



## Holiday food and wine

Susan Dyer Reynolds tells us where to find great crab for the holiday season. p. 8

Lynette Majer has some sparkling wine suggestions. p. 9

Plus Ernest Beyl's classic curry Christmas. p. 10



## Seasons doings

It's the most San Francisco event ever: The Anti-Santacon Wine Crawl. All that and more in our holiday calendar. p. 14

MARINATIMES.COM :: CELEBRATING OUR 35TH YEAR :: VOLUME 35 :: ISSUE 12 :: DECEMBER 2019



ACT presents its 43rd annual *A Christmas Carol*. PHOTO: KEVIN BERNE

THE AMERICAN CONSERVATORY Theatre, affectionately known as ACT, presents its 43rd iteration of *A Christmas Carol*, based on Charles Dickens's classic fable about the perils of greed and selfishness. ACT's production has garnered sufficient praise over the years to qualify as a San Francisco holiday tradition, right up there with

the San Francisco Ballet's *Nutcracker*, the Union Square festivities, and the lighting of Embarcadero Center.

Adapted by longtime former ACT artistic director Carey Perloff with Paul Walsh, this year's direction by Peter J. Kuo and Pam MacKinnon is based on Perloff's original direction, which stays true to the Dickens version. It features a cast of 40-plus,

including adorable children, and the well-cast James Carpenter — who looks precisely how you would expect Ebenezer Scrooge to look — all in elaborate costumes, including green and spooky ghosts. *A Christmas Carol*, 405 Geary St., over 20 performances through Dec. 24; 415-749-2228, [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

— L. Majer

## POLITICS AS USUAL

# 2020 vision

### The year in review: Putting 2019 in the rearview mirror

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

AWISE MAN ONCE SAID, “YOU NEVER REALIZE WHAT a good memory you have until you try to forget something.” That was journalist Franklin P. Jones, and I'll never forget the 12.6 seconds it took me to search the Internet for “quotes about memories” and find that line.

As the year 2019 winds down to the final days and hours and champagne toasts, let us remember the happenings of the past year, including the things we are trying to forget.

### JANUARY MEMORIES

Well, this is cool: A Chinese space probe, the Chang'e 4, is the first to land on the far side of the moon. It was not eaten by hostile Selenites, so scientists generally agreed that this was a well-deserved win for humanity.

Down in the failed state of Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro is declared illegitimate by legislative leader Juan Guaidó, who begins the process of trying to remove Maduro from power. Maduro severs ties with the United States.

**Thing we'd like to forget:** It's my column, so the thing to forget was the death of my grand old 20-year-old cat,

**YEAR IN REVIEW, continued on 4**

## NEWS BRIEFS

# The end of an era

### Union Street fixture Jest Jewels closes shop as its owners retire

#### COMMUNITY JEWEL

After 34 years of selling jewelry, beautiful scarves, and hats, Jest Jewels (1869 Union St.) is closing shop. Co-owners Leslie Drapkin and Eleanor Carpenter are retiring from the business they started “as a lark,” says Drapkin.

“It was a temporary filler for both of us until we decided on a real business,” Drapkin told the *Marina Times*. That “lark” grew into four stores, thousands of products, and countless lives touched by the owners, who not only became Union Street civic leaders but also who loved the personal touches that came from running a fine store and having customers become friends. Carpenter served as president of the Union Street Association for many years, and the two of them got involved in zoning, street upkeep, the Union Street Festival, and other local issues.

There were also memorable incidents along the way. “Some of the most indelible moments included the three women who went into labor in our store, the many dogs adopted at SPCA events, the monkey who gave away lollipops and pony rides at holiday time, and the hundreds of children that rode in our rabbit truck and volunteered at Easter,” said Drapkin. “Then there was the day the entire cast of *Friends* came in, and another when Julia Roberts found a favorite necklace, and Robin Williams stopped in just to say ‘hi.’ I was utterly speechless when Robert Muel-

**NEWS BRIEFS, continued on 3**

## REYNOLDS RAP



Johnny Mathis began his legendary career in San Francisco.

PHOTO: ROJON PRODUCTIONS

# Johnny Mathis comes home for the holidays

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THE HOLIDAYS without Johnny Mathis. From “The Christmas Song” (“Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire”) to “I'll be Home for Christmas,”

his smooth, easy style and velvety vibrato are instantly recognizable and incomparably unique. Mathis will bring his Voice of Romance Tour to the San Jose Civic on Dec. 14. Even Barbra Streisand — no slouch herself in the vocal department —

is a fan. “There are a number of good singers, a smaller handful of truly great singers, and then there's Johnny Mathis,” Streisand said. Critics have also been kind. “Mathis had the greatest voice of his generation — one that was far better, technically, than Frank Sinatra's or Tony Bennett's or even Nat ‘King’ Cole's,” wrote Jesse Green in *The New Yorker* in 2000, while essayist and music journalist Robert Christgau recognized Mathis for breaking down barriers of race and sexual identity: “Poised on the cusp of black and white, masculine and feminine, Mathis's finest songs projected an image of egoless tenderness, an irresistible breath of sensuality that infused the airwaves ...”

Mathis came from humble beginnings. Born John Royce Mathis in Gilmer, Tex., on Sept. 30, 1935, he was the fourth of seven children born to Clem and Mildred Mathis, who moved the family to San Francisco when he was a young child.

His parents worked as a housekeeper-cook and a handyman for a wealthy San Francisco family and lived in their basement apartment on Post Street. Eventually the family moved to 32nd Avenue (where

**REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 12**

## TOP 10 STEAKS IN AMERICA

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## LETTERS

### THE INBOX :: Reader response

#### 'CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'

I read your article [about food critic Soleil Ho], and am so glad somebody with some "punch" wrote about her ("Cirque du Soleil," Reynolds Rap, November 2019). She is a total disaster. The food section of the *Chronicle* should be about food, not some insolent commentaries from a disaffected person. Thanks for your very candid and perfectly put together article.

— Eileen Sullivan

Love it. Brilliant, and just what everyone is thinking. After trying to destroy Le Colonial and writing about obscure restaurants in obscure destinations, she wrote about vegan sushi. Ridiculous. Thank you for pointing this out.

— Joan Corrigan

When I read the first seven of Ho's food reviews, I was baffled. I was wondering when someone was going to say that the emperor has no clothes, but readers probably didn't want to appear to be politically incorrect in criticizing a woman of color.

I enjoy reading all kinds of food reviews, but Ho's columns seem to browbeat the reader and boast about herself. Every review is a lesson in her view of history, and they became unbearable for me to read. I think the *Chronicle*, in its haste to be with it and appear to be woke, hired a controversial writer to make waves. Editor in Chief Audrey Cooper's direction for the paper is questionable, in my view.

— Nancy Wong

We never miss reading Reynolds Rap in the *Marina Times*. As usual, you are spot-on with your article about Soleil Ho. Thank you for writing such a great piece.

— Jessie Stanshaw

I just wanted to agree with you that I don't get her reviews. I get the biases that Bauer had, but she is so far to the other end of the food-writing scale that I sometimes wonder if the food is of any real interest to her. I hate to go onto Yelp to figure out things about restaurants, but I usually have to after her reviews so

I'll have a clue about the actual restaurant and food. I don't live in the Marina, but I try to pick up your paper when I see it, and your reviews are spot-on in terms of covering the restaurant and not much more. That's all I'm looking for.

Thanks to you and the food-writing staff at the *Marina Times*.

— Shoshanah Dobry

#### D.A. TOUGH ENOUGH?

I enjoyed your article ("Are the candidates for San Francisco district attorney tough enough?," Reynolds Rap, October 2019).

I tend to agree: I didn't see a single candidate make a real case for protecting families and visitors from the drug dealers or violent, mentally ill, drug-addled homeless men on our streets (or addressing the epidemic of car robberies.)

I've been reporting hundreds of encampments and drug dealers to the city over the last years through 311 and the app. Recently, I've been sending a copy of every report monthly to my [District 8] Supervisor Rafael Man-

delman (whom I like and respect, but I think he should be more aggressive in pushing for enforcement of our laws). I've also sent summaries to the mayor each month. It's shocking how little they have responded to my pleas for help.

I have a young son and a wife and I truly worry about their safety when we're out walking. I don't understand why the city's leaders seem to prioritize the rights of drug dealers and violent, erratic drug addicts over families, the elderly, and visitors who are endangered by just walking on our streets.

Understandably, a lot of people are taking matters into their own hands (placing boulders on sidewalks, pouring water on the homeless, putting up walls). This is not something we want as a lawful society, but something that makes sense when it's utter lawlessness on our streets.

— Patrick Erker

*The Marina Times welcomes letters to the editor. Email: [letters@marinatimes.com](mailto:letters@marinatimes.com). Letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

### I didn't see a single candidate make a real case for protecting families and visitors.

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Eleanor Carpenter and Leslie Drapkin in front of Jest Jewels on Union Street.

PHOTO: NAOMI ROSE

## News Briefs

continued from cover

ler came in and ridiculously verbose when Nancy Pelosi and whip-smart daughter Christine visited. The day Trump stole the 2016 election was a memorable one, too. It wasn't a day for business as usual. Rather, it was a day of mourning, a day when a shocked and despondent crowd gathered in our store to support one another, cry, and express our collective incredulity."

But even the day-to-day acts of running a retail establishment in the Marina provided memorable pleasures. "While there are examples of some remarkable days, those not remarkable are the ones I will miss the most," Drapkin said. "The daily stuff. The groove of my day in the store and on the street along with the love and loyalty of longtime employees who have helped shape the personality of Jest Jewels has been the secret sauce to my well-being for more years than I can remember. Key in the lock, groan of the wood floor, and the scent of the tuberose candle. The quiet moments of prepping a window, sorting new treasures and fanning out this season's color wheel of scarves and hats. A chat with Tony as he delivers breakfast from Caffé Union, Charlotte on the way to the library, a hi to JoAnn as she runs by, a heart-to-heart often ending in a deep belly laugh with Beatie. All so essential to the breath of my day. Surely such a bounty is in itself a celebration. How very fortunate Eleanor and I have been."

The duo is celebrating their retirement with sales at all of their stores.

### DETOX CENTER QUESTIONED

The Marina Harbor Detox (289 Marina Blvd.) is a drug addiction treatment center that reportedly opened without proper city certification. Neither a proper Change of Use Permit nor a Conditional Use Authorization were acquired by the detox center before it began operation, sources say. The Planning Department is believed to be investigating and may pursue enforcement action against the business.

In a statement to the *Marina Times*, the detox center said, "Marina Harbor Detox abides by all state and local laws and zoning restrictions." The company also shared a written presentation indicating exceptions to zoning and licensing laws depending on the size of a center's client base.

### CRIME UPDATE

On Nov. 15, a phone theft on the Northside resulted in reports of a possible carjacking and led to an extended police chase and an injury to the victim. The incident began when the victim had her cell

phone taken out of her hands by a subject, who then tried to flee in a nearby vehicle. The victim chased after the vehicle, successfully opening the door and reaching inside to try to recover her stolen phone. But as the vehicle continued to drive away, the victim's leg was injured.

The subject was then tracked through the city by various police units and even a cab driver, who followed the fleeing vehicle and updated officers on its location. Officers located the vehicle and followed it, finally catching the subject after the car was in a traffic collision at 20th and Capp Streets. One subject was arrested; a second was still at large at press time.

### CENTRAL SUBWAY RELIEF

Small businesses impacted by construction of the Central Subway are getting a boost from the city as the result of a package of measures announced in mid-November by Mayor London Breed and District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin.

The measures include an advertising campaign to help Chinatown merchants, the reestablishment of loading zones on Stockton Street to reduce congestion, the creation of a temporary bus stop at Washington and Stockton Streets to try to increase access to businesses, additional inspectors to improve pedestrian safety, highlighting a park and ride program serving Chinatown, and making available direct financial assistance of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per business.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**10 years:** local voter turnout in November's election was the lowest in a decade . . . **35 percent:** increase from 2017 to 2018 in the number of complaints about feces on city streets . . . **7 percent:** amount street feces complaints are up so far in 2019 over the same time in 2018 . . . **March 5, 2020:** deadline for the submittal of proposals to operate a concession at upper Fort Mason, according to the National Park Service . . . **3.3 percent:** annual growth rate of San Francisco rents as of November, as reported by RentCafe . . . **691,000:** number of people who moved out of California last year . . . **\$57.78 million:** assessed value of a Los Altos Hills home owned by Russian-born billionaire Yuri Milner . . . **99 years:** this past Nov. 10 was the 99th time that the annual Veterans Day Parade took place in San Francisco . . . **15 percent:** drop in robberies from 2018 to 2019, January through November, in the neighborhoods served by Central Station . . . **2 million:** approximate number of tourists who visit Lombard Street's crooked block each year.

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Season's Greetings

FROM AARON PESKIN

YOUR DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR



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and Joyous Holiday!

