



Northside life
Do you like scary movies? Our movie critic Michael Snyder has some suggestions for you p. 6
Maryann Lorusso on Outside Lands' Halloween comeback. p. 8
Liz Farrell says you can communicate with teens and stay sane. p. 10



Online extras
Michael Snyder on fall candy, plus expanded content and events listings.
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Eric A. Lewis and the company of the North American Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* open Oct. 13 at the Golden Gate Theatre. PHOTO: MATTHEW MURPHY

Fall Arts season slowly returns

BY LYNETTE MAJER

FINALLY, THE SAN FRANCISCO arts world we once knew seems to be coming back to life. This month the city welcomes the return of October favorites **Fleet Week**, **Outside Lands**, **Litquake**, the **Trolley Dances** performed on the Muni Metro lines, North Beach's **Italian Heritage Parade**, and **Sun-**

day Streets, a citywide event aptly named Phoenix Rising Day. The opera season is up and running, this month with a performance of Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, and the symphony also presents several programs featuring the composer as well as Mendelssohn, Mozart, and others. Head to the Chase Center for the **Eagles** and **James Taylor** with **Jack-**

son Browne, to SFJazz for **Branford Marsalis**, or to the Presidio Theatre for the **Del Sol Quartet** performing **Angel Island: Oratorio for Voices and Strings**, based on poems carved in the walls by detained Chinese immigrants. See our expanded Arts and Entertainment section and October calendar (pages 8–9) for details and more events.

REYNOLDS RAP : Opinion

All in the City Family: Dennis Herrera chosen to head SFPUC

Is Mayor London Breed having a fox guard the henhouse?

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I EXPOSED THE BLATANT pay-to-play scheme at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission disguised as a social impact program (“Friends with Community Benefits,” July 2020). Harlan Kelly Jr., the SFPUC’s general manager, and his assistant general manager of external affairs/girlfriend Juliet Ellis, are both gone. You may remember I wrote about them in my March 2020 column regarding their frequent travels together, including a personal junket to Mexico and a trip where they snacked on tequila and Cheetos in their room. Those travel records were subpoenaed by the FBI in June, and Kelly was arrested after a Nov. 30 raid on his home by the U.S. Attorney’s office on multiple fraud charges (his next hearing is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2021). After receiving her subpoena, Community Benefits mastermind Ellis left the SFPUC but she didn’t go far, taking a job with her friend Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins (no relation) across the bay. I find that an odd choice considering it was Ellis-Lamkins who teamed with Ellis in
REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 5

SUPERVISOR : Opinion

Supporting our small businesses for the long term

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

THE 94,000 SMALL BUSINESSES SPREAD THROUGHOUT San Francisco’s unique and diverse neighborhoods are not only vital to our local economy, they help define the character of our beautiful city, drawing in tourists from all over the world and employing close to 400,000 people. Although small businesses have 100 employees or fewer, they compromise more than 93 percent of total businesses in the city. Unfortunately, the pandemic has decimated our small businesses, forcing more than 50 percent to close. Even before the pandemic, small businesses in San Francisco were struggling — often facing a long and costly permitting process, unclear or contradictory rules and regulations, duplicative or redundant inspections, and inconsistent billing practices. It’s crystal clear that both immediate and long-term systemic change is needed to make it easier to open and operate in the city, especially as so many small businesses continue to recover from the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, many attempts were made at City Hall to provide direct relief. Although they were forced to close their doors to comply with our health orders, they were still required to pay city fees as if they
SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

ART WORLD : Exhibits



Bepar (Hop), 2019, by Gazelle Samizay and Labkhand Olfatmanesh, from "After Hope: Videos of Resistance." COURTESY: ASIAN ART MUSEUM

‘After Hope: Videos of Resistance’ and ‘TeamLab: Continuity’ at the Asian Art Museum

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THROUGH THE END OF THE year, the Asian Art Museum will present video and interactive exhibits designed to drive us to imagine and create different worlds.

A CONTINUOUS EXPERIENCE

“After Hope: Videos of Resistance” poses the question: “How does hope drive us to imagine new worlds?” An eclectic blend of 50 short films explores the role of hope in contemporary art and activism. On a

loop 24 hours a day, the six-hour collection of films also includes participation from artists not typically represented in museums outside Asia; artists from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey touch on a variety of contemporary topics. Fragments of issues and causes combine to reveal common themes relating to the environment, eco-feminism, queer ecologies, art and activism, transgressive histories, speculative futures, song, music, and stories of exile, diaspora, and identity in this repeated circle of imagery. “After Hope” ropes in all these fragmented issues and causes and reveals common themes — refuge, renewal, revolution — almost like a chain letter or an exquisite corpse,” explained Abby Chen, head of contemporary art at the Asian Art Museum, referring to the Surrealist game whereby artists contribute a sketch or a word to a continual composition, and the work is only revealed in its entirety at the end of the process. “It’s a surprisingly emotional experience and people who spend even a little bit of time with these videos, whether in our gallery,
ART WORLD, continued on 7



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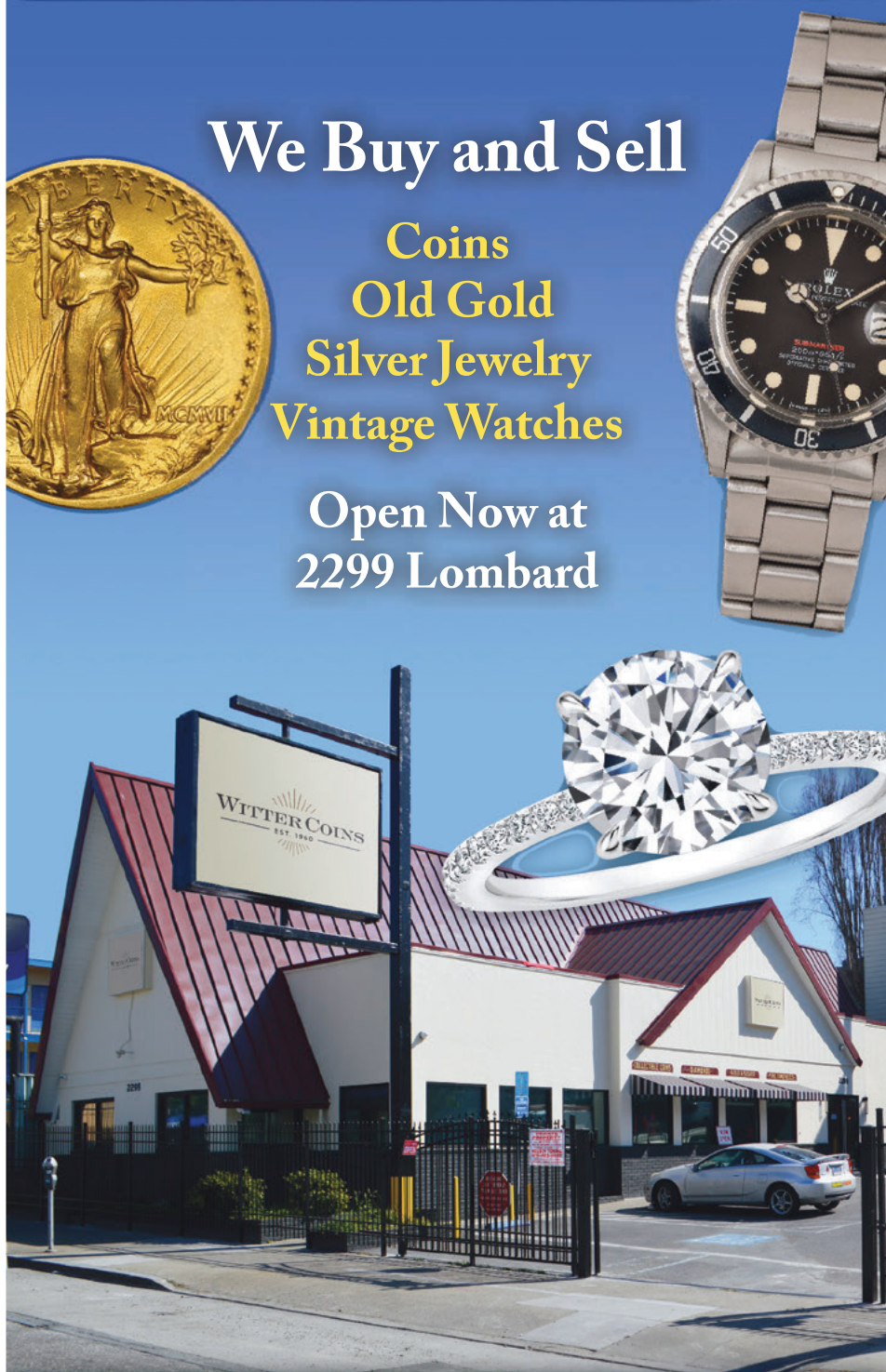
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Supervisor

continued from cover

were up and running, which I believed was entirely unfair. To address this, I authored and passed one of the largest fee waiver packages in the city's history, providing more than \$20 million in direct relief to our small businesses. I also continue to support new programs and policies that streamline permitting, allow for flexibility, and ease burdens for small businesses.

