



Food for 2018
Julie Mitchell gets comfy at The Snug, p. 6
The Tablehopper: The Grotto is back, p. 10
Ernest Beyl holds a spaghetti symposium, p. 12



More online
Patty Burness, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter, and more
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Vau de Vire Society dancers perform *Swords in Chains* acrobatic dance at the 2017 Edwardian Ball.
PHOTO: MARCO SANCHEZ

Hot new events in cool new year

BY LYNETTE MAJER

MYRIAD EVENTS RING IN the new year, including The Edwardian Ball (pictured) and World's Faire, in its 18th iteration of bringing the life of writer-illustrator Edward Gorey to life, with a new

feature this year, The Artful Treasure Hunt.
Looking for a cultural experience? Shen Yun Performing Arts, the spectacular production of Chinese dance and music delivers. Need some laughs? Sketchfest headliners are Ricky Gervais, Jane Lynch, and Dick Cavett — enough

said. Hungry? Restaurant Week has you covered. Love the ballet? The San Francisco Ballet's Opening Night Gala is your ticket. Art? It's your last chance to see Eyvind Earle at the Walt Disney Family Museum and Klimpt and Rodin at the Legion of Honor. Check out our calendar on page 14 for details.

CITY AT LARGE

Scramble for a new mayor

January will be a crucial month for mayoral hopefuls

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

THE SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED DEATH OF MAYOR Ed Lee in December left politicians and residents alike scrambling to figure out what happens next in the city. Who will be the next mayor? Will that person continue Lee's general policies or will she or he take a different approach? And what will an election that had looked destined to be a coronation of Mark Leno look like now, with numerous candidates throwing their hats into the ring? The first half of 2018 is going to be an interesting time as San Francisco picks its next leader, which will also be something of a post-mortem judgment on its last leader.

The next mayor will have to deal with the same issues that Mayor Lee confronted in his time in office: an economic boom, a housing shortage, homelessness, street crime, and more.

RULES OF THE RACE

The first big signs of how the race will shape up will become clear on Jan. 9, the deadline for filing as a mayoral candidate for the June 5 election. Prospective can-

NEW MAYOR, CONTINUED ON 4

INSIDE THE MARINA

It's the millennials' Marina now

BY KEVIN FRAZIER

LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT BY MOVING TO THE Marina, I'd be joining a massive swell. From 2011 to 2016, a wave of millennials crashed down on Crissy Field and across the entire 94123 ZIP code, producing a significant change in the neighborhood's demographics and, perhaps, its ethos.

The numbers are clear: even when compared to the rest of the city, Marina residents have become younger, less likely to be unemployed or out of the labor market, and more likely to have a family. Census data confirms these changes. But are the demographic shifts being felt on the streets and expressed on social media? Let's find out by consulting the research, talking to Marina residents who have lived through previous neighborhood transformations, and checking the Marina's online reputation.

YOUTH MAGNET

The Marina has always been a youthful spot, a truth that has only grown more real in recent years. In 2011, the median San Franciscan was 38.4-years old, a number that held steady through 2016. Comparatively, the median age of Marina residents has become younger, falling from 35.8 years in 2011 to 34.1 in 2016. Our neighbors in Pacific Heights, for sake of comparison, recorded a median age of 36.3 in 2016, down from 37.7

MILLENNIALS, CONTINUED ON 7



Frances McDormand in the film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*.
PHOTO: MERRICK MORTON, ©2017 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

Assessing the best of 2017

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IT'S LIKE CLOCKWORK WHEN YOU cover the motion picture business. The beginning of a new year inevitably brings ... one or more lists of the previous year's best movies. So without further ado, here are the 2017 English language live-action films I found to be the most accomplished, satisfying, or enter-

taining, plus a few more relevant lists of worthy features. All are in alphabetical order because I appreciate each of them equally, albeit for different reasons.

'BABY DRIVER'

Edgar Wright, the filmmaker behind the genre parodies *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, leans on his mastery of the music video to make

a rollicking, rhythmic heist-comedy about the intrepid young wheel man (Ansel Elgort) for a gang of thieves, which boasts a couple of tough guys portrayed by Jon Hamm and Jamie Foxx. Our hero wants out so he can be with his dream girl (Lily James), but they keep pulling him back in. With careening car chases, criminal high jinks, romance, and a rockin' soundtrack wedded to the visuals — what's not to like?

'COLOSSAL'

Anne Hathaway stars in this thoroughly original sci-fi fantasy, spiced with action and comedy, as a feckless woman who somehow inadvertently controls the physical acts of a giant monster in a South Korean city thousands of miles away. Her slightest movements can destroy skyscrapers and stomp innocent people to death, and she just happens to be dealing with some serious psychological issues. Jason Sudeikis and Dan Stevens play the two less-than-ideal men in her life. It's a crazy concept, but it genuinely plays off.

'DARKEST HOUR'

Disappearing under the most realistic prosthetic makeup I've ever seen depict any historical figure, Gary Oldman delivers a career peak performance as embattled British

SNYDER, continued on 14



TOP 10 STEAKS IN AMERICA

- Osso Steakhouse - San Francisco, CA
- Bobo's - San Francisco, CA
- Peter Luger Steakhouse - Brooklyn, NY
- Bern's Steakhouse - Tampa, FL
- CUT - Beverly Hills, CA
- Emeril's Delmonico - Las Vegas, NV
- Mario Batali's Carnevino - Las Vegas, NV
- Chicago Cut - Chicago, IL
- The Precinct - Cincinnati, OH
- Elway's Cherry Creek - Denver, CO

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CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE



News

Around the city

New briefs on sea lion attacks at Aquatic Park, Van Ness BRT update, robots strike out with San Francisco, and Robin Williams gets a meadow, plus a roundup of facts and figures. 3

Northside

Guess who's coming to dinner

Julie Mitchell visits the comfy new restaurant The Snug; Ernest Beyl wants to invite Grace Slick to his dinner party but he doesn't want to be arrested; and District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin reviews his accomplishments from 2017. 6

Food & Wine

Many happy returns

The Tablehopper checks in with the reborn Grotto at Fisherman's Wharf; Ernest Beyl delineates fine spaghetti; and Lynette Majer samples the food and drink at Ram's Gate Winery in Sonoma. 10

Arts & Entertainment

Feeding your mind in December

Sharon Anderson showcases Playtime and Sanctuary at Fort Mason Center; plus the Marina's best sellers. 14

Calendar

January events

From the Shen Yun extravaganza to the laughs of Sketchfest, January is packed with things to do and sights to see in the city. It's a month of galas, MLK commemorations, family outings, and wine events. Start your new year off with some of the many things going on in January. 16

Wellness

The Healthful Life

Thalia Farshchian explains the hows and whys of the increasingly mainstream practice of detoxing. 18

Family

MomSense

Liz Farrell has some handy new year tips for how to handle technology issues in the family. 19

Real Estate

The Reporter

John Zipperer highlights some of the real estate-related changes that are coming your way as a result of the passage of the big tax bill in Washington, plus news about a new Prop 13 proposal, tech office space, and buying your very own road. 20

At Home

Urban Home and Garden

Julia Strzesieski helps you find and organize extra space in your overstuffed city home or apartment. 22

Pets

Political Animal

Susan Dyer Reynolds praises the state's move to ban puppy mill sales at pet shops, has bad news about the dog meat festival, and asks for your help in finding a lost dog named Prince. 23

ONLINE SPECIALS

Patty Burness heads to Guerneville, Evalyn Baron, Michael Snyder's Coastal Commuter, and more.

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News Briefs : Lions and robots

Dangers by the bay

SEA LIONS ATTACK

San Francisco's Aquatic Park was closed temporarily in December after several swimmers were attacked by a sea lion. Two of the attacks that took place within a 24-hour period in mid-December prompted the closing for several days.

Sea lions are not noted for their aggression, so the unusual behavior has led some wildlife experts to suspect that the attacks were all carried out by one animal.

Swimmer Rick Mulvihill told KPIX 5 that on Dec. 15, he was swimming in Aquatic Park when he was attacked: "I was just swimming along and whatever it was — everybody's thinking it's a sea lion now; I never saw him — came up from underneath me and hit me. It's like being in a car accident."

Upon the reopening of Aquatic Park Cove for swimming, the National Park Service posted an alert, warning swimmers to "Please remember that marine mammals are wild animals, in their natural habitat, and that their behavior can be unpredictable. Give them a wide berth!"

NPS also shared a 2015 case study of sea lion bites, which noted that "attempting to touch or pet sea lions or seals is inadvisable and prohibited by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Swimmers should leave the water as soon as possible after a bite or encounter."

VAN NESS BRT UPDATE

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's \$316.4 million Van Ness Improvement Project, also known as the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, resulted in some temporary shifts of bus stops in late December. SFMTA crews worked on the "joint trench" that will power overhead wires for buses running from McAllister to Turk; they also investigated building basements that extend underneath sidewalks in the project construction area.

Bus riders on Van Ness are advised to pay attention to signage notifying them of shifting bus stops as construction continues.



Multiple attacks on swimmers by sea lions might be the work of a lone pinniped perpetrator.

PHOTO: MARTAYERBE

The Van Ness BRT Project is slated to be completed in 2020. When it is finished, it will feature San Francisco's first rapid transit system for buses. SFMTA reports that it also includes considerable upgrades to transportation and improvements for utility maintenance.

To learn more about the Van Ness BRT project, visit sfmts.com/van Ness. In addition, the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Jan. 25 at 1 South Van Ness Ave.

THESE AREN'T THE DROIDS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

A couple of experiments with robots in San Francisco did not end successfully.

In early December, supervisors voted unanimously for Norman Yee's legislation that restricts delivery robots from operating on most San Francisco streets. Yee told *The Guardian* "not every innovation is all that great for society."

In other robot news, the San Francisco SPCA fired its security robot in early December after complaints. The five-foot-tall robot — which looked like a friendlier version of Doctor Who's Daleks — patrolled the SPCA's property with a mission reportedly to deter vandalism and homeless camping.

But even after the organization discontinued the robot's use, it received "hundreds of messages inciting violence and vandalism against our facility and encouraging people to take retribution," SF SPCA President Dr. Jennifer Scarlett informed *Ars Technica*. "We've already experienced two acts of vandalism on our campus."

ROBIN WILLIAMS MEADOW

The San Francisco Recreation and Park commission made it official in late December, officially renaming a meadow next to the Sharon Building in Golden Gate park after late comedian Robin Williams. Mayor Ed Lee had announced the pending change in September.

Williams took his own life in 2014 at the age of 63.

FACTS & FIGURES

\$3: Increase sought in Bay Area bridge tolls by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; if approved by voters, the money would be spent on local infrastructure projects . . . **More than 20,000:** Number of coats collected by Bay Area teenager Carson Quintana so far in his lifetime; he donates them to the needy . . . **4 a.m.:** The time that bars would be allowed to close if legislation by state Senator Scott Wiener is approved; Wiener vows to reintroduce the bill, which passed the Senate in 2017 but died in committee in the Assembly . . . **2790:** Address on Green Street in Pacific Heights of the former Russian consulate, which was closed by the U.S. government last year; a report in *Foreign Policy* magazine in December said the consulate was home to an "intensive, sustained, and mystifying pattern of espionage" much more than other Russian consulates in the country . . . **78.6:** Life expectancy in years of a U.S. baby born in 2016; it was the second year in a row that life expectancy in the United States declined, fueled by a 21 percent rise in fatal drug overdoses.

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

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City at Large

didates have until 5 p.m. on Jan. 9 to file with the city's election officials. Also on that day, the Board of Supervisors could choose to select a different caretaker mayor than London Breed, or decide if she can continue to be acting mayor, president of the board, and supervisor representing her district. Breed initially cruised to a reappointment as president of the board with the unanimous support of her colleagues, but much political calculus will go into whether they bless her with the incumbency benefits of retaining her supervisor seat and the interim mayor's position until the election.

History could repeat itself. Ed Lee, the former city administrator, was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in January 2011 to fill out the term of Gavin Newsom following Newsom's election as lieutenant governor. Once in office, Lee changed his mind about not running for election and went on to win two consecutive elections. (In the 2015 election, Lee came in first with 55.3 percent of the votes — 105,298, compared to his next-highest challenger, Green Party candidate Francisco Herrera with 28,638.) Whoever wins the June 5 election will then serve out the rest of Lee's term, and if he or she wants to serve a full term will have to run again in November 2019.

Powerbroker Rose Pak — who played such a big role in the campaigns of Ed Lee and the return to City Hall of Aaron Peskin — died in 2016, so there will be quite a few people watching to find out if and how much of a role the city's Chinese-American voters play in selecting the next mayor. But there are of course other powerbrokers in the mix. For example, the *Examiner's* Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez cited unnamed sources in December saying that tech billionaire Ron Conway announced at a private Lee funeral service that he was backing London Breed for mayor.

LIKELY CONTENDERS AND PRETENDERS

The final lineup could well change by the January filing deadline, but at the moment, here is what the field of candidates and possible candidates looks like.

Angela Alioto: Former Supervisor Alioto is also the former president of the Board of Supervisors. This will be her



Clockwise from top left: Acting Mayor and Board of Supervisors President London Breed is one of the front runners to win the June mayoral election; Former State Senator Mark Leno reportedly has the early lead in support and money; District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim could become the standard bearer of the city's progressive hopes; District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell surprised his supporters in December when he declined to join the race. MARK LENO PHOTO: BROKENSPHERE

third race for the mayor's seat, having lost in the 1991 and 2003 races. She has said that homelessness is a central issue for her campaign.