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Year in Review

continued from cover

Charlie (star of the Cighthouse column in these pages years ago).

FEBRUARY MEMORIES

President Donald Trump says the United States will leave a nuclear treaty with Russia, and the next day Russia says the Russian equivalent of “gotcha” and immediately begins violating the treaty.

In the workers’ paradise of Venezuela, Maduro severs ties with Colombia because it tries to send humanitarian aid to the 2,000 Venezuelans left in the country.

Gov. Gavin Newsom endorses Senator Kamala Harris for president.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** The U.S. Department of Transportation cancels a grant worth nearly \$1 billion for California’s slow-moving high-speed rail project.

MARCH MEMORIES

Nancy Pelosi, the most powerful woman in the country, continues to pour cold water on pleas from her party’s left flank to impeach President Trump, telling *The Washington Post* “He’s just not worth it.”

Venezuela expels the German ambassador for allegedly meddling in its affairs.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** *Trading Paint*, starring John Travolta, is released. The film earns an approval rating of 0 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

APRIL MEMORIES

Kamala Harris, under fire for a rediscovered 2010 video of her speaking at The Commonwealth Club defending a law that would allow the jailing of parents of truant children, says she regrets “unintended consequences” of the law.

In Venezuela, opposition leader and possibly interim President Juan Guaidó leads a doomed rebellion against Maduro.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** Former Bay Area congresswoman Ellen Tauscher passes away.

MAY MEMORIES

*The Washington Post* publishes an article that goes viral: “How San Francisco broke America’s heart.” This sets off another round of San Franciscans and U.S. presidents criticizing their city and vowing to do absolutely nothing to fix it.

A prison riot in Venezuela leaves 29 dead and 19 guards injured.

In an interview with CNN, Kamala Harris defends her stance on truancy.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** Shootings at the University of North Carolina, a school in Colorado, an Oregon high school, an event in Virginia, and Virginia Beach.

JUNE MEMORIES

Heat wave! San Francisco feels more like Las Vegas with fewer strippers as temperatures are recorded hitting the triple digits.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who established a new low as White House press secretary, leaves her job after effectively killing the daily press briefing. She toys with the idea of running for governor of Arkansas.

JULY MEMORIES

President Trump has a chat with Ukraine’s new president and definitely does not offer any quid pro quo to get that country to announce an investigation into his likely opponent, Joe Biden. No way.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** So many Democrats are running for president, the party splits the debate into two nights and still can’t fit all the candidates on stage.

AUGUST MEMORIES

President Trump sues California over a law that requires candidates to reveal their tax returns or be banned from primary ballots.

Protests in Hong Kong, Moscow and Zimbabwe and the ongoing standoff in Venezuela highlights that there is worldwide unrest at governments of every type.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** Legendary writer Toni Morrison passes away.

SEPTEMBER MEMORIES

The Chase Center finally opens up for business, all 900,000 square feet of it. The venue kicked off its inaugural season with high-profile concerts and soon the debut of the now-hometown Warriors.

Nancy Pelosi finally admits that it’s time to start formal impeachment proceedings against President Trump.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** A fire on a dive boat near Santa Cruz Island kills 34 people.

OCTOBER MEMORIES

San Francisco’s own Senator Kamala Harris, lagging in the Democratic polls, goes all-in on Iowa, betting that a big finish there can recharge her campaign. Harris is banking on her longstanding relationship with the midwestern farming state, which is only eclipsed by this writer’s longstanding relationship with journalist Franklin P. Jones — 20 minutes and counting.

In Sonoma, the Kincadee fire rages, ultimately burning more than 77,000 acres. PG&E begins preemptive power shutdowns in areas where high winds might lead to power lines setting off more fires.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** It is reported that more than 28,190 people left San Francisco in the second quarter of 2019. Yet somehow the total population is at a high of 879,000. We also hear that about one-third of people in the city say they *want* to leave.

NOVEMBER MEMORIES

In the election, Mayor London Breed sweeps into a full term after facing only token opposition. But the Board of Supervisors swings further left, and the district attorney wants to be the public defender.

The bad news on the homeless continues to roll in, with reports that the city’s homeless population is “much bigger” than we previously thought.

In the public impeachment proceedings, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, testifies that lawyer Rudy Giuliani directed a quid pro quo attempt against Ukraine at the direction of President Trump, and that Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others all knew about it—and there are emails to prove it.

Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro can’t believe he’s having a better year than Trump.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** Steph Curry breaks his left hand during a game at Chase Center. He will miss about three months of the season.

DECEMBER MEMORIES

This issue of the *Marina Times* comes out at the beginning of December, so this will be a prediction of memories.

The San Francisco 49ers, after years in the NFL cellar, sweep their opponents in December playoff games and march toward the Super Bowl with heads held high in confidence and . . . well, the result of that will only be known in 2020.

**Thing we’d like to forget:** An entire year has gone by without the city solving making any significant progress toward solving its homelessness debacle, its housing debacle, or its small business debacle.

EXIT MR. JONES

Our old friend of 23 minutes, Franklin P. Jones, left us another bon mot: “Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.”

Let’s not do 2019 again.

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# New Year's resolutions

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

**T**HE HOLIDAY SEASON IS THE PERFECT time to give thanks for all we are fortunate enough to have and recommit to the goals that will move us forward. I am thankful to be raising my family in San Francisco, to work with friends and neighbors who care deeply about our community, and to represent such a vibrant, inspiring, and engaged part of our city. With that in mind, this season is a chance to reflect.

Before we get into everything the new year will bring, the elephant in the room is the fact that the makeup of the Board of Supervisors will change, and we will also have a new district attorney in 2020. Although I did not support the incoming District 5 supervisor, nor the district attorney-elect, I remain committed to my style of politics, which is grounded in civility, kindness, and empathy. I will continue to respectfully hold space for those with different opinions and will approach issues with an open mind. I will, however, be unafraid and unequivocal when advocating for policies and priorities that keep our neighborhoods safe, and I will do everything in my power to advocate for the resources to make that a reality.

I've written about public safety in this column before, so when it comes to New Year's resolutions, it should come as no surprise that continuing my advocacy for public safety tops the list. I'm grateful for our achievements over the past two years — together, we have successfully fought to add 250 additional police officers to our

force, and we have protected over \$1 million in the Police Department's budget to keep foot patrols on our streets. But a quick walk around the block makes it clear that our work is not done yet — not even close.

In 2020, we can look forward to finally reviewing and acting upon the SFPD staffing study which I expect, will show us what we already know: The Police Department is under-resourced. While it is clear from the conditions of our streets, parks, and open spaces that we need more police officers, this study will give us another tool in advocating for increased police staffing levels. I am confident that Mayor London Breed will continue to support our law enforcement needs, but if City Hall continues to resist fully staffing the department most responsible for public safety, I am not afraid to take the fight to the ballot.

We must work to increase police staffing levels while making sure that police officers have the tools they need to do their jobs. This year, I voted against legislation at the Board of Supervisors to ban the use of facial recognition technology in San Francisco, because I thought it could have been another useful tool for preventing and solving crimes. Yes, there were potential issues with the technology, but the outright ban was a disservice to law enforcement and residents.

Nevertheless, anyone who has seen the police cars our officers are driving around in knows that we cannot lose sight of the basics, either. Next year's city budget process will provide another opportunity to advocate for cars that our officers can

patrol in, rather than take back and forth to the repair shop.

I also look forward to continuing to clean up our streets in the new year. This year, we are finally installing new, much needed trash cans in our merchant corridors and hotspots, and I will continue to press Public Works to make sure they are maintained to the highest standards. While others have put forward proposals that would only increase spending and layers of bureaucracy, I know we can address the root causes of our dirty streets and relieve the symptoms we see every day, without simply adding red tape.

In large part, this means addressing unacceptable street behavior. Instead of layering new commissions on top of new advisory bodies, I support Mayor Breed's proposal for a measure on the 2020 ballot that will provide funding for mental health resources. This bond would provide funding for capital and ongoing expenses such as building and maintaining new mental health beds, for example — without raising taxes.

But anyone who has seen the vast sums that San Francisco spends on addressing the conditions on our streets knows it's not just about money. I will keep fighting for additional tools, like expanded conservatorship laws, that will help provide the right type of care for those who cannot care for themselves, because it will never be compassionate to let people die on the streets.

Finally, I am committed to improving the experience of owning and operating small businesses. We have heard too many stories

of people who decided to leave the city — or even abandon a great idea for a small business before it opens — because of the difficulties imposed by city bureaucracy. San Francisco is a challenging environment for so many reasons, but rather than accepting this and then making it even more difficult, we should do everything we can to make it easier to own and operate small businesses.

That's why this fall I've been working with the city attorney's office to craft a Small Business Bill of Rights, with the goal of reducing fees and administrative obstacles that make it nearly impossible to own or operate small businesses. I have had enough of vacant storefronts, store-closing sales, and — most important — feeling like we're losing what makes San Francisco special.

In 2020, we will not let what we see on our streets, the too often glacial pace of change, or the results of one election get in the way. We will not stop fighting for the city that we know and love. We will not let up.

When I became supervisor, I made a commitment to be your neighborhood voice at City Hall, to cut through the noise and deliver results on the issues that matter most. I am proud of what we have accomplished together so far. This year, as we reflect on the people and communities we are so thankful for, we must resolve to make next year even better. We must also resolve to acknowledge that we won't always agree with one another, and when we do disagree, we will do so respectfully — we will prove that civility in public discourse is another thing San Franciscans refuse to give up on.

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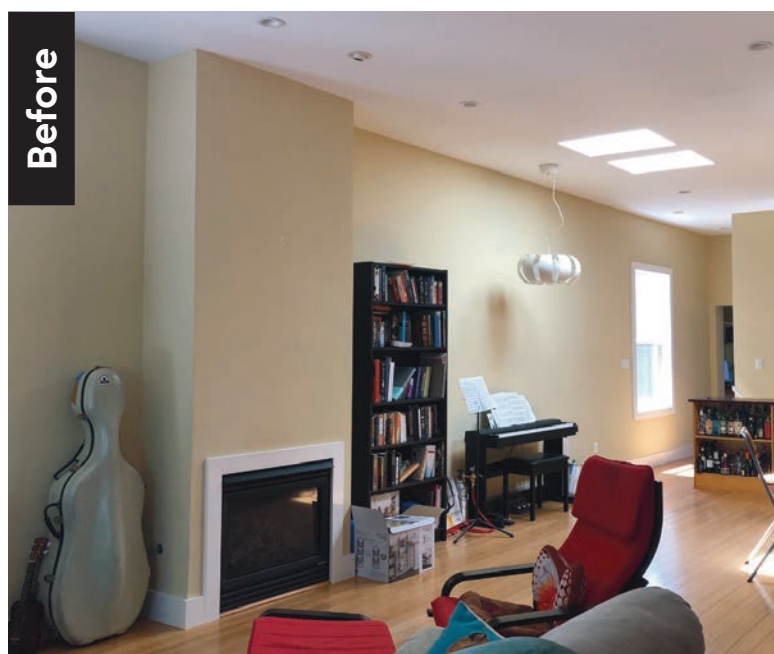
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# District 3 year in review

BY AARON PESKIN

## BALLOT VICTORIES

I want to thank the voters of San Francisco for ensuring that **Proposition D** squeaked across the finish line to victory. San Francisco is officially the first city in the state of California to approve a per-ride surcharge on Uber and Lyft TNCs. It was a long two-year journey, but with the partnership of Assemblyman Phil Ting and Senator Scott Wiener, we were able to pass state enabling legislation and then craft a local measure that is projected to bring in \$32 million annually to hire more Muni drivers and parking control officers, as well as install traffic signals, crosswalks, and bike lanes. Because it was a dedicated tax, Proposition D had a tough hill to climb with a two-thirds vote threshold requirement — but San Franciscans affirmed our desire for less-congested streets and investments in traffic enforcement and Vision Zero safety projects.

We also passed **Proposition A**, a record \$600 million affordable housing bond collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the mayor. Of particular interest are new dedicated categories to fund senior and teacher housing. In addition, the voters saw fit to pass **Proposition E**, the Affordable Homes for Families and Educators Now Initiative, which I co-authored with Supervisors Fewer, Haney, and Walton. It will streamline the approvals for affordable housing on public land, including SFUSD. Special thanks to the teachers'

union and affordable housing developers for their partnership.

## SPEAKING OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING . . .

We finally broke ground on 125 units of below market-rate affordable family housing and childcare facilities at **88 Broadway and 735 Davis Street**.

After hearings at City Hall, we also heard from hundreds of low-income seniors about the barriers to accessing city-subsidized affordable housing. District 3, in particular, has the highest concentration of low-income seniors, many of whom live in Single Resident Occupancy (SRO) hotels. So in this past budget cycle, President Norman Yee and I created a new low-income **senior operating subsidy (SOS) program** that will ensure that some of our neediest seniors get safe and stable housing that will allow them to comfortably age in place (including at 88 Broadway and 735 Davis Street). With the passage of Proposition A, we are also gearing up to create affordable housing in Chinatown, with additional funding from our sale of the 530 Sansome Fire Station.

## VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

We all know that small businesses make up the backbone of a healthful, liveable neighborhood but are facing unprecedented challenges. Earlier this year, I worked with SFMTA to create a \$5 million **Small Business Construction Mitigation Fund**,

which is now accepting applications for small businesses impacted by large city capital projects, such as Van Ness BRT and Central Subway. Additional city support will include a Fisherman's Wharf-North Beach-Chinatown express shuttle until the Central Subway can directly connect tourists. My office has also been working closely with local family-owned business **Mollie Stone's** to finally activate the long-vacant former Lombardi's Sports site in Upper Polk, and construction will start soon.

I also passed legislation to make it easier for restaurants and cafes to open quickly in the wake of business closures in North Beach. **Family Cafe** on Columbus Avenue is the first small business to benefit from this new law, and we welcome Jessica and Tadayuki Furui (and their use of reusable dishware!) to North Beach. I have also allocated funding to kick-start a renewed arts effort in North Beach, including a dedicated organizer for **North Beach First Fridays**, in partnership with the North Beach Business Association. If you have an artist or small business that wants to engage, please contact my office.

I am currently drafting a **Small Business Fee Relief** program after my staff reviewed a long list of fees that small businesses may be required to pay before they're even open. And finally, I want to let you know you can expect another small business tool on the ballot this upcoming March 2020 election: a **Commercial Property Vacancy Tax**, which is the closest we can get to leg-

islating commercial rent control. Especially in our beloved neighborhood commercial corridors, high rents are pushing out local mom-and-pop businesses. These evictions often lead to vacancies when the space can't be filled. Last month, we gathered out in front of **Caffé Sapore** in North Beach to support Elias Bikahi and his family, who are being evicted without cause after operating their family cafe for 23 years. Over 100 community members, including State Senator Scott Wiener and Supervisor-elect Dean Preston, rallied against another eviction and vacancy. My vacancy tax is narrowly tailored to disincentivize bad actors, and is easily avoidable if property owners make good faith efforts to actively fill their spaces. Tax revenue would be dedicated to small business assistance.

## WASHINGTON SQUARE REOPENING AND GREENING OUR CANOPY

Finally, I'd like to thank Rec & Park and the broad community of stakeholders who helped ensure the Washington Square Water Conservation project became the first city project in recent memory to finish early and on budget. As of this reading, we'll have reopened one of the city's three oldest historic squares with brand-new pedestrian pathways, irrigation, and tree plantings. Washington Square is the community's living room. Also be on the lookout for the additional 35 trees in North Beach we funded in the budget.

Have a safe and joyous holiday, and see you in the neighborhood.



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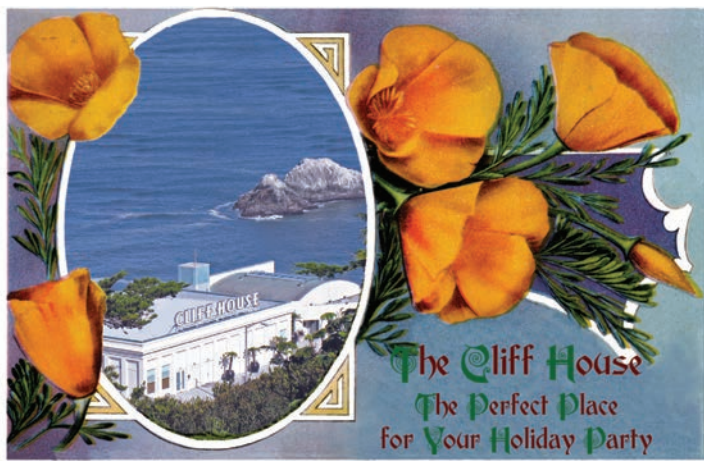
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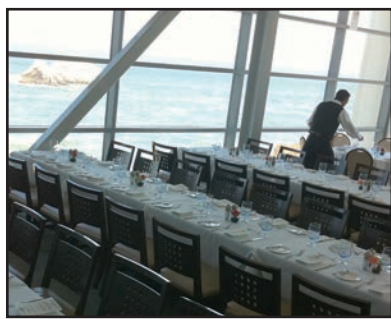
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## At the Table :: Get cracking



Crab Louie at The Grotto. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

## Crab for the holidays

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WITH DUNGENESS CRAB SEASON scheduled to kick off Dec. 15 and people looking for places to take out-of-town holiday guests to enjoy one of our greatest local treasures, I decided to share four of my favorite classic preparations around the Northside. I love crab piled on a Louis salad, simmering in cioppino, tossed with pasta, or, best of all, straight from the steaming pots at historic Fisherman's Wharf. There's no place in San Francisco where the crab is fresher and comes with incredible Golden Gate Bridge views (and most restaurants offer free two-hour validated parking), so it's no coincidence that three of my picks are at the wharf.

### FRESH CRAB: ALIOTO-LAZIO FISH COMPANY

You can't beat crab straight from the steaming pots at the wharf served in all its sweet, naked glory or with just a squeeze of lemon (and maybe a quick dip in some melted butter). Sisters

Annette Traverso and Angela Cincotta are the third generation operating the Alioto-Lazio Fish Company, a woman-owned business that has been located on Fisherman's Wharf for over 70 years. One of the last family owned and operated fishing companies in San Francisco, Alioto-Lazio serves the freshest, most succulent Dungeness crab on the planet sold live, whole cooked, or cleaned and cracked. They also ship their crustaceans overnight almost anywhere (a great gift idea for those hard-to-buy-for relatives). If you haven't had crab from the first ladies of the wharf, you're missing one of San Francisco's greatest gastronomic pleasures, as well as a part of the history that makes this city unique. 440 Jefferson Street (at Hyde), 888-673-5868, crabonline.com

### CRAB LOUIE: THE GROTTO

People rave about the crab salad at Swan Oyster Depot, but for a whopping \$32, all you get is crab on a pile of iceberg lettuce drizzled with a little sauce or oil and vinegar. When I want a truly classic crab Louie, I always head to The Grotto, the only restaurant I've found where you have to dig through the crab to find

the lettuce. Over half a pound of fresh-picked Dungeness is piled on a bed of crisp iceberg lettuce and garnished with hard-boiled egg, cherry tomatoes, green olives, cucumber, carrot, and avocado. My ritual begins with a squeeze of fresh lemon over the crabmeat followed by a generous dollop of the rich and thick, sweet and tangy house-made dressing (bonus: they now have live music four nights a week). Pier 45 (at Taylor), 415-673-7025, thegrottosf.com

### CRAB CIOPPINO: SOTTO MARE

The signature crab cioppino is so legendary that the highly regarded national food magazine *Saveur* once featured the recipe on its lauded pages. Late *Marina Times* food writer Ernie Beyl said of it in his 2010 *Northside San Francisco* magazine review: "It was exceptional, a brilliant rendition of an old San Francisco standby, served in a large silver bowl with a lid. In a

**Crab from the first ladies of the wharf is one of the greatest gastronomic pleasures.**

pungent, tomatoey broth were Dungeness crab legs and body meat lurking in their gelatinous shells, calamari, shrimp, clams, mussels, and even a few penne pasta. It's the hottest item on the menu and

perhaps the most satisfying." I couldn't have said it better — in fact, I believe Sotto Mare has the best rendition of cioppino in town (and yes, it's better than Tadich Grill's). 552 Green Street (near Columbus), 415-398-3181, sottomaresf.com

### WHOLE ROASTED DUNGENESS CRAB: THE FRANCISCAN CRAB RESTAURANT

There are many ways to enjoy Dungeness at the Franciscan Crab Restaurant (hence the name), from tossed in a creamy Alfredo to tucked inside enchiladas, but the World Famous Whole Roasted Dungeness Crab in Secret Garlic Sauce is the star of the menu. Whether you order a two-plus pounder for two or a crab feast that feeds four, the smell of the garlic wafting through the air as the crab is delivered on a sizzling iron skillet is the perfect San Francisco experience for locals — and a glorious way for out-of-town guests to experience our prized crustacean. The beautiful, modern interior offers a stunning setting to take in those priceless views. Pier 43½ (at The Embarcadero), 415-362-7733, franciscanrestaurant.com

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com



# Pop the cork on sparkling wines

BY LYNETTE MAJER

THERE'S NEVER AN OCCASION *not* to drink bubbles, in my opinion. Part of my rationalization is the glasses — whether flutes or tulips, or the retro coupe, they're all fun and feel special. Then, throw in that sound of the popping cork, and it just spells celebrate, whether it's the end of the week (or day, I don't judge), or a special occasion, or time of year, all are worthy of celebrating. Besides, we all need to celebrate something in today's world, right?

And here's another reason to choose sparkling — it's easier on our livers. "With the production of wine, there are natural mold toxins left behind after filtration. These toxins can affect liver detoxification and cause imbalances in healthy gut bacteria. Of all wines, champagne has the lowest level of mold toxins," writes naturopathic doctor Thalia Farshchian (The Healthful Life, August 2015).

So here are some suggestions for holiday bubbles; most support our local wine-growing regions, which have suffered tragic fires the last two years. And while some are available at your favorite local wine purveyor,

or, I encourage you to visit the festively decorated tasting rooms to sip, enjoy, and purchase. The Wine Country is open for business.

## Schug Carneros Rouge De Noirs 2016

Schug is well known for its Pinot Noirs, and this cuvee of 100 percent sparkling Pinot Noir is a lovely expression of the varietal — dry and delicate — and best served with savory food. Its dark color results from a three-day cold soak of juice and skins together followed by a cold fermentation in steel tanks of the juice only, then followed by a secondary bottle fermentation.

**Fun fact:** *Founder Walter Schug grew up in Germany on a winery managed by his father, who would sometimes sell his Pinot to a local sparkling wine producer to produce "Spätburgunder Sekt," sparkling Pinot Noir.*

## Gloria Ferrer Carneros Demi-Sec Reserve Cuvee 2015

While I would normally shy away from a semi-sweet wine of any kind, these bubbles are even more food friendly than most, complementing savory and spicy foods to desserts. Perfectly balanced and made from 100 per-

cent Carneros Chardonnay, this sparkling is crisp with a creamy finish, which will not only balance the spiciness of foods, but also complement rich, creamy desserts, particularly those with lemon, or a tray of soft, gooey cheeses.

**Fun fact:** *Gloria Ferrer was the first sparkling wine house in Sonoma's Carneros region and the first to plant Champagne clones there.*

## Jacuzzi Sonoma Coast Sparkling Brut Rosé 2018

Made from fruit sourced from the winery's vineyards in Sonoma's Carneros and Petaluma Gap AVAs, this blend of Italian varietals Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, and Barbera has watermelon, berry, and other fruit notes and is a deep pink in color. The cool climate of the vineyards allows for a long growing season and produces wines with balanced acidity and fruit. It's widely held that sparkling rosé goes with any food, so this would be a sure bet for holiday gatherings, and its on-trend color a lovely accent to any table.

**Fun fact:** *The Jacuzzi brothers emigrated from Italy in 1907 and manufactured water well pumps at their eponymous factory in Berkeley, and would go on*



Pick the right bubbly for your celebration. PHOTO: SHIRONOSOV

to manufacture the well-known Jacuzzi hot tubs.

## Scharffenberger Mendocino County Brut Excellence NV

I've mentioned previously Scharffenberger's Cremant, (Wine World, October 2018) available only at the charming Mendocino County tasting room on Highway 121. I decided at that visit on the Cremant with its restrained bubbles because it was more unusual compared to this widely distributed Brut, but in all honestly, the Brut was and is my favorite. Perhaps no surprise, given it undergoes a full malolactic fermentation, which results in a full-bodied, creamy wine, what I tend to call "yeasty," but if that sounds weird, then think "freshly baked bread and pastry." Plus, it's made mostly from Chardonnay (60 percent) and Pinot Noir (40 percent), my two favorite varietals.

**Fun fact:** *Scharffenberger Cellars was founded by John Scharffenberger, who along with Robert*

Steinberg also founded Scharffen Berger Chocolate in 1997.

## Nicholas Feuillatte Réserve Exclusive Brut Champagne, NV

Winner of several international silver medals and one gold, plus a 91/100 *Wine Spectator* rating, this Champagne is a blend of Pinot Noir, Meunier (40 percent each), and Chardonnay (20 percent) sourced from France's Champagne region. Its pear and apricot notes and a clean and refreshing palate make it a versatile bubbly for pairing with foods, from smoked salmon, to marinated chicken to sautéed prawns.

**Fun fact:** *This champagne house has a tasting lounge at Cirque du Soleil's production of Amaluna, currently running through Jan. 12.*

Whether you choose a sparkling from this list or celebrate with others, best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season. Cheers!

