Street is not my idea of entertainment. I doubt it is something anyone would do for fun. I had the opportunity to do this because I was meeting a client who wanted to find out firsthand the rules and restrictions for building on four vacant lots in the North Waterfront area before he made an offer. Building on the lots located on a steep hill with a history of landslides in a historic district would be challenging at best and at worse too expensive to consider.

In the end the client coming from Santa Cruz was almost an hour and a half late due to freeway construction, gridlocked traffic, plus an unexpected stop to recharge his new electric car at Whole Foods. Between one thing and another, he did not want to chance running out of power on Highway 101.

Selling real estate for many years, I have come to expect delays. I tell new buyers the "three P's" of successfully completing the purchase of a home are "patience, patience, and more patience." When I realized how long I would be sitting at the Planning Department's information desk, I did not spend time bemoaning my fate. I perked up my ears and began listening closely to what the planners had to say to homeowners, contractors, and architects as they asked detailed questions about their projects.

Over more than 30 years, I have made trips to the Planning Department's information desk to ask questions about my own projects as well as with clients who needed a bit of hand-holding while planning a purchase or remodel. San Francisco has a well-earned reputation for being the most difficult city in the United States to build or remodel anything large or small.

At this point I must say I strongly feel that if you are a buyer, thinking about buying a home anything short of newly remodeled or new construction, an hour of eavesdropping at the city Planning Department's information desk will be at the least interesting and at best well-spent time. Here in no particular order are things I found out watching and listening to five different planners working at the information desk.

- None of the planners felt intimidating to me. They were all soft spoken and very polite and seemed to have infinite patience.
- Planners all took as much time as necessary to answer questions.
- Planners knew the building codes and their nuances backward and forward, and if they were not sure of a fine point, they found the code on their computer quickly, or by asking another planner.
- Planners make use of street view maps on their computers so everyone can see clearly adjacent buildings, front setbacks, rear yards, etc.
- It is important to take a number immediately when you walk in the door.

There is always a line. Plan to spend at least two hours between waiting and asking questions. There is a garage in the building and if possible, it is best to park in the garage.

- There are planners who deal with historic building issues. On the day I was there, there was a long line waiting to speak to one of these planners.
- Two conversations I found especially interesting to follow. First: A planner reviewed in detail an architect's plan for a five-floor home in Pacific Heights. After considerable time, he said about the garage, "Now this is interesting. You have a full bathroom in noninhabitable space." He went on to discuss the code in detail, explaining what could and could not be added to a garage. He mentioned the city's concern about Airbnb units and illegal apartments being added to space that was not approved living space. Second: A different planner politely asked a young woman with an extensive plan for the remodel of a large home what the handwritten note on page 8 was about. She tried to finesse it, and finally after the planner asked the same question another two times and the young woman didn't answer, he politely told her: "I know you are lying. I will not approve this plan until you tell me the truth. The truth makes the process go so much faster." She finally fessed up.
- The planners are knowledgeable, tough, and experienced. No amount of sweet talking or shaking hands with old

friends strayed them from their task of explaining city building codes and expecting people to follow them.

- The city Planning Department has an extensive website: sf-planning.org. You may find many of your initial questions about about zoning, height limits, and city codes answered here. If you have a project in mind, it will speed the process along if you have done some initial research online before you visit the planning information desk.
- Check the information desk hours online before you go. The hours vary.
- Most people have a contractor or architect deal with permit issues. Still an eavesdropping trip to the planning information desk may save you money by helping you understand in advance some of the issues involved in getting a building permit approved in San Francisco.

Think of a trip to the city Planning Department as a special adventure. It won't cost you anything until you start to build. It may in fact save you time and money at some point down the road. If you are not sure where to begin, please reach out to me. I have a group of contractors and architects with many years of experience I can recommend.

