



Holiday Entertaining
The Tablehopper on hot new restaurants, p.10
Fab Five: Favorite cookbook gifts, p.12
Wine World: Top wineshop buys, p.13



More online
Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter, and more
marinatimes.com



The classic, colorful, magical Nutcracker. PHOTO: COPYRIGHT MOSCOW BALLET

Moscow Ballet performs ‘The Great Russian Nutcracker’

BY LYNETTE MAJER

THE HOLIDAYS WOULDN’T BE the holidays without a performance of *The Nutcracker*. With Bolshoi Ballet and Juilliard roots and award-winning dancers, *The Great Russian Nutcracker* will delight all with its larger-than-life magical props, backdrops with

three-dimensional effects, and lavish costumes. Exclusive to this production (and instead of the Land of Sugar Plum Fairies) is the Land of Peace and Harmony, where — imagine — all creatures from all cultures live accordingly: Two dancers form a soaring white Dove of Peace with a 20-foot wingspan; and Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabian, and Rus-

sian dances represent the unique attributes of each country: strength from the Spanish bull, imagination from the French unicorn, playfulness from the Chinese dragon, wisdom from the Arabian elephants, and strength from the Russian bear. *Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, \$70–\$90, palaceoffinearts.org*

YEAR IN REVIEW

#IsItOverYet

The year 2017 was a wild ride of death, destruction, sex crimes, controversy, racists, and tweets.

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

IT’S ALMOST OVER: 2017, THE YEAR THAT BEGAN with protest marches, witnessed wildfires and racist rallies, and a sexual harassment pandemic, is nearing the end. Break out the champagne.

Let’s examine it in the teutonic spirit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel who, after she hosted the disastrous G20 summit over the summer (complete with anarchist riots and major splits with longtime ally the United States), described it thusly: “The summit took place.”

Indeed it did. And so did 2017.

LIFE AND DEATHS

At the tail end of 2016, a miserable year for losing famous folks was capped by the one-two punch of the deaths of Carrie Fisher and her mother, Debbie Reynolds. Surely 2017 would have to be better, right?

No. It was worse. Chuck Berry, Jimmy Breslin, David Cassidy, Dick Gregory, Hugh Hefner, Nat Hentoff, Helmut

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED ON 4

REYNOLDS RAP

My annual list of gifts that give

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WHEN MY STEPMOTHER, KICKIE, PASSED AWAY last February, I had to go through closets full of clothes, shoes, and handbags she began purchasing when she moved to California more than 45 years ago. At least half of the items still had tags attached; the rest were worn only a handful of times.

As I filled boxes to send off for donation, I realized that it is human nature, especially in America, to buy more stuff than we will ever need or use. It’s certainly put things in perspective for me. While I like stuff as much as the next person, I already have plenty of it. That’s why I’m asking my friends not to give me gifts this year, but instead to make a donation to a favorite charity.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT FOR \$57

It’s amazing what a small amount of money can do for a nonprofit. My friend, Dr. Aimee Chagnon, knows this firsthand. Her 501(c)3 organization, Restore Hope International, has worked in western Kenya and northern Uganda since 2014. In Kenya their focus is on Kisii, taking women and girls out of prostitution and putting them in school or providing microloans to start their own businesses. In Uganda they cover nine villages surrounding Lira, providing everything from a mobile medical clinic to supporting an orphanage where children have

REYNOLDS RAP, CONTINUED ON 6



Christopher Plummer (center, left) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge and Dan Stevens (center, right) stars as Charles Dickens in director Bharat Nalluri’s *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, a Bleecker Street release.

PHOTO: KERRY BROWN / BLEECKER STREET

A Christmas entertainment grab bag

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

THIS IS THE SEASON. CAN’T MISS it. Can’t avoid it. You can try to secularize it in a generic way (“Happy holidays!”), recalibrate your festive winter solstice focus to Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, but it’s still Christmastime. And, as usual, popular culture is snowdrift deep in it. Regardless of our belief systems, most

of us have favorite classic Christmas movies, television specials, music, and live performances. But December usually brings new entries into the Christmas pageant, and 2017 is no different.

MOVIES

This year’s Christmas movie offerings started off inauspiciously with a pair of lame, lowbrow comedy

sequels: *A Bad Moms Christmas* — a less appealing and less amusing callback to *Bad Moms*, 2016’s occasionally funny, not particularly inspired adventure in *Bridesmaids*-style female-centric slapstick with Mila Kunis and Kristen Bell — and *Daddy’s Home 2* — a Yuletide reunion of the idiot fathers from 2015’s *Daddy’s Home*, an exercise in tedium pitting Mark Wahlberg as a ne’r-do-well biological dad against Will Ferrell as a good-guy stepfather in a battle for the affections of the offspring. If you see either of the follow-ups, “yule” be sorry.

Then, there’s *The Star*, a mediocre, heavy-handed animated feature about the Nativity as seen through the eyes of the attending animals, particularly a brave little donkey. These creatures are present and somehow crucial to the first Christmas. Along with the standard gifts of the Magi, *The Star* provides a string of new, old, and sacred tunes interpreted by modern gospel artists — and Mariah Carey. Despite the polyglot “star” power in the voice cast (Oprah Winfrey, Kris Kristofferson, Tracy Morgan, Zachary Levi, Steven Yeun, Tyler Perry, Kristin Chenoweth, and Christopher Plummer are a few of the notables), the animation is second-tier, the humor is mostly sophomoric, and the holiness quotient is undercut by banality.

SNYDER, continued on 14



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

“It’s osso good!”

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

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE



News

Around the city

New briefs on a Marina student joining FC Barcelona's training program, crimes tick up on the Northside, Muir Woods to require parking and shuttle reservations, plus a roundup of facts and figures. 3

Northside

The Marina and Cow Hollow

District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell reviews 2017 and looks ahead to 2018. 7

North Beach and Telegraph Hill

Ernest Beyl goes over the good and bad changes in the neighborhood; and District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin discusses neighborhood plans for a Navigation Center and the search for funding to improve public transportation. 8

Food & Wine

Holiday entertaining

The Tablehopper says Dabba will bring its "extremely delicious" foods to the former Seed + Salt space on Chestnut, plus news about the Cheese School, Giovanni Italian Specialties, L'Osteria del Forno, The Saratoga, Meraki Market, and more; Julie Mitchell hails the successful new Grotto at Fisherman's Wharf; Susan Dyer Reynolds highlights five of her favorite cookbooks from chefs she has interviewed; and Lynette Majer offers up some great wineshop gifts. 10

Arts & Entertainment

Feeding your mind in December

Check out the Marina's bestsellers. 14

Calendar

Holiday events

December is a month chock-full of Christmas celebrations, New Year's activities, Menorah lightings, and more. Take in Macy's window displays, gospel concerts, *A Christmas Carol*, News Year's Eve cruises, cookie decorating, Santa runs, and much more. 16

Wellness

'Tis the cold season

Christopher Bialecki answers the most common holiday health questions. 18

Family

MomSense

Liz Farrell finds fun family activities to make the holidays special. 19

At Home

Urban Home and Garden

Julia Strzesieski explains how to force bulbs to provide winter blooms. 20

Pets

Political Animal

The conclusion of Susan Dyer Reynolds's series on the sometimes tense relationship between animal shelters and activists. 21

Real Estate

The Reporter

John Zipperer rates some predictions for 2017's property markets and looks at credit scores for renters, help for homeless in the East Cut, and some housing heroes. 22

ONLINE SPECIALS

Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter, and more.
marinatimes.com

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

MarinaTimes

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

- Publisher Earl Adkins publisher@marinatimes.com
- Editor in Chief Susan Dyer Reynolds susan@marinatimes.com
- Executive Editor John Zipperer john@marinatimes.com
- Managing Editor Lynette Majer lynette@marinatimes.com
- Design Director Sara Brownell sara@marinatimes.com

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

News Briefs : A sporting chance

Local kickers and tickets

MARINA STUDENT JOINS FC BARCELONA

A local student is getting the chance to be a part of one of the most storied soccer organizations in the world. Jake Himelstein has joined FC Barcelona's Residential Academy in Arizona, where he will have access to top coaches, players, and facilities, in addition to a high school preparatory academy run by Arizona State University.

Himelstein, a high school sophomore who attended Sherman Elementary, Marina Middle School, and Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, was one of only 100 top youth soccer players selected by the Barca Academy following tryouts over the summer.

"This is an opportunity for me to find out how good I can be in soccer, and to be able to do it with Barca is a dream come true," said Himelstein.

Until his selection for Barca's academy, Himelstein kept his sporting options open. "I was a catcher in baseball," he said. "If the Giants had come calling first, maybe that would have been my path."

CRIMES OF THE TIMES

There's been a bump up in the number of crimes in the SFPD's Northern District.

Violent crimes overall were up 16 percent between September 2016 and September 2017. There were no homicides in either month, there was one case of human trafficking in each month, and rapes declined by 25 percent. But robberies were up 14 percent, and

aggravated assaults were up a significant 31 percent.

Property crimes also increased, but by only 6 percent overall. Burglaries rose 17 percent, larceny theft rose 8 percent, and thefts from vehicles were up 21 percent. However, auto thefts dropped by 22 percent and arson plunged 50 percent.

Northern Station Captain John Jaimerena reminds people to report suspicious activities, and of course to take preventative measures to decrease the likelihood of someone breaking into your vehicle: Don't leave valuables in plain sight, don't leave power cords sticking out of the car's center console (it gives the appearance that you left a phone or other device charging inside), and contact SFPD if you see someone peering into vehicles in an apparent attempt to locate untended valuables.

NEW TO MUIR WOODS: PARKING AND SHUTTLE RESERVATIONS

In January, the National Park Service will begin requiring reservations for all personal vehicles or shuttles at Muir Woods. Parking and shuttle reservations can be made up to 90 days in advance of a visit, and people can either reserve a parking space for \$8 per car or a shuttle seat for \$3; the fees are in addition to the \$10 park entrance fee for people aged 16 or older. (Commercial carriers will make reservations through a separate system.)

NPS said the new system would help reduce overcrowding, noting that "annual visitation is

expected to be reduced to under 1 million from an estimated 1.2 million visitors."

Find more information at gomuirwoods.com.

FACTS AND FIGURES

63: Percentage of millennials who have pretended to know more about operating office equipment than they really do know, according to the Brother Business Survey 2017 . . . **\$7,300:** average credit card debt of Californians, among the highest in the nation, according to EveryDollar . . . **\$3.3 billion:** cost of insured losses from October's wildfires in Northern California, according to the state's Department of Insurance . . . **60:** number of years the Japanese city of Osaka has had a sister-city relationship with San Francisco; Osaka's mayor said he is canceling the relationship in a spat over a statue in San Francisco commemorating the women forced to work in Japanese brothels during World War II . . . **3.5 miles:** length of San Francisco's seawall that will be fortified as part of the San Francisco Seawall Resiliency Project . . . **3,250:** number of frozen turkeys distributed in San Francisco at Thanksgiving as part of a combined effort among the city government, PG&E, Foster Farms, Clark Construction, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute . . . **50:** number of years ago that Herb Lee joined the San Francisco Police Department, the first Chinese-American to do so; Lee passed away in mid-November.

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

The In-Box: Letters to the Times




ENJOYING THE SALZBURG

Thanks for the "Salzburg" restaurant article; it was informative. ("Wine [and design] lovers will find a lot to love at The Salzburg in North Beach," The Tablehopper, November 2017.) It should be mentioned that this establishment is the only German or Austrian restaurant in the whole of North Beach, so its opening is very welcome to the neighborhood. Across the street from Salzburg was the late, lamented

Beethoven Restaurant at 1701 Powell, right on the corner of Union. Beethoven existed from 1978 to the mid-1990s, and their full menu offered gourmet Germanic food, and many German beers in traditional glassware and steins. Upon Beethoven's closing, the locals in North Beach had no access to Germanic food, but now we do again, thank goodness. Salzburg's high prices may scare dollar-conscious customers away, but I wish them luck.

James Jarvis
San Francisco

E-mail: letters@marinatimes.com



NEO MODERN.

Hand-Crafted Photographs in Frames... in 30 Minutes.

Walk in with your phone. Walk out with a framed work of art. Yours.

1898 Union Street, at Laguna

Reservations suggested.
Open Tuesday - Sunday, 11-6
415.901.3411

www.neomodern.com

THE NEW WINE BAR IN THE HOOD... ALSO HAS AMAZING FOOD!

- Happy Hour Every Day 3-6pm
20% Off Beer & Wine!
- An Atmosphere Perfect for Date Night
- Live Music 4 Nights a Week!

WINNER:
Best Wine Bar





Scopo DiVino

THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF WINE

Reservations Available Via Yelp or Facebook | Available for Private Parties

2800 California St @ Divisadero | scopodivino.com | 415.928.3728



Ghirardelli

SQUARE

A bayside landmark since 1862

NEW LOCAL STORES & RESTAURANTS AT GHIRARDELLI SQUARE

Culinary Artistas
Children's Cooking Classes

The Pub
Comfort Food and Drink

Bluxome Street Winery
Tasting Room

Mashka
Handmade Jewelry

Gigi + Rose
Women's Attire

Maker Studio
Learn 3D Design



#GHIRARDELLISQUARE

LIGHT THE MENORAH

AT GHIRARDELLI SQUARE



DECEMBER 14 | 4-7PM

Light the Menorah will take place in the Upper Plaza and Fountain Plaza with free children's activities, music, and lighting of the menorah by Rabbi Peretz Mochkin.

Year in Review
continued from cover

Kohl, Mary Tyler Moore, Jack O'Neill, Della Reese, Don Rickles, David Rockefeller, Adam West, Jim Nabors. And more.

Locally, we were touched by the deaths of more than 40 people in the terrible wildfires in Wine Country, which also destroyed thousands of homes and businesses.

The death of a counter-protester at a major rally by racists in Charlottesville, Virginia, shocked the nation. Luckily, there were no major issues after two planned far-right rallies in the Bay Area fizzled, including one scheduled for Crissy Field.

In these dangerous times, the president took to his bully pulpit to try to bring together Americans:

Made additional remarks on Charlottesville and realize once again that the #Fake News Media will never be satisfied...truly bad people!

SPORTS

The San Francisco 49ers didn't make a lot of news — or touchdowns — this year, but they did help spark a national conversation about the national anthem. That's disappointing, because the practice of kneeling during the anthem was supposed to spark a national conversation about racial injustices.

When the practice started by Colin Kaepernick spread across the league, the president weighed in on Twitter:

If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect....

...our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!

MAN PROBLEMS

Dianne Feinstein was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992, the so-called Year of the Woman that saw the election of a number of women to Congress, at least in part fueled by outrage over the Senate Judiciary Committee's treatment of Anita Hill and her allegations of sexual harassment by Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Feinstein is running for reelection, and this time she is being challenged by state Senator Kevin de León. Sexual harassment will play a role in this election, too; de León is facing scrutiny over his role in handling (or mishandling) sexual harassment allegations involving state senators.

A wave of sexual harassment and assault allegations flooded the news this year, beginning with the take-down of Hollywood super-producer Harvey Weinstein over decades of bad behavior and payoffs. The list of powerful men named by male or female accusers now includes Kevin Spacey, political journalist Mark Halperin, Amazon Studios head Roy Price, Pixar's John Lasseter, Senator Al Franken, former President George H.W. Bush, state Senator Tony Mendoza (a roommate of Kevin de León), TV morning show hosts Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose, and humorist Garrison Keillor.

