



Unusual pairings

Susan Dyer Reynolds reveals fat that is tantalizingly good for you. p. 8

Lynette Majer presents a new kind of pairing: Wine and art at innovative wineries. p. 9



Eventful month

It's a new month and a new year, so get ready for Beer Week, art shows, wine competitions, and more. p. 12



Left to Right: *The Buddhist lama Tashipel*, 1210–73, Tibet. COURTESY ASIAN ART MUSEUM; *Milarepa*, 1375–1425, Central Tibet. PHOTO: VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, PHOTO BY TRAVIS FULLERTON

# Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM, IN its latest exhibition, “Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey toward Enlightenment” invites the

public to open their eyes, wake up, and see the art of Tibetan Buddhism from the perspective of a practitioner, or someone seeking enlightenment through meditation. One of the pieces on view is a painting of

The Mandala of the Buddhist deity Vajrabhairava, who is represented with a multitude of arms, legs and faces contorted in vengeful expressions. Each hand carries objects  
*ART WORLD, continued on 10*

## REYNOLDS RAP

### DPW boss Mohammed Nuru finally swept to the curb, but not by Mayor Breed

Once again, the Feds clean up San Francisco’s mess

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

*Despite ethical missteps, misappropriated taxpayer funds, lawsuits, and incompetence as the leader of street cleaning in one of the world’s filthiest cities, the mayor continues to stand behind Mohammed Nuru.*  
— “It’s time for Mayor Breed to sweep DPW boss to the curb” Reynolds Rap, April 2019

ON THE MORNING OF JAN. 29, 2020, AT A WICKEDLY early hour for a writer, my iPhone started buzzing with calls, emails, and text alerts from workers at San Francisco’s Department of Public Works, City Hall insiders, and loyal readers of this column. Mohammed Nuru — the director of DPW — had been arrested by the FBI for fraud following a public corruption probe. “The complaint alleges corruption pouring into San Francisco from around the world,” said David Anderson, U.S. attorney for the Northern  
*REYNOLD’S RAP, continued on 4*

## POLITICS AS USUAL

### Bonds, city bonds

You’re being asked to vote for nearly \$1.6 billion in bond financing. Just how do municipal bonds work, anyway?

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WHEN YOU OPEN UP YOUR BALLOT FOR THE March 3 election, two of the choices you’ll be asked to make involve issuing hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds to fund various projects. Regardless of whether you support or oppose those projects, you would not be alone if you wondered about some basics of the bond world.  
Just what are they? Why do cities use them instead of just raising taxes? How do they get paid back? And how will this affect your taxes?  
These municipal bonds are issued by cities, counties, districts, and states. The Golden Gate Bridge, for one example, was financed by municipal bonds. They’re an effective way to pay for projects that require significant investment, but it’s likely that most of the people who vote for or against them don’t understand what they’re voting for or against.

#### BONDS ON THE BALLOT

On March 3, San Francisco voters will have an interesting ballot to cast. Besides the headline selections of party  
*POLITICS AS USUAL, continued on 19*

## MICHAEL SNYDER ON ... FILM



Steve Coogan stars in *Greed*. PHOTO: COURTESY MOSTLY BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

### February film-fest frenzy

Local festivals offer films for a variety of interests

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

FILM FESTIVALS ARE A BOON to any movie lover with the time, energy, and cash to spend day after day and hour upon hour in darkened theaters for the express purpose of drinking in what one hopes would be great cinema. That’s some serious immersion in big-screen storytelling, despite the distinct danger of eye

strain. But the benefits are palpable for those of us who enjoy the art of the motion picture in its myriad forms.  
The Bay Area has more than its share of these annual, carefully curated programs spread out over the calendar year, with the San Francisco Film Festival, Mill Valley Film Festival, and Frameline (the San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival) being particularly long-lived and nationally

renowned. Over time, more focused fests — like Frameline with its specific theme and coverage — have become destination events for filmmakers and cineastes alike.  
This month alone, localities have the opportunity to experience four distinctive, high-quality celebrations that are geared to go beyond the conventions of Hollywood. Already in progress, the 22nd **San Francisco Independent Film Festival** (S.F. IndieFest) will be running until Feb. 13 at the Roxie Theater, Victoria Theatre, and 518 Gallery. Details can be found at [sfindie.com](http://sfindie.com). And the 12th **Bay Area International Children’s Film Festival** plays on the weekend of Feb. 22–23 at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland. More info is available at [baicff.com](http://baicff.com). As for the other two ...  
**MOSTLY BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**  
They may speak English, as do most of us in the United States, but the citizens of the United Kingdom are different from their American cousins — culturally, historically, and environmentally. The same goes for the people of Ireland, Australia, India, New Zealand, and South Africa, and all are represented in the  
*MICHAEL SNYDER, continued on 11*



TOP 10 STEAKS IN AMERICA

Osso Steakhouse - San Francisco, CA

Bobo's - San Francisco, CA

Peter Luger Steakhouse - Brooklyn, NY

Bern's Steakhouse - Tampa, FL

CUT - Beverly Hills, CA

Emeril's Delmonico - Las Vegas, NV

Mario Batali's Carnevino - Las Vegas, NV

Chicago Cut - Chicago, IL

The Precinct - Cincinnati, OH

Elway's Cherry Creek - Denver, CO

Osso STEAKHOUSE

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

"It's osso good!"

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

News

The Inbox : Reader letters

HOW SAFE IS SAFEWAY?

Ms. Stefani,  
After reading your Safeway attack article last month, I was disappointed that I voted for you ("Marina Safeway: Please do your part," From the District 2 Supervisor, January 2020, *Marina Times*). Unfortunately, you don't seem to understand the most basic reason government exists: to preserve order. For years, Safeway has been under attack by crime and homelessness. This is not Safeway's fault; it is a breakdown of city government. You should be doing your job to ensure police officers are hired and available to stop crime. The store already employs private security officers and the high prices we see on the shelves reflect this cost. Your demands to add more private security will only lead to higher food costs for the people of District 2 and risk yet another empty store front as costs spiral out of control. If being a "good neighbor" business requires private security, empty store fronts will continue to proliferate.

Justin Hughes

As a native San Franciscan and a long-time Marina and Cow Hollow resident, I was distressed to read Supervisor Stefani's letter admonishing Safeway for not following through with the police over the "homeless" person defecating in their store aisle. While I believe Supervisor Stefani no doubt means well, her effort to shift blame and responsibility to Safeway is simply wrongheaded. How many more security people are they supposed to put on before their costs go up so dramatically that they either exit the Marina or pass their increased expenses on to customers through higher prices? Safeway employees reacted like many other citizens in San Francisco would, in that they knew reporting a quality of life crime to the police does little more than waste everyone's time as that person will be back on the street soon enough, if he or she is ever removed to begin with.

Surely Supervisor Stefani knows that in a city that has rampant homeless, sanctuary policies, free needle exchange programs, citations given for property crimes under \$950, and a new district attorney who plans on prosecuting less quality of life crimes, there will be many more Safeway-type incidents and worse. There should be no shifting of blame to Safeway or anyone else. It is our supervisors and mayor who are failing miserably in their primary responsibility of having the city's residents feeling safe and secure.

Mike Singer

'CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'

Dear Susan [Reynolds],  
For the past several months I have been meaning to congratulate you on your great pieces in the *Times* on the catastrophe that is San Francisco and, in particular, ineffective leadership in public office. [Your] column on the latest food critic at the *Chronicle* was the pièce de résistance! ("Cirque du Soleil," Reynolds Rap, November 2019.) Have been querying some of my "foodie friends" about their opinions and all seem to agree that Ho writes about everything but the food. I wasn't sure if this is the new normal and I was just being exigent expecting a food critic to write about food, but I guess I am not alone. In the dying world of print journalism, I suppose it is difficult to recruit competent writers and the *Chronicle* had to take what they could get.

Barbara Marré

'GOTHAM BY THE BAY'

Susan,  
I've been reading your paper and your editorials for many years. I have always thought you wrote about your subjects with clarity and an acceptable amount of bias. After all it's hard to express an opinion without a certain amount of bias. Your comments on homelessness, Uber and Lyft, Mohammed Nuru, and Mayor London Breed couldn't have been better said. It was literally like reading something I might have penned myself. Having lived here most of my life I have the same gut feel to changes in the city that you seem to. Since the time I arrived here shortly after Woodstock to work for Bill Graham, I have watched the city go through constant change. By virtue of being San Francisco and attracting a wide assortment of personalities we seem to be on the leading edge, which has its inherent problems. Unfortunately, since Gavin Newsom's reign, and then having Ed Lee control city government with the graft mentality he so adeptly displayed, we have been overrun by carpet baggers and a type of person that has little reverence for what it means to be a San Franciscan or what this city is really about. Forgive me for going on, but I just wanted to say that your perception of most issues affecting this city are more incisive than those running it. I look forward to reading your columns. Please don't give up the fight.

Norman Cheney

Letters may edited for length and clarity.  
Email: letters@marinatimes.com

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

MarinaTimes

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

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

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





Francisco Park is beginning to take shape on Russian Hill. PHOTO: NAOMI ROSE

# The new face of the city

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

## FRANCISCO PARK UPDATE

The Francisco Park Conservancy reports work continues apace on the transformation of the former reservoir at the corner of Hyde and Bay Streets into the new 4.25-acre Francisco Park. The group, which raised \$24 million to create the park, said that the rainwater catchment system has been installed beneath the main lawn, and as of the beginning of the new year grading work was taking place for the ADA paths, and restrooms have their foundations.

“This time next year,” the Conservancy reported, “the park’s native plants will be taking root, fauna will be nesting, and all will be able to enjoy the wonderful new San Francisco park!”

## COW HOLLOW SHAKE SHACK

Shake Shack is here. The new restaurant, located a block off Union Street at 3060 Fillmore Street, announced that it will feature the usual Shake Shack offerings, along with some items with a local flavor, such as the California Gold Rush, featuring B. Patisserie Kouign Amann, vanilla custard, salted caramel sauce, and Dandelion Chocolate cocoa nibs. It is due to open late January or early February.

The new location of the national food chain is located in the former location of the Real Food Company grocery store. It has been anticipated by Shake Shack fans and by local retailers hoping to benefit from the increased foot traffic the restaurant is expected to attract; but it has also been resented by some local competitors who have complained about it successfully getting through the city’s onerous conditional-use process intended to make it difficult for chain stores to compete outside of the city’s downtown. A second San Francisco Shake Shack is due to open in the Westfield mall downtown, where the conditional-use process does not apply.

## CLAY THEATRE ENDS 110-YEAR RUN

The final credits rolled Jan. 26 at the Pacific Heights movie house Clay Theatre, bringing an end to more than a century of films. The Art Deco cinema, part of the Landmark Theatres chain, had flirted with closing a couple times in the past, but this time the curtain came down for good.

The Clay, located at 2261 Fillmore Street, had lost money for six consecutive years, Landmark president Paul Serwitz told the *Chronicle*. “We’ve put many efforts into making the Clay work and are unable to operate it viably,” he said.

## WARMING HUT, ROUND HOUSE CAFE FOOD SERVICE TO END

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy announced that it has “made the difficult decision to close our kitchen operations and the cafes that serve visitors and community members at the Warming Hut on Crissy Field and the Round House

Cafe,” which is located in the Golden Gate Bridge Plaza. “Like many restaurants in the Bay Area, we faced increasing challenges in food preparation services.”

The Conservancy said it would close the Warming Hut for about eight weeks beginning in March to retool it as a visitor information and retail location for the park. “After this revitalization,” the Conservancy said, “people will still be able to purchase hot drinks, cold beverages and snacks to enjoy in our seating area inside the Warming Hut.”

## LA FOLIE CLOSING AFTER 32 YEARS

Shortly before this issue went to press, we learned that Russian Hill French restaurant La Folie (2316 Polk Street) will close in mid-March upon the retirement of chef and owner Roland Passot.

## CRIME SNAPSHOT

In the week from Dec. 30 to January 5, there were 82 auto burglaries in the area of the city covered by the Northern Police Station, up from 61 for the same period a year earlier. Meanwhile, regular burglaries were down from 10 to eight for the same time periods, and robberies were about the same. For the previous year in whole, Mayor London Breed and the Police Department announced in January that violent crimes “dropped significantly” in 2019. Citing CompStat data, the mayor’s office touted an 11 percent drop in homicides, a 57 percent drop in sex trafficking, a 15 percent drop in rapes, a 4 percent drop in robberies, and a 4 percent drop in aggravated assaults. Property crimes citywide also saw declines, including burglaries (down 14 percent), larceny theft (3 percent) and auto burglaries (2 percent.)

“We’re on the right track — with the lowest homicide rate since 1961 — but we still have more work to do to make our entire city safe,” said Breed. “I’m looking forward to working with the Police Department to continue improving public safety.”