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

## The City's Best



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John Dallas



Pacific Heights Offered at \$849,000 Amazing Condo. This 1BD/1.5BA includes an office nook, great storage, and an updated kitchen that is perfect for entertaining. Equipped with stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and island. Common roof deck with gorgeous views. 1 car parking. 2040Franklin702.com

Trent Fashimpaur



St. Francis Wood Offered at \$6,800,000 Coming Soon! This exquisite 4BD/4.5BA home is one of the crown jewels of St. Francis Wood. Incredible entertaining space, as well as wonderful family living. Views to the Pacific. Easy access to the Peninsula and West Portal. 11SanJacinto.com

**Thomas Cooke** 415 823 1624 Jennet Nazzal



Pacific Heights Offered at \$2,195,000 Prime 3BD/2.5BA View Condominium. Located in a highly desirable and rarely available building this handsome home has sweeping bay views Spacious LR/DR with walk out deck and fireplace. Large master bedroom with fireplace Garage parking and storage. 2040Broadway203.com Stephanie Ahlberg



Offered at \$649,000 **Charming Light Filled** remodeled 1BD/1BA condo, with lovely garden outlooks in ideal location. Freshly painted, newly refinished hardwood floors, lovely detailing, and inunit laundry. Huge private storage and charming oversized garden! 1452-Waller-2.com

Donna Cooper

Upper Haight



Noe Valley Price Upon Request Coming Soon! Located on a quiet, private cul de sac, this stunning remodeled contemporary 4BD/3.5BA home has panoramic views from all levels. Open kitchen, LR/DR, landscaped back yard, 2 car side-by-side garage with room for 2 cars in driveway. 4 blocks to 24th Street. 4270CesarChavez.com

**Annie Williams** 415.819.2663



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Stunning 3BD/2.5BA Home. Grand entry to open concept living room and custom kitchen, ideal for entertaining. Library with floor to ceiling shelves. Small deck/patio. A walker's paradise with a score of 97, a transit score of 100 and a bike score of 93. bit.ly/2lfTHZi

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offers full, eat-in kitchen with dishwasher, spacious bathroom, large walk-in closet ample storage, and large living area. Well-maintained building has shared roof-deck with panoramic views. 1 car parking. 1001Pine707.com

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#### City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising March 2017 **Youth Commission**

The San Francisco Youth Commission is now accepting applications from youth ages 12-23 who would like to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the unmet needs and priorities of young San Franciscans. This is an important opportunity for young community advocates who are interested in policy, legislative and budget advocacy, and representing their communities! Youth commissioners hold afterschool hearings on youth-related legislation being considered by the Board of Supervisors and propose their own set of policy priorities each year. Applications are due April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a term beginning in August 2017. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.sfgov.org/yc">www.sfgov.org/yc</a>

#### **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 children and youth ages 0-24. The SF Rec & Park Department will host a range of sports, arts & crafts, and other play stations, the SF Public Library will give away books, many of the exhibitors will host activities at their tables, and Play-Well TEKnologies will work with attendees to build a model of the city of San Francisco out of LEGOs! Please visit www.dcyf.org

#### **Assessment Appeals Board**

Notice is hereby given of 6 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must have at least 5 years of experience in the State of California 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.

#### **Department of Elections**

Californians Ages 16 and 17 Can Now Pre-register to Vote!

To pre-register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen
- A resident of California

To pre-register if you are 16 or 17, or register to vote if you are 18 or older:

- If you have a California Driver's License or CA ID from the DMV visit registertovote.ca.gov
- Use a paper Voter Registration Card from the Department of Elections, City Hall, Room 48
- Call (415) 554-4375 and the Department of Elections will mail you a Voter Registration Card

Be sure to update your voter registration every time you move, change your name, or want to change your political party preference. Visit sfelections.org.

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

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**Top Producers** Best of the best, part 2

## Movers and shakers

#### Showcasing San Francisco's real estate top producers

AN FRANCISCO HOME | sales are expected to increase slightly in 2017, while very low inventory makes it challenging to find the right home that meets your needs and your price point. Buyers and sellers are relying on local real estate agents to provide the market expertise to guide them.

Realtor.com's Lisa Gordon writes that people should expect a lot of house selling/buying activity this year in the United States. She chalks this up to four reasons: mortgage rates remain quite low, inventory is shrinking, home prices are rising, and the job market is strengthening.

Though mortgage rates have been inching north for the past few months, 30-year fixed mortgages are still around their lowest for the past three decades. That means buyers are still able to get financing, and sellers are eyeing increasing rates and looking to sell before they rise further.

As for inventory and pricing, we're still witnessing significant numbers. Gordon notes that "In 2007, just before the housing crash, existing home inventory peaked at 4.04 million homes for sale, according to [National Association of Realtors] data. Fast-forward to November 2016: There were only 1.85 million homes for sale, 9.3 percent lower than the year before — and a whopping 54 percent lower than the 2007 peak." (For more on inventory and pricing, see Real Estate Roundup,

And, finally, Gordon notes that job markets nationwide continue to firm up. Though tech hiring here in the Bay Area has softened in the past year or so, other employment news is positive - and nothing makes one more confident about taking on a long-term mortgage than a good job. "Increased confidence will spur buyers to jump into the market — which is, you guessed it — more good news for sellers," Gordon writes.

