



**Making change**  
Supervisor Stefani calls for steps to fight crime. p. 3  
Supervisor Peskin says make the ballot box work. p. 6  
John Zipperer highlights the good news that's being obscured by tweetstorms. p. 12



**More online**  
Lou Barberini on local government corruption, plus event listings, and more.  
[marinatimes.com](http://marinatimes.com)



Madame Gandhi's performance and lecture airs in October. PHOTO: ASIANART.ORG

## Musician and activist Madame Gandhi on the Asian Art Museum calendar

BY LYNETTE MAJER

IT'S A LIVESTREAMING LIFE WE'RE all living these days as we adapt to what we must, just as museums, theater and dance companies, and other groups have done. While museums have been granted reopening status, most happening this month and offering free admission, other

performances and lectures remain livestream and on-demand only. Perhaps not our first choice, these methods do have benefits, like our seeking out new kinds of entertainment. Consider this month musician and activist Madame Gandhi's livestreaming performance, which will feature a new composition, "Young Indian," from her most recent album,

*Visions*. She will also discuss her South Asian artist identity and her mission to celebrate gender liberation. **Young Indian: Madame Gandhi: Thursday, Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m.; \$0-\$25, [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)** See our calendar on page 11 for details on museum reopenings and additional livestreaming and on-demand events.

REYNOLDS RAP : Opinion

## San Francisco needs big change

Endorsements for the supervisor candidates most likely to bring it

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

NEIGHBORS IN THE RICHMOND DISTRICT HAVE been begging their supervisor, Sandra Fewer, to deal with a growing homeless situation known as the 18th Avenue encampment. On Aug. 17, a group of 40 residents and 10 small businesses on Geary Boulevard sent a letter to city departments heads, the mayor, and Fewer. The letter outlined five months of violence, vandalism, crime, drugs, and assaults. Worst of all, a Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender named Gregory Keith Smith (known by his street name, "Alabama") was living in the encampment — right across from the YMCA's daycare. Supervisor Fewer insisted she was powerless, so residents turned to neighbor and supervisorial candidate Marjan Philhour, who guided them in their quest to clean up the camp. San Francisco Police arrested Smith, who was also in possession of a large amount of methamphetamine. Department of Public Works arrived and cleared piles of abandoned furniture, appliances, snow skis, broken "chop shop" bicycles, and even a hospital gurney. SF Healthy Streets came and announced they

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

### COMMUNITY

## When politics trump friendship and family

Have the promoters of discord won?

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

HOW'S THE OLD SAYING GO? OH YEAH: "POLITICS makes strange bedfellows." Over the past few years, we've learned that politics can actually drive a fellow (or a gal) from your bed. And tear apart families. And destroy friendships. On the verge of what appears to be the most consequential presidential election in modern American history, the fear across the divide grows — as does the mistrust, as does the acrimony. This goes beyond people defriending one another on Facebook for backing one candidate over another. Lifelong bonds are being broken as MSNBC viewers can no longer stand to be in the company of Fox News viewers and vice versa. What used to be just arguments at Thanksgiving dinner with your cantankerous uncle, uptight cousin, or dithering grandmother have escalated into

COMMUNITY, continued on 2

### MODERN DINING



The author reviews her notes at Tony's Pizza Napolitana in North Beach as a workman puts finishing touches on the outside dining deck. PHOTO: CARL HALL, GUILD FREELANCERS

## A North Beach treasure hunt for eating

BY KAT ANDERSON

NORTH BEACH IS THE TRUE heart of San Francisco. We have so many essential neighborhoods, but for me they are

all planets revolving around the corner of Columbus Avenue and Broadway Street. This is as close as we come to Times Square — a sublime mix of bohemians, bon vivants, buskers,

and boozers. The tourists and jetsetters crowd in for good reason. Don't we all want to feel some authentic licentiousness when we travel? I have lived here 32 years. These are some grim times like none since 9/11, and unlike those sad days, these stretch on and on. Still, I had the best time I've ever had in North Beach just the other day, a Monday afternoon no less.

### SUNSHINE, LOBELIA, AND PIZZA

A wonderfully ordinary sun found its way to the pavement, the apocalyptic orange smog long gone. I was sitting in a new dining deck outside Tony's Pizza Napolitana. A light breeze tickled the lavender lobelia in the planter box next to me. A workman was adding Italian tricolor striping to the corner posts surrounding our table. I was crunching on Tony's amazing Cal-Italia brick-oven pizza. Saints Peter and Paul Church lorded over everything from across Washington Square. I felt like Marilyn Monroe in my little world at Union and Stockton Streets. Who would have ever suspected such a delightful scene in the midst of a deadly pandemic? North Beach, MODERN DINING, continued on 8



# BOHO RESTAURANT

3321 Steiner St., San Francisco  
415.374.7518 | 415.602.1182  
info@cafebohosf.com | www.bohosf.com  
@bohorestaurantsf

OUTDOOR DINING  
TAKE OUT | DELIVERY  
CAKES & PASTRIES



## Hours of operations

Dinner  
Happy Hour  
Brunch

Tuesday - Saturday, 5pm - 9pm  
Tuesday - Saturday, 5pm - 6:30pm  
Tuesday - Saturday, 12pm - 3pm  
Sunday, 11am - 5pm

Please call 415.374.7518 to book your reservation.  
Place your Take-Out order online, via Tock or call 415.374.7518

# jest jewels

## THANK YOU

## Justice Ginsburg



Enjoy 20-70% off everything!



Tues - Sat 11a-6p Sun 12a-5p 1869 Union St. SF 94123  
www.jestjewels.com 415-563-8839 jestjewels@aol.com

Ear Piercing Available! Call for appointment

## Community

continued from cover

insurmountable schisms that might not ever be repaired, no matter who wins the election.

On the other hand, it's unlikely that we'll be having normal Thanksgiving dinners this year, what with the pandemic and all. As good as that tradeoff sounds, I'd prefer peace and harmony abounding. But that's unlikely.

We seem to have passed a tipping point, and exacerbated by pervasive modern tech, it feels like we're going to have to get used to living in a house divided.

### A QUESTIONABLE REALITY

It's more than conceivable that the animosity, particularly on one side, is fueled by the crass, mean-spirited, say-anything bravado of the current denizen of the White House who has turned the bully pulpit of high office into an unchecked bully's pulpit. Thanks to easy-to-use digital devices and omnipresent social-media outlets, the rancor has flowed freely, finding so many ways to be disseminated with vicious streams and eddies leaking everywhere. And America in 2020 is drowning in it.

Did the coarsening of discourse, the spread of disinformation, and false presumptions of expertise by anyone with a media platform start in the '90s with right-wing talk radio offering up all manner of vulgar musings and conspiracy theories about the Clintons and other members of the Democratic Party? Perhaps.

Were those destructive circumstances given legitimacy and heft by the rise of what has long been mislabeled as reality TV? Seems likely in a world where the Kardashians — a clan of self-absorbed, privileged narcissists — get anointed as celebrities worth adoring and even emulating because of their willingness to shamelessly parade in front of video cameras and release footage of their obnoxiously ostentatious nouveau-riche antics to cable TV for an audience desperate to experience vicarious "pleasure."

The idea that "fame" equates with "greatness" — that what's seen on reality TV is true and valid just because it's onscreen — is what can lead to popular political support of, for instance, a pompous, profligate, crass conman who is erroneously presented as an accomplished, sophisticated tycoon on broadcasts watched by millions.

But this is not about anyone's lack of fitness, experience, and temperament

for the most important job in the world. It's about the fractures in American society. Whatever the cause, they are real and impactful.

### THIS TIME, IT'S (MUCH TOO) PERSONAL

A woman I know is freaked out that her brother-in-law is using an extensive piece of propaganda in the form of a chain email to change her sister's vote in November, driving a massive wedge between the siblings.

A longtime colleague in the California music scene has gone around the bend so far when it comes to his perspectives on state and national government that, in the eyes of many mutual associates, he's beyond salvation.

Closer to home, I have to keep my dealings with a loyal friend and business partner on the down-low despite decades of camaraderie, because his wife's politics are in diametric opposition to mine and, as a result, she now hates me. That breaks my heart.

You could say a storm is upon us — an imperfect one — and it's buffeting an entire country that turns more fragile and combustible as each day passes. Dubious assertions of who's on higher moral ground are strengthened by righteous certainty on all sides and hardened by the lack of civility that has been embraced by our so-called leaders, seeping through the fabric of the nation and somehow becoming the norm. And the ethical compasses spin wildly, depending on the expediency of a person's stance — whatever the specific topic might be.

There has always been a political spectrum with extremes at both ends. Although people have long disagreed on hot-button issues like gun control, abortion, and taxes, it's the intractable ferocity many of us are experiencing that's so disturbing and debilitating. Never has the concept of truth been this malleable and up for debate. Never have facts been disregarded or belittled to such an extent.

And I have no solution.

I just hope we can weather this blizzard of anger, resentment, and partisan entrenchment and come out the other side of it a whole, intact, and caring society.

*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, and The Mark Thompson Show on KGO radio. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster*

- 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.



# End the crime spree


BY CATHERINE STEFANI

This is no joke.

To gain a fuller understanding of how the city is caring for our homeless population during this difficult time, I signed up to serve as a disaster service worker in one of our community's shelter-in-place hotels. These sites — three in District 2 — are staffed with security and social workers, and the temporary residents are provided with around-the-clock supervision. Although some have attributed these hotels to the uptick in crime, we have not seen concrete evidence to that effect. By

If that study shows that any policies of the SFPD or the district attorney need to change to be more effective in preventing violence on our streets, you can be sure I am going to be pushing for those changes.