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**Almost 24,000:** hours that San Francisco police officers spent on “hospital watch” guarding suspects at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital so they can get medical treatment before being transferred to jail . . . **\$1.7 million:** cost of police providing that hospital watch . . . **3:** the number of California mayors — including Mayor London Breed — who attended Mike Bloomberg’s mayoral training program at Harvard who have now endorsed Bloomberg for president . . . **1,000 and 2,000:** Breed said the city achieved its goal of getting 1,000 new shelter beds opened or in the process of development or construction by the end of 2020, and she announced a new goal to create at least 2,000 more spaces over the next two years.

Send feedback to [letters@marinatimes.com](mailto:letters@marinatimes.com). News tips? Email: [john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)





# BOHO

## Valentine's Week

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF LOVE!  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR VALENTINE'S WEEK.  
SHARE SOME MEMORABLE MOMENTS OVER BOHO'S DELICIOUS AND ARTFULLY PLATED DISHES WITH YOUR SPECIAL GUESTS: YOUR LOVED ONE, YOUR DAD, YOUR MOM, YOUR SIS OR YOUR FRIEND...THE MORE LOVE THERE IS IN THE AIR THE HAPPIER LIFE IS. WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY FEBRUARY FULL OF LOVE AND SOULMATES!

DINNER | WEEKEND BRUNCH (WITH BOTTOMLESS MIMOSA \$18)  
PRIVATE EVENTS | GROUP PARTIES | PRIVATE ROOM | TAKE OUT  
CATERING | HAPPY HOUR  
FRIENDLY PRICES & CASUAL ENVIRONMENT!

**WWW.BOHOSF.COM**  
3321 STEINER ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123  
PHONE: 415.374.7518  
EMAIL: [info@cafebohofs.com](mailto:info@cafebohofs.com)



# Salma & Company Real Estate

Rhanda Salma | Ryan Salma | Laila Salma  
3048 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, California  
[salma-co.com](http://salma-co.com) | 415 931 8259 | [info@salma-co.com](mailto:info@salma-co.com)

- San Francisco & Marin market expertise
- Representing sellers & buyers
- Residential leasing & notary services

Big city knowledge with a boutique firm approach, since 1969

CA BRE# 01522764



# Phil's Electric Co.

SINCE 1941 **SALES SERVICE PARTS**

SPECIALIZING IN

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



**Expert  
LAMP REPAIR**

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

**Fred's:**  
a cleaning product  
for every surface  
in your home



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

## Outreach February 2020

### APPLY TO BECOME A CENSUS TAKER!

Census Bureau is recruiting now to fill important temporary positions in San Francisco with great pay (\$30/hour) and flexible hours for Spring 2020. You do not have to be a US citizen to apply. Be a Census Taker and make a difference in your community!

Apply online NOW at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

### FIND FREE TO LOW-COST IMMIGRATION LEGAL HELP IN SAN FRANCISCO

Find free or low-cost immigration legal services in your own language. San Francisco's Immigrant Support Hub is a safe referral site that can help you with immigration screenings, citizenship applications, DACA renewal, asylum, green card renewal, TPS, deportation counsel and much more at: [immigrants.sfgov.org](http://immigrants.sfgov.org).

### The SFMTA wants to hear from you!

The SFMTA is currently 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](https://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/dcss](http://www.sfgov.org/dcss).

1 hour a week makes a world of difference. Half of San Francisco's 3rd and 4th graders are not reading at grade level. By volunteering to tutor through the Library's award-winning FOG Readers program, you can help students in grades 1-4 increase their confidence and gain half a grade level within the first three months. Currently, there are more than 300 children waiting for a volunteer to help change their lives. For more information, visit [sfpl.org/fog](http://sfpl.org/fog). To get started, email [readers@sfpl.org](mailto:readers@sfpl.org).

Plan for your business's future. Learn about different succession planning models such as Employee Stock Ownership (ESOP), Cooperatives, and Trusts.

The San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Small Business Development Center in partnership with Project Equity have launched a program specifically for businesses that are interested in succession planning. Workshops, one-on-one consultations, and technical assistance will be provided at no cost to interested businesses.

Contact: Susan Ma at [susan.ma@sfgov.org](mailto:susan.ma@sfgov.org) or (415)554-6648.

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-3334882#

## Reynolds Rap

continued from cover

District of California, accusing Nuru of "corruption, bribery, kickbacks, and side deals."

So why was my phone ringing off the hook? Because I wrote a Reynolds Rap column last April about Nuru's history of corruption under four mayors in which I called for his resignation or removal ("It's time for Mayor Breed to sweep DPW boss to the curb").

My curiosity started while following Nuru's Twitter feed (under the ironic handle @MrCleanSF), where he was touting the cleanliness of streets in China, Argentina, and Chile during trips taken in October 2018. Nuru snapped photos of himself with landmarks and high-ranking officials. I emailed Rachel Gordon, DPW spokeswoman (and former *San Francisco Chronicle* City Hall reporter — we'll get to that later). "I assume these were work related, so I would like to know the dates of the trips, how much the trips cost, and the reason for each trip," I wrote. Gordon's response was swift: "Hi Susan. These were not work-related trips. He was on a personal vacation, no government business nor funding involved."

So how, I wondered, was the public servant in charge of keeping San Francisco's infamously feces-and-needle-strewn streets clean, able to embark on a nearly month-long "vacation" to three foreign countries? It turns out, the trips were financed by developers hoping to do business with the city. Nuru took "travel, hotel stays and lavish gifts" (like a \$2,070 bottle of wine) and met repeatedly with a Chinese billionaire seeking to construct a large mixed-use building in San Francisco.

But back in April, after Gordon insisted those trips were "personal," I decided to look into Nuru's past, which, as I said in my April column, is littered with two decades of "ethical missteps, misappropriated taxpayer funds, lawsuits, and incompetence," courtesy of then-mayor Willie Brown, who hired Nuru in 2000 as deputy director of operations under director Ed Lee (yes, that Ed Lee).

And there it was — the pernicious connection to Brown, the man responsible for promoting numerous cronies to top positions, both literally and behind the scenes. From his hand-picked choices for the three mayors who succeeded him (Gavin Newsom, Ed Lee, and London Breed) to city heads like Nuru, city administrator Naomi Kelly, and her husband, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission general manager Harlan Kelly Jr. (himself no stranger to controversy), Brown has shaped San Francisco's politics for years (I detailed Brown's influence in my September 2014 Reynolds Rap, "It's still Willie Brown's town: Personal politics runs amuck at City Hall"). When it comes to playing politics, Brown's protégés learned from the best. In Sacramento, opponents complained he routinely flouted conflict-of-interest laws, representing clients who had business in the capital, but FBI investigations went nowhere, earning him the nickname "Slick Willie," a moniker Brown wore proudly. He also called himself the "ayatollah of Sacramento" — vote with him, and you were rewarded with perks. Cross him, and you were banished to a basement office. Brown's escapades were so infamous that, after meeting Brown in 1992, future president Bill Clinton quipped, "Now I've met the real Slick Willie."

Which brings us back to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

It's perhaps fitting that the spokeswoman for Nuru's department is Rachel Gordon, who spent 20 years on the City Hall beat for the *Chronicle*. When she took the job in 2012, people — including this community journalist — questioned why Gordon, who was the agency's watchdog for two decades, became its public face. I found it even odder that the position was never publicly advertised and was offered to Gordon alone. This is just one of many examples of the newspaper's too-cozy relationship with Willie Brown's regime. Or should I say *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Willie Brown — that's right, the *Chronicle* pays Brown an estimated \$1,000 for his Sunday morning musings in the aptly titled "Willie's World."

The *Chronicle* also endorsed another Brown protégé, London Breed, in her bid to become mayor after the 2017 death of mayor (and fellow Brown protégé) Ed Lee. In fact, editor in chief Audrey Cooper sent reporter Rachel Swan to Breed's opponent Jane Kim with a list of potentially sabotaging questions that Kim, no shrinking violet, then posted on Medium. "It's oppo dump time," Kim wrote in her post. "If you aren't familiar with the term, it's what happens when a rival campaign collects opposition research

**'These were not work-related trips. He was on a personal vacation, no government business nor funding involved.'**

and dumps it into the hands of a journalist eager to make a saucy headline." Cooper was combative with critics, but later apologized while throwing Swan under the bus. Amazingly,

Cooper kept her job (though insiders tell me a firm hired for damage control briefly took away her Twitter account).

Perhaps this long-intertwined loyalty with Brown and his protégés is the reason the details I dug up while researching Nuru came from *Chronicle* articles nearly 20 years old. When news of Nuru's arrest broke, Cooper and current City Hall reporter Heather Knight were left scrambling to pick up the pieces of a tawdry tale this monthly columnist handed them on a silver platter nearly a year ago.

As for Breed, perhaps she should be nervous. Remember, she was named in the FBI's "Shrimp Boy" investigation where connected (and later arrested) businessman Keith Jackson told agents that Derf Butler, head of Butler Enterprise Group, LLC, paid "Supervisor [London] Breed with untraceable debit cards for clothing and trips in exchange for advantages on contracts in San Francisco." Breed and Butler denied the claims, and Butler, facing federal indictment for a bid-rigging scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Energy, was awarded two \$1.6 million contracts by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency in August of 2017.

On an even seamier note (if that's possible), I received handwritten letters and heard firsthand from a number of DPW workers that Breed has a "personal relationship" with Nuru going back many years. Workers offered incriminating details that I won't print here because they haven't been substantiated (yet). If those details are true (and the workers swear they are), my guess is the FBI probe will lead even higher up at City Hall — and with Nuru facing more than 25 years in prison, he has plenty of incentive to sing.

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



LOCAL FOOD & DRINK  
EST. 1935 C.A.

# THE GROTTO

RESTAURANT | OYSTER BAR | HERITAGE LOUNGE

Sustainable seafood,  
breath taking views, and  
impeccable hospitality!



2 HOURS **FREE PARKING** 11AM-6PM AND 3 HOURS **FREE PARKING** 6PM-11PM WITH VALIDATION.

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



**NOW OPEN FOR WEEKEND BRUNCH 11AM-2PM**

*Craft cocktails, wood fire oven serving seasonal local and organic fine foods.*

HOURS: Monday - Friday from 11:30am- 9pm. Serving Brunch Saturday & Sunday 11am - 2pm

660 BRIDGEWAY SAUSALITO, CA 94965 | 415.729.9593 | BARRELHOUSETAVERN.COM





# CSI: San Francisco

Recent crimes include assaults, vehicle boosts, and burglaries

HERE'S A SAMPLING OF RECENT crimes in the districts covered by the Central and Northern SFPD stations.

SHOPPING SPREE

Dec. 27, 8:50 a.m.  
Location not provided

Two employees at a Walgreens told officers that several suspects entered their store and began to grab items. The employees believed they were going to steal the items so they told the subjects to leave the store. The female subject pulled out a canister of pepper spray and backed away. A customer in the store attempted to stop the suspects from leaving with stolen property and was rewarded by being pepper sprayed in the eyes before the suspects fled.

Officers located the suspects, who began to walk quickly away. All three of the suspects were carrying shopping bags filled with items. The female subject stopped between two vehicles and left her shopping bags behind.

The officers detained one subject, but she refused to comply with their commands. She was holding a can of pepper spray and refused to drop it, so officers had to force it out of her hand and put her in handcuffs to prevent further resistance. The officers located the bags the suspect had left between the cars. The other two suspects were not apprehended.

I WAS NEVER HERE

Dec. 27, 9:13 p.m.  
Location not provided

Officers responded to a call about an assault, and they arrived to find the unconscious victim on the ground and bleeding from his face. Medics had already arrived and were assessing the victim's injuries. Witnesses told the officers that they saw a subject pushing around the victim and eventually shoved him into a car; the victim's head hit the vehicle's bumper.

The subject then kicked the victim in the face and walked away. The subject returned a minute later, rummaged through the victim's pockets, and took what appeared to be a pack of cigarettes. The subject told the witnesses to call an ambulance and said that the subject was "never here."

In the ambulance, the victim regained consciousness. He was able to give his name, but could not identify the city.

About 90 minutes later, officers on patrol saw an individual who matched the description of the subject who was pulling a blue recycling bin. They were able to detain the subject, who was

taken to Northern Station for further investigation.

DAY OF THE TRASHMAN

Jan. 1, 12:42 p.m.  
Location not provided

A male victim told police he twice told a subject who was rummaging through trashcans not to make a mess. After the second time, the subject responded by throwing a bottle at the victim's head. Luckily, he missed, but the subject then chased the victim with a stick, which he used to beat the victim on the head.

When officers arrived, they found the victim sitting and holding his head in pain. The victim and a witness pointed officers in the direction of the subject, whom they located and detained. They also found the stick that had been used in the attack.

PALACE OF CRIME ARTS

Jan. 3, 1:52 p.m.  
Palace of Fine Arts

One suspect was apprehended and two were able to flee the scene after plainclothes police interrupted a team of auto

boosters around the Palace of Fine Arts.

The police witnessed three suspects — a driver and two passengers — in a Dodge Charger casing various vehicles. The Charger pulled up next to two vehicles. One of the suspects broke a window of the first vehicle and removed items from the backseat; seconds later, another suspect broke the window of the second vehicle and reach inside to take someone's property. The police then moved in.