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

#### **ANNIE WILLIAMS**

How many years have you been in real estate:

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.

What are your hobbies: Many sports, reading,



Annie Williams Hill & Co. Real Estate 415-819-2663 awilliams@hill-co.com anniewilliamshomes.com

traveling, cooking/entertaining, watching my kids play sports, watching the Warriors, and attending theater.

#### **DAVID BELLINGS**



**David Bellings** Coldwell Banker 415-518-5600 david@davidbellings.com davidBellings.com

How many years have you been in real estate:

Your most memorable sale: Two stand out: [I] 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 seven-by-seven 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 [his or her] advice.

What are your hobbies: Photography, movies, travel, hanging out with my dog and my wife, MOVERS, continued on 19

#### Movers

continued from page 18

who says that work might as well be my hobby.

#### K.C. CORMACK

How many years have you been in real estate: 11

Your most memorable sale: Every sale has some aspect that is memorable, but last November I had a first-time homebuyer who found out he was in contract the morning after the presidential election results were announced. He was in tears with the emotion of the election and then finding out he was going to be a homeowner on the same day. It was very touching and a great reminder of how Realtors touch people's lives in profound and meaningful ways.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: The architecture is amazing and different, and every transaction, property, and client is unique. But the main thing is the people: I have met so many different people from all walks of life, and many have become good friends.

When and why did you get into real estate: I loved my previous line of work, but I wanted to have a more direct effect on people's lives and at the same time be in more control over my own time, income, and schedule.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: I really take my fiduciary duty seriously. I strive to do the right thing for my clients and have no thoughts at all of my own interests or personal gain. Also, my follow through is top notch; I don't let any detail fall through the cracks.

One thing you wish people knew before



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Betty Xu

Monique Wong-Lee

David Yip

they tried to buy or sell a home: I think a lot of people think that buying or selling a home is something they can do mostly online, like buying on Amazon or selling on eBay. Nothing could be further from the truth. Getting professional help at the beginning is essential. Lenders, Realtors, professional stagers, property inspectors, and tradespeople are all essential for real estate transactions and will make the whole process smooth and easy, not to mention getting you the best deal

buying or selling. What are your hobbies: I've been a musician for all of my adult life and enjoy seeing people have a great time while I help provide the soundtrack.

possible whether you're

#### TIM GULLICKSEN

How man years have you been in real estate: 15

Your most memora**ble sale:** There have been many, but the transaction that immediately sprang to mind was a dazzling-view condo in Cow Hollow. The competition was especially fierce on that one. Each of the listing agents for the prop-





Tim Gullicksen Zephyr Real Estate 415-370-5277 timjgullicksen@gmail.com gullicksengroup.com

erty had their own buyer they were writing with in addition to the other dozen or so offers brought by other Realtors. My client prevailed; the closest thing to a real estate miracle I have ever witnessed.

What makes San Francisco real estate unique or interesting: The variety is what I love about this city. The variety of people from all over the world, of the architecture,

of the neighborhoods. I find our city a constant delight and surprise. Every time I climb the steps of a property to check it out for a client I wonder what the floorplan will look like, what choices in finishes have the owners made over the years. Every time I meet new clients, I am fascinated to hear how they came to be in San Francisco, what they do for a living, and where they grew up. It is all so interesting.

When and why did you get into real estate: From 1991 to 2001 I was a kindergarten teacher in San Jose. I loved that profession, but really wanted to join the middle class so I could buy a home. I was exploring other possible careers where I could help others while making a better living, when I met a lovely real estate agent in San Francisco. She was so not the stereotype I had of what a Realtor was. She was down-to-earth, intelligent, direct, and very professional. Meeting her opened my eyes to the possibility that I could be a Realtor and a decent human being at the same time. She arranged a meeting for me with her broker, and I decided | E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

**Property Management** 

Sales & Rentals

after that meeting to get my license. I have never looked back.

Your philosophy or approach in your work: This might sound super basic, but I take my work seriously. Buying or selling a house is a big deal, so my clients deserve to get good information and great service from start to finish. There is plenty of stress inherent in the process of selling or buying a home, so my job is to prevent any and all unnecessary stress. Proper preparation and attentiveness to every detail is the key.

