



### Fall Food Special

Roma Antica brings the rustic flavor, p.10  
Comforting pasta recipes, p.12  
New & Notable: Cultivar wine bar, p.12



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Weekend Traveler,  
Evalyn Baron, Coastal  
Commuter, and more  
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Close up of *Souls of the City* by Mel Waters. PHOTO: EARL ADKINS

## See city's diversity in living color

LOWER POLK HAS A NEW MURAL on Hemlock Alley well worth the visit. Six local artists adhering to the theme, “San Francisco – Its History and Its Diversity,” created a 140 foot mural, helping to transform Hemlock Alley from a back street to a vibrant, enlivened place that pays tribute to the culture of the city.

The Lower Polk Neighbors, in collaboration with the Lower Polk Community Benefits District, the San Francisco Office of Workforce and Economic Development, Chevalier Partners, and Interstice Architects, will showcase the new six-panel community mural on Hemlock Alley between

Polk and Larkin Streets at a mural unveiling celebration on Sept. 7, from 3–6 p.m. The ceremony will include a performance by renowned Senegalese performer Oussey-nou Kouyate and a brief speaking program featuring contributing artists, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, and others.

### REYNOLDS RAP

## White supremacists might not be as white as they think they are

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WHEN MY IRISH AND UKRAINIAN FATHER married my mother, it didn’t go over well with my Sicilian grandfather, but when he decided to move her across the country from Rhode Island to Northern California so he could attend teaching college, it nearly ruined any chance they had at a relationship in the future. My father appeased my grandfather with a promise to bring her home every summer.

My father was a fiscal Republican, but he leaned to the left when it came to social issues. He grew up in a family that traveled with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, working in the yards and cooking for performers. The clowns were mostly gay, the acrobats from China, the animal handlers from Eastern Europe, and the trapeze artists from Latin America. After years of living in California, he had grown even more socially liberal, and it was sometimes tough returning to Rhode Island, where the level of prejudice was palpable. As my grandfather acclimated to America, he picked up some of those traits.

On one of our many summers in Federal Hill, my father found himself sitting on the screened porch on a warm summer evening with my grandfather, sipping

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

### Bellingham by the Bay

## In search of the ridiculous

BY BRUCE BELLINGHAM

IT’S REASSURING TO SEE SAN FRANCISCANS PULL together and help their neighbors when trouble arises. Case in point: There was a fundraiser last month at the Buffalo Theory restaurant on Polk Street. It was arranged by **Gil Hoh**, the sharp co-owner. Four businesses — California Cowboy ... One Half ... Russian Hill Upholstery ... and Johnson’s Leathers — were damaged in a two-alarm fire on Polk on July 14. One Half, a great card and bookshop, has reopened.

**Carole Holt**, the longtime owner of Russian Hill Upholstery, says her store will be closed for at least six months.

Two residents who lived above the stores were displaced indefinitely. **Leonie van den Berg** lived in her apartment for 40 years. It suffered fire, water, smoke, and asbestos damage. Through the kindness of a stranger, she has a place to stay. But she lost everything in the fire.

It was a modest but enthusiastic fundraiser. Gil Hoh said they collected about \$6,000.

Why do the days get longer this time of year? That puzzles me. But the years, in some ways, get brighter. And, then, sadly, get shorter.

Is that a ridiculous thing to say? Of course it is, but I like to say ridiculous things. It’s fun. Being ridiculous is a sign of the times. Just look around. I’ll fit in just fine. ...

BELLINGHAM, continued on 8



A free speech sign on National Park Service land. PHOTO: JOHN ZIPPERER

## Speak, don't speak

### Reflections on the meaning of free speech in the 21st century

NAT HENTOFF IS DEAD. THE very broad definition of free speech that he supported might also be dead. The legendary columnist and free speech activist argued for decades for the widest possible coverage of the First Amendment. Nearly a quarter

century ago, Hentoff told me about wandering into his living room one night to find his two young sons watching a pornographic movie; he said he turned around and went back to bed. “As disgusting as it is,” he said, hardcore pornography should be legal everywhere in the

country, including online, and he wanted the then-new World Wide Web to be a tool for free speech.

Sex has certainly flourished online in the decades since, and so has political speech. But if sex has an obvious existence on the Internet — it is viewed or not, censored by parents and employers or not — political speech has gone in different directions online than many on the left might have predicted. Yes, left-wing writers and polemicists are to be found online, as is the mainstream right; but the extreme right has also used the Internet to spread its messages, recruit members, and intimidate opponents.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has long been close to Hentoff in broadly and doggedly defending the First Amendment rights to free speech, even for hate speech. Many people still remember the ACLU in 1978 defending the right of a neo-Nazi group to march in the Chicago suburb of Skokie, home to many Holocaust survivors. After a rally by white nationalists in Charlottesville, Va., last month turned deadly, even the ACLU announced that it was amending its guidance about defending such groups, giving themselves an out if the marchers are armed.

FREE SPEECH, continued on 4





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News BRIEFS : Latest updates

# Homeowners on notice

## APPROACHING SOFT STORY DEADLINE

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) issued a reminder in August about the impending deadline for building owners to apply for permits to retrofit their soft-story buildings.

In 2013, San Francisco created the mandate for the soft-story retrofit program as part of an effort to ensure the city is more resilient when faced with the next big earthquake — a matter of when, not if. The requirement applies to so-called soft-story buildings, those with either three stories and 5–15 units or two stories and a basement.

Properties that are required to have the retrofit done but don't meet the Sept. 15 deadline could face "code enforcement proceedings and having an earthquake warning placard posted ... on your property," according to the DBI.

Property owners with questions can contact DBI at 415-558-6699 or softstory@sfgov.org.

## S.F. ART INSTITUTE AT FORT MASON

The San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) is rolling out its new campus at the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture. The grand opening celebration will take place in a free opening weekend Nov. 10–11. Preview tours took place in late August, and by the end of last month students began moving into studio spaces and classes began.

The new location will offer more than 160 art studios for students, faculty, and visiting artists, as well as 3,300 square feet of exhibition space. The building was designed by the award-winning firm Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects.

To learn more about the site, visit sfai.edu.

## JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY LEADS TO ARRESTS

In mid-August, San Francisco police arrested three men for the Aug. 8 armed robbery of a jewelry store in the district served by Northern Station. The three suspects, each between 52 and 60 years old, include one Oakland resident and two San Francisco resi-



San Francisco's attempt to shore up soft-story structures is aimed at reducing the destruction that could be caused by a future earthquake, such as what this Marina District home experienced in 1989. PHOTO: NANCY WONG

dents.

The robbery occurred at 9:15 a.m. The San Francisco Police Department reports that "the suspects forced their way into the business and held employees at gunpoint, demanding high-end jewelry. The victims were held hostage while the suspects stole merchandise," before fleeing in a waiting vehicle.

The three were charged with robbery, elder abuse, and kidnapping; one of the suspects was charged with "felon in possession of a firearm."

## FARRELL TARGETS GUNS AGAIN

In the wake of the abortive attempts at alt-right rallies in the Bay Area, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell plans to push for a new law that would further tighten local laws against firearms in public places. If passed, Farrell's law would ban guns in four types of places in the city: all parks, plazas, and open spaces; major commercial areas; major tourist areas; prominent public thoroughfares, including sections of Market Street and The Embarcadero.

The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence endorsed the plan. "Local governments such as San Francisco are uniquely positioned to determine what's best for the public safety of their residents, including where people may carry guns," said Robyn Thomas, the law center's executive director. "Especially in light of the tragic events in Charlottesville, it is critical for local governments to address the issue of firearms in public spaces."

## COMMONWEALTH CLUB'S NEW HOME

In early September, The Commonwealth Club will hold the ribbon cutting for its new

building at 110 The Embarcadero, the product of an eight-year effort to purchase and build out a home. It is also the product of a 114-year dream for the public forum to be its own landlord; since its founding in 1903, the Club has rented space to hold its speeches, conversations, and other cultural gatherings.

The Club's new space, like Fort Mason's Arts & Culture center, was designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects. You can learn more at commonwealthclub.org.

## FACTS & FIGURES

**1,070 feet:** height of the Salesforce Tower, which will be the city's tallest building when it is completed in 2018 ... **5,500:** number of backpacks distributed to San Francisco schoolchildren as part of Mayor Ed Lee's Backpack Giveaway program ... **3 and counting:** the number of attempts to get a "Calexit" referendum on the state ballot to have voters decide whether to try to leave the union ... **20 jumbo jets:** the passenger load equivalent of the number of people killed in the United States each year in drunk-driving accidents, according to the SFPD in announcing its deployment of anti-DUI forces for Labor Day weekend ... **\$19.2 million:** amount San Francisco will spend over two years to provide home-delivered meals to seniors, people with disabilities, and families in the city ... **350,000:** number of California Republicans who are considering abandoning the party over its position on climate change, according to the party's own poll.

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

# MAYBECK'S

NEW AMERICAN CLASSIC CUISINE



## Reynold's Rap continued *from cover*

Chianti and smoking cigars. As a couple of African American teenagers were riding their bikes past the house, one reached out and smacked the mailbox, and my grandfather called them the n-word. My father mustered his courage and said, "Well Lorenzo, you know what they say about Sicilians..." There was a long period of silence as my grandfather stared straight ahead, chomping on the end of his cigar. My father braced himself for my grandfather's infamous temper, but it never appeared — and he never said the n-word again.

Even though I know my heritage, I recently decided to have my DNA tested. It came back as expected — Irish, Ukrainian, Italian, and a little Welsh on my maternal grandmother's side. But some of my DNA is West Asian. Upon further research I discovered this is likely from my Sicilian heritage as Sicily — the world's most conquered island — has slightly higher percentages of Southwest Asian DNA than the rest of southern Italy because the Arabs are known to have spread the "J1 lineage" during the spread of Islam. One reference remarked, "As Metternich said in 1847, 'Italy is only a geographical expression.' The peninsula was unified by

Piedmont two decades later, but Metternich's remark still largely holds true today. There isn't one Italian people, but a multitude of ethnic and cultural groups, often with an independent history of their own going back to ancient times."

The Arabs came to Sicily from the south after establishing themselves in Africa and mingling with the local Berber tribes. They fought 100 years to dominate Sicily, obeying the rules of jihad. During their 200-year domination, the Arabs built irrigation to cultivate crops and the citrus trees they brought, creating the lush gardens the Koran promised in the afterlife. They invented dried pasta and ice cream, made sea salt, and turned Sicily into one of the richest trading centers in the world. The Arabs also built fortresses for protection and cities all over the island, and they filled those cities with mosques, markets, and offices of local government. Until this day, Sicilian girls who look like my mother — black hair, dark skin, dark eyes — are called "moors," a reference to the Berber and Arab peoples from North Africa.

When Sicilians first immigrated to the American South, they were often designated as "black" on census forms. They weren't allowed to marry "whites." In the 1890s, thou-



Clamming on the Rhode Island coast with my grandparents and my mother on one of my many childhood summer trips.

sands of Sicilians arrived in New Orleans and settled in the French Quarter, which became known as "Little Sicily." Prejudice was rampant, with New Orleans Mayor Joseph A. Shakspeare stating that Sicilians

were "the most idle, vicious, and worthless people," and claiming they were "filthy in their persons and homes." On Oct. 15, 1890, New Orleans police chief David Hennessy was shot. Before he died, he reported-

ly whispered that the culprits were "Dagoes" (a derogatory term for those of Mediterranean heritage), resulting in a mass arrest of Italians. Eventually nine Sicilian men were tried and acquitted of the murder, but a large mob — led by some of the city's leading citizens — stormed the prison, and shot and clubbed to death some of the men as they cowered in their cells, then dragged out and hanged two more. It was the largest lynching in American history and was one of six times in the 1890s that Italians were killed by mob violence.

As I watched the white supremacists and Nazi sympathizers march through the streets of Charlottesville, Va. on Aug. 12, raising their torches as they angrily chanted hateful rhetoric about those they perceive to be different, I was reminded of that dark chapter in Sicilian American history, and it made me wish all of them would test their DNA, too. Even if they can trace their heritage back to Thomas Jefferson — who fathered children with one of his slaves, Sally Hemings — they may not be as white as they think they are.

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## Free Speech continued *from cover*

As famous as the Skokie case was, the ACLU notes that "Although the ACLU prevailed in its free speech arguments, the neo-Nazi group never marched through Skokie, instead agreeing to stage a rally at Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago."