If you want to see a change in how San Francisco deals with issues of neighborhood safety, help me make sure our neighbors in odd-numbered supervisorial districts know that they have an opportunity to choose their representatives this year. Ballots will be mailed out this month, and this election could not be more important.




# WITTER COINS

EST. 1960

## Shop & Sell Safely

**Open Normal Hours During Covid-19**


Plenty of Space for Social Distancing  
Masks Required for All  
Showroom Constantly Sanitized





## We Buy and Sell

**Rolux Watches  
Jewelry  
Coins  
Gold and  
Silver Bullion**

**Open Now at  
2299 Lombard**







**wittercoin.com**

**(415) 781-5690**

*Established 1960*

**2299 Lombard St, San Francisco**

The old IHOP at Lombard and Pierce  
with free onsite parking

Open normal hours:  
**Weekdays 10-6**  
**Saturdays 10-3**  
Walk-ins & Appointments Welcome

Designed by  
NUMISMATIC  
MARKETING



On or before  
November 3, *Vote*  
**Michelle  
PARKER**  
*for* **School  
BOARD**



Public School Parent & Trusted, Experienced Leader

- Support students academically, physically, and emotionally through the pandemic
- Accelerate closing our African American achievement gap
- Strengthen our educator workforce

Endorsed by:



NANCY PELOSI  
SPEAKER



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
SENATOR



LONDON BREED  
MAYOR



SCOTT WIENER  
SENATOR



CARMEN CHU  
ASSESSOR



RACHEL NORTON  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSIONER



www.michelleparker.org

Ad paid for by Michelle Parker  
for School Board 2020.  
Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.  
Paid political advertisement.

Michelle PARKER  
Public School Parent for School Board

Reynolds Rap  
continued from cover

had available beds. When only one person accepted the offer, DPW told the rest to pack their belongings and leave. Neighbors say the encampment hasn't returned, but Alabama has — still sleeping and living in an area full of children.

While the 18th Avenue encampment tale has some good points (neighbors working together with the city), it also shows the shortfalls of City Hall. Homeless individuals are still calling the shots, and until officials stop allowing this, San Francisco has little hope of real change. The fact a registered sex offender is arrested and released by lenient judges and a district attorney who seems more interested in his own political agenda than justice for residents is also an issue that won't be solved any time soon.

What can be changed fairly soon, however, is the makeup of the Board of Supervisors. Here are my endorsements for supervisors running in the Nov. 6, 2020 election. Because many officials are elected by a small margin, every vote counts — as does ranked-choice voting, where candidates are often elected despite not being the most popular choice. I recommend voting only for your favorite candidate in the number one slot and leaving the rest blank.

DISTRICT 1 — MARJAN PHILHOUR

The candidates in District 1 are mostly weak at best, and one of them — Connie Chan — is absolutely the wrong choice. I say this as someone who likes Chan as a person (I met her when she worked in District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin's office), but her answers during an online debate showed she would be business as usual — more sympathetic to the homeless than to her constituents. She seemed caught off-guard by the moderator's questions and had a deer-in-the-headlights quality when confronted with tough issues.

Marjan Philhour not only helped residents resolve the 18th Avenue encampment when current supervisor Fewer wouldn't, in the debate she gave answers more aligned with the big changes the city needs.

DISTRICT 3 — AARON PESKIN

While I don't always agree with Supervisor Peskin, we agree more than we don't. I would like to see Peskin take a stronger stance on crime and homelessness (that goes for the entire board), but he has an enormous amount of experience writing and passing legislation, a strong record on environmental issues, and a reputation for being able to work across the aisle. Peskin is also one of the few supervisors who sees his job as a citywide role and not just a district role. Most important, he has been there through tough fiscal times like the one San Francisco is currently facing, and has no problem making the cuts necessary to bring the city back from the brink of economic disaster, because he's done it before.

DISTRICT 5 — VALLIE BROWN

I receive a lot of letters from unhappy residents in every district, but by far the most come from District 5. I have personally lived in District 5 (the Haight, Buena Vista) through six supervisors, and current supervisor Dean Preston is by far the worst (and that says a lot). Preston proudly admits he paid for and handed out nearly 1,000 tents to the homeless in the Haight, a neighborhood besieged by violent punks strung out on meth. The last time I visited Haight Street I saw more transients than tourists — and that was before the pandemic.

Residents say Preston is unresponsive, arrogant, and more interested in pushing his own political agenda than helping clean up the neighborhood. He put the "safe sleeping site" at 730 Stanyan Street in the Haight despite the fact that Ida B. Wells, a high school near his own \$3 million home on Hayes Street in Alamo Square, was a far

better choice. He lobbied for the controversial Homeless Youth Alliance — a group he supported before taking political office — to get the contract for the sanctioned encampment, ignoring other nonprofits interested in the site for different projects like youth soccer. That's a clear conflict of interest, but Preston doesn't care — just like, according to the letters I've received, he doesn't care about his constituents.

Vallie Brown was appointed by London Breed to fill her seat when she became mayor, and Dean ran a nasty, personal campaign against her when she came up for election. He beat her by fewer than 200 votes. Time for District 5 to end Preston's failed social experiment and give Brown a chance to do the job she started.

DISTRICT 7 — JOEL ENGARDIO

For District 7, Joel Engardio is the only candidate to unabashedly endorse my idea of a West Coast version of Austin's successful homeless program Community First Village. A longtime District 7 resident, Engardio is an award-winning journalist who helps lead Stop Crime S.F., a victim's rights advocacy group dedicated to public safety by holding the justice system accountable.

The absolute wrong choice is Vilaska Nguyen, a public defender who has received the endorsement (and money) from former public defender and current district attorney, Chesa Boudin. While Nguyen claimed to be a "10-year resident" of District 7, the *Marina Times* exposed that he moved there less than a year ago from his longtime home in District 11, likely to avoid running against political ally John Avalos, who wants his old seat back — and who, not surprisingly, endorses Nguyen in District 7. If district elections are going to work, you can't elect a carpetbagger like Nguyen who is more concerned with pushing his political agenda than with helping neighborhoods he knows nothing about.

DISTRICT 9 — NO ENDORSEMENT

Hillary Ronen, who has spent more than a decade as part of the City Hall machine, is shockingly running unopposed despite accomplishing almost nothing for the struggling neighborhoods she represents. "It's a big disappointment," Roberto Hernandez, known as the "Mayor of the Mission," told the *Bay City Beacon* in 2019. Ronen, he said, campaigned on 5,000 affordable housing units, "and she hasn't built one. We've lost over 10,000 people, 8,000 of whom are Latino. We've lost 29 businesses. . . . At the end of the day it just seems like it's not her priority, it's clear she's put her energy and time on other things."

One of those other things was her 2019 legislation to crack down on tenant buyouts and owner move-in evictions — even though in 2017 Ronen and her husband bought into a TIC building where the previous owner did tenant buyouts and an owner move-in eviction. District 9 residents should send a message to Ronen by skipping her on the ballot.

DISTRICT 11 — ASHA SAFAI

Residents of District 11 have a decent incumbent in Asha Safai, though the bigger issue is who not to vote for. Remember John Avalos? He spent eight years as District 11 supervisor helping to get San Francisco into the mess it's in today. Now he wants to come back and continue down the same path. Not only is Avalos running on a broken record, his morals are broken, too. He had an affair with his legislative aide who went on "unpaid leave" after the affair hit the press. Avalos's response? "I felt it was most appropriate for her to find employment outside this office." District 11 voters should say the same thing to Avalos.

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

Educator and Organizer  
**MATT 艾善德**  
**ALEXANDER**  
**SCHOOL BOARD**



Endorsements:

San Francisco Democratic Party  
United Educators of San Francisco  
Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee  
Board of Education President Mark Sanchez  
Board of Education Vice Pres. Gabriela Lopez  
Board of Education Member Alison Collins  
Mayor's Education Advisor Jenny Lam  
Former State Assemblymember Tom Ammiano  
Rev. Victor H. Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care, Calvary Presbyterian Church\*  
Rev. Deacon Davidson Bidwell-Waite, Grace Cathedral\*  
League of Pissed Off Voters  
United Democratic Club  
Richmond District Democratic Club  
Rose Pak Democratic Club  
Chinese American Democratic Club  
SF Latino Democratic Club  
SEIU Local 1021  
San Francisco Labor Council  
\*for identification purposes only

For over 20 years, I've been serving the students and families of San Francisco as a public school teacher and the founder and principal of June Jordan School for Equity. I'm currently a community organizer with Faith in Action Bay Area. My experience in SFUSD and knowledge of our community will bring a needed voice to the School Board.

www.MattAlexanderSF.org

Paid for by Matt Alexander for School Board 2020 • Financial disclosures available at: www.sfethics.org





# NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION TAXPAYER RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPOSITION A - NO** - \$487 million for MORE homeless, streets, and patronage parks money. This isn't the time, with declining tax revenue, to incur more debt.

**PROPOSITION B - NO** - To fight City Hall corruption, the Supervisors propose TWO CITY DEPARTMENTS. MORE growth in government and more political commissions to do the job we already pay City employees to do.

**PROPOSITION C - NO** - Rewards illegal immigration, removing citizenship as a requirement for appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

**PROPOSITION D - NO** - More bureaucracy for an elected sheriff's duties under state law plus another Commission to the present 123 existing ones at a Controller estimated \$10 million dollars annually.