The most jaw-dropping allegations were those that ensnared Roy Moore, an Alabama judge twice removed from office for violating the rules who yet became the odds-on favorite to win a U.S. Senate seat. He saw his campaign rocked by a number of allegations that he had dated teenagers when he was in his

30s, including at least one woman who said Moore initiated a sexual encounter with her when she was 14. A local mall reportedly warned its security staff to keep a watch out for him to prevent him from harassing teenage girls.

Will 2018 be the year that things change for the better? It would be nice to think so, but before changes can be made, it is more likely we will continue to see a lot more big names taken down by allegations, as the #MeToo backlash against the harassers and assaulters has decades of anger to fuel it.

This was also the year in which President Donald Trump — himself the focus of numerous allegations of sexual harassment — responded to political criticism of him from an MSNBC show by attacking the female co-host, Mika Brzezinski, in these two June tweets:

I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came..

...to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!

ECONOMY

This year, there were several jobs you didn't want to have: Donald Trump's

spokesperson, mall cop at Roy Moore's favorite shopping center, and an employee at any of the dozens of stores being closed by J. Crew, the 358 stores being closed by Sears and Kmart, the 138 stores JCPenney is closing,

the 68 stores Macy's is closing, or the many hundreds of stores closed by Gym-boree, Michael Kors, RadioShack (yes, it still exists), Abercrombie & Fitch, Guess, The Limited, Staples, Family Christian, and on and on. Retail stores large and small took it on the chin this year.

The rest of the economy, however, showed continued strength and growth, despite costly disruptions from major hurricanes and wildfires.

To put it all into perspective, the president tweeted in July:

Highest Stock Market EVER, best economic numbers in years, unemployment lowest in 17 years, wages raising[sic], border secure, S.C.: No WH chaos!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This year might be the year that artificial intelligence broke through, which is good because we don't seem to be making much use of our natural intelligence. But scientists shared a number of important developments, ranging from skin repair for burn victims to gene editing to the discovery of a nearby planet that could support life.

Perhaps the most earth-shaking development from the worlds of science and technology was Twitter's decision to double the length of tweets. That should please the president, who considers himself something of a Twitter genius.

My use of social media is not Presidential - it's MODERN DAY PRESIDENTIAL. Make America Great Again!

UNCATEGORIZABLE

We'll end with one more tweet from Donald Trump, who — I'm not making this up — is the president of the United States:

Despite the constant negative press covfefe

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com

LOCAL FOOD & DRINK
EST. 1935 C.A.

THE GROTTO

RESTAURANT | OYSTER BAR | HERITAGE LOUNGE

2847 TAYLOR  THE WHARF
SAN FRANCISCO



“The Grotto is Now Open”

SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD, BREATH TAKING VIEWS, AND IMPECCABLE HOSPITALITY!

COME IN AND ENJOY our newly renovated space while sipping a cocktail at our grand Sinatra Bar. Our craft cocktails and wide assortment of local California wines and beers are sure to keep you warm this holiday season!

The Grotto partners with the Monterey Bay Aquarium to ensure all of our seafood is sourced sustainably. From Wok Tossed Crab to Classic Cioppino we have all the flavors of the bay!

**CHECK OUT OUR COMPLETE MENU ON OUR WEBSITE, THEGROTTOSF.COM
AND TO BOOK YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT WITH US PLEASE CONTACT
EVENTS@THEGROTTOSF.COM OR CALL US AT 415-475-0154!**

2847 TAYLOR ST. SAN FRANCISCO, C.A. 94133 | (415) 673-7025 | THEGROTTOSF.COM | OPEN 11:30AM - 9PM DAILY

~ Free 2 hour parking with validation ~

been left parentless from AIDS or the civil war. Currently Aimee's team is working to improve the living conditions of thousands of villagers who often subsist on one cup of peas per day because the drought has killed their crops and livestock. For \$1,200, Restore Hope can open a broken well and install new pipes to bring fresh water to 4,000 people in Northern Uganda.

In Kenya, five 13-year-old orphan girls are prostituting themselves to pay for food and school. Aimee says it costs about \$60 per month to sponsor their room and board, tuition, books, uniforms, and shoes. Hope International is currently sponsoring 12 girls, and would love to help these five girls, too. Just \$150 removes a young person from poverty by helping them start a small business selling vegetables, styling hair, or repairing shoes. For children lucky enough to attend school, darkness prevents them from learning. It also forces their parents to stop working. Just \$57 buys a solar light panel for a school or for a family. Lighting, something we take for granted, can change their lives. If you would like to help Restore Hope International by making a gift in someone's name or having others make a gift in your name, visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/restorehopeinternational](https://www.facebook.com/restorehopeinternational).

Every nonprofit organization offers ways to donate online, via mail, or by phone, so no matter what cause you care about — children, animals, the elderly, the homeless, the environment — there are charities for every interest.

WAYS TO HELP NORTH BAY FIRE VICTIMS

This year, many of our North Bay neighbors lost everything in the devastating fires.

There's still plenty of need, so consider taking friends and family to a Wine Country benefit or donating to the various charitable organizations in their name. For a comprehensive list of ideas, visit winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/California-Fires-2017-Charity-Benefits.

**FOR THOSE WHO STILL WANT AN
ACTUAL GIFT**

I get it. Not everyone in your life is as altruistic as you are. Well, I still have some actual gifts that give back.

Here are a few of my favorites:

STATE KANE CONEY ISLAND KIDS' BACKPACK

\$65, *statebags.com*

For every sale of this signature backpack for kids, State gives a bag to a U.S. child in need. Besides the giving back component, it's a great backpack, featuring multiple pockets, penholders, and Velcro side pockets that fit a water bottle. It comes in 11 colors, from fun combos like pink and lemon to understated green and navy to solid blue, green, and black.

UPCYCLED GOLD LEAF SPICE SPOON
\$18, tothemarket.com

Made in Haiti of polished and lacquered upcycled steel with a unique gold leaf overlay, metal drums are hammered and cut to create these unique salt or spice spoons. Sales help support families and communities devastated by poverty and natural disasters.

PRISMATIC OMBRE COTTON ROPE CAT AND DOG COLLAR

\$62, *foundmyanimal.com*

Found My Animal makes colorful rope collars, harnesses, and other pet accessories to support animal adoption through

IMAGINED CONVERSATIONS

BY JAY DURET

I am going off
the grid. I got
a new app that
makes it really easy



Off The Grid

December 2017
(c) Jay Duret 2017
www.jayduret.com

donations to animal rescue organizations around the country. Their rope collars are hand-dyed and crafted in Brooklyn, N.Y., from domestic leather, solid brass hardware, and U.S. manufactured marine-grade rope. Each "Found" tag serves as a reminder to celebrate how you and your pet found each other.

POM BEANIE

\$45, *loveyourmelon.com*

Love Your Melon donates 50 percent

of its profits to support pediatric cancer research and to achieve its mission of giving a hat to every child battling the disease in America. All Pom Beanies are knitted in the United States from 100 percent cotton yarn, feature a logo debossed leather patch, and are washable (minus the detachable faux fur pom).

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

jest jewels

We have it all!

Validated Parking WWW.JESTJEWELS.COM 415-563-8839 JESTJEWELS@AOL.COM
 1869 UNION ST, SF * 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER, SF * 1791 4TH ST, BERKELEY * 356 SANTANA ROW, SJ

Looking back on 2017, and what is ahead for 2018

BY MARK FARRELL

AS WE PREPARE TO HEAD INTO 2018, I want to reflect on the past year.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HOMELESSNESS

Every day I hear from constituents about crime and public safety concerns. While violent crime continues to trend downward, we are unfortunately experiencing a spike in property and petty crime that negatively affects our quality of life. It seems like everyone has experienced a car break-in or knows someone who has. It is unacceptable.

Before I assumed office, City Hall did not fund a single new police academy class. Combine that historic lack of investment with record retirements and a growing population and you have a recipe for a crisis. Thankfully, I helped to secure funding for more new academy classes again this year to address our understaffed department and public safety needs.

While our police department continues to staff up, it is up to all of us to work together to improve public safety in our communities. In that vein, I hosted multiple neighborhood-specific public safety meetings across District 2 to connect our neighbors with our police department and other public safety personnel to discuss ways to deter crime, best practices, and how to keep our neighbors informed about recent crimes nearby. I also helped convene multiple smaller meetings with groups of neighbors. Please contact me or my office

if you would like to participate in or set up one of the meetings.

Homelessness continues to be a top concern to residents and businesses. I have made it a top focus for my years as supervisor as well. In 2016, voters approved Proposition Q: Housing Not Tents, which I authored and was aimed at helping to move the homeless out of tents and into services, shelter, and housing. Close to a year after approval, I am proud to report that the measure is having a meaningful impact, as intended. Close to 200 Proposition Q notices have been issued and in most instances the individuals voluntarily accepted services, shelter, and housing — many for the first time. In the Mission, where the proposition was first piloted, 92 percent of those issued notices were connected to services, shelter, and housing.

To address our encampment and homelessness crisis, we need to continue to advocate for more new housing opportunities for the homeless, as well as known policies and programs for reducing homelessness. We cannot be afraid to cut what is not working, either. Earlier this year, I authored legislation directing our Department of Homelessness to create a new “Five-Year Plan” to reduce homelessness. The newly created Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing just released its plan and the goals are ambitious. We’re seeking to cut chronic homelessness in half, end family homelessness by 2021, eliminate large encampments by 2019, and are on our way to eliminating veterans’ homelessness. There is clearly more to be done, and

though it might not always feel like it — progress is being made.

WOMEN, AFFORDABLE INTERNET

Everyone deserves equal pay for equal work. For women across the country and here in San Francisco that is unfortunately not the case. One glaring reason is the problematic practice of using past salary history to set an employee’s wage.

On Equal Pay Day, April 4 — which represents how long women have to work into the year to earn the same pay as their male counterparts — I introduced my “Pay Parity” law to help level the playing field. The law bans employers from asking about previous salary, because studies have shown that when women are required to disclose past salary information, they often end up at a significant disadvantage compared to men. This policy will enable more fair salary and wage negotiations.

In addition to fighting for equal pay for women, our team is also fighting for more female representation in the public realm. We introduced legislation to make San Francisco the first city in the country to strive for a goal of 30 percent female representation in the public realm by 2020. To kick-start that goal, we introduced legislation to create and install a statue of San Francisco and international icon Maya Angelou. It is important to increase female representation, so we can visually show all of San Francisco that we are all created equally and deserve the right to be whomever we want to be.

Last, we continued to move forward one of the city’s largest public infrastructure

projects that aims to connect all of San Francisco to fast and affordable Internet through the design and deployment of a citywide fiber network.

We introduced and approved multiple policies this year aimed at lowering the project cost and decreasing construction time and impacts in our neighborhoods. We also launched a citywide community group and a panel of academic, business, and privacy experts to inform the city on community priorities and answer key issues and questions. Most important, after more than nine months of work, Mayor Lee and I recently released the roadmap to make the project possible and we plan to start the procurement process in early 2018. The Internet should be viewed as a 21st-century utility, and as such, should be affordable and available to all of our residents and businesses. We’re now closer than ever to making that a reality.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

For 2018, I plan to stay laser-focused on neighborhood issues, in particular public safety and homelessness. I will have more to announce soon on both fronts, but please know I will be fighting for more officers on our streets and more homes for the homeless. In addition, we’ll be able to provide more details on our citywide fiber project in the early part of next year as we finalize the design and strategy.

I am thankful for the progress we made together in 2017, and look forward to continuing that work throughout 2018!

Our client, painter Kevin Wueste, in his new home.



BARBAGELATA

REALESTATESF.COM

Make it creative. Make it thoughtful. Make it yours.

2381 Chestnut Street 415.566.1112 info@realestatesf.com CaIBRE#01259825

MAYBECK'S

NEW AMERICAN CLASSIC CUISINE



- HAPPY HOUR DAILY
- FRIED CHICKEN TUESDAYS
- BEEF WELLINGTON WEDNESDAYS
- BABY BACK & MAC THURSDAYS
- CIOPPINO FRIDAYS
- STEAK FOR TWO SATURDAYS
- SATURDAY BRUNCH
- SPAGHETTI SUPPER SUNDAYS

3213 SCOTT ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA • 415-400-8500
(CORNER OF SCOTT AND LOMBARD) MAYBECKS.COM

Sketches from a North Beach Journal

Changes: Good and bad in the old neighborhood

BY ERNEST BEYL

YES, OUR CITY IS CHANGING. BUT not all the changes are good. Not all the changes are bad, either. And, here in North Beach — one of the city's oldest neighborhoods — change is in the air as well. Certainly, some of the changes in North Beach are bad. We have lost some of the old places that added so much character. Nevertheless, some of the changes are good and are solid contributions to the North Beach mystique. That's the way it goes in vibrant urban areas.

I'm optimistic about our city and about my North Beach neighborhood. Consider these changes.

CAPP'S CORNER

It was an avoidable tragedy when we lost Capp's Corner in a landlord-tenant squabble. It had a fine bar with good food. But there's a new player going into the corner of Powell and Green Streets. It's called the **Boardroom**, and it's currently right across the street from the old Capp's Corner. Proprietor Keith Wilson serves good drinks and saloon fare.

COLE HARDWARE

This classic hardware store is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood. It has everything you need and some things you didn't know you needed. Old-timers will remember when the building (at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Vallejo Street) was **Rossi's Market**, with good produce and a butcher shop. Rossi's closed and a few years later reopened as the **Piazza Market**. That was short-lived. It sold wine and a few Italian specialties and, for a time, served a good lunch. Activists wanted a full-service market in the place — a new Rossi's. It just wasn't in the cards.

ROSE PISTOLA'S

Rose Pistola's on Columbus was a ground-breaking, popular restaurant — until it wasn't. It closed earlier this year. Now there are newcomers planning to open in the barn-like space. It's wait-and-see time.

CAFFE TRIESTE

Byzantine, internecine warfare has taken over this landmark coffeehouse on Vallejo. The quarreling Giotta family is skirmishing over ownership of this great old institution founded in 1956. Who knows what's going to happen in this Italian soap opera.

CAFFE PUCCINI

Kitchen fire. The place was gutted. Will proprietor-chef Graziano Lucchesi rebuild and reopen? I hope so. A salubrious coffeehouse that served some of the best pasta in North Beach.

ARIA ANTIQUES

An enigmatic guy named Bill Haskell operated this funky collectibles shop on Upper Grant Avenue for as long as I can remember. Then recently it closed. Bill took his trays of glass eyes, his 19th-century zoological charts, old wooden type-faces, and split.

FOCUS GALLERY

This was a wonderful collectibles hole-in-the-wall on Upper Grant operated by John Perino. When Perino decided to

make a change, he joined artist Kevin Brown's gallery, **Live Worms**. Meanwhile, **Berz Gallery of African Art** is opening in the Focus Gallery spot.

ITALIAN-FRENCH BAKERY

Rats, pigeons, and a lax proprietor did in this fine old bakery. That was bad. But now it's **Sylvia's**, a coffee and pastry shop.

THE SALZBURG

What's an Austrian restaurant doing in North Beach? Well, why not, when it's this good. And not all North Beach restaurants must be Italian. We also have Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Indian, and Mexican.

LIBRERIA PINO

This is the Italian language bookstore on Upper Grant — a welcome addition to the neighborhood! It's in the space where **Old Vogue** was for 30 years. I miss Old Vogue and its great vintage clothes.

LA FELCE

At the time, this was my favorite North Beach restaurant — Italian, with good lusty food. It closed, and after a few unsuccessful iterations, the site became **Tony's Pizza Napoletana**. It's wildly popular, but is it a fair tradeoff for La Felce? I still miss La Felce.