London Breed: District 5 supervisor and current president of the Board of Supervisors, Breed became acting mayor upon Lee's death. Whether she continues in that role will be decided by the rest of her supervisor colleagues on Jan. 9. However, it should be remembered she became president of the board in 2015 with an 8-3 vote; in 2017, she got the board's unanimous support to continue as president. She has a reputation for brashness, which could either create a



some observers question whether the bungled prosecution of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate for the death of Kate Steinle would be a hindrance for any Gascón campaign.

Dennis Herrera: City attorney since 2001, Herrera finished in third place in the 2011 mayoral election. Highlights of his work as city attorney include extensive involvement in the effort to legalize same-sex marriage, investigating Nevada's practice of shipping mentally ill patients to San Francisco, opposing the marketing of energy drinks to children, taking on the National Rifle Association, and other cases that will stand him in good stead with the city's politically liberal voters.

Jane Kim: District 6 Supervisor Kim earned citywide name recognition thanks to her unsuccessful state senate race in 2016, which was narrowly won by fellow supervisor Scott Wiener. Kim, harking from the left side of the city's Democrat-to-Democrat political spectrum, ruffled some progressive feathers as the author of the so-called "Twitter tax break." She has "built strong ties with the Chinese community as an organizer at the Chinatown Community Development Center," as the *Examiner* noted, but antipathy toward her in some Chinese-language media cropped up in her senate campaign.

Mark Leno: Leno reportedly had considered a bid to challenge Lee in the 2015 election but decided against it. Before Lee's untimely passing, the smart money was on former supervisor and former state senator Leno, who has raised more than \$400,000 so far and has everyone he needs on his rolodex.

Aaron Peskin: When Peskin won reelection for a full term as District 3 supervisor in 2016, many assumed he was headed inevitably for a mayoral bid. But Peskin has declined to run in this race and has endorsed Mark Leno.

Amy Farrah Weiss: After finishing in third place in the 2015 mayoral election, Weiss is back for another run and is pushing a broad platform of progressive goals, including going after landlords of vacant space, cannabis access, regulations of the gig economy, and more.

Scott Wiener: The former District 8 supervisor has declined to enter the race; he's busy in his new role as a state senator, but he's a policy wonk who likely will be working his way

Whoever becomes mayor will almost certainly set their eyes on higher office.

gaffe-a-thon during the campaign or could be viewed as a refreshing change at a time when voters tell pollsters they don't want to see overly rehearsed candidates. She is the first female African-American to serve as the city's mayor.

David Chiu: The former District 3 supervisor and former president of the Board of Supervisors (and the first Asian American to serve in either position) is now in the state assembly. He was acting mayor of the city for one day in 2011, between Gavin Newsom's swearing in as lieutenant governor and Ed Lee's taking the oath of office. In the 2011 mayoral campaign, he finished in fourth place.

Carmen Chu: The former District 4 supervisor has served as the city's assessor-recorder since February 2013. She won her 2014 election as assessor-recorder with 98 percent of the vote.

Mark Farrell: The District 2 supervisor announced in December he was not going to run. He had been widely expected to put his hat into the ring, and observers expected he would draw support from the business community and supporters of Ed Lee, with whom he was usually allied on major issues. In a statement, Farrell said, "The timing is simply not right for our family, and I will always put them first." He added that in his time remaining in office, he would continue his work on his major priorities, including homelessness, housing, public safety, and bridging the digital divide.

George Gascón: Having served as a police officer, chief of the city's police department, and since 2011 district attorney, Gascón has been expected to make a bid for the mayor's office. As we go to press, he has not yet done so, and

up the local political ladder for years to come. This isn't his race, but don't be surprised to find him setting his sights on the mayor's office in the future.

At press time, announced candidates with lower profiles include Christopher Leon Brown, Mike Caccioppoli, William Daugherty, Richie Greenberg, Brianna Elizabeth Varner, and Ellen Lee Zhao.

THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER STEP

Whoever is elected in June is likely to have an immediate national profile, due to San Francisco's outsized economic performance and its political domination by candidates and voters opposed to the president's nationalist agenda. The city's history of producing Democratic powers in California won't hurt, either; this is the city of Willie Brown, Pat Brown, Jerry Brown, Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, and others.

Anyone who assumes the mantle of mayor of the City by the Bay will almost certainly have his or her eyes set on higher office.

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OUR POLITICS

BY JAY DURET



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New & Notable : Get cozy



Trotter hotdog with perilla mustard, ham hock “ketchup” and shiso relish.
PHOTO: COURTESY THE SNUG

Stop in and get comfy at The Snug

BY JULIE MITCHELL

WE ALL KNOW there are plenty of bars and restaurants on Fillmore Street, along with a recent explosion of trendy coffee shops and ice creameries. But experienced bar experts Zack Schwab and Shane Matthews thought the popular Pacific Heights street was lacking something: a cross between a high-quality bar and restaurant and a relaxed and cozy neighborhood tavern.

So Schwab and Matthews, who worked together at some of the country’s finest bars, including The Jeffrey in New York City and Monk’s Kettle in the city, opened The Snug, an inviting neighborhood spot offering simple yet tasty bar bites, small plates and a couple of entrées, creative cocktails, a vast rotating selection of beers and ciders on tap, and a smaller selection of wine on tap. Along with two other managing partners, Brian Shin (Benu and In Situ) and Jacob Racusin (Alembic), Schwab and Matthews opened The Snug late last November.

WHY THE SNUG?

“A snug is a small private room within a public house, once common in pubs across Great Britain and Ireland,” according to Wikipedia. Matthews, who hails from Ireland, says, “There are cozy corners — snugs — in the pubs in Dublin where the regulars come in; they’re very convivial, and we wanted to create that kind of place here, where you know you’re always welcome whether you’re popping in for a pint or looking for a great meal and meeting up with old and new friends.”

The ambiance at The Snug is anything but dark and intimate. Rather, it’s

a large, bright restaurant with a long wood bar, high ceilings, small tables, and a private dining room upstairs. But there are also some small nooks for more privacy. The space was designed by Brill Hull of Tide Design Co. The 31-foot Douglas fir bar top was built using reclaimed wood from the Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

BEER AND MORE BEER AND COCKTAILS, TOO

Schwab and Matthews hope customers will take note of The Snug’s cider and beers from 14 taps, its cask engine serving real ale, and its ample selection of bottled beers, which includes sours, stouts, and strong ales (most priced around \$8 a glass). Draft beers skew toward top local craft breweries.

Quirky cocktail concoctions featuring house ingredients are a big draw, including the Yellow Rose with sunflower-infused vodka, bee pollen, lemon, honeycomb, and lavender, which is both a lemonade yellow in color and less sweet than it sounds (\$13); the Prickly Pear with mezcal, amaro (bitters), nopal (Mexican cactus), prickly pear, habanero, and lime (\$14); and an old fashioned with bourbon, bitters, and sugar (\$12). “Every cocktail on our menu will have at least one element that’s made in-house,” says Racusin, the bar manager. “We want to highlight classic cocktails people know and love but put our own unique spin on them. But if you just want a beer and a shot, you’ll still feel right at home.”

NOSHES AND MORE

The Snug’s simple menu was developed by Shin, who has managed to infuse some old favorites with a modern twist. Bar snacks include light, nongreasy corn fritters and Tator Tots

served with horseradish sour cream with bacon and chives (both \$6) and house-made dill pickles (\$3). Small plates have an Asian influence: there are Korean fried chicken wings with garlic, soy, and ginger (\$10); a tasty charred little gem lettuce salad with broccoli, radish, pistachio, and radicchio (\$9); and a sesame naan with shiitake hummus (\$9).

Shin has taken advantage of the tandoori oven inherited from the previous tenant, Mehfil Indian Cuisine, and prepares just three large plates: a trotter hotdog with perilla mustard, ham hock “ketchup” and shiso relish (\$11; perilla and shiso are flavorful green herbs from the mint family); a toothsome bodega burger fashioned from chopped beef served with lettuce, tomato, cheese, and special sauce (\$10); and a cobb salad with tandoori chicken and house ham (\$16).

Judging from the lively crowd of patrons of all ages enjoying the cheerful vibe at The Snug on a chilly Wednesday evening, the bar has already become a go-to spot on Fillmore. “We’ve been almost overwhelmed since opening,” says Schwab. “We didn’t anticipate the volume, but the city and the neighborhood have embraced us. On the weekends, we’re already seeing a loyal local customer base.”

The Snug offers night owls a cozy place for a late-night drink and a snack (see hours below), and plans to add brunch and outdoor seating are in the works.

The Snug: 2301 Fillmore (at Clay) 415-562-5092; thesnugsf.com; Sunday–Thursday 4 p.m.–midnight, Friday–Saturday 4 p.m.–2 a.m.

E-mail: julie@marinatimes.com

Millennials
continued from cover

in 2011. As our area has grown younger, millennials have become a larger slice of the Marina's population. The already high share of 25- to 34-year olds in the Marina increased by nearly two percentage points in the five-year window, reaching 37.2 percent in 2016.

This millennial wave is having ripple effects on the area's economy as well.

The economic earthquake that unleashed San Francisco's tech industry and its manifold spillover effects surely contributed to the Marina's economic expansion in recent years. That said, research shows that economic consumption significantly decreases among consumers over the age of 65, so it's easy to see how the youthful changes in the Marina have, in part, spurred more businesses to open their doors. Census data shows that from 2011 to 2015 the area's total number of establishments increased by 111, or more than 10 percent. Employment also expanded. The total number of people employed in the Marina rose from 8,800 in 2011 to 9,619 in 2015. It's likely these businesses are hiring, in part, to meet the diverse needs of the neighborhood's burgeoning families.

Families have increased their presence throughout the city since 2011. Their growth is particularly notable in the Marina. Whereas the number of families increased by 1.7 percent in the entirety of San Francisco, the increase in the Marina was more than two times higher — 3.8 percent. The uptick in parents living in the Marina helps explain why the share of Marina residents under 20 soared from 8.3 percent in 2011 to 12.1 percent in

2016; there were 1,197 more under-20-year olds in the Marina in 2016 than in 2011.

MARINA RESIDENTS TALK

So how has adding a high school's worth of kids and their young parents changed our one-square-mile slice of San Francisco?

According to two longtime Marina residents, the millennial wave has noticeably shifted the community's culture. Debbie Dalton, a Marina resident since the early 2000s, sees the most proof of the population shift on weekends. From her apartment on Beach Street, she has a bird's-eye view of the Marina Green. It used to be that sleepy Saturdays were followed by even sleepier Sundays. Today, it could not be more different. Like the tides, families flood in and out of the soccer fields while runners donning their college sweaters lumber past the endlessly energetic youngsters. It's not that Dalton necessarily misses the old, quieter days; for her "it's just a new normal."

Phoebe Maffei has helped usher in that new normal. She and her husband, Mike, recently welcomed their second child to their Marina-based family. The pair moved to the district four years ago and have since found it to be the ideal spot to raise a young family. Maffei, though, had ties to the Marina long before she became a mother. While studying at the University of San Francisco in the early 2000s, she tended bar at renowned Marina establishments such as the Marina Lounge and the Horseshoe.

Over the years, she's seen the Marina's culture and demographics transition. She acknowledges that on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, the Marina can feel like an old college party. "That's increas-

ingly just the weekend crowd." She elaborated, "The weekend crowd has always been here. They keep the neighborhood young. That's not who the Marina is, though." Instead, Maffei feels the Marina is increasingly home to people just like her — "the party crew will always here, but I've definitely noticed a rise in 30-somethings with young families."

The youthful wave felt by Dalton and Maffei is not uniform. One segment of the millennial population decreased as a share of the total population in the same five-year period. The percentage of Marina residents between 20 and 24 years old actually declined to 3.6 percent, a drop of more than 1 percent. Though this change might sound trivial, among the age brackets provided by the census, only Marina residents aged 60–84 saw their share decrease by more. In contrast to younger millennials and older Boomers, every other age bracket either increased its share of the population or experienced losses of less than half a percentage point. This caveat reveals something important: The Marina is getting younger, but the source of its youth is kids (lots of them) and their mid-20s to early-30s parents, rather than recent grads.

THEN, NOW AND TOMORROW

Outsiders, like some insiders, have a perception of the Marina that differs from the demographic reality. The popular stereotypes of the area seem to be grounded in who visits rather than who lives in the Marina.

An online search of the Marina quickly reveals that, at least reputationally, the Marina is filled only with young, brash, gregarious (to put it kindly) professionals. However, sites omit any mention of the Marina's recent demographic shifts. Airbnb's review, for example, fails to

mention the Marina's influx of families, while going as far as calling the area "a bit intimidating." Others likewise fail to accurately describe the Marina's demographics. Thrillist's review of the district perpetuates the notion that the Marina is predominantly filled with "young professionals" and "people who were in fraternities and sororities," while only briefly mentioning the presence of young families. Blogs such as The Well-Traveled Wife and The Bold Italic also miss the mark in their portrayal of Marina residents. We'll see if over time the new demographics can shake the community of these long-held, inaccurate stereotypes.

