



New year resolutions

John Zipperer says the mayor and governor appear resolved to face some big controversies head-on. p. 5
Erin Maxwell is resolved to get you into a theater for the latest Spider-Man film. p. 9
Liz Farrell is resolved to make resolutions a family matter. p. 10



January Events

The city packs a lot into one month, including Sketchfest, the Edwardian Ball, the Zinfandel Experience, and more. p. 8

MARINATIMES.COM : CELEBRATING OUR 38TH YEAR : VOLUME 38 : ISSUE 1 : JANUARY 2022



Cooper Hoffman and Alana Haim in *Licorice Pizza*. PHOTO: COURTESY OF METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES INC.

Corralling the best movies of 2021

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

IF ACTION-HEAVY BLOCKBUSTERS are all that's keeping theaters on life support, it's a good thing to also have art houses, video-on-demand, and streaming services providing access to well-made lower-profile dramas and comedies, whether studio

fare, independent productions, or foreign films. And 2021 delivered. Here, in alphabetical order, is a list of seven of my 10 favorite English-language narrative movies of the past year. For the additional three, in addition to the best foreign-language movies, more favorites, and documentary picks, visit [marinatimes.com](https://www.marinatimes.com).

'BELFAST'

Evoking such memoir-infused child's-eye-view movies as John Boorman's *Hope and Glory*, screenwriter, director, and decorated actor Kenneth Branagh plumbs his youth in the strife-torn Northern Irish town of Belfast for this loving movie shot

SNYDER, continued on 7

REYNOLDS RAP : Opinion

'Hanako loved San Francisco'

On the one-year anniversary of her daughter's tragic death, Hiroko Abe waits for justice — and hopes for change

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

WHEN HIROKO ABE GOT A ZOOM CALL FROM San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, she found herself in a virtual room full of strangers speaking a language she didn't understand. From her home in Japan, Abe struggled to comprehend the conversation about what had happened on New Year's Eve 2020, when her 27-year-old daughter Hanako was killed in a crosswalk, along with another woman, 60-year-old Elizabeth Platt, at Second and Mission Streets. The district attorney's office had provided a translator incapable of translating from English to Japanese. "I had a break in the middle of the Zoom. I couldn't understand what was happening," Abe said. "Meanwhile, after receiving an explanation from Hanako's friend in San Francisco, I finally understood the situation. I learned that many mistakes led to Hanako's death."

Those mistakes made national news not only because the story was tragic, but also because it was completely

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

GUEST COLUMN : Opinion

For the sake of San Francisco

Why the redistricting failure of 2010 cannot be repeated

BY DAPHNE ALDEN, LANIER COLES, ALICIA ENGSTROM, NICK PODELL, CHELSEA WAITE, AND MONTGOMERY WOODS

ONCE A DECADE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT conducts a nationwide census to count all people living in the United States. After the census is done, all levels of government, from city and county to state, go through the process of redrawing electoral boundaries, known as redistricting, to ensure that voting districts are reflective of population changes recorded in the latest census report and legal requirements are met. Specifically, population numbers need to be within a 1 percent range of variance of each other; however, up to a 5 percent variance is allowed when it's needed to keep communities of interest intact; and districts need to be compact, rather than looking like a "salamander," which is the root word of the term "gerrymandering."

The process of redistricting in San Francisco is occurring right now using 2020 census data to redraw supervisorial lines across the city's 11 districts. So what should you be paying attention to when it comes to the current redistricting process and the impact on District 2?

GUEST COLUMN, continued on 2

ART WORLD : Ground-based murals



Lawrence Weiner's ground-based murals encourage play, interaction, and learning. PHOTO: CHARLES VILLYARD, COURTESY FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Remembering Lawrence Weiner via 'Out of Sight' outdoor art space

BY SHARON ANDERSON

FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & Culture, in the fall of 2021, set a goal to position art outside, creating a publicly shared art space. As an accessible resource to the community, the installations include "Out

of Sight" by the celebrated artist Lawrence Weiner, which will be on view through the end of January.

EXPLORING ART IN UNEXPECTED, EVERYDAY PLACES

Multilingual hopscotch-like medallions or marelles (French for hop-

scotch) can be seen on the sidewalk across the city's waterfront at Fort Mason and the Exploratorium and in the Dogpatch neighborhood at the Minnesota Street Project. This ground-based work combines wit and whimsy in a game format, encouraging play and interaction along with learning.

"Out of Sight" references the "gamification" of learning while the viewer interacts with the marelles in English, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. "A person coming in with whatever situation they find themselves in, the minute they have any thoughts about themselves going *From Here to There*, they will be able to stand in front of the marelle and realize they first must imagine themselves doing it, that's assuming a position," said Weiner.

This installation has proven to be a highly adaptable sculpture that has merged with different institutions, different spaces, distinct sites, and specific language communities, and has been shown in public spaces including the Chicago Park District; the downtown shopping district of Kortrijk, Belgium; the Pérez Art Museum in Miami; and the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia.

ART WORLD, continued on 6

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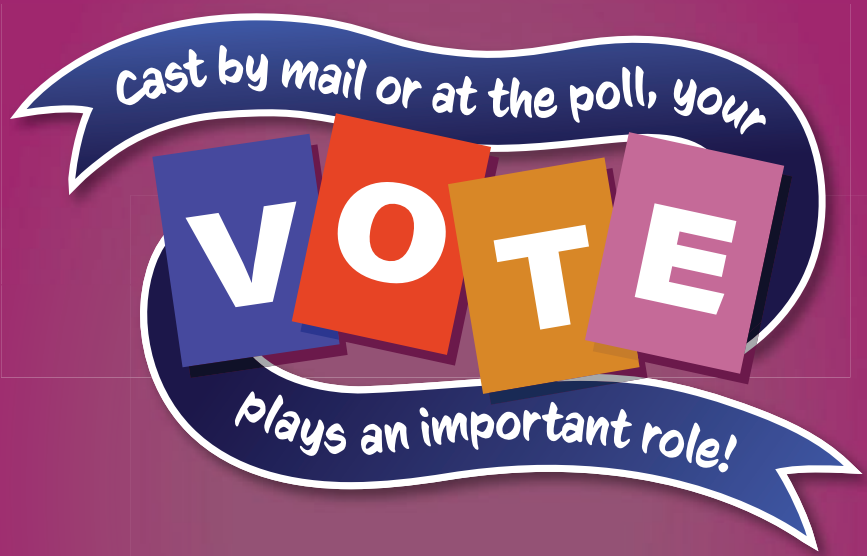


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Guest Column continued from cover

To put it bluntly, we need to anticipate major changes in District 2 and the city as a whole.

Here's why: Some districts are now too big and overpopulated. San Francisco's population rose by 8.5 percent to 873,965 between 2010 and 2020. The city saw a dramatic change in population in District 6 with the growth of high rises in the now-called "East Cut" neighborhood, and in Mission Bay in District 10. District 6 is +30.35 percent from deviation, thus needing to shrink by more than 25 percent to even be legal; and District 10 is +8.65 percent from deviation.

Additionally, some districts are too small and need more people in them. For example, District 1 is -8.31 percent from deviation, District 3 is -8.78 percent from deviation, and District 4 is -8.39 percent from deviation. The population growth in those neighborhoods will require, by law, that the footprint of their districts shrink.

The districts bordering District 6 and District 10 will be impacted as well. Those districts will need to expand their boundaries to accommodate for the shrinking of District 6 and District 10. As a result, every district in the city will have to shift eastwards. If this sounds dramatic, that's because it is.

RIGHTING A WRONG

When it all comes down to it, we are in this situation because the 2010 Redistricting Task Force got it wrong 10 years ago.

Population increases in District 6 and District 10 were anticipated back in 2010. Rincon Hill and the Infinity Towers were already built, and the pipeline of new high-rises was already in the books. Yet, the lines drawn in 2010 still had District 6 and District 10 at maximum legal capacity with those districts at the top 5 percent of their variance bandwidth. Ten years ago, everyone knew that real estate development in District 6 would increase the population, yet the district was designed irresponsibly at the high end of its legal variance band.

The risk now is continued gerrymandering.

We can't afford another decade of districts established to consolidate political power.

We, the residents of San Francisco's District 2, need to hold the Redistricting Task Force accountable and ensure that they adjust district lines to be fair and balanced.

We can't afford another decade of districts established to consolidate political power — everyone who lives in San Francisco should have a vote of equal value to their neighbor.

