



On the Northside beat
New column: Street Talk, p. 6
New: Chinatown's evolving allure, p. 10



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A half-century ago, the Summer of Love was captured in full color in collectible posters. COURTESY: FAMSF

The Summer of Love turns 50 at the de Young

BY SHARON ANDERSON

ART, FASHION AND ROCK 'N' ROLL will come together at the de Young to commemorate the 50th anniversary celebration of San Francisco's most vibrant counterculture moment — the summer of 1967. This era's story will be told with more than 300 cultural artifacts, including iconic rock posters, photographs, interactive music and light shows, costumes, textiles, ephemera, and avant-garde films.

To support social and political transformation, in 1967 like-minded people gathered together, proving that one city can change the world. Music journalist Joel Selvin observed: "Even the treacly ubiquitous hit — Scott MacKenzie's 'San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair),' written by John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas as a commercial for the Monterey Pop Festival — paid obeisance to the central truth of rock music around the world; the heart of

the Summer of Love came from San Francisco." It's hard to imagine the psychedelic rock scene of the late 1960s without "the San Francisco sound" pioneered by groups like the Grateful Dead, Big Brother and the Holding Company, and the Jefferson Airplane. With the music came the artists. Legendary rock posters and their color-saturated images announced concerts at the Fillmore Auditorium, Avalon Ballroom, and other city venues. *SUMMER OF LOVE, continued on 14*

REYNOLDS RAP

The peculiar priorities of Mayor Ed Lee

Highest paid mayor in America more out of touch than ever

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

ACCORDING TO RECENT DATA COMPILED BY American City Business Journals, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee is the highest paid mayor in America with an annual salary of \$289,000. I guess with a \$9.6 billion budget, that's a drop in the proverbial bucket. It's certainly not merit-based: As San Franciscans grow angrier about the condition of their once fair city, Lee's approval number has plummeted to the low 40s, with those who "strongly approve" of his performance in single digits. Perpetually perched atop glorious lists such as "best places to visit," San Francisco now takes titles like "worst roads in the nation." A November 2016 study by the National Transportation Research Group found that 71 percent of San Francisco's roads are in poor condition — that's worse than any other city with a population of 500,000 or more. Drivers here pay nearly \$1,000 on average for auto damage caused by those rough rides. Lee's answer is of course to add another layer of bureaucracy called "the fix-it team," with a "fix-it director" (yes, that's the official title) who reports directly to him. Are you telling me with a *REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4*

BELLINGHAM BY THE BAY

Confessions of a paper boy

BY BRUCE BELLINGHAM

ONCE A PAPER BOY, ALWAYS A PAPER BOY. I STILL love delivering the *Marina Times* in scattered fashion — dropping copies off in stores and bars from hither to yon. Yes, I was a paperboy in New Jersey. The paper was the *Bergen Record*. I also had to sell subscriptions. "Why would I want to subscribe to this newspaper?" asked one irate not-yet-a-customer. "Because," I explained, "President Kennedy said, 'A good citizen is an informed citizen.'" My good buddy, Danny Riecken, said, "Let's not make too much trouble, Bruce." I love trouble. I mean the good kind of trouble. Stir it up — but let's not hurt anyone. I made the sale. It just takes a little moxie. The nice man in Closter, N.J., smiled and said, "You really are a smartass, aren't you? I'll buy it." Once in a while, arrogance pays off. Just look at the White House. My paperboy days preceded an era where "the press is the enemy of the American people." Richard Nixon said just that. As usual, Donald Trump stole the line. The difference is Nixon did not say this in public. His tirade was heard on the Nixon *BELLINGHAM, continued on 5*

APPETITES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS



Wok crab at Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill. PHOTO: EARL ADKINS

The fifth annual Ernesto's Best of North Beach awards

BY ERNEST BEYL

HERE WE GO AGAIN. WELCOME to the Fifth Annual Ernesto's. And welcome back Buster's! Last year the Ernesto's dropped Buster's from the

awards — not because it had slipped — but because it was the all-time Ernesto's winner in three categories and we thought we should retire it. The Ernesto's has seen the error of its ways, so here comes Buster's again.

BEST PHILLY CHEESESTEAK: Buster's (366 Columbus Avenue)

To me the cheesesteak is one of the gourmet splendors of our time. It exists at the crossroads of desire and necessity. If I am deprived, I'm apt to slip over the edge into the gastronomic doldrums. Buster's is always close at hand.

BEST BURGER: Buster's (366 Columbus Avenue)

I measure all burgers against those of the late and lamented Clown Alley of North Beach. In my taste memory Buster's cheeseburgers approach or surpass those of Clown Alley. Cheeseburger — the most euphonious word in the English language. Of course, you must accompany your Buster's cheeseburger with an A&W root beer to reach the sublime.

BEST HOT DOG: Buster's (366 Columbus Avenue)

I consider myself the hot dog savant of San Francisco. And let me tell you this about the Buster's hot dog: It is sheer bliss on a sesame bun, topped with sauerkraut, green pickle relish, raw onion, mustard, and jalapeno peppers. If that doesn't get your attention, nothing will. *APPETITES, continued on 11*



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News BRIEFS :: Politics, arts, crime, and more

Race to lead the city

MARK LENO, ANGELA ALIOTO IN MAYORAL TALK

The race to succeed Ed Lee as San Francisco's mayor is already heating up, two years before the 2019 election. One of the front-runners is Mark Leno, who served as a supervisor, state senator, and state assemblyman. Leno, who declined to challenge Lee in the last go-around, is reportedly tapping Lee's campaign advisors for a 2019 run.

In February, Leno told the *Chronicle's* Beth Spotswood, "I am 100 percent sure that I will be running for Mayor of San Francisco in 2019 — as sure as I am that Hillary won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes, that 3–5 million fraudulent votes were not cast, and that this new president is a dangerous liar." At a late-March panel discussion held by KQED and The Commonwealth Club, Leno sounded very much the candidate, again highlighting his eagerness to oppose the president's agenda in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, 415 Media blogger Rich Lieberman suggests that Leno could be joined in the race by Angela Alioto, former supervisor and president of the Board of Supervisors; she ran unsuccessfully in the 2003 mayoral race. He says that when he asked her about the election, she said, "I keep all my options open," which isn't exactly a candidacy announcement.

CITY LABOR BILL

Under a proposed policy, any contractor hired for a public works project in San Francisco costing at least \$1 million would have to adhere to a new set of rules regarding hiring and other labor practices. The policy, introduced by District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell in late February, would keep in place the city's rules on local hiring, prevailing

wage, and local business requirements, while adding requirements for hiring apprentices from state-approved apprenticeship programs, helping veterans get jobs, and avoiding "strikes, picketing, and other labor disruptions on qualified public works projects.

CITY COLLEGE, FORT MASON CLASH OVER ARTS PROGRAMS

The arts classes offered by City College at Fort Mason could be endangered, due to disagreement between City College and its landlords at Fort Mason. The college is facing the loss of tens of millions of dollars in state aid; meanwhile, negotiations over the Fort Mason lease — which expires in June — have broken down amid accusations of misrepresenting the offers that have been made and the amounts of money involved. Fort Mason officials have complained to the press that CCSF has not been negotiating; but CCSF spokesman Jeff Hamilton told KQED, "We've been in pretty much continuous discussion with them for at least four months. And we're in process right now with Fort Mason as to how we can come to terms."

At press time, it was still unclear how the hundreds of students enrolled in courses at Fort Mason will be affected. But if the Fort Mason site is lost, CCSF officials have said they have plans to move the affected classes to other college locations in the city.

NORTHSIDE CRIME UPDATE

The number of robberies jumped in February in a month-to-month tally provided by the police department's Northern Station. In the northern district, robberies rose by 30 percent, while they were up a much smaller 7 percent citywide. There was one homicide in February,

up from zero in January; Capt. John Jaimere-na noted, "Though very unfortunate, I am proud to say that the suspect was taken into custody within 24 hours."

Other categories of violent crime were down on the Northside, including rape (down 75 percent) and aggravated assault (down 26 percent).

CITY ADJUSTS FINANCIAL PLAN

Citing uncertainty caused by threats to cut federal funding to sanctuary cities such as San Francisco, Mayor Ed Lee announced updates to the city's five-year financial plan. It includes some one-time savings, recalculations of revenue, and debt service savings, bringing savings of \$114.8 million over two years. On the debit side, the city cited expectations of rising inflation, as well as increased health care costs for city employees.

"In order to protect and sustain the significant investments our city has made over the past five years, it is essential that we show fiscal discipline during this time of great uncertainty," said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. "The presidential administration is proposing severe cuts to critical services, and while none of these proposals are concrete, we have to prepare for the future by considering tough tradeoffs."

Supervisor Malia Cohen said "It's important to remember that not a single federal dollar has been taken away from San Francisco by the presidential administration yet. ... The presidential administration has made clear its intentions to target San Francisco. We must be prepared to make fiscal decisions that keep our city healthy and working."

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

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE, "ORIGINAL HINDU Temple in USA is Overhauled After 111 Years," omitted the name of the restoration contractor and misstated the location of the contractor's office. The contractor's

name is Christopher Hesson, and his office is in Sausalito, not Elk Grove.

In last month's News Briefs story ("Is Lombard Ready for the Big Time?"), resident Christina Noren's first name was misspelled Christine.

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

budget bigger than the nations of Haiti, Belize, Aruba, Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahamas combined, bigger than 13 U.S. states, bigger than every U.S. city per capita except Washington, D.C., that we can't get potholes fixed without creating another six-figure middle management job?

While potholes are a huge problem, homelessness is a crisis unlike anything I've seen in more than two decades in this city. When Mayor Lee didn't get his sales tax increase last November (a resounding 65 percent of voters rejected it), he warned there would be cuts made to homeless initiatives. He's already made good on that promise, cutting a \$3.1 million program that provides rent subsidies for vulnerable populations like seniors, veterans, and the disabled. Yet Lee can find money for the legal defense of undocumented immigrants. He authorized the public defender's office to use more than \$200,000 to hire three new attorneys and a paralegal to represent immigrants here illegally who are facing deportation, some of them for committing crimes. That's on top of an additional \$1.5 million for non-profits appropriated after the November election, which is on top of a \$3.8 million prior commitment.

San Francisco is very proud of its sanctuary city status. Sanctuary cities harbor undocumented immigrants who might otherwise be deported by federal immigration law enforcement officials. There are around 140 sanctuary cities and counties in the country, but only a few use public funds to defend undocumented immigrants. New York is one of those cities, and Public Defender Jeff Adachi has already hired Jennifer Friedman, former managing director of immigration practice at the Bronx Defenders in New York City, to fill one of his new positions.

In January, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to block federal grants to sanctuary cities, meaning San Francisco could lose more than \$1 billion. The city also faces a budget shortfall that will reach nearly \$850 million in five years. Despite a 2011 voter-approved measure to cut employee retirement costs, San Francisco's net pension liability more than doubled to \$5.5 billion last June, and contributions to the system will increase 36 percent by 2022 — more than three times faster than revenue. With crumbling roads, filthy streets, car break-ins at record numbers, and homelessness worsening by the day, this hardly seems like the time to stand on our soapbox as a sanctuary city.

San Francisco has an estimated 44,000 undocumented immigrants, with the largest numbers coming from Mexico (11,000) and China (10,000). Whether you're a super-duper liberal or just trying to tiptoe around political correctness in a city that is ripe with it, you can't deny that undocumented immigrants place additional burdens on San Francisco. For example, complain all you want about the thousands of housing units taken off the market by Airbnb (and I do), but people here illegally are taking more than all the home-sharing startups combined, and they're also using valuable city resources that, if you listen to the mayor, we can't afford to give. I have friends who immigrated to America by the book and they're some of the most vocal critics of illegal immigration. "I worked hard, more than a decade, to come here legally and become a citizen," one friend told me. "It's not fair that all these people come here illegally and then San Francisco rewards them for it."

I can already hear the bleeding hearts screaming, "Racist!" but it has nothing to do with race and everything to do with common-sense priorities. I don't think the city should be using public funds to defend the rights of immigrants to stay here illegally while slashing programs that keep vulnerable citizens housed and reneging on promises to deal with homelessness, crime, and crumbling streets by crying poor. If we lived in the Land of Oz lined with magic poppies and paved with yellow brick roads, then by all means, help everyone, but that's not the case. We live in a financially sinking metropolis lined with "LeeVille" tent cities and roads paved with potholes, and the only thing yellow about those roads is the overflow of urine.

It was Supervisor David Campos who sponsored the original legislation for an undocumented immigrant legal defense fund. He wanted \$5 million in taxpayer money to hire 10 attorneys, 5 paralegals, and 2 legal clerks in the Public Defender's Office, and to pay community legal groups for 13 attorneys, 6 education and outreach staff, office space, and "administration fees." Campos was termed out shortly after, but he wasn't unemployed for long — he will now be a "deputy executive" for Santa Clara County making \$240,000 a year — more than double what he earned as a San Francisco supervisor for a job that has "yet to be defined." Call me cynical, but you would think a public servant passionate about helping undocumented immigrants in his hometown would take a job at a local nonprofit where he could use all those bureaucratic skills he learned as a supervisor to help them, and maybe even find private financing instead of expecting taxpayers to foot the bill. Why take a position in a county you don't live in or care about? According to the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Matier & Ross, "those in the know" say Campos sees it as a résumé builder for a possible run at the office of San Francisco city attorney (once a politician, always a politician).

Though Campos will now spend his days entangled in the congested Silicon Valley commute, his undocumented immigrant legal fund legislation has a new champion in recently elected Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, who wants funding for 17 staff members, including eight attorneys who would earn between \$150,000 and \$230,000 annually. She pushed her agenda at a March Budget and Finance Committee hearing. At least two supervisors, Malia Cohen and Katy Tang, showed some respect for taxpayers, saying they didn't want to commit city funds without going through the regular budget process. "What happens when the Department of Public Health is over here, Human Services gets up in front us, and the Homeless Department gets up in front us when there are other federal cuts and, yes, lives are at stake as well for the people they serve, also. We do have to take that into consideration," Tang said in a refreshing display of prudence.