GIOVANNI ITALIAN SPECIALITIES

Tony Gemignani, of the above-mentioned pizza emporium, recently opened this carefully curated shop on Union Street across from Washington Square Park. He hit a home run. Tony has reinforced the Italian character of the neighborhood with a range of imported olive oils, vinegars, cheeses, canned tomatoes, and hard-to-find items that set culinary imaginations working. To these he's added a variety of house-made pastas and a few takeout appetizers. I think this is one of the most important additions to North Beach in recent history.

BETTY LOU'S SEAFOOD AND GRILL

Down on Columbus near Broadway, this was a great tradeoff for what it replaced — **Viva** (yes, a pizza joint). I love pizza, but how many pizza joints does North Beach need?

SOTTO MARE

Opened by restaurateur Gigi Fiorucci in 2007, he sold it in 2014 to Richie Azzolino, who carries on the tradition.

ORIGINAL JOE'S

Have you ever heard of OJ's? Of course, I write about it constantly. The original **Original Joe's** in the Tenderloin was destroyed by fire in 2007. Then in 2012, the Duggan family reopened it at the corner of Union and Stockton Streets, the former site of **Joe Dimaggio's Chop-house**, and earlier the storied **Fior d'Italia**. Now OJ's and **Molinari**, the nearby delicatessen, are by my reckoning the two undoubted stalwarts in North Beach, adding panache and fame to this old neighborhood.

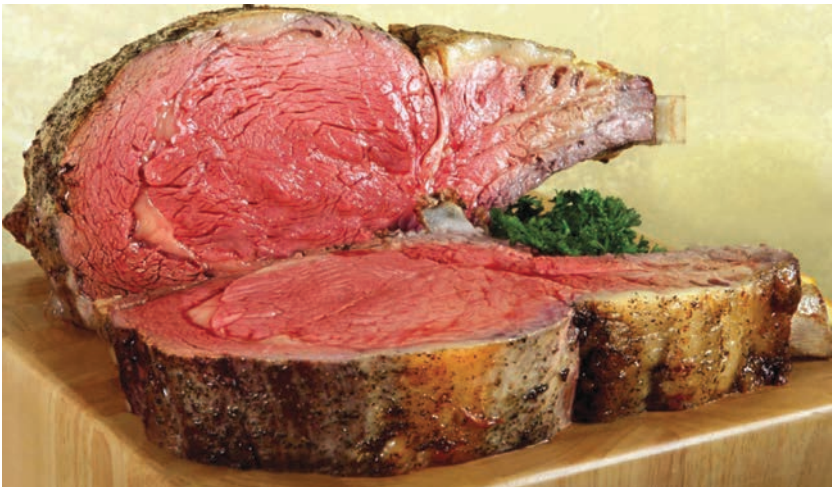
Conclusion: The bad sometimes makes room for the good — and vice versa.

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

The Brazen Head

"A place worth finding."

Join us for New Year's Eve!



San Francisco Fire Fighters Toy Program fundraiser

Bring along a new unwrapped toy for the deserving children

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 6-9pm

RAFFLE, FOOD, DRINKS AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN FOR A VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE: THE KIDS

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

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

www.brazenheads.com

A little thanks, a little giving...

BY AARON PESKIN

LAST MONTH, ROUGHLY 200 of our District 3 neighbors gathered at Broadway Studios to discuss rising homelessness in the community. Thank you to Cmdr. David Lazar, Capt. Paul Yep from SFPD Central Station, Director Jeff Kositsky from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and Director Mohammed Nuru from S.F. Public Works for helping lead the discussion. After informative presentations from the departments and a robust question-and-answer session, the community overwhelmingly expressed its support of a Navigation Center as an important tool in addressing homelessness. In the last several weeks, my office has identified two possible sites in the district, **88 Broadway** and **Pier 23**. We are now working with city departments and the community to better understand the issues with each site, and we will be bringing alternative designs back to the community this month. The urgency is obvious: While many of us will be enjoying the holidays with a roof over our heads

and a warm meal to share with loved ones, many of our neighbors will be wet and cold on our city streets, their suffering compounded by mental and physical illness. As city staff explained at the November community meeting, a Navigation Center is a temporary hub for one-stop resources to help our chronically homeless residents. They are first identified by the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) as being eligible based on the intractable nature of their situation and the duration of their time on the streets. San Francisco Public Works has taken great pains to construct beautiful facilities that offer privacy, dignity, healing, and communal gathering space away from the public realm. Mental health counseling and case management are provided on-site, and the goal is laser-focused on helping residents “navigate” the labyrinth of paperwork and steps necessary to become permanently housed. Temporarily vacant lots are ideal, and can be quickly constructed and then taken down to be used for another site. There is no silver bullet to end homelessness, but our goal is

to house as many San Franciscans as possible and allow them the opportunity to stabilize and reintegrate into the workforce and society. I was overwhelmed by the positive response at the community meeting. Residents channeled their anger and frustration into pushing a positive proactive goal, and it made me incredibly proud to be the District 3 supervisor. I hope this holiday season we don’t stop at giving thanks but give hope and action as well. **SPEAKING OF GIVING . . .** The San Francisco Transportation Task Force 2045 is winding down to its final recommendations, and representatives from neighborhood associations and transportation and pedestrian advocacy groups have unequivocally come down on the side of asking the big winners in the business sector to start paying their fair share for our mounting transportation operation and infrastructure costs in the form of an increase to the low commercial rent tax big office owners pay the city. In addition, there continues to be a rallying call to ask gig economy businesses — partic-



Need more and better buses? Peskin says our booming business sector should foot the bill. PHOTO: DAVID WILSON FROM OAK PARK, ILL.


ularly those that use our city streets for deliveries and ride-hail — to start paying their fair share as well. Representatives have asked for a gross-receipts business tax package for 2018 that would shift the tax burden from everyday San Franciscans to the big business sector in this booming economy. Not surprisingly, the big business representatives on the task force are still pushing a sales tax. My hope is that we can all come together on a 2018 measure that will equitably generate badly needed funding for transportation, which we can always revisit in 2020.

For those of you who have written my office complaining about the need for more buses, protected bike lanes, pedestrian scramble signals, better road conditions, and investment into regional projects such as BART or Caltrain: 2018 will be an opportunity to infuse all of these public projects with critical dollars. If I don’t see you before the new year, I want to wish you and your families a peaceful holiday season, filled with love and community — and a 2018 filled with fresh hope! See you around the neighborhood.

UNION STREET GOLDSMITH

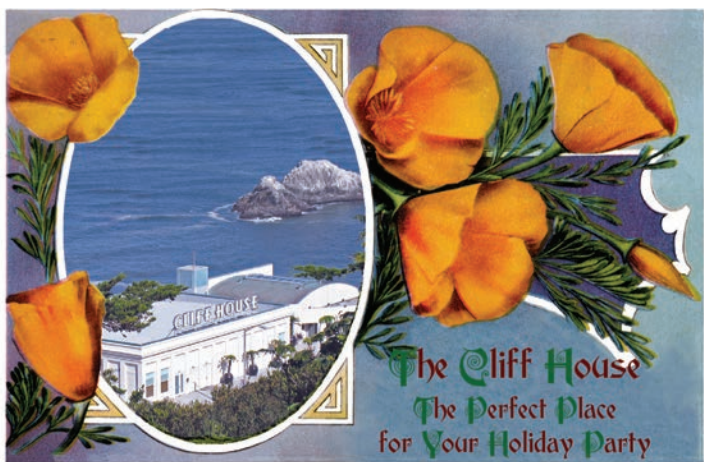
Fine Jewelers Since 1976

GOING OUT of BUSINESS SALE



SAVE up to 70% off our entire inventory.
Everything MUST go!

2118 Union Street at Webster
Tuesdays - Saturdays 11 am to 5:30 pm Sundays 12 to 5 pm



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

Holiday Parties at the Cliff House



The Terrace Room

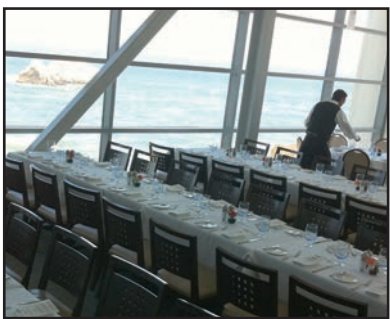
Offering sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, historic ambiance and delightful cuisine, the Terrace Room is a truly unique private event venue for groups up to 120.

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

The Lands End Room

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

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



Call soon to book your event!

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



Three generations.
One location.

FAMOUS SANDWICHES

HOUSE-MADE PASTAS

Italian Specialties
WINE • CHEESE SALUMI

2120 Chestnut St • San Francisco

COMET CLUB

Dancing • Specialty Cocktails • 12 Brews on Tap



3111 Fillmore St. San Francisco 94123
415-567-5589 • CometclubSF.com

The Tablehopper ∴ Time for changes



Steak and eggs at the new brunch at The Saratoga. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SARATOGA

December will have you visiting some great new markets and brunch, too

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

MARINA

The vegan and gluten-free **Seed + Salt** (2240 Chestnut Street) closed at the end of November; owner Mo Clancy plans to reformulate the business (the space is too small and limiting growth). Moving in will be a second location of the extremely delicious **Dabba** from chef Walter Abrams and CEO Andy Mercy, known for their Indian- and global-inspired bowls, burritos, wraps, and more. And Dabba is inheriting the Seed + Salt staff, so that's a nice transition. Stand by for an opening date.

GHIRARDELLI SQUARE

The **Cheese School of San Francisco** plans to move from its Mission location (in the former Saison at Stable Café) to Ghirardelli Square in late spring 2018. Owner Kiri Fisher says she hopes it will be a pretty seamless transition, and they'll only go dark for a couple of weeks tops. The new location will be the two-story Apartment House (just behind the fountain on the main plaza). They will be launching a new culinary program, a counter-service cafe serving cheese-centric dishes from around the world (and wines by the glass or bottle), and a retail space, with cut-to-order cheese and charcuterie counters. Classes will be held on the second floor, which will be outfitted with a catering kitchen and pizza oven, with space for 28 participants.

NORTH BEACH

Now open is **Giovanni Italian Specialties** (629 Union Street) from Tony Gemignani of Tony's Pizza Napoletana. This Italian shop and grocery store is stocked with house-made pasta, focaccia (with toppings), Italian meats, piadine (a sandwich made with flatbread, like Italian pita), pantry items, and some cookware. Daily noon–7 p.m.

An unfortunate (and I hope temporary) closure: after 27 years, the classic **L'Osteria del Forno** (519 Columbus Avenue). It's supposedly closed for renovations, but a sign in the window also reportedly says they "weren't sure where the restaurant was headed once the work was done," so they wanted to "thank everyone that made this 27-year journey possible." Their phone is disconnected and their OpenTable page is down, but I did receive a message they are closed to retrofit, so fingers crossed they return. It's such a special, nostalgic place.

TENDERNOB

Starting Sunday, Dec. 3., **The Saratoga** (1000 Larkin Street, 415-932-6464) will offer brunch (11:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), which

means if you hang out long enough, you can slide right into dinner at 5 p.m.

Chef de cuisine Francisco Baca's menu is divided into "Snack," "Sweet," and "Hearty" sections, with dishes like his mom's mole flautas (made with braised chicken, red cabbage, pico de gallo, and crema); steak and eggs; and The TL Omelet, with Taleggio cheese and melted leeks.

Barman-owner Brandon Clements has all kinds of options in a new brunch cocktail menu, divvied up into "Bloody," "Frothy," "Fizzy," "Hot and Boozy," and "Boothby Bowl." There are three Bloody Mary recipes (classic, root, and verde), and you can get really crazy by adding a fried pickle, house-made jalapeño poppers, brisket beef jerky, fried chicken, and more.

Just half a block away is the spiffy new high-end market **Meraki Market** (927 Post Street, 415-351-1970) by Stanlee Gatti and business partner Bill Grzywacz. There are all kinds of quality goodies, from gorgeous produce, to well-sourced and unique pantry items, to all kinds of stocks, fresh salsas, and house-made butter in a cazuela you can keep. Breads are from Acme, plus croissants and a couple of breads from Jane. Cheese island, check.

Freshly made items include salads and couscous to pâté to sandwiches (a Waldorf-inspired chicken salad, egg salad, and tuna, all \$10–\$12). Chef Mouhssine Benhamacht (previously Meritage Napa and Spice Market Atlanta in the W) does some seriously good fried chicken available by the piece, and you can get a whole roasted chicken for \$23. Rotating dishes include chili relleno, pozole, boeuf bourguignon, two kinds of soup, and more. The menu will change by 75 percent each day. There is also seafood and some marinated meats you can cook yourself. And caviar, naturally. Breakfast and coffee service is in the works. Daily 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

RUSSIAN HILL

A Tablehopper reader reported the unfortunate news that just after winning their first Michelin star and just shy of a year of being open, the fantastic **Kinjo** (2206 Polk Street, 415-921-2222) suffered severe flood water damage (from an apartment neighbor above). The restaurant is saying they will be closed until Jan. 15 for repairs, and I'm hearing it will possibly be even later. I'll keep you posted.

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

Welcome to the new (and old) Grotto at Fisherman’s Wharf

BY JULIE MITCHELL

FISHERMAN’S WHARF IS AS much a San Francisco icon as the Golden Gate Bridge. For years locals and tourists alike have made their way down to the bay and attractions from trinket shops and galleries to the landmark buildings and restaurants at historic Ghirardelli Square and the Cannery. Fresh seafood, whether fresh crab served up along the wharf or in more upscale settings, is a big part of the scene.

One of the wharf’s first restaurants was No.9 Fisherman’s Grotto. Founded in 1935 by Michael Gerald, an immigrant fisherman from Sicily, the restaurant started as a small fish stand until Gerald transformed it into an almost 20,000-square-foot restaurant, the first full-service, family-owned restaurant at the wharf with city views from its dining room and bay views from its patio. Fisherman’s Grotto has been passed down through three generations of Gerald, but a need for expensive retrofitting that sparked a feud between family members who wanted to renovate and continue and others who wanted to

sell forced the Gerald family to put the restaurant on the market.

Enter Sausalito native Chris Henry, a specialist in real estate finance who has purchased and updated several local classics including Tommy’s Joynt on Geary and Van Ness Avenues and Barrel House Tavern in Sausalito. Henry, along with restaurant broker Steve Zimmerman, set the wheels in motion to purchase Fisherman’s Grotto from the Gerald family in 2016.

Last September, Henry took over the restaurant, modernizing it and refreshing the menu while still keeping its overall feel, including the historic Fisherman’s Grotto sign added to the façade in the 1950s, and the long, curved wooden bar. He renamed the spot The Grotto and the updated bar The Sinatra Bar.

“I grew up salmon fishing on the bay with my dad, and going to the wharf for fresh seafood,” said Henry. “When I bought The Grotto my goal was to keep it a local favorite. Getting to know the Gerald family, I knew it was important to continue the tradition of serving iconic seafood dishes such as clam chowder and

cioppino, and Dungeness crab.” The Grotto still operates the famous crab stand out front.

Henry says while he’s worked to keep the restaurant’s original “vibe,” he has refurbished the kitchen, furniture, and lighting, and the upstairs bar with its working fireplace. He plans to add a Sunday jazz brunch and a Tuesday piano bar.