One suspect was able to get back to the Charger and escape with the driver. But officers apprehended the other suspect and were able to retrieve all of the stolen property and return it to the owners.

BRIEFLY NOTED

**Dec. 20, 3 a.m., 500 block of Columbus Avenue:** A victim found the front window to a business smashed; money was missing from the cash register.

**Dec. 21, 4:02 a.m., 300 block of Union Street:** Police officers found the front glass door to a business shattered.

**Dec. 22, 8 p.m., Geary Street and Grant Avenue:** A suspect grabbed a cell phone out of the victim's hand. The victim and bystanders gave chase, but the suspect pointed a firearm at the victim.

**Dec. 23, 10:26 p.m., Unit block of Front Street:** A victim was assaulted and suffered a laceration to his head. He was medically treated.



McGuire is proud to recognize this accomplishment of Marla Moresi-Valdes.

Top Producer 2019  
#1 Agent Company-Wide



NEW LISTING!

## STUNNING VIEW UNIT ON NOB HILL 1177 CALIFORNIA STREET #1616

Live in modern-sophistication and high style with a bird's-eye view of the entire metropolis in this spectacular 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom Nob Hill luxury residence. This rarely available and highly coveted unit is located on the southwest corner of the Gramercy Towers and provides approximately 2,100 square feet of custom-designed living space drenched in breathtaking vistas and bright light.

Offered at \$2,695,000 | 1177California1616.com



# Five propositions that will improve the city

BY AARON PESKIN

**PROPOSITION A: CITY COLLEGE Facilities Bond** — Years of deferred maintenance have taken a toll on City College education facilities, and the City College Board of Trustees has placed this \$845 million bond measure onto the ballot to fund safety and sustainability upgrades, including seismic retrofitting. The measure requires a 55 percent majority for adoption. **Yes.**

**Proposition B: Earthquake Safety & Emergency Response Bond** — As a waterfront supervisor who has been very engaged in our ongoing seawall resiliency and retrofit efforts, ensuring the city is ready for the next Big One is a top priority. I am co-sponsoring this \$628 million bond measure to finance safety and efficiency upgrades at our fire and police stations, Department of Emergency Management 911 Command Center, and an expansion of our emergency fire-fighting water system on the west side of the city. This measure requires a two-thirds majority to pass. **Yes.**

**Proposition C: Retirement Benefits for SFHA Employees Charter Amendment** — Last March, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development forced the San Francisco Housing Authority to acquiesce to a city takeover after investigations revealed significant mismanagement and accounting issues by this quasi-federal agency. The several dozen remaining employees who transitioned to these new

city jobs lost their accrued retirement and medical benefits. To ensure they can be covered for the time they’ve worked, we have to amend the city charter, which would take a simple majority to pass. **Yes.**

**Proposition D: Vacant Storefronts Tax** — We’ve all seen the uptick in storefront vacancies along our beloved neighborhood commercial corridors. From North Beach to the Castro to the Bayview, commercial property owners have inflated rents to levels that have led to the displacement of many longtime businesses. Some owners just decline to renew a lease or terminate it early, then leave the property empty for years.

The community and I recently stood with Elias Bikahi and his family at Caffè Sapore to entreat their absentee landlord not to evict the 23-year neighborhood institution over the holidays. It wouldn’t be the first time the community has fought to keep a favorite neighborhood business in place. We all remember holding a similar rally at Fog Hill Market after the property owner first Ellis Act-evicted the longtime rent-controlled tenants above the market, then gave Fog Hill Market their own eviction notice. Years later, the once-bustling little neighborhood hub still sits empty.

While the human cost of this kind of bad behavior is heartbreaking, landlord negligence also leads to neighborhood blight, like what longtime absentee landlords have allowed to happen to empty storefronts on the 500 and 700 blocks of Columbus Avenue. Familial disputes have also prevented

consensus about how best to market and lease some of the most accessible and pristine storefronts along Columbus Avenue. The rest of the neighborhood then has to deal with the negative repercussions that come with boarded-up buildings, including attracting trash, graffiti, public safety issues, and decreased foot traffic. There are many reasons for this. Some landlords pay less in taxes on an empty property, and some have no incentive to lease their ground floor space when they’re generating significant revenue off of skyrocketing residential leases on upper floors. Of course, the retail economy has changed as a result of the “Amazon effect” and the convenience culture created by platform delivery models. I’m also very aware that local government has a role to play in making it easier to start a business in San Francisco, by streamlining the permitting process and making sure that we don’t burden new businesses with fees while they are waiting to open their doors. Much of this we’re already in the process of addressing legislatively.

In the meantime, Proposition D is our best opportunity to target bad actors and incentivize vibrant storefronts. It is a common-sense and completely avoidable tax, narrowly tailored to property owners who have inflated their rents and let their properties fall into blight and disrepair. It enjoys the unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors, the mayor, the San Francisco Democratic Party, and — most important — well over a dozen merchant organiza-

tions who I’ve had the pleasure of working with on this proposal. **Yes.**

**Proposition E: Balanced Development Act** — San Francisco’s housing crisis has been exacerbated with lucrative office development far outpacing the city’s affordable housing construction. Proposition E, which needs 50 percent plus one vote to pass, seeks to ensure balanced development by tying future office development approvals to San Francisco’s ability to meet state-mandated affordable housing goals. The Planning Commission approves a certain amount of office development every year, but those approvals are not contingent on whether or not there is enough housing to accommodate the increased workforce population. Proposition E would limit the amount of office space that could be approved by a percentage equal to the city’s shortfall in approving affordable housing development. The amount of affordable housing that should be approved would be based on current state mandates. The mayor originally introduced a countermeasure, but pulled it when it became apparent that Proposition E (the Balanced Development Act) was garnering widespread community support. Proposition E is a compromise measure that takes a reasonable approach to addressing our housing crisis by prioritizing housing for people ahead of corporate cubicles. **Yes.**

Remember to vote before or on March 3, and thank you for your consideration of these ballot measures.



MAYOR  
LONDON BREED

Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Catherine Stefani,  
the San Francisco Democratic Party and the  
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods  
ENDORSE:

YES



B

ON

EARTHQUAKE

& FIRE SAFETY






SUPERVISOR  
CATHERINE STEFANI



**UPGRADE**  
911 call centers so  
San Franciscans can connect  
with lifesaving services  
when they need it most.



**RETROFIT**  
fire stations, police stations,  
and public safety buildings  
to be seismically sound.



**REPLACE**  
our city’s deteriorating  
cisterns, pipes, and  
tunnels.



**STRENGTHEN**  
our emergency water system  
so firefighters have access to  
a reliable water supply.

JOIN SF FIREFIGHTERS AND VOTE YES ON B. BY MAIL OR ON MARCH 3.

Ad paid for by Yes on B, sponsored by the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798.

Committee major funding from:

1. Christian Larsen (\$100,000)
2. San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 PAC (\$25,010)
3. San Francisco Police Officers Association Issues PAC (\$25,000)

Financial disclosures are available at  
[sfethics.org](https://sfethics.org)





CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES  
Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites



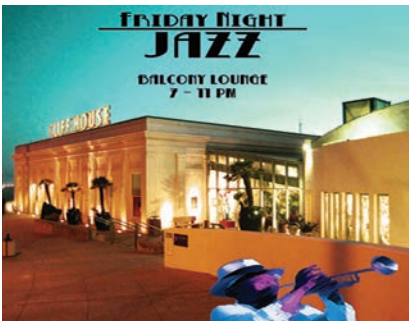
Zinc Bar Happy Hour  
Monday – Friday, 4:00 to 6:00 pm



Wine Lovers' Tuesday  
Half Priced Bottled Wines\*



Bistro Wednesday Nights  
\$35 Three-Course Prix Fixe



Friday Night Jazz  
Balcony Lounge, 7:00 to 11:00 pm

\*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

1090 POINT LOBOS | SAN FRANCISCO | 415-386-3330 | CLIFFHOUSE.COM

SAN FRANCISCO TRADITION—  
for generations!

ALIOTO-LAZIO FISH COMPANY

440 Jefferson St

San Francisco, CA 94109



Monday—Fridays

6 am to 2 pm

Saturdays 6 am to 12 noon

415.673.5868

www.crabonline.com



COMET CLUB

Dancing • Specialty Cocktails • 12 Brews on Tap



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

At the Table Better cooking



Imperial wagyu tomahawk classic chop from The Butcher Shop by Niku Steakhouse. PHOTO: COURTESY THE BUTCHER SHOP

Fat that's good for you —  
what's sexier than that for  
Valentine's Day?

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF MAKING DINNER for that special someone this year instead of eating out, here are three protein choices — duck, pork, and beef — of varying price ranges. All three are simple to cook by searing over high heat (watch that they don't burn), and all three have an extra sexy component: fat that is actually good for you. If you'd rather have someone else do the cooking, visit marinatimes.com for some restaurants that serve great versions.

DUCK BREAST

Mostly dark meat, duck can be cooked medium rare. There are also health benefits: Duck fat, like olive oil, is high in heart-healthy monounsaturated fats. Studies have shown that Mediterranean-style diets high in these fats reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Duck fat also contains a high amount of linoleic acid, an essential fatty acid that fights cancer, prevents atherosclerosis, boosts calcium absorption, and aids kidney function.

**Buy:** Nijiya Market (1737 Post Street #333, 415-563-1901, nijiya.com); Marina Meats (2395 Chestnut Street, 415-673-6700); Bryan's Grocery (3445 California Street, 415-752-0179).

**Cook:** Cut fat in a crosshatch pattern, taking care not to cut into the meat. Season all sides with salt and pepper. Heat a cast-iron or other heavy pan over medium-high heat (a drop of water in the pan should madly sizzle). Reduce heat to medium, place duck breasts skin side down in pan and cook for 8 to 10 minutes (the skin should be golden brown and extremely crisp). Remove duck to a plate and pour off almost all the pan fat (save it for a side dish of sautéed potatoes). Return the breasts to the pan, meat side down, and cook 2 to 3 more minutes. Remove duck to a clean plate or cutting board and cover loosely with foil. Resting the meat for at least 5 minutes is very important so that the juices absorb back into the meat. Serve over duck fat-sautéed potatoes or saffron rice with roasted Brussels sprouts.

JAPANESE KOBE BEEF/AMERICAN WAGYU BEEF

Most people know Japanese A5 Wagyu as Kobe beef; but while all Kobe beef is Wagyu, not all Wagyu is Kobe. Like French wine, Japan produces beef by region, or prefecture. Kobe was known as Tajima in ancient times (connoisseurs still refer to the meat as Tajima beef) and the cattle are descendants of kuoge Waygu, or

black-haired Japanese cattle. Even today, true A5 Kobe beef is a rarity.

The fat of Wagyu is more healthful than other beef. It's still a caloric disaster, mind you, but Wagyu contains 30 percent more monounsaturated fatty acids than American Angus. It is also higher in Omega 3 fats (most commonly associated with wild salmon), known for heart-healthy benefits such as raising good and lowering bad cholesterol. It's not fair to compare it to other steak because it's more like beef foie gras — meltingly tender with a velvety texture and intense, rich flavor.

**Buy:** The Butcher Shop by Niku Steakhouse (57 Division Street, 415-829-2306, nikubutchershop.com), San Francisco's only certified Kobe beef retailer and the exclusive purveyor of A5 Wagyu beef from the Ono Farm in Japan.

**Cook:** Season all sides with salt and pepper. Heat a cast-iron or other heavy pan over medium- high heat. Reduce heat to medium and place steaks in pan. To achieve medium-rare succulence, I suggest searing both sides until you get a nice, brown crust (a minute or so on each side) and then resting for a few minutes under foil. Serve with my Best Mashed Potatoes Ever (find the recipe at marinatimes.com) and spinach or baby kale sautéed in garlic and olive oil.

IBÉRICO DE BELLOTA PORK

Ibérico de Bellota pork is renowned for its beautiful marbling. Indigenous black Ibérico pigs wander freely through the forests of southwest Spain munching on herbs, grasses, and most important, acorns, which create its distinctive flavor (a cross between bacon and beef). It's high in monounsaturated fats and therefore more healthful than the fat from normal pork. Because of the humane way they're raised and their special diet, Ibérico can also be eaten rare to medium rare, just like good beef.

**Buy:** It used to be impossible to find Iberico pork for home preparation in the United States (you had to order it from Spain), but Golden Gate Meats in the Ferry Building (1 Ferry Plaza shop #13, 415-983-7800, ggmeatco.com) now often carries it (call for availability), including the prized Secreto cut.

**Cook:** Sear quickly on both sides in a very hot pan to form a nice, brown crust, then rest for a few minutes under foil. Serve with saffron rice with peas and a simple salad of arugula with homemade lemon vinaigrette.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com



The Wonderful World of Wine

Wine and art: A different kind of pairing

BY LYNETTE MAJER

Part 1 in an occasional series about wineries with special offerings

“Wine can instill a moment of inspiration or madness. Art can do the same.”

