



May is here
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What to do
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Installation view of Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy. PHOTO: DREW ALTIZER, COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy at the Legion of Honor

BY SHARON ANDERSON

GUO PEI'S EXTRAORDINARY designs are currently on view at the Legion of Honor in the exhibition, *Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy*. Fusing elements from architecture, the botanical world, decorative arts, and China's imperi-

al history, these opulent, unconventional pieces — 80 in total — will be on display through Sept. 5.

As China's most renowned couturier, Guo has been dressing royalty, celebrities, and politicians for more than 20 years. Born in 1967, she had a passion for sewing and dressmaking at a young age. After graduat-

ing from the Beijing Second Light Industry School in 1986, she spent several years designing for major manufacturers until she launched her own label and atelier, Rose Studio, in 1997. By 2015, Guo had been named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People and one of

ART WORLD, continued on 7

REYNOLDS RAP :: Opinion

Yes, sir, it's time for you to go

Why I support Yes on H and the recall of District Attorney Chesa Boudin

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

If this case happened anywhere else in the State of California, or the Bay Area for that matter, you likely would be midterm on a prison sentence. Today, you are given a gift. You are being given the gift of freedom and of life of which you have taken from Kate Slattery on June 22, 2016, and from her family. They will never truly be free from the catastrophic loss you've caused.

— Giles Feinberg, victim advocate, to Farrukh Mushtaq, June 17, 2021

IN MAY OF 2015, I PENNED A COLUMN TITLED “Yes, Suhr, it's time for you to go” about then-San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr, detailing a department in crisis under his leadership, from racist, homophobic text messages recovered from the phones of his officers to the tragic killing of 20-year-old Guatemalan immigrant Amilcar Pérez-López, who was killed by police in the Mission District in February 2015. An independent autopsy determined that all six bullets entered Pérez-

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 5

SUPERVISOR :: Opinion

Yes on Proposition D

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

EVERY SAN FRANCISCAN KNOWS THAT CRIME IS RISING, and that means there are more victims that need our support. The current system forces victims to navigate a complicated web of bureaucracy through multiple departments, and often without success. Survivors of domestic violence face even more challenges, as many cases aren't charged or charges are reduced with little or no consequences, leaving victims and their children vulnerable.

Approximately 20,000 times per quarter, a person in San Francisco is a victim of crime, according to the San Francisco Police Department's crime data. As high as this number is, it is probably an undercount, given that social scientists agree that about 40 percent of crimes are not reported. Further, only about 3,000 of the reported incidents result in arrests and charges are filed in fewer than 1,000 cases. This means that those victims who don't have a case proceeding through the criminal justice system do not have the same kind of support, if any at all.

According to SFPD records, last year there were more than 93,000 victims of crime in San Francisco and only 10 percent were ever resolved through the criminal justice system. These victims are primarily women and people of color. In 2021, people of color were victims in 71 percent of aggravated assaults, 82 percent of robberies, 83 percent of homicides, and 64 percent of sexual assaults.

Proposition D will consolidate all the existing victims' services into a new Office of Victim and Witness Rights

SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

MICHAEL SNYDER ON ... POP CULTURE



Outside the San Francisco Music Hall of Fame. PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO MUSIC HALL OF FAME

They built music city on rock 'n' roll

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

WHILE TRADITIONALLY looked upon as a month so merry that it often commences with maidens dancing around a pole, this particular May

marks a celebration in our city that should also inspire some cheery footwork: the one-year anniversary of the San Francisco Music Hall of Fame. The facility, honoring a number of significant Bay Area musicians, is located in the Bush Street

property that also houses the Music City Hotel, featuring themed rooms that pay homage to a selection of legendary performers that includes the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, and others. And there's more to come on the block.

Cleveland has the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Los Angeles has the Grammy Museum, and Seattle has MoPop, a.k.a. the Museum of Pop Culture (formerly the Jimi Hendrix Museum/Experience Music Project), to single out a few of the American destinations devoted to honoring regional, national, and international music and musicians. Considering the wealth of talented singers, songwriters, and instrumentalists who have made their homes in the Bay Area or found fame here, it's nice to have a venue like the San Francisco Music Hall of Fame to acknowledge that rich history.

The set-up is simple yet impactful. It's a two-floor gallery space including 91 large-scale multimedia photo installations that showcase famous and influential artists such as Santana, Neil Young, Metallica, 2Pac, Sly and the Family Stone,

SNYDER, continued on 9



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Supervisor continued from cover

and will establish a right to civil counsel for survivors of domestic violence. It will create a centralized place for all victims to receive protection and will eliminate the red tape to accessing financial, medical, and mental health services. The measure will provide critical legal support to survivors of domestic violence and their children to ensure they can obtain protective orders, child support or custody, housing assistance, and other legal assistance as needed.

Currently, there are more than half a dozen city departments that provide some services to crime victims, depending on whether charges are filed or the type of crime. Additionally, the bulk of victims' services are at the back end of a lengthy law enforcement system, meaning you need an incident report, police report, arrest, investigation, and presentation of charges before your case naturally finds itself in the hands of victims' advocates.

Services for victims of crime are sparse and spread over many departments. Outside the criminal justice system, there are some city departments that provide services to victims of crime. For example, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development oversees stipends to businesses that are broken into and burglarized, and the Human Rights Commission oversees assistance to victims of sexual assault and harassment.

This system forces victims and witnesses of crime already suffering from the emotional, physical and financial aftermath of a crime to navigate a complicated system through multiple departments, and many ultimately receive no support. The system is also centered around law enforcement, which makes many victims of crime uncomfortable and nervous to come forward. This new office will be outside of law enforcement and will meet victims and witnesses where they are.

Only about half of domestic violence cases in San Francisco are presented for prosecution, and only one-third of the cases presented are charged. This is especially troubling, given that the needs of domestic violence victims have been particularly acute since the start of the pandemic. Calls to local crisis lines have increased more than 40 percent and calls to the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic increased by 166 percent. Even more troubling is that the turn away rate for victims seeking emergency shelter was 79 percent. In many of these cases, the perpetrator returns to the home where the victim lives, often with children, who are witnesses and victims of abuse as well.

Experts agree that in 99 percent of domestic violence cases, victims are subjected to economic abuse and coercive financial control, making it extremely difficult to pay for legal representation to help them and their children escape their abuser. Furthermore, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness in

our country and the direct cause for more than half our homeless women.

I recently heard the story of a domestic violence survivor in San Francisco that depicts the horror of those statistics. Claudia was in an abusive marriage for at least eight years after marrying her high school sweetheart. She suffered beatings at least twice a week and was admitted to the hospital while pregnant because of the abuse. Her husband called the police one day to report that *she* had hit *him* and she ended up spending five nights in jail. Charges were never filed, however, this allowed the husband to obtain a restraining order that kept her from her home and children. He also locked her out of her bank accounts, cutting off her financial means. Because of this, Claudia ended up homeless in San Francisco. These are all very common tactics of abusers seeking to bully and isolate their partners, which unfortunately I saw many times as a prosecutor in Contra Costa County.

Claudia sought help from four different nonprofits, but each turned her away. She could not afford a lawyer on her own. After one nonprofit finally accepted her case, they won a trial that allowed Claudia back in the home, removed her abusive husband, granted her sole custody of her children and helped her obtain a divorce.

Claudia's case is sadly far less common than the hundreds of women in our city who are trapped in abusive environments because they cannot find or afford legal aid. Too many survivors are forced to choose between economic security and their personal safety.

By establishing the Office of Victim and Witness Rights as well as the right to civil counsel for domestic violence victims, we can provide much-needed support and comprehensive services to all crime victims. This initiative will kick off a process to create a "victim first" model for services and will be a centralized place for all victims to receive protection that eliminates the red tape currently in place limiting access to services. It will also consolidate and coordinate existing victims' services across all city departments and connect victims of crime to financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and mental health support.

