



What to see and do

Sharon Anderson on Diego Rivera at SFMOMA. p. 8
Liz Farrell on how to ensure children can safely go to school — in person and full time. p. 10
Garey De Martini on house-buying trends. p. 11



The Sicily treat

Susan Dyer Reynolds shows you how to make arancini with your leftover rice for a great comfort snack. p. 7

MARINATIMES.COM :: CELEBRATING OUR 37TH YEAR :: VOLUME 37 :: ISSUE 9 :: SEPTEMBER 2021



Tony Leung and Fala Chen star in Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings*. PHOTO: MARVEL STUDIOS

Marvel's martial-arts legend battles from San Francisco to China

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

A MAGICAL MASH-UP FROM start to finish, *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* casts a kinetic, jubilant spell. This bright, bold Pacific Rim adventure delivers a high-octane, high-stakes hero's journey with stunning martial

arts action, laugh-out-loud comedy, and turbulent family drama that stretches from the streets of San Francisco to exotic Macao. Plus, it officially kicks off the latest phase of Marvel Studios' remarkably interwoven superhero blockbusters and television shows with a number of connections to previous and upcoming

films and series. Yet, like the massive box-office hit *Black Panther*, you need no prior knowledge of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (a.k.a. the MCU) or comic book canon to enjoy it. Expertly directed and co-written by Destin Daniel Cretton (*Short Term 12*, *Just Mercy*), *Shang*

SNYDER, continued on 9

REYNOLDS RAP :: Opinion

Cronyism is still alive and well at City Hall

And Mayor London Breed's friends are making a killing

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY Service Center was created under the name Victory Club during World War I as a gathering spot for Black soldiers. It closed after the war and reopened in 1920, renamed for the educator, orator, and author who advised several U.S. presidents. Over the years the center fell into disrepair, and in 2018, the old site at 800 Presidio Avenue was demolished and replaced with a \$55 million, 70,000 square foot mixed-use building featuring a childcare facility, youth programming space, recording studios, gymnasium, and 50 units of affordable housing (including 24 units for transitioning youth from foster care). That all sounds terrific, but according to board member Julian Davis, behind the fancy façade is another tale of cronyism at San Francisco City Hall, and this one reaches all the way to Room 200.

Davis, a graduate of Brown University and U.C. Hastings College of the Law, is a Bay Area native who has been a progressive activist and organizer in San Francisco since 2002. He has worked in government and the nonprofit legal sectors with a focus on community development, civil rights, social justice, and environmental causes. He

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 5

SUPERVISOR :: Opinion

The fight for public safety funding

Safe streets for everyone requires investment

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

RECENT POLLING BY THE SAN FRANCISCO Chamber of Commerce revealed that 8 out of 10 San Franciscans feel crime has gotten worse over the last year. This comes as no surprise as public safety concerns drive many phone calls and emails to my office. District 2 residents have shared their personal stories with me — everything from garage break-ins to armed robberies, and other harrowing crimes. I have lived here 21 years, and there is no denying the sense of unease felt by so many. For some officials to deny these experiences, by generally stating that “overall” crime is down, ignores and invalidates victims of crime. While car break-ins may have been down last year, we know residential burglaries increased at alarming rates — a crime much more frightening and violating. San Franciscans deserve to feel safe in their communities, in their homes, and in a convenience store picking up their prescriptions. The bottom line is too many San Franciscans don't feel safe, and it's past time we have an honest conversation about why and a meaningful conversation about how to address it.

SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

MODERN DINING :: Drinks



Golden Hour Oysters at The Dorian. PHOTO: THE DORIAN

Don't worry, get happy at happy hour

BY JULIE MITCHELL

SAN FRANCISCO'S RESTAURANTS have had a heck of a time staying open during the pandemic. Restrictions on indoor dining, social distancing, and masking have made it especially tough to retain and recruit

staff and lure diners back. But one thing is certain: If you want a drink, you won't have to go far. And if you have the flexibility in your schedule to head out in the late afternoon, you can take advantage of a neighborhood bar or restaurant's happy hour and save up while you sip and snack.

CHECK OUT CHESTNUT

Chestnut Street offers a wealth of happy hour choices. From 3–6 p.m. on weeknights, **Tacolicious** will pour you a shot of tequila plus a Tecate beer, and you can have a taco for \$13, or a house margarita, glass of sangria, rosé, or a Negra Modelo for \$8, as well as guacamole, three crispy chicken tacos; or the “holy trinity dip sampler” with guacamole, chile con queso, and refried beans, all for \$8. The lively atmosphere makes for a truly fun time. 2250 Chestnut Street, 415-649-6077, tacolicious.com.

The Dorian's “golden hour” runs from 4–6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and with its opulent bar, this is the place to go for high-end noshes and drinks. The Golden Hour Oyster features a Hog Island oyster with crème fraîche, white sturgeon caviar, and chives topped with a pinch of 24k gold for \$9 or try another favorite: turmeric hummus and seeded flatbread for \$6. Other choices include truffle fries or a chicken slider for \$5. A glass of white or red house wine is \$7, and Fort Point's kolsch is \$5. The Dorian's eclectic selection of cocktails — like Vane's Rose spritz with Ketel One, grapefruit and rose, strawberry-infused

MODERN DINING, continued on 6

PACIFICA

GRADUATE INSTITUTE
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

Explore the Country's Premier
School of Depth Psychology



Pacifica's unique mission primarily attracts innovative and creative working professionals who are interested in a rigorous intellectual experience that connects with their souls and positively transforms how they see the world. A Pacifica graduate degree equips them for the vocation they feel called to, whether to enhance what they are already doing or equip them for new and additional work in the world.

A PERSONALIZED, INNOVATIVE EDUCATION



Virtual Information Day October 23, 2021

Join us virtually to experience Pacifica's unique degree programs through faculty-led, program-specific information sessions and learn more about admissions procedures, available financial aid and resources.

Register at [pacifica.edu](https://www.pacifica.edu)

Masters & Doctoral Programs

M.A. in Counseling Psychology

Psy.D. in Counseling Psychology

M.A./Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

M.A./Ph.D. in Depth Psychology
with Specializations in

- Jungian and Archetypal Studies
- Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Eco-Psychologies

M.A. in Engaged Humanities and
the Creative Life

M.A./Ph.D. in Mythological Studies

Ph.D. in Depth Psychology with
Specialization in Integrative Therapy
and Healing Practices



Apply Online for Spring and Fall
www.pacifica.edu

Pacifica is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Supervisor

continued from cover

THE FACTS

The current narrative on crime in San Francisco is that rates are down; a closer look at the data proves otherwise. The official crime rate does not include all crimes, and has specifically excluded shootings, drug overdoses, and hate crimes from publicized statistics.

In 2020, shootings spiked by more than 60 percent, and in the first quarter of 2021 alone they increased by more than 300 percent. San Francisco's drug overdose crisis is similarly out of control. Each day, two people die from an overdose on our streets. In 2020, there were a record-breaking 699 overdose deaths, nearly double the rate of 2019, which has continued to rise in 2021. Hate crimes have become more brazen in San Francisco, and in California they have increased by 31 percent in 2020, with a majority of crimes targeting Asian American and Black residents.

Yes, certain categories of crime have dropped, most notably personal property theft has decreased by 39 percent. However, from 2019 to 2020 other more serious categories of crime have increased: burglary, arson, motor vehicle theft, and homicide increased by 52 percent, 37 percent, 40 percent, and 35 percent respectively, and even higher in some districts. According to police, robberies have also become more brazen.

When some city leaders parrot the notion that "crime is down," they erase the experience of victims who have endured tragic and sometimes traumatizing events and they simplify the picture. We cannot ignore the facts by citing incomplete and misleading data.

PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE BUDGET

To address these issues, I have consistently prioritized public safety and police staffing during budget negotiations. I believe that one of the most fundamental duties of government is to keep its citizens safe. That means taking a hard look at the data, listening to our community, and making change where it's needed.