NEW PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

Last month I hosted an online training with the Office of Economic Workforce Development to make sure our small businesses are aware of the new resources available, including:

The Proposition H Save Our Small Businesses Initiative: This proposition was passed by the voters last year and creates more flexibility in what businesses can do in their space, allows for expedited over-the-counter administrative approval, and reduces the review and inspection time by 60 percent.

Proposition H also makes it easier to permit temporary pop-up events in vacant storefronts, to expand and improve ground floor commercial spaces, and allows restaurants to use their space in other ways during nonpeak dining hours.

Shared Spaces Program: Our restaurants lost more than 90 percent of their revenue during the pandemic, and it will take them years to fully recover. Outdoor dining has been a lifesaver for restaurants and neighbors desperate to share a meal with friends in a Covid-safe way. As long as Covid remains a threat, outdoor dining will remain essential. I was proud to lead the effort to extend this program, and will continue to make sure it remains a success, which includes responding to any issues that arise from the parklets — noise, crowds, and issues related to cleanliness. Should you encounter a problem with an individual parklet, please reach out to my office at stefanistaff@sfgov.org.

First Year Free: Starting a small business is very expensive. Between permit fees, business licenses, and construction, it can cost as much as \$200,000 to open a storefront in San Francisco. The city now waives certain first-year permits, licenses, and business registration fees for many first-time businesses.

Storefront Vandalism Relief Grant: The fact that our small businesses continue to be vandalized is maddening. Complaints are up 40 percent from last year, and some businesses have been broken into and vandalized numerous times. To

help offset these costs, OEWD is offering \$2,000 in grants to businesses that have been victimized. Although this may help a bit, we must do everything we can to make sure these acts of violence are not happening in the first place. I will continue to work with our police captains to provide foot patrols throughout our merchant corridors and will also continue to fight for the public safety resources necessary to keep our corridors safe.

If you are a small business owner and need any help navigating these new resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at stefanistaff@sfgov.org.

RECOVERY THROUGH STREET ACTIVATION

To support Union Street and attract more visitors to the corridor, I worked with local merchants and artists to organize *Bloomtown on Union*. This art activation brings rooftop sculptures, live music, a scavenger hunt, and large new murals to the Union Street Neighborhood Commercial District.

This event will generate much-needed foot traffic to the corridor, and we know that beautifying public spaces directly increases the economic benefit to surrounding areas. For example, the *Entwined* exhibit in Golden Gate Park brought 1,000 new visitors a day, directly benefiting nearby businesses.

Bloomtown on Union is happening now through mid-November, and I encourage you to explore the fun, interactive, and lively displays that are throughout the corridor, and join us for the kickoff on Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. in Allyn Park. This is a great opportunity to discover, or rediscover, local merchants, amazing restaurants, and unique retail in the Union Street Neighborhood Commercial District.

KEEPING SMALL BUSINESSES FRONT AND CENTER

Although things are looking up due in part to the fact that 80 percent of San Francisco's eligible population is vaccinated, it is important to remember that our small businesses have lost more than 50 percent in revenue from the start of the pandemic and it will take years before they recoup the costs incurred during that time.

With the support of our communities, an increase in vaccination rates, and the creation of new policies and programs for small businesses, we are making significant and sustainable progress. Supporting small businesses means supporting San Francisco and its residents, and I will continue to advocate for policies that make it easier for businesses to open, grow, and thrive.

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Advertising: 415.234.3166 • advertising@marinatimes.com

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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

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Sale of the century

A modest proposal for dealing with retail theft

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

THIS WAS NOT WHAT THE CITY intended when it banned single-use plastic bags and told people to bring their own reusable shopping bags. The video earlier this year of a man filling up a garbage bag with stolen merchandise at a Walgreens and exiting on his bicycle while helpless onlookers stood by did much to cement the city’s reputation nationally as a place where crime runs rampant. Though the thief was later caught, he was no one-time criminal; police said he struck the same Gough Street Walgreens four days in a row.

In late September, Mayor London Breed released San Francisco’s Organized Retail Crime Initiative, which Fox News viewers were probably surprised to learn was actually *against* retail crime.

The plan is based on better reporting, investigation, and solving of retail thefts and addressing the “upstream criminal enterprises that fuel them,” according to the mayor’s office. The San Francisco Police Department’s Organized Retail Crime Unit will expand from two to five investigators, add a dedicated lieutenant for local crime investigation, and work regionally with the Organized Retail Crime Task Force of the California Highway Patrol. In addition, SFPD will dedicate personnel for field operations and communications with retailers; triple the SFPD Community Ambassador program (which uses retired

officers to patrol and act as deterrence), and expand its geographic reach; manage the privately funded “10B” officers for deterrence, and expand the Teleserve Unit to facilitate increased reporting of crimes.

The mayor’s office noted that if the plan is “successful in enabling retailers to maximize their reporting of retail crimes, a potentially dramatic increase in larceny and commercial burglary crime rates should be expected.” That is to say, there could be a dramatic increase in those official crime rates, not that the incidents of actual crime will be pushed up by it.

Collaboration plays a big role in the plan. As SFPD Chief Bill Scott said, “This collaborative approach reflects the full promise of community policing — not solely to support our city’s economic recovery, but to better protect public safety that is too often endangered by retail theft crews and the sophisticated criminal enterprises funding them.”

ON THE SCENE

The frustrating thing is that it’s not just infamous cases such as the Walgreens biker we’ve all heard about, it’s that we’ve witnessed it ourselves when we’re shopping. I’ve seen it, too. I have witnessed people shoplifting and walking out of the Walgreens near my office more times than I’ve seen crimes of any sort in every other city I’ve lived in — combined.

People take out their frustration on a number of targets. Some blame the SFPD, others choose Chesa Boudin, some blame the overall oppressive capitalist exploita-

tion of blah blah blah, and some point to 60 percent of their fellow citizens.

No, 60 percent of Californians are not looting pharmacies. California Proposition 47 was passed in 2014 by nearly 60 percent of voters. With the goal of reducing the prison population, Proposition 47 redefined certain nonviolent crimes as misdemeanors instead of felonies. In particular, shoplifting would be a misdemeanor if the value of the stolen property does not exceed \$950.

There’s conflicting evidence for whether the proposition was responsible for the increase in retail thefts (other states without that ballot measure have also experienced an uptick). But what seems to be the popular consensus is that the increase in blatant, walk-right-by-the-cashier-and-don’t-even-pretend-you’re-not-stealing theft has increased because of it. If it’s not a felony, why bother to call the police, who will be able to do little more than cite the thief and send him on his way.

I should note that supporters of this proposition weren’t all just lefty do-gooders. It also included Newt Gingrich, who co-authored a Sept. 16, 2014 *Los Angeles Times* op-ed that said the ballot measure “will help the state emphasize punishments such as community supervision and treatment that are more likely to work instead of prison time.”

Sounds good on paper, even coming from Gingrich, the man who has been called the person most responsible for the viciousness of our national political discourse over the past three decades.

Was Proposition 47 worth it?

It’s easy to scoff at a politician’s statement as just so much press release pabulum that doesn’t really say anything. But I think Mayor Breed got it right when she said “Retail theft and commercial burglaries are not victimless crimes. They hurt working families due to reduced work hours, shuttered stores, and lost jobs. They hurt customers and seniors who are losing convenient access to prescription medications and vaccinations because of pharmacy closures. They hurt neighborhoods suffering from fewer local retailers and more empty storefronts. The strategy we’re outlining today is an all-hands-on-deck approach that brings the full partnership of state and local law enforcement and retailers to bear to aggressively pursue, investigate and deter organized retail crime in San Francisco.”

Will it work? We’ll see, and hope for the best.

If it doesn’t, perhaps stores could pursue their own policy. If the limit is \$950, perhaps a store like Walgreens could simply add \$950 to the price of every item, but run an ongoing “San Francisco Special” in which at checkout they give a \$950 discount per item. Talk about customer loyalty programs! You check out, you get that cough syrup for \$12.95. You walk out the door without paying, you are stealing an item valued at \$962.95.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com;
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The killing of Vicha Ratanapakdee

BY ANH LÊ

VICHA RATANAPAKDEE, AN 84-YEAR-old immigrant from Thailand, was preparing to go on his early morning walk in San Francisco’s quiet Anza Vista neighborhood on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2021. The Thai grandfather had just survived his heart surgery nine months before that, and his doctor told him to walk daily for his exercise. It was around 8:28 a.m. when Ratanapakdee, a short and thin man, and nearly blind, suddenly got shoved hard onto the sidewalk by 19-year-old Antoine Watson. Watson was sitting in his BMW with his girlfriend, and when he saw Ratanapakdee, he reportedly got out of his car, ran fast across the street and violently attacked the elderly Thai man.

