



August highlights

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What to do

This city shows it still knows how to put on a party with Outside Lands, the Stern Grove Festival, Nihonmachi Street Fair, Pistahan Festival and Parade, and more. p. 7



Alan Cumming provides the visuals to the off-camera Brian/Brandon in *My Old School*. PHOTO: COURTESY MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Back to school days

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

NOW THAT SOME FALL school semesters start in August rather than the traditional post-Labor Day window, it's fitting that filmmaker Jono McLeod's clever, creative documentary *My Old School* just made its way into theaters.

Myriad movies have gained renown and box office success by utilizing high school settings to offer up everything from randy adolescent shenanigans, starry-eyed teen romance, and poignant coming-of-age journeys to class war, juvenile delinquency, and slasher horror. *My Old School* manages to

reference or poke fun at almost all of those subgenres to tell the strange but true story of a student who attended a secondary school in the Glasgow, Scotland suburb of Bearsden and, in 1995, ignited a television-to-tabloids media furor throughout the United Kingdom.

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REYNOLDS RAP : Opinion

Boudin's scorched-earth legacy

Recalled Chesa Boudin approved extended paid leave for staff effective on new district attorney's first full day

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

"I had to make difficult staffing decisions [Friday] in order to put in place a management team that will help me accomplish the work I committed to do for San Francisco."

— Chesa Boudin, after firing seven top prosecutors in his first week as San Francisco's district attorney, January 2020

WHEN MAYOR LONDON BREED APPOINTED prosecutor Brooke Jenkins as interim district attorney, Jenkins wasted no time making changes. The office, led by her one-time boss Chesa Boudin until his recall on June 7, was staffed with Boudin hires, mostly public defenders like Boudin himself. On her first full day in office, Jenkins fired 15 people, but it was difficult to do it in person because Boudin had signed off on extended leaves of absence.

Some staffers given leave prior to Boudin's exit used their taxpayer-funded time off to support Boudin's campaign, but in what can only be described as a vindictive final act,

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 4

SUPERVISOR : Opinion

Turning a corner on public safety

BY CATHERINE STEFANI

IT'S TIME TO TURN A CORNER ON OUR APPROACH TO public safety in San Francisco. For too long, we've failed to hold people accountable for the harm they have caused. I've been pushing for investments in public safety for years, and I'm thrilled that San Franciscans made their voices heard, demanded change, and will finally begin to see the results they deserve. In just the past two months, San Francisco made major strides in advancing public safety by successfully recalling District Attorney Chesa Boudin, investing in police staffing, and passing Proposition D to create an Office of Victims' Rights.

San Franciscans decisively voted to recall Boudin by more than 10 percentage points, and for good reason.

I was a vocal critic of the former district attorney and endorsed the recall, because I believed his actions, or lack thereof, failed to keep San Franciscans safe. His refusal to file charges in many cases — including the murder of Emma Hunt, the failure to charge Troy McCallister in the five opportunities he had before McCallister killed two women on New Year's Eve in 2020, and his utter neglect to give proper attention to domestic violence cases — cemented my resolve to support the recall.

Further, as someone who has worked on gun violence prevention for more than two decades, I was astounded

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ART WORLD : Exhibition



Installation view of "Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs." PHOTO: WORLD HERITAGE EXHIBITIONS

'Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs' comes to the de Young

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF San Francisco is hosting an exclusive West Coast presentation of the international touring

exhibition "Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs." The story of one of the most legendary rulers in world history — Ramses the Great — is told through 180 spectacular objects related to his 67-year

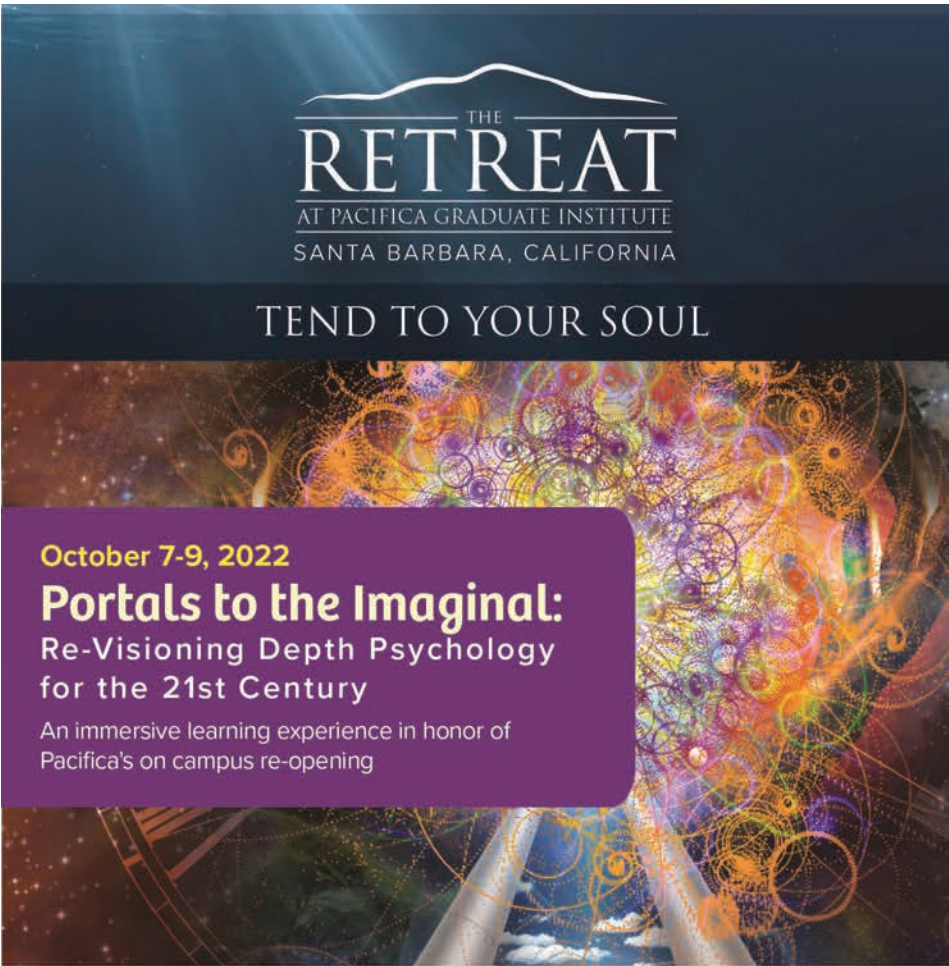
reign, many of which have never before left Egypt.

EGYPT'S GOLDEN AGE

As the third pharaoh of the 19th dynasty, the distinguished military officer Ramses II (known as Ramses the Great) is regarded as one of the most powerful and celebrated leaders of the New Kingdom, a period when Egypt was a wealthy and powerful empire. Ramses expanded public monuments and construction projects, including reliefs depicting Egypt's victory in battle. During his reign he erected many temples, obelisks, and statues echoing the opulence of the era.