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

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Appetites and Afterthoughts :: Curry cult

Curry for Christmas:  
An ancient Indian culinary  
mystique of flavors

BY ERNEST BEYL

YES, I KNOW, FOOD WRITERS IN December issues are supposed to write about turkey and roast beef for those year-end holiday dinners. But I'm going to write about curry. I'm a curry geek and proud of it. You may be, too, but if not, here are some things you might like to know about this passion for curry.

Many years ago, I sailed on the Peninsular and Oriental passenger ship *Himalaya* as press officer. My job was to seek out interesting passengers for the press to write about when we hit port. And as a freelance writer, I was also looking for a good story. I found it aboard the *Himalaya*: the ship's glorious curry. In those days, Indians, usually from the state of Goa, the one-time Portuguese province on the Indian subcontinent's southwest coast, staffed the galleys of these ships. In the kitchens of the grand old *Himalaya*, one Goanese worker attracted me. He was the curry cook, who prepared the various Indian curries for the crew. Passengers found curry on their menus once a week or so, but the ship's British staff and Punjabi and Goanese crew found curry on their plates every day. I was considered crew and got my fill of all things curry.

THE UNMISTAKABLE SNIFF OF CURRY

One day I wandered into the galley and sought out the curry cook. "What is curry powder?" I asked. He decided to show me.

On a long worktable, he laid out small piles of dried leaves, roots, twigs, berries, seeds, and such. Cardamom, caraway, anise, ginger, garlic, chilies, fenu-greek, cloves, cinnamon, turmeric, coriander, fennel, mace, poppy seeds, cumin, mustard seeds, black peppercorns, bay leaf, saffron, sometimes asafetida — maybe

more. I can't remember. Then, seemingly at random, he took a pinch of this and a pinch of that and dropped them in a large stone mortar. And with a mammoth pestle he pulverized the lot of it. It was the magic of the curry cult — a group of which I am now a member in good standing. When my newfound Goanese friend was finished, he allowed me to peek into the mortar. A vaguely yellow-orange powder greeted me, and I sniffed the magnificent, unmistakable smell of curry.

A PSEUDO CURRY THAT TASTES CURRYISH

To many—probably most—curry powder comes from the supermarket in a small jar or a small rectangular tin. And that's fine. When prepared with that powder, a pseudo kind of curry tastes curryish.

To some few, curry is something else again — home-ground curry powder, pulverized in a mortar. Magic powder! Your clothes will smell of it. Your entire house will be redolent with that remarkable smell.

CURRY TO MAKE YOU SCREAM FOR MERCY

The curry concept dates back more than 4,000 years on the Indian subcontinent. Archeologists figured it out from studying shards of pottery and from forensic dental tests. The word curry probably comes from a Tamil Indian word *Kaari*, which originally referred to a meat or vegetable dish eaten with rice. It was a kind of spicy stew. Cookery in India has long been considered a gift of the gods — and it is. Historians believe the spicy food concept began logically in a hot climate and with a people that used its indigenous spices for flavor. The spicy curries were a good foil for the hot weather, and in a country where refrigeration was nonexistent, the spices worked as a food preservative.

Curry can be mild or it can be as hot as a blast furnace. In India, curry was not prepared as a fiery gravy over rice until after Columbus mistakenly took the New World for the Spice Islands and sent chilies back to Europe. From there the hot capsicum pods made their way to India and Southeast Asia.

I recall on a visit to Kuala Lumpur, I cockily uttered the word hot when my turbaned waiter asked how I wanted my curry. Fortunately, he had placed me in a special air-conditioned dining room away from the local customers. After the first bite of my lamb curry over rice, I screamed for mercy — and water.

BRITS LOVE CURRY AND IT LOVES THEM

Perhaps the greatest devourers of curry outside of India and Southeast Asia are the British. There are thousands

of curry houses in Great Britain, and the U.K. even celebrates a national curry week. (It's in October in case you want to pop over to London to attend.) The British love of curry dates to the Brit-

To a few people, curry is home-ground curry powder, pulverized in a mortar. Magic powder!

ish Raj in the 19th and 20th centuries when colonial India was dominated by British civil servants and the military. The Brits ate what their colonial Indian household servants provided them — and that was curry, in all its forms, and with all of its accompanying condiments, usually referred to as sambals. In the galley office aboard the *Himalaya*, there was a notice posted that listed more than 20 sambals, including chopped onions and tomatoes, raisins, dried banana, ground coconut, cucumber, mangoes, limes, hard-boiled eggs, and a variety of chutneys.

And that's the story of the curry cult. When writing this story, I suggested to my editor that the printer sift some good curry powder between the pages of this paper for realism. But that idea never gained traction.

Visit [marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com) for a longer version of this article, which appeared in December 2015 along with an accompanying article, "What makes curry, curry."



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Reynolds Rap

continued from cover

Mathis would eventually attend George Washington High School).

After our initial call drops, he calls me back from his Hollywood home. “John Mathis here,” he says on the voicemail. John is what he goes by, he tells me after we reconnect (Johnny is a stage name that stuck).

When Mathis was eight, his father purchased an old upright piano for \$25. “It wouldn’t fit through the door,” Mathis says. “So I stayed up all night with my dad and watched him take it apart, move the pieces in to our small living room, and then reassemble it.” When I ask if he remembers the first song they ever sang together, Mathis responds quickly. “Oh yes, it was ‘My Blue Heaven.’ My dad was my best pal.” Realizing his son had talent, Clem Mathis found a voice instructor in the East Bay. “When you’re young and as involved as I was in music, the only way I could really learn was to find someone who could help me,” Mathis says. “And then of course I had to give her the bad news, that I had no money.”

Lucky for Mathis, the instructor agreed to work with him free of charge. “I would get on the bus and go to the train station and get on the one that goes over the Bay Bridge and then take a bus to her house. It took a couple of hours. When I got there, I’d sit outside the room she was working in and wait until she had a moment between her paying customers, and she would fit me in. I’d work with her for maybe 15 minutes and then go back and do my homework and then she called me when a student left . . . all because she was kind enough to work with me even though I couldn’t afford to pay for lessons.”



Left: Johnny Mathis opening fan mail with his parents in the 1950s; right: Mathis in 2017. PHOTOS: COURTESY ROJON PRODUCTIONS

Mathis soon found a manager and began performing gigs in San Francisco clubs, where a Columbia Records producer saw him. “Found a phenomenal 19-year-old who could go all the way,” he wired New York. Mathis was also a gifted athlete (he set a new high jump record of six feet five and a half inches at a track meet at the University of Nevada in 1955, beating future NBA star Bill Russell’s former record). He could have gone to the Olympics, but his deep passion for music made a career choice easy. In 1956 his first album debuted, and hits like “Chances Are” and “It’s Not for Me to Say” shot the young singer to stardom. In 1958, *Johnny’s Greatest Hits* became the first of its kind, starting a long tradition of artists putting out greatest hits albums. The record

spent an unprecedented 490 continuous weeks — that’s nearly a decade — on the Billboard Top Album Chart.

You would think his voice instructor would have been overjoyed, but instead she taught him the greatest lesson in humility. “It was after I had a couple of hit records, and evidently she read an interview I had done in a local newspaper around San Francisco. In my exuberance, being so young and careless, I said I was probably her favorite student. When I asked her about my new records and whether she thought they were good or not, she said, ‘Well, yeah, they’re O.K., but who told you that you were my favorite student?’ So I was brought down — way, way down. I do remember that, and I think that was the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to me in life.”

I ask Mathis what he will be performing at the Dec. 14 concert in San Jose, and he launches into the first line of each song: “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . Caroling, caroling . . . Happy holidays . . . Chestnuts roasting on an open fire . . . Toyland, Toyland . . . Oh we need a little

Christmas, right this very minute . . . Just hear those sleigh bells jingling ring-tingling, too . . .” I must admit, as Johnny Mathis sang to me over the phone, I was fangirling out just a little (O.K., a lot).

This year marks Mathis’s 63rd year as a recording artist (60 of them with Columbia, where he is their longest-running artist). He has 79 original albums and six original Christmas albums (his newest album, *Johnny Mathis Sings the Great New American Songbook*, was released in 2017). He hasn’t stopped singing, recording or touring for 62 years. At age 84, the voice of Christmas and romance is as clear and strong as ever, and shows no signs of slowing down.

**Johnny Mathis: The Voice of Romance Tour:** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m., \$75–\$130, San Jose Civic Auditorium, 135 San Carlos St., San Jose, 408-792-4111, [johnnymathis.com](http://johnnymathis.com)

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7. **Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators**, by Ronan Farrow (hardcover)
8. **Billion Dollar Whale: The Man Who Fooled Wall Street, Hollywood, and the World**, by Bradley Hope (paperback)

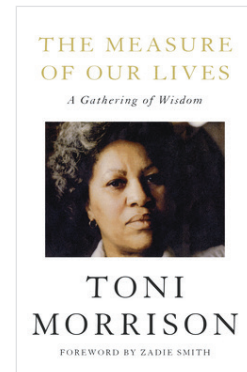
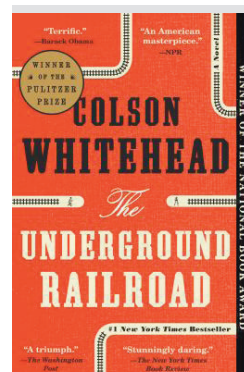
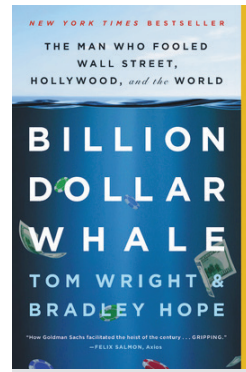
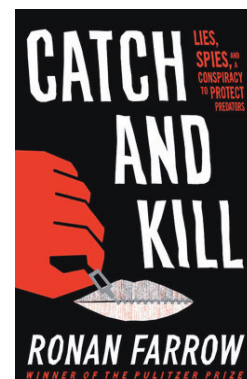
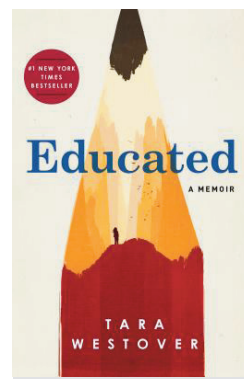
9. **The Underground Railroad: A Novel**, by Colson Whitehead (paperback)
10. **What You Do Is Who You Are: How to Create Your Business Culture**, by Ben Horowitz (hardcover)

NEW RELEASES IN DECEMBER

**The Mueller Report Illustrated: The Obstruction Investigation**, by The Washington Post (Dec. 3): Written and designed by the staff of *The Washington Post* and illustrated by artist Jan Feindt, this book brings to life the findings of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III in an engaging and illuminating presentation. When the report was released on April 18, 2019, it laid out two major conclusions: that Russia’s interference in the 2016 presidential election had been “sweeping and systematic” and that the evidence did not establish that Trump or his campaign had conspired with the Kremlin. The special counsel left one significant question unanswered: whether the pres-

ident broke the law by trying to block the probe. However, Mueller unspooled a dramatic narrative of an angry and anxious president trying to control the criminal investigation, even after he knew he was under scrutiny. Deep inside the 448-page report is a fly-on-the-wall account of the inner workings of the White House, remarkable in detail and drama. With dialogue taken directly from the report, *The Mueller Report Illustrated* is a vivid, factually rigorous narrative of a crucial period in Trump’s presidency that remains relevant to the turbulent events of today.

**Measure of Our Lives: A Gathering of Wisdom**, by Toni Morrison (Dec. 3): This inspirational book juxtaposes quotations, one to a page, drawn from Morrison’s entire body of work to tell a story of self-actualization. It aims to evoke the totality of Toni Morrison’s literary vision. Its compelling sequence of flashes of revelation — stunning for their linguistic originality, keenness of psychological



observation, and philosophical profundity — addresses issues of abiding interest in Morrison’s work: the reach of language for the ineffable; transcendence through imagination; the self and its discontents; the vicissitudes of love; the whirligig of memory; the singular power of women; the original American sin of slavery; the bankruptcy of racial oppression; the complex

humanity and art of black people. *The Measure of Our Lives* brims with elegance of style and mind and moral authority.

For additional new releases in December, visit [marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com).

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

# A multitude of carols

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

**A**ROUND CHRISTMAS, NOSTALGIA amid good cheer is currency of the realm, and the entertainment industry counts on seasonal sentiment to capture your attention and dollars. You get holiday-themed TV shows, music, and movies paraded before you from early November until the 12 days of you-know-what, tapping into time-worn Christmas symbols and themes — especially peace on Earth, generosity, and goodwill to all. But 2019 feels a little short on the cinematic end of things.

For whatever reason, there have not been many new and notable Christmas-themed movies released to theaters this year. Cable channels with access to classic film libraries may be the primary source of that holly-jolly on-screen comfort food, other than a few B-movie-level efforts via Netflix and Amazon and the annual hailstorm of corny wish-fulfillment fables, largely about romance found or regained via the spirit of Christmas, on the Hallmark Channel and Lifetime. As the saying goes, nostalgia ain't what it used to be — although it's always in fashion around Dec. 25.

