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Timothée Chalamet and Rebecca Ferguson in *Dune*. IMAGE: CHIABELLA JAMES / 2020 WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

Spring awakenings on screen and stage

As restrictions lift, the entertainment venues slowly reopen

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE much of the world locked down, and so many things changed so swiftly in all walks of life — including in the entertainment industry. Movie theaters, live performance venues, film, TV produc-

tion companies, and gallery spaces closed or were put on hold while many who worked in the arts, whether on the creative or tech sides, were unable to pursue their careers as usual. But there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel — and it's a projector or a follow spot — or both.

In mid-March, San Francisco movie houses and concert venues began to open up like spring blooms and accommodate limited attendance. The increased distribution of Covid vaccines and a continuing respect for protocols in serious circles had resulted in a decrease in

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REYNOLDS RAP :: Opinion

Chesa Boudin by the numbers

Since taking office, District Attorney has tried 23 cases with 16 convictions

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WHEN TROY McALISTER RAN A RED LIGHT IN a stolen car that struck and killed 60-year-old Elizabeth Platt and 27-year-old Hanako Abe on Dec. 31, 2020, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin blamed everyone else, including the San Francisco Police Department. Boudin said SFPD should have warned him about McAlister after a Dec. 20, 2020 arrest for suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle and possessing burglary tools, but in fact the officer who wrote up the report noted McAlister had been arrested for “73 felonies and 32 misdemeanors in San Francisco alone, with multiple charges for robbery, burglary and possession of stolen property,” hoping to get the district attorney’s attention. It obviously didn’t work. After the New Year’s Eve tragedy, Boudin charged McAlister with unlawful driving, taking of a vehicle, leaving the scene, second degree burglary, possession of a firearm with prior conviction, sale of controlled substance, and two counts of voluntary manslaughter. A check of McAlister’s case at press time, however, revealed the manslaughter

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

SUPERVISOR :: Opinion

Stop AAPI hate

BY CATHERINE STEFANI, SELINA SUN, AND MICHAEL CHEN

ON MARCH 16, THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC Islander (AAPI) community and allies reacted with horror upon learning that an individual had shot and killed eight people, including six Asian women, at spas and massage parlors in Atlanta, Ga. A law enforcement spokesperson said the suspect was having a “really bad day.” To many, news of the Atlanta shooting and the local law enforcement’s response was unsurprising, after a year of heightened racism against our AAPI neighbors and community members. Across the United States, from even some in government, the AAPI community has been under unrelenting attack. Last November, Americans voted out of office a president who openly and repeatedly scapegoated the AAPI community for Covid-19, using racist, erroneous rhetoric to link the spread of the disease to Chinese Americans. Not coincidentally, hate crimes against members of the AAPI community sharply spiked over the course of the past year. Although Trump exacerbated anti-Asian racism, removing him from office did not, and could not be expected to, reverse this deadly trend on its own. Even in San Francisco, when a member of the Board of Education’s anti-Asian tweets from 2016 were uncovered, and community and elected leaders called on her to resign, she claimed her words had been taken out of context and declined to step down. In a time when our

DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

RESOURCES :: Reopening San Francisco

Guide to the orange tier reopening

BY LYNETTE MAJER

CONGRATULATIONS SAN FRANCISCO! It’s been a tough year, but thanks to our diligent (yet challenging) adherence to Covid guidelines, the city moved into the less-restrictive “moderate” orange tier on March 24, and is expected to progress further to the “minimal” yellow tier in mid-April. Here are some highlights of what has changed and will change in the orange tier: **Bars:** Open outdoors only with table service and a maximum of six people per table without meals. Includes wineries, breweries, and distilleries. Establishments without meal service remain closed. **Dining indoors:** Now allowed is 50 percent occupancy (patrons only, not to exceed 200 people). Tables limited to six people from three households, and dining must end by 11 p.m. Includes bars serving meals, cafes/coffeeshops, hotels, museums, food courts. **Dining outdoors:** Restrictions lifted for number of households per table; tables remain limited to six guests with group reservations allowed up to

two tables with 12 people maximum; (but no mingling between tables), and allow alcohol without a meal. **Family entertainment outdoors:** Roller and ice skating rinks may expand to full capacity with physical distancing; standalone amusement park rides may open with members of three households allowed inside enclosed spaces (yes, that means the SkyStar Observation Wheel in Golden Gate Park). **Fitness indoors:** Capacity may increase to 25 percent up to 100 patrons; locker rooms and showers may open; youth restrictions are removed; group fitness may resume to the lesser of 25 percent capacity or 100 people; pools may open up to 25 percent capacity for general use only (no fitness classes). **Fitness outdoors:** May increase to 25 participants from three households; 25-person limitation lifted with physical distancing maintained; pools may open at 50 percent capacity with distancing requirements; gentle water aerobics classes allowed. **Movie theaters:** Capacity may expand to 50 percent or 200 people, whichever is less.

Museums indoor: Open at 50 percent capacity with interactive exhibitions, coat check, and indoor dining and auditoriums may reopen following protocols. **Personal services:** Open indoors at 50 percent patron capacity. **Retail indoors:** Open at 50 percent of maximum patron capacity (includes stand-alone retail, shopping centers, financial institutions, laundromats, etc.); customers’ reusable bags and containers allowed. **Spectator sports/large entertainment facilities outdoors:** Beginning April 1, venues with assigned seating may reopen with capacity restrictions and other operating guidelines. Remember that to progress to additional less-restrictive tiers, it is mandatory to continue to mask and follow protocols, and to continue testing when needed. For a complete and up-to-date list of changes, directives, and guidance, visit the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development (oewd.org).

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District 2 Supervisor

continued *from cover*

communities must unite to combat racism, we cannot have elected officials that will further divide these efforts.

WORDS MATTER

Bigoted language has real, tangible consequences. Stop AAPI Hate, a nationwide coalition that formed in 2020 in response to increased racism against the AAPI community, recorded 3,795 anti-Asian incidents in the United States between March 2020 and February 2021. Verbal harassment, shunning, and physical assault were the three largest categories reported, and there were more than twice as many attacks against women than men. But these incidents were not limited to more conservative parts of the country; California accounted for more than 40 percent of the total incidents reported.

We must remember that each of these reports is from an event that actually happened to somebody, and many incidents go unreported. Sadly, San Francisco has not been immune. In just the first few months of 2021, the city has already seen many previously unimaginable attacks on our AAPI neighbors.

On Jan. 28, Vicha Ratanapakdee, 84, was taking his morning walk in Anza Vista when an individual ran toward him and violently shoved him to the ground — out of the blue, and in broad daylight. He died from his injuries. The suspect in Ratanapakdee's killing was described by the district attorney as being in "some sort of temper tantrum." Last month, Danilo Yu Chang, 59, was pushed and beaten unconscious in the Financial District, and Xiao Zhen Xie, 75, fended off an attacker on Market Street with a wooden plank.

Their stories are far too familiar to far too many.

ACTIONS MATTER

While we are grateful to Mayor Breed and Chief Scott for increasing police patrols in parts of San Francisco where many in our AAPI community live, work, and frequently visit, it should not have to be this way. Our friends and neighbors should not have to fear verbal threats, physical taunts, or much, much worse, when they walk our streets.

These racist attacks cannot continue. It's on all of us to make it clear that San Francisco will not tolerate acts of hate.

That's why, in March, we joined leaders from San Francisco's AAPI community to rally against anti-Asian racism, and it's why we must continue to stand together in solidarity against anti-Asian racism and all acts of hate.

If you would like to support the AAPI community in the effort to #StopAAPI-Hate, we encourage you to learn more about and consider supporting the following organizations:

The Community Youth Center (CYC) of San Francisco serves youth with academic counseling, employment training, job placement, violence prevention education, crisis intervention and mediation, leadership development, and more. CYC gives San Francisco's youth the tools to learn about, organize, and fight racial hate.

Stop AAPI Hate is a project of the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University, and it tracks, responds to, and supports efforts to eradicate racism and discrimination against the AAPI community.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice is a national organization that has fought for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans since 1991.

Hate Is a Virus was founded in April 2020 in response to the rise in Covid-19-related hate crimes against the AAPI community; it has raised more than \$30,000 to support community organizations throughout the country.