Film footage of the vicious attack, shown on ABC 7, KPIX, and other stations, shows Ratanapakdee hit the sidewalk pavement hard, his head jerk upward after hitting the pavement, and his head and body slide into a garage door.

Another video shows that after the attack, Watson jerked both his arms hard as if he felt thrilled with attacking the elderly Thai man, according to Eric Lawson, Ratanapakdee’s son-in-law. “He acted like somebody who had just made a big play sacking the quarterback in the Super Bowl,” Lawson said.

According to Lawson and Monthanus Ratanapakdee, the man’s older daughter, the video shows Watson return to his BMW, enter it, get out of his car again, run across the street back to where Ratanapakdee’s body lay, and take pictures of his body before going back to his car.

Ratanapakdee never woke up after the attack, and died a couple days later from bleeding in his brain. Monthanus Ratanapakdee said, “At the hospital, a neurologist told us that even if my father were to survive, he would no longer have any normal functions.”

AFTERMATH

She and her family bear unspeakable grief from the killing of her father. “When Antoine Watson pushed my father-in-law hard into the sidewalk and killed him, he showed no humanity at all. His killing of our father was just like Derek Chauvin putting his knee on George Floyd’s neck to kill him,” Lawson said.

“There are no words to describe how our family feels [about] this overwhelming loss,” said Monthanus Ratanapakdee. “Our father going out for his morning walk after his daily routine of preparing his young grandsons for their day and after just surviving his recent heart surgery . . . and he [is] never coming back to our family again.

“It is so painful for our young sons to lose their beloved grandfather. Their grandpa was such an immense and important part of their daily life. Facing this terrible loss and how this happened, will be forever now in the minds and eyes of our children. They always ask about their grandfather and what happened to him.”

She said her mother “is suffering so much. She speaks to him holding his picture, while praying. She suffers deeply from losing my father. It has also affected her health.

“I miss my father very deeply. My father is my everything, my closest confidante. He is the stable and calming presence for our family. He goes to museums and parks with us, and loves going on walks together as a family.”

She and her husband both said their father “kept the balance on everything for our family.”

They and their children scattered Grandpa Vicha’s ashes in the Pacific Ocean near the Golden Gate Bridge. The funeral was conducted by Thai monks at a Buddhist temple.

The family wants to thank the police officers who helped them, noting that



The “Justice for Vicha” mural by Thitiwat Phomratanapongse and Sarah Siskin in Chinatown. PHOTO: ANH LÊ

they were kind and compassionate and kept the family informed. They also had words of thanks for the doctors at San Francisco General Hospital, who they say did everything they could to save Vicha’s life.

SAN FRANCISCO JUSTICE

The San Francisco Police Department arrested Antoine Watson and his girlfriend, Malaysia Goo, 20, in Daly City, where they lived with Watson’s family. On the day of the attack, Goo had waited in Watson’s BMW when he carried out the attack against Vicha Ratanapakdee.

SFPD arrested Watson for felony elder abuse causing great bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, and murder. Goo was arrested for accessory after the fact.

San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin told *The New York Times* that leading up to the attack on Ratanapakdee, Watson was “in some sort of temper tantrum.”

Watson pled “not guilty” to the charges. His lawyer, Sliman Nawabi, a deputy public defender, said, “He is not guilty. He is just a 19-year old teenager.”

Boudin dropped the charge against Goo and released her.

A large mural to honor the memory of Grandpa Vicha Ratanapakdee was dedicated on Aug. 29 near Chinatown. The mural, designed by Sarah Siskin

and Thitiwat Phomratanapongse, is on Grant Street near California Street.

Pheephakorn Niamyai, consul at the Thai Consulate in Los Angeles, stated, “The mural, ‘Justice for Vicha,’ represents not only a fond memorial of Grandpa Vicha, who was a victim of a senseless violent attack earlier this year and later passed away from his injuries, but also a symbol of increasing awareness against all kinds of violent crimes to Asian American people. . . . I hope this event will help raise awareness of such violent crimes to our society and will encourage AAPI communities to stand up against such crimes, and to report such violent crimes and other crimes to law enforcement agencies.”

In July, Supervisor Catherine Stefani introduced a resolution to rename a street in Vicha Ratanapakdee’s neighborhood where he was killed, from Sonora Way to Vicha Ratanapakdee Way. She stated, “This horrific attack against Grandpa Vicha Ratanapakdee was one of numerous senseless attacks against members of the AAPI community here in San Francisco — our friends and neighbors should not have to fear the unthinkable when they walk on our streets.”

Anh Lê is an independent journalist. Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com. An extended version of this article appears on marinatimes.com.

Deciding the future of JFK drive

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WHAT NEXT FOR JFK DRIVE?

San Francisco might come to regret asking residents what they want to do with JFK Drive. When Britons were asked in 2016 to name a new \$200 million polar science ship, the most popular suggestion was Boaty McBoatface. Now the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and the city’s Municipal Transportation Agency are looking to the public for ideas about what to do with JFK Drive after the pandemic.

Possibilities range from making the current closure permanent, going back to the prepandemic configuration, or “providing for managed access to the park with a limited access on JFK from 8th to Transverse, westbound only,” according to the city.

Besides configuration, the public is being asked to consider a number of other proposals, including adding ADA-accessible parking spaces and accessible paths, establishing taxi stands at the Music Concourse, creating a free 15-minute drop-off zone within the Music Concourse garage, improving wayfinding within the park, upgrading in-park shuttle service, creat-

ing dynamic parking rates in the garage, expanding bikeshare and scootershare services into Golden Gate Park, extending the current adaptive bikeshare pilot program in the park, permitting pedicab service in Golden Gate Park, and modifying intersections in and around the park to mitigate congestion and improve traffic safety.

Learn more — and share your ideas — at sfrecpark.org/1538/accessGGP.

MARINA LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Leaks. They’re not just bad when they come from the White House. The Marina Branch Library will be closed during weekdays through the end of December 2021 to take care of what the library says has been “an ongoing problem with leaks.” The exterior of the building will be waterproofed in an eight-week project begun in September.

According to an explanatory notice on the library’s website, the project “includes putting new roofing on the Marina Branch and the raking out of the old brick mortar. This work will be very noisy and would disrupt library service,” so the building will be closed on weekdays during the first eight weeks of the waterproofing effort.

However, weekends are still a good time to visit the branch, because there will not be construction work taking place then, when the branch will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on Saturdays and 1–5 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 12.

BRIEFLY NOTED

San Francisco Rec and Park teamed up with a number of groups to create a 12,000-square-foot nature-inspired playspace at Heron’s Head. Construction began in mid-September on what will be called the **Nature Exploration Area** . . . And if that doesn’t grab you, the new **Jerry Garcia Amphitheater** reopened in McLaren Park last month after a \$1.45 million update. The stage was kicked off by Shakespeare in the Park’s production of *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* . . . The Inter-Continental Mark Hopkins is preparing to launch its new **Champagne Lounge** this month at the Top of the Mark . . . With unanimous support in the State Legislature, a bill to crack down on illegal street “sideshows” was sent to Governor Gavin Newsom’s desk in early September. Courts would be able to suspend a driver’s

license for up to 6 months for sideshow participants.

FACTS AND FIGURES

7,000: The Partnership for the Presidio and Photoville unveiled the free “My Park Moment” photo show last month, featuring 400 photos out of 7,000 submissions from amateur and professional photographers . . . **AB 541:** Governor Newsom signed this bill last month that requires substance abuse programs to include tobacco use in their coverage . . . **Nov. 6:** the 10th annual Madera Pomegranate, Fruit, and Nut Festival takes place at the Madera District Fairgrounds . . . **\$157,218:** annual income needed to afford the average monthly rent in San Francisco for a two-bedroom apartment, according to SmartAsset, assuming renters pay no more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing . . . **\$36,550:** income necessary to afford a two-bedroom apartment in El Paso, Tex. . . . **\$19,500:** monthly rent of a luxury seven-bedroom home in the Presidio, according to Rent.com.

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2012 to run SFPUC money into Oakland nonprofit Green for All, which resulted in an \$8,500 ethics fine for Ellis in 2014. Ironically, the two are working to secure contracts with utility companies for a bill-pay startup they call PromisePay.