Entering The Grotto’s cavernous space is almost intimidating. There’s a wide lobby and grand staircase to the spacious lounge (bar) and even larger long dining room. Tables run down the length of the room on either side, evoking an almost cruise ship feel. The raw bar stands out, and most seats offer downtown, bay, and Golden Gate Bridge views. There’s a rooftop herb garden, beehive, and living wall lending the spot an au courant atmosphere.

The Grotto’s menu features every possible classic seafood dish and then some. Chef Paul Bruno (most recently at the Lark Creek Group) has upgraded old standbys like baked oysters ((\$18) and a whole or cracked crab at market price. Starters include salt and pepper calamari with red Fresno



Fresh whole crab at The Grotto. PHOTO: WILLIAM PRUYN PHOTOGRAPHY

chilies, green onions, and Old Bay with house-made cocktail sauce (\$14); Dungeness crab deviled eggs with salmon roe (\$12); and the chef’s signature appetizer: crab doughnuts with sweet pepper jelly, crispy kale, lemon, and powdered sugar (\$18). I had my doubts about these, but they were actually crab croquettes on a bed of kale, and the sweet and savory flavors melded perfectly.

Raw bar and seafood platters run the gamut with everything from a giant Golden Gate plateau featuring six oysters, four shrimp, six mussels, and two rock crab claws served with three different sauces for \$75, to a classic shrimp cocktail for \$16. There is traditional New England-style clam chowder (\$9/cup, \$11/bowl, and \$13/bread bowl), a seafood cobb salad with salmon (\$23); and linguine and clam pasta (\$23). Crab, or grilled chicken, prawns or salmon can be added to any pasta or salad.

Mains are generous and include a delicious semolina-crusted petrale sole served with creamy mashed red potatoes, Meyer lemon-caper sauce, and Bloomsdale spinach (\$25); seared scallops with saffron risotto, basil oil, and tomato and pickled basil salad; and of course, cioppino (\$24), and fish and chips (\$19). The Grotto serves several desserts, and the cocktail, wine, and beer menus are extensive. A selection of wines is served by the glass, the half carafe, and carafe; a nice touch.

The Grotto is a great place to take visitors and family from out of town. But I predict it will soon be a sought-after destination for locals and tourists alike.

The Grotto: 2847 Taylor Street, 415-673-7025, thegrotto-sf.com; Monday–Friday 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

E-mail: julie@marinatimes.com

Calzone's

in the heart of North Beach

430 Columbus Avenue | 415.397.3600 | calzonesf.com

readers bookstores



This holiday season shop to support Libraries!

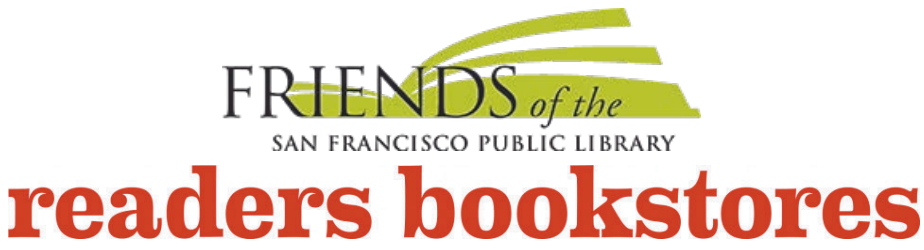
Check out our two year-round Readers Bookstores. We're located inside of the San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, and in Fort Mason Center.

Both stores sell quality books at great prices, all in support of the San Francisco Public Library. We offer recent bestsellers, fiction and nonfiction staples, as well as vintage pamphlets, vinyl LPs, pulp fiction, sheet music, cookbooks, prints and more.

Readers Bookstore Fort Mason Center
Building C, Room 165, Fort Mason Center
Phone: (415) 771-1076

Readers Bookstore at the Main
SFPL Main Library, Grove Street Entrance
Phone (415) 577-4238

Visit us on the web at www.friendssfpl.org/books



Prevent auto-burglaries & keep valuables with you



Find the perfect gift?
Thieves think so too.

Call 3-1-1 to report auto-burglaries
maketherightcallsf.org



3-1-1
CITY SERVICES & INFORMATION
AVAILABLE 24/7

415-553-0123
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE 24/7

Fab Five Food books

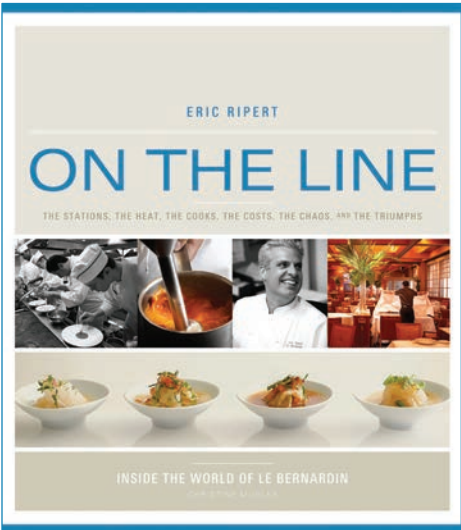
Fab Five cookbook gifts from my favorite chef interviews

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

I’VE INTERVIEWED NUMEROUS CHEFS for my column “10 Questions with ...” Some of my favorite memories include sipping espresso in the French Laundry courtyard with Thomas Keller, discovering the contents of Gary Danko’s refrigerator at his Russian Hill home, and drinking wine with the legendary Jacques Pepin.

There have also been Food Network celebrities like Rachael Ray and Guy Fieri. Our mutual love of pit bulls connected Ray and me when she appeared on the cover of *Northside San Francisco* magazine’s “Animal Heroes” issue for her charitable foundation dedicated to dog and cat rescue. Fieri was quick-witted and self-deprecating, by far the funniest chef I’ve interviewed. That big persona you see on TV is what you get in real life, though I also witnessed a calmer, more sensitive Guy. He also cares deeply for his hometown of Santa Rosa, Calif.: After the North Bay Fires he showed up with friends and family to cook for hundreds of victims and first responders.

Here are five more of my favorite interviewees and their most gift-worthy cookbooks. Not all of them are new releases, but they are top picks from my personal collection — and I have no doubt the cooks in your life will love them, too.



ON THE LINE, BY ERIC RIPERT

Even the greats like Eric Ripert don’t take themselves too seriously and became famous almost accidentally. In Ripert’s case, it was appearing on the TV series of his best friend, Anthony Bourdain. When I met Ripert, he was effortlessly charming with a thick French accent, tousle of salt and pepper hair, and piercing eyes. When I mentioned an upcoming visit to New York City, he gave me his personal e-mail and invited me to dine at his fabled Le Bernardin. I took him up, and when he breezed through the dining room to greet me it was like meeting an old friend.

KITCHEN GYPSY: RECIPES AND STORIES FROM A LIFELONG ROMANCE WITH FOOD, BY JOANNE WEIR

Joanne Weir is best known for her long career as a cooking show host on PBS Television. She also has a restaurant, Copita Tequileria y Comida, in Sausalito. When I met her on a wintry day at her home in Pacific Heights, she was in the midst of making vegetable soup. “I’m using homemade stock, but you can use a good canned version, too,” she said in that famous calm, lilting tone as if the cameras were rolling. Before the interview we sat at the bar in her kitchen and enjoyed a bowl of the best vegetable soup I’d ever eaten.

ITALIAN SLOW AND SAVORY, BY JOYCE GOLDSTEIN

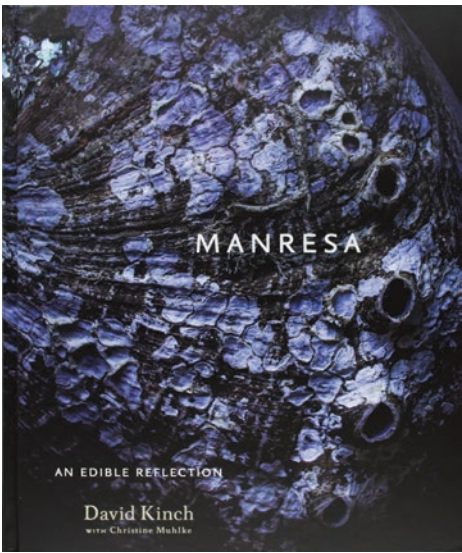
Another Northside resident, I interviewed Joyce Goldstein at her home in Cow Hollow. Revered for her groundbreaking Mediterranean restaurant, Square One, Goldstein is poised, opinionated, and has a wealth of knowledge. Bookshelves from floor to ceiling, replete with a ladder so the diminutive chef can access them, hold a treasure trove of culinary literature. Along with her cooking chops, Goldstein is a respected consultant for the food industry and an award-winning writer.

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND WEEKENDS, BY TYLER FLORENCE

(four-book series, available at Chatbooks.com)

Audiences first fell in love with Tyler Florence as the handsome young chef on Food Network’s *Food 911*, where he visited challenged home cooks to help them out of a jam (no pun intended). But Florence is much more than a pretty face — he’s one of the pioneers of upscale American cuisine, exemplified in his Financial District destination eatery Wayfare Tavern.

Florence grew up in South Carolina, learning to make his now-signature fried chicken at his grandmother’s side. Of all the successful chefs I’ve met, I found Florence not only to be one of the hardest working, but the humblest and the most grateful. Florence moved to his wife’s hometown, Mill Valley, where he’s opened several other restaurants and become a pillar of his adopted community. He recently hosted The Grateful Table, a benefit for victims of the North Bay Fires. He’s still on the Food Network, too, hosting *The Great Food Truck Race*, which recently received one of the biggest honors of all when it appeared as an answer on the venerable game show *Jeopardy*.



MANRESA: AN EDIBLE REFLECTION, BY DAVID KINCH

My first interview with David Kinch was in 2006 for a cover story when little had been written about him. “Where would you like me to plate the food?” he asked. “I wouldn’t,” photographer Elizabeth Armstrong countered. Kinch’s eyes lit up. In the kitchen, Kinch improvised a flurry of dishes, like a perfect sliver of quick-pickled sardine on a sheet of slate beside flame-burst tomatoes and creamy “milk skin” skimmed from the top of boiling milk. Elizabeth furiously snapped pictures as I scribbled notes. The day culminated with Kinch preparing the most unforgettable meal Elizabeth and I had ever eaten.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com

Tasting room gift shops for holiday shopping

BY LYNETTE MAJER

LATE FALL IS BEAUTIFUL IN the Wine Country: Vineyards are their characteristic shades of red, burgundy, yellow, and gold; long shadows from the low angle of the sun show up early, and recent rains have added green to the palette while cool breezes scatter the same colorful leaves throughout the landscape.

Being the conscious, caring, community-minded San Franciscans you are, I know you have a Wine Country visit and holiday shopping on your list, so here are a few ideas. Wine also makes a wonderful gift, and some wineries are donating a portion of wine sales to the fire relief efforts, so you can't go wrong.

Remember, shopping pairs particularly well with sipping, so make your first stop the tasting bar.

JACUZZI FAMILY VINEYARDS
Shopping sip: Pina Asolo Prosecco
This tasting room is one of my favorites because it's a twof-

er: To the right of the foyer is a room devoted almost exclusively to herb- and fruit-infused olive oils and vinegars from The Olive Press, in myriad flavors packaged in beautiful bottles and gift sets, and all available for tasting (don't miss the Clementine orange olive oil). You'll also find candles, bath/spa, and pantry products (olives, tapenades, nuts, and chocolates), olive wood serve ware, and Vietri handcrafted stoneware. The left side of the foyer stocks picnic items, seasonal decorations, U.S.-made pottery, Italian-themed serve ware, and more (24724 Arnold Drive, Sonoma, 707-931-7575, jacuzziwines.com, daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.).

B.R. COHN WINERY
Shopping sip: 2016 Carneros Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay
You know you've hit a great tasting room gift shop when it's housed in a separate building. Here you'll find B.R. Cohn's line of olive oils and vinegars (the pear Chardonnay vinegar is a recent gold medal winner). Assorted gift packages are avail-

able (some in gorgeous etched bottles), pantry items, and bath/spa items in addition to wine country-themed products. My favorite finds have been modern white porcelain pomegranate vases, and a set of six vintage-style glasses in a wire holder that does double duty as a great vase (15000 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen, 800-330-4064, brcohn.com, daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).


BENZIGER FAMILY WINERY
Shopping sip: 2014 Oonapais Estate Red
Another favorite, this tasting room-gift shop is located down a curving path in a building called The Barn and nestled amidst a beautiful, historic property. You'll find jewelry from Lake Tahoe artist Julia Szendrei, Spicer cork and canvas bags from San Francisco, lazy Susans made from wine barrel lids, candle holders from wine barrel stays, and a special section for your favorite canine (1883 Jack London Ranch Road, Glen Ellen, 888-490-2739, benziger.com, daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).



Olive wood serve ware at Jacuzzi Family Vineyards. PHOTO: LEXIE LEE

KUNDE FAMILY WINERY
Shopping sip: 2015 Sonoma Valley "Red Dirt Red"
This moodily lit tasting room-gift area is a find. There's a great selection of trendy wrap bracelets, including fair-trade Nepalese hand-crocheted bead roll-on bracelets, which benefit women in need; attractive Bloom and Give cotton scarves with 50 percent of the proceeds benefiting girls' education programs; and a beautiful display of tabletop items, including richly embroidered table runners, hand-forged aluminum-copper trimmed wine saucers, and clever dinner napkins with pockets to insert your utensils (9825 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, 707-833-5501, daily 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

CHATEAU ST. JEAN
Shopping sip: 2015 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir
Another longtime favorite, although when I visited several weeks ago, they had just reopened after the fires, and sadly, had finished shipping away 100 crates of smoke-damaged merchandise. New merchandise had just started to arrive: Olive & Poppy wine barrel bracelets, Shupaca alpaca throws, and other wine-themed items. I have no qualms recommending it with full confidence the new stock will be just as good if not better than the previous (8555 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, 707-257-5784, daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).
E-mail: lynette@marinatimes.com



FREE City WALLS TORN DOWN

JOE REYES, PhD
Professor of Human Physiology, CCSF

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

FREE TUITION, DEDICATED TEACHERS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.
CCSF.edu/FreeCity | (415) 452-7771

Free City is a partnership between City College and the City & County of San Francisco, backed by the voters of San Francisco.



I WANT YOUR HOUSE

HERE IN THE WILD WEST...
SELLING REAL ESTATE IS A HIGH-STAKES GAME

It takes a maverick to get you the highest price and close the deal without a hitch. I rope in the buyers, steer them your way, and do all the wrangling it takes to win. And...if your house needs work, I do that too. Give me a call today!

BARBARA DUNLAP
Listing Maverick

PACIFIC
UNION
INTERNATIONAL

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



The Good Ol' Days Are Coming

Year after year, our Cavallini Calendars with vintage images are so popular, they sell out quickly. 2018 is another opportunity to remember the best of times and we've stocked up like never before. Choose classic images of National Parks, San Francisco, Vintage Travel and more!



FLAX art & design | FLAXART.COM
FORT MASON CENTER • 415.530.3510
FMC hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6:30pm, Sun 10am-6pm
OAKLAND • 1501 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Snyder continued from cover

Not every Christmas movie can be a *Miracle on 34th Street* or a *Holiday Inn*. With such lackluster options, it's especially gratifying to have *The Man Who Invented Christmas* in theaters as well. This sincere, beautifully art-directed feature is a dramatization of Les Standiford's book that extrapolates the circumstances involved in the creation of British author Charles Dickens's beloved tale *A Christmas Carol*. Screenwriter Susan Coyne (TV's *Slings and Arrows*) and director Bharat Naluri (*Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*) depict Dickens as tormented by childhood abuse, writer's block, money problems, and the demands of trans-Atlantic literary fame due to the

success of *Oliver Twist*. As we know, Dickens overcame whatever obstacles he faced to complete his story, and it would go on to define and encourage the kind and charitable virtues of the season and various customs of the holiday, as well as be retold umpteen times in various iterations and across multiple mediums. (*A Muppet Christmas Carol*, anyone?)