Ai Weiwei

FOOD IS NOT THE ONLY thing paired with wine in our Northern California wine country — art is featured in several wineries in Napa and Sonoma. And why not? Wine and art, considered by many as two of the finer things in life, seem to go together naturally, each satisfying a sense, taste and sight. And there’s no better time of year to enjoy wine country than now — February can serve up some delightful weather, perfect for a day trip or weekend.

DONUM ESTATE WINERY

If you’re using a navigation app to get to this Carneros property, a bit off the well-beaten path that is Highway 121, Google will tell you you’ve arrived well before you have, which will be beyond obvious, so push on to the large yellow sign on the

left, and farther beyond, a monumental sculpture of a female face (*Sanna* by Jaume Plensa). Then you will have really arrived.

**The art:** the Donum property is home to over 40 large-scale sculptures, strategically placed throughout the property; some are site-specific commissions, and all are from internationally renowned artists, like Ai Weiwei, Louis Bourgeois, and Keith Haring, to name just a few.

Jaume Plensa, the artist of *Sanna*, created the nearly 40-foot sculpture from a portrait of an 8-year-old Swedish girl. Its total white color evokes an otherworldliness, and her closed eyes a spirituality and serenity. For Plensa, his series of giant heads represent the future, as none of the girls and young women exist as they were captured in their portraits; beauty is fleeting — alive and evolving.

Some sculptures are interactive, like the recently installed and commissioned site-specific *Sonic Mountain* (Sonoma), by Doug Aitken, which is a giant wind chime that visitors can walk through and move the chimes. The artist says he



Richard Hudson’s *Love Me*, 2016. PHOTO: GREGORY GORMAN

sought to create “a living artwork ... that would change continuously and be performed by the natural environment.” Indeed, the sculpture is situated in a eucalyptus grove where each of the 365 chimes capture the famous Carneros breezes to produce a melodic symphony.

*The Care of Oneself*, by Elmgreen and Dragset, is situated near the bank of a pond. As such, the shiny stainless steel sculpture depicts a classically styled figure carrying what appears to be an image of himself, which he has saved from drowning — essentially one part of himself saving the other. The viewer also sees oneself reflected

in the shiny stainless steel of the figures, thereby becoming a part of the art.

The viewer is also reflected in *Love Me* by Richard Hudson, a 25-foot-plus heart with a mirrored surface on top of a hill, that was created especially for Donum. Its hilltop placement reflects the entire property from all sides, “creating many paintings within the piece,” art within art. Hudson also created a cavity in the heart to denote a pregnant woman’s belly, and invoking a sense of time and life being endless.

**The wine:** Situated on a former dairy farm with sweeping views of San Pablo Bay, the almost 200-

acre property (20 acres planted) is well suited for Pinot and Chardonnay. Donum also sources from its vineyards in Russian River Valley and Anderson Valley, which winemaker Dan Fishman uses to produce exquisite lean but rich Chardonnays and fruity, full Pinots.

**Donum Estate Winery:** Daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., reserved tastings \$95 and up (includes guided art tour), 2400 Ramal Road, Sonoma, 707-939-2290, [thedonumestate.com](http://thedonumestate.com)

Visit [marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com) for a sampling of more Donum sculpture.

Email: [lynette@marinatimes.com](mailto:lynette@marinatimes.com)

Calzone's

in the heart of North Beach

430 Columbus Avenue | 415.397.3600 | calzonesf.com

A photograph of the exterior of Calzone's restaurant at night. The restaurant has a classic Italian aesthetic with a red brick oven visible through the large glass windows. The entrance is covered by a striped awning, and the outdoor seating area is filled with people dining at small round tables. The interior is warmly lit, showing a bar area and more seating. The overall scene is lively and inviting.



Art World  
continued from cover

representing aspects of spiritual knowledge, tools wielded to destroy obstacles that block the way to wisdom. Beneath his feet, he tramples figures representing delusional attachments. In this dyed tapestry on cotton, the deity is the conqueror of death. Buddhas have the quality of terminating death and the cycle of rebirth, or samsara. Vajrabhairava represents that goal of the journey to enlightenment or awakening.

BUDDHISM AS A VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

In Buddhist philosophy, one of the four noble truths is the truth of human suffering. During our daily lives, the cycles of the sleeping, dreaming, and waking states create repeating patterns, and meaning can easily be misplaced or lost completely, which can become a source of suffering. Tibetan Buddhist art acts as a visual aid to meditation and enlightenment, as a way out. At the end of the journey, or the center of the mandala, we see the cosmos as a whole. Visual art is the catalyst toward this transformation along with the realization that the world is not as it appears on the surface — fragmented and chaotic — but is instead fundamentally interconnected.

In this presentation, the museumgoer is a viewer and a participant in the quest for higher knowledge. As Dr. Jay Xu, Asian Art Museum director and CEO, states, “Presenting the art through a ‘questing’ narrative that invites audiences to be both viewer and participant reflects the goals of the Asian Art Museum’s ongoing transformation of the visitor experience: the absolute necessity of deep engagement with art — an engagement



Luxation 1, 2016, by Tsherin Sherpa (Nepalese, b. 1968). PHOTOGRAPH © VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, PHOTO BY TRAVIS FULLERTON

that’s the heart and soul of Tibetan Buddhism.”

A JOURNEY BACK TO THE BEGINNING

The audience travels through a series of galleries with close to 100 striking objects that chart the path from birth to death, journeying through the clamor of daily life to the quietude of enlightenment. First, “Awaken” begins with art that speaks to the unbalanced nature of our contemporary world. The exhibition

begins with a modern-day video meant to disarm the viewer and as a reminder to not be lulled to sleep, but to awaken our senses to the true nature of reality. Once in this state of mind, the visitors learn some of Buddhism’s essential teachings, the geography of monastic life along with the tools and weapons meant to aid the meditative process, including a spectacular flaming skull trident from 18th-century Tibet, a weapon that symbolizes triumph over ignorance.

Artists in the Tibetan tradition strive to symbolize the wordless, nameless states of mind in multiple cosmic dimensions to aid in the quest to move beyond death and rebirth. In the center of the exhibition we once again meet Vajrabhairava, Destroyer of Death, and finally a serene 12th-century crowned Buddha, a visual metaphor for enlightenment, the state beyond death and rebirth.

Beyond major historic works, “Awaken” also features three

wildly colorful contemporary paintings by Tsherin Sherpa. He was trained in traditional Tibetan thangka painting with his father, Urgen Dorje, a renowned thangka artist from Ngalam, Tibet. Sherpa is known for his visually stunning ability to split, melt, and alter large-scale neotraditional paintings, and in doing so he effectively expresses to the viewer the complex mental tactics that Tibetan Buddhism deploys to sharpen the mind and focus the attention of the adherents.

“A Tibetan Buddhist initiate’s journey toward enhanced awareness is, in part, facilitated through visualizations — and such visualizations always require artistic models,” explains Dr. Jeffrey Durham, associate curator of Himalayan Art and the exhibition’s co-curator. “The landscapes of Himalayan Buddhism, along with the powerful entities that populate them, make for a dramatic visual repertoire unrivaled in the world of religious art, allowing the exhibition journey to culminate with a powerful moment of visual and spiritual clarity made manifest by a blend of art and experience.” Durham continues, “Understood this way, the eye-popping color and mesmerizing, intricate detail of these artworks becomes an invitation to look closer and closer — and ultimately address the universal human quest to be fully present in the moment.”

**Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey toward Enlightenment:** Tuesday–Wednesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Friday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. through May 3, \$25, 200 Larkin Street, 415-581-3500, [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY BRIAN PETTUS

1. **Make Your Moment: The Savvy Woman’s Communication Playbook for Getting the Success You Want**, by Dion Lim
2. **On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel**, by Ocean Vuong
3. **Overstory: A Novel**, by Richard Powers
4. **No One is Too Small to Make a Difference**, by Greta Thunberg
5. **Dear Girls**, by Ali Wong
6. **There, There**, by Tommy Orange
7. **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**, by Trevor Noah
8. **Dog Man: Fetch-22**, by Dav Pilkey
9. **Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators**, by Ronan Farrow
10. **Classic Krakauer: Essays on Wilderness and Risk**, by Jon Krakauer

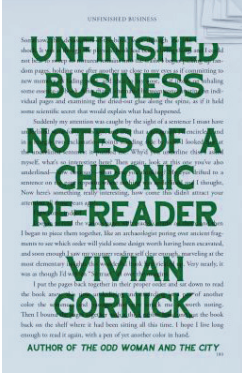
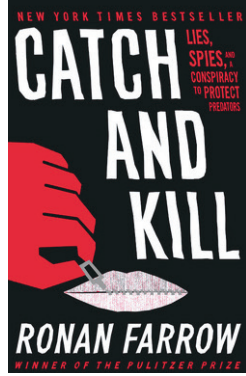
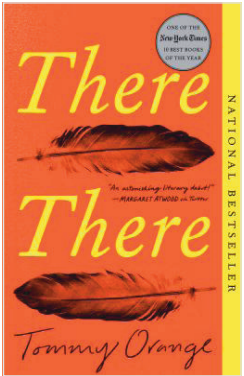
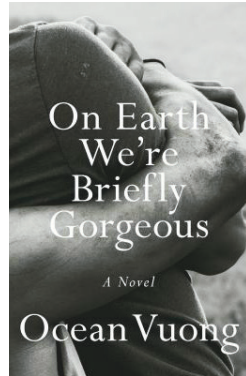
FEBRUARY NEW RELEASES

**A Perfect Explanation**, by Eleanor Anstruther (Feb. 3): When her brother died in World War I, a new heir was needed, and it was up to Enid to provide it. A troubled marriage and three children soon followed. Broken by postpartum depression, overwhelmed by motherhood and a loveless marriage, Enid made the shocking decision to abandon her family, thereby starting a chain of events — a kidnap, a court case, and selling her son to her sister for £500 — that reverberated through the generations. The novel is based on the story of the author’s grandmother following an aristocratic woman who abandons her family and her money in search of a life she can claim as her own.

**Unfinished Business: Notes of a Chronic Re-reader**, by Vivian Gornick (Feb. 3): This is Vivian Gornick’s celebration of passionate reading, of returning

again and again to the books that have shaped her at crucial points in her life. In nine essays that traverse literary criticism, memoir, and biography, one of our most celebrated critics writes about the importance of reading — and rereading — as life progresses. Guided by Gornick’s trademark verve and insight, *Unfinished Business* is a masterful appreciation of literature’s power to illuminate our lives from a peerless writer and thinker who “still read[s] to feel the power of Life with a capital L.”

**The Authenticity Project**, by Clare Pooley (Feb. 3): Julian Jessop, an eccentric, lonely artist and septuagenarian, believes that most people aren’t really honest with each other. But what if they were? And so he writes — in a plain, green journal — the truth about his own life and leaves it in his local cafe. It’s run by the incredibly tidy and efficient Monica, who furtively adds her own entry



and leaves the book in the wine bar across the street. Before long, the others who find the green notebook add the truths about their own deepest selves — and soon find each other In Real Life at Monica’s Cafe. *The Authenticity Project* is just the tonic for our times that readers are clamoring for — and one

they will take to their hearts and read with unabashed pleasure.

For additional new releases, 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)).



Michael Snyder  
continued from cover

12th edition of the Mostly British Film Festival, dedicated, as ever, to movies made in English-speaking countries outside the United States. This festival offers a foreign perspective in English, accents notwithstanding, while debuting narrative features and documentaries that could eventually find their way into our theaters or onto various streaming services, while just as likely never getting a significant stateside release.

This year's MBFF will open with the U.S. premiere of *Military Wives*, a contemporary dramedy about a group of women who take up choral singing when their husbands are deployed to Afghanistan, directed by Peter Cattaneo of *The Full Monty* fame and starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan. There will be a Valentine's Day program of love stories on Feb. 14; an Australian spotlight on Feb.15, topped by the bittersweet family comedy *Babyteeth* starring Ben Mendelsohn, who is expected to be a festival guest. Other potential highlights should be *The Delinquent Season*, an examination of passion and family relationships with a cast led by Ireland's Cillian Murphy and Andrew Scott; *Ordinary Love*, a gentle, intimate look at a comfortably married middle-aged couple — played by Liam Neeson and Lesley Manville — who must come to grips with an unexpected medical crisis; and *Greed*, a dark satire about a wealthy fashion mogul (Steve Coogan of *The Trip*, *Stan & Ollie*, and *Philomena*) who throws himself a sickeningly opulent 60th birthday party, which will close the festival.