One thing you wish people knew before they tried to buy or sell a **home:** I wish people knew there are a lot of fantastic real estate agents out there. They should never settle for an agent who is giving them less than excellent service. Always recommendations from people you trust, and interview more than one agent before deciding with whom you'd like to work.

What are your hobbies: Travel, reading, history.

Compiled by John Zipperer.

## Congratulations To Our Top Ranked Sales Team!

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Based on MLS data single-family homes sold January to December 2016

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#### **The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: January 2017** Ry Hill & Co. Real Estate

By Hill & Co	. Real Estate				
SINGLE FAI	MILY HOME S	ALES			
NEIGHBORHOOD  Cow Hollow	ADDRESS  2919 Fillmore Street	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE \$3,600,000	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Lake	2141 Lake Street 169 25 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 149 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 126 18 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 12 West Clay Street	3BD/1BA 3BD/1BA 5BD/2BA 3BD/1BA 0BD/4BA	\$1,715,000 \$2,210,000 \$2,210,000 \$2,300,000 \$3,600,000	Above Above At Below	111 10 0 39 0
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina (no sales)					
Nob Hill	3 McCormick Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,700,000	Below	102
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2515 Broadway Street 20 Raycliff Terrace	3BD/4BA 5BD/4BA	\$4,800,000 \$4,955,000	Below At	21 0
Presidio Heights	3747 Jackson Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$4,500,000	Below	21
Russian Hill (no sales)					
Sea Cliff	70 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$5,375,000	Above	7
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					
CONDOS		BEDROOMS/		ABOVE/AT/BELOW	DAYS (
NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ASKING PRICE	MARKE
Cow Hollow	2856 Scott Street #1 2147 Greenwich	1BD/1BA 2BD/1.5BA	\$1,515,000 \$1,350,000	Above Below	0 48
Lake (no sales)					
Laurel Heights	52 Palm Avenue	3BD/2BA	\$2,300,000	Below	31
Lone Mountain	310 Stanyan Street #101	1BD/1BA	\$750,000	Above	27
Marina	1680 Lombard Street #2 1680 Lombard Street #1 2153-55 North Point #2155 3615 Buchanan Street #206 49 Cervantes Boulevard	2BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/3BA	\$880,000 \$890,000 \$940,000 \$1,439,000 \$1,925,000	Below Below Above Above At	102 167 37 14
Nob Hill	1177 California #1704 15-19 Wetmore Street #19 1176 Sacramento St. #605 1565 Sacramento Street #6 1100 Sacramento St. #104 1170 Sacramento St. #4A	1BD/1BA 3BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA	\$830,000 \$980,000 \$1,140,000 \$1,340,000 \$1,775,000 \$2,720,000	At Below Above Above Below Below	0 110 4 14 242 0
North Beach	329 Bay Street #307 520 Chestnut Street #102 530 Chestnut Street #C408 650 Chestnut Street #304	2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA	\$999,999 \$1,098,000 \$1,175,000 \$1,270,000	At At Above Above	74 114 33 0
Pacific Heights	1840 Washington St. #203 1998 Broadway #701 1880 Jackson Street #402 1935 California Street 1901 California Street #7 2785 Jackson Street #4 3193 Pacific Avenue	1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/1BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/3BA 2BD/2.5BA	\$900,000 \$1,100,000 \$1,220,000 \$1,825,000 \$1,850,000 \$2,750,000 \$3,190,000	Above At Below Below At Below Below Below	83 67 123 39 86 114 65
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill	2117 Larkin Street 1450 Greenwich Street #501 972 Union Street 1070 Green Street #1402	1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1.25BA 2BD/2.5BA	\$1,025,000 \$1,050,000 \$1,385,000 \$3,550,000	At At Above Below	0 48 36 156
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	1913 Stockton Street 570 Greenwich Street	2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA	\$1,183,000 \$1,450,000	Above Above	32 50

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 : Market updates

## Into the new year

#### FORECAST: REAL **ESTATE INVESTMENT** TO REMAIN STRONG IN 2017

Though it's unknown exactly how President Trump's policies will affect real estate, commercial real estate executives expect 2017 to be another strong year. According to KPMG's 2017 Real Estate Industry Outlook Survey, real estate investors expect the industry to "sustain the boom" for the year, benefiting from continued improvement in real estate fundamentals and an ongoing ability to access funding.