The delays in response times from the San Francisco Police Department have become dangerously apparent. A recent

study conducted by an outside consultant found that the SFPD's staffing was severely inadequate. While this study found that SFPD needs to hire 265 more patrol officers to speed up response times, many others during this year's budget cycle were strongly advocating to cut public safety funding by an additional \$30 million.

At every step of this year's budget deliberations, I reaffirmed my commitment to public safety and fought for our police department, especially as funding for police academy classes, equipment, and new investments in criminal justice reform initiatives were on the line. Good policing requires investment, and I was able to successfully secure funding for two

The official crime rate excludes shootings, drug overdoses, and hate crimes.

additional police academy classes and much-needed officer overtime pay. The San Francisco Police Department will now have enough funds to hire 135 more officers over the next two years.

While this is not enough of an increase to account for attrition, retirement, and the growing needs of our city, it is a much better outcome than believed possible at the start of budget negotiations.

I will continue fighting for adequate public safety funding. My commitment to public safety also includes my legislation banning the sale of ghost guns in San Francisco, demanding a hearing on the lack of domestic violence prosecutions, fighting for honest reporting around pre-trial reoffense rates, and working with our police captains on responding to community needs with footbeat officers and community outreach.

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET VOTE

Because I was able to secure necessary funding for public safety, including academy classes, I voted in support of the FY 2021-2022 budget. One of the reasons I was the lone "no" vote on last year's budget was due in part to academy classes being cut and an overall inadequate investment in public safety.

The Chamber poll also shared that a majority of San Franciscans believe that it should be a high priority for the city to maintain funding for academy classes and to increase the number of officers as necessary. I agree with the residents of San Francisco, and my actions will continue to reflect that.

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

MarinaTimes

[marinatimes.com](https://www.marinatimes.com) • Contact: info@marinatimes.com

Letters to the Editor: letters@marinatimes.com

Advertising: 415.234.3166 • advertising@marinatimes.com

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

Publisher Brian Calle publisher@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 OWNED AND OPERATED BY STREET MEDIA LLC. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE MARINA TIMES OR STREET MEDIA LLC. THE MARINA TIMES NAME AND LOGO AND VARIOUS TITLES AND HEADINGS HEREIN ARE TRADE MARKS OF STREET 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.

Everyone's a winner

What if Newsom loses the recall vote?

If President Joe Biden plucked me from
obscurity, shipped me over to Afghanistan

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com; author email: john@marinatimes.com.

SEPTEMBER 2021 : 3

Marina Homeowners, Protect Your Family And Your Investment

Gross & Klein LLP
has successfully resolved
contamination cases
against PG&E
for Marina homeowners
since 2011



If you've received a notice from PG&E
about contamination on your
property, contact us at
mgp@grosskleinlaw.com
415-671-4628

Results for our clients have included:

- PG&E-funded cleanups
- Large lump sum payments
- Future appreciation guarantees
- PG&E's purchase of the property for substantially over market value

*All achieved at little or no out-of-pocket
cost to the client.*

**Dealing with PG&E is a pain.
Let us do it for you and achieve a
better result.**

References from former and current
homeowner clients happily provided.

GK GROSS & KLEIN LLP

www.grosskleinlaw.com

NEWS BRIEFS : Upgrades and updates



The Lodge at the Presidio was refurbished with inviting and environmentally friendly materials. PHOTO: PAUL DYER

Seeing red, green, and gold

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

VAN NESS NEARS COMPLETION

Look for a stronger, redder ride on the refurbished Van Ness Avenue as it nears the long-anticipated end of its extensive upgrades and rebuilding.

The new red transit lanes are being touted by SFMTA as being able to withstand decades more use than their traditional counterparts. Instead of painting on the red color, the lanes use “integral color” — vermillion coloring — mixed into the concrete before it is poured onto the ground.

In addition, a similarly shaded color hardener was applied. SFMTA says that the hardener increases the strength of the roadway from the usual 5,000 PSI (able to handle 5,000 pounds of pressure per square inch) of a roadway to 8,000 PSI; freeways and even airplane runways generally rate 5,000 PSI.

SFMTA reports that the Van Ness Improvement Project is scheduled to be finished by the end of this year, with Bus Rapid Transit service to begin in early 2022. Work still to be done includes installing new overhead power lines for the transit lanes, putting in the landscaping and irrigation systems, and creating pedestrian bulb-outs on corners.

GREEN AND GOLD

The Presidio Trust revealed in August that its Lodge at the Presidio was certified a LEED Gold green building by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The historic national park hotel was first built in the 1890s as a military barrack; a three-year project transformed the colonial revival-style building into a 42-room hotel. The resulting building received the certification for its sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The Trust reports that “reinforcing the brick building through a state-of-the-art seismic strengthening process utilizing carbon and glass fibers conserved a large amount of waste and energy,” and water-efficient plumbing and landscaping resulted in 40 percent of the average water usage. Additional energy-efficiency features of the lodge include on-demand power in the guestrooms; weather-protected windows; preservation of existing hardwood floors, walls, and two grand staircases; and the use of green materials such as insulation made from recycled denim fabrics.

You can learn more about the lodge at presidiolodging.com.

BRIEFLY NOTED

In other hotel news, the Clift Royal Sonesta Hotel (495 Geary Street) has

announced the opening of its new eatery **Fredericks**, with breakfast and lunch service featuring everything from omelets to premade artisan sandwiches to soups and salads . . . **POET**, a South Dakota-based biofuels producer, announced that it has donated **3,200 gallons of hand sanitizer** to Urban Angels S.F., a nonprofit that helps homeless San Franciscans. The hand sanitizer is being distributed at the city’s “Safe Sleeping Villages” amid the delta Covid-19 surge . . . California’s dramatic vow to spend up to \$5.2 billion in emergency funding to pay for **overdue residential rent** had only resulted in about \$88.5 million in payouts by mid-July, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The *Orange County Register* reported that by Aug. 17, more than 27,000 households in the state had “received a combined \$320.3 million in rental assistance from the state,” but that was less than one-fifth of the number of applications for the help. Meanwhile on the national scene, in August the Biden administration extended the eviction moratorium following widespread prodding from his party . . . The “roaring twenties” comes alive again, only to be murdered in the Napa Valley Wine Train’s **Murder Mystery Tour** this fall; in conjunction with the Murder Mystery Company, the wine train will offer passengers adventures in solving 1920s-based mysteries with “Crime and Punishment” and “Death of a Gangster.”

FACTS AND FIGURES

18: national rank of Californians in a report on average monthly household bills; Golden State residents pay on average \$1,045, according to bill payment company Doxo; Wyoming was in first place at \$1,346 . . . **25:** San Francisco car owners pay the lowest percentage of their household incomes on their car expenses, among the 25 largest U.S. metro areas, in another Doxo report . . . **44.7 percent:** month-to-month drop in auto burglaries in the Central District region following the implementation of the SFPD’s Tourism Deployment Plan . . . **22 million pounds:** amount of litter and leaves collected by the city’s mechanical street-sweeping efforts, according to the Russian Hill Neighbors group . . . **24:** age of Darren Mark Stallcup, a self-described “cowboy living in Chinatown” who stopped a young person beating up an elderly man by wrapping the assailant in a bear hug until police arrived; he told SFGate “I was just doing what any good man would do. And hopefully, if any of you saw somebody attacking an elderly person, you might try to do something to stop them.”

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com; author: john@marinatimes.com

joined the Booker T. Washington Center's board of directors in 2006, serving as president from 2009 through 2012, when he left to start Telegraph Law Group. In 2017, then-executive director Patricia Scott wanted to retire and invited Davis back to help her make a smooth transition. He was appointed secretary, tasked with implementing a record keeping system and writing bylaws and best practices procedures. But, Davis says, in April 2021 the board improperly removed him after he objected to rampant ethical, fiduciary, and legal violations. It turns out, some of those board members, including Vice President Farah Makras, are associates or close friends of Mayor London Breed.

