



The new normal

John Zipperer answers your questions about postpandemic life. p. 3

Liz Farrell highlights the life lessons that children can learn in youth sports p. 10

Garey De Martini writes that housing affordability is in the eye of the beholder. p. 11



March events

March is Women's History Month, and there are many opportunities to experience related events in the city. Plus: John Mayer, Lang Lang, HellaSecret, and more. p. 8



Alice Neel's *Robert Avedis Hagopian*, 1971. IMAGE COURTESY THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO. *Jackie Curtis and Ritta Redd*, 1970; IMAGE COURTESY THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART. *Ginny in Blue Shirt*, 1969. IMAGE: COURTESY THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL AND DAVID ZWIRNER

'Alice Neel: People Come First'

BY SHARON ANDERSON

"For me, people come first. I have tried to assert the dignity and eternal importance of the human being."

— Alice Neel

THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE museum survey of figurative painter Alice Neel (1900–84)

is coming to the de Young Museum, from March 12 through July 10. A radical champion of social justice, Neel had a long-standing commitment to humanist principles throughout her career. The award-winning exhibition features Neel's painting, drawings and watercolors, and more, including works exclusive to the de Young's presen-

tation, which will be the only West Coast venue.

THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Born in 1900, Neel studied art at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women before moving to Cuba, where she had her first solo exhibition, which will be the only West Coast venue.

ART WORLD, continued on 7

REYNOLDS RAP : Opinion

Far left Democrats are dying on Hypocrite Hill

Smear campaign against Shahid Buttar smacks of racism

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

"The Democratic Socialists of America San Francisco are about to ruin the political career of a Brown Muslim man based on no evidence at all because a bunch of mediocre Karens complained he was mean to them."

— Gloria Berry, Chair, S.F. Democratic County Central Committee, Black Lives Matter Committee, in an Aug. 4, 2020, Medium post

WHEN I WORKED AT APPLE DURING COLLEGE it was not uncommon to see people go into the office of CEO Steve Jobs and come out in tears. Despite his reputation as a "mean boss," Jobs is still considered by many to be the greatest CEO the world has ever known. Yet in far-left San Francisco clubs like the Democratic Socialist of America (DSASF), the SFBerniecrats and the Harvey Milk Club, unsubstantiated allegations of being a mean boss were enough to pull their support from progressive congressional candidate Shahid Buttar against establishment incumbent Nancy Pelosi — that is, after allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman over 20 years ago didn't pan out.

In 2020, Buttar, a Muslim immigrant, artist, and Stanford-educated constitutional lawyer, became the first

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 5

SUPERVISOR : Opinion

Police staffing and public safety in San Francisco

It's time to address the crime and policing crisis

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

IN MARCH 2020, AN INDEPENDENT STUDY ON POLICE staffing levels found that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) needed to hire 330 officers to meet the demand for service at that time. Since then, the need for officers has grown to nearly 500, according to Police Chief Bill Scott.

These numbers have real-world consequences. We cannot meet the demand for service, implement necessary criminal justice reforms, or protect our most vulnerable residents without adequate police staffing, and the public suffers as a result. For example, over the last two years, burglaries have increased by approximately 40 percent in San Francisco, and some neighborhoods have seen increases as high as 78 percent.

Shoplifting in San Francisco is also out of control. CVS has more than 150 locations in the Bay Area, and their 12 San Francisco stores account for more than

SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

MICHAEL SNYDER ON ... FILM



Joanna Lumley and Danielle Macdonald in *Falling For Figaro*. COURTESY OF IFC FILMS

Mostly British Film Festival is back in vogue

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

CHEERIO! PIP-PIP! HUZZAH! Those joyous expletives may be more than a little out of date in England, but they merit revival in San Francisco this month. The Mostly British Film Festival is back at the Vogue Theater for the event's

14th year, showcasing select dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the U.K., Ireland, Australia, and India. Even as questionable property sales and outright closures have had a debilitating effect on the city's movie theaters, the venerable single-screen Vogue at 3250 Sacramento Street is hanging in there. In addition to hosting the 2022 edition of the MBFF from March 10–17, the Vogue is also offering a special festival preview showing of the upscale, tragedy-tinged 1920s period romance *Mothering Sunday* on March 8.

The official opening night presentation of *The Duke* — a wry, built-to-please, quintessentially British film costarring the invariably excellent Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren — should get the MBFF off to a rousing start. A reception will precede the March 10 screening of *The Duke*. From there, the schedule is studded with award winners, Bay Area theatrical premieres, and recent jewels that may have been woefully overlooked amid the pandemic. Among the latter is *Ammonite*, a historical drama about mid-1880s paleontologist Mary Anning (Kate Winslet) and her par-

amour (Saoirse Ronan). A grouping of music-themed films includes documentaries about Ronnie Scott's venerable SoHo jazz club (*Ronnie's*); guitarist Ronnie Wood of the Faces and the Rolling Stones (*Somebody Up There Likes Me*); and the Beatles' connection to the country of India (*The Beatles and India*, closing the festival on March 17).

SNYDER, continued on 9

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Supervisor

continued from cover

40 percent of the region's total losses from shoplifting. Similarly, Walgreens reported that their local stores had four times the theft, 35 times the spending on guard services, and 20 times the number of workplace threats as their stores in other cities — including New York and Chicago.

All of this is unacceptable. Our merchants and residents have a right to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. We have to invest in proven practices that deter and prevent crime, and that begins with ensuring we have a fully staffed and well-trained police force.

CURRENT STAFFING LEVELS ARE LIMITING SERVICE

It's no secret that the SFPD has struggled to recruit and retain sworn officers. A generation of experienced officers are in the process of retiring, and we have not been able to recruit enough to replace those who leave.

Police staffing in San Francisco lags behind our peer cities. New York has 42 officers for every 10,000 residents, Chicago has 44, Washington, D.C., has 61, and San Francisco only has 22. Our existing force is stretched far too thin. With almost 80 percent of officer time committed to responding to emergency 911 calls, the SFPD cannot properly staff crime prevention efforts.

Preventative measures, like foot beat patrols, are essential to establishing visibility, building community relations, and deterring crime. Without an adequately staffed police force, preventative measures go out the door while police are focused on prioritizing urgent calls for service.

Emergency calls for service have increased since the beginning of last year. The most dangerous incidents, Priority A calls, increased by 12 percent. More troubling is that response times also have slowed, which means San Franciscans who called 911 are waiting longer for help to arrive.

Unfortunately, this trend didn't begin today. Over the last six years, San Francisco's monthly Priority A calls have increased by 33 percent, while police response times have decreased by 25 per-

cent. Without meaningful investment in staffing, this trend will continue.

That is why I voted to fund two new police academy classes in the budget and cosponsored the mayor's recent supplemental budget appropriation for police overtime. These two initiatives are small but important steps to mitigate the current staff shortages.

San Francisco isn't alone when it comes to staffing challenges. Oakland is also in crisis. Their city council recently passed legislation authorizing two more academy classes, and is also considering expanding incentive pay. San Francisco needs to follow suit or we will fall further behind.