The California Fair Maps Act (AB 849), passed in 2019, set forth a redistricting process that requires public input on those decisions. It also established a set of criteria for redrawing district maps, which include equal population per district, adherence to the federal Voting Rights Act, and

regard for "communities of interest," among other factors.

Residents of District 2 need to be aware that our district is probably going to change in a significant way in the redistricting. Districts need to be fair, legal, and give every voting district equal representation. We believe District 2 was intentionally/illegally "stacked" with politically moderate voters in 2010 by adding Sea Cliff, which logically should be in District 1.

There will be fearmongering of proposed redistricting maps, claiming that massive changes are wrong. The truth is that massive adjustments need to be made to correct the current illegal maps. Districts are so proportionally lopsided that right now, a vote in District 1 is worth 42 percent more than a vote in District 6.

This goes against every person's right to fair and equal representation.

GET INVOLVED

What can you do to get more involved? Voice your opinions and participate in Redistricting Task Force Meetings. Upcoming meetings, agenda items, and public call-in numbers can be found at sf.gov/public-body/2020-census-redistricting-task-force. You can email comments to the RTF at rtdtf@sfgov.org.

Daphne Alden, Lanier Coles, Alicia Engstrom, Nick Podell, Chelsea Waite, and Montgomery Woods are a collection of concerned constituents from District 2Unite; you can sign up for their newsletter at forms.gle/5JM1veCP9zKfY8L37

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More speed, ballot measures, and money for San Francisco

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

PANDEMIC DECONGESTION

If it felt like you were able to get around the city a bit easier last year than in previous years, here's some data to back you up. Automobile speeds on city streets increased an average of 33–36 percent, reversing a trend of declining speeds over the past decade, according to a report in December from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

In other findings, public transit speeds also increased, up from the last monitoring cycle in 2019 between 15 and 24 percent. The increased speeds were attributed to a combination of new transit measures in the city and the reduction in overall traffic due to the pandemic, which saw business closures and thousands of locals working from home. The impact was even more visible in the count of transit ridership, which plunged 90 percent.

Fewer people on the streets in any mode of transportation also drove a drop in pedestrian and cyclist injuries and deaths. Citing 2020, the most recent year for which data are available, SFCTA reported that “Pedestrian and bicycle injury collisions dropped a collective 33 percent and fatalities dropped a collective 20 percent. However, non-motorized trips declined even more significantly, with pedestrian volumes declining about 70 percent, and bicycle volumes dropping up to 50 percent. This troubling trend suggests that the rate of pedestrian and bicycle collisions may have increased during the pandemic, potentially due to faster vehicle speeds.”

Fewer people using transportation led to a drop in pedestrian injuries and deaths.

BALLOT MEASURES ADDRESS MUNI, SCHOOL BOARD, HOUSING

The June 2022 election could include a number of local ballot measures, addressing matters such as the city's controversial school board, Muni service, and affordable housing.

Perhaps the one likely to garner the most attention is the Children First measure, announced by Mayor Breed in mid-December. Though part of the measure will streamline the delivery of funding and services aimed at children and youth, the meat of the measure focuses on the School Board. Children First would require the board to meet goals in fiscal oversight, separation of duties, community engagement, governance standards, strategy, and professional development. The School Board would need to report on its compliance each year to the mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The measure requires a majority of supervisors to vote by February 2022 to place it on the June ballot.

Breed also introduced a \$400 million Muni Reliability and Street Safety Bond, which needs eight supervisors to place it on the ballot and then a two-thirds approval by voters. Six supervisor votes are needed to place the Affordable Homes Now measure on the ballot; this measure would streamline approval for new housing projects of at least 25 units that are either 100 percent permanently affordable or with 15 percent more units that are permanently affordable than required by the city.

BUDGET SURPLUS COMING?

The city's next two-year budget should avoid a deficit for the first time in 20 years, according to the mayor's office. Breed's office said it is projecting a surplus for fiscal years 2022–23 and 2023–24, due to improved revenue, record returns for the city's pension system, and constraint of cost growth during the pandemic. The combined surplus is estimated to be \$108 million; however, San Francisco “still has a projected deficit in years three and four of the long-term financial projection,” according to an announcement from the mayor.

The budget will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors by June 1, 2022; the supervisors then need to send a balanced budget back for Breed to sign by August 1, 2022.

BRIEFLY NOTED

The county Transportation Authority Board approved more than \$5.8 million for the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency's **Vision Zero Quick-Build Program**. The money will go for quick fixes such as painted safety zones, transit boarding islands, protected bike lanes, and parking and loading changes. One of the quick builds will take place on Franklin Street between Broadway and Lombard . . . No, you weren't hallucinating

when you watched *The Matrix Resurrections*; the character of **Calliope** was indeed played by Mayor London Breed . . . Speaking of whom, Breed's **Tenderloin Emergency Intervention Plan** was

approved by the Board of Supervisors in late December, featuring targeted enforcement and the waiving of a number of rules and laws so the city can open a “linkage site” where people with substance abuse problems can receive health services and get off the street, and hire 200 behavioral health clinicians, among other actions. The emergency will last for only 90 days.

FACTS AND FIGURES

It's Vegas, Baby!: Las Vegas ranked number 1 on WalletHub's “2021's Most Sinful Cities in America” list . . . **52:** San Francisco's ranking on the Sinful Cities list . . . **5:** ranking of San Francisco among cities with the “most excessive drinking” on WalletHub's list, following Milwaukee, Wis.; Denver, Colo.; Lincoln, Neb.; and Madison, Wis. . . . **\$4.5 billion:** amount of federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that will be invested in Bay Area rail, highway and public transit . . . **Still number 1:** San Francisco ranks as the most expensive U.S. city for apartment rentals, according to EachNight.com; the least expensive city is Wichita, Kan., where a mere \$525 can snag you a one bedroom unit . . . **Oops:** After the San Francisco 49ers lost 20–17 to Tennessee in late December, 49ers General Manager John Lynch liked a tweet that said they should “Leave Jimmy in Nashville.” Lynch said he “accidentally and unknowingly” liked the tweet slamming his team's quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo . . . **101:** age at which artist Wayne Thiebaud, the “dean of California painters” known for his San Francisco landscapes, died.

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

avoidable. The suspect, 45-year-old Troy McAlister, was on parole for robbery and was fleeing a burglary in a stolen car just prior to the fatal hit-and-run. Since being paroled in March 2020, he had been arrested five times for crimes, including burglary, possession of burglary tools, vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, possession of narcotics for sale, possession of suspected methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and, of course, parole violations.

On Nov. 6, 2020, San Francisco State University Police arrested McAlister for breaking into a vehicle and, when they checked his record, were so alarmed they included a note in their report for the district attorney: “This suspect is dangerous. He has 73 felonies and 34 misdemeanors in S.F. alone.”

On Dec. 20, 2020, just 10 days before the hit-and-run that killed Hanako and Elizabeth, police once again arrested McAlister. As with the previous incidents, no new charges were filed. For the five arrests, McAlister served a combined 11 days in jail.

BOUDIN BROKERS A DEAL

As a candidate, Chesa Boudin, a former public defender who campaigned on reforming the justice system and holding police officers accountable, promised not to use sentencing enhancements such as gang affiliation or prior strikes.

In March 2020, just three months into his term as district attorney, Boudin brokered a plea deal for McAlister, sentencing him to time served — just five years in County Jail spent awaiting trial on a 2015 robbery case. During that 2015 case, the public defender’s office wanted McAlister released to the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. The district attorney’s office (then helmed by the very progressive George Gascón) refused, noting McAlister was in possession of methamphetamine and committed a robbery as well as battery on a police officer, all while on parole; had “a history of violent felony convictions dating back to 1995,” and, with six prison priors, was already on his third strike, “making his exposure to State Prison 35 years to life.”

In September, I wrote a column for my newsletter, *Gotham by the Bay* (<https://susanreynolds.substack.com>), about



The Abe family at their home in Japan. PHOTO: COURTESY OF HIROKO ABE

McAlister’s troubled history, and the case against him resulting from the deaths of Hanako and Elizabeth, and Hanako’s mother, Hiroko, reached out to thank me, asking if we could speak over Zoom through Tasha Yorozu, an attorney who doesn’t represent her but who graciously volunteered to translate.

During a nearly two-hour Zoom call, Hiroko struggled to hold back tears, occasionally sobbing as she tried to catch her breath. “I’m sorry for crying so much,” she said. “Since Hanako’s death I’m crying less, but the heartache is still the same. And when I feel connected to somebody the tears just start flowing. I thank you for this opportunity, but I apologize for continuing to cry.” I told her there was no need to apologize. “When you love someone so deeply, I don’t think you ever stop crying,” I said.