A quick Internet search brings up numerous photos of Makras and her husband, Victor, schmoozing with Breed. If the name Victor Makras sounds familiar, that's because he's a politically connected real estate broker with a long history of serving on city commissions. He resigned from the Port Commission last year over alleged ethics violations tied to the Mission Rock development project. Mr. and Mrs. Makras are also tight with Breed's mentor, Willie Brown, and they regularly host the mayor and the former mayor at their Marina Boulevard home for exclusive parties and political fundraisers. The couple even hosted a reception for Breed's mayoral campaign in 2018 (with

a "suggested contribution" of \$500 a head). Mrs. Makras was also photographed with Breed attending a Nov. 7, 2019 birthday party for socialite Gorretti Lo Lui at The French Laundry, star chef Thomas Keller's Michelin-starred restaurant in Yountville, held just one day after and in the same room as Gov. Gavin Newsom's infamous dinner.

So perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that Vice President Makras supported, as Davis put it, "hiring unqualified or grossly overpaid Breed affiliated insiders." During the search for a new executive director, Makras proposed bringing Breed's close friend Brenda Wright on board as a consultant — and paying her \$175 per hour. At a rushed special meeting called by Makras herself, the proposal was advanced, Davis says, without diligence or consideration of conflicts. Wright, a senior vice president and regional manager of California Community Development for Wells Fargo, may look good on paper but, besides being a close friend of Breed's, she also happens to be the longtime romantic partner of Steve Bowdry, the center's treasurer. Davis balked at both the cronyism and the dollar figure — which he said was twice the market rate for similar nonprofits — and the issue was tabled for further review.

After the meeting, Davis says he spoke with Makras by phone, questioning why she wanted to waste the center's resources to pay for a pricy consultant. Makras replied there would be no added cost for the center because Breed promised to pay for the excess cost of Wright's fees with additional grants from the city. Davis asked Makras if she had an issue with that, and she responded "absolutely not." That's when Davis explained it was unlawful for a public charity to pay more than market rate for any services. Makras said she was unaware of that. Davis then told Makras that Breed's promise to funnel city funds to hire Wright was not only unlawful, it was unethical. He says Makras laughed and replied, "It happens all the time."

In a complaint filed May 14, 2021 with the California attorney general's registry



Julian Davis says corruption and cronyism run rampant on the Booker T. Washington Center board of directors.

PHOTO: SPENCER ALDWORTH BROWN

of charitable trusts, Davis recites a litany of conflicts and corruption that he also outlined to board President Carlos Reed in a letter dated March 28, 2021. He cites embezzlement by prior Executive Director Regina Marsh, who obtained a personal debit card connected to the center's bank accounts which she used for travel, including in connection with securing a new job. Even more egregious, Davis says, is that thousands of dollars may have gone to Marsh's new out-of-state boss for unau-

thorized "consulting services." Davis puts the blame squarely on Reed's "lack of oversight and failure to institute responsible fiduciary best practices." Davis also points to the inherent conflict of interest posed by Reed himself in his

dual role as president of the center and athletic director of the Drew School, the chief tenant of the gymnasium, which resulted in months of unpaid rent.

In the complaint filed with the attorney general, Davis says not only did the board improperly remove him, it was retaliatory, occurring exactly one month after he sent the letter to Reed outlining his concerns.

"Unfortunately, the cronyism and corruption typical of this political set reaches well beyond city departments and has its tentacles in our cherished community organizations as well," Davis said in an email. "Restoring integrity to the Booker T. Washington Center will require, among other things, the immediate resignation of the bad actors on this board of directors."

As for finding a new board leader, the Executive Committee assumed total control over the hiring process, Davis says, with only candidates privately vetted and approved by Breed considered for the position. And who did they choose? City Hall insider Shakirah Simley, appointed in 2019 as the inaugural director of Breed's Office of Racial Equity. Prior to that, Simley served as an aide to Vallie Brown, who was appointed by Breed to fill her vacated seat as District 5 supervisor (Brown lost the job to Dean Preston in the next election). And what would a story about cronyism be without mentioning the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission? From September 2017 through August 2018, Simley was the acting executive director and community outreach manager for the Southeast Community Center, where her duties included "managing SFPUC communications initiatives in the Southeast with an internal collaborative spirit."

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com. Follow Susan and the Marina Times on Twitter: @SusanDReynolds and @TheMarinaTimes.

Phil's Electric Co.

SINCE 1941 SALES SERVICE PARTS

Have a Safe and Happy Fall!



Expert LAMP REPAIR

ELECTRIC SHAVERS: BRAUN • NORELCO • REMINGTON

SEBO AIRBELT D4 PREMIUM

Phil's Price: \$1,200.00

- 40 foot cord
- 1.5 gallon bag
- Best warranty in the industry



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

Below Market Rate (BMR) Rental Apartments Available

The Vance

at 830 Eddy Street, San Francisco CA 94109

- 4 Studios at \$1210.00 a month;
- 10 One Bedrooms at \$1379.00 a month;
- 6 Two Bedrooms, Two Baths at \$1533.00 a month.

Seven parking spaces available to BMR renters for an additional \$100.00 a month and will be offered to households in lottery rank order. Must be income eligible and must not own a home. Households must earn no more than the maximum income levels below:

55% of Area Median Income

- One person - \$51,300.00;
- 2 persons - \$58,600.00; 3 persons - \$65,950.00;
- 4 persons - \$73,250.00; 5 persons- \$79,100.00

Applications must be received by 5PM on Thursday, September 28, 2021. Apply online through DAHLIA, the SF Housing Portal -DAHLIA at housing.sfgov.org. Due to COVID-19, applicants will apply online as we are not accepting paper applications. Please contact the Imagine That Consulting for building information at (916) 686-4126 or vancebmr@gmail.com

Units available through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and are subject to monitoring and other restrictions. Visit www.sfmohcd.org for program information.



Psychic of Marin



There are many reasons to visit a skilled psychic, perhaps you need clarity or you need to regain spiritual blance. Whatever you are looking for you can learn a lot about yourself and the universe when you visit Kentfield Psychic.



Our Services:
 Psychic Readings
 Tarot Readings
 Spiritual Cleansing
 Chakra Balancing
 Candles
 Oils
 Incense
 Crystals
 Books

\$10 Special Palm Reading

943 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Kentfield

415-967-8670

KentfieldPsychic.com

COMET CLUB

- SPECIALTY COCKTAILS
- 12 BEERS ON TAP
- HAPPY HOUR
- DANCING

DJs SPINNING

ROCK, POP, DANCE HITS
AND COUNTRY
THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY UNTIL 2AM

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



Visit us at MarinaTimes.com

- Additional content from featured writers
- Expanded calendar of events
- Archives of past issues
- Special offers and much more!



- Like us on Facebook.com/[MarinaTimes](#)
- Follow us on Twitter.com/[TheMarinaTimes](#)



Martinis at The Dorian. PHOTO: THE DORIAN

Modern Dining

continued *from cover*

aperitif, and eucalyptus — is also available for \$12 as are their house martinis for \$5. 2001 Chestnut Street, 415-358-7054, [doriansf.com](#)

Causwells, known for its delectable burgers, introduced a new happy hour in August, from 4–6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 3–5 p.m., on weekends. The menu includes mini-American burger sliders made with a double-smash patty, American cheese, Causwell’s sauce, lettuce, pickle, and onion for \$4.50 each; smoked salmon sliders are served on a house-made pretzel bun with crème fraîche, and pickled onion for \$3.50 each. Other options include classic deviled eggs for \$2.50 and hush puppies for \$1.50. Glasses of white, red, and rosé wine are \$6 and \$24 per bottle; \$4 canned beer is also available, and specialty cocktails including strawberry slushies, house margaritas, and seasonal spritzers for \$9. 2346 Chestnut Street, 415-447-6081, [causwells.com](#).

