# MarinaTimes



#### The good life near the bay

New year brings new restaurant openings, p. 10 Valentine's Day pairing of oysters and tea, p. 13 Susan Dyer Reynolds heads to Mendocino, p. 18



#### More online

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

ISSUE 02 FEBRUARY 2018 MARINATIMES.COM : CELEBRATING OUR 34TH YEAR : VOLUME 34



The Chinese New Year Parade returns to downtown San Francisco on Feb. 24. PHOTO: FLICKR.COM/ERIKMELDRUM

## Year of the Dog arrives for 2018

BY LYNETTE MAJER

ONG HEI FAT CHOY! ARRIVing on Feb. 16, The Year of the Dog (Earth Dog, specifically) promises to be a good year overall for those born in a dog year, with February and March being particularly favorable

months (followed by the least auspicious, April), according to most sources. A less than rosy outlook, unfortunately, is in store for you dragons, sheep, and roosters.

Whatever your Chinese zodiac sign, there's no lack of celebration befitting the largest city west of the Mississippi with the largest Chinese population. Look for a Chinatown street fair, a flower fair, and much more, culminating with the iconic New Year Parade Feb. 24 (visit chineseparade.com for the schedule). Additionally, find citywide cultural and music celebrations; see our calendar on page 16 for a few ideas.

#### REYNOLDS RAP

### Three devils and a kingmaker: **Why London Breed** is no longer mayor

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

N THE OCTOBER 2015 MARINA TIMES, I WROTE A column about tech-investing billionaire Ron Conway's influence over Mayor Ed Lee ("Project Political" Runway: In Mayor Lee's regime, if you're not in with Ron Conway, you're out"). I noted that in 2012 Conway and his cronies spent nearly \$180,000 to help elect District 5 supervisor London Breed, and \$104,000 against her opponent. The morning the issue hit the newsstands I received an e-mail from Breed in which she distanced herself not only from Conway, but from the mayor himself. Breed said she won on her own merits as an African American woman raised by her grandmother in San Francisco public housing, and she didn't need their money or their support. The problem is, she didn't turn down their money or their support in 2012, so no matter how many times she says it doesn't influence her decision-making, there's a whole bunch of people who don't believe her.

That was certainly the case on Tuesday, Jan. 23, when the Board of Supervisors chose District 2 Supervisor

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

#### UNION STREET

## The times they are a changin'

BY KEVIN SANCHEZ

NION STREET BETWEEN VAN NESS AVENUE AND the Presidio has changed a lot over the years. What began as grazing pastures for dairy farmers in the 1800s evolved into a family neighborhood after World War II. Kids roamed freely, and the street was filled with green grocers, butchers, drug stores like Burton's, movie houses, soda fountains, Fredericksen Hardware, and auto garages.

In the early 1970s things began to change. A more urbane clientele was coming down the hill from Pacific Heights seeking finer foods, high fashion clothing, and more refined shopping. One business that started back in 1976 on Union Street is closing Feb. 17. For 42 years, Union Street Goldsmith has been a fixture in Cow Hollow, providing upscale fine jewelry and unique custom designs. We talked to owner Terry Brumbaugh before he closed to get his perspective on how things have changed since he opened his store on the street.

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UNION STREET WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR BUSINESS WITH YOUR PARTNER, GLENDA QUEEN, IN 1976?

Glenda and I had met in Sausalito, where we both worked at jewelry shops on Bridgeway, which catered mostly to tourists. Even though we didn't have a lot of UNION STREET, continued on 6

## An ode to chocolate on St. Valentine's Day

BY ERNEST BEYL

ELL, SOON IT WILL BE Valentine's Day, or St. Valentine's Day as it appears on liturgical calendars. And I will be out buying a two-pound box of See's chocolates for Joan, my main squeeze. A little chocolate keeps peace in the household.

#### MY CHOCOLATE CONUNDRUM

There was a time when I confused chocolate with cocaine or, more specifically, cacao with coca. But let's get this straight right up front. Chocolate is not a derivative of cocaine. Chocolate comes from the cacao plant, cocaine from the coca plant. Chocolate, if it has any medicinal benefits, makes you amorous and happy — hence Valentine's Day. Cocaine makes you numb, dumb, and happy.

#### MY CONFUSION IN CUZCO

I got the two confused in Peru many years ago when I was in Cuzco on my way to Machu Picchu. Cuzco, the ancient Inca capital, lies high in the Andes at 11,152 feet above sea level. Most visitors suffer from altitude sickness within an hour or two of arrival - can't get enough oxygen. When I was there I got it bad, and that ain't good. I sent down word from my hotel room for some chocolate and dutifully someone brought me a few chocolate

#### **COCA NOT CACAO DOES** THE JOB

It was several hours later — me gasping for breath and with the world's worst headache - that someone put two and two together and came up with the difference between cacao and coca. And in a few minutes a laughing hotel staffer brought this stupid gringo a bunch of coca leaves, and with hand-mouth signals told me to chew them. I chewed them and grooved. No more gasping for breath. No more headache to end all headaches.

APPETITES, continued on 12



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





Osso Steakhouse is a romantic hideaway tucked in the landmark Gramercy Towers, near The Fairmont, Mark Hopkins and Huntington Hotels. The stylish Art Deco-inspired design provides an elegant yet relaxed ambiance.

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#### **NEWS BRIEFS** Big changes

### Shaking it up

#### IS SHAKE SHACK NOT REAL FOOD?

A developer's plan to put a Shake Shack burger restaurant in the former Cow Hollow building that once housed the natural foods-based Real Food Company store has drawn complaints from some residents. The building, located at 3060 Fillmore Street (at Filbert), was occupied by Real Food Company from 1997 until it suddenly closed in late 2016. Developer Center-Cal Properties wants to fill the space with Shake Shack and Rumble Fitness (two separate but symbiotic businesses), but a late-January public meeting held as part of the developer's conditional use permit process drew complaints about possible noise, congestion, and the type of services provided.

The developer told residents it would keep the location clean and would keep the noise levels down, according to a report on KGO-TV, which noted that "Cow Hollow and the Marina are full of burger restaurants and gyms, but there are very few grocery stores and markets."

Not everyone hates a burger chain. On KGO's website, right next to the Real Food Co. story was a link to another story headlined, "Burger fans rejoice as Shake

Shack plans to open in Palo Alto."

#### **AUTO BREAK-INS**

The news in late January that there had been only 13 arrests made for auto break-ins over the course of the past seven years — a time period in which there were more than 81,000 reports of auto break-ins in San Francisco — was met by a chorus of "We coulda told you that" from city residents tired of a plague of street crime.

It's not for a lack of trying, according to Northern Station's police. They report that "Every Northern Station unmarked police vehicle has been rammed by suspects trying to elude capture, and our latest casualty was [a] police bicycle." An officer "spotted a suspect casing vehicles near the Palace of Fine Arts and moved in to investigate. The suspect quickly jumped into



Gone is the natural foods of Real Food Company; in its place will probably be this Shake Shack burger and fries for Cow Hollow residents. PHOTO: MO1229

a getaway vehicle and took off, running over [the police officer's] bicycle in the process." Luckily the officer was able to get off the bike, which was dragged for several blocks by the miscreants.

#### **CRIME STATISTICS**

In other policing news, Northside residents could celebrate falling crime in a number of categories, albeit not all. Between October and November 2017, Northern Station reported drops in burglary (14 percent), larceny theft (10 percent), theft from vehicle (11 percent), auto theft (22 percent), and aggravated assault (10 percent).

2 supervisor. On Jan. 30, she was sworn in as the successor for Mark Farrell, who vacated the seat when the Board of Supervisors voted for him to serve as mayor until the June 5 election.

Stefani, a former aide to former supervisors Michela Alioto-Pier and Farrell, had served as a San Francisco county clerk since 2016. She is also a local director of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES**

21,000: number of signatures collected in support of a proposed San Francisco ballot initiative

that would have the city pay for legal representation for anyone facing eviction ... 4: number of days before new Mayor Mark Farrell issued a press release (his first release as mayor)

supporting San Francisco's sanctuary city policies against criticism and threats from the Trump administration . . . 20: miles per hour that is the top speed of the 250 bikes from the latest San Francisco bikeshare company, Jump Bike . . . 7: number of earthquakes experienced in the Bay Area in just one late-January week . . . 28 percent: increase in vehicle break-ins in San Francisco from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017 . . . **\$870** million: latest projected cost of reconstructing the failed Oroville Dam... 3 months: Estimated time until Virginia Ramos, aka the "Tamale Lady," has her own restaurant to sell her goods, four years after being barred from selling her tamales at local bars.

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

# The suspect jumped into a getaway vehicle and took off, running over the police officer's bike.

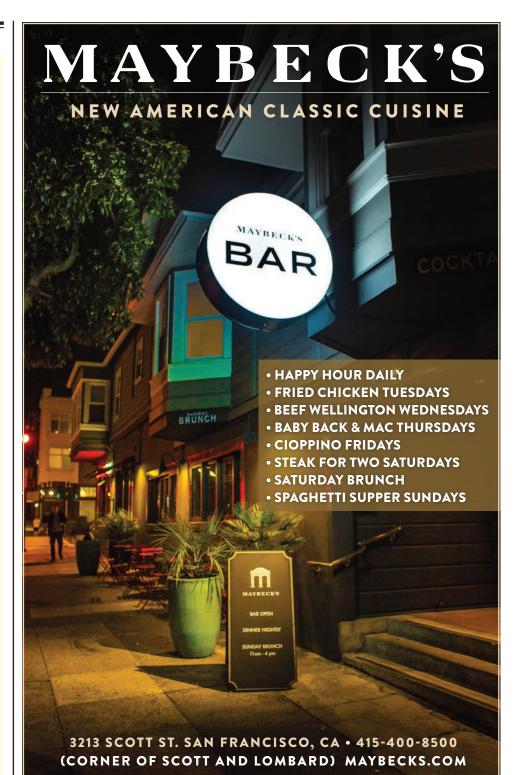
Robberies, on the other hand, grew by 35 percent during that time period.

#### TRANSPORTATION PROP

If Regional Measure 3 (RM3) makes it onto the June 2018 ballot, Bay Area residents will have the chance to vote to pay more on local bridge tolls to fund an expansion of Muni's fleet, express lanes in the Bay Area, Transbay rail crossing, bike and pedestrian access to train stations and ferry terminals, and more. That is, if residents are willing to boost bridge tolls to \$9 on the Bay Bridge and \$8 on other bridges.

#### CATHERINE STEFANI NEW DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR

Catherine Stefani announced that homelessness, small businesses, and public safety would be her top priorities in her new role as District





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#### FROM THE COVER







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#### Reynolds Rap

continued from cover

Mark Farrell to serve the rest of Lee's term over interim Mayor Breed, who, as board president, immediately ascended to the position when Lee died of a heart attack Dec. 12. Of course Breed's supporters immediately started shouting charges of racism, even accusing the board of reviving Jim Crow right there in chambers. But Breed's ouster had nothing to do with her race and everything to do with a potent cocktail of Conway, too many jobs, an unfair advantage, and the new kingmaker of City Hall.

#### THREE DEVILS ON HIS SHOULDERS

Before then-mayor Gavin Newsom left for Sacramento to become California's lieutenant governor in 2010, he joined forces with Conway and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown to conjure up a deal giving them a voice in city politics for years to come. Numerous stories abound of back-table dinners where the power brokers sat like three devils on the meek shoulders of Ed Lee, then the city's chief administrator, cajoling him to serve the rest of Newsom's term as a "caretaker mayor." The plan worked. Once in office, Lee realized he liked the gig and — though he vowed he wouldn't

ran for a full term. I remember wandering around the Civic Center farmer's market with Lee as he campaigned. He introduced me to some of the vendors, who obviously knew him and liked him. It was

here with the people that Lee seemed most comfortable, but when I began asking questions about his plans for the city's future, Lee stiffened up. His answers were robotic, seemingly coached. When I looked at the weak field of competitors, however, it became clear the Marina Times would endorse Lee — the only newspaper to do so, and a decision I often regretted.

The night Lee was elected, he left a voicemail thanking me for writing the article. "I can't tell you how many people mentioned it to me," he said. "I know it really helped, and I just wanted to thank you." As his tenure wore on, it became blatantly obvious that, while Lee was a kind and decent man, he wasn't a very good mayor. Lee was a puppet for the three devils on his shoulders, giving tax breaks to tech start-ups backed by Conway, pushing to build on the waterfront as Newsom wanted, and working to elect candidates from Brown's stable — including Breed, who got her start in politics working as an intern for Brown's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services.

#### TOO MANY JOBS AND AN UNFAIR **ADVANTAGE**

As far as I'm concerned, Breed was fooling herself to think she could preside over the board, be the mayor, run for mayor, and represent troubled District 5, where I have lived for 30 years. If you've been to the Haight lately, which is still overrun with violent, druggedout street thugs, or to McDonald's in the Western Addition, where a visit to the drive-through can get you caught in the crossfire of a drive-by shooting, you know why I say it's troubled. Breed can't take care of her own district, never mind the entire city.