Last month, San Francisco and Berkeley had to confront some of the same issues when in the aftermath of the Charlottesville violence, two right-wing protests were planned for the Bay Area. One was to take place on our front lawn, Crissy Field; the other was to be staged a day later in a Berkeley city park. Neither went off as planned.

The Bay Area in general and the Marina in particular girded for perhaps violent confrontations at the rallies. Though San Francisco's elected officials and many of its residents called for the rally to be denied a permit, the chosen site was not city-run land; it is part of the National Park Service, and that organization had some fairly strict guidance to follow to allow free speech on its property. The day before it was slated to take place, the Crissy Field rally was canceled by its organizer, who then announced instead a press conference to take place in Alamo Square (reportedly without a permit); that, too, was called off after the city — now able to enforce its leaders' wishes on city property — quickly surrounded the park with fencing.

In Berkeley, the organizer failed to get a city permit, and finally urged people not to show up to her rally. She disclaimed any affiliation with racists.

## THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

For some people across the political spectrum, Charlottesville was a wake-up call to the new assertiveness of so-called "white identity" groups. At that rally, the neo-Nazis, klansmen, and other extremists were pretty easy to spot and categorize. They didn't cover their faces with bedsheets; they wore polo shirts and chinos, and people could readily see they were overwhelmingly white — and sociologists and armchair political scientists will have much to chew over in coming months as they deal with the fact that so many of the Charlottesville extremists were Millennials.

But Joey Gibson, the organizer of the Crissy Field "Patriot Prayer" rally, said he was not a white supremacist — in fact, he said he was Japanese, and only one of the eight planned speakers at the rally is white. African-American rapper Montrell Harris found himself explaining to friends and neighbors his planned performance at the Crissy Field event. "I don't want my crowd thinking I'm supporting white supremacists," he told KTVU, but he said he was planning to go ahead with it before the event was canceled.

And that Berkeley almost-event? Described as a "No to Marxism" rally, it was organized by transgender woman Amber Cummings, who also claimed the rally had no connection to right-wingers or racists of any sort. Then again, *The Mercury News* reports that "Cummings once appeared in a photograph at a rally next to Northern California activist and white supremacist Nathan Damigo, founder of Identity Evropa and a player in recent violent clashes in Berkeley and the more recent incident in Charlottesville."

There have been charges and counter-charges that events like the Patriot Prayer rally were only organized to draw out a violent response from the extreme left, thereby validating the extreme right's claims of victimhood and drawing supporters to its cause.

In the end, the Crissy Field and Berkeley rallies both fizzled. There was, thankfully, no violence in San Francisco (some scuffles took place in Berkeley). The businesses in the Marina that had been told to close for the day were allowed to open; public transportation was returned to normal.

But what is the state of free speech? Should hate speech be protected speech?

## SPEECH MOVEMENT

This isn't the first collision between free speech and the Bay Area. Though Berkeley is known as the home of the free speech movement, that movement was not really about free speech for all; it was about creating a platform for anti-war speech and other voices from the left.

That is the crux of the problem when it comes to many people on the right and the left discussing free speech: They see it in terms of "free speech for me, but not for thee" — incidentally, also the name of a 1992 book by Nat Hentoff. But for the most part, there isn't a problem for people when they see others being particularly controversial. They can ignore them or complain about them on Facebook, but they don't strenuously demand they be silenced. There are people — mostly on the left — who want political comedian Bill Maher fired or at least chastised for some of his comments and stances, but Maher continues to be a very visible public figure.

The problem really is when it comes to speech that people consider to be so far out of bounds that it cannot be permitted. In Germany, former home of the Third Reich, it is illegal to use Nazi symbols. In fact, in two separate incidents this summer, foreign tourists in Germany were arrested for making the Nazi salute. Yet Germany is very much a free, prosperous, and stable democracy (arguably a more stable democracy than the United States).

Free speech in the United States has often fallen short of Nat Hentoff's desires; there wouldn't be an ACLU if that were not the case. But there has been no end, and probably will be no end, of arguments about what type of hate speech constitutes the equivalent of shouting "fire" in a crowded theater. Lawyers and columnists will continue to make their livings off of such debates long into the future.

If there is one cause for optimism among free speakers, it is that this entire exercise has made thousands — perhaps millions nationally — pay attention to issues of free speech, hate speech, our public square, and the fact that democracy requires people's active participation.

In the lead-up to the planned Crissy Field rally, *Time* magazine cited counter-protester expectations of tens of thousands of people showing up. In Boston, where a similar right-wing rally was held about a week after Charlottesville, only about 20 people reportedly attended the rally; anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 people marched against them.

That might be the best way to ensure that speech continues to be free, but that it doesn't go unanswered.

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**The free speech movement was a platform for antiwar speech and other voices from the left.**

**This has made people pay attention to free speech, hate speech, and our public square.**





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# Resurrecting a waterfront treasure

BY JENNY LENORE ROSENBAUM

SAN FRANCISCO’S WATERFRONT IS A world-class view possible from many spots in the city. One of the most spectacular is the 360-degree scene from the Aquatic Park Pier. The panorama embraces an arc of iconic landmarks, from the Bay Bridge, Fisherman’s Wharf, and the islands in between Marin County and the East Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, and out to the Pacific. To call the view an embarrassment of riches would hardly be an overstatement.

The pier forms the cove that shelters the sandy beach and other sites of the Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District. For decades, the 1,400-foot-long pier has exhilarated residents and visitors from around the world — more than 4 million people visit the park annually. For many, a stroll on the pier is an unforgettable part of the experience.

Today, the future of this waterfront treasure is at risk. It is still possible to safely stroll, bike, fish, and jog on the pier. But rapidly rusting ramparts and crumbling cement on the seawall have necessitated closing a large portion to the public. Unless significant funding can be generated to replace this centerpiece of what is arguably America’s most sublime waterfront, it will become just a memory.

The good news is the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the

National Park Service (NPS), the two entities overseeing the pier, are impassioned to rebuild it for generations to come. But this is no modest venture.

According to the most recent Army Corps of Engineers structural survey, the estimated cost ranges from \$65 to \$85 million — an “extremely challenging goal,” according to Kevin Hendricks, superintendent of the San Francisco Maritime Historical Park. However daunting, he and his colleagues feel it can be accomplished. Surrendering the pier to the annals of history is, quite simply, unacceptable.

Beyond the gifts of unfolding beauty and as a sanctuary from the urban drumbeat, the pier serves a paramount practical function. Constructed by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration, it was completed in 1934. The engineers who conceived it knew that without its cradling presence, the surrounding area (later to be designated the Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District) would be in jeopardy. Ocean currents, storms, and waves triggered by ships would pose chronic problems of stability and even basic safety.

Thus, since its inception, the pier has functioned as a necessary breakwater, protecting the entire enclave. Its loss would mean the demise of invaluable waterfront landmarks in Aquatic Park: The largest U.S. collection of historic ships at the Hyde Street Pier; the elegant Art Deco Maritime Museum; the Dolphin Swim Club; the small



The seawall on the pier at Aquatic Park is in need of rejuvenation. PHOTO: KEITH BREITBACH

beach and swimmer’s cove; and the Sea Scout base, home of the Maritime Summer Camp where children learn marine ecology and sailing arts.

A recently launched nonprofit, Save Aquatic Park Pier Committee (SAPP), is committed to the mission of generating funds to rebuild. The citizen-led grassroots initiative, working closely with the NPS and the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, will engage government officials, local business and civic groups, philanthropic organizations, and the public. Spearheading the collaboration is Keith Breitbach, a San Francisco-based political media consultant.

Describing the pier as a patient “on life support,” Breitbach envisions the urgent project as “a powerful example of an impassioned collaboration that will unite our richly multicultural Bay Area to preserve the best of our past for future generations.”

For Breitbach’s SAPP, the economic and civic opportunities involved in the reemergence of the pier are simply too vast to let this chance slip away.

There is a natural tendency to overlook how precious things are before they are gone. But now the city has the chance to overcome such sadness. A pier-less waterfront would be too poignant a destiny for a landmark that is peerless in the world.

For further information on Save Aquatic Park Pier Committee and to make donations, visit [saveaquaticparkpier.com](http://saveaquaticparkpier.com). E-mail Keith Breitbach at [info@SaveAquaticParkPier.com](mailto:info@SaveAquaticParkPier.com).

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# About that alt-right rally on Crissy Field . . .

BY MARK FARRELL

IN MID-AUGUST, SAN FRANCISCO — AND the Marina District in particular — was thrown into turmoil with National Park Service’s announcement that the Patriot Prayer group, an organization self-defined as promoting First Amendment rights but directly associated with various alt-right groups across America and membership that espouses white supremacist viewpoints, was going to hold a rally at Crissy Field. If you were in San Francisco at the time, and the Marina in particular, it would have been practically impossible to miss the news.

With significant planning, most of it behind the scenes and out of the public eye, and a little good fortune, Aug. 26 went off in San Francisco without any rally, and most important, without any violence — the best possible outcome. My thoughts on this topic could cover the entire *Marina Times*, but here are just a few.

**The National Park Service has to coordinate better with the city of San Francisco.** The first time anybody in our city government heard about this rally was when a constituent called my office. Until then, despite issuing a “conditional permit” to this extremist group, especially in the wake of the recent violence at a similar rally in Charlottesville, NPS didn’t notify anyone. Not the mayor’s office, not the police, not my office — nobody. Events that take place at Fort Mason, Crissy Field, and the Presidio, despite being on federal land,

significantly impact San Francisco and our residents. It is in the public interest for different government agencies to cooperate and coordinate. Post-announcement, the law enforcement cooperation and coordination was real, but it should have never gotten to that point.

**First Amendment rights should be sacred, but public safety comes first.** Some constitutional scholars will disagree, but groups like the Patriot Prayer group, who have stated intentions to cause disruption and violence, must be viewed through not only a First Amendment lens, but also the lens of public safety. Residents in the Marina were downright scared, and those who identify with either ethnic or religious minorities were even more frightened; you should have seen the e-mails I received. It’s one of the core functions of government to keep our residents safe, and these “rallies” have gotten out of hand. I’m not advocating stopping these events or quelling the First Amendment, but a condition for approval must include reimbursing local, state, and federal government for any attendant law enforcement costs that come with keeping our residents safe during these events. You better believe San Francisco is going to send NPS a bill for all of our police overtime. We’ll see what the response is.

**San Francisco government has never functioned better.** I’m often critical about our city government, in particular when it appears that core government functions are being driven by politicians with an agenda (that might sound strange from an elected

official). But in my six-plus years in public office, I’ve never seen our local government more effective (and as the District 2 Supervisor I’ve had a big seat at the table and a great perch to view everything). From the day we learned about the rally, it was “all hands on deck” from our law enforcement agencies to all the other city departments involved. Most of the work was behind the scenes, and coordination was impressive. Luck favors those that are prepared, and I tip my hat to everyone who spent a week of sleepless nights getting ready.

**San Francisco residents should be proud of our response.** One of the greatest dangers of any similar rally is the potential for violence due to protesters physically clashing with counter-protesters; just look at Charlottesville, and Berkeley the day after San Francisco’s event (and to be clear, unlike President Trump, I place the blame squarely on these event organizers whose mission is to promote violence). On Aug. 26, however, San Franciscans showed our stripes. Thousands of people marched from all over the city without a single violent incident. With another colleague I conceived of the idea of a peaceful, nonpolitical event at Civic Center, which thanks to the Hellman Foundation and some incredible organizing, turned out to be an amazing concert. Between monitoring the situation at Crissy Field, my family and I spent a few hours at Civic Center, and the atmosphere was fantastic. As many of the banners stated, love can conquer hatred, and we should all be proud of our response.

**The notion of having an “armed militia” at Crissy Field shouldn’t exist.** I had the great fortune of growing up in the Marina, and because my father was a U.S. Air Force officer, of using the Presidio Army Base. It was my second home. Never in my wildest imagination did I think years later an armed militia would declare its intent to protect protesters at Crissy Field, but that’s exactly what happened when the Oath Keepers announced it would attend the Crissy Field rally with firearms. There is no way this should be allowed to happen, and thankfully NPS made it a permit condition not to have any firearms, so they were essentially neutered. To make sure San Francisco is unequivocally clear that this behavior is unwelcome and against public safety, I drafted legislation to restrict the carrying of firearms in public places such as parks, tourist areas, and commercial corridors in the city (and it will apply to the Presidio and Crissy Field). The legislation will be introduced this month.