I did catch one prominent theatrical shot at the Yuletide rom-com feel-good target: *Last Christmas*, leaning on Wham's eponymous pop hit of yore for a theme song and theme. Regrettably, it was some tepid eggnog, despite attractive leads in

Emilia Clarke (*Game of Thrones*) and Henry Golding (*Crazy Rich Asians*), as well as a sturdy supporting cast that included U.K. treasure Emma Thompson who also cowrote the earnest, but comedy-challenged script.

## DICKENS'S ENDURING ENDEAVOR

While enduring *Last Christmas*, I noticed something light years better playing on a TV set in one scene: *Blackadder's Christmas Carol* — a rather hilarious and canny 1988 parody of British author Charles Dickens's Victorian morality tale *A Christmas Carol*. The latter is, of course, about the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge (Mr. Bah! Humbug!) who is visited on Christmas Eve by three ghosts representing his past, present, and future, and becomes a better man when they show him the error of his ways. The version featuring comedian Rowan Atkinson's vile self-serving Blackadder character flips the plot. Here, Ebenezer Blackadder (Atkinson) is a kindly and generous descendant of a fictional, aristocratic, conniving family that has spanned generations of British history — as depicted in a brilliant series of epoch-leaping sitcoms. This unexpectedly noble Blackadder experiences a Christmas Eve conversion into a nasty and greedy fellow like his ancestors. A major reason why the humor lands and the plot twist delights is our familiarity with Dickens's original story.

Is there anything more laden with the holiday spirit and poised to ignite Christmas warmth and cheer than *A Christmas Carol*? That might explain why there have been so many interpretations of it over the years. How many? Too many to waste time counting. There have been stage shows (including musicals), movies (including musicals), TV specials (including musicals), animated cartoons (feature length and short form), spoofs (like the *Blackadder* comedy), graphic novels, and audio recordings.

On the cinema side, we've had all manner of faithful retellings, starting with a number of live-action British films — including what strikes me as the very best and most iconic interpretation: 1951's *Scrooge* a.k.a. *A Christmas Carol*, starring Alastair Sim as the quintessential Ebenezer. There are those who swear by *Scrooge*, the 1970 movie musical featuring Albert Finney as the title character; or 1992's *The Muppets Christmas Carol* with Michael Caine playing Scrooge opposite Jim Henson's felt favorites, led by Kermit the Frog as the elderly creep's beleaguered employee Bob Cratchit. Although it just uses Dickens as a template, *Scrooged* — the 1988 modernization with Bill Murray as a cold-hearted, arrogant TV executive named Frank — is actually pretty effective. It's certainly more emotionally satisfying than a less-than-magical 2009 motion-capture animation of the story directed by Robert Zemeckis and starring

Jim Carrey as Scrooge, even if it tries to be faithful to the source material.

## TOONED IN TO CHRISTMAS

Among the more conventional 2D cartoons, 1983's *Mickey's Christmas Carol* is a Disney version with Scrooge McDuck (naturally) as Ebenezer and Mickey Mouse as Bob Cratchit. In fact, there are quite a few toon takes with popular characters: a 1962 animated TV musical with the nearsighted Mr. Magoo; a Looney Tunes short from 1979 with Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, and pals; one spotlighting the Flintstones; and one involving those little blue trolls, the Smurfs — not to be confused with elves, who are in a whole different Christmas bag.

It's pointless to even address the scads of television series that featured episodes channeling *A Christmas Carol*, other than to say that they range from the vintage shows *The Odd Couple*, *Sanford and Son*, *Family Ties*, and *Saved by the Bell* to more recent fare such as *Doctor Who* and *Family Guy*. Apparently, whoever you are and whatever your taste, there's a variation of *A Christmas Carol* to satisfy your nostalgia needs. And that's no humbug.

*Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via GABnet.net, Roku, Spotify, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.*

## Art World :: Museum of Craft and Design

# Climate change in the Bay Area is focus of two new exhibitions

BY SHARON ANDERSON

**T**HE MUSEUM OF CRAFT AND DESIGN has two new compelling exhibitions dealing with the ways in which individuals are addressing climate change.

"Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience" features ambitious work from artists and architects creating adaptations to a world that will be increasingly in need of emergency shelters in a climate-constrained world. The concurrent exhibition "Linda Gass: and then this happened ..." draws attention to the natural water infrastructure in the greater Bay Area.

## 'SURVIVAL ARCHITECTURE AND THE ART OF RESILIENCE'

This exhibition is guest curated by Randy Jayne Rosenberg of Art Works for Change. "Climate change represents a vastly different kind of environmental challenge, requiring out-of-the-box thinking in how we adapt to and survive the expected onslaught of extreme weather and other disruptions," said Rosenberg. "Artists are uniquely adept at reenvisioning our world and how we relate to it."

Sustainable architecture strives to minimize negative impact to the environment through the use of efficient, nondetrimental resources. This exhibition makes climate change concepts accessible to a general audience through four central themes that reflect key characteristics about survival architecture.

*Circular* — the importance of durable structures that can be used and reused indefinitely;

*Portable* — the ability to create movable and nomadic dwellings;



Linda Gass's *Dogpatch: Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise*.

PHOTO: COURTESY MUSEUM CRAFT AND DESIGN

*Visionary* — forward-thinking ideas that can radically transform our assumptions about shelter; and

*Resilient* — structures that can adapt to adverse and dynamic circumstances.

*Cricket Shelter: A Modular Edible Insect Farm* from 2016 by Mitchell Joachim of Terreform One is an exotic, sculptural dwelling that also contains a functioning cricket farm. *Cardborigami*, 2016 by Tina Hovsepian is a portable dwelling inspired by origami art. Her lightweight and sustainable cardboard shelters are big enough for two people to sleep in, and can actually fold up into a size that is small enough to carry. Mary Mattingly's *Desert Deployment 2*, 2011 is a camouflaged covering acting as shelter in high temperatures. Artist Thomas L. Kelly's photo of destroyed homes in *Nepali Earthquake*, 2015 drives home the need for

the development of human shelter that can survive a full life cycle of durability pre-, during, and postdisaster.

## 'LINDA GASS: AND THEN THIS HAPPENED ...'

This exhibition presents multimedia artist Linda Gass and her stitched paintings and works in glass, questioning water and land use in California. She brings extensive knowledge of the impact of changing waterways, sea-level rise, fire, and drought to create works that evoke topographical maps and textile art. Using dye, Gass paints directly onto silk, an art-quilt medium, adds a backing and fills it with batting, then stitches directly onto the painted fabric.

This exhibition also has four themed topics: The artworks illustrate how sea-level rise, constructed waterways, rain/snowpack loss,

and wildfire changes impact our environment. Three aerial street views of Dogpatch show how it looks today, how it would change after a three-foot sea-level rise and the devastation after a six-foot sea-level rise.

Another locally themed piece, *Severely Burned* (2015) depicts the effects of the 2013 Rim Fire on the Tuolumne River Watershed, which provides drinking water for San Francisco and other Bay Area cities. *Droughts and Floods: California Average Annual Rainfall (or Snowpack)* 2019 is made from bullseye sheet glass and glass frit, showing a graph representing rainfall over time. These works have a jeweled, rich, and pristine appeal to the eye providing a contrast to the dire nature of Gass's powerful messages.

Gass comments, "Our current water infrastructure was designed during an era when our climate was more stable and the average annual rainfall was higher than it is now. Human development has permanently altered and destroyed much of our natural water infrastructures such as wetlands and watersheds. My textile, glass, and mixed-media artworks address these concerns — how our infrastructure and development policies are failing under climate chaos — and invite the viewer to ponder the question 'what can we do better?'"

"Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience" and "Linda Gass: and then this happened ...": Tue.-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m., Dec. 19-May 3, \$8, Museum of Craft and Design, 2569 Third St., 415-773-0303, [sfmdc.org](http://sfmdc.org).

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

# DECEMBER EVENTS

## NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

### HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

### LIGHTINGS AND MORE

**33rd Annual Macy's Holiday Windows**  
Daily through Jan. 1 (except Dec. 25),  
10 a.m.–7 p.m.

**Macy's Union Square**  
The SF/SPCA's magical Holiday Windows adoption outreach program returns to find homes for kittens, puppies, chinchillas, guinea pigs, and bunnies while raising funds for the shelter's programs. SPCA volunteers will be on hand to introduce the animals and the adoption process. *Free viewing, 415-554-3000, sfpca.org*

**90th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting**  
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 4–8 p.m.

**McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park**  
(501 Stanyan St.)  
This lighting event includes toboggan rides, a snow play area, carnival rides, live entertainment, cookie decorating, visits with Santa, and more. *Free, sfrecpark.org*

**Presidio Holiday Lights & Lantern Forest Walk**

Friday, Dec. 6, 5–7 p.m.  
**Lincoln Blvd. (at Funston Ave.)**  
Enjoy holiday music by the S.F. Girls Chorus at this decades-old Presidio tree-lighting tradition (6 p.m.). Join a guided forest walk (6 & 6:30 p.m.) or take a self-guided walk (6:15 & 6:45 p.m.). Parents bring a flashlight; kids can make their own lantern at the lantern-making activity. Light refreshments for sale; registration requested. *Free, 415-561-4323, presidio.gov*



Lighted Boat Parade

Friday, Dec. 13, 6–8 p.m.  
**Pier 39 to Crissy Field & return**  
The oldest and largest lighted boat holiday parade returns and features boats festooned with lights and holiday decorations. *Free, 415-673-3530, visitfishermanswharf.com*  
PHOTO: VISITFISHERMANSWHARF.COM

**Parol Lantern Festival & Parade**

Saturday, Dec. 14, 4–8 p.m.  
**Jessie Square, Yerba Buena Gardens**  
The Bay Area's Filipino community gathers for a festive celebration of holiday spirit, hope, unity, and pride to the glow of hundreds of lights from colorful handcrafted parol lanterns. Enjoy holiday treats, live music, a parol lantern exhibition, and more. *Free, 415-239-0249, parollanternfestival.com*

**Bill Graham Menorah Lighting**

Daily, Dec. 22–29  
**Union Square**  
Activities on Bill Graham Menorah Day (Sunday, Dec. 22) include kids' activities (2 p.m.), music, special guests and dignitaries, and the lighting ceremony (4:30 p.m.). The Grand Finale Ceremony (Sunday, Dec. 29, 5 p.m.) concludes the event. Visit website for details and schedule. *Free, billgrahammenorah.org*

### NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

**A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera**  
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 4 p.m.

**Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Ave.)**  
Ring in the new year in elegant style with the American Bach Soloists' delightful program of arias and instrumental music from opera and concert in this reprise of 2018's concert that was one of the hottest tickets in town. \$25–\$125, 415-392-4400, americanbach.org

**34th Annual Japanese New Year Bell-Ringing Ceremony**

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.  
**Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum**  
Participate in the striking of the 16th-century bronze bell to leave behind any negative experiences, wrong deeds, and ill luck of 2019. First come, first served; pick up tickets at admission desk. *Free with museum admission (\$25), 415-581-3500, asianart.org*

**New Year's Eve Meditation & Celebration**

Tue.–Wed., Dec. 31–Jan. 1, 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.

**Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center**  
(401 Baker St.)  
Ring out the old and ring in the new with meditation, games, live music, words of wisdom, "letting go of the old," alcohol-free refreshments, and a contemplative fire ceremony. *Free, bksanfrancisco.org*

**The Perfect View: New Year's Eve 2020**

Tue.–Wed., Dec. 31–Jan. 1, 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m.  
**Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)**  
Ranked last year as one of the city's top 10 NYE's parties, celebrate on multiple levels, including the rooftop terrace, with views of the Embarcadero fireworks display. Includes light bites and desserts, unlimited cocktails, and midnight balloon drop. \$290, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

### COMMUNITY CORNER

**S.F. Firefighters Toy Program**

Daily throughout the year  
**Any S.F. firehouse**  
Online through Dec. 25  
In its 70th year, the S.F. Firefighters Toy Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys for distribution to underprivileged children ages infant–13, with girls ages 8–12 the biggest need; visit website for gift suggestions. Alternatively, donate monetarily or shop online through website link. 415-777-0440, sf firefighterstoy.org

**Christmas Outreach**

**Pre-Christmas Outreach:**  
Saturday, Dec. 14, 8:30–2 p.m.  
**Salvation Army Kroc Center (240 Turk St.)**  
**Christmas Day Outreach:**  
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.  
**S.F. City Impact (136 Taylor St.)**  
The Pre-Christmas event features a Youth Outreach and Kids' Christmas Party, building parties, and meal deliveries in over 40 buildings. Join hundreds of volunteers for the Christmas event with a sit-down cafe for community residents, building parties, and meal deliveries in over 35 buildings. All ages welcome. \$25, 415-292-1770, sfcityimpact.com

**13th Annual City-Wide Kwanzaa Celebration**

Daily, Dec. 26–Jan. 1  
**Citywide**  
The seven principles of Kwanzaa (the Nguzo Saba) will be celebrated with 17 free celebrations in nine neighborhoods. A spiritual ceremony — pouring of libations and honoring of ancestors — will start each event and will be followed by a feast, live entertainment, and the lighting of one of the seven candles of the Kinara. Visit website for schedule. *Free, kwanzaasanfrancisco.com*

### GALAS & BENEFITS

**Help is on the Way for the Holidays XVIII**

Monday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
**Marines' Memorial Theater (609 Sutter St.)**  
Benefiting Project Open Hand and Aguilas, this gala and concert includes entertainment by the cast of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* and *Hamilton*, with special guests Sheryl Lee Ralph (*Dreamgirls*), Lisa Vroman (*Phantom*), Shawn Ryan (*America's Got Talent*), and others. Visit website for after-party info and ticket packages. \$45 (concert only), 415-273-1620, reaf-sf.org



Holiday Heroes

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4:30–8:30 p.m.