There's nothing wrong with championing a cause like Campos and Fewer — I've been known to champion a few myself — but when it's a personal legacy or a pet project, I think they should make their case to the private sector, not taxpayers. And where are the champions of the causes that matter most to San Franciscans, like potholes, homelessness, traffic, and crime? Nowhere to be seen at City Hall, that's for sure.

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tapes in 1972. He was ranting in front of his top advisers, not expecting that the Justice Department would subpoena the materials.

Years ago, I moderated a panel for the Commonwealth Club that included **David Harris**, who went to prison because he would not participate in the Vietnam War. He could have run to Canada or gotten a college

He died last year. He worked behind the bar at innumerable taverns. But he was also a singer and a world-class raconteur. He loved to sing “Home on the Range,” and songs he learned as a kid by listening to Armed Forces Network radio when Mike was growing up in Limerick. No one is more American than an immigrant.

Frank once told me that of all the McCourt Brothers, Michael was the best storyteller.

my uncles, and shouted, ‘It’s a pack of lies!’”

Frank and Malachy had posters made, and displayed them outside the theater. They read: “A Couple of Blackguards – ‘It’s a pack of lies!’ – Angela McCourt.”

Everybody’s a critic.

Yes, that was jazz singer **Paula West** at the Super Duper Burger joint on Kearny Street, working on a chocolate ice cream cone. Paula looks great. She introduced me to her French bulldog, Satchmo. ... “Funny thing,” said I. “I was just listening to **Louis Armstrong**’s version of ‘La Vie En Rose.’”

“I won’t sing it until I can sing it in French,” she said.

I’ll find the sheet music.

...

George W. Bush was president when I spoke with David Harris. He said, lugubriously, 'I never thought I'd miss Nixon.'

deferment or produced a letter from a shrink. No, married to **Joan Baez** at the time, he knew his sacrifice would make headlines, and draw attention to the antiwar movement.

George W. Bush was president when I spoke with David. He said, lugubriously, “I never thought I’d miss Nixon,”

I can’t imagine what David Harris is thinking today.

I never thought I’d miss **Benito Mussolini**. ... Channel 4 has been airing reruns of the old show, *The X-Files*. Seems to reflect the times in which we are enmired. But aliens can’t come here. Immigrants are not welcome. The tagline for the show is “All Lies Lead to the Truth.” Trump would like that. It’s as preposterous as a tweet from Trump Tower. ... **P.J. O’Rourke** describes Trump as “a giant toddler with nothing going on in his head.”

Michaels’s daughter, Angie McCourt, was the guest of honor at the Senior Center party. She read an excerpt from *Angela’s Ashes*. It pulls no punches: “Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.”

Frank’s searing description of the poverty, and humiliation in Limerick garnered death threats. His former next-door neighbor, **Richard Harris** — yes, the star of *Camelot* and the singer on MacArthur Park — wrote a letter to the *Times of London*, vilifying Frank. Bloody newspapers. Poor people do not like to be reminded of the days when they were poor.

Jerry Nachman, my news director at KCBS,

I’m pleased to know that **Kim Nalley** has been out singing again, following the birth of her second child. Recently, Kim performed at Biscuits & Blues on Mason Street at Geary. ... I’ve been listening to Kim’s tribute CD to **Nina Simone**, *She Put a Spell on Me*. It’s a masterpiece. **Tammy Hall**’s piano work. It was recorded at Kim’s former nightclub in North Beach, Jazz at Pearl’s. Every year, Kim would throw a Scorpio Party — Scorpions only invited. While there, a woman asked me if it were true what they “say about Scorpions.” I pretended I had no idea what she was talking about.

Kim knocked on my door one day on Nob Hill. She had two quarts of chicken soup for me to “babysit” while she and her husband went out of

My grandmother stood up in the audience, shook her fist at my uncles, and shouted, 'It's a pack of lies!'

admonished me: “Don’t try to be funny when dealing with repressed people.”

Frank and his brother, Malachy, went on tour with a two-man show, *A Couple of Blackguards*, which included stories that later made their way into *Angela’s Ashes*.

Angie told me about the time the show was playing on Broadway. Angela, Frank and Malachy’s mother, was in the audience. Growing more incensed by the minute, she could no longer contain herself. “My grandmother stood up in the audience,” recounts Angie, “shook her fist at

town: “I married a nice Jewish boy, so I am learning how to cook Jewish food.”

What a lucky man.

Stop the press. Somebody’s happy. As a former paperboy, I confess I never stood on a street corner, shouting, “Extree! Extree! Read all about it!”

Say, just how old do you think I am?

Bruce Bellingham is the author of Bellingham by the Bay. Ask him if it’s true what they say about Scorpions at bruce@marinatimes.com. Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes.



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Street Talk :: Cow Hollow

What brings you to Union Street?

BY BECCA SCOTT

THIS MONTH, WE PRESENT THE FIRST OF OUR NEW STREET TALK COLUMN, featuring—well, *you*. We wanted to give you a platform to tell the Northside about what brings you to the neighborhood or keeps you here. The city is changing fast, with new people, new businesses, new technologies, new (and old) problems. To start, we asked the following:

- What is your name?
- What neighborhood do you live in, and how long have you lived there?
- How often do you come to Union Street?
- What are your favorite things to do on Union Street?
- What would you like to see more of?
- What would you like to see less of?



STEPHANIE

- Lives in Laurel Heights and has been there 7 years.
- Spends two days a week on Union Street for an exercise class and for shopping.
- Her favorite thing to do is go to the pre- and postnatal exercise class at the Lotus Method.
- She would like to see more regular clothing stores, more boutiques, and baby-friendly restaurants.
- She would like to see fewer loud restaurants: “I think there’s a good mix of different style stores here.”



MALACHI

- Lives in Nopa and has been there 6 weeks.
- Comes to Union Street three or four times a week to go to Equinox gym.
- His favorite thing about Union Street is all of the restaurants: “I always grab food after the gym.”
- He would like to see more fast-casual restaurants.
- He would like to see fewer chains: “It’s nice that we have more local businesses.”



BRAD

- Lives in Pacific Heights and has been there 4 years.
- Comes to Union Street four days a week.
- His favorite things to do there are eat and shop.
- What he would like to see more of: “We love the boutique shops, but we wouldn’t be opposed to a Walgreens or an Apple Store.”
- He would like to see fewer irresponsible bars and bar owners. Also, he said, “I think there’s too much vacancy.”



RICH

- Lives in Pacific Heights and has been there 8 years.
- Comes to Union Street two days a week.
- His favorite things to do are go to brunch and day drink.
- What he’d like to see more of: “You can never have too many restaurants. Outdoor seating is always nice — not all of them have that.”
- He would like to see less traffic on Union Street.



DAMON

- Lives in Potrero Hill and has been there 5 years.
- Comes to Union Street four times a year.
- His favorite things to do are eat and shop: “I love Wrecking Ball Coffee.”
- He would like to see more fashion options for men.
- He would like to see fewer nail and hair salons.



DUSTIN

- Lives in Noe Valley and has been there 7 years.
- Comes to Union Street two days a month.
- His favorite thing to do is people watch.
- He would like to see more higher quality restaurants
- He would like to see less traffic.



CHRISTY

- Lives in Cow Hollow and has been there 20 years.
- She goes to Union Street four times a week.
- Her favorite things to do are to get all of her “beauty stuff done” and then have lunch.
- What she would like to see more of: “I would like to see all the empty buildings have businesses that can afford to be there.”
- What she would like to see less of: “I’m good with the way it is.”

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City labor, retail, and Trump: Answering your questions

BY MARK FARRELL

FOR THIS MONTH’S COLUMN, I will be answering some of your questions regarding my recently introduced project labor policy, helping small businesses, and responding to the first couple months of the Trump presidency.

Why did you propose your project labor agreement policy on city public works projects, and what impact do you anticipate it having on city costs?

I believe we need to give working people and families a fighting chance to stay in San Francisco. At the end of February, I introduced a historic, first-of-its-kind citywide workforce policy that will help guarantee highly skilled labor on vital public works projects important to the public.

My policy mandates for the first time a programmatic project labor agreement on public works projects over \$1 million. My policy is intended to increase local employment among residents and veterans, decrease work disruptions and stoppages, and reduce overall public works projects costs and delivery. Project labor agreements, also known as community workforce agreements, are prehire collective bargaining agreements

with one or more labor organizations that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. The agreements guarantee a constant flow of labor and stop work disruptions.

Every Democratic president since Reagan has encouraged project labor agreements on federal public works projects, because they have been shown to help increase local employment while also helping to lower overall project costs. Local analysis of any cost impacts to the city from the policy will be completed before the item is heard in committee in late April or May.

While there may be minimal costs to add some staff to help administer the policy, the intent of this policy is also to save the city money over time by guaranteeing a highly skilled, constant flow of labor on vital public works projects.

From my perspective, this is a values-based policy in alignment with our shared San Francisco values of supporting workers, good wages, and good benefits. Many workers are paid under the table and do not receive any benefits at all. My policy is binding to all contractors and subcontractors that may work on a qualifying city

project, and they must adhere to all local hiring, prevailing wage, and local small business requirements. I am thankful to my six other co-sponsors on the board who agree with the value and importance of this policy.

Is there anything the city can do to help small retail businesses that have taken such a beating, even in this booming economy?

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. Even though our local economy is strong — which is great — many small businesses still face challenges with growing commercial rents and online competition.

The city’s Invest in Neighborhood’s program is an interagency partnership to strengthen and revitalize neighborhood commercial districts throughout the city. The program currently serves 25 commercial corridors throughout the city, including two in District 2 — Union and Lombard streets. The program works with small businesses on the commercial corridors to address specific issues to the corridor around cleanliness, marketing, and further businesses assistance and strategy.

Additionally, the voters just this past election approved a measure to help small businesses known

as “legacy businesses” apply for and receive rental assistance based on how long they have been in business here in San Francisco. Blue Bear School of Music, Brazen Head Restaurant, Flax Art & Design, and San Francisco Heritage are all examples of small businesses that applied and are now receiving assistance under our legacy business program.

I feel strongly about appropriately helping and working with neighborhood-serving small businesses whenever necessary, because they are what makes San Francisco so great and diverse. If any small business you know is in need of assistance, please feel free to send them my way via e-mail at mark.farrell@sfgov.org.

There was more attention than normal in March to International Women's Day and Women's History Month. How do you think women's issues will fare under the Trump administration, and what can local officials do about it?

To put it bluntly, women, immigrant and minority communities, and the low-income are all under attack from the Trump administration due to the policies and budget he is pushing. His first actions and statements as presi-

dent do not give me much hope that he will champion women’s issues whatsoever. His recently announced budget proposal, for example, seeks to fully defund Planned Parenthood and makes drastic cuts to funding for food security programs, the arts, education, environment, and health care, to name just a few.

One of the silver linings of Trump winning the election is that it motivated more people, particularly women, to get more politically engaged than they ever have been. One of my responsibilities as a local elected official is to provide opportunities for our residents to get more engaged in policy and the political process. I try regularly to publicize opportunities to get involved, whether it’s applying to serve on a city commission, engaging residents in our policy work, or participating in your neighborhood park cleanup.

Inside City Hall, I stand ready to fight alongside my colleagues against the discriminatory policies and proposed drastic budget cuts that would devastate many of our most vulnerable. We’re committed to providing opportunities for health care, child care and family leave, and to working with our federal elected leaders to join us in fighting for our shared values.

COMING SOON!

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Sketches from a North Beach Journal

Plebian food for plain folks and my favorite vegetable

BY ERNEST BEYL

IN A RECENT COLUMN, I ATTEMPTED TO entertain readers by repeating a few lines I picked up while eavesdropping in North Beach. I was probably entertaining only myself, but never mind. Here’s a new offering for you to consider.

OVERHEARD AT GINO AND CARLO

Question: What do you call a bunch of nuns — a school, a flock?

Answer: Nun of the above.

Question: What about a bunch of monks?

Answer: Monkey business.

O.K., O.K., I hear you. I’ll stop listening to this kind of stuff.

PLEBIAN FOOD FOR PLAIN FOLKS

Lately I’ve been thinking of reinventing myself as a chef and opening a restaurant in North Beach. It can’t be that difficult, can it? I’ll just serve good food — stuff I like. I’ll call it Plebian Food for Plain Folks. Catchy name! The menu will include beef stew, pot roast, meat-loaf, meat balls and spaghetti, and maybe some Polish sausage with sauerkraut. Do you know there are only a couple of places in the neighborhood where you can get sauerkraut? They are Albona Ristorante Istriano, down on Francisco Street, and Buster’s on Columbus Avenue, where the master griller will add some to your hot dog if you want it. I always want it.

And by the way, in my new plebian food restaurant there will be no fancy foam sauces, no deconstruction, no seaweed, sticks or stones, edible dirt, or infant vegetables applied to your plate with tweezers — and no quinoa, no kale, no kelp.

SWEET MELISSA

The other day I was having lunch at Sotto Mare and Melissa Lavelle was serving me. I said to her: “Are you the ‘sweet’ Melissa that Gregg Allman wrote the song about?”

She said she was indeed.

“Interestingly there’s a Melissa over at Original Joe’s who also thinks she’s sweet Melissa,” I said.

Ah, the sweet Melissas.

MARIJANE’S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Marijane Pierson — the joyously salty, silver-haired, North Beach goddess — had a birthday recently and decided to give herself a party. The neighborhood cognoscenti turned out at Betty Lou’s for the event that began at 1 p.m. and was still going on when I left at 5 p.m. Marijane’s birthday party may just have been the defining gathering of North Beach insiders. More than 75 bartenders, saloon patrons, retired cops, poets, and painters, and solid, working class muckety-mucks were there to wish Marijane a happy birthday and to eat their way through Betty Lou’s menu from oysters to clam chowder, from Mike’s wok crab to sand dabs. When I left, there were rumors of the imminent arrival of linguine with clams and mussels.