Act to Change is a national nonprofit focused on combating bullying against the AAPI community, empowering students, families, and educators with tools and knowledge to stop and prevent bullying in their communities.

The Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation was founded in 2004 to prepare and equip Asian Pacific American leaders for public service and civic involvement.

We need to recognize that these incidents are not the result of "bad days" or "temper tantrums." By continuing to listen to the AAPI community, confronting racism when we see it, and working together — in every community and at every level of government — we can reverse this sick trend. We must.

Catherine Stefani is District 2 supervisor; Selina Sun is president of the Edwin M. Lee Asian Pacific Democratic Club; and Michael Chen serves on the board of the club.

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Calendar submissions due by the 15th of the month to calendar@marinatimes.com

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Governor Gavin Newsom (center left, along wall) met with Asian Americans during a recent visit to the city. PHOTO: @CAGOVERNOR / TWITTER

Pandemic policies

Hate crimes, school controversy, and small businesses

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

ANTI-ASIAN ATTACKS, MORE SCHOOL BOARD WOES

Gov. Gavin Newsom appeared in San Francisco in late March to decry the continued anti-Asian incidents that have included verbal harassment, physical attacks, and even fatal altercations. Speaking at the Chinese Culture Center, Newsom said, “The idea that we are today in 2021 still having conversations we were having in 1881, a year before the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, is painful and infuriating at the same time. ... What the hell is wrong with us?”

Nationwide, more than 3,800 anti-Asian incidents have been recorded in the past year, and Newsom said many hate crimes are likely not being reported.

Just days before Newsom’s appearance, San Francisco police announced they would be conducting increased patrols in Asian neighborhoods, but that didn’t stop a man who attacked a 75-year-old woman on a Market Street corner while she was waiting for the light to change. The woman responded to his unprovoked punch in the face by striking him back. The man was believed to have attacked an 83-year-old Asian man earlier.

As the case reached the national media, the city’s controversial school board found itself dragged into the situation when a group seeking to recall the board released six-year-old tweets from Commissioner Alison Collins. The tweets, in which Collins addressed conflict between Asians and Blacks, include anti-Asian tropes and a racial epithet.

San Francisco State Assemblymember David Chiu called for her resignation, accusing her of perpetuating false and harmful stereotypes. “When communities are pitted against each other, we all lose,” he said in a statement. “During this moment of crisis and instability, we need school leaders who are unifying, and not dividing.” Mayor London Breed also called for Collins’s resignation, as did a number of supervisors, including District 2 Catherine Stefani and District 3 Aaron Peskin.

SMALL BUSINESS AID

Mayor London Breed introduced the Small Business Recovery Act in mid-March, building on the streamlining of certain regulations and processes introduced in Proposition H, which passed in November with more than 60 percent of the vote. The new legislation would expand the neighborhoods in the city where quicker permitting and easier notification requirements would apply.

“San Francisco has some major work ahead to recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic,” Rodney Fong, president and CEO of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement. He said the city should “tear down the obstacles that make it difficult for our small business community.”

Proposition H’s streamlining “is helping small business owners throughout San Francisco, from adding a second restaurant location and transitioning from a retail establishment to a restaurant, to opening a new storefront,” said Breed. The new legislation would help by “expanding that simplified process to even more neighborhoods and making it even easier to start or operate a business in San Francisco.”

Small businesses will also benefit from the deal reached by the Board of Supervisors and the mayor on how to spend a \$125 million surplus for the current fiscal year. The agreement, announced by the mayor and Supervisor Matt Haney, chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, targets the money for a range of initiatives to help people impacted by the pandemic, and it dedicates \$15 million to Supervisor Catherine Stefani’s plan to waive business and licensing fees for establishments most impacted by the stay-at-home order. Another \$24.8 million will fund small business loans and grants, including \$1 million for grants to small businesses victimized by property crime.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Ninth: national ranking of the Bay Area in terms of its optimism about job opportunities, according to the University of Phoenix; 65 percent of local workers report being optimistic, and 53 percent of them say they “love their job” . . . **35,900:** number of people who left San Francisco in the fourth quarter of 2020 . . . **15,200:** number of people who moved to San Francisco during that same timeframe . . . **\$1.3 billion:** the cost to vaccinate Californians . . . **Le woof:** the French Bulldog was the most popular breed in San Francisco last year, according to the American Kennel Club, which says the Labrador Retriever is the national favorite . . . **49:** percentage of San Francisco workers who telecommuted last year, allowing them to work with their French Bulldogs at their feet; CommercialCafe says 1.7 million adults in the Bay Area worked from home during the pandemic . . . **18 months:** sentence of a Fremont man who smuggled auto headlights into the country for 13 years.

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

charges (Penal Code 192) were no longer listed. It's also notable that Boudin charged McAlister with Vehicle Code 20001(a), which is leaving the scene of an accident, punishable by not more than a year in jail. Had he charged McAlister with Vehicle Code 20001(c) along with the two counts of voluntary manslaughter, upon conviction McAlister would automatically receive an additional mandatory term of five years in state prison.

Since taking office Jan. 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021, Boudin has tried just 23 cases resulting in 16 convictions, including four assaults (three convictions); one auto burglary, one residential burglary, one gun felony (no conviction); three sexual assaults (two convictions); two robberies; seven misdemeanor DUIs (four convictions); and one misdemeanor vehicular homicide, which he lost. In 2019 during the same timeframe, Boudin's predecessor, George Gascon, tried 294 cases and got 203 convictions.

In 2020, SFPD presented 6,333 felonies to Boudin's office. Contrast that with neighboring Alameda County, where 6,331 felony cases were presented, resulting in 1,413 convictions. Alameda dismissed only 11.4 percent of cases, while San Francisco's dismissal rate was 40 percent.

THE RECALL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

"Every resident and every visitor to San Francisco is a potential target. Our homes, our property and our lives are at risk," says Richie Greenberg, a longtime San Francisco resident, business consultant and 2016 candidate for mayor. That feeling, shared by many San Franciscans, jumpstarted a campaign to recall Boudin (recallchesaboudin.org). His supporters say it is a "Republican effort," but the coalition of 29 signers on the notice of intent includes 20 non-Republicans; and 88 percent of those who have signed the recall petition are non-Republicans, with nearly 60 percent being Democrats. The recall campaign has also raised over \$125,000 in a relatively short period. Because Boudin won by a sliver in November 2019 (just 8 percent of residents voted for him in a low turnout ranked choice election), political pundits believe Boudin should be nervous.

While the McAlister case garnered the most attention, it's just one in a long list of cases Boudin has bungled, many with tragic consequences. Boudin's first year in office has put his prosecutorial inexperience in

the spotlight and set the stage for conflicts of interest in potentially hundreds of cases from his days as a public defender.

REDUCED CHARGES, PUNTING, AND PLEA DEALS

If there's one mantra that defines Boudin as the city's top prosecutor, it is "This case needs further investigation." In October 2020 Jerry Lyons was arrested on stolen car and drug charges, which the district attorney referred to parole. In December 2020, Lyons was arrested again on stolen car and drug charges, but Boudin sent it back to police for further investigation while awaiting toxicology results. On Feb. 4, 2021, police responded to an eighth-car collision on Lake Merced Boulevard. There they found 26-year-old Sheria Musyoka, who had been out for an early morning run, deceased. Lyons was booked on charges of gross vehicular manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter, felony hit and run, and possession of stolen property. A husband, father, and recent Dartmouth College graduate, Musyoka had moved to San Francisco just two weeks earlier. When asked by ABC7's Dion Lim whom she blamed, Musyoka's widow, Hannah Ege, said she blamed the district attorney.

Boudin also said he needed further evidence in the case of Tyjone Flournoy — one of four suspects in the December 2019 murder of a young mother named Ronisha Cook. In January 2021, Flournoy was arrested for the murder of legendary private detective Jack Palladino after a violent attempt to steal his camera. Palladino, who fell and hit his head, died from his injuries a few days after the attack.

In March 2020, Boudin charged Teante Bailey with conspiracy, robbery, destroying evidence, and child endangerment, but released him on an ankle monitor because "there wasn't enough evidence." One year later, 75-year-old Pak Ho was taking a morning walk near his Oakland home when he was knocked to the ground by Bailey in a violent robbery caught on surveillance video. Ho died from his injuries.