Then there's the question of whether she's even qualified to be mayor. Her supporters constantly point out she's a San Francisco native. Why they think that makes her more qualified than her competitors I don't really understand — I'm a Silicon Valley native but that doesn't qualify me to run Apple. Keep in mind new interim Mayor Mark Farrell is also a San Francisco native. For Breed's supporters to play the race card because Farrell is white is ridiculous. Not one of the board members who voted for him over Breed is racist. Farrell was the safest choice because he didn't file to run in the June mayoral election, thus making him what the progressives had wanted in Ed Lee — a caretaker mayor. It also levels the playing field so Breed doesn't have an unfair advantage going into June as the incumbent.

#### CONWAY AND THE KINGMAKER

According to the San Francisco Examiner, Conway gauchely started stumping for Breed at Lee's private funeral service standing just feet from his casket. Things got even more vulgar (if that's possible) when rumors circulated about Conway padding the floors of City Hall pressuring supervisors to back Breed. Those rumors got a dash of reality when, at the end of the meeting to select the interim mayor, District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen gave a lengthy, impassioned speech. "There are white, rich men, billionaires, in this city who have steered the policies of the past two mayoral

The push to unseat

**Breed started almost** 

as soon as she

became mayor.

administrations, if not more," Ronen said through her tears. And then she dropped the bomb: "I hate to say it, I wish it weren't so, but those white men are so enthusiastically supporting your candidacy,

London Breed. And what you haven't heard because you're not in this inside world we all inhabit in City Hall is that they've been threatening people. They're all saying if you don't support London Breed that people's careers will be ruined. ... It is happening right now in this Board of Supervisors chamber. It happened the morning Ed Lee passed away. That's how gross these people are. Because they are gross."

The push to unseat Breed started almost as soon as she stepped into Lee's shoes and intensified when she officially declared her candidacy for the June 2018 election. Some of Breed's colleagues raised concerns about her filling multiple roles, which they saw as undermining the separation of powers in city government. In early January, District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin began asking for a special meeting of the board to discuss a possible vote.

"I am one member of this body who has said that while the charter allows the president of the board to also serve as the mayor, I don't think we should have a mixing of the two branches of government for a prolonged period of time," Peskin said. While all of his reasoning makes perfect sense, Peskin also took issue with Conway. "The more Ron Conway openly became the kingmaker for London, the more people like me who have come to respect her and work with her very well became more and more reticent," he told Mission Local while waiting for Farrell to be sworn in.

He won't admit it or take the credit, but it's not a secret Peskin engineered the entire deal with Oz-like precision from behind the curtains of City Hall. All I have to say is move over Mr. Conway, there's a new kingmaker in town, and his name is Aaron Peskin.

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Terry Brumbaugh is closing up shop after 42 years. PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/UNIONSTREETGOLDSMITH

#### **Union Street**

continued from cover

startup money, we decided Union Street was really the place to be because it was the most sophisticated shopping district in the area after Union Square. It offered things no other neighborhood did. Back then places like The Coffee Cantata (now Flores) were remarkable because no one else thought to offer gourmet coffee. Perry Butler was a pioneer because **Perry's** was one of the first "fern bars" that catered to single women. Before that a lot of bars in the neighborhood were kind of smoky and dark. Jeans West was probably the coolest shop on the street when designer denim first became a fashion statement. Prego and Pasha and **The Deli** were all very chic restaurants. Union Street was arguably the most cosmopolitan shopping district in the city for many years. At one point, there were 14 fine jewelry stores here. After we close there will be two.

#### AS A RETAILER, HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE STREET CHANGE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS?

Around 2008, bigger corporate businesses started opening stores in the neighborhood. Brands like Armani Exchange, Ralph Lauren, Nine West, Nike, and Bebe saw the kind of customers that were coming here and had the big budgets to pay the higher rents landlords were asking. I was on the board of the merchants' Union Street Association for seven years with Eleanor Carpenter of Jest Jewels and Lesley Leonhardt from Images of the North, and a big part of our work was to try and keep the local flavor and the small business culture thriving here. It was not easy. These corporate tenants had a lot of money but didn't seem too interested in participating in the vibrancy of the street. Because they were corporate, it was an uphill battle trying to get them to contribute to things that the merchants' association sponsored like the annual Easter Parade, the Union Street Fair, or the Festival of Lights.

#### WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW WHEN YOU LOOK AT UNION STREET?

Too many empty storefronts. I think a lot of landlords saw dollar signs when those deep-pocket corporate tenants started moving in. I've always been surprised landlords didn't see that by keeping rents somewhat affordable it would benefit them by maintaining a thriving neighborhood. When an indie boutique or a local artisan can't make it because of sky-high rents, it really hurts every business and the whole neighborhood. I hope landlords see they have a vested interest in making this neighborhood an exciting shopping and dining destination as much as the merchants here do.

## YOU MENTIONED THAT THERE USED TO BE QUITE A FEW JEWELRY STORES ON UNION STREET. WHAT HAPPENED?

Two things: rents and the Internet. Union Street was known as a shopping mecca, not just for jewelry stores like Argentum, but also for bridal salons, hip boutiques like Viv, interior design studios, and art galleries. Stores and restaurants wanted to be here, and landlords knew it. As I mentioned, many of them started raising rents to unsustainable levels. It made it really tough not just for new businesses but for well-established ones, too, like Umami Restaurant and Real Foods Company. We heard of rents getting doubled to \$20,000 and \$30,000 a month. It was the death knell for a lot of businesses on the street.

The other thing that happened was the Internet. Of course, online shopping has changed things a lot for every retailer — jewelry stores included. Personally, I never thought someone looking for a diamond would go online and spend thousands of dol-

lars with someone they've never met for a gemstone they've never seen in person. It just seemed like knowing and trusting the person you're buying a diamond from would be so important to a buyer. But that hasn't happened. Times have changed. A lot of people now seem more concerned with price than knowledgeable and friendly personal service.

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE KEY FOR A SMALL BUSINESS LIKE YOURS TO SURVIVE FOR 42 YEARS?

Really it comes down to a loyal clientele. Of course, you have to have a great product, provide reliable service, be trustworthy, and have integrity. But without our client base supporting us, we never would've made it 4 years let alone 40. Union Street Goldsmith has survived floods, earthquakes, dotcom booms and busts, and a fire in 2015 that forced us to move down the block. My partner, Glenda, died suddenly a few weeks after the fire. And through it all, our customers, thankfully, have stuck with us. They kept us going, kept our spirits high and our doors open. We've had so many fantastic customers over the years: generations of families, Hollywood celebrities, music legends, elected officials, high society, and wonderful people from all walks of life and from all over the world. Jewelry is one of those enduring things that means a lot to so many people, and we've been really proud and happy to have been of service. Our customers aren't just our customers; they're our friends, too. They're what I will miss most when we close.

Union Street Goldsmith's final day will be Feb. 17. Union Street, 415-776-8048, unionstreetgoldsmith.com.

Kevin Sanchez is a Bay Area native who works on Union Street and spends his free time hoping that Bepples Pies will be open soon. E-mail: kevinmurraysanchez@gmail.com.

#### From the Mayor : Legacies and priorities

## Remembering Mayor Ed Lee

BY MARK FARRELL

AN FRANCISCO WAS SADDENED AND shocked to learn of Mayor Ed Lee's unexpected passing on Dec. 12. He was San Francisco's first Chinese-American mayor and helped lead San Francisco through years of change and growth. Putting personal politics aside, I believe everyone can agree that Mayor Lee was a dedicated public servant who truly cared about helping our residents and businesses. I will miss my friend dearly.

#### **REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY**

Given San Francisco's current strong and growing local economy, it is hard to remember the city's pains during the aftermath of the Great Recession. When Mayor Lee took office, San Francisco was facing severe budget deficits and double-digit unemployment rates among local residents

Correctly, his focus as mayor and during his first campaign was "jobs, jobs, jobs." He delivered. Just like he did for a number of crucial issues. Mayor Lee and I helped to lead the effort to reform our city's outdated payroll tax and transition to a more business-friendly gross receipts tax. This reform, coupled with the successful Mid-Market tax exemption, continues to encourage and realize the revitalization of Mid-Market.

Mayor Lee knew that our workers needed to be supported on every level. That is why he worked with the board of supervi-

sors on an effort to push through one of the highest minimum-wage rates in the country to support working families.

While Mayor Lee was leading the efforts to breathe new life into our economy, he remained a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. During his tenure, he consistently built up the city's general fund reserves, ensuring that San Francisco would be protected in the event of the next financial downturn. Like me, Mayor Lee cared deeply about the health and well-being of our residents, and he was an important advocate for Proposition A, which we worked on together in 2012. That voter-approved measure helped eliminate the city's \$4.6 billion unfunded health care and retiree liability, which drastically improved our city's financial health and standing.

He carried out his duties in a collaborative, collegial manner. You could see that in the four budgets we worked on together when I served as budget chair, which received unanimous support by the Board of Supervisors every year. That's no small task given the city's politics.

#### THE 'HOUSING MAYOR'

When our economy began to recover and unemployment levels started to drop, Mayor Lee had the foresight to realize our city needs more homes. A lot more homes. And ones that our families could afford.

He became known as the "housing mayor" for good reason. Every time I spoke with Mayor Lee, he would inevitably bring up the need to build more

housing. He cared deeply about ensuring that everyone could enjoy the prosperity of this city.

In 2012, he and I worked closely on Proposition C, a \$1.3 billion affordable housing trust fund that provided financing to build homes for families. Mayor Lee tirelessly championed Hope SF, our rebuild of the city's run-down public housing sites, and he fought to keep longtime residents within their communities.

During my four years as budget chair and recently as land use chair, I repeatedly partnered with the mayor on supportive housing plans, and I was a strong proponent of his effort to create 30,000 new and rehabilitated homes by 2020. One of his last acts as mayor — an executive directive to bring 5,000 new housing units each year to San Francisco — indicated he was committed to this plan for the long haul.

Mayor Lee also understood that providing homes for residents went beyond traditional measures. He pioneered the use of navigation centers, a nationally recognized model to move residents off the streets and into stable living situations. I was proud to co-sponsor an ordinance that allowed private funds to pay for the expansion of these crucial resource centers. Navigation centers will play a critical role in our ongoing efforts to address San Francisco's homelessness crisis.

#### **MISSING MY FRIEND**

Mayor Lee was a tremendous public servant and fearless advocate for this city,

but above all, he was a nice, kind man with a good heart.

He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to tell his "dad jokes" — these corny bits of humor that became his calling card. We would always roll our eyes at these jokes and he would always crack himself up. He loved watching the Giants, talking about sports, and stopping at his local diner to grab a bite to eat. And he could never pass up a bowl of ice cream.

What I remember most about Mayor Lee was the kindness he showed my family. He always asked about their well-being, and every time he saw my children, his face would light up with a big smile. My last memory of us together was at the city's official tree-lighting ceremony in Golden Gate Park. My son, Kane, was so excited at the prospect of turning on the lights for the tree, but he understood this was a job for the mayor. At the last second, when the whole crowd was counting down to the big moment, Mayor Lee motioned for my son to come over, and together, they turned on the lights.

Mayor Lee leaves behind a legacy that every San Franciscan should be proud of. He showed tremendous leadership during a time of exciting change and always stood side-by-side with the residents and businesses of this city. I am humbled by the opportunity to follow in his footsteps — and am honored to serve as the mayor and continue and build upon the work that he started.

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- The Burger King in the Presidio had the largest seating area in the world
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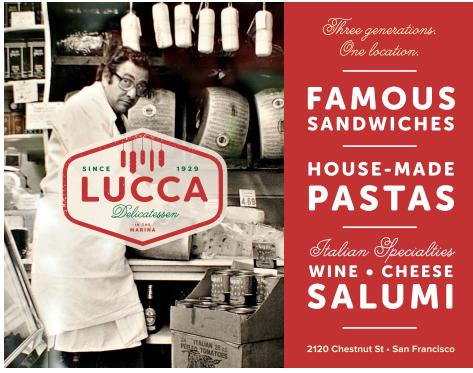
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#### Sketches from a North Beach Journal

# Gourmets, gourmands, voluptuaries, jazz, and my doctor

BY ERNEST BEYL

and I'm still grappling with Christmas — Christmas presents that is. I received a lot of gifts this year. The older you get, the more presents you receive. Along with the wool sweaters, I received olive oil made by the Dominican Sisters of San Jose, a fine Moleskine notebook in which to record random thoughts for my columns, and a bunch of books. I love receiving and giving books as gifts.

Most of the books I received this past Christmas were cookbooks or books about gourmands and voluptuaries—it would appear I am both, as my gift-givers pointed

out. They know their man. But about those books ...

#### 'GOURMANDS IN FRANCE'

A great book by Justin Spring, who selected six important American gourmands and traced their culinary influence. So far, I've learned A. J. Liebling (who wrote for The New Yorker) was a self-described glutton and suffered from gout. M. F. K. Fisher, that incomparable prose stylist who wrote glowingly about food, couldn't cook. James Beard, the major American food celebrity of our time, couldn't write, and had someone else compose his landmark cookery books. And Julia Child — who could cook and write, too - really was something of a klutz and dropped food in her TV kitchen after getting into the cooking wine. But we loved her anyway. Or maybe that's why we loved her.