KPMG's respondents noted a number of uncertainties that could potentially put a dent in their high expectations for the year, despite their optimism. These uncertainties include the new president's tax and immigration policies, threats to the Affordable Care Act from Congress and the administration, and rising interest rates.

#### BYE-BYE **GREENBELT?**

Up to 63,500 acres of natural lands and farms and ranches in the Bay Area could be consumed by development in the next decade, according to the Greenbelt Alliance, which issued the report "At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt." All told, the group says that more than 290,000 acres are at risk from urban sprawl.

Millions of acres of local greenbelt are already legally protected from development, but the Greenbelt Alliance says that the remaining available lands are under pressure from the region's booming economy and high housing costs, which push people to go farther out from city centers until they find something affordable. To counter this threat, the group suggests funding affordable housing, develop housing for all income levels, change public policies to make it easier to build in cities, and to focus on "infill" development — finding unused or underused spaces in existing urban areas and building there.

#### **PRICING PEAKS AND VALLEYS**

Avert your eyes if you've seen this one before: Tech workers caused the year of the highest appreciation in house and condo prices, pushing



Are tech workers taking all the good spots? New reports on the local real estate market track the area's fortunes with the rise and fall and rise of tech. PHOTO: TECHCRUNCH

them up 26.1 percent and 34.9 percent, according to a report by Paragon Real Estate Group. But you might not know this: That year of highest appreciation was in 2000, at the height of the first dotcom bubble.

For the current price hikes, 2013 was the peak year for houses, pushing prices upward 20 percent; For condos, 2015 saw the biggest rise, hitting 15.1 percent. Since then the supply of new condominiums has helped ease pricing pressure for condos, resulting in no growth in 2016, according to Paragon.

"When the dotcom bubble popped, SF condo prices were much more negatively affected than house prices: Young, high-tech workers play a bigger role in the condo market," Paragon writes in its report, "Ups & Downs in Bay Area Real Estate Markets." Last year, "the condo median sales price plateaued (and declined a little in some neighborhoods) while houses continued to appreciate. ... We ascribe this plateauing in condo appreciation to, firstly, a big increase in new condo construction (more supply) and, secondly, to some cooling of the hightech hiring boom (somewhat less demand)."

#### **SELLING AND** BUYING

The median price of a single-family home in San Francisco dipped 3.3 percent in December, though year-on-year prices rose 9.2 percent, according to a market update from the California Association of Realtors. The amount of time a single-family home was on the market was mostly steady throughout 2016, but it rose 17.3 percent in December. December is often a slow month for sales, but for the year as a whole, the amount of time single-family homes stayed on the market still rose 13.9 percent.

In January 2017, the number of homes sold in the city were 5 percent lower than in January 2016, and inventory of available homes for sale dropped 15 percent, Selma Hepp wrote in Pacific Union's "Economic Straight Talk." Inventory and sales were down in five of eight Bay Area counties she examined; only Alameda, Contra Costa, and (barely) Marin counties had increases in both categories.

"San Francisco and Silicon Valley saw some of the largest housing supply declines in December, a trend that started in the latter part of 2016," Hepp wrote. "Consequently, home sales decreased relatively more in January than in other Bay Area regions. It is still hard to tell if slowing sales in those two regions are primarily due to falling inventory levels, or if anxiety over [the] new administration's immigration policies has had an impact on the large number of Silicon Valley residents who rely on H1B visas. Anecdotal evidence noted in a recent San Francisco Business Times article suggests that some Silicon Valley H1B residents and foreign buyers in general have postponed their home purchases until there is more certainty around future immigration policies."

#### **QUOTE UNQUOTE**

"Income gains helped keep California's housing affordability in check in the fourth quarter and even resulted in some modest improvements in the Bay Area, though only one-quarter of the region's residents can afford to purchase a home." —"Wage Growth Slightly Boosts Housing Affordability in Three Bay Area Counties," Pacific Union

Real estate news tips? Email: john@marinatimes.com

## ZEPHYR PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR 2016 TOP PRODUCERS





From left to right: Tanya Dzhibrailova (#1 Companywide), Vicki Valandra, Laura Kaufman (#1 Noe Valley), Robin Hubinsky (#1 West Portal), Wes Freas (#1 Potrero Hill), Sherri Howe, Tim Gullicksen (#1 Pacific Heights), Isabelle Grotte, Britton E. Jackson (#1 Upper Market), and Bill Kitchen.