You may know **Delarosa** for its Roman-style pizza, but this casual spot serves up its happy hour menu from 3–6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Italian white and red wine and sangria are \$7 a glass, and cocktails like an Aperol spritz and margaritas are \$8, along with a beer of the day for \$5. Bites include burrata bruschetta with hazelnut and honey or crispy cauliflower with caper aioli (\$7 each), and their famous Margherita pizza for \$10. 2175 Chestnut Street, 415-673-7100, [delarosasf.com](#)

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Around the corner on Steiner Street, charming **Cafe Boho** offers “sips and bites” during its happy hour from 5–6 p.m., Sunday through Tuesday, with wine for \$5 a glass, beer for \$3, and cocktails for \$7; oysters are \$1. Small plates include burrata, a warm bread plate with whipped butter, house pickles, goat cheese and mushrooms with grilled bread, truffle fries, and tuna poke. Prices range between \$3 and \$17. 3321 Steiner Street, 415-374-7518, [cafebohosf.com](#)

Sessions at the Presidio, just inside the Chestnut Street gate at Lyon Street, has a happy hour 2–5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and offers white, red, or rosé wine for \$8 a glass, pilsner or another beer for \$6, and a Moscow mule or sprits for \$10 each. Snacks range from spicy potato chips with dip for \$7, wagyu meatballs, and a fish taco, both for \$8. 1 Letterman Drive, 415-655-9413, [sessionsf.com](#)

UP ON UNION

On Union Street, **Palm House** offers a tropical-themed golden hour from 4–6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The menu includes grilled short ribs with sweet chili noodles, and poke tostada with ahi tuna and chipotle aioli for \$6, and jerk-spiced fries and sweet potato fries for \$5. So-called leisurely drinks feature a chipotle mango margarita for \$7, and a “June-shine” with hard kombucha for \$5. Red, white, or rosé wine is \$7 a glass, and draft beers are offered at \$1 off; bottles of wine are half price. But you should really indulge in a Palm House slushy, the restaurant’s house specialty made with rum, lemon, and agave in a rainbow of flavors including guava, strawberry, and prickly pear for just under \$10. 2032 Union Street, 415-400-4355, [palmhousesf.com](#)

Down the street, **West Coast Wine and Cheese** has a happy hour from 4–6 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 3–6 p.m., Friday; and 2–4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You can get \$2 off selected glasses of wine, 20 percent off all bottles, and \$2 off draft. You can also munch on Marcona almonds, or sliced baguette with olive oil for \$6; Castelvetrano olives for \$8, and an assortment of Cowgirl Creamery cheeses served with fig jam, fruit, and baguette slices for \$10–\$11. Charcuterie plates are also available. 2165 Union Street, 415-376-9720, [westcoastsf.com](#)

Many of our local restaurants offer happy hours, so if you’ve got time to indulge in an early sip and snack, check out these happening happy hours, and explore others.

Email: julie@marinatimes.com



Grandpa Lorenzo's arancini with marinara sauce. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

Turn leftover rice into arancini, a comforting Sicilian snack

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

ARANCINI (STUFFED RICE BALLS) is a beloved street food in Sicily, and it was one of my favorite childhood snacks. My grandfather made them using leftover Arborio rice from risotto, but I often make a batch of rice just to satisfy my arancini cravings.

The term arancini comes from arancia, meaning “orange,” which the rice balls resemble once cooked. In Palermo where my grandfather was from, they’re commonly called arancine, but since they started appearing on American menus, you most often find them listed as arancini. While ground beef is a traditional filling, you can make a vegetarian version by substituting mushrooms or plant-based grounds (such as Impossible Foods) for the beef.

GRANDPA LORENZO’S ARANCINI WITH MARINARA SAUCE

Serves 4–6

MARINARA SAUCE

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup onions, minced
- 2 large carrots, finely chopped
- 3 large whole garlic cloves, peeled and smashed
- 1 28-ounce can San Marzano crushed tomatoes
- 1 28-ounce can San Marzano tomato purée
- ¼ teaspoon dried Italian oregano
- ¼ teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 2 tablespoon fresh Italian parsley leaves, chopped

ARANCINI

- 6 cups water, vegetable broth, or chicken broth
- 3 cups Arborio rice
- Pinch of saffron (optional)
- 5 eggs, divided
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated (plus more for serving)
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 8 ounces lean ground beef or plant-based ground
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1 cup frozen peas (thawed, rinsed, and drained)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 2 ounces low moisture mozzarella, cut into ½-inch cubes
- Vegetable oil for frying

- ¼ cup fresh Italian (flat leaf) parsley, minced

For the marinara sauce: Heat olive oil in large Dutch oven or heavy stockpot over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the carrots and sauté until soft, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic cloves, cook one minute to release oils, remove, and discard. Add the tomatoes, tomato purée, oregano, salt, and bay leaves.

Simmer over medium-low heat stirring occasionally until sauce thickens, about 30 minutes, thinning with water if necessary. Remove bay leaves, and stir in fresh parsley before serving.

For the arancini: Bring liquid to a boil in a large saucepan. Add rice and saffron, reduce heat, cover, and cook until water is absorbed, 15 to 20 minutes. Mix in cheese. Spread on a baking sheet to cool before adding 2 eggs beaten, salt, and pepper.

Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until tender and translucent, about 10 minutes. Add meat, mashing with a potato masher until texture is consistent with no large chunks. Cook until brown. Add marinara sauce and simmer until thickened, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in peas. Season with salt and pepper to taste, and allow mixture to cool to room temperature.

Place the flour and breadcrumbs on separate plates. In a small bowl, lightly beat the remaining 3 eggs. Moisten your hands with water. Scoop up ¼ cup of rice mixture (about the size of a golf ball) and flatten into a disk. Place ¼ to ½ teaspoon of the meat mixture in the center followed by one cube of mozzarella. Mold rice over the mixture, shaping into a ball. Roll the ball in flour, then eggs, and then breadcrumbs. Place on a wire rack to dry for at least 15 minutes. Continue to make the balls, rinsing your hands frequently to keep rice from sticking to them.

In a large skillet, add 2 inches of vegetable oil (enough to come halfway up each rice ball). When oil is shimmering, gently add arancini without crowding pan. Fry in batches, turning occasionally, until golden brown all over, about 2 to 3 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove and transfer to a clean, dry wire rack on top of a baking sheet.

Ladle marinara sauce into serving bowls, place 2 to 3 arancini in each bowl, top with freshly grated Parmesan cheese, and fresh parsley. Serve immediately.

E-mail: recipes@marinatimes.com

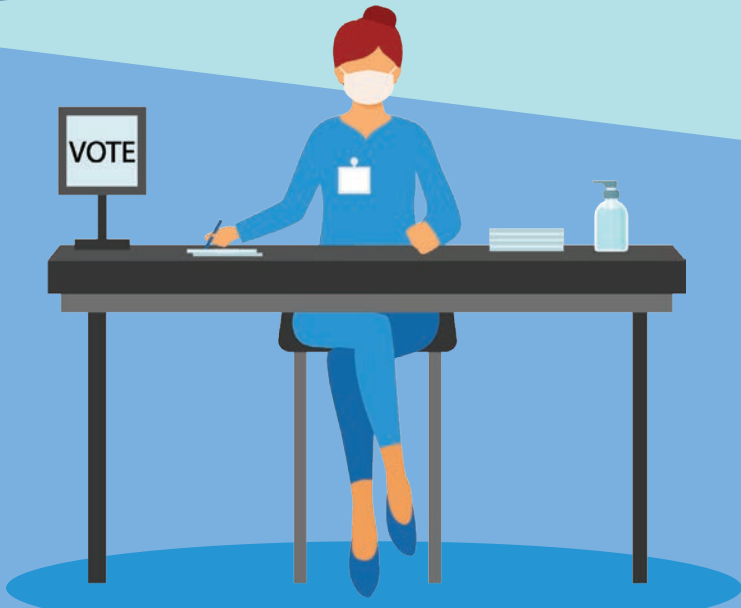


CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Help your city vote!