MY FAVORITE VEGETABLE

I went up to Nob Hill the other evening to check out Osso Steakhouse — USDA

Prime or certified Angus. I wanted a big steak. There are several fine places for steaks in North Beach, but none as fancy as this Osso joint. It’s owned by the same folks who operate Calzone’s and the Stinking Rose on Columbus Avenue in my neighborhood. I went for the bone-in ribeye. Splendido! There’s a 28-ounce Porterhouse, too. I’ll try that next time. My favorite vegetable is steak.

MATTOS AT TERRIFIC STREET

Poster as Process is the name of an exhibition by award-winning artist-illustrator John Mattos that will open April 7 at gallery-shop Terrific Street, 1534 Grant Avenue. Mattos, a North Beacher, did the poster for the 1991 superhero film *The Rocketeer*. It was selected as one of the 100 best movie posters of all time by the American Film Institute. At 8 p.m. the same evening, Terrific Street will screen

The Sniper in the alley behind the gallery-shop. It was there that much of the 1900 noir movie was shot in 1952.

And, by the way, Terrific Street was named after Pacific Avenue, the Barbary

Coast hotspot known for its jazz and other pleasures.

SUGAR HILL

A while back I was on a nostalgia trip, and I wrote a column about places I miss in North Beach. I’m still on that trip so I thought I would lay out another loss for the neighborhood. Broadway once had really classy entertainment. In the couple of blocks between Kearny Street and Columbus Avenue there were four or five jazz clubs featuring major artists.

One that I still miss is Sugar Hill. Basically a blues club — Broadway’s very own jook joint — Sugar Hill was operated by a woman named Norma Aston. She was a tall string bean of a gal from the Midwest who came to San Francisco for the action.

I was a regular at Sugar Hill. I dug the blues, and I dug Norma.

BIG MAMA, LIGHTNIN’ SAM, JOHN LEE, AND CLEANHEAD

On the bill at Sugar Hill were such giants as Big Mama Willie Mae Thornton (you may remember she wrote “Hound Dog”), Lightnin’ Sam Hopkins, John Lee Hooker, and Eddie (Cleanhead) Vinson.

RAZORBLADE TOOGALOO SHORTY

Norma heard about a New Orleans blues guy named Razorblade Toogaloo Shorty and she booked him. But before Blade (that was his nickname) could make the date at Sugar Hill, he was shot full of holes by a rival for a damsel’s hand. They had an old-time marching band funeral for him.

MODESTY IN NORTH BEACH

Etched into the sidewalk on Union Street between Columbus and Stockton in capital letters is the word modesty — looks like it was done with a stick or a finger when the cement was wet. It’s either a bold woman’s name or a call to action in louche North Beach.

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An environmental and transit-first agenda requires many hats

BY AARON PESKIN

THERE'S A LOT ON MY plate, not just as a supervisor, but with many of the other hats I get to wear through public service.

Last month, I was honored when Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León appointed me to the the California Coastal Commission to represent the North Central Coast, which includes the counties of San Francisco, Sonoma, and Marin. This month I am slated to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be San Francisco's representative on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), where I've been serving as an alternate to Supervisor Jane Kim. Earlier this year I was appointed to serve on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Board by the Association of Bay Area Governments. Last, but certainly not least, I was unanimously elected chair of the San Francisco Transportation Authority (SFCTA) by my colleagues earlier this year.

I'm proud to serve in many capacities at a time when we must respond quickly and act decisively to combat the draconian cuts of a madman — especially if we're going to address the real impacts

of climate change. It's hard to know where to begin with the federal administration's latest assault on the people of the United States of America and California. But as a lifelong environmental advocate and longtime public transit nerd, you can be sure that I will be prioritizing the fight to protect both of these public assets.

ICED OUT BY TRUMP

Reports from every continent tell of melting snowcaps, rising seas heating up, and a shifting Gulf Stream set to make our weather even more erratic, yet the 45th president and his head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt (yes, the same guy who is currently suing his own agency!), have proposed gutting the EPA's \$8.2 billion budget by a staggering 31 percent.

The Trump/Pruitt cuts will have serious ramifications for us here in the Golden State. For one thing, they effectively eliminate the EPA's San Francisco Bay Program, which funds everything from wetland and watershed restoration to reducing polluted runoff and improving shoreline protection in San Francisco Bay. San Francisco just played a major role in helping pass the multicounty Measure AA on last June's ballot,

which will raise \$25 million a year to restore precious wetlands, intertidal areas, and bay uplands. We were the only region in the United States that raised our own local dollars to match the federal funding in the program, and now the feds are basically proposing to axe the bay right out of Bay Area.

California receives approximately \$2.5 million in federal funding annually from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund the critical work of the BCDC, the California Coastal Commission, and the State Coastal Conservancy. Really not a lot when you think about the vital work that they all do preparing coastal cities for the imminent threat of sea-level rise, severe storms, and other natural disasters. Trump is proposing to cut NOAA coastal funding and anything that remotely addresses the real threat of climate change. NOAA's programmatic cuts read like a death sentence: a combined \$75 million for NOAA's Coastal Zone Management grants and Regional Coastal Resilience grants, \$10 million in Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency grants, \$23 million in annual funding to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the entire \$73 million Sea Grant program. The largest

chunk of the California Coastal Commission's budget comes from NOAA, and the impending 10 percent budget reduction would have catastrophic impacts on our ability to mitigate and prepare for sea-level rise.

Finally, the president's clarion call to attack any jurisdiction that expresses support for science or reason has led to halting any new federal investments in some of the top deterrents to climate change: our public transit programs. These cuts will impact planned BART and Caltrain improvements, which should concern everyone hoping to reduce regional congestion and cut carbon emissions.

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED

Ready to wear some advocacy hats? Because we need you. The Coastal States Organization is looking for individuals and organizations who benefit from the critical work of these defunded agencies to sign a letter of support to Congress, and I will be hosting an advocacy session in San Francisco in the coming days before the fiscal year 2017-18 budget is finalized. The town halls that have erupted across the state are giving life to a new level of engagement, and we have to keep the pressure on.

Locally, I am heading up the S.F. Transportation Task Force 2045 with the mayor, and we'll be holding public meetings with a broad coalition of stakeholders over the next several months to identify a permanent source of progressive revenue to fund local maintenance and capital and service improvements to our transit systems. A critical step to doing our part to address climate change locally is setting the gold standard for transit-first policies. Assemblyman Phil Ting has introduced a bill to allow San Francisco the opportunity to levy a local income tax, and we will be examining how a 0.5 percent tax on the millionaire class could generate \$62 million to \$80 million annually for badly needed public services that are fast becoming privatized without sustained public investment. The city has made it official policy to advocate for the ability to generate this revenue, and we need your support to help pass it. I would also love your input and feedback on how we prioritize these dollars.

I'm ready for a revitalized spring resistance and am looking forward to standing with all of you on the environmental and transit issues that fuel the Bay Area we love.

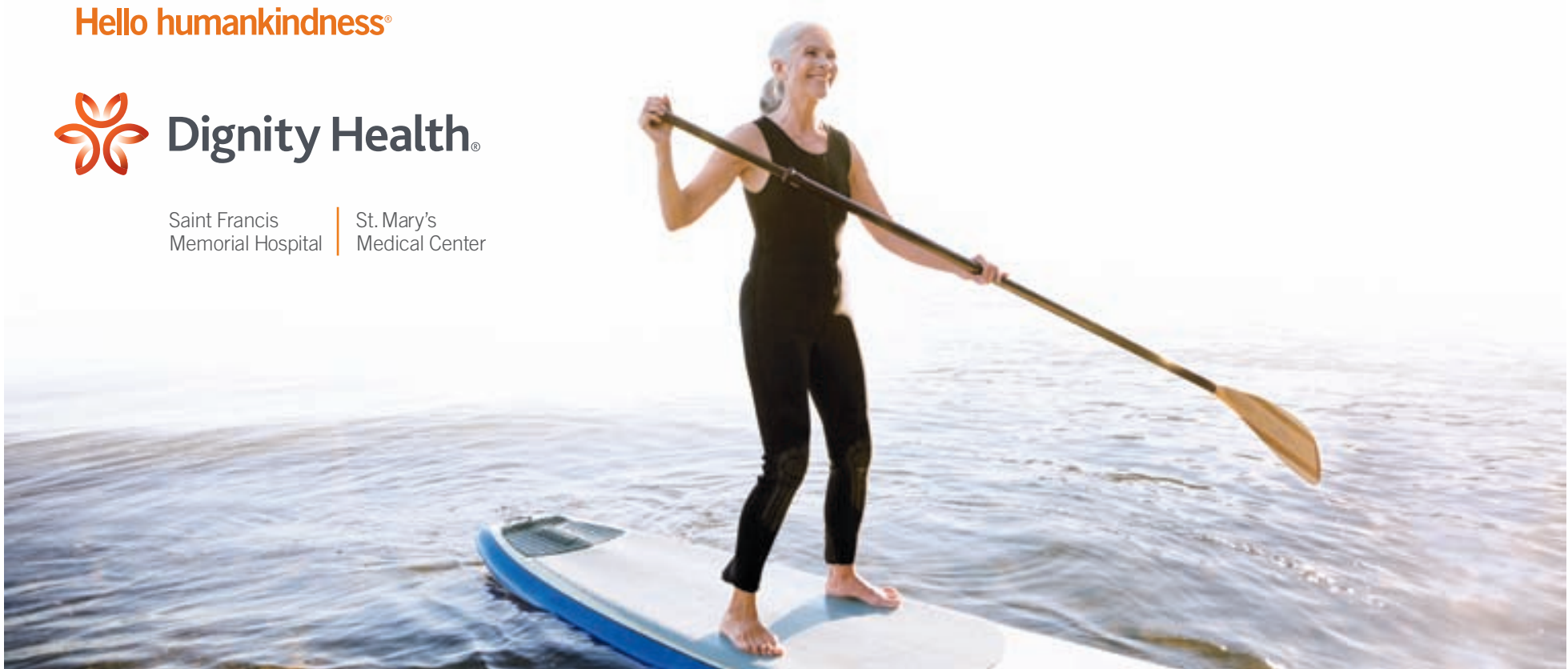
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Chinatown changes attract new crowds

BY GERI KOEPEL

If you haven't been to Chinatown in a few years and all you remember are kitschy tourist shops and hole-in-the-wall restaurants, you've missed a transformation taking place.

Sure, many of the businesses that have made up Chinatown for decades are still there and likely will remain, thanks to strict zoning laws that have prevented the encroachment of office developments. But the mix is slowly changing and attracting people outside of Chinatown who might not have been back in a while.

CULTURE A BIG DRAW

Artists, culture lovers, and gourmands are being enticed by new galleries, performance spaces and restaurants, and they're rediscovering longtime gems in the process. Physically, Chinatown is changing, too, with a Central Subway stop on the way in 2019, a Broadway streetscape project underway, and plans to renovate historic Portsmouth Square. “By 2020, Chinatown will look very different,” said Roy Chan, community planning manager with Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC).

That's not to say it'll lose its cultural character. “I don't want it to go the way of parts of the Mission District,” said District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin, referencing the displacement of Latino residents in favor of trendy cafes. “We need to proceed deliberately and carefully to preserve Chinatown. That doesn't mean there isn't room for change, but I don't start out with a worldview that it's broken and needs to be fixed. It's great and could stand improvement.”

NEW DINING DESTINATIONS

Two of the highest-profile new places are Mister Jiu's at 28 Waverly Place and China Live at 644 Broadway. Mister Jiu's upscale Chinese restaurant opened in April 2016 to immediate acclaim and long waits for a reservation. It was awarded a Michelin star later in the year.

China Live opened in March amid a flurry of publicity — some good, some less so. Former Betelnut owner George Chen's ambitious, contemporary emporium of Chinese food has raised



Mister Jiu's dining room. PHOTO: COURTESY MR. JIU'S

eyebrows for delays and that it is opening in stages instead of all at once. But the slick interior and authentic Taiwanese food is attracting hordes of customers — and job seekers.

Chen said he hopes China Live customers will visit other places in the community when they come, such as the Wok Shop for kitchen items and Red Blossom Tea for high-end teas. “Everybody's proud of what they're doing,” he said. “There's synergy.”

Add to this a smattering of places with a younger vibe cropping up selling bubble tea and snacks, and even Japanese dishes like sushi, poke, katsu, and ramen. And of course, there was the regaled reopening of Sam Wo at 713 Clay Street in October 2015.

ART EXHIBITIONS

In addition to restaurants, community groups such as the CCDC and Chinese Culture Center work together on art installations and projects such as the funky gallery space 41 Ross Alley. “The work that we do is very much about bringing people together and being a voice for the community,” said Jenny Leung, director of communications for the Chinese Culture Center.

The current exhibition, *Eat Chinatown*, is a tribute to Chinatown's rich restaurant culture in current photos along with memorabilia and pictures from the past. Also, a light installation called *Liminal Space/Crossings* by Summer Mei-Ling Lee illuminates Ross Alley from sundown to midnight daily. It's a metaphor for crossing the ocean; the artist drew on her grandmother's experience of spending 30 days on a ship to come to the United States.

The center itself, inside the Hilton San Francisco Financial District at 750 Kearny Street, is also well worth a visit for its engaging, intellectually

challenging contemporary art exhibitions. Don't expect a musty gallery full of calligraphy painting and pottery. The current show, *Martial Spirit* by Justin Hoover, delves into stereotypes about martial arts, and features, among other things, several punching bags adorned with metal studs spelling out provocative sayings.

CCDC has also been supportive of legacy businesses in the community such as Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Company, VIP Bakery, and Clarion Music. “As China Live and Mister Jiu's are opening and creating a buzz,” Chan said, “we also wanted to use this moment to uplift the old businesses that have been around a while and have something to offer.”

MUSIC LESSONS AND CONCERTS

Clarion Music Center is another local gem. It used to sell instruments and rent space for lessons, but owner Clara Hsu, who previously sold it in 2005, bought it back and plans to transform it into a performing arts hub in addition to continuing to rent out studios for lessons. Her father, a piano manufacturer in Hong Kong, made all of the pianos still in use there today.