Obviously the Crissy Field rally shook many people here. In the end the sun set on Aug. 26 in San Francisco with zero violence — something we should all be very proud of. As important, we didn’t give them a victory. We sucked the oxygen from their event through the restrictions put in place by our government, and by creating other events for San Franciscans to attend who simply couldn’t sit still while they were in our city. We did it peacefully and with respect to the values that make us San Franciscans. We did it our way.



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Bellingham continued from cover

I have always been ridiculous. For example, I am a boy in search of a jukebox. But a boy in search of a jukebox is on a serious mission. Most comedians are very serious people. That is, until they take themselves too seriously. I am interested in people here in San Francisco who are drawn to jukeboxes. Sure, one could always go home, and listen to music, or isolate oneself with programmed tunes through headsets. But jukeboxes encourage company. ... “You mean,” one blurts out to a stranger

in a pub, “that you know who Clarence ‘Frogman’ Henry was?” Fast friendships are formed.

It gets windy here in San Francisco this time of the year. But when I walk on Ocean Beach and see the sunset, the spectacular colors, feel the frigid breeze that tortures my hair, the blazing wonderment on people’s faces just to be there to see the Pacific Ocean, and to see kids giggling as they dig their hands into the sand, well, it is worth the trip. They are looking for the prize. ... San Francisco is a treasure — it is a jewel box. It is the prize. But, like all treasures, it must be opened carefully. She, this city of ours, is full of surprises. She could jump out of the gift box and bite you.

All sales final. Don’t get scared, kids. Just keep digging.

It is September: a great time of the year. We may kick up the leaves, and start to have a sense of insensibility. I love kicking

up leaves. My old friend, the wonderful songwriter, **John Sebastian**, wrote, “She’s a Lady / And I chanced to meet her / In my scufflin days ...” Yes, it recalls the days when I grew up on the East Coast. OK, OK, perhaps I never grew up at all. ... Those were my scufflin’ days. ... My great good friend, **Lynette Majer**, complained to me about the noise that leaf blowers create here in Cow Hollow. So we go scufflin’, amid the leaves.

Leaf blowers are something that should be in Los Angeles, but not here in San Francisco. Any more than we should allow white separatists. We like leaves.

San Francisco is a treasure box. She could jump out of the box and bite you.

And we have plenty of noise to start with. And, if we had leaf blowers, we would use them to keep the landlords away. ... As if it were that easy. There is so much wind — so much bluster — I should not worry about it. ... Say, I’ve got a leaf blower to sell you. ...Not to worry. That’s like selling an air conditioner to somebody in this city. ...

OK, let’s go back to business. Speaking of open air, I love Fishermen’s Wharf. Yes, I know locals are not supposed to find a fondness for the wharf. We San Franciscans are supposed to be so cool — and snooty. It is not so cool to be cold. I love the wharf. It is all about the water. It is all about people who love the water. It sings to me. More specifically, I love

the USS Pampanito. Yes, that is a submarine at Pier 45. You know, of course, the submarines are called boats, not ships. Thanks to **Diane Cooper** at the San Francisco Maritime Park Association, I was invited for the Memorial Day commemoration this year. If you don’t choke up at the Lost Boats Ceremony and the lost sailors at sea, then I submit you may not have a heart. Diane, and all the vets, permitted me to throw a carnation into the water to recall their sacrifices for this country. A small gesture, but I am grateful.

Let’s hope we have no more lost boats — whether they’re in Korea or Venezuela or anywhere else.

It was a splendid day on the water down there at Pier 45. High tide and all. The boat was rocking and rolling. I also love the rough and tumble of the

tides. I don’t get seasick, well, only when I think of deadlines. That’s another story. I go to the Pampanito on my birthday every year. Sometimes the vets make me breakfast in the galley. Recalling their sacrifices is not restricted to one day of the year. I think about the sailors who may not share their birthdays with everyone they love. But we sure love them back. Thank you, fellas.

In the words of **Duke Ellington**, “I love you madly.” Gee, is there another way to love?

Bruce Bellingham is the author of Bellingham by the Bay. Let him know when it is high tide at [bruce@marinatimes.com](mailto:bruce@marinatimes.com). Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes.

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By Jay Duret

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# District 3 is ready for a Navigation Center

BY AARON PESKIN

THIS PAST JUNE, THE CITY released its biennial homeless count report — which, while revealing an overall reduction of the city-wide homeless population, also showed an increase of homeless residents in neighborhoods where they have traditionally not been as visible. As the city experiences a historic construction boom, there are fewer and fewer spaces for homeless residents to hide, and many have spread out from the center of the city into the northeastern neighborhoods. At the same time, rising rents and evictions have forced longtime San Franciscans out into the literal cold: 71 percent of homeless San Franciscans were previously housed in the city and their average age is 58 years. The sector that has grown the most since 2015 are those experiencing chronic homelessness — basically our most vulnerable residents who have struggled with homelessness continuously for years. As many of you have observed, homeless numbers have grown more since 2015 in District 3’s North Beach, Golden Gateway/Embarcadero and Fisherman’s

Wharf neighborhoods than in any other neighborhoods citywide. Back in 2015, I was actively looking for a Navigation Center site in District 3, and I haven’t stopped. A Navigation Center is a temporary shelter and service hub to “navigate” our long-term homeless residents into supportive housing, job training, and health services. I still remember touring Our Lady of Guadalupe chapel with my former colleague, Bevan Dufty, who has been a passionate leader to move San Franciscans off our streets and into housing. We were close to securing the site for the city to operate a temporary Navigation Center, but the property owner eventually backed out of the deal and sold the property. Since then, I have continued to analyze potential sites for a temporary Navigation Center in District 3. The one set up in District 9 was intended to have a brief six-month operating life, but it has already shown marked success since opening in June. The goal is to serve the unique needs of the homeless population in our geographic area. We have grandparents, veterans, and citizens with a range of physical and mental ailments lit-

erally struggling to survive night to night. We’ve seen people taking up residence in Portsmouth Square in Chinatown, down along the Embarcadero by the Ferry Building, and along the Polk Street corridor and adjacent alleyways. These are our neighbors and the city has a responsibility to address their plight with pragmatism, timeliness, and compassion. I have prioritized policies that preserve existing rent-controlled housing and residential hotels, as well as protect tenants. I believe these policies have helped to stem even higher numbers of people experiencing homelessness. But we can’t keep everyone in their homes. My staff has been working with a couple recently who have been pushed from one residential hotel to another. They are proud North Beach residents, with roots in the neighborhood and a rash of bad luck. You no doubt know someone just like them. I have a commitment from the mayor to use his most recent \$6 million budget allocation for a Navigation Center in District 3. Now I need a commitment for a site, and I will need your support to make it happen. I have several sites in mind, but I need



Homeless individuals and families can now be found in an increasing number of the city’s neighborhoods. PHOTO: JCRUZHETRUTH

the community to stand on the side of political courage. Are we going to let our neighbors brave the coming winter on District 3’s streets? Or are we going to push the city to stop making excuses and finally move on the property that is available and temporarily vacant? Surely if the Mission can absorb a Navigation Center for six months, we can make use of property that will be otherwise unused and available for a year. District 3 is ready for a Navigation Center, and it already has a strong moral compass. Our residents are savvy, engaged, and empathetic. They have heart, but they want to see action. Our office coordinates with neighborhood associations and

working groups throughout the district to implement a rapid response when encampments spring up. But the reality is, we need somewhere to process and work with homeless people to assess what’s next for them. Last year’s Proposition Q has proven a dismal failure, as predicted by city staff and advocates. Moving tents from one street to another does not address homelessness. Housing, services, and collaborating on a long-term plan for individual success are the keys to getting people on an upward trajectory and off of city streets — and keeping them there. The time is now to respond swiftly and aggressively to our homeless crisis. Can I count on you to support our work?

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The Tablehopper :: Comings and goings



Pasta carbonara at Roma Antica. PHOTO: COURTESY ROMA ANTICA

Roma Antica brings authentic Roman dishes to the Marina

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

NOW OPEN IN THE MARINA IS **Roma Antica** (3242 Scott Street, 415-896-4002), an authentic and casual Italian restaurant focused on serving Roman pasta (handmade) and pinsa, making it the second location in the city to serve this ancient Roman pizza style. (Montesacro was the first to bring it to the United States.) The partners are Dogukan Solmaz (most recently the general manager at Trattoria da Vittorio) and Roberto Sbaraglia, a Roman whose father has owned a restaurant, Antica, in Rome for the past 30 years (Sbaraglia’s passion is for cocktails, and he worked as a bartender at a beach bar in Fiumicino). The partners met at hospitality school in Rome in 2005 and have been looking for a place in San Francisco for the past three years.

Their chef is Davide Cogliati, who has worked in San Francisco for eight years (Acquerello, Amarena, and some catering), and he visited with Sbaraglia’s father, Marco, in Rome to learn Antica’s recipes. But Cogliati is originally from Milan, so of course risotto is on the menu, oh you know it.

Roma Antica is located in the former Kobani Mediterranean Grill (previously Cedar Hill) and is open all day. They also serve weekend brunch with some American items like pancakes and waffles to go along with breakfast pinsa and frittata (and bottomless mimosas, because you kind of have to in the Marina).

The main menu includes a variety of bruschette, soup of the day, salads like panzanella and octopus (plus a kale Caesar, sure to please the neighborhood), along with calamari (skewered, sautéed, or fried), stuffed olives (ascolane), burrata, and classics like suppli and porchetta.

There is a dough room in the far back, where the handmade pasta is made. Expect classic Roman preparations of carbonara, cacio e pepe, bucatini all’amatriciana, papardelle alla coda alla vaccinara, gnocchi, lasagna, and some lesser-known shapes like fiocchetti (little bundles), plus rigatoni boscaiola (“woodsman style,” which usually involves mushrooms and truffles), and seafood pasta.

The Mugnaini pizza oven they have is a wood-fired hybrid (with gas) and is primarily used for cooking dishes like porchetta and specials like eggplant parmigiana. There are four kinds of pinsa to start (burrata, pork, sausage, and vegetarian), and the dough is made from soy, rice, and wheat, which is why it’s a lighter style of dough and easier to digest.

The wine list is by Berkeley sommelier Zoti Toprak, who has assembled selections from Italy (of course), France, and California wines. There are 15 reds, 10 whites, and

5 sparkling and rosés, which range from \$9–\$14 by the glass.

The space looks great, with windows opening onto the street and some outdoor seating. The space features tiled floors from Italy, a Mediterranean blue banquette, and modern light fixtures from Venice. The custom tables are live-edge redwood, and there’s a wall of reclaimed wood. The eight-seat bar in the back is made from Calacatta marble. The entire look is contemporary, welcoming, and warm with all the natural materials and color tones. It works for a casual date or dinner with the family — it’s that kind of place. Monday–Thursday 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Friday–Saturday 11 a.m.–midnight, and Sunday 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

COW HOLLOW

While I’m sad to say farewell to **Postcards From La Costiera**, the latest concept at **The Mina Test Kitchen** (2120 Greenwich Street) is **Mi Almita**. Michael Mina is partnering with Houston’s James Beard Award-winning chef Hugo Ortega (Xochi, Hugo’s, Caracol, Backstreet Café) on this seventh pop-up. The collaborative menu will take a journey throughout Mexico with dishes like huitlasquites corn soup, with fragrant chicken broth, huitlacoche, and house-made queso fresco; a ceviche trio sourced from the tidal pools of Fort Bragg; pozole verde with littleneck clams, hominy, and pumpkin seeds; pulpo al carbón, or grilled octopus with sweet peppers and caramelized onions, served with chipotle tomatillo salsa and house-made tortillas; and for dessert, a tasting of house-made Mexican chocolate. Dinner is \$39 for the five-course menu, with supplemental courses available. Tuesday–Thursday 5:30–9:30, Friday–Saturday 5:30–10 p.m.