In this first exhibition about Ramses the Great in more than 30 years, statues, sarcophagi, masks, jewelry, and ornate golden tomb treasures show not only the wealth of the pharaohs but also the formidable skills of the ancient Egyptian tomb builders and artists. Included are recently discovered animal mummies, including cats, lion cubs, and even a mongoose from the Saqqara necropolis. Treasures from the royal tombs in Dahshur and Tanis, many of which have never traveled

ART WORLD, continued on 8



October 7-9, 2022

Portals to the Imaginal:

Re-Visioning Depth Psychology for the 21st Century

An immersive learning experience in honor of Pacifica's on campus re-opening

Times of personal as well as collective upheaval confront us not only with the archetypal tensions between chaos and rigidity, life and death, but also with the need for psychologies that can evolve to accommodate an emerging consciousness. We invite you to join the distinguished faculty and alumni of Pacifica Graduate Institute, along with invited artists, as we offer creative, forward-thinking scholarship that both builds on and transcends the boundaries of Jungian and post-Jungian theory. This conference additionally celebrates the formal, public re-opening of our campuses.

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Keynote Presentations

Portals to the Imaginal in a Digital Era: Cultural Complexes and the Mythopoetic Imagination in the 21st Century
Thomas Singer, M.D.

Mythic Imagination: Claiming Presence and the Body Poetic in the "After Times"
Marissa Chibas

Reconsidering Individuation in the 21st Century: When Archetypal Patterns Shift
Joe Cambray, Ph.D.

Tradition and Lineage: Mythopoietics in the Writing of Africanist Women
Fanny Brewster, MFA, Ph.D.

The Imagination Matrix
Stephen Aizenstat Ph.D.

Featured Presentations

Music as a Window to the Imaginal through Dreamtime and Waking Reverie
Juliet Rohde-Brown, Ph.D. and Daniel Siuba, M.A., Ph.D.c

Mythic Meditation: Labyrinth
Emily Chow-Kambitsch, Ph.D.

Re-Imagining the Sacred: Jung's Approach
Lionel Corbett

Remembering How to be a People: Exploring Psychological Belonging by Forming Conscious Groups
Peter Dunlap, Ph.D.

Transcending the Classroom and Consulting Room: The Initiation and Invitation of Collective Trauma
Jemma Elliot, M.A., LMFT, LPCC

Eastern Spiritual Practices and the Process of Individuation: Exploring Lived Experience
Pat Katsky, Ph.D.

Imaginal Mediums: The Occult Origins of the Unconscious in Jung's Red Book
David Odorisio, Ph.D.

Co-Creative Responsibility for the Posthuman Age
Glen Slater, Ph.D.

Depth Psychology is Transdisciplinary: Introducing Jungian Arts-Based Research as a Methodology for Learning and Being in the 21st Century
Susan Rowland, Ph.D.

Art at the Abyss: Recreating Depth Psychology for a World on the Edge
Mary Antonia Wood, Ph.D.

Location
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Saturday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
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Supervisor

continued from cover

by his lack of enforcement on gun crimes. And the open-air drug markets and placing the safety and lives of drug dealers over those of addicts, their loved ones, families and businesses in the Tenderloin, and everyday San Franciscans, was a complete dereliction of duty. Failing to work with other law enforcement agencies to address these issues only made them worse.

It is my sincere hope that with a new administration in place, an emphasis on public safety will be a priority, while of course balancing the need for critical criminal justice reform initiatives.

INVESTING IN THE POLICE

For more than two years, the San Francisco Police Department has had a staffing crisis. In March 2020, an independent study on police staffing levels found that the SFPD needed to hire 330 officers to meet the demand for service at that time. Since then, the need for officers has grown to more than 500 and is projected to be more than 700 by the end of the fiscal year.

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

We're losing approximately two officers per week through attrition. And new recruit applications have significantly decreased over the past five years — falling by 67 percent from 2017 to 2021.

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.

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, Philadelphia has 40, Boston has 31, and San Francisco would only have 22 if all the budgeted positions are filled, but we know they aren't, so we're actually much closer to 19. 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, and without adequate staffing these measures are cast aside to prioritize urgent calls for service.

I was thrilled that finally, after years of advocacy, a budget agreement was reached with the mayor in June to provide the resources necessary to hire 220 more officers to fill critical vacancies.

Historically, SFPD has had significant attrition issues that have compounded staffing challenges. In this year's budget we invested approximately \$38 million to

allow the department to offer more financial resources, like bonuses and incentive pay, to recruit and retain our officers. While these initiatives won't satisfy the full need, they represent a significant step in the right direction.

PASSING PROPOSITION D

Most important, I want to thank all of you for passing Proposition D to create an Office of Victims' Rights and to establish the country's first right to civil counsel for victims of domestic violence.

Approximately 20,000 times per quarter, a person in San Francisco is a victim of crime. Furthermore, arrests and charges only occur in a tiny fraction of these cases. This system often 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.

In San Francisco, only about half of domestic violence cases are presented for prosecution, and only a small fraction were charged under the previous district attorney. This is especially troubling, given that calls to domestic violence hotlines have continued to increase throughout the pandemic by up to 40 percent. 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.

Proposition D will make a profound difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors by providing them with 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. Legal aid is the single most cost-effective intervention we can provide to keep families safe and prevent them from falling into poverty.

Over the next year, I will be extremely focused on ensuring that Proposition D is fully implemented, and I will continue to advocate for the public safety resources San Francisco needs to remain a thriving and world-class city. We will continue to maintain our Anti-Burglary Neighborhood Network and work with our police captains to ensure we are maximizing the resources we have.

My number one priority is to keep people safe. I will not shy away from all that is required to make that a reality and will continue to be the loudest voice for public safety on the Board of Supervisors.

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The Tunnel Tops park includes fun for the whole family. PHOTO: PRESIDIO TRUST

Parks and music

The city’s reopening continues

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

TUNNEL TOPS UNVEILED

The Presidio Trust unveiled the fruits of a \$118 million project to build the new Tunnel Tops park when it officially opened the park for the public in mid-July. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) welcomed the new park: “Those of us who worked for decades to transform the Presidio from post to park are thrilled with the Presidio Tunnel Tops, which will serve as a beautiful beacon of recreation, education and community in our city.”

The 14-acre park features an array of sites and activities for people of all ages, from food to recreation to educational opportunities. Visit presidiotunneltops.gov for upcoming activities, including First Sunday Afternoons at Presidio Tunnel Tops, nature and history explorations, art installations, campfire talks, the 6th Annual Environmental Justice Summit, 4th Annual Chuseok Festival, and more.

The new park is open 9 a.m.–6 p.m. daily.

HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS RETURNS IN-PERSON

“We are thrilled to return to Golden Gate Park,” reads the website and Twitter feeds of the long-running Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival. Following two years without in-person performances, the HSB concerts will return Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 to Golden Gate Park. The 2020 and 2021 festivals were entirely online.

Get details on the upcoming festival and catch clips of musical acts on the HSB app or at hardlystrictlybluegrass.com.

UPDATE ON CRIME

For the week ending July 3, violent crimes were up 4 percent for the year-to-date in the Northside neighborhoods covered by the SFPD’s Northern Station. Rapes increased 33.33 percent, and assaults were up 36.94 percent, while robberies dropped 18.39 percent and human trafficking fell 33.33 percent.