The first formal concert will be April 9 with a guitarist and violinist, and Hsu hopes to host opera performances by the end of the year and possibly a Christmas musical. She added: “Twenty or 30 years ago, I had a lot of ideas but I was not able to find people who could support me. But now when I come in here, there's a totally new generation. I love my neighbors. They're enthusiastic, they're younger ... I think there is an energy that wants to do something meaningful.”

Geri Koepfel is a freelance writer in San Francisco with an interest in all things urban. Reach her at geri@gerikoepfel.com.

BEST SANDWICH SHOP:

Dip (1318 Grant Avenue)
You know how sometimes you would sell your soul for a French dip sandwich? Well, to satisfy that urge, go to Dip. The proprietor is Haleh Cunningham, daughter of the original Mo from next door at Mo's venerable North Beach restaurant where I like to go for milkshakes. But here we're not talking about milkshakes. We're talking about roast beef, pork shoulder, leg of lamb, or roast chicken sandwiches made with Acme baguettes. You dip them into a deep-flavored au jus. I always add a side of potatoes au gratin.

BEST PIZZA: **Goodfella's Pizzeria & Grill** (377 Bay Street)

I am beholden to one of my dining consultants, Jon Weichert, for turning me on to Goodfella's, and its exemplary pizzas. It's a pleasant place for a quick lunch. Ambience? There's a nice wall mural of San Francisco and New York City, and black-and-white photos from *Goodfellas* and *The Godfather*.

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT: **Original U. S. Restaurant**

(414 Columbus Avenue)
I go there for the roast shoulder of lamb and lima beans on Tuesdays, and the baccala alla Messinese or baccala alla Genovese every other Friday. Actually, I go there because it's the best Italian restaurant in North Beach.

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT: **Yuet Lee** (1300 Stockton Street)

Yes, we have Chinese restaurants in North Beach. This is the best. It's Hong Kong style, everything fresh with fish from a tank where they swim around for you to judge them.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT: **Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill** (318 Columbus Avenue)

Top-notch seafood prepared to order. If seafood isn't your thing, try the bone-in rib eye steak.

BEST HANG-OUT JOINT: **Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store and Cafe** (566 Columbus Avenue)

A young and vibrant staff meets a young and vibrant clientele. Even I hang out there.

BEST SALOON: **Gino and Carlo** (548 Green Street)

Great old-time North Beach saloon. When I'm not hanging out at Mario's, I'm hanging out at Gino and Carlo.

BEST BARTENDER: **Marco Rossi, Gino and Carlo** (548 Green Street)

The ideal bartender. Talks when you want to talk and shuts up when you don't.

BEST WAITPERSON: **Daniella Crismani, Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store and Cafe** (566 Columbus Avenue)

Classy, saltwater taffy kind of gal who makes it fun to frequent this classy joint.

BEST MANHATTAN CLAM CHOWDER: **Original Joe's** (601 Union Street)

Tomatoey with lots of chopped clams and much clam flavor join forces to make this one a winner.

BEST NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER: **Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill** (318 Columbus Avenue)

Hector Chaparro thickens his clam chowder with potatoes, not flour. And you can easily taste the difference: There's a richness to it and it doesn't taste like pancake batter.

BEST MINESTRONE: **Original Joe's** (601 Union Street)

This is my favorite minestrone in a neighborhood where almost all restaurants serve minestrone. Thick but not too thick, it's full of beans, carrots, cabbage, chard, and other vegetables — add that short macaroni called ditalini, and you've got a classic Italian soup.

BEST CIOPPINO: **Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill** (318 Columbus Avenue)

There's a lot of cioppino in North Beach. This is the best one I've found. Deeply satisfying!

BEST VIETNAMESE NOODLE SOUP: **My Canh** (626 Broadway Street)

Yes, we have Vietnamese restaurants in North Beach. My Canh is the best. I prefer their pho, an unctuous, satisfying

soup. Don't expect a fancy joint, but you can count on the pho.

BEST CRAB LOUIE: **Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill** (318 Columbus Avenue)

Obviously, the secret is lots of fresh Dungeness crab. And that's what you get here.

BEST ESPRESSO: **Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store and Cafe** (566 Columbus Avenue)

I usually drop in for a hit every afternoon. It keeps me upright for the rest of the day.

BEST FISH RESTAURANT: **Betty Lou's Seafood & Grill** (318 Columbus Avenue)

Three stalwarts from Sotto Mare — Betty Pesce, Louise Taylor, and Hector Chaparro — make this place hum. My favorites are the cioppino and Mike's wok crab.

BEST TAKEOUT JOINT: **Italian Homemade Company** (716 Columbus Avenue)

Yes, I realize almost every restaurant in North Beach and elsewhere in the city provides takeout service. But this is the best in my neighborhood. Try the lasagna. It will make you a believer in takeout.

BEST HOLE-IN-THE-WALL JOINT: **Panuchos** (620 Broadway Street)

Panuchos, the Mexican creation, not the name of this restaurant, are a traditional Mayan dish

made by stuffing corn tortillas with refried black beans, refrying the tortilla, then topping it with a variety of meats or vegetables. And that's what to order here, as well as tacos, burritos, tostadas, tortas, and empanadas. All are well-presented and satisfying.

BEST RESTAURANT: **Original Joe's** (601 Union Street)

Once again the award goes to Original Joe's. It's a social club with great food and a great bar. What more do you want?

BEST PLACE FOR SIDEWALK DINING WITH YOUR HONEY: **Calzone's** (430 Columbus Avenue)

Calzone's gets my La Dolce Vita Award. Ah, the sweet street life. I'm thinking of having an Ernesto's awards ceremony next year at my publisher's house — if I can get him to take the mattresses off the floor.

MOST ICONIC NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT: **North Beach Restaurant** (1512 Stockton Street)

A special tip of my Panama hat goes to this Tuscan classic in the old Italian neighborhood. Opened by the late (and beloved) Lorenzo Petroni, it has been a gathering spot for San Franciscans for nearly 50 years. My menu favorite: chicken livers with barbera sauce.

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



From the Marina to Marin

SF native and Marina resident, Silvana is your neighborhood realtor with 25 years of real estate experience representing sellers citywide, focusing on the Marina/Cow Hollow. A former Marina resident, Holly decided to make her own journey to Marin to accommodate her active lifestyle and 3 children with more space and access to highly ranked public schools. Holly uses her own experience to represent buyers looking to move North for a change from their city lifestyle.

Thinking of moving North.... think of Silvana and Holly--the perfect pair to help you make a smooth transition across the Golden Gate for combined experience, resources and knowledge, making your move effortless and fun.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter!

Silvana Messing & Holly Welch



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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 :: New faces, new directions



Jian bing from Tai Chi Jianbing at Off the Grid: Fort Mason. PHOTO: ©TABLEHOPPER.COM

It's about time to eat outside: Picnics, parties, and new patios

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

MARINA

There's a new taker for the **former Bin 38/Scotland Yard space** (3232 Scott Street). Barrel Room owner Sarah Trubnick has purchased the lease and is launching a concept with Barrel Room's executive chef Manny Hewitt based on food and wine pairing — all dishes will have recommended pairings (one to complement and one to contrast). There will also be a reasonably priced themed tasting menu offered each night, plus a raw bar. Fifty wines will be available by the glass and half glass. The space is undergoing a full remodel, and construction is imminent. I'll have more to share as this takes shape; they are looking to open mid-May or early June — just in time for patio season.

A sudden closure recently was **Mamacita** (2317 Chestnut Street), after 12 years of business. SF Gate reports partners Stryker Scales and chef Sam Josi will be coming up with another concept for the space, while partner Nate Valentine has moved on to his own new project, August Hall.

FORT MASON AND THE PRESIDIO

Springtime is here, which means the return of two of the city's best food truck events. First up: I got to check out some of the new vendors at **Off the Grid: Fort Mason Center**. A few highlights: fans of Cuban cuisine — a rarity in San Francisco — will definitely want to swing by the Cuban Kitchen tent. Founder Lynna Martinez makes a really good Cubano, and I fell for her fritas: little pork burgers with a smoky, chorizo-like heat from the pimenton she uses, with house-made habanero pickles and crispy little French fries tucked in there. You want this.

You can also try the Chinese street treat jian bing from Tai Chi Jianbing — it's like an eggy crêpe with fun fillings inside, and they care about using organic ingredients. El Porteño is back with their empanadas, and Pretzelina is serving authentic Bavarian-style pretzels with beer cheese. You can stay hydrated with a fresh coconut from CORE Kitchen, or bring it over to neighbor Rye on the Road and have it spiked with some booze. (Or you can go for one of Rye on the Road's boozy hot toddies, which hits the spot on a chilly and windy San Francisco night.) And of course, a bunch of regulars will be returning, from Johnny Doughnuts to Curry Up Now, and don't miss the wood-fired pizzas from A16 — check the schedule for the latest. Music will

also continue to be a part of the event, with live bands from 8–10 p.m. Open every Friday 5–10 p.m. through October.

Presidio Picnic started back up last month, returning for its fifth season with the Presidio Trust. Food, drinks, music, lawn games, fun with the kiddies...the bases are covered. Plus, groups can pre-order food this year (check offthegrid.com for details).

New to Presidio Picnic this year are A'repa, Belgian Frites, Bi-Rite Creamery, Farm Stand Lemonade, Hookt Mini Doughnuts, Jackrabbit, Falcon, Marla Bakery, Ocean Oyster Company, Senor Sisig, and True Jerky.

COW HOLLOW

Open for brunch is **Contrada** (2136 Union Street, 415-926-8916), where you can now enjoy one of chef Jason Tuley's fantastic pizzas over the weekend with California Caviar Co. smoked trout roe, crème fraîche, soft scrambled eggs, and garden herbs on top. Other dishes include soft scrambled eggs with Josey Baker seeded toast and black truffles, and short rib hash, plus brunch cocktails (low-ABV ones, to be clear). Open Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–3 p.m. And guess what? Their spacious patio is now open!

Last December, I mentioned **The Epicurean Trader** was expanding to Cow Hollow with its second location, and it's now open at 1909 Union Street. You can swing by for everything from craft spirits to gourmet cheese and charcuterie, plus fresh bread from Tartine Bakery, small-production wines, small-batch coffee, hand-blended teas and spices, craft chocolates, oils and vinegars, and other artisanal pantry items.

JAPANTOWN

Ramen fans: there is a new ramen place that opened in Japantown, **Marufuku Ramen** (1581 Webster Street, Ste. 235, 415-872-9786). Their specialty is Hakata-style ramen (thin noodles, with varying levels of noodle hardness) and two kinds of chicken paitan ramen with a variety of toppings, spice levels, plus small rice bowls. Open Tuesday–Friday 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5:30–9:30 p.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m., and Sunday 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

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!

Sushi spots that won't break the bank

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

“After placing the fish on rice and seasoning each one for maximum effect, he places the three pieces on a square slate slab around a small bowl of cherrywood chips. Using a blow torch Toshi ignites the chips and quickly places a glass dome on top. When it's ready, he removes the lid.”

— San Francisco Chronicle *food critic Michael Bauer* in a review of *Kinjo's \$120 omakase*

I'M AMUSED AND SLIGHTLY horrified by the sudden obsession with omakase, where diners leave their meal in the hands of a capable (preferably master) chef who prepares sushi and small plates in courses. The phrase actually means “I'll leave it to you.” While glass domes of smoked fish and an upswing in high-priced omakase offerings is a relatively new phenomenon, the tradition of omakase is not. While I appreciate a good omakase, I am a capable enough sushi connoisseur to select a la carte.

I've been eating raw fish and shellfish as long as I can remember, starting with cherry stone clams and uni with my grandfather in Rhode Island. I learned long ago that you don't have to pay \$500 for a blissful sushi experience.

Here are my favorite sushi spots that won't break the bank. Keep in mind sushi is seasonal and weather dependent, so check with your server and the ubiquitous “Fresh Today” specials board for availability.

Okane (669 Townsend St., San Francisco, 415-865-9788, okanesf.com)

Okane, a casual neighborhood izakaya serving sushi and Japanese comfort food, is the sister restaurant to the neighboring Michelin-starred Omakase, and sources its fish from the same world-renowned Tsukiji Market in Tokyo. The delicate, velvety jidori egg chawanmushi (custard) is well worth the 20-minute wait, and the shinku roll — snow crab and avocado topped with torch-seared A5 wagyu beef — is an addictive signature, as are the crunchy lotus root chips with wasabi mayo.

Not to miss: Ocean trout, mirugai, barracuda, live uni, Santa Barbara uni, Sake lees (sakekasu) cod, jidori egg chawanmushi, shinku roll, lotus root chips.

Sushi Sam's Edomata (218 E. Third Ave., San Mateo, 650-344-0888, sushisams.com)

I discovered Sushi Sam's 20 years ago, and it's my favorite sushi restaurant in the Bay Area. I'm not alone

— famous chefs like Thomas Keller also make the drive down the Peninsula for incredibly fresh and often unique offerings. Before omakase became trendy, I was enjoying Sam's omakase — for under \$100.

Not to miss: Baby lobster, kani salad, ocean trout, toro, unagi, baby hamachi, Sam's omakase.

Sanraku (704 Sutter St., San Francisco, 415-771-0803; Metreon, 101 Fourth St., San Francisco, 415-369-6166; 925 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose, 408-363-2110, sanraku.com)

With three locations, menus vary, but Sanraku is a bit of a hidden gem — particularly their newest Silicon Valley restaurant, which serves multicourse omakase menus for both lunch (\$40) and dinner (\$80) skillfully prepared by chefs from Japan.

Not to miss: Omakase lunch or dinner, mirugai (raw or tempura), o toro, uni (raw or tempura), steamed abalone, Japanese ikura, anago, Japanese scallop, buta kakuni (braised pork belly served with soft boiled egg).

Ebisu (1283 Irving St., San Francisco, 415-566-1770, ebisusushi.com)

Owned and operated by the Fujii family, Steve and Koko and their sons, Eric and Charlie, this Sunset District jewel has been one of my



Left: California hand roll from Isobune; Right: Jidori egg chawanmushi at Okane. PHOTOS: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

top spots for many years. I love to sit at the bar and watch the chefs work their magic on notable dishes like live local uni served in its spiny vessel, and live scallop presented sashimi style in the shell, accompanied by the scallop muscle tempura fried with onion strings. Ebisu also offers reasonably priced sashimi omakase for one to two people (\$28) or three to four people (\$60) — everything is sparklingly fresh while the chefs are classically trained and extremely talented.