PEAS IN A POD

Hanako grew up in Fukushima, Japan, where she and her family survived the 2011 Great Sendai earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. Her father Tsuneo worked for a local newspaper company and her mother Hiroko is a professional vocalist who teaches the singing of classic songs in the local community. Since Hiroko is a lung cancer survivor and is prone to illnesses, Hanako took on many responsibilities. Despite adversity, Hanako was accepted to the University of Central Arkansas, where she studied computer science. Upon graduation in 2018, she moved to San Francisco, where she got a job as a

data engineer for a real estate company. She regularly sent money home to help her family. In January 2019, her father almost died from aortic dissection, a rare tear in the inner layer of the aorta. Hanako went back to Japan to visit her father in the hospital. It was the last time he saw his daughter alive.

When I asked Hiroko what she wanted people to know about her daughter, she said, “Hanako loved San Francisco; she wanted to be there, she chose to be there, many odds were stacked against her, but she made it work. But the longer she was there, she noticed a lot of safety issues, especially toward the end of her life, and all she wanted to do was make San Francisco better and safer.”

Hiroko and Hanako spoke nearly every day. “We were just peas in a pod,” Hiroko said. “Hanako was always passionate about ‘What is my part to make this a safer, beautiful place?’ When I learned of her sudden death, all I could think of was what can I do to keep Hanako’s love of San Francisco alive; not just her legacy, but her pure love, alive. And it’s within that context of ‘what can I do to be a part of that process,’ as a mother, I feel I can carry out Hanako’s legacy, so that her death might bring good, is an impetus for change, and means something.”

She dabbed her eyes with a tissue, her voice breaking. “Hanako was very kind and thoughtful and was a self-starter. She thought of things, put them into action, and took ownership and agency of her life, even if the odds were stacked against her. We are a very financially modest family, so there are no opportunities that come our way, but Hanako went after those opportunities against many odds and found a way.”

One of Hanako’s passions was running. Shortly after her death, SF Runs founder Leonard Adler held a virtual “Run for Hanako Abe” event and has a tribute to her on the website until this day. “Hana loved running and had run with SF Runs previously ... Hana embodied resilience, bravery, and hope ...” it says in part.

Hiroko said she would like to find a nonprofit to partner with and sponsor an annual “Run for Hanako” where people can raise awareness and raise funds to make San Francisco “a safer, cleaner, better place.” In addition, she would like to start a scholarship for young people like Hanako, who persevere even though the odds are stacked against them. “The Hanako Abe GoFundMe is everyone’s money — so many people put money into that account. And I would like to use some of that money to do these things,” Hiroko said.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

When Hiroko was finally able to ask Boudin why he made the decision to free McAlister, ultimately leading to her daughter’s death, she was shocked by his answer. “He said, ‘Because he worked hard and got his GED in jail.’ I told him a GED has nothing to do with whether this person is rehabilitated and ready to be put back into society, and he didn’t respond. I also told him it appears that McAlister is a habitual drug user. In Japan, even after you serve your sentence there is mandatory rehabilitation you must go through before you are released into society. Boudin said in America it is the same; that once you are released you are put into a rehab system, and it looks like the people in charge of rehabilitation should have known the level of addiction that McAlister had and the rehab people erred in their judgment. But I asked him, ‘Didn’t you know how the system as a whole works? And knowing how the system works, why would you release him?’ Boudin just did a nonresponse response and apologized.”

Hiroko also knows, because of sovereign immunity, prosecutors can “pretty much admit to anything and apologize and know they’re safe.” Judges are at the top for immunity, then prosecutors,

while the police have qualified immunity. It is rare even for police to be held accountable, though that’s happening more often in egregious cases.

This past June, Hiroko hired an attorney to file a

'All I could think of was what can I do to keep Hanako's love of San Francisco alive?'

claim against the City and County of San Francisco. “If that claim is accepted, you usually negotiate either for damages or changes in policies and procedures, but they rejected the claim, so now the only option available is to sue the public body,” Hiroko said. She is aware that sovereign immunity is almost impossible to overcome, but she hopes there is an attorney willing to represent the family. Even if they lose the lawsuit, she believes it could be a catalyst for change in the justice system, “so it can be the type of San Francisco Hanako envisioned and often discussed.”

THREE STRIKES, BUT YOU'RE NOT OUT

Because Hiroko hasn’t heard from the district attorney’s office since shortly after Hanako’s death, I reached out to Boudin’s media spokesperson, Rachel Marshall, to ask whether McAlister was being charged with his previous three strikes. In typical fashion, Marshall didn’t respond, so Hiroko reached out to Sai Douang-sawang in victim services. Douangsawang responded that, according to Assistant District Attorney Ryan Kao, who is handling the case, only one of McAlister’s prior convictions is charged as a strike.

In other words, even after McAlister killed two innocent women while fleeing a crime in a stolen car, Boudin doesn’t want to charge the three previous strikes. This opens the door for a much more lenient sentence where McAlister could spend little, if any, time in prison.

Hiroko wants to be certain it goes above and beyond whatever sentence McAlister gets. “If McAlister isn’t showing remorse or trying to turn his life around, if he does get out, that isn’t good for him or for San Francisco. It is our responsibility as a society to make sure McAlister is rehabilitated before he is released.”

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



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board Pursuant to Admin. Code 2.81

Community Outreach Public Notice

January 2022

The Redistricting Task Force has begun!

Every ten years, the district boundaries of San Francisco’s Supervisorial districts are redrawn to ensure that each district maintains equal numbers of residents. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process.

The Task Force needs your input!

Tell the Task Force where to draw the San Francisco Supervisorial District lines!

As they convene, they will look to **YOU** and collect your opinions, ideas, and concerns around your District lines and the impacts to our communities.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **First Monday of Every Month at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Third Wednesday of Every Month at 6:00 p.m.**

Please watch the website Special Meetings.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Attend meetings Please see the website for specific directions.
<https://sf.gov/public-body/2020-census-redistricting-task-force>
- Submit comments by emailing rdtf@sfgov.org or calling (415) 554-4445
- Join the email list to receive updates issued by the Redistricting Task Force. To sign up, go to sfelections.org/rdtf
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SF.GOV/ES

Regaining their mojo

Newsom and Breed get early starts on their New Year’s resolutions

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I RECEIVED a press release from one of the candidates in the gubernatorial recall, in which she bragged about her performance. Most politicians brag; what made hers noteworthy is that she received 3 percent of the vote but nonetheless declared she “is the winner” because she spent less per vote than Gov. Gavin Newsom, who won by a massive landslide. Now you know why we give participation trophies to grade schoolers.

Post-recall, state voters were rewarded with a reenergized governor, and we got the heart-warming experience of having New York copy California. After Newsom announced he was preparing a bill that would let private citizens go after the manufacturers and distributors of assault weapons and ghost guns, New York Attorney General Letitia James said she would do the same thing in her state.

Observers are not sure if Newsom seriously thinks this is a good plan or if he’s doing it to troll Texas, which started the fad by deputizing citizens to go after anyone who “aids or abets” a Texas abortion after six weeks of pregnancy. Maybe both? On Dec. 11, he tweeted, “SCOTUS is letting private citizens in Texas sue to stop abortion?! If that’s the precedent then we’ll let Californians sue those who put ghost guns and assault weapons on our streets. If TX can ban abortion and endanger lives, CA can ban deadly weapons of war and save lives.”

The man sure can tweet.

MR. MOJO IS BACK

I’m reminded of a Molly Ivins quote from the 2000 election debacle: “These Gore people have no idea how to steal an election. What happened to the Democrats? They used to have some skill at this.”

They don’t need to steal elections, but they should fight for them tooth and nail, because the alternative is pretty grim these days.

Luckily, Newsom is acting like he’s found his groove, and some journalists are already mentioning him as presidential material. It’s premature to predict he’ll be the country’s first Generation X president, but for now Newsom is displaying some of the uncanny talents that took him from the Board of Supervisors to the governor’s mansion (which, um, he doesn’t live in).

We got a taste of those skills during the Trump years, when he showed himself able to thrust and parry fearlessly with the president on Twitter, but then also work with him to get the state some federal help for wildfire destruction.

But back to the deputizing-citizens-to-enforce-laws bit — it likely will get thrown out by the courts at some level, but it will still have served at least two purposes. First, Texas’s abortion gambit will also be a legal casualty. Second, it elevates the issue of gun violence.