The casting is spot-on, starting with Dickens, who is portrayed by U.K. actor Dan Stevens, best known as the tortured mutant anti-hero on FX's *Legion* sci-fi series and the tortured heir to the Grantham estate on ITV's *Downton Abbey*. When called upon, Stevens can be dashing and charming, and he can be twisted up, making him an astute choice as Dickens, whether basking in his celebrity,

hobnobbing with his peers in Victorian London, in conflict with his feckless father (Jonathan Pryce, in his element), or interacting with spectral embodiments of the characters he conjures. Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, central figure of *A Christmas Carol*, is foremost among the imaginary companions bedeviling Dickens during his lower moments. Christopher Plummer is ideal in the role of Scrooge, and is used to better effect here than as the voice of King Herod in *The Star*. If you go to see one movie with Plummer during the holidays, make sure it's *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

TELEVISION

Amid a seemingly endless stream of vapid and schmaltzy Christmas movies, *The Man Who Invented Christmas* is a

SNYDER, continued on 15

The Best of Books :: Flying off the shelves

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid #12: Getaway**, by Jeff Kinney (hardcover)
2. **Theft by Finding Diaries 1977-2002**, by David Sedaris (hardcover)
3. **The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny & Terror**, by Nathan Sharansky (paperback)
4. **Artemis**, by Andy Weir (hardcover)
5. **We were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy**, by Ta-Nehisi Coates (hardcover)
6. **Lincoln in the Bardo**, by George Saunders (hardcover)
7. **Leonardo Da Vinci**, by Walter Isaacson (hardcover)
8. **All the Light We Cannot See**, by Anthony Doerr (paperback)
9. **Between the World and Me**, by Ta-Nehisi Coates (hardcover)
10. **Turtles All the Way Down**, by John Green (hardcover)

HOT BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Obama: An Intimate Portrait, by Pete Souza

During Barack Obama's two terms, Pete Souza was with the president during more crucial moments than anyone else — and he photographed them all. Souza captured nearly two million photographs of President Obama, in moments highly classified and disarmingly candid.

Obama: An Intimate Portrait reproduces more than 300 of Souza's most iconic photographs with fine-art print quality in an oversize collectible format. Together they document the most consequential hours of the presidency — including the historic image of President Obama and his advisors in the White House Situation Room during the Bin Laden mission — alongside unguarded moments with the president's family, his encounters with children, interactions with world leaders and cultural figures, and more.

Blitt, by Barry Blitt

A gorgeous, hilarious, and provocative compendium of the award-winning artist's illustrations for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and more.

Barry Blitt's cartoons have been lampooning American politics and culture for decades. His iconic *New Yorker* covers are defining images for our times, earning him adoration from critics and fans and piles of hate mail from everyone else. Featuring the author's hand-scrawled annotations and self-deprecating witticisms, more than 100 never-before-seen sketches and drafts, and essays from Blitt's collaborators and peers, including Frank Rich, Françoise Mouly, and Steve Brodner, *Blitt* is a visual delight and a rollicking trip into the mind of an utterly original artist.

This Book Is a Planetarium, by Kelli Anderson

Defying every expectation of what a book can be, this pop-up extravaganza transforms into six fully functional tools: a real working planetarium projecting the constellations, a musical instrument complete with strings for strumming, a geometric drawing generator, an infinite calendar, a message decoder, and even a speaker that amplifies sound. Artist Kelli Anderson contributes enlightening text alongside each pop-up, explaining the scientific principles at play in her constructions and creating an interactive experience that's as educational as it is extraordinary.

San Francisco Noir, by Fred Lyon

In this latest offering from the photographer of *San Francisco: Portrait of a City 1940-1960*, Lyon presents a darker tone, exploring the hidden corners of his native city. Images taken in the foggy night are illuminated only by neon signs, classic car headlights, apartment windows, or streetlights. Sharply dressed couples stroll out for evening shows, drivers travel down steep hills, and sailors work through the night at the old Fisherman's Wharf. Stylistically, many of the photographs are experimental; the noir tone is enhanced by double exposures, elements of collage, and blurred motion. These strikingly evocative duotone images expose a view of San Francisco as only Fred Lyon could capture.

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

Snyder
continued from 14

mas-themed TV movies that clog the Hallmark and Lifetime channels every December, we do have a few perennials on the air: the beloved cartoon special led by the ever-watchable feast of Peanuts characters, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; marathon showings of the Depression-era family comedy from 1983, *A Christmas Story*; the annual presentation of Frank Capra's sweetly sentimental 1946 tear-jerker *It's a Wonderful Life*; and cable airings of other classics such as the 1951 English version of *A Christmas Carol*, starring Alistair Sim as Scrooge (which would definitely be worth watching after seeing *The Man Who Invented Christmas*).

So what's new, other than a lot more Hallmark and Lifetime fodder such as *My Christmas Prince*, *Snowed-Inn Christmas*, and *Magical Christmas Ornaments*? There will be some Christmas episodes of ongoing series including *Will & Grace*, *Family Guy*, and *Call the Midwife*. Coinciding with the release of her frothy Christmas album, ex-punk/funk singer and recent TV music-competition judge Gwen Stefani has a variety special on NBC (Dec. 12, 9 p.m.). And how about a live musical version of *A Christmas Story* on

Fox (Dec. 17, 7 p.m.), riding the coattails of the aforementioned movie? Slim pickings, but there are always the old movies, as well as classic reruns like the *I Love Lucy Christmas Special* on CBS (Dec. 22, 8 p.m.).

MUSIC

I could just put the Vince Guaraldi Trio's lighter-than-air soft-jazz soundtrack to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the glorious orchestral soul-rock of *A Christmas Gift for You from Phil Spector*, or any number of timeless tracks by Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, the Beach Boys, Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney, U2, Mariah Carey, and so forth on repeat and be happy. But Santa has a slew of fresh Christmas albums in his sack. Besides Gwen Stefani's *You Make It Feel Like Christmas*, (including a duet with significant other Blake Shelton, who has his own current Christmas disc, *Cheers, It's Christmas*, in the marketplace), there are new releases from the vocal group Pentatonix (*A Pentatonix Christmas Deluxe*), neo-classical violinist Lindsey Stirling (*Warmer in the Winter*), rockers Cheap Trick (*Christmas Christmas*), art-pop singer-songwriter Sia (*Everyday Is Christmas*), grown-up boy band 98 Degrees (*Let It Snow*), soulful *American Idol* winner Fantasia (*Christmas After Midnight*), fraternal rock band Hanson (*Finally It's Christmas*),



A Very Merry Misfit Cabaret. PHOTO: COURTESY KAT ROBICHAUD

pop-jazz icon Herb Alpert (*The Christmas Wish*), and — yee-haw-fa-la-la! — country group Alabama (*American Christmas*). And those are just a few berries on the mistletoe when you consider rereleases (Frank Sinatra's *Ultimate Christmas*) and the latest multiartist compilations (*This Is Christmas*) now available.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Sure, you'll feel the joy if you attend the San Francisco Ballet's evergreen presentation of *The Nutcracker*, with Helgi Tomasson's elegant choreography to the magnificent music of Tchaikovsky (Dec.13-30, War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue). And you can't go wrong at ACT's annual

production of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, as adapted by Carey Perloff and Paul Walsh (Dec. 1-24, Geary Theater, 415 Geary Street). But allow me to recommend something delightfully different: Kat Robichaud's *A Very Merry Misfit Cabaret*, the latest in the prodigiously talented singer-songwriter-impresario's series of variety shows at the refurbished Great Star Theater in Chinatown, mixing musical theater, rock 'n' roll and vaudeville (Dec. 15-30, Great Star Theater, 636 Jackson Street). Her most recent production, *Horror Show*, was a fun, funny, fantastical Halloween treat. Going by experience, Kat's Christmas spectacular will be a theater-sized stocking stuffed with singing, dancing, and theatrical vignettes with burlesque, drag, and more — with music accompaniment from her accomplished band, the Darling Misfits. Kat promises to celebrate or lampoon every Christmas special from your childhood in campy, naughty, and delirious fashion. Believe it!

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

Urgent Care For The Whole Family

- + After hours and weekend care
- + In network with most major insurance plans
- + Save your spot online and view wait times
- + Walk-ins welcome
- + Onsite X-ray and lab
- + Referrals to specialists as needed



Marina

3259 Pierce St,
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 965-7942

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm
Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
Open 365 days a year

Dignity Health | GoHealth
URGENT CARE

Save your spot online or just walk in
GoHealthUC.com

DECEMBER EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

LIGHTINGS & MORE



31st Annual Macy's Holiday Windows

Daily through Jan. 1 (except Dec. 25)
Macy's Union Square

The SF/SPCA's magical Holiday Windows adoption outreach program returns to find homes for kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs while raising funds for the group's programs. SPCA volunteers will be on hand to introduce the animals and the adoption process. *Free viewing, 415-554-3000, sfsPCA.org*

PHOTO: CHRIS W. / YELP.COM

Home for the Holidays at Carolwood
Wed.–Mon. through Jan. 8, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Walt Disney Family Museum (104 Montgomery St., the Presidio)

The intricate scale model of Walt's Holmby Hills home will be decorated with seasonal lights and features Walt's personal steam locomotive. Beginning Dec. 6, the museum will invite one lucky family to be the first to flip the switch each morning. Exhibition includes family and company Christmas cards and more, including December screenings of Christmas with Walt Disney. *Free with admission (\$25), 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org*

Winter Lights in Golden Gate Park
Thursday, Dec. 7, 4–8 p.m.
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park (501 Stanyan St.)

Don't miss the 88th annual Golden Gate park holiday tree lighting, including carnival rides, a cookie factory, arts and crafts for kids, a visit from Santa, music, and live entertainment. Santa will arrive shortly before the official tree lighting ceremony (6 p.m.) *Free, sfrecpark.org*

Presidio Holiday Lights & Forest Walk
Friday, Dec. 8, 5–6:30 p.m.
Lincoln Blvd. (at Funston Ave.)

Join this decades-old Presidio tradition featuring the Golden Gate Carolers. Light refreshments and kids' activities will follow at the Presidio Community YMCA (63 Funston Ave.) as well as a lantern-lit 20-minute forest walk (6:30 p.m.). Bring a flashlight and meet in the YMCA gym. *RSVP requested. Free, 415-561-4323, presidio.gov*

15th Annual Parol Lantern Festival & Parade

Saturday, Dec. 9, 5–9 p.m.
Yerba Buena Gardens, Jessie Square, & St. Patrick's Church

The Bay Area's Filipino community gathers for a festive celebration of holiday spirit, hope, unity, and pride to the glow of hundreds of lights from colorful handcrafted parol lanterns. Enjoy holiday treats, live music, and a parol lantern exhibition. *415-239-0249, kularts.org*

Bill Graham Menorah Lighting
Daily, Dec. 12–19
Union Square

Activities include a parade (Saturday, Dec. 16), Bill Graham Memorial Day (Sunday, Dec. 17) with kids' activities, and the Grand Finale (Tuesday, Dec. 19). Visit website for details and times. *Free, billgrahammenorah.org*

First Responders Candle Lighting
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m.
JCCSF (3200 California St.)

Join this second night of Hanukkah and stand in solidarity with those who lost so much, and with those who ran toward danger in honor of the San Francisco Fire Department and the first responders in the North Bay fires. *Free, 415-292-1200, jccsf.org*

Lighted Boat Parade

Friday, Dec. 15, 6–8 p.m.

Pier 39 to Crissy Field & return

The oldest and largest lighted boat holiday parade returns and features more than 60 boats festooned with lights and holiday decorations. *Free, 415-673-3530, visitfishermanswharf.com*

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

32nd Annual Japanese New Year Bell-Ringing Ceremony

Saturday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum

Participate in the striking of the 16th-century bronze bell to leave behind any negative experiences, wrong deeds, and ill luck of 2017. First come, first served; pick up tickets at admission desk. *Free with museum admission (\$15), 415-581-3500, asianart.org*

007 | S.F. New Year's Eve 2018

Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

War Memorial & Performing Arts Center (401 Van Ness Ave.)

Celebrate at the hottest, most sophisticated and glamorous New Year's Eve event with a James Bond celebratory theme party featuring many elements and scenes from beloved and legendary Bond movies. Includes food from Taste of the Bay, entertainment, and more. Proceeds benefit Redwood Credit Union North Bay Fire Relief Fund. *\$49 & up, eventbrite.com*

New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise

Saturday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.– 1 a.m.

S.F. Belle (Pier 3)

Enjoy live entertainment, dancing, a huge roof deck for fireworks viewing, premium cocktails, buffet dinner, festive party favors, a boarding photo, and more. *\$261, 415-438-8300, hornblower.com*

COMMUNITY CORNER

S.F. Firefighters Toy Program

Daily

Any S.F. firehouse

In its 68th year of helping children, the S.F. Firefighters Toy Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys. *Alternatively, donate monetarily at sffirefightertoys.org. 415-777-044*



SFPD Holiday Toy Drive

Daily through Dec. 19

All S.F. Walgreens locations

Drop off unwrapped and new toys for distribution to underprivileged children. *Alternatively, donate monetarily at gofundme.com/sfpdtoydrive2017.*

Project Glimmer: Boxing Joy

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 3–4, 10 a.m.–noon & 1–3 p.m.

Pier 70

Volunteer to wrap, count, and prepare holiday gifts for at-risk teenage girls and women. After-shift special menus and happy hour available off site. Registration required. *Free, projectglimmer.org/volunteer*

Christmas Outreach

Pre-Christmas Outreach: Saturday, Dec. 9, 9:30–2 p.m.

Christmas Outreach: Monday, Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

S.F. City Impact (136 Taylor St. & 230 Jones St.)

The Pre-Christmas event features a Youth Outreach and Kids' Christmas Party, building parties, and meal deliveries in over 40 buildings. Join hundreds of volunteers for a street closure for the Christmas event with sit down meals, a street cafe for community residents, building parties, and meal deliveries in over 35 buildings. *Free, 415-292-1770, sfcityimpact.com*

Kwanzaa San Francisco

Daily, Dec. 26–Jan. 1

Various S.F. locations

The values of Kwanzaa, Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles), are critical tools for addressing the issues facing the African-American community. Opening day begins at the Museum of the Africa Diaspora (noon) with a day of blues and its history in the Bay Area. The celebration includes 15 free celebrations in seven neighborhoods. *Visit website for schedule. Free, kwanzaasanfrancisco.com*

GALAS & BENEFITS

Help is on the Way for the Holidays XVI

Monday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Marines' Memorial Theater (609 Sutter St.)

Benefiting Project Open Hand and Larkin Street Youth Services, this gala and concert includes entertainment by the cast of Disney's Aladdin with special guests Kimberley Locke, Jake Simpson, Shawn Ryan, Kim Nalley, and others. *\$60 & up, 415-273-1620, reaf-sf.org/*

8th Annual Holiday Heroes

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

AT&T Park

Raise funds and awareness for Bay Area at-risk children and enjoy arts and crafts activities, video games, photo opportunities, food and beverages, holiday cookie decorating, a silent auction, rare access to the Giants batting tunnels and dugout, Barry Bonds, members from Disney's Aladdin, and more. *\$175 & up, 650-321-4142, wenderweis.org*

THEATER



ACT: A Christmas Carol

Most days through Dec. 24

Geary Theater (405 Geary St.)