Not to miss: Sashimi omakase, live uni, live scallop, mirugai, tsubugai, ocean trout, amaebi, toro, unagi, hamachi.

Isobune (Japan Center Mall, 1737 Post St., San Francisco, 415-566-1770, isobunesushi.com)

That's right — the boats (sorry, Michael Bauer). This is my go-to for fast-food-style sushi lunch.

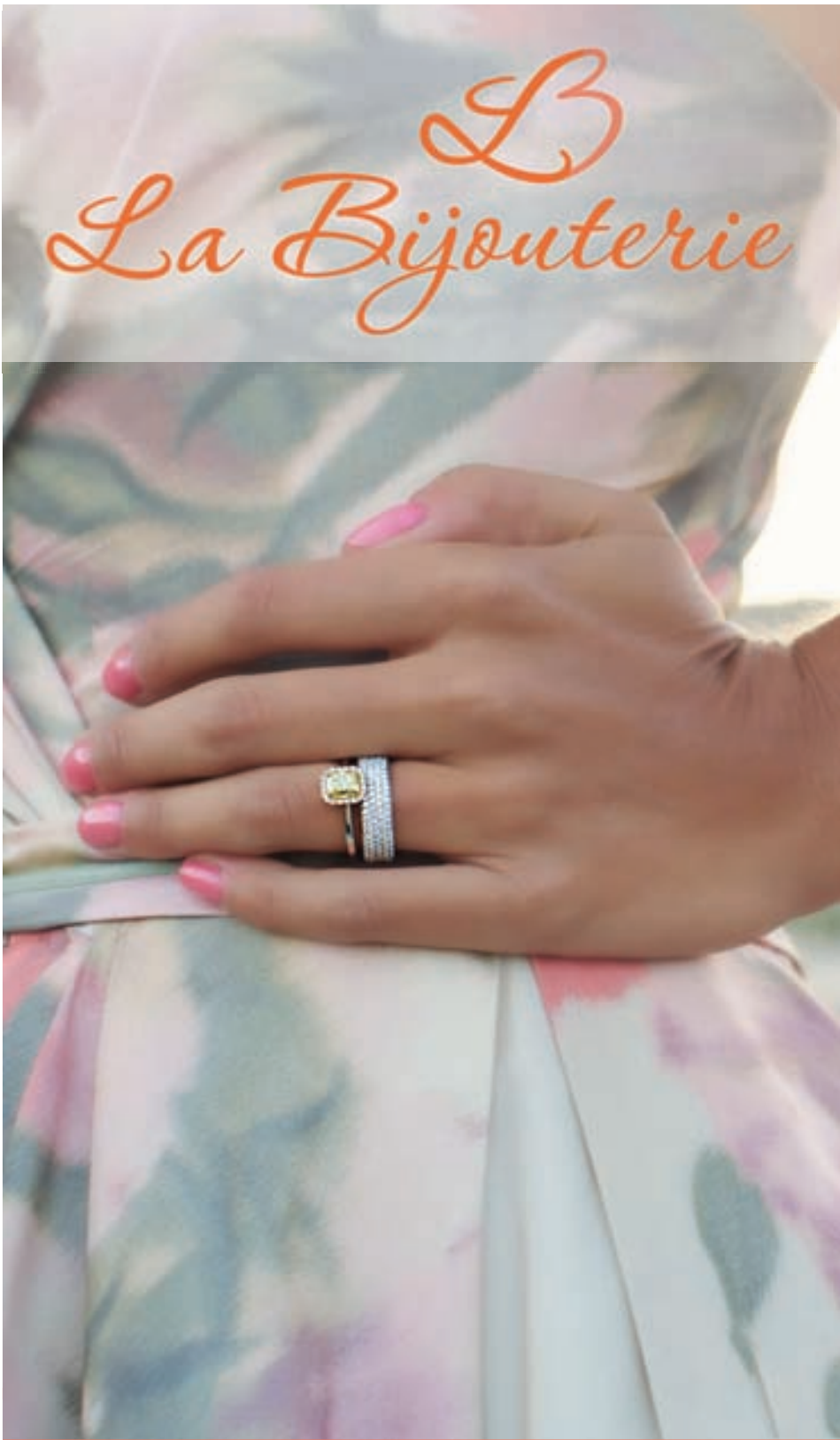
Tip: Go early, and ask for sushi with “no wasabi” so they have to make it fresh (otherwise they'll just pluck it off the boats). If you go when it's busy (which is most of the time), items move quickly. Because they do such volume, everything is fresh and they often have unique, harder to find delicacies like blue shrimp and whelk clam (tsubugai). But my favorite Isobune plate is the kani salad — real snow crab with just enough Japanese mayo to bind it. It's also great in a California temaki (hand roll) with perfectly ripe avocado, tobiko, and crisp cucumber spears.

Not to miss: Kani salad, California temaki, spider temaki, amaebi, tsubugai, oysters on the half shell, torch-seared salmon belly, toro, shrimp with spicy cod roe, Isobune Special (unagi, crab and avocado with tobiko).

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com.

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The Art World
continued from cover

Artists Rick Griffin, Alton Kelley, Victor Moscoso, Stanley Mouse, and Wes Wilson's distorted hand lettering and vibrating colors, an aesthetic style borrowed from the American West, the Victorian era, and Far Eastern cultures, created a visual vocabulary for the new psychedelic movement.

The exhibition opens with the Trips Festival of 1966, the first meaningful gathering of counterculture figures, co-organized by American writers Stewart Brand and Ken Kesey, an experience complete with liquid light, slide shows, film projections and electronic sounds providing the influence and context for what came next. Haight-Ashbury and Golden Gate Park were sites of pivotal gatherings such as the first Human Be-in of January 1967 and groundbreaking street theater by the Diggers. Photographers Ruth-Marion Baruch, Herb Greene, Jim Marshall, Elaine Mayes, and Leland Rice documented these social movements in their works. But don't worry if you weren't there



Candance Kling, Minidress, ca. 1968. Printed synthetic knit. COLLECTION OF THE ARTIST IMAGE COURTESY FAMSf

for the be-ins, the mini-skirts, the music, and the head shops, because this exhibition has an immersive light show experience. Travel back to groovier times with multisensory liquid and multimedia light shows by Ham and Van Meter, similar to the light shows that were projected over musicians and concertgoers alike.

The Summer of Love Experience lets us all participate in an era when art and activism intersected to

form a movement whose influence can still be felt today.

The Summer of Love Experience: Art, Fashion, and Rock & Roll: 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tue.-Sun., April 8-Aug. 20, de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

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

The Best of Books : Flying off the Shelves

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **Raising an Entrepreneur: 10 Rules for Nurturing Risk Takers, Problem Solvers, and Change Makers**, by Margot Machol-Bisnow (paperback)
2. **Fortune Smiles: Stories**, by Adam Johnson (paperback)
3. **Big Little Lies**, by Liane Moriarty (paperback)
4. **Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End**, by Atul Gawande (hardcover)
5. **Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right**, by Jane Mayer (paperback)
6. **Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World**, by Adam Grant (paperback)
7. **South and West: From a Notebook**, by Joan Didion (hardcover)
8. **Buddha Walks Into a Bar ...: A Guide to Life for a New Generation**, by Lodro Rinzler (paperback)
9. **Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike**, by Phil Knight (hardcover)
10. **The North Water: A Novel**, by Ian McGuire (paperback)

ALL-TIME BEST SELLERS BEING RETIRED

The time has come for us to retire a few of our favorite titles that consistently appear on the best-seller list. We still sell a lot of these books, but as a favor to the many other interesting titles we have, we're retiring those below. Consider this their last hurrah!

City of Thieves, by David Benioff

Our best-selling book of all-time here at our Chestnut Street store, this is what employee Bill Dito calls a "weekend



book" — you'll finish it in a weekend and enjoy every moment.

Tender Bar, by J.R. Moehringer

Another Bill pick, this remarkable memoir of growing up in New York with a single mother is one of the best memoirs you'll ever read.

111 Places in San Francisco That You Must Not Miss, by Floriana Peterson

This is a more recent book, but it has been a perennial best seller ever since its release in 2015. Even as a San Francisco native, there are secret places in this book I never gave a second glance. Highly recommended!

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

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Ticket to 'Toon Town

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

REMEMBER WHEN 2D CARTOONS and various sorts of stop-motion animation were considered niche or kiddie fare. Even the word cartoon suggests something frivolous and trivial. Not that I ever let that diminish my interest in 'toons. But animation has become an integral and more respected part of the cultural landscape, with billion-dollar movie industry revenues and TV exposure that's aimed at fans of all ages.

Anyone who saw and enjoyed the 2016 Oscar-winning feature *Zootopia* — the anthropomorphic-animal noir with its whimsically designed computer-generated characters, fluid action, glorious color palette, sharp gags, and message of inclusion — knows the level of quality being attained by a host of studios. There are more notable projects to come on the big and small screens.

This month will see the U.S. release of the biggest box office success in the history of Japanese animated movies, *Your Name*, which is probably the best of its kind from Japan since the enchanting, critically acclaimed *Spirited Away*. On the video front,

we have the April 5 return of the scathingly funny FX channel spy-fi sitcom *Archer*, this time in faux film noir guise.

The 3-D cash-grab sequel *Smurfs: The Lost Village* also shows up at movie houses in April, with two other sequels, *Cars 3* and *Despicable Me 3*, following in June, but none are expected to be groundbreakers, risk-takers, or masterpieces deserving gold statuettes. On the other hand, you can finally go to an American theater and catch *My Life as a Zucchini* — a 2016 Academy Award-nominee alongside *Zootopia*.

A TASTY AND PUNGENT ZUCCHINI

The Swiss-French stop-motion animated feature *My Life as a Zucchini* launched its official U.S. theatrical engagement a few weeks ago, delighting me, even as it targeted my tear ducts. For the record, the actual title in French is *Ma Vie de Courgette*. Courgette is the boy's nickname which translates into English as Zucchini, the latter somehow sounding sillier. Vegetable designation aside, it's the tender tale of a boy who is orphaned in tragic fashion and is brought to a foster home that's

run by a decent, caring crew of adults. Although he's well treated, he struggles with loss and the need to fit in with the other kids in the home, all of whom are dreaming of adoption. Addressing real-world problems with honesty and wit, it is equal parts lovely and sad and hopeful. And yes, I wept a bit by the end of the movie. I give it three tears on the Snyder Cry-o-Meter. Despite looking like it was designed to be primarily viewed by children, it is much more.

The idea of juvenilia or bland, family-oriented diversion is sometimes implied when animated narratives are discussed in certain pretentious circles. Meanwhile, I grew up watching afternoon TV shows that featured classic *Popeye* and Warner Brothers 'toons — the latter "starring" Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, and their pals — which were all originally shorts made to run before whatever feature film was playing at the local theater. In the 1930s and '40s, when the bulk of those vintage cartoons were created, they were considered cross-generational entertainment. But, by their television airings in the late '50s and '60s, they were branded kids' stuff. That would fly in the face of the occa-

sionally sophisticated jokes in play, especially in the made-for-TV material that was produced by the team of Jay Ward and Bill Scott in the '60s. Ward and Scott's smart, satirical and droll (but crudely rendered) Rocky and Bullwinkle adventures — rough, riotous, and always ready to puncture pomposity — tend to hold up today, and are considerably funnier and hipper than the lower-end product that gets green-lit, even in this golden age of animation.

ENDORISING 'YOUR NAME'

Your Name — hitting various cities in the United States on April 7 — is an antidote to the market-driven *Smurfs*, *Cars* and *Despicable Me* sequels and the presumably crass, blatant hackwork of (brace yourself) *The Emoji Movie*, due in August. Although *Your Name* had a brief Oscar-qualifying run at the end of last year, I assume that no Academy voters saw it or it would have gotten a nomination. Directed by Makoto Shinkai in high-end 2-D animation with digital flourishes, it's as moving in its way as *My Life as a Zucchini*, although it has much grander aspirations than simply depicting a slice of life.

From the get-go, *Your Name* mixes genres — science fiction, fantasy, adventure, comedy, drama, and coming-of-age — in fresh and unexpected ways. A wish by a teenage girl in a rural area triggers a body swap between her and a teenage boy who lives in a city many miles away. Initially puzzled, frightened and intrigued, they decide to find one another while they deal with intermittent swapping back and forth, unexpected time shifts, and a celestial event. So *Your Name* additionally involves a quest and the very timely topic of gender exploration. For all of the elements at play here, it fits together in beautiful, mesmerizing fashion. You'll be able to see it in the original Japanese with English subtitles (recommended) or dubbed in English — and you should. If anything confirms the potency and relevance of contemporary animation, it's *Your Name*.