MAYOR MAKES A STAND

As I noted here last month, Newsom also has come out forcefully against the well-publicized brazen acts of crime in



Governor Newsom is already generating talk of his succeeding President Biden in the White House. PHOTO: THE WHITE HOUSE

the state. A little later, Mayor London Breed joined in, announcing plans to crack down on the open-air drug dealing and usage in the Tenderloin, and to expand the ability of the police to use surveillance video.

“It’s time that the reign of criminals who are destroying our city — it is time for it to come to an end,” said Breed. “It comes to an end when we take the steps to be more aggressive with law enforcement ... and less tolerant of all the bulls--t that has destroyed our city.”

If she follows up with both tough actions and some of the reform-minded solutions popular on the left, she has the opportunity to build a bridge between police reformers and the people in the Tenderloin who want to be able to walk their kids to grade school without maneuvering through gang-run open-air drug dens.

Through gritted teeth, the Board of Supervisors approved Breed’s declaration of an emergency in the Tenderloin, but

only after making it achingly clear that they thought it was wrong to use police to make the neighborhood safer for the people living there.

We do need to recognize that the Tenderloin is not going to become a squeaky-clean neighborhood. Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you,” which was translated into the vernacular by Newsom years ago when he was mayor and was asked about the Tenderloin’s challenges. He said the neighborhood has a high concentration of the poor along with drug users and the mentally ill. Also, the services to help those residents are all nearby. Good luck finding a bunch of other supervisors to plead with the mayor’s office to move SROs and services for substance abuse into their districts.

Maybe next year the supervisors’ resolution can be to solve more problems and do less performative virtue-signaling.

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

Northside tales of guns and liquor

CHESTNUT STREET ITALIAN restaurant Ristobar said it was twice the victim of vandalism due to its support for police. General Manager Mattia Ballarini told KTVU News that the week before Christmas, someone caused damage to tables and chairs in its parklet and to the awning and wind panels; following that incident, he said a woman dressed all in black with her face covered came into the restaurant and threatened further action if a banner supporting the police was not removed. The next day, the banner was vandalized.

Below is a selection of recent incidents reported by the officers of Northern and Central Stations.

BATHROOM BREAK

Nov. 23, 9:24 a.m.
1000 block of Sutter Street

An employee unlocked the gate of the business, entered, and saw the suspect wandering around. The suspect asked to use the restroom and the employee let him use it.

Officers arrived on the scene and took the suspect into custody.

BAG MAN

Nov. 24, 11:14 a.m.
Van Ness Avenue and Northpoint Street

Officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle being tracked by OnStar. They located the vehicle and observed a subject possibly asleep in the driver’s seat. They ordered him out of the vehicle, but he did not comply and a brief struggle ensued. The subject had a bag strapped to his chest and he continued to clutch the bag as officers attempted to pull his hands away from the bag. The officers were eventually successful in removing the bag and placing the subject in handcuffs.

A loaded firearm was found inside the bag, and officers located narcotics paraphernalia inside the vehicle. The subject was booked at County Jail.

GHOSTBUSTERS

Nov. 26, 4:58 p.m.
Fisherman’s Wharf

Plainclothes officers conducting an auto burglary abatement operation received information about a vehicle involved in an

auto burglary. They began surveillance and eventually cornered the suspects in the vehicle, which caused the occupants to attempt to flee. But the officers took all occupants into custody, and they recovered a loaded ghost gun and stolen property from multiple auto burglaries.

MORE CAR TROUBLES

Nov. 26, 7:14 p.m.
Fisherman’s Wharf and The Embarcadero

Officers were informed that a vehicle suspected in multiple auto burglaries was in the area. The vehicle’s driver evaded the officers’ initial attempt to take the suspects into custody and fled at high speed onto The Embarcadero. The officers deployed spike strips to deflate the vehicle’s tires. A pursuit ensued, with the suspect driving recklessly to evade capture. Eventually, the three occupants of the vehicle attempted to flee on foot, but the officers captured all of them and recovered two firearms and numerous items possibly related to other auto burglaries. The suspects were booked into County Jail.

ANOTHER TYPE OF WEAPON

Dec. 1, 6 p.m.
Gough and Ellis Streets

Two people got into an argument that turned violent when one used a wooden post to strike the other. Officers arrived to find the victim bleeding from the head, and they detained the other person involved in the incident.

The officers located witnesses, video of the altercation, and the weapon. The victim was transported to a local hospital for serious but not life-threatening injuries. The subject was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and was later booked at County Jail.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Dec. 2, 12:45 p.m.
Location not provided

Officers arrived to a business on the report of a theft, and they found an employee and a witness holding down a subject. Video surveillance and additional investigation revealed that the subject stole several bottles of liquor and engaging in a physical struggle with store employees trying to

retrieve the liquor. No one was injured in the incident. Officers detained the subject without further incident.

FOUND FOOTAGE

Dec. 4, 3:30 p.m.
Hemlock and Larkin Streets

Officers investigating a shooting viewed mobile phone video that showed multiple people in an argument when one of them fired a gun at the ground near the feet of another person. No one was injured.

AGGRESSIVE SHOPPING

Dec. 5, 2:28 pm.
400 block of Broadway Street

The suspect entered a store and attempted to make a purchase but did not have enough money. The suspect began to grab items and jumped on top of the counter while standing in an aggressive stance over the victim. The suspect then jumped off the counter and fled with the items. Officers were able to take the suspect into custody.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com



Lawrence Weiner's "Out of Sight" at Fort Mason Center. PHOTO: CHARLES VILLYARD, COURTESY FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Art World

continued from cover

WORDS AS SCULPTURE

An American Conceptual artist from the South Bronx, Weiner died on Dec. 2, 2021. After traveling throughout the United States, Mexico, and Canada, Weiner found himself in the Bay Area, having his first exhibition in 1960 in Mill Valley, Calif. A National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, Weiner was a central figure in the development of Conceptual Art during the 1960s. His approach to art was brilliantly original and yet still relatable to the general public. The visual poetry of communication became the medium. Weiner maintained that “Art is the empir-

ical fact of the relationships of objects to objects in relation to human beings and not dependent upon historical precedent for either use or legitimacy.” Creating mostly word-based artworks presented as sculpture, Weiner replaced the traditional three-dimensional object with boundary-expanding ideas presented through language. In this way, viewers can source meanings and perspectives from their own experience.

OUT OF SIGHT BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

“Out of Sight,” during its time at Fort Mason, has profoundly distinguished itself from the installation’s past lives. Art, like language, lives on beyond its creator. We now find ourselves interpreting this installation knowing the artist has recent-

ly passed. Will this change the meaning of the hopscotch game when the public “jumps” into this conversation? What thoughts will arise when a visitor hops on a square challenging them to *Spit In The Wind, Hope For The Best?* Or the square *One Can Only Imagine The Powers That Be?* The timing of this installation and the power of the messages seem to take on a greater poignancy owing to Weiner’s recent death, an artist who challenged us to see the world differently via language as sculpture. What was set in motion changes its velocity. The interaction, and the dialogue, continues to evolve, as Weiner states in his hopscotch game, *Imagined Things Can Be Altered To Suit*.

Frank Smigel, FMCAC’s director of arts programming, notes that “Out of Sight”

“... shows artists continually reimagine where their work can live and what their work can do. In a city with a long history of public art, these artists place Fort Mason at the center of a larger conversation about what art out in the community can spark.”