Receive a stipend up to **\$240!**

Apply to be a poll worker at sfelections.org/pwa.

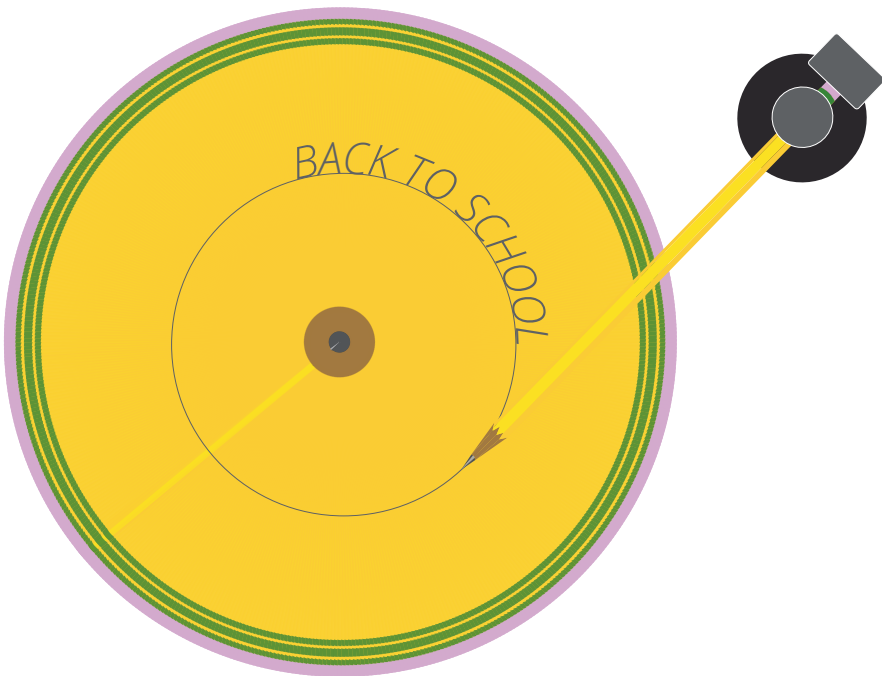


(415) 554-4375 sfelections.org sfvote@sfgov.org [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sfelections) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sfelections) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/sfelections)

FLAX art & design

WHERE CREATIVE PEOPLE SHOP

□ PENCIL US IN AND FIND YOUR GROOVE



- ✓ Art Supplies ✓ Kids' Stuff ✓ Urban Art ✓ Fine Papers
- ✓ Stationery ✓ Cool Gifts ✓ Journals ✓ Crafts

ONLINE · IN-STORE PICKUP · LOCAL DELIVERY

Fort Mason, Bldg D | San Francisco, CA 94123 | 415-530-3510 | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/flaxart) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/flaxart) | [FLAXart.com](https://www.flaxart.com) [Find us in Oakland too](#)

ART WORLD : Exhibit

Diego Rivera’s historic mural ‘Pan American Unity’ at SFMOMA

BY SHARON ANDERSON

ONE OF THE GREATEST WORKS OF public art in San Francisco, Diego Rivera’s *The Marriage of the Artistic Expression of the North and of the South on This Continent*, commonly called *Pan American Unity*, is on display for an extended period at SFMOMA’s free-to-visit street-level Roberts Family Gallery.

A project four years in the making, the work, Rivera’s largest contiguous mural, was painstakingly moved from the City College of San Francisco (CCSF). The 10-panel fresco was extracted from a 12-inch thick concrete wall, mounted on new steel frames and encased in travel frames. The panels were trucked across San Francisco one at a time, at a speed of five miles per hour, on a series of Sunday mornings at 4 a.m.

HISTORY

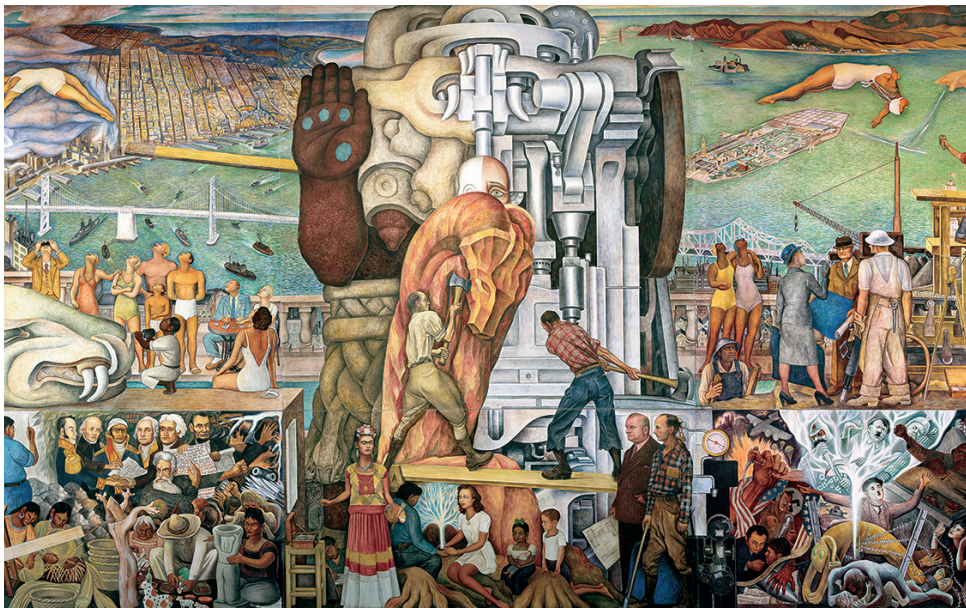
When Diego Rivera arrived in San Francisco in 1940 to paint the mural as a participant in the Art in Action program at the Golden Gate International Exposition, he had only the beginnings of an idea about the fresco he was about to create. Fairgoers could watch artists creating work in a Pan Am Clipper airplane hangar converted into a working studio and gallery. From June to December 1940, using the same buon fresco technique as the Italian Renaissance masters, Rivera chose to represent the exposition’s Pan American emphasis by depicting the fusion of preconquest Mexican art with motifs of North American industrialization. “For

years I have felt that the real art of the Americas must come as a result of the fusion of the mechanism and new creative power of the north with the tradition rooted in the soil of the south, the Toltecs, Tarascans, Mayas, Incas, etc., and would like to choose that as the subject for my next mural,” he wrote.

SYMBOLISM

The mural itself and its symbolism cannot be understood without taking into consideration the climate of that time. The political and historical context of a world in which Germany had already conquered most of Europe was directly reflected in paint. Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler — allied at that time — were painted emerging as a tree-shaped vapor surrounded by images from antifascist films including Charlie Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator*.

A sweeping panorama of the Bay Area, including the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island, surrounds a central figure that combines a sculpture of the Aztec earth goddess Coatlicue with modern machinery. Rivera himself is painted into the mural as well as Henry Ford standing above his V-8 engine and Thomas Edison complete with phonograph and light bulb. Amidst the turmoil of war, art and enlightenment save the day. Rivera saw *Pan American Unity* as a personal statement “... to ward off the forces of aggression.” “My mural will picture the fusion between the great past of the Latin American lands, as it is deeply rooted in the soil, and the high mechanical developments of the United States,” he said.



Detail of *The Marriage of the Artistic Expression of the North and of the South on This Continent (Pan American Unity)* by Diego Rivera, 1940. IMAGE COURTESY CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

INSTALLATION

The Grand Library at City College, the mural’s planned home upon completion, was put on hold after the United States entered World War II in 1941, which halted all nonessential construction. The mural remained unseen and in storage throughout the 1950s, due in no small part to the McCarthy era’s reaction to Rivera’s controversial support of communist politics. The mural finally was accessible to the public in 1961 after it was installed in the foyer of the City College of San Francisco’s new performing arts theater, renamed in 1993 as the Diego Rivera Theater in honor of the artist.