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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APRIL EVENTS

WHAT NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS



San Francisco International Film Festival

Daily, April 5–19
Various Bay Area venues
The venerable festival celebrates six decades with a lineup of 150 films and live events, dozens of filmmakers in attendance, and the presentation of two dozen awards for film excellence. \$13–\$15 individual films, \$120–\$140 10-pack, \$1,500–\$1,675 festival pass, 415-561-5006, sffilm.org
PHOTO: STILL FROM MARJORIE PRIME; SFFILM.ORG

Polk Street Spring Wine Walk
Thursday, April 13, 4–8 p.m.
Polk Street (Sutter to Filbert Sts.)
Stroll, sip, and shop your favorite stores while enjoying wine samples and special treats. \$20–\$25, 888-310-6563, sresproductions.com

26th Annual Easter Parade & Spring Celebration 2017
Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Union Street (Gough to Fillmore Sts.)
The celebration includes an Easter bonnet contest (11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Union St. at Buchanan), bounce house, kids’ rides and games, a petting zoo, pony rides, entertainment, and more, including, of course, the Easter Bunny. Parade begins at 2 p.m. (Union at Gough Sts.) Free, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com

Earth Day San Francisco 46th Anniversary
Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Civic Center Plaza
The festival will feature entertainment, panel discussions and speakers, organic celebrity chef showcase, organic and vegan food courts, wine and beer gardens, clean energy zone, earth-friendly products, an electric vehicle showcase, kids zone, and more, including a tribute stage of the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love. Donations encouraged, earthdaysf.org

100th Annual Opening Day on the Bay
Sunday, April 23, noon–3 p.m.
Crissy Field to Pier 39
Boating season kicks off with the blessing of the fleet and a festive parade featuring over 100 historic workboats, fireboats, towboats, classic, and contemporary craft decorated to the theme Cruising the Century and showcasing historic moments of all kinds: Nautical, Technology, Science, Historic Figures, and more. Free, 925-451-4621, picya.org



40th Annual S.F. Decorator Showcase

Tue.–Sun., April 29–May 29 & Monday, May 29
2698 Pacific Ave. (at Scott)
This year’s home to be transformed by a team of designers is a 1904 11,000 square-foot mansion designed by renowned architects Newsom & Newsom, and featuring a panoramic bay view, period detailing, and more. Proceeds benefit S.F. University High School’s financial aid program. \$40, 415-447-5830, decoratorshowcase.org

LAST CHANCE

Macy’s 71st Annual Flower Show
Daily through April 9
Macy’s Union Square
Take time to smell the flowers at Macy’s iconic spring flower show, themed Carnival. Visit website for special event information. 415-397-3333, social.macys.com/flower-show/

Auguste Rodin: The Centenary Installation
Tue.–Sun. through April 9, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
Legion of Honor
Marking the centenary of Rodin’s death, this new installation from the museum’s permanent collection of approximately 50 objects in bronze, marble, and plaster are presented in a new context. \$15, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

42nd Street Moon: New Girl in Town
Wed.–Sun. through April 16
The Eureka Theatre (215 Jackson St.)
A woman with a secret past tries to rebuild her life by returning to her hometown in this poignant Tony Award-winning musical based on Eugene O’Neill’s Anna Christie. \$25–\$75, 415-255-8207, 42ndstmoon.org



We Players: Beowulf

Thu.–Sun. through April 16, sunset
S.F. Maritime National Historical Park
In this sweeping site-integrated production, audiences will travel along the northern waterfront experiencing this ancient epic, exploring darkness and light, power and conquest, and monsters and humans. \$80, 415-547-0189, weplayers.org
PHOTO: LAUREN MATLEY

COMMUNITY CORNER

Presidio Tunnel Tops Project Site Tour
Friday, April 7 & 21, 3–4 p.m.
Presidio Trust (103 Montgomery St.)
Learn about and tour the site of the planned 14-acre landscape atop the Presidio Parkway tunnels linking the Presidio to the waterfront. Free, registration required, 415-561-5300, presidio.gov

Walk to Work Day
Thursday, April 6, 7–10 a.m.
Citywide
You might walk to work every day, but today you can get free stuff like tote bags, coffee, or breakfast snacks at hubs across the city. Just a 15-minute walk counts. Free, 415-431-9255, walksf.org

GALAS & BENEFITS

51st Edgewood Fair
Gala: Thursday, April 6, 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Luncheon: Friday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Fair Only: Friday, April 7, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
The Bentley Reserve (301 Battery St.)
This shopping event features vendors from around the country who donate 25 percent of their proceeds to benefit Edgewood and its programs that support Bay Area children and families in crisis. \$25 & up, 415-681-3211, edgewood.org

Big Bang Gala
Thursday, April 27, 6 p.m.–midnight
California Academy of Sciences
Enjoy a cocktail reception, provocative speakers discussing innovative technologies from sustainably feeding the planet, to rebooting the polarized debate on climate change, and reframing the role of science in society, followed by a seated dinner. Afterward, join the Party After Dark revelers to explore the tastes, sounds, and creatures of the night with dancing, dessert, and inspired cocktails. \$2,500, 415-379-5411, calacademy.org/big-bang-gala-2017

ARTS & CULTURE

Renegade Craft Fair Spring 2017
Sat.–Sun., April 1–2, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Celebrate spring shopping season and the DIY spirit with more than 300 makers and artisans. Enjoy hands-on workshops, local gourmet cuisine, music, and immersive special features while finding wonderful handmade items and unique gifts. Free, 312-226-8654, renegadecraft.com

Art Explosion Spring Open Studios
Friday, April 7, 7–11 p.m.
Sat.–Sun., April 8–9, noon–5 p.m.
2425 17th St. & 744 Alabama St.
Support local artists, expand your art collection, and find great deals among over 100 painters, sculptors, photographers, fashion designers, and jewelers from the city’s largest artists’ collective. Free admission & refreshments, 415-323-3020, artexplosionstudios.com

Spring Open Studios
Sat.–Sun., April 22–23, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Hunter’s Point Shipyard & Islais Creek Studios
Participating artists from the country’s largest artist’s community will present a variety of artwork, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, jewelry, and photography. Free, 415-822-9675, shipyardartists.com

Startup Art Fair
Fri.–Sun., April 28–29
Hotel Del Sol (3100 Webster St.)
This immersive, contemporary art experience showcases works of multiple mediums from a diverse group of 47 independent artists, local art nonprofits, artist performances, installations, and panel discussions. \$15, \$30, & \$100, startupartfair.com/SF

SFUSD Arts Festival
Daily, April 29–May 7
Asian Art Museum
This annual celebration of student creativity includes a visual art exhibition, live musical and dance performances, literary arts, and hands-on art activities. Visit website for schedule. Free, 415-695-2441, sfusdartsfestival.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Matisse/Diebenkorn
Fri.–Tue. through May 29, 10 a.m.
SFMOMA (151 Third St.)
This exhibition brings together 100 extraordinary paintings and drawings — 40 by Matisse and 60 by Diebenkorn — that reveal the connections between the two artists in subject, style, color, and technique. \$31, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

Exclusion: The Presidio’s Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration
Tue.–Sun., April 1–March 2018, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Heritage Gallery, Presidio Officers’ Club (50 Moraga Ave.)
This exhibition invites visitors to investigate the personal and political choices that led to this dark chapter in our history, and to reflect on what we have learned that helps us address present-day issues of mass incarceration, immigration reform, and racial profiling. Free, 415-561-4400, presidio.gov/exclusion

THEATER

ACT: Needles and Opium
Tue.–Sun. through April 23
405 Geary St.
Don’t miss these thrilling and heartbreaking stories, elevated by the extraordinary storytelling: jazz legend Miles Davis travels to Europe in 1949 to discover Paris pleasures, creativity, and his heroine in Juliette Gréco while French filmmaker Jean Cocteau embarks on his own opium-fueled journey to New York. \$19–\$105, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

Magic Theatre: The Baltimore Waltz
Tue.–Sun. through April 16
Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center
This satire, part heartfelt tribute and part political indictment, takes us on a whirlwind odyssey through Paris, Amsterdam, Munich, and Vienna in search of romance and a cure. \$65–\$85, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

DANCE

S.F. Ballet: Swan Lake
Various days through April 12
War Memorial Opera House
Don’t miss Helgi Tomasson’s modern ballet with stunning visual effects, crisp storytelling, and virtuosic dance with “sublime” choreography. \$35–\$398, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org

19th Annual Bay Area Dance Week
Daily, April 21–30
Various S.F. venues
Featuring over 700 groups, artists, and organizations, BADW celebrates over 100 dance styles, including Argentine tango, classical Indian, jazz, hip hop, ballet, traditional hula, and more. Free, 415-920-9181, bayareadance.org

MUSIC: CLASSICAL

Schwabacher Debut Recital Series
Sunday, April 2, 9, & 30
Taube Atrium Theater, Veterans Bldg. (401 Van Ness Ave.)
Hear opera’s next generation of stars in this annual series showcasing exemplary artists who have participated in the prestigious training programs of San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program. \$30, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com

House of Many Windows
Sunday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Clarion Music Center (816 Sacramento St.)
Miroslav Tadić (guitarist) and Yvette Holzwarth (violinist) comprise House of Many Windows and perform music of Macedonia, Romania, Greece, Hungary, and Spain. Audiences will experience a wordless conversation using the language of expressive inflections, dynamics, and rhythms. \$15–\$25, clarionmusic.com

S.F. Chamber Orchestra: The Lighter Side
Friday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Ave.)
Enjoy chamber music designed to tickle your classical funny bone: composer/musician/satirist Peter Schickele’s hilarious alter ego P.D.Q. Bach will be represented by several works, including the first movement of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony as a sportscast, featuring play-by-play announcers, a whistling referee, and a penalty box for errant horn players. Free, 415-463-6710, thesfco.org

Sponsored



Trio Pizzicato: Songs of Italian Immigrants

Sunday, April 30, 4:30 p.m.
Museo Italo Americano (Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center)
Trio Pizzicato returns to the Museo to perform folk songs sung by and about Italian immigrants. The concert will be preceded by a short talk on Italian immigration and the music that accompanied it. Trio Pizzicato is Kathy Sherak and Bill Foss on mandolin and vocals, and Martha Hawthorne on guitar and vocals. Free–\$15, 415-673- 2200, info@sfmuseo.org

MUSIC:
CONTEMPORARY

Wayne Shorter Quartet
Thu.–Sun., April 27–30
Miner Auditorium, SFJazz Center
(201 Franklin St.)
Legendary saxophonist Wayne Shorter has been called jazz's most influential composer after Thelonious Monk. The quartet performs selections from their acclaimed 2013 album Without a Net, Shorter's first in 40 years. \$40–\$100, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org



An Evening with David Crosby & Friends

Sunday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.
Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St.)
Crosby will perform music from his recent solo album Croz and his soon-to-be released album Sky Trails along with some of his greatest hits. \$60 (\$84.95 includes dinner), 415-885-0750, slimspresents.com
PHOTO: ELEANOR STILLIS & BUZZ PERSON

NIGHTLIFE

Pig&Dan
Friday, April 7, 10 p.m.–2 a.m.
Verso (1525 Mission St.)
Pig&Dan bring their musical adventures out of the studio onto the dance floor. They are prolific producers and globe-traveling D.J.s who will share their euphoric-pumping sounds. Free–\$10, sanfrancisco nightlife.com

The xx
Sat.–Sun., Apr. 15–16, 8 p.m.
Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
The London trio celebrates the release of their third album by kicking off their North American tour right here in San Francisco. \$49.50, 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com

FILMS & LECTURES

Week to Week Political Roundtable
Monday, April 10, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)
People are paying attention to politics with a fascination (or dread) like perhaps no other time in the modern era. Enjoy a social hour followed by a lively political roundtable, featuring the Marina Times' John Zipperer, the Chronicle's Joe Garofoli, KCBS' Bob Butler, and the Mercury News' Barbara Marshman. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

San Francisco Green Film Festival
Daily, April 20–26
Various Bay Area venues
From the Amazon to Standing Rock, from the streets of San Francisco to the fields of Ethiopia, see new stories from around the world. Meet filmmakers and expert guests at this fest for acclaimed environmental films. Visit website for individual pricing, \$80 6-pack, \$225 festival pass, 415-7671977, greenfilmfest.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Octopus Souree
Saturday, April 8, 7–9:30 p.m.
S.F. Zoo (Sloat Blvd. & Great Highway)
Dr. Jenny Hofmeister of Scripps Institution of Oceanography will share her latest research on the role this "master manipulator" plays in our California ecosystem. Ages 16 and up, \$20, registration required at sara.heintzelman@noaa.gov

Amory Lovins: Peak Car Ownership
Wednesday, April 12, noon–1:30 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)
Will the rapid arrival of robotic cars lead to the end of driving? Or will autonomous cars merely put paid drivers out of work and clog our streets even more? No one knows for sure if the utopian or dystopian vision will arrive at your front door. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

34th Annual S.F. International Beer Festival
Saturday, April 8, 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Enjoy hundreds of fine brews from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond as well as delicious bites from leading local restaurants. Proceeds benefit Telegraph Hill Cooperative Nursery School. \$75 & \$150, 415-421-3313, sfbeerfest.com

Easter Brunch Celebration
Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Ritz-Carlton San Francisco
Enjoy an elaborate buffet inspired by the finest local, seasonal ingredients prepared with a creative spin on traditional Easter fare and brunch favorites. Special gifts for children. \$70 & \$135, 415-773-6188, ritzcarlton.com/sanfrancisco

A Toast to Science: Spring Cocktails of the Farmers' Market
Wednesday, April 19, 5:30–8 p.m.
Ferry Plaza
At a time when the scientific community needs bold allies and we all need stiff drinks, gather over inventive craft cocktails to champion the values of protecting the health of the planet, the public, and our food system. \$55–\$65, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

Mexican-American Vintners Assoc. Spring Wine Tasting
Wednesday, April 26, 5–7 p.m.
Mexican Museum Fort Mason Center
Taste and purchase wines from 13 Mexican-American Vintners Association wineries. Includes food pairings of cheeses, charcuterie, and more. \$50 & \$60, 707-266-1296, nsmava.org

SPORTS & HEALTH

Film screening: "What the Health"
Saturday, April 15, 2–5 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, S.F. Public Library (101 Larkin St.)
This groundbreaking follow-up film from the creators of the award-winning documentary Cowspiracy exposes the collusion and corruption in government and big business that is costing us trillions of health care dollars — and keeping us sick. Free, RSVP at eventbrite.com, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

Navigating the Nutrition Facts Label
Thursday, April 27, 5–6:30 p.m.
Enright Room, CPMC (2333 Buchanan St.)
This presentation will address how to successfully navigate a nutrition facts label, including how to identify and interpret serving size and daily values, carbohydrates and sugars, fat content, vitamins and nutrients, and the ingredients list. \$10 suggested donation, RSVP to 415-923-3155 or cpmchrc@sutterhealth.org

CHILD'S PLAY

Creative Family Fun: Morse Code
Sat.–Sun., April 8–9, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)
Drop in to celebrate Samuel Morse's birthday and learn how to send your own message by making some Morse code jewelry. Registration preferred. 415-561-5300, presidio.org



9th Annual Goat Festival

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market
Explore the wonders of goats, meet local ranchers and food crafters, sample artisan cheeses, and unleash your inner "kid." Free, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

Calendar listings

Send your event listings to calendar@marinatimes.com with succinct specifics about your event, location, dates, times, prices, and contact information (telephone and Internet). Visit marinatimes.com for additional calendar listings. For sponsored listings, call 415-815-8081.