“**Out of Sight**”: *Daily through Jan. 30 at Fort Mason (2 Marina Boulevard, entrance and Pier 2); daily through Jan. 9 at the Exploratorium (Pier 15, the Embarcadero, entry plaza); and through Jan. 22 at the Minnesota Street Project (1275 Minnesota Street, atrium), free, 415-345-7500, 415-243-0825*

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 CHRIS HSIANG

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **Call Us What We Carry: Poems**, by Amanda Gorman
2. **The Lincoln Highway: A Novel**, by Amor Towles
3. **Project Hail Mary**, by Andy Weir

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II**, by Daniel Brown
2. **Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience**, by Brené Brown
3. **The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story**, by Nikole Hannah-Jones

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **Dune**, by Frank Herbert
2. **The Anomaly**, by Hervé Le Tellier

3. **When We Cease to Understand the World**, by Benjamin Labut

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **Sapiens, A Graphic History: The Birth of Humankind**, by Yuval Harari
2. **Talking to Strangers**, by Malcolm Gladwell
3. **Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures**, by Merlin Sheldrake

CHILDREN’S BOOKS

1. **Daughter of the Deep**, by Rick Riordan
2. **Smart Cookie (The Food Group)**, by John Jory
3. **Cat Kid Comic Club: Perspectives**, by Dav Pilkey

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

All About Mel: My Remarkable Life in Show Business, by Mel Brooks

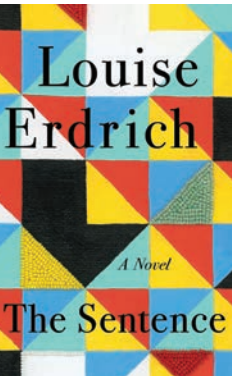
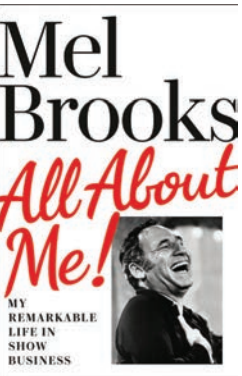
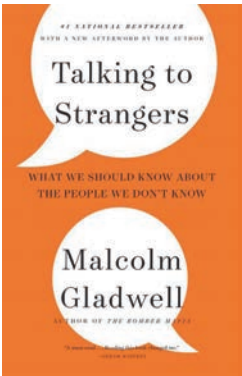
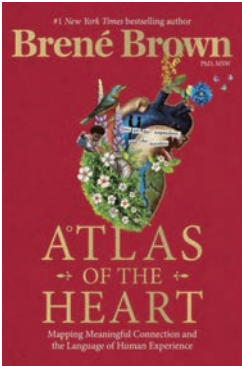
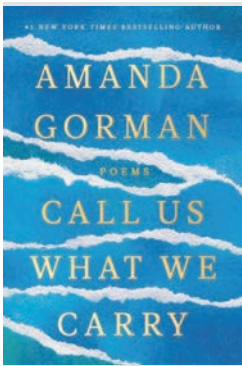
The legendary comedian, actor, and film producer-director traces his rise from a Depression-era kid in Brooklyn to his stellar film career, offering insight into the inspiration for his ideas and the many close friendships and collaborations behind his success.

Matrix: A Novel, by Lauren Groff

In the 12th century, former child crusader and “bastardess heir to the crown” of France and England, “poor illegitimate Marie from nowhere in Le Maine,” at age 17 arrives at the crumbling, dismal abbey where she will live, and which she will transform completely, during the many remaining years of her life.

The Sentence: A Novel, by Louise Erdrich

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to



November 2020 by the store’s most annoying customer.

Flora dies on All Souls’ Day, but she simply won’t leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading with murderous attention, must solve the mystery of this haunting

while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

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

primarily in black and white. As the ages-old clash between Ireland's Catholics and Protestants erupts in 9-year-old Buddy's mixed neighborhood in the late 1960s, his parents, the rest of his family, and their friends in the community try to survive the conflict while shielding the children. Although we've seen its like before, *Belfast* is a well-crafted, history-minded peek at decent people confronting turmoil and bigotry.

'LICORICE PIZZA'

Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson frequently sets his movies on his home turf of Los Angeles. That holds true for *Licorice Pizza*, a jubilant period piece crossed with a coming-of-age flick that plays out in the Los Angeles-adjacent San Fernando Valley during the early 1970s. At its heart is the relationship that develops between Gary (Cooper Hoffman, son of the late Philip Seymour Hoffman), a precocious would-be entrepreneur in his mid-teens and Alana (Alana Haim, singer-guitarist of the pop-rock group Haim), a directionless young woman in her mid-20s who becomes the object of Gary's ardor. *Licorice Pizza* is emotionally resonant, more than a little poignant, occasionally hilarious, and thoroughly fun to watch.

'THE LOST DAUGHTER'

Olivia Colman — adept at anything from situation comedy to police procedurals to costume drama — delivers a rich, complex and heartbreaking turn as a middle-aged university professor who, while taking a solo holiday to Greece, becomes fixated on a mother and daughter staying at the same resort. This haunting psychological study



Ed Harris and Olivia Colman in *The Lost Daughter*. PHOTO: YANNIS DRAKOULIDIS/NETFLIX

about the emotional costs of motherhood, adapted from the novel by Elena Ferrante, is an assured and resonant first feature directed and written by actress Maggie Gyllenhaal. It features Jessie Buckley as the professor in her younger days as well as Dakota Johnson and Ed Harris in crucial supporting roles.

'MASS'

As gut-wrenching as drama can be, *Mass* is a four-person master class in acting and a timely discourse on the lingering costs of senseless violence in our society. Two sets of parents meet in a church conference room to get closure on a horrific incident that affected them all. Their conversation is brutal and tender, raw and heart-breaking, and totally riveting. The two couples are played by Jason Isaacs and Martha Plimpton and Reed Birney and Ann Dowd, and they all do peak work. Fran Kranz, pivoting from his career as a TV and movie actor, wrote and directed *Mass*, which has the capacity to break and rebuild anyone who

watches it — and do so in a cleansing, regenerative way.

'NINE DAYS'

Almost defying classification, *Nine Days* is a quiet, lovely, and often dark fantasy that suggests a strange limbo where chosen adjudicators interview unborn souls in human form over the course of nine days to decide who is worthy of getting a life on Earth. Will, the celestial judge at the center of *Nine Days*, is conjured in brilliant fashion by Winston Duke, who gives the part the prickliness of a bureaucrat, the stern demeanor and dogged determination of a prosecuting attorney, and the sadness of someone who's seen too much. With resonant emotional moments and metaphysical conjecture about how and why we lead our lives, *Nine Days* is an impressive debut effort from screenwriter-director Edson Oda.

'PIG'

For every handful of off-the-wall Nicolas Cage projects, there's one that's an

exceptionally good movie, taking advantage of his trademark seething intensity. *Pig* presents Cage as a scraggly backwoods pariah whose only companion is the truffle pig he dotes on. The porker provides him with a living by digging up the choicest truffles in the forest, which then are sold to a rare foods distributor in nearby Portland. All is well until someone steals the pig and sends the hermit on a journey to find his porcine pal, revealing the truth about the man along the way. Part portrait of a recluse, part foodie movie, *Pig* is above all a showcase for Cage's ability to fully embody an example of flawed humanity.

'THE POWER OF THE DOG'

Benedict Cumberbatch is at the height of his powers as bitter, rugged cattle rancher Phil in a gloriously shot, boldly themed, beautifully paced drama from celebrated Aussie director Jane Campion. On the Montana frontier in 1925, Phil and his soft-hearted brother George (Jesse Plemons) have a successful ranch operation that becomes ground zero for serious angst when George marries genteel single mother Rose (Kirsten Dunst). Phil deems Rose an intrusion into his simple macho world. Even more problematic, Rose's quiet, artsy teenage son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) becomes a target for abuse from Phil and his band of roughneck cowboys. *The Power of the Dog* weaves a complex web of emotional conflict that sticks with you long after the story ends.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via GABNet.net, Roku, Spotify, and YouTube, and The Mark Thompson Show on KGO radio. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.



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JANUARY EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH



Immersive Van Gogh at SNV West San Francisco. PHOTO: LIGHTHOUSEIMMERSIVE.COM

Editor's note: Covid regulations vary by event; visit individual websites for up-to-date information.

MAJOR EVENTS

Immersive Van Gogh

Daily through March 6, 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. Wander through entrancing, moving images that highlight brushstrokes, detail, and color from his sunny landscapes and night scenes to his portraits and still life paintings. \$40 & \$55, vangoghsf.com

20th Annual S.F. Sketchfest

Daily, Jan. 9–26 (except Jan. 20)
Various S.F. venues
Live in-person tributes feature those to Cheech & Chong, Laraine Newman, David Alan Grier, and many more in this nationally recognized comedy festival that mixes national headliners, local favorites, and the best up-and-coming groups for sketch, improv, stand-up, and alternative comedy. Visit [website](http://website.com) for schedule/tickets. sfsketchfest.com

8th Annual FOG Design & Art Fair

Thu.–Sun., Jan. 20–23, 11 a.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
This fair celebrates today's most significant creatives and leading contributors to the worlds of design and visual arts by assembling 45 leading international galleries, including some of the most prominent dealers of 20th-century and contemporary art and design. \$25, 415-745-3315, fogfair.com



20th Annual Edwardian Ball 2022: Revival

Faire: Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.–2 a.m.
Ball: Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m.–2 a.m.
Regency Ballroom (1300 Van Ness Ave.)
The Edwardian Ball is an elegant and whimsical celebration of art, music, theater, fashion, technology, circus, and the beloved creations of the late, great author and illustrator Edward Gorey. Set in a reimagined "Edwardian Era," guests are encouraged to dress in period costume. All ages. Visit [website](http://website.com) for ticketing. edwardianball.com
PHOTO: JANE HU / EDWARDIANBALL.COM