#### 'THE CANTON RESTAURANT AND THE PANDA EXPRESS'

This is a good history of Chinese restaurants in America, written by the

Chinese scholar Haiming Liu. Do you know where the oldest Chinese restaurant in the United States was? San Francisco, of course. It was the Canton Restaurant, which opened in 1849 and seated

300. That's a lot of chop suey.

#### 'THE FOUR SEASONS'

My friend John Mariani, an international food expert, has written a loving tribute to the iconic New York restaurant, the Four Seasons. Alas, there is no more Four Seasons. The owner of the Seagram Building where it was located closed it down. An ersatz Four Seasons-like establishment has opened on the site. Mariani's book has glowing tributes from famous Four Seasons diners and a lot of great photos.

#### IN THE GASTRONOMIC TRENCHES

And speaking of books, I just finished writing another one. It's a travel memoir called "Stops Along the Royal Road:

Adventures from a Lifetime of Travel." It comes out this spring.

Meanwhile, I'm working on yet another book. That's what I do when I'm not writing these columns. This one is tentatively titled "In the Gastronomic Trenches — Profiles of Heroes and Heroines Who Have Been Important in the Culinary World." A few will surprise you, some not: Alice B. Toklas, Calvin Trillin, Toots Shor, Sophia Loren, James Beard, and Julia Child.

I also give the nod to several North

Beach locals — Mary Etta Moose (spouse of Ed Moose, the Washington Square Bar & Grill major domo), Gigi Fiorucci (who founded Sotto Mare and turned it into one of the most excit-

ing restaurants in the city), Franco Montarello (creator of the much-missed Little Joe's), and Liliano Salvetti (chef at the long-gone La Felce).

#### **MEDICAL ALERT**

Julia Child was a klutz

and dropped food in her

TV kitchen after getting

into the cooking wine.

After we discussed my

health, we got on with

the real business —

jazz. I always felt better.

My doctor has retired. That's what happens when you live a good, clean life and don't fall into bad company. I've had a lot of doctors because I outlive them or they get tired of hearing about my maladies — real or imagined — and retire. And now, my all-time best doctor, Stephen Pardys, has retired.

Stephen was a solo practitioner. He had a small office near Laurel Village, and I liked to visit him regardless of whether I had an ache or a pain. What I really liked about seeing Dr. Pardys was to talk with him about jazz.

Here's how I met Stephen. Several years ago, I had a fine doctor who died. (I trusted him, and he didn't constantly ask me how many alcoholic beverages I downed each day.) I didn't like the new doctor who inherited the practice. It seemed he was always too busy to B.S.

with me. And in my view, good doctoring takes a certain amount of B.S.-ing.

So I dropped him, and through recommendations, selected Dr. Pardys. I wore an SFJAZZ base-

ball cap to my first appointment. "You like jazz?" he asked as he was filling out my history.

It seems my doctor had also been the doctor for my best friend, Jimmy Lyons, founder of the Monterey Jazz Festival. And it went from there. At every appointment after we discussed my health, we got on with the real business — jazz. I always felt better after leaving his office.

And now my doctor has retired. But, there is a positive side to this. We have already set up our first lunch in what promises to be a long-running series. And, of course, you know what we're going to talk about, don't you?

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com

#### From the District 3 Supervisor : Clean-up time

### S.F. must turn up heat on Trump's dirty-energy empire

BY AARON PESKIN

AN FRANCISCO HAS ALWAYS led the country in progressive policy making — which means that we've taken a stand for everyday people over special interests. We've pioneered same-sex marriage, the \$15 minimum wage, paid sick days, and the highest affordable housing requirements in the country.

We've also been at the fore-front of a growing environmental movement, from establishing a goal of zero waste by 2020 to banning plastic bags and plastic foam. And in an era when Trump has waged war on science and the environment, San Francisco must ratchet up our work to protect the future generations who will either inherit our mistakes or our progress.

Last September, former Supervisor John Avalos and I stressed the urgent mandate for full fossil fuel divestment (sfexaminer.com/climate-disasters-latest-mandate-fossil-fuel-divestment), a commitment that the board of supervisors unanimously agreed to in 2013 but that our San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) board has dithered

on for the past five years. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, only 30 municipalities have made even the verbal or aspirational commitment to divest, including Oakland, Santa Monica, and Berkeley, though worldwide the number of public institutions making that pledge has grown to more than 800. In California, San

Francisco State University became the first public institution to divest from coal and tar sands in 2013, the same year the City and County of San Francisco voted unanimously to fully divest from fossil fuels. Yet since then,

the SFERS board has barely managed to shed \$1 million from its half-billion dollar fossil fuel portfolio.

Last month, when New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio made international headlines by announcing the commitment by his pension system to divest its fossil fuel holdings, the resolution itself was but a commitment to explore the possibility of divestment. De Blasio deserves praise for initiating the process; but here in San Francisco, there is no excuse

for regurgitating the same aspirational commitments from before the Trump administration launched its attack on California. For the past five years, a new generation of environmental activists have been working with policymakers to hold San Francisco to its commitment, spurred by the Trump administration's apoc-

# As global market trends shift toward clean energy, fossil fuel divestment is the responsible fiscal decision.

alyptic vision for the future and a relentless series of natural disasters. As global market trends shift toward clean energy, with increasingly dismal returns on Big Oil investments, fossil fuel divestment is also the responsible fiscal decision.

As you are reading this, two things will have already happened: our SFERS board will have voted on whether to fully divest and, if not, the board of supervisors will have voted to place my charter amendment on the June ballot to restruc-

ture the SFERS board. Let's hope that the SFERS board has voted to repudiate dirty energy and dirty money — or we'll be asking the voters to hold them accountable at the ballot come June. Special thanks to Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León, environmental activists Tom Steyer and Bill McKibben, the Sierra Club, and

many more for helping rally for public service versus lip service.

Speaking of the June ballot, I have also joined forces with my colleague and fellow enviro Supervisor Katy Tang to place a charter amendment onto the June 5th ballot that

would allow the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to expand its Hetch Hetchy clean power delivery to every corner of the city, safely upgrade its aging facilities infrastructure, and cut back on dirty energy sources that are mixed into our power portfolio from outside county lines. The Clean, Safe & Affordable Energy Charter Amendment will give SFPUC the same ability to finance the clean power facilities it already has for water, where it has a

proven record of fiscal responsibility. SFPUC maintains an excellent credit rating while safely delivering clean water to 2.6 million people around the bay. The city's commitment to producing and purchasing clean energy must also mean delivering that energy to as many neighborhoods as possible, particularly those in the southeast corner of the city that have been plagued with air quality and public health issues. Please join Supervisor Tang and me in saying yes to the Clean, Safe & Affordable Energy mea-

Finally, a special thank you to all the neighborhood organizations that came out to the Community Clean Team kickoff last month. Although the rally was in Chinatown, neighborhood leaders from Telegraph Hill to Polk Gulch hit the streets to pick up trash, do landscaping, scrub graffiti, and make the streets and sidewalks shine. Partnering with the Department of the Environment and the mayor's office, we're continuing the push for more street cleaning, with a special emphasis on neighborhoods without additional services like a Community Benefit District.

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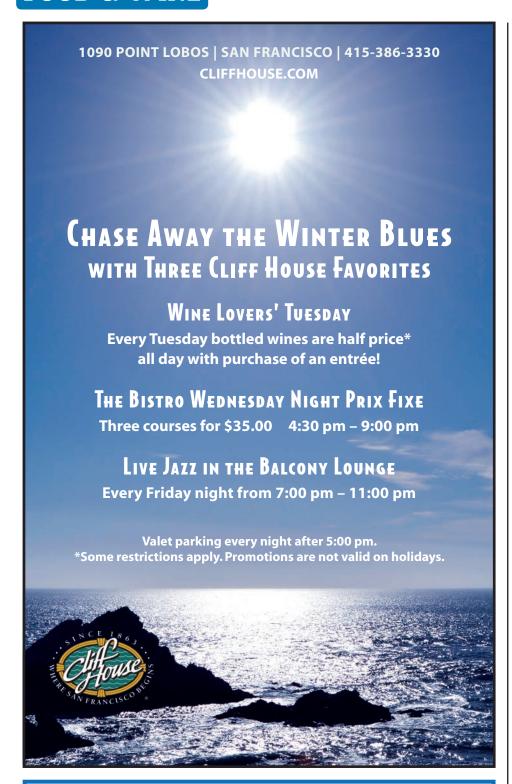


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#### The Tablehopper : French homage

## The new year brings openings, closings, and more to the Northside

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

It's getting close for

#### **COW HOLLOW**

Dominique Crenn's new wine bar project, Bar Crenn (3131 Fillmore St.), slated to open in the former Cellar Door on Feb. 20. On Instagram, she shared that "wine director Matt Montrose has amassed a collection of the great wines of France. ... A rotating collection of wines are available by the glass as well as a more developed bottle list of some remarkable producers of world-class wine." There will also be low-ABV cocktails and "oldstyle French aperitifs," which will integrate some

Crenn says the food will be an homage to French classics, and in a move à la In Situ, the menu will feature dishes from recipes provided by famous chefs and restaurants, including Alain Ducasse, Guy Savoy, Yannick Alléno, Pierre Sang, and many other top-rated chefs. Her team will also be working on some of their own variations of French classics.

NorCal ingredients and

The Mina Test Kitchen (2120 Greenwich St., 415-625-5470) has closed for now with no restaurant lined up just yet for their incubator. Besides, chef Adam Sobel is busy with Cal Mare in Los Angeles, plus other big openings in the Mina Group. Stand by for what's coming next in about four months or so (by the way, it's a great private event space).

Over at **Contrada** (2136 Union St., 415-926-8916), opening chef Jason Tuley has moved on after one year, and Denise St. Onge is the new executive chef, making it an all-female management team. Go ladies! St. Onge's background includes Michael Mina, Gary Danko, and most recently, SPQR as pasta cook, butcher, and eventually sous chef. Look for some vegan and gluten-free offerings (including pizza) and handmade pastas.

Now open is **Gio Gelati** (1998 Union St., 415-867-1306), serving authentic Italian gelato in a variety of flavors, many seasonal (with fruits and vegetables expect some savory flavors, too). There's even a nondairy version,



You can afford to eat every week at Pasta Pop-Up (which could be a dangerous thing). PHOTO: PASTA POP-UP

and gluten-free cones | from Italy, so everyone wins! The team is Patrizia Pasqualetti (her family has been in the gelato business for more than 40 years), Nicola Trois, Guido Mastropaolo, and Nicole Moserle. You can also enjoy pastries, cornetti, espresso, and cakes. Daily 8 a.m.–10 p.m.

#### **FILLMORE**

There's some groovy Korean in the former Gussie's at Fillmore Social Club (1521 Eddy St., 829-3750). The menu is a bit fusion-y: kimchi jun pancake, Korean fried chicken served two ways, tako (octopus) wasabi, ssam (marinated rib eye wrapped in lettuce and pickled radish), stir-fried yaki udon, and shakshuka baby back ribs (I said it was fusion-y!). The wine, beer, sake, and cocktail picks are a cut above. The space was tricked out with a custom mural from artists Kelly Tunstall and Ferris Plock (KeFe). Daily 5–10 p.m.

The New Fillmore announced that Monetta White and David Lawrence (formerly of 1300 on Fillmore) will be relocating Black Bark BBQ (1325 Fillmore St.). They cite the lack of foot traffic (due to the beleaguered Fillmore Heritage Center) as a primary move impetus. It sounds like they have a location lined up and plan to reopen in the spring, so stand by for some confirmation on the where.

#### NORTH BEACH

There's a new project from the Il Casaro team (Francesco Covucci and Peter Fazio) in their former Vicoletto location: They have permanently opened Pasta Pop-Up (550 Green St., 415-433-5800), designed as an easy place to swing by for a plate of pasta before heading home or to enjoy some wine and snacks with friends.

They worked hard to keep the prices low and affordable (no pasta is over \$14 on the current/ soft-opening menu, subject to change). But they didn't want to sacrifice quality or good food ethics either, so the seafood is sustainable, and the ingredients are local.

And they're making the pasta in-house! There's rosemary pappardelle with slow-braised lamb shoulder and tomato sauce, and gnocchi Bolognese (yes, please), and spaghetti with clams. Oh yeah, and there's squid ink spaghetti with clams, mussels, squid, and cherry tomatoes. Sign me up for that, too.

Starters include calamari fritti, 'nduja-stuffed potato croquettes, broccolini, a salad, and more —nothing is over \$7. There's a varied list of Italian wines by the glass, plus some beers, too. Covucci tells me they will also be integrating a charitable component; stand by for more on that. The place got a little refresh and feels a bit warmer, although it was always a cozy little spot. Tuesday-Sunday 5–10 p.m.

Also in the news: They have decided on the name of their project in the former Panta Rei: Barbara (431 Columbus Ave.), with a targeted opening at the end of February. According to their website, they are planning to serve Roman-style pinsas. And cocktails. Details to follow.

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.