**Mostly British Film Festival:** Daily, Feb. 13–17, \$15–\$250, *Vogue Theatre*, 3290 Sacramento Street, [mostlybritish.org](http://mostlybritish.org)



Kirsten Scott Thomas in *Military Wives*. PHOTO: COURTESY MOSTLY BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

BERLIN AND BEYOND FILM FESTIVAL

Heading into its 24th year, the Berlin and Beyond Film Festival is the foremost festival of German cinema (including entries from Austria and Switzerland) to be presented in the Western Hemisphere. It's been noted for its stellar guests — among them, actors and directors such as Fatih Akin, Moritz Bleibtreu, Daniel Brühl, Bruno Ganz, Werner Herzog, Maria Schrader, Barbara Sukowa, and Wim Wenders, who have attained fame and respect across the globe — and its selection of provoc-

ative and acclaimed movies, including docs and shorts.

Among the more intriguing offerings: The U.S. premiere of *What Might Have Been*, about a woman who encounters her first love while on a getaway with her current boyfriend; *The Collini Case*, a mix of courtroom intrigue and murder mystery with its roots in the aftermath of World War II; *Cherry Blossoms & Demons*, the latest from writer-director Doris Dörrie, following a man in turmoil who travels to Japan in search of answers to life-and-death questions; *The Most Beautiful Couple*, a tale

of attempted revenge after a heinous assault; and the festival closer, *Gipsy Queen*, the portrait of a single mother struggling to take care of her two children in a hostile world.

**Berlin and Beyond Film Festival:** Daily Feb. 7–13, Free–\$200, various Bay Area venues, 415-263-8763, [berlinbeyond.com](http://berlinbeyond.com)

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via [GABnet.net](http://GABnet.net), Roku, Spotify, and YouTube. You can follow Michael on Twitter: [@cultureblaster](https://twitter.com/cultureblaster)

# Maximize the value of your home.

Sell your home faster and for a higher price. From painting to flooring, **#OTTOCONCIERGE** helps transform your home with zero upfront costs and no interest.



## COMPASS CONCIERGE

Dennis Otto  
415.516.0286  
DRE 01376767

Lee Ann Monfredini  
415.722.4840  
DRE 01405049

Rules & Exclusions apply. Compass offers no guarantee or warranty of results. Subject to additional terms and conditions. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdraw without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.



# FEBRUARY EVENTS

## NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

### MAJOR EVENTS



S.F. Beer Week

**S.F. Beer Week**  
Daily, Feb. 7–16  
Various Bay Area venues  
Brewski lovers unite: This event kicks off at Pier 35 with a gala where guests receive unlimited pours from over 100 breweries and features subsequent dinners, tastings, and educational events. Bottoms up! *Visit website for schedule and pricing.* [sfbeerweek.org](#)

**Chinese New Year Festival**  
Sat.–Sun., Feb.8–9  
Chinatown  
Gung hay fat choy! Celebrate the Year of the Rat with a street fair and the world-famous Chinese New Year Parade Feb. 8, featuring the crowd favorite 288-foot gum lung (golden dragon). Visit website for locations/details. *Free, 415-982-3000, [chineseparade.com](#)*

**Tulipmania Festival**  
Daily, Feb. 8–17  
Pier 39  
Stroll down the pier and enjoy a spectacular and colorful display featuring over 39,000 tulips and seasonal garden favorites. Take a guided tour and learn helpful gardening tips. Visit website for self-guided tour information and additional details. *Free, 415-705-5500, [pier39.com](#)*

**S.F. Chronicle Wine Competition Public Tasting**  
Saturday, Feb. 15, 1–4 p.m.  
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center  
As the largest competition of U.S. wines in the world, this always-sold-out public tasting is a not-to-miss wine and food experience. \$75 and \$95, 650-548-6700, [winejudging.com](#)

**34th Annual Tribal & Textile Arts Show & 36th Annual American Indian Art Show**  
Fri.–Sun., Feb. 21–23, 11 a.m.  
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center  
These two historic shows create the major West Coast event of the year for Tribal and American Indian art; the largest gathering of its kind under one roof, with international galleries, dealers and native artists presenting the best in indigenous art from around the world. \$20–\$75 (*per show*), [sanfranciscotribalandtextileartshow.com](#)

### AFFAIRS OF THE HEART

**BATS Improv: Crazy in Love**  
Saturday, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 8 p.m.  
Bldg. B, Fort Mason Center  
Enjoy a madcap romantic comedy inspired by the classic films of yesteryear as the players channel Hepburn, Tracy, and other classic couples from the golden age of movies while giving the action a contemporary spin. \$17 & \$20, 415-474-8935, [improv.org](#)

**37th Annual Dinner à la Heart**  
Tuesday, Feb. 4  
Various Bay Area restaurants  
Enjoy lunch or dinner (including wine and coffee/tea) at your choice of participating restaurants (like Gary Danko, Perbacco, Farallon, and more) and help the Institute on Aging help low-income Bay Area seniors live independently. \$85–\$250, 415-750-3443, [ioaging.org](#)

**9th Annual Valentine Broadside Printing Event**  
Saturday, Feb. 8, 2–4 p.m.  
S.F. Main Library (100 Larkin Street)  
Come experience letterpress printing on the library's 1909 Albion hand press and take home a unique keepsake for your Valentine. All are welcome, but keepsakes are limited to first 100 participants. *Free, 415-557-4560, [sfpl.org](#)*

**17th Annual Another Love Bites the Dust**  
Sat.–Sun. Feb. 8–9  
Martuni's (4 Valencia St.)  
Presented by the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of S.F., this year's hilarious anti-Valentine's Day cabaret will be full of laughs and amazing performances. \$25, 415-779-5428, [lgcsf.org](#)

**Hearts in S.F.**  
Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Oracle Park  
Dance the night away with a progressive party that starts just steps from the field. Enjoy creative cocktails, delicious bites, "only at Oracle" interactive experiences, live music, and much more. Proceeds supports mental health programming at Zuckerberg S.F. General Hospital and Trauma Center. \$250, 415-206-5959, [sfghf.org](#)

**Valentine's Day Macrons**  
Friday, Feb. 14, 9 a.m.  
Sur la Table (2224 Union St.)  
Make a sweet gift for your sweet — jewel-toned macarons delicately piped and filled with buttercream and white chocolate ganache. \$79, 800-243-0852, [surlatable.com](#)

**For the Love of Science: A Valentine's Sleepover**  
Fri.–Sat., Feb. 14-15, 6 p.m.– 8 a.m.  
California Academy of Sciences  
Celebrate the human side of chemistry with an all-inclusive sleepover, including a buffet dinner, champagne toast, planetarium screenings, silent disco, science demos, aquarium yoga, free parking, next-morning breakfast, and more. Ages 21 and up. \$195, 415-calacademy.org

**Valentine's Day Crab Bender**  
Friday, Feb. 14, 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
Tacolicious (1548 Stockton St.)  
Roll up your sleeves for Mexican-style clam chowder, winter chopped salad, roasted Dungeness crab, and sticky date cake, paired with wines from Belden Barns. \$125, 415-649-6077, [eventbrite.com](#)

**4th Annual Victorian Valentine Ball**  
Friday, Feb. 14, 8–11 p.m.  
Haas-Lilienthal House (2007 Franklin St.)  
Step back in time and learn the Viennese Waltz, enjoy a light buffet, dessert bar, and play Victorian trivia games for prizes. Learn about love and courtship, and fall in love with suitable partners from the Victorian perspective. Victorian formal wear recommended. Proceeds benefit maintenance/restoration of the house. \$55 & 95, [eventbrite.com](#)



Valentine's Day Sock Hop

**Saturday, Feb. 15, 7–10 p.m.**  
Presidio Officers' Club (50 Moraga Ave.)  
Hop back to the 1950s and shake, rattle, and roll to live music from The Ely Brothers & The Doubletake Band. Retro cocktails available for purchase from Arguello restaurant. Doors open at 6:30 for dance lesson. *Free (with registration), 415-561-4400, [eventbrite.com](#)*  
PHOTO: COURTESY PRESIDIO TRUST

### ARTS & CULTURE

**Black History Festival**  
Daily through Feb. 29  
S.F. Public Library (all branches)  
"More than a Month" celebrates Black history, culture, and heritage with special music, dance, crafts, and storytelling events, including film screenings and literary events for adults; interactive events for teens; hands-on activities for kids; and exhibits, music, and craft classes for the whole family. *Visit website for schedule.* *Free, 415-557-4560, [sfpl.org](#)*

**32nd Annual Russian Festival**  
Friday, Feb. 21, 5:30–9:30 p.m.  
Sat.–Sun., Feb. 22–23, 11 a.m.  
Dance Party: Fri.–Sat., 9:45–12:30 a.m.  
Russian Center (2450 Sutter St.)  
Enjoy live entertainment, Russian dancers and singers; authentic savory foods and teas; imported and locally crafted Russian jewelry, folk art, and souvenirs; an art gallery; and a vodka tasting bar. \$12, 415-921-7631, [russiancentersf.com](#)

### GALAS & BENEFITS

**40th Annual Academy of Friends' Gala: Ruby Red Gala**  
Sunday, Feb. 9, 5–10 p.m.  
The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)  
Join the excitement of watching the Academy Awards while enjoying an evening of cocktails, tasty treats, entertainment, and more to support the LGBT Asylum Project. \$275 and up, 415-995-9890, [academyoffriends.org](#)

**10th Annual Carnivale**  
Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.–midnight  
Grace Cathedral (1100 California St.)  
This elegant New Orleans garden party begins with a cocktail reception, dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction, and concludes with the Late Night Revelry after party. Proceeds benefit Grace Cathedral. \$500, 415-749-6300, [gracecathedral.org](#)

### MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

**Curious & Wonderful: Selections from the Achenbach Vault**  
Tue.–Sun. through March 22, 9:30 a.m.  
Legion of Honor (100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park)  
Drawn mainly from the collection of artist-illustrated books, this installation of works on paper ranges from the 13th century to present. \$15, 415-750-3600, [famsf.org](#)

**Elemental Calder**  
Wed.–Mon. through May 3, 10 a.m.  
SFMOMA (151 Third St.)  
This exhibition explores the way the natural world, such as the movement of the sea and the swaying of the wine, provided subject matter and inspiration for many of Alexander Calder's mobiles. \$25, 415-357-4000, [sfmoma.org](#)

**Levi Strauss: A History of American Style**  
Thu.–Mon., Feb. 13–Aug. 9, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Contemporary Jewish Museum (735 Mission St.)  
Featuring over 250 items from the Levi Strauss & Co. archives and loans from vendors, this exhibition is the largest public display archival materials and includes rarely before seen objects and works in a variety of media while showcasing the life of Levi Strauss, the invention of the blue jean, and their iconic place in the history of American style. \$16, 415-665-7800, [thecjm.org](#)

### THEATER

**Fog City Magic Fest 2020**  
Wed.–Sat., Feb. 5–8  
Exit Theatre (156 Eddy St.)  
Don't miss seven shows by the Bay Area's best and most acclaimed magicians (family show Feb. 8). \$20–\$30, 415-931-1094, [theexit.org](#)

**S.F. Playhouse: Born in East Berlin**  
Thu.–Sat., Feb. 6–29  
Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)  
Taking inspiration from Bruce Springsteen's legendary concert in 1988, this play explores the ultimate juxtaposition between the freedom of a rock concert and the captivity of an oppressive government during the time of a great historical and cultural shift. \$30–\$50, 415-677-9596, [sfplayhouse.org](#)



SHN: The Last Ship

**Tue.–Sun., Feb. 20–March 17**  
SHN Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)  
This personal, political, and passionate new musical from multiple Grammy Award-winner Sting was inspired by his childhood experiences and tells the story of a community amid the demise of the shipbuilding industry. \$70–\$275, 888-746-1719, [shnsf.com](#)  
PHOTO: SHNSF.COM

### DANCE

**S.F. Ballet: Classical (Re)Vision**  
Various days, Feb. 11– 22  
War Memorial Opera House  
This "tasting flight of contemporary ballet" features three ballets composed specifically for S.F. ballet dancers: Stanton Welch's Bespoke set to Bach, Mark Morris's Sandpiper Ballet set to music by Leroy Anderson, and Liam Scarlett's Hummingbird set to music by Phillip Glass. \$29–\$375, 415-865-2000, [sfballet.org](#)

**Paul Taylor Dance Company**  
Wed.–Sun., Feb. 19–23  
YBCA (701 Mission St.)  
The vibrant and versatile company presents two different programs including the West Coast premiere of Taylor's final work, Concertiana, and other signature dances that defined dance in America. \$45–\$90, 415-978-2787, [ybca.org](#)

**16th Annual Black Choreographers Festival: Here and Now**  
Sat.–Sun., Feb. 29–March 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St.)  
Celebrate Black History Month with a unique and dynamic performances in New Voices/New Works. Visit website for programs and featured choreographers. \$15 and \$20, 415-826-4441, [dancemissiontheater.org](#)

### MUSIC

**Sunday Concert at the Presidio Interfaith Center**  
Sunday, Feb 16, 4–5 p.m.  
Presidio Chapel (130 Fisher Loop)  
Meet seven composers (one age 12) as they present their music performed by guest artists Sarita Cannon (soprano), Libby Kardontchik (piano), Kashi Tutcja and Joffria Whitfield (viola), and Zhou Yih (cello). *Free, reservations recommended at 415-515-5681 or [presidiointerfaith@gmail.com](#); [presidio.gov](#)*