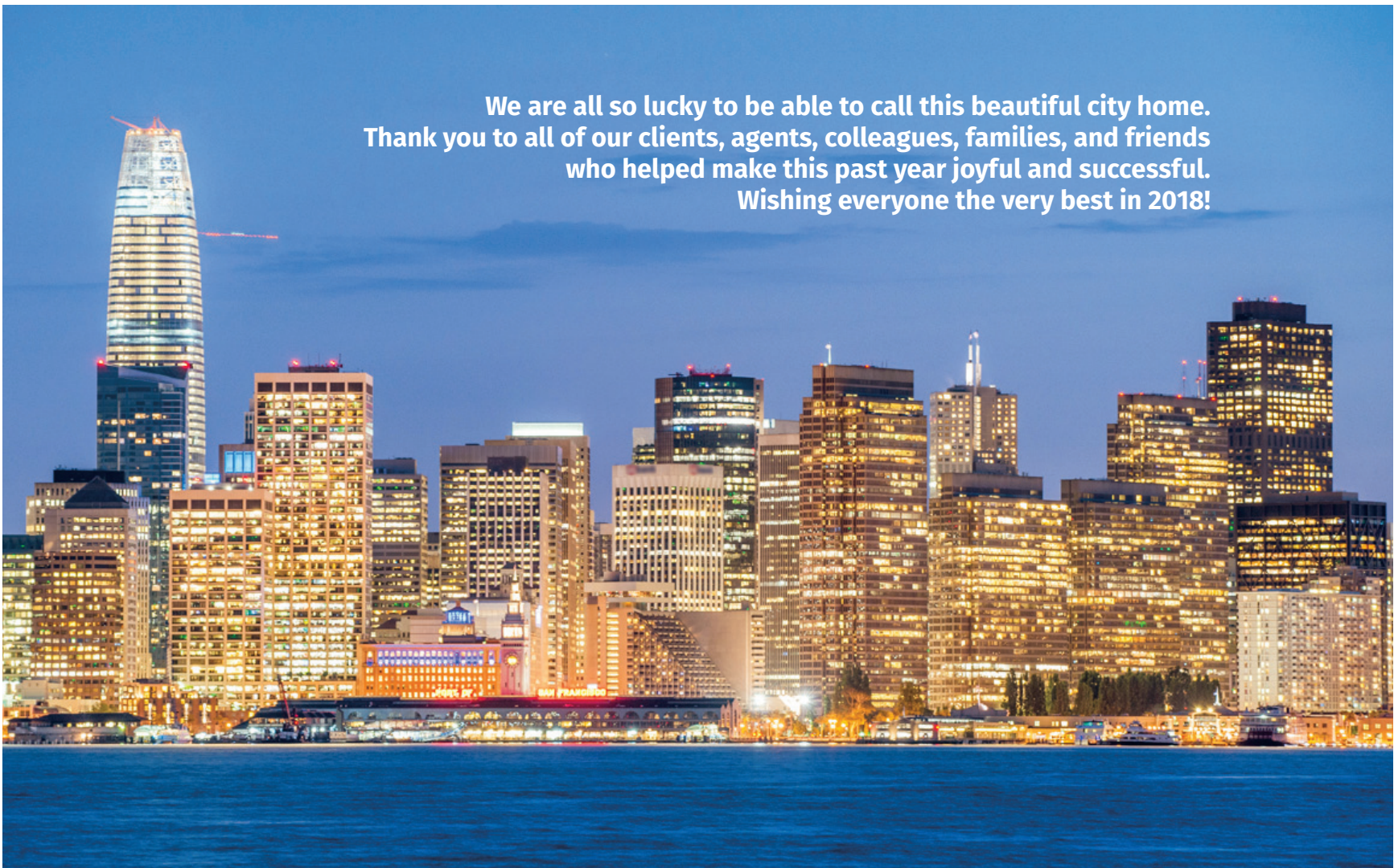
Such a sea change is not unprecedented in the Marina's history. The community is well versed in reshuffling and rebuilding, which is not surprising for a neighborhood built on unstable ground. Its most well-documented transformation occurred early in the 20th century, after the 1906 earthquake and in preparation for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.


The Exposition's theme — "Then, Now and Tomorrow" — seems particularly appropriate more than a century later. Marina residents today face a challenge to remember and preserve "then" while making sure the community adjusts to welcome the people who call it home "now" and prepares for what those young families and children will need "tomorrow."

Will millennials rise to the occasion?

Kevin Frazier, a Portland, Ore., native, moved to the Marina in late September to start a job at Google. He previously served as Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's executive assistant and president of the College Democrats of Oregon. His partner, Dalton, and pup, Ty, live in a studio on Fillmore Street.

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Sketches from a North Beach Journal

A plebian gourmand's glorious dinner party, faux food, table talk, Gino and Carlo at 75

BY ERNEST BEYL

I'LL BE FRANK HERE. I SELDOM DINE at San Francisco Michelin-starred restaurants. Nor do I frequent the *San Francisco Chronicle's* top-rated selections. Why? It's because I'm just a plebian gourmand. And I'm OK with that.

But let me elaborate on my shunning of the highbrow, high-roller establishments. Price is a problem, but not the main one. For example, I've been known to pay big bucks for an incredible steak or for a few dozen air-shipped, French Belon oysters. But, more important than the price of a meal, is what I'm actually getting for my money.

I won't name names. Everybody is entitled to his or her own lifestyle choices — whatever turns you on. But, for me, to spend hard-earned bucks for a dining experience that doesn't turn me on is ludicrous.

EXACTLY CURATED FAUX FOOD

Frequently, staff members at these exalted restaurants are impeccable, but there is such a thing as being too impeccable. And that leads to staffers who are brittle and severe, and act as though they are allowing a plebian like me to sample their carefully plated, exactly curated, faux food.

Sometimes I long for a big bowl of chili. But I never long for an artfully designed bowl of kale salad, topped with salmon roe, dressed with gooseberry vinegar and avocado oil.

OUR CULTURE IS IN OUR MOUTHS

Here in San Francisco it appears our culture is in our mouths. We're dominated by food and foodies. Restaurants have become more important than libraries or bookstores. And who knows what craze will be adopted by the food crazies. We can't even be sure which way our stomachs are turning — or churning. This new dining scene is like pop culture — it's highly entertaining. But at the same time, it's devoid of what makes your belly growl: real, old-fashioned food like a good bowl of chili.

THE PERFECT DINNER GUESTS

A while back, the *New York Times Magazine* asked a few famous folks who they would invite to an ideal dinner party, and what they would cook and serve for their guests. Great idea! Wish I'd thought of it first. However, there's no reason for me not to riff on the concept here where I'm taking on the foodie establishment.

I would have this dinner party for eight (myself and seven guests) in my Telegraph Hill apartment. And I would serve celery root remoulade, gravlax with mustard-dill sauce, roast leg of lamb with white beans, a green salad, and tarte tatin for dessert.

Here are my choices for dinner party guests:

Grace Slick: I've always had a yen for Grace. I was thinking of asking her to bring some uppers or downers, but I don't

want my dinner party to get busted. "One pill makes you larger/ one pill makes you small / and the ones that mother gives you / don't do anything at all."

Alice Waters: An appropriate choice for a dinner party, I would ask Alice to bring the baby lettuces for the salad.

Elaine Katzenberger: Elaine, publisher and executive director of *City Lights*, is a formidable woman, knowledgeable, and good company.

Audrey Cooper: As editor in chief of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Audrey would be perfect for my dinner party. She'd be a built-in conversation starter. Everyone would want to talk to her about the future of print media.

Charles Lloyd: Charles, soon to be 80, is just about the last of the jazz titans. He's performed on his tenor saxophone or flute with everyone from Howlin' Wolf to Ornette Coleman. And he's still performing in concerts and festivals around the world. In my view, his current quartet is the most relevant and artistic small group working today.

Herb Gold: San Francisco's own Kurt Vonnegut, Herb has a new novel out — *When a Psychopath Falls in Love*. We would need to talk about this.

Francis Ford Coppola: It would be fun to have Coppola as a guest. I want to ask him how he happened to make his film, *The Conversation*

(one of my favorites). Also, he makes some great wine. I'd ask him to choose a few bottles of red from his Inglenook Estate in Napa Valley, perfect with the roast lamb.

...

TABLE TALK: THE UNREAL REALITY

I have a book project I have been working on for several years called *Table Talk*. Here's how it starts:

Dinner parties and other occasions, real, contrived, or imagined — with Duke Ellington, Chairman Mao, Coco Chanel, Ernest Hemingway, Eric Clapton, Sir Francis Drake, Dizzy Gillespie, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Johnson, M. Buonarroti, Maria Callas, Gary Cooper, Audrey Hepburn, Bob Dylan, Izaak Walton, Aristotle Onassis, Bessie Smith, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and other friends.

How are those for dinner guests?

GINO AND CARLO AT 75

My favorite saloon has turned 75. Recently it had a party to celebrate. The North Beach cognoscenti turned up, as well as Gino and Carlo bartenders, past and present — Frank Rossi, Frankie Rossi, Marco Rossi, Orla Nyland, Dan Snell, Frank Colla, Ron Minolli, and Ron Jr. Most common thing said by the party-goers: "I was here when it opened." Not me. I was just a whippersnapper in knee pants in 1942.

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Reflections from 2017

BY AARON PESKIN

WHAT A YEAR. THE WORSE things got in the White House, the harder we fought for our communities here in San Francisco. And there were some victories.

BUILDING AND PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

After SB 1069 took effect in early January, which removed some state impediments to financing and building accessory dwelling units (ADUs), I moved local implementing legislation to ensure those units would remain rent-controlled and conform to our local community planning process.

I also hosted an ADU forum with the Planning and Building Inspection Departments to educate everyday San Franciscans on my 2016 ADU legislation that created a newly streamlined process for building ADUs. We hoped to generate more applications, and it worked: In the first nine months of 2017, property owners applied to create 593 ADUs, more than double the previous year. There are now 1,046 ADUs in the pipeline, which will provide permanently affordable housing within the nooks and

crannies of existing buildings throughout the city.

In July, we passed landmark legislation to protect tenants from fraudulent owner move-in (OMI) evictions, after an NBC Bay Area investigation revealed that one in four OMI evictions were abusing loopholes in the law to get tenants out of their homes.

I also authored historic reforms to the Single Room Occupancy hotel conversion ordinance, closing the long-standing loophole that has allowed thousands of units of affordable housing to be illegally converted into short-term rentals. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the legislation, preserving more than 19,000 units of affordable housing for our most vulnerable populations in San Francisco.

Perhaps the single biggest triumph of the past year has been the unanimous passage of the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Act, which mandated the highest affordable housing requirements in new development in the country. A joint effort by my colleagues Supervisors Jane Kim, Ahsha Safai, and London Breed, the legislation requires developers to make 25 percent of their residential construction affordable to the majority of San Fran-

ciscans, including a new tier for middle-income families. It was a marathon of wonky land-use legislating and negotiating, but the hard work will pay off when these units finally come online.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

A year's worth of investigative hearings revealed serious flaws with the approval process for the Millennium Tower at 301 Mission Street, including revelations the developer knew the building was settling differentially long before they sold their first million-dollar unit.

60 Minutes followed up with an exposé, "The Leaning Tower of San Francisco," which aired around the world, pulling back the veil on widespread industry pressure to expedite downtown development when hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake — even at the cost of the safety of the general public.

I also took on the issue of 911 call center response times, after a major power outage in April revealed serious deficiencies in staffing and citywide coordination. In addition to a series of investigative hearings, which included the Department of Emergency Management

(DEM), I legislated a \$250,000 grant to DEM to launch the "Make the Right Call" campaign in the hope of curbing the 206,000 accidental calls the center receives annually. Recruiting, retention, and oversight reforms have also followed, and as of September 2017, the call center had met the national standard of answering all 911 calls within 10 seconds, 90 percent of the time (for the first time in five years).

I passed landmark campaign finance reforms, fought the Trump administration through my work on the California Coastal Commission, and am placing a charter amendment on the June 2018 ballot to force the issue of divestment from fossil fuels. I was also able to negotiate direct payments to impacted merchants in Chinatown after ongoing delays to the Central Subway project began taking their toll. Working with S.F. Public Works, we are also redesigning the JCDecaux toilet and information kiosks through a true community process.

Finally, I am working with Public Works and the Department of the Environment to reallocate cleaning resources more effectively to neighborhoods that don't enjoy the benefits of Com-

munity Benefit Districts, Invest In Neighborhoods programming, or well-organized neighborhood associations. I've introduced a \$300,000 supplemental appropriation to pilot additional steam-cleaning resources and litter abatement in our most neglected neighborhoods.

FAREWELLS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Also, 2017 was the year we lost our mayor, suddenly and tragically on the eve of our last Board of Supervisors meeting. It has certainly cast a pallor of sadness over our collective work, but we are pushing forward to honor Mayor Lee's legacy with progress on the many issues he championed.

We also welcome a new member to our team, Calvin Yan, who took over for Beth Rubenstein in our office. If you have not had a chance to meet him yet, please stop by the office and introduce yourself.

We have a lot of work to do together in 2018 — but it helps to reflect on where we've been. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve this community — and I hope I make you proud when all is said and done.

Onward to a year of growth and positive change!

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The Tablehopper ∴ The Grotto returns

It's not just the fish that's fresh at Fisherman's Grotto No. 9

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

ONE OF THE WHARF'S most beloved stalwarts, Fishermen's Grotto No. 9 (2847 Taylor Street, 415-673-7025) has reopened under new owner Chris Henry. It has had quite the thoughtful remodel, thankfully keeping its fabulous vintage style intact, just refreshed and gently updated.

Henry bought the historic property in October 2016 (it was the first full-service, sit-down restaurant in the wharf when it opened in 1935) from the Gerald family, who owned the Grotto for three generations, but with expensive renovations looming, several family members balked and forced the restaurant's sale.

Henry recently took over another San Francisco icon, Tommy's Joynt, and understands the importance of keeping the nostalgia while giving things a gentle polish — "I want to bring things up to today's standards for diners, but it's important to preserve the rich history of the wharf." He also owns the Barrel House Tavern in Sausalito and Dawn Patrol in Santa Barbara.

Upstairs is **The Grotto**, and all the original woodwork was stripped, repaired, and repainted white, from the panels to the beams — resulting in an airy and light feeling. The spectacular view of boats and the bay through two windows remains. The former fisherman-motif carpet has been replaced with blonde oak floors with wavy planks (inspired by the bar), and some inset bronze fish, crabs, and starfish. Some ocean-inspired carpet has been installed in the back section of the dining room along with the staircase carpet, which features octopus.