Featuring a lively cast of dozens, gorgeous costumes, and those deliciously spooky ghosts, the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition returns with a sparkling, music-infused production of this timeless classic. *\$22–\$160, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org*

PHOTO: ACT-SF.ORG / KEVIN BERNE

BATS Improv: Songs for A Sixpence

Saturdays, Dec. 2–30, 8 p.m.

Bayfront Theatre, Fort Mason Center

In the spirit of *Oliver* and *A Christmas Carol*, performers create improvised songs, music, dances, and more. Experience joy and laughter at original improvised performances in honor of Charles Dickens and his lovable characters and novels. *\$17–\$20, 415-474-6776, improv.org*

25th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy

Sat.–Mon., Dec. 23–25, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

New Asia Restaurant (772 Pacific Ave.)

Enjoy this uniquely Bay Area holiday tradition of Jewish comedy and delicious Chinese cuisine. Visit website for guest lineup. A portion of proceeds benefit North Bay fire relief and the Puerto Rico hurricane. *\$52 & \$72, 925-743-1292, koshercomedy.com*

MUSIC

A Merri-achi Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Experience a truly international celebration in this musical tribute to Mexico's Christmas traditions, with the ensemble singing and playing holiday favorites from both Mexico and America in a vibrant performance that will have the whole family dancing in the aisles. *\$30–\$85, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org*

American Bach Soloists:

Handel's Messiah

Wed.–Fri., Dec. 13–15, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Cathedral

American Bach Soloists present their celebrated annual performance of Handel's masterpiece. *\$20–\$125, 415-621-7900, americanbach.org*

Holiday Sing-Along

Friday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

Presidio Officer's Club (50 Moraga Ave.)

Gather around the piano to share music and holiday cheer, led by performers from 42nd Street Moon. Festive drinks from Arguello restaurant will be available for purchase. *Free, registration requested, 415-561-4400, presidio.gov*

Kitka: Wintersongs

Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.

Old First Presbyterian Church

(1751 Sacramento St.)

This critically acclaimed and wildly popular winter holiday program highlights seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. *\$25, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org*



A Chanticleer Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 17, 8–10 p.m.

St. Ignatius Church (650 Parker St.)

The program includes candle-lit Gregorian chant, Morales, Gonzalez, Victoria, Poulenc, Sweelinck, and traditional carols, gospel, and spirituals in this popular Christmas program. *\$35–\$75, 415-252-8589, chanticleer.org*

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM.COM/CHANTICLEERSF

S.F. Girls Chorus: Greetings From All Seasons

Monday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Through the collection of stories from the diverse traditions of the choristers' respective holiday experiences, this unique program was formed to tell a special holiday tale that ranges from Beltane to Luminaria, Hannukah, Victory Day, Holi, Nawrouz, and Christmas, and from Mexico, to Haiti, Syria, Ireland, Armenia, China. *\$25, 415-863-1752, sfgirlschorus.org*

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

Slim's (333 11th St.)

This multiracial and multicultural choir promotes a message of faith, hope, love, and joy in a rollicking, feel-good, energy-packed show that's the best way yet to spend a Christmas Eve. *Ages 6 & up. \$15, 415-255-0333, slims-sf.com*

Brian Setzer Orchestra: Christmas Rocks

Sunday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m.

The Warfield Theatre

Expect a wild evening from one of music's great guitarists and vocalists and three-time Grammy Award winner, in this annual extravaganza with his 19-piece orchestra performing their top hits as well as classic Christmas songs, plus inspired guitar work by Seltzer himself. *\$49.50–\$69.50, thewarfieldtheatre.com*

DANCE

32nd Annual Dance-Along Nutcracker

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 9–10

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

This year's show, Nutcrackers of the Caribbean, is a high seas adventure blended with Tchaikovsky's classic fairytale. *\$30, 415-978-2787, ybca.org*

S.F. Ballet: The Nutcracker

Wed.–Sun., Dec. 13–17

Tue.–Sun., Dec. 19–26 (except Dec. 25)

War Memorial Opera House

A tradition since 1944, this annual production is set in early 20th-century San Francisco. Join the adventures of the Nutcracker, the Mouse King, and Clara. *Ages 5 & up, \$25–\$445, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org*

Smuin Ballet: The Christmas Ballet
Thu.–Sun., Dec. 14–17
Wed.–Sat., Dec. 20–24
YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)
This enormously popular holiday celebration returns with equal parts sugar and spice, and something for both the naughty and nice, from ballet, tap, and swing to other dances drawn from holiday traditions from around the world in two acts: Classical Christmas and Cool Christmas, which includes the iconic “Santa Baby.” \$25–\$89, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

Russian Grand Ballet: The Nutcracker
Thursday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
This full-length classical production features Russia’s brightest ballet stars and the choreography of Marius Petipa. \$25–\$75, palaceoffinearts.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Cookie Decorating Workshop
Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 23–24, 10 a.m.
Sur La Table (2224 Union St.)
In this fun, hands-on class, you’ll master the simple techniques for transforming royal icing and sugar cookies into edible art, learn how to incorporate colors into icing, and use the flooding method to create professional-style designs. \$69, 800-243-0852, surlatable.com

Annual Crab Feed
Thursday, Dec. 7, 6–11 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
This event held among the Christmas trees sells out every year. Start with cocktails, then enjoy a fresh crab and pasta dinner, and finish with dancing to benefit at-risk youth. \$95, 415-856-0939, guardsmen.org

2nd Annual North Beach Holiday Wine Walk
Thursday, Dec. 14, 4–8 p.m.
Grant & Columbus Aves. & Vallejo & Green Sts.
The tasting event will include merchants offering wine samples and special treats inside their stores. Pick up tickets, map, and glass at Belle Cora (565 Green St.). \$25–\$30, 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com

SPORTS



Great Santa Run 5K
Sunday, Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m.
Starts/Ends: Crissy Field (across from Sports Basement)
This 3.09-mile figure-eight course around Crissy Field is flat, fast, and scenic; the Rudolph one-miler along the dirt trail starts at 9 a.m. (\$25). Santa suits provided in race packet. Proceeds benefit Sonoma County high school cross-country teams impacted by fire devastation. Family/team discounts available. \$50, titanium-racing.com
PHOTO: GREATSANTARUNSF.COM

Santa Skivvies Run
Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.
Check in: The LookOut (3600 16th St.)
Don your favorite festive costume, or strip down to your undies to raise awareness and fight HIV/AIDS and benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in this approximately one-mile run through the Castro. \$45, 415-487-3114, santaskivviesrun.org

Miracle Mile/5K Holiday Classic
Sunday, Dec. 17, 8:15 & 9 a.m.
Starts: Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park
Run in either race or both to benefit the UCSF Diabetes Center. \$40 (Miracle Mile), \$40 (5K), \$60 (both). 415-760-9000, miraclemile.ucsf.edu

CHILD’S PLAY

ODC: The Velveteen Rabbit
Thu.–Sun. Dec. 7–10
YBCA Theater (701 Mission St.)
Celebrate this Bay Area holiday tradition through music, dance, and a powerful narrative, in a story that celebrates the unique relationship between a little boy and his stuffed rabbit, and the enduring power of love. \$15, 415-978-2700, ybca.org

Mark Foehringer’s Nutcracker Sweets
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 9–10 & Dec. 16–17
Fri.–Sat., Dec. 22–23
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center
This unique magical, zany, and fun 50-minute production of the classic holiday ballet is designed for families with young children. \$21–\$43, (628) 400-1348, nutcrackersweets.org

SFS Youth Orchestra: Peter and The Wolf
Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Hear Prokofiev’s timeless musical fable of a boy and his animal friends narrated by actor Zachary Quinto. The SFSYO accompanies and performs other holiday classics. \$13–\$38, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

Mittens & Mistletoe: A Winter Circus Cabaret
Daily (except Dec. 25), Dec. 22–28
Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St.)
This charming, light-hearted, all-ages variety program features innovative clowning, spectacular circus feats, and holiday hijinks performed by some of the most talented Bay Area and international theatrical circus artists. \$18–\$60, 415-225-7281, sweetcanproductions.com

JUST FOR FUN



Italian Christmas Market
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 2–3
Museo Italo Americano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center
Enjoy the fifth annual Mercatino di Natale at the Museo in collaboration with Forchette Tricolore. Inspired by the famous Christmas markets in Northern Italy and throughout most of Europe, this event will exude the warm atmosphere of Christmas and features artisanal Italian food, handmade jewelry, Italian fashion and accessories, art objects, and other unique craft items all made by Italian artisans. Free, 415-673-2200, sfmuseo.org

Holiday Wreath Design Workshop
Thursday, Dec. 7, 6–8 p.m.
Hotel Zoe S.F. (425 North Point St.)
Get ready for the holidays with a class dedicated to crafting festive wreaths. Includes a holiday cocktail. \$60, eventbrite.com

7th Annual SFMade Holiday Gift Fair
Sunday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Calif. College of the Arts (111 8th St.)
Discover locally made gift items including jewelry, gourmet gifts, coffee, chocolate, wine, home items, bags, body products, men’s and women’s apparel, children’s wear, pet gear, and stationery from over 70 vendors. Free, 415-408-5605, sfmade.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

Calendar listings

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

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

CELEBRATE THE SEASON ON UNION STREET



IT'LL BE AN **ELFIN'** GOOD TIME

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION- SAT, DEC. 2ND!

3:00–7:00PM – ORNAMENT DECORATING – SANTA – PONY RIDES
COSTUMED CHARACTERS – HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE – TREATS AND MORE!

THE GREAT UNION STREET ELF HUNT WITH PRIZES!

DEC. 2ND THROUGH DEC. 10TH – DOWNLOAD THE ELF HUNT MAP FROM WEBSITE
OR PICK ONE UP AT JEST JEWELS, 1869 UNION STREET

SHOP AND DINE UNDER AWARD WINNING TWINKLING LIGHTS!

VISIT WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS: SRESPRODUCTIONS.COM – 800-310-6563



Outreach Ads December 2017

The Arts Commission in partnership with the San Francisco War Memorial is proud to host our first every Holiday Art Market inside the Veterans Building lobby. Shop handmade arts and crafts by local artists. Support artists that live and work in San Francisco.

Monday, December 4, 2017
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

War Memorial Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

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.

Commissioners work diligently 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.

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.

Visit our website www.sfgov.org/yc, email YouthCom@sfgov.org, or call (415) 554-6446 for information about upcoming meetings!

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings December Meetings

Come and see your local government at work, the Board of Supervisors hold weekly meetings most Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. in Rm. 250 of San Francisco City Hall.

- December 5
- December 12

You can also view them online at www.sfgovtv.org .

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

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

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

CNS-3074448#

YOUR BIG GREEN EGG® HEADQUARTERS!

Season's Eatings!

No other outdoor cooker can match the quality and versatility of a Big Green Egg – it truly is The Ultimate Cooking Experience!

NORTH BEACH
627 Vallejo Street
(at Columbus Avenue)
415/200-2215

SOMA
345 Ninth Street
(near Folsom Street)
415/200-2154

ROCKRIDGE
5533 College Avenue
(a few steps from Rockridge BART)
510/230-0145

RUSSIAN HILL
2254 Polk Street
(at Green Street)
415/200-3370

COLE VALLEY
956 Cole Street
(at Parnassus)
415/319-6705

DOWNTOWN
70 Fourth Street
(between Mission & Market)
415/200-3444

www.colehardware.com

Are You Insured For The Proper Coverage Amount?

Find out how you can get guaranteed replacement for your home – Ask Us How Today!

Specializing In High Value Homeowner Insurance Needs

Home • Auto • Umbrella • Valuable Articles

Representing the Finest Insurance Carriers

Chubb • NatGen Premier • Nationwide Private Client • Travelers

Secure Your Future With The Best.

Call Al Zeidler Today
415-753-1936

Serving San Francisco and The Greater Bay Area Since 1997

CA License #: 0B96630 AZ License #: 930303 MA License #: 1914165

— AL ZEIDLER —

INSURANCE

A BOUTIQUE AGENCY INSURING ALL YOUR NEEDS, FROM A TO Z

TRUSTED GREEN CLEANING SERVICE

\$75 OFF

Weekly or BiWeekly Service For Common Areas or Residences

Common Areas Turnovers

\$25 OFF

Your Next Turnover or Move Out Clean

415-546-8000 marvelmaids.com

Health Caring :: Asked and answered

Most common health questions asked during the holidays

BY CHRISTOPHER BIALECKI

DECEMBER MARKS one of the happiest months of the year; however, from family visits to holiday traveling, the season can also be stressful. It's important to remember to focus on your health and safety as you navigate through the holiday season. Read below for the most common health questions (and answers) asked during the holidays, courtesy of Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care, one of San Francisco's fastest-growing urgent care providers.

HOW CAN I AVOID GETTING SICK DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Holiday traditions often mean going to crowded areas: the mall, holiday parties, the theater, and so forth. So what can you do to avoid the spreading germs? Wash your hands often, and make sure you scrub for at least 20 seconds, before rinsing under running water. Although washing your hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer can also reduce the number of germs on your hands. Another simple way to avoid getting sick is to get fresh air, even if it's cold outside. The reason we tend to get sick when it's colder is we're inside where germs get trapped and can spread more easily. Finally, don't forget to hydrate. Drinking more fluids can boost your immune system and help you fight illness.

I GOT A COLD ANYWAY, WHAT NOW?

You know what they say about the best-laid plans ... chances are despite your best efforts, you or your kids will get a few colds this season. Pay close attention to your cold symptoms for any sign of progressive worsening. A fever isn't necessarily bad; it can indicate that the body is fighting off the infection, but if a fever lasts longer than two or three days, seek medical attention. If you or your child aren't responding to home treatment or you don't feel comfortable providing home treatment for your child's level of illness, visit your nearest Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care center. Med-

PHOTO: DIGNITY HEALTH-GOHEALTH URGENT CARE

ical professionals can address and treat these cold symptoms immediately, with no need to wait for your child's pediatrician to have an opening or to make a costly emergency room visit.

HOW DO I DEAL WITH HOLIDAY STRESS?

One way to reduce stress is to exercise. Exercise is good for you for many reasons because it relieves stress and improves muscular function and strength. Whether you do cardio exercises like running or cycling, or flexibility workouts like yoga or Pilates, you can't go wrong with daily exercise. If you're exercising regularly, you're not sedentary — a sedentary lifestyle is a major risk factor for multiple diseases, including cardiovascular disease.

Also, it sounds cliché, but try to get a good night's sleep. To truly reap the benefits of a good night's sleep, it needs to be quality sleep. Getting not just the right amount of sleep, but also the right quality of sleep can do wonders for your health. To get the best sleep possible, keep your room cool, skip water right before sleeping, listen to calm music, don't shower if you normally shower in the morning because it will give your brain a misleading message, sleep without your pet to avoid awakening from its movement, and try an air purifier to help improve allergy symptoms.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET A NASTY BURN WHILE COOKING?

First, try not to panic. To mitigate the initial pain, run the burnt area under lukewarm or cool water (not icy cold, which can actually damage the sensitized tissue) for 10 to 15 minutes. In addition to soothing the pain, the cool water can keep the burn from worsening. Once the area calms down, you'll need to assess the severity. For mild burns (scalded by hot water), use aloe and soothing creams to treat the pain, but avoid cotton ball wraps. Materials that are rough on the surface of the burn will only worsen the burn area. For severe burns (touched something burning hot like an electric coil on the stove), avoid cotton wraps. Soothe and protect the area with antibiotic creams. Over-the-counter pain medication such as ibuprofen can minimize painful symptoms.