On Dec. 20, 2020, Ali Mustafa Hudson was arrested for strong-arm robbery, after allegedly stealing a passenger's phone on a Muni bus. Rather than charge Hudson for the crime, Boudin had him transported to Solano County where Hudson faced a \$5,000 misdemeanor warrant for drug possession and driving without a license.

Under Covid-19 emergency orders, counties weren't holding people on misdemeanor warrants, so Hudson was released. On Jan. 19, 2021, Sacramento sheriff's deputies responded to reports of a domestic dispute at an apartment complex where Hudson allegedly shot and killed his mother, Ramona Hayes. From the balcony, Hudson began shooting at the deputies, who fired back and wounded him. Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert charged Hudson with one count of first-degree murder, two counts of felony attempted murder of sheriff deputies, and one count of felony false imprisonment. The complaint filed by prosecutors alleges one strike for an attempted armed robbery in 1996.

In January 2020, 13-year-old Sienna Carter went missing from the campus of the University of California, San Francisco, where she was with her parents for her sister's pediatric diabetes treatment. The police found the girl at an Embarcadero warehouse with 22-year-old King John Baylon, who was charged with 18 felonies including kidnapping, possession of child pornography, using a minor for sex acts, sexual intercourse with an underage person, oral copulation of a person under 18, lewd acts upon a child, and human trafficking of a minor. Baylon's bond was set at \$1 million, but two days later he was released by Boudin, who set aside all charges pending further investigation. So where is Baylon now? Sitting in a Los Angeles jail cell on a warrant for GBI (great bodily injury) and charged with carrying a loaded firearm in public. The FBI has also placed a hold on him.

On March 1, 2021, Boudin retweeted a Medium post by Josh Kalven (who disclosed he went to high school with Boudin, volunteered on his campaign, and occasionally sees him socially). In the post, which appears to be filled with data provided by the district attorney's office, Kalven argues that Boudin charges 80 percent of cases (that's debatable), but he doesn't tell you what really matters: the dispositions.

Take the case of Zion Young. He was charged with 11 firearms felonies, which Boudin reduced to one misdemeanor and released him on an ankle monitor. Less than three months later, Young shot and killed 19-year-old Kelvin Chew, a student out for a walk in his Portola District neighborhood, in a botched robbery attempt.

Stephanie Ching and her husband Douglas Lomas were charged with murdering Ching's father, 73-year-old Benedict Ching, and dismembering his body. In May 2019, police performed a wellness check and discovered body parts, including his severed head, in the refrigerator. A circular saw and blood were found in the bathtub. That same day, the couple fled to China with their children but were captured and extradited back to the United States. This past October, Ching struck a plea deal with Boudin's office and pleaded guilty to desecration of human remains. She received a suspended sentence with credit for time served and was set free. Lomas also took a plea of voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to just six years in prison.

INEXPERIENCED TEAM AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

One of Boudin's first acts as district attorney was to fire his most seasoned prosecutors. Curious, considering he said during election debates he was the only person on stage who had never prosecuted a case. Boudin's office pled out around 20 of the 85 pending murder cases for much less than murder. The prosecutors Boudin fired had, between them, tried more than 40 murder cases in front of juries. Boudin replaced those veterans with inexperienced public defenders who had never tried murder cases.

Boudin also got rid of the "lifer unit," which cost around \$30,000 a year for two senior attorneys to handle life sentences on a part-time basis. Gang enhancements were dismissed on all pending cases and won't be charged on future ones. He refuses to charge strikes and doesn't want any juveniles going to jail or tried as adults, no matter how heinous their crimes. This policy has led to law enforcement sending cases to other jurisdictions. For example, a 17-year-old boy arrested in the Excelsior District for a deadly sideshow shooting in September 2020 will be prosecuted in Sacramento County. In a Jan. 15, 2021 press release about the arrest, police said there was a "nexus" between the killings in San Francisco and other crimes in Sacramento. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of murder, two counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, assault likely to produce great bodily injury, and discharging a firearm in public. Sacramento prosecutors are petitioning the court to have the teen tried as an adult.

Critics also point to conflicts of interest Boudin has from his days as a public defender. In fact, he brought over former associates from that office, which creates potentially hundreds of conflicts with cases where either they or Boudin represented clients. For example, Joshua Pittman got credit for time served in a murder. Nine months later he was arrested in a string of home invasions. His public defender on the murder case was Eric Quant, who now works in the district attorney's office.

In the case of Ravanell Young, the conflicts are even more troubling. As a public defender, Boudin was the attorney of record for Young when he was accused of shooting a rival gang member. Prosecutors held in-camera hearings (privileged and private) to tell the judge what they knew and weren't giving to the defense, which wasn't exculpatory — and the judge agreed. When the victim refused to testify, prosecutors had to drop the case, but Boudin surmised the victim was a confidential informant. Boudin also found out the victim had shot at Young previously. In his role as district attorney, Boudin filed charges against the victim for shooting Young and went to court seeking access to the confidential files.

SFPD attorneys, who were in possession of the docket, filed a motion objecting due to the conflict of interest. Quant — the former public defender now working as a district attorney — argued there was a "wall around Boudin" and stated the attorney general "has had a bunch of cases where Boudin represented the person as a public defender and had no issues." In the end, the judge ruled to release the transcripts for "Quant's eyes only," which seemed naïve considering Boudin has been anxious to get his hands on them since he represented Young. Adding to the conflict, Young was booked Jan. 6, 2021 on a new charge of assault with a semi-automatic weapon. His first hearing was held in another courtroom on the same day Quant was arguing for the release of the confidential files from his previous case. So Boudin's office will now be prosecuting his former client as well as his former client's victim.

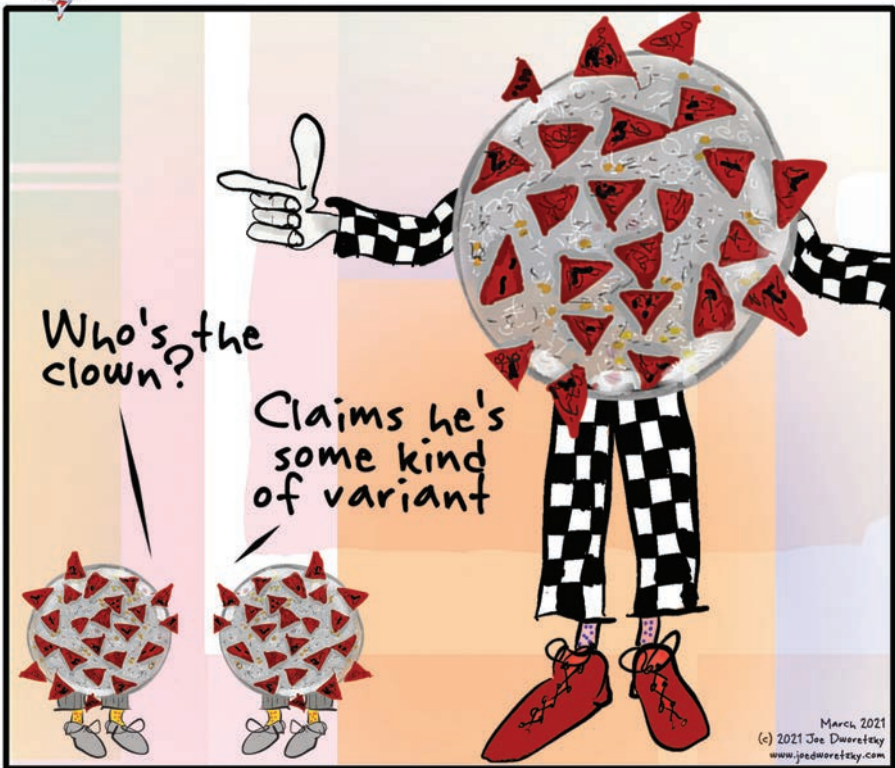
In his original mission statement on the SFDA website, Boudin said his number-one priority was to "review all officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and other unlawful use of force allegations," and his second priority was to "safeguard the integrity of the criminal justice system via a conviction review process focused on assessing and remedying colorable claims of innocence."

The statement has since been removed, but like a public defender in district attorney's clothing, Boudin brought those priorities with him — along with allies for the cause.