REFORMS TAKE INVESTMENT

In 2016, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the SFPD entered into an agreement to enhance police accountability, eliminate bias, expand community engagement, minimize use of force, and diversify department staff.

As part of that agreement, the DOJ issued 272 recommendations, and the SFPD has worked incredibly hard to implement more than 90 percent of these measures to date.

This is a significant achievement, and San Francisco is the only city of its size to voluntarily implement reforms of this magnitude. However, systemic change requires serious investment, and the SFPD will not be able to sustain this progress without ongoing support.

A FULLY STAFFED POLICE FORCE

In advance of the Board of Supervisors annual budget deliberations, I called for a hearing on the police staffing crisis. On April 14 at 10 a.m., the SFPD will present on how dire their situation has become to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

For more than two years, we've known that our patrol staffing levels were severely inadequate, and that needs to change. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the conditions in our city or ignore the thousands of San Franciscans who call 911 in crisis every single day.

I remain committed to ensuring our public safety agencies are staffed and prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. San Franciscans deserve nothing less.

Police staffing in San Francisco lags behind our peer cities.

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

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Vau de Vire performers at The Edwardian Ball, San Francisco 2016. PHOTO: MARCO SANCHEZ

The fun returns

Learning to live with Covid postpandemic

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WHAT IS OUR NEW NORMAL?

A Change.org petition from a group of medical professionals is calling on the state’s leaders — and particularly its educational leaders — to shift to a postpandemic approach and remove “all remaining Covid-19 restrictions in public schools.” At press time, the issue of mask mandates was scheduled to be raised again at the state level at the end of February.

It’s just the latest in a barrage of reports of loosened restrictions and plans to shift to managing life with the disease that isn’t going away. The state’s new SMARTER Plan lays out California’s goals for having testing, vaccination, and treatment resources ready and in place.

Meanwhile, some of San Francisco’s celebrated vibrant cultural life is returning, such as the Pride celebrations in June. The postponed Edwardian Ball 2022 has been rescheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 1–2, at the Regency Ballroom. This is the 21st annual iteration of this family-friendly musical and theatrical celebration of the work of Edward Gorey. This year, the featured tale both nights will be Gorey’s “The Wuggly Ump,” performed by Rosin Coven and Vau de Vire Society. Get more info at edwardianball.com.

More cultural events are sure to follow. See page 8 and marinatimes.com/events for additional upcoming events.

SCHOOL BOARD AFTERMATH

As predicted in these pages (“A lesson plan for the school board recall,” February 2022), three members of the San Francisco school board were recalled in the Feb. 15 election. The overwhelming results — every neighborhood in the city voted for their recall, with yes votes tallying from 72 to 79 percent of the votes, with ballots still being counted — strengthens Mayor London Breed’s hand in shaping the city’s schools.

Once the election results are certified (expected in early March), Breed will be able to appoint replacements for the ousted board members. Breed said the board will have important work to take care of, including “addressing a significant budget deficit, hiring a new superintendent, and navigating our emergence from this pandemic,” she said after the vote. “These are on top of the structural issues the district has faced for years that include declining enrollment and fixing our school assignment system to better serve families and our students. The school district has a lot of work to do, and the city is ready to offer support as we all move forward.”

BRIEFLY NOTED

Two state Assemblymen — Republican Vince Fong (Kern County) and Democrat Jim Cooper (Elk Grove) — teamed up to request \$5 million for the California Highway Patrol specifically for addressing **illegal sideshows**. They are seeking a further \$500,000 for the agency to use to inform and educate the public on the dangers of sideshows . . . State Senator Scott Wiener has reintroduced SB 879, known as the **PET (Prohibiting Extraneous Testing) Act**. The bill prohibits the use of cats and dogs in toxicity tests for pesticides, chemical substances, and food additives . . . As part of the **emergency declaration** in the Tenderloin, the city was able to fill half of the 200 open public health staff positions within two months, compared to the usual six months delay. Mayor Breed said the quick hiring “is proof that when we cut through bureaucracy and aggressively address our city’s most pressing needs, we can make real, tangible change and deliver services faster.” The 200 positions include behavioral health clinicians, pharmacists, health workers, and others . . . Your next jury duty stint or visit to the opera might include a stop at the new **Assembly Café and Beer Garden** (52 Grove Street). Offerings include everything from wine to rolls named after musicians, such as the Huey Lewis (shaved rib eye), the Carlos Santana (cardamom candied bacon), and the Dead Kennedys (curry chicken salad).

FACTS AND FIGURES

\$2.3 million: Amount the city is investing in the African American Revolving Loan Fund to provide loan forgiveness for 51 Black-owned businesses in the city, which were disproportionately impacted by pandemic-era business disruptions . . . **\$200 million:** contribution to San Francisco’s affordable housing efforts from the new California Housing Accelerator Fund, which was started with money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act . . . **half:** percentage of the top 10 “most Instagrammable nature reserves in the U.S.” that are located in California, according to research by Printique . . . **4,938:** number of crimes committed in San Francisco per 100,000 residents, according to a report by Security.org . . . **More than 1,100:** Number of rodents found inside a Family Dollar distribution facility in Arkansas, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Associated Press said inspectors found “live rodents, dead rodents in ‘various states of decay,’ rodent feces, dead birds and bird droppings.”

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What to expect in our brave new world

Your questions answered about the next stage of the pandemic

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

WITH THE DELTA VARIANT on the wane at last, our elected leaders and public health officials are finally starting to relax the restrictions we’ve lived under for the past two years. We have pulled together the state’s brightest minds to answer your questions about what’s next.

What did the governor announce?
In February, saying the state was moving from a crisis mindset to a sentinel’s role, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a 30-page plan that he says will be a smarter plan for dealing with COVID.

How is it a smarter plan?
For one thing, it’s literally called the SMARTER Plan. It stands for Shots, Masking, Awareness, Readiness, Testing, Education, and Rx.

Subtle.
They’re politicians, not poets. Nor are they snarky journalists. I’d have called it the SMART-ERX Plan. Or the ARMREST Plan.

What can I do now that I couldn’t do last month?
Not much, but some additional restrictions were sched-

uled to be revisited at the end of February, so that might have been announced by the time you read this.
Otherwise, Newsom’s plan won’t immediately affect you. It mostly includes things the state will do to be prepared to handle further flareups of this or other pandemics. For example, it will maintain statewide abilities to promote vaccination, staff up clinical personnel on short notice, perform at least 500,000 tests a day, expand school-based vaccination sites, make clinically effective therapeutics available, and stockpile 75 million masks.

How do I get one of those 75 million masks?
Wait, you’ve complained about masks, thrown tantrums on airplanes, parked your semi on a Toronto bridge, and uploaded YouTube videos comparing mask mandates to Nazi policies, and now you want a free mask? Make up your mind.

How about here in San Francisco?
Removing your mask indoors isn’t just for the governor and mayor anymore! As of Feb. 16, masks for vaccinated people are no longer necessary in most indoor settings. The unvaxxed still need to be masked.

Also, everyone — vaccinated and unvaccinated alike — still needs to wear masks on public transportation, in health care settings, congregate settings, long-term care facilities, and in a few other situations.