EMBARCADERO

**Norcina** (50 Francisco Street) is now open in Waterfront Plaza. This Italian cafe-deli found by Kaitlynn Bauman is all about breakfast and lunch, with a broccoli-rabe-and-potato frittata, sandwiches, salads, coffee from Cibo in Sausalito, gelato, and more. The menu includes tigelle (flat-bread-style sandwiches) and an egg-and-cheese tigella for breakfast. Salads include a Tuscan kale version with cannellini beans, artichoke hearts, fennel, and pecorino. There’s also house-made gelato and some outdoor seating. Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–5 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](http://tablehopper.com). Follow @tablehopper on Twitter and Instagram for more culinary finds.*

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La Vita Delizioso :: Recipe

# Heading into fall, it's time for comforting pasta favorites

WHEN THE FALL CHILL HIT THE air and the days grew shorter, my mom would often make one of my favorite comfort pastas: Romano — cream, butter, and cheese — or burro — with butter — or as my dad called it, “spaghetti and buttuh” (said with a heavy East Coast accent). Both of these can be made with dry or fresh pasta, preferably wide ribbons like fettuccine or pappardelle. My mom served these as a side or as her pasta course, but because the recipes are so simple, you can add other ingredients to make them a meal (for example, toss the pasta with sautéed mushrooms or other vegetables, a bit of crispy prosciutto, or leftover roast chicken).

If you're steering clear of dairy, you can substitute the butter in the pasta al burro with olive oil, and if you add some garlic you'll have one of my other favorite comfort pastas, aglio e olio (pasta with garlic and olive oil). My mom was Sicilian, so she made aglio e olio more than any other pasta dish, as olive oil is favored in southern Italy while butter is more prominent in the north.

**PASTA AL BURRO** (pasta with butter)  
Serves 4

- 1 pound fresh or dry wide egg noodles or pasta like fettuccine or pappardelle
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Add pasta to a large pot of boiling salted water. While pasta cooks, cut butter into cubes and toss in a bowl with Parmesan cheese. When pasta is still al dente, drain off all the water except 3 to 4 tablespoons (the starchy water helps thicken the sauce). Toss butter and Parmesan mixture with pasta until well combined. Salt and pepper to taste. Top with



Pasta alla Romana.  
PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

fresh chopped parsley and more cheese if desired. Serve immediately.

**PASTA ALLA ROMANA**  
Serves 4

- 1 pound fresh or dry wide egg noodles or pasta like fettuccine or pappardelle
- 1 stick unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 1 cup heavy cream (room temperature)
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Add pasta to a large pot of boiling salted water. While pasta cooks, place butter in large skillet over very low heat to melt. When pasta is still al dente, drain, leaving at least 3 to 4 tablespoons of water. Add pasta to skillet and toss until evenly coated with butter. Add cream and cheese and gently mix until evenly combined. Salt and pepper to taste. Top with more cheese if desired. Serve immediately.

E-mail: [recipes@marinatimes.com](mailto:recipes@marinatimes.com)

New and Notable :: Foodies rejoice

# Cultivating a new breed of wine bar at Cultivar

BY JULIE MITCHELL

WINE BARS SEEM to be popping up all over San Francisco, following the proliferation of gourmet ice cream shops and trendy coffee spots. In a city where new eateries open almost every day, how to distinguish one from the others?

Cultivar San Francisco, which opened last May on Chestnut Street, stands out from other wine bars in that it's so much more than that. Merriam-Webster defines cultivar as “an organism and especially one of an agriculture or horticultural variety or strain originating and persistent under cultivation.” And that's exactly what

brother-sister team Jody Harris and Giny Harris Gable are doing at Cultivar: cultivating a captivating combination of retail shop, restaurant, tasting room, wine club, and yes, wine bar.

**A BROTHER AND SISTER REUNION**

Harris and Gable are San Francisco natives who grew up visiting their grandparents, Virginia and Caspar Escher, at the family's retreat in Rutherford. There, at the 300-acre estate known as Caspar Estate, the two developed their love for the land, farming, and Napa Valley wine.

After Harris graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1977, he reestablished the 80

Mission olive trees on the family property and planted new ones, along with a 10-acre vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petite Verdot, using organic farming practices. At the same time, he went to work in commercial real estate and development.

Armed with a degree in art history from Colby College in Maine, Gable pursued a career in interior design, working at Barbara Scavullo Design and David Livingston before starting her own design firm, Virginia Harris Design. She brings her design chops to Cultivar along with her experience living and cooking in Italy and France.

**NOTABLE, continued on 13**



Notable  
continued from 12

In 2008, Harris went into the wine business full time. That year Caspar Estate had its first harvest and began to produce estate wines (wines made entirely from grapes owned by the winery and produced on its property). “Estate wines tend to be more sophisticated and more expensive than single vineyard wines, and they draw an older connoisseur,” Harris says. So in 2011 Harris and Gable decided to open Cultivar Wines to offer “more approachable wine.”

CULTIVAR COMES TO THE CITY

By 2015, the siblings started toying with the idea of opening a tasting room. “We looked in Yountville, St. Helena, and Napa,” Harris says, “but we wanted to keep people coming back, and there were already so many tasting rooms that weren’t even a part of a winery. We wanted to create a place where there was more traffic; a place that people would return to twice a month, even twice a week.” And that’s when they decided on the Marina as the place



Stephen Sutro of Sutro Architects & Design created Cultivar's sleek urban look. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CULTIVAR

to open not just a tasting room but a wine bar (both Harris and Gable live in the city).

Cultivar has a sleek urban feel, with polished wood floors, a long bar and small tables running alongside the opposite side of the space. Colorful photos from the wine country cover the walls, and in the back, you can see Cultivar’s impressive stock of wine. High, recessed lighting adds a pleasant glow. Harris turned to Town School classmate Stephen Sutro of Sutro Architects & Design to create the space.

The wine bar offers a carefully curated list

of wines by the glass or bottle: bubbles, whites, roses, and reds, including, of course, Caspar Estate wines. But the list includes other vintages from the Napa Valley, Russian River, and some French wines as well. Bottles range from \$32 to \$195, and wines by the glass from \$9–\$20. And the knowledgeable wait staff is happy to let you taste a few wines before making a decision.

FOODIES, REJOICE!

While Harris says, “We didn’t start out to open a restaurant; we want to be known for the wine

first,” the farm-to-table seasonally changing menu elevates Cultivar to restaurant status. Shareable plates are as simple as sriracha-spiced cashews (\$6) and creamy house-made hummus (\$9) to a pulled-duck sandwich with sweet peppers and pickled cabbage, and seared scallops with chili jam, green apple, and pickled radish (\$16). Skillful flavor combinations and artistic plating make a big impression. Cultivar also serves Sunday “Family Dinner” for \$27 per person; kids under 10 eat free. Guests can choose from an appe-

tizer, soup or salad, entrée and dessert. Recent offerings included chilled corn bisque, grilled little gem salad, house-made tagliatelle with carrot-top pesto; pan-fried green beans; a seared pork chop, and roasted peaches and meringue.

Cultivar’s wine club offers a full case customer membership for \$500, and four bottles a year for \$175; the choice of wine can be customized. And from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, the bar opens its doors to guests to sample from the wine list and purchase their

favorites. Other offerings include three Cultivar beers on tap, and small-batch and organic olive oils and honeys from Cultivar Napa and Caspar Escape.

Keep your eye on this hot new spot that offers the neighborhood so much more than another wine bar.

**Cultivar:** 2379 Chestnut Street, 415-962-4200, [cultivarsf.com](http://cultivarsf.com), Wednesday–Sunday; wine bar and store 11 a.m.–4 p.m., full wine list and menu 4–11 p.m.

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Michael Snyder on ... Pop Culture :: An immersive experience

# The Speakeasy: Theater as time machine

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IT WAS A TEMPERATE EVENING on the Barbary Coast. The meet-up was on the corner of Grant and Vallejo Streets. He was a little on the flamboyant side in his orange hat and scarf, but I had the password, and he had the goods: directions to a secret, underground nightclub. There would be a short walk, an unassuming storefront entrance, a stairway down into the depths of the building, and a specific knock on a mighty wooden door before I could gain entry. But once inside, a world of slightly seedy glamour, potential danger, intrigue, period music, sly and boisterous comedy, and legitimate drama awaited me and a bunch of regular Joes and Jills and slumming swells on the scene.

I was at *The Speakeasy* — an incredibly accomplished, detail-oriented immersive theatrical event presented and performed by a large, talented, and thoroughly committed cast and crew. It's scintillating entertainment, and that's just for starters. It's also a chance for audience members to experience something akin to time travel, without messy dinosaur attacks, bloody jousts, or Jetsons-style dehydrated food packets.

Patrons are led into a reproduction of a Prohibition-era San Francisco speakeasy, circa 1923, where they are greeted by a diverse and dedicated group of actors portraying a collection of characters that include cabaret performers, management, staffers, hired muscle, luses, bar girls, and ordinary folk going about their lives. To up the experiential aspect of the production, the performers can and will interact with the actual paying customers who are encouraged to attend in period garb (or close to it). Overtly modern clothing — denim, sneakers, T-shirts with logos, and the like

— is frowned upon, although the producers do provide more acceptable costuming for rental at the coat check.

## DRESSED TO IMPRESS

In keeping with the spirit of the event, I dispensed with my usual leather motorcycle jacket and jeans, and wore a double-breasted wide-lapelled jacket over a black button-down shirt and slacks. Upon entering the speakeasy, I found myself in a moodily lit bar with a small stage that accommodated a pianist who was joined by a brash Abbott & Costello-style comic duo and then a supple-voiced torch singer named Velma. This was just the first of four official rooms and two side room peep shows that make up the facility.

Eventually, those of us who were let into the bar area realized we could move freely into a casino (although through a sliding door disguised as a book case), a lounge/anteroom, and the jewel of the facility, the Palace Theater cabaret, complete with three separate shows featuring a versatile house band backing up the aforementioned Velma; a glib, charismatic, occa-



Left: Nikola Printz as Velma PHOTO: ANDY FEIFAREK; right: Freddie Larson as Vinnie. PHOTO: PETER LIU



## Particularly compelling were the troubled diva Velma, and Floyd's mix of charm, sleaze, and menace.

sionally leering master of ceremonies; a troupe of sexy, buoyant, singing, dancing chorus girls; and a series of variety acts including an imperious magician. For the formal on-stage entertainment, the songs were vintage, circa the Roaring '20s, as were the bits and the patter — the latter replete with era- and area-specific references.

Over the course of a roughly three-hour extravaganza, I wandered through the joint, witnessing such compelling

storylines as a World War I vet wrestling with PTSD; a young couple whose relationship was on the skids; an older husband and wife seeking a wayward young woman who had been romantically involved with their son; a middle-aged married man whose illicit liaison was publicly revealed and reviled; an embittered chorus girl whose brother, a croupier in the casino, had a gambling problem; and most intriguingly, Velma's personal travails involving the return of her jealous, ne'er-do-well husband, Floyd. Potent stuff.

## INSIDE DRAMA

On top of the constant action in the four "public" spaces (including the three successive hour-long cabaret shows), there were two "private" areas on display to audience members. One was the manager's office where he conducted phone business and deals with his employees and various crises as the night

progressed — issues that eventually brought him into other areas of the club. You could eavesdrop on him by peeking through little windows in one wall and listening in via an antique-style hand-held receiver. The other, more provocative locale was the ladies' dressing room, with an ostensibly one-way mirror on the chorus girls and Velma as they changed their plethora of colorful, sometimes scanty costumes, fixed their makeup, gossiped, argued, broke down and, in one case, broke up.

Ultimately, I found myself choosing a handful of characters and following them through the evening's machinations. Particularly compelling were the troubled diva Velma, beautifully embodied by the opera-trained Nikola Printz, and Floyd, whose unsettling mix of charm, sleaze, and menace was nailed by Brian Raffi. I was also impressed by the indefatigable Ron Campbell as M.C. Eddie, whose energy, focus and theatrical bonhomie never seemed to flag, and Saskia Marguerite as chorus girl Viola whose two-hander comedy act with Campbell had them channeling George Burns and Gracie Allen in a routine that was straight out of classic vaudeville. Singling out these performers is not meant to do a disservice to anyone else in the ensemble. Everyone in the cast — 39 strong, plus a seven-piece band — was on point throughout the night. (A total of 81 members of the cast and crew are necessary to the presentation.)

## THE REAL DEAL

It should be made clear that *The Speakeasy* is a tightly scripted affair (1,487 pages in length at last count), despite room for ad-libbing and spontaneity, with circumstances playing out simultaneously in all corners of the building. As

such, you can attend multiple times and see what amounts to a different play on each occasion. And there are reasonably priced food and drink options — the latter including alcoholic beverages. Although Prohibition is in effect during the depicted era, it's a speakeasy, and the booze, illegal though it may be, is flowing.