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Urban Home and Garden : Earth Day 2017

Celebrating the Earth

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

OUR FIRST FULL month of spring, in April we celebrate the Earth and trees, in addition to paying our taxes. Probably most of us try to use the least harmful chemicals around our families and pets when in our homes and gardens. With lots of various labels adorning products, what do they really mean? The terms "natural," "eco," and "green" are thrown around a lot, but they aren't regulated by any government agency. For example, a product can claim to be "natural," but no government standard exists for regulation of this word.

Let's look back at how we arrived at our current level of eco-awareness.

1939: DDT is discovered by Paul Hermann Mueller, who would later be awarded the Nobel Prize for this in 1948.

1940s: During the second half of World War II, DDT was employed to sideline both typhus and malaria. After the war, DDT was widely used as an agricultural insecticide. An advertisement in 1947 by Penn Salt Chemical company even proclaimed, "DDT is good for me." Many household insect sprays contained it, too.

1962: Rachel Carson published her groundbreaking book, *Silent Spring*, which chronicled the negative effects humans can have on nature. The book brought both awareness of man's impact and spawned a grassroots environmental movement, all the while garnering strong opposition from the chemical corporations.

1970: The first Earth Day in the United States is celebrated and President Richard Nixon proclaims the last Friday of April as Arbor Day, which was first celebrated in Nebraska in 1872, when 1 million trees were planted.

1971: The memorable Keep America Beautiful ad featuring a American Indian paddling down a polluted river with a teardrop rolling down his cheek is aired.

Here are some of the popular labels you will find on consumer products today.

Asthma & Allergy Friendly: Products are tested for standards set forth, approved, and adopted by The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Cradle to Cradle Certified: A nonprofit organization, Cradle to Cradle product standards measure five categories: material

health, material reutilization, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship, and social fairness. A product receives a rating ranging from basic to platinum, with the lowest ranking providing the product's overall rating.

EcoLogo: A voluntary standard, EcoLogo is owned by Underwriters Laboratory and tests for standards during a product's lifecycle from manufacturing through disposal.

Energy Star: Established in 1992 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Energy Star is a voluntary labeling program to identify energy-efficient products to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The label is now found on computers, lighting, and household appliances.

ufacturing waste such as sawdust.

Rainforest Alliance Certified: Products meet standards that require environmental, social, and economic sustainability, as set forth by a coalition of conservation groups in the Sustainability Agricultural Network.

Safer Choice: All the chemicals in labeled products have been reviewed by the EPA to be the safest possible, using strict criteria for environmental and health safety and verified by an independent third party. For consumers and purchasers, especially those with allergies or sensitivities, Safer Choice also awards a "fragrance-free" label to easily identify products that have been verified as free of fragrance materials.

A product can claim to be 'natural,' but no government standard exists for regulation of this word.

Forest Stewardship Council: An independent, nonprofit organization, The Forest Stewardship Council is membership-led and members vote on the standards and policies. The members of the board of directors are from three areas of representation: social, economic, and environmental.

Green Seal: A nonprofit independent organization, Green Seal tests and certifies products and services and certifies their label.

Greenguard: A division of Underwriters Laboratory, Greenguard is a third-party independent lab that tests products against established standards from various health agencies.

LEED Certified: Administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certification looks at all aspects of design and construction of a building with regard to sustainability. Buildings earn various rankings, including certified, silver, gold, and platinum.

Post-Consumer Recycled: Post-consumer material is the waste generated by consumers and industry end-users of products that have reached the end of the life cycle of the product's initial purpose.

Pre-Consumer Recycled: This measures the percentage of a product that is made from man-

USDA Certified Bio-based Product: The USDA awards this label about the bio-based content of a product and ensures that a product contains a USDA-verified amount of renewable biological ingredients. Product manufacturers must test the bio-based content at an independent, third-party laboratory to be in compliance with this designation. Products must contain at least 25 percent bio-based ingredients and list the percentage under the label.

USDA Organic: Regulated by the USDA, the term organic can be applied to food or other entities or products directly in the food chain, including seed suppliers, farmers, and food processors.

"Greenwashing", or marketing a product or service as environmentally friendly when it isn't, unfortunately occurs. Researching a product if you are uncertain about its claims is one way to spot it. If there is valid information to back up a claim, a legitimate company will gladly share it. When you aren't certain about a particular product, look at the company as whole and consider its environmental track record and reputation.

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

18 : APRIL 2017

MARINA TIMES : MARINATIMES.COM

Increase your chances for a successful house hunt

BY CAROLE ISAACS

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, OR AT LEAST it has in the real estate market in San Francisco. Buyers are out in full force searching for all types of homes. Believe it or not, an agent offering a condo for sale in Noe Valley sent out 50 disclosure packages and received almost 20 offers. Of course it sold for way over the asking price. It is common to find a desirable property that has two weekend open houses with offers accepted a few days later. As the baby boom continues, three-bedroom homes are in especially high demand and buyers are often willing to pay well over the asking price as they compete for the small number of homes on the market.

The question is, Other than price and contingencies, what can a buyer do to meet with success? Here are two things to do that will boost your chances.

First: Work with an experienced San Francisco real estate agent. Why do buyers need a San Francisco agent? Local experience may make the difference between success and failure because homes sell so quickly. Successful local agents know the market and how to write a winning offer. They understand it is not about the comps but the competition. They know being a successful buyer's agent is about working closely with buyers so they can be ready to view property and write offers as soon as possible. Surprisingly, the winning offer is oftentimes very close or essentially the same as the offer in second

place. Do you want to risk have a winning offer, but the wrong agent?

Second: The Internet is an amazing tool to help with your search, but it is not the same as working with a professional San Francisco real estate agent. At my open houses when I ask, "Are you working with an agent?" many times the response is "Oh, we are just starting out. Eventually we will find an agent. We are looking online to get started." It is impossible for a new buyer to fully understand how every home in San Francisco is different. Even in new buildings you will find individual pricing for condos depending on the size and location in the building. Buying a home is an incredibly time-intensive activity, and your agent will put you on the fast track to success.

Buyers have an uphill road to success at all price points. A good agent will help you focus your search and save you hours of time over the long run. My recommendation is to begin your search for a home with choosing a real estate agent. Choosing a San Francisco agent may make the difference between success or failure and will save you time and money as the price of homes continues to appreciate in the coming year.

Buyers may get a discount or less than full service with a friend, relative, or out-of-city agent, but if they never buy a home, it is not much of a deal.

The same goes for sellers. I am always surprised when I see a listing where the agent is from out of town, sometimes as far as Sonoma or Tracy. The market



There are alternatives to using a local real estate agent, but use the real thing for the best results. PHOTO: ALEXAS PHOTOS

is so desperate for inventory today, it is not about selling the property. Just about everything sells. It is about marketing and the sale price. Local agents will have the necessary tools at their fingertips to sell a property at the highest price.

What do you say to your friends, relatives, or out-of-city agents when you decide to use a local full-time agent? Tell them you know they do an excellent job, but in today's fast-paced market, you feel a local agent is better equipped to help you meet with success. Ask them to refer you to an agent that is a San Francisco specialist who really knows the neighborhoods. It is important to understand the nuances of a location, whether it means

proximity to a commercial strip, Muni, BART, corporate shuttles, or the freeways. A few blocks away from a walk to a coffee location or transportation can mean the difference in price of \$100,000 or more.

Keep in mind that a referring agent always gets a percentage of the commission when a property is sold. Isn't something of something better than nothing of nothing? Everyone wins. Buyers find a home, and sellers and referring agents make a sale.

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.

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TheGarageOnHyde2.com
Lucy Yeung
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Corona Heights
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Nestled on Coveted Ord Street in Corona Heights, This Pristine Four Level 4BD/4BA Property Unfolds Dramatically. High ceilings and an airy feel throughout. Home includes a 2 car garage with auto lift and a leased solar system.
510rd.com
John Dallas
415.939.5764



Noe Valley
Offered at \$3,395,000
Exceptional Home. 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



Clarendon Heights
Offered at \$1,985,000
Mid-Century Gold Medallion Home! Chic 3BD/2.5BA home with City views, open kitchen with adjacent sitting area, step down living room, 2 story dining room, fireplace, lovely Zen-like garden, 2 car side by side garage.
75Clarendon.com
Vickie Tucker
415.271.1621
Joan Foppiano
415.806.4498



Hayes Valley
Offered at \$1,495,000
Great Home in Ideal Location! Close to Duboce Park, Muni, Lower Haight. Easy freeway access, and Google shuttle nearby! Sunny, bright and spacious 3BD/1BA top-floor condo in a lovely Victorian two-unit building. Pretty block. Wonderful views and garage parking.
41Scott.com
Thomas Cooke
415.823.1624



Noe Valley
Offered at \$1,395,000
Top Floor Condo with Views. Flooded with light, this 3BD/2BA home has lots of charm and beautiful neighborhood views from every room. The large master bedroom has a walk-in closet and an ensuite bathroom. Large, separate, private rooftop deck. 1 car garage.
NoeViewCondo.com
Robert Vernon
415.595.5157



Telegraph Hill
Offered at \$1,149,000
Quintessential 3BD/2BA Condo on 2 levels. Kitchen and dining area open to a generous light-filled living area next to an en-suite bedroom. Exclusive use of patio and deck. Steps from the shops and restaurants of North Beach and Washington Square Park.
32Varenes.com
William Diebel
415.699.5549



Pacificia, San Mateo County
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EdgewoodViewHome.com
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415.518.4865
Scott Brittain
415.385.6657



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The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: February 2017

By Hill & Co. Real Estate

SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow (no sales)					
Lake	2147 Lake Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,050,000	Above	0
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	3157 Baker Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$3,260,000	Below	105
Nob Hill (no sale)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	3060 Pacific Avenue	6BD/5.5BA	\$10,250,000	Above	15
Presidio Heights (no sale)					
Russian Hill	1188 Lombard	3BD/2.5BA	\$6,100,000	Below	170
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2839 Pierce Street #1	1BD/1BA	\$854,000	Above	7
	2485 Union Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$1,300,000	Below	61
	2839 Pierce Street #3	2BD/2BA	\$1,779,000	Above	8
	2827 Pierce Street	3BD/3BA	\$1,990,000	Above	15
Lake	245 Arguello Boulevard	3BD/2BA	\$1,450,000	At	0
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sale)					
Marina	3235 Gough Street #204	2BD/1BA	\$754,960	Below	119
	1500 Francisco Street #11	3BD/2BA	\$1,725,000	Above	106
	1570 Chestnut Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,825,000	Above	13
	3236 Divisadero Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,291,000	Below	14
	3030-3032 Franklin St. #3032	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,400,000	Above	0
	2330 Francisco Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,875,000	Above	0
Nob Hill	1754 Larkin Street #5	1BD1BA	\$790,000	Above	12
	1250 Clay Street #108	1BD/1BA	\$865,000	Above	15
	15-19 Wetmore Street #15	3BD/2BA	\$1,525,000	Below	126
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	1624 Vallejo Street #2	1BD/1BA	\$649,000	At	31
	1792 Green Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,150,000	At	0
	1650 Broadway Street #506	1BD/2BA	\$1,170,000	Below	48
	2595 Clay Street #1	2BD/1BA	\$1,240,800	Above	9
	1769 Broadway #8	2BD/1BA	\$1,300,000	Above	5
	2194 Green Street #2194	2BD/2BA	\$1,363,500	Below	63
	3294 Clay Street #5	2BD/2BA	\$1,495,000	Above	62
	2200 Pacific Avenue #3D	2BD2BA	\$1,540,000	Below	37
	2200 Pacific Avenue #3A	2BD/2BA	\$1,550,000	Below	44
	2192 Pacific Avenue	2BD/2BA	\$1,625,000	Below	81
	1870 Jackson Street #203	3BD/3BA	\$1,825,000	Below	82
	1650 Broadway Street #202	3BD.2.5BA	\$1,888,800	Below	57
	1865 Clay Street #3	3BD/2BA	\$1,900,000	Below	10
	3051-b California	3BD/4BA	\$2,050,000	Below	79
	1650 Broadway #602	3BD/3BA	\$3,725,000	Below	162
Presidio Heights	440 Locust Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,625,000	Above	20
	3993 Washington Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,650,000	Below	1
Russian Hill	2555 Leavenworth St. #303	2BD/2BA	\$1,185,000	Above	147
	1080 Chestnut #1A	2BD/2BA	\$3,000,000	Below	55
	10 Southard Place #1	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,595,000	Above	5
	955 Green Street #3	3BD/4.5BA	\$6,600,000	Below	0
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	1821 Grant Avenue #201	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	Below	21

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 News updates

Renters, offenders, and more

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

AIRBNB BOOTS OFFENDERS

Short-term rental service Airbnb reports that it has removed 924 listings from its service. Airbnb, which has been criticized by many as a threat to the housing supply, said that the removed listings concerned units that “appeared to be shared by hosts with multiple entire unit listings that could impact long-term housing availability or did not provide the best possible experience on our platform.” Between February 2016 and February 2017, the service kicked out 317 listings for entire homes, 26 for private rooms, and 580 for shared rooms.

The service said it remains committed to cooperating with city leaders “to further progressive policies that protect public safety and affordable housing, while fostering the economic opportunity of home sharing for S.F. families, businesses, and communities.”

SAN FRANCISCO RENTS DOWN NEARLY 9 PERCENT

Though San Francisco remains an expensive place to live, its rental prices have dropped over the past year, according to a new report from real estate site Zumper.com. With \$3,270 as a median rent for a one-bedroom apartment, Zumper noted that that San Francisco rent was more than double the state median of \$1,617. However, that was down 8.9 percent from a year earlier. Two-bedroom rents were \$4,500, down 7.6 percent, reports Zumper.