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Asian Art Museum

Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thursday 1–8 p.m.
200 Larkin St.
Opening Jan. 21 is "Seeing Gender," a focused

selection of the museum's collection that reveals the complexities and nuances of gender across Asian art; through Feb. 22 is "Team Lab: Continuity," where visitors can become part of an interactive landscape of blooming flowers, darting fish, and soaring crows; "Afruz Amighi: My House, My Tomb," which employs light and shadow to evoke forgotten histories of the Taj Mahal; "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–\$20, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Contemporary Jewish Museum

Thu.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
736 Mission St.
On view through Feb. 13 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 (1934–2016), the influential musician, man of letters, and global icon from Montréal. Free (first weekends of the month)–\$16, 415-655-7800, thecjm.org

de Young Museum

Thu.–Sun. & Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park
On view through Jan. 9 is "Judy Chicago: A Retrospective," which celebrates the pioneering feminist artist; through March 13 is "Hung Liu: Golden Gate," which highlights international and domestic narratives of migration; through April 17 is "Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo," more than a dozen works of the French artist depicting the Western U.S., including those of the Pomo culture; through April 24 is "Patrick Kelley: Runway of Love," celebrating the career and legacy of Black fashion designer Patrick Kelly; through Oct 30 is "To Teach and Inspire: The Julia Brenner Textile Collection," displaying nearly 200 costume components, costume accessories, complete textiles, and tools, reflecting examples of weaves and techniques from around the world; and through Feb. 26, 2023 is "Nampeyo and the Sikyá Revival," which celebrates the artistic ingenuity of Nampeyo, famed Tewa-Hopi potter, perhaps the most renowned potter from the American Southwest. \$15–\$35, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

Exploratorium I Glow: Discover the Art of Light

Wed.–Sun. through Jan. 30
Pier 15
Connect, play, and get inspired in the glow of luminous sculptures by eight artists. Visitors can experiment with color, shadows, and more. Visit [website](http://website.com) for full program of events. \$30, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

Legion of Honor Museum

Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m.
100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park
Through Feb. 13 is "Color into Line: Pastels from the Renaissance to the Present," which celebrates the artistry of pastel; "Borderless: Artist's Books by Enrique Chagoya," which depicts concepts of anthropology with contemporary sociopolitical issues; through

Nov. 20 is "Michelle Erickson: Wild Porcelain," which combines colonial-era ceramic techniques and contemporary themes, some of which incorporate San Francisco landmarks and address local social and environmental issues; and more. \$15–\$25, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

Museo Italo Americano

Tue.–Sat., noon–4 p.m. & Sunday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. through Feb. 20
Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center
"Cerri: The Art of Two Generations" provides a comparison between this father and son in their themes and expressive language. Giancarlo began as a figurative artist focusing mostly on nature themes and later evolving into the abstract. Giovanni is instead attracted to a narrative form, focusing on the urban landscape, and the interpretation of industrial archaeology. Free, 415-763-2200, museoitaloamericano.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 is "Joan Mitchell," a retrospective featuring over 80 distinguished works spanning over three decades by the abstract expressionist; through May 1 is "Tauba Auerbach — S v Z," which explores questions of what and how we perceive, exploring the existence of multidimensional space and the resonant capacity of certain shapes and forms; "Constellations: Photographs in Dialogue," which showcases the collection's strengths, particularly in Japanese photography, the documentary tradition, and work by Bay Area artists; and more including Diego Rivera's mural, "Pan American Unity," which celebrates the creative spirit through portraits of artists, artisans, architects, and inventors who use art and technology as tools to shape society; and more. Free (first Thursdays)–\$25, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

COMMUNITY CORNER



Chinese New Year Flower Market Fair

Sat.–Sun., Jan. 29–30
Chinatown (visit website for exact location)
Enjoy performances of traditional Chinese magicians, acrobats, folk dancers, and opera while shopping for fresh flowers, fruits, candies, and new home supplies to begin the new lunar year of the Tiger on Feb. 1. Free, 415-986-1370, chinese-parade.com
PHOTO: CHINESEPARADE.COM

THEATER

S.F. Playhouse I Twelfth Night

Tue.–Sun. through Jan. 15
450 Post St. (Kensington Park Hotel)
Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "local theater at its best," this soulful shakeup featuring a jazz-funk score is a rousing contemporary musical adaptation of Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy about mistaken identity. \$45–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

ACT: The Woman in Black

Sun.–Tue. through Jan. 16
The Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)
Hailed as "a nerve-shredding experience" (*Daily Mail*) this gothic ghost story is set in an isolated windswept mansion with tragic secrets hidden behind its shuttered windows, where a young lawyer encounters horrific visions set amidst the eerie marshes and howling winds of England's forbidding Northeast Coast. \$35–\$85, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org



Broadway S.F. I The Band's Visit

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 11–Feb. 6
Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)
This critically acclaimed, Tony and Grammy award-winning smash-hit Broadway musical is joyously offbeat. Set in a town off the beaten path, a band of musicians arrives lost. Under the spell of the desert sky, and with beautiful music perfuming the air, the band brings the town to life in unexpected ways. \$56–\$256, 888-746-1799, broadwaysf.com
PHOTO: MATTHEW MURPHY

ACT I Freestyle Love Supreme

Sun.–Thu., Jan. 21–Feb. 13
Geary Theater (415 Geary St.)
Before Hamilton and In the Heights was this critically acclaimed Broadway hit from the minds of longtime friends Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Bay Area artist Anthony Veneziale, which pays homage to John Coltrane's improvisational musical style as it takes the audience (with its suggestions) into a hip-hop comedy ride. \$5–\$130, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

S.F. Playhouse I Heroes of the Fourth Turning

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 26–March 5
450 Post St. (Kensington Park Hotel)
Days after the white-supremacist riot in Charlottesville, four old friends gather for a reunion at their conservative Catholic alma mater in Wyoming where they grapple with their beliefs and their place in the world, the conversation spiraling into spiritual chaos, clashing politics, and furious debate. \$25–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

DANCE

Margazhi Virtual Music and Dance Festival

Daily through Jan. 13, 7–8 p.m.
Live stream
Organized by Bay Area-based Choros Charas, Destination for Arts and Sri Vidya Dance, this event is aimed at promoting Indian classical arts, opening a stage for artists from around the world performing from where they are. Free, dancersgroup.org

Fresh Festival: Collectiveness

Fri.–Sat. Jan. 7–15
Joe Goode Annex (401 Alabama St.)
Don't miss cutting-edge live art featuring work by six risk-taking artists and companies. Visit [website](http://website.com) for details and ticketing. freshfestival.org

MUSIC

Chris Botti

Tue.–Sun., Jan. 4–9
S.F. Jazz (201 Franklin St.)
The best-selling melodious jazz trumpeter, who has recorded with Sting, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, Frank Sinatra, Yo-Yo Ma, John Mayer, Steven Tyler, and the Boston Pops, performs. \$55–\$150, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

Slow Wave

Saturday, Jan. 8, 8 p.m.
Old First Church (1751 Sacramento St.) & live stream
Consisting of clarinetist Kyle Beard, violist Justine Preston, and pianist Naomi Stine, this threesome explores the slower end of the sound wave spectrum, and will perform works by Bay Area composers Joowan Kim, Emma Logan, and Kyle Hovatter, plus recent works by Brett Eastman and Kalevi Aho. \$25, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

An Evening with Itzhak Perlman

Sunday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Learn more about the legendary "man behind the music" in this multimedia program that interweaves storytelling by Perlman alongside personal photos, clips pulled from the Grammy-nominated Itzhak documentary, and music-making with Perlman's longtime pianist and friend, Rohan De Silva. \$150–\$350, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

Jesse Cook
Friday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theater
A career spanning 25 years has brought this Canadian guitarist multiple accolades, 10 platinum and gold studio albums, and sold-out concerts worldwide. \$40–\$55, palaceoffinearts.org

NIGHTLIFE

BratPack
Thu.–Sat., Jan. 1–30
Feinstein’s at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)
If you love the ’80s, this 90-minute set of soundtrack hits is for you. \$63–\$104, 800-380-3095, feinsteinsf.com