*The Speakeasy* began with a more modest run at a smaller space in the Tenderloin, and was greeted with such a positive response that the producers and investors managed to finance this more elaborate and elegant location and iteration. For now, the venue is open on Thursday through Saturday nights, with *The Speakeasy* playing on Thursdays and Saturdays, and *A Night at the Palace* — essentially Speakeasy: The Party without all the drama, a looser, more improvisational event with many of the same characters — settling in on Fridays. Plus, on some weekend nights, starting at around 11:15 p.m., there's the more informal after-party known as Club 1234, with cool drinks and live jazz, separate from the proper shows.

For more information on all the happenings, including ticket prices and instructions, visit [thespeakeasysf.com](http://thespeakeasysf.com).

For me, *The Speakeasy* was transporting — one of the most satisfying and enjoyable theatrical experiences I've ever had. I recommend it, big time. And if you choose to attend, tell 'em Mikey sent you.

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



A gentleman takes in a show in the cabaret. PHOTO: PETER LIU



# Exclusive U.S. retrospective of Walker Evans at SFMOMA

BY SHARON ANDERSON

WALKER EVANS IS BEST known as a documentarian of the Great Depression. His photos from this era while working for the Farm Security Administration (which, as part of the New Deal, attempted to fight rural poverty), became some of the most recognizable images from this period. From Sept. 30 through Feb. 4, 2018, the SFMOMA presents an exclusive U.S. retrospective of Walker Evans's work.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., in 1903, Evans was educated on the East Coast, attended Williams College, the Sorbonne, and College de France before settling in New York in the 1920s. It was here that Evans developed his photographic style documenting street life and the ordinary faces of working people acting out their daily lives. Objects that would seem mundane to others — the mass-marketed and everyday items that play a ubiquitous role in life but often remain unnoticed — were instead the focal points of his art.



Left: Walker Evan's *Allie Mae Burroughs, Wife of a Cotton Sharecropper*, Hale County, Alabama, 1936; right: *Floyd and Lucille Burroughs*, Hale County, Alabama, 1936; bottom: *Truck and Sign*, 1928–30. PHOTOS: ©WALKER EVANS ARCHIVE, THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

SFMOMA's Pritzker Center for Photography, the largest exhibition space dedicated to photography in the United States, will devote all its galleries to presenting Evans's 50-year

body of work thematically rather than chronologically. This retrospective highlights the artist's fascination with American popular culture, or vernacular, which he transformed to the level of art. The first half of the exhibition is devoted to the subjects that caught Evans's interest, including text-based images like signage, show windows, roadside stands, billboards, and other examples of typography. What follows are the iconic images of the Depression through covert street photography, a style that would gain popularity in the 20th century with photographers like Weegee and Diane Arbus. Evans was passionate about reading and writing, working as a staff writ-

er for *Time* magazine and an editor at *Fortune* magazine, all of which influenced the sense of storytelling in his photography. The second half of the exhibition explores Evans's styles of

ers, tickets, logos, and brochures give insight to the artist's source materials that provided inspiration.

Candid without seeming intrusive, Evans's subjects, particularly the people of the Depression, seem more like collaborators than subjects in a portrait. This sense of connectivity allows the viewer to look into the eyes of Allie Mae Burroughs and see her strength without pity. Evans's photographic subjects communicate a quiet, calm sense of place that helps us see the everyday as the sublime.

Sharon Anderson is an artist and writer in Southern California. She can be reached at [mindtheimage.com](http://mindtheimage.com).

## Evans's subjects seem more like collaborators than subjects in a portrait.

applied photography through more traditional representations of architecture, catalog, and postcard photography as well as studio portraiture. Personal collections of more than 10,000 postcards, scrapbooks, paintings, hand-painted signage, and graphic ephemera including fly-



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

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

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **All the Light We Cannot See**, by Anthony Doerr (paperback)
2. **The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest That Will Bring Purpose to Your Life**, by Chris Guillebeau (paperback)
3. **Behind Closed Doors: A Novel**, by B.A. Paris (paperback)
4. **Crazy Rich Asians: A Novel**, by Kevin Kwan (paperback)
5. **The Woman in Cabin 10**, by Ruth Ware (paperback)
6. **The Couple Next Door: A Novel**, by Shari Lapena (paperback)
7. **The Alchemist**, by Paulo Coelho (paperback)
8. **Before the Fall**, by Noah Hawley (paperback)
9. **One Summer: America**

- 1927, by Bill Bryson (paperback)
10. **City of Stairs**, by Robert Jackson Bennett (paperback)

#### NEW RELEASES

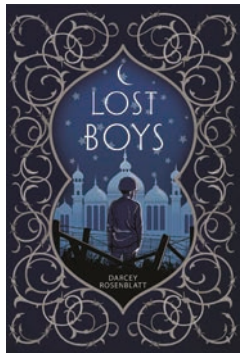
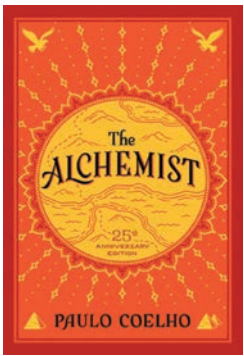
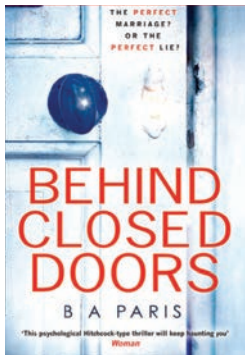
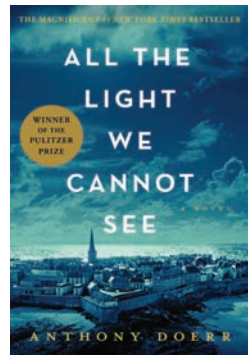
**I'll Have What She's Having**, by Erin Carlson: A backstage look at the making of Nora Ephron's revered trilogy: *When Harry Met Sally*, *You've Got Mail*, and *Sleepless in Seattle*, which brought romantic comedies back to the fore, and an intimate portrait of the beloved writer-director who inspired a generation of Hollywood women. The author will be at the store Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

**Good Booty: Love and Sex, Black and White, Body and Soul in American Music**, by Ann Powers: In this sweeping history of popular music in the United States, NPR's acclaimed music critic examines how pop-

ular music shapes fundamental American ideas and beliefs, allowing us to communicate difficult emotions and truths about our most fraught social issues, most notably sex and race.

**Lost Boys**, by Darcey Rosenblatt: Based on historical events, this unforgettable and inspiring tale for middle-grade readers is about a young boy torn from the only life he's ever known and held captive as a prisoner of war. Friendship, heartbreak, and Reza's very survival are at stake as he finds solace through music and forges his own path — wherever that might take him.

**I'll Never Tell: Odyssey of a Rock and Roll Priest**, by Msgr. Harry Schlitt: Short on theology but long on charisma, Msgr. Schlitt began a ministry that moved from the high school classroom, to the pulpit, to the airwaves. His first broadcast-



ing gig was as a disc jockey on AM radio in the Ozarks. An improbable series of encounters led him to work at Chicago's legendary WLS-TV, FM radio in Las Vegas, every leading radio and TV station in San Francisco, 20 years on the Armed Forces Radio and Television network,

and ultimately the ABC radio network-as Father Harry of the God Squad. He'll be at the store Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.!

Brian Pettus is the manager of Books Inc. in the Marina (2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, [booksinc.net/sfmarina](http://booksinc.net/sfmarina)).



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

WHAT NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS



A 24-Decade History of Popular Music

Friday, Sept. 15 & Sunday, Sept. 17  
Friday, Sept. 22 & Sunday, Sept. 24

Curran Theatre  
Each performance represents a chapter in American history through 246 songs from 1776 to present day in the West Coast premiere of this award-winning “performance art concept” by Taylor Mac. \$49–\$285 (single chapter)–\$1,083 (all chapters), 415-358-1220, sfcurren.com  
PHOTO: TEDDY WOLFF

S.F. Fashion Week  
Daily, Sept. 22–Oct. 1

Various Bay Area venues  
The week aims to explore how diversity has become the battle cry of the fashion industry by utilizing technology and showcasing emerging designer collections, virtual reality, 3-D fashion, wearable tech, and more. sanfranciscofashionweek.net

LAST CHANGE

The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Lawrence Halprin  
Thu.–Sun. through Sept. 4, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Innovation Hangar (3601 Lyon St.)  
This photographic celebration represents the designer's eight Bay Area projects, including Ghirardelli Square, Embarcadero Center, Levi's Plaza, and Letterman Digital Arts Center as well as those from across the country. Free, 415-814-1072, ihangar.org

Presidio Twilight  
Thursdays through Sept. 21, 5–9 p.m.  
Main Parade Ground, the Presidio's Main Post  
Celebrate the last of summer evenings with lantern-lit dining cabanas, blanket-side cocktail service, fire pits, live music, food from Off-the Grid, and sunset views over the bay. Free, 415-561-4323, presidio.gov

Degas, Impressionism and the Paris Millinery Trade  
Tue.–Sun. through Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.  
Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park (100 34th Ave.)  
See approximately 40 Impressionist paintings and pastels displayed with 40 exquisite examples of period hats. \$28, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

COMMUNITY CORNER

Pier 39's 39th Anniversary Celebration  
Fridays through September  
Pier 39  
Celebrate with a '70s Roller Disco Party (Sept. 8), free desserts at participating restaurants (Sept. 15), the Fall Beer Pour (Sept. 22), and the outdoor movie night (Sept. 29). Pier39.com

Sunday Streets: Western Addition  
Sunday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Fillmore, Fulton, Baker & Grove Sts. (see website for exact locations)  
Explore by biking, walking, skating, playing, or just people watching in this perfect opportunity to be outside in a car-free environment. Free, sundaystreetssf.com

GALAS & BENEFITS

2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's  
Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m.  
Crissy Field  
This three-mile walk raises awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Alzheimer's is the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Free, donations/fundraising encouraged, 415-463-8500, alz.org

53rd Annual Big Book Sale  
Wed.–Sun., Sept. 20–24, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center  
The largest used book sale on the West Coast supports the S.F. Public Library and features over 250, 000 books and other media for \$3 or less. On Sunday prices drop to \$1. Free, 415-626-7500, friendssfpl.org, Free, 415-626-7500, friendssfpl.org

ART & CULTURE

8th Annual J-Pop Summit  
Sat.–Sun., Sept.9–10  
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center  
Discover the latest in Japanese music, fashion, film, art, games, technology, anime, food, niche subcultures, and emerging trends. \$15–\$55, j-pop.com

PERFORMANCES

The Fisher King Project  
Thu.–Sun., Sept. 7–10  
Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center  
Honor the memory of Robin Williams by attending the stage version of The Fisher King movie for which he received an Academy Award nomination, and which is based on the Arthurian legend about a wounded hero. Proceeds benefit charities. \$25–\$30, 415-441-8822, thefisherkingproject.org

SHN: An American in Paris  
Tue.–Sun., Sept. 12–Oct. 8  
SHN Orpheum Theatre (1192 Market St.)  
This Tony Award-winning musical about an American soldier, a mysterious French girl, and an indomitable European city, is “pure joy” (New York Times). \$45–\$214, 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

37th Annual Comedy Day  
Sunday, Sept. 17, noon– 5 p.m.  
Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park  
This original, longest-running, free outdoor comedy concert features 40 (or more) of today's top performers from the Bay Area and beyond. Free, 415-820-1570, comedyday.org

MUSIC



Opera in the Park

Sunday, Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m.  
Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park  
Bring a picnic and enjoy arias al fresco while hearing a sampling from operas in the upcoming fall season. Free, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com  
PHOTO: SFOPERA.COM / STEFAN COHEN

Benise: Spanish Nights  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.  
Palace of Fine Arts Theater  
The guitar virtuoso and his Emmy award-winning cast return with a new show featuring world music and showcasing classics from Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones, AC/DC, and the Eagles. \$39–\$95, 415-392-4400, cityboxoffice.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Sponsored



Photography Exhibition  
Baccari: Tale Padre Tale Figlio

Tue.–Sun. through Jan. 7, 2018, noon–4 p.m.  
Museo Italo Americano, Fort Mason Center  
View works by two generations of photographers and icons of San Francisco's Italian American community, Alessandro Baccari Sr. and his son, Alessandro Baccari Jr. Free, 415-673-2200, sfmuseo.org  
PHOTO: LEND A HELPING HAND, BACCARI JR., 1997

DANCE

Dance Theatre S.F. Fall Program  
Fri.–Sat., Sept. 22–23  
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center  
The company's fifth season features two world premieres: Broken, an abstract interpretation of personal trials and When the Daylight Didn't Come, set to contemporary and classical music while exploring the concept of departure. \$20–\$30, 415-604-1649, dancetheatresf.org