**Oracle Park**  
Raise funds and awareness for Bay Area underserved children and enjoy arts and crafts activities, video games, photo opportunities, food and beverages, s'mores on the field, holiday cookie decorating, a silent auction, access to the Giants batting tunnels and dugout, and more. \$100 & up, 650-321-4142, wenderweis.org  
PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/WENDERWEIS

### THEATER

**A Noh Christmas Carol**

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 5–8  
Wed.–Sun., Dec. 11–15 & 18–22  
Thu.–Sun., Dec. 26–29  
**Theatre of Yugen (2840 Mariposa St.)**  
This beloved adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* utilizes the traditional Japanese theatre forms of Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, and the avant-garde dance form Butoh to retell the Dickens classic. \$35, 415-621-0507, theatreofyugen.org

**BATS Improv: Songs for A Sixpence**

Saturdays, Dec. 7–28, 8 p.m.  
**Bayfront Theatre, Fort Mason Center**  
In the spirit of *Oliver* and *A Christmas Carol*, performers create improvised songs, music, dances, and more. Experience joy and laughter at original improvised performances in honor of Charles Dickens and his lovable characters and novels. \$17–\$20, 415-474-6776, improv.org

**27th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy**

Sun.–Tue., Dec. 24–26, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.  
**New Asia Restaurant (772 Pacific Ave.)**  
Enjoy this uniquely Bay Area holiday tradition of Jewish comedy and delicious Chinese cuisine. Visit website for guest lineup. A portion of proceeds benefit Kehilla Community Synagogue Immigration Committee and Groceries for Seniors. \$54 & \$74, 925-743-1292, koshercomedy.com

### MUSIC

**Michael Feinstein: Home for the Holidays**

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 5–8  
**Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)**  
The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook preforms his holiday show at his eponymous club. \$85–\$115, 866-663-1063, feinsteinsf.com

**Holiday Soul with India.Arie**

Fri.–Sat., Dec. 7–8, 7:30 p.m.  
**Davies Symphony Hall**  
The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir joins the four-time Grammy award-winning R&B artist and the S.F. Symphony for soul, jazz, and Christmas classics, with plenty of vocal fireworks and foot-stomping energy. \$50–\$99, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

**A Merri-achi Christmas**

Sunday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m.  
**Davies Symphony Hall**  
Experience a truly international celebration in this musical tribute to Mexico's Christmas traditions, with the ensemble singing and playing holiday favorites from both Mexico and America in a vibrant performance that will have the whole family dancing in the aisles. \$35–\$125, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

**American Bach Soloists: Handel's Messiah**

Wed.–Fri., Dec. 11–13, 7:30 p.m.  
**Grace Cathedral**  
American Bach Soloists present their celebrated annual performance of Handel's masterpiece. \$25–\$125, 415-621-7900, americanbach.org

**Soulful Christmas: A Gospel Holiday Concert**

Fri.–Sun., Dec. 13–15 & 20–22  
**Buriel Clay Theater (762 Fulton St.)**  
Performed by the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, enjoy inspirational holiday music both old and new, sacred and secular in a show guaranteed to be a roof-raising, hand-clapping, joyful good time for all ages. \$30, 415-474-8800, fortmason.org

**S.F. Girls Chorus: A Ceremony of Carols**

Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.  
**Davies Symphony Hall**  
Following the culmination of its summer tour of England and France, the choir performs *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten and *The Fayrfax Carol* by Thomas Adès. The evening includes a sing-along, special guest harpist Bridget Kibbey, vocal chamber ensemble Clerestory, and new music duo The Living Earth Show. \$30–\$62, 415-392-4400, sfgirlschorus.org

**Golden Bough: Winter Solstice Christmas Celebration**

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.  
**Old First Presbyterian Church**  
(1751 Sacramento St.)  
Enjoy a program of rare carols and songs of celebration for the winter solstice and the new year in this 40th anniversary performance by the acclaimed Celtic musicians. \$25, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

**A Chanticleer Christmas**

Friday, Dec. 22, 8–10 p.m.  
**St. Ignatius Church (650 Parker St.)**  
The program includes Gregorian chant, traditional carols, American hymns, Spanish villancicos, and the music of Hassler, Praetorius, Victoria, and Morales. \$35–\$79, 415-392-4400, chanticleer.org

### DANCE

**City Ballet: The Nutcracker**

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 7–8  
**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**  
Enjoy the beautiful dancers of the internationally renowned City Ballet and experience the magic of this timeless holiday classic. All ages. \$55–\$60, 415-626-8878, palaceoffinearts.org

**34th Annual Dance-Along Nutcracker**

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 7–8  
**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**  
(701 Mission St.)  
This year's show, "Nutcrackers in Space," takes the audience on a magical journey as they join Clara and Fritz aboard the Sugar Plum Falcon as they help save the galaxy while dancing to themes from Star Trek and music from The Nutcracker. All ages. \$35–\$50, 415-978-2787, dancealongnutcracker.org

**S.F. Ballet: The Nutcracker 75th Anniversary**

Various days through Dec. 29  
**War Memorial Opera House**  
Join the adventures of the Nutcracker, the Mouse King, and Clara in early 20th-century San Francisco. Ages 5 & up, \$25–\$459, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org

**Smuin Ballet: The Christmas Ballet**

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 12–15  
Wed.–Mon., Dec. 18–23  
**YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)**  
This popular holiday celebration returns with equal parts sugar and spice, and something for both the naughty and nice, from ballet, tap, and swing in two acts: Classical Christmas and Cool Christmas, which includes the iconic "Santa Baby." \$36–\$97, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

### POTABLES & EDIBLES

**Holiday Tamalada Class**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. & noon  
**La Cocina (2948 Folsom St.)**  
This tamale assembly class includes a short walk-through of the recipe, procedures, and a demo of tamale assembly. Then get your manos in the masa and start building as many tamales as you can while you get your mingle game on. Take your tamales home and steam them to be ready to eat just in time for the holiday season. Visit website for other classes. \$35, lacocina.org

### Anti-SantaCon Wine Crawl

Saturday, Dec. 9, noon–5 p.m.

Winemaker Studios (448 Clipper Cove Way, Treasure Island)

Say goodbye to the (worldwide pub crawl) SantaCon crowds and wine crawl your way through four tasting rooms. Santa hats and ugly Christmas sweaters not required, but welcomed if they bring you cheer to share. \$10 (advance), \$15 (door), [winetasting.com](http://winetasting.com)

### Holiday Cookie Decorating

Monday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 23, 1 p.m.

Sur La Table (2224 Union St.)

Learn the simple techniques for transforming royal icing and sugar cookies into edible art using the flooding method to create professional-style designs. \$59, 800-243-0852, [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com)

### Guardsmen Annual Crab Feed

Friday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Enjoy cocktails followed by a fresh crab and pasta dinner. End your evening with an after-party, music, and dancing surrounded by friends and Christmas trees to benefit at-risk youth. \$100–\$115, [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## SPORTS

### Great Santa Run 5K

Sunday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m.

Starts/Ends: Crissy Field

(across from Sports Basement)

This 3.09-mile figure-eight course is flat, fast, and scenic; the kids Rudolph one-miler along the dirt trail starts at 9:10 a.m. Santa suits provided in race packet. \$25–\$40, [titanium-racing.com](http://titanium-racing.com)

### Miracle Mile/5K Holiday Classic

Sunday, Dec. 22, 8:15 & 9 a.m.

Starts: Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Run in either race or both to benefit the UCSF Diabetes Center. All ages. \$30–\$60. 415-760-9000, [miraclemile.ucsf.edu](http://miraclemile.ucsf.edu)

## CHILD'S PLAY

### Teddy Bear Tea

Sat.–Sun. through Dec. 15, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m.

Sat.–Mon., Dec. 21–23, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Ritz-Carlton San Francisco

Children are invited to enjoy hot chocolate, teddy bear sweet treats, and assorted sandwiches in addition to a holiday show starring the giant teddy bear. Children will receive a teddy bear gift and photo with the giant teddy bear to take home. Two dollars per ticket sold will benefit Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area. \$135, [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

### ODC: The Velveteen Rabbit

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 5–8

YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)

Enjoy this Bay Area holiday tradition through music, dance, and a powerful narrative, in a story that celebrates the unique relationship between a little boy and his stuffed rabbit, and the enduring power of love. \$20–\$65, 415-978-2700, [ybca.org](http://ybca.org)



### Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 7–22

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

This unique magical, zany, and fun 50-minute production of the classic holiday ballet is designed specifically for families with young children under 5. \$21–\$43, 415-345-7575, [nutcrackersweets.org](http://nutcrackersweets.org)

PHOTO: COURTESY DANCERSGROUP.ORG

### S.F. Symphony Youth Orchestra:

Peter and the Wolf

Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Hear Prokofiev's timeless musical fable of a boy and his animal friends narrated by Dulcé Stone of *The Daily Show* and accompanied by the symphony's youth orchestra. \$13–\$115, 415-864-6000, [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org)

### Pipe Cleaner Ornaments

Thursday, Dec. 19, 3–5 p.m.

S.F. Public Library, Marina Branch

(890 Chestnut St.)

Make festive holiday ornaments using just pipe cleaners and beads. Templates for wreaths, snowflakes, and other holiday-themed shapes provided. Ages 3 & up. Free, 415-355-2823, [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org)

### Mittens & Mistletoe:

A Winter Circus Cabaret

Thu.–Tue., Dec. 26–29

Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St.)

This charming, light-hearted, all-ages variety program features innovative clowning, spectacular circus feats, and interactive madcappery performed by talented Bay Area and international theatrical circus artists. \$18–\$65, 415-225-7281, [sweetcanproductions.com](http://sweetcanproductions.com)

## JUST FOR FUN

### The Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party

Sat.–Sun. through Dec. 22,

10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Cow Palace (2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City)

Take an enchanting journey through the streets of Victorian London circa Christmas 1860. Visitors will explore twilight-lit streets with shops, pubs, stages, and dance halls filled with more than 800 Victorian characters and the aromas of roasted chestnuts and hearty fare, and more. \$10–\$32, [dickensfair.com](http://dickensfair.com)

Sponsored



### Mercatino di Natale: Italian Christmas Market

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 7–8, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Museo Italo Americano

Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

The seventh annual Mercatino di Natale will feature artisanal Italian food and wine, hand-made jewelry, Italian fashion and accessories, art objects, and unique craft items. Inspired by the famous Christmas markets in Northern Italy and Europe, the Museo's Mercatino has become one of the most beloved events of the year. Enjoy food demonstrations, book presentations, and a children's art workshop. Free, 415-673-2200, [sfmuseo.org](http://sfmuseo.org)

### Snow Day

Sunday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Shattuck Ave. (btw. Rose & Vine Sts.), Berkeley

Bring your boots and mittens to play in the snow that Santa drops from his sleigh in the early morning hours as he flies over town. Visit with the Snow Queen, ride live ponies, make free DIY crafts (kids), and shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts from local art, craft, and artisan food vendors. Free, [anotherbullwinkleshows.com](http://anotherbullwinkleshows.com)

### 9th Annual SFMade Holiday Gift Fair

Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Calif. College of the Arts (111 Eighth St.)

Discover locally made gift items local manufacturers and artisans who make their products in the city. Free, RSVP at [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite) or [Facebook](http://Facebook), 415-408-5605, [sfmade.org](http://sfmade.org)

For a complete listing of December events, visit [marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com). Email: [calendar@marinatimes.com](mailto:calendar@marinatimes.com)

# CREATING A NEW EXPERIENCE OF NATURE IN THE PRESIDIO

### WHERE

We're closing a section of Mason Street at Crissy Field for six months to install open tunnels beneath. This will allow fresh water to flow from the Tennessee Hollow Watershed to meet the salt water of San Francisco Bay, creating a unique marshland at Quartermaster Reach.