In a most profound way, Proposition D will provide survivors of domestic violence with an alternative and a new set of tools to end the cycle of violence. This initiative makes individuals who report domestic violence or file a domestic violence restraining order eligible for full-scope legal representation to aid with their legal issues, including protective orders, gun violence restraining orders, custody, child support, Marsy's Law, alimony, social service benefits, health care, employment, and housing.

With your vote, we could be the first city in the United States to provide a right to civil counsel for domestic violence victims. I urge you to vote yes on Proposition D this June and help all crime victims in San Francisco.

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

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Big projects finally come to fruition in the city

Plus, redistricting drama draws to a close

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

VAN NESS BUSSES GO ZOOM

After what seemed like a decade but was only six years, construction of the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit Project was completed and put into service on April 1. The project included the addition of red transit-only lanes down the center of Van Ness Avenue, upgraded pedestrian crossing signals and utilities, and new landscaping.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi touted the “more than \$116 million in federal support for this critical project — one third of its total funding.” She said the BRT system will make commutes easier through the core of the city, reduce congestion, improve safety, and aid in meeting climate goals.

“Not only does this project make Van Ness Avenue a more enjoyable place for residents and visitors to walk, bike, and take public transit, it also helps get people out of their cars,” said Mayor London Breed. “In order to have a San Francisco that is livable and healthy for our residents, we must reduce emissions from transportation and make it easier for people to get around in more sustainable ways.”

The delayed finish to the project at times tested the nerves of local businesses and pedestrians. State Senator Scott Wiener tweeted, “THE DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED! Van Ness bus rapid transit is finally in operation! It took too long, but better late than never. We worked so hard to make this a reality. Bus rapid transit is an essential part of a sustainable transportation future. We need more of this & faster.”

TUNNEL TOPS COMING IN JULY

Last month saw the opening of the historic Battery Bluff in the Presidio, and in two months, we'll get to visit the new Presidio Tunnel Tops. The new 14-acre parkland was designed by James Corner Field Operations, the same company behind New York City's famous High Line. It features scenic overlooks, trails, picnic space, bridge and city views — all surrounded by meadows and gardens. A transit center and visitor center will welcome visitors, along with food and entertainment options.

The Presidio Trust points to the Outpost as a particular highlight of the new park space. The Outpost is a two-acre “nature play area where kids can have unforgettable adventures by swinging, crawling, and climbing on play structures that reflect elements of the Presidio and are built from fallen tree trunks, boulders, and other natural materials,” according to the Trust. In addition, the renovated Crissy Field Center and new Field Station — “an indoor spot where kids explore the Presidio through art, science, or simply their imagination” — are expected to engage visitors in self-guided and programmed activities.

The public is invited to begin enjoying the Presidio Tunnel Tops starting on Sunday, July 17.

IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING

After dozens of meetings (at least one of which lasted 19 hours), curse words, charges of class warfare and voter suppression, and more, San Francisco's Redistricting Task Force says it has its final map of the city's 11 supervisor districts. As longtime columnist C.W. Nevius wrote in his newsletter, the contentious, poorly run process was “an unmitigated civic embarrassment.”

After all of the drama, the major changes in the once-a-decade redrawing of district lines include moving Portola to District 9 and moving the Tenderloin to District 5. The map needs to be ratified by the city attorney.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Supervisor Matt Haney heads to Sacramento to fill David Chiu's Assembly seat after handily defeating former Supervisor David Campos in a closely watched election. Though both candidates are from the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, Haney staked out a position as a supporter of more housing. He won 64-36 percent . . .

The bigger impact might be felt in the Board of Supervisors, where Mayor London Breed will be able to appoint Haney's successor. In her time in office, she has

faced a board far to the left of her and is expected to choose someone from what passes as the moderate wing of the party . . . **Northern Police Station** reports that, year-to-date through April 10, robberies are down 28.16 percent, burglaries have dropped 41.96 percent, and human trafficking is down by 50 percent from the same period a year earlier. But the following crimes have increased: rape (125 percent), assault (52 percent), motor vehicle theft (18.45 percent), arson (13.33 percent), and larceny theft (20.37 percent).

FACTS AND FIGURES

June 30: the state passed AB 2179 to extend protections against eviction until the end of June . . . **6.648 billion:** number of smartphone users around the world, according to Interesting Facts . . . **42:** number of years since the first annual Gilroy Garlic Festival, which has now been canceled “for the foreseeable future” . . . **\$95,000-\$110,000:** new starting salaries for Walmart truck drivers . . . **6 percent:** amount of tech companies' annual global revenue that could be fined by a European Union law trying to rein in hate speech and misinformation . . . **Unknown:** a right-wing “People's Convoy” in the Bay Area planned to protest outside Nancy Pelosi's home, but “the planned activity of placing flags in her yard fell apart due to the group failing to come to a consensus on what home was actually Pelosi's,” according to journalist Zachary Petrizzo . . . **K-9:** A man was arrested April 21 in Fairfield after he bit and stabbed a police dog. At press time, the man was booked into jail; the dog was treated and is recuperating at home.

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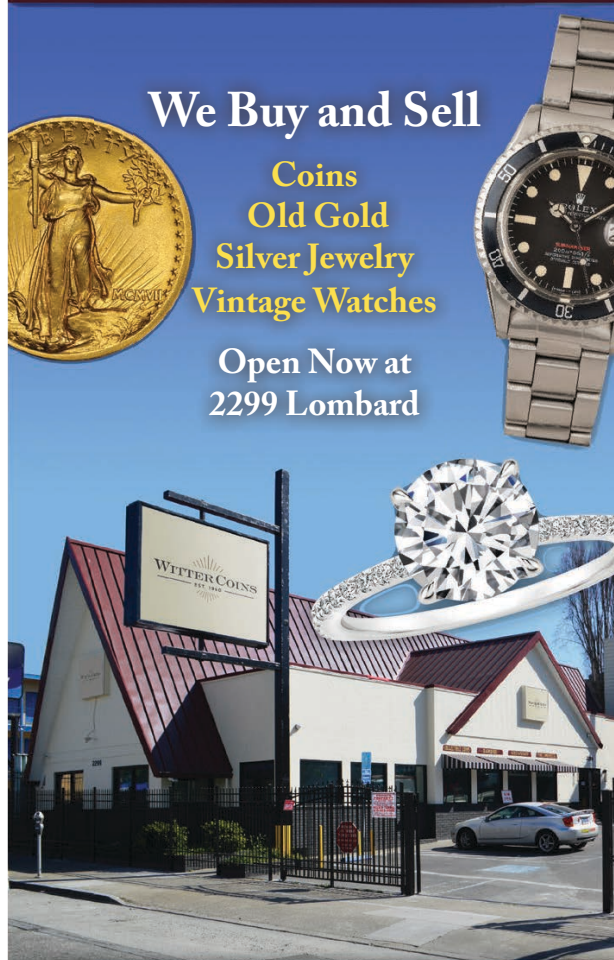
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Someone hire this man

Chesa Boudin's career transition

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

Hi, Chesa,

So great to hear from you after all these years. I know things have been a bit bumpy in your neck of the woods lately, so I totally understand your request for a letter of reference. Keep your options open, I always say. So I was happy to oblige, though I admit it took me a while to figure out what to write. After all, what could I say about your work performance that would be believable? But after a lot of prayer and quite a bit of 2015 Riesling, I was able to write the letter. Here it is; feel free to use it in June.

Your pal,
John

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Dear Hiring Manager:

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Chesa Boudin for the position you are looking to fill. Though I don't know the exact details of this position, I'm sure it is something that can use Chesa's unique combination of skills. Maybe something in a public defender's office, driving Uber, or doing magic tricks.

During our many years of acquaintance, Chesa has demonstrated his great talents in standing up for criminals and those who have been labeled as criminals simply because they committed crimes. This has caused some misunderstanding among people who thought his job was explicitly to prosecute criminals, but Chesa is an innovator. This is Silicon Valley; he thinks outside the box — he's a San Franciscan, not a San Franciscan't.