Kelly's wife, Naomi, stepped down from her role as city administrator and, while she hasn't been arrested, she's likely not sleeping well: sources tell me the FBI is closing in on her involvement with friend and ex-Public Works director Mohammed Nuru (including the two accepting comped hotel rooms in New York City to the tune of \$865 each per night).

Other Kelly/Ellis underlings are also leaving the SFPUC like rats leaping from a sinking ship: Tyler Gamble, once Ellis's spokesman (the one who told me "There is no such thing as joint venture board meeting minutes" because the Community Benefits program is voluntary and contractors "choose which nonprofits to donate to") has moved back to Louisiana, where he works for a coffee company. Tracy Zhu, who led the Community Benefits Social Impact Partnership for Ellis, also left the Community Benefits team (her LinkedIn profile says she's planning to take a "radical rest").

Do these exits and indictments mean corruption has been flushed from the SFPUC? Sadly, no. In fact, it may be entering a new phase with Mayor London Breed's appointment of City Attorney Dennis Herrera to replace Harlan Kelly as general manager. Kelly certainly saw benefits to having Herrera on his side — he maxed out his contribution to the 2019 city attorney reelection campaign, despite the fact Herrera was running unopposed.

WHAT DID DENNIS KNOW?

Herrera has bragged for years about pursuing corruption at City Hall, but if you look closer, it's a lot of smoke and mirrors. In April 2019, I wrote a column called "It's time for Mayor Breed to sweep DPW boss to the curb," about Mohammed Nuru's decades of corruption flying under the noses of four mayors — but it also flew under the nose of Herrera, who was first elected city attorney in 2001, and has been reelected to serve in the role for 20 years. Occasionally Herrera would announce an investigation into a city department, usually on the heels of the Feds, but it's hard to ignore his own words: When he challenged Ed Lee for mayor in 2011, he said, "For 10 years, Nuru's questionable ethics and repeated misappropriation of taxpayer dollars didn't seem to merit a slap on the wrist from Ed Lee. Now, as mayor, Ed Lee thinks it merits a promotion." In other words, Herrera acknowledges Nuru's bad behavior from the time he was first elected city attorney in 2001, and even points it out while running for mayor in 2011, but it wasn't Herrera who took Nuru down — it was the FBI (just 10 months after my April 2019 column).

If Herrera was aware of Nuru, how could he not be aware of Kelly and Ellis? Sources within the Community Benefits program, who declined to be named for fear of retribution, tell me Herrera was aware. "He has an attorney sitting in on all meetings who reports back to him," said one. "The city attorney has to sign off on everything." That same person confirmed, as I reported in July 2020, that Ellis did indeed decide which nonprofits would get money (her "friends with com-

munity benefits"), and that SFPUC contractor and close pal Dwayne Jones was her favorite middleman with joint venture board developers receiving big gigs, such as AECOM/Parsons. "Dwayne told them what nonprofit donations would help earn the best scores from Juliet," the source explained. And, it turns out, those nonprofits were often connected to Jones.

In minutes obtained by the *Marina Times*, Jones appears at a AECOM/Parsons joint venture board meeting, held at SFPUC headquarters on Aug. 8, 2018. Jones, who also has a consulting contract with AECOM/Parsons, presents an updated Community Benefits contribution plan, effectively telling his client which nonprofits to pay on behalf of his other client, the SFPUC. One of the beneficiaries is Southeast Consortium for Equitable Development, run by Jones's wife and business partners, and the payment is withheld pending legal review by the city attorney's office. The minutes note the city attorney conducted a review of "all

community-based organizations on the FY 2018-19 plan. All organizations were vetted and 501c3 status verified. There were no findings." On Aug. 25, once Herrera's office gave the green light, the joint venture board processed the payment and Jones received a \$25,000 check at his office on Bayshore Boulevard.

According to the IRS form 990 filed by Southeast Consortium in February 2021 and covering the time period between July 2019 and June 2020, of the \$1,612,903 in revenue they reported, a big chunk went directly to Jones. In fact, the Southeast Consortium paid Jones and his firm, RDJ Enterprises, \$246,676 as an "independent contractor" for "professional services," meaning of the \$736,369 taken in by the Consortium during that reporting period, one-third went directly into the pocket of Dwayne Jones. As for the balance of \$400,104, it was paid to "Other."

At a hearing held Dec. 22, 2020, SFPUC commissioner Tim Paulson asked about Jones, his nonprofits, and the involvement with Community Benefits. Commission President Sophie Maxwell, a longtime City Family member, can be heard on the tape saying "F—k you" to Paulson. Just two days after that hearing, an NBC Bay Area investigative report by Michael Bott, Jaxon Van Derbeken and Jeremy Carroll found the SFPUC paid Jones over \$7 million in Community Benefit consulting fees, along with millions more in Community Benefits payments from SFPUC contractors to nonprofits connected to Jones and his friends and family, which in some cases then made payments back to Jones's consulting firm RDJ. The SFPUC was said to have cut Jones's contracts in the wake of that report, but city records show that Jones and RDJ still have contracts with the SFPUC, the Port Commission, and the city administrator. (Jones also served as Recology's "ratepayer advocate," helping to push through those controversial 2017 garbage rate hikes.)

Despite reports by the *Marina Times* and NBC Bay Area on those conflicts of interest and questionable deals, the Port Commission approved a \$530,000 contract with Jones on Jan. 12, 2021, for "youth employment," where RDJ lists Young Community Developers as a subcontractor. As I reported in July 2020, Young Community Developers is the most prolific beneficiary of Community Benefits. Not only was Dwayne Jones the executive director from 1998 to 2003,

but Shamann Walton held the six-figure position from 2010 until he joined the Board of Supervisors in January 2019 (he now serves as president). In canceled checks from AECOM/Parsons totaling \$655,000 (a drop in the bucket compared to the millions running through the various joint venture boards), Young Community Developers received \$169,500 during Walton's tenure.

To add more tentacles to the monster, current Young Community Developers boss Dionjay Brookter is the CFO of Urban Alchemy, another Community Benefits favorite recently given a multi-million-dollar contract to patrol the Tenderloin as "community ambassadors" — an effort to lessen the role of police. But Brookter is also a police commissioner, meaning he's essentially running money out of SFPD and into a nonprofit where he controls the finances.

All of this goes back to the Community Benefits pay-to-play scheme, which has never once been questioned by the city attorney's office. And apparently, Herrera's team still has "no findings" regarding Dwayne Jones and his many nonprofits: according to DataSF, Jones has more than \$500,000 in billable city contracts this year alone. Search under Southeast Consortium and you'll find even more. While Jones felt enough heat from the media to move his wife and business partners off the board of the Southeast Consortium, he replaced them with his sister-in-law and two of his college friends.

WHY HERRERA?

As Dr. Derek Kerr, a longtime SFPUC watchdog at the *Westside Observer*, points out, Herrera has zero experience managing "a complex water, power and sewer utility with a \$1.5 billion budget." So

why would Mayor London Breed nominate him? One insider, who declined to be named for fear of retribution, said it smells like quid quo pro. "She nominates Dennis in April, and in August, while the Board of Supervisors is on summer break, he helps get Breed's \$23,000 ethics fine, for Nuru's 'car repair gift' and trying to get her brother out of prison, ratified." Others believe there's a more nefarious reason for Breed's selection: keeping it all in the City Family. Said one insider, "These scandals took out a lot of London's friends who she depended on to keep her off the radar. Herrera has proven he can keep secrets." Whether or not Herrera is keeping secrets, signing off on Community Benefits pay-to-play schemes and overlooking major players like Ellis and Jones — even after the media exposed them — doesn't bode well for the public interest.

The cherry on top? Herrera's SFPUC contract is a sweet deal, covering him whether he makes it through the full five years or not. The contract can be terminated "for convenience" or "for cause." If the city terminates for convenience, Herrera receives a generous severance package of one full year's salary, equal to at least \$395,000, regardless of how many years remain on the contract. Termination "for cause" is based on very narrow criteria, making it unlikely.

Herrera says he wants a new challenge and it's not about the money, but that can't hurt, either. With raises, benefits and the pension plan included in the Municipal Executives Association union agreement, the move could be worth as much as \$10 million over his lifetime.

Follow Susan on Twitter: @SusanDReynolds. Read more from Susan: susanreynolds.substack.com

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To scream, perchance to laugh

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT "SCARY" is one of those concepts on a spectrum. Different things frighten different people, the way that some abhor spiders and snakes and some have them as pets. While accepting the subjective nature of fear, I've seen my share of horror movies that are about as terrifying as the comedic parodies on the venerable SCTV sketches featuring Count Floyd's *Monster Chiller Horror Theater*. Now that I think of it, these are perilous times, and we may be better served by spooky films that can also make us laugh.