After Dark: Wondrous Fungus

Thursday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.
Exploratorium (Pier 15)
Discover some fun facts about the beautiful, diverse, and curious fungus kingdom, including mushrooms, yeasts, and molds. Ages 18 & up. \$20, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu
PHOTO: EXPLORATORIUM.EDU

FILMS & LECTURES

Illuminated Frames
Daily through Jan. 30
Exploratorium (Pier 15)
This selection of artist-made movies draws inspiration from nature and optical effects and is presented in a dimmed cinema atmosphere, which sets the perfect scene to take in this array of colorful illuminations of brilliant ideas, from a solar eclipse to snowflakes to sequoias. \$30, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

January 6 and the Insurrection: A Week to Week Political Roundtable Special
Thu., Jan 6, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero) & live stream
Join the discussion of what Jan. 6 wrought, how it has affected the first year of Joe Biden’s presidency, and what are the prospects for another violent attempt to overturn a democratic election. \$10, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

Back to the Future Film with Live Orchestra
Fri.–Sat., Jan. 7–8, 7:30 p.m.
Davis Symphony Hall
Experience the thrill of time-traveling in this 1985 blockbuster with the S.F. Symphony performing award-winning composer Alan Silvestri’s musical score live, along with new music added by Silvestri especially for this presentation. \$45–\$175, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org



19th Annual San Francisco Film Noir Festival

Thu.–Sun., Jan. 20–23
Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland (3200 Grand Ave.)
The largest noir film festival in the world returns from Covid hiatus for a four-day festival showcasing 12 movies from mid-20th-century Hollywood focusing on racism, serial killers, corruption, and more. \$15 & \$100, noircity.com
PHOTO: NOIRCITY.COM / ALL THE KINGS MEN

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Futures: Beyond 02022
Monday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center
Join the discussion with the Long Now Foundation and *New York Times* best-selling author Kim Stanley Robinson concerning COP26 and his science fiction novel about climate change. Visit website for ticketing, 415-561-6582, longnow.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Good Food Awards Mercantile
Saturday, Jan. 15, noon
City View at Metreon
It’s back! With over 115 of America’s top food crafters and a dozen of the best importers of good food from around the globe, this reunion of good food makers and merchants is not to missed. \$35–\$55, eventbrite.com



Zinfandel Experience: Back to Zinex

Thu.–Sat., Jan. 27–29
Palace Hotel
Enjoy a winemaker dinner, auction, and grand tasting at the most comprehensive showing of Zinfandels and blends in the world. Visit website for schedule and pricing, 530-274-4900, zinfandelexperience.com
PHOTO: ZINFANDELEXPERIENCE.COM

CHILD’S PLAY

Lion Dance Performance
Saturday, Jan. 8, 3:30–4:30
S.F. Public Library Marina Branch
Ring in the Lunar New Year of the Tiger with an exciting celebration of Chinese lion dancing and martial arts. Free, 415-355-2823, sfpl.org

After School Animation
Wednesdays, Jan. 19–March 9, 4–6 p.m.
Virtual
Conducted by the Walt Disney Family Museum, this eight-week course focuses on basic animation techniques and principles by working traditionally with pencil and paper. \$500, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

Chinese New Year Celebration & Choy Sun Doe Day
Tuesday, Feb 1, time TBA
Chinatown
Choy Sun is the God of Wealth, who blesses all with prosperity. Choy Suns will be passing out special red envelopes to children (only!) that will have candy and possibly vouchers for a toy or, money they can save in their piggy banks. Past celebrations have included music and dance performances and a petting zoo. Visit website for location and additional information. Free, 415-982-3000, chinese-parade.com

SPORTS & WELLNESS

Candlelight Labyrinth Walk
Friday, Jan. 7, 6–8 p.m.
Grace Cathedral
Immerse your senses in an enchanted atmosphere surrounded by the cathedral’s stunning stained glass, and unique live music. Labyrinth walks are an exercise in self-discovery and an opportunity to disconnect from everyday life and align your intentions with your purpose. \$10, 415-749-6300, gracecathedral.org

Hot Chocolate 15K/5K
Sunday, Jan. 9, 7:20 a.m. (5k) & 8:10 a.m. (15k)
Golden Gate Park (55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.)
Enjoy a run through the park and along the Great Highway. Celebrate your accomplishment at the after party with a finisher mug that includes fondue, dippables, and hot chocolate, while checking out vendors and listening to great tunes. \$49 & \$69, hotchocolate15k.com

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

FILM REVIEW :: Spider-man



There’s no such thing as too many Spideys in *No Way Home*. PHOTO: SONY PICTURES

‘Spider-Man: No Way Home’ is where the heroic heart is

BY ERIN MAXWELL

Warning: This review contains lots of Spidey spoilers.

Spider-Man: No Way Home is the third installment for the Tom Holland-led webslinger saga, but it’s more than just the latest chapter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The highly anticipated and already high-grossing film is also a heartbreaking tale of loss, an action-adventure sci-fi romp, a homage to previous Peter Parkers and his foes, and a powerful adhesive cementing different aspects of the Marvel Universe together, be it Disney (*Doctor Strange*), Sony (previous Spidey films), or Netflix (*Daredevil*). And on every front, it’s successful.

When we last left poor Peter Parker, it seemed the high school senior just couldn’t catch a break. Already having difficulty trying to juggle his alter ego with his teenage angst, Peter now has to deal with being outed by the muckraking J. Jonah Jameson (who should forever be played by J.K. Simmons). Peter’s life is in shambles, causing him and his Aunt May (Marisa Tomei) to live on the lam as he becomes the friendly neighborhood scapegoat. There is only one solution: magic. But after a visit to Doctor Strange causes a spell to go awry, Peter now has to deal with a handful of Spider-Man’s greatest foes from previous franchises.

THE MARVEL MAGIC

Once again, Marvel taps into the concept of the multiverse as a means to propel stories and characters into the next phase of the MCU. Initially using Disney Plus shows to help audiences understand upcoming theatrical storylines, *No Way Home* cultivates the small screen homework given to audiences over the pandemic.

And it’s here that the MCU is revolutionary in its storytelling. Thanks to *No Way Home* and its use of the multiverse, Marvel has morphed into a place where characters from competing franchises are not just valid, but part of the larger picture.

The MCU version of Spider-Man is unique in that it doesn’t spoon-feed audiences yet another origin story. After all, fatigued fans can only watch Uncle Ben bite the dust so many times. Marvel knows that a good portion of its current ticket-buying audiences is already familiar with the material, thus it pushes its own story, one without murdered relatives, over-the-top adversaries, or dead girlfriends. Still, by acknowledging other narratives of the Spider-verse, this

film borrows from their collective histories to help advance the current Peter.

It also doesn’t hurt that everyone involved puts in the work to make *No Way Home* a sensational spectacle. Darker than previous *Spider-Man* outings, Peter matures before our very eyes as the film places the young genius in upsetting situations that would shatter any other person, much less a teenage superhero with an image issue. Holland brings an emotional vulnerability to the role of Peter, while Zendaya’s MJ and Jacob Batalon’s Ned support their friend and the story in their own amenable way. Even Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange turns in an impassioned performance when he’s not delivering savage clapbacks.

FORMER SPIDER-MEN AND FOES

But the real joy comes from watching former Spider-Men and Spidey foes alike back in the spotlight in what can only be described as a victory lap. Alfred Molina and Willem Dafoe continue to impress as Doc Ock and Green Goblin, but the film is also a redemption for Jamie Foxx as Max Dillon/Electro, Thomas Haden Church as Flint Marko/Sandman, and Rhys Ifans as Dr. Curt Connors/The Lizard, whose past turns were overshadowed by overcrowded outings.

Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield are a joyous addition to the film as they reflect on their own highs and lows, offering this Peter a helping hand in lieu of becoming a throwaway mention for mere fan service (looking at you, Matt Murdock). Watching all these characters from various parts of a shared pop culture past is not just evocative use of sentimentality, but thoroughly entertaining, a little heartbreaking, and often very, very funny.

HOLES AND HOMAGE

The tale is not without fault. There are a few plot holes and inconsistencies that will no doubt be discussed and dissected on podcasts, vlogs, and nerdy think pieces galore. But it doesn’t distract from an emotional center previously unseen in past Spidey efforts.