Treating your burn properly prevents complications and infection. Untreated burns are more likely to result in long-term scarring or be vulnerable to bacteria that infect the sensitized, damaged tissue. Those who are five years behind on a tetanus booster run the additional risk of contracting the tetanus bacterial infection from a burn. Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care centers are poised to provide comprehensive burn care services with minimal wait.

We hope you have a safe holiday season!

Christopher Bialecki heads business development in the San Francisco Bay Area for Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care, the largest urgent care provider in the San Francisco Bay Area. Come visit your neighborhood center at 3259 Pierce Street (near Chestnut), or call 415-965-7942, and learn how Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care can serve your urgent health care needs. Learn more at GoHealthUC.com.

This article is sponsored by Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care.

18 :: DECEMBER 2017

MARINA TIMES :: MARINATIMES.COM

Family fun for the holidays

BY LIZ FARRELL

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

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

There are so many great family-friendly holiday movies and no better way to slow things down than to snuggle up with a Christmas classic. Because the ages in our house range from preschooler to tween, we have to choose wisely. For help making those choices, I always rely on Common Sense Media. Every

year it puts together a great list for all ages of family-friendly movies for the holidays, which can be found at commonsensemedia.org/lists/best-holiday-movies-for-kids. This site not only lists all the great movies, but it tells parents what to look out for. One of my

We love the Presidio tree lighting, which consists of carolers and even a lantern-lit evening forest walk.

favorites, *A Christmas Story*, takes on a whole different meaning when watching it as a parent with my kids. Or how *Home Alone* can be very funny with all the slapstick humor, but can also leave kids with questions like, "could this happen to me?" In the site's reviews, it's all laid out so you can find the best pick for your family. Whether it is *Frosty the Snowman* or *Love Actually*, watching these movies together immediately puts my family in the holiday spirit.

LIGHTINGS AND LIGHTS

If you are looking for a little outdoor fun to feel festive,

there are plenty of tree lightings. Some of the big ones are at Union Square, Pier 39, and the Ritz Carlton hotel. However, our family's favorite is kid-friendly and close to home. We love the Presidio tree lighting, which consists of carolers and a countdown to light the tree and then includes snacks, arts and crafts, and even a lantern-lit evening forest walk. This year it will be held on Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. (presidio.gov).

Another favorite festive tradition is to pack a "car picnic" and drive around to see Christmas lights in different neighborhoods. Yelp.com has reviews of some of the best houses or places to check out. We have found some amazing displays in Marin and in the East Bay, but there are plenty right here in San Francisco, including the famous Tom and Jerry Christmas House in Dolores Heights (3650 21st Street).

TRIM THE TREE

One of our family's favorite traditions has always been the day we set aside to pick out and decorate our tree. Recently, due to my son's allergies, we have had to go the fake route. An upside is



Get the entire family involved in decorating. PHOTO: MONKEYBUSINESSIMAGES

the amount of time saved getting the tree set up and putting the lights on. This used to be a few-hour ordeal (I like a lot of lights), and now it takes 15 minutes, which leaves a lot more time to decorate.

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

for "their year" deciding how the family will commemorate the year. They can be made with pictures or as a craft with signatures or made online.

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

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

MARINA FAMILY CHECKLIST:

- ☒ 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



Let me help you complete your checklist because I get the 94123. I live, work, and play here... ®

Alexander Mulder Paragon Real Estate Group

cell: 415-860-6422 | alex@94123sf.com | www.94123sf.com | Lic. #01090426

Analytics-Based. Luxury Focused. Results Driven.®



Phil's Electric Co.

SINCE 1941 **SALES SERVICE PARTS**

SPECIALIZING IN

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



Expert
**LAMP
REPAIR**

ELECTRIC SHAVERS: **BRAUN • NORELCO • REMINGTON**

Introducing the New
**SEBO E3 PREMIUM
VACUUM SYSTEM**

- 5 year warranty
- 37 foot cleaning radius
- Large capacity bags
- Hepa S class filtration for allergy relief



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

VISIT THE FACTORY!

1400 Minnesota @ 25th

WEEKDAY TOURS 9AM-2PM

FactoryTours@McRoskey.com
415.874.7521

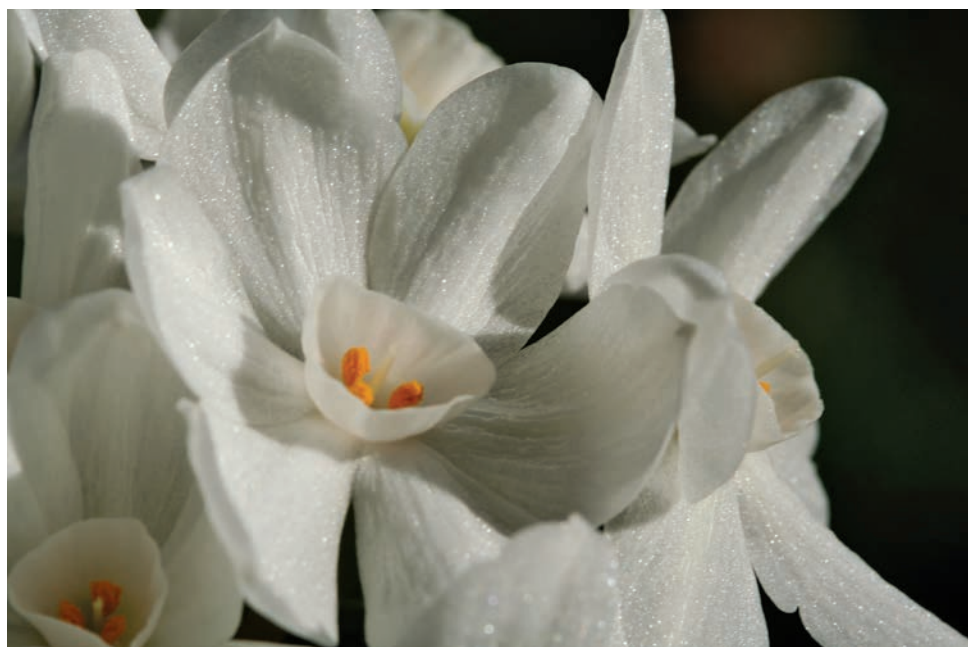
CELEBRATING 118 YEARS IN SAN FRANCISCO

McROSKEY

LUXURY BEDS – SAN FRANCISCO 1899

PALO ALTO | SAN FRANCISCO | McROSKEY.COM

Urban Home and Garden : Bloom in the gloom



Paperwhite narcissus are the easiest flowers to force for winter blooms. PHOTO: BEEZHIVE

Forcing bulbs for winter color

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

AFTER THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR of the holidays subside, give your home or office color with forced bulbs. Start now so you can enjoy blossoming flowers in the rainy months of the new year.

The term “forcing” refers to the practice of inducing a plant to produce its shoot, leaf, and flower ahead of its natural schedule and out of its natural environment. To force bulbs, one mimics and compresses the process that the plant would naturally undergo outdoors.

Smaller (minor) bulbs such as scilla, muscari, and crocuses force equally as well as the large (major) bulbs — daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Daffodils, narcissi, crocuses, muscari, and other bulbs look great in groups of three, five, or more. Hyacinths look quite handsome when planted singly or in groups.

Dense plantings are recommended for minor bulbs. Either a plastic or clay pot may be used. (If using clay, soak it first for several hours to saturate its pores.) Place a few pieces of broken crockery over the drainage holes.

MOISTURE AND DRAINAGE

Bulbs require both moisture and perfect drainage; thus an equal mixture of potting soil, sand, and perlite is best. Mix thoroughly and moisten with enough water to get a damp consistency. Fill your pot half-full of soil mix. Plant bulbs with the pointed ends up, as close together as possible. Tulip and other bulbs with a flat side should be planted with the flat side facing the edge of the container. This will allow the first leaves to form a border around the edge of the pot. Adjust the soil level until the tops of the bulbs reach the rim of the container. Add enough soil mix to fill the pot and water the bulbs thoroughly from the top or immerse in a tub of water — this will settle the soil around the bulbs. Label each pot with the name of the cultivar, date of planting, and date to bring out of cold storage.

Hyacinths, crocuses, and narcissi can be grown in pebbles and water. Keep amaryllis, freesia, and paperwhites in a sunny spot from now on. (They do not require the following “cool and dark” treatment.) The amaryllis will bloom in six to eight weeks. See “forcing paperwhites” below.

THE COOL AND DARK TREATMENT

After planting, place the pots in a cool, dark place, such as an unheated garage. Cold storage is a critical step in

the forcing process. Ideally, temperatures should be 35° to 48° F. If necessary, set boxes, pots, or black garbage bags over your potted bulbs to keep them dark. The medium should be kept moist through the rooting and cooling period. After five or six weeks, the roots should emerge out of the bottom of the containers of the large hardy bulbs. Forcing will take about 12 weeks for the early-blooming bulbs (snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils) and about 16 weeks for the tulips.

When you see the shoots two to three inches above the soil and fine white roots emerging from the drainage holes, it's time to bring the pots out of cold storage. At this stage of development, move the bulbs to a cool location, such as an unheated room, where the temperatures are in the 50s. Bulbs should be placed in indirect lighting and not be allowed to dry out. Feed weekly with a half-strength solution of houseplant fertilizer. Turning the pots every day or so keeps the flower stems straight and strong. In a week or two, the stems will elongate and the buds will become plump. When the foliage and buds are well developed, move the pots to a bright, sunny window where temperatures are near 65° F. Once the flowers begin to open, take the plants out of direct sunlight to prolong the bloom.

FORCING PAPERWHITE BULBS

To get the most bang with the least amount of effort, try forcing paperwhite narcissi. This bulb does not require the chilling treatment in its forcing process and it blooms in about six weeks. You can continue the process every two weeks until you can no longer find them — usually late winter to spring.

You can either force paperwhites in nondraining dishes with pebbles or gravel, or in draining containers using potting soil. Select shallow dishes. Fill pots partially with potting mixture. Put in just enough so that when bulbs are added the tops of the bulbs will be just below the top of the pot. Place the bulbs pointed side up in the pot. Pack them in as tightly as you can and fill the rest of the pot with enough potting mixture to cover bulbs, but leaving enough room to water. Water thoroughly and place the pot in a warm, well-lighted indoor location (such as a sunny window) and keep the soil moist. Provide as much light as possible while the foliage is growing. Once the buds form, you can move the pots to any location.

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

If you talk the talk, you better walk the walk

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

(Part 3 of a 3-part series on the complex relationship between animal shelters and activists.)

PUTTING POLITICS ASIDE TO WORK FOR A COMMON CAUSE

Activists often accuse shelters of “killing animals,” when in reality the fault lies with irresponsible owners who don’t spay and neuter their pets (that’s a whole other column) and with the cities, counties, and states that make funding and legislative decisions. This is not to say shelters don’t need citizen watchdogs (no pun intended), but the action needs to be focused on the animals, not personal politics. When volunteers and activists align their energy and passion, change happens. I know this from experience.

PROBLEMS AT SFSPCA

In spring 2009, I began receiving letters and phone calls from rescue groups regarding problems at the San Francisco SPCA. Soon volunteers at the powerful organization chimed in. After other, larger publications including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *SF Weekly*, and the *San Francisco Examin-*

er had ignored their concerns, I decided to work with them. The story was larger than I could have imagined. As an undercover volunteer with Rocket Dog Rescue, I discovered that, while the organization was soliciting donations from San Francisco residents, SFSPCA was taking the majority of their dogs from other counties and even other states.

Then-president Jan McHugh-Smith and then-vice president Dori Villalon (who between them pulled down more than half a million dollars in annual salaries) were picking and choosing purebreds and “cute and fluffies” from “high kill” shelters, primarily in the Central Valley — dogs that would be easily adopted and increase the SFSPCA’s live release rate — thus increasing donations.

In addition, SFSPCA was regularly refusing dogs from San Francisco Animal Care and Control, the city’s shelter, especially pit bulls, Chihuahuas, and medical and behavioral cases. Those animals, which I termed “throwaway dogs,” were at the mercy of crowded, underfunded SFACC and the small, grassroots rescue groups. In turn, those rescues took in more dogs each year than the SFSPCA, which at that time had

north of \$70 million in the bank. Rescue groups, volunteers, and activists put politics aside and worked together for a common cause — to hold the SFSPCA accountable.

In September 2009, my article, “How the San Francisco SPCA let us down” ran on the cover of *Northside San Francisco* magazine (northsidesf.com/sep09/features_coverstory.html). In a matter of months, McHugh-Smith and Villalon were forced out. There’s still work to do — the SFSPCA remains one of the country’s wealthiest animal “nonprofits,” functioning more like a P.R. machine than a shelter. They still play politics (like trying to prevent AFACC from getting a new building for fear it would affect their bottom line), and they still do far too little for the animals of San Francisco. But because of a true collaborative effort, things have gotten better.

SFACC GETS NEW BUILDING

Of course, at one time the SFSPCA was the city shelter. In 1989, the contractual relationship to provide animal care and control services between the city of San Francisco and the SFSPCA ended and SFACC was created.

With no time or money to build a new facility, ACC moved into an already dilapidated warehouse. On the first day, they transferred 400 animals from the SFSPCA and have continued to take every animal in need ever since.

That old warehouse — where animals would be taken during an earthquake or other disaster — has become seismically unstable. During her six years as SFACC’s executive director, Rebecca Katz was a tireless advocate for getting a new shelter built. She turned to then-District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner — one of those aforementioned decision makers — who took up the cause. On Nov. 29, 2016, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a plan to fund SFACC’s new shelter, which will be located at 1419 Bryant Street and is scheduled to open in 2020. None of this would have happened without Rebecca Katz, Scott Weiner, and District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang (who kept the project on track when it was removed from a bond earlier in 2016) working together.

POLITICS IMPEDE PROGRESS

If collaboration is the secret to success, politics is the root of all evil, and it often has dire

consequences. Because Katz criticized Mayor Ed Lee’s administration about the lack of funding for SFACC, City Administrator Naomi Kelly abruptly fired her. San Francisco’s loss was Oakland’s gain — as executive director of Oakland Animal Services (OAS), euthanasia rates declined an astounding 85 percent her first year on the job.

Unfortunately, Katz is dealing with politics once again at the hands of well-meaning but misguided activist groups like PALS East Bay. While there’s always room for improvement at every shelter, alienating a director who truly cares about the animals is counterproductive. If Katz were to leave, her replacement would likely not care about underdogs like pit bulls, work tirelessly on creative solutions to compensate for lack of funding, or garner the incredible loyalty of staff and volunteers. If these activists truly want what’s best for the animals, I suggest they heed one of my mother’s favorite sayings: Be careful what you wish for.

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!