Blame familiarity, fatigue, or postmodern numbness, but the old monsters don't seem to make us jump and yelp the way they did in the past. Universal Pictures is trying to revive its legendary '30s, '40s and '50s takes on *Dracula*, *The Wolf Man*, *The Mummy*, *The Invisible Man*, *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, and Frankenstein's creation — with uneven results so far. Those indestructible demons Freddy Krueger of *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and Jason Voorhees of *Friday the 13th* haven't cut it in a while.

Yes, the 2018 revival of the *Halloween* slash-a-thons got off to a good start with the demented masked murderer Michael Myers back to his slaughtering ways, four decades after the 1978 movie that started the franchise. We should know if maniacal Myers has renewed staying power on Oct. 15 with the release of *Halloween Kills* — the second film in a trilogy that will wrap next October with *Halloween Ends*.

BRING OUT YOUR DREAD

Director James Wan gave the world a sick and twisted sadist named Jigsaw in the *Saw* movie series and went on to conjure a couple more effective, fran-

chise-launching supernatural narratives with *The Conjuring* and *Insidious*. Still, Wan's latest, *Malignant*, is a pastiche of various horror subgenres with his usual visual flair undone by a clumsy, occasionally silly script. Perhaps a plot or conceit is just too familiar or, pardon the expression, done to death to give us pause.

The concept of the infectious, flesh-eating undead no longer delivers the fright factor that fueled filmmaker George Romero's original *Night of the Living Dead* in 1968. We've had decades of zombie flicks and TV shows since then, including more than 100 episodes of the long-running cable TV program *The Walking Dead*, plus two serial spin-offs. How much brain-munching needs to happen before the chomp loses its bite?

To be fair, skin-crawling make-it-stop horror isn't dead. Recent back-to-back movies by filmmaker Ari Aster — the generational chiller *Hereditary* and the modern journey into pagan mystery *Midsummer* — have been among the most unsettling cinematic experiences in memory, both inspiring serious dread and flight-or-fight responses with their final acts. Aster reminds us that it's thrilling to experience a truly creepy, nightmare-inducing horror show on screen. But there's something to be said about leavening your screams with a little laughter, especially these days.

KILLING JOKES

Way back in 1948, Universal tapped the long-running comedy duo Abbott and Costello to encounter some of their monsters in a well-received romp with the title *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, which saw the duo in full heebie-jeebie mode when confronted by Dr. Frankenstein's lumbering patchwork man, plus Count Dracula, and the Wolf



From left: Podcast (Logan Kim) and Phoebe (Mckenna Grace) fire a proton pack for the first time in Columbia Pictures' *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

Man. Subsequent releases pitted Abbott and Costello against the Invisible Man, the Mummy, and even Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde.

It feels like the anarchic spirit of those vintage Abbott and Costello team-ups informed 1984's *Ghostbusters*, with comic actors Dan Ackroyd, Bill Murray, and associates taking on outlandish invaders from the netherworld in a rollicking attempt to protect humanity from supernatural forces. *Ghostbusters* holds up well today, even if its sequel and a 2016 all-female reboot didn't come close to matching the hilarity of the first. Now, *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, touted as a real continuation of the first, is on the horizon, although it won't be released until Nov. 11.

Meanwhile, there are other funny, frightful film selections that can be booted up on streaming services or via video-on-demand for your Halloween party or solo viewing: *Slither*, James Gunn's hilarious 2006 alien-invasion parody; *Scream*, the 1996 kickoff of the ongoing movie series that pokes fun at

the teens-in-peril horror trope; *What We Do in the Shadows*, Taika Waititi's deadpan 2014 vampires-in-New Zealand mockumentary that spawned the same-named American TV series; *Freaky*, last year's wacky and gory look at what happens in a small town when a serial killer switches minds with a mousy high-school girl; and *The Host*, Korean director Bong Joon-ho's wild 2006 satire about a chemically spawned beast that terrorizes Seoul. And yes, zombie fans, you're covered with *Zombieland*, the jaunty 2009 dead-have-risen adventure starring Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone, Jesse Eisenberg, and good ole Bill Murray who, at that point, was done bustin' ghosts.

One brief suggestion if you watch these movies: Try not to die laughing.

For a list of additional scary movies, visit marinatimes.com

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY CHRIS HSIANG

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **Beautiful World Where Are You?: A Novel**, by Sally Rooney
2. **The Magician: A Novel**, by Colm Tóibín
3. **The Invisible Life of Addie Larue**, by V.E. Schwab

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages Through the Unknown City**, by Gary Kamiya
2. **Madhouse at the End of the World**, by Julian Sancton
3. **The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War**, by Craig Whitlock

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel**, by Taylor Jenkins Reid
2. **There There**, by Tommy Orange
3. **People We Meet on Vacation**, by Emily Henry

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **Buy Yourself the F@cking**

- Lilies: And Other Rituals to Fix Your Life, from Someone Who's Been There**, by Tara Schuster
2. **The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom (A Toltec Wisdom Book)**, by Don Miguel Ruiz
 3. **Quit Like a Woman: The Radical Choice to Not Drink in a Culture Obsessed with Alcohol**, by Holly Whitaker

CHILDREN'S BEST SELLERS

1. **They Both Die at the End**, by Adam Silvera
2. **Room on the Broom**, by Julia Donaldson
3. **Friends Forever**, by Shannon Hale

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

Harlem Shuffle, by Colson Whitehead

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad*, *Harlem Shuffle* is driven by an ingeniously intricate plot that plays out in a beautifully recreated Harlem

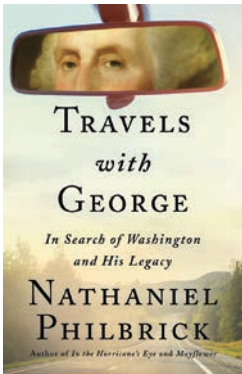
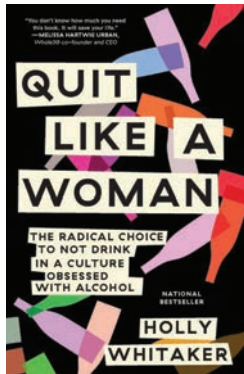
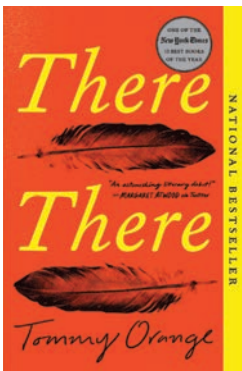
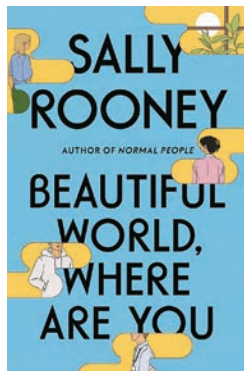
of the early 1960s. It's a family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law, by Mary Roach

"Hilarious! With *Fuzz*, Mary Roach again takes us into an unfamiliar scientific realm, in this case the science of managing the conflicts between humans and the natural world — lethal leopards, rampaging elephants, jet-downing birds, even killer trees. It's an ever-widening conflict zone, but one that Ms. Roach gleefully mines for a multitude of bizarre facts that'll make you snort coffee through your nose." — Erik Larson, best-selling author of *The Splendid and the Vile*

Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy, by Nathaniel Philbrick

When George Washington became president in 1798, the United States of America was still a loose and quarrelsome confederation and a tentative



political experiment. Washington undertook a tour of the former colonies to talk to ordinary citizens about their lives and their feelings about his new government, and to imbue in them the idea of being one thing — Americans.

Nathaniel Philbrick embarked on his own journey into what Washington called "the infant woody country" to see for himself what it had become in the 230 years since. Writing in a

thoughtful first person about his own adventures with his travel companions (wife and puppy), the narrative moves smoothly back and forth from the 18th century to the 21st century, so we see the country through Washington's eyes as well as Philbrick's.

Chris Hsiang can help you find your next book at Books Inc., 2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, booksinc.net.

or online at home, will come away with a broader, richer, more timely connection to Asia.” Visitors “drop in” to their own unique experience of the continuum, creating their own connections between the videos they happen upon as they consider their own ideas about the meaning of “hope.”

“After Hope: Videos of Resistance” is one of a three-part interrelated program produced in collaboration with outside curators and institutions aiming to foster artistic pollination across communities, practices, and perspectives. The additional offerings include a series of convenings in the International Working Group, and a digital platform, AfterHope.com. Video art, as an accessible and immediate art form, has the power to create a sense of global solidarity. Jay Xu, Asian Art Museum CEO said, “. . . masterpieces that illuminate our essential humanity — as well as the profound shifts of our own century — are still being made today, and in the digital age, great art is as likely to appear on our phones as it is in a magnificent gallery setting.”