### WHY

Visitors will enjoy an up close experience of nature along a new elevated bridge that winds through the marshland. Native salt marsh and riparian plants grown at Presidio Nursery will create an extraordinary habitat for frogs, fish, salamanders, and the newly reintroduced native Olympic oyster. Bring your binoculars – Quartermaster Reach will be the latest national park hotspot for birding. When the bridge is complete, visitors can walk the entire 1.2 mile watershed from San Francisco Bay through the Presidio and up to the natural springs near Presidio Gate.

## ALERT

# SIX-MONTH PARTIAL MASON STREET CLOSURE AT CRISSY FIELD

Fall 2019 to Spring / Summer 2020

Crissy Field Businesses are Open!

### WHEN

<h4 style="color: #4a86e8;">December</h4> <p>Project starts and Mason Street detour begins</p>	<h4 style="color: #4a86e8;">Winter</h4> <p>Landfill removed and water tunnels installed beneath Mason Street</p>	<h4 style="color: #4a86e8;">Spring</h4> <p>Bridge is constructed and volunteers plant thousands of native seedlings</p>	<h4 style="color: #4a86e8;">Spring/Summer</h4> <p>Opening Day!</p>
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## www.presidio.gov/QMR

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#### Outreach Ads

December 2019

The SFMTA is conducting a survey to better understand perceptions of sharing rides in San Francisco. To connect San Franciscans safely, equitably, and sustainably to their communities, we must make more efficient use of our street infrastructure. Increasing vehicle occupancy through shared rides, either in carpools or shared ride-matching apps, is one way to more efficiently utilize our existing street space. We are trying to identify priorities for San Francisco residents and the barriers they face when considering using shared ride options through this survey.

Take the survey at [sfmta.com/projects/shared-rides-pilot](http://sfmta.com/projects/shared-rides-pilot)

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit our office at 617 Mission Street to learn how we can help you. Information is also available online at [www.sfgov.org/dcsc](http://www.sfgov.org/dcsc).

Would you like the opportunity to bring positive change to your community? Would you like to help make the City and County of San Francisco a safer place for all? Here is your chance to join the men and women of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Deputy Sheriff. The salary range for this entry level position is \$74,152 to \$94,666 per year with full benefits. Choose to make a difference today! Apply online today at: <https://bit.ly/sfdeputy>

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#### Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

The Task Force advises the Board of Supervisors and provides information to other City departments on appropriate ways in which to implement the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the Administrative Code); to ensure that deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

#### Upcoming term expirations or vacancies:

**Vacant Seat 1**, succeeding Matthew Cate, resigned, must be nominated by the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and be an attorney, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending April 27, 2020.

**Vacant Seat 8**, succeeding Frank Cannata, resigned, must have demonstrated interest in, or have experience in, the issues of citizen access and participation in local government, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending April 27, 2020.

**Seat 11**, succeeding Fiona Hinze, term expiring April 27, 2019, must have demonstrated interest in, or have experience in, the issues of citizen access and participation in local government, for a two-year term ending April 27, 2021.

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

CNS-3316827#

## The Healthful Life ∴ Party smart

# Avoid the festive 15

BY THALIA FARSHCHIAN

THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE A TEMPTING time in terms of eating and drinking. All too often, we pay for our choices in the new year when we step on the scale or find a favorite outfit a bit snug. By maintaining a balanced regimen, you can still enjoy the holiday festivities, avoid the aftermath, and launch into the new year ahead of the game.

#### PICK YOUR POISON

There are things we indulge in because we want them and then things we indulge in because they are in front of us. Most people know which indulgence they prioritize — commonly sugar, salt or alcohol. These may change from day to day, but like many things in life, knowing what you want is key.

#### DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Our bodies cannot store alcohol, and we make every effort to get it out of our system. Alcohol negatively affects our blood sugar and can cause low blood sugar, known as hypoglycemia. The hypoglycemia increases hunger, which results in the familiar munchies. Alcohol has no nutrients, fat, carbohydrates, or protein, but this blood sugar imbalance can greatly affect weight.

#### DRINK SMARTER

Follow these guidelines when consuming alcohol:

- Never drink on an empty stomach.
- Consider alcohol your treat, and maintain a clean diet consisting of vegetables, lean protein, and healthy fats.
- Moderation is key — for men, no more than 4 drinks per day and no more than 14 drinks per week. For women, no more than 3 drinks per day and no more than 7 drinks per week.
- Drink a glass of water between each alcoholic beverage.
- Alcohol impairs nutrient absorption, so take a good B-complex before a night out to avoid or reduce a hangover.
- Avoid diet soda mixers and carbonated beverages, which actually increase the rate of intoxication.
- Drinking alters your liver metabolism, so consult your doctor if you are taking any medications.

#### STAY HYDRATED

Staying hydrated is key to maintaining a healthful weight and to eliminate accumulated toxins. A good general rule is to drink half your body weight in ounces. When properly hydrated, your body is more inclined to release toxins from fat cells to be removed from the body.

#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE FESTIVITIES

If you know you have particular dietary needs, bring a dish to your events even if it is not a potluck. People never say no to more delicious food and you remain guilt-free. Here is a crowd pleaser:

#### SPICY PUMPKIN HUMMUS

Serves 12

- 1-14 ounce can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 clove garlic
- 1¼ cups pumpkin puree
- ¼ cup tahini
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼-½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (more or less to taste)
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Place garbanzo beans in the bowl of a food processor. Process until very finely chopped. With the motor running, add the garlic through the tube and process until very fine. Add the remaining ingredients and process until smooth. Taste for seasoning, adding additional salt, pepper and lemon juice, if desired.

Serve with fresh vegetables or sweet potato chips.

#### AVOID BANKING CALORIES

Many people “bank” food for the day, so they can indulge more in the evening. This tactic usually backfires because you will find yourself ravenous by the time the evening comes. Eat healthful meals consisting of lean protein, healthy fats, and vegetables if you know you are going to indulge later.

#### SIT DOWN AND SLOW DOWN

The purpose of the holidays is to connect and spend time with those you love, so make sure to sit down and be present for the entire experience. Slow down by chewing your food thoroughly (approximately 30 chews per bite) to let your satiety signals keep up with your intake. This eating tip alone can make a giant impact.

#### KEEP UP WITH SLEEP

The holiday season can bring about long evenings, but staying on top of your sleep will help you reduce stress and fatigue. The fatigue from lack of sleep can lead your body to crave more food, particularly sugar and salt, to maintain energy levels.

#### EXERCISE FIRST THING IN MORNING

Studies also support that those who maintain an exercise regimen during the holidays gain less weight. During the holidays, there is more potential for last-minute exciting activities to derail your plans. Getting your exercise out of the way in the morning allows you to check it off the list and stoke your metabolism from the get go.

Implement your new year's exercise commitment early when the gyms are less crowded. By combining cardiovascular exercise like walking, cycling, jogging, or swimming with weight training, you can increase your metabolism and build muscle to burn more calories. If you are traveling, plan a body weight regimen ahead to keep you on track.

#### IS THIS FOOD/DRINK/EVENT/PERSON NUTURING?

The holidays can bring happy memories for many, but for some, it can also be a time of feeling the loss of family member or some introverts feeling pressure to be more extroverted.

Indulgences are not bad if they come from the right place. If you do something on the “naughty” list, does it feed your soul? Are you present while you are enjoying it? If the answer is yes, then you are probably in the right frame of mind. If you are engaging because everyone else is doing it or simply out of habit, you may want to rethink what is nurturing to your body and soul and follow that compass.

Thalia Farshchian is a naturopathic doctor specializing in chronic complex diseases including Lyme disease and mold illness. For more information, visit [medicaloptionsforwellness.net](http://medicaloptionsforwellness.net).





The holidays are a great time for a baking day with Oma. PHOTO: MONKEYBUSINESSIMAGES

# The gift of time

BY LIZ FARRELL

**I**F ONLY WE COULD STOP TIME FOR A bit. This fall has felt like a whirlwind, where on top of everything else, my daughter was navigating applying to high school, studying for the SSAT, and dealing with an injury. Someone once told me when you are raising your children the days are long but the years are short. This couldn't be more true especially when you consider that high school is just four short years, and then they are off to college.

Not only have I felt the speed of time this fall but also have come to appreciate the preciousness of the season. The holidays are a wonderful moment to stop and appreciate time: time with family and friends and time to enjoy the season. So this holiday season, consider giving your children something memorable, something they really want and would enjoy — your time and your attention. Here are a few suggestions to do that:

### INDIVIDUAL TIME

With three busy children, it can be difficult to get special time with each of them individually. This year, one of their gifts will be time with us that they get to plan. This allows us some quality time, and it is always interesting to see what they decide to plan. It is easy to forget in this world full of digital distractions that sometimes our undivided attention is the greatest gift we can give. These gifts don't have to be expensive — they can be the gift of a hike or bike ride of their choice. It could be time doing something they enjoy that maybe their siblings don't. Our son likes to plan bike rides or going to a sporting event while my daughter always loves an afternoon of shopping or getting her nails done. These types of gifts are also great suggestions for grandparents, family, or friends — my children love a baking day with Oma or a sleepover with Grandma and Grandpa. It is the individual, one-on-one time where we can really check in with them and get to know them as their own person without other distractions.

### FAMILY TIME

The holidays are a great time to carve out some family time. I have noticed as the kids get older they get busier and also want to spend more time with their friends. This is normal adolescent devel-

opment, but it can make planning family time more challenging. I recently heard a great idea of a family who planned a surprise adventure and have made it a monthly tradition. This could be anything from theater tickets to ice skating in Union Square or even miniature golf in Ghirardelli Square. There may be some moans and groans, but with some proper planning you will have everyone on board. Our family loves sporting events, so tickets to a basketball game or football game are always crowd pleasers. Planning time away together can also be a great way to reconnect as a family. This year our immediate family is doing something we have never done and we are going away for the holidays. As much as I will miss our extended family and San Francisco traditions around Christmas, I am looking forward to time together exploring and relaxing.

### TIME FOR OTHERS

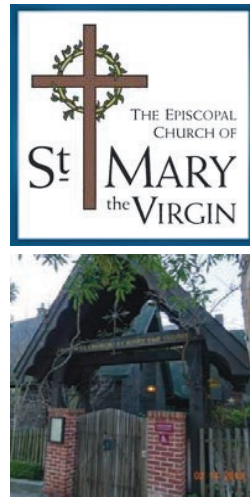
Making time to help others is also important and can bring family together. Establishing traditions around this such as shopping together for a homeless family you have adopted or a toy drive you are donating to can be fun and helpful. You can also serve a meal together at a shelter or soup kitchen. Another festive idea is to rent a cable car with other families and visit senior housing centers to sing holiday carols and bring cards wishing them a happy holiday. The goal is to find something you all like

**It can be easy to let the craziness of the season overtake the true meaning.**

to do, find a way to make it fun while at the same time spending time together and helping others.

It can be very easy to let December come and go all while allowing the craziness of the season to overtake the true meaning. For me, that is spending time with the people I love and who matter most. So as those calendars start to fill up, don't forget to schedule some family time and put the devices away. You may find that in the simplest, quietest moments, some of the best memories are made and new traditions evolve. I wish you all a happy holiday and the gifts of time and togetherness.