**PROPOSITION E - NO** - Police staffing doesn't belong in our City Charter. Vote NO.

**PROPOSITION G - NO** - It's a flawed and flagrant attempt by the Supervisors to fatten voter rolls with impressionable adolescents. VOTE NO.

**PROPOSITION I - NO** - Real Estate Transfer Tax - After selling real estate, recording the deed of transfer takes about 10 minutes, even at City Hall. Recordation of a deed is required by state law. The transfer tax has been illogical since enactment by a non-unanimous Board of Supervisors before state constitutional law required voter approval. Prop I should eliminate the transfer tax not double it! Eliminate Prop I by voting NO!

**PROPOSITION J - NO** - Parcel Tax - Treating multi-billion-dollar property corporations the same as cottage owner in the outer Sunset with a "parcel" tax which is the same for each separate parcel in San Francisco debases striving homeowners. While this lowers the 2018 tax by \$22 per parcel, it doesn't erase the inequity of taxing billion-dollar downtown buildings the same as a widow's little home.

**PROPOSITION L - NO** - CEO Tax - Our Socialist Board of Supervisors wants to redistribute wealth. Unless of course, it's their favorite celebrities or sports stars who can keep their money. But if you're a business CEO, educated, confirmed by a Board of Directors, often times with SEC oversight hand over your money! This is their sad attempt at revenue rather than fairness or fiscal discipline. Vote No on this volatile, unreliable tax.

## STATE BALLOT TAXPAYER RECOMMENDATIONS

**NO ON PROPOSITION 15** - In 1978, San Francisco and California revolted against high property taxes by establishing a baseline for real estate value and changing tax assessment to an inflation rate. Cities and counties were forced to improve effectiveness. Tax and spending legislators have moaned ever since and are now trying to regress by changing assessment of commercial and industrial property, assuring voters they would never do so with residential property. Landlords and tenants can't believe them. Proposition 15 is a Trojan Horse and a warm up for doing the same in two years to homeowners and tenants. Vote NO ON PROP 15!

**NO ON PROPOSITION 16** - This reinstates discrimination on account of race, sex, or national origin in California which we prohibited in 1996. Voters banned preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, or national origin in public employment, public education and public contracting. The Legislature now wants to restore reverse discrimination and quotas. That's reactionary in critical times in California and elsewhere. Reject Proposition 16!

**NO ON PROPOSITION 21** - Reject Prop 21, another example of politicians trying to control the private market on residential rentals. Their interference will not lower rents, and may very well raise them! Preserve private property rights, Vote NO!

**NO ON PROPOSITION 25** - Public safety undermining legislation passed the Legislature in 2018, eliminating money bail, a state and federal constitutional right with a system based on technology in the form of algorithms. Instead of allowing lawyers for those accused of crimes to present testimony and other evidence to a Superior Court Judge on a client's predictable appearance for Court hearings and low risk of criminal conduct before trial, the Legislature forced judges to use an algorithm eliminating personal sworn testimony from family, friends, and employers.

Prop 25 says "NO" by repealing that fanciful law with a restoration of money bail and constitutional rights before trial.

PAID FOR BY THE SAN FRANCISCO TAX PAYERS ASSOCIATION, 380 WEST PORTAL AVE., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94127



# AARON PESKIN

## FOR SUPERVISOR



“For Aaron Peskin,  
there’s no job too big  
or too small.”

—Supervisor Catherine Stefani

- ✓ New homeless navigation center
- ✓ Expanding COVID-19 testing
- ✓ \$1 million small business disaster relief
- ✓ Preserving jobs and saving local venues
- ✓ Pioneering shared spaces to bring our economy back
- ✓ Affordable housing in District 3 and across the city
- ✓ Pedestrian safety improvements

— Supported by: —

Mayor London Breed  
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Vote November 3

Ad paid for by Aaron Peskin for Supervisor 2020.  
Financial disclosures are available at SFethics.org

## FROM THE DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR

# Vote for recovery and reforms

BY AARON PESKIN

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN ONE STRUGGLE after another, seemingly without an end in sight. A global pandemic and economic shutdown, California ablaze with wildfires, a national reckoning with racism and a dysfunctional federal administration openly fanning the flames of hatred. On the first night of Rosh Hashanah, the news of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s passing was just another gut punch to our collective will to hold on.

It’s been brutal, and we’re all fighting to get through this together. We each have a role to play in the path forward, and it starts at the ballot box. This is the most critical election in generations, and we have an opportunity to vote for recovery and reforms from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco.

### SAN FRANCISCO

Here’s a brief description of the most important local measures and my recommendations.

**Proposition A: Health and Recovery Bond** — Yes. This \$487 million bond, supported unanimously by the Board of Supervisors and mayor, will fund mental health and supportive housing facilities, street repair, and park renovations — and will *not* raise property taxes or increase rents.

**Proposition B: Department of Public Works Reform** — Yes. Corruption has tragically plagued DPW from its trash can contracts to its ineffective street cleaning, necessitating reform and restructuring. This charter amendment splits DPW’s core functions into two separate departments — Public Works and Sanitation/Streets — and for the first time creates public, transparent oversight commissions with annual performance and spending audit requirements.

**Proposition C: Remove Citizenship Requirements from City Commissions Service** — Yes. This charter amendment would allow noncitizens to serve on boards, commissions, and advisory bodies, encouraging diversity and engagement on the local issues that affect us all, regardless of our immigration status. My staffer, Sarah Souza, is a DACA recipient, immigrant rights leader, and co-chair of this ballot measure, which I’m proud to support.

**Proposition D: Sheriff’s Department Oversight** — Yes. This charter amendment creates the Sheriff’s Department Oversight Board to report findings and advise the sheriff and the Board of Supervisors regarding Sheriff’s Department operations on a quarterly basis; and it creates the Sheriff’s Department Office of Inspector General, to investigate complaints of noncriminal misconduct by department employees and contractors. This is one piece of a larger effort to implement reasonable law enforcement reforms.

**Proposition E: Needs-Based Police Staffing** — Yes. Another reasonable law enforcement reform unanimously supported by the Board of Supervisors, this charter amendment replaces the arbitrarily mandated minimum police staffing requirement with an independent, fact-based analysis of actual sworn officer needs.

**Proposition F: Fair Recovery Tax Overhaul and Small Business Relief** — Yes. This business tax overhaul finally repeals our payroll tax, increases small business exemptions to include businesses making up to \$2 million annually, and right-sizes the top business tax tiers to ensure that those corporations making the most pay their fair share to support essential public infrastructure and services. Proposition F is another critical recovery measure sup-

ported unanimously by the board and the mayor that gives sorely needed relief to small businesses and cost-sensitive industries impacted by the pandemic.

**Proposition G: Youth Voting Eligibility** — Yes. This measure authorizes youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections, and narrowly lost at the polls in 2016. I supported it then after my former Youth Commissioner presented compelling research and arguments at a joint session with the Board of Supervisors, and I’m supporting it now. When people start voting early, they’re more likely to vote for the rest of their lives.

**Proposition I: Real Estate Transfer Tax** — Yes. This measure, which is heavily opposed by the wealthiest corporations and real estate investment trusts in our country, would increase the transfer tax rate to 5.5 percent on property sales valued between \$10–\$25 million, and 6 percent on transfers of properties with a value of \$25 million or more. The lead sponsor, Supervisor Preston, intends the proceeds to go toward citywide rent and mortgage relief in the aftermath of COVID-19.

**Proposition J: SFUSD Parcel Tax to Fund Teachers** — Yes. This measure replaces the annual \$320 parcel tax in 2018’s “Living Wage for Educators Act” (Proposition G) and replaces it with a lesser \$288 annual parcel tax to be spent by SFUSD for sorely needed teacher pay raises that 60.8 percent of the voters voted for in 2018 but have been held up by litigation brought by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

**Proposition K: Affordable Housing Authorization** — Yes. This measure allows the city of San Francisco to own, develop, construct, acquire, or rehabilitate up to 10,000 affordable rental units in San Francisco required under an antiquated provision, Article 34, of the California Constitution.

**Proposition L: Overpaid CEO Tax** — Yes. This measure imposes a business tax on companies whose highest-paid managerial employee makes 100 times more than their median San Francisco employee salary. It is fair and is designed to stop corporations from paying their CEOs multiple millions.

**Proposition RR: Caltrain Regional Sales Tax** — Yes. Supervisor Walton and I co-sponsored this county sales tax of 0.125 percent to fund critical Caltrain rail service and infrastructure, while also ensuring long-overdue oversight and governance reforms for this three-county railroad that connects San Jose to San Francisco. The same exact measure is also on the ballot in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and will ensure a stable source of revenue for this environmentally sound transportation system.

### CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITIONS

A brief spotlight on the most important state measures:

**Proposition 15: Schools and Communities First Act** — Yes. This voter-sponsored measure would require commercial and industrial properties be taxed based on their real market value. By closing antiquated corporate tax loopholes, California will be able to reinvest billions of dollars into our schools, teachers, and community services.

**Proposition 21: Expand Local Rent Control in California** — Yes. As a small landlord who supports rent control, and has seen firsthand how this tool has helped keep my constituents in their homes (particularly our most vulnerable workers and seniors living on a fixed income), I sup-

**SUPERVISOR, continued on 12**



**NO on Prop i**  
**It's i**diotic

Dennis Franklin  
Amorino Gelato



**DON'T MAKE  
THE CRISIS  
EVEN WORSE!**

**WITH LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND SMALL  
BUSINESSES ALREADY ON THE BRINK, **PROP i**:**

**INCREASES TAXES**

that impact small storefront leases, putting yet another burden on local businesses fighting to survive.