For that same time, property crimes overall rose 1.08 percent. Burglaries fell 40.33 percent, but there were increases in motor vehicle theft (6.88 percent), arson (40.91 percent), and larceny theft (11.59 percent).

BRIEFLY NOTED

In late July, Mayor Breed touted the opening of 430 new shelter beds for the homeless. That total comes from 250 beds at 711 Post Street and 180 private rooms at the Baldwin SAFE Navigation Center. In addition, the city will reopen 592 shelter beds that were closed during Covid

... **Rev. Amos Brown**, pastor of Third Baptist Church and president of the San Francisco NAACP, lashed out at the state of the streets following the beating of James Spingola, director of the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center last month. Saying the “entire Black community is under siege by the homeless issue,” Brown — a former member of the Board of Supervisors — said, “We must hold people accountable to the law — whether they are homeless or not. We can no longer indulge this dangerous situation. We must put the homeless in the right mental health and drug abuse programs, so they are not a harm to society or themselves.”

... Madame Tussauds at Fisherman’s Wharf (145 Jefferson Street) revealed a restored **Robin Williams** wax statue to mark what would have been his 71st birthday in July. The venue also sports a Williams figure styled as his character Armand Goldman from *The Birdcage* ... Outer Richmond’s **Cassava restaurant** is scheduled to relocate to North Beach in September. What Now San Francisco reports that its new home will be 401 Columbus Avenue, the former location of Trattoria Pinocchio.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Best: Moody’s Investors Service has given SFMTA the highest credit rating in the country for a transit system . . . **SB 793:** name of state Senate bill authored by Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) that would ease the licensing burden on live entertainment venues ... **2:** San Francisco was in second place in Moneypenny’s list of the “Top 10 Greenest Cities to Work In,” right behind Boston. Meanwhile, five of the 10 cities at the bottom of that list were also in California ... **Sept. 13:** deadline for Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center to transfer or discharge all patients under a federal order; the city’s Department of Public Health is trying to recertify the facility before that date **\$10,000:** value of the clothes, cameras and electronics stolen from the vehicles of 20 teens and their chaperones from a Chicago religious camp visiting San Francisco in July **24.2 percent:** office vacancy rate in San Francisco in the second quarter of 2022, according to CBRE ... **\$21,000:** cost of prototype trash cans being tested on the sidewalks of San Francisco. You could sell 15 of the trash bins and afford the \$300,000 membership fee for the private club planned to be built in Salesforce Park.

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

Boudin and his chief of staff Kate Chatfield signed off on extended leaves for management set to take effect on July 11 — Jenkins’s first full day in the office. In fact, the only person on Boudin’s management team who was present for Jenkins’s inaugural senior staff meeting was Marshall Khine, a longtime prosecutor who has worked in nearly every trial unit since starting with the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office in 2013. One source said the office was “deserted,” with Boudin hires sitting on one side and Jenkins supporters on the other during the meeting. In a moment exemplifying that clear divide, one of those Boudin hires illegally recorded the meeting and distributed it to the press.

For a *San Francisco Chronicle* opinion piece titled “Brooke Jenkins just fired me and 14 others. I have no idea how the D.A.’s office will run without us,” Ryan Khojasteh, a former public defender brought over by Boudin, wrote, “I was on vacation and on my way to a wedding the day Jenkins and two representatives from human resources called me on my personal cell phone to fire me.”

Well, that’s what happens when you’re out of the office on “extended leave.”

With a certain glee, Khojasteh also discusses the recording, saying multiple media outlets quoted staffers who described that first meeting with Jenkins as “uncomfortable” and “icy.” He’s particularly angry that Jenkins fired “15 staffers who were effective members of the team.” “Effective” is a strong word because the majority, including 99 percent of the management team, took Boudin up on his offer of extended leave, skipping out on 5,500 outstanding cases “with most, on average, nearly two years old” — in other words, during Boudin’s tenure. “Perhaps Jenkins may be able to hire some new attorneys in the coming months, but even the most talented attorneys will not be able to be brought up to speed to help lighten the load anytime soon.” It’s hard to believe Khojasteh says this unironically when under Boudin 59 attorneys left, including 37 who quit and 11 who were fired.

As for his own work? Khojasteh says he took it seriously and was good at his job, though photographs posted on social media show his cubicle floor scattered with files and his mail slot overflowing with unopened envelopes, some likely containing time sensitive information about his cases.

While railing against the “unfair firings,” Khojasteh never acknowledges that positions in the district attorney’s office are “at will,” meaning you can be cut loose at any time for any reason. He also neglects to mention that just two days after Boudin was sworn in, he fired seven attorneys. “I

had to make difficult staffing decisions today in order to put in place a management team that will help me accomplish the work I committed to do for San Francisco,” Boudin said.

So, both Boudin and Jenkins fired people. The only difference is Boudin fired qualified prosecutors and replaced them with unqualified public defenders, while Jenkins fired unqualified public defenders and replaced them with qualified prosecutors.

DIVERSE, ALL-FEMALE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Not a single one of the Boudin hires dismissed by Jenkins had prosecutorial experience, but the diverse, all-female senior management team selected by Jenkins — Ana Gonzalez, Nancy Tung, Tiffany Sutton, and Kulvidar “Rani” Singh Mann — have decades of it.

You would think the news of a strong, diverse, all-female management team would delight former Boudin staffers who claim to “punch up” for Black and Brown women while presenting themselves as allies. Instead, fired chief of staff Kate Chatfield hopped on Twitter to punch down at the powerhouse team — and the new Black and Latina DA — calling them “Girl Bosses for mass incarceration.”

Chatfield, who is white, once compared Boudin’s critics to *The Birth of a Nation*, the controversial 1915 film that depicts Ku Klux Klan members as heroes. In between dissing women of color taking leadership roles under Jenkins, she managed to punch up for Boudin’s fired communications director Rachel Marshall, who is also white, tweeting, “Unsure which is stronger: her heart or work ethic.” It’s definitely not her work ethic. As I reported previously (“Six podcasts, four trials, and a blog,” August 2021), Marshall created a seven-page Word document titled “Dion Lim Misrepresentations,” a detailed manifesto of the cases the ABC7 reporter and anchor has covered, with talking points and “evidence” of her bias against Boudin.

In text messages obtained through a public records request, Marshall goes back and forth with Tennessee blogger Radley Balko, offering information on an open criminal case and sending him the Lim manifesto to help with a hit piece that eventually ran in *The Washington Post*. Also complicit was Kasie Lee, then interim chief of victim services, whose equally blind devotion for Boudin led her to divulge victim contact information to Balko, as well as the method for unlocking the record of a juvenile suspect. I was frankly surprised that Lee wasn’t fired along with Marshall, though she was demoted.

‘INTERIM, UNELECTED D.A.’

As if Boudin’s former staff weren’t already headed for Hypocrite Hill, their attempts to

demean Jenkins by calling her the “interim, unelected D.A.” push them right up to the tippy-top. Nearly all of them came from the San Francisco Public Defenders Office where their boss, Mano Raju, also appointed by Breed, served out the late Jeff Adachi’s term in March 2019. That made him the “interim, unelected” public defender until he ran to fill Adachi’s remaining three years that November and won.