NIGHTLIFE

Nightlife LIVE: September  
Thursday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m.  
California Academy of Sciences  
Chill out with sample-based live electronic music performance from Ryan Hemsworth and the dreamy ambient electronic music of Japan-based producer, Qrion. Ages 21 and up, \$12–\$15, 415-379- 8000, calacademy.org

FILMS & LECTURES

Robert Thurman: Reflections on Peace and His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
Monday, Sept. 11, 12:30 p.m.  
The Commonwealth Club (555 Post St.)  
Hear the first Westerner to be ordained a Tibetan monk by the Dalai Lama talk about his friend, the 14th Dalai Lama, discussing his life and challenges and his evolution into an internationally respected moral leader. \$8–\$65, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Film Night in the Fog: The Iron Giant  
Saturday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.  
Main Post Lawn, the Presidio  
Grab a blanket and enjoy an animated adaptation of Ted Hughes's The Iron Giant, a cold war fable about a giant alien robot's unlikely friendship with a young boy. Food for purchase from Off the Grid available at 5:30 p.m. Free (including popcorn), 415-561-4323, presidio.gov

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

International Coastal Clean-up Day  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.–noon  
Crissy Field, Aquatic Park, Lands End, Ocean Beach  
Lend a hand throughout the Golden Gate National Parks and help keep our shorelines clean, safe, and beautiful. Free, register at 415-561-3077, volunteer@parksconservancy.org, or parksconservancy.org

A Planet for Goldilocks: NASA's Search for Life Beyond the Solar System  
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:30–9 p.m.  
Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)  
World-renowned research astronomer Dr. Natalie Batalha will describe the latest discoveries of NASA's Kepler Mission and the possibilities for finding inhabited environments in the not-so-distant future. Free, 415-561-4323, presidio.gov

POTABLES & EDIBLES

14th Annual Brews on the Bay  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 1–5 p.m.  
S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien (Pier 45)  
Enjoy over 70 local craft beers aboard a historic World War II merchant ship at this popular and intimate beer festival. \$49.50–\$90, eventbrite.com

12th Annual Sake Day  
Saturday, Sept. 30, 4–8 p.m.  
Japanese Cultural & Community Center (1840 Sutter St.)  
Get your sake on at this always sold-out event where over 150 sakes will be available for tasting along with Japanese street food and more. \$65–\$75, 415-355-9555, eventbrite.com

SPORTS & HEALTH

5th Annual Jog in the Fog 5k  
Sunday, Sept. 10, 8–11 a.m.  
Mountain Lake Park to Land's End  
Bring the family for a fun run/walk through the Richmond District, enjoying parks and coastal scenery. Proceeds benefit the Richmond YMCA. \$45, 415-322-8793, joginthefog.com

6th Annual Yoga Day at the Park  
Sunday, Sept. 18  
AT&T Park  
Join instructor Janet Stone for a private on-field yoga session 30 minutes after the final out of the 1:05 p.m. Giants–Cardinals game. Includes a limited-edition Giants-themed yoga block and game admission. \$36.75–\$167, 415-972-2298, sfgiants.com

FAMILY FUN

Y Bike Learn to Ride Program  
Sunday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Main Post (Corner of Anza and Owen), the Presidio  
Get your kids riding on two wheels with safe and friendly instruction from the Presidio Community Y. Free, 415-447-9622, presidio.gov

Sleeping Beauty  
Sat.–Sun., Sept. 16–Oct.1, 1 & 3:30 p.m.  
Young Performers Theatre (Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center)  
Cursed by an evil fairy, a beautiful princess falls into a 100-year-long slumber to be awakened only by a magical kiss from a handsome prince. \$12, 415-346-5550, ypt.org

JUST FOR FUN



Urban Air Market

Sunday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Patricia's Green (Fell St. & Octavia Blvd.)  
This curated marketplace for sustainable design features independent clothing designers, accessories, jewelry, home decor, and more selected based on quality, originality, and commitment to sustainability. Free, urbanairmarket.com  
PHOTO: URBANAIRMARKET.COM

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Visit marinatimes.com for additional calendar listings. For sponsored listings, call 415-815-8081.



A Month of Festivals



A Date for Mary opens the 14th Annual Irish Film Festival. PHOTO: SFIRISHFILM.COM

**Architecture and the City Festival**  
**Most days, Sept. 1–30**  
**Various S.F. venues**  
One of the nation’s largest architectural festivals of its kind, this celebration, features home and walking tours, films, exhibitions, lectures, free family-friendly events, and more that address varying aspects of the design, planning, and building process. *Admission varies, 415-874-2620, archandcity.org*

**35th Annual S.F. Shakespeare Festival**  
**Sat.–Mon., Sept. 2–4 (previews), 2 p.m.**  
**Sat.–Sun. Sept. 9–10 & 16–17, 2 p.m.**  
**Presidio Main Post Parade Ground Lawn**  
Bring your family, friends, a blanket, and a picnic to enjoy San Francisco Shakespeare Festival’s first production of Hamlet, the Bard’s tale of revenge, family intrigue, and madness — complete with a ghost. *Free, 415-558-0888, sfshakes.org*

**8th Annual Luckyrice Asian Food Festival**  
**Friday, Sept. 8, 8–10 p.m.**  
**The Bently Reserve (301 Battery St.)**  
This food fest tours the country, and this year the San Francisco stop is its first plant-based feast. Asian and Asian-influenced chefs will showcase their interpretations of vegetable-forward cuisine (some vendors will use fish/dairy). *\$88–\$150, luckyrice.com*

**San Francisco Fringe Festival**  
**Daily, Sept. 8–23**  
**Exit Stage Left (156 Eddy St.)**  
See dozens of weird and wonderful shows by local theater groups ranging from magic to solo acts. *\$10.99–\$14.99, 415-673-3847, sffringe.org*

**3rd Annual California Rum Fest**  
**Fri.–Sat., Sept. 8–9**  
**SOMArts Cultural Center (934 Brannan St.)**  
Experience the Friday Grand Tasting (5–9 p.m.) of over 40 premium rum brand expressions from around the world and, and/or Saturday’s Rum Bazaar (noon–5 p.m.), with cocktails by your favorite bartenders, and arts and crafts from local vendors. Live music both days; proceeds benefit a Bay Area youth-mentoring group, Operation Helping People *\$5–\$130, californiarumfest.com*

**22nd Annual Ghirardelli Square Chocolate Festival**  
**Sat.–Sun., Sept. 9–10, noon–5 p.m.**  
**Ghirardelli Square**  
Enjoy samplings by some of the finest local dessert companies, and of course, Ghirardelli chocolate, as well as live music, chef demonstrations, ice cream eating contests, and more to benefit Project Open Hand, which provides meals to seniors and the critically ill. *\$20 & \$50, 888-402-6262, eventbrite.com*

**‘Gone With The Whiskey’ Whiskey Fest**  
**Sunday, Sept. 10, 3–7 p.m.**  
**The Dorian (2001 Chestnut St.)**  
Taste rare and exotic whiskies from six categories: local whiskies, Japanese whiskies, smoky/peaty, whiskies with special finishes, America’s greatest, and malt. Pig roast included. *\$55–\$75 (tickets required), facebook.com, eventbrite.com*

**6th Annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging**  
**Fri.–Sun., Sept. 15–17**  
**New People Cinema (1746 Post St.)**  
This one-of-a-kind festival of films from around the world celebrates older adulthood and addresses the challenges and triumphs of aging. *\$10–\$12 (individual) & \$50–\$55 (pass), 800-838-3006, legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org*

**City Fit Fest**  
**Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.**  
**Crissy Field**  
This fitness and wellness experience embracing functional movement, mindfulness, and healthful living features fitness classes (yoga and more), workshops, instruction, games, activities, music, and food and drink. *\$70, eventbrite.com*

**14th Annual Irish Film Festival**  
**Thu.–Sat., Sept. 21–23**  
**Delancy Street Theater (600 The Embarcadero)**  
View the best in contemporary Irish cinema, celebrating everything from features to documentaries to Irish language films (with English subtitles for those who didn’t spend a summer at a Gaeltacht). *Tickets available Sept. 1, sfirishfilm.com*

**Oktoberfest by the Bay**  
**Fri.–Sun., Sept. 22–24**  
**Pier 48**  
It’s September, but celebrate anyway in the true tradition of Munich’s famed Oktoberfest with nonstop music, dancing, singing, and German food and drink. *\$15–\$85, oktoberfestbythebay.com*

**7th Annual Marina Family Fest**  
**Sunday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
**Marina Green**  
Activities include bounce houses, face painting, petting zoo, rock climbing wall, a pie baking contest, mini Tesla go-kart races, music with a D.J., art tables for kids and a beer garden for parents, food trucks, and more. *Free, facebook.com/MarinaFamilyFest/*

**27th Annual Chinatown Autumn Moon Festival**  
**Sat.–Sun., Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.**  
**Grant Ave. (btw. California & Broadway)**  
**Pacific Ave. (btw. Stockton & Kearny)**  
Celebrate the moon in this cultural festival with live entertainment, including acrobats, martial artists, ribbon and lion dancers, magic shows, cultural demonstrations, kid’s activities, and more. The famous dragon appears Sunday at 5 p.m. as the grand finale. *Free, 415-982-6306, moonfestival.org*

OUTTA TOWN

**Russian River Jazz and Blues Festival**  
**Fri.–Sat., Sept. 9–10, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.**  
**Johnsons Beach, Guerneville**  
Along with headliners Stephanie Mills and Tower of Power, the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, Con Brio, Lenny Williams, and others perform in this outdoor river venue that also features a wine garden, vendor village, and water activities. Camping available. *\$55–\$190, 949-360-7800, russianriverfestivals.com*

**60th Annual Monterey Jazz Festival**  
**Fri.–Sun., Sept. 15–17**  
**Monterey County Fairgrounds**  
Billed as the world’s longest running jazz event, the festival features 500 artists on eight stages and a possible Clint Eastwood or Ernie Beyl sighting. *\$50–\$635, 831-373-3366, montereyjazzfestival.org*

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San Francisco Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is a body of 17 San Franciscans between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters in 1995 through a charter amendment, the commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The commission is also charged with providing comment, recommendation, and feedback on all proposed laws that affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The commission meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 5:15pm in room 416 of City Hall. Their standing issue-based committees meet regularly in the Youth Commission office, City Hall Room 345.

Their role is to connect young people from all over the city with one another, develop their leadership skills and understanding of government, and make positive policy changes.

Visit their website [www.sfgov.org/yc](http://www.sfgov.org/yc), email [YouthCom@sfgov.org](mailto:YouthCom@sfgov.org), or call (415) 554-6446 for information about upcoming meetings!

San Francisco Assessment Appeals Board

The Assessment Appeals Board resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor’s office and property owners. Currently, there are three vacancies on Board 1, which oversees all downtown properties – high rise residential, office, commercial, hotels. Board 1 also oversees all properties over \$50 million in assessed value throughout the City.

Assessment appeal hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony, and renders its decision.

To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For more information regarding the Assessment Appeals Board call (415) 554-6778.

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Pick the easiest, safest way to clean your drains. PHOTO: DREAMSTIME.COM

**Removing stubborn clogs  
without harsh chemicals**

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

**M**OST OF US HAVE experienced a clogged sink or tub at one time or another. Numerous chemical drain cleaners on the market create the impression that you simply pour a little magic potion down the drain and all your problems will disappear. That's not to say that these products cannot be useful under certain circumstances. Some brands of chemical drain cleaners contain high levels of sulfuric acid. These products pose a hazard to you, your property, and the environment — and should be avoided unless you are absolutely certain how to use them. Just to have acid in the home is extremely dangerous, especially if you have children. Almost any plumbing professional can tell you a horror story about either being burned or causing at least some damage to their client's property from the use of a sulfuric acid product. Once you've poured a strong chemical drain cleaner down a drain, don't attempt to plunge it. To do so may put you at risk of getting burned by the chemical cleaner. Also, many of our old apartments and flats have old pipes that may not be able to handle harsh chemicals, which may burn right through them. If you don't like the sound of any of this, save yourself the agony, mess, and risk of damaging your system. Call a plumber.

Though many clogs start around the stopper in a pop-up drain, some heavy-duty hair clogs make their way deeper in the drainage system and may foil chemical cleaners. For those determined enough to tolerate a bit of a mess, here are some simple nonchemical plumber's helpers. It may take a few tries and a few different tools, but you can save

significantly by doing this project yourself.