‘TEAMLAB: CONTINUITY’ IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

“TeamLab: Continuity” consists of 14 movement-sensitive artworks, filling the gallery space in a hyper-response to human activity, and transforming visitors into participants. The digital animation’s reactive algorithm responds to the locations and movements of the museumgoers as they move through space, creating a kind of artistic fingerprint of that particular moment.



Born From the Darkness a Loving, and Beautiful World by teamLab Continuity, at the Asian Art Museum San Francisco.
PHOTO: COURTESY TEAMLAB

Creating digital art experiences around the world, several hundred programmers and designers comprise the TeamLab collective, traditionally working together behind the scenes creating art and exploring the relationship between the individual and the world.

‘TEAM LAB: SKETCH OCEAN’

At the new Shriram Experiential Learning Center, a school of glowing sea creatures swims through an aquarium brought to life by the creativity of the public. What started in February 2020 as “TeamLab: Sketch Aquarium” is now “TeamLab: Sketch Ocean” with the opening of the “Continuity” exhibition.

This is the place to go if you have always wanted to see your artwork come to life, float, and swirl across museum walls. A “submersive” experience, the designs swim off the page to join an ocean teeming with fish, a collective creation. Visitors are welcome to drop in, grab a template and create their sea creature. When it’s completed, a museum volunteer scans the paper and adds the newest creation to the ever-changing artwork.

“Continuity prompts us to consider our own impact on the environment and relationship to technology as a force for social evolution,” said exhibit organizer Dr. Karin G. Oen, principal research fellow at the Centre for Asian Art and

Design at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and former associate curator of contemporary art at the Asian Art Museum. “It’s a subtle yet potent reminder that the art and experiences we most enjoy can also be revolutionary.”

“After Hope: Videos of Resistance” and “TeamLab: Continuity,” Asian Art Museum, Thursday 1–8 p.m. and Friday–Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., \$15 & \$20, 200 Larkin Street, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

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



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MUSIC MAKING : Festivals



Tierra Whack performing at the Outside Lands festival in 2019. PHOTO: JERM COHEN

Lizzo, the Strokes to headline Outside Lands

BY MARYANN LORUSSO

FOR MOST OF THE PAST 18 MONTHS, San Francisco's celebrated music scene went dark. A city that was, pre-pandemic, alive with concerts, bands, and nightlife was silent and rhythmless. And it was devastating, not only to musicians and venue owners whose livelihoods suffered, but to residents who treasure live entertainment.

But music lovers are now rejoicing, not only as smaller venues start to open up, but as one of the country's largest music festivals, Outside Lands, is braced for a comeback over Halloween weekend, Oct. 29–31, in Golden Gate Park. Headliners Lizzo, Tame Impala, and the Strokes are topping a lineup that includes dozens of diverse artists from across the globe.

Among the other acts that will take to the five stages spread across the park are Vampire Weekend, Glass Animals, Zhu, Kehlani, Sofi Tukker, Nelly, Brittany Howard, Angel Olsen, J Balvin, Rüfüs du Sol, and Tyler, the Creator. There will also be a house-music popup called SOMA Tent, inspired by the "underground clubs and late nights" of San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood.

After a year of pandemic-related postponements, organizers announced back in March that the three-day event would be pushed from its regular late-summer timeframe to October. The festival, which draws about 200,000 people, was last held in August 2019.

LANDS WITHIN LANDS

Along with its steady stream of musicians, Outside Lands will once again highlight Bay Area food and drink. A Taste of the Bay will feature some 85 local restaurants and food vendors, including the Marina's own A16, Tacolicious, and Pacific Catch. Wine Lands will offer 100 different wines from California vineyards, and Beer Lands will showcase 30 Northern California breweries. Also in the works are Cheese Lands, Bubble Tea Party, and Cocktail Magic, where craft cocktails will be served up alongside magic shows and live music.

Other returning festival traditions include GastroMagic, a space where culinary personalities team up with performers, and Grasslands, a 21-and-over cannabis experience. Outsider Art, West Coast Craft and Eco Lands will also be back.

CAUTION AND EXCITEMENT

In light of the ongoing pandemic, this year festival attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination against Covid-19, with the last vaccine dose at least 14 days prior to their festival entry date. Those who are not vaccinated must show

proof of a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of attending the festival. At-home and rapid tests will not be accepted.

Organizers are also encouraging attendees to wear masks during the festival, regardless of their vaccination status, and are requiring masks in any indoor Outside Lands locations. Whether festival goes will comply remains to be seen.

Still, these protocols may be a comfort to some residents worried about the festival moving ahead as the threat of Covid-19 lingers. Ella L., who lives near Golden Gate Park, said she is "concerned [Outside Lands] will become a hotspot for spreading the virus," especially with many attendees coming from outside San Francisco where Covid-19 restrictions may be looser.

Her other worry is that the neighborhoods surrounding the park will experience "even more gridlock" with the Great Highway now closed on weekends. "Our only route will be 19th Avenue, which is undergoing construction."

But other residents are thrilled about the festival's return.

Jonathan Wen, a Laurel Heights resident, said the festival's timing with Halloween will add an interesting twist. "I've got tickets for Saturday and I can't wait. A lot of Halloween costumes will be on display."

"There's a high level of excitement for live music and entertainment because it was taken away from us for so long," said Richard Lowden, who also lives near the park. "I'm sure some people also feel a little nervous about being in large crowds again, which is understandable, and it's O.K. to have both feelings at the same time. I'm fully vaccinated and can't wait for Outside Lands ... it's going to be a blast!"

OUTSIDE LANDS FACTS

When: Friday through Sunday, Oct. 29–31. Festival gates open at 11 a.m. daily, with music starting at noon and gates closing at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9:40 p.m. Sunday.

Getting There: Parking is extremely limited, so plan to walk, ride, or take public transportation; both the 1-California and 38-Geary Muni lines will get you close enough to the festival site in Golden Gate Park. Visit sfoutsidelands.com for updated information about an Outside Lands shuttle bus service.

Tickets: At press time, both general admission tickets and VIP tickets are sold out. Limited Golden Gate Club passes, a luxury festival experience crafted by designer Ken Fulk, are available at sfoutsidelands.com/tickets/.

Maryann LoRusso is a journalist and the creator of the *More Beautiful* website and podcast.

OCTOBER EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS



Fleet Week

Daily Oct. 1-11
Various S.F. venues
Air Show: Fri.–Sun., Oct. 8–10, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Featuring the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, the Parade of Ships, ship tours, K-9 heroes, music, and more. Visit website for details or download app. *Mostly free; Marina Green premium airshow seating \$55–\$325.* 415-306-0911, fleetweeksf.org
PHOTO: FACE BOOK.COM/FLEETWEEKSF

22nd Annual Litquake Festival
Tue.–Sun., Oct. 7–23
Various Bay Area venues & online
Join 300 authors at 80 literary events including author conversations, discussion panels, and more. Visit website for schedule/ticket info. *Mostly free,* 415-440-4177, litquake.org

153rd Italian Heritage Parade
Sunday, Oct. 10, 12:30 p.m.
Fisherman's Wharf (Jefferson & Stockton Sts.) to Washington Square
This longest continuously running Italian Heritage Parade in the U.S. will feature Grand Marshall Graziano Cerchiai, owner of S.F.'s famous Bimbo's 365 Club; music; performances; floats; and more. *Free,* 415-703-9888, sfitalianheritage.org

HALLOWEEN

S.F. Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Wed.–Sun. (excluding Tue., Oct. 5) through Oct. 31, 7 p.m.
Starts: Healing Arts Center (1801 Bush St.)
Visit some of S.F.'s most notorious haunted places, hear thrilling stories based on documented research — and maybe even see a ghost. \$30, 415-754-8209, sfghosthunt.com

BATS Improv: The (Improvized) Twilight Zone
Saturdays, Oct. 2–30, 8 p.m.
Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center
The horror and humor never stop when the company creates *Twilight Zone* episodes based on mind-bending audience suggestions. \$20 (door), 415-474-6776, improv.org



21st Annual Halloween Hoopla

Saturday, Oct. 30, noon– 2 p.m.
Children's Garden, Yerba Buena Gardens
Enjoy fun performances and activities for kids under 10 and their families, concluding with a costume parade open to all kids. *Free,* 415-543-1718, ybgfestival.org