So now I can complain when a store manager tells me to wear a mask?
Perhaps you need better life goals.
Businesses and other site operators have the right to protect themselves and other patrons by requiring the wearing of masks on their premises.

I just hate the way I looked in a mask.
Whatever you wore, you didn’t look as dumb as the woman who used a rubber band to attach a big piece of lettuce to her face, with eye holes cut out. True fact.

I can’t even imagine what that would look like.
It looked like Head Lettuce.

Were all the restrictions worth it?
Depends on whether you’re pro-life or not. Newsom said California — known for its readiness to impose mandates and restrict gatherings during the pandemic — “has among

the lowest death rates in the United States of America — 50 percent lower death rates in California than in a state like Florida.”

There literally is no other state like Florida.
He-he-he.
But you get his point.

How will 2022 differ from 2021 and 2020?
For the first time since the pandemic started, this year you could go to the Lunar New Year parade, and you’ll be able to attend the San Francisco Pride parade, and the, uh, Hippie Hill event for stoners.

After two years of pandemic, social upheaval, and political violence, will America come together again in peace?
A Republican in Georgia just launched her gubernatorial campaign with the slogan “Jesus, guns, babies.”
So, no.

If they’re just easing up on all of the rules, was it all worth it?
It’s all about timing. Early in the pandemic, we needed to slow the flood of patients into hospitals, which were unprepared for a pandemic, under supplied with equipment, and unsure about how to treat

people for a newly discovered disease. They didn’t even have enough surgical masks for doctors and nurses, which at least partially explains the confusing early advice on masking from our government leaders — wear them, don’t wear them, use cloth, use surgical masks, wear lettuce. (O.K., not that last one.)
But now, things are able to be loosened up because of higher levels of vaccination, better prepared hospitals, greater levels of natural immunity, and new medicines available for treatment.

Wow. Kind of makes me proud to be an American.
I know, right? Though the Pfizer vaccine was funded by the German government, not the U.S. government. Danke, Frau Merkel!

Still, the vaccines and new medicines are great examples of the triumph of science. Which is necessary to save us from everyone who doesn’t believe in science.

Seriously, “Jesus, guns, babies”?
Yep. And I added the commas, because otherwise . . .

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

Cops and robbers and burglars

COMPILED BY JOHN ZIPPERER

LAST MONTH NORTHERN STATION welcomed its new commanding officer, Capt. Derrick Jackson. The San Francisco native and 27-year police veteran has worked on the gang task force and most recently served in the robbery division of the Major Crimes Unit. “I am aware there will be new challenges that await me as the commanding officer of Northern Police Station, but know that I am ready to tackle them head-on,” Jackson wrote in a message to residents.

Below is a selection of recent crimes reported by the officers of Northern and Central Stations. On Twitter, you can follow Northern Station (@SFPDNorthern) and Central Station (@SFPDCentral).

ALIAS SMITH AND JONES
Jan. 17, 7:40 a.m.
3600 Block of Broderick Street

Four officers responded to a reported residential burglary and located a suspect in front of the building. The resident reported that she was at home while the subject tried to push on the door to open it and get past the door’s locking mechanism. The subject had someone else’s identification and gave the officers several aliases. The subject was eventually identified through a fingerprint database and

was booked for multiple charges, including attempted burglary.
GOOD SAMARITAN
Jan. 18, 2:40 p.m.
Van Ness Avenue and Clay Street

An elderly woman at an intersection was accosted by a subject, and when someone intervened, the subject attacked the good Samaritan, who suffered a laceration to the face. A police officer arrived and detained the subject. The victim was treated at the scene for nonlife-threatening injuries. The subject was booked for aggravated assault with an enhancement for committing a felony while out on bail.

BREAKING AND ATTEMPTED ENTRY
Jan. 19, 11:45 p.m.
1000 Block of Post Street

A witness described a person attempting to burgle a store. An officer arrived and detained the subject, who admitted to breaking the glass on the store and trying to get in. The subject was booked at County Jail for attempted burglary.

BAD NEIGHBOR
Jan. 23, 11 p.m.
1500 Block of California Street

A neighbor dispute at a residential complex brought two officers to the building,

where a victim and a witness told them a subject had threatened to kill the victim, chased the victim, and held a knife over the victim in a threatening manner, and then punched the victim. The officers detained the subject at his residence without incident; he was arrested for battery and criminal threats and was booked at County Jail.

STOP, THIEF
Jan. 28, 8 a.m.
Unit Block of Marina Boulevard

Witnesses and victims described a vehicle that had been reported stolen. Two officers contacted the victim and located the vehicle, which was unoccupied. The victim reported that he recognized the accused thief as a known shoplifter and attempted to retrieve items being taken. The subject threatened the victim and left the store without any attempt to pay. Officers located the subject nearby and detained him without incident. He was arrested for robbery, possession of a stolen vehicle, and issued a warrant for vehicle tampering.

VIOLENT ROBBERY
Feb. 3, 11:15 a.m.
400 Block of Broadway Street

The suspects had already fled the scene before officers arrived in response to a reported armed robbery of a store. The store clerk said that three unknown

assailants ambushed him in the store and demanded money. When the victim was slow to respond to the demands and threats, one suspect pistol whipped the victim, causing visible injury to the head. Video surveillance showed the three individuals violently attack and rob the clerk. They fled southbound on Montgomery Street.

BREAKING AND ACTUAL ENTRY, PART I
Feb. 3, 1:44 p.m.
900 Block of North Point Street

An officer was told that overnight, an unknown suspect shattered the front window of a business, then entered and stole merchandise. The thief then exited via the window and fled. The interior cameras did not catch the view of the window.

BREAKING AND ACTUAL ENTRY, PART II
Feb. 6, 7:04 a.m.
700 Block of North Point Street

A witness told officers that overnight, an unknown suspect broke the front window of a business, reached through the window and removed clothing from the display case. The subject fled the scene prior to the officers’ arrival.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

Democrat since 1987 to face Speaker of the House Pelosi in a general election. Though he garnered just 22.4 percent of the votes, that was more than any other Pelosi challenger since she assumed her seat, and he was the first candidate to pass the 20 percent mark against her since 1990. His message resonated with progressive Democrats, and he likely could have come even closer if it weren't for the false accusations of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and office misogyny lobbed by the very same far-left Democrats who once passionately supported him.

On July 12, 2020, Washington D.C. comedian Elizabeth Croydon tweeted that Buttar had sexually harassed her. Former staffers reached out to Croydon about the accusation, and on July 21 Croydon published an account called "Shahid Buttar Repeatedly Sexually Harassed Me." Croydon claimed the harassment took place over 20 years ago when they lived in a communal home in D.C. for freelancers in activism and the arts. She goes on to say Buttar "cornered her in the kitchen" and "brushed against her," and that he chided her for choosing celibacy.