# salito's



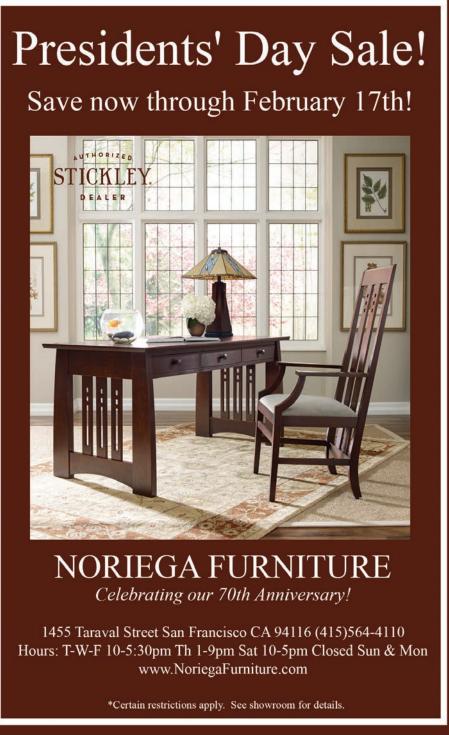
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#### **Appetites**

continued from cover

#### THE CHOCOLATE APHRODISIAC

But back to chocolate: Did you know it is considered an aphrodisiac? Hence, it's ideal for this romantic holiday. I suppose See's, Godiva, Nestle, and Ghirardelli count on this. Other so-called aphrodisiacs to consider if you are planning a romantic dinner for your sweetie: oysters (you might want to consider French Kisses — a handsome, briny, bivalve from New Brunswick), avocados, figs, and artichokes. So you might want to build a meal around some oysters on the half shell, followed by an artichoke and avocado salad, and ending with that important chocolate. For dessert you could consider hashish fudge - and maybe a glass or two of champagne. That should do the trick.

#### A SHORT HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

Chocolate has an interesting histo-

ry. It dates to 1900 B.C. in Mesoamerica. A beverage made of fermented cacao was important to the Aztecs. It was bitter, and even in those days was believed to have aphrodisiac powers. Later, in

Europe, sugar was added and chocolate came into the mainstream. It never left.

#### A SHORT HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Each year on Feb. 14, we — and many other parts of the world — celebrate St. Valentine's day by exchanging gifts (usually chocolate), inane cards with inane messages, and hugs and kisses. The hugs and kisses are the best part of the holiday. In the early days of Christianity there were several saints who bore the name Valentine. The name became associated with love — physical love — and not just hugs and kisses. And we are the beneficiary.

#### HASHISH FUDGE

If I dropped a bomb on you with the above mention of hashish fudge, let me clarify. In 1954, Alice B. Toklas, companion to Gertrude Stein, the lost generation literary lion (or lioness, if you prefer), wrote a cookbook. Toklas was not known for her moderation. She once prepared a dinner for Picasso that included a whole sea bass slathered with mayonnaise. But the recipe that will stop you in your tracks if you read her cookbook to plan your Valentine's Day dinner is for the hashish fudge. She calls it "the food of paradise" and says, "Euphoria and brilliant storms of laughter; ecstatic reveries and extensions of one's personality on several simultaneous planes are to be complacently expected."

#### THE ALICE B. TOKLAS RECIPE

Here's the Alice B. Toklas recipe you've been waiting for. Please accept it as my Valentine's Day gift to you, dear reader.

"Take one teaspoon black peppercorns, one whole nutmeg, four average sticks of cinnamon, one teaspoon coriander. These should be pulverized in a mortar. About a handful each of stoned dates, dried figs, shelled almonds, and peanuts: Chop these and mix them together. A bunch of cannabis sativa can be pulver-

> ized. This along with the spices should be dusted over the mixed fruit and nuts, kneaded together. About a cup of sugar dissolved in a big pat of butter. Rolled into a cake and cut into pieces

or made into balls about the size of a walnut. It should be eaten with care. Two pieces are quite sufficient."

#### THE FOOD OF PARADISE

For dessert you could

consider hashish fudge

— and maybe a glass

or two of champagne.

Alice was born in San Francisco in 1877 on O'Farrell Street, a block away from what is now called Alice B. Toklas Place, an alley off Van Ness. In addition to being a hometown girl, she was a Parisian voluptuary with a way with words as well as with epicurean dining experiences. In the Alice B. Toklas Cook Book she ends her recipe for this deceptive chocolate fudge by stating: "This is Charles Baudelaire's food of paradise. ... It might provide entertaining refreshment for a Ladies' Bridge Club or a chapter meeting of the DAR. In Morocco it is thought to be good for warding off the common cold in winter weather and is, indeed, more effective if taken with large quantities of hot mint tea."

E-mail: ernest@marinatimes.com



Splitting the Check

#### Tea for You: Pairing oysters and tea

## Pair your oysters with tea this Valentine's Day

BY ANNA MARIANI

ting the mood on the most romantic day of the year, oysters are second only to chocolate. Did you know you can pair them with tea? Tea awakens your senses and goes really well with food. Wine is great but if you want to make Valentine's Day unexpected, memorable, and sexy, tea is the way to go. So surprise your better half with a voluptuous tea and food pairing.

#### **COLD-BREWED TEA**

When pairing tea and food, it's important to consider not only similar or contrasting flavor notes but also temperature and texture. That's why oysters on the half shell, which are served over ice, are best complemented by cold-brewed teas. Cold brewing is a simple, foolproof method that draws out flavor and subtle nuances without any bitterness. Here's how to make it:

Use 3 teaspoons of loose tea leaves for every 1½ cups water (preferably filtered or spring water). Combine in a pitcher or bottle, stir, and let stand for 30

minutes at room temperature. Cover the pitcher and transfer to the refrigerator. Cold brew overnight or at least 12 hours, even longer if you can. Serve ice-cold in a chilled champagne coupe, flute, cocktail, or wine glass.

As for the oysters, get them from a reputable purveyor and make sure they are at their freshest. Although shucking oysters might seem intimidating, with the right equipment and a little practice, it's actually simple.

#### **PAIRINGS**

Capital (Spencer Cove, Wash.). These small oysters are briny and creamy, with delicious notes of cucumber and melon. Try them with cold-brewed Silver Needle white tea from China (Bai Hao Yin Zhen). White tea, which is lightly oxidized, is the least processed type of tea. Silver Needle is one of the most prized and consists of only tender leaf buds that are covered in silver down. With its delicate sweetness and subtle floral notes, it complements these oysters beautifully, and its melon notes enhance their flavor profile.

**Chelsea Gem** (Eld Inlet, Wash.). With their deep cupped

shells, Chelsea Gems are mildly briny, umami (the fifth taste, also defined as meaty or savory), and succulent with a sweet mineral finish. Try them with coldbrewed **Tamaryokucha.** This Japanese **green tea** is similar to the more widely known sencha. It has a savory flavor profile with hints of seaweed and a mineral finish, which enhances the similar savory notes in the oysters.

Jenell's Shells (Totten Inlet, Wash.). Delightfully buttery and creamy, these oysters have very low salinity. They are sweet and succulent. Try them with a coldbrewed lightly oxidized green oolong tea from Thailand. Any green high-mountain oolong from Taiwan also works, as long as it's not too floral. Or you could try a Jin Xuan "Milk Oolong" from Taiwan or China. The Thai oolong is savory and buttery, with delicate hints of freshly cut grass. It complements and enhances the creaminess of the oysters, while working as a palate cleanser.

**Pacific Gold** (Morro Bay, Calif.). With their beautifully striped shells, Pacific Gold oysters are fresh, briny, sweet, and deliciously plump with faint



Oysters paired with tea are an unexpected taste treat. PHOTO: ANNA MARIANI

lingering notes of melon and cucumber. They go well with cold-brewed **Dragonwell green tea** (also known as Long Jing), arguably the most famous Chinese green tea. Pan-fired in a hot wok and flattened by hand, Dragonwell is a real treat for tea connoisseurs. It's slightly sweet, with toasty and nutty notes, which counterbalance the fruity and vegetal flavor profile of these oysters for a sophisticated pairing.

Hog Island Sweetwaters (Tomales Bay, Calif.). These local crowd-pleasers pair well with cold-brewed Gunpowder Temple of Heaven green tea. It's a classic, full-bodied Chinese tea and its leaves are compressed into shimmery pinhead-shaped pellets. The smoky notes of the tea enhance without overpowering the slightly smoky finish

of these oysters, which are deliciously plump, sweet, briny, and minerally.

For the most romantic, unconventional, yet sophisticated Valentine's Day ever, try all these combinations or select just a few. You (and your better half) will be glad you ditched the wine.

You can find the oysters mentioned at Hog Island Oyster Co. (415-391-7117, hogislandoysters. com) and the tea at Imperial Tea (415-544-9830, imperialtea.com). Both are located in the Ferry Building Marketplace in San Francisco.

Anna Mariani is dedicated to transforming tea into a captivating experience for individuals keen on exploring exciting culinary and social settings from around the world. Visit her blog The Tea Squirrel (teasquirrel.com).



Art World : An opulent and luxurious tour of 18th-century Europe

## Casanova: The Seduction of Europe at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco





Left to right: Jean-Marc Nattier (French, 1685–1766), "Thalia, Muse of Comedy," 1739; Giovanni Antonio Canal, called Canaletto (Italian, 1697–1768), "Entrance to the Grand Canal," (detail) about 1730. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

BY SHARON ANDERSON

Beginning this month, the Legion of Honor will have on view more than 80 works of art—paintings, sculptures, works on paper, period furnishings, delicate porcelains, and lavish period costumes—to recreate the world of 18th-century Europe, "with one of its most colorful characters, Giacomo Casanova (Italian, 1725–1798), as guide."

Casanova was indeed colorful, engaging in a number of professions throughout his life — writer, gambler, spy, military officer, violinist, and was one of the greatest travelers of all time. The luxury and opulence of this time will be brought to life in all its Rococo finery through artworks acting as representatives of the abundant lifestyles of their owners. Placed in the architectural

design reminiscent of these original environments, mannequins dressed in period costumes surrounded by decorative arts tell the story of this age.

"Objects like these would have been part of the cumulative display of luxury found in the show palaces of Europe," says Martin Chapman, curator in charge of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture.

Casanova is an appropriate chaperone through this glittering tour of the art capitals of 18-century Europe — Venice, Constantinople, Versailles, and St. Petersburg. He knew the most prominent figures of the age, including monarchs like Louis XV of France, Catherine the Great of Russia, popes, and intellectuals such as Voltaire and Benjamin Franklin. Casanova knew everyone and wrote it all down. He's perhaps most famous for his 12-vol-

ume autobiography *The Story of My Life*, which documents his womanizing, frauds, and broken promises all in an unequaled account of 18th-century society; in fact it is considered one of the most authentic sources of European social life. His amorous habits, and the scandalous sexual proclivities associated with them, became synonymous with his name. Artworks reflecting these themes include Francois Boucher's *Venus on the Waves*, and Francis Hayman's *David Garrick and Mrs. Pritchard in Benjamin Hoadly's "The Suspicious Husband."* 

At one point his libertine ways led to his being arrested for impiety, tried by the Inquisition and imprisoned in 1755 for nearly a year before he escaped. Casanova was also a multitalented intellectual speaking many languages and, considered a witty conversationalist by his peers, was able to infiltrate the palaces of the wealthy.

In addition to Italy, France, and England, Casanova journeyed in Poland, Austria, the Netherlands, Russia, Flanders, and Spain, logging more than 40,000 miles over six decades in his search for indulgent experiences and adventure. Some of these destinations are featured in the exhibition, including Giovanni Antonio Canal's *The Square of Saint Mark's and the Piazetta*.

Casanova: The Seduction of Europe: 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, Feb. 10–May 28; Palace of Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park, 415-750-3600, famsforg

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. Fire and Fury**, by Michael Wolff (hardcover)
- 2. 21-Day Sugar Detox Daily Guide: A Simplified, Day-By-Day Handbook & Journal to Help You Bust Sugar & Carb Cravings, by Diane SanFilippo (paperback)
- **3. Pachinko**, by Min Jin Lee (paperback)
- 4. Don't Save Anything: Uncollected Essays, Articles, and Profiles, by James Salter (hardcover)
- 5. The Subtle Art of
  Not Giving a F\*ck: A
  Counter-intuitive
  Approach to Living
  a Good Life, by Mark
  Manson (hardcover)
- Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice, by Bill Browder (paperback)

- 7. A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel, by Amor Towles (hardcover)
- **8. Before the Fall**, by Noah Hawley (paperback)
- **9. Scrappy Little Nobody**, by Anna Kendrick (paperback)
- **10. Sing, Unburied, Sing: A Novel**, by Jesmyn Ward
  (hardcover)

#### **NEW RELEASES**

Still Me, by JoJo Moyes (Jan. 30)
Louisa Clark arrives in New York ready to start a new life, confident she can embrace this new adventure and keep her relationship with Ambulance Sam alive across several thousand miles. Before she knows what's happening, she is mixing in New York high society, where she meets Joshua Ryan, a man who brings with him a whisper of her past. In *Still Me*, as Lou tries to keep the two sides of her world together, she finds her-

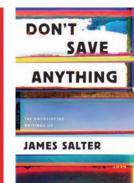
self carrying secrets — not all her own — which cause a catastrophic change in her circumstances. And when matters come to a head, she has to ask herself, who is Louisa Clark? And how do you reconcile a heart that lives in two places?

**Jefferson's Daughters**, by Catherine Kerrison (Jan. 30)

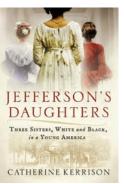
The remarkable untold story of Thomas Jefferson's three daughters - two white and free, one black and enslaved — and the divergent paths they forged in a newly independent America. Jefferson had three daughters: Martha and Maria by his wife, Martha Wayles Jefferson, and Harriet by his slave Sally Hemings. In Jefferson's Daughters, Catherine Kerrison, a scholar of early American and women's history, recounts the remarkable journey of these three women and how their struggle to define themselves

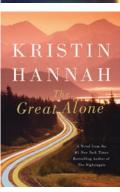












reflects both the possibilities and the limitations that resulted from the American Revolution.