SFMOMA PROGRAMS

As part of the public programs for *Pan American Unity*, local organizations will commission artists to paint small-scale murals live in the outdoor corridor adjacent to the Roberts Family Gallery. A comprehensive program of on-site conservation, public education, and talks will accompany

the duration of the mural’s stay at SFMOMA, and will be on site in conjunction with the upcoming exhibition “Diego Rivera’s America,” opening in summer 2022.

Shanell Williams, president of City College’s Board of Trustees says, “SFMOMA and CCSF are two of the city’s most enduring institutions in the public interest, and the transformative power of art and education will come together in this visionary presentation of Diego Rivera’s *Pan American Unity*. The sharing and display of this mural for all to experience represents City College’s historical actions to continue working towards a more just and equitable society.”

Pan American Unity: A Mural by Diego Rivera: Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday 1–8 p.m. & Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., through summer 2023, free, SFMOMA, 151 Third Street, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

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. **Paper Palace**, by Miranda Cowley-Heller
2. **Malibu Rising**, by Taylor Jenkins Reid
3. **Billy Summers**, by Stephen King

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **Unwinding Anxiety: New Science Shows How to Break the Cycles of Worry and Fear to Heal Your Mind**, by Judson Brewer
2. **The Premonition: A Pandemic Story**, by Michael Lewis
3. **Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as if Your Life Depended on It**, by Chris Voss

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **People We Meet on Vacation**, by Emily Henry
2. **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel**, by Taylor Jenkins Reid
3. **Where the Crawdads Sing**, by Delia Owens

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **The Girl Who Said No:**

- A **Search in Sicily**, by Natalie Galli
2. **The End of the Golden Gate: Writers on Loving and (Sometimes) Leaving San Francisco**, by Gary Kamiya
3. **Numbers Don’t Lie: 71 Stories to Help Us Understand the Modern World**, by Vaclav Smil

CHILDREN’S BEST SELLERS

1. **Shadow and Bone**, by Leigh Bardugo
2. **Parked**, by Danielle Svetcov
3. **Wishes**, by Moun Thi Van

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

Afterparties: Stories, by Anthony Veasna So

A vibrant story collection about Cambodian-American life — immersive and comic, yet unsparing — that offers profound insight into the intimacy of queer and immigrant communities by So, who died of a drug overdose in 2020 at age 28.

All In: An Autobiography, by Billie Jean King

In this spirited account, Billie Jean King details her life’s journey

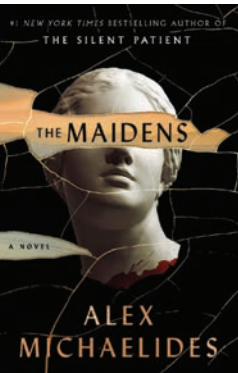
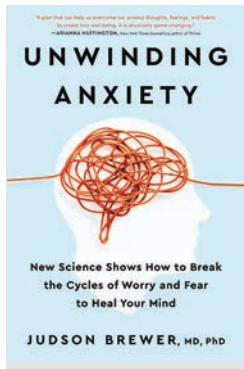
to find her true self. She recounts her groundbreaking tennis career — six years as the top-ranked woman in the world, 20 Wimbledon championships, 39 grand-slam titles, and her watershed defeat of Bobby Riggs in the famous Battle of the Sexes. Hers is the story of a pathbreaking feminist, a world-class athlete, and an indomitable spirit whose impact has transcended even her spectacular achievements in sports.

Amazon Unbound: Jeff Bezos and the Invention of a Global Empire, by Brad Stone

From the bestselling author of *The Everything Store*, an unvarnished picture of Amazon’s unprecedented growth and its billionaire founder, Jeff Bezos, revealing the most important business story of our time. Definitive, timely, and revelatory, Stone has provided an unvarnished portrait of a man and company that we couldn’t imagine modern life without.

I Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump’s Catastrophic Final Year, by Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker

What was really going on around the president, as the gov-



ernment failed to contain the coronavirus and over half a million Americans perished? Who was influencing Trump after he refused to concede an election he had clearly lost and spread lies about election fraud? Phil Rucker and Carol Leonnig reveal a dysfunctional and bumbling presidency’s inner workings in unprecedented, stunning detail.

The Maidens, by Alex Michaelides

Mariana Andros is a brilliant but troubled group therapist

who becomes fixated on “the maidens” when one member, a friend of Mariana’s niece Zoe, is found murdered in Cambridge. When another body is found, Mariana’s obsession with proving Fosca’s guilt spirals out of control, threatening to destroy her credibility and her closest relationships. But Mariana is determined to stop this killer, even if it costs her everything — including her life.

Visit Books Inc. at 2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, booksinc.net.

Snyder
continued from cover

Chi easily stands on its own as a generation-spanning good versus evil faceoff propelled by a cavalcade of over-the-top fight scenes and leavened by genial modern-day humor.

Shang-Chi was created in the 1970s as Marvel Comics' master of kung-fu to piggyback on the rise of martial-arts sensation Bruce Lee and the proliferation of Hong Kong's questionably labeled "chop-socky" films — those that featured Lee and those that didn't. But even as Shang-Chi became an afterthought in the comic book pages, this style of filmmaking endured in Asia, especially with the addition of period sorcery elements adapted from Chinese myth. Elegantly appointed, elaborately costumed adventures such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero* would bring prestige and critical acclaim to the expanded genre. Meanwhile, Jackie Chan became an international star with a daredevil, comedic take on this brand of movie, marked by his jaw-dropping stunt work and joyfully goofy characterizations. And deadly sword-wielding ninjas, solo and in packs, began to turn up in a variety of globe-spanning thrillers with increasing frequency. All of this could be said to set the stage for the debut of Shang-Chi on the big screen in the first Asian-led superhero movie from Marvel.

DESTINY CALLS FROM ACROSS THE SEA

Simu Liu — whose acting breakthrough was the role of the loveable slacker son Jung on the popular sitcom *Kim's Convenience* — is the main focus in *Shang-Chi*. Leaning on the affability and innate decen-

cy he brought to the character of Jung, Liu absolutely shines as Shang-Chi, who's known to his friends in San Francisco as Shaun. This is a guy who parks cars at a fancy hotel to pay the rent and, after work, gets hammered in karaoke bars with his BFF and fellow valet Katy (the hilariously motor-mouthed Awkwafina of *Crazy Rich Asians* and the TV series *Nora from Queens*). Unknown to his San Francisco pals, Shaun's life began an ocean away in China where he and his sister (Meng'er Zhang) were raised by two very powerful people: Jiang Li, a woman with an uncanny connection to natural forces, and Wenwu, a deadly Chinese warlord and gang boss-of-bosses who turned away from the dark side and gave up his supernatural weaponry — the 10 rings of the movie's title — upon marriage and fatherhood. Then, the death of Jiang Li drove Wenwu back to his power-mongering ways.

Despite a childhood dominated by training that would prepare him to enter the family business, Shang-Chi had no desire to be the heir to Wenwu's criminal empire. Instead, the young man escaped to America, specifically the City by the Bay, which is where he and Katy are attacked by Wenwu's men early in the movie. This encounter occurs on a runaway 1-California Muni bus, and it's just the first in a parade of astonishing action sequences that are so original and seemingly death-defying that Jackie Chan would be proud of them. As the bus speeds up and over Nob Hill and ends up careening down Bay Street, Shang-Chi engages in close-quarters combat, instinctively using seats, handrails, doors, and the fighting skills he learned as a boy to gain an advantage over his assailants. A subsequent clash between Shang-Chi and

some ninjas, with Katy caught between them, occurs on scaffolding attached to the side of a skyscraper, many stories above the ground. Like the fracas on the 1-California, it's positively thrilling. And things only get wilder and more mystical when Shang-Chi and Katy find themselves in Macao, the starting point of a quest to find a secret village and a fortress where creatures of myth dwell.