Slightly elevated banquettes and blue booths line the wall with some round tables down the center. The white tablecloths have been swapped out to reveal the wood tabletops, and fabric runners tuck into two slots on each end. The black walnut tables were handmade by Eastern European craftsmen Henry has worked with for over 20 years. The postmodern-inspired chair styles add to the vintage-yet-modern look.

The menu continues to offer the kind of seafood



Seafood Cobb salad at the recently updated The Grotto No. 9. PHOTO: WILLIAM PRUYN

dishes people expect from the wharf, from chowder to cioppino to crab Louie, but with a bit lighter, fresher presentation by Heidi DiPippo, the corporate culinary director, and Paul Bruno, executive chef. Sustainability is highlighted, and they have added some fun seafood plateaus from the new raw bar (formerly the dining room bar, and you can still sit there). There is also an herb garden and a beehive on the roof deck.

The dining room has a staggering 240 seats. I spoke with General Manager Lisa Robins (previously at another vintage

The beautiful undulating remains, along with the funky gold wall medallions, the diamond-patterned wall paneling, the herringbone ceiling, and more. They even got the fireplace working. A jellyfish tank is coming soon, and you can come by and enjoy some piano playing Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1–3 p.m. Tuesday evenings will also be happening.

The talented Ken Furusawa (1300 on Fillmore, Ichi Sushi, Range, Saison, and La Folie) has gently updated the cocktails but nothing too crazy, just classics done right (all \$13). Frank

would approve of the Ol' Blue Eyes, made with Jack Daniel's (his favorite) single-barrel whiskey, Carpano Antica sweet vermouth, bitters, and a brandied cherry. *Sunday through Thursday* 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m.,

Friday through Saturday 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Another tidbit: Some ABC license-transfer activity reveals Henry is buying **Tarantino's Restaurant** as well. I'll keep you posted.

NORTH BEACH
Now open in North Beach 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, sauces, focaccia (with toppings), Italian meats, piadine (a type of sandwich made with flatbread — it's like Italian pita), pantry items, and some cookware too. *Daily noon–7 p.m.*

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!

Henry understands how to keep the nostalgia while giving things a gentle polish.

S.F. favorite, Alfred's), who said it's quite the marathon each day. She updated the wine list with California wines by the glass from kegs.

The **crab stand** has reopened downstairs — you can order cracked crab, seafood cocktails, fish and chips, and some of the wharf's best chowder (made fresh two or three times a day). And yes, you can get it in a sourdough bowl. It's grab-and-go, but there are tables (unlike the other stands). *Daily 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (closes a little later Friday and Saturday).*

No. 9, the downstairs casual cafe, is targeted for reopening in March. Its Venetian look from the jaunty striped poles to the charming booths is being preserved, and some of the blue barstools from upstairs will have a second life at the downstairs bar as well.

Speaking of the bar (the Fireplace Lounge), which was one of the finest retro time capsules in the city, it's now the **Sinatra Bar**.



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Appetites and Afterthoughts :: Mangia!

The spaghetti symposium

BY ERNEST BEYL

“Everything you see I owe to spaghetti.”
— Sophia Loren

ISN'T THAT A GREAT QUOTE? I SUPPOSE one could say the same about me. My fondest teenage memories include times when I came home late from a date, opened a can of Franco-American spaghetti, and ate it cold, right out of the tin. I became the Franco-American spaghetti savant of my neighborhood.

And today, what is my number-one comfort food? Spaghetti, of course, but not Franco-American. That's long gone — a dim memory. The Campbell Soup Company took over Franco-American and gradually phased out my wonderful canned spaghetti.

But even with that terrible loss, I make do in the spaghetti department, cooking my own sauces to slurp up. Here are a few of my favorites:

AGLIO E OLIO: SIMPLE AND BASIC

This is the simplest and most basic of spaghetti sauces. Just garlic and olive oil with some chili pepper flakes, and perhaps a bit of chopped parsley on top for color. Brown some minced garlic in olive oil. Add cooked spaghetti. Mix and enjoy.

ALFREDO: HOLLYWOOD SAUCE

This sauce of Parmigiano-Reggiano (that glorious Italian cheese) and butter is usually served with a flat, wide fettuccini pasta. It was named for an Italian entrepreneur who opened Alfredo's, his eponymous restaurant in Rome, in 1914. American movie stars Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford dropped in on their honeymoon in 1927. They loved it and went back several times for Fettuccini Alfredo. The Hollywood pair had a gold-plated spoon and fork made and engraved “To Alfredo King of the Noodles” for their new best friend to create his magic Fettuccini Alfredo. During World War II, Alfredo King of the Noodles sold his restaurant to two waiters and then opened another place. There is some dispute about who created the original Alfredo's. But never mind. Both restaurants serve Fettuccini Alfredo.

BOLOGNESE: KING OF SAUCES

Bolognese is the king of spaghetti sauces. This meat-based sauce (sugo) originated in 18th century Bologna. Today, what you get when you order spaghetti and meatballs is basically Spaghetti alla Bolognese. When I make a Bolognese sauce, I like to add a cup or two of brown sauce left over from a previous short ribs dinner. I also add one or two whole cloves, which add to the depth of flavor.

CARBONARA: FUEL FOR THE SOUL

This is a pasta sauce — eggs with pancetta or bacon bits — with an obscure origin. I'll give you a couple of possibilities:

Woodcutters making charcoal (carbon) for fuel developed it in the Apennine Mountains of Abruzzo. These charcoal workers laced it liberally with black pepper, making it look like coal dust on the pasta.

After the Allies liberated Rome in 1944, the troops gave some of their military rations — in this case, powdered eggs and bacon — to the locals, who created Spaghetti Carbonara.

CACIO E PEPE: CHEESE AND PEPPER

This is a Roman dish. Ingredients for the sauce are Pecorino Romano cheese and black pepper — a lot of it. My recipe calls for the addition of a little of the hot pasta water. It helps to melt the cheese.

PESTO: ANCIENT ROOTS

Pesto originated in 16th century Genoa. Some say it actually goes back to the early Romans, who made a similar sauce and smeared it on everything. Traditionally, pesto is made in a mortar with a pestle, pounding and grinding garlic, basil, pine nuts, Parmigiano-Reggiano, and olive oil. Some philistines add cream. This is not a misdemeanor, it's a felony.

PUTTANESCA: WHORE'S SPAGHETTI

Puttanesca — commonly known as the whore's spaghetti — is another thing altogether. No sissy butter and cream in this one. “Puttanesca” is Italian for whore. One story is it originated with ladies of the evening who could make this nourishing meal between assignments. A second story is Italians use the word “puttana” as an all-purpose cuss word. So it is logical, if you want to buy into this, the cook might say, “I just threw in a bunch of s—, and it tastes pretty good.” That bunch of puttana that makes up the sauce includes anchovies, onions, garlic, capers, and olives — in a lusty tomato sauce.

TOMATO SAUCE: KEEP IT SIMPLE

Marcella Hazan, Italian cook and cookbook writer, gave us this one. It's a three-ingredient tomato sauce — canned San Marzano tomatoes, butter, and onion. Sauté a couple of hunks of onion in the butter. Dump in a large can of tomatoes. Cook until the sauce thickens. Remove the onion (which I never do) and pour over spaghetti.

VONGOLE: CLAMS SAUCE IT UP

Spaghetti con Vongole is one of my favorites. Fresh clams are cooked briefly (until they open) in olive oil, minced garlic, and white wine. Place the result over spaghetti in a warm bowl and top with some chopped parsley. There are those who try to add cream to this. Don't allow it. Report them to the National Vongole Association for fraud.

A TONNO ERNESTO: LEFTOVERS

I confess I made up this one. One day I made some tuna salad sandwiches — good Italian olive oil-packed tuna, minced red onion, and mayonnaise. I enjoyed the sandwiches, but didn't finish all the tuna salad. The next day, I boiled some linguine, dumped it over the leftover tuna salad, and mixed it up. It was terrific, and has now entered the Ernesto canon of strange, but wonderful, recipes.

POSTSCRIPT: PASTA HISTORY

Like a forkful of spaghetti, it's difficult to unravel pasta's tangled history. In Marco Polo's famous journey from Venice to China, it is said he discovered pasta there, but about 50 years before, both the Indians in the subcontinent and the Arabs in the Middle East were already dining on pasta. Let's adopt a theory that it is possible for discoveries to be made simultaneously in various parts of the world. There's no reason not to believe this — take barbecue, for example. There is fierce dispute about where the first pit master evolved — Raleigh, N.C.; Memphis, Tenn.; Kansas City, Mo.; or somewhere deep in the heart of Texas.

A final spaghetti thought: There's an ancient mathematical computation called the algorithm of spaghetti, proving that no matter how much you boil for your meal, it always seems like too much. But then, there's no such thing as too much spaghetti.

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

Ram’s Gate Winery: Food and wine with a view

BY LYNETTE MAJER

SERVING WINE WITH FOOD is nothing new, but wineries are now taking these pairings to a new level and creating an experience for visitors to their tasting rooms. Food and wine pairings have become so popular, it’s difficult to find a winery that *doesn’t* have a full-time chef charged with creating this type of experience. After all, why just belly up to the tasting bar for half a dozen or so sips when you can sit in a beautiful setting, and be served food along with that wine that enhances both? Suddenly, to only taste seems almost rudimentary.

Situated on a hill with sweeping views of the Carneros AVA and housed in a modern weathered farmhouse-style structure designed by world-renowned architect Howard Backen, Ram’s Gate offers superior food and wine pairing experiences. Choose from a picnic; “Behind the Gate,” a demonstration/lecture with the executive chef and head sommelier; and “Palate Play,” a seated pairing. (Tasting-only options are also available, which simply by the venue makes them a cut above the rest.)



Left to right: The outdoor entry courtyard; a Palate Play wine and food pairing. COURTESY RAM’S GATE WINERY

A giant outdoor fireplace and inviting seating area provides a greeting, with expansive vineyard views through floor-to-ceiling doors; the space is designed with an indoor-outdoor aesthetic. Acclaimed San Francisco interior designer Orlando Diaz-Azcuy has created an elegant, contemporary yet inviting space in a neutral palette among the rooms in what is called The Tasting Hall.

Winemaker Jeff Gaffner crafts estate and single vineyard wines from the Carneros region and select vineyards in Sonoma. Bottlings are small, averaging about

300 cases of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and sparkling.

The food for Palate Play changes seasonally, and features five pairings. Highlights of the fall pairing:

- **Dungeness crab, citrus, frisée, pink peppercorn, and candied fennel/2014 Hudson Vineyard Carneros Chardonnay.** Tasting note: The wine does not go through a final filtration to maintain the Chardonnay characteristic, and paired with the crab, brings out its minerality.
- **Duck confit dumpling, fermented golden beets, pome-**

granate, miso dashi broth/2014 Roberts Road Vineyard, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir. Tasting note: The grapes for this wine are from the newly named Petaluma Gap AVA, where the ocean breezes thicken the grape skins to produce an aromatically complex, smooth, elegant, low tannin pour that balances the richness of the duck.

- **Duck fat shortbread, smoked brown sugar caramel, coriander lime shortbread, blueberry jam/2015 Hyde Vineyard Carneros Syrah.** Fun note: When our server delivered these to the table, he said, “These will change your life.” Tasting note: This visu-

ally inky thick wine spends 18 months in oak to produce a rich and earthy wine with tobacco and blueberry notes.

In addition to its excellent wines as well as pairings, Ram’s Gate is the closest Wine Country tasting room to San Francisco, making it a perfect way to spend an afternoon.

Ram’s Gate Winery: 28700 Arnold Drive, Sonoma, 707-721-8700, ramsgatewinery.com, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Thursday–Monday, appointment only.

E-mail: lynette@marinatimes.com



Follow Your Nose to
THE STINKING ROSE



325 Columbus Avenue
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thestinkingrose.com

Michael Snyder
continued from cover

Prime Minister Winston Churchill in and out of the public eye during the opening days of World War II. The private scenes between Churchill and his wife, Clementine (Kristen Scott Thomas), as well as those between the newly anointed prime minister and King George (Ben Mendelsohn), are as potent as the raucous sessions in Parliament.

‘DUNKIRK’

While it covers some of the same circumstances as *Dark-est Hour*, director Christopher Nolan has achieved a sprawling, immersive recreation of the harrowing situation that befell the Allies on the beaches of Dunkirk, France. With a top-grade ensemble cast led by Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, and Tom Hardy, Nolan deftly follows the story on land, on the sea, and in the air.

‘GET OUT’

In a startling and accomplished debut as a screenwriter and director, Jordan Peele (one-half of the sketch comedy duo Key & Peele) uses the horror movie genre to make a scary, wickedly droll film about racism. Daniel Kaluuya has a star-making turn here as a young black man whose white girlfriend (Allison Williams) brings him to meet her well-to-do parents (Bradley Whitford, Catherine Keener) with truly disturbing results.

‘GOOD TIME’

Twilight heartthrob Robert Pattinson plays Constantine, the older of two hapless New York City brothers who botch a bank robbery, and it’s his best onscreen work to date. When his mentally challenged younger brother, Nick, is captured, Constantine vows to free him despite the cops in hot pursuit. This gritty, witty update of classic *Mean Streets*-era Martin Scorsese comes from the fraternal writing-and-directing team of Joshua and Ben Safdie.