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OUR CULTURE
BY JOE DWORETZKY



New Kid

San Francisco after Covid

Once things return to normal, we'll discover what normal will be

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

HUGGING. APPARENTLY THERE will be a lot of hugging. That's the answer given by many people when asked what they are most looking forward to once the sheltering-at-home phase of the pandemic is over.

There have been many articles and reports over the past year about how the pandemic has forever changed the way we do X, Y, or Z. According to various claims, office space will never be the same, nor will air travel, amusement parks, casinos, movie theaters, grocery shopping, dating, education, sex, and sports. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Laurie Garrett told CNN that "four, five years from now . . . there will not be a single aspect of our lives that's been unchanged. . . . It's almost impossible to really fully envision what that will look like."

What else do we have to anticipate, now that the vaccine rollout is zooming along and authorities are leading us to believe that by May, anyone who wants to be vaccinated will be able to do so? What will post-pandemic life be like? Well, no one's ever tossed a Pulitzer Prize my way, but I'll offer predictions of how a couple things will look in the near future.

POLITICAL SCENE

Mayor London Breed will emerge from the pandemic stronger than she entered it, widely praised for taking first-in-the-nation action to shelter in place. She also is prioritizing issues that will determine whether the city successfully transitions to "normality" again or is subsumed under accumulating problems — small business health, crime, homelessness, racial equity, and education. There is much in there to

please people from both the leftist and centrist wings of the local Democratic Party. And she could have some of her work done for her if recall efforts against the district attorney and the school board are successful.

A recall effort that is likely to fail is the Republican-led effort to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom (see "The trials of Gavin," February 2021, *Marina Times*). Recently, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis crowed about his state's middlin' Covid death numbers and said it had accomplished that without shutting down like Los Angeles or New York did. But others have pointed out that Florida isn't as densely populated as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and other places, and being in close quarters with lots of other people is a prime way to spread an airborne respiratory disease. (Many municipalities in Florida did impose restrictions, which their governor continues to fight.) Meanwhile, Gov. Gavin Newsom is doing a full-court press in defense of his actions, admitting mistakes, and pushing forward with reopening the state.

Politico's Carla Marinucci notes that once the recall election really gets going, it's likely to get very crowded. More than 130 candidates qualified for the clown show ballot that was Grey Davis's 2003 recall, and let's just say California has not gotten saner in the years since. It only takes \$4,000 or 7,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. "That's nothing when it comes to GoFundMe or social media," said Marinucci. "I expect you could have hundreds of people signing up to run for governor of California — just for publicity purposes."

The recall, which is largely fueled by anger over restrictions on businesses and

places of worship, has been nationalized as Trumpist Republicans have raised money and spoken out — a move that plays so poorly in this deep-blue state that one is tempted to think it was arranged by Newsom himself. Joe Biden beat Donald Trump in November by a nearly 2–1 margin here. Newsom isn't Biden, but with the recall effort draped in Trumpian rhetoric and money, Newsom's challenger might as well be Trump.

And things are likely to continue to improve for the governor, as the shut-down abates, the economy roars back, employment rebounds, and kids go back to annoying teachers in the schools.

Now, that last paragraph is pretty much obvious. Anyone can say it. But what is worth noting both for Newsom's political friends and his enemies alike is that he is a learning machine. He is famous for digesting briefing books and studies and expounding on their lessons regardless of whether you want to hear it. This first serious challenge to his political career since, arguably, his first mayoral race is not going to be missed by him as a learning opportunity. Always a fan of the big policy move — approving gay marriage in San Francisco, Care Not Cash, etc. — Newsom will likely release and stage manage a number of bold policy efforts for the remaining two years of his first term.

And it's looking increasingly likely it will be the first of two.

THE ECONOMY

O.K., enough about how the politicians will come out of this pandemic. How about *you*?

In this month's Real Estate Observer column (p. 11), Garey De Martini shares some eye-opening statistics about the tril-

lions of dollars that American households have accumulated during the past year. As many commentators have pointed out, this pandemic has been experienced very differently by people in this country; some prospered while others sank even deeper into debt, joblessness, and despair.

For those in the white-collar middle class and above who prospered, they have money they will spend or invest, either of which is going to give a boost to the economy. Locally, people who have complained about tech companies taking over the city can relax a little and come up with a business to occupy that office inventory that's being freed up as Salesforce, Twitter, Yelp, Uber, and other companies reduce their footprints in the city.

But eyes in the business world might well be focused on inflation; the Federal Reserve expects inflation to expand above the Fed's preferred 2 percent level. It's not talking about Weimar-era hyperinflation, nor even late 1970s inflation, but it could lead to a boost in interest rates sooner than the Fed would like, and that could hurt businesses looking for loans to rebuild or expand.

And as for everyday life? That's where you can tell the prognosticators to take a flying leap. Dating, sex, concerts, or even having sex on a date at a concert — these things won't be permanently changed by the pandemic. There might be a delay in some activities resuming, and with any luck, we'll see more people washing their hands regularly and it wouldn't be a terrible thing if masks became a more frequent fashion accoutrement. But human nature will continue to be the same.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com; author email: john@marinatimes.com.

Anti-Asian hate crimes on our streets

COMPILED BY JOHN ZIPPERER

HERE'S A SAMPLING OF crimes in the districts covered by Northern SFPD station for one recent week in March.

ANTI-ASIAN INCIDENT
March 8, 7:30 p.m.
Pine and Polk Streets

Two people reported a hate crime, informing officers that they were in their vehicle when they observed the subjects on the street making derogatory hand gestures at them and verbally expressing a dislike for "Asians." A subject approached the victims and told them to mind their own business; when one of the victims spoke Tagalog, the subject expressed his dislike for Filipinos and kicked the vehicle, causing damage. The victims then left the area in their vehicle.

ARMED ASSAULT
March 10, 6 p.m.
800 block of McAllister Street

Two officers responded to a "shot spotter" activation. An anonymous 911 caller reported a victim was entering their car when another vehicle drove by and shot at the victim. The officers could not locate the victim, but the witness said the victim was not injured and drove away before the police arrived. The officers did, however, locate multiple bullet holes in a residential structure and a vehicle in the area.

ANOTHER ANTI-ASIAN INCIDENT
March 12, 4:30 p.m.
Turk and Gough Streets

A 76-year-old Chinese man was walking along when a subject moving in the opposite direction yelled for the victim to move out of the way. The victim said the subject also made an offensive comment about him being Chinese, then shoved the victim out of the way before fleeing southbound on Gough Street. The victim complained of pain but refused medical services at the scene.

BATTERY
March 14, 12 a.m.
Fillmore and Moulton Streets

Three officers responded to reports of a battery. Two individuals were involved in a physical altercation. The conflict originated when one of the people discovered his vehicle had been burglarized; he saw the other individual, a homeless person sleeping nearby, and wrongfully accused him of the burglary. The first person pulled the blanket off the homeless person and began to punch him, causing a severely swollen eye and laceration to the face of the victim, who received treatment at a local hospital. The first person was arrested for aggravated assault and booked at County Jail.

MAIL CALL
March 14, 10 a.m.
300 block of Austin Street

Two officers responded to a report of someone going through mailboxes. The 911 caller provided a description, and the offi-



A car was retrieved from the bay following an incident near the Marina Green. PHOTO: SFPD NORTHERN STATION

cers were able to locate a subject matching those descriptions and detained him.

The subject had an out-of-county warrant and was a convicted felon, which prohibited him from possessing firearms. He was arrested for the warrant and was discovered to have a loaded firearm concealed in a fanny pack, along with drug paraphernalia and stolen property. A witness said the subject had been seen rummaging through a church mailbox and a residential complex before the police arrived.

CARS DON'T FLOAT
March 14, 10:20 p.m.
Marina Green

A driver in the parking lot between the Marina Green and the bay reported that another vehicle sped toward him, causing him to swerve, jump the curb, and land in the water. The driver did not appear to be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The vehicle was left in the water overnight due to safety concerns about removing it, but it has since been towed from the water.

SFAI 150 | ‘A Spirit of Disruption’

BY SHARON ANDERSON

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY, the San Francisco Art Institute presents “A Spirit of Disruption.” This exhibition, on view through July 3, reflects on the schools’ history and the influence of its students on the world of contemporary art.