**ALLOWS COSTS TO BE PASSED ON**

to small businesses and struggling tenants.

**FUNNELS MONEY**

into a City Hall slush fund with no safeguards for how politicians spend the money.

AD PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE FOR SAN FRANCISCO  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY, NO ON I, SPONSORED BY  
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE MAJOR FUNDING FROM:  
1. CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ISSUES  
MOBILIZATION PAC (\$200,000)  
2. EQUITY RESIDENTIAL (\$150,000)  
3. HUDSON PACIFIC PROPERTIES INC. (\$150,000)  
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES ARE AVAILABLE AT SFETHICS.ORG

**NO on Prop i**  
**It's i**diotic



Modern Dining  
continued from cover

which crystallizes so much about San Francisco, teaches us one thing above all else: Make the best of it.

THE DAYS OF KEROUAC

There's a new energy here now, unleashed by none other than our much-maligned state and local government's response to Covid-19. The city's Shared Spaces program has allowed restaurants to instantly colonize sidewalks and parking spots for the price of a stack of two by fours. The state Alcohol Beverage Control agency, despite its Kremlinesque reputation, then brought New Orleans to San Francisco, allowing outside alcohol consumption while dining.

It's not quite the same easy North Beach booze-fest that wobbled from the upstairs at Vesuvio Cafe to the back table at Specs' to the early morning Irish coffees at Tosca. Those three joints are all closed right now. Not for long, let's hope. Let's not despair in the meantime. North Beach is making the best of it. And it's not bad.

You can amble into your own little Hell's Half Acre, even on a slow Monday afternoon, for intimate cocktailing with a favorite waiter at Sodini's still not much changed since it was known as Green Valley in the days of Kerouac and pals. Better, of course, to try it on a First Friday of the month, when the North Beach business district sweeps the sidewalk seating areas clean and cranks up the outdoor entertainment from 6 to 9 p.m. Grant Avenue north of Columbus remains one of the most exciting action centers, even without Savoy Tivoli anchoring the watering holes.

ESPRESSO, COPPA, AND GOUDA

Here's a North Beach treasure hunt: Ride the 30 Muni bus, exit at Columbus and Green, walk south to Vallejo Street and stroll east. Grab an espresso at **Caffe Trieste** (601 Vallejo Street, 415-982-2605, [caffetrieste.com](http://caffetrieste.com)) — you'll need the energy, and dig the vibe at one of the world's most famous cafes and historical pillars of North Beach. You may encounter Supervisor Aaron Peskin there. Maybe he will tell you about the rescue of City Lights Bookstore, the saga of the wild parrots of Telegraph Hill, or the secrets of the Filbert Street steps. The supervisor considers outdoor dining "the new normal" in San Francisco, and will "be with us for a long, long time, hopefully forever." I asked what laws would need to be changed to make that so. He and his City Hall colleagues will be looking into that, he said, "We are building the airplane as we're learning to fly."

Then walk back toward Columbus Avenue and turn left to **Molinari's Delicatessen** (373 Columbus Avenue, 415-421-2337, [molinaridelisf.com](http://molinaridelisf.com)). The music is likely to be Big Band, salamis swaying overhead as if in time, and plenty of options on the pastas and sauces. Buy a few things for a picnic — there's an anti-pasti bar, unique deli meats, and a crew of fresh-shaven young men in crisp green aprons ready to slice your coppa and wrap your gouda. Ask the owner's son Nicholas about the history of Molinari's, founded in 1896, and the move to North Beach after the 1906 earthquake. It's still a comfort in troubled times.

A GIFT TO EVERYONE

Head north on Columbus Avenue and turn right on Union Street to Washing-



Marcello Dellaccio is one of the DJs performing Sundays 1–8 p.m. at Acqualina. PHOTO: NAOMI ROSE

ton Square Park, recently renovated by the city and perfect for a lie-down and free entertainment, musical or otherwise. You won't mind the buskers and you will love the view from any angle. Add some oyster treats to your picnic at **Park Tavern** (1652 Stockton Street, 415-989-7300, [parktavernsf.com](http://parktavernsf.com)) where Henry, who calls himself the COO — chief oyster officer — is operating the oyster bar right inside the door. He'll even teach you how to shuck. Park Tavern also offers picnic baskets. Make a note to come back on another night to enjoy the lovely potted olive trees on their dining deck.

Anna Weinberg, owner of Park Tavern, described North Beach as a kind of gift to everybody, even us nobodies. "I love it because it feels like a real community, more so than anywhere else — what an old S.F. neighborhood should feel like," she said.

Now it's time to walk over to **Original Joe's** (601 Union Street, 415-775-4877, [originaljoes.com](http://originaljoes.com)) one of San Francisco's most beloved institutions. OJ's is a place to see and be seen. John Duggan and son John are the consummate hosts, and they host them all from famous residents to local electeds, union heads,

MODERN DINING, continued on 9

**PARK TAVERN**

THE PATIO IS OPEN FOR DINNER WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY  
AND FOR BRUNCH SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR STARTS AT 3PM

- \$1.5 Oysters • Half Price Bubbles • Draft Beer \$5 •
- Large Format Cocktails \$65 (serves 6-8) •

Pick up and local delivery available on Tock.com

1652 STOCKTON ST. | 415-989-7300 | [PARKTAVERNSF.COM](http://PARKTAVERNSF.COM)

open daily noon – 8:30  
outdoor dining  
take-out and delivery

430 columbus avenue | 415.397.3600  
[calzonesf.com](http://calzonesf.com)

**Original Joe's**

OPEN DAILY  
PATIO DINING  
—  
WEEKEND BRUNCH  
—  
TO-GO COCKTAILS  
—  
TAKE-OUT  
—  
DELIVERY VIA  
UBEREATS, CAVIAR,  
GRUBHUB  
—  
CATERING

415.775.4877  
[originaljoes.com](http://originaljoes.com)  
#EatAtJoes

**RISTOBAR**  
SAN FRANCISCO

THE DESTINATION  
FOR RUSTIC  
ITALIAN FARE  
& ARTISAN PIZZA

Enjoy a casual, comfortable neighborhood setting while conversing, eating and drinking with friends and family. Ristobar combines the best products and practices of Italy with the bounty of fresh ingredients available in the Bay Area.

2300 CHESTNUT ST. | (415) 923-6464  
Open Daily until 10:00pm for takeout and outdoor dining.  
Find us on "tock to go" [exploretock.com/ristobar](http://exploretock.com/ristobar)

**DRAGON WELL**

Thank you Marina for supporting us  
these past 22 years—we look forward  
to seeing you soon on our patio!

2142 Chestnut Street San Francisco, CA 94123  
425.474.6888 | [www.dragonwell.com](http://www.dragonwell.com)

**CAPO'S**  
Pizza • Pasta • Cocktails  
BY TONY GEMIGNANI

Join us on our new shared space  
for Detroit & Chicago style pizza!

641 Vallejo Street • 415-986-8998  
Open Wednesday-Sunday for pickup, delivery, and  
outdoor dining. Order pickup at [sfcapos.com](http://sfcapos.com). Find us  
on Caviar, UberEats, & DoorDash for delivery.



## Modern Dining

continued from pg. 8

working-class stalwarts, entertainers, fishers, hospitality industry workers, madams, and grandmas. Everyone’s the same in OJ’s — important — and the two Johns are the head of an amazing team that makes everyone feel they’ve really arrived somewhere. The younger Duggan sat with me the other day and described how the restaurant community has pulled together like never before to keep the “heart of San Francisco” beating. He says North Beach is *the* authentic San Francisco neighborhood. And he’s right.

OJ’s outdoor seating wraps around the corner of Stockton and Union Streets and continues almost to the intersection of Columbus Avenue — a big presence befitting a heavyweight in the San Francisco dining industry. And it’s just what North Beach needed. I also think the ambience is tres romantique in an old-school kind of way. Supper here and maybe a viewing for two of *Casablanca* at home would be the perfect evening, and no need for physical distancing if plans work out.

Across the street from OJ’s is a great friend of the Duggans, Tony Geminagni, in the form of his pizza school and signature pizzeria, **Tony’s** (1570 Stockton Street, 415-835-9888, [tonyspizzanapoletana.com](http://tonyspizzanapoletana.com)). Geminagni tells me that once the pandemic hit, folks were looking for something different and discovered his square-pan Detroit-style pizza cooked with Wisconsin brick mozzarella cheese. Try the Grandma pizza, too — Geminagni only makes 15 of those a day — and add in a Noisy Boy cocktail of serra-

no-infused tequila, or maybe one of the many draft beer offerings.

Across from Tony’s, **Acquolina** (1600 Stockton Street, 415-781-0331, [acquolina.us](http://acquolina.us)) occupies another key corner at the Stockton and Union Streets mashup. The name means “mouth watering,” and the owners claim this is what happens when food is made with “passion and love.” Acquolina’s house-made pasta dishes and antipasti, along with the DJs and local musicians on the street, are about as close to what you’d experience in Rome without risking a couple weeks of quarantine.

### RENEWED AL FRESCO CULTURE

Pull yourself away from Acquolina and head one block south to Green Street. North Beach has more decent eateries on this short stretch between Columbus and Grant Avenues than some small towns. **Sotto Mare Oysteria & Seafood** (552 Green Street, 415-398-3181, [sottomaresf.com](http://sottomaresf.com)) has the “best damn crab cioppino,” according to its menu, and who am I to argue? It feeds two. The host, Ria Pesenti, says locals really go for the grilled sand dabs or sea scallop sauté. For something unique, try the Crab Diavolo — cracked Dungeness crab over linguine sautéed in butter, garlic and red pepper flakes.