‘I, TONYA’

Margot Robbie may be too beautiful to play the ill-fated working-class Olympic figure skater Tonya Harding, but that doesn’t stop her from nailing the role in this sharp, tragicomic



Tonya Harding (Margot Robbie) at the 1994 Olympics in *I, Tonya*. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NEON AND 30WEST

look at the background, initiation, and aftermath of the notorious 1994 assault on Harding’s skating rival Nancy Kerrigan. There’s award-worthy supporting work by Allison Janney as Harding’s vile mother and Sebastian Stan as Harding’s conniving husband Jeff Gillooly.

‘LADY BIRD’

More than a mere coming-of-age movie, actress Greta Gerwig’s first shot at directing a movie on her own is also a painfully honest look at mother-daughter relations, high-school social orders, and middle-class life in Sacramento, Calif., during the early 2000s. The beating heart of the project is young Irish actress Saoirse Ronan, brilliant as the fictionalized version of Gerwig in the director’s somewhat autobiographical script.

‘MOLLY’S GAME’

Written and directed by Aaron Sorkin (TV’s *The West Wing*), the true story of Molly Bloom (a compelling Jessica Chastain) is an outrageous thrill ride into the shadow world of high-stakes gambling. Bloom’s career as a competitive skier is derailed by injury, and via unexpected career twists, she ends up overseeing a series of private poker games with pro card sharks, celebrities, and mobsters, earning big bucks and attracting the attention of the FBI. Idris Elba as Bloom’s lawyer and Kevin Costner as her dad up the ante.

‘MUDBOUND’

A well-wrought, superbly acted, and painful history lesson from director and co-screenwrit-

er Dee Rees addresses the pervasive, crippling economic and class divisions, and racial strife that still plagued the rural South during the 1940s as World War II was being fought and in the subsequent peacetime when two men — one white, one black — return from the war to work on a farm in rural Mississippi. The stellar cast includes Carey Mulligan, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell, and Mary J. Blige, all of whom excel.

‘PHANTOM THREAD’

Daniel Day-Lewis is astonishing as Reynolds Woodcock, a tightly wound, elegant, and acclaimed fashion designer in early 1950s London. Woodcock’s symbiotic relationship to his sister (a superb Lesley Manville) is jeopardized when he discovers his muse, a long-limbed beauty (Vicky Krieps) whose love for him plays quiet havoc with his regimented life. This is also a reunion between Day-Lewis and writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson who previously teamed on *There Will Be Blood*.

‘THE BIG SICK’

Call it a docu-rom-com or just call it a charmer. Either way, this movie is a treat that dramatizes how Pakistan-born comedian and actor Kumail Nanjiani (*Silicon Valley*) actually met and fell in love with Emily, the American graduate student who would become his wife, and the way their love was tested by cultural differences and a debilitating illness. Costarring Nanjiani as himself, the winsome Zoe Kazan as Emily, and Holly Hunter and Ray Romano as her parents,

with a script from Nanjiani and his significant other, Emily Gordon.

‘THE SHAPE OF WATER’

What if the cheesy ’50s monster movie *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* were a reciprocal love story between the creature and the damsel he pursues? Guillermo del Toro delivers something close to that concept with his exciting, heartbreaking, and visually stunning fable set during the cold war in the 1960s. Sally Hawkins plays a mute cleaning woman at a secret U.S. lab facility who stumbles upon and connects with a captive amphibious creature (Doug Jones) with astonishing powers, infuriating a sinister government agent (Michael Shannon). The results are thrilling.

‘THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI’

With its mix of deep and unique characters, mordant humor, and shockingly violent moments, Irish writer-director Martin McDonagh’s investigation into small-town tragedy, mores, and politics showcases costars Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, and Sam Rockwell at their best.

Mildred (McDormand) is so disgusted with the inability of the local police to solve her daughter’s murder that she rents three billboards on the edge of town and uses them to shame the cops for failing to solve the case. And trouble ensues in this pointed, unflinching, and zesty effort.

‘WIND RIVER’

There’s a long history of urban film noir — crime dramas set in the dimly lit corners of a big city. This, though, is a wilderness noir as an area game tracker (Jeremy Renner) must tread lightly when he is teamed with a novice female FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) to solve the murder of a young woman on a snow-swept American Indian reservation, home to the tracker’s ex-wife. Written and directed by Taylor Sheridan, who authored the script for *Sicario*.

‘WONDER WOMAN’

This World War I period piece is part of the same DC Comics’s cinematic universe that’s produced a series

of heavy-handed superhero bummers, but its introduction of the amazing Amazon warrior Diana — overseen by Oscar-winning director Patty Jenkins — is truly superior to the rest. Israeli actress Gal Gadot embodies the strong, charismatic, and compassionate superheroine, and Chris Pine is her undaunted leading man, American soldier Steve Trevor.

You get social commentary, humorous moments, and loads of heart amid the battles as Wonder Woman tries to bring a message of peace to the warmongers.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE MOVIES

- A Ciambra*
- BPM*
- Foxtrot*
- In the Fade*
- The Commune*
- The Divine Order*
- The Square*

DOCUMENTARIES

- Faces Places*
- Jane*
- LA 92*

UNDERAPPRECIATED GEMS

- Call Me by Your Name*
- Detroit*
- I, Daniel Blake*
- Norman: The Moderate Rise and Fall of a New York Fixer*
- Split*
- The Disaster Artist*
- The Florida Project*
- The Hero*
- The Killing of a Sacred Deer*
- The Wall*

SCI-FI/FANTASY BLOCKBUSTERS

- Blade Runner 2049*
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*
- Logan*
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
- Thor: Ragnarok*
- War for the Planet of the Apes*

ANIMATED MOVIES

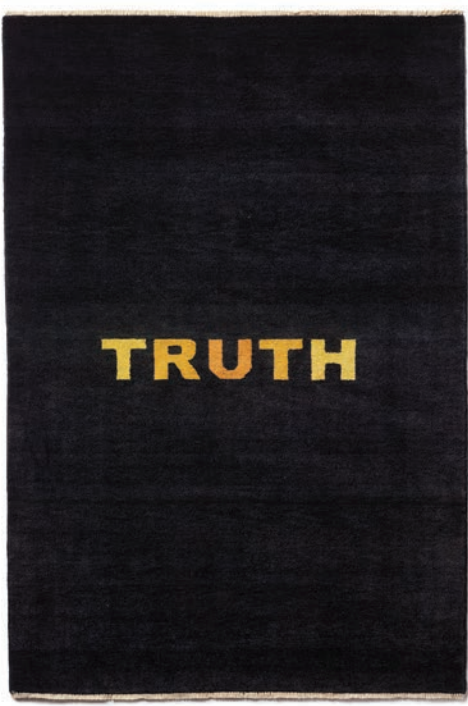
- Coco*
- Loving Vincent*
- My Life As a Zucchini*

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



Doug Jones and Sally Hawkins in the film *The Shape of Water*. PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES, ©2017 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

Playtime and Sanctuary: Two thought-provoking exhibitions at Fort Mason Center



Left to right: Isaac Julien, *Emerald City / Kapital*, from his video installation, *Playtime* (COURTESY FORT MASON CENTER); two rugs from *Sanctuary*: Tammam Azzam, *Untitled*, 2017 and Marcos Ramírez Erre, *Untitled*, 2017; COURTESY THE ARTISTS; PHOTOS: ROBERT DIVERS HERRICK

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THROUGH FEB. 11, THE FORT Mason Center for Arts & Culture presents **Playtime**, three video installations by award-winning British artist Isaac Julien in the Bay Area. Julien's films explore the way capitalism and information influences people's everyday lives. Three separate galleries will feature three films, *Playtime* (2017, 67 minutes), *Kapital* (2013, 31 minutes), and *Better Life (Ten Thousand Waves)*, (2010, 51 minutes).

Playtime is a twist on Jacques Tati's 1967 film and takes place in London, Reykjavik, and Dubai, places feeling the effects of present-day economic change. Real-life individuals react to market collapse in each city under different circumstances.

Kapital shows Julien at a public talk in the Hayward Gallery in London with

Marx scholar David Harvey where they discuss the impact of modern capitalism in the contemporary world.

Better Life (Ten Thousand Waves) features footage from a call-and-rescue helicopter during the 2004 Morecambe Bay tragedy when 22 Chinese cockle pickers died in rising tides off the coast of England. Julien collaborated with prominent Chinese artists reflecting what it means to seek a "better life."

Sanctuary runs through March 11, and is organized by the For-Site Foundation (the Presidio's Homeland Security and @Large: Ai WeiWei on Alcatraz, among others). It features artist-designed rugs which, utilizing traditional materials and techniques, examine the theme of sanctuary during an era of increasing migration clashing against attitudes of isolationism and nationalism. Many of the artists have been migrants and refugees themselves;

they represent racial, cultural, and religious diversity under the banner of a single idea.

Rugs traditionally represent the places and people who use them and are deeply ingrained with cultural symbolism. Work from 36 international artists are on display in a space known as The Chapel, a decommissioned military chapel. Here, the rugs take on the symbolism of prayer and worship while the viewer considers place, identity, and belonging. The symbolism of the rug as being transportable — able to be rolled up and taken with a person with relative ease — reinforces the sense of transient populations and migration. The four-by-six-foot wool rugs make us consider the right to safe haven and the natural desire of all human beings for home and a sense of acceptance.

"Rugs speak broadly to cultural heritage, family history, and transportable

identity," says Cheryl Haines, For-Site executive director. "At a moment in time characterized by growing nationalism and isolationism, we must acknowledge the importance of recognizing our common humanity, as well as the need for compassion and the provision of safe harbor for the displaced."

Playtime: Wed.-Sat., noon- 8 p.m. & Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Feb. 11, free; Gallery 308 (Playtime), SFMO-MA Artist Gallery (Kapital), and Gray Box Gallery, S.F. Art Institute (Better Life); Fort Mason Center, 415-345-7500, formason.org

Sanctuary: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. through March 11, free; The Chapel, Fort Mason Center, 415-345-7500, for-site.org

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest That Will Bring Purpose to Your Life**, by Chris Guillebeau (paperback)
2. **A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel**, by Amor Towles (hardcover)
3. **Really Big Lunch: The Roving Gourmand on Food and Life**, by Jim Harrison (hardcover)
4. **Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice**, by Bill Browder (paperback)
5. **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis**, by J.D. Vance (hardcover)
6. **All the Light We Cannot See**, by Anthony Doerr (paperback)

7. **The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counter-intuitive Approach to Living a Good Life**, by Mark Manson (hardcover)
8. **Crazy Rich Asians**, by Kevin Kwan (paperback)
9. **Buddha Walks into a Bar . . . : A Guide to Life for a New Generation**, by Lodro Rinzler (paperback)
10. **In a Dark, Dark Wood**, by Ruth Ware (paperback)

NEW BOOKS IN JANUARY

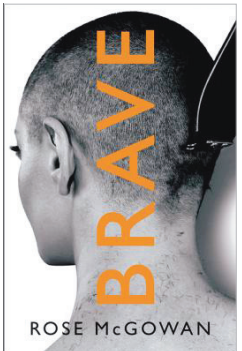
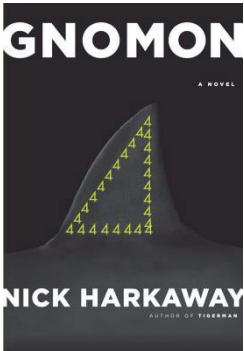
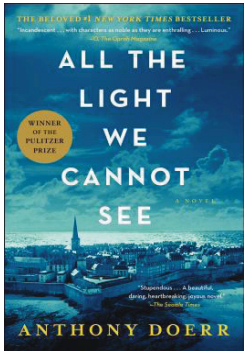
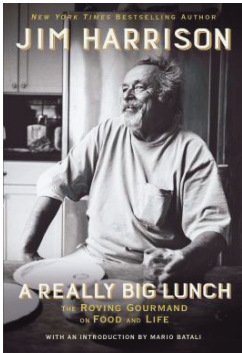
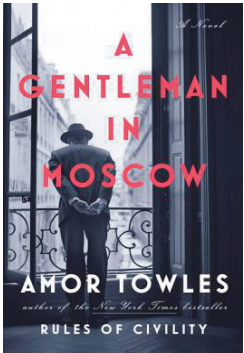
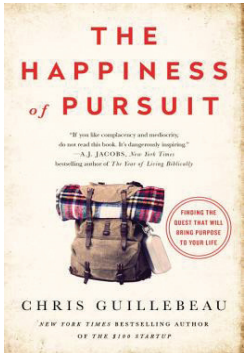
Gnomon, by Nick Harkaway (Jan. 9)

From the widely acclaimed author of *The Gone-Away World* and *Tigerman* comes a virtuosic new novel set in a near-future, high-tech surveillance state, that is equal parts dark come-

dy, gripping detective story, and mind-bending philosophical puzzle involving a suspected dissident's death while in government custody.

When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing, by Daniel Pink (Jan. 9)

Everyone knows timing is everything. But we don't know much about timing itself. Our lives are a never-ending stream of "when" decisions: when to start a business, schedule a class, get serious about a person. Yet we make those decisions based on intuition and guesswork. Timing, it's often assumed, is an art, but Pink shows that timing is really a science. The number one bestselling author of *Drive* and *To Sell Is Human*, unlocks the scientific secrets to good timing to help you flourish at work, at school, and at home.



Brave, by Rose McGowan (Jan. 20)

McGowan's raw, honest, and poignant memoir/manifesto is a no-holds-barred account of the rise of a millennial icon and fearless activist, who is determined to expose the truth about the entertainment industry, dismantle the concept of fame, shine

a light on a multibillion-dollar business built on systemic misogyny, and empower people everywhere to wake up and be brave.