He earned his current role through hard work and the electoral crapshoot known as ranked-choice voting. He's not afraid to take on controversial tasks, and he isn't so focused on his day-to-day responsibilities that he won't gladly spend time on unrelated and even counterproductive side projects. There have been some naysayers who, frankly, are narrow-minded and expect him only to work on prosecuting criminals because that's his job. But his focus on fringe theories of emptied prisons and murderers released on pinky-swear promises have earned him many ardent supporters who have a lot of time on their hands between Bernie Sanders campaigns.

But it's not just SFGate.com editors who love him. I know you will find Chesa works well with his colleagues, as long as he gets to hire all of them from his

previous place of employment. He will expect to bring over 20–25 colleagues, so you might want to begin the work now of firing 20–25 employees to make room. Accuse them of being Republicans or something.

Though you might have heard about a few bumps in the road at Chesa's current job, you can rely on him to always let you know it was someone else's fault. Due to the highly sensitive nature of his work, I can't provide certain information, like the names of any drug dealers he's sent to prison. But just trust him.

Let me end on a note about his personal life and how it has fueled his career. Chesa comes from a long line of prominent leaders. You have no doubt already heard about his parents Kathy Boudin and David Gilbert of the Weather Underground (Chesa, did I get the band's name right?). He is also related to Marxist theoretician Louis B. Boudin and Fidel Castro's former attorney Leonard Boudin, and quite possibly is the sole heir to the Boudin Bakery fortune.

He has traveled widely, including to England for schooling and to Venezuela, where he worked as a translator in the presidential palace while Hugo Chavez was dismantling Venezuela's democracy. (Feel free to ask him about it; the *Chronicle* won't.) He was a little ahead of the curve on that, but overthrowing democracies is now so much in vogue, I suggest you hire him quickly before his services are snapped up by some other budding dictator.

I am confident you will find his current employers, the people of San Francisco, will be very accommodating about making him available for his new position with your company. He has been so productive in his tasks that he is able to leave just 18 months into his four-year contract.

A recommendation letter is really only a brief overview of someone's many talents and accomplishments. If you need more information or specific examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at letters@marinatimes.com.

Sincerely,
John Zipperer

ONE LAST NOTE FOR BOUDIN

Chesa, what do you think? On reflection, I shouldn't have included the suggestion that you get a job with Uber. That was unfair. That job requires follow-through.

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

López from behind, including one to the back of the head, while his arms were at his side. At a Town Hall meeting days after the incident, Suhr told the community that Pérez-López was charging the officers with a knife held over his head, corroborating the report by his two plainclothes officers who said they shot a lunging, knife-wielding Pérez-López “in fear for their lives.”

Exactly one year later, in May 2016, I wrote another piece entitled, “You can’t be shot in the back if you’re charging forward.” I once again pointed to a department in crisis under Suhr’s leadership. The title was a reference to the police shooting deaths of Pérez-López and other people of color, including 27-year-old Alejandro Nieto, 45-year-old Luis Gongora, and 26-year-old Mario Woods. In each case, Suhr said the shootings were justified, despite facts to the contrary. Just weeks after that column, a Black woman was shot by officers in the Bayview District and Suhr resigned.

In December 2016, I was invited to appear as a guest on KPOO, a radio station highly regarded for its coverage of local and national issues in the Black community. News director Harrison Chastang introduced me as the only journalist calling for Suhr to step down nearly a year prior to the shooting of Woods. “What do you think the answer is?” he asked. I told him there wasn’t just one answer. “I do know that Suhr can’t continue defending officers who kill people holding kitchen knives in a hail of gunfire,” I said. “While getting rid of Suhr won’t immediately solve SFPD’s many problems, there is a culture within the department, starting at the top, that needs a good, hard look and some big change.”

There must be something about May, because in this column I am endorsing Yes on H, the recall of District Attorney Chesha Boudin, for precisely the same reasons I called for Suhr to step down — a department in crisis, a city in turmoil, and a nontransparent bully at the top who makes excuses for his failures while blaming everyone but himself.

DRUG DEALERS ARE THE REAL VICTIMS

If you’re a regular reader of Reynolds Rap, you know I’ve been a vocal critic of Boudin’s since before he took office. On the campaign trail in 2019, he bragged that he was “the only person on the stage who had never prosecuted a case.” When you’re vying to become San Francisco’s “top cop,” that’s nothing to brag about. But even more disturbing was Boudin’s defense of those pedaling deadly opioids like fentanyl to the city’s most vulnerable

communities, which he considers a “quality of life” issue rather than a crime.

At a virtual town hall on July 25, 2020, Boudin told a stunned audience that prosecuting drug cases came at too steep a price — for dealers. “A significant percentage of people selling drugs in San Francisco, perhaps as many as half, are from Honduras, and many of them have been trafficked here ... we need to be mindful of the impact our interventions have. Some of them have family members in Honduras who have been or will be harmed if they don’t continue to pay off the traffickers who brought them here.” I’ve interviewed veteran undercover narcotics officers and former district attorneys who were involved in numerous narcotics sales cases, all of whom said Boudin’s story was untrue. “If they’re trafficked here, why isn’t Boudin prosecuting the traffickers?” one attorney asked. In fact, Boudin hasn’t sent a single drug dealer or trafficker to prison. He told the *Wall Street Journal* that, as long as people wanted to do drugs, no amount of law enforcement would solve the problem, and he said in the *Washington Post* that Tenderloin residents weren’t upset about drug sales in their neighborhood.

Boudin also refused to charge two known drug dealers and gang members, 18-year-old Kevin Lopez-Figueroa and a 17-year-old juvenile, with the murder of a young, Black mother in the Tenderloin named Emma Hunt. Boudin insisted to her parents that it was self-defense, despite the fact local surveillance footage shows Lopez-Figueroa and his accomplice leaving the scene to retrieve a gun. “Emma swung a milk crate and he shot her,” David DeYoe, Emma’s adoptive father told me. “When she turned to run, he shot her in the neck and again in the back. He was in a full stance like he was at a firing range.”

DeYoe watched the horrific video three times with Boudin trying to convince him to prosecute his daughter’s killers. “Chesha just stared at me, like I was wasting his time,” DeYoe said. “At this point I was thinking, *I can’t just jump across the table and choke him to death, because I’ll never get out of here.*”

REPEAT OFFENDERS ARE THE REAL VICTIMS

In this column, as well as in my “Gotham by the Bay” newsletter, I have detailed the stories of people injured or killed by repeat offenders released by Boudin’s office. Five of the most egregious cases are Troy McAlister, Zion Young, Jerry Lyons, Tyjone Flournoy, and Teaunte Bailey.

The McAlister case garnered national attention when it was discovered he killed two women, Hanako Abe and Elizabeth Platt, on New Year’s Eve, 2020, after Boudin gave him a plea deal. Abe’s mother, Hiroko Abe, says when she asked Boudin why

he released McAlister, he said, “Because he worked hard in jail and got his GED.” McAlister, it turns out, had a 25-year record of violent felonies and had been sitting in county jail for five years awaiting trial for armed robbery. He had 73 felonies and 34 misdemeanors in San Francisco alone when Boudin brokered a plea deal to set him free. Over the next nine months McAlister was arrested five more times, but Boudin didn’t file any new charges. McAlister’s last arrest was just 11 days before he ran a red light in a stolen car while fleeing yet another crime, killing Abe and Platt in the crosswalk. Hiroko Abe told me that her daughter would be alive today had Boudin not released McAlister.

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

In October 2020 Jerry Lyons was arrested on stolen car and drug charges, which the district attorney referred to parole. In December 2020, Lyons was arrested again on stolen car and drug charges, but Boudin sent it back to police for “further investigation while awaiting toxicology results.”