**Great Alone**, by Kristin Hannah (Feb. 6)

In this unforgettable portrait of human frailty and resilience, Kristin Hannah reveals the indomitable character of the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska — a place of incomparable beauty and danger. *The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-allnight story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature.

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

#### Michael Snyder on ... Pop Culture

## Earworms, 'earbuddies', and 'tearworms'

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

WAS MINDING MY OWN business at a high-tech shopping mall when singer-songwriter-actor Justin Timberlake's summer hit "Can't Stop the Feeling" (a highpoint of the otherwise pedestrian computer-animated feature Trolls) came booming over the sound system. On a gigantic LED video screen above, the song's jubilant video played, complete with a cross-section of people dancing with the undeniably talented Timberlake in what appeared to be locations all over the Los Angeles area.

At the time, I was charmed by the song with its popping beat, ascending bridge, and infectious "dance, dance, dance" chorus, not to mention the exuberant clip itself. But days later, I was less than pleased as the track continued to bounce over and over through my brain. And it wouldn't go away. I went to sleep with it in fitful fashion, and woke up with it, exhausted from tossing and turning all night. It was like being trapped in a loveless relationship with someone you once found attractive and couldn't dump, because he or she threatened selfharm or refused to sign the divorce papers. I had been victimized by an earworm most sinister.

The first time I heard the phrase "earworm," I thought of that scene in Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, when the villainous Khan puts a squirming alien larvae into the ear of his captive, Pavel Chekov of the U.S.S. Enterprise, to mentally control and physically torment him. But that was not the worm in question. Instead, it was one of those ridiculously catchy songs that burrows into your consciousness – and, infuriatingly, won't stop repeating in your mind unless somehow replaced by something equally memorable but (one hopes) easier to dispel.

This happenstance is sometimes known as "stuck song syndrome" — and it's maddening. In some ways, it's a significant component of success in the music business. There's that track in heavy rotation on a pop music radio or streaming station: You don't like it, and you don't want to hear it, but you can't escape it, and it plays on and on in your head, even after you turn off the external sound.

#### STUCK IN A GROOVE

We all have our own personal earworms just like we

all have our own personal hells. And it's odd that a tune you might initially like could, in short order, become a demonic, hypnotic thing refusing to leave your thoughts. It's understandable Britney Spears's first big hit, circa 2000, "Oops! ... I Did It Again," is pure evil, invading one's soul and spirit, and leaving the cranium eviscerated. If I never hear "Who Let the Dogs Out?" by the Baha Men again, I will be a happy fellow. But I actually loved Run-DMC's "It's Tricky" and Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" the first 100 or so times I heard them. And then ... not so much.

It makes me feel sorry for those poor souls who had to endure the novelty chart-toppers like 1958's "Witch Doctor" by David Seville (the fiend behind the often-tortuous Alvin & the Chipmunks records) with its "Ooh-ee-ooh-ah-ahting-tang-walla-walla-bangbang" chorus, and 1959's "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini" — a singsong ode to the girls on the beach by Brian Hyland.

To be fair, it does suggest the power of music to generate positive and negative responses in a listener. At its finest, music can uplift and inspire. (Think national anthems.) It can excite and soothe. (Think movie and TV scores.) It can move the soul and break the heart. (Think any number of love songs — or songs that individuals or couples associate with their romantic relationships.)

There's no denying what can happen when a song is linked to something important or potent in memory. It explains why people hang onto the sounds they adored in their teens or 20s, and don't embrace newer artists and songs for the rest of their lives. That's not me. Even though I honor and revere countless compositions from childhood on, I am, as one might josh, hip to the music of today. I can't tell you how many times I put "Cowboy Teen," a recent Band of Horses slice of sonorous, loping Americana, on repeat. The same goes for the thundering, propulsive art-rock explosion "Under the Pressure" from The War on Drugs. Call them "earbuddies" — songs one can happily hear many times in succession without tiring of them. Like virtually anything by the Beatles ... other than "Yellow Submarine."

#### HEAR IT AND WEEP

I'd be lying if I said there weren't dozens of record-

ings that elicit a profound emotional response when I hear them. Around a year ago, I was driving I-5 with my iPod on shuffle, when "Under Pressure" by David Bowie and Queen came up. Tragically, Bowie had died a couple weeks prior, and when the song reached the crescendo with him singing, "This is our last dance. This is ourselves ... under pressure," I was a misty-eyed mess, and every subsequent listen elicits a lump in my

Alternately, all it takes for me to grin like a loon as my nervous system goes into excitement overdrive, while simultaneously longing for my departed youth, is Bruce Springsteen's "Rosalita," an epic, careening, euphoric rock 'n' roll masterpiece wherein he cajoles his sweetheart to blow town with him in his hot rod. And don't get me started on Sting's "If I Ever Lose My Faith in You," a gleaming, hopeful up-tempo ballad that makes my tear ducts kick in because it will be forever connected to the most significant love of my life — and the frustration and loss I felt upon our break-up. Are these earworms? Nay. They are "tearworms."

So there should be no dispute music has great power — and with great power comes great responsibility: The responsibility to not drive you crazy. (Like that Fine Young Cannibal's song "She Drives Me Crazy," which I have always liked, but which would put me on edge if played 10 times consecutively.)

Fortunately, I found a cure for "Can't Stop the Feeling:" A strong dose of "Alright," the jaunty, piano-driven power-pop single by England's Supergrass, followed by the dreamy elegance of "Ends of the Earth" by California chamber-rock group Lord Huron, and the relentless hip-hop of Tone Loc's "Wild Thing." Timber-lake was gone.

Unfortunately, I now have a "Wild Thing" problem. I suppose it could be worse. What if that insidious "1-877-KARS-4-KIDS" jingle took hold? My only answer might be an exorcist.

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

# CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO ADAGIO, ALLEGRO APPASSIONATO





His playing hailed as "gorgeous, finely detailed . . . positively ravishing, a marvel of emotional maturity and assurance" [San Francisco Classical Voice], virtuosic violinist Kenneth Renshaw joins pianist Johanna Marie Hennig to reprise at the historic Presidio Chapel classic pieces that mirror the duo's concert performances in Paris, Brussels and Northern Germany: Bach's Sonata No. 1 in G minor, Schubert's Sonata for Violin and Piano, Brahms' Intermezzos in A Major and A minor, and Grieg's Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 45. Also on stage: youth musicians from San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 8 & 9, 2018 at the historic Presidio Chapel 130 Fisher Loop, Presidio of San Francisco Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Youth \$5

Limited seating. Reservations recommended. Call (415) 447-6274



## FEBRUARY EVENTS

#### NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

#### **MAJOR EVENTS**

#### 34th Annual Tribal & Textile Arts Show

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 9-11, 11 a.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

More than 70 international dealers and galleries will showcase rare historical and contemporary art by tribal cultures and indigenous peoples from the Americas, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Polynesia, Australia and the Middle East. Proceeds benefit the de Young Museum. \$15 & \$25, sanfranciscotribalandtextileartshow.com

#### S.F. Beer Week

Daily, Feb. 9-18

Various Bay Area venues

Brewski lovers unite: This event kicks off at Pier 35 with a gala of over 120 breweries pouring over 300 brews and features subsequent events/ tastings from beyond Santa Rosa to Hayward to Santa Cruz. Additional events throughout Bay Area; visit website for details/schedule. Bottoms up! sfbeerweek.ora



#### Tulipmania Festival

#### Daily, Feb. 10-18 Pier 39

Stroll down the pier and enjoy a spectacular and colorful display featuring over 39,000 tulips and seasonal garden favorites. Take a guided tour (10 a.m., crab statue) and learn helpful gardening tips. Visit website for self-guided tour info. Free, 415-705-5500, pier39.com PHOTO: FLICKR.COM/CROSSFIRECW

#### **Chinese New Year Festival**

Various days, Feb. 10-March 4

Various S.F. venues

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Celebrate the Year of the Dog with a street fair, flower fair, and more, including the colorful Chinese New Year Parade Feb. 24. See website for details/schedule, 415-982-3000, chineseparade.com

#### S.F. Chronicle Wine Competition Public

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1:30-5 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

As the largest competition of U.S. wines in the world, this always-sold-out public tasting is a not-to-miss wine and food experience. \$95, 650-548-6700, winejudging.com

#### **HEART AFFAIRS**

#### Valentine's Day Pop-Up Card Making Saturday, Feb. 3, 2–3:30 p.m.

Marina Branch Library

Create your own Valentine's Day pop-up card for that special someone. Materials provided, space limited. Free with registration at 415-355-2823,

#### 7th Annual Valentine Broadside **Printing Event**

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2-4 p.m.

S.F. History Center, S.F. Main Library

Come experience letterpress printing on the library's 1909 Albion hand press and take home a unique keepsake for your valentine. Limited to 100 participants. Free, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

#### **Union Street Valentine Wine Walk**

Friday, Feb. 9, 4-8 p.m.

Union St. (Gough to Steiner) & Fillmore St. (Union to Lombard)

Grab your sweetie for an evening stroll of wine samples, finger foods, and special treats offered by local merchants, so don't forget to thank them with your support. \$25 (advance), \$30 (day of), 800-310-6563, sresproductions.com

#### Valentine's Day Sock Hop

Saturday, Feb. 10, 7-10 p.m.

Presidio Officer's Club (50 Moraga Ave.)

Hop back to the 1950s and be there or be square for dancing with live music from The Ely Brothers & The Doubletake Band. Retro cocktails available for purchase from Arguello restaurant. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free with registration at 415-561-5300, presidio.gov

#### Victorian Ball

Saturday, Feb. 10, 8-11 p.m.

Haas-Lilienthal House (2007 Franklin St.)

Step back in time and learn the Viennese Waltz, enjoy a buffet and candy bar, and play Victorian trivia games for prizes. Learn about love and courtship, and fall in love with suitable partners from the Victorian perspective. Costumes encouraged. Proceeds benefit maintenance/restoration of the house. \$35-\$145, eventbrite.com

#### **Love Biteth**

Sun.-Thu.. Feb. 11-15

Martuni's (4 Valencia St.)

Presented by the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of S.F., this year's hilarious anti-Valentine's Day cabaret is in the mold of A Midsummer Night's Dream, and includes a wide range of contemporary music. \$20 (at the door only), 415-779-5428, facebook.com

#### Anti-Valentine's Day Power Ballad Sing-a-Long

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 9:15 p.m. Roxie Theatre (3117 16th St.)

For those who can't stand Valentine's Day, this is for you. Come sing the power ballads of Journey, Guns 'n Roses, Bon Jovi, Warrant, and many more while holding lighters in the air, swaying, and pounding your fist at the sky in defiance of those who would dare not love you. \$13, 415-863-1087, roxie.com

#### **GALAS & BENEFITS**

#### Annual Dinner/Lunch à la Heart

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Various S.F. restaurants

Enjoy a pre-fixe dinner/lunch (including wine and coffee/tea) and help low-income Bay Area seniors live independently. Choose a restaurant and reserve through the Institute on Aging. \$80-\$250, 415-750-3443, ioaging.org

#### **Heroes & Hearts Luncheon**

Thursday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m.

AT&T Park

This always-a-sellout-event honors community heroes and features heart art created by local artists to support the Zuckerberg S.F. General Hospital and Trauma Center. \$500, 415-206-5959,

#### **ARTS & CULTURE**

#### 7th Annual Bay Area American Indian **Two-Spirits Powwow**

Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

This celebration of traditional Native American culture also provides a gender-affirming experience for the two-spirits community and features performers in traditional Native American regalia, dancing, singing, drumming, contests, and more, including food and craft vendors and health screenings. Free, baaits.org

#### **ACT: Every 28 Hours Black Arts** Festival: A Healing Experience

Saturday, Feb. 3, 3-10 p.m. Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)

This festival will highlight and celebrate local black art, culture, and activism and feature performances by local spoken-word artists, musicians, singers, and dancers. Enjoy art installations, guest speakers, panel discussions, and goods and food from local black-owned businesses and restaurants. The festival will culminate with performances from Every 28 Hours, a series of one-minute plays inspired by

the Black Lives Matter movement. Free, (RSVP

encouraged), 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

#### Sponsored



#### MASQUERADE BALL: Festa di Carnevale

Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Museo Italo Americano

Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

The Museo Italo Americano presents an evening of costumes, music, dancing, and fun: Enjoy music by D.J. Peter Haley, typical Carnevale treats, a no-host bar, and raffle. Costumes encouraged, masks provided, and prize for best costume! Proceeds benefit Museo's cultural and educational programs. \$75 (members) & \$100 (general), RSVP to 415-673-2200 or info@sfmuseo.org by Feb. 9.

#### **Lunar New Year Celebration:** Year of the Dog

Sunday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin St.)

Enjoy workshops and performances of dancers, musicians, and storytellers, featuring Chinese acrobatics and lion dance drumming. Learn about the zodiac calendar and Year of the Dog characteristics, have your name written in Chinese calligraphy and more. Free with admission (\$15), 415-581-3500, asianart.org

#### **THEATER**

#### Magic Theatre: Reel to Reel

Tue.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 25

Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center

The story of a 55-year marriage as told through the mundane sentiments of recorded conversations, arguments, and household noises. \$20-\$75, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

#### **SHN: The Book of Mormon**

Tue.-Sun., Feb. 6-March 9 SHN Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)

Back by popular demand, this Tony Awardwinning musical comedy follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway across the world to spread the Good Word. \$60-\$246, 888-746-1719, shnsf.com

#### Word for Word: Lucia Berlin: **Stories**

Wed.-Sun., Feb. 14-March 11

Z Below (470 Florida St.)