**Piano Recital with Yuja Wang**  
Sunday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Davies Symphony Hall  
Experience superstar pianist Yuja Wang's electrifying virtuosity laid bare in a solo piano recital — only her second recital here — one that showcases her famed fierce and flawless technique. \$135–\$305, 415-864-6000, [sfsymphony.org](#)

**28th Annual Noise Pop Music & Arts Festival**  
Daily, Feb. 24–March 1  
Various S.F. & East Bay locations  
S.F.'s favorite indie music, arts, and film festival returns. Visit website for schedule. \$10–\$399. 415-375-3370, [noisepopfest.com](#)



NIGHTLIFE

Buzzed Nightlife

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m.  
California Academy of Sciences  
Wake up and smell the coffee (and chocolate!) at a tribute to the Bay Area’s favorite way to get buzzed. \$15, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

Tainted Love

Fri.–Sat., Feb. 14–15, 9 p.m.  
Bimbo’s 360 Club  
Groove along to the greatest hits of the ’80s — this band has fans from every generation. \$25–\$45, bimbos365club.com

Cabaret Karaoke

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m.  
Feinstein’s at the Nikko (222 Mason Street)  
One-part next-level karaoke experience, one-part concert, and all parts thrilling, this fun evening is a must for karaoke enthusiasts, first-time singers, and live-music lovers alike. \$15, 866-663-1063, feinsteinsatthenikko.com

FILMS & LECTURES

22nd Annual SF Indiefest

Daily through Feb. 13  
Roxie Theater (3117 16th St.)  
Victoria Theater (2961 16th St.)  
Feast on the best independent, alternative, and subversive cinema from around the world. \$10–\$250, 415-662-3378, sfindie.com

The Silk Road

Tuesday, Feb. 18, noon–1 p.m.  
S.F. Public Library Main Branch (100 Larkin St.)  
Travel the ancient routes that provided goods, technologies, and ideas to countries and cultures from the Mediterranean to the Pacific and discover the transformations that resulted from the complex exchanges between East and West. Free, 557-4400, sfpl.org

Diane Keaton

Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Sydney Goldstein Theater (275 Hayes St.)  
Hear the Academy Award-winning actress and

best-selling author discuss her new memoir, *Brother & Sister*, which explores her relationship with her brother, their divergent life paths, and special bond. \$59, 415-392-4400, cityarts.net

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

From Dust Motes to Icy Mountains: Asteroids and Comets

Monday, Feb. 10, 7:30  
Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences  
How might impacts by asteroids and comets affect life on Earth? Hear what astronomers have discovered about our cosmic neighbors. \$15, 877-227-1831, calacademy.org

Advancing the Science: The Latest in Alzheimer’s Research

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 5:15 p.m.  
The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero)  
Learn about the progress that has been made in the understanding of the science and basic biology underlying Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, and how these advances are leading to great strides in prevention, detection, diagnostics and therapeutic interventions. \$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

68th Pacific Orchid Exposition

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 20–23, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.)  
The largest orchid show on the West Coast features thousands of blooms, and offers a diverse variety of orchids for sale. \$15–\$45, 864-663-6035, pacorchidexpo.org, eventbrite.com

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Science of Cocktails

Friday, Feb. 7, 9 p.m.–midnight  
Exploratorium (Pier 15)  
Play all evening in a wonderland of more than 650 hands-on exhibits while you enjoy experimental cocktails from 20-plus open bars, boozy science demonstrations, delicious bites, and live music. \$150 & up, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

Food Democracy 2020: Civic Engagement Through Food

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6–8 p.m.  
Port Commission Hearing Room, Ferry Building  
How can we use our collective energies to galvanize the food movement for larger systems change while nourishing ourselves while fighting for causes we care about? Join CUESA and SPUR for a conversation about overcoming challenges and discovering how you can get involved. Free–\$15, 415-291-3276, cuesa.org

SPORTS & HEALTH

Magnolia Moving Meditation

Saturday, Feb. 15 & 29, 3-4:45 p.m.  
S.F. Botanical Garden (1199 Ninth Ave.)  
Celebrate magnolias through mindful meditation. The program will include a docent tour to a magnolia highlight followed by moving, walking, and stationary meditation. \$20, sfbg.org

Fitbit Local Bootcamp Blast & Brunch

Saturday, Feb. 22, 9–10 a.m.  
Sports Basement Presidio (610 Old Mason St.)  
Start your weekend with bodyweight boot camp followed by a yoga flow. Postworkout, enjoy a complimentary light brunch and mimosas. One lucky attendee will receive a Fitbit. Bring a yoga mat. Free, register at eventbrite.com

CHILD’S PLAY

Children’s Theatre: Wizard of Oz

Sat.–Sun. through February & Saturday, March 7  
Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave., the Presidio)  
The most beloved tale of all time comes to life as Dorothy and her three friends trot delightfully and tunelessly down the yellow brick road. \$15–\$18, 415-248-2677, ctasf.org

Lunar New Year Celebration for Families

Sunday, Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin St.)

Enjoy dancing, art-making, storytelling, and an interactive lion dance performance. Learn about the zodiac calendar and Year of the Rat characteristics, have your name written in Chinese calligraphy, and more. Visit website for schedule. Free with admission (\$20–\$25), 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Family Matinee with Marcus Shelby

Saturday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m.  
Miner Auditorium, SFJazz  
SFJazz Resident Artistic Director Marcus Shelby takes the audience on a journey of soulful discovery of the blues in honor Black History Month. Sing, move, and play in the free workshop following the matinee (first come, first served; sign up in lobby prior to performance). \$5–\$23, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

Sponsored



Viva Il Carnevale: Masquerade party for kids and families

Saturday, Feb. 22, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Museo Italo Americano Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

Bring your children and have fun with us! The Museo Italo Americano presents Viva Il Carnevale, a special afternoon of dancing, games, arts and crafts, musical instruments, a costume contest, and more. Includes refreshments, and all children will receive a goody bag. RSVP required. Free (16 years and under)–\$10 (adults), 415-673-2200, sfmuseo.org

Email: calendar@marinatimes.com

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

Drive it. Max reps. Drop it.

FREE parking in SF.

Flexible, affordable wheels when you want them. Fuel and insurance included!

1:53

Search

GIG Car Share

Hybrid Gig

8BMV638

4336

Personal

Reserve

Map of San Francisco with GIG locations marked

Download the app and get 2 hours FREE with code MARINA

QR code

Hold your camera on the QR code to learn more.

GIG CAR SHARE

POWERED BY AAA

Promotion expires 3/31/2020. Terms and conditions apply, see gigcarshare.com for details. Parking in SF is free in designated lots and street parking in the HomeZone of the Richmond District.

FEBRUARY 2020 13



# The Brazen Head

“A place worth finding.”

Voted **2019 Winner** Nextdoor Favorite

 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



Named one of “The 38 Essential San Francisco Restaurants” –*Eater San Francisco*

Join us for Valentine’s Day!

Bar opens at 4pm | Dinner nightly 5pm-1am  
3166 Buchanan Street at Greenwich | (415) 921-7600  
[www.brazenheadsfr.com](http://www.brazenheadsfr.com)



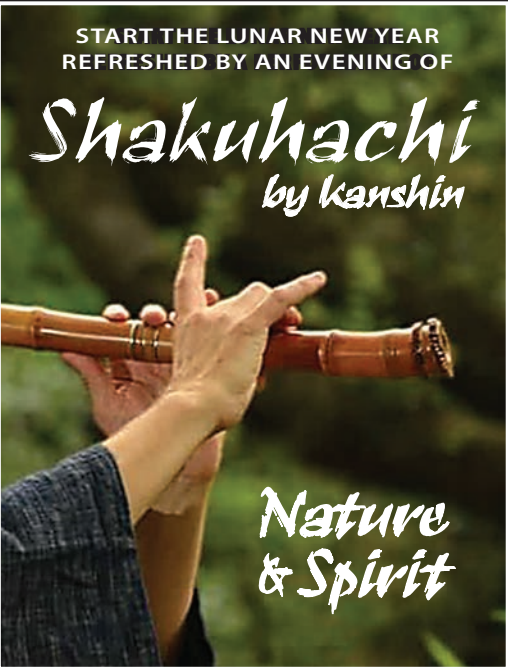
Three generations.  
One location.

FAMOUS  
SANDWICHES

HOUSE-MADE  
PASTAS

Italian Specialties  
WINE • CHEESE  
SALUMI

2120 Chestnut St • San Francisco



SWEDENBORG  
CONCERT SERIES

AT THE SF SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH  
2107 LYON STREET SAN FRANCISCO  
FEB 9, 5 PM

President of the International Shakuhachi Society, Kanshin (aka Elliot Kallen) is also a professional pianist and founding member of TenTen Taiko.

TIX: [BROWNPAPER.TICKETS.COM](http://BROWNPAPER.TICKETS.COM)

SWEDENBORG CONCERT SERIES – FORMERLY:  
*Second Sundays Concert Series*

— ANNOUNCING —  
THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE SF SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH  
A NATIONAL HISTORIC MONUMENT  
PUBLIC CELEBRATION EVENTS  
MARCH 13-22  
Info: [sfswedenborgian.org](mailto:sfswedenborgian.org)  
Fb: Nature & Spirit

## The Coastal Commuter ∴ Loveliness



Let Valentine’s Day be your celebration of all that you love. PHOTO: SKEEZE

# ‘I love you — your devoted fan, Michael’

## Redirecting love for Valentine’s Day

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IT’S FEBRUARY — A MONTH WHEN THE fancies of many turn to thoughts of love. An impending Valentine’s Day will do that, whether we have romance in our lives or not. But if my mental state is going to be governed by the holidays, what do I do about Presidents’ Day this year, other than shudder? O.K. Let’s stick to love.

Primary relationships, lovers, mates, or significant others — they’re probably going to want acknowledgement on Valentine’s Day. That goes for both partners in your ménage à trois. No loved one in your life? At this point in our society and cultural history, the greeting card and chocolate-in-a-heart-shaped-box industries have addressed that potential shortfall by marketing V-Day tokens for parents, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, best friends, pets, your neighbor, your grocer, and your mechanic. Really. I’m not saying it’s a scam. I’ll leave that to you.

There’s so much pressure on people to make the appropriate Valentine’s Day gesture to those we care about that something intended at its core to be a beautiful, positive, nurturing thing might actually disappoint your intended and make you miserable. That’s a conundrum to make any sensible individual ask, “What’s so happy about Valentine’s Day?”

### COPING AND COMFORT

If love is the issue, it doesn’t necessarily have to be the love of someone you know or would like to know better that could well result in pure torment. Perhaps the easiest way to cope with Valentine’s Day would be to un-tether it from the concept of romantic love between humans (or, to stretch a point again, certain domesticated animals) and make it about things we love that make us happy wherever and whenever we encounter them. If raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens warm your heart (not that they do much for mine, although I do like a companionable cat), Feb. 14 is as good a time as any to feel the warmth.

Whatever you love, simply relish it on Valentine’s Day. I adore the melancholy music of British folk-jazz singer-songwriter Nick Drake, the droll movies of gentle French comic maestro Jacques Tati, and the hard-boiled novels of colorful Los Angeles crime-fiction writer Raymond Chandler. Be advised that I’m not sending any of them a bountiful bouquet of roses, since all three are dead — and not recently, so I wouldn’t gift any of their estates with flowers, either.

My favorite food is pasta, including almost any variety except orzo. I’m particularly partial to spaghetti, vermicelli, and especially rigatoni for some unknown reason, as long as it’s served al dente. Place a plate of penne in a spicy arrabbiata sauce in front of me, and I am beyond comforted. And if it were the tri-colore pesto dish I had at a Roman trattoria some years ago, I’d be in the Italian equivalent of culinary heaven. Even thinking about those three mounds of angel-hair pasta — each one tossed with a different type of pesto: basil, sun-dried tomato, and olive — makes me salivate like one of Pavlov’s pooches. That’s love.

### LOVING YOUR HAPPINESS

I get that giddy feeling — one veering toward amorous — when I look out at San Francisco Bay as the fog rolls over and under the Golden Gate Bridge or I stand between garden apartments in Los Angeles as the sun goes down and the night-blooming jasmine begins perfuming the air. Or when I listen to “Under the Pressure” by The War on Drugs, a song that always gives me goose bumps. Or when I watch the characters played by Joel McCrae and Veronica Lake reunite in the last act of writer-director Preston Sturges’ 1941 masterpiece *Sullivan’s Travels* for the umpteenth time and I find myself involuntarily tearing up yet again.

Hallmark doesn’t make Valentine’s Day cards for any of that, nor are they necessary. Singer Bryan Ferry of the romantic art-rock band Roxy Music, filmmaker Taika Waititi of *JoJo Rabbit* renown, or spy novelist Len Deighton would probably be flummoxed if I sent each of them a Whitman sampler — even one with a card that read “I love you — Your devoted fan, Michael.” You’re not gonna ask a sunset on Stinson Beach to be your valentine, and you’re not taking it out to a fancy dinner. And the beauty of it (so to speak) is that you don’t have to do anything but revel in it. Talk about unconditional love.