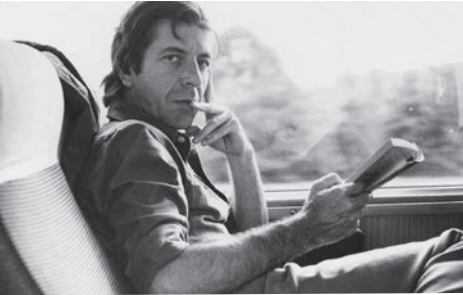
COMMUNITY CORNER

Sunday Streets | Phoenix Day
Sunday, Oct. 17, noon–5 p.m.
Citywide
S.F.'s beloved Sunday Streets returns with a bigger than ever program, featuring historic routes, pop-ups, 100-plus free block party

permits for neighbors citywide, and more. Visit website for locations and additional information. *Free,* sundaystreetssf.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Asian Art Museum
Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thursday 1–8 p.m.
200 Larkin St.
On view is “Zheng Chongbin: I Look for the Sky,” where Bay Area artist Zheng Chongbin's uses transparency and light in site-specific installations to explore how ephemeral changes can alter our perception of place; and more. \$15–\$25, 415-581-3500, asianart.org



Contemporary Jewish Museum

Thu.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
736 Mission St.
On view through Feb. 13, 2022 is “Experience Leonard Cohen,” a series of four solo exhibitions that present immersive and intimate artworks by contemporary artists George Fok, Judy Chicago, Candice Breitz, and Marshall Trammell, all inspired by the life and work of Leonard Cohen; and more. Timed ticketing. *Free (first weekends of the month)–\$16,* 415-655-7800, thecjm.org
PHOTO: COURTESY OLD IDEAS LLC

de Young Museum
Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park
On view through Jan. 9, 2022 is “Judy Chicago: A Retrospective,” which celebrates the pioneering feminist artist; 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
Through Oct. 10 is “Iliazd: Publishing as an Art Form,” which looks at the work of this Russian Modernist whose collaborators included Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Alberto Giacometti, Max Ernst, and Joan Miró; and more. \$15, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

SFMOMA
Monday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 1–8 p.m.; Fri.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
151 Third St.
On view through Jan. 17, 2022 is “Joan Mitchell,” a retrospective featuring over 80 distinguished works spanning over three decades by the abstract expressionist; and more. \$25, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

ART & CULTURE

Immersive Van Gogh
Daily through Nov. 7, 9 a.m.–10 p.m.
SNV West San Francisco (10 Van Ness Ave.)
Get lost in 300,000 cubic feet of flawless projections animating Vincent van Gogh's oeuvre in moving images that highlight brushstrokes, detail, and color from his sunny landscapes and night scenes to his portraits and still-life paintings. \$40 & \$50, vangoghhsf.com

S.F. Wide-Open Studios
Sat.–Sun., Oct 12–13 through Nov. 21, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Various S.F. locations
Explore the studios of 800 local artists and collect their works in painting, ceramics, photography, printmaking, sculpture, jewelry, glass, and other media. Visit website for locations. *Free,* 415-861-9838, artspan.org

S.F. Playhouse | The Great Khan
Wed.–Sun., Oct. 13–31
450 Post St. (in the Kensington Park hotel)
After Jayden saves Ant from a sexual assault, he and his mother are forced to move to keep him safe from the boys who attacked Ant. Both teens are trying to figure out how to define themselves in a culture that insists on seeing them as dangerous. And then Genghis Khan shows up. \$30–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

MUSIC: CLASSICAL

S.F. Opera: Fidelio
Various days, Oct. 14–30
War Memorial Opera House
Disguised as a guard, a woman infiltrates a nightmarish detention center to unravel the mystery of her activist-husband's disappearance in this new production of Beethoven's only opera. \$26–\$360, 415-864-3330, sfopera.com

S.F. Symphony | Exotic Birds: Debussy, Messiaen & Saariaho
Monday, Oct. 21
Davies Symphony Hall
The magic of the natural world is at the heart of this program featuring Claude Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and *La Mer*, which is anchored by two works inspired by the majesty of birds: Olivier Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques* and Kaija Saariaho's *Aile du songe*. \$20–\$125, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY

Pablo Milanés: Dias De Luz tour
Saturday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre (3301 Lyon St.)
This Cuban musician is one of the most prominent composers, singers, and guitarists of the author song (trova) in the Spanish language, performing a diversity of Cuban and American music. \$49–\$99, palaceoffinearts.org



S.F. Jazz | Branford Marsalis

Thu.–Sun., Oct. 21–24
S.F. Jazz Center (201 Franklin St.).
The eldest musical sibling in jazz's most famous contemporary clan, the 2011 NEA Jazz Master, and three-time Grammy winner, returns with his talented quartet. \$45–\$115, 860-920-5299, sfjazz.org
PHOTO: SFJAZZ.ORG

Del Sol Quartet & Volti | Angel Island: Oratorio for Voices and Strings
Friday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m.
Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave.)
Inspired by the poems carved into the walls at the detention center at Angel Island Immigration Station during the Chinese Exclusion Act years, this new work takes a deep look at discrimination and immigration issues. \$35–\$100, 415-392-4400, presidiotheatre.org

Eagles: Hotel California Tour
Fri.–Sat., Oct. 22–23, 8 p.m.
Chase Center
Widely regarded as one of the greatest bands in the history of recorded music, the band will play every cut from their classic album as well as a set of their greatest hits. \$129–\$189, 800-653-8000, chasecenter.com

James Taylor & His All-Star Band with special guest Jackson Browne
Friday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Chase Center
If you grew up with “Sweet Baby James” and “The Pretender” you won't want to miss this dose of nostalgia the world needs right now. \$70, 800-653-8000, chasecenter.com

DANCE

ODC Theater | 2021 Fall Season
Daily, Oct. 2–Nov. 7
ODC Theater (3153 17th St.) & on demand

Highlights include works originally slated for premiere last year, including *Epoch*, a 12-hour event created by Christy Funsch for a cast of 12 dancers, and more. \$10–\$75, 415-392-4400, ocd.dance

18th Annual S.F. Trolley Dances
Sat.–Sun., Oct. 16–17, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 1:15 p.m.
Rikki Streicher Field (19th and Diamond Sts.) to East Cut (Natoma Cabana, 90 Natoma St.) & online
Enjoy artists and ensembles who will perform a variety of dance styles at specific sites along the T, K, L, M, and F Muni Metro lines. Visit website for details. *Free with Muni fare,* 415-226-1139, epiphanydance.org

NIGHTLIFE

Dear San Francisco: A High-Flying Love Story
Wed.–Sun. through Dec. 30
Club Fugazi (678 Green St.)
This intimate and immersive production by The 7 Fingers, one of the world's leading contemporary circus arts companies, pays homage to the beauty, characters, and resilience of our City by the Bay through acrobatics, choreography, spoken word, video projections, shadow play, and original music. \$25–\$89, 415-273-0600, clubfugazisf.com

Keyon Harrold: Moments of Miles
Thursday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Black Cat (400 Eddy St.)
This tribute to Miles Davis will showcase music from the award-winning film *Miles Ahead* featuring the Grammy Award-winning trumpeter's Grammy performance. \$10–\$35, 415-358-1999, blackcatsf.com

LECTURES

John Lithgow: A Confederacy of Dumptys
Thursday, Oct. 7, 12:30 p.m.
Live stream
Join the award-winning actor, author, and illustrator as he presents the stories of both long-forgotten figures and the bad actors of today in his newest collection of satirical poems and illustrations, *American Scoundrels: Portraits of American Scoundrels in Verse*. \$15 & \$23, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.or

Adam Schiff
Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Sydney Goldstein Theater (275 Hayes St.)
Congressman Schiff, in conversation with Daniel Goldman, discusses his new book, *Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could*, which offers an inside account of American democracy in its darkest hour, and a warning that the forces of autocracy unleashed by Trump remain as potent as ever. \$36 & \$49, 415-392-4400, cityarts.net

POTABLES & EDIBLES

18th Annual Wine & Spirits Top 100 Tasting
Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
City View at Metreon (135 Fourth St.)
Taste acclaimed wines from the top 100 wineries paired with delicious bites and meet winemakers from some of the greatest vineyards in the world. \$145 & \$195, 415-255-7736 ext. 2, wineandspiritsmagazine.com

Eat Drink S.F.
Daily, Oct. 15–24
Various S.F. restaurants & neighborhoods
Enjoy prix-fixe menus from participating restaurants during Restaurant Week, ticketed dining events, and Neighborhood Nights. Visit website for details and pricing. eat-drink-sf.com.

SPORTS & HEALTH

Yoga on the Labyrinth
Tuesdays, ongoing, 6:15–7:30 p.m.
Grace Cathedral
Join yoga teacher Darren Main for this weekly class surrounded by the awe-inspiring architecture of Grace Cathedral and set to live music from world-renowned musicians. Bring a mat, water, and dress in layers. Advanced registration required. \$15–\$50, 415-749-6300, gracecathedral.org

Visit marinatimes.com for additional calendar events.