*Liz Farrell is the mother of three young children and the founder of TechTalks, a consulting group to help schools and families have productive and healthful conversations around social media and technology. Email: liz@marinatimes.com*



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:11*

## We Welcome You to Join Us for Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Religious Services!

### Christmas Eve: Tuesday, Dec. 24

- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Petting Zoo
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant: Family Nativity & Parade of Animals
- 5:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist for Christmas Eve
- 10:00 p.m. Carols and Anthems by Candlelight
- 10:30 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

### Christmas Day: Wednesday, Dec. 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols

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# The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: October 2019

By Compass

## SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	1906 Greenwich Street	4BR/2BA	\$2,680,000	Below	37
	1807 Greenwich Street	3BR/2+BA	\$3,500,000	Below	50
Lake St.	108 12th Avenue	2BR/1+BA	\$1,735,000	Above	13
	163 25th Avenue	3BR/3+BA	\$3,800,000	Above	4
Laurel Heights	181 Collins Street	3BR/1+BA	\$1,975,000	Below	55
	591 Spruce Street	3BR/3BA	\$2,450,000	At	0
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	154 Alhambra	2BR/1BA	\$2,625,000	Above	27
	33 Avila	3BR/3BA	\$3,000,000	At	0
Nob Hill	151 Bernard Street	3BR/3+BA	\$1,600,000	Below	227
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2129 California Street	5BR/3+BA	\$4,950,000	Above	21
	2345 Divisadero Street	5BR/7+BA	\$5,347,000	Below	82
	2290 Green Street	5BR/4+BA	\$6,500,000	At	0
	2503 Broadway	5BR/3+BA	\$7,000,000	Above	8
	2765 Vallejo Street	4BR/3+BA	\$8,500,000	Above	9
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill	1522 Vallejo Street	2BR/2BA	\$2,300,000	Above	8
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill (no sales)					

## CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2060 Union Street #5	2BR/1BA	\$1,200,000	Above	12
	1501 Greenwich #201	2BR/2BA	\$1,400,000	Above	14
	2774 Union Street #1	2BR/2BA	\$1,550,000	Above	55
	1501 Filbert Street #PH7C	2BR/2BA	\$1,675,000	Below	37
Lake St.	6038 California Street #1	2BR/1BA	\$940,000	Above	21
	57 6th Avenue #3	1BR/1BA	\$1,008,000	Above	4
	845 Lake Street #2	1BR/1BA	\$1,165,000	Above	34
Laurel Heights	95 Iris Avenue	1BR/1BA	\$1,199,750	Above	6
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	240 Mallorca Way #A	1BR/1BA	\$875,000	Above	10
	3675 Fillmore street #101	1BR/1BA	\$1,200,000	Above	17
	2259 Beach Street	1BR/1+BA	\$1,375,000	Below	9
	22 Magnolia Street	2BR/1BA	\$1,420,000	Above	16
	3331 Divisadero Street	3BR/2+BA	\$2,850,000	Above	13
Nob Hill	1461 Broadway #401	2BR/2BA	\$1,060,000	Above	0
	850 Powell Street #502	3BR/2+BA	\$1,275,000	Below	187
	66 Pleasant Street	2BR/2BA	\$1,350,000	Above	12
	1650 Jackson Street #708	2BR/2BA	\$1,385,000	Above	9
	1601 Larkin Street #406	2BR/2BA	\$1,640,000	Above	15
	1177 California St. #1010	2BR/2BA	\$1,649,000	At	19
	3 Dawson Place #3	3BR/2+BA	\$1,755,000	Below	5
	5 Cyrus Place #B	2BR/2+BA	\$2,306,000	Above	13
	1645 Pacific Avenue #1B	2BR/2BA	\$2,475,000	Above	17
	North Beach (no sales)				
Pacific Heights	2999 California Street #64	1BR/1BA	\$625,000	At	27
	1855 Sacramento Street #5	2BR/1BA	\$1,060,000	Below	19
	1895 Pacific Avenue #405	1BR/1BA	\$1,310,000	Above	14
	2200 Pacific Avenue #9E	1BR/1+BA	\$1,340,000	Above	7
	1855 Sacramento Street #4	2BR/1+BA	\$1,350,000	Above	7
	2400 Webster Street #1	2BR/1+BA	\$1,375,000	Above	9
	1800 Washington St. #618	2BR/2BA	\$1,450,000	Above	4
	1998 Broadway #1607	2BR/2BA	\$1,660,000	Below	38
	1650 Broadway #504	2BR/2BA	\$1,732,500	Above	5
	2243 Franklin Street	2BR/2BA	\$1,855,000	Below	82
	2846 Sacramento Street	2BR/2BA	\$1,900,000	Above	14
	2351 Green Street	2BR/2+BA	\$2,125,000	Above	35
	3037 California Street	4BR/2BA	\$2,140,000	Above	27
	2249 Broderick St. #2249	3BR/3+BA	\$2,195,000	At	60
	2172 Pacific Avenue #1	3BR/2+BA	\$2,500,000	Below	9
2138 Vallejo Street	4BR/3BA	\$2,995,000	At	31	
2121 Webster Street #501	3BR/2+BA	\$5,250,000	At	0	
Presidio Heights	3436 Clay Street #1	1BR/1BA	\$1,025,000	Below	39
	347 Maple street	2BR/2BA	\$1,538,000	Above	10
	3953 Washington Street	4BR/3BA	\$4,100,000	Above	8
Russian Hill	1000 North Point #1403	1BR/1BA	\$850,000	Above	11
	1000 North Point #509	2BR/1BA	\$1,070,000	Below	32
	1145 Green Street #3	1BR/1BA	\$1,085,000	Above	12
	999 Green Street #1105	1BR/1BA	\$1,400,000	Above	79
	1135 Francisco Street #6	2BR/1BA	\$1,450,000	Above	24
	1330 Greenwich Street	2BR/2BA	\$1,450,000	Above	8
	1020 Union Street #1	3BR/2BA	\$2,150,000	Below	264
	1101 Green Street #1902	3BR/2BA	\$2,435,000	Below	76
	1127 Greenwich Street	2BR/3BA	\$2,758,000	Above	11
	1060 Chestnut Street	3BR/2BA	\$3,005,000	At	0
	1028 Lombard Street	4BR/3+BA	\$3,150,000	At	11
	834 Bay Street	4BR/3+BA	\$3,180,000	Above	18
	1050 North Point #1502	2BR/3BA	\$3,490,000	Below	0
	1045 Vallejo Street	3BR/2+BA	\$4,750,000	At	0
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	455 Vallejo Street #101	1BR/1BA	\$898,000	Below	32
	451 Union Street #200	1BR/1BA	\$950,000	Above	16

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, Manager, Compass Real Estate, 1880 Lombard Street, 415.321.4274, jay.costello@compass.com, www.compass.com



Gov. Gavin Newsom has “leaned in” on the housing crisis. Will it be enough?  
PHOTO: GAGE SKIDMORE

## Movement in Sacramento

Governor Newsom signed some housing legislation this fall. Will local communities implement them correctly?

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

AS WE CLOSE THE BOOKS ON 2019 and look forward to 2020, let's take a moment to look at some progress that has been made in addressing our housing crisis. Let's go beyond the shouting matches and the rage-tweeting and hear the thoughts of some people who have been very involved in working on solutions. They have reason to be optimistic. Are they correct?

Here are some comments made by a few of the speakers at a Nov. 4 panel discussion about what happens in the wake of a number of laws passed recently addressing tenant protection, homelessness, and creation of affordable housing. The speakers at the Commonwealth Club program include Larry Kramer, president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Fred Blackwell, CEO of the San Francisco Foundation; David Chiu, State Assemblymember (D-San Francisco); and Gina Dalma, senior vice president of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Additional panelists also participated, but we don't have room to include them here; you can find the entire program on the club's podcast.

**LARRY KRAMER:** I'm president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. A few years ago, we . . . undertook an 18-month listening tour. We spoke to all of our fellow funders in the region as well as mayors, city managers, county managers, community leaders and more. We asked all of them basically what is the most significant problem in the Bay Area that a foundation like Hewlett might be able to do something about.

There was a huge amount of variety in terms of what everybody saw as the *second* most important problem in the Bay area. Some people said education, others said criminal justice, still others pointed to immigrant needs or food insecurity, domestic violence, police, community relations, and so on.

But there was actually total unanimity on the most important issue. Every single person with whom we spoke identified the housing crisis as the most important challenge and the biggest threat facing our region. It's not hard to understand

why. The Bay Area's soaring housing costs affect everything. Many people have been forced into homelessness, others have too little money left after paying their rent to afford food or medical care or other necessities. A huge number of low-income residents have been forced to relocate to the outer edges of the Bay Area, where few of the services they need are available. Commutes that seem to get longer every week disrupt family life and strain the region's transportation systems. Steeply rising housing costs and the commutes have made it difficult for employers to recruit and retain employees.

It's really not too much of a stretch to say that the housing challenge poses essentially an existential threat to the vitality and future of this region. We have found a partner for our housing work in the San Francisco Foundation, and are awarding them a \$7.5 million unrestricted grant. San Francisco Foundation is dedicated to improving life in our region by building strong communities and advancing racial equity and economic inclusion that would allow every individual in the Bay area to have a chance to attend a good school, get a good job, and yes, to live in a safe and affordable home.

Last month, California took a big first step in that direction when Governor Newsom signed into law what might be the nation's most far-reaching package of bills on the issue. What does the new law actually mean? What does the road ahead look like?

**FRED BLACKWELL:** I've been working on housing stuff for a long time, and I've actually never seen the dynamic of the work that we're experiencing right now, whether it's new laws being passed in Sacramento or different kinds of conversations that are happening at the city council level, funds are being pulled together for all kinds of different purposes. Recently just huge announcements from the corporate side around them bringing private money to the table that kind of augment what's happening on the public sector side and the nonprofit side in order to address the problem.

It just feels like there's a different kind of mood and a different kind of willingness for people to work together on these issues.

I don't think I've ever seen this much action in Sacramento around housing. What happened this year?

**DAVID CHIU:** The Bay Area has been the epicenter for the state's housing crisis. We were the first region in the state where we saw the skyrocketing prices, eviction rates, homelessness levels. When I went to the legislature five years ago, I asked, what are we doing about the housing crisis? My colleagues — most of them would say [they were] not sure what you're talking about.

From San Diego with Hepatitis A outbreaks to Orange County homeless encampments to skid row to farm workers sleeping in fields to kids who are sleeping on their couches rather than in dormitories — the crisis is everywhere. So I think a lot of what happened in California is the rest of the state kind of caught up to where we were, but the Bay Area was also really instrumental pushing forward solutions. . . .

This year . . . we passed the strongest tenant protection law in the country addressing rent gouging as well as predatory evictions. As the author of that bill — among a number of Bay Area authors — I want to thank everyone who came together on that. It was incredibly difficult, but . . . when it came to preservation, we were able to move this year an unprecedented \$2.5 billion dollars in the budget, which was significantly assisted [by] new Gov. Gavin Newsom, who really leaned in on this crisis and made sure that we're investing in affordable housing and homelessness services and home ownership and have a wide variety of housing needs that we need for a good preservation agenda.

But let me end with production [of new housing]. It's fair to say we didn't get that much done in this area. We were able to move forward a number of bills to move forward production of accessory dwelling units.

[East Bay Democratic State Senator] Nancy Skinner had a great bill that would essentially prevent local jurisdictions from backsliding [on allowing] the production they had committed to do. I had a small bill to move forward more production around affordable housing with increased density bonuses, but by and large, we weren't able to take major steps in that area.

The most notable [effort] that we made was around SB 50, my colleague Senator Scott Wiener's bill, that would have significantly increased production in single-family home zoning, as well as around transit-oriented areas. We have a long way to go when it comes to figuring out how we build more, but as they say, a long journey takes those first few steps. And I think it's fair to say we took some major steps this year.

**FRED BLACKWELL:** Gina, you've been working on these kinds of issues for a long time with a real keen eye on what's happening at the local level. Obviously things can happen in Sacramento, but if it's not really implemented in the right way it could have negative or unintended consequences.

What are the challenges ahead of us and the opportunities ahead of us when you're thinking about local-level implementation of these things, and how do we make sure that things are implemented in the spirit with which they would pass?

**GINA DALMA:** We're so proud and inspired with a package of bills that were signed into law last month. It's huge. It's meaningful. But we started seeing the

consequences really play out throughout our region.

Days after the package of bills was signed into law, we started seeing a spike in the amount of evictions. We started seeing a spike on rent gouging, and we also started seeing cities step up and set emergency local ordinances to protect renters. A change of this scale is going to really require that we're vigilant at the very local level.

What we're seeing and what we hope to see is that we need to build the capacity at the very local level to make sure that our folks are tracking what implementation looks like. They're advocating. Sometimes they'll have to litigate in order to make sure that the implementation of the bills actually achieves its intended outcome.

There's sort of three core areas of work that we've been looking at. The first one is we need to make sure that we're building the legal resources on the ground, making sure that we are having organizations at the local level that can educate tenants, that can protect tenants.

We also need to make sure that we're building community-based organizations, grassroots organizations so they're able to facilitate folks participating in these local processes. And we have to make sure that we are supporting that there's a groundswell to change at the local level, right? We need to make sure that we're electing more people of color, more low-income people, more young people; that we have city councils that really reflect who we are as a community and the needs of our community.

The truth is that if we're able to build the capacity at the local level to really

make sure that implementation achieves its intended outcomes, we have to build the muscle at the local level. I keep saying at the local level, because that's where we're going

to see the change, but we need to ensure that our cities and our communities are actually the watchdogs of these laws getting into our communities.

**FRED BLACKWELL:** I think things that are happening at the local level are undermining new development, which I would imagine is part of the reason why the state has been kind of stepping into this a little bit more. What is the balance though between a state-level intervention and instincts versus what needs to happen at the local level?

**DAVID CHIU:** That is sort of the heart of the discussion right now — the degree to which the state should come in and essentially try to move forward through this crisis, because local jurisdictions have enacted [roadblocks].

My perspective on this is if local jurisdictions were building enough housing, if we weren't in this housing crisis, there would be no reason for us to step in. But just as you have, for example, state public health laws because you need a standard so that folks don't get sick, when you have folks who are dying on the streets every day in every city, double-digit increases of homelessness, we have to do something.

When you have an entire middle-class that's being hollowed out and pushed to drive two to three hours a day, which creates congestion issues, environmental issues, health issues, risks of people falling asleep at the wheel — we've got to do something.

We are at that crisis state.

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