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

JANUARY EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS

Shen Yun Performing Arts

Daily, Jan. 1–7

War Memorial Opera House

Don't miss this spectacular, colorful, and exhilarating performance of classical Chinese dance and music. \$80–\$300, 888-974-3698, shenyun.com

Sea Lion 28th Anniversary

Daily Jan.1–28, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

K-Dock, Pier 39 and Sea Lion Center

Enjoy daily programming every half hour at the Sea Lion Center, sign the Sea Lion Love Wall, meet Salty the Sea Lion (Saturdays noon–3 p.m.), take educational walking tours (daily, noon–3 p.m.), and receive free/discounted admission to Aquarium of the Bay. Visit website for details. Free, 415-262-4734, pier39.com

5th Annual FOG Design+Art Fair

Preview Gala: Wednesday, Jan. 10

Fair: Thu.–Sun., Jan. 11–14, 11 a.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

This fair celebrates today's most significant creatives and leading contributors to the worlds of design and visual arts by assembling 45 leading international galleries, including some of the most prominent dealers of 20th-century and contemporary art and design, including 21POP, a special installation by designer Stanlee Gatti. Preview the show at the gala and enjoy live entertainment, fine food, and cocktails. Proceeds benefit SFMOMA. \$25 (fair), \$175 & up (gala); 415-551-5190, fogfair.com

17th Annual S.F. Sketchfest

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 11–28

Various S.F. venues

Ricky Gervais, Jane Lynch, and Dick Cavett headline the 2018 iteration of this nationally recognized comedy festival that mixes national headliners, local favorites, and the best up-and-coming groups for sketch, improv, stand-up, and alternative comedy. Visit website for schedule/tickets. sfsketchfest.com

S.F. Ballet 2018 Opening Night Gala: Celestial

Thursday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m.

City Hall & War Memorial Opera House

Start with an elegant cocktail reception and dinner at City Hall, then head to the Opera House for free prosecco followed by the performance, then head back to City Hall for an after party and mingle with ballet dancers while enjoying live music, dancing, complimentary cocktails, refreshments, and desserts. \$1,250 & up, visit website for packages and pricing options, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org



S.F. Restaurant Week

Daily, Jan. 22–31

Various S.F. restaurants

Dine at nearly 130 of your favorite restaurants offering two-course lunches for \$15 and \$25 and three-course dinners for \$40 and \$65. Visit website for participating restaurants. 415-781-5348, sfrestaurantweek.com

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/GOLDENGATERESTAURANTASSOCIATION

Ricky Gervais

Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.

S.F. Masonic (1111 California St.)

Considered one of the most influential British comedians since Charlie Chaplin, the multiple award-winner Gervais returns with his first stand-up tour in seven years: *Humanity* \$59.50 & up, 800-745-3000, sfmasonic.com

18th Annual Edwardian Ball & World's Faire

Faire: Friday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m.–2 a.m.

Ball: Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m.–2 a.m.

Regency Ballroom (1300 Van Ness Ave.)

This description-defying, high camp, whimsical, and surrealistic two-day festival is a living interpretation and celebration of the stories of the late macabre cult author, comic artist, illustrator, and cartoonist Edward Gorey. \$75 (faire), \$85 (ball), edwardianball.com

LAST CHANCE

Aladdin

Tue.–Sun. through Jan. 7

SHN Orpheum Theatre

From the producer of The Lion King, this theatrical event about a genie, a lamp, and three wishes is filled with beauty, magic, and comedy. \$80–\$240, 888-746-1799, shnsf.com

Awakening Beauty: The Art of Eyvind Earle

Wed.–Mon. through Jan. 9,

10 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

Walt Disney Family Museum

(140 Montgomery St., the Presidio)

This original retrospective showcases the life and work of Eyvind Earle, best known as the lead stylist for Walt Disney's classic feature Sleeping Beauty and for concept art that shaped such enduring favorites as Lady and the Tramp and Peter Pan. \$10 & \$30, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

Klimt & Rodin: An Artistic Encounter

Tue.–Sun. through Jan. 28,

9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

Legion of Honor

This exhibition examines the diverse connections between these artists and their impact upon the art world. \$30, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

COMMUNITY CORNER

MLK 2018: Parade and March

Monday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m.

Caltrain to Yerba Buena Gardens

The 1.5-mile journey will stop at Willie Mays Plaza at AT&T Park to commemorate the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, a symbol of violence and victory in the civil rights movement. At the conclusion, faith leaders will honor Dr. King's vision and lead participants in a spiritual reflection of his message. Free, sfmlkday.org

MLK Day Celebration: The Urgency of Now

Monday, Jan. 15

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts & Garden

Attend a panel discussion featuring a leading activist, actor, athlete, academic, and artist in conversation with two-time Peabody Award-winning investigative journalist and performer Al Letson; enjoy an afternoon of live music; and attend the Health and Wellness Festival. Free, sfmlkday.org

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 15

Golden Gate National Park locations

Commemorate MLK day in family-friendly events to help grow and restore cherished natural parklands. Registration required; visit website for projects/locations. Free, 415-561-3077, volunteer@parksconservancy.org, parksconservancy.org

Omochitsuki! Mochi-Pounding Ceremony

Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Loggia & Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum

Celebrate the Japanese New Year with Kagami Kai, an acclaimed mochi group, as it presents the colorful and exciting new year tradition of mochi pounding to make delectably sweet rice cakes, with music, dance, and traditional costumes. As part of the day, fold paper cranes and take an omikuji (paper fortune) from the fortune tree to take home for luck and prosperity in the new year. Free with admission (\$15), 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Lunar New Year: The Traditions and Symbolism

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 6:30–8 p.m.

S.F. Public Library, North Beach

(850 Columbus Ave.)

Welcome in the lunar year by learning about the traditions and symbolism that enrich this celebration each year. Free, 415-355-5626, sfpl.org

GALAS AND BENEFITS

Japanese New Year Celebration with Osechi Ryori

Thursday, Jan.11, 6–8:30 p.m.

Hotel Kabuki (1625 Post St.)

Experience traditional Japanese New Year's cuisine, "osechi ryori," an elaborate preparation of dishes with special significance for the new year. Proceeds benefit the Japantown Foundation. \$200 & up, 714-768-8202, japantownfoundation.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

John Martin Photography

Mon.–Fri., ongoing, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Bldg. C, Suite 260, Fort Mason Center

Presented by SFMOMA Artists Gallery, this exhibition of images by local photographer John Martin shows color portraits of San Francisco Opera company members, chorus performers, and supernumeraries in costume and in character, which he has compiled into his book, In Character: Opera Portraiture. Free, 415-447-4777, sfmoma.org

In Around Beyond

Wed.–Sun. through Jan. 21, 11 a.m.

Main Gallery, S.F. Art Institute &

various Fort Mason Center locations

Commissioned art work in a compelling group show, features work by 19 artists and celebrates SFAI's new art campus. Free, sfai.edu

THEATER



S.F. Playhouse: Born Yesterday

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 23–March 20

450 Post St. (Kensington Park Hotel)

This delightful and dangerous comedy is a timely exploration of politics, profiteering, and the power of female persuasion involving a millionaire, his showgirl fiancée, a senator, and a reporter. \$20–\$125, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

PHOTO: SFPLAYHOUSE.ORG

ACT: The Birthday Party

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 10–Feb. 4

405 Geary St.

In this mysterious Harold Pinter classic, which has inspired artists from David Lynch to Quentin Tarantino, the inhabitants of a ramshackle boarding house react to the unsettling arrival of two strangers and why they keep asking about the sole boarder, piano player Stanley. \$15–\$140, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

3rd Annual Fog City Magic Fest

Wed.–Sat., Jan. 24–27

Exit Theatre (156 Eddy St.)

Don't miss nine shows and events by some of the Bay Area's best and most acclaimed magicians. \$25 (show), \$100 (festival pass), 415-931-1094, theexit.org

The Moonrisers

Fri.–Sat., Jan. 26–27

Thu.–Sat., Feb. 1–3

Phoenix Theatre (414 Mason St.)

This fable explores the ideas of perception and sanity in the modern world, and follows four homeless, derelict philosophers as they pursue the age-old question, "Is the Moon real?" \$20, 415-358-1220, 800-838-3006, brownpapertickets.com

DANCE

Savion Glover: Dance of the Drum

Thu.–Sun., Jan. 4–7, 7:30 p.m.

Minor Auditorium, SFJazz (201 Franklin St.)

This Tony Award-winning tap dancer has studied and danced with the best from Gregory Hines to Sammy Davis Jr., and made his Broadway debut at 8 years old. He performs two nights each with drummers Marcus Gilmore and Jack Dejohnette. \$35–\$95, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

L.A. Dance Project

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 8:30 p.m.

Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)

This company burst on the dance scene in 2012 and has been turning heads with its fresh, contemporary vision of dance and stylistically diverse repertory since, performing multidisciplinary collaborations with visual artists, musicians, designers, film directors, and composers. \$25–\$40, 415-392-2545, sfperformances.org

MUSIC

Cabaret Showcase

Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m.

Hotel Rex (562 Sutter St.)

Join G. Scott Lacy as he presents some of the Bay Area's premiere cabaret talent. \$30–\$50, societycabaret.com

Well Strung

Thu.–Sat., Jan. 18–20, 8 p.m.

Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)

The critically acclaimed all-male, classically trained quartet, which has performed for President Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Vatican, among many others, will perform pop/classical mashups featuring hits by Stevie Nicks, Rihanna, The Outfield, Queen, The Beatles, Lady Gaga, and others. \$33.75–\$65, feinsteinsatthenikko.com

Meow Meow with Pink Martini

Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

The international song siren extraordinaire, with a century-spanning repertoire and a mischievous, white-hot wit, lights up the stage in a sublimely subversive performance with the Pink Martini founder and pianist, Thomas M. Lauderdale. \$25–\$69, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

NIGHTLIFE

Red Aunts, Des Roar, The Control Freaks

Sunday, Jan. 14, 8–11:30 p.m.

Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St.)

The all-female punk band Red Aunts has been around since 1991, and they're bringing the party to the Hemlock. \$15 (advance), 415-923-0923, hemlocktavern.com

Comedy Woman

Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Natalia Ypriyan, Ekaterina Skulkina, Nadezhda Sysoeva, Ekaterina Barnabas, Maria Kravchenko, and Marina Fedunkiv bring their comedy lineup to San Francisco to make you laugh and compete in taunts with each other. \$70–\$115, palaceoffinearts.org

Foreverland

Friday, Jan. 26, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

This electrifying 14-piece tribute to Michael Jackson has led a larger-than-life celebration of The Gloved One's musical legacy. \$22, 415-474-0365, bimbos365.com

FILMS & LECTURES

Dogpatch Then and Now

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics (518 Valencia St.)

Learn about the history of the Dogpatch neighborhood — once an industrial area producing warships, steel, sugar, and rope, and now an emerging arts and biotech area. Free, shapingsf.org/public-talks

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Film: 'Arrangiarsi (Pizza ... and the Art of Living)'

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2:30 p.m.
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center
The Museo Italo Americano is proud to present Matteo Troncone's film, Arrangiarsi (Pizza ... and the Art of Living), fresh from sold-out screenings at the Mill Valley Film Festival. From the Bay Area to Italy, Troncone searches for the meaning of life in an engaging, intimate documentary. Is it any surprise to discover pizza is the answer? \$15 (advance), \$20 (door), 415-673-2200, sfmuseo.org

Dolores Huerta and 'The Michelle Meow Show'

Thursday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.
The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)
Labor and civil rights legend Dolores Huerta is the guest for a taping before a studio audience of The Michelle Meow Show at The Commonwealth Club, where she will discuss her lifetime of activism. Free, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Chasing Coral

Sunday, Jan. 28, 5:30 p.m.
Foreign Cinema (2534 Mission St.)
This free screening of the documentary Chasing Coral, presented by OneReef, will be followed by a live Q. & A. with OneReef Executive Director Chris LaFranchi. Free, foreigncinema.com

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Curious Contraptions

Tue.–Sun. through Jan. 28
The Exploratorium (Pier 15)
Explore small, surreal worlds at this exhibition of the charming, often hilarious, mechanical sculptures known as automata. These whimsical machines are brought to life by intricate arrangements of handmade cams, cranks, and other simple mechanisms. Take a look at their exposed inner workings and investigate the low-tech mechanisms that make these automata move. \$19.95–\$29.95, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

Sketchfest Nightlife

Thursday, Jan. 18, 6 p.m.
California Academy of Sciences
It's a night of irreverent science, featuring a live version of the comedy podcast, This Week in Science, and an interactive game called Thinkers and Drinkers. Don't miss the standup comedy on the main stage. Ages 21 & up, \$12–15, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

Dooley and Pelosi: Bridging Trump's Divide

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)
Democratic National Committee Vice Chair Christine Pelosi and Debbie Dooley, a founder of the Tea Party Movement, come together to discuss the politics of energy. \$7–\$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Zinfandel Experience

Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
1098 The Embarcadero
Meet the winemakers at the most comprehensive showing of Zinfandels and blends in the world and experience a selection of sumptuous culinary samples from restaurants and winery chefs. \$80 (afternoon session) & \$180 (full day), 530-274-4900, zinfandelexperience.com

Good Food Marketplace

Sunday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Taste and buy items from the 2018 Good Food Award winners from across the country and enjoy being part of a culinary community. \$5–\$20, goodfoodawards.org

CHILD'S PLAY



YBike Learn to Ride Program

Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Main Post, corner of Anza & Owen Sts., the Presidio
Get your kids riding on two wheels with free, safe, and friendly instruction from the Presidio Community Y. Bikes and equipment provided. All ages, registration suggested, 415-447-9622, presidio.gov
PHOTO: PRESIDIO.GOV

MLK Day Youth Programs

Sat.–Mon., Jan. 13–15
Yerba Buena Gardens
Young celebrants can participate in fun and engaging quests about Dr. King throughout Yerba Buena. Interactive events at the Black Comix Arts Festival will give kids the opportunity to engage in comic and animation activities, and high school students can participate in the New Lights Film Project. Visit website for details. Free, sfmlkday.org

SPORTS & HEALTH

Nutrition and Healthy Choices

Monday, Jan. 8, 22 & 29, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
S.F. Main Library
Each session will focus on one aspect of living a healthful life through making better choices. Classes can be taken individually. Participants will learn easy alternatives and options to some of the most common mistakes we make about our health. Free, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

Vino + Vinyasa

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7–8:30 p.m.
Sports Basement Presidio
The evening starts with a one hour all-levels, well-rounded candlelight flow followed by a variety of wines and light refreshments for the ideal hump day pick-me-up to get you through your week. Free, RSVP at https://goo.gl/SHQnGj, 415-437-0100, sportsbasement.com

JUST FOR FUN

Alfred Hitchcock's San Francisco Walking Tour

Sundays in January, 11 a.m.
Meet: Huntington Park Fountain (California & Taylor Sts.)
See some of the hotels, clubs, retail stores and other locations featured in Vertigo and other Hitchcock classics and learn why Hitchcock chose them and how he filmed them as well as their history, architecture, and the stories they tell about the San Francisco of 50 years ago and today. Free (donations welcome), 415-557-4266, sfcityguides.org

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Beyond weight loss: The importance of detoxing

BY THALIA FARSHCHIAN

AS THE SEASON OF INDULGENCE transitions into the new year, people often feel the need to reinstate balance and get back into a routine. Detoxification practices have become more mainstream and often sought after for health benefits such as weight loss and increased energy.