On Feb. 4, 2021, police responded to an eight-car collision on Lake Merced Boulevard. There they found 26-year-old Sheria Musyoka, who had been out for an early morning run, deceased. A husband, father, and recent Dartmouth College graduate, Musyoka had moved to San Francisco just two weeks earlier. When asked by ABC7’s Dion Lim whom she blamed, Musyoka’s widow, Hannah Ege, said she blamed the district attorney.

Tyjone Flournoy was one of four suspects in the December 2019 murder of Ronisha Cook. At the time of her death, Cook was the third young Black mother killed in less than a month. Flournoy was booked in November of 2020 on suspicion of murder, attempted murder, participation in a criminal street gang, and conspiracy charges, but Boudin released him days later “pending further investigation.” In January 2021, Flournoy was arrested for the murder of legendary private detective Jack Palladino after a violent attempt to steal his camera.

In March 2020, Boudin charged Teaunte Bailey with conspiracy, robbery, destroying evidence, and child endangerment, but released him on an ankle monitor because “there wasn’t enough evidence.” One year later, 75-year-old Pak Ho was taking a morning walk near his Oakland home when he was knocked to the ground

by Bailey in a violent robbery caught on surveillance video. Like Palladino, Ho died from his injuries.

CRIME AND DYSFUNCTION

Besides Boudin’s allegiance to victimizers over victims, there is the simple fact that he is unqualified for the job. Over 30 prosecutors have quit or left the office in the last two years — that’s nearly half the legal staff. Two of the attorneys who quit, Brooke Jenkins and Don Du Bain, have joined the recall effort, describing Boudin’s policies as “dangerous.”

According to sources, 18 of 36 victim advocates have also left. One victim advocate, Giles Feinberg, was fired just days after I used the same quote at the top of this column in a September 2021 newsletter about Farrukh Mushtaq getting zero jail time in the death of Kate Slattery. Mushtaq was high on cocaine, fleeing a strip club where his wife had confronted him, and on his cell phone when he ran a red light at the intersection of Seventh and Howard streets, fatally striking 26-year-old bicyclist Slattery and fleeing the scene. Feinberg, who was the victim advocate for Slattery’s family, told Mushtaq if he weren’t in San Francisco, he would likely be “midterm on a prison sentence.” I pulled the quote from the June 17, 2021, transcript, but evidently Boudin was unaware of it until it appeared in my newsletter. I received a flurry of messages from former and current staff saying Boudin had fired Feinberg for “courtroom conduct.”

Gregory Mendez, a 20-year veteran assistant attorney who retired after working under the new district attorney proved too difficult, counts Boudin’s lack of management experience and leadership skills among the reasons he supports the recall. “Superior Court judges presiding over plea negotiations have been rejecting district attorney offers because they are too lenient, and if accepted, would not hold defendants legally responsible,” Mendez said, adding that the office has a backlog of cases and a staff of former public defenders who have no idea how to prosecute them — like Boudin himself. “It was bad under Gascón, but Boudin came in and made it worse,” Mendez said. “The lowest morale I’ve seen, people leaving, no one to try cases. It’s complete chaos.”

Getting rid of Chesha Boudin won’t solve the numerous problems within the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office right away, but as I said about Greg Suhr and the San Francisco Police Department, big change starts at the top. Recalling Boudin is a step in the right direction.

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The lingering guilt of the fast food fix

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

DESPERATION CAN MAKE ORDINARY people do extraordinary things. And if you're desperate for something to eat, you might sate your hunger any way you can. Even if you're super careful about what you put in your gullet. So I found myself starving at 12:30 a.m. after burning calories for a few hours at a dance party within the sweat-dappled walls of a steamy hotspot. I realized that there was nothing in the cupboard or fridge at home, no open markets, and no viable restaurants or street vendors in the area that were serving past midnight. I was forced to do something that I diligently try to avoid: Eat fast food.

I was in my car and on the hunt. The pangs were ganging up on me, the need was extreme, and the answer was looming before my eyes. It was an In-N-Out Burger, and it was open until 1:30 a.m.! Except I do my level best to not consume beef or pork, and this is a business that specializes in hamburgers. Vegetarian options other than French fries, which — let's face facts — are cholesterol sticks prepared in boiling oil? Nope. No meat-free Impossible Burgers or Beyond Burgers either. In-N-Out is still old school. It would be flat disks of grilled ground beef or nothing. I headed for the drive-through, health-consciousness be damned!

I waited in line to order, I recalled what little I knew about the In-N-Out menu. Specifically, what *isn't* on the

menu. Sure, there's a big, illuminated list of sandwiches, sides, and drinks by the entryway to the order and pick-up windows. But In-N-Out whips up a little brand mystique and play for customer loyalty with what has come to be known as the Secret Menu. Y'know, like secret sauce ... the proprietary, mayonnaise-y goop that's liberally applied to a number of items on the Secret Menu.

SECRETS SHARED

And according to all my carnivore pals (all of whom swear that In-N-Out sells the best and tastiest burger of all fast-food chains), the go-to selections on the not-so-secret menu are those that are ordered "Animal Style." You can get any hamburger or cheeseburger served Animal Style, as follows: Each burger patty is fried with mustard and comes with pickles, chopped grilled onions, and an extra helping of In-N-Out's secret sauce to enhance the standard lettuce-and-tomato-on-a-bun — with or without cheese.

You can also order Animal Style French fried potatoes — something that sounds like a dish too far. It's a basket of fries topped by melted cheese, grilled onions, and the requisite In-N-Out sauce. Apparently, the mess is considerable enough that it's best eaten with a fork. The so-called Secret Menu everyone seems to know about is also beloved for offering triple- and quadruple-stacked burgers; a bun-free-lettuce-wrapped burger for the carb-wary; mix-and-match soft

drinks like the lemonade-ice tea combo known as the Arnold Palmer after the legendary golf champion; a Neapolitan milkshake blending chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry shakes; and a meatless grilled cheese sandwich none of my friends would endorse.

Being famished and not being a hard-line vegetarian, I figured there would be no harm in ordering one measly cheeseburger... Animal Style, as encouraged by my experts. I didn't need more grease from fries. I wasn't interested in a sugar-bomb beverage. I just wanted something in my stomach. I scored my prize to go and drove home to consume a late-night repast. As I sat down and took my first bite, I was transported.

ANIMAL INSTINCT

It wasn't quite the moment in Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, when the taste of a madeleine cookie dipped in tea unleashes a flood of childhood memories. Instead, I recalled initially hearing somebody use the expression "Animal Style" in conjunction with In-N-Out. At the time, I wasn't certain about the connotation of the phrase. Did it mean that the food was served in a trough? Was it suggesting that everything was so tasty you'd be inspired to rend it with your teeth and gobble it up like a ravenous wolf?

I began to think the latter might be close to the truth. The more I ate of the cheeseburger, the more I desired another one. I cursed myself for not ordering two. Maybe it was some kind of chemical in

the secret sauce that was sharpening my appetite for more. Of course, I knew that I wasn't doing my body any favors by going the In-N-Out route, even if my mind and taste buds tried to tell me otherwise. Any type of fried foods can be bad for you, clogging arteries and potentially shortening your life, thereby curtailing the number of delicious dinners you'll be able to enjoy. I made my way to bed and slept the sleep of the somewhat satisfied.

There are various types of fast food that I consume without much guilt: tacos and burritos that don't come from a chain; salad bar offerings; and gourmet slices of pizza. My crammed schedule demands it, but burgers? Not if I can help it. Nonetheless, a couple weeks after my In-N-Out experience, I again found myself with an empty belly after midnight. In full what-the-heck mode, I went back to the same location, and this time I made sure to order two cheeseburgers with all the beastly trappings. Back at the pad, I was in gustatory heaven until halfway through the second burger, when I realized I had made a mistake. I still finished Burger No. 2 like a good animal, but it was too much. I felt crappy for the rest of the night and into the morning.

Never again will I ignore my self-imposed dietary restrictions. Well ... *maybe* never again. The In-N-Out lure is strong. Is it the secret sauce? What's in there anyway? To be honest, it's probably better I don't know.