For an Italian homespun meal served by waitstaff that has been around for decades, check out the aforementioned **Sodini’s** (510 Green Street, 415-291-0499, [sodinisgreenvalley.com](http://sodinisgreenvalley.com)). The bar is classic, and someday you may actually be able to elbow your way in like the old days.

You’ll have a lot of fun sitting in the turf-clad, wine-barrel-equipped street space of **Belle Cora** (565 Green Street,

415-872-5451, [thebellecora.com](http://thebellecora.com)). Talk about a pandemic-driven turnaround — Belle Cora had a seating capacity of about 10 bar stools before Shared Spaces became a thing. Now the restaurant has twice as many tables.

Like many hardy restaurateurs all over this town, nobody here plans to give up the great outdoors. The young Belle Cora general manager, Nils Marthinsen, says he wants to “take back the streets,” because patrons have fallen in love with the renewed al fresco culture of North Beach. Nils plans to augment that culture with open mic nights that include more music, plus comedy and whatever else the neighbors think might be fun along with the wine and craft beer selections.

Another Green Street fixture with tunes in mind, **Golden Boy Pizza** (542 Green Street, 415-982-9738, [goldenboypizza.com](http://goldenboypizza.com)), claims it’s where “it’s hip to be square.” Golden Boy opened in 1978, so not only is it a Legacy Business, but it has surely helped seal many a deal in coupledness. That’s where Mr. Kat Anderson took us on our first little date together. I remember later telling my dad that the golden boy took me for a Golden Boy. I guess we were meant for each other.

### NIGHTCAP PUB CRAWLING

By now it’s probably getting late. For a nightcap, head east up Green Street to Grant Avenue. At the corner of Grant Avenue and Vallejo Street, check out the rustic dining stalls at **The Showdown** (1268 Grant Avenue, 415-772-0933, [pourguys.com](http://pourguys.com)). There’s a 60-inch TV mounted along the sidewalk usually tuned to a Giants’ game. This is the former home of the historic La Pantera Cafe,

in a building constructed in 1888. Nowadays the place is owned by Pour Guys, Inc. (Tony, Joey, and crew), which also owns the Tempest and Connecticut Yankee in SOMA and Potrero Hill, respectively. Get the Pantera Smash Burger (double wagyu beef patty), duck fat popcorn, and Mother Bronson cocktail.

Be sure to include in your pub crawl **Tupelo** (1337 Grant Avenue, 415-981-9177, [tupelosf.com](http://tupelosf.com)), which appeals to my Southern upbringing, and **Maggie McGarry’s** (1353 Grant Avenue, 415-399-9020, [maggiemcgarrys.com](http://maggiemcgarrys.com)), a classic Irish pub. Both places are perfect for a brew or two.

Finally, who doesn’t love a comeback story? Let’s welcome **Portofino Cafe** (1318 Grant Avenue, 415-400-5776, *no website*), braving an opening during this pandemic. Locals will remember that Portofino, established in 1937, used to be on Columbus Avenue. It closed in the 1990s, but the owner’s son, Frankie Balistreri, raised in North Beach, wasn’t ready to let it go. “It’s everybody’s dream to open their own restaurant,” Balistreri says. Check out Portofino’s succulent seafood salad, a mountain of shrimp, crab, avocado and other veggies your nonna wants you to eat. And perhaps more important, because you’re on this treasure hunt, share some of your pieces of eight. We all need it.

*Kat Anderson is a 25-year Marina resident and co-owner and operator of Word A Cafe in the Bayview District. She’s a reformed lawyer, S.F. Recreation and Park commissioner, and lover of foods that can be eaten without forks. E-mail: [kat@marinatimes.com](mailto:kat@marinatimes.com)*




## COOKING WITH HEART

# ACQUOLINA

SAN FRANCISCO

LOVE LIFE FOOD WINE PASSION PEOPLE

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 415-781-0331  
or [ACQUOLINA.US/RESERVATION](http://ACQUOLINA.US/RESERVATION)



TONY'S  
**PIZZA**  
NAPOLETANA


Home of 13-time World Pizza Champion  
Tony Geminagni

Join us on our new outdoor shared spaces for  
award winning pizza, cocktails and wine.

**1570 Stockton Street • 415-835-9888**

Open 7 days a week for pickup, delivery, and outdoor dining.  
Order pickup at [tonyspizzanapoletana.com](http://tonyspizzanapoletana.com).  
Find us on Caviar, UberEats, DoorDash, and Postmates for delivery.


## THE BEST DAMN CIOPPINO!



# SOTTO MARE

OYSTERIA & SEAFOOD

"This is a real Italian restaurant founded by an Italian family and I love the authentic food and surroundings..." Tony Bennett



Oysters & clams on the half-shell, crab cioppino, seafood pastas, seafood risotto, fresh seafood salads, and featured selections of the freshest daily catch.

**LOCATED IN THE HEART OF NORTH BEACH**  
552 Green Street • (415) 398-3181 • [SottoMareSF.com](http://SottoMareSF.com)

# BELLE CORA

LARGE HEATED PATIO

OPEN EVERY DAY

BEST WINES • CRAFT BEER  
GREAT FOOD


(415) 872-5451 | [thebellecora.com](http://thebellecora.com)  
555 Green Street SF CA 94133



# Portofino

est. 1937

## SEAFOOD CO.



**OYSTER BAR AND SEAFOOD MARKET**  
Neighborhood Place - Neighborhood Guy  
1318 Grant Avenue | (415) 400-5776

# COMET CLUB

Now Serving  
Food Curbside

Specialty  
Cocktails

12 Beers  
on Tap



**3111 Fillmore St. • 415-567-5589**  
[CometClubSF.com](http://CometClubSF.com)



Michael Snyder on . . . Film

Holmes is where her heart is  
Sherlock’s sister follows in his footsteps

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IN ADDITION TO REVISITING THE hidden perils of small-town America in the 1980s, and introducing viewers to the deadly Demogorgon and the Upside Down dimension, the breakout Netflix fantasy series *Stranger Things* launched the career of Millie Bobby Brown — a young British actress with a name that curiously sounds straight out of the American South. Three seasons of *Stranger Things* have featured Brown’s compelling portrayal of the naive, psychically powered heroine Eleven, solidifying her status as a talent on the rise. Now, at 16, Brown is playing the title character in the feature film *Enola Holmes*, currently available on Netflix, and it’s a star-making turn.

*Enola Holmes* is an exuberant, smart, family-friendly action movie about master detective Sherlock Holmes’s little sister, Enola, who is determined to follow in her brother’s footsteps. One of its greatest assets is a cast led by Brown as Enola and featuring experienced support from Henry Cavill (Superman in the DC Extended Universe films) as the canny Sherlock, Sam Claflin (*Peaky Blinders*, *The Hunger Games*) as stuffy older brother Mycroft Holmes, and the prodigious Helena Bonham Carter (*The Crown*, *The King’s Speech*) as free-spirited Eudoria, matriarch of the family.

MYSTERY GIRL

Despite the charismatic performers around her, Brown carries the movie. It’s one of the better recent adaptations of a young-adult literary property — in this case, the first of six novels in author Nancy Springer’s well-received series, *The Enola Holmes Mysteries*, about an original character evidently inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s immortal creation, Sherlock Holmes. So this could

be the start of a franchise based on the Springer books. If the quality and charm of *Enola Holmes* is an indication, a sequel should be green-lighted immediately.

The movie is directed by Harry Bradbeer (veteran of prestige TV shows *Fleabag*, *Killing Eve*, and *The Hour*) from a screenplay by the prolific Jack Thorne. It takes mainstays of Doyle’s classic adventures — particularly the Holmes brothers and Scotland Yard’s Inspector Lestrade — and repurposes them in the service of the fledgling girl detective’s story. We meet Enola in the happy company of her widowed mother, Eudoria, who is raising the girl to be a young woman capable of facing any challenge. Sherlock and Mycroft have left the family’s country home for their careers in Victorian-era London — Sherlock developing a reputation as a remarkable private investigator and Mycroft fitting snugly into a staid government job. When Eudoria suddenly disappears without warning, the brothers are called back home to decide Enola’s fate.

A STAR-MAKING SOLUTION

Mycroft, Enola’s designated guardian, decides to send her to a boarding school where she’ll be under the thumb of a strict headmistress (the always excellent Fiona Shaw in overbearing villainess mode). The preternaturally accomplished Enola balks at this unpleasant fate and decides instead to head out on her own and find her mother. Along the way, Enola encounters another mystery in the form of a smug, aristocratic teenage boy (the eventually likable Lewis Partridge) being pursued by an assassin (Burn Gorman, exceedingly sinister). And so, as Sherlock would say, the game is afoot.

The whodunits of *Enola Holmes* are engaging, the movie’s production values are big-screen worthy, and it’s too



Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes, and Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes in the Netflix series *Enola Holmes*. PHOTO: ALEX BAILEY/LEGENDARY

much fun to let its worthwhile message of female empowerment and self-sufficiency feel pedantic. Of course, none of that would matter if the focal point of the endeavor weren’t appealing while also conveying intelligence, pluck, and emotional depth. No worries. Brown brings all that to Enola as the girl tries to keep one step ahead of her brothers, figure out why she has dangerous adversaries on her tail, and simultaneously solve the case of her missing mother. Few actors in their early or mid-teens are skilled enough to handle a role so central to a feature film and go toe-to-toe with the likes of Cavill, Claflin, and Bonham-Carter. But Millie Bobby Brown has the goods, including loads of heart, to do the job. You don’t need to be a Holmes to deduce that her future is bright.