While Boudin’s supporters constantly denounced the recall effort as “undemocratic” (it’s not), someone purchased the URL recallbrooke.com the day her appointment was announced. On Twitter, an anonymous account claiming to be “parody” uses the image and name of William Oberndorf, the largest individual donor to the Boudin recall campaign, to spew racist and sexist tropes. It’s neither parody nor is it funny. “Hey @BrookeJenkinsSF — @LondonBreed and I were chatting this morning and we agree that you should smile more. You’re prettier when you smile,” one tweet reads. Other tweets talk about “paying for London Breed’s implants,” his “wife’s tramp stamp,” and the “elephant in the room” — race. “Everyone seems to be concerned about Brooke’s race. Well you know what? They were skeptical of Clarence Thomas when we first had him installed, and just look how well that worked out...!” One of the first people to follow the account? None other than Chesa Boudin. The usual suspects make up the rest — fired Boudin staff, public defenders, defense attorneys, Democratic Socialists of America “comrades” (yes, that’s what they call themselves), and anonymous Boudin admirers who use telltale terms like “cages,” instead of prisons, “mass incarceration,” which doesn’t exist in San Francisco, and “carceral state” (see above).

‘INSURRECTIONIST BROOKE JENKINS’

From the minute Jenkins was announced, former police commissioner John Hama-saki hammered her lack of management experience, but never criticized Boudin for his. Before law school, Boudin was a translator in the Venezuelan Presidential Palace during Hugo Chavez’s administration. After law school (2011) he was a law clerk, then a Liman Fellow in the public defender’s office (2012–13), and again a clerk (2013–14). In 2015, Boudin started full time as a deputy public defender and left in 2019 to run for district attorney. Jenkins, conversely, worked as a prosecutor under Boudin’s predecessor George Gascón from 2014–19. When Boudin took over, he promoted her to the homicide division, where she worked until 2021 when she joined the recall effort. Boudin, perhaps too afraid to face her, sent a surrogate — ardent supporter and USF law professor Lara Bazelon — to debate Jenkins at several events.

Hamasaki’s unhinged assaults on Jenkins include referring to her as “Insurrectionist DA Jenkins,” which only makes sense in Hamaski’s head. He also encourages public defenders to “clog up the courts” by taking every narcotics sales case to trial, and tweet-quotes himself from a *Courthouse News* article in which he said, “Assuming that attorneys and judges are going to get in line for somebody that isn’t particularly widely respected or loved is just a fantasy.” In that same article, he said the city’s lawyers and judges are “tight-knit” so Jenkins won’t be successful. This is Hamasaki we’re talking about (more on him in my newsletter), but to suggest that lawyers and judges are in cahoots against Jenkins, who had been in office just 14 days at the time, is absurd.

For her part, Jenkins hasn’t paid any attention to Boudin’s embittered troll patrol — she’s too busy building a team that she says will help make San Francisco safer for law-abiding citizens without losing sight of necessary reforms. She recently tapped Darby Williams as managing attorney of the Internal Affairs Bureau (known as IIB), which investigates police misconduct and decides whether officers are cleared or charged. Williams worked two decades as a public defender in Los Angeles, Solano, and Santa Clara counties; she previously worked in IIB under Gascón, moved on to work as a deputy attorney general, and was hired by Boudin in April as an assistant district attorney.

Williams replaces Lateef Gray, who worked as a civil attorney in the Law Offices of John Burris, where millions of dollars are made from cases against police officers — including some that are also investigated by IIB. Adding to Gray’s conflicts of interest, he is married to Cindy Elias, vice president of the Police Commission, which disciplines officers and sets police policy. Jeffrey Paillet, a former IIB lieutenant investigator under Boudin, filed an ethics complaint in April against the couple, claiming they obtained information about him and an underlying investigation in which Gray had a financial interest.

Thus far, the new district attorney seems to be making all the right moves.

“Holding offenders accountable does not preclude us from moving forward with vital and important reforms to our criminal justice system,” Jenkins said at her swearing in. That makes sense to me and anyone else who understands the word “balance,” which Boudin and his supporters clearly do not.

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A NIMBY intervention: We’re really just beginning

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

PERHAPS IF YOU SELL A BUNCH OF those Google shares you’ve been sitting on, take out a loan against your 401K, and put off that major dental surgery you promised your dentist you’ll get, you’ll be able to scrounge up a total of \$9,469. Now imagine you have to do that every single month to be able to afford your family’s apartment in Manhattan, because that’s the average rental price of a three-bedroom apartment there. And that \$9,469 is an increase of nearly \$2,000 a month from June 2021, according to the June 2022 Elliman Report.

“[T]he supply of Manhattan apartments available for rent, which ballooned during the pandemic, is now near record lows,” adds CNBC’s Robert Frank. “The vacancy rate at the end of June was just 1.9 percent, . . . down 46 percent from last year.”

Why should we care? After all, New York — state and city — like California and San Francisco lost lots of people during the pandemic, as people moved to cheaper, possibly safer, certainly more boring cities. “That migration out of many NYC neighborhoods has reversed,” Sarah Holder wrote for Bloomberg. “[M]ore households are moving into Manhattan now than were moving in before the pandemic in 2019.”

THE REBOUND

Our population will wax and wane, but the people touting the death of big cities have been wrong for decades, and their

track record isn’t getting any better just because someone can now get broadband Internet in American Fork, Utah (it’s a real city, trust me). So everyone who has fought any attempts to address San Francisco’s chronic housing shortage can’t rely on a temporary drop in population to take care of the problem.

When it comes to meeting our housing obligations, especially for affordable housing, San Francisco is treated as a joke by the state. That’s because we are like the worst comic on open-mic night in a pizza joint’s party room. We complain about high housing prices, we complain about homelessness, but when it comes to actually doing something, we — voters and our very funny Board of Supervisors — always come up with reasons not to build housing. We don’t like the developer. The building will cast a shadow over a small part of a park one day each year. We don’t want to look like Manhattan. My district is already too dense. And so prices continue to rise and people are still unable to find an affordable house or condo. Ha-ha.

It looked like the supervisors were going to get serious by passing a bill in June that would allow fourplex apartment buildings on any lot and sixplexes on corner lots. Housing bonanza, right? But supervisors made poison-pill changes to the bill before approving it, including requiring that an owner own the property for five years before making a fourplex, and adding rent control to some of the new units. As the “NIMBY Patrol” tweeted, “We might need

to develop a math curriculum for NIMBYs. If you add rent control to two out of four units but then you build zero units, how many units are rent controlled? That’s right Judith! Anything multiplied by zero is always zero, you get a [star].”

But Mayor London Breed got the joke and was not laughing. She vetoed the bill, saying the board had riddled it with amendments that “instead of cutting bureaucracy and reducing project costs, . . . imposed new financial barriers that will make it even less likely for new housing to be built under the ordinance’s provisions,” she wrote in her veto letter to the board. “It is fair to say that this ordinance, as amended, will set back housing production.”