In late July, DSASF circulated a draft resolution moving to rescind their endorsement and calling on Buttar to participate in a "restorative justice process" with the club, of which he and several of his current and former staffers were members. The resolution accused Buttar of "a pattern of abuse including but not limited to sexually inappropriate behavior with his staff and volunteers." Local media outlets including the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Mission Local* covered the effort without confirming any of the accusations. *The Intercept*, a news outlet funded by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar in 2014, also covered the sordid tale, but did slightly more research into Croydon's claims, later stating in an update that they were "not able to corroborate Croydon's allegations and [had] interviewed multiple sources who recounted having disturbing interactions with her that caused them to question her credibility." Croydon's former roommate, Stacey Haines, told *The Intercept* that story sounded "remarkably familiar" — that she was actually the one who went through a period of celibacy and was "mocked and harassed" by Croydon.

Patricia Brooks, founder of earned media firm MatchMap Media and a current Buttar campaign volunteer, says she and Buttar did overlapping work on the East Coast. "I lived in the D.C. area for 17 years and was pretty well known in those circles, and people from those circles came to me and said Liz has done this before. It was 20 years ago. Usually there are others who come forward — these things rarely happen in a vacuum. But no one did. Instead people came to me with concerns about Liz and not Shahid."

'A PRETTY BAD BOSS'

When the Croydon story fell apart, the Democratic left never acknowledged it nor apologized for pushing a resolution based on possibly false accusations, pivoting instead to new allegations that Buttar was a bad boss. "The only thing more alarming to me than being the target of racist accusations was watching the fragility of 'progressives' and 'socialists' in San Francisco lead them to double down



Congressional candidate Shahid Buttar at a rally. PHOTO: COURTESY SHAHIDFORCHANGE.US

and shoot the messenger even after the lies were exposed," Buttar says.

Brooks, who is herself a survivor of sexual assault, was deeply concerned about members of the SFBerniecrats using the MeToo movement to attack a Brown Muslim man with false accusations. "I was a Bernie Sanders supporter way before he got in the race. Their group is part of our revolution, which is national. I decided to testify at their hearing about Shahid with my Bernie perspective," Brooks says. "I told them if it was about treatment of staff, they should unendorse Bernie because way worse things were said about him being sexist." SFBerniecrats then-Chairman Brandon Harami told Brooks she was "speaking nonsense" and told her to "get a life." He also called her a "harasser" and deleted her post from a public forum. "I was trying to tell the truth," Brooks says. "They don't care about survivors. They don't care about anything. It's just a political game for them."

Harami refused my Twitter invite to tell his side, instead taking to Medium in a post titled, "Seriously: The Left Doesn't Need to Die on this Hill," which confirmed his role in the Buttar scandal.

"I heard it from multiple staffers that Shahid was a pretty bad boss for some time but bit my tongue because I had worked on campaigns before and know how stressful it is and because the staffers asked me not to say anything," he writes. After agreeing "the sexual assault accusations were questionable," Harami says the club "voted by a slim majority to recommend rescinding Shahid's endorsement on the basis he operated a toxic work environment."

Still, a toxic work environment is a long way from sexual assault. "This is someone's life. You can't just call them a sexual predator and then say, 'oh it's false' but we must move on for the sake of the movement," Brooks says. "I have worked with Shahid very directly as a woman on the team for a year and a half. I like working with him. He is not a bad boss nor a sexist one, in my experience."

In fact, there has been no credible evidence that Buttar ran a toxic workplace — not to mention, during the pandemic, meetings were held over Zoom. What does emerge is a portrait of immature, inexperienced former staffers conspiring to destroy his campaign.

RACIST RESOLUTION

On Aug. 4 during a virtual meeting, DSASF passed a resolution removing the accusations of staff mistreatment and alleged sexual misconduct, simply stating they had "lost confidence in the management" of Buttar's campaign "and in Shahid Buttar as a candidate that represents our values." Earlier that same day, Buttar's former campaign manager, Jasper Wilde — who admitted to writing the original resolution — penned a Medium post claiming the campaign ended due to "allegations of sexual assault." That was the first time the word "assault" was used, and it took the rhetoric to another level. Though she later changed "assault" to "harassment," after someone "alerted her to the mistake," the devil is in the details.

"I can go line by line through Jasper's piece and point out lie by lie, each time hurting other women. She used her white lesbian status to mobilize LGBT club leadership toward racism," Brooks says.

Buttar's most vocal detractors, including Wilde, Harami and fellow SFBerniecrat Brandee Marckmann, embody the "white privilege" stereotype they rail against in their attempts to move up the political ladder. They spend hours on social media like a diabolic Mickey Mouse Club, bullying those who disagree with them while simultaneously and unironically claiming their movement listens to women and uplifts the voices of Black and Brown people.

Gloria Berry, an Afro-Latina grandmother, Navy veteran, and the only non-slate member elected to the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC), says her voice was ignored by the leaders of the SFBerniecrats, Harvey Milk Club, and others. Berry says Raya Steier, a former Buttar field organizer and fellow DSASF member, was the one who called Croydon and reported back to the club. "Raya made it her business to say at that first DSA meeting, 'Brown men rape.' She suggested on the SFBerniecrats Facebook page that we use a mediator she knew who specialized in rape. Throwing the 'R' word around is not cool. We know when you want a dog whistle, these types of words are used."

Steier, whose last name was Sarkar in India, first gained attention after listing the names of nearly 100 teachers at Indian universities who allegedly sexually harassed or assaulted students and, Brooks points out, "were Muslim men." Despite what Steier said about Buttar and claims about Muslim men in India, David Campos, former District 9 supervisor, vice-chairman of the California Democratic Party and current state assembly

candidate, later hired her. Wilde, meanwhile, was rewarded for her part in the smear campaign against Buttar with a board membership position at the Harvey Milk Club.

"I grew up in rural Missouri, as part of the only immigrant family within 11 miles in any direction," Buttar wrote on Twitter, "but the worst racism I've ever encountered was in 2020, right here in the proud progressive bastion of San Francisco."

In the end, it was not Buttar who created a toxic environment, but a bunch of white politically ambitious nobodies desperate for attention within their own fractured party — and who ultimately were too afraid to go against a mainstream force like Pelosi. For Steier and Wilde it worked out; for Harami, not so much. He lost his bid to become a California Democratic Party delegate, but later received the equivalent of a participation trophy from Campos, who appointed him Bay Area vice chair of the California Democratic Party's Progressive Caucus. He continues to attack Buttar and his supporters, including Berry. "Brandon hit me with the homophobic thing. I was livid. I also got hit with transphobia, and I'm not [either] of those things," Berry says. Despite attacks from Buttar's critics, Berry says she won't back down. "I really got involved in this because I had a first-row seat and knew a lot of players in this, and I couldn't stand by anymore ... I don't understand why no political clubs will publicly admit that they discovered the smear to be dubious in official statements like the ones they put out amplifying it ... nor do I understand why they always throw in 'but' when admitting their mistakes to redirect at other lies that have also been exposed. Shahid deserves an apology without any reservations for slander his name, and voters deserve an apology for being targets of disinformation favoring the party establishment."

As Harami said of Buttar, "the Left doesn't need to die on this hill," and he's right. Instead, they are dying on Hypocrite Hill, letting false accusations about a Brown Muslim man sexually assaulting a white woman hang in the air, all the while standing by a gutted resolution that helped dismantle a historic congressional campaign. In the end, DSASF members brag about lifting Black and Brown voices, but they clearly don't practice what they preach.