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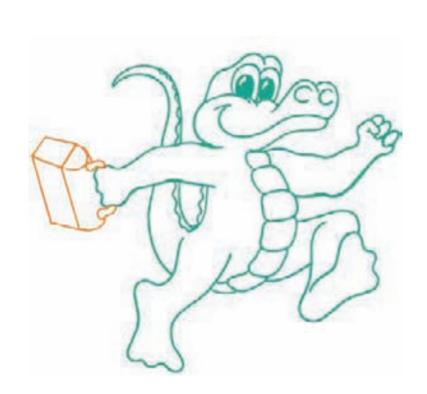
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Everything has its place in your cleaned-up home. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## **Spring cleaning**

BY LIZ FARRELL

T VEN WITH THE CHAOS OF BUSY **◄** schedules, there is still something spring cleaning. I am not sure if it is the extra hour of daylight or the impending arrival of summer, but there is nothing better than a good clean and purge.

Recently, a friend got a jumpstart on cleaning out (I think the rain has us all going a bit stir crazy). She found many items from her children's younger days that had been barely used, such as stuffed animals, toys, and baby blankets. You may think the hardest part is the cleaning out, but as my friend found, sometimes it can be harder trying to find places to donate all those items. Most shelters and nonprofits aren't able to take used toys, blankets, or stuffed animals for health reasons, but a lot of these items may still be in great condition. If you are like I am, you hate to just throw things away, so here are some of the best local places that I have found to donate:

#### **CLOTHES AND BABY ITEMS**

There are two great organizations that are easy to donate to and take most children's items. Loved Twice (lovedtwice. org) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit that distributes baby clothes in sizes up to 12 months. They also take baby blankets, hats, socks, bibs, and board books. They do ask that all donations be clean, stain-free, and folded. The donated items are free to families working with a social worker at local hospitals, family shelters, and prenatal homes. There are drop-off locations throughout the Bay Area with the closest at DayOne Baby (3548 Sacramento Street), which makes

S.F. Smiles (sfsmiles.org) is another local nonprofit accepting a wider range of items. They will take baby and children's clothing, strollers, car seats that aren't expired, bouncy chairs, monitors, and breast pumps that have been cleaned and sterilized. As with any donation, they ask the items be clean, and free of pet hair and smoke odor. As a small organization, they prefer dropoff donations (visit their website) but you can also arrange for a pick-up for \$20 — what a deal!

#### **BOOKS**

We love books, but as our children get older they are less likely to reread a book, which leaves us with a lot of excellent books in great condition, but what to do with them? The Children's Book **Project** (childrensbookproject.org) is the perfect place to donate new and gently used books from newborn to teen, where they will then be given to local shelters, schools, daycares, and community centers. Books can be dropped off at the organization's home base at 1360 43rd Avenue, but they do have limited hours. Donations of less than 75 books can be dropped off at bins located at Books Inc. (3515 California Street) or Sparky's Fun and Joy (115 Clement Street).

Another place to donate books, especially board books for babies that seem to pile up is Project Night Night (projectnightnight.org) This local organization provides tote bags that contain a blanket, a book, and a stuffed animal to homeless children 12 and under. The idea is that every child in a shelter is given a small sense of security that comes from the items in these tote bags. Donations can be dropped in the Marina at Hotel del Sol (3100 Webster Street) or in Ghirardelli Square at Peekadoodle Kids Club (900 North Point Street, Suite F100).

#### **ADULT CLOTHES AND HOUSEWARES**

There are many thrift stores in our area - Goodwill and the Salvation Army, to name just two. They are wellknown organizations with a long-standing reputation in the community, but the donated items are offered for sale, they are not given away. One of my favorite stores to donate to is Community Thrift (communitythriftsf.org) at 623 Valencia Street, a bit farther away, but the cause is worth the drive. The nonprofit organization works with more than 200 Bay Area charities — from the SPCA to the Homeless Prenatal Program and the Bike Coalition. Donations are sold in the store and the proceeds are then given to the charity of your choice. They don't accept children's items, but this is the perfect place to donate other items — anything from CDs to housewares, books, and bikes. I know personally from some of the nonprofits I work with that the profits from these donations really add up and do make a difference.

There is something to be said for "one person's junk is someone else's treasure." When I step back to appreciate all that I have, I also realize how much "stuff" we have. Handing things over instead of throwing them away to help others in our community who aren't as fortunate, makes the world feel a little brighter.