Symptoms that may clue you into the need to detox include acne, skin rashes, digestive issues, headaches, bad breath, and pain in your joints and/or muscles.

Toxins in our environment can stem from air quality, food, cookware, pesticides, and topical products. Increases in toxic exposures contribute to health conditions that are on the rise, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, infertility, dementia, and more. Major toxins on our radar include phthalates, bisphenol A (BPA), and heavy metals.

PHthalATES AND BISPHEenOLS

Phthalates are used in plastic toys, cooking utensils, fragrances, nail polish, cosmetics, and

paints. As a progressive city, San Francisco has already banned the use of phthalates in children's toys, but we are still exposed to it elsewhere. Bisphenol A is best known to be included in plastic water bottles, but can also be found in receipt paper. These chemicals are in a category of toxins called xenoestrogens, which can lead to overall hormone disruption.

HEAVY METALS

Heavy metals can be found in our food, food preparation, cosmetic products like deodorant, dental fillings, old paint, and more. These harmful metals can be stored in different organs, damage our DNA, and bind where healthy minerals are expected to bind, leading to imbalance in our bodies' systems.

HOW WE DETOX

We do the best we can to reduce our contact with toxins, but some exposures are inevitable. We have a few systems that help us deal with toxins we come into contact with: our skin, lungs, digestive system, liver, lymphatic system, and kidneys. Using expired air, urine, feces

and sweat, our bodies are able to eliminate both toxins our bodies naturally make and those from our environment.

Detoxification has been an integral part of our culture worldwide for centuries. Supporting these pathways of elimination using diet and lifestyle relieve stress from our bodies, thus allowing them to run efficiently. Here are some detox methods:

Brush up: When bathhouses were common, there were many elements for improving circulation and therefore detoxification. One such practice was dry skin brushing. Using a soft natural bristle brush, one would brush the skin starting with the extremities and working inward toward the heart. For the arms and legs, one would use long strokes and circular motions over the abdomen. Today many day spas offer dry brushing treatments.

Turn up the heat: Our skin is our largest organ serving to protect, regulate, and sense. It allows nutrients like vitamin D to be absorbed and utilized, helps to release minerals via sweat, and is one of the major tools our bodies have to eliminate tox-

ins. Sweating has been a therapy for centuries incorporated into many cultures. When our body temperature increases, it allows the blood vessels to widen for more blood flow to move toxins to the surface. In research, we have found phthalates, bisphenol A, and heavy metals to be mobilized and released in our sweat. You can break a sweat simply with exercise or take it up a notch by exploring dry sauna therapies.

Cool rinse: Adding a cool rinse to the end of your hot shower, sauna, or exercise offers an added benefit of stimulating lymph movement. This hydrotherapy technique moves our immune cells and supports healthy circulation. A short cold exposure constricts blood vessels to stimulate circulation and expel toxins. It has other benefits as well like reducing inflammation and increasing fat loss.

Keep regular: Our digestion plays a major role in detoxification, making regularity of bowel movements essential to healthy function. The liver and gallbladder work to process and bind toxins for elimination through the intestines. Consum-

ing a fiber-rich diet of vegetables, complex carbs, and seeds assists in providing the nutrition required to optimize gut function.

Hydrate: The kidneys work hard in filtering 200 quarts of blood daily, and when it comes to detoxing, people often skip over nourishing them. They simply require clean filtered water and can benefit from a few simple additions like lemon and nettles, a liver and kidney nourishing herb. Nettles have been shown in studies to improve the kidneys' ability to filter and cleanse. It can easily be added to a routine in the form of tea.

No matter what your underlying motive, the sad fact is our environment is becoming more toxic each day, and detoxification has never been more important.

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

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Tech tips for the new year

BY LIZ FARRELL

IT IS ALMOST THE NEW YEAR and if your house is like mine, Santa has come and gone but not without leaving a few new devices under the tree.

The start of the new year is typically when we set resolutions of things we want to improve or work on. This is the perfect time to start fresh and establish rules and boundaries around technology or reevaluate the ones you already have. Sometimes we forget with a new device comes a lot of freedom and responsibility, but we need to set up our children for success.

The best way to do this is by establishing some parameters, and not just *for* them but *with* them. So whether they received a cell phone, new gaming console, or an iPad, here are some tech tips for the new year:

ESTABLISH GUIDELINES

We would never give our children cars without teaching them how to drive. Technology is very much the same — before our children are given these all-powerful, super expensive devices, they need a road map

from us as the parents about what they can do, for how long, and appropriate behavior as it relates to the device. There is no better time for this than either before or right after they get the device. It is much harder to reign in behavior than it is to establish limits or boundaries ahead of time.

In our house, after much debate, we finally relented and bought our 10-year-old an Xbox gaming console. Before the box was even opened, we had a conversation with him to set some guidelines. First, we asked him to come up with some he thought were fair and then we shared ours. Together we came to agreement on such things as no gaming during the week, no gaming unless there has been outside time or physical activity, and no connecting with strangers while playing.

GET FAMILY BUY-IN

In so many families, ours included, most of the conflict or push-back is around devices and technology. Everyone always wants a little more screen time. I don't think there is a magic formula to make this completely disappear, but

I do know a sure way to reduce the tension is to have regular family meetings. This can be a great time to work together to develop some rules everyone can agree on. Common Sense Media has a family contract on their website, which is a perfect place to start. You can tailor it so the agreement is realistic and makes sense for your family. Once everyone agrees, you can all sign and agree to abide by it, and then place it in a visible place as a reminder to everyone. No matter what age your children, if they feel they have a voice and are a part of the process, there is a lot more buy-in — with the understanding that some points will be nonnegotiable.

ENSURE SAFETY FIRST

Because so many devices come with Internet access or the ability to chat or message with strangers, it is of the utmost importance that before using the technology our children understand what it means to be safe online. This includes both their physical and emotional safety. These conversations can happen from a very young age in an age-appropriate way



Set the guidelines for gaming. PHOTO: VADIMGUZHVA, ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

and revolve around parental controls, privacy settings, and blocking content. As your child gets older and access increases, the conversations will shift.

In terms of physical safety, your child should know not to share passwords with anyone besides parents, not to share pictures or personal information with strangers, and to turn off geo locators on any apps they are using. Emotional safety is a bit different but equally as important. This can relate to comments they post, reminding them that everything can be screen shot and shared, and if something does go wrong, knowing whom they can turn to for help.

Every child should know and feel comfortable coming to a parent, teacher, or another close

adult if something seen online doesn't feel right.

The best gift we can give our kids doesn't come with an on/off button but rather our involvement and awareness of their digital world. This doesn't mean just setting the rules and guidelines but engaging in their world, so maybe in the new year ask your child to teach you how to play a favorite video game or show you the videos he or she is interested in on YouTube. Doing this and following these tech tips may make for a more peaceful home in the new year.

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

GROWING MARINA FAMILY CHECKLIST:

- ☒ Two Bedroom Condo Where You Share A Wall With Your Kids' Bunk Bed
- ☒ Both Kids Have Soccer Practice At The Marina Greens At 8am When You Slept 3 Hours Last Night
- ☒ 20 Something Neighbors Partying Till 5am Yelling Fraternity Bro Chants
- ☒ Skateboard Attachment For The UPPA Baby Vista Stroller
- ☒ Swearing Under Your Breath At Uber Drivers Trying To Find Parking With A Crying Child
- ☐ Big Enough Garage For The 7 Seater And A Sedan
- ☐ Home Office For Work Concentration And Occasional Yoga
- ☐ Treehouse For The Kids To Play Make-believe
- ☐ Enough Space To Promise Yourself That You Are Going To Be A Better Parent Today



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The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: December 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	2621 Lombard Street 2961 Broderick Street	3BD/1.5BA 3BD/2.5BA	\$1,500,000 \$3,450,000	Below At	55 0
Lake	152 22nd Avenue 136 6th Avenue	3BD/1BA 3BD/1.5BA	\$2,100,000 \$2,650,000	Above Below	13 39
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	3627 Divisadero Street	2BD/2BA	\$2,490,000	Above	13
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2106 Divisadero Street 3103 Clay Street 46 Presidio Avenue 2625 Scott Street	2BD/1BA 4BD/3BA 4BD/3.5BA 5BD/3.5BA	\$2,025,000 \$3,900,000 \$4,225,000 \$5,518,000	Above Above Above Below	26 13 25 76
Presidio Heights	3319 Clay Street 314 Walnut Street 3840 Clay Street	4BD/4.5BA 5BD/5BA 7BD/5.5BA	\$4,300,000 \$8,287,500 \$8,855,000	Below Below Below	13 5 42
Russian Hill	60 Russell Street 3 Russian Hill Place	2BD/1BA 4BD/3BA	\$1,270,000 \$3,300,000	Above At	33 175
Sea Cliff	6529 California Street	2BD/15BA	\$1,200,000	Above	4
Telegraph Hill	30 Edith Street	3BD/2BA	\$2,632,500	Below	59

CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2721 Franklin Street 2719 Franklin Street	2BD/2.5BA 4BD/3.5BA	\$2,395,000 \$2,685,000	At Below	19 34
Lake	103 12th Avenue 1149 Lake Street #201 2415 Lake Street 1149 Lake Street #101	1BD/1BA 3BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 3BD/3BA	\$950,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,280,000 \$1,600,000	Above Below Above Below	22 27 27 26
Laurel Heights	100 Parker Avenue #301 28 Parker Avenue #303 42 Collins Street	1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA	\$975,000 \$980,000 \$1,877,000	Below Below Above	22 21 10
Lone Mountain	108 Stanyan Street 48 Hemway Terrace	2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$1,385,000 \$1,800,000	Above Above	14 19
Marina	1734 Bay Street #203 2272 Bay Street 3623 Webster Street 3044 Franklin Street #302 1345 Francisco Street 1361 Francisco Street	1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 3BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 3BD/2BA	\$852,000 \$1,650,000 \$1,710,000 \$1,750,000 \$1,955,000 \$2,000,000	Above Above Above Above Above Above	8 18 25 26 13 18
Nob Hill	1177 California St. #1703 1177 California Street #502 1591 Jackson Street #18 1454 California Street #6 1788 Clay Street #404 1731 Larkin Street #3 1255 California Street #204 1177 California Street #724 1170 Sacramento St. #14A 1200 California Street #18C	0BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 3BD/3BA	\$565,000 \$595,000 \$940,000 \$1,185,000 \$1,299,000 \$1,345,000 \$1,360,000 \$1,740,000 \$3,000,000 \$3,188,000	Below Below At Above At Above Below Below Above Below	60 140 21 30 9 11 84 18 12 31
North Beach	444 Francisco Street #203 690 Chestnut Street #404 733 Filbert Street #3	2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA	\$1,155,000 \$1,195,000 \$1,300,000	Above At Above	14 63 18
Pacific Heights	2999 California Street #305 1701 Jackson Street #207 2155 Buchanan Street #1 2295 Vallejo Street #302 1895 Pacific Avenue #105 2016 Pacific Avenue #401 1770 Pacific Avenue #302 2205 Sacramento St. #402 2090 Pacific Avenue #502 2090 Pacific Avenue #706 1859 Vallejo Street #1 2200 Pacific Avenue #10D 2551 Clay Street 2145 Jackson Street 2064 Green Street 2220 Washington Street 2740 Pierce Street 2121 Webster Street #PH3 2121 Webster Street #PH3 2288 Broadway #1N 2298 Pacific Avenue #7	1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/3BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2.5BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/2.5BA	\$675,000 \$863,000 \$1,000,000 \$1,050,000 \$1,254,825 \$1,450,000 \$1,450,000 \$1,495,000 \$1,500,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,275,000 \$1,750,000 \$2,000,000 \$2,410,000 \$2,490,000 \$2,600,000 \$3,300,000 \$4,595,000 \$4,595,000 \$6,000,000 \$7,325,000	Above Above Above Above Above Above At Above At Above Above Above Above Above Below Above Above Above Above Above Above Above	34 29 35 7 7 3 0 37 0 11 0 15 15 17 16 1 2 61 26 4 9
Presidio Heights	3823 Clay Street	3BD/2BA	\$1,980,000	Above	35
Russian Hill	30 Kent Street 1237 Chestnut Street #4 830 Bay Street 1020 Union Street #16 2063 Larkin Street 1807 Jones Street 2390 Hyde Street #2 1100 Union Street #701	1BD/1.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/3BA	\$950,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,230,000 \$1,395,000 \$1,655,000 \$1,800,000 \$2,641,750 \$5,840,205	Above Above Above Above Below Below Below Below	12 56 40 13 0 47 45 62
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

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 :: New law

The tax bill cometh

San Francisco will test the impact of major changes to housing tax law

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

TAXES AND HOUSING

Conservatives finally got their long-sought tax bill at the end of December. To help pay for dramatic decreases in taxes for top earners, authors of the congressional tax bill are bringing in revenue from elsewhere. Of particular interest to San Franciscans will be the changes in deductibility of property taxes, the lowered cap on mortgage deductions, and new restrictions on home equity loans.