A NEW NARRATIVE

Founded in 1871, SFAI has operated as a microcosm of the Bay Area art world and the interdisciplinary, boundary-redefining radical creativity associated with San Francisco’s cultural identity. SFAI played a role in many contemporary art movements, including Abstract Expressionism, Bay Area Figuration, Color Field, California Funk, and the Mission School, affirming the school’s influence on the international art world

Including more than 30 alumni and faculty from the 1960s to the present, “A Spirit of Disruption” is dedicated to diverse artists and individuals often overlooked in the historical narrative of SFAI.

“The underpinning of the exhibition is to spotlight artists who have not been included in the larger historical narrative of SFAI, which has primarily been cis-gender, white men,” says co-curator Leila Weefur. “We took special care to make sure the majority of the works included in the exhibition are by BIPOC/LGBTQ+ artists and vary in career length and exposure, pairing young and emerging artists with mid-career and established artists. ‘The Spirit of Disruption’ is the conceptual force behind this curatorial method, which is to disrupt the history and bring forth the diverse approach that best represents SFAI’s legacy.”

Among the featured artists is Filipino-American painter Leo Valledor (1936-89) and his shaped canvas *Ghost Ring* (1968). Valledor, a scholarship

recipient at just 17 years old, went on to co-found the historic Park Place Gallery in New York. Also included is Mexican artist Miguel Calderon’s installation *Pantalla Hypnotica* (2018). Calderon became a key figure in the young alternative art scene in Mexico, and after graduation co-founded an art space called La Panderia. Recent graduate Cathy Lu will display her ceramic-based work involving the manipulation of traditional Chinese art objects and symbols. Her contribution is a large-scale hanging installation entitled *Customs Declaration* (2019). Figurative art, abstraction, conceptual art, sculpture, and installations become the life, color, texture, and sound of this time.

THE PEOPLE AND STORIES OF SFAI

The evolution of the art world can be seen through the trajectory of SFAI’s changing roster of artists, and these stories are included in the exhibition. Florence “Flo” Wysinger Allen was a beloved artist and model who became the subject of countless paintings, sculptures, and drawings from 1933-97. As the founder of the Bay Area Models’ Guild in 1945 and a civil rights activist, she became an SFAI legend, and her memory is cemented, literally, in the form of her signature written in concrete in front of Studio 8 at the historic Chestnut Street campus. Ten sketches and paintings of Allen will be shown in the Diego Rivera Gallery. Objects and ephemera also include a coffee cup in homage to Father Guido Sarducci (comedian Don Novello). In a 1982 promotion for SFAI, he explained the advantages of being an artist, which included “sitting around all day long drinking espresso coffee with your friends.”

“A Spirit of Disruption” expands SFAI’s story via a dynamic media installation featuring artists Rigo 89, Karen Finley, Cliff Hengst, and many others. Also, in



Finally Know How to Speak by Kezia Harrell. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARTIST

conjunction with the exhibition, co-curator Margaret Tedesco along with Weefur produced an interactive multimedia web program titled *Are you listening?*, a 10-episode podcast series including digital images, videos, and information from the SFAI archive. Each episode considers the histories of the art school and its various departments accompanied by original alumni music.

“This exhibition at 150 years is a reexamination of the constantly changing complexion of art history — an invitation

to no longer read between the lines,” adds Tedesco.

San Francisco Art Institute | “A Spirit of Disruption”: Tuesday 11 a.m.–7 p.m. and Wednesday–Saturday 11 a.m.–6 p.m. through July 31, free. 800 Chestnut Street, 415-771-7020, sfai.edu. A virtual version of the exhibition will be available beginning March 19.

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY KEVIN MCCARTHY

HARDCOVER FICTION

- 1. **The Midnight Library:** A Novel, by Matt Haig
- 2. **The Paris Library: A Novel**, Janet Skeslien Charles
- 3. **The Committed**, Viet Thanh Nguyen

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. **How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need**, by Bill Gates
- 2. **Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages through the Unknown City**, by Gary Kamiya and Paul Madonna
- 3. **Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World**, by Simon Winchester

PAPERBACK FICTION

- 1. **Long Bright River: A Novel**, by Liz Moore
- 2. **The Dutch House**, by Ann Patchet

- 3. **Ninth House**, by Leigh Bardugo

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

- 1. **Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot**, by Mikki Kendall
- 2. **Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family**, by Robert Kolker
- 3. **Everybody Else Is Perfect: How I Survived Hypocrisy, Beauty, Clicks, and Likes**, by Gabrielle Korn

CHILDREN’S BEST SELLERS

- 1. **Becoming (Adapted for Young Readers)**, by Michelle Obama
- 2. **Kafka and the Doll**, by Larissa Theule
- 3. **The Tree in Me**, by Corinna Luyken

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

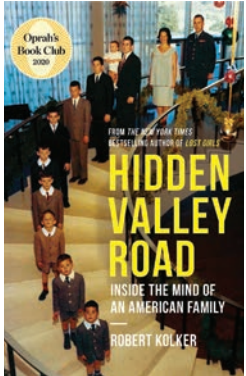
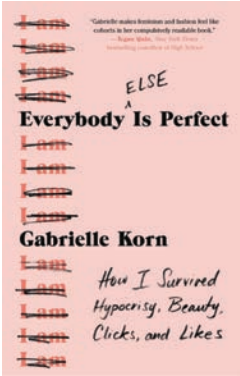
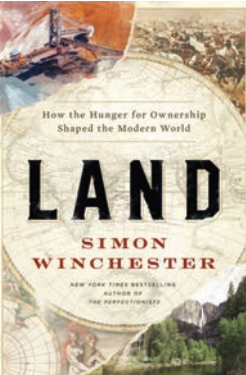
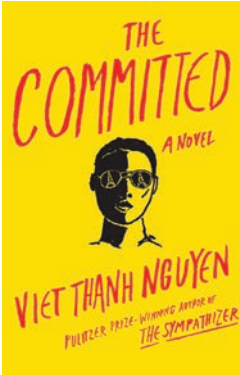
A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a

Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life, by George Saunders

George Saunders shares a version of his Russian short story class, which he has been teaching to MFA students for 20 years at Syracuse University. Paired with iconic short stories by Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol, the seven essays in this book are intended for anyone interested in how fiction works and why it’s more relevant than ever in these turbulent times.

Just Work: Get Sh*t Done, Fast & Fair, by Kim Scott

Large numbers of people in the workforce are consistently excluded, underestimated, and underutilized as others are included, overestimated, and promoted, often beyond their level of competence, which is immoral, unjust, and bad for business. Scott’s new book reveals a practical framework for respecting individuality and collaborating effectively in this essential guide for leaders and their employees to



create more just workplaces and establish new norms of collaboration and respect.

Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019, by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

In this unique one-volume book of “community” history of African Americans, 90 brilliant writers take on a five-year

period of this timespan with historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics.

For additional new releases, visit marinatimes.com.

Kevin McCarthy can help you find your next book at Books Inc. in the Marina (2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, booksinc.net/sfmarina).

infections — at least in parts of the Bay Area. The Embarcadero Cinema and the AMC Kabuki were among the theaters to first allow patrons, and the Chapel led the charge for a return to live music. The same thing was happening in other California population centers that had cooled down from purple to red on the infection scale. Yeah, Dr. Fauci still has his reservations about folks gathering at these recreational destinations, even for those who are vaccinated. Nonetheless, businesses are getting back to business.

The potential for a return to what we see in retrospect as normality is heartening, despite the restricted numbers and social distancing that remain in place where mandated. The Giants are planning to have roughly 8,000 people in the stands at Oracle Park to start this season, taking a friends-and-family pod-style approach to seating. Initially dabbling in one-time remote performances shown on video for small, select audiences, the Chapel is easing into genuine in-house-but-not-your-house concerts. That's definitely for the best, because there's nothing quite like the power and deep connection of live music caught in person. As for getting back to a night (or matinee) at the cinema, progress is definitely being made.

TENTATIVE OPENINGS

Last month, I was offered the chance to either review a movie via a streaming link or watch it while actually sitting in a theater with a handful of my fellow critics for the first time in over a year. I chose the link, feeling as if it was better to be safe. My vaccination and a wider swath of immuni-



Scarlett Johansson and Florence Pugh in *Black Widow*. PHOTO: JAY MAIDMENT / ©MARVEL STUDIOS

ty should be enough to encourage me to attend one of these screenings sooner or later. For the time being, home is where the art is.