SECOND-HOME DEDUCTIONS TARGETED FOR REVENUE

Californians who take deductions on their state income taxes for second homes would see that deduction go away if a bill under consideration in Sacramento passes. AB 71, called the Bring California Home Act and authored by Assemblyman David Chiu of San Francisco, would immediately withdraw that tax credit and use the revenue — an estimated \$220–\$300 million — to help fund

affordable housing in the state.

“We need to be sure that all Californians have roofs over their heads before we provide tax breaks to help some people with two homes,” said Chiu. “We need a reliable, permanent funding stream to support production of affordable housing that the market simply will not build.”

The bill passed the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee in early March. It next goes to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

SAN FRANCISCO AMONG RENTER-MAJORITY CITIES

San Francisco continues to be one of a handful of large American cities in which the majority of residents rent instead of own their homes. It is one of only 21 out of 400 urban areas with populations greater than 100,000 that are renter-majority cities, according to U.S. Census data highlighted in a recent report by apartment-listing website Abodo. Nowhere does the renter majority hit 60 percent — the highest is College Station–Bryan, Tex., at 59.1 percent — and most of the other 21 areas are below 54 percent. San Francisco (which is paired with Oakland as a metro area in the report) is at 50.9 percent.

The demographics of owners versus renters are not surprising. Renters tend to be younger (most were under 44 years old, with the largest block of them between 25 and 34); 77.16 percent of owners were older than 45, according to Abodo. The company notes that “Nationwide, renters are on the rise. In fact, 2015 saw 1.4 million new renter households, creating the largest percentage of renter households the nation has seen since the 1960s — 36.4 percent.”

In San Francisco, rental rates have reportedly started to decline slightly from their recent peaks, but they still are near historic highs. Meanwhile, the continued high cost of purchasing and the low available inventory

of homes for sale has locked out many people who would like to buy; and some families will be unable to purchase a home for a long time, having been crushed by the foreclosure crisis during the Great Recession.



Assemblyman David Chiu is looking to boost affordable housing and protect immigrant tenants with his new legislation.

IMMIGRANT TENANT PROTECTION ACT

A new state bill by Assemblyman David Chiu aims to protect tenants who are immigrants. AB 291, which passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee in late March, would prevent landlords from disclosing information about a tenant’s immigration status as a way to pressure a tenant to leave the residence.

“Tenants should not have to live in fear simply because they are immigrants or refugees. Trump has declared war on immigrants, and it is clear that ripping apart families through mass deportations could be our new reality,” said Chiu. “This bill will deter the small minority of landlords who unscrupulously take advantage of the real or perceived immigration status of their tenants to engage in abusive acts.”

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“During other housing market recoveries, we’ve seen those recoveries associated with a rise in inventory, rather than a drop. The fact that we’re in a pretty well-recovered housing market and we’re looking at a decline in inventory rather than a rise is really a head-scratcher.”

—Ralph McLaughlin, chief economist at Trulia, quoted in Siliconbeat

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



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A well-thought-out summer can be entertaining and restorative. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Tips for planning summer

BY LIZ FARRELL

When I was growing up, summer in the suburbs meant no schedule and playing outside with the neighbor kids until dark. However, in an urban environment like San Francisco, that is not always possible, so we end up scheduling summer for our kids.

Summer camp registrations are already in full swing, and from the looks at the weekly cost of camp these days, it is also big business. If both parents work, or the thought of having your kids home every day for three months scares you, then planning is necessary. Having it all mapped out can help make the summer break run smoothly so you don't end up counting the days until your kids go back to school. Here are my three tips for planning a successful summer for the whole family:

PLAN IT OUT

To keep track of everything, especially if you have multiple children, I suggest printing out a paper calendar for June, July, and August. Right away, you can fill in the weeks you know you may be traveling and any camps you have already signed the kids up for. Call me old school, but there is still something helpful about having everything laid out on paper in front of me. A paper calendar will give you an idea of where you need to fill in the blanks, so you can start planning how you will do that. It may mean registering for another camp, finding extra childcare, or seeing if the kids can make a trip to see Grandma and Grandpa. It is also helpful to map it out to ensure you haven't registered for camps that

are in opposite directions or start and end at different times, which can make family logistics stressful, especially during summer break.

SET GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Once you have the summer mapped out, you can start to think together as a family about some of the goals and guidelines you want to set. In our house, the goals usually revolve around setting a certain amount of time (depending on each child's age) every day for reading and

things you do every summer that you want to give priority to — it can include new ideas depending on family members' current interests, and the list can include simple short activities or more involved day trips.

We usually all sit down with a big piece of poster board and take turns adding items to the list. No one can veto the idea or say they don't want to do it. The list comes in very handy on those days when you don't have anything planned and are searching for ideas, which is when

we turn to the list. The key is to be flexible and not feel like you must get to every item on the list. It is meant to ease stress, not create more of it by running around crazy trying to get everything checked off. The

Having it mapped out can help make the summer break run smoothly so you don't end up counting the days until your kids go back to school.

math. It is never too early to stress the importance of keeping up on those reading and math skills to avoid the summer brain drain.

The guidelines in our house usually revolve around chores and screen time — two areas that can be a constant battle — and not just during the summer months. I have found that one of the best ways to “enforce” these goals and guidelines is to sit down together as a family and come up with them together. This way it is much easier to get the kids on board if they feel they have had some “buy-in” in the process.

CREATE A BUCKET LIST

This is one of our favorite presummer things to do. Once the days start getting longer and the patience for homework starts getting shorter, then I know it is time to sit down and make our bucket list. The list can include

best part is we save our lists from year to year. It is fun to go back and see our must dos from last summer and to maybe even add to this year's list some of the things we didn't get to last year.

No matter how your family chooses to plan its summer, my best advice is, in all that planning, don't forget to schedule some free time. With a busy summer of camps, trips, and activities it is key for our kids to have down time — and maybe even time to explore what it means to be bored. We may not live in the suburbs and our kids can't stay outside until dark, but we can still give them time to explore and come up with their own fun.

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

The Adventures of Skylar Grey



Kickie, at age 85, with Skylar; Kickie at 20 in 1950.

My dear old friend

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

*How the birds sang in the morning,
how the dog barked in the yard,
I guess that's nothing much,
but everything to us,
and that's what seems so hard*

*How will we smile ever again?
I'm asking you sincerely, my dear old friend
The moon on the hill says we probably will
My dear old friend*

— “My Dear Old Friend,” by Patty Griffin

I always took Kickie out for lunch and shopping when I visited her in San Jose. She would greet me at the door dressed to the nines, her accessories color coordinated with her outfit, right down to her shoes. “How do I look?” she would ask coyly as she did a little catwalk twirl. “Beautiful,” I would say, “just like always.”

The routine stretched back more than 20 years to when my father was still here and the three of us (or the four of us if I had a boyfriend at the time) would head over the hill to Santa Cruz, where Kickie and I would shop while the boys had beers at the Catalyst. Later we would listen to a local band called Wally’s Swing World while Kickie and my dad hit the dance floor. I have fond memories of those excursions, but in recent months when I asked about lunch, Kickie always said no: “I’m just too tired, honey.” At 86, it wasn’t surprising she was slowing down, but Kickie’s looks and sense of style had been her identity for more than eight decades, and as those things faded, so did her lust for life. Even her usually hearty appetite had disappeared. “Suzie, I’m ready to go,” she would tell me sometimes when she was feeling particularly down.

One chilly night in late January she called me into her room. “I don’t feel well,” she said, clutching her stomach. Knowing Kickie’s penchant for drama, I asked if she wanted me to call an ambulance. Normally, she would say no and half an hour later she would be fine, but this time she said nodded yes. At Kaiser Hospital, the emergency room doctor said her liver function was low and he wanted to keep her overnight, which stretched into days. The nurses said the only thing she talked about was my pit bull, Skylar Grey, and they allowed me to bring her for a visit. It was good for them both because Skylar was confused and lost at home without her “Grammy,” sniffing at her pillows and sleeping snuggled in her blankets on the couch.

A few days later the doctor told me that Kickie wasn’t going to get better. I was in shock. I had never pictured my life with-

out Kickie. She was more than my step-mother; she was my friend — my dearest friend. Over the years we laughed and fought and cried together; I taught her to love Warriors basketball and pit bulls and she taught me to love southern classics like grits and skillet-fried chicken. She yelled at me for not keeping the house and the garden perfectly the way she did. I reminded her that I had to take care of her on top of working. “You don’t work,” she would say, “You go to restaurants and write about them and you write about Jazzy and Skylar...” I would throw my arms in the air and roll my eyes. “That is work — that’s what I do!” For all the fights we had about writing not being a real job, I would hear her on the phone with her best friend Betty telling her how talented I was. “Suzie is a beautiful writer,” she would say. “I just wish she could clean the toilet half as well.”

Kickie told the doctor she wanted to come home, and Kaiser arranged for hospice. She was still lucid, though complaining about not being able to breath. “That’s anxiety,” the hospice nurse told her as she adjusted the oxygen tank. “You’re getting plenty of air. Try to relax.” They set up the hospital bed in the living room facing the windows so Kickie could look out at the hills she loved so much. The nurse increased the anxiety and pain medications until she finally fell asleep. The next morning Steve took Skylar and Blue for a walk and I sat for a long time holding Kickie’s hand. I told her all the time how much I loved her, but I told her again anyway. When the nurse arrived, she asked Steve and me to step into the other room. “It won’t be long,” she said. A few hours later, Kickie passed away in her sleep.

The next morning Skylar woke up, grabbed one of her toys, and headed for the closed door of Kickie’s room as she always did. “Grammy’s not there,” I told her, and opened the door so she could see for herself. After sniffing the pillows, Sky headed to the living room and stood in the exact spot where the hospital bed had been. She turned in a circle and, still holding her toy, looked up toward the ceiling. “Yes, that’s where Grammy is,” I told her. “Grammy is up in Heaven.” After that, Skylar never looked for Kickie in the house again. The bond they shared was unlike any I’ve seen between a dog and a human — a truly special love — so I don’t believe for a minute that Sky doesn’t miss Kickie. But I do believe that dogs know more than we do about human souls, and the way the spirits of those we love live on forever in all of us.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO SONGS FOR AN EVENING IN SPRING

As part of our evening’s stroll from the **Golden Gate Theater** to the **War Memorial Opera House**, we envelop ourselves in the zest and verve of classic **BROADWAY** show tunes and the elegance and drama of **operatic arias** and ensemble pieces. From lively to lush and languid, our three singers — soprano **Erin McOmber**, mezzo-soprano **Susanna Ketron** and baritone **Eugene Brancoveanu** — offer a musical tribute to glorious Spring and lift into April’s evening air a most delightful offering of melodic pieces from *Phantom*, *Don Giovanni*, *My Fair Lady*, *Carmen*, *Oklahoma!*, *Les Miserables*, *Barber of Seville*, *Rusalka* and more. Pianist **James Welch** accompanies.



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City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising April 2017

The Airport Commission has commenced the following Request for Proposals (RFP) / Request for Bids (RFB) process:

International Terminal Boarding Areas A and G Newsstand and Specialty Retail Concession Leases.

The RFP includes 3 Newsstand and 2 Specialty Retail Leases.

The proposed minimum annual financial offers range from \$210,000.00 to \$1,200,000.00. Rent shall be the higher of the Minimum Annual Guarantee (“MAG”) or the sum of the percentage rent structured as follows: 12% of Gross Revenues achieved up to and including \$500,000.00; plus 14% of Gross Revenues achieved from \$500,000.01 up to and including \$1,000,000.00; plus 16% of Gross Revenues achieved over \$1,000,000.00. The proposed terms are all seven years.

International Terminal Duty Free and Luxury Stores

The RFP is for 10 Duty Free and Luxury Stores locations in the International Terminal, and one location in Terminal 1. The concepts sought are duty free core category shops and high-end luxury boutiques. The proposed MAG is \$42,000,000.00, and the Minimum Acceptable Percentage Rent Offer is Thirty Percent (30%) of Gross Revenues. The proposed term is fourteen years.

International Terminal “A” Food Hall and Café Concession Lease

The MAG for the first year of the lease would be \$495,000.00. The base rent would be the higher of the MAG or the sum of the percentage rent structured as follows: 6% of Gross Revenues achieved up to and including \$2,500,000.00; plus 8% of Gross Revenues achieved from \$2,500,000.01 up to and including \$3,000,000.00; plus 10% of Gross Revenues achieved over \$3,000,000.00. The proposed term is ten years with two one-year options.

International Terminal “A” Historic Restaurant Concession Lease

The MAG for the first year of the lease would be \$330,000.00. The base rent would be the higher of the MAG or the sum of the percentage rent structured as follows: 8% of Gross Revenues achieved up to and including \$1,000,000.00; plus 10% of Gross Revenues achieved from \$1,000,000.01 up to and including \$1,500,000.00; plus 12% of Gross Revenues achieved over \$1,500,000.00. The proposed term is ten years with two one-year options.

International Terminal “A” Coffee Kiosk Concession Lease

The MAG for the first year of the lease would be \$165,000.00. The base rent would be the higher of the MAG or the sum of the percentage rent structured as follows: 6% of Gross Revenues achieved up to and including \$1,000,000.00; plus 8% of Gross Revenues achieved from \$1,000,000.01 up to and including \$1,500,000.00; plus 10% of Gross Revenues achieved over \$1,500,000.00. The proposed term is seven years with two one-year options.

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The Board of Supervisors are accepting applications for a vacancy on the Police Commission.

Interested applicants may apply at http://www.sfbos.org/vacancy_application or from the Rules Committee Clerk, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 or call 415-554-5184.

Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development

Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Draft 2017-2018 Action Plan, Including Preliminary Funding Recommendations

The Draft 2017-2018 Action Plan, which includes preliminary funding recommendations for the CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA programs, will be available for public review and comment from March 23, 2017 through April 21, 2017. A public hearing to receive comments on the Draft 2017-2018 Action Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 5:00 PM at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor Atrium Conference Room. Please visit www.sfmohcd.org or call 415-701-5500.

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