Here, we learn of Wenwu's master plan and how it might undermine Shang-Chi's chosen path as well as expand the Ten Rings' control beyond China's borders. Rather than being a one-note villain, Wenwu is a complex creation. His emotions and motivations are given resonance by Tony Leung, whose career as one of Hong Kong's most revered and versatile leading men has ranged from Wong Kar-Wai's gorgeous romance *In the Mood for Love* to the grim and gritty detective thriller *Infernal Affairs* to the martial-arts fantasy *Hero* to the bio-pic *The Grandmaster*. His physical gifts and passion are on full display in *Shang-Chi*, particularly during a clash between Wenwu and Jiang Li (Fala Chen) that's performed with balletic grace harkening back to Zhang Yimou's elegantly directed, dreamlike forest sequences in *Hero*.

OUTDOING THE COMPETITION

Besides Leung's talent and the jocular rapport between Liu and the up-for-anything Awkwafina, the cast also greatly benefits from the presence of Michelle Yeoh — Chinese cinema royalty whose transition to English-language movies (*Tomorrow Never Dies*, *Gunpowder Milkshake*, and others) and TV shows (*Star Trek: Discovery*, *The Witcher*, and more) has been effortless. Yeoh's wry, nimble

turn as Shang-Chi's aunt is a welcome addition, as are supporting players Ben Kingsley and Benedict Wong, whose characters longtime Marvelites will recognize and cheer.

Although Hasbro's *G.I. Joe* film franchise did beat it to the marketplace with the recent release of the martial-arts-themed *Snake Eyes*, *Shang-Chi* is much better in all ways: narrative, actors, special effects, and cinematography. There's little contest between the two movies when it comes to the crucial aspect of how the major set pieces and more intimate fight scenes are shot. No shaky-cam or confusing quick cuts undermine the logic of the combat sequences in *Shang-Chi*.

The last act of *Shang-Chi* is jam-packed to the point of being cluttered and frenetic, but everything that precedes it is so sharp or eye-bogglingly amazing and, in the case of Liu and Awkwafina, so charming and cheerful that it doesn't hamper the overall experience. Plus it's followed by a mid-credits and an end-credits scene that are worth waiting to see. Yes, there's some Easter-egggy Marvel fan service here, and there are references to what's happened before and what may be happen soon in the decade-plus movie saga. But *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* is one of the better origin stories in the MCU, which makes it a terrific place to leap into the fray if you desire.

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings opens in Bay Area theaters on Sept. 3.


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


SPONSORED ARTICLE

KEEP LEARNING

Membership • Classes • Free Speaker Series • Special Interest Groups

A Place for Lifelong Learners Age 50+





OLLI

at San Francisco State University

Visit Us: olli.sfsu.edu/learn2

Calling All Seniors, Retirees, and Lifelong Learners



OLLI members' hike in June 2021. Photo: Ana Linder

By Joe Castrovinci

Looking for ways to make new friends and exercise your mind? Here's a suggestion: How about trying some classes that are fun, thought-provoking, and free from tests and grades?

Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI) at San Francisco State offers classes just like this — everything from six-week-long semesters to two-hour mini-classes — on subjects that range from the scholarly (*West Meets East: How Japanese Art Influenced Western Modern Art*), to the topical (*Inequality Rising: The Rapid Increase in Social Inequality in 21st Century America*), to the artistic (*The Genius of Sondheim* and *Rock'n' Roll's First Decade: From Elvis to the Beatles*).

As a special bonus, each class gives you the opportunity to meet active, like-minded seniors eager to learn and make new friends. And now's the perfect time to check OLLI out because we're about to launch a new season of classes and talks.

Our Fall 2021 session starts on Oct. 11th

OLLI SF State is more than a collection of courses — it is truly a learning community.

David Perper
OLLI Member since 2010

and offers a unique, carefully chosen mix of online classes, including the ones mentioned above. We're also planning an OLLI Members' visit to the S.F. Botanical Garden's Flower Piano event on Sept. 17th. Plus, in September, before our Fall semester starts, we're offering a separate set of shorter, two-hour-or-longer mini-classes and a free Speaker Series. September mini-classes cover topics as diverse as *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *The World of the Maya*, and — for people who want to get out and get some exercise — *A South of Market Hidden History Hike*.

That's not all. In addition to classes, OLLI offers access to ten interest groups, including French and Spanish conversation, OLLI Hikers, Poetry Writing, Share-a-Film, and more.

For the well-being and health of our members and friends, all Fall courses will be offered remotely via Zoom.

To learn more about OLLI at San Francisco State and join our community of friendly, active, inquiring adults — or to sign up for any of the classes mentioned above — please visit <http://olli.sfsu.edu>

SPONSORED CONTENT

Keeping our kids safe and in school

BY LIZ FARRELL

WITH ALL THE PROMISE A COVID vaccine brought, who would have ever thought we would still be worrying about keeping our kids safe as they begin a new school year? We know so much more than we did last year, but with the Delta variant surging there is still uncertainty and anxiousness for many around returning to school.

I think if we learned anything from Zoom school it is that there is no replacement for the social emotional learning that takes place in person. Recent studies are beginning to scratch the surface on the toll remote learning took mentally and academically. So many students barely held on, many fell behind or just stopped logging on, and I think it is safe to say no one thrived. So Covid is still here, but we must get our children back to school, in person and full time; but how do we do that and feel safe, especially if they are younger than 12 years old and not vaccinated?

PREVENTION

Many students are returning to the inside of a classroom for the first time in 18 months but with some changes. Recently, health guidelines around schools changed and all students, faculty, and staff are required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Some positive changes from last year will help make it feel more like a normal

year: Small cohorts or pods are no longer required, and as of now masks don't need to be worn outside, and social distancing is encouraged whenever possible but is not mandatory.

We know masks are one of the most effective tools to stop the spread. For children, especially younger ones, make sure they have a mask they are comfortable wearing all day that doesn't slip down. This took us some trial and error and now each of my children has a different type of mask they like, but this is a small inconvenience for keeping everyone healthy. We also know that hand sanitizer works, as does continued vigilance about hand washing when possible.

VACCINATE/TESTING

One of the most important things we can do is to vaccinate everyone in our households as soon as they are eligible. Trials are still ongoing for children younger than 12, but many health professionals are hopeful we will have a vaccine for children younger than 12 before the end of 2021. With the extreme prevalence of variants that have proven to be more contagious than the original Covid-19 virus, health experts are urging anyone eligible to get vaccinated. However, we now know that being vaccinated doesn't make you immune from getting or transmitting the virus.

In our house, we are all vaccinated except for my youngest who is not yet eligible. But in an abundance of cau-

tion and for peace of mind, we recently ordered some at-home rapid Covid tests where you swab your own nose and get the results in minutes. You can get them at Walgreens, CVS, or Amazon. My older children thought being vaccinated meant no more Covid tests, but it looks like they may be a staple in our medicine cabinet for the foreseeable future.

DO YOUR PART

I don't think any of us want another year of remote learning or even hybrid learning; therefore, we all must do our part. This means staying home if you or your child has any symptoms. There was a time before Covid when maybe we pushed the limits and sent our kids to school with a runny nose or a cough, but those days are over. Health experts and school administrators are advising if your child shows any signs of illness not to send them to school. Pediatricians are also reminding parents not to forget about the importance of also continuing to get the flu shot, especially this year. We all must be vigilant and take the steps necessary to ensure our kids are able to stay in school.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the hardest and most confusing part of this virus has been keeping up with it. What we are learning about it seems to be constantly changing and evolving along with the state and city health guidelines. One day it is masks everywhere, then



Make sure your child has a comfortable, properly fitting mask. PHOTO: EPIX IMAGES

masks only outdoors if you are vaccinated, then masks indoors for everyone regardless of vaccination status. However, many parents share my feeling that if we must remain in masks, but our kids are able to be in a classroom, then it is worth it.