Four stories from Lucia Berlin's posthumously published, critically acclaimed, A Manual for Cleaning Women are set to an evocative jazz score by Marcus Shelby. \$20-\$50, 415-626-0453, zspace.org

#### **DANCE**

#### **ODC/Dance: Path of Miracles**

Fri.-Sat.., Feb. 9-10, 7:30 p.m. **Grace Cathedral** 

Part one of the Dance Around Town series, this site-specific performance experience explores our journey through space and time, and was created in collaboration with the 17-member vocal ensemble, Volti. \$40, 415-863-6606, odcdance.org

#### S.F. Ballet: Distinctly S.F. Ballet

Various days, Feb. 15-25

War Memorial Opera House

Enjoy three works by three generations of dancers in three different genres created for the ballet: Helgi Tomasson's On a Theme of Paganini, set to Rachmaninov; Val Caniparoli's Ibsen's House, set to Dvořák; and Myles Thatcher's Ghost in the Machine with Michael Nyman's minimalist score. \$28-\$365, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org

#### **Smuin: 2018 Choreography Showcase**

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 16-17

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

Enjoy new ballet works "created for dancers by dancers," followed by a Q & A session in which audience members are invited to discuss the artistic process with the dancers/choreographers. \$33–\$48, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

#### **MUSIC**

#### Blackball: The Negro Leagues and the Blues featuring the Marcus Shelby Quintet

Thursday, Feb. 1, 7-8 p.m.

Presidio Officers' Club, (50 Moraga Ave.) This musical suite by bandleader and bassist Marcus Shelby also includes three actors, who will tell the story through monologues and songs

of the Negro League baseball, and will recreate

some of the on-field action. Free, 415-561-4323,

#### **Preservation Hall Jazz Band**

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 2-4

Miner Auditorium, SFJazz

The legendary New Orleans jazz band performs with special guests \$60-\$120, 888-920-5299,

#### Carla Bruni

presidio.gov

Friday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel

The internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter, French pop star, former supermodel and first lady of France, will be performing songs from her new album, French Touch. \$75-\$125, 415-392-4400, bayareacabaret.org

#### **NIGHTLIFE**



#### North Beach Brass Band

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. Biscuits and Blues (401 Mason St.)

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHBEACHBRASSBAND

The North Beach Brass Band is both a traditional brass band playing early jazz and golden standards and an electrified funky jazz act playing classic blues, Motown, and soul tunes. \$20, 415-292-2583, biscuitsandblues.com

#### After Dark: Cobalt

Thursday, Feb. 15, 6-10 p.m.

The Exploratorium (Pier 15)

Learn about cobalt, found in everything from ceramic bowls to cell phones, and enjoy an evening of education, entertainment, and a good drink. 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

#### Tainted Love with Rebel Rebel: A **Tribute to David Bowie**

Friday, Feb. 16, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.) Tainted Love offers a stylized, nonstop '80s

show, and Rebel Rebel will feature a tribute to the late David Bowie. \$25-\$45, 415-474-0365, bimbos365club.com

#### **FILMS & LECTURES**

S.F. Indie Fest Feb. 1-15

Roxie Theater (3117 16th), Victoria Theater (2961 16th), and 518 Val Pop Up Theater

(518 Valencia) The 20th running of Indiefest features 33 new feature films and 51 new short movies. \$13-\$14 (individual tickets), \$22-\$25 (opening night), \$60-\$250 (festival passes), sfindie.com

#### Learning How to Say Hard Things, With **Kelly Corrigan**

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.

The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)

Kelly Corrigan talks with Daniel Handler about the conversations and experiences in her life that have shaped the way she connects and empathizes with family, friends, and her community. \$10-\$60, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

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#### **Berlin & Beyond Film Festival** Daily, Feb. 9-15

Castro Theatre, Shattuck Cinemas (Berkeley), and Goethe Institut (530 Bush St.)

Join 10,000 other foreign film lovers for the 22nd year of this festival highlighting movies from German-speaking countries. \$9–\$15 (individual tickets), \$200-\$2,500 (festival passes), 415-263-8760, goethe.de/sanfrancisco

#### Mostly British Film Festival

Daily, Feb. 15-22

Vogue Theatre (3290 Sacramento St.)

This film festival features movies from the U.K., Ireland, Australia, India, South Africa, and New Zealand. \$12.50-\$15 (individual tickets), \$200-\$225 (festival pass), mostlybritish.org

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

#### **Annual Magnolia Bloom**

Daily through March 31, 7:30 a.m.-closing S.F. Botanical Garden

View over 100 rare and historic magnolias at this floral spectacle as dazzling pink and white flowers burst into bloom with their sweet fragrance. Free (S.F. residents), \$8 (general), 415-661-1316, sfbotanicalgarden.org

#### The Search for Life Beyond Earth

Monday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. California Academy of Sciences

Dr. Kathryn Bywaters, of the SETI Institute and NASA Ames Research Center, discusses where to look for alien life — and just how alien that life might actually be. \$12-\$15, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

#### 66th Pacific Orchid & Garden **Exposition**

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 23-24 Hall of Flowers, S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.)

The largest orchid show on the West Coast features thousands of blooms, and offers a diverse variety of orchids for sale. \$10-\$30, orchidsanfrancisco.org

#### **Presidio Stargazing Party** Saturday, Feb. 24, 7-9:30 p.m. Main Parade Ground, the Presidio

See the moon, planets, nebulae and galaxies up close and learn some of the constellations at a star tour. Bad weather cancels; updates at sfaa-astronomy.org. Free, 415-561-4323, presidio.gov

#### **POTABLES & EDIBLES**

#### Arguello Experience: Tequila Ocho Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m.

Arguello (50 Moraga Ave.)

Taste and learn about this 100 percent blue agave tequila made for 80 years by the Camarena family. Includes a welcome cocktail, seasoned salt-making, and four one-ounce tasting pours with accompanying bites. Limited seating. \$75, 415-561-3650, arquellosf.com



#### 4th Annual Crab Bender

#### Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Tacolicious (741 Valencia St.)

The "Crab + Cold Ones" menu starts with Josey Baker bread, followed by Mexican-style clam chowder, winter chopped salad, roasted Dungeness crab, and horchata pot de crème paired with brews from Santa Rosa's HenHouse Brewing. \$120, 415-649-6077, tacolicious.com PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/TACOLICIOUS

#### **Duck Duck Gose Beer Dinner** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7-9:30 p.m.

Almanac Beer Taproom (2704 24th St.)

Enjoy a duck-inspired six-course pairing dinner highlighting local duck, seasonal produce, and barrel-aged and fresh beer selections. \$95, almanacbeer.com

#### **Seafood Stew Supper** Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

Sur la Table

This class includes instruction on shellfish cleaning/handling and basic fish butchery with a menu of homemade focaccia, cioppino, and mixed green salad with goat cheese and olive vinaigrette. \$90, 800-243-0852, surlatable.com

#### **SPORTS & HEALTH**

#### 25th Annual KNBR Giants FanFest Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. AT&T Park

Join the fun with player Q&As, World Series trophies, player autographs, photo ops, a kids' zone, and more. Roam the field and meet players while KNBR broadcasts from home plate. Free, 415-

#### **Brain Fitness & Longevity: Keep Your** Mind Fit for Life

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

972-2000, mlb.com

Learn how to keep your mind and memory vibrant at every life stage: how health habits affect memory, the relationship between diet and brain function, and more, including effective relaxation techniques. Free, RSVP to Debbie Coller at 415-339-2692, debbie@bluewavemedicine.com; cavallopoint.com

#### **She Recovers Sacred Pause Saturday:** Yoga and Connection in San Francisco Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Gallery 308, Fort Mason Center

This one-day workshop seeks to support and empower women recovering from a wide variety of issues. Includes lunch, talks, and community. \$100, eventbrite.com

#### Fort to Fort 10K Sunday, Feb. 18, 9-10:30 a.m.

Starts: Great Meadow, Fort Mason

Run this flat, scenic race from Fort Mason to Fort Point and back. \$5, 415-978-0837, dserunner.com

#### CHILD'S PLAY

#### Children's Theatre: Alice in Wonderland Saturday, Feb. 3, 10, 24 & March 3

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

Join Alice, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, the March Hare, and many other colorful characters from Lewis Carroll's classic tale. \$15 & \$18, 415-248-2677, ctasf.org

#### **Young Performers Theatre: Snow White** and the Seven Dwarfs

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 1-11

Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

All ages will enjoy this classic fairy tale of the jealous queen who banishes her stepdaughter, who is then befriended by a family of dwarfs. \$12, 415-346-5550, ypt.org

#### **Family Matinee with Marcus Shelby Orchestra**

Saturday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m.

In honor of Black History Month, the orchestra celebrates the "The Sounds of Freedom," and the power of music to inspire, motivate, and heal. \$5\_\$23, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

#### **Chinese New Year Concert**

Saturday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dog at this family event that includes a preconcert festival reception (2 p.m.) with lion dancing, entertainment, and more before a diverse concert featuring an Eastern and Western repertoire (4 p.m.). \$34-\$79, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

#### **IUST FOR FUN**

#### The Great S.F. Crystal Fair

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 24-25, 10 a.m.

Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center

A magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, jewelry, and the healing arts features over 40 vendors, while psychics bring their cards and aura cameras. \$12, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

#### Calendar listings

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

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





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#### TRAVEL WITH YOUR DOG North Bay



Blue explores the Lula vineyards. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

## After the devastating fires, Wine Country is open for business

PART 1: The Mendocino Coast

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

N THE UNSEAsonably evening of Oct. 9, 2017, my friend Sara and I stepped into the backyard to enjoy a cocktail. "It smells smoky," I said.

"Seems odd people would be burning a fire tonight." Sara agreed and we went about enjoying dry martinis while excitedly discussing our trip to Mendocino the following day - we had a weeklong writers' retreat planned at

the charming Little River Inn, where Sara would work on her short stories and I would revise my proposal for "Jazzy's Tails" (to include "the traditional sad dog book ending," as one literary agent put it).

The next morning I awoke to news of the devastating fires roaring through Wine Country. Sara and I postponed our trip until April, and for a month, the horrific photos of charred homes and vineyards played out across the media nationwide. I had been planning to write a story about winter specials at dog-friendly destinations, but in early November, I saw a Napa restaurant owner tell a local television news reporter that business was down 30 percent, and he wanted visitors to know he was open for business. A few days later, Steve and I packed the dogs and some

'Pushy salesman' Dan Reed and 'Head of Barketing' Honey, the

> chilly weather clothes and headed up north.

golden Lab, greeted us.

#### **DETOUR TO DOG-FRIENDLY LULA CELLARS**

On Highway 101 in northern Santa Rosa, we saw some of the hard-hit areas devastated by the fire along the freeway. But before long, we were winding through the thick canopies of trees in the Anderson Valley, and made a quick stop at my favorite boutique tasting room, Lula Cellars (2800 Guntly

Road, Philo, 707-895-3737, lulacellars.com), to check out the work of new winemaker Matt Parish. Parish, a New Zealand native, has lived and worked in Northern California for 15 years spanning 25 vintages. (Most recently, he was chief winemaker for Naked-Wines.com, where he continues to sell his "Matt Par-

ish" brand.)

"Pushy Salesman" (so it says on his business card) Dan Reed and "Head of Barketing" Honey, the rescued golden Lab mix (yes, she has a card, too) greeted us and we settled into the cozy tast-

ing room to enjoy the fruits of Lula's small production labor - 10 award-winning wines, 8 of them dry farmed (which uses only 9 percent of the water irrigated wines use).

I loved the Guntly, a very food-friendly baby (just 10 weeks old) and the first wine made by Parish (only 750 cases were produced). While Dan and I chatted, Steve and the dogs explored the 22-acre property, which features Skylar's favorite place (the pond!),

TRAVEL, continued on next page

#### **Travel**

continued from 18

a 14-acre Pinot Noir vineyard, a small-production winemaking facility, and a new 10,000-squarefoot events area available for weddings and private events. Lula makes 3,500 cases of wine annually and sells them only through the tasting room and their popular wine club, which has grown from 25 to 900 members in three years. Make that 901 — I joined the club and sent a case to my stepsister before we left that evening.

#### TWINKLING LIGHTS AT THE LITTLE RIVER INN

After a short drive up the Mendocino coast, we pulled into the long driveway of the majestic Little River Inn (7901 N. Highway 1, Little River, 707-937-5942, littleriverinn.com), the white Victorian façade twinkling with white holiday lights. Exhausted and hungry, we slipped into Ole's Whale Watch Bar for a quick bite. I went for the abalone fritters — tender pieces of red abalone mixed with red onion, jalapeno, and red pepper and fried golden brown. Steve loved the flash-fried rice flour-dusted calamari from our last trip, and it was as good as we both remembered. We also split the classic baked Brie with oven-roasted garlic and fresh fruit and a wedge salad of cold, crisp iceberg lettuce topped with Roundman's bacon and creamy blue cheese dressing.