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Art World
continued from cover

bition. After returning to the United States, Neel became one of the first artists enrolled in the Works Progress Administration (WPA). While building up the public infrastructure during the depression, the WPA paid artists through the Federal Art Project. It was during this period that Neel's work began to gain attention.

PICTURES OF PEOPLE AS HISTORY

Neel spent most of her life in New York City, where she painted the diverse, resilient, and passionate people she encountered in the civil rights and feminist movements as well as political leaders, queer cultural figures, mothers, visibly pregnant women, musicians, and nude figures.

The exhibition is divided into seven sections representing seven decades of Neel's creativity:

'COUNTER/CULTURE'

The largest section within the exhibition is dedicated to the counterculture people Neel interacted with during her life. Her painting *Robert Avedis Hagopian* (1971) celebrates, in bright blues and yellows, the beloved local San Francisco concert pianist who died from complications of HIV/AIDS.

'THE HUMAN COMEDY'

This gallery draws on the work of French novelist Honore de Balzac. These are Neel's most emotional drawings and paintings, reflecting the pain, suffering, and endurance of people, including those in hospitals and suicide wards. *The Fuller Brush Man* (1965) is a portrait of Dewald Strauss, a salesman for the Fuller Brush Company who survived Dachau and escaped Nazi Germany. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army and earned a Purple Heart for his service.

'HOME' AND 'MOTHERHOOD'

These two sections focus on Neel's depictions of domestic intimate situations and personal moments as a mother, lover, and artist. Pre- and postpartum bodies are represented with a refreshing candor



Alice Neel in her apartment in the 1940s. PHOTO: SAM BRODY ARTWORKS © THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL, COURTESY THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL AND DAVID ZWIRNER

and emphasize the complexities of this female experience.

"Alice Neel dedicated her practice to portraying both people and moments in life that have often been erased or forgotten through time," says Lauren Palmor, assistant curator of American art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. "Whether portraying the strength and struggles of her neighbors in Spanish Harlem, the labors of pregnancy and motherhood, or a generation of creatives devastated by the AIDS crisis, her works are unflinching in their honesty and radical in their interpretation."

'ALICE NEEL AND ART HISTORY'

The presentation will also include an interlude dedicated to Neel and San Francisco. She made two trips to the city to visit her son in 1967 and 1969. *Ginny in Blue Shirt*, a painting of her son's wife, will

be on view along with a rare film showing Neel in the process of painting Ginny. Other select works drawn from the collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco by artists Neel admired, including Imogen Cunningham and Richard Diebenkorn, will be juxtaposed with her own work.

'THE NUDE' AND 'GOOD ABSTRACT QUALITIES'

The "Nude" section of the exhibition presents provocative, groundbreaking nudes, including a self-portrait painted by Neel when she was 80 years old. The artist meets the gaze of the viewer, holding her paintbrush in one hand and oil rag in the other, representing the realism of the female body in old age.

The final room, "Good Abstract Qualities," shows the artist's experimentations with abstraction. A brilliant example of "unfinishedness" is *Black Draftee* (James

Hunter), which depicts a draftee of the Vietnam War scheduled for duty within a week. Hunter was to return for a second sitting but did not. As a result, Neel rendered much of his body in ghostlike lines, giving the painting an ominous characteristic.

Alice Neel painted her world, from the bohemians, dissidents, and activists with whom she collaborated to other artists, family, and friends. Neel called herself a "collector of souls," a phrase that encapsulates her ability to reflect her subjects and the eras in which they lived.

Alice Neel: People Come First Tues.–Sun. through July 10, \$28, de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., 415-750-3600, famsf.org

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY CHRIS HSIANG

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **Cloud Cuckoo Land**, by Anthony Doerr
2. **The Great Circle: A Novel**, by Maggie Shipstead
3. **The Lincoln Highway: A Novel**, by Amor Towles

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones**, by James Clear
2. **Taste: My Life Through Food**, by Stanley Tucci
3. **The Power of Regret: How Looking Backward Moves Us Forward**, by Daniel H. Pink

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel**, by Taylor Jenkins
2. **Snow A Novel**, by John Banville

3. **Watch Me Disappear: A Novel**, by Janelle Brown

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **Three-Martini Lunches at the Ritz: A Novel**, by Gail Crowther
2. **Neurodharma: New Science, Ancient Wisdom, and Seven Practices of the Highest Happiness**, by Rick Hanson
3. **All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake**, by Tiya Miles

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

The Art of Star Wars: The Mandalorian (Season Two), by Phil Szostak

This gorgeous coffee table book for fans of that fun spaghetti Western in space showcases the fabulous art and imaginations of

Doug Chiang and the other creative artists at Lucasfilm.

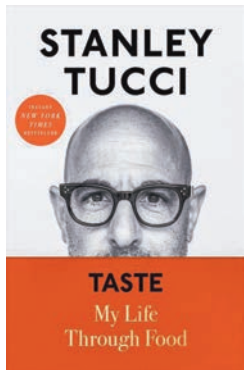
The Duchess Countess: The Woman Who Scandalized Eighteenth-Century London by Catherine Ostler

Named maid of honor to Augusta, Princess of Wales, in 1743, Elizabeth Chudleigh was the inspiration for the shrewd antiheroine of William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. This larger-than-life figure was "duchess, countess, courtier, socialite, hostess, mariner, property developer, celebrity, vodka distiller, press manipulator, arts patron, bigamist."

That's quite a resume.

The Paris Apartment: A Novel, by Lucy Foley

A thrilling nail-biting, locked-room guaranteed to be just as satisfying as the author's previous delicious guilty pleasures: *The Hunting Party* and *The Guest List*.



Moon Witch, Spider King (The Dark Star Trilogy), by Marlon James

This sequel to *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* has the epic sweep, intensely layered structure, and raw if luscious language his readers have come to expect, and it was a National Book Award

finalist and *New York Times* best seller. For readers of fantasy and literary fiction alike, this should be another grand thrill.

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

MARCH EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

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

MAJOR EVENTS

S.F. Public Library | HERstory

Various days, March 1–31

Live stream

Celebrate Women's History Month, honoring and acknowledging the contributions of women and the experience of being female today with programs about women as groundbreakers, feminism, the women's movement, and much more. *Free*, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org



S.F. Ballet | Program 4

Various dates, March 15–20

War Memorial Opera House

A magical world about forbidden love with a young Scotsman and an ethereal fairy unfolds in in August Bournonville's *La Sylphide*; *The Seasons* features Alexei Ratmansky's West Coast premiere of an allegorical ballet that "showcases a choreography that is fiendishly challenging with tornado ferocity." \$29–\$448, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org

PHOTO: COURTESY SFMPD

S.F. Symphony | Lang Lang: 'Goldberg Variations'

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

The legendary pianist brings his unique and extraordinary flair to J.S. Bach's monumental *Goldberg Variations*, where each variation is based on the same bass line, borrowed from Handel, resulting in a timeless tour de force of creative genius. \$200–\$325, 415-864-4000, sf-symphony.org

COMMUNITY CORNER

Cow Hollow Cleanup

Friday, March 18, 3:30–5 p.m.