Email: calendar@marinatimes.com

Communicating with your teen

BY LIZ FARRELL

I USED TO THINK THE TODDLER YEARS were hard until we had teenagers. Toddler years are taxing physically, but the teen years can be challenging in a different way. Teens are finally back in school, in person, and life for them is returning to normal. My daughter attended her first high school football game, and it almost brought tears to my eyes to see the student section where there were cheers, smiles, and laughter for hours. This return to normal also has shed light on just how complicated our teens and their lives can be. They are balancing school, extracurriculars, family, and a social schedule much different from the last 18 months, and with continued concerns about Covid and social media, it's a whole new realm.

Our teens need us now more than ever, but how do we strengthen a relationship when most days it feels like we are the last ones they want to talk to or be with? Communication is the key to your relationship, and although this is a daily work in progress at our house, here are some helpful tips:

TIMING

Finding time to connect with your teens can be challenging, especially if it seems like they are always in their room with the door closed. It can be an adjustment for parents who may have been the go-to for stories about their day, friend problems, or homework questions to have that role

suddenly shift to their friend group. This is normal, albeit difficult.

Try to carve out time when you notice they are open to talking. We have found that to be in the car, because we spend a lot of time there. If we are both in the front seat it also helps with those difficult conversations when they don't have to make eye contact.

Timing is also about being available, and often it is not on our time schedule. I have learned that when one of my teens wants to talk or tell me something, I should drop everything and become available because the opportunity may not come again.

Ideally, you also want to time tough conversations when both you and your teens are calm. Try not to get emotional or stoop to their level if they are being rude or passive aggressive. I have a mantra I repeat in my head during those moments, *Do not engage*. This is a reminder to stay calm and try to model good communication skills. This doesn't always happen, but it is a good goal.

LISTEN

It can be our first inclination to want to share all our advice and wisdom with our teens. This can be helpful especially in demonstrating we weren't perfect and made mistakes, but the most powerful tool for this age group is to listen more than we talk. Listen with understanding and without judgment, and try to stay open and interested.

Another trap parents fall into after listening is we to try to solve their problems.



Learn to listen more than you speak with your teenager. PHOTO: FIZKES

Try to resist that urge. Give them the opportunity to solve their own problem or help them come up with ideas, and to understand some of their decisions will have consequences. We do them a huge disservice when we are constantly trying to save or rescue them from their decisions or mistakes. As painful as this can be to watch, it is part of growing up and how they learn to survive as adults in the world.

TRUST

The key to good communication is trust, which goes both ways. This is especially true when building bonds with our teens. We recently learned our daughter lied to us about her plans, and when confronted and asked why, she said she didn't think we would let her go. We shared that she didn't give us a chance, and we would always prefer having an open dialogue as opposed to sneaking around.

There will be a lot of things we would rather our teens not do, so establishing trust and open communication is so important. Teens want to be taken seriously, so look for ways to show that you trust them. One way is by asking for a favor or letting them do something, which shows you rely on them and trust them to do it.

I fully acknowledge these tips are much easier to write than to implement, but don't give up — you can do this! Parenting teens is hard, so having a good, trusting relationship is more important than ever. Take a deep breath, and put yourselves in their shoes. They aren't perfect, and they will make mistakes; our job is to help guide them and to constantly reassure them that we will be there for them through their triumphs and their stumbles.

Email: liz@marinatimes.com



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Multifamily rentals are tied to office leasing, and that's lagging in the city.
PHOTO: ASCHAEFFER/FREEIMAGES.COM

The more, the merrier

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

WE WANTED TO KNOW HOW multiunit properties are faring in light of the pandemic and eviction restrictions. We spoke recently with real estate broker Terrence Jones and found his answers informative, remarkably candid, and probably more than a bit provocative. His comments don't necessarily reflect our views, but they are worth hearing.

Jones and Isabelle Salvadori — the Jones Team — specialize in the evaluation, sale, purchase, and tax-deferred exchange of apartment and mixed-use buildings in the Bay Area, with a focus on the city of San Francisco.

How is the multiunit market shaping up so far in September, and what do you see happening in the coming months?

Jones: We have seen more properties come on the market in the last 30 days than we had seen in any given month since the pandemic hit in March 2020. There is a lag of a few months for people thinking about selling and listing properties for sale. So what we are experiencing now is the expected bounce back from Covid optimism that was more evident in the early summer. It is still a bit too soon to tell if the rise in the number of properties over five units on the market will result in lower prices in actual sales.

What's going on right now that everyone is talking about?

Jones: The delta variant is the big deal. *The Wall Street Journal* recently wrote about the New York City office market bouncing back faster than the San Francisco office market. The multifamily market needs tenants renting units. These tenants usually come from the employed office dwellers in San Francisco companies. If offices are not opening as fast as expected due to delta, then our local market recovery will take longer.

One other issue is the proposed Biden administration redrafting of the 1031 exchange laws. This could potentially hinder the sales of multifamily properties throughout America. If small mom-and-pop owners cannot trade up to larger properties any longer due to modifications in the 1031 exchange laws, then the only buyers will be big institutions like CalPERS, OhioSTERS, and Prudential Insurance.

What do you see going on in the market that no one is talking about?

Jones: It is surprising how little the local media is talking about how bad the city's quality of life is right now. A recent *Economist* article called out many of the city's

issues and noted how the city government is dysfunctional and corrupt with a bloated \$13 billion budget. Hopefully the DA recall, school board recall, and bribery charges brought against city officials will put some fire under the city's electeds to swing back toward some sense of saving the city.

One landlord we talked to indicated that tenants in San Francisco have been able to pay rent for the most part throughout the pandemic, whereas tenants in outlying counties have not always done so. Have you seen this same thing?

Jones: It is hard to tell on this. The San Francisco political machine is heavily weighted in favor of tenant's rights. I actually think we may have seen more tenants not paying rent in San Francisco, because the government and tenant industrial complex is so strong here.

Has the profile of multiunit buyers in San Francisco changed much over the past two years?

Jones: We have seen an influx of international buyers recently come to the city, seeking bargains. Unfortunately for them, the bargains have not really materialized, but nevertheless this has added demand pressure to the buying pool. The sales of larger buildings over 16 units have been dominated by a handful of known local investor groups for the past 10 years. These buyers have been in the market and have picked up well-priced properties throughout the pandemic, but at a slower pace than prepandemic levels.

Sadly, the Tenderloin — with its open-air drug markets, death, and crime — has been expanding up the hill toward Union Square. There are no buyers for properties in the Tenderloin due to the mayhem, and the city's hotels are not happy about the Diva Hotel being turned into a homeless hotel right across the street from the theater that once drew so many travelers to our town.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Jones: The weather is better here in San Francisco than anywhere else in the world. Carl, the fog machine, keeps the fires at bay throughout the summer, even when it is so awfully hot and potentially smoky in the valley. Our winter weather is mild, and there is never a need to shovel snow. Our proximity to the center of the [Venture Capital] world and Bay Area universities draws people from everywhere. San Francisco will bounce back, but the pace depends on if and when the corruption "flush" happens in the city's government.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

Outreach Advertisements October 2021

It's REDISTRICTING time again!

Every ten years the 11 Districts of San Francisco are reconsidered and redrawn by the Redistricting Task Force in response to the decennial census data collected. We need your input as the Task Force convenes the community to collect your opinions, ideas, and concerns around your District lines and the impacts to our communities. Visit www.sf.gov/public-body/2020-census-redistricting-task-force Contact the Clerk, John Carroll, at (415) 554-4445 or john.carroll@sfgov.org for more info.

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The **Department of Child Support Services** helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. We are available to assist you by phone during this time of COVID-19 public health emergency. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit us online at www.sfgov.org/dcsc to learn how we can help you.

VACANCIES AVAILABLE!

The Assessment Appeals Board resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board 1 — one; Board 2 — four; and Board 3 — five. Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony, and renders its decision. To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For additional Board or Commission vacancies please visit the **Board of Supervisors** Vacancy page: sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces and Apply to serve on an Advisory Body. Before long you will be advising the Board and the Mayor on City policy!

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office is proud to serve our community. Here are just some examples of ways our once is advancing public safety:

- Under DA Chesa Boudin, we've prosecuted over 7,000 new criminal cases.
- We've filed a historic civil prosecution against manufacturers of ghost guns--untraceable weapons flooding our streets and connected to nearly half of San Francisco's gun homicides.
- We've formed new partnerships to provide free housing and transportation for domestic violence victims during the pandemic.
- We've dedicated a hate crimes prosecutor and provided numerous hate crime trainings.
- We've partnered with local universities to improve reporting and investigation of campus sexual violence.
- We're protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation through creating an Economic Crimes Against Workers Unit.
- We've expanded our Victim Service Division to include Property Crime Victim Advocates and Intensive Care Victim Advocates.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.sfdistrictattorney.org/>.

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