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Art World

continued from cover

the Business of Fashion's BoF 500, a list of the most important figures shaping the global fashion industry.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Each gallery is dedicated to one or more of Guo's runway collections. *An Amazing Journey in a Childhood Dream* (2008) was inspired during Guo's second pregnancy. Designs based on dolls from her childhood and pastel-colored pleated dresses with origami style folds hearken back to the artist's early years during the Cultural Revolution. The pastel palette was inspired by French 18th-century drawings, and Guo's raised metallic threads were inspired by matador costumes worn by Spanish bullfighters.

Traveling throughout Europe and exhibiting in Paris made a deep impression on the designer. Her time spent in France and Switzerland influenced two collections: *Legend* (2017), and *L'Architecture* (2018-19) inspired by Romanesque, Gothic, and neoclassical cathedrals. Garments made of silk were transformed into flying buttresses and other structural elements served to communicate "beauty of strength" and to encourage "a dialogue between the human body and spatial dimension."

TRADITION MERGED WITH THE CONTEMPORARY

The imperial history of China is the focus of the collection *East Palace* (2019). Creating a rendition of the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City in Beijing, the pieces are inspired by Qing Dynasty court dress. Using pale gold embroidery, the elaborate designs depict imperial dragons, birds, and flowers.

Chinese decorative arts and textiles traditionally use floral motifs. Citing the Chinese saying, "There is a kingdom in a flower; wisdom in a leaf," the collections *Garden of Soul* (2015) and *Elysium* (2018) echo nature and nurtured gardens as a metaphor for the human soul. *Elysi-*



Left to right: Guo Pei, *Legend of the Dragon*; *An Amazing Journey in a Childhood Dream*, and *L'Architecture*. PHOTOS: LIAN XU, COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

um expands on the designer's interest in botanical shapes that come to life in her costumes as tendrils that extend from the garments like tree branches or roots.

Guo's most recent collection, *Himalaya* (2020), is inspired by the Himalaya mountain range. As a holy place and home of the gods, the location represents what is sacred in Asian culture. Using a rare collection of Japanese obi belts, Guo and her team turned them inside out and reassembled them, making evident the labor process required to create the exquisite textiles.

The exhibition finale is the dynamic presentation *Alternate Universe* (2019-20). Guo says, "Since death is inevitable, I prefer to imagine it as a dream, an alternate universe parallel to this world where everything returns to its original

state of true pureness and beauty. It is the start of a mysterious journey." Light and darkness, angels and demons combined with Guo's signature three-dimensional embroidery techniques conjure a magic realist landscape of mythology, from the monkeys of *Aesop's Fables* to the snake that lured Eve to the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

Guo's designs highlight the rich history between China and the Western world. "Layers of meaning and imagery form a bricolage of opulent surfaces imposed upon sculptural silhouettes," explains Jill D'Alessandro, curator in charge of costume and textile arts. "For Guo Pei, each collection starts with a philosophical idea — a spark of inspiration — drawn from a wide range of sources from her personal life and travels, as well as art

and architecture, literature, and nature." Positioned on the Pacific Rim, San Francisco's location combined with its significant Chinese heritage is the perfect city to exclusively host Guo's first major museum exhibition.

Guo continues to employ nearly 500 dedicated artisans to produce her dazzling pieces, some of which can take thousands of hours and up to two years to complete.

Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy | Tue.-Sun. 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. through Sept. 5, \$30, Legion of Honor Museum, 100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park, 415-750-3600, legionofhonor.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. **Portrait of a Thief: A Novel**, by Grace D. Li
2. **Sea of Tranquility: A Novel**, by Emily St. John Mandel
3. **The Candy House: A Novel** (Visit from the Goon Squad, 2), by Jennifer Egan

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience**, by Brené Brown
2. **Six California Kitchens: A Collection of Recipes, Stories, and Cooking Lessons from a Pioneer of California Cuisine**, by Sally Schmitt
3. **Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones**, by James Clear

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **Verity**, by Colleen Hoover

2. **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel**, by Taylor Jenkins
3. **My Year of Rest and Relaxation: A Novel**, by Ottessa Moshfegh

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

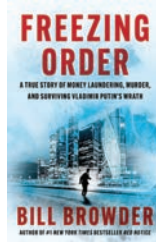
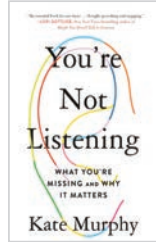
1. **The Cult of We: Wework, Adam Neumann, and the Great Startup Delusion**, by Eliot Brown and Maureen Farrell
2. **Neurodharma: New Science, Ancient Wisdom, and Seven Practices of the Highest Happiness**, by Rick Hanson
3. **You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why It Matters**, by Kate Murphy

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

The Lioness: A Novel, by Chris Bohjalian
In 1964, top-of-the-heap white actress Katie Barstow honeymooned in the Serengeti with new husband David Hill

and a group of their glittery Hollywood friends, including distinguished Black actor Terrance Dutton, with whom Katie starred in a controversy-sparking film. They're looking forward to a luxurious safari watching the giraffes and the wildebeest play and guzzling gin with ice from kerosene-powered ice makers. Instead, they get kidnapped, with Soviet mercenaries shuffling them into Land Rovers, leveling guns at their heads, as their Tanzanian guides lie bleeding in the dirt. Will they all survive?

Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath, by Bill Browder
In his *New York Times* best-selling *Red Notice*, Browder chronicled his founding of Hermitage Capital Management in post-Communist Russia and the 2009 murder of his lawyer Sergei Magnitsky in prison after uncovering a \$230 million fraud traceable to the Russian government.



His new book explains how that fraud benefited Putin directly and how Putin has retaliated when Browder tried to make him accountable.

Razzmatazz: A Novel, by Christopher Moore

Local favorite author (his early breakout novel, *Bloodsucking Fiends*, has a few memorable scenes set in the Marina

Safeway) returns to postwar San Francisco with the crazy cast and irreverent hijinks we loved in his last novel, *Noir*. Mr. Moore is Baghdad by the Bay's own version of Douglas Adams. Guaranteed laughter!

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

MAY EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

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

MAJOR EVENTS



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Tue.–Sun. through Sept. 4
Curran Theater (445 Geary St.)

Harry, Ron, and Hermione are back on a new adventure joined by a new Hogwarts generation with spectacular spells, a race through time, and an epic battle to stop mysterious forces, while the future hangs in the balance. \$40–\$299, 800-806-0247, sf.harrypottertheplay.com

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/CURSEDCHILDUS

Bay to Breakers

Sunday, May 15, 8 a.m.

Starts: Main & Howard Streets

The city's best-known spectacle returns with world-class runners leading a pack of jogging centipedes, jiggling Elvises (and other body parts) over the treacherous Hayes Street hill to the finish at Ocean Beach and celebrate at the festival. \$50 (individuals), baytobreakers.com

44th Annual Carnaval San Francisco

Sat.–Sun., May 28–29, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Harrison Street (btw. 16th & 24th)

This festival will feature a rich assortment of food, music, dance, arts, crafts, the new tech and gaming pavilion, the cannabis garden, and other fun activities and entertainment on several stages for all ages. The festival concludes with a Grand Parade (9:30 a.m. Sunday). Free, 415-206-0577, carnavalsanfrancisco.com

JUST FOR MOM

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sat.–Sun., May 7–8, noon–2 p.m.

The Westin St. Francis

Sip and savor fine artisan teas, followed by a tea sandwiches, freshly baked black currant scones and seasonal berries with Devonshire-blend cream, preserves, and assorted petit fours while enjoying live music. \$95–\$125, eventbrite.com

Mother's Day Crissy Field 5K Run & Kids' Run

Sunday, May 8, 9 a.m.–11 a.m.

Starts: Yacht Harbor Parking Lot (Little Marina Green)

Enjoy this scenic course along the water to Fort Point and back. Kids' run begins after the 5K. \$10 (day of race, exact change), 415-978-0837, dserunners.com

81st Annual Mother's Day Rose Show

Sunday, May 8, 12:30–4 p.m.