In the end, what we are left with is a movie that pays homage to the past. Those Spider-Men walked so that MCU’s Spider-Man could run. The end result is a whole new origin story to a whole new Spider-Man, one steeped in tragedy and loss, but now geared to become a superhero to the likes audiences have never seen.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

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MomSense :: Goals and priorities



Learning a hobby is one option to experience something new. PHOTO: ZONECREATIVE

Fun and simple resolutions for kids

Small things can make a difference for them and parents alike

BY LIZ FARRELL

ONE YEAR MY SON ASKED ABOUT New Year's resolutions and why people have them. I kept it light and positive and refrained from telling him how many people make them but don't actually follow through. My answer was more about the new year being a time to check in with yourself and reevaluate your priorities or goals for the year. This seemed reasonable to him, and he decided he was going to jump in on this tradition. It is actually a good time, several months after the start of the school year, to check in and reset behaviors for adults and children alike.

Here are a few ideas children young and older can adopt.

START SIMPLE

Keeping resolutions small and simple will make them easier to attain. It will also ensure your children feel successful by sticking to their resolutions. My son's resolution was to unpack his own backpack every day. This is small and simple but was a huge help to me and it gave him a sense of responsibility and independence. It also takes all of three minutes, so it was attainable and age appropriate (he was 6 at the time).

Other ideas would be matching socks when folding laundry, bringing in the garbage cans on garbage day, and picking up toys. For older children, it may be eating more healthful snacks, packing their own lunch, or waking up five minutes earlier to ensure they are on time. The key is that the resolution be specific to each child and to encourage them to come up with their own. This helps them recognize a behavior they want to change and is a way for them to have more ownership over their responsibilities in the family.

FOCUS ON OTHERS

Not all resolutions have to be about self-improvement. They can be about making a difference or trying to make the world a better place. Those are big, daunting, and may not be entirely attainable, but we can help break them down to simple, small gestures that can help achieve those same notions. Some ideas might be to smile or say hello to one person every day or holding a door open for someone else. These are common courtesies but seem to have gotten lost, so they feel more like small acts of kindness. For older children, they may be interested in volunteering or becoming a pen pal with someone at a retirement home. In our home, homelessness is a

topic of a lot of conversations, because, unfortunately, it has become such a part of our everyday life in San Francisco. Helping your child make bag lunches or toiletry bags they can bring to a shelter or give to people are simple ideas that won't solve the problem, but can teach children that we all need to be part of the solution.

SOMETHING NEW

Another great way to ring in the new year is to commit to trying something new. This can be a little scary, but it forces us out of our comfort zone and teaches resiliency — skills that are beneficial throughout life. For older children this could be a new hobby or learning a foreign language or a musical instrument. When my older children started playing new instruments, watching them struggle, work through frustrations, practice, and ultimately really enjoy it was exciting both for them and for us as parents. For younger children, it could be having a new friend over, trying a new food, learning how to ride a bike, or brushing their own teeth. All of these require patience and practice, but they also provide the most satisfying feeling when they discover they like a new food or can do something all by themselves.

Setting New Year's resolutions can be a fun family bonding experience. Having everyone make a resolution is a great way to model for our children that we all have things we want to improve on. As parents, we can help set a positive tone by focusing on the things they learned how to do or did well in the past year, then focus on this year. Once they come up with some ideas, have them write down one to two resolutions, then decorate it and then hang it somewhere as a reminder. My daughter put hers on her closet door, so she can see them first thing in the morning when getting her clothes.

Resolutions are personal and should be self-reflective, so as hard as it may be, we have to avoid micromanaging the process. We can do this by listening, guiding, and suggesting so their resolutions are attainable and age appropriate. And don't forget to talk about what the reward will be for keeping the resolution(s) — that is always the best part.

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

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San Francisco might not be the hottest real estate market in the country any longer, but it's still plenty warm. PHOTO: KOHNREBECCA/PIXABAY

San Francisco real estate in 2022

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

IN SHORT, NEXT YEAR IS LIKELY TO BE a lot like 2021 when it comes to San Francisco real estate. A seller's delight, and not much fun for buyers — especially if you're looking to purchase a single family home. While for the most part it's been the same story for years, there are some new wrinkles worth noting.

Zillow suggests that for the nation as a whole the housing market may not reach the incredible heights of 2021, but it will be anything but slow next year. Expect the strong sellers' market to persist, the Sun Belt to maintain its top spot as the most in-demand region, and flexible work options to continue to shape housing decisions in new ways in the year ahead.

Zillow's forecast calls for 11 percent home value growth in 2022. That's down from a projected 19.5 percent in 2021, a record year-end pace of home value appreciation, but it would still rank among the strongest years Zillow has tracked. Existing home sales are predicted to total 6.35 million, compared to an estimated 6.12 million in 2021. That would be the highest number of home sales in any year since 2006.

LOCAL EFFECTS

The same report includes some interesting observations that will no doubt apply to San Franciscans.

Americans are taking advantage of remote work flexibility to move to larger homes in more affordable markets, but many will not want to commit to a new location full time. This is often true for younger people who are attracted to the amenities of living in a city, where expensive housing is more likely to put homeownership out of reach.

With these factors in play, there may be more people buying what's traditionally a second home — either a part-time vacation home or an investment property — before they buy a home as a primary residence.

Purchasing a second home in a more affordable market than the one in which they live is a way for these buyers to start building equity while mortgage rates are low. What's more, they might choose to team up with friends or family to lessen the financial burden.

For homeowners who would have once been inclined to purchase a larger house, an ultracompetitive housing market might discourage such a move. Many homeowners will choose instead to simply upgrade their existing home. A Zillow survey of homeowners found nearly three-quarters would consider at least one home improvement project in the next year.

For many years, San Francisco was the hottest real estate market in the nation.

But now, because homes in the city cost so much, that is no longer the case. Instead, other markets are heating up. Mostly smaller markets, where homes are considerably less expensive. Looking ahead to 2022, Realtor.com expects the five hottest markets in the nation will be Salt Lake City, Utah; Boise, Idaho; Spokane, Wash.; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Columbus, Ohio.

That may provide little consolation to San Francisco buyers who will still face stiff competition when trying to purchase a home. And they won't just be competing against other individuals. The *San Francisco Business Times* reported at the end of November that investors bought \$2.3 billion worth of homes in San Francisco in the third quarter of 2021.

That's 815 homes and accounted for roughly 20 percent of sales. Many of the top metros across the country have seen investor activity more than double in their housing markets in the past year. San Francisco placed 30th among the 40 metro areas studied. In the city, the number of homes bought by investors was up 27.1 percent over the third quarter of 2020.

At this point, according to the *Business Times*, there's nothing to suggest that investor activity will slow.

STILL WARM ENOUGH

In November, the median price for a single-family home in San Francisco was \$1.9 million, up 17.1 percent over November 2020. The median price for a condo during the same month was \$1.29 million, up 7.9 percent over the previous year.

Obviously, there is a big demand for homes in the city, as properties continue to sell faster and faster. Single family homes were on the market in November for a median number of only 13 days, down 31.6 percent from the previous year. Condos were on the market for 24 days, down 40 percent from 2020.

Also, 79.5 percent of single-family homes sold over their list price, and 56.7 percent of condos sold over their list price, up 29.3 percent and 75 percent respectively over the same month in 2020.

There is much uncertainty entering the new year. Will Covid ever really go away? Who will win the 2022 midterm elections? How will California deal with its water shortages and wildfires? What about the stock market?

Even in the face of all of this uncertainty, it seems clear that the demand for San Francisco homes will likely remain strong, home prices will continue to climb, and buyers, despite all the challenges, will somehow find a way to purchase a home they want.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

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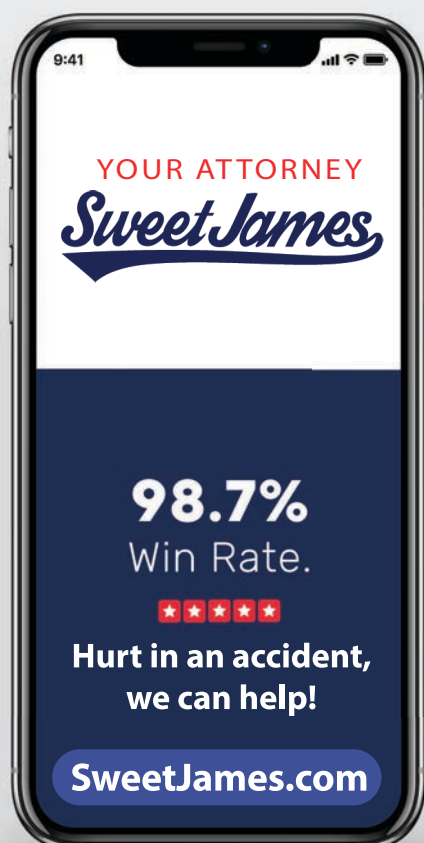
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