My caution aside, what seemed like Band-Aid fixes — video on demand and streaming-service premieres of films originally intended for theatrical presentation and the institution of ticketed online concerts, all to provide for private-viewing under quarantine — may actually be here to stay in some capacity. Perhaps we just got used to the convenience of these adaptations that were made in the interest of keeping us protected, keeping the show going, and keeping artists alive and as well as could be expected. Or maybe the economic reality of hitting the town seems like more of a luxury when there's an alternative without the driving, the parking, and pricier refreshments than those found in your refrigerator. Considering the potential for loutish fellow patrons poisoning the proceedings, a night out doesn't seem

quite so appealing. Yet, the allure of a large-scale presentation in a communal space is unmistakable.

The immersive experience of seeing a blockbuster movie on the widescreen in a darkened hall with surround-sound is hard to replicate with a high-definition television in your den — unless you're Jeff Bezos with a high-def television that's Cinerama-big and a den that's the size of a small airplane hanger. Fans have been waiting a long time to finally and properly see *No Time to Die*, the new James Bond adventure and also Daniel Craig's last go-round in the role of Agent 007, now set for release in the fall. There's also a hankering for *Black Widow*, the latest feature film installment in the ever-expanding Marvel Cinematic Universe and also purportedly Scarlett Johansson's last go-round in the role of the sleek, deadly title heroine. Although it's been held back for months, *Black Widow's* debut is planned for July 9, just a few months away.

GO BIG OR GO HOME

Those mega-budget offerings and others — the Denis Villeneuve-directed version of novelist Frank Herbert's sci-fi classic *Dune* and the next couple Tom Cruise-controlled *Mission Impossible* installments, for example — will benefit from the theaters reopening. I, for one, will try to see each of them in one movie palace or another when given the opportunity.

To add a bit of perspective, intimate dramas, cheery comedies, boundary-pushing indie movies, and high-grade foreign fare — none of which really require the road-show treatment — are being given greater exposure due to the likes of Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Vudu, Apple TV, and FandangoNow. That's been a truly positive development related to a year of circumstantial house arrest. While you might not have picked yourself up and headed to the local repertory theater to see certain releases, watching them at home is easy and, considering the material, often genuinely mind-expanding. And we've now become conditioned to the idea of getting some high-profile first-run goodies via stream, alongside whatever new series has the binge buzz.

I'd call the rebirth of theaters and clubs and our ongoing acceptance of the streaming movie and online concert models a win-win. My advice is to pick and choose your shots when it comes to deciding the platform or circumstance for any diversion and enjoy the best of both.

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.



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Boating season kicks off Sunday, April 25th. PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/PICYA.ORG

APRIL EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS

64th S.F. International Film Festival

Daily, April 9–18

Livestream and drive-in

This year's festival features new films and events with drive-in and streaming programs, and plenty of fun and welcoming opportunities to connect with filmmakers and other attendees. \$75 (pass), 415-561-5006, sffilm.org

54th Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

Sat.–Sun., April 10–11 & 17–18, 3–5 p.m.

Livestream

Enjoy cultural performances, highlights of Japanese and Japanese American communities, and view cherry blossoms blooming in neighborhoods throughout the city. Free, 415-563-2313, nccbf.org

Annual Opening Day on the Bay

Sunday, April 25, noon–2:30 p.m.

Golden Gate Bridge to Pier 39

Boating season kicks off with the blessing of the fleet and a festive parade featuring over 100 historic workboats, fireboats, towboats, classic, and contemporary craft. Free viewing, picya.org

GALAS & BENEFITS

Alonzo Kings Lines Ballet 2021 Gala

Saturday, April 17, 5 p.m.

Livestream

The evening of inspirational dance features world premieres, one-of-a-kind musical appearances, and more. \$100 & up, 415-863-3040, linesballet.org

North Beach Citizens' Spring Event

Wednesday, April 21, 6–9 p.m.

Livestream

Celebrate North Beach Citizens' 20 years of positive impact in the community at this annual event that celebrates North Beach Citizens' successful model of serving people living in extreme poverty with hope, compassion, and generosity. \$25 & up, 415-772-0918, northbeachcitizens.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Asian Art Museum

Fri.–Mon., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday, 1–8 p.m.

200 Larkin St.

"Lost at Sea: Art Recovered from Shipwrecks" traces the pathways of 12th-century stone reliefs and 15th-century ceramics, from Vietnam to the ocean floor to San Francisco; in Zheng Chongbin: I Look for the Sky, Bay Area artist Zheng Chongbin's site-specific installations use transparency and light to explore how ephemeral changes can alter our perception of place; "After Hope: Videos of Resistance" features an eclectic selection of more than 50 short videos exploring the role of hope in contemporary art and activism, and more. \$15, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Contemporary Jewish Museum

Thu.–Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

736 Mission St.

Reopening April 17 with these exhibitions: "Levi Strauss: A History of American Style" featuring garments, advertisements, photographs, and ephemera in celebration of the birth of the blue jean and its evolution from workwear into iconic fashion wear; "Predicting the Past: Zohar Studios" an immersive photography installation and tribute to Shimmel Zohar, a mythical 19th-century Jewish immigrant photographer; and "Threads of Jewish Life: Ritual and Other Textiles from the San Francisco Bay Area" showcasing a variety of textiles in use by San Francisco Jewish community members during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Timed ticketing required. \$16, 415-655-7800, theajm.org

The de Young Museum

Tue.–Sun. 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.

"Calder–Picasso" features work from two of the most innovative and influential artists of the 20th century; "Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI" explores what it means to be human and new ways of thinking about intelligence, nature, and artifice; and more. \$15, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

Legion of Honor Museum

Tue.–Sun. 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park

Opening May 1 is "Wangechi Mutu: I Am Speaking, Are You Listening?" a site-specific exhibition of sculpture, collage, and film by visionary Kenyan American artist Wangechi Mutu of powerful female characters, hybrid beings, and fantastical landscapes that challenge traditional art histories, mythologies, and conventional techniques of archiving and remembering; and "The Book of Now: Dieter Roth and Ed Ruscha" explores how the different styles of Roth and Ruscha revolutionized the way artists work in the medium of books. \$15, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

Walt Disney Family Museum

Thu.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall (122 Riley Avenue)

"The Walt Disney Studios and World War II" explores the Walt Disney Studios' contributions to the Allies' World War II effort. Timed ticketing required. \$15, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

THEATER

ACT I Young Conservatory Cabaret

Thu.–Sat., April 8–10

Thursday, May 6 & Friday, May 8

Livestream

High school performers bring to the virtual stage songs from a variety of musical genres and break out some of the most memorable Broadway showstoppers from the Golden Age and today. Visit website for schedule. \$10 & \$15, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

42nd Street Moon I Perfect Hermany: A Musical Tribute to Jerry Herman

Fridays–Sundays., April 10–May 7

Livestream

Enjoy a delightful, hilarious, poignant, and above all, tuneful trip down Jerry Herman lane with songs from shows like Hello, Dolly!, The Grand Tour, Mame, La Cage aux Folles, Mack and Mabel, and Milk and Honey, along with great stories and patter. \$25, 415-255-8207, 42ndstmoon.org

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DANCE

S.F. Ballet | Jewels
Daily, April 1–21
On demand
George Balanchine's *Jewels* features the newly captured *Emeralds*, filmed on stage at the War Memorial Opera House in January, which will accompany archival recordings of *Rubies* and *Diamonds*. \$29 & up, 415-865-2000, [sfballet.org](#)

Mark Foehringer Dance Project S.F. | 12th Annual Dancing in the Park S.F.
Saturday, April 24
On demand
This yearly event features over 25 dance groups from around the Bay Area. This year's event features favorite performances from past years. Free, 415-640-2784, [mfdpsf.org](#)

MUSIC: CLASSICAL

S.F. Opera | The Barber of Seville
Fri.–Sat. & Tuesdays, April 23–May 15, 8 p.m.
Marin Center, San Rafael & on demand
Live opera returns in this outdoor, drive-in 90-minute production of Rossini's romantic comedy sung in English. \$50 & \$250, 415-864-3330, [sfopera.com](#)

MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY

S.F. Jazz | 2021 NEA Jazz Masters Tribute
Thursday, April 22, 5 p.m.
Live stream
The National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with S.F. Jazz will host a special concert in honor of the 2021 NEA Jazz Masters: Terri Lyne Carrington, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Henry Threadgill, and Phil Schaap. Free, 866-920-5299, [sfjazz.org](#)

FILMS & LECTURES

SFPL | Homelessness and Sexual Violence Panel Discussion
Friday, April 2, noon–1:15 p.m.
Livestream
In recognition that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, join this panel discussion of sexual assault survivors and advocates on the experiences, survival stories, and needs of homeless and housing-insecure survivors. Sponsored by S.F. Public Library and hosted by the Human Rights Commission's Office of Sexual Harassment, and Assault Response and Prevention in partnership with the Department on the Status of Women. Free, [sfpl.org](#)



18th Annual International Ocean Film Festival
Daily, April 15–May 2
Livestream
View all things aquatic in the film fest screening a record 80-plus films from 17 countries including 10 premieres, and nine award winners. Then be inspired to become a better ocean steward to help to protect our oceans. Free–\$140, 415-561-6251, [oceanfilmfest.org](#)
PHOTO: FLICKR

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Exploratorium After Dark | Bees
Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m.
Live stream
Dive into the rich tradition of beekeeping, its output, the biology of bees, and which species of bees are at risk and why. Ages 21 & up. Free, 415-528-4444, [exploratorium.edu](#)

Sutro Stewards | Mt. Sutro Spring Wildflower Walk
Thursday, April 15, 1–3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 22, 2–4 p.m.
Sutro Native Plant Nursery (476 Johnstone Dr.)
Experience spring in bloom on a one- to two-mile guided habitat tour showcasing Mount Sutro's native plant communities. \$20 (suggested donation), [eventbrite.com](#)

Cal Academy Night School | Earth Day for the People
Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Livestream
Get inspired by people and organizations radically changing both the health of the environment and their communities and how these projects can be "greenprints" for larger efforts. Ages 21 & up. Free, 415-379-8000, [calacademy.org](#)

SFAA | The Dragonfly Mission to Titan, and the Search for Life
Wednesday, April 21, 7:30–9 p.m.
Livestream
S.F. Amateur Astronomers hosts this lecture by Dr. Chris McKay, senior research scientist from NASA Ames. Free, 415-561-4323 [presidio.gov](#)

POTABLES & EDIBLES



Classic Asian Dumplings Cooking Class
Thursday, April 8, 6–8 p.m.
Chef Annria's (57 Lisbon St.)
Learn to make fresh pork-and-cabbage filling from scratch, how to fold dumplings, make hot-and-sour soup, and more. \$75, [cocusocial.com](#)
PHOTO: COCUSOCIAL.COM

Food and Wine Bud Break Celebration
Sunday, April 18, 1–4 p.m.
Treasure Island Wines
(995 Ninth St., Bldg. 201)
Celebrate spring bud break outdoors and socially distanced with fine wine-food pairings and new releases. \$30, 415-394-9463, [tiwines.net](#)

SPORTS & HEALTH

Commonwealth Club | "I Hear You": Talking and Listening to People With Alzheimer's
Wednesday, April 7, 9 a.m.
Livestream
The more of us who want to talk and listen to people with dementia, the less "socially disappeared" they will be. Join this conversation with co-authors Dr. Jane Mahakian and Alyson Kuhn about their practical guide for caregivers and the rest of us. \$10–\$20, 415-597-6705, [commonwealthclub.org](#)

Wild Moves | Dance Outdoors
Thursday, April 29, 6:30–8 p.m.
East Beach, Crissy Field
Practice mindfulness in motion moving to the music and to some gentle guidance delivered through your own headsets. Connect deeper to yourself, to others, and to the wider natural world with a Spirit Rock-trained Dharma yoga facilitator. \$20–\$25, [wildmoves.org](#)

CHILD'S PLAY

SFMOMA/SFPL | Sweet Stories
Sunday, April 11, 11–11:15 a.m.
Livestream
Miss Kimberly reads, *Imogen: The Mother of Modernism* and *Three Boys* by Amy Novesky. Free, [sfmoma.org/secondsundays](#)

YMCA | Media 101
Tuesday, April 20, 3–4 p.m.
Livestream
Learn how to be a reporter and how to investigate, read, respond to and write your own news articles. Edit and record your own videos, write stories about things you care about and meet producers, directors, and more. Grades 4 and 5. Free, 415-772-5500, [ymca.org](#)

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Vaccines bring hope for grandparents

BY LIZ FARRELL

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD see my parents so happy to get a shot, but this wasn't just any shot, this was a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. For them, and soon all of us, this shot brings hope and lifts a heavy load of fear we have all been living with for the past year. Since last March, our family has had a lot of anxiety and unease, not wanting to be the ones to get my parents or my in-laws sick, especially knowing this age group has been hardest hit. So the sight of the second shot going into their arms brought a huge sense of relief. We are not out of the woods, but we can see light through the trees after a very difficult 12 months.

NEW GUIDELINES

One of the most difficult parts for the grandparents in our family has been not seeing their grandchildren as much. They all live close to us and were a big part of our daily lives. They would come to sporting events, help with rides, or just pop in to say hello. Because they all live close, we have seen them but

far less, and it has been outside, socially distanced, and wearing masks, but this last year most kids haven't been able to see their grandparents at all.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control revised their guidelines to say, "... fully vaccinated grandparents can visit indoors with their unvaccinated healthy daughter and her healthy children without wearing masks or physical distancing, provided none of the unvaccinated family members are at risk of severe Covid-19." This was such welcome news to all of us, especially as we look toward summer.

However, many health experts are warning vaccination is not a free ticket back to pre-Covid life; there are still risks. Research shows the vaccine is not 100 percent effective, so there is still a small chance that someone who has been vaccinated could get Covid-19. The other risk is experts still don't have enough data to know if the vaccine reduces transmission of the virus. So even if you are vaccinated, you still could be a carrier of the virus and could unknowingly spread it to those around you who aren't vaccinated.

RISK VERSUS REWARD

For many grandparents who have only seen their grandkids on Zoom, Facetime, or socially distant, the reward may outweigh these risks. Grandparents want to see how long their grandkids' hair has gotten or how tall they have grown over the past year. Experts recommend if you decide the reward is greater than the risk and want to hug your grandchild and visit indoors, then maybe you refrain from other higher risk activities such as indoor dining or visiting crowded places.

There is also the mental health toll this virus has taken across all age groups, a toll that I don't think we have even fully begun to realize. In particular, older people who have been very isolated, especially those in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities. Grandchildren can bring joy, happiness, and even meaning to their lives, because grandparents live for their grandchild's next milestone. Those fortunate grandparents may have found new ways to connect using technology, but as we all have learned, nothing can quite replace a hug or connecting in person.



Even with vaccinations, precautions will be necessary to keep loved ones safe. PHOTO: CHOREOGRAPH

NEXT STEPS

In our family, we have lived through a full year of holidays and birthday celebrations over Zoom or braving the elements outside. Recently, we celebrated my dad's 80th birthday and we all gathered together — outside with masks — but all being together felt so good and so normal, which was something we all needed.

Until children are able to get the vaccine, which for teens, is looking like next fall at the earliest, and until we get to herd immunity as a country, masks will remain a part of daily life. It

is also expected that as the number of people vaccinated increases and the number of Covid cases is decreasing, the CDC will continue to revise guidelines especially around travel, so there is hope that by summer more people will be able to travel farther to visit grandparents.

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

When a self-declared gym rat couldn't hit the gym

BY JULIE MITCHELL

BEFORE TIMES, I WAS A DEDICATED gym rat and yogi. I used cardio and weight equipment at my gym at least three times a week, took exercise classes several times a week, and two or three yoga classes, too, both at the gym and at a yoga studio. I also walked with a friend weekly. Staying fit is a big part of my life.

Then came the first pandemic shutdown last March. My gym and yoga studios closed. I had time to work out but no place to do it, except, like everyone else, at home. How was this going to work?

WALKING IT OFF

I first ramped up my walking routine, taking to the streets and the trails, changing up my route when I got bored, aiming for that prized 10,000 steps a day. Some days I met that goal, on others I didn't. But at least I was moving.