Marina
Offered at \$8,995,000
Quintessential Marina Home With Panoramic Views. Situated on the most coveted block of Marina Blvd. Pano views of Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and Marina Green from multiple rooms. 6BD/5.5BA on 3 levels. Lush garden and patio. 2 car pkg. 465MarinaBlvd.com
Eva Daniel
415.517.7531
Travis Hale
415.722.6150



Dolores Heights
Offered at \$6,349,000
One-of-a-Kind Townhouse! Newly minted in 2016, this amazing home features soaring 30' ceilings, chef's kitchen and state-of-the-art finishes on 4 levels. LightHouseOnDolores.com
John Woodruff III
415.999.9827
Marcus Miller, MA
415.516.5760



Pacific Heights
Offered at \$4,995,000
Sophisticated Full Floor Co-op with Golden Gate Views. This 3BD/3.5BA full floor home has VIEWS to the Golden Gate Bridge, the bay, and Alcatraz. Grand scale living and dining rooms. Chef's kitchen. 2 car parking. 1940VallejoApt4.com
Joan Foppiano
415.806.4498
Vickie Tucker
415.271.1621



Eureka Valley/Dolores Heights
Offered at \$3,398,000
Newly Constructed 4BD/3.5BA 3-Level Home. This is a breathtaking home of dramatic architectural lines, glass, and light. Modern and elegant, it has a roof deck and downtown views near Kite Hill. 2 master suites, fireplaces, on a corner lot, and so much more. Paula4Homes.com
Paula Y. Rose
415.724.3424



Nob Hill
Offered at \$2,895,000
Full Floor View Penthouse. Spectacular views of Coit Tower and the Bay predominate in this gracious and sophisticated 3BD/2.5BA home. Private elevator entrance. 2-car independent parking. Exclusive use of roof deck. StocktonStreetPenthouse.com
Grace Shohet
415.385.5838



Pacific Heights
Offered at \$2,850,000
Exceptional Home in Prime Location. 3BD (one bedroom with attached sunroom)/2.5BA plus bonus room and half bath. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room with custom built-in cabinets. Large kitchen with Wolf range and Sub-Zero refrigerator. Deck and 1 car parking. 2749Steiner.com
Marc Christopher Calderon
415.321.4312



Russian Hill
Offered at \$2,150,000
Exceptional View Co-Op. This 3BD/2.5BA co-op has views stretching from Twin Peaks to the Presidio. Wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors throughout. Located in Capo di Monte, a professionally managed building. 2111Hyde-306.com
Meagan Levitan
415.407.5244



Noe Valley
Offered at \$1,399,000
Lovely and Serene 2BD/1.5BA Home. Sun washed, spacious living room with wood-burning fireplace and parquet floors. Contemporary kitchen. Bright and inviting dining area opens to garden with a deck and 2 terraces. Ideal for entertaining. 2 car parking. 4458-24thSt.com
Marcus Miller, MA
516.5760



Inner Mission
Offered at \$1,350,000
Upper Full Floor Condo in 2 Unit Building. Spacious 2BD/2BA beautifully remodeled home with parking. Sunny upper condo near hot Inner Mission restaurants, etc. Great entertaining space plus huge roof deck. Move in ready! 2857-22ndStreet.com
Thomas Cooke
415.823.1624

Local Ownership. Global Reach.


415.921.6000 • www.hill-co.com


MARINATIMES.COM :: MARINA TIMES

DECEMBER 2017 :: 21

The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: November 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	2850 Filbert Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$4,695,000	At	0
	3041 Divisadero Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$5,740,000	Above	2
	2636 Union Street	5BD/4.5BA	\$9,285,000	Below	53
Lake	158 27th Avenue	3BD/3.5BA	\$3,535,000	Above	14
	128 26th Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,910,000	Above	11
	159 7th Avenue	4BD/4.5BA	\$4,475,000	Below	27
Laurel Heights	35 Manzanita Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,850,000	Above	0
Lone Mountain	65 Almaden Court	3BD/1.5BA	\$1,825,000	Above	36
	233 Stanyan Street	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,175,000	Above	13
Marina	33 Capra Way	3BD/2.5BA	\$2,605,000	Above	18
	3235 Webster Street	3BD/2BA	\$3,375,000	Below	34
	196 Avila Street	3BD/3.5BA	\$4,995,000	Below	9
Nob Hill	1143 Jackson Street	4BD/2.5BA	\$2,150,000	Above	13
	1230 Pacific Avenue	4BD/4.5BA	\$2,965,000	Below	18
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	1911-B Vallejo Street	4BD/4.5BA	\$3,800,000	Above	12
	2232 Jackson Street	3BD/3BA	\$4,000,000	Above	10
	2521 Octavia Street	5BD/5.5BA	\$4,200,000	Above	9
	2830 Buchanan Street	5BD/4.5BA	\$5,625,000	Below	109
	2361 Broadway Street	5BD/3.5BA	\$7,900,000	Above	10
	2190 Vallejo Street	7BD/7.5BA	\$7,930,000	Below	99
	2440 Vallejo Street	5BD/3BA	\$9,250,000	Above	0
Presidio Heights	101 Spruce Street	4BD/4BA	\$6,900,000	Below	22
	20 Walnut Street	5BD/4.5BA	\$7,500,000	Above	10
Russian Hill	2912 Van Ness Avenue	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,330,000	Above	6
Sea Cliff	55 25th Avenue	4BD/2.5BA	\$4,110,000	Above	60
	16 Sea Cliff Avenue	4BD/4.5BA	\$6,100,000	Above	13
Telegraph Hill	471 Lombard Street	4BD/3.5BA	\$3,600,000	Above	5

CONDOS

Neighborhood	Address	Bedrooms/ Bathrooms	Sale Price	Above/At/Below Asking Price	Days On Market
Cow Hollow	2828 Greenwich Street #3	2BD/1BA	\$1,250,000	Above	0
Lake	1341 Lake Street	1BD/1BA	\$900,000	Above	16
	144 7th Avenue	3BD/1.5BA	\$1,800,000	Above	14
	653 Lake Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,275,000	Above	7
Laurel Heights	105 Palm Avenue #2	2BD/1BA	\$1,015,000	Above	50
	28 Parker Avenue #201	2BD/2BA	\$1,015,000	Above	16
	189 Commonwealth Ave. #3	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,450,000	Above	13
Lone Mountain	690 Arguello Blvd. #300	3BD/2BA	\$1,325,000	Above	13
Marina	3208 Pierce Street #201	1BD/1BA	\$863,600	Below	77
	3010 Franklin Street #1	2BD/1.25BA	\$925,000	Above	18
	3010 Franklin Street #5	2BD/1.25BA	\$999,000	Above	6
	3675 Fillmore Street #302	1BD/1BA	\$1,225,000	Above	12
	2263 Francisco Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,700,000	At	0
	1661 Beach Street	4BD/3BA	\$3,400,000	Above	4
Nob Hill	1155 Leavenworth St. #9	0BD/0BA	\$449,000	At	27
	1177 California St. #1525	1BD/1BA	\$874,000	Above	12
	1650 Jackson Street #401	1BD/1BA	\$901,000	Above	25
	1350 California Street #408	1BD/1BA	\$1,025,000	Above	11
	1776 Sacramento St. #311	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	At	45
	1776 Sacramento St. #409	2BD/2.5BA	\$1,300,000	Below	91
	1755 Larkin Street	3BD/1BA	\$1,300,000	Above	12
	1788 Clay Street #710	2BD/2BA	\$1,350,000	At	17
	1555-A Sacramento Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,550,000	Above	4
	1788 Clay Street #708	2BD/2BA	\$1,559,000	Below	32
1177 California St. #1618	2BD/2BA	\$2,100,000	Below	33	
North Beach	650 Chestnut Street #102	2BD/2BA	\$1,040,000	Below	26
	589 Francisco Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,125,000	Above	25
	2230 Mason Street #M301	2BD/2BA	\$1,150,000	Below	26
	600 Chestnut Street #105	3BD/2BA	\$1,510,000	Above	13
Pacific Heights	1883 Vallejo Street #6	0BD/1BA	\$612,000	Above	13
	2211 California Street #201	1BD/1BA	\$775,000	Above	13
	2735 Clay Street #4	1BD/1BA	\$840,000	Above	12
	2050 Lyon Street #1	1BD/1BA	\$850,000	Above	64
	1800 Washington St. #417	1BD/1BA	\$915,000	Above	8
	2195 Green Street #C	1BD/1BA	\$1,010,000	Above	0
	1817 California Street #1E	2BD/1.5BA	\$1,025,000	Above	11
	2230 Pacific Avenue #303	1BD/1BA	\$1,025,000	Above	6
	2090 Pacific Avenue #706	1BD/1BA	\$1,200,000	Above	11
	1859 Vallejo Street #1	2BD/2BA	\$1,275,000	Above	0
	1835 Franklin Street #201	2BD/2BA	\$1,370,000	Below	18
	1835 Franklin Street #601	2BD/2BA	\$1,725,000	Below	46
	1999 Broadway Street #51	3BD/3BA	\$2,050,000	Above	17
	2865 Jackson Street #6	2BD/2BA	\$2,160,000	Above	31
	1963 Clay Street	3BD/3BA	\$2,270,000	Above	35
	1880 Jackson Street #304	2BD/2BA	\$2,350,000	Above	11
	2253 California Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,450,000	Above	11
	1896 Pacific Avenue #502	3BD/3BA	\$3,225,000	Above	7
	2066 Green Street	3BD/3BA	\$3,995,000	At	4
	1890 Vallejo Street	5BD/4BA	\$5,300,000	Above	14
Presidio Heights	3517 Sacramento Street	2BD/1BA	\$1,450,000	Below	28
	3469 Jackson Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,248,000	At	24
Russian Hill	2124 Hyde Street #A	0BD/1BA	\$400,000	Above	50
	1000 Northpoint St. #1705	0BD/1BA	\$712,000	Above	27
	1380 Greenwich Street #302	1BD/1BA	\$860,000	Above	16
	1475 Green Street	2BD/1BA	\$900,000	Above	15
	1438 Green Street #3E	1BD/1BA	\$1,025,000	Above	13
	1438 Green Street #5A	2BD/2BA	\$1,420,000	Above	15
	1000 North Point St. #708	2BD/2BA	\$1,505,000	Above	52
	1150 Lombard Street #11	2BD/2BA	\$1,685,000	Below	77
	1370 Green Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,900,000	Above	20
	999 Green Street #1801	2BD/2BA	\$1,950,000	At	42
	2423 Larkin Street	2BD/3BA	\$2,735,000	Above	31
	1338 Filbert Street #C	3BD/3.5BA	\$3,810,000	Below	121
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	49 Edith Street	2BD/1BA	\$785,000	Above	27
	282 Union Street	2BD/2BA	\$1,875,000	Above	13
	184 Francisco	2BD/2.5BA	\$2,995,000	At	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 :: Rental distress, and more

At year's end

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

REVIEW THE PREVIEW

I was tempted to offer my own real estate year in review, but having already done that for the world at large (see my cover story this issue), I decided instead to review the 2017 preview from the National Association of Realtors’ realtor.com. (Full disclosure: I worked for a commercial affiliate of NAR back in the 1990s.) How did the the real estate experts do?

In November 2016, Realtor.com’s Cicely Wedgeworth presented five things that would drive property markets in 2017: millennials will look to the Midwest; price appreciation will slow down; fewer homes, fast-moving markets; and the West will lead the way.

As for millennials heading to the Real Estate Reporter’s home turf of the Midwest (including my birthplace of Madison, Wis., which ranked at the top of Wedgeworth’s field), I’m not sure how well that’s gone. The economy has finally picked up in the upper Midwest, but saying that recent college graduates will stay in awesome college towns like Madison is a bit like saying that Grateful Dead fans will get high at concerts — that’s just what they do. That doesn’t mean they’re flocking to other Midwestern cities.

However, price appreciation — in rentals and for-purchase housing — has slowed, certainly here in San Francisco. At various times this past year, there have been fewer homes on the local market, which of course has impacted speed of sales, but we have also seen positive benefits from the coming on-line of new condos (see previous sentence); and as far as “the West will lead the way,” your guess is as good as mine as to what that means.

My prediction for 2018? We’ll check this at the end of 2018, but I predict that the new year will see an acceleration of legislation and other enabling actions that will seek to sideline the NIMBYs and dramatically boost housing for the millions needing it in the Golden State. Otherwise, all of those millennials will head to Milwaukee.

HIGH RENT, HIGH CREDIT SCORES

A couple issues ago, we reported that Generation X was the generation that had the most trouble get-

ting approved for residential leases, in many cases because their homes had been foreclosed on during the Great Recession and their credit scores were shot. Combine that with the tech industry’s notorious aversion to hiring people in their 50s, and you see why this isn’t a great city for Gen-X renters.

In fact, for any renters, an excellent credit score is a huge advantage in “exclusive and costly markets designed for elite renters,” according to a new report from Yardi’s Rentcafe. According to Rentcafe, rental applicants in 2017 in general needed a credit score of 650 to be accepted; the average score of rejected applicants was 538.

But in Boston, where the average rent is \$3,232 and the five-year rent increase was 25.3 percent, the average successful credit score was 737; in San Francisco (\$3,440 and 38 percent, respectively), it was 724. The city ranking last out of 50 in the Rentcafe report was Las Vegas, where a credit score of 590 got you an apartment. That’s a bit of solace after you lost your house at the craps tables.

THIS IS A MORAL CRISIS

Almost 20 percent of U.S. renters were unable to pay their rent in full within the past three months. That’s the disturbing finding from Apartment List’s Rentonomics. We have heard a lot about how the San Francisco area is booming; you can’t throw a stick without hitting someone with an idea for a stick-throwing app. But the U.S. economy overall has been doing quite well lately, with low unemployment and record stock market numbers, and still the statistics show a lot of people are in significant financial distress.

If there’s any good side to this, it’s this note from Apartment List: “We find that evictions are most common in metros hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and in those experiencing high rates of poverty. Perhaps counterintuitively, expensive coastal metros have comparatively low rates of eviction, in part because strong job markets with high median wages offset expensive rents in those areas.”

A CUT ABOVE

OK, so I kind of mocked the newly formed district that has dubbed itself The East Cut (Real Estate Reporter, July 2017). Now

the district, which includes the Transbay, Rincon Hill, and Folsom Street neighborhoods, has launched an effort to assist area homeless individuals to get off the street and into jobs. Great news.

In a partnership with the nonprofit organization Downtown Streets Team, The East Cut Community Benefit District will hire five people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to work on beautification projects, collaborate with local businesses, and be on-the-street public safety assistants.

“We believe that by giving people the resources they need to rebuild their lives, and the opportunity to reconnect with their communities, we are in the business of providing dignity,” said Angelique Villegas Diaz, project manager for Downtown Streets Team of San Francisco. She said this is “the exact type of community-based win-win that will allow our team members to take active ownership in their recovery by serving as part of a collaborative and professional team, while helping to improve the lives of others around them.”

HIGHLIGHTING HOUSING HEROES

Besides letting me do an alliterative subhead, *San Francisco* magazine has named two San Francisco-based state legislators among its “housing caucus”: Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember David Chiu.

SPEAKING OF WIENER

In response to a Facebook comment arguing that he should spend more time focusing on climate change and housing the poor, State Senator Scott Wiener wrote: “We can’t address climate change effectively without addressing land use patterns by concentrating more housing in urbanized areas and avoiding sprawl. If we continue to not build enough infill housing in urbanized areas, we’ll do what we’ve been doing for decades: push people out (not just the poor, but many middle class people) further and further, creating sprawl, lots more driving, and more carbon emissions. 40% of California’s carbon emissions come from transportation, and a lot of that is from long commutes. If we don’t address our housing situation, we’ll be spinning our wheels on climate.”

E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



WE DON'T HAVE A TYPE

Our agents are former teachers, lawyers, chefs, engineers, therapists and more. Our type is every type. We've got someone who gets you. Agents know it. Clients feel it. | ZephyrRE.com

.....
BURLINGAME GREENBRAE NOE VALLEY PACIFIC HEIGHTS POTRERO HILL UPPER MARKET WEST PORTAL



salito's



crab house & prime rib

1200 bridgeway sausalito

415.331.3226

salitoscrabhouse.com