Our room was luxurious but homey with a fireplace and huge windows overlooking the ocean. I headed straight for the deep-soaking tub with jets to soothe my tired driving muscles. Afterward, Steve and I sat in the Adirondack chairs on our private porch and listened to the crashing waves while Blue and Sky sniffed every inch of the deck.

The next morning we took the dogs for a ride on the Skunk Train (299 East Commercial, Willits, 707-964-6371, skunktrain.com) along the iconic Redwood Route. It's a relaxing family-friendly adventure, and the dogs are always a big hit with other guests.

After my visit to the Little River Inn Spa for a pedicure while Steve and the dogs napped, we all headed for the dog-friendly dining parlor (there's only one table, so reserve in advance). Executive Chef Marc Dym takes advantage of Mendocino's bounty of seasonal produce and seafood like petrale sole, my favorite local fish. Flakey, white and delicate in both texture and flavor, Dym prepares it with a side of





Top to bottom: The charming tasting room at Lula Cellars; Blue and Skylar check out the view from the dog friendly dining room at Circa '62.

PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

almonds in brown butter sauce, poached gulf shrimp, toasted orzo, and sugar snap peas. Probably my favorite thing on the menu, though, is the clam chowder. It's less West Coast style (so thick your spoon stands up) and closer to what I ate during my Rhode Island summers: a briny broth full of fresh steamed clams (in the shell), smoky bacon, potatoes, onion, celery, and just a touch of cream.

#### STOP, DROP, AND DROOL AT CIRCA '62

Based on a local's tip, the next morning we drove a few miles along the coast to Circa '62 at the Inn at Schoolhouse Creek (7051 North Highway 1, Mendocino, 707-937-5525, schoolhousecreek.com). The oldest resort on the Mendocino stretch of the North Coast, the property is covered in gardens and lush greenery and the unique cottages (like the Water Tower, replete with a fish pond, observation deck, and private hot tub) will definitely be on the list of accommodations for our next trip.

Restaurant Circa '62 also features a dog-friendly dining room where Skylar and Blue were treated to plush beds perfect for bigboned gals and their own menu, titled "Stop, Drop

& Drool." Skylar opted for Rufus' Special: Grilled flatiron steak with scrambled eggs and gluten-free peanut butter cookies for dessert. Blue selected Mr. Wilson's Mixed Grill, with chicken sausage, grilled bacon, and eggs. While I would have happily eaten with the dogs, I tried Slow Death on a Raft (a gut-busting hash brown waffle with gravy and poached eggs). Steve went with the even more decadent Death on a Leaky Raft, which adds a crispy slab of local Covelo beef chicken-fried steak. The young staff was warm and gracious, and I loved the vibe, especially the witty sense of humor on the canine menu ("Aggressive behavior is not OK ... that includes the dog").

After brunch, we walked off some calories with the dogs in the crisp autumn air along the beach and headed for our next destination — the stunning **Stanford Inn** ...

Next month in Part 2: Llamas and Ravens at the Stanford Inn; a night with Santa at dog exuberant Nick's Cove; and lunch at an old favorite, the Rutherford Grill.

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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.

San Francisco International Airport has commenced the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the following concession opportunities:

- <u>Terminal 1 Retail Concession Leases</u>
  The Request for Proposals includes 2 Newsstand Leases, 1 Newsstand and Convenience Store Lease (2 locations), 1 Electronics Store Lease, 1 Regional Gift
- Store Lease, 1 Bath & Beauty Store Lease and 1 Sunglass Store Lease.
   Terminal 1 Food and Beverage Concession Leases
   The Request for Proposals includes 5 Quick Serve Restaurant Leases, 2 Sit-Down Restaurant and Bar Leases, 1 Café & Market Lease and 1 Café Lease.

Small, local and disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to participate.

Proposals will be received through the Airport's RFP Web Portal from 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

For more information about each concession opportunity, please visit our website at

www.flysfo.com/business-at-sfo/current-opportunities or please contact:

- Terminal 1 Retail Concession Leases, call Ms. Clarissa Mamaril, Principal Property Manager, RDM at (650) 821-4500 or via e-mail at clarissa.mamaril@flysfo.com.
- Terminal 1 Food and Beverage Concession Leases, call Mr. Tomasi Toki, Principal Property Manager, RDM at (650) 821-4500 or via e-mail at tomasi.toki@flysfo.com.

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#### **Urban Home and Garden** : A step up

### Ladder choices

BY JULIA STRZESIESKI

ANY SIMPLE CHORES AROUND the house require a ladder. Because many homes in the city feature high ceilings, even simple tasks such as changing a light bulb might require a ladder to perform safely. A sturdy ladder is a worthwhile investment, and it will come in handy for many jobs in the home.

The three basic types of ladders are extension (straight), step, and step-extension. Ladders are rated by load capacity into household, commercial, and industrial grades. Ladder rungs are either flat, round, or D-shaped. The minimum size considered acceptable for round rungs is 1¼", or 1½" for D-rungs. To ensure safety, rungs are required to be capable of carrying a much higher load than the rated load for the entire ladder.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING** A LADDER

Type of activity involved: The type of activity dictates which type of ladder you'll need. Use a stepladder for interior painting, drywalling, spackling, and wallpapering. Stepladders include stepstools and platform ladders, generally for home or light commercial use. Stepladders are self-supporting and may include a pail hook or shelf. Extension ladders are best for painting exteriors, cleaning gutters, replacing shutters and siding, etc.

**Demands of the application**: Make sure the ladder is suitable for the physical demands of the application. The rated load capacity must exceed the maximum aggregate weight of the user along with his or her clothing and tools. Duty ratings are also color coded. Look for the proper duty ratings to match the highest level of use.

Height the ladder must reach: For a climber to work from a safe position, the ladder's top should extend about 3 feet above the working surface when in use. Stepladders should be high enough for the user not to have to stand above the second step from the top. On extension ladders, stand no more than four rungs from the top.

Basic material: The most common ladder materials are wood, aluminum, and fiberglass. Wood ladders are nonconductive when clean and dry. Wood also provides a natural firm grip for feet and hands. However, wood tends to be heavy and is vulnerable to moisture and

Aluminum is lightweight and strong, but does conduct electricity; aluminum ladders should never be used when working near energized electrical lines.



Remember not to step on the top of a ladder, unless you want a quick trip to the floor.

Fiberglass offers a blend of desirable qualities. It is nonconductive and strong — and an excellent choice for a variety of circumstances.

#### **LADDER SAFETY TIPS**

#### Do:

- Learn the proper methods for working with a ladder
- Keep your ladders well-maintained (for wood, treat with a wood preservative that leaves a clear surface)
- Choose duty ratings to match the highest level of use

#### Don't:

- Use or repair a bent or damaged
- Test a ladder by jumping on it
- Use a ladder on slippery surfaces or
- Place ladder feet on power cords or come in contact with electrical current or power lines
- Climb down a ladder with your back to the ladder or carrying a load in your
- Overreach, lean to one side or stand on one foot
- Hurry or skip steps when getting on or off the ladder
- Leave a ladder unattended
- Position the ladder where it blocks foot traffic or where it could be bumped
- Place the ladder on boxes, chairs, furniture, or other moveable object to try to climb higher
- Climb from one ladder to another or try to move a ladder while on it
- Climb a ladder when ill or using drugs or alcohol
- Drop or throw ladders
- Paint a wooden ladder (paint hides damage and can create a slippery surface for climbing)

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

Extension Ladder Length Chart					
HEIGHT TO EAVES	BUY THIS LENGTH	MAX. WORKING HEIGHT			
9½' max	16'	13'			
9½' to 13½'	20'	17'			
13½' to 17½'	24'	21'			
17½' to 21½'	28'	25'			
21½' to 25'	32'	29'			
25' to 28'	36'	32'			
28' to 30'	40'	35'			

#### **MomSense**: Valentine's with the family

### Sharing the love on Valentine's Day

BY LIZ FARRELL

REMEMBER VALENTINE'S DAY being such a fun day as a kid, **⊥** racing home to go through my candy and cards. Now, even all these years later, I love watching the same excitement in my children. Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to remind our children

about the importance of sharing love with friends and family, but also making those around us who aren't family and friends feel loved and appreciated as well. We hope this is something we can do all year long, but around Valentine's Day we are provided an extra special opportunity. Here are some ways your family can help share the

#### FROM THE HEART

love this Valentine's Day:

There are so many ways your family can show their love and appreciation, but one of the simplest and most inexpensive ways is by making homemade cards, artwork, or treats. Pinterest (pinterest.com) is an easy way to get thousands of ideas for art projects for all ages. My youngest child is happiest with a piece of construc-

tion paper, stickers, and some markers to make a card while my older son loves to read, so he made bookmarks. My oldest loves to bake. We put all these interests and talents together to make cookies, cards, and lots of bookmarks. We brought them to assisted-living facilities near our home and the Heritage House

teach our children from a

young age that Valentine's

Day is about more than

Hallmark cards and roses.

across from Moscone playground.

Children's Hospital is also a good place to bring your goodies. We

had enough that we were also able

to give some to the garbage col-

lector, mailperson, and crossing

Some others who may not

always get remembered on Val-

entine's Day are our furry friends. For most children who love ani-

mals this will be an easy one.

**FUN FOR FURRY FRIENDS** 

guards at their school.

biscuits, sold them, and the proceeds were all donated to a wonderful organization called Guide Dogs for the Blind. It could also be as simple as offering to take a neighbor or friend's dog for a walk. You may also want to call local animal shelters and I think it is important to

rescue groups to and ask for ideas of what they need and how your children can help give. Some have age restrictions for walking or playing with the animals, but these organizations are always in need of donations. Your children can use allowance or tooth fairy money to buy new toys,

There are many ways they can

show appreciation for animals.

Last year, my son's class baked dog

leashes, or bowls for the animals.



This is one I know the whole family will enjoy and can really get into. I grew up in the East Bay and always remember whenever our family would cross the Bay Bridge to come into San Francisco (this was before FasTrak), my mom would always pay for the car behind us. We used to get such a thrill trying to watch their faces when they were told



Make valentines for people who might not be remembered on this holiday. PHOTO: PHOTONOTEBOOK

their toll was already paid for or when they would speed up to us and honk and wave with big smiles of thanks on their faces. Valentine's Day can be a fun day to find a few ways to pay it forward and watch the joy it brings to your children and those who benefit from these random acts of kindness. Some ideas you can try are paying for the person's coffee behind you at Starbucks or Peet's or pay for the person's meal behind you at a drive through restaurant. There are also some simple ideas that your children can do such as leaving quarters in a vending machine, returning someone's cart at the grocery store, or holding the door open for someone.

I think it is important to teach our children from a young age that Valentine's Day is about more than Hallmark cards and roses. Although all those things are nice, there are many special ways you can teach your children to show their love and appreciation. Also, I know for me, it is essential to find any chance we can to show our children the importance of giving and not just receiving.

I hope your Valentine's Day is filled with plenty of conversation hearts and chocolates, but I also challenge you and your family to find a few simple ways to help spread some love to others this Valentine's Day.

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

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#### **The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: January 2018** By Hill & Co. Real Estate