**Zip strip:** A simple plastic zip strip can be dipped down the drain to fish out shallow hair clogs and prevent deep clogs from reaching the trap. Sharp barbs run the length of the strip to snag on and pull hair clogs out of the drain.

**Hair-catching brush:** A hair-catching brush is thin and flexible enough to bypass sink stoppers. It goes in and brings out hair from basins and tubs.

**Plunger:** A trusty plunger is essential for every home. The plunger, also known as the "plumber's helper," is renowned as an effective way to unclog drains. However, the chances of this working in your sink or in your tub are minimal at best, as the vents and overflows in these fixtures will render the force of the plunger ineffective. To tighten the seal when working with other fixtures with sloping surfaces, you may want to upgrade to a model with a modified rubber cup. A plunger doesn't come with directions, and in your frustration with the problem you may overlook the obvious when plunging the drain. Remember these tips:

- If you've tried chemical drain cleaners with no success, the caustic fluids may have collected above the clog and could splash out the drain during plunging. Use goggles and gloves.
- The plunger needs to seal tight to drive air pressure against the clog. Immerse the plunger lip in a bit of water before you plunge to ensure a tighter seal. And don't forget to stop up the opening in the overflow fixture with a wet cloth.

**Auger:** Deeper clogs will require a cable auger, which has a long, flexible steel cable fitted with a hand crank. Feed the auger in through the overflow plate. The cable will meet resistance at pipe

bends or the clog itself. If the obstruction is a bend in the pipe, turning the crank or pumping the cable by hand will force it past the curve. If the cable tip has met the clog, there will be resistance pulling the cable back out. Crank the cable tight to drill the tip into the hair clog and then pull the contraption out along with the clog.

**PREVENTING A CLOG**

First of all, use your common sense. Make sure there is a strainer in the drain at all times. The best tool is a good drain screen to prevent clogs in the first place. Never pour grease or anything heavier than water itself down your drain. If you have a garbage disposal, allow the water to run for a period of time after the disposal has done its thing, so you can be sure the waste has moved into the main sewer line. (Also note: Anything extra fibrous should be suspect — pineapple tops, artichoke leaves, etc. — just because your disposal can eat it doesn't mean your pipes can digest it.) Bacterial digestants are products that digest organic waste through a natural decomposition process. Bacterial digestants eliminate clogs, pollution, and odors by breaking down and converting organic material into its two most basic components — carbon dioxide and water. They are especially useful for opening plugged and slow drains and grease traps.

If you realize your drains are getting slow and you've tried everything short of nuking them, it is time to get down and dirty, or call a pro to get dirty for you. Once your drain is completely stopped, your options become much more limited.

*Julia Strzesieski is the marketing coordinator for Cole Hardware and can be reached at [julia@coleshardware.com](mailto:julia@coleshardware.com).*



Tweet storm with Marlon Wayans about Michael Vick shows people still don't get it; Annual Bay Area Pet Fair Sept. 16-17

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

IT STARTED WITH RANDOM CHANNEL surfing where I stumbled upon the show *TMZ on TV* as they interviewed comedian Marlon Wayans about Michael Vick, the former NFL quarterback who went to prison for running a dogfighting ring. The conversation revolved around Vick's controversial comments about former San Francisco 49er quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who Vick said should "cut his hair short and be presentable" if he wanted another job in the league (I guess Vick forgot he wore cornrows when he played for the Atlanta Falcons). During the segment, Wayans repeatedly made jokes about not wanting Vick to get angry and "sic pit bulls on him." I took to Twitter to let Wayans know I didn't find those jokes funny or appropriate, and I asked if he even knew what Vick did to the dogs on his property. To my surprise, Wayans tweeted back he did know, and he had a dog he loved and treated well. He then took a selfie with his dog — a grey-and-white fluffball that appears to be some kind of a Shih-Tzu mix — and sent it to me.

The tweet storm went from an angry, defensive tone to a saccharine sweet exchange of mutual dog photos, but it made me realize Wayans just didn't get it when it came to Michael Vick — and he's not alone. Just days after my conversation with Wayans, the Virginia

Tech Sports Hall of Fame announced it had selected Vick for induction despite the fact he doesn't meet the criteria, which states players "must be of good character and reputation" and not have "been a source of embarrassment to the university in any way." Then, on Aug. 25, Fox Sports announced it had hired Vick as an NFL studio analyst. There are petitions online asking both Virginia Tech and Fox to reconsider (please visit [change.org](http://change.org) and search "Michael Vick" to sign them).

As the petitioner states to Fox, it's one thing to provide a convicted felon with a second chance; it's quite another when that felon shows zero remorse except when forced. Vick did more than run a dogfighting ring — he actively participated in the torture and murder of dogs that either refused to fight or lost when they did. He admitted to hanging, drowning, and slamming dogs to the ground until their skulls cracked. He also electrocuted dogs by dousing them with water and throwing live wires on them, or by clipping jumper cables to their ears, connecting the cables to the battery terminals of running cars, tossing the dogs in the swimming pool, and laughing as they scrambled for their lives. He even used his children's pets as bait.

Before going to prison, Vick was court ordered to pay for the care of the nearly 50 dogs confiscated from his property.

He contributed less than \$200,000 and never a penny more. He has refused to meet the survivors, and he no longer speaks out about the evils of dogfighting (something he agreed to do with the Humane Society of the United States after he was released from prison). He does, however, have another dog.

During another channel surf, I found a VH1 series called *Baller Wives*, which follows the histrionics of the wives of current and former pro athletes in Miami. Vick and his wife, Kijafa, appear on the show, as does their Rottweiler. Yes, another strong, muscular dog. In the press release for the show, VH1 never mentions Vick's past, stating simply the couple has been "married since 2012 and have two beautiful daughters and a new baby on the way." When asked how he met his wife, Vick says: "Long story short: I bagged her. That's all that matters." Classy. ...

It's time once again for the **Bay Area Pet Fair**, now in its seventh year. Hosted by Pet Food Express, it's the largest pet adoption event in California. This year's fair moves to larger digs at the Alameda County Fairgrounds (4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton) on the weekend of Sept. 16 and 17 and will feature more than 70 rescues and shelters and over 50,000 attendees, some 1,500 of whom are expected to adopt a new pet (dogs, cats, and a variety of other small animals will be looking for their forever homes). Admission and parking are free,



Comedian Marlon Wayans sent this selfie of him with his dog to the *Marina Times* during a Twitter exchange about former NFL quarterback and convicted dogfighting ringmaster Michael Vick.

well-behaved pets on leash are welcome, and there will be live shows and demos, activities for people and pets, a variety of food and drink options, giveaways and prizes, and tons of samples and goodies to take home.

Since Pet Food Express began hosting the Bay Area Pet Fair in 2011, 4,760 pets have been adopted, more than a pet a minute during fair hours. And for each animal adopted at the fair, Pet Food Express donates an additional \$50 to the rescue groups, totaling more than \$280,000 in the last six years. For more information, visit [bayareapetfair.org](http://bayareapetfair.org).

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Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth and IBS

BY THALIA FARSHCHIAN

TEN TO 25 PERCENT OF AMERICANS who complain of digestive issues (acid reflux, bloating, nausea, gas, and so forth) are diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Because this condition affects so many individuals, and can impact quality of life, it is important for us to understand the underlying causes. One of these potential causes is Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO), which studies have shown affects up to 84 percent of IBS sufferers.

BASIC DIGESTIVE ANATOMY

Digestion begins in our mouths. Upon smelling the aroma of food, our brain signals digestive juices to release and we start salivating. If we chew properly, our digestive enzymes start breaking down food. Once swallowed, food travels down the esophagus and to the stomach.

There, stomach acid (also known as hydrochloric acid) enters to help continue to break down our food and prepare for the next steps of nutrient absorption.

After the stomach, food enters the small intestine, which, at about 20 feet long, is not that small. Here, pancreatic enzymes and bile acids break food down into nutrients that our bodies can absorb and utilize. In a healthy person, it takes food about two hours to move through the small intestine and into the large intestine. The small intestine is home to only thousands of bacterial organisms whereas the large intestine is home to trillions.

The large intestine is only six feet long, but much wider than the small intestine. Its major function is absorbing water from bowel remnants, neutralizing acid, absorbing some nutrients, and disposing waste.

SMALL INTESTINAL BACTERIAL OVERGROWTH

As mentioned, SIBO is a contributor to IBS. SIBO is a condition where bacteria overgrow in the small intestine and become problematic to its function of absorbing nutrients and moving food along, causing these symptoms:

- Abdominal bloating
- Abdominal pain and/or cramps
- Gas (passing gas and/or burping)
- Diarrhea and/or constipation
- Heartburn
- Nausea
- Chronic nutrient deficiencies

This condition is typically caused by damage to the digestive system's own nervous system, which dictates the movement of food through the digestive system. This damage either slows down the process, speeds it up, or an alternation of both. These symptoms can be debilitating to a healthy and balanced life because the overgrowing bacteria feeds on your food, draws water into the small intestines and causes the symptoms listed above. If these symptoms are persistent for at least three months, SIBO can be the culprit.

Causes of this imbalance can include:

- Food poisoning
- Medications including pain relievers, birth control, and antibiotics

- Conditions that cause constipation like hypothyroidism
- Exposure to contaminated water
- Pathogens
- Previous digestive or pelvic surgeries
- Other digestive issues like celiac disease

OTHER SIBO-ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS

In addition to digestive disturbances, SIBO has been found to affect many other systemic conditions including:

- Rosacea and skin rashes
- Hypothyroidism
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Diabetes
- Diverticulitis
- Parkinson's disease
- Restless Leg Syndrome
- Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis
- Celiac disease
- Gluten/lactose Intolerance
- Leaky Gut Syndrome
- Anxiety/depression
- And more ...

TESTING FOR SIBO

The bacteria in the small intestine emits gases (hydrogen, methane, and sulfide) that are released via our lungs, so the potential bacteria overgrowth is measured by a breath test. It is a simple at-home test that is conducted over two to three hours.

TREATMENT OF SIBO

Traditional treatment is antibiotics to eradicate the bacterial overgrowth and medications to restore normal movement of the bowels to avoid recurrence. Unfortunately, this condition has a high rate of recurrence making it frustrating for both patients and providers. SIBO is considered to be a secondary condition to the potential causes listed above, so it is important to understand the underlying cause for successful treatment.

Alternative medicine offers herbal therapies that have been shown in research to be effective in bacterial eradication in antibiotic-resistant cases. It also recognizes that other imbalances may be happening concurrently.

Both conventional and alternative practitioners agree that diet modifications are necessary to maintain results. The diet prescribed is called a Low FODMAP diet, which restricts the foods bacteria typically feed on and limits their ability to regrow in the small intestines.

Eventually with full eradication and correction of the underlying cause, the goal is to transition patients back to a normal healthy diet.

When I started treating SIBO about five years ago, it was very new information to the patients I was working with. In the last year, people are gaining more familiarity of the condition and how it is impacting such a wide array of conditions. If you are affected by IBS symptoms, this may be something to discuss with your doctor.

Thalia Farshchian is a naturopathic doctor at Discover Health. Her background includes both conventional and alternative modalities, and her practice is primarily focused on weight management, hormone imbalances and gastrointestinal conditions. E-mail: drthalia@discoverhealthmd.com



# Tips to end sibling squabbles

BY LIZ FARRELL

SUMMER ALWAYS SEEMS TO go by so fast. Our family had an amazing summer full of travel, lazy days, and local adventures. It was also chock full of sibling squabbles. This is the only part I won't miss when they head back to school. These disagreements, squabbles, or bickering — call them what you will — are frustrating, taxing, and mentally exhausting when parents have to constantly play referee.

Here are some tips I tried that helped.

### AT HOME

I have found that the fighting is most likely to happen when my children are hungry, tired, bored, or need a little extra attention from Mom and Dad. Carving out time each day — even if it is just 5 or 10 minutes for each child individually can help a lot.

Another way to help reduce fighting around the house is something I saw on Pinterest.com and decided to give a try: the "Get Along Jar." My daughter loves arts and crafts so she decorated a mason jar and we bought popsicle sticks. The idea is when the arguing starts, all you say is "get along jar," and each child must

go pick a popsicle stick from the jar. Each stick has a consequence on it, and we all brainstormed a list first. Some of ours included: Do a puzzle with your sister/brother, give your sister/brother three compliments, and put away your sister/brother's laundry. My kids had so much fun coming up with the list, and because most were their ideas, they were much more apt to follow through on the consequence.