While I always hated running, I thought the shutdown would be the perfect time to try again. I ordered a good pair of running shoes, and set out for the local high school track, knowing I would need to combine running with walking until I built up my stamina.

Torture. I made myself run/walk for 20 minutes about three times before I confirmed that yes, I still hate to run.

ZOOMING THROUGH YOGA

I do love to practice yoga, though. And within a week of the shutdown, several of my favorite San Francisco yoga teachers were Zooming. This made me extremely happy — live classes at home from familiar teachers — and I didn't miss rushing



Exercising at home has its challenges. PHOTO: ANNASTILLS

to find parking to get to class on time one bit. Zoom yoga has been a lifesaver, and has kept me in touch not only with my instructors but also with friends in my yoga community. YogaWorks offers live Zoom classes (\$25 per class), and there's one practically every hour.

ONLINE WORKOUTS PART ONE

Although I own dumbbells and elastic exercise bands, and despite knowing enough to create my own workout, I still needed someone to tell me what to do.

First I turned to YouTube. There are literally hundreds of workout videos of every type. Settling on Jessica Smith, whose free videos focus on full-body strength training, I did several and found them adequate, but soon grew bored. I think this is the downfall of all exercise videos: Without a live instructor encouraging and correcting you, it's all too easy

to find excuses to end your workout early, fudge on the more challenging moves (did someone say core work?), and grow tired of the repetition.

Nevertheless, I was determined to find an online workout that I liked.

ONLINE WORKOUTS PART TWO

Then I sampled Alomoves.com, which offers all-level classes in fitness, yoga, and mindfulness sorted by duration, style, and skill level. I was intrigued by classes like Barre to the Core, Baseline Bootcamp, Sweat and Burn, and Power Yoga Sculpt. Like most online workout websites, Alomoves offers a free one-week trial period. I tried several classes, with power barre, yoga sculpt, and bootcamp among my favorites, and I liked that I could choose workout lengths from 15 to 60 minutes.

Still, while I never got bored exercising on Alomoves, I found the instructors to

be so perfectly toned, it was almost intimidating. Like, really, would I ever look like one of them no matter how many workouts I did?

ONLINE WORKOUTS PART THREE

Next I checked out Obefitness.com. While the format is similar, with different length classes ranging from Pilates, HIITs, yoga, barre, sculpt, cardio dance, and more, I found the site easier to navigate. Classes are also offered live on Zoom, and via a library of on-demand workouts recorded every week, sortable by specific instructors and class lengths.

While the instructors are very fit, they're also personable and keep up a running banter throughout classes. This might annoy some, but I found it made the time pass faster even during tough workouts. And these folks are more "human" — their hair slides out of their ponytails; they sometimes admit they need to stop and take breaks; and they drink water during classes and encourage participants to do the same. While some workouts require props like weights, resistance bands, and barre balls, others simply use body weight. Monthly, quarterly, or yearly memberships are available; I have a monthly membership (\$27) that includes both live and on-demand classes.

I don't think my fitness level has suffered much over this past year, but I really miss the comradery of live classes at a studio. Even when I do return, I will also stick with online workouts for convenience. It will be nice to have a choice as things continue to open up.

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How fast will San Francisco attract new or returning residents as the pandemic remains to be seen. PHOTO: JHAYNAM/PIXABAY

365 days later

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

IT'S BEEN JUST OVER A YEAR SINCE shelter-in-place protocols were initiated due to the coronavirus pandemic. At long last, there truly seems to be some light at the end of this terrible Covid tunnel, as vaccinations are becoming more available and things are opening up again.

The pandemic has had an extraordinary impact on real estate, one few may have expected. Rather than hampering home sales, it seems to have accelerated them.

Nationwide, the median sale price of a home increased 17 percent year over year. According to Redfin.com, this was the largest increase on record in this data set, which goes back through 2016. At the same time, pending home sales were up 19 percent year over year.

Closer to home, Scott Brittain, a sales associate with Sotheby's International Realty in San Francisco, recently said, "The single-family home market is on fire right now as buyers are acting upon their desire for more square footage and outdoor space. When priced correctly, there are bidding wars on almost every house within one week of its coming on the market. We're also seeing many positive signs that suggest the condo market is rebounding from last year's decline in value."

Brittain added that his brokerage recorded an increase of 88 percent in closed transactions in February 2021 over February 2020. That's not entirely surprising. January and the beginning of February have traditionally been slow months in real estate, but the pandemic has significantly changed the normal seasonality of the market.

RISING EQUITY MARKETS

It's worth noting that the most expensive home ever sold in the Marina District was purchased at the end of February for \$12.5 million. The five-bedroom, four-and-one-half-bath Mediterranean-style home is located across from the Palace of Fine Arts.

Reuters reported that U.S. households ended 2020 with a record \$130.2 trillion in wealth as rock-bottom interest rates and a massive fiscal rescue stemmed the financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

Rising equity markets added \$4.9 trillion to household assets in the fourth quarter and rising real estate values added around \$900 billion, a Federal Reserve report showed. Balances in cash, checking accounts, and savings deposits rose by a combined \$642.7 billion in the fourth quarter to a record \$14.1 trillion. Household wealth rose \$12 trillion from the year-earlier period, and consumers paid off a record \$118.3 billion in credit card debt.

A lot of people did well during this pandemic. Others, of course, not so much. For example, the Federal Reserve report does not provide a breakdown of higher-income families versus poor ones, and it masks the very different experiences of those who were employed and those who were not, as well as of those who owned stocks and homes and those who did not.

The remote work revolution is underway and receiving a lot of press, but it's leaving many behind. Roughly 40 million Americans work in lower-wage, high-risk jobs that require close contact with other workers or customers. What's more, white workers are considerably more likely to work remotely than Blacks or Hispanics, who have been afflicted with Covid-19 and died at much higher rates than whites.

Nevertheless, the remote-work revolution is here, and it looks like it's here to stay. *The Wall Street Journal* reported recently that a year ago, just before the start of pandemic lockdowns, some 10 percent or less of the U.S. labor force worked remotely full time. Within a month, according to Gallup and other surveys, around half of American workers were at distant desktops. Today, most of them still are.

Surveys of employers and employees alike suggest a fundamental shift. While forecasts differ, as much as a quarter of the 160-million-strong U.S. labor force is expected to stay fully remote in the long term, and many more are likely to work remotely a significant part of the time.

REMOTE WORKING EFFECTS

Such changes may begin to reverse the increasingly winner-take-all nature of America's economic geography, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. In the decade and a half leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 90 percent of employment growth in America's innovation economy was concentrated in just five coastal metro areas: San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, San Diego, and Boston. As a result, those cities, along with New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., had become more and more expensive.

The effects of the remote work revolution are already being felt. Rents have fallen and vacancies have risen significantly in superstar cities, particularly in San Francisco and New York, according to data from Zillow and Apartment List.

"There were people who decided to move out of the city last year, given their ability to work remotely," Brittain said. "For us in real estate, the big questions for 2021 are 'Will the people who moved away decide to return to San Francisco as their companies resume in-office operations, and how will that affect the market?'"

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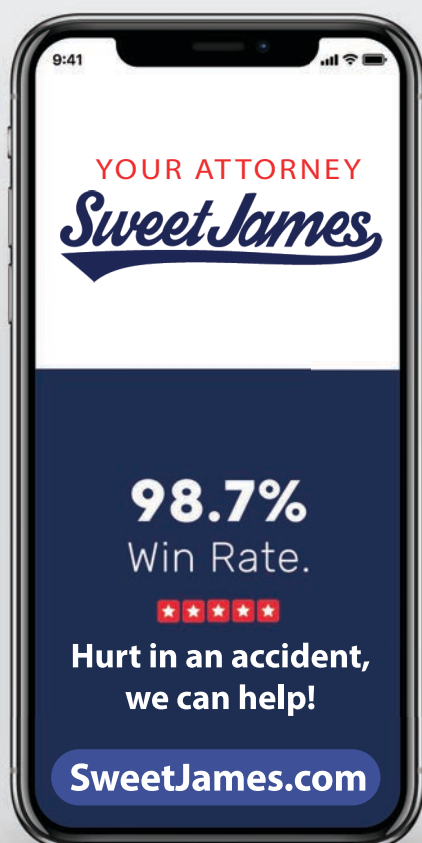
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