Liz Farrell is the mother of three young children. She was formerly a news producer in Washington, D.C., and in San Francisco.

#### Political Animal Animal welfare

## **Supervisor Katy Tang helps** ban pet stores from selling puppy mill purebreds

The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

— Mahatma Gandhi

UDOS TO DISTRICT 4 Supervisor Katy Tang, San Francisco's animal angel, for her proposal to ban the sale of nonrescue dogs and cats at local pet stores, which the Board of Supervisors passed unanimously last month. The amendment to the city's health code also bans the sale of animals younger than 8 weeks. "We really do | believe that it will send a great message not just in San Francisco but across California, nationwide and hopefully worldwide," Tang said at the board meeting. Not only does Tang want the thousands of animals taken in by shelters and rescues to have a better chance at finding a forever home, she also wants to prevent pet stores from selling dogs from puppy mills.

#### **PUPPY MILLS EXPOSED**

Last December, Rolling Stone magazine published journalist Paul Solotaroff's damning exposé on America's puppy mill industry, "Inside the Dog Factory," in which he chronicles a North Carolina raid with the Humane Society of the United States. Breeder Patricia Yates was selling puppies on multiple websites without a license, but the operation was even larger than HSUS had expected. Inside pitchblack rooms reeking of feces and disease, purebred parent dogs who had never been out of a cage or seen the light of day were blind, their jaws missing after their teeth rotted out, some so weak they couldn't stand; their paws were urine-scalded, their wrists deformed from squatting on wire cages, and some were missing eyes or limbs. One hundred and five dogs came from the Yates house, many of them pregnant or in heat.

#### **SICK DOGS FOR AUCTION**

Dog auctions, a lesser-known side of the industry profiled by Solotaroff, are held at warehouses in tiny towns



Puppies crammed into wire cages are shipped from mills to pet stores and online buyers across the country. PHOTO: GAIKPHOTOS

like Wheaton, Mo. "One by one, some 300 dogs were placed on a table and sold. Their crates were stacked in an uncooled space in the walled-off half of the warehouse. It was stifling back there, and the air unbreathable from the waste of unwell dogs," Solotaroff writes. These are the older dogs that breeders no longer want, but that can still fetch top dollar from others who want to profit from the multimillion-dollar purebred machine. There were dogs with "stomach hernias and bleeding rectums and ears rotted off from hematomas," and auctioneers called out bids while touting the dogs' ability to produce a few more litters. ("She's a 2012 model and showin' a belly; she'll work hard for you!") A pair of French bulldogs — the canine du jour, particularly in San Francisco — "battered and sick after eight or nine years of being bred" went for top dollar.

#### 'PUPPY-MILL EVIL'

Roughly half of the 2 million puppies bred in mills are sold in pet stores (the rest are sold online). "Most every pup sold in stores in America comes from this kind of suffering — or worse," John Goodwin, the director of the puppy mills campaign for HSUS, told Solotaroff. "If you buy a puppy from a pet store, this is what you're paying for and nothing else: a dog raised in puppy-mill evil."

#### **AMERICA LOVES** DOGS?

It is shocking to me that a nation thought to love dogs so much has done nothing to stop not only puppy mills, but also the backyard breeding industry. Then again, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees dog breeding, has a budget under \$30 million (the Department of Defense spends that every 25 minutes). The USDA also has just one law to govern "commercial dogs," the antiquated 1966 Animal Welfare Act, which says dogs "can be kept their entire lives in crates inches bigger than their bodies. They can be denied social contact with other dogs, bred as many times as they enter heat, then killed and dumped in a ditch whenever their uterus shrivels," as Solotaroff points out.

tion of President Donald Trump, what little protection these animals had will be gone (the USDA recently removed animal welfare and cruelty records from its website, including information about puppy mills). We put down roughly half of the animals taken into shelters in this country annually - 2 million of them are dogs. Approximately 37 percent of shelter animals are purebreds (my dog, Skylar Grey, whom I rescued from San Francisco Animal Care and Control at eight weeks, is a purebred American Staffordshire terrier).

Yet we impose no limits on the number of dogs that puppy mills and backyard breeders can breed. In England, where a license is required to breed even a single litter, a total of 5,000 dogs were euthanized.

It's hard to say America loves dogs with statistics

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MARINATIMES.COM : MARINA TIMES MARCH 2017 : 23



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