She also cites the challenge of meeting our state-mandated Housing Element, which requires San Francisco to produce 82,069 more housing units by 2031.

WAIT, WHAT?
82,069.

THE REBUFF

In March, the California Housing Partnership issued its “Affordable Housing Needs Report 2022,” and it’s full of great news, if by “great news” you mean “horrible news and proof of destructive hypocrisy.”

CHP found that in 2021 the Greater Bay Area funded only 22 percent of its affordable home production levels. This area might be filled with people pretending to worry about affordable housing,

but the Bay Area did even worse than the already-awful statewide achievement of only 35 percent of its goals.

So relying on the outflow of population to fix our housing problems isn’t the solution. Seventy-eight percent of the Bay Area’s population has not moved out of state to American Fork or Smackover, Ark., (also a real city), so that 22 percent of affordable housing funding goals is as unimpressive as it looks.

Back in 2015 in these pages, I interviewed Dr. Peter Linneman, economist and real estate professor, about San Francisco’s love-hate relationship with real estate (“Something’s gotta give: Dr. Peter Linneman on taking the mystery out of our housing crisis,” May 2015). He talked about his formula for dealing with city populations: You can stack them up, spread them out, or kill them. “But if they’re coming, they’re coming,” he said. “You’ve got this notion of San Francisco saying we don’t want people to build, even as people complain that they can’t afford to live there. . . . I’ve never really understood the political dynamics of it. There are people who make fortunes out of it. They bought in 1975 — nothing special, anywhere else in the country it’s \$300,000 [now], but there it’s \$1.2 million. They have an incentive to [restrict new buildings].”

Seems to me he understands the political dynamics of it perfectly well.

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

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As a proud partner of the San Francisco Giants, we love a sellout crowd. But we also get excited about empty seats.

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AUGUST EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

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

MAJOR EVENTS

SFMOMA | Diego Rivera's America
Monday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 1–8 p.m.; & Fri.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. through Jan. 2, 2023
151 Third St.
The most in-depth examination of the artist's work in over two decades, "Diego Rivera's America" brings together more than 150 of Rivera's paintings, frescoes, and drawings — as well as three galleries devoted to large-scale film projections of highly influential murals he created in Mexico and the United States \$25, 415-357-4000, [sfmoma.org](https://www.sfmoma.org)

Outside Lands
Fri.–Sun., Aug. 5–7, noon–10 p.m.
Golden Gate Park
With headliners Green Day, Post Malone, and SZA, the lineup also includes Phoebe Bridgers, L'Rain, Pussy Riot, Kim Petras, and many others at this popular music-food/wine/beer-art-comedy festival. \$175/one day pass & \$409 three-day pass, sfoutsidelands.com

85th Annual Stern Grove Festival
Sundays through Aug. 14, 2 p.m. (doors open at noon)
19th Ave. at Sloat
Scheduled for August is Taj Maha I (Aug. 7), and Phil Lesh & Friends (Aug. 14). Free, 415-252-6252, sterngrove.org

COMMUNITY CORNER



Festa Coloniale Italiana

Saturday, Aug. 27, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Stockton St. (btw. Union & Filbert)
The S.F. Italian Athletic Club Foundation invites you to celebrate the rich Italian and Italian-American heritage in this festival featuring live Italian music and dancing, a pizza toss, and more, including Italian wine tasting and cuisine. Free, 415-781-0166, sfiafoundation.com/festa-coloniale-italiana
PHOTO: [SFIACFOUNDATION.COM/FESTA-COLONIALE-ITALIANA](https://sfiafoundation.com/festa-coloniale-italiana)

ARTS & CULTURE

48th Annual Nihonmachi Street Fair
Sat.–Sun., Aug. 6–7, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Japantown (Post St. btw. Laguna & Webster)
Celebrate and learn about the Asian/Pacific American culture while enjoying artisan crafts, live music, community dancing, and more, including the return of Doggie World. Free, nihonmachistreetfair.org

29th Annual Pistahan Festival & Parade
Sat.–Sun., Aug. 13–14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Yerba Buena Gardens
The largest celebration of Filipino Americans in the U.S., this two-day, family-friendly event featuring art, culinary, dance, health, heritage, innovation, sports, and tavern pavilions; entertainment; food vendors; and more. Free, pistahan.net

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

MOAD | Elegies: Still Lives in Contemporary Art
Wed.–Sat., 11 a.m.–6 p.m. & Sunday, noon–5 p.m. through Aug. 21
685 Mission St.

This thematic group exhibition presents two parallel narratives: one is an art historical examination of still lifes and the other is how that history is connected to Black figuration and is presented in various mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture, printmaking, performance, and installation. \$12, 415-318-7152, moadsf.org



Legion of Honor Museum | Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy

Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. through Sept. 5
100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park
This exhibition celebrates the extraordinary designs of Guo Pei — hailed as China's first couturier — and includes more than 80 works from the past two decades highlighting her most important collections. Through exquisite craftsmanship, lavish embroidery, and unconventional dressmaking techniques, Guo creates a fantasy that fuses the influences of China's imperial past, decorative arts, European architecture, and the botanical world. \$30, 888-901-6645, famsf.org
PHOTO: GARY SEXTON, COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Asian Art Museum | Bearing Witness: Selected Works by Chiura Obata
Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thursday, 1–8 p.m. through Jan. 31, 2023
200 Larkin St.

This exhibition invites audiences to follow the evolution of Chiura Obata's distinctive blending of Japanese techniques with modern abstraction, from some of his earliest watercolors depicting the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake, to his famous prints of California landscapes, to his somber consideration of World War II's devastation. \$20, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

PERFORMANCES

Magic Theatre | Deal with the Dragon
Fri.–Sun., through Aug. 14
Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center
This one-man performance of the critically acclaimed grown-up fairy tale/camp comedy is about the bargains we make with ourselves and others to survive. \$20–\$70, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

S.F. Playhouse | Follies
Tue.–Sun., through Sept. 10
Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.) and on demand
Artists gather one last time in a theater about to be demolished, reminiscing about the past and contemplating their future. Surreal, sophisticated, compelling, and heart wrenching, this legendary masterpiece uses the musical theater as a metaphor for the collapse of American innocence and naiveté. \$30–\$70, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

ACT | The Code
Thu.–Sun., Aug. 4–7
Strand Theater (1127 Market St.)
Commissioned by ACT's Young Conservatory, this brand-new, pop-rock musical by the Kilbanes follows students of an uptight prep school as they investigate the origin of the school and the cause of the fire that burned it down. \$10–\$40, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

DANCE

Summer Dance Music Series
Saturdays through Sept. 24, 1–4 p.m.
Union Square Park
Featured in August are Anthony Arya (folk rock; Aug. 6), The Cottontails (swing; Aug. 13), Mitch Polzak (rockabilly; Aug. 20), and Los Kimberos (salsa; Aug. 27). Free, visitudionsquaresf.com