*Enola Holmes* is available for streaming on Netflix.

POLITICAL HORROR SHOW

Because it is October with Halloween on the horizon, I tried to think of some scary movies to recommend. The most horrific I could find was a documentary about the nightmare circumstances of our current federal administration and the supposed leader of the free world. #Unfit: *The Psychology of Donald Trump*

addresses the dysfunctional behavior of a man whose lifetime of malfeasance has come to impact and undermine our nation and the world. A shockingly large percentage of Americans are bound and determined not to believe their eyes and their ears when it comes to his corruption, amorality, and other character flaws that have been on display and confirmed over and over for decades. Director Dan Partland lays it all out with recent and archival footage, in-depth evaluation from respected medical experts, and appraisals by politicians from both sides of the aisle, as well as a hard look at Trump’s constituents and the sociology behind why they voted for him and continue to support him. It’s downright frightening.

#Unfit: *The Psychology of Donald Trump* is available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google-Play, Fandango NOW, VUDU, YouTube, DirecTV, and more.

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, and The Mark Thompson Show on KGO radio. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY EARLE PETERSON

HARD COVER FICTION

1. **Lying Life of Adults**, by Elena Ferrante
2. **Vanishing Half: A Novel**, by Brit Bennett
3. **Transcendent Kingdom: A Novel**, by Yaa Gyasi

HARD COVER NONFICTION

1. **Rage**, by Bob Woodward
2. **Untamed**, by Glennon Doyle
3. **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**, by Isabel Wilkerson

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **Watch Me Disappear: A Novel**, by Janelle Brown
2. **A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel**, by Amor Towles
3. **Overstory: A Novel**, by Richard Powers

PAPERBACK NON-FICTION

1. **Attached: The New Science of Adult Attach-**

**ment and How it Can Help You Find — and Keep — Love**, by Amir Levine

2. **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**, by Trevor Noah
3. **White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism**, by Robin Diangelo

CHILDREN’S

1. **Dog Man: Grime and Punishment**, by Dav Pilkey
2. **The Barnabus Project**, by Terry Fan, Derrick Fan, and Eric Fan
3. **Claude**, by Emma Smith

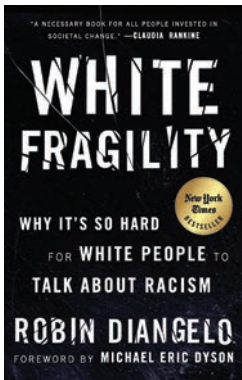
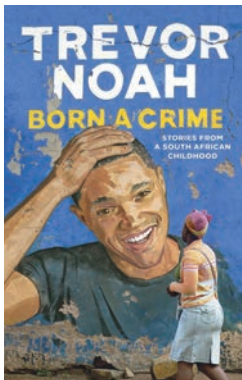
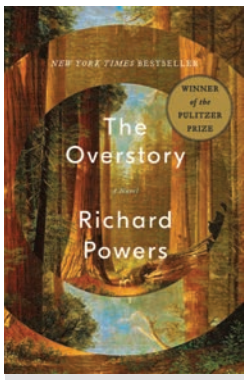
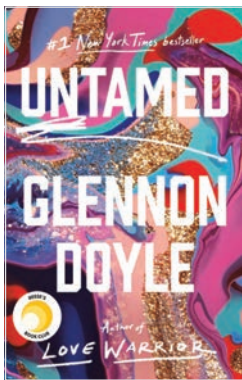
NEW AND UPCOMING RELEASES

**The Unidentified: Mythical Monsters, Alien Encounters, and Our Obsession with the Unexplained**, by Colin Dickey (released July 20)

In a world where rational, scientific explanations are more available than ever, belief in the unprovable and irrational — in fringe — is on the rise. Colin looks at what all fringe beliefs have in common, explaining that today’s Illuminati is yesterday’s Flat Earth: the attempt to find meaning in a world stripped of wonder. Dickey investigates how these fringe theories come about, why they take hold, and why as Americans we keep inventing and reinventing them decade after decade.

**To Sleep in a Sea of Stars**, by Christopher Paolini (released Sept. 14)

By the author of the popular young adult Eragon series, this adult sci-fi story follows Kira, an earth astronaut doing a routine survey mission when she discovers an ancient artifact on a foreign planet, which will lead to galactic war and a wild odyssey for Kira herself.



**Grown**, by Tiffany Jackson (released Sept. 14)

In this young adult murder mystery, when legendary R&B artist Korey Fields spots Enchanted Jones at an audition, her dreams of being a famous singer take flight. Until Enchanted wakes up with blood on her hands and zero memory

of the previous night. Who killed Korey Fields?

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

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



# OCTOBER EVENTS

## NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

### MAJOR EVENTS



M.H. de Young: Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving

Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.  
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.  
Also on view is “Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI.” Advanced tickets required. Visit website for ticketing, free days, and reduced admission information. 415-750-3600, [famsf.org](http://famsf.org)  
PHOTO: IMAGE COURTESY THE DE YOUNG MUSEUM; © NICKOLAS MURAY PHOTO ARCHIVES

**Asian Art Museum: Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey Toward Enlightenment**  
Reopens Oct 3; Fri.–Mon. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday 1–8 p.m.  
200 Larkin St.  
Also on view is “Lost at Sea: Art Recovered from Shipwrecks,” “Chang Dai-chien: Painting from Heart to Hand,” and more. Free admission Oct. 3–12, visit website for ticketing information. 415-581-3500, [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)

**SFMOMA: David Park A Retrospective**  
Reopens Oct. 3; Fri.–Mon. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday 1–8 p.m.  
151 Third St.  
Also on view is “Dawould Bey An American Project,” “Thought Pieces: 1970s Photographs by Lew Thomas, Donna-Lee Phillips, and Hal Fischer,” “Elemental Calder,” and more. Free admission and parking Oct. 4–18. Visit website for ticketing. \$25 (after Oct. 18), 415-357-4000, [sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org)

**Contemporary Jewish Museum: Predicting the Past: Zohar Studios**  
Reopens Oct. 17; Thu.–Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.  
736 Mission St.  
Also on view is “Levi Strauss: A History of American Style” and “Threads of Jewish Life: Ritual and Other Textiles from the San Francisco Bay Area.” \$16, 415-655-7800, [thecjm.org](http://thecjm.org)



Hardly Strictly Bluegrass: Let the Music Play On

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2–5 p.m.  
Livestream  
Don't miss new performances by your treasured HSB regulars and first-time artists with footage from their hometowns and favorite venues in the pandemic version of everyone's favorite fall music festival. [Donation to artistrelief.org/hsb](http://donationtoartistrelief.org/hsb) encouraged, [hardlystrictlybluegrass.com](http://hardlystrictlybluegrass.com)  
PHOTO: TRÉ BURT / HARDLYSTRICTLYBLUEGRASS.COM

### HALLOWEEN

**Fireside Stories**  
Fri.–Sat. through Oct. 31, 7 p.m.  
Livestream  
Turn out the lights, wrap up in your favorite blanket, power on your device, and join ghost guide Christian Cagigal on our new Fireside Edition of the San Francisco Ghost Hunt to hear tales of the city's most notorious haunted places and Christian's favorite haunted histories not normally highlighted on the in-person the tour. \$25, [sfghosthunt.com](http://sfghosthunt.com)

**S.F. Opera: Selling Your Soul at the Opera: The Faust Myth on Stage and in Song**  
Sunday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m.  
Livestream  
What could be spookier than a deal with the Devil? This interactive video explores the rich and potent world of Faustian dramas. \$20, 415-864-3330, [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com)

**BATS: The (Improvvised) Twilight Zone**  
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.  
Livestream  
Enjoy new episodes of the iconic 1950's series, streamed straight to your home via ... The Twilight Zone! *Donation* (\$10–\$20), 415-474-6776, [improv.org](http://improv.org)

### ART & CULTURE

**Italian Heritage Celebration**  
Sat.–Sun., Oct. 10–11  
Celebration: Sunday 11 a.m.  
North Beach and livestream/on demand  
The community is invited to support local businesses and enjoy outdoor dining; tune in to a virtual celebration of music, performances, and more; view movies, an illustrated lecture series, museum exhibitions, and more. Visit website for complete event listing. *Free*, 415-434-1492, [fitalianheritage.org](http://fitalianheritage.org)

### THEATER

**MarshStream International Solo Fest 2020**  
Daily, Oct. 7–11  
Livestream  
Join theater lovers from around the world for this online presentation of solo shows created exclusively for the Zoom “black box” theater. *Donation*, [themarsh.org/marshstream](http://themarsh.org/marshstream)

**ACT: Blood Wedding**  
Thu.–Fri., Oct. 22–30, livestream  
Daily, Nov. 6–13, on demand  
When a bride's former lover pays her a visit, she disappears before the ceremony. The vengeful groom follows them into the woods. Witty and gruesome, with text in both Spanish and English, this new play examines the bonds of tradition, the legacy of family, and the price of conformity. \$20, 415-749-2228, [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

**S.F. Playhouse: Art**  
Daily, Oct. 24–Nov. 7  
Livestream  
When an upcoming election is showing how our nation has become divided into opposing camps, this comedy explores how we turn on each other and addresses the complex layers of friendship. *Free*, 415-677-9596, [sfplayhouse.org](http://sfplayhouse.org)

### MUSIC

**Old First: Stenberg | Cahill Duo**  
Sunday, Oct. 11, 4 p.m.  
Livestream  
The violin-piano sounds of this newly formed duo is dedicated to promoting the American experimental tradition and expanding it through the commissioning of new work. *Donation* (\$25 suggested), 415-474-1608, [oldfirstconcerts.org](http://oldfirstconcerts.org)

**SF Music Day 2020**  
Sunday, Oct. 25, noon–6 p.m.  
Livestream  
Enjoy 10 premiere performances by classical, jazz, contemporary, and global music ensembles professionally recorded in Herbst Theatre especially for this event. *Free*, [intermusicssf.org/sfmd](http://intermusicssf.org/sfmd)

### SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Finding Life on Other Worlds**  
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.  
Livestream  
Are we alone or do we share our solar system and galaxy with other forms of life? And how widespread are advanced civilizations with whom we could communicate? Science journalist Robert Naeye discusses what kinds of planets might be the hosts for life. Visit website for streaming instructions. [sfaa-astronomy.org/](http://sfaa-astronomy.org/)

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

photograph&frame

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
BY RHONEL ROBERTS

Custom Picture Framing. Wall Art.