Some of the news is better than had been expected. During the hurried negotiations phase of the bill, there was talk of completely doing away with the mortgage deduction (at the most radical proposal) and more common talk from House Republicans of lowering the amount of a loan for which the mortgage interest deduction can be granted from \$1 million to \$500,000. The Senate had other ideas, and after the House and the Senate reconciled their competing tax bills, the result was a standard compromise: The mortgage interest deduction is now limited to loans of \$750,000 (or, for loans greater than that amount, then the deduction can be applied to that first \$750,000).

You can find a pundit who will argue any side regarding the expected impact on the housing market of the tax change. Some say that it will put downward pressure on prices (good for buyers, bad for sellers and tax collectors); others are saying that the places where it applies — high-cost home markets in housing-crisis California, for one — are unlikely to feel much impact, because the shortage of housing and the still-booming economy are going to keep things go-going.

CNN Money cited ATTOM Data Solutions’s estimate that this year 58 percent of home loans in San Francisco were greater than \$750,000.

PROPERTY AND OTHER TAXES

Another change in the bill could be felt by more people. The bill targets high-tax states by capping deductions for property



House Speaker Paul Ryan capped his 2017 by passing a long-sought tax reform bill that will have a big impact on high-tax areas like San Francisco.

PHOTO: GAGE SKIDMORE

and state income taxes — combined, not each — at \$10,000.

Home equity loans are also being reined in. You will still get deductions for interest on home equity loans up to \$100,000, but only for loans covering home improvements. The deduction can’t be used for home equity loans used for other purposes, such as paying off debts or buying a car.

‘split roll’ ballot measure, filed . . . for the November 2018 election, would be the state’s biggest property tax change in decades. If passed, it would increase property taxes for hundreds of thousands of properties around the state.”

NO MONOPOLY ON TECH COMPANIES

The tech boom is ongoing and it is spreading, which has implications for

San Francisco and the Bay Area. Real Estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle’s 2017 US Tech Office Trends report warns that with “unemployment at historic lows, it’s going to be much harder for

tech companies ... to grow the way they have over the previous 10 years,” so further rent increases for office space could slow.

Furthermore, markets outside of the Bay Area (Atlanta and Pittsburgh, for example) are becoming tech hubs themselves, so San Francisco won’t be the only big city bursting at the seams with tech companies and people riding skateboards to work.

ROAD TO NOWHERE

Remember that tony Presidio Terrace street that was bought at auction after homeowners failed to pay their tax bill for 30 years? People were shocked to hear that the street was purchased (the shock generated by their not knowing that it was a private street, not a public one). Near the end of 2017, the Board of Supervisors voted to reverse the sale.

They should also set up a Google Calendar automatic reminder to pay their taxes in the future. The calendar, at least, is free.

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

Some of the news about the tax bill is better than had been expected.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: TAX CONSULTANTS

So yes, people will be spending more time talking to their tax attorneys and consultants this year.

HOUSING HEROES

Kudos to the folks at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices in Northern California, which raised more than \$100,000 in 2017 for a number of charities, including Dreampower Horsemanship and the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford. Nancy Robinson, regional vice president for the brokerage, praised the staff and agents who raised the funds, and added “We look forward to growing this number annually.”

PROP 13 REDUX

Writing in the *San Francisco Business Times*, Roland Li notes: “A proposal to remove commercial buildings from Prop. 13 protections could raise California’s annual property tax revenue by an estimated \$11 billion. The



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Urban Home and Garden :: Space exploration

The key to creating storage space is to utilize existing space more wisely.

Get organized in the new year

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

ALONG WITH REACTIVATING that gym membership, shedding a few pounds, eating more healthfully, and kicking the nicotine habit, getting organized is one of the most common New Year's resolutions made annually — and probably broken, too! But who can blame the city dweller? The lack of sufficient closet and cabinet space is often a problem in apartments and older buildings, so creating storage solutions is a challenge familiar to many San Franciscans. Utilizing creative storage solutions can help to maximize your living space and give you a sense of organization. Then when you feel organized, the other resolutions will fall easier into place.

CONDUCT A SPACE SURVEY

Assess your living area by looking for storage potential that has escaped your notice. You probably won't find hidden doors to undiscovered closets, but an objective look at spaces "between, behind, above, and below" can reveal possibilities for storage.

GET RID OF UNNEEDED STUFF

This might be easier said than done. How many of us are holding onto some favorite clothing that we might actually never wear again? But it's a good time to go through the closets and cupboards and donate items that are gently worn or used to someone who can actually use them.

SHRED OLD DOCUMENTS

And don't forget about those file cabinets. Invest in a sturdy shredder and shred old documents you don't need. Many of our banking and financial statements are digital now, so you can probably minimize some of these documents. Invest

in a fireproof, waterproof security box for your most valuable documents. Consider the size of the box so it is small enough to grab in case you need to evacuate your home.

MAXIMIZE YOUR AREA

Any empty area is a candidate for storage. Install shelf brackets and standards for adjustable shelves in a hallway for books and CDs. Take advantage of the high ceilings found in many older buildings. Use decorative wooden brackets to put shelves over doors and windows, or try a long run of shelving about 12 inches under the ceiling line to display collectibles — don't forget Museum Wax to hold treasures in place. Organize stored items by making use of the many storage trays, bins, and boxes that are available.

KITCHEN AND BATH

Use hanging pot racks in the kitchen. Hanging wire baskets can be used for produce in the kitchen and for toiletries in the bathroom. Lazy Susans turn on a pedestal and make items in the back corners of cabinets and counters easily accessible. Mount under-cabinet glass holders to organize wine glasses.

CLOSETS

Increase a closet's hanging space by adding an extra rod. Short items such as jackets and skirts can be hung above and below. A hanging rod can be easily made: Cut a closet dowel to size, screw eyebolts into the ends and attach chains with S-hooks. Use large S-hooks on the other end of the chain to hang the dowel from the existing rod.

Shoe racks of some sort are a necessity, and they are available in myriad styles and sizes. Racks, shoe bags, and other storage accessories can be mounted on or hung over hinged doors.

PURSE ROD

Besides shoes, some of us might be a little obsessive with purses and tote bags. Hang a decorative drapery rod along a wall or inside a closet door as an easy way to organize all those fabulous purses.

FABRIC SINK SKIRTS

A sink skirt can combine style and function by covering the space under a wall-hung sink. Attach the skirt to the sink base with velcro, so it will be detachable and easily washable. Use plastic or wire baskets to store items under the sink. The look of a sink skirt might be a bit dated, but if you have an older apartment with a lot of character, exploit the kitsch factor by choosing a fun, wild fabric pattern.

UNDER-BED STORAGE

Make the most of space that too often becomes the "black hole" in a home. There are many boxes, drawers, and wheeled containers designed especially to fit under beds. Some soft units have internal frames to hold them open for easy loading and a zipper to hold it shut. If necessary, you can raise your bed a few inches by using ready-made risers or with plumbing parts: a threaded base piece to sit on the floor and short threaded pipes that will hold the caster pin on the bed frame. (*Note:* Plan ahead and take into consideration that your bedspread or bedskirt will be readjusted up off of the floor.)

The less space you have, the more creative you need to be; but the more organized your living area, the more spacious it will feel — and having an organized space helps to create an organized, less stressful life.

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

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MARINA TIMES :: MARINATIMES.COM

Political Animal :: Pet store laws and more

2017 sees end to pet shop puppy mill sales; no end to Yulin Dog Meat festival; Prince missing again

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

STATE FOLLOWS CITY'S LEAD, BANS PET STORE SALES OF NONRESCUE ANIMALS

Almost one year ago, San Francisco's animal angel and District 4 Supervisor **Katy Tang** received unanimous support from the **Board of Supervisors** for her legislation banning the sale of nonrescue dogs and cats at local pet stores. "We really do believe that it will send a great message not just in San Francisco but across California, nationwide and hopefully worldwide," Tang said at the time. Not only did Tang's law give thousands of animals taken in by shelters a better chance of finding homes and escaping euthanasia (a poetic sounding word which, in the shelter world, means killing animals, often for lack of adopters or space), it also prevents pet stores from selling animals bred in kitten factories and puppy mills.

This past October, California followed San Francisco's lead, becoming the first state to ban the sale of animals from mass breeding operations when Gov. **Jerry Brown** signed measure AB485, which requires pet stores to work with shelters and rescues if they want to sell dogs, cats, or rabbits. Thirty-six cities in California already had similar bans, and I have no doubt that Tang's work in San Francisco — and her advocacy to see the ban go statewide — contributed to California's decision.

Anyone considering buying a purebred should first read journalist Paul Solotaroff's damning exposé on America's puppy mills, "Inside the Dog Factory," published in the December 2016 issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine. The majority of puppies and kittens sold at pet stores come from these horrific operations, which are sorely under-regulated and solely profit driven. In 2018, I hope to see the ban move toward nationwide acceptance (something a young Senator Barack Obama championed at the behest of his good friend, Oprah Winfrey).

I would also like to see a ban on the import and export of dogs and cats across state lines. Most puppy mill breeders do a thriving online business, posting warm, fuzzy photographs of their "professional setups" to make buyers feel better about purchasing a puppy sight unseen. The puppies are then loaded into crates and shipped, usually by commercial airline. They often arrive sick, some even dead. Preventing puppy mills from shipping their "product" out of state would take a huge bite out of their cruel, deceptive practices. The bottom line: If you're going to buy from a breeder, that breeder should want you to visit their location and see for yourself that the animals are treated well and in good health. Of course, with nearly half of the 10 million animals in shelters put to death each year (37 percent are purebreds), there's no reason to buy a dog or a cat. If you have your heart set on a certain breed, check local breed-specific rescue groups, but even mixed breed rescues get purebreds: Earlier this year, **Rocket Dog** had an 18-month-old Bernese Mountain



Often seen in the Marina with his homeless owner, there is a \$500 reward for the safe return of Prince, who went missing just after Thanksgiving.

Dog, and **Wonder Dog** had a number of French bulldogs and Boston terriers. And don't forget **Muttville**, where you can always find a senior dog with lots of life and love left to give.

END OF THE YULIN DOG MEAT FESTIVAL? NOT SO FAST ...

At its height, the **Yulin Dog Meat Festival** in China, held annually to mark summer solstice, was said to be responsible for the barbaric deaths of 15,000 dogs, mostly stolen pets. With the work of activists, animal welfare groups, and celebrities, that figure dropped to 1,000 in 2016. I've written about Yulin for years, so I was thrilled when **Humane Society International** announced it would end in 2017. Sadly, the excitement was short-lived as **Animals Asia** reported Yulin authorities would not stop the "unauthorized" event. In 2018, please spread the word, keep up the pressure, and donate to groups on the front lines in China like **Animals Asia** (animalsasia.org) and **Duo Duo Project** (duoduo.org).

PRINCE IS MISSING ... AGAIN

People in the Marina may recognize **Prince** (pictured above), the bigheaded, easy-going grey pit bull belonging to a homeless woman who frequented the neighborhood. Prince was stolen a while back, but Good Samaritan and Marina resident **Alexandra Dixon** tracked him down (it doesn't hurt that she runs a treasure hunt company). Unfortunately, just after Thanksgiving, Prince's owner collapsed in Golden Gate Park near the bathrooms at Lincoln and 19th Avenues, and when she came to, Prince was gone. He could be anywhere from SoMa to the FiDi (last time he was found in a homeless camp, patiently lying alone in a tent). If you see Prince, please call Alexandra Dixon at 415-305-5030. There is a "no questions asked" reward of \$500 for information leading to his safe return.

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January Outreach

A Community Dialogue on Strategies for Addressing Housing and Community Development Needs

The Citizens' Committee on Community Development cordially invites you to an evening of food and conversation on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at George Washington High School (600 32nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121). We hope you can join us for a discussion of housing and community development needs and to share resources! For more information, please visit <http://sfmohcd.org/community-development> or contact Mike King at (415) 701-4228 or michael.king@sfgov.org.

Count on WIC for Healthy Families

WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. You may qualify if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or just had a baby; or have a child under age 5; and have a low to medium income; and live in California. Newly pregnant women, migrant workers, and working families are encouraged to apply.

WIC provides Nutrition Education and Health information, breastfeeding support, checks for healthy foods (like fruits and vegetables), and referrals to medical providers and community services.

You may qualify for WIC if you receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh (Food Stamps), or CalWORKS (TANF) benefits. A family of four can earn up to \$3,747 before tax per month and qualify.

Enroll early! Call today to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. Call City and County of San Francisco WIC Program at 415-575-5788.

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The Assessment Appeals Board resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. We have two vacancies on Board 1, which oversees all downtown properties — high rise residential, office, commercial, hotels. Board 1 also oversees all properties over \$50 million in assessed value throughout the City.

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

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

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

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