S.F. Aerial Arts Festival
Fri.–Sun., Aug. 19–21
Cowell Theater & Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
The city's premiere aerial arts event by Zaccho Dance Theatre brings together spectacle, daring athleticism, aerial dance, and circus in group performances and the premiere of a site-specific performance by world-renowned choreographer Robert Moses' KIN. Visit website for schedule. \$15–\$30, 415-822-6744, zaccho.org

MUSIC

SFJazz | Terence Blanchard E-Collective: Absence with the Turtle Island Quartet
Thu.–Fri., Aug. 4–5, 7:30 p.m.
Miner Auditorium, S.F. Jazz (201 Franklin St.)
Trumpeter Terence Blanchard returns with his Grammy-nominated E-Collective, joined by the acclaimed Turtle Island Quartet, performing music from his 2021 Blue Note release *Absence*, a project inspired by the music and enduring influence of the great Wayne Shorter. \$30–\$70, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

S.F. Choral | Summer Festival Chorus
Friday, Aug. 19, 8 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
Participants in this year's program hail from Singapore to Modesto and will perform the dramatic Verdi Requiem with the California Chamber Symphony. \$40–\$60, 415-393-4400, sfchoral.org



Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers

Sunday, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
The singer/songwriter/composer/bandleader celebrates his most recent collection, *Non-Secure Connection*, exploring a broad range of themes and featuring a wealth of collaborators. \$65, 800-745-3000, palaceoffinearts.org
PHOTO: [PALACEOFFINEARTS.ORG](https://palaceoffinearts.org)

S.F. International Piano Festival Presents Bobby Mitchell
Saturday, Aug. 27, 8 p.m.
Old First Church (1751 Sacramento St.) & livestream
Bobby Mitchell's program juxtaposes early and late works by Robert Schumann, giving the audience a cross section of this composer's unique creative evolution. \$20–\$25, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

SCIENCE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Perseids Meteor Shower
Rise: Daily, Aug. 1–11, midnight–dawn
Peak: Thu.–Sat., Aug. 11–13, midnight–dawn
Northern night sky
Although there will be no moon-free viewing this year at the shower's peak, you may catch a view before then. Find a dark, wide-open sky and look toward the Perseus constellation. earthsky.org

Cool: Women Leaders Reversing Global Warming
Friday, Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m.
The Commonwealth Club & online
Join Paola Gianturco and her 12-year-old granddaughter Avery Sangster who interviewed and photographed women politicians, corporate executives, scholars, heads of grassroots groups, and presidents of organizations that are all dedicated to combating global warming. \$10 & \$20, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

FILMS & LECTURES

Blankets & Blockbusters | Spider-Man: No Way Home
Saturday, Aug. 20, 3 p.m.
Thrive City, Chase Center
B.Y.O. Blanket for the Bay Area's biggest big-screen experience. Each evening offers special guest giveaways, cinema-inspired snacks and beverages, and much more. Free, 888-479-4667, chasecenter.com/events, eventbrite.com

Art Activism and the Oakland Uprising: Painting the Streets
Sunday, Aug. 28, 1–3 p.m.
S.F. Public Library, Main Branch
Hear from the artists, activists and organizers of the movement to archive the thousands of artworks found on the streets of Oakland after the June 2020 uprisings, which protested the murder of George Floyd. Free, 415-557-4400, sfpl.org

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Una Tarde con The Great Tortilla Conspiracy
Thursday, Aug 4, 3:30–7:30 p.m.
SFMOMA (151 Third St.)
Join Bay Area political performance collective The Great Tortilla Conspiracy for an irreverent night of quesadillas screen printed in indelible ink with graphics inspired by the "Diego Rivera's America" exhibition and communal snacking. Free (Bay Area residents), 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

Greens Summer Dinner Series
Tuesday, Aug. 9
Green's Restaurant
Enjoy a four-course meal featuring West Indian cuisine prepared by guest Chef Heena Patel. A portion of proceeds will benefit Foodwise, formerly CUESA. Visit Opentable.com for reservations. \$120, 415-771-6222, greensrestaurant.com

Oyster Experience
Saturday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
The Cooking School, Bldg. 602, Cavallo Point
Hosted in outdoor cabanas, enjoy the bounty of local oysters in this hands-on class where you will learn to shuck and grill. Additional menu items and wines available for advance purchase. \$145, 415-339-4799, cavallopoint.com

Division Winemaker Tasting Night
Tuesday, Aug. 17, 4–11 p.m.
West Coast Wine & Cheese (2165 Union St.)
Join rock star winemaker Kate Norris from Oregon's Division Winemaking Company for new releases of Sauvignon Blanc, Gamay, and a red blend. Contact for pricing, 415-376-9720, westcoastsf.com

SPORTS & WELLNESS

13th Annual S.F. Giant Race
Sunday, Aug. 21, 7 a.m.
Oracle Park
Choose from several race types and receive limited-edition swag, including a Brandon Belt bobblehead, t-shirt, and more in this scenic, on-the-field finish course. \$45–\$100, 415-972-1881, giantrace.com

SoundBath in Golden Gate Park
Saturday, Aug. 27, 1–3 p.m.
1266 John F. Kennedy Dr.
Be revived by the beauty of Golden Gate Park in this meditation of Reiki energy and crystal singing bowls. \$22–\$33, eventbrite.com

JUST FOR FUN

Cow Hollow Guided Tour
Sunday, Aug. 7 & 21, 10 a.m.
Meet: Holy Trinity Cathedral (Van Ness Ave. & Green)
Perk up your Sunday morning with the bell ringing at the oldest Orthodox Christian parish in America. See the only remaining natural spring still flowing in Cow Hollow, and the unique Vedanta Temple, the oldest Hindu temple in the western world. Afterward, have lunch on Union Street and explore its unique shops. Free (donations welcome), 415-557-4266, sfcityguides.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com



Clockwise from left: Installation views of “Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs” PHOTO: WORLD HERITAGE EXHIBITIONS; Bottom right: Falcon-headed collar and counterweight of Princess Neferuptah Egyptian. PHOTO BY SANDRO VANNINI; COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Art World continued from cover

to the United States before, will also be on view.

RICHES FROM THE TOMBS

Gold and silver objects from royal tombs span from the Middle Kingdom (12th dynasty), about 600 years before Ramses, and of the 21st and 22nd dynasties, about 200 to 300 years later. Located in the Valley of the Kings, Ramses the Great’s tomb was plundered in ancient times, and objects from royal tombs in other parts of Egypt illustrate the kind of extraordinary artifacts that Ramses’s tomb would have likely included. Among these objects are the falcon-headed collar and counterweight of Princess Neferuptah. Six rows of beads are linked on either side by twin golden

headed falcons leading to a counterpoise of beads also bearing a smaller gold falcon head. The falcon symbolizes the Egyptian deity Horus, representing kingship and the sky. This iconography is echoed on the lid from the hawk-headed coffin of Sheshonq II. The silver sarcophagus from the 22nd dynasty takes the shape of Osiris, god of the underworld, but with a hawk’s head. Winged gods are carved into the body, as are the four sons of Horus. The hands hold the crook and flail, symbols of royalty, power, and authority. Four miniature silver sarcophagi were found, each with one of the king’s internal organs, although these were represented with human heads. Created out of gold, alabaster, and glass, the striking funerary mask of Wendjebauendjed will also be on display. An Egyptian general and priest of the 21st dynasty, the general’s face is idealized and detailed with a slight smile.