County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park

(1199 9th Ave.)

Bring your moms, cameras, questions, and love of beautiful flowers to see a variety of miniatures, grandiflora, floribunda, and hybrid tea roses as this S.F. favorite returns. Free, 415-656-4356, sfrosesociety.org

Mother's Day Brunch & Show

Sunday, May 8, 1:30 p.m.

MC Arts Gallery (100 Donahue St., Marin City)

Treat mom to a refreshing mimosa and classic comfort food prepared by Lena's Soul Food Café along with jazz by Ricardo Moncrief and the Jazzy Health Quartet. \$30, 844-862-2787, mcartsandculture.com



Mother's Day Sunset Sail on S.F. Bay

Sunday, May 8, 7–9:15 p.m.

Schooner Freda B (Slip 465, Sausalito

Yacht Harbor, 100 Bay St., Sausalito)

Take Mom for a relaxing sail around bay on the 80-foot gaff-rigged coastal schooner

Freda B. \$99, 415-331-0444,

schoonerfredab.com

PHOTO: JOHN SKORIAK, FACEBOOK.COM/SCHOONERFREDAB

GALAS & BENEFITS

We Stand With Ukraine

Friday, May 6, 8 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theater

This performance-based charity gala features music, children's choir and dance, speeches, video blocks, and live performances by Zlata Ognevich, Alyosha, Mika Newton, and others. Proceeds support Razom for Ukraine and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 140). \$60, 347-244-1525, palaceoffinearts.org

Concert for Compassion: A Benefit

Concert for Ukraine

Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Sherith Israel (2266 California St.)

The program includes an array of international classical music talent including renowned mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade; award-winning composer and pianist Jake Heggie; musicians from the S.F. Symphony; Ukrainian soprano Alina Ilchuk; and others. Reception and art exhibition showcasing 60 contemporary Ukrainian artists follows. Proceeds support Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, World Central Kitchen, and Nova Ukraine. \$40–\$100, concertofcompassion.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Haines Gallery | Andrew Goldsworthy: Firehouse

Tue.–Sat. through May 28,

10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center

This solo exhibition inaugurating the gallery's new location features new and recent works by renowned British artist, including a wall of cracked white kaolin clay, intended as a permanent fixture in the gallery. Free, 415-397-8114, hainesgallery.com

Asian Art Museum | Seeing Gender

Thu.–Mon. through June 6

200 Larkin St.

Look at the museum collection through a new lens with a focused selection that reveals the complexities and nuances of gender across Asian art. \$15, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Walt Disney Family Museum | Creative

Conservation: The Art of Endangered

Animals

Thu.–Sun. through fall 2022,

10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

104 Montgomery St., the Presidio

This original exhibition features painted creations by rescued and rehabilitated animals and wildlife-inspired artwork contributed by human collaborators. \$25, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

THEATER

S.F. Playhouse | The Paper Dreams of

Harry Chin

Wed.–Sun., May 4–7

Tue.–Sun., May 10–June 10

Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)

Based on a true story during the Chinese Exclusion Act, Harry Chin entered the U.S. by buying forged documentation and lived the rest of his life keeping secrets. Through dreamlike leaps of time and space and with the assistance of ghosts, the story of the Chin family reveals the personal and political repercussions of making a group of people "illegal." \$30–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

Magic Theatre | Monument, or Four

Sisters (A Sloth Play)

Wed.–Sun., May 11–29

Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center

Amy studies coral reefs, Constance writes for children's television, Mac mysteriously left a job she loves, and Lina is MIA. Add one epic road trip, four talking sloths, and countless hilarious cartoon bombs in this play about how to build resilience after unimaginable loss. \$20–70, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

DANCE

Smuin Ballet Dance Series 2:

P.S. Forever Smuin

Thu.–Sat., May 5–7

Blue Shield of California Theater, Yerba Buena

Center for the Arts (700 Howard St.) & online

The program includes *Confessions* by Val Caniparoli, *Renaissance* by Amy Seiwert and *Showcase* by Smuin with world premieres by Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall. \$34–\$84, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org



Alonzo King Lines Ballet World Premiere with Lisa Fischer

Friday, May 13, 7:30–9 p.m.

Blue Shield of California Theater, Yerba Buena

Center for the Arts (700 Howard St.)

The company celebrates its 40th Anniversary season with a world premiere featuring Grammy Award-winning vocalist Lisa Fischer performing alongside the company dancers to a commissioned score by jazz pianist Jason Moran. \$40–\$115, 415-863-3040, linesballet.org

PHOTO: CHRIS HARDY, LINESBALLET.ORG/

MUSIC

S.F. Chamber Orchestra: Sarah Chang

Sunday, May 8, 3–4 p.m.

Herbst Theatre (401 McAllister St.)

The acclaimed former child prodigy, who was accepted to Juilliard at age 6 and recorded her first album at 10, performs. \$40–\$70, 415-392-4400, chambermusic.org

Daryl Hall and The Daryl's House Band

With Special Guest Todd Rundgren

Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and star of his own award-winning web series-turned-TV staple, *Live from Daryl's House*, tours for the first time in a decade with fellow Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and you-know-it's-him Todd Rundgren. \$71–\$383, 888-746-1799, broadwaysf.com

S.F. Symphony: Julia Bullock

Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

In this mixed media program, voices spanning across generations who were enslaved through the 1860s are heard alongside those who lived through years of convict leasing, share cropping, Jim Crow, and mass incarceration. \$35–\$165, 415-864-6000, sfsymphonyplus.org

S.F. Jazz: Blues Week

Thu.–Sun., May 26–29, 5 p.m.

201 Franklin St.

Jules Leyhe (May 26) plays Taj Mahal's *The Natch'l Blues* and Hark Hummel and the Blues Survivors (May 27–29) perform award-winning electric blues. \$20 & \$30, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

FILMS & LECTURES



25th S.F. Silent Film Fest

Daily, May 5–11

Castro Theatre

With 29 programs and live musical accompaniment from Buster Keaton to Brazilian experimentalism, French melodrama to German horror, this festival has something for everyone. \$320 (festival pass), 415-777-4908, silentfilm.org

PHOTO: OPENING NIGHT, SILENTFILM.ORG

Angela Y. Davis in Conversation with

Jelani Cobb

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

Sydney Goldstein Theater (275 Hayes St.)

As a teacher, writer, scholar, and activist, Davis's work fighting for justice and equality for all cannot be understated. Hear her fascinating story from being fired from UCLA, being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List," to one of the most famous trials in recent U.S. history and subsequent 16-month incarceration, and her current work with Critical Resistance. \$36, 415-392-4400, cityarts.net

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Agave: Exploring the Spirits of Mexico

Monday, May 2, 7–9 p.m.

The Alembic (1725 Haight St.)

Designed to turn everyone from cocktail connoisseur to bar beginner into the ultimate host, your instructor will walk you through all things agave related just in time for Cinco de Mayo. \$90, eventbrite.com

Kwame Onwuachi: Recipes From a

Young Black Chef

Thursday, May 19, 3 p.m.

Livestream

Onwuachi is an expert restaurateur and acclaimed chef who flaunts the diversity of American food. His new cookbook celebrates the people and flavors of the African Diaspora. Hear the stories that brought these dishes to his table. \$10 & \$35, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

CAAMFest 40: Rice and Asian

Americana

Thursday, May 19, 5–6:30 p.m.

Livestream

Join a conversation about the complex role of rice in the formation of Asian Americana. Explore the many narratives of rice and consider if these stories expand, or narrow, our understanding of Asian American culture. \$5, 415-581-3100, asianart.org

JUST FOR FUN

Full Moon Sail on S.F. Bay

Sunday, May 15, 7–9:45 p.m.

Schooner Freda B (Slip 465, Sausalito

Yacht Harbor, 100 Bay St., Sausalito)

Watch the sunset and May's full "flower moon" rise on the bay from the deck of the 80-foot gaff-rigged coastal schooner Freda B. \$129, 415-331-0444, schoonerfredab.com

For additional calendar listings, visit marinatimes.com.