So please, as a city and a community, let's all work together to minimize our risks and ensure our children stay healthy and can remain in the classroom this year.

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. liz@marinatimes.com.

SPONSORED ARTICLE

Cruise is designing for accessibility as we build an inclusive self-driving service

BY ROB GRANT
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs & Social Impact at Cruise



At Cruise, we're building a fleet of shared, zero-emission, self-driving vehicles. Our vision is to develop a better mobility option for more people, and we are glad to be working with the disability community to make this possible.



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 57 million Americans identify as having a disability, each with their own unique needs. In San Francisco alone, more than 50,000 residents report a mobility disability, while over 43,000 people have difficulty doing errands alone. Transportation is currently one of the biggest barriers to mobility and independence.

As we move closer to offering rides to members of the public in our self-driving vehicles, we are working with the disability community in San Francisco — and across our region, state, and country to hone and refine our products and user experiences.

We know that creating an accessible self-driving ride-hailing service is not something we can solve for on our own. We understand and respect that accessibility is not one-size-fits-all, which is why we believe that having input from the disability community, from the beginning, will help us bring the best product possible to the market.

Through our work with National Federation of the Blind, California's Lighthouse for the Blind, California Council of the Blind, and American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) among others, we are taking a concerted, deliberate approach to understanding the needs of and working with the blind and low-vision community, the deaf and hard of hearing, people with cognitive disabilities,

and the non-ambulatory community. Simply put, we believe that designing for accessibility makes our technology better.

Cruise recognizes the lack of reliable options to get around — especially in the Marina — and how those challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and we believe our technology can help make a difference. For the past year and a half, Cruise has partnered with the SF-Marin Food Bank to deliver more than 1.5 million meals to San Franciscans in need during the pandemic, many of whom are people with disabilities and seniors. We are making this program, which we now call Cruise For Good, permanent as part of a 1% pledge to social impact so that our commitment to our communities scales with us as we grow.

At Cruise, we know AVs are building the future of transportation, because the status quo is broken. We believe that self-driving vehicles will provide the freedom for millions of Americans with a disability to move independently. That is why we are creating a shared, zero-emission vehicle that will give Cruise the flexibility to offer an inclusive self-driving service that can serve more people with the most positive community benefit.

We're always searching for opportunities to engage with the community, so that we can learn about different ways that we can support you. So don't be shy — please reach out to us anytime at: community@getcruise.com.

A moderating market, homeowner wealth, migration trends, and more

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

THE NATIONAL HOUSING MARKET appears to be slowing down, according to Michelle Robertson, reporting for SFGate.

She quotes Daryl Fairweather, the chief economist at housing site Redfin, who said, “We’re going from 100 mph to 80 mph. What’s happening right now is a lot of buyers seem to be backing off the market because of how high housing prices have gotten. We’re seeing lower sales and a slight uptick in price drops.”

That’s not entirely the case in San Francisco, according to Eileen Mougeot, senior broker associate with Corcoran Global Living in the city.

“Things aren’t as crazy as they were, but we’re still seeing multiple offers on homes for sale way over the asking price, just not way, way over the asking price,” said Mougeot. “We hear all the time about how everybody’s leaving San Francisco, but if that’s the case, why are we still getting multiple offers? There are always going to be people who want to live in the city.”

Mougeot added that for her office on California Street, the first six months of this year were the best ever, which she believes says a lot about the market, as it covers many areas in all price ranges.

HOMEOWNER VALUES

Meanwhile, according to Louis Hansen with bayareanewsgroup.com, homeowner equity in the Bay Area has soared

during the Covid-19 pandemic. San Mateo and Santa Clara counties have the highest percentage of equity-rich households in the United States, according to an analysis of mortgages and home values by real estate analytics firm Attom. Equity is the difference between what a homeowner owes on a house and what a house is worth.

More than seven in 10 homeowners in the two counties have more than 50 percent equity in their properties, a substantial rise in personal wealth even as high unemployment and economic suffering continues in other parts of the community.

All Bay Area counties except San Francisco saw gains in households reaching an equity-rich threshold between March 2020 and June 2021. Contra Costa, once seen as a more affordable suburban community, had the biggest jump, from 43 percent to 57 percent. Alameda grew from 58 percent to 66 percent, Santa Clara 66 percent to 70 percent, Marin 52 percent to 64 percent, and San Mateo 72 percent to 74 percent. All of this is because property values have gone up so much in the last year.

All but one of the 183 metropolitan housing markets tracked by the National

Association of Realtors (NAR) posted annual price increases in the second quarter of 2021. Twelve of those areas had appreciation that exceeded 30 percent, according to Jann Swanson with mortgagenewsdaily.com.

However, Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, does not expect this kind of appreciation to continue. He said, “Home price gains and the accompanying housing wealth accumulation have been spectacular over the past year, but are unlikely to be repeated in 2022.”

Yun added that “there are signs of more supply reaching the market and some tapering of demand. The housing market looks to move from ‘super-hot’ to ‘warm’ with markedly slower price gains.”

Pittsfield, Mass., led the nation with a 46.5 percent increase in home values over the past year, followed by Austin, Tex., (45.1 percent); Naples-Marco Island, Fla., (41.9 percent); Boise City-Nampa, Idaho (41 percent); and Barnstable, Mass., (37.8 percent).

In an opinion piece published by *The Guardian*, David Sirota and Julia Rock wrote that as the climate changes, census data shows Americans are, ironically, shifting from safer areas of the United

States to the regions most at risk of extreme heat and flooding.

WEATHERING THE MARKET

The Census Bureau’s new map of the last decade’s population trends shows big growth in the West and on the coasts — and declines in the inland East Coast and Great Lakes region.

Miami, for example, had a 10 percent population increase despite the possibility that large swaths of the city could soon be underwater. Compare that to a place like Vermont, where the population growth was flat.

San Francisco residents have enjoyed a relatively mild summer, with fog protecting the city from the excessive heat felt elsewhere in the country. In recent weeks, however, Covid-19 has surged again across the nation and even in the city.

Mougeot is a bit concerned about how the coronavirus might again lead to restrictions on open homes, and more important, on broker tours — weekly events where agents visit as many as 30 or 40 homes all in one day, to see what has just come on the market. According to Mougeot, these tours are invaluable, providing agents with a boots-on-the-ground grasp of what is available, and how the market is trending.

Fortunately, as of right now, there is no indication that these restrictions are about to be imposed. Knock on wood.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties have the highest percentage of equity-rich households in the United States.



Greenest Big City in America

San Franciscans are rightly proud to live in the greenest big city in America, and the first such city to require composting and recycling for all residents, businesses, restaurants and major events.¹ Recology has been proud to help. We built San Francisco’s recycling system from the ground up and our employee-owners work hard every day to fulfill our shared vision of a world without waste.

“Let’s keep making a difference. Together.”



¹ Siemens U.S. and Canada Green City Index

Let's plan for your future, TOGETHER



INVESTMENTS & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

At Redwood Credit Union, our CFS* Financial Advisors are dedicated to helping you achieve your future financial plans and goals.

TOGETHER YOU AND YOUR ADVISOR CAN:

- » Establish investment strategies that you feel confident about
- » Review a wide variety of investment and wealth management products
- » Discuss the options that align with your goals and lifestyle

SCHEDULE A NO-COST FINANCIAL REVIEW AVAILABLE VIA VIDEO OR IN-PERSON



1 (800) 895-7610 | redwoodcu.org/investments

*Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CFS"), a registered broker-dealer (Member FINRA/SIPC) and SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. Investment Representatives are registered through CFS. The credit union has contracted with CFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members.