415.563.4600

[photographandframe.com](http://photographandframe.com) 2298 Chestnut St. SF 94123

# Get ready to **VOTE**, San Francisco!

Be on the look out for your ballot in the mail in early October.

Return your ballot to:

- the outdoor Voting Center in front of Bill Graham Civic Auditorium (open starting October 5)
- any one of the 588 polling places on Election Day
- any ballot drop-off site (see locations and hours at [sfelections.org/votebymail](http://sfelections.org/votebymail))

Learn more about your voting options at [sfelections.org](http://sfelections.org)

[www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org) (415) 554-4375 City Hall, Room 48

## JEFFREY'S NATURAL PET FOODS

is your premier resource for natural pet foods, healthy treats, locally produced goods, supplies, training programs and information in the Bay Area.

**Duboce Park**  
284 Noe St  
415-864-1414

**North Beach**  
1841 Powell St  
415-402-0342

**WE DELIVER!**  
[www.jeffreypets.com](http://www.jeffreypets.com)



# The Brazen Head

*"The restaurant with no sign."*

## NOW OPEN FOR OUTDOOR DINING

5-11 PM Thu-Sat | 5-10 PM Sun-Wed



### TAKE OUT AND DELIVERY

(415) 921-7600

DoorDash • Grubhub • Postmates • Uber Eats

3166 Buchanan at Greenwich | (415) 921-7600

  @brazenheadsf | brazenheadsf.com

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## We are Here to Help

Dear Marina and Cow Hollow resident,

My name is Gary Delagnes. I retired as an Inspector from the San Francisco Police Department in 2013. Since that time I have owned and operated my security company, Barbary Coast Corporate Security. I utilize only active or retired law enforcement personnel, all of whom are armed, insured, bonded, and licensed. Almost all of my officers served in the SFPD. We are currently providing security for some residents in your neighborhood as people become more and more concerned for their safety.

Lombard St. motels are now being utilized for the homeless population, the Mayor is in the process of De-funding your police department, SFPD officers are fleeing to more police friendly cities, and those of retirement age are leaving in droves. The SFPD is suffering from a severe personnel shortage and the DA's office is simply not prosecuting criminal offenders.

There have been 10 auto break-ins in the past month in the Palace of Fine Arts parking lot alone! Aggravated assaults are up 71% and burglaries have risen 94% in your district.

In a word, it is a "mess", and your safety is at risk.

Our officers will patrol your neighborhoods and respond in seconds when your safety is threatened. We can provide you the security and response time that can keep you and your loved ones safe.

Call us for more information, we would be happy to help!

Thank You!

Inspector Gary Delagnes (Retired SFPD)  
DelagnesGary@gmail.com  
415-250-1312  
License # 18054

POLITICS AS USUAL :: But unusual politics

## The human race

Reasons to rekindle your optimism

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

HE LOOKED INTIMIDATING, LIKE HE could punch his fist through a brick wall without straining himself. Tall, beefy, bald; he spoke forcefully and directly, just like the ex-Marine he was. And this white former military man was passionate about his calling: racial reconciliation and atonement.

I was talking to him at some conference in Chicago in the early 1990s. For all the appearance that he should be a close-minded bigot, he was in fact earnest about healing racial wounds — so much so, he dedicated his life to it because it was part of Jesus's commandment to love one another.

My conversation with that man is one of many memories that keep coming back to me as I take in the national upheaval over racial justice in 2020. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, a plague of so-called Karens, protests, violence, racial taunting, and racist incitement by foreign actors.

It's a lot to process, and it has led more than a few people in the public eye to issue hysterical claims about a new civil war, or warning of existential dangers to suburban white moms or the imminence of race riots. Those claims fuel more acrimony and more anxiety across the political spectrum. Worst of all, they obscure the best of all news: The racists have lost.

### #WINNING

If you have spent too much time absorbing extremist tweets and Facebook posts of despair, you might have missed it: Something good is happening. The racists have lost the argument.

When Mitt Romney joins a group of evangelicals marching in the streets for George Floyd and tweets a "Black Lives Matter" message; when Condoleezza Rice prescribes widespread change to address racial injustice; when George W. Bush calls for an end to systemic racism; when the Southern Baptist Convention in Mississippi said that state had a "moral obligation" to remove the Confederate battle emblem from its flag; when hundreds of thousands — millions? — of people march in overwhelmingly peaceful protests; when the president unleashes a militarized law-and-order campaign that utterly fails to turn around his poor polling; when millions of people have stopped and actually read or listened to the stories of injustice and violence and discrimination endured by their Black friends, coworkers, neighbors and fellow citizens — when all of that and more is going on, we are at a time much different from countless other national scandals and outrages.

This doesn't mean racism is eliminated or that we should stop talking and listen-

ing and doing things to make our country fairer. It just means that if you are looking for a general consensus that this system is not fair to some of our fellow citizens, look no further. You've seen it on the streets, in the public statements of individuals, in the donations of wealthy individuals and businesses and foundations to address racial inequities. So let's pocket the win and do something with it.

### ANOTHER STORY

Twenty years ago, I interviewed a media executive about television. We spent a fair amount of time talking about the groundbreaking shows of the 1970s that tackled tough and controversial issues — *M\*A\*S\*H*, *All in the Family*, *Good Times*, *Maude*, *Roots*, and *Battle of the Network Stars*. (O.K., not the last one, but we can still have senses of humor.) When I asked him why we don't still see that kind of commitment to exploring issues on TV, he said the 1970s were a specific time in history when the country had to reckon with a lot of things it couldn't put off any longer — war, economic dislocation, women's rights, the rise of the evangelicals, abortion, and more. That kind of self-examination just isn't a permanent condition.

The year 2020 feels like we've crammed in a few decades worth of problems that we finally have to reckon with. Economic unfairness, an expensive but broken health care system, an uninformed and lazy electorate, racial injustice and violence, creeping authoritarianism, a housing crisis, and more.

There will be different ideas and approaches to addressing these problems. But if we recognize that a commitment to racial equality — and to doing something about it — is shared by the strong majority of Americans, we can help to reestablish that lost feeling in this country that we can fix our problems, that there is still a moral core to our nation, we can make major strides toward living up to America's promise.

*"We've been in moments like this before, and we swung and missed. We had a moment in 1955 when people saw the lynching of Emmett Till. We had a moment on the Edmund Pettus Bridge [in Alabama], when for the first time . . . news was showing images where people were getting beaten and bludgeoned. We had an opportunity after the president of the United States sang 'Amazing Grace' at the funeral for Clementa Pinckney. And we missed all of these moments. Let's make this moment true."*

—Bakari Sellers

Send feedback to [letters@marinatimes.com](mailto:letters@marinatimes.com). Author email: [john@marinatimes.com](mailto:john@marinatimes.com)

### Supervisor

continued from page 6

port Proposition 21. This initiative would allow California cities to adopt reasonable expansions of local rent control protections for tenants. We must keep our neighbors in their homes during this crisis and beyond.

**Proposition 22: Lyft and Uber Measure to Undo Worker Protections** — No. Despite a recent state law (AB5) and court rulings that affirm that gig workers are employees (not "independent contractors") who have rights to health care and other protections, serial "disrupters" like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, and Insta-

cart are spending almost \$200 million to deceive voters and dismantle hard-fought labor laws by replacing them with their own exclusive rules. In my opinion, it is unacceptable to allow them to buy this election and harm workers and consumers. For all the money they are spending disseminating lies, they could just pay their workers a living wage.

Thanks for taking the time to read through this election rundown. The work doesn't stop at the ballot, though. So I hope to have your vote for my fourth and final term as your District 3 supervisor — I'm ready to tackle the challenges of the next 4 years head-on.





## Enjoy the Freedom of Free Checking

We keep our checking account truly free of fees, so you can manage your money without a worry.



No minimum  
balance requirement



No fees or monthly  
service charges



Debit card with  
free rewards

Open an account today.



Redwood  
Credit Union

FOR ALL THAT YOU LOVE.