		BEDROOMS/		ABOVE/AT/BELOW	DAYS
NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ASKING PRICE	MARK
Cow Hollow	2717 Baker Street 2555 Filbert Street 2739 Broderick Street	2BD/2BA 4BD/3.5BA 5BD/3.5BA	\$2,450,000 \$4,995,000 \$6,040,000	Above At Above	13 65 18
Lake	142 26th Avenue	5BD/3.5BA	\$4,195,000	Below	0
Laurel Heights (no sale	s)				
Lone Mountain (no sale	es)				
Marina (No Sales)					
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	1760 Pacific Avenue 2749 Steiner Street 1908 Broadway 3112 Washington Street 2747 Vallejo Street	3BD/2BA 3BD/2.75BA 2BD/3.5BA 4BD/3.5BA 4BD/4.5BA	\$1,750,000 \$3,400,000 \$3,500,000 \$5,200,000 \$8,200,000	At Above Above Below Below	0 10 23 92 73
Presidio Heights	3500 Jackson Street	7BD/6.5BA	\$11,000,000	Below	162
Russian Hill (no sales)					
Sea Cliff	140 32 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	3BD/2.5BA	\$3,000,000	Below	113
Telegraph Hill	298 Chestnut Street	4BD/4.5BA	\$13,750,000	At	0
CONDOS					
NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS MARI
Cow Hollow	2415 Van Ness Ave. #105 2046 Greenwich Street #1 1755 Filbert Street #1V 3128 Laguna Street #A 2831-2833 Webster St #5 2828 Pierce Street 2929 Fillmore Street	1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$590,000 \$915,000 \$1,005,000 \$1,310,000 \$1,580,000 \$2,000,000 \$2,350,000	Above Above Above Below Above Above	12 22 14 34 75 43 7
Lake	2233 Lake Street 5241 California Street	1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA	\$875,000 \$950,000	Above At	40 55
Laurel Heights	619 Spruce Street	3BD/4BA	\$1,610,000	Above	11
Lone Mountain (no sale	es)				
Marina	3824 Scott Street #4 1540 Lombard Street #D 2233 Francisco Street 2165 Beach Street #3 1456 Chestnut Street #3	1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/1.5BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$940,000 \$1,155,000 \$1,650,000 \$1,675,000 \$2,800,000	Above Above Above Below Below	18 27 54 55 38
Nob Hill	1350 California Street #203 1333 Jones Street #1003B 1234 Washington Street 1177 California St. #1212 1333 Jones Street #607 72 Lynch Street 1868 Van Ness Avenue #402 850 Powell Street #500 1100 Sacramento St. #404 1333 Jones Street #910	1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/1BA 1BD/2BA 2BD/1.5BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2.5BA 2BD/2.5BA	\$750,000 \$825,000 \$1,065,000 \$1,100,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,275,000 \$1,325,000 \$1,680,000 \$2,725,000 \$2,700,000	Above At Above Below Below Below Below Above At Below	14 142 61 82 186 67 62 6 68 154
North Beach	744 Union Street #5 2230 Mason Street #M204	2BD/1BA 1BD/1BA	\$815,000 \$835,000	Above Above	14 49
Pacific Heights	2040 Laguna Street #203 2299 Sacramento St. #18 2341 Franklin Street #3 2315 Divisadero Street #0 2121 Laguna Street #6 2451 Buchanan Street  2539 Clay Street #5 3254 Clay Street 2255 Clay Street 2121 Webster Street #609	1BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 1BD/2BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA 3BD/3BA 3BD/3BA	\$690,000 \$1,150,000 \$1,160,000 \$1,275,000 \$1,300,000 \$1,500,000 \$1,776,000 \$2,300,000 \$3,100,000 \$4,700,000	Above At Below Below Above Above Below Above At Below	17 98 48 29 11 5 47 0 154 19
Presidio Heights	3439 Sacramento St. #302	3BD/2BA	\$2,300,000	Below	41
Russian Hill	1335 Union Street #4 1809 Jones Street	2BD/1BA 2BD/2BA	\$1,025,000 \$1,900,000	Above Below	53 58
C. CPITT	8 Russian Hill Place #2	2BD/2BA	\$2,400,000	Below	64
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	455 Vallejo Street#212 11 Kenneth Rexroth Place 1915 Stockton Street	1BD/1BA 2BD/2BA 3BD/2BA	\$995,000 \$1,230,000 \$2,200,000	Above Below Below	29 47 65
	1917 Stockton Street 347 Lombard	3BD/3BA 3BD/2.5BA	\$2,295,000 \$3,115,000	At Above	81 9

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 | Political poker

## City Hall changes?

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

#### SHIFT COMING IN CITY **HOUSING POLICY?**

We can call it the Marina Times Columnist Surprise: District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin (see page 9) masterminded the process by which acting mayor London Breed was voted out of the mayor's office and was replaced by District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell (see page 7).

Breed's supporters were apoplectic and made accusations of racism. But insiders say this has much more to do with the progressive wing of the board — once again led by Peskin — flexing its muscle and angling to control the mayor's seat and get a majority on the board. It's far from certain that will happen; Farrell appointed his own successor in District 2, and even if a left-winger gets into the mayor's office, there's no certainty he or she will govern from the left. As Joe Kukura noted in December (see his SF Weekly article "Remembering Ed Lee's Radical, Left-Wing Past"), Lee's background was very progressive. Yet he is considered by many to have been a moderate mayor (in San Francisco's politically

relative terms, that is) who was cozy with business. A simple explanation is Lee pretty much did what anyone would have done in office at that time: He reached for the golden ring being

offered of a tech business boom, welcomed tech businesses to the city (and remember the "Twitter tax bill" was written by progressive Supervisor Jane Kim), and tried to deal with the housing crunch by broadly boosting housing develop-

Farrell's time as caretaker mayor is unlikely to offer any dramatic changes, unless he's carted off to jail by the Trump administration because of its desire to criminalize sanctuary city leadership. But if Farrell is succeeded as mayor by a progressive, and district elections go the progressives' way and they get a one-vote majority on the board, does that mean the city will significantly change its approach to housing?

It's possible there will be tinkering on the sidelines; attempts to increase the amount of required affordable units in new developments will be dusted off and probably passed. But



Mayor Ed Lee, with possible successor Supervisor Jane Kim. PHOTO: KEGAN MARLING

the left's long-term battle against new housing will now be met by new state action, where our legislative representatives David Chiu and Scott Wiener are leaders in the "housing caucus" to use state pressure to get localities to loosen up their NIMBY opposition to development.

Hindering the development of market-rate housing doesn't mean housing prices will drop; unless the economy takes a big dive, there will continue to be pressure for city housing, and the people with money are the ones who will always find a way to rent or buy the available units. The progressives' best bet is probably to concentrate

If progressives

control the government,

will the city change its

approach to housing?

on tightening rules against

abusive evictions — some-

thing they were starting to

have success with anyway,

and which should continue

Oh, and your humble real

estate columnist has not yet

been voted anything yet.

A YEAR IN RENTS

to be a priority.

rents in the nation, San Francisco is in second place on another dubious list: the world's second highest construction costs. That's from the Cost of Building Housing Research Series at UC Berkeley's Terner Center for Housing Innovation. The source of San Francisco's high construction costs are no surprise: Terner says it's due to "lengthy and complex city processes," as well as "building codes and design requirements, workforce and procurement rules, and environmental regulations."

And yes, the two number-twos are related. "In 2000, it cost approximately \$265,000 per unit to

build a 100-unit affordable housing building for families in the city, accounting inflation," according to the report. "In 2016, a similar sized family building cost closer to

\$425,000 per unit, not taking into account other development costs (such as fees or the costs of capital) or changes in land values over this time period. As a result of these cost increases, developers need more subsidy for every unit, at a time when public resources for affordable housing have been dwindling."

You can learn more at ternercenter.berkeley.edu.

#### Berkeley, Fairfield, and

Napa had the fastest-growing rents in the Bay Area in 2017, while San Francisco's rents increased a relatively modest 1.5 percent, according to a report on 50 Bay Area cities by Yardi's Rent Cafe.

Despite that moderation, San Francisco remains "the second most expensive rental market in the nation after Manhattan, [and renters here] are paying over \$2,000/month more than the average U.S. renter," Rent Cafe reports.

#### **ANOTHER NUMBER** TWO

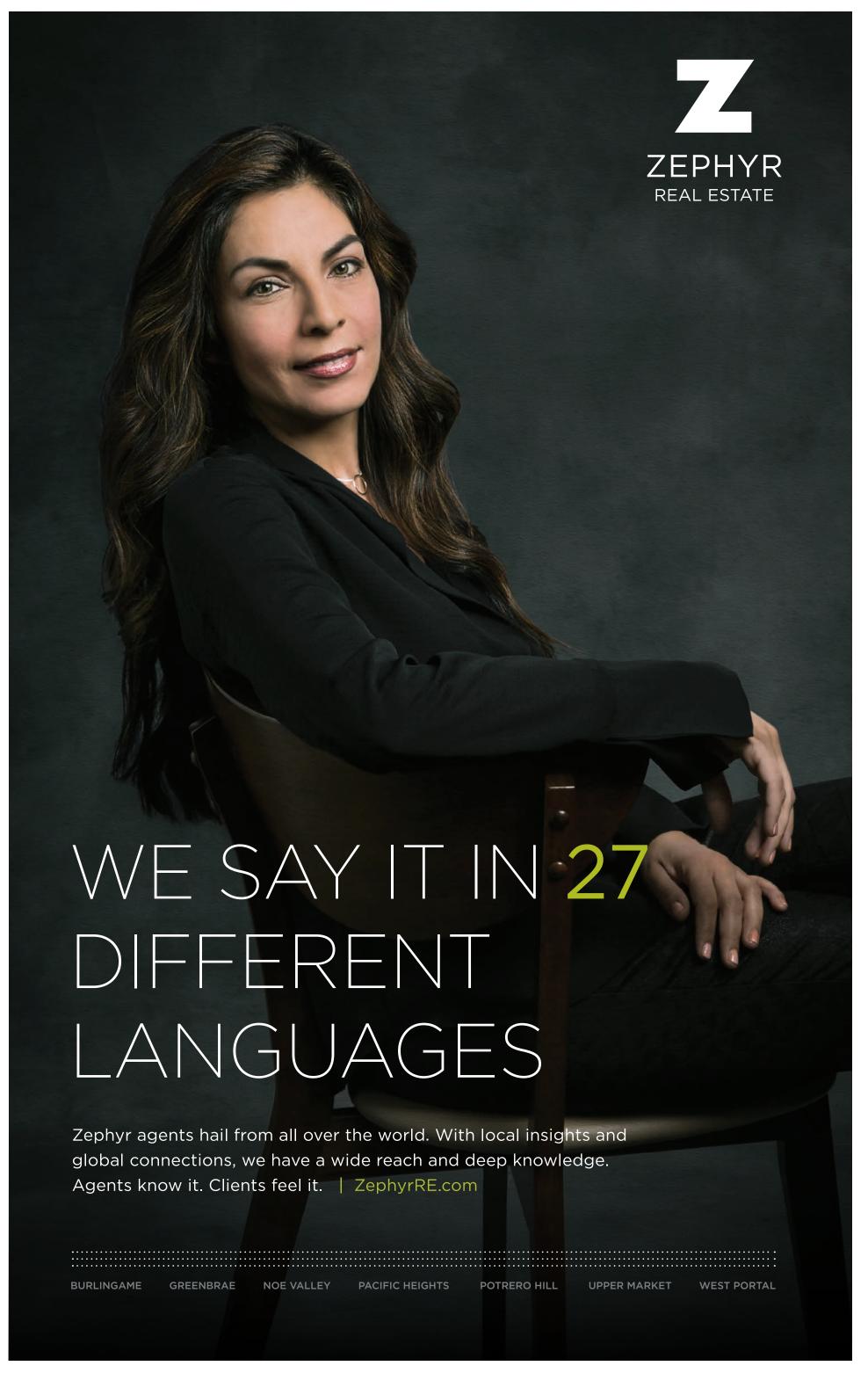
Besides having the second-highest residential

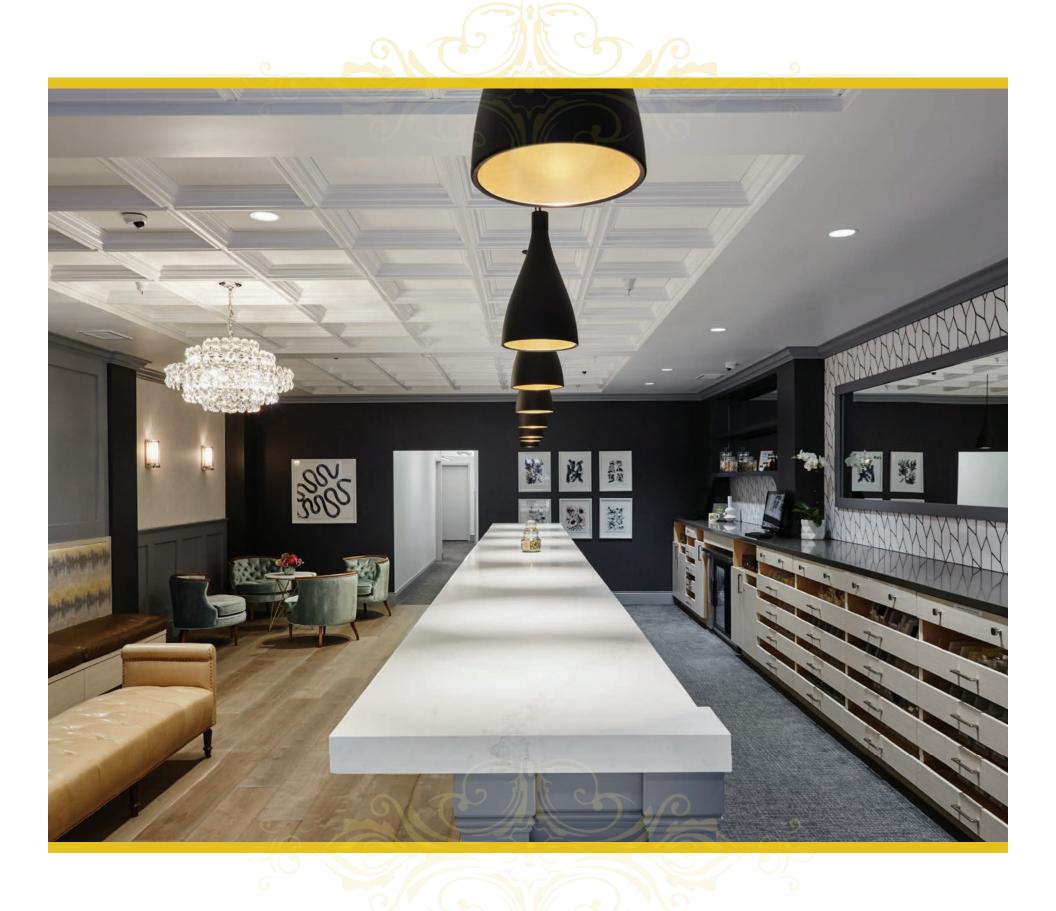
SAN FRANCISCO, SAN

#### JOSE BATTLE FOR **FIRST**

Last month, San Francisco retook the crown from San Jose for the nation's hottest real estate market, according to Realtor.com. In fact, 13 of the top 20 urban areas on the "hot list" are in California. The highest-ranking non-California market is Colorado Springs, Colorado, which placed fourth.

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





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