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com



Inside the San Francisco Music Hall of Fame. PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO MUSIC HALL OF FAME; LEFT FRAMED IMAGE: ED PERLSTEIN; RIGHT FRAMED IMAGE: JEFF KRAVITZ

Snyder
continued from cover

Green Day, E-40, Stevie Nicks, Charles Brown, Dead Kennedys, the Kingston Trio, Huey Lewis, The Tubes, and the Flamin' Groovies. The shots are iconic images taken by renowned photographers. Each honoree has a plaque with biographical text alongside their photograph, as well as an audio tour component that can be accessed via QR code on most mobile phones. The appreciations were curated by longtime San Francisco rock journalist Ben Fong-Torres. Additionally, the walls are adorned with pithy quotes on the nature and power of music by respected musicians — sure to inspire fans and musicians alike.

AN AMBITIOUS EXPANSION

The Music Hall of Fame and the hotel are just two elements of a Music City complex being constructed at 1353 Bush Street between Polk and Larkin, by San Francisco musician, real estate developer, and the building's owner Rudy Colombini. Some of the space had already been home to a number of rehearsal studios, so Colombini felt it was a natural progression to develop the adjacent hotel in tune with the people who were honing their musical skills on the property. Now, Colombini has something much more ambitious in store: an \$11.6 million reconstruction of Music City into a five-story music incubator and hospitality complex.

The project finally got underway after almost a decade of planning, and Colombini says that all involved are aiming to complete the work by year's end. Although the Hall of Fame, the hotel, and a few of the rehearsal spaces are open and running, the bottom three floors of the building are currently being transformed into 23 fully equipped sound stage/rehearsal rooms capable of livestreaming and recording, a dedicated music education program with mentors for emerging artists, four separate venues for live performance, a full bar, and a restaurant specializing in Mexican cuisine. Already in place out front is the Music City Brick Walk that immortalizes 300 people and venues that shaped the San Francisco music scene.

Colombini is a lanky, energetic guy who's been playing on Bay Area stages since he was a kid in the late 1960s, starting out by sitting in with jazz saxophonist Jules Broussard, and still performing today as the lead singer of the Unauthorized Rolling Stones tribute band. In between, he's had his share of small triumphs. As part of the hard-rock group The Twist, Colombini had a song included on the soundtrack of the 1983 Francis Ford Coppola movie *Rumble Fish*, then he experimented

with Goth rock in the ensemble Divine Comedy.

In 1998, Colombini collaborated with multi-instrumentalist Robert Berry to release an independent album under the name *I Am*, and "Under the Impression," a track from that record, scored impressive radio play on hundreds of classic-rock stations, despite the duo never touring. Berry went on to join 3, a prog-rock band fronted by superstar keyboardist Keith Emerson, while Colombini became more involved in his real estate holdings.

REALIZING A DREAM

Colombini's true passion could not be denied, regardless of his business dealings. "My heart is all music," he said during a recent conversation in the middle of the Music City construction site. "Although my days are lately pretty much all finance and real estate and that takes some time away from performing, my careers are dovetailing with Music City."

His dream is to build a music hub unlike any other — one that will be an expeditor and creative incubator to stimulate a local scene that has faced serious challenges. "Younger artists, the lifeblood of the music world, can't afford to live in San Francisco these days," Colombini said. "So many clubs have closed over the past decade, and the pandemic made it worse. And there are fewer and fewer affordable rehearsal spaces. But Music City will function as a cultural and musical epicenter for San Francisco, where musicians can come together and express their artistry and music fans can come and enjoy themselves."

Music City's audio and video systems will capture performances, and Colombini is lining up media platforms and producers to scout new talent. "If all goes as we hope, we'll be developing local artists into international legends," he said. Meanwhile, the Hall of Fame is there to motivate the next generation, while giving tourists and music enthusiasts an introduction to the giants of Bay Area music.

Note: Interested parties can join an escorted tour of the Hall of Fame and nearby rock-music landmarks, as led by knowledgeable guide (and musician) Blandina Farley at 4 p.m. daily.

S.F. Music Hall of Fame: Mon.-Sun. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., \$12, 1353 Bush St., sanfrancisco.musichalloffame.com, musiccitysf.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

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Register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov or contact the Department of Elections to request a paper registration form. To receive a ballot in the mail, you must register by **May 23, 2022**. After that date, you will need to register and vote in person at the City Hall Voting Center or a polling place.

Vote by mail is now permanent. Per recent changes to state law, every registered voter will be mailed a ballot. Any voter may still choose to vote in person.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS (415) 554-4375 SFVote@sfgov.org City Hall, Room 48 sfelections.org

Balancing the needs of our families and ageing relatives

BY LIZ FARRELL

THOSE OF US WHO ARE CARING FOR kids at home while also looking after parents or loved ones with increasing needs are often referred to as the “sandwich generation.” According to a recent study, nearly 50 percent of adults ages 40–59 have a minor at home and a parent who will require increasing care levels. The good news is if you find yourself in this situation, you are not alone — although it can be exhausting and daunting trying to manage the emotional, medical, and financial logistics — there are ways to make it easier.

FIND SUPPORT

Even if we wanted to drop everything to care for an older parent, it is likely impossible. Don't feel guilty about asking for help — family members far away can help either financially or with remote tasks. You can also enlist the help of neighbors and friends who can spend time with your parents, do errands, and help with appointments. Hiring outside help can be expensive, but if it is possible, it is worth the investment. We have found amazing caregivers through an agency called Senior Helpers, which has allowed us to still be a part of our parents' care and daily lives but has provided some flexibility for us throughout the day.

HAVE THE HARD CONVERSATIONS

We know we should have these conversations early on, but they are always the easiest to put off. It is difficult, but if you can carve out time to talk about what is important to your parents, and what they want, it takes the pressure off trying to guess when you no longer can have those conversations. It is important for older people to keep their independence, and for many, to keep their familiar surroundings.

We recently were designing an addition to our home with the anticipation that at some point our parents might need to come live with us. This was our plan, but in talking to them, this is not their plan. They would like to stay in their home, if possible, even if that means bringing people in to help with the care.

Illness, disease, or accidents can change life in a moment, so having those conversations while parents are healthy is important. It is also important to understand their financial situation, and if you or siblings will need to help.

A FAMILY AFFAIR AND SELF CARE

Depending on the age of your children, they will be aware of changes they see with their grandparents or other relatives. They will likely sense the stress you feel being worried about their illnesses, how to take care of them, and not knowing what the future holds. However, some of



Plan ahead with your parents while they're healthy. PHOTO: KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ

life's greatest lessons can lie within all that stress: teaching our children, no matter their age, ability, or maturity to care for others and to have empathy for older relatives. Children want to help, and as I always tell my children, your grandparents spent a lot of years looking after you and taking care of your needs, and now it is your turn to return the favor and help take care of them. This could mean getting them a snack, playing a game with them, or learning how to fill a hot water bottle.

It is also important to talk to your children and answer their questions in an age-appropriate way about the changes they are seeing in their older relatives. This helps take the fear and anxiousness out of the aging process and helps them understand and feel a part of what is happening. Giving them a role also helps them to understand how your time needs to be spent. They are less likely to be angry or resentful when you must choose the needs of an older relative over theirs.

Raising two teenagers and a younger son while balancing health issues of parents and older relatives is enough to keep anyone awake with worry and stress at night. If there is anything I have learned it is the importance of self-care — we can't take care of others if we don't take care of ourselves. It may be a daily walk, a yoga class, or a nightly meditation, which can be hard especially for us moms who tend to put everyone else's needs ahead of our own. There will be days when you will have to give more to your parents and some days your kids will require more, but be gentle with yourself and remember you are only human and doing the best you can. Caregiving, whether it is for our children, parents, or older relatives is a gift, so relish the joy of the small moments.