Notable is the head of a colossal statue of Ramses II from the 19th dynasty, created of red limestone and measuring over 90 inches high with an elongated headdress in the style of Osiris, representing death and resurrection. Another 19th-century limestone fragment torso and head of Ramses II shows the king with a cobra-shaped diadem on a traditional headdress. INTERACTIVE HISTORY Videos and multimedia presentations throughout the gallery tell the story of this larger-than-life era. Immersive features like the virtual reality component, “Ramses and Nefertari: Journey to Osiris” take visitors through the tomb monuments Abu Simbel and Nefertari’s tomb using virtual reality glasses and cinematic motion chairs (separate ticketing). This once-in-a-lifetime exhibition is in partnership with the Supreme Council of

Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt and is sponsored by World Heritage Exhibitions. World Heritage Exhibitions President John Norman explains, “Visitors will not only see priceless historical artifacts but can also transport themselves to Egyptian temples in an electrifying virtual reality journey across the sands of the Sahara Desert.” Once this exhibition completes its tour, the objects will return to Egypt where they likely will not travel again for decades. Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs: Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m., Aug. 20–Feb. 12, 2023, \$35–40, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 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. The Candy House, by Jennifer Egan
- 2. Tomorrow and Tomorrow, by Gabrielle Zevin
- 3. Horse: A Novel, by Geraldine Brooks

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones, by James Clear
- 2. Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy, by Henry Kissinger
- 3. Happy-Go-Lucky, by David Sedaris

PAPERBACK FICTION

- 1. The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel, by Taylor Jenkins
- 2. Verity, by Colleen Hoover
- 3. Book Lovers, by Emily Henry

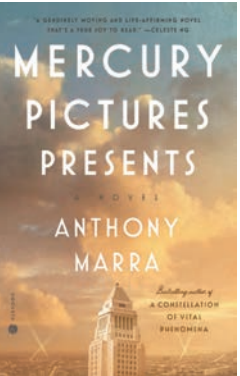
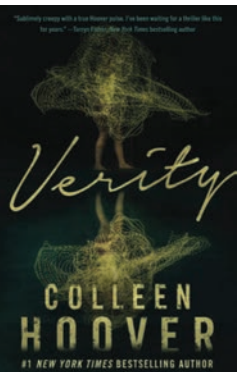
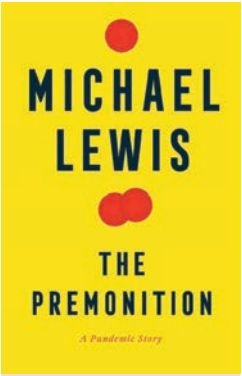
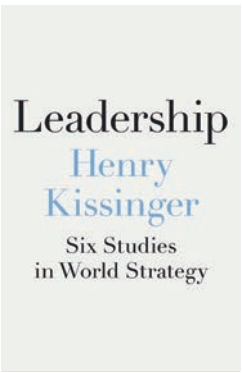
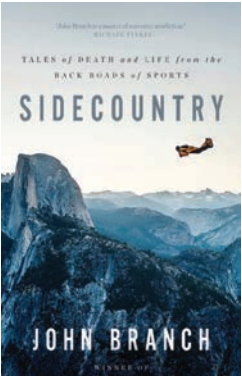
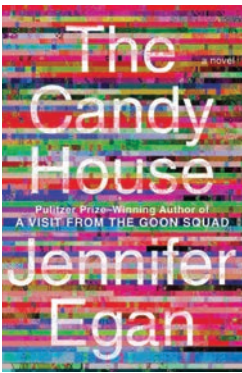
PAPERBACK NONFICTION

- 1. Sidecountry: Tales of Death and Life from the Back Roads of Sports, by John Branch
- 2. The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War, by Malcom Gladwell
- 3. The Premonition: A Pandemic Story, by Michael Lewis

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

Afterlives, by Abdulrazak Gurnah In Gurnah’s first book since winning the Nobel Prize, Ilyas is taken from his East African home by German colonial troops in the late 1800s and compelled to fight against his own people. Years later, he returns to find his parents dead and his sister, Afiya, effectively enslaved to their self-professed aunt and uncle. Hamza, too, returns home

after having been sold into service and left badly scarred, not just emotionally but physically, and he falls in love with beautiful, unbreakably determined Afiya. As these three young people try to get on with their lives, war is coming after them again, with decades of rebellion and suppression to follow. I’ll Never Know: The Rock and Roll Priest Looks at 80, by Harry George Schlitt With 80 fading fast in the rearview mirror and handball, health, and other lifelong joys littering the roadside, retired San Francisco Monsignor Schlitt relates the realities, indignities, and sometimes hilarity of recognizing he’s not the man he once was. Drawing from a lifetime of media ministry to a global congregation ranging from the ragtag to political leaders, the military to peaceniks, from teens to the incarcerated and dying, this soulful tonic is two parts grin and one part wry.



Mercury Pictures Presents: A Novel, by Anthony Marra Leaving 1920s Italy for Los Angeles after inadvertently causing her father’s arrest, movie-besotted Maria eventually becomes an associate producer at Mercury Pictures. As World War II dawns, she is struggling with her personal life while the studio struggles

financially, but soon it’s flooded with refugee European artists — modernist poets writing racy movie scripts. Then a stranger who knew her father arrives to remind her of his fate. Chris Hsiang can help you find your next book at Books Inc., 2251 Chestnut St., 415-931-3633, booksinc.net.

Although too many spoilers in a review of this particular documentary might water down the impact of some revelations and twists that await, the events that transpire and the background of the student known as Brandon Lee have been a matter of public record since the mid-1990s. Foreknowledge won't undermine such a well made and thoroughly engrossing movie. That's in part due to McLeod's directorial choices, which pay off handsomely. If you're unaware of the details and would rather not know them before watching *My Old School*, you can stop here. Anybody else should feel free to read on.

ENROLLING AND TUMBLING

In 1994, a nerdy fellow going by the name Brandon Lee enrolled in Bearsden Academy as a fifth-year student. He purportedly looked a bit longer in the tooth than his classmates, yet no one made much of a fuss. The truth would eventually come out. In fact, Brandon was 30-year-old Brian MacKinnon, posing as a 17-year-old. Furthermore, he was a former Bearsden student, having graduated the academy when he was an actual teenager.

McLeod was one of Brandon/Brian's fellow students in the 1990s and pulled together resources to shoot *My Old School* after earlier attempts to produce a docudrama about the hoax failed. The filmmaker faced a variety of challenges, not the least of which was to get the hoaxer himself to go on the record. Despite MacKinnon eventually agreeing to be interviewed for the movie, he refused to be shown on camera. So



Daria-esque animation helps fill out *The Old School*. PHOTO: COURTESY MAGNOLIA PICTURES

McLeod tapped renowned Scottish actor Alan Cumming to lip-sync MacKinnon's account of the masquerade and its fall-out. The ploy works, as Cumming manages to convey MacKinnon's elusiveness and floating morality while hinting at the desperation that triggered the impersonation.