My message here is that you don’t have to stress out over Valentine’s Day, with or without anyone at your side. Forget the frou-frou stuff and just embrace what brings joy, whether you’re alone or together. It’ll be like giving yourself a Valentine’s Day gift.

*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*





# salito's



crab house & prime rib

1200 bridgeway      sausalito

415.331.3226

salitoscrabhouse.com



**Did you hear?**  
**jest jewels is**  
**going to close.**

*Celebrate with up to*  
**70% off!**



*What will  
I do without my  
Jest Jewels?!*

**Get in before its**  
**ALL GONE!**

**EVERYTHING IS ON SALE!**

Sale excludes piercing earrings but  
**Piercing is still free!**

1869 Union St. SF 3 Embarcadero Cntr SF 1791 4th St. Berkeley  
Store Hours: 10am-6pm all stores

**MARCH 3 2020**  
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

- ▶ **Vote early in person or by mail**  
February 3 - March 3
- ▶ **Vote at your polling place**  
March 3, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- ▶ **Review your political party preference**  
at [sfelections.org/VoterPortal](https://sfelections.org/VoterPortal)  
Your party preference determines the  
presidential candidates on your ballot

**MARCH**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Election Day!**

**Make a note.**  
**Plan to Vote.**  
Register or update your  
registration by  
February 18

**SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS**

**SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS**

**SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS**

**www.sfelections.org** (415) 554-4375 City Hall, Room 48 [f](https://www.facebook.com/sfelections) [t](https://twitter.com/sfelections) [y](https://www.youtube.com/sfelections) [i](https://www.instagram.com/sfelections) /sfelections

The logo is set within a large, ornate, white double-line border that has a decorative, symmetrical shape with pointed ends. The text is white and centered. At the top, 'FREDERICKSEN' is in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, 'HARDWARE & PAINT' is in a slightly smaller, bold, serif font. A decorative flourish separates this from 'A GENERAL STORE' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below that, 'Since 1896' is in a smaller, sans-serif font. Another decorative flourish separates this from the address 'San Francisco, CA 94123' and phone number '415.292.2950', which are in a sans-serif font.

**FREDERICKSEN**  
**HARDWARE & PAINT**

A GENERAL STORE  
Since 1896

San Francisco, CA 94123  
415.292.2950

Charmed by Calistoga : Green acres

# A San Franciscan's transition from city dweller to country girl

BY JULIE MITCHELL

**W**HEN I TOLD PEOPLE THAT I WAS moving to Calistoga last September after 30 years of living in the city, once they recovered from the shock, many mentioned how wonderful Napa is. But Calistoga is more than 25 miles away from the city of Napa, at the northernmost edge of the valley, nestled between the Mayacamas and the Palisades mountain ranges. It's a small town full of dichotomies: at once a sleepy, quaint spot, and a destination with luxury resorts featuring hot springs, a plethora of wineries and tasting rooms, art galleries, and sophisticated dining and shopping. I was longing for a small-town vibe, a sense of community, and to be closer to nature yet not that far from San Francisco. And now I have it all, plus no parking meters, virtually no traffic or crime, and warm summers.

## JUST A SMALL-TOWN GIRL

I live in a small house within easy walking distance to Lincoln Avenue, the main street that runs the length of the town, and where I can be found four days a week working at Copperfield's Books, one of nine stores located from Larkspur to Calistoga, or picking up coffee and a scone at Bella Bakery or grabbing lunch from the town's one grocery store, Cal Mart (not related to Cal-Mart in Laurel Village). But wander one block over, and you'll find yourself in quintessential "small town USA," on tree-lined streets where charming craftsman-style homes and cottages nestle cheek and jowl alongside low-rent apartment complexes and rustic fixer-uppers.

Calistoga's steaming springs were created by a volcano that erupted more than 4 million years ago; the remains simmer below the earth, creating the hot springs. The Wappo Indian tribe discovered volcanic natural hot springs in a valley near the base of Mount St. Helena. American settlers soon found the spot, and in 1859, Sam Brannan purchased 2,000 acres of land to develop a California health spa reminiscent of a resort in Saratoga, N.Y. According to legend, Brannan misspoke during a promotional speech and referred to the new city as "the Calistoga of Sarafonia," and the name stuck. Today one of my favorite local oldest breakfast cafes is called Sarafonia, and visitors and locals alike fill up on ham and eggs, pancakes and waffles, and other classics served in oversized portions at reasonable prices. The wildcat scrambler with sausage, spinach, cheese, and eggs with hash browns is my top choice.

## TAKE IT EASY

Many of the town's lodgings, from the super upscale Solage and Indian Springs to smaller lodgings like Dr. Wilkinson's, Roman's Hot Springs Resort, and the new Calistoga Motor Lodge, offer guests and visitors access to their mud baths, hot mineral baths, and swimming pools (the hot-spring-fed giant-sized pool at Indian Springs is not to be missed). Daytrip visitors need to indulge in a spa treatment like a massage or facial to use the resort, usually on weekdays only. Even on warm days, the hot baths and pools work wonders on sore muscles. Mud baths are not for everyone; being buried up to your neck in thick warm, earthy-smelling mud inspires either bliss or claustrophobia; I couldn't wait to get out, and the mud's remainders can be difficult to get rid of.



Wine barrels stacked outside of the  
Chateau Montelena in Calistoga.

PHOTO: CHARLES WOLLERTZ

Sam's Social Club, the restaurant at Indian Springs, serves lunch and dinner on the patio during the warm months and inside its warm steakhouse bar and dining room year-round. I love their grilled octopus, lobster roll, and grilled chicken sandwiches.

## RED, RED WINE

Very much a part of Napa County's wine country, Calistoga boasts several beautiful wineries, some well-known, like Sterling Vineyards and Chateau Montelena, and other, smaller wineries that are fun; virtually every winery in the valley has a tasting room where you can sip some of the winery's latest vintages. Tastings are rarely free; they vary in price, usually between \$25 and \$90 per person. At Frank Family Vineyard, you can taste their award-winning wine in the tasting room inside the winery's original yellow craftsman house, and I like to sit on the patio at T-Vine Winery just on the edge of town and watch the sunlight turn the mountains from purple to gold while I sample the small winery's old vine Zinfandels.

While Calistoga's selection of shops and restaurants is tiny compared to those of nearby St. Helena and much busier Napa and Sonoma, I've still found plenty of options for casual dining, such as the Calistoga Inn, Hydro Grill, and All Season's Bistro. For world-class meals at high-end prices, check out Lovina, Evangeline, and SolBar. And of course, all pour great local wine.

## THAT SLOW PARADE

In December, I enjoyed one of the town's most popular and oldest traditions: the annual Calistoga Lighted Tractor Parade, which features vintage and modern tractors and trucks decked out in holiday lights parading down the main street with music playing and Santa waving. I look forward to an equally impressive Fourth of July parade, the Napa County Fair, and the Calistoga Speedway, which hosts sprint-car races all summer long.

Yes, during fire season there are active evacuation advisories, scheduled black-outs, and smoke-filled days, and it can be scary. But I love my new wine country life. Come on up and visit!

Email: [julie@marinatimes.com](mailto:julie@marinatimes.com)





Making cards is fun and inexpensive. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

# Sharing the love on Valentine's Day

BY LIZ FARRELL

REMEMBER VALENTINE'S DAY BEING such a fun day as a kid, racing home to go through my candy and cards. Now, even all these years later I love watching the same excitement in my children. Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to remind our children about the importance of sharing love with friends and family, but also making those around us who aren't family and friends feel loved and appreciated as well. We hope this is something we can do all year long, but around Valentine's Day we are provided an extra special opportunity. Here are some ways your family can help share the love this Valentine's Day:

## FROM THE HEART

There are so many ways your family can show their love and appreciation, but one of the simplest and most inexpensive ways is by making homemade cards, art-work, or treats. Pinterest (pinterest.com) is an easy way to get thousands of ideas for art projects for all ages. My youngest child is happiest with a piece of construction paper, stickers, and some markers to make a card while my older son loves to read, so he made book-marks. My oldest loves to bake. We put all these interests and talents together to make cookies, cards, and lots of book-marks. We brought them to assisted-living facilities near our home and the Heritage House across from Moscone playground. Children's Hospital is also a good place to bring your goodies. We had enough that we were also able to give some to the garbage collector, mailperson, and crossing guards at our children's school.

## FUN FOR FURRY FRIENDS

Some others who may not always get remembered on Valentine's Day are our furry friends. For most children who love animals this will be an easy one. There are many ways they can show appreciation for animals. One year, my son's class baked dog biscuits, sold them, and the proceeds were all donated to a wonderful organization called Guide Dogs for the Blind. It could also be as simple as offering to take a neighbor or friend's dog for a walk. You may also want to call San Francisco Animal Care or a local rescue group and ask for ideas of what they need

and how your children can help give. Some have age restrictions for walking or playing with the animals, but these organizations are always in need of donations. Your children can use allowance or tooth fairy money to buy treats, toys, leashes, or bowls for the animals.

## PAY IT FORWARD

This is one I know the whole family will enjoy and can really get into. I grew up in the East Bay and always remember whenever our family would cross the Bay Bridge to come into San Francisco (this was before FasTrak), my mom would always pay for the car behind us. We used to get such a thrill trying to watch their faces when they were told their toll was already paid for or when they would speed up to us and honk and wave with big smiles of thanks on their faces. Valentine's Day can be a fun day to find a few ways to pay it forward and watch the joy it brings to your children and those who benefit from these random acts of kindness. Some

ideas you can try are paying for the person's coffee behind you at Starbucks or Peet's or pay for the person's meal behind you at a drive through restaurant. There are also some simple ideas that your

children can do such as leaving quarters in a vending machine, returning someone's cart at the grocery store, or holding the door open for someone.

It is important to teach children that Valentine's Day is about more than cards and roses.

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

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

Liz Farrell is the mother of three young children 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

Children's Theatre Association of San Francisco Presents



Sunday Jan.26 at 2pm  
Saturday Feb.1 at 10:30 am & 1:30pm  
Saturday Feb.8 at 1:30pm  
Sunday Feb.23 at 2pm  
Saturday Feb.29 at 10:30 am & 1:30pm  
Saturday March 7 at 10:30am

Musical theater for children  
At the new Presidio Theatre  
99 Moraga Ave. Main Post  
in the Presidio, San Francisco

Tickets  
\$15 children - \$18 adults  
For tickets, directions and  
information visit [www.ctasf.org](http://www.ctasf.org)  
or call (415) 248-2677



"The Wizard of Oz" - Prince Street Players Version is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

Great Deals for  
Overnight & Weekends  
2055 Lombard Street, San Francisco

impark  
PART OF REEF PARKING NETWORK

Located in the Marina and Cow Hollow neighbourhoods, the Lombard Garage is an indoor parking garage within steps of your home. Take advantage of our exclusive monthly parking rates overnight from 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM all day on weekends.