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

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San Francisco's a unique city, and its markets are a bit surprising now.
PHOTO: GARY DE MARTINI

May's mixed bag of real estate news

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

SURE, HOME PRICES IN SAN FRANCISCO are high, it's a seller's market with fierce competition among buyers, and single family homes are more in demand than condos. Blah-blah-blah.

If you feel like you've read this all before, imagine how I feel. I *know* I've written it all before. And yet, each month I try to shed a little light on some aspects of the San Francisco residential real estate market with which you might not be familiar.

First, the contrarian view, expressed in a mid-April report by SocketSite.com. "Having hit an 11-year seasonal high last week, the net number of homes on the market in San Francisco has since ticked up another 8 percent, driven by a continued slowdown in the pace of sales along with an increase in listing activity and price reductions on the rise.

"In fact, there are now 70 percent more homes on the market than there were at this time of the year prior to the pandemic; over twice as many as there were in early April of 2015; and the most, on a seasonal basis, since 2011."

KEEP CALM

Sounds promising for buyers, doesn't it! But don't get too excited, here's the counterpoint. According to Redfin, from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15, 40 percent of the homes sold in San Francisco went for at least \$100,000 over asking. The thinking is homes are currently selling at record prices and their values are only growing.

In an April market report the folks at Compass explain that while it's true San Francisco is the only Bay Area County in which the number of active listings is higher than before the pandemic, it's because of an increase in condo listings: The inventory of active single family home listings continues to run lower.

The report says, "Sales were robust in Q1 for all property types, but the supply of house listings in particular was very low."

Meanwhile, mortgage interest rates have skyrocketed 50 percent in 2022, as of March 31, with the biggest jump taking place in March. Still, San Francisco's real estate market seems largely unfazed by higher interest rates, volatility in financial markets, and troubling international events.

"The prevailing dynamic remains one of strong buyer demand competing for an inadequate inventory of listings for sale," according to the Compass report. "Crowded open houses, multiple offers, fierce overbidding, and fast sales remain common."

Some buyers have been hurt by higher loan rates and declines in their stock portfolios, and some have postponed their purchase plans, but according to Compass, "not enough to move the needle on the fundamentally high-demand/low-supply conditions that dominated 2021."

AND CARRY ON

Is there any silver lining for buyers out there? Taylor Marr, Redfin's deputy chief economist, thinks there might be. He is seeing early indications that the housing market might be cooling down in some pricey coastal areas — including San Francisco.

It's not much, but here's what he has:

To begin with, the number of Google searches for "homes for sale" dropped considerably in the second week of March for these three markets: Boston (-15 percent), San Francisco (-14 percent), and Los Angeles (-13 percent).

Next, tours of for-sale homes in California have dropped 21 percent as of March 31 from the first week of 2022. That's a major turnaround from the same timespan last year, when touring activity in California rose more than 76 percent.

Third, the number of homebuyers in San Francisco who applied for a mortgage dropped 13 percent year-over-year in February.

And finally, Marr adds, "For this time of year, the share of homes with price drops has been growing at its fastest pace in at least seven years. While price drops are still a rarity, the fact that they are quickly becoming more common tells us that sellers are reaching a limit on their ultimate control over the market as buyers reach a limit on how much they are willing to pay for a home."

Again, these are early indicators. To homebuyers, sellers, and agents, the market still feels really hot, and it may take a few months for competition to ease. Told you it wasn't much of a silver lining — but like rain for Californians, buyers will take what they can get.

One last note: The *San Francisco Chronicle* recently did a study that identifies 10 real estate markets on the cusp of a San Francisco-style affordability crisis — where home prices have nearly doubled in a decade, and where not enough new housing has been built to keep up with demand.

The cities are mostly smaller, and largely rural. Three are in the state of Washington, two are in Montana, two are in Utah, one is in North Carolina, and two are in California — San Diego and Merced.

Don't know about you, but I'm staying put.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com

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SAN FRANCISCO TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION JUNE 7 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Vote NO on Proposition A

-Yet another \$400,000,000 30-year general obligation bond for an agency that was found by an independent study to have NEVER completed a project on time or within budget! Moreover, the City Controller predicts it'll cost taxpayers another \$600,000,000 in interest payments on the bonds!!
-Muni hasn't spent \$121,000,000 of it's 2015 \$500,000,000 bond.
-The Central Subway Project has an estimated final cost of over \$2,100,000,000. The original estimate was \$1,578,000,000 and start of revenue service was promised to taxpayers to commence by December 2018. It's now already 30 months late.
-\$42,000,000 would be spent on bicycle and pedestrian access to buses, but not running buses.
-\$30,000,000 more for "road calming" for bicycles and pedestrians and road closures of JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, The Great Highway, Twin Peaks Boulevard and thirteen other "slow streets" with more to come.
-Only \$10,000,000 for modernizing MUNI trains. Funding from the City's Proposition K transportation sales tax, state gas taxes, federal grants and unspent General Obligation bond money are already being spent to improve San Francisco streets and public transit. Vote NO on A.

Vote NO on Prop C - it's a Political Class Protection Act

-Fair-minded citizens banded together for the first time in 40 years and voted out of office incompetent elected school board members and seek to do the same with District Attorney Chesa Boudin for not fulfilling his duties. Now City Hall is firing back!
-Prop C is an undemocratic, unnecessary and unworthy measure designed to strip power from the electorate to protect the political class from accountability and consequences of not performing their responsibilities.
-Masquerading as good government and a taxpayer issue, Supervisor Peskin meddles with a standard set by our state's Constitution and one that has served our Charter city for 150 years.
-This is pure trickery designed to protect those in power - vote NO.

Vote YES on Proposition H - Recall Chesa Boudin - No more malfeasance towards crime victims and mismanagement of our tax dollars

-Chesa Boudin is failing to keep San Franciscans safe.
-Criminals know they will be let off the hook without consequences.
-Car break-ins, burglaries, robberies, overdoses and murders have reached crisis level in San Francisco, Boudin's refusal to pursue serial offenders and drug dealers puts more of us at risk.
-In his first year in office, burglaries spiked by 49%, and 84% of charged perpetrators were back on the streets within two days.
-About half of San Francisco's prosecutors have resigned from the District Attorney's office in protest over Boudin's mismanagement, threats to withhold evidence, decisions to seek lenient sentences or not press charges, and release violent criminals before trial.
-Boudin's budget contains an estimated appropriation annually of \$4,200,000-\$6,300,000 for a corruption and "white collar" crime unit with five prosecutors and four investigators. Has he filed any corruption cases? No! But for the US Attorney, no City Hall crooks or their Recology allies would have been charged and convicted. Vote yes on Proposition H.
-End Boudin's social experiment to dismantle the criminal justice system as a District Attorney. He is free to seek office as the Public Defender or teach alternative courses in a law school.

YES on E - Behested Payments

Proposition E submitted by Supervisors, expands the prohibition on City employees selecting so called "behested" donations to their favorite charities to include many contractors seeking board of supervisors approval. Much of City Hall corruption exposed in the past three years arises from "behested" contributions, also known as "Pay to Play". Proposition E merits taxpayer approval. Vote "yes".

YES on F - Garbage

Proposition F finally repeals a 1932 ordinance granting Recology, Inc.'s a trash collection monopoly which Recology has spent millions to keep, unlike almost all other City Hall contracts which are subject to competitive bidding to save taxpayers money. Recology exclusively controls collection, recycling and public building garbage. The 1932 ordinance doesn't authorize amendments by the Board of Supervisors to require competitive bidding. That's why we must repeal the monopoly ordinance. Force the board of supervisors to enact in July an ordinance terminating Recology's contract and requiring immediate competitive bidding for residential, commercial and public building refuse collection and recycling. If you want lower rates, SF Taxpayers Association strongly urges a "Yes" vote on Proposition F.

**Please vote - Judge Quentin L. Kopp (RET)
President, SFTA**

FPPC# 921622



**San Francisco
Taxpayers
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