1 (800) 479-7928 | [redwoodcu.org](http://redwoodcu.org)

Federally insured by NCUA

# Paul Barbagelata

RECENT SALES  
& NEW LISTINGS

415.279.3834  
[paulb@realestatesf.com](mailto:paulb@realestatesf.com)  
[realestatesf.com](http://realestatesf.com)  
Lic# 01043609

Please feel free to text,  
call or email me if you  
have any questions or  
interest regarding  
these properties.

**Complimentary  
Consultation**

**30 Year Expertise**  
Homes, condos and  
investment properties

**Exclusive Home  
Improvement Services**  
Full access to our design  
team, including flex fees  
for preferred clients



**Sold!**  
Marina Duplex



**Sold!**  
Pac Heights Condo



**Sold!**  
Marina Mediterranean



**Coming Soon!**  
Forest Hill Home



**Coming Soon!**  
Dolores Heights Units



**Available!**  
Mt. Davidson Manor



**Available!**  
Mixed-Use Investment



**Available!**  
Triplex Victorian



**Available!**  
Balboa Terrace Home

**BARB co**  
BARBAGELATA GROUP



# Phil's Electric Co.

SINCE 1941 **SALES SERVICE PARTS**

Phil's wishes you and yours health and well being during this difficult time.



## Expert LAMP REPAIR

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

# MIELE TRIFLEX HX1

## CORDLESS VACUUM SYSTEM



2701 Lombard Street @ Baker • (415) 921-3776  
HOURS: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm • [philselectric.com](http://philselectric.com)



Three generations.  
One location.

# FAMOUS SANDWICHES

# HOUSE-MADE PASTAS

Italian Specialties  
**WINE • CHEESE SALUMI**

2120 Chestnut St • San Francisco

**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](http://www.crabonline.com)

MomSense :: Education



Many children need to be in school for their emotional well being. PHOTO: ROM RODINKA

# Our kids deserve better

## It's time to open playgrounds and schools

BY LIZ FARRELL

COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED ALL OF US in some way. Beyond the health repercussions, there has been an economic and mental health impact — increased homelessness, and boarded-up businesses in once-vibrant merchant corridors. Crime has increased, and the sale of homes and buildings has exploded with many families choosing more space, safer neighborhoods, or a lower cost of living, resulting in a mass exodus from the city.

San Francisco has long been an expensive city to live in and raise a family, now compounded by the virus and its ripple effects. One major demographic being left behind in the city's reopening plan is our children. In mid-September, we entered the next phase of reopening — welcome news to those struggling small businesses, but playgrounds remain closed, and only schools that have applied for a waiver may reopen for in-person classes. This has left many to ask, "What about the kids?"

### PLAYGROUNDS ARE ESSENTIAL

According to a recent survey, 78 percent of U.S. cities, including major urban cities like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Denver, have reopened their playgrounds. Many reopenings were based on updated research that shows a lower risk of Covid-19 transmission through touched surfaces, therefore making playgrounds low risk for exposure to the virus.

Our city's Recreation and Parks Department sees a path to safely reopen playgrounds with increased signage, communication, and maybe even a playground ambassador program. However, despite this plan, the research and a Change.org petition signed by more than 1,500 parents have all fallen on deaf ears.

Playgrounds are essential to our city. They are also the most equitable public health tool we have. In San Francisco, parks and playgrounds are our living rooms, our backyards, and a safe space to build and create community.

It's not just our children who are affected. Dr. Amy Busch, a San Francisco psychologist, has seen a large uptick in new moms and parents with young children seeking counseling for depression and anxiety. She says without playgrounds, these parents have no place to gather and connect, and consequently they feel very isolated.

### KIDS NEED TO BE IN SCHOOL

The other area we have failed our children is in our school reopening plan. The school year began on a level playing field when all schools started remotely, but that won't be the case for long. Despite getting the green light from the state to reopen schools, San Francisco is taking a very cautious approach. Here, schools must apply for permission to reopen based on their health and safety plans. Priority is given to elementary schools first, followed by middle schools, and high schools last. Whether our public schools will reopen at all this year remains unclear. Part of this is due to the teachers' union and the district being unable to reach an agreement on the risks of teachers and staff returning to in-class instruction.

This is fully understandable. As a child of two educators, it is not lost on me the enormous load we are asking of our teachers and administrators; however, it is arguable that the children who need to be back in school the most probably won't be this year. Dr. Alicia Lieberman, a University of California San Francisco professor and director of the Child Trauma Research Program, says besides the pandemic they are battling a silent epidemic of increased domestic violence and child abuse. Without teachers, counselors, or coaches

in daily interaction with kids, abuse reporting is down. Lieberman says they are seeing an increased frequency and severity of child abuse cases in the emergency room. Families are

## The children who need to be back in school most probably won't be this year.

under increased stress and feeling overwhelmed, especially low-income families living in crowded conditions.

Many of these children need to be in school for childcare, for safety, and for social and emotional well-being. Why aren't we as a city making this a priority and reallocating resources to make it happen? We live in one of the wealthiest, most educated and technologically advanced cities in the world so when it comes to reopening all schools and playgrounds, throwing our hands up and saying we can't figure it out is not acceptable. We need to do better for our children and for the families of San Francisco.

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](mailto:liz@marinatimes.com)



# Waiting for the bounce-back

Did all that smoke do additional damage to San Francisco’s real estate market?

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

AS IF THE PANDEMIC WASN’T ENOUGH, smoke from fires throughout the Bay Area, California, and the West Coast blanketed San Francisco in mid-August and early September and didn’t budge for weeks. This was not good news for San Francisco’s real estate market, already reeling from Covid-19 disruptions.

Still, once the smoke cleared, things were pretty much as they were. Single family homes under \$5 million continued to sell well, with homes over \$5 million less in demand, and condos continued to have problems attracting buyers.

According to the San Francisco Association of Realtors, in August the median sale price for a single-family home was \$1,656,000, up 3.3 percent over the previous year. The median sale price for a condo or loft was \$1,275,000, down just 0.4 percent from 2019. At the same time, however, there were lots of listings on the market: 619 single family homes, up 19 percent over last year, and 1,271 condos and lofts, up 97.7 percent over 2019 — easily a 10-year high.

### NOT SO FAST

David Cohen, founder of City Real Estate, cautions against jumping to conclusions based on these numbers. “A lot of the statistics we see are compar-

ing inventory, August over August. But this August is quite a bit different. This August we had a backlog because we missed three months of showing properties. The increase in inventory is real but it’s not as significant as some publications would suggest.”

Nevertheless, Cohen acknowledges that for the first time in 10 years, it’s a buyer’s market when it comes to San Francisco condos. He says that in mid-September prices for condos were down to 2012 levels in SOMA, and to 2016 prices in Pacific Heights. Transactions are taking longer, because condo buyers are now taking their time. They are looking at properties multiple times, and demanding contingencies. In the hyper-competitive market that defined San Francisco for years, such things were simply not possible.

Cohen is confident that the market will bounce back. “It’s going to take a sunny day, and a vaccine, but people will come back. San Francisco is an international city. We’re not a one-trick pony. We’re not just a tech city. It’s a finance hub. A medical hub. People are going to want to be in San Francisco. They just need to once again have access to all those things that make the city so wonderful. It will all come back. It just might take some time.”

Cohen adds, “People like value. If you see a condo that’s 20 percent less than it

was a year ago, and if you have faith that San Francisco will rebound, it’s a good investment.”

### ZOOM TOWN

Over the past 40 years, there has been a correction in San Francisco every 10 years, according to Cohen. In 1980 interest rates were at 18 percent, and as a result home prices dropped. In 1990, prices fell again in response to the 1989 earthquake and the Gulf War. In 2000, the dot-com bubble burst, and in 2010 we had the mortgage crisis. Cohen says, “After all those dips of 20–25 percent in value, every single one of them was followed by a decade of appreciation, well over previous highs.” Smart money buys at the dip, and holds for a period of time as values appreciate again.

In September NPR published a wonderful piece by Greg Rosalsky that describes Zoom towns, places that are booming as remote work takes off. Think Truckee, Calif., for example, where median home prices are up 23.4 percent over last year.

According to the Rosalsky’s article, “Many Americans — especially 30-somethings who remain employed — are ditching their tiny rental apartments in hip districts of expensive cities and moving to buy houses in more affordable cities or the burbs for a life of shopping at Home Depot and spending their Fri-

day nights eating mozzarella sticks at Applebee’s.”


Cohen says that is happening to an extent. Referrals to agents in other cities have become a bigger part of every real estate agent’s business. He says, however, he is personally not seeing people purchase in these communities for their primary residence, but rather for second homes. They still love San Francisco, but they want to be away right now, and have options for this kind thing down the road. They want more space outside the city.

Ironically, many of these rural and remote areas are more vulnerable to forest fires. It will be interesting to see what kind of impact recent fires have on these markets.

The smoke alone in San Francisco had a big impact on real estate. Homes with beautiful views were not brought to market, because the terrible haze obscured what would normally be a significant selling point. What’s more, a lot of showings were canceled or rescheduled by buyers who had trouble breathing, or simply weren’t comfortable going out in the ghostly air.

Cohen says real estate agents are currently working twice as hard, and making half as much; 2020 continues to be a most challenging year, in so many unexpected ways.

*Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com*




**DANNY SAUTER**

**A Community Organizer for District 3 Supervisor**

**Vote BY NOV 3RD**

**dannyd3.com**

Paid for by Danny Sauter for Supervisor 2020.  
Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.



MARINATIMES.COM :: MARINA TIMES

OCTOBER 2020 :: 15





Let's talk cannabis.

THE  
APOTHECARIUM  
DISPENSARY

CASTRO • MARINA • SOMA