Meet: Corner of Baker and Union Sts.

Help keep Cow Hollow clean by joining RefuseRefuseSF, Shine On, SF Public Works, Cow Hollow Association, and TogetherSF for a friendly neighborhood cleanup. *Free*, sign up at mobilize.us/togethersf

GALAS & BENEFITS

27th Annual Art Inspiring Hope Gala: Atlantis Rising

Saturday, March 19, 6 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Celebrate Camp Okizu's 41st year of supporting Bay Area children with cancer and their families at this gala featuring a reception, gourmet dinner, hosted bar, and auction. \$375 & up, 415-382-9083, okizu.org

ARTS & CULTURE

We Are Not Strangers Here: African American Histories in Rural California

Wed.–Fri. through Aug. 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Society of California Pioneers (10 Montgomery St. #150, the Presidio)

This exhibition highlights the untold stories of African American pioneers, miners, farmers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders throughout the state. *Free*, 415-957-1849, californiapioneers.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



de Young Museum | Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love

Thu.–Sun. & Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. through April 24

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park

This exhibition celebrates the career and legacy of Black fashion designer Patrick Kelly. \$35, 888-901-6645, famsf.org

PHOTO: FAMSF.ORG

SFMOMA | Nature x Humanity: Oxman Architects

Monday 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday 1–8 p.m., & Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. through May 15

151 Third St. This exhibition explores the role of the architect in the age of climate change and considers the sustainability of materials, tools, and construction of architecture. *Free* (first Thursdays 4–8 p.m.)–\$25, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

THEATER

42nd Street Moon | A Grand Night for Singing

Thu.–Sun., March 10–13

Wed.–Sun., March 16–27, 8 p.m.

Gateway Theatre (215 Jackson St.)

Experience musical theater legends, Rodgers and Hammerstein in this celebration of both hits and hidden gems – all with a modern twist. \$35–\$70, 415-255-8207, 42ndstmoon.org

S.F. Playhouse | Water By the Spoonful

Wed.–Sun., March 16–20

Tue.–Sun., March 22–April 23

450 Post St. (in the Kensington Park Hotel)

In this drama by Quiara Alegría Hudes (*In the Heights*), the boundaries of family and community are stretched across continents and cyberspace as birth families splinter and online families collide in a heartfelt meditation on lives on the brink of redemption. \$30–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

Presidio Theatre | Colette Uncensored

Sat.–Sun., March 19–20

99 Moraga Ave.

Join a titillating journey through the scandalous life, loves, and writing of the French novelist and activist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette in this one-woman performance by Lorri Holt. \$30–\$55, 415-960-3949, presidiotheatre.org

ACT | Fefu and Her Friends

Tue.–Sun., March 24–May 1

Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)

This immersive comedy-drama by Cuban-American playwright María Irene Fornés allows the audience to be "a fly on many walls" in this unconventional tale of eight women gathering at a New England country home in 1935. \$25–\$60, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY

S.F. Jazz | Leading Women

Thu.–Sun., March 10–13

201 Franklin St.

Celebrate Women's History Month with performances by Sarah Wilson's Brass Tonic, bassist-vocalist Katie Thiroux, Grammy winner Nella, and Oakland soul sister Jenn Johns. Visit website for schedule. \$25–\$85, 800-920-5299, sfjazz.org

John Mayer

Fri.–Sat., March 18–19, 7:30 p.m.

Chase Center

The seven-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter will perform songs from his recently released album *Sob Rock*. \$49 & up, 800-653-8000, chasecenter.com

MUSIC: CLASSICAL

S.F. Conservatory of Music | The Future Is Female: A Concert of Music by Women

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Cha Chi Ming Recital Hall (200 Van Ness Ave.) & Live stream

Program not available at publication. Visit website for information and ticketing. 415-503-6275, sfc.edu



Old First Concerts | 3rd Annual Pacific Pythagorean Music Festival: Modes of Change

Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m.

1751 Sacramento St. & Live stream

Celebrate the experimental innovators and traditional masters of pure-ratio harmonies, highlighting Persian scales with the World Premiere of Reza Vali's newest string quartet. \$20–\$25, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

PHOTO: OLDFIRSTCONCERTS.ORG

DANCE

Dance Mission at the Ferry Building Sunday, March 6, 12:30 p.m.

Ferry Building Plaza (in front of CUESA)

Enjoy a performance by Arenas Dance Company joined by guests Fredrika Keefer and Adonis Martin followed by a salsa class (1:30 p.m.). All ages/levels welcome. *Free*, 415-826-4441, dancemissiontheater.org

ODC/Dance | Dance Downtown 2022

Thu.–Sun., March 31–April 10

Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA

Program A, "On Renewal" features the Dexandro Montalvo's world premiere, *Vámonos* and Brenda Way's *Speaking Volumes*, and Program B, "On Reflection" features Amy Seiwert's world premiere, *No Alibi* and Brenda Way's *Investigating Grace* set to Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. \$25–\$150, 415-978-2787, odcdance.org

NIGHTLIFE

Exploratorium | After Dark: See for Yourself

Thursday, March 3, 6–10 p.m.

Pier 15

Take your imagination out to play — fuel up with a cocktail and roam through six spacious outdoor and indoor spaces bringing fresh eyes to old favorites and uncovering phenomenal new experiences. 18 & up, \$20, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

HellaSecret Outdoor Comedy & Cocktails

Thu.–Sun. ongoing, 7 p.m. & 8:45 p.m.

Location revealed at ticketing

Enjoy 70-minuted comedy shows with four to five comics with impressive credits at unique outdoor pop-up locations. \$20–\$25, eventbrite.com

FILMS & LECTURES

Stories of Change: 'Welcome to the Neighborhood'

Wed.–Sun. through March 13, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Exploratorium

This remarkable story by Bay Area filmmaker Pam Uzzell of a legendary Berkeley social activist Mable "Mama" Howard and her daughter, renowned artist Mildred Howard, threads together multiple stories centered on social and economic justice and examines the fragile nature of change over two generations. *Free with admission* (\$30), 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

Rep. Jamie Raskin: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy

Monday, March 14, 3 p.m.

Commonwealth Club (110 The Embarcadero) & Live stream

Join Congressman Raskin as he discusses his new memoir, which recounts his moving story of balancing the tragic loss of his son and the Jan. 6 political violence simultaneously, and how he found hope to press on in his darkest moment to continue fighting for American democracy. \$10–\$50, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

For Site Foundation | Lands End

Daily through March 27

Cliff House

This timely exhibition brings together work by 27 contemporary international artists and collectives to reflect on the fragility of the planet's health and its manifold intersections with critical issues, from human rights to racial equity, sustainability, and forced migration. Limited timed-ticket availability. *Free*, 415-362-9330, for-site.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Good Food Mercantile

Thursday, March 3, noon

City View at Metreon (135 Fourth St.)

Enjoy Covid-safe sampling from over 115 of America's top food crafters and a dozen of the best importers of good food from around the globe. \$35–\$55, 415-275-1794, goodfoodfdn.org



ZINEX 2022 Wine Festival

ZINEX 2022 Wine Festival

Fri.–Sun., March 25–27

The Pavilion at One Market (30 Steuart St.)