Monthly



Available 24 Hours



Security Cameras



Indoor Parking



REGISTER NOW  
FOR MONTHLY PARKING

Solomon Abayneh  
Parking Manager

415-694-9630  
sabayneh@impark.com

Looking for a meaningful volunteer position?  
**VOLUNTEER TODAY!**



Are you a problem solver, a good listener, an investigator?  
This may be the opportunity for you!  
To learn more, call (415) 751-9788  
Or email us: [contact@sfltcop.org](mailto:contact@sfltcop.org)

The San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program





# The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: December 2019

By Compass

## SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow (no sales)					
Lake St.	1621 Lake Street	3BR/1+BA	\$3,110,000	Above	10
	1544 Lake Street	4BR/2+BA	\$3,800,000	Above	10
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain (no sales)					
Marina	1650 Bay Street	3BR/2+BA	\$3,300,000	Below	26
	3560 Baker Street	5BR/4+BA	\$8,700,000	Below	46
Nob Hill (no sales)					
North Beach (no sales)					
Pacific Heights	2833 Vallejo Street	4BR/6+BA	\$17,000,000	Below	58
Presidio Heights	3804 Clay Street	6BR/3+BA	\$4,995,000	Below	13
	145 Presidio Avenue	4BR/4+BA	\$7,200,000	Below	39
	3731 Jackson Street	4BR/4+BA	\$8,582,000	Below	17
	3364 Washington Street	5BR/4+BA	\$9,500,000	Above	8
Russian Hill	2531 Larkin Street	4BR/2BA	\$2,430,000	Above	16
Sea Cliff	255 28 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	4BR/3+BA	\$3,800,000	Above	124
Telegraph Hill	430 Green Street	3BR/1+BA	\$1,550,000	Above	14
	107 Alta Street	2BR/2BA	\$3,125,000	Above	21
	1707 Grant Avenue	3BR/2+BA	\$3,390,000	Below	64

## CONDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD	ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SALE PRICE	ABOVE/AT/BELOW ASKING PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Cow Hollow	2920 Buchanan Street #7	1BR/1BA	\$1,263,000	Above	11
	2959 Laguna Street	2BR/1+BA	\$1,316,250	Below	47
	3190 Scott Street #307	2BR/2BA	\$1,500,000	Above	20
Lake St. (no sales)					
Laurel Heights (no sales)					
Lone Mountain	310 Stanyan Street #302	2BR/2BA	\$1,100,000	Above	42
Marina	1921 Jefferson Street #206	1BR/1BA	\$765,000	Below	33
	3329 Scott Street #206	2BR/1+BA	\$1,735,000	Above	74
Nob Hill	1810 Polk Street #201	1BR/1BA	\$885,000	Below	74
	1788 Clay Street #607	1BR/1BA	\$985,000	Below	42
	939 Jackson Street #203	1BR/1+BA	\$1,100,000	Above	41
	1200 California Street #5A	1BR/1BA	\$1,295,000	At	34
	1177 California St. #1507	2BR/2BA	\$1,400,000	Below	57
	1788 Clay Street #308	2BR/2BA	\$1,410,000	Below	135
	1340 Broadway	3BR/2BA	\$1,935,000	Below	21
North Beach	530 Chestnut Street #210	2BR/2BA	\$1,250,000	Above	48
	1731 Powell Street #306	2BR/2BA	\$1,520,000	Below	0
	445 Francisco Street #F204	2BR/2BA	\$1,580,000	Above	0
Pacific Heights	1817 California Street #102	2BR/1+BA	\$905,000	Above	32
	2051 Scott Street #403	1BR/1BA	\$950,000	Above	52
	2200 Sacramento St. #104	1BR/1BA	\$1,250,000	At	37
	2040 Laguna Street #101	2BR/2BA	\$1,255,000	Above	4
	2425 Franklin Street #A	2BR/1BA	\$1,305,000	Above	8
	1701 Jackson Street #308	2BR/2BA	\$1,310,000	Above	34
	3079 California Street	3BR/2BA	\$1,625,000	Above	53
	1966 Pacific Avenue #301	2BR/2BA	\$1,750,000	Above	8
	1912 Broderick Street	3BR/1+BA	\$2,100,000	Above	23
	2867 Clay Street	3BR/2BA	\$2,200,000	Below	53
	1933 California Street	3BR/2BA	\$2,575,000	Below	93
	2121 Webster Street #603	2BR/2BA	\$3,210,000	Above	0
Presidio Heights (no sales)					
Russian Hill	2112 Hyde Street #5	1BR/2+BA	\$1,300,000	At	0
	2112 Hyde Street #1	2BR/1+BA	\$1,300,000	Above	12
	1034 Filbert Street #245	1BR/1+BA	\$1,400,000	Above	0
	1109 Greenwich Street	2BR/1+BA	\$1,750,000	Above	39
	1150 Lombard Street #11	2BR/2BA	\$1,785,000	Below	93
	1439 Green Street #1	2BR/2BA	\$1,800,000	Above	33
	1150 Lombard Street #27	2BR/2BA	\$1,955,000	Below	74
Sea Cliff (no sales)					
Telegraph Hill	439 Greenwich Street #3B	1BR/1BA	\$710,000	Below	37
	14 Napier Lane	1BR/1BA	\$995,000	Below	40

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

## Real Estate Reporter :: Progress report



Not everything you anticipate will make you feel good. PHOTO: DMITRI.PHOTOGRAPHY

# Our Heinz ketchup moment

Has the long-anticipated price correction finally begun?

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

LIVING IN A REAL ESTATE WORLD can be made a lot easier if one examines other industries. As we look at news about the current market and try to guess where it’s heading, it feels a little like a television commercial that those of us old enough to remember the late 1970s might recall.

In it, two boys are sitting at a kitchen table preparing to eat hamburgers.

First boy: “Boy, your ketchup’s slow.”

Second boy: “You mean your mom doesn’t buy *Heinz*?”

The second boy then gives the first one his bottle of Heinz ketchup to pour on his hamburger. The first boy watches in amazement as the “thick, rich” ketchup slowly pours onto his burger while singers croon “Anticipation.”

You had to wait for your ketchup, but boy it was — the ad suggests — worth it.

Ever since 2012, when the San Francisco real estate market started to boomerang back from the depths of the Great Recession, people have predicted that prices would stop rising. They anticipated it every year. A few of those years, I was one of them. But home prices and valuations did not stop their ascent.

So don’t expect me to make a prediction here. But I do want to look at some of the indicators and opinions and try to judge if they could give us hints about an end to this record-setting runup in home prices in San Francisco.

### THE ECONOMY

First, we have to note that the overall American economy is performing well. By “well,” I’m not ignoring the fact that for many people that means they’re working multiple jobs just to get by. But in terms of very low unemployment rates, corporate profits, and the stock market, things remain strong despite expectations (again, at times from me) of a slowdown.

The National Association of Realtors reports that 2019 was a good year for sellers, with prices increasing in all regions of the country. “Price appreciation has rapidly accelerated, and areas that are relatively unaffordable or declining in affordability are starting to experience slower job growth,” NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said. “The hope is for price appreciation to slow in line with wage growth, which is about 3 percent.”

In many cities, prices have indeed been up, though you can spot some caution signs.

In 2018, a Bloomberg News headline reported that “Investors Are Piling in to NYC Condos at a Record Pace.” As usually happens, when the “irrational

exuberance” stage hits, things look set for a correction. Throughout 2019, the headlines — we’ll stick with Bloomberg, for consistency’s sake — reported troubling news. “Manhattan Home Sales Drop to Decade Low for a First Quarter,” “NYC Apartment Building Sales Plummet . . .” and finally, “Manhattan Luxury Condo Sales Moving Slowly, Even With Freebies.”

And in October, *The New York Times* reported that “It’s Now a Buyers’ Market in Manhattan Real Estate.”

So is any of that applicable to San Francisco, where prices have vied with New York for the highest big-city housing costs in the nation?

### SAN FRANCISCO EXPECTATIONS

Zillow teams up with Pulsenomics to produce the Zillow Home Price Expectations Survey, based on responses from more than 100 economists and real estate experts. In the fourth quarter 2019 survey, most of those respondents chose San Francisco to underperform in 2020; 64 percent expect San Francisco’s real estate market to underperform compared to the national average rate of home value appreciation; in second place was nearby San Jose at 61 percent.

The experts went further, telling Zillow’s number crunchers that 57 percent of them expect home values in our city to actually decline in 2020.

Closer to home, the *San Francisco Chronicle*’s Amy Graff asked some local real estate pros to predict what will happen in the market, and the overall response was in line with Sotheby agent Herman Chan’s statement that “It is not a crash, nor is it a boom.” Compass Bay Area chief market analyst Patrick Carlisle told her “. . . the market will stay relatively even.”

So I am making no predictions. The factors cited here and that I have read elsewhere do suggest no disaster is right around the corner, but they do make me read market reports with just a little bit more interest, looking for telltale details that might portend more.

Of course, in the Heinz “Anticipation” commercial, it was a *good* thing that the long-anticipated arrival of the ketchup occurred. In the real estate world, the long-anticipated market correction will please some people who are able to afford a lower-priced home, but it will displease sellers and everyone who relies on ever-rising real estate tax revenues. A big drop in revenue — especially if the real estate downturn is part of an overall economic slowdown — will cause a lot of city and state programs to go on an unwanted diet.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com. Real estate news tips? E-mail: john@marinatimes.com



Politics as Usual  
continued from 18

presidential primaries and some other officeholders such as judges, there will be two local bond-related ballot measures.

Proposition A would authorize a bond issuance of \$845 million, the funds from which would be used to renovate several City College campuses. It needs the support of at least 55 percent of the voters to pass.

Proposition B would authorize \$628.5 million in bond debt to pay for infrastructure upgrades in fire and police stations, the emergency firefighting water system, the emergency call center, and additional projects related to disaster response. This ballot measure requires a two-thirds majority of voters to pass.

There is also a statewide bond measure on the ballot; Proposition 13, the School and College Facilities Bond, would result in \$15 billion in bond debt for those educational institutions.

Confronted by all of these asks for money in the form of bond authorization, some voters naturally think, “That’s a lot of money. And didn’t we just authorize hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds in the last election? And the one before that?” In November 2019, for example, city voters approved a different Proposition A, which provided for the issuance of up to \$600 million in bond debt to fund affordable housing.

When you read analyses of municipal bond proposals and wonder about the cost, you might be confused by — or perhaps pleased by — descriptions of how they won’t result in higher taxes. For example, in 2015, San Francisco voters approved another bond measure called — you guessed it — Proposition

A to raise \$310 million for affordable housing. As *Affordable Housing Finance’s* Donna Kimura wrote after the measure’s passage, “Prop A allows an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds, if needed. . . . However, because of the retirement of existing debt and the growth of the property tax base, city leaders who support the plan said they do not expect the property tax rate to increase.”

The Office of the Controller for the City and County of San Francisco provides information on both policies and outstanding debt. If you want to go into the numbers and see how many municipal bonds the city is still paying for, and the status of each of them, the controller’s office has extensive and not-too-difficult to understand data at [sfcontroller.org](http://sfcontroller.org). If you are interested enough to dig deep into the data, you can find out how much of a bond has been issued, and how much has been authorized but not yet issued.

As the controller’s annual report issued last year notes, the “City Charter limits issuance of general obligation bonds of the City to 3 percent of the assessed value of all taxable real and personal property, located within the City and County.” So as earlier bonds are paid off, or bond authority in them goes unused because a project comes in under budget or changes in some way so that the money is not needed, then the city has that amount of money under its bond cap available to issue bond debt on new projects. That’s why in the controller’s review, found in deep-dive descriptions of bond ballot measures, you will often see a statement that even though a new bond measure would result in the city issuing hundreds of millions of dollars in bond debt, it would not result in higher taxes.

The controller’s report on all outstanding general obligation bonds — separate from a couple other types of bond debt instruments we’ll ignore for today — showed that as of Dec. 31, 2019, San Francisco has \$2,389,312,972 in outstanding principal remaining on all of its outstanding GO bonds.

BOND MARKET

Across the country, about \$4 trillion is invested in municipal bonds.

So why do cities use bonds instead of just raising taxes for new spending? First of all, taxpayers really hate new spending. If municipalities keep issuing new bonds to replace the already-authorized spending authority as old bonds are paid off, taxpayers don’t get hit with new taxes.

So, you might think, if the city is basically using a line of credit from taxpayers to fund important projects, why doesn’t it just put that money into an account to fund these projects and not borrow the money from the investors? There would be no need to pay off investors with interest payments, and the unused money could in fact be invested in safe investments — such as, I don’t know, municipal bonds — and bring in its own income. Why not? Because that would take long-term thinking and it would still require raising that initial amount of funding from taxpayers via, yes, taxes.

For their part, investors like to buy municipal bonds because they can avoid federal taxes (and, depending on where they live, some local and state taxes) on the interest they receive from them, unlike if they invest in corporate bonds. Also, municipal bonds tend to be relatively safe. Their yield might be lower than on corporate bonds, but — Stockton and Detroit aside — municipalities rarely go bankrupt. Maurie Backman, writ-



In the March 3 election, voters will decide whether to raise money via a bond issuance to fund improvements on City College campuses. PHOTO: SYCED2

ing on The Motley Fool website, noted that “based on historical data, municipal bonds are 50 to 100 times less likely to default than corporate bonds that carry the same credit ratings.” According to the most recent data from the credit agency Moody’s, San Francisco has a AAA credit rating — Moody’s highest rating— so our bonds are pretty darn safe for investors, and it allows the city to issue debt with lower interest rates payable to the investors.

So you could vote for a bond issuance and later invest in the bond, helping the city and helping your investments at the same time.

Send feedback to [letters@marinatimes.com](mailto:letters@marinatimes.com). Contact the author at [john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)

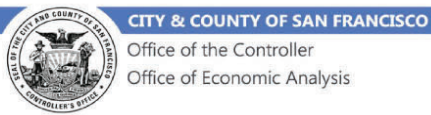
# ON MARCH 3, PROTECT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CRITICAL CITY SERVICES. VOTE NO ON PROP E

[www.protectaffordablehousing.com](http://www.protectaffordablehousing.com)

## San Francisco Chronicle

“Over the next 20 years, Todco’s measure would cut \$600 million to \$900 million in affordable housing fees paid by offices and reduce property taxes by \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion, the city’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development found.”

12/9/19



“the proposed measure would lead to a negative net fiscal impact to the City, of between \$4.2 and \$7.2 million in year 1, rising to between \$84 - \$146 million annually by year 20.”

1/27/20



Ad paid for by No on Prop E, Committee to Protect Affordable Housing.  
Financial disclosures are available at [sfethics.org](http://sfethics.org).

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.





Let's talk cannabis.

THE  
APOTHECARIUM  
DISPENSARY

CASTRO • MARINA • SOMA