### IN PUBLIC

There is nothing worse when your children start bickering in public. I am a huge proponent of letting them find a solution to the problem or work it out themselves, but this can be difficult in public. We have found it helpful to remind our kids what kind of behavior we expect before going into the situation. Reiterating rules and outlining proper behavior can help eliminate some discord — they have been warned.

Another part of that is rewarding them if they meet those expectations. This could be a special treat at the store or just letting them know how much you appreciated how they behaved. This summer we tried a family code word. They knew when I said this word I was not happy

with their behavior and wanted it to change.

When you are out and about, keeping your kids distracted is a huge help. At the grocery store, they can help you check items off a list or they can help wash the car windows at the gas station, or it could even be as simple as walking in between them down the street.

### IN THE CAR

We spent a lot of time traveling in cars this summer, and I found my patience was tried the most when the backseat brawls started. Most started with one of them invading someone else's personal space. So now before we go on long car rides, we clearly define everyone's space.

Another way to ease tensions in the backseat is to pack snacks — squabbles also start because of hunger or boredom, so having some crunchy snacks like pretzels or carrot sticks will help keep your kids occupied.

Keeping them distracted so they don't have time to bug each other is another trick. Some of the ways our family does this is by playing "I Spy" or having a family sing-along. Thanks to this, I now know almost every word to Disney's *Descendants 2* soundtrack.



What's the best way to maintain peace at home? PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

It is important to stop the bickering before it becomes a distraction to you as the driver. Trying to settle a backseat argument while driving is not safe for you or other drivers. If it escalates to a level of distraction for me, I calmly pull over, put the car in park, and tell them I am not going to drive with that backseat behavior, and I will wait until they are done and it is safe to drive again. Then, I sit in silence until they are quiet. This usually doesn't take more than a minute or two because they know when this happens I am not happy and I mean business, and they quickly understand what I expect in terms of car behavior.

Sibling conflict is normal, and as frustrating as it can be for parents, it is not all bad. This con-

flict early on will help kids learn important life skills such as cooperation, compromise, and conflict resolution, which will continue to benefit them as they get older. To teach them these skills, you should find what works best for your family and be consistent. This is easier said than done, but our children do best when they know that yelling, hitting, punching, and saying mean things will not be tolerated, and there will be consequences. Sticking with what works will yield results — it may take some time but you will see improvement in how your children get along — I sure did.

*Liz Farrell is the mother of three young children. She was formerly a television producer in Washington D.C. and in San Francisco. E-mail: liz@marinatimes.com*

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- ☒ VP in Private Equity Meets Account Exec at Series B Funded Startup in SOMA
- ☒ Barn Style Wedding in Napa
- ☒ Newborn Baby
- ☒ Waking Up Every 3 Hours
- ☒ Stepping on Dog Toys Every Time You Get Out of Bed
- ☒ Still Squeezed into the Same One Bedroom Apartment You Lived in When You Were Single
- ☐ Two Bedroom Condo with Enough Space to Regain Your Sanity



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# The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: July 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	11 Imperial Avenue 2765 Filbert Street 2830 Filbert Street	3BD/1.5BA	\$2,244,000	Above	10
		4BD/3BA	\$3,443,750	Below	168
		4BD/3.5BA	\$3,875,000	Below	123
Lake	5735 California Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$2,800,000	Below	45
Laurel Heights	69 Wood Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,300,000	Above	13
	115 Jordan Avenue	4BD/2.5BA	\$3,300,000	Above	15
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	3621 Scott Street	2BD/2BA	\$2,450,000	Above	3
	51 Avila Street	3BD/2.25BA	\$2,750,000	Above	14
	2028 Jefferson Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,807,000	Above	50
	77 Toledo Way	3BD/3BA	\$3,150,000	At	0
	3239 Webster Street	3BD/3.5BA	\$4,400,000	Above	7
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	1719 Green Street	0BD/1BA	\$2,652,000	Above	10
	2345 Divisadero Street	5BD/2.75BA	\$3,650,000	Below	40
	2727 Vallejo Street	5BD/5.5BA	\$56,000,000	Below	74
	2502 Jackson Street	5BD/5.5BA	\$6,600,000	Below	47
	3149 Washington Street	6BD/4.5BA	\$9,700,000	Below	17
	2370 Washington Street	6BD/6.5BA	\$10,450,000	Below	7
Presidio Heights	3382 Clay Street	6BD/4.5BA	\$6,195,000	At	71
Russian Hill	1522 Vallejo Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,995,000	Below	41
Sea Cliff	60 Sea Cliff Avenue	3BD/3BA	\$3,025,000	Above	14
	182 32nd Avenue	5BD/3.5BA	\$3,100,000	Above	4
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

## CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	3113 Buchanan Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,175,000	Above	3
	2743 Gough Street #2	3BD/2BA	\$1,810,000	Above	5
	2829 Laguna Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,125,000	Above	7
	3038 Steiner Street	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,750,000	Above	11
	1662 Union Street	3BD/3BA	\$3,225,000	Below	53
Lake	182 5th Avenue	2BD/2BA	\$1,080,000	Above	0
	195 25th Avenue #601	2BD/2BA	\$1,320,000	Above	12
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain	22 Parsons Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,175,000	Above	7
	710 Arguello Boulevard	3BD/3BA	\$1,500,000	Above	11
Marina	2200 Beach Street #204	1BD/1BA	\$1,175,000	At	0
	3208 Pierce Street #101	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,580,000	Below	54
	2444 Chestnut Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,595,000	At	0
	3044 Franklin Street #202	3BD/2BA	\$1,600,000	Above	12
	3044 Franklin Street #201	3BD/2BA	\$1,690,000	Above	3
	3622 Broderick Street #1	3BD/2BA	\$1,720,000	Below	85
Nob Hill	39 Reed Street	1BD/1BA	\$640,000	Above	38
	1776 Sacramento St. #305	2BD/2BA	\$1,098,000	At	45
	1230 Clay Street #104	1BD/1BA	\$1,250,000	At	0
	1282 Sacramento Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,410,000	Above	8
	1601 Pacific Avenue #201	2BD/2BA	\$1,500,000	Above	11
	1601 Pacific Avenue #402	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,680,000	Above	12
	1788 Clay Street #804	2BD/2BA	\$1,680,000	Below	137
	1563 Clay Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,760,000	Above	22
	10 Miller Place #2400	3BD/4.5BA	\$7,100,000	Below	75
North Beach	690 Chestnut Street #204	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	Above	31
	445 Francisco Street #F601	2BD/2BA	\$1,995,000	At	28
Pacific Heights	1818 Broadway #102	1BD/1BA	\$767,500	Below	18
	2999 California Street #705	1BD/1BA	\$820,000	Above	39
	2009 Divisadero Street #3A	2BD/2BA	\$1,080,000	Below	13
	2921 Washington Street #3	1BD/1BA	\$1,100,000	Above	10
	1990 Green Street #301	1BD/1BA	\$1,255,000	Above	27
	3228 Clay Street	4BD/2BA	\$2,395,000	At	0
	2919 Jackson Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,550,000	Below	14
Presidio Heights	333 Cherry Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,900,000	Above	60
Russian Hill	1000 North Point St. #404	0BD/1BA	\$615,000	Above	6
	1000 North Point St. #704	0BD/1BA	\$650,000	Above	6
	2 Fallon Place #50	1BD/1BA	\$788,888	Above	16
	1380 Greenwich Street #305	1BD/1BA	\$880,000	Above	14
	880 Chestnut Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,550,000	Above	9
	1025 Lombard Street #3	2BD/2BA	\$1,650,000	Above	31
	1277 Union Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,725,000	Above	13
	1826 Mason Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,300,000	Above	18
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	534 Filbert Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,274,000	At	0
	1025 Lombard Street #3	2BD/2BA	\$1,650,000	Above	31
	1277 Union Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,725,000	Above	13
	1826 Mason Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,300,000	Above	18

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 Jay Costello, President, Hill & Co. Real Estate, 1880 Lombard Street, 415.321.4274, jcostello@hill-co.com, www.hill-co.com.

## Real Estate Reporter ∴ Boom times

# Get a move on: Renters look elsewhere

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

### SHOULD THEY STAY OR SHOULD THEY GO?

If someone loves living in San Francisco, with its live-and-let-live debauchery and out-of-control liberalism, what would be the most unlikely place for them to want to go? Salt Lake City, Utah, must rank high on any such list, yet the capital of conservative Mormonism is the most popular destination of renters who are looking to flee San Francisco, according to a survey by ApartmentList.

More significant than that is that 83 percent of San Francisco renters told the survey they intend to move to another city; that’s compared to a still-high 64 percent nationwide. Why do they want to move? The number-one reason is, no surprise, affordability, followed by jobs and their commute.

By the way, in 2013, The *Washington Post*’s Wonkblog reported that Americans were some of the most mobile people in the world. A couple years later, the wonks at FiveThirtyEight.com reported that the average American “is expected to move 11.4 times” in their lifetime. And a number of real estate professionals say that people tend to sell their homes in five to seven years after buying them.

At last count, I’ve moved 23 times in my life, and *I hate moving*.

### ONCE AGAIN, GEN X IS PASSED OVER

Pity us poor members of Generation X. We didn’t have the numbers to make the country bend to our will like Baby Boomers did. And Millennials are the darlings of the media and the marketing world. Now another indignity: Gen Xers are the least likely generation to get approved for rental contracts.

According to a new report from RentCafe, Generation X is the most indebted generation in the country and has an approval rate on rental applications of only 77.5 percent; that’s worse than everyone else, including Generation Z (91.8 percent), the Silent Generation is also above 90 percent, and Millennials and Baby Boomers are both well above 80 percent approval.

Generation X is still smarting from the Great Recession, which killed



Zephyr President Randall Kostick (left) accepts his firm’s Brokerage of the Year award from Alf Nucifora, chairman and founder of The Luxury Marketing Council of San Francisco. COURTESY ZEPHYR REAL ESTATE

a lot of credit histories as they underwent foreclosures and job loss and accumulated high debts.

Well, at least we Gen Xers got Brad Pitt.

### THE MARKET IN STATS

Who doesn’t love statistics? Sales of existing homes dropped 1.3 percent nationwide in July.

Want more? Coldwell Banker reports that San Francisco luxury home sales role by 6.8 percent and their median sales price was up 3 percent year-over-year. Here’s another one: The California Association of Realtors reports that the income you need to buy a house in this state has doubled since 2012. Has your income doubled in the past five years?

Not if you’re Gen X it hasn’t.

### RACE AND HOMEOWNERSHIP

In another report from ApartmentList we learn that nationwide, homeownership rates for minorities who hold college degrees are still lower than rates for whites with only high school diplomas. And, just looking at race without going into education, here in San Francisco the homeownership rate for black households is less than half what it is for white or Asian households. According to the report, 54.7 percent of Asian households own their homes, as do 47.4 percent of white households, 31.2 percent of Hispanic households, and 21.7 percent of black households.

### SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES IN THE SKY

Zillow’s chief economist, Svenja Gudell, talked to the *San Francisco Business Times* about a new report from Zillow predicting the effects of a new recession, which many of the experts Zillow surveyed predicted

would take place before 2020. SFBT reports “San Francisco and Miami are expected to be hit hard, in Gudell’s opinion, because the cities are enjoying so many foreign buyers of real estate. Some have described Miami’s condo boom in recent years as being driven by the need to build safe deposit boxes in the sky as people from around the world seek a good place to stash cash. Gudell said a geopolitical crisis could prompt nervous investors to put their money into U.S. Treasuries rather than real estate.”

### FAMILY TIME

San Francisco doesn’t just have a dearth of affordable housing, it also has a severe lack of family-size housing. So a new development in the Tenderloin is doubly welcome. The Eddy and Taylor Family Housing development broke ground in late August. When the affordable housing development is completed, it will have 113 units, more than 60 percent of which will be 2- and 3-bedroom homes.

### ZEPHYR WINS LUXURY HONOR

Congratulations to Zephyr Real Estate, which picked up the 2017 Brokerage of the Year award from the Luxury Marketing Council’s 10th Annual Real Estate Agents Boot Camp. The council’s chairman, Alf Nucifora, said Zephyr was chosen because of its “industry reputation, market performance and growth, management style, business strategy, internal operations, agent hiring, onboarding, training and satisfaction, as well as innovative practices and community outreach.” He said that was confirmed “by competitors who were asked for candid feedback about the firm. This was an accolade well-deserved and long overdue.”

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