The Zinfandel Experience returns with a theme of "Back to the Future," and a winemakers' 1950-style prom night dinner, themed tasting flights, and the Grand Tasting. \$50–\$350, zinfandalexperience.com

PHOTO: LEAH / ZINFANDELEXPERIENCE.COM

MINDFULNESS

Hike & Meditation in Presidio Forest

Saturday, March 12, 19, & 26, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Meet: Yoda Fountain, Letterman complex

After a 15-minute easy hike, enjoy a 30-minute guided meditation surrounded by redwood trees. Bring whatever you need to meditate (towel, blanket, cushion). \$28, eventbrite.com

Sound Bath

Monday, March 21, 7–8:30 p.m.

Grace Cathedral

Listen to calming, beautiful sounds, and focus your attention on the music performed by live musicians as you connect to a higher state of consciousness. May be experienced while seated or reclining on your personal yoga mat/blanket. \$20–\$75, eventbrite.com

JUST FOR FUN

Night Photography Class

Saturday, March 19, 6:30–9 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts

Learn to capture stunning, colorful, and dramatic low light and night photographs in this hands-on walking tour with multiple photo demonstrations, tips, and advice on how to improve your images. \$99, eventbrite.com

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

Despite there being no ostensible language barrier for Americans when watching a movie in English, there might be some heavy accents to negotiate in some festival entries, and on occasion there are foreign tongues in play albeit with subtitles. When you consider the cultural differences that distinguish various corners of what was once the British Empire, as well as certain areas of the U.K. itself, the flavor of the MBFF becomes even more diverse and distinctive.

Here are a few highlights:

‘MOTHERING SUNDAY’

(March 8, 7:30 p.m.)

Set amid elegant countryside manors in post-World War I England, *Mothering Sunday* is adapted from Graham Swift’s novel about the passion and pain of an upstairs-downstairs affair between two attractive people: Jane, an intellectually curious housemaid for a well-to-do couple, and Paul, the brash son of a neighboring family. The lovers’ tryst on Mother’s Day in 1924 is the lynchpin of the story, while flashbacks and flashes forward give the romantic interlude context and reveal the workings of fate. It’s directed by Eva Husson and scripted by Alice Birch, with Josh O’Connor as Paul, Odessa Young as Jane, and an impressive supporting cast featuring Colin Firth, Olivia Colman, and Glenda Jackson.

‘THE DUKE’

(March 10, 7:30 p.m.)

The true story of an audacious 1961 art theft was the inspiration for *The Duke*, a totally delightful jumble of working-class family friction, social commentary, and crime comedy directed by Roger Michell



Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent in *The Duke*. PHOTO: COURTESY PATHÉ, WARNER BROS. PICTURES

(*Notting Hill*). Jim Broadbent plays Kempton Bunton, a good-hearted older man who drives a taxi and aspires to be a screenwriter. Short on cash, Kempton is angry at the British government for making people purchase TV licenses to watch the BBC. His scofflaw attitude makes his disgruntled wife, Dorothy (Helen Mirren), even more frustrated with him, although their two adult sons love his attitude. When a valuable portrait of the Duke of Wellington goes on display in a London museum, Kempton decides that the monetary value of the painting should be redistributed to right some wrongs — and a caper unfolds.

‘THE DRY’

(March 11, 5:30 p.m.)

Tough-guy actor Eric Bana takes the lead in *The Dry*, a latter-day noir set in a desolate but visually compelling Australian location. Bana is Aaron Falk, a federal detective who returns to his hometown during a drought that has devastated the

area’s farms and forests and put citizens in dire financial straits. Although he left town as a pariah after a tragic event, Aaron has returned for the funeral of a boyhood friend. The dead man purportedly shot and killed his wife and child, then shot himself. Enough doubts are raised about the crime that Aaron is convinced to help a local cop get to the truth of the murders. Director and co-screenwriter Robert Connolly delivers an absorbing mystery with a few surprises along the way.

‘FALLING FOR FIGARO’

(March 14, 8 p.m.)

In a serious turnaround from playing a New Jersey-spawned wannabe rapper in the movie *Patti Cake\$*, Danielle Macdonald stars in this music-themed rom-com as an American expat in London who decides to chuck her burgeoning career in finance to become a professional opera singer. She’ll have to leave her coworker-boyfriend behind and travel all the way to a

tiny town in rural Scotland to study with a mean-spirited voice teacher (Joanna Lumley). The vocal coach happens to have one other pupil, a cute and earnest guy who works in the kitchen of what appears to be the only pub-hotel for miles. Will sparks fly between the students? Is haggis horrifying to conceive of, let alone eat? The answer to both questions should be obvious.

‘FISHERMAN’S FRIENDS’

(March 15, 3 p.m.)

This cheery comedy was derived from the real experiences of fishermen in a small seaside town in Cornwall who got together on a regular basis to serenade locals and tourists with their repertoire of sea chanteys. They were discovered by a music-biz type, and they recorded a bunch of these folk tunes. Their album won awards and became one of the most successful collections of traditional music ever released in the U.K. *Fisherman’s Friends* throws in zany hijinks and a romantic subplot wherein the record industry exec (Daniel Mays) trying to secure a label deal for the fishermen falls for a local single mom. The result is charming, escapist fare with a boatful of rousing tunes.

For additional highlights from the Mostly British Film Festival, visit marinatimes.com.

Mostly British Film Festival: daily, March 10–17, \$15–\$250, *Vogue Theatre*, 3290 Sacramento St., 415-346-2228, mostlybritish.org

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](https://twitter.com/cultureblaster).



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Children can learn “if you win don’t rub it in, if you lose don’t make excuses.”
PHOTO: MONKEYBUSINESSIMAGES

Life lessons in youth sports

The values children learn from sports will shape their lives

BY LIZ FARRELL

WE SPENT THE LAST SEVERAL weeks mesmerized by the winter Olympics. We watched every night together as a family, each of us having a favorite sport, event, or athlete we were cheering on. It struck me how hard it was to watch our favorites lose. Whether they missed a gate, lost control, or fell, the anguish and disappointment was heartbreaking, especially after all that training. In a matter of seconds something can go wrong. At times, the pressure placed on these athletes seemed almost too much. We quickly forget they are only human and when competing sometimes things happen in and out of an athlete’s control.

There are so many great lessons to be learned for parents *and* kids, especially those who love to compete. Here are a few I’d like to share:

HARD WORK

Here in the Bay Area, we don’t have to look far for athletes who epitomize hard work. Whether it is Steph Curry crushing another record, Klay Thompson’s return after a devastating injury, or the turbulent season for Jimmy G., these athletes prove hard work and determination are key to being one of the greats.

My two sons are playing basketball and I like to remind them Steph didn’t get that good at shooting three-pointers without a lot of practice. If you want to make a special team, set a new personal record, or hit home runs it takes practice, and a lot of it. Most of our children may not go on to be collegiate or professional athletes, but the value of a strong work ethic and lessons around commitment and teamwork will help them in their careers and beyond.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is something taught but also modeled. From a young age playing games such as Go Fish or Candyland, we can teach our children the importance of playing by the rules and being fair. Whether it is a board game or a sports game, we can teach them “if you win don’t rub it in, if you lose don’t make excuses,” and always end with a handshake. In our house, win or lose you look the other person in the eyes, shake hands, and say, “good game.”

As a coach for many youth teams, I always insisted on lining up and high-fiving the other team at the end of the game. I also always thanked the referee and strongly encouraged the kids to do the

same. When I’m not the coach, I make sure my kids also thank the coach. Part of good sportsmanship is respecting your coaches and the officials and not arguing, regardless of whether you liked all the calls or decisions.

We also want to make sure our kids are showing respect for themselves, their teammates by being encouraging, and for the other team. Our kids are always listening and watching us, and they are paying attention to what we are yelling at the TV or at their games. Make sure to use these opportunities to model good sportsmanship and to be encouraging when cheering them on from sidelines.

WE CAN’T WIN THEM ALL

I grew up playing sports, and losing is hard. Watching your child lose can be just as difficult; however, the earlier they can learn the art of both winning and losing, the better it will serve them.

Losing, though it doesn’t make anyone feel good, can be a valuable opportunity to build resilience, confidence, motivation, and self-control. It also encourages humility, so when children do win, they can be respectful and more empathetic to others.

As parents, we can easily get caught up in the outcomes, and sometimes it is more beneficial to our children to focus on their effort. In our house, we don’t care how many goals you score or hits you have if you gave it your best and you had fun. This also helps children learn that their value is not tied to winning or losing — our love is unconditional and has nothing to do with the outcome of a game. Give them a hug after the game and point out something they did well.

There is so much to be gained from youth sports that goes way beyond a winning record. Ultimately, we want our children to enjoy the experience, and if we are doing our job as parents we hope they will learn and put into practice the values they learn from the experience. These values can be applied to all the highs and lows that life may bring and will stay with them for the rest of their lives. So as you spend another weekend racing from event to event, remember the gift you are giving them will last a lifetime.

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



It's no longer "location, location, location." Now it's "move-in ready, move-in ready, move-in ready." PHOTO: GAREY DE MARTINI

Affordability is in the eye of the beholder

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

SAN FRANCISCO IS NOT THE MOST expensive place to live in the world. In fact, it doesn't even crack the top 10. Bet you can't even guess which city is the most expensive place on Earth. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), that would be Tel Aviv, followed by Paris, Singapore, Zurich, and Hong Kong, in that order.

U.S. cities in the top 10 include New York and Los Angeles. No San Francisco. Not even in the top 20. We can't tell you exactly where the city ranks, but in 2019 San Francisco was one of the world's highest climbers, moving up 12 places to 25th on the EIU list.

So the next time you think things are expensive here, remember, based on a worldwide cost of living index, things would be worse if you were living in Sydney, Australia or even Dublin, Ireland.

AND YET . . .

Not that homes aren't expensive here and elsewhere in America. According to a recent Zillow report, there are now 481 cities nationwide in which the typical home value is at least \$1 million. A record 146 new U.S. cities became "million-dollar cities" in 2021, the highest number of new entrants in a single year. What's more, 49 more cities could join the \$1 million club by mid-year.

Metro areas (a regional demarcation that typically includes several counties) with the most \$1 million cities? San Francisco and New York lead the way, with 76 such cities each. Followed by Los Angeles (57), San Jose (22), Boston (18), and Seattle (16).

A second Zillow report says that the U.S. housing market has doubled in value since the Great Recession. It gained \$6.9 trillion in 2021 alone, easily the most ever in a single year. It's important to note that the most-expensive third of homes accounts for more than 60 percent of the market's total value.

Of course, in San Francisco a \$1 million home isn't what it used to be.

Ron Wong and Mike Tekulsky, agents with The Wong Tekulsky Team at Compass, say they are now seeing houses sell for close to \$2 million in San Francisco neighborhoods that never received this kind of attention in the past.

"Location doesn't matter as much anymore," said Wong. "People want a house that is a comfortable place to spend 24/7 the next time a Covid variant comes around. In the city, if a neighborhood isn't trendy yet, give it a few months and

a new coffee shop will open up down the street."

"People don't want to deal with a remodel," added Tekulsky. "They are reading stories about supply chain issues and the inflation in building materials, so they will pay a premium for a remodeled house. We have buyers whose parameters are all about the house and it can be virtually anywhere in the city."

The agents also said even the condo market is back. There was a time when condos weren't in demand because of Covid. Turns out the elevator is not the super spreader it was once believed to be. Rents that were once lower have steadily increased, and people who opted to rent rather than buy in 2020 and 2021 are now looking to purchase a home. And a condo is what many want.

Why condos? The lower purchase price is a big reason, and also because the single-family market is saturated with older homes fetching multiple offers. A condo built in the last 20 years with good reserves and management is looking more and more attractive to a sizeable number of buyers.

AFFORDABILITY

In a piece published in early February by the *San Francisco Business Times*, Ashley Fahey reports that some of the most expensive parts of the country are actually more affordable now than they were prepandemic. Since 2019, household incomes rose 15 percent and 13 percent, respectively, in San Jose and San Francisco.

Unfortunately, even though a greater number of households in these areas could afford a slightly more expensive home, there are fewer options available because of record-low inventory. A National Association of Realtors analysis found households in San Francisco in the \$125,000 to \$150,000 income bracket have 300 fewer homes they can afford compared to December 2019.

On a more hopeful note, inventory will improve in the coming months, according to Wong and Tekulsky. The selling season of April and May approaches. Some sellers will see this as a time to cash out and take an early retirement.

At this point, one thing is fairly certain. Demand will continue to outpace inventory. And no matter how outrageous an asking price for some home might appear to be, someone is likely to bid over it, purchase the place, and think they got a pretty good deal.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com



As part of emerging from the pandemic and opening doors...

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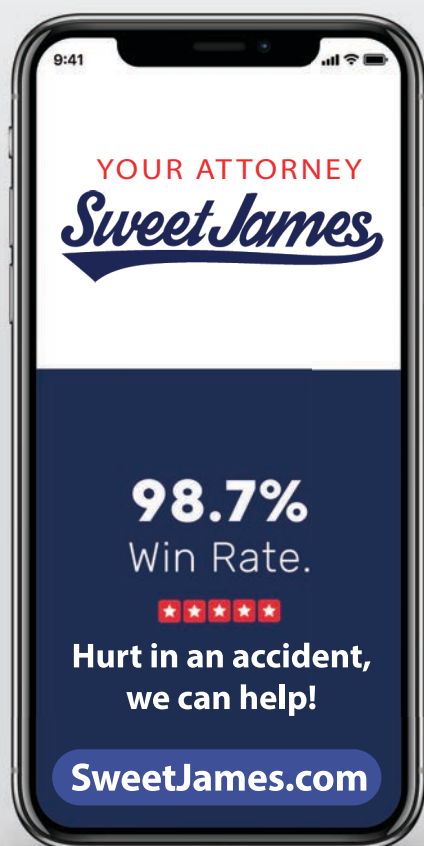
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