Another asset of *My Old School* is the use of contemporary interviews that feature various classmates — most of them immensely likeable — describing their experiences with Brandon/Brian from back in the day and long after everything was revealed. As for visually reproducing incidents from MacKinnon's youth and his crucial second enrollment at the academy, McLeod decided to depict them in animated form and in a style evoking *Daria*, the dryly funny MTV cartoon series from the late 1990s that was all about the struggles of a snarky

teenage girl at a suburban American high school.

CALLBACKS AND CROSS-REFERENCES

In addition to the period-wise visual and textural callbacks to *Daria*, McLeod brought a little more meta to *My Old School* with canny casting that went beyond securing Cumming's services. Two significant voices in the animated sequences are courtesy of Lulu, the actress and pop singer whose first big movie was the 1967 British high school drama *To Sir with Love*, and Clare Grogan, who was the lead singer of the 1980s new wave band Altered Images and who made a splash as the title character in the 1981 Scottish high school rom-com *Gregory's Girl*. As it happens, Lulu and Grogan both hail from the Glasgow area, making their participation even more appropriate.

Central elements of *My Old School* recall the plot of the 1999 Drew Barrymore comedy *Never Been Kissed*, wherein a grown-up 30-something female journalist goes undercover as a high school student to report on youth culture, but MacKinnon was the real deal. Aspects of the narrative and scattered Easter eggs bring to mind teen-oriented movies such as the misfits triumphant romp *Revenge of the Nerds*, the clique-obsessed *Mean Girls*, or any film about spring break escapades. Those intentional or inadvertent echoes make *My Old School* all the more delicious.

Whether McLeod's decision to combine certain disparate storytelling techniques to construct his final cut was a result of inspiration or expedience, *My Old School* breaks the standard documentary mold. He took a fresh, engaging approach that taps into the sometimes funny, sometimes painful, sometimes tedious nature of the high school years while methodically unraveling the mystery of "Brandon Lee" and divulging the reasons behind MacKinnon's plan and fraudulent identity. If you get the urge to go back to schooldays, this is a pleasurable way to do it. Plus, you get the bonus of hearing Lulu cover a certain Steely Dan number over the end credits. In other words, watching *My Old School* is a lot more fun than detention.

My Old School is currently playing at the Opera Plaza Cinemas.

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



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Helping your teen succeed in high school

Parents play a key role in helping children thrive in their new environment

BY LIZ FARRELL

SUMMER SEEMS SHORTER EVERY year, and before we know it, we are talking about the upcoming school year. I will have two in high school this year, and for the first time in more than two years, and (fingers crossed) all signs are pointing to a “normal” start. The transition to high school is a big one. There is a heavier academic workload, the challenge of making new friends, and increased social pressures. For some, this change is exciting, while others may be a little nervous or anxious. It is normal to have a mix of all these emotions. No matter where your child falls, parents play a key role in the helping our kids make this transition successfully.

ACADEMICALLY

It is important to set expectations early with your children. There can be a lot of distractions, so remind them their primary focus is getting the best education. In high school, classes are faster paced and even in ninth grade, grades are part of their permanent record. Talk to them about how they are going to handle the challenges. Make sure they have a dedicated study space — ideally not their bed — and limit distractions during homework time. They will be balancing a new schedule both with classes and extracurriculars, so help them get organized with a calen-

dar and a strategy for time management.

Last, empower them to advocate for themselves. One of the biggest changes from middle school to high school is parents have less direct contact with teachers. If your children are starting to struggle, encourage them to meet with their teacher or reach out to their counselor. Even as parents, navigating a new school schedule, administration, and communication can be tricky. Stay involved by understanding their classes, and attending back-to-school nights and PTA meetings, so you know what’s going on and whom to contact if you have a question.

SOCIALLY

Last year in middle school they were the oldest, and now they are starting all over as the youngest. In those first few weeks they will be navigating getting around without feeling or looking completely clueless and trying to figure out who to sit with at lunch or what to do after school. They will be meeting new friends and trying to figure out where they fit in. This can be a stressful time. Encourage them to get involved in extracurricular activities like teams or clubs, where they can meet people with shared interests. Remind them to be patient and give it time — it may take a few months to feel connected. For parents, chances are you knew all their friends and their par-

ents in middle school, so in a sense you are starting over as well. Don’t be afraid to reach out to other parents your child is spending time with. In my experience, parents don’t always do it themselves, but they always appreciate a text or a phone call as an introduction or check in.

EMOTIONALLY

A lot is asked of teens these days, and they are under increasing pressure between academics, extracurriculars, and social dynamics. We can help them balance all this by making sure they are getting enough sleep, eating properly, and getting daily exercise. We also want to help them recognize and manage when they are feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or completely stressed out. As parents, we may feel the urge to swoop in and save them or solve the problem, but our job really is to give them the tools to do these things on their own. This can be hard, especially when they are struggling, but we can do a lot for them by simply showing empathy and interest. It is also important to recognize their need for alone time, which is not a bad thing — we all need it, but there are

some red flags to watch out for. If your child is becoming withdrawn, more tearful than usual, or changes sleep or eating patterns, then it is time to step in.

During these years, teens seek more independence, and their activities and friends play a central role, but this isn’t the time for us as parents to check out. They will never admit it, and trust me it doesn’t always feel this way, but they need our presence now more than ever. Let

them know we are there if they need us, always providing constant love and support. It can be harder to find time to connect, so try every day to talk to them — not just about classes and grades but friends and activi-

ties. They will try to push you away, but showing them that what is going on in their lives is important to you will make the high school transition and years easier for everyone.

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

Stay involved, so you know what’s going on and whom to contact if you have a question.





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Mortgage rates and fear of recession have hit housing expectations.
PHOTO: GAREY DE MARTINI

Perspective on the housing market’s headwinds

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

A RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT FIVE of the 10 U.S. housing markets that have cooled the fastest this year are in northern California, including San Francisco, San José, Oakland, Sacramento, and Stockton. What’s more, all 10 of the nation’s housing markets cooling the fastest are in the U.S. West.

In a mid-July report published by the *San Francisco Business Times*, Ashley Fahey writes that there are a number of reasons for this, none of which can be equally applied to every metro area on the West Coast. Citing Redfin as her source, she says an exodus out of California is certainly one factor impacting the cities and metro areas. Higher mortgage rates seem to be affecting pricier markets as well.

Ironically, some of the very cities to which Californians fled are now experiencing their own real estate resets. According to CNBC, the top 10 markets seeing the deepest cuts in list price are: Boise, Idaho, where 61.5 percent of sellers cut their asking price; Denver (55.1 percent); Salt Lake City (51.6 percent); Tacoma (49.5 percent); Grand Rapids (49.3 percent); Sacramento (48.7 percent), Seattle (46.3 percent); Portland (45.7 percent); Tampa (44.4 percent); and Indianapolis (44.1 percent).

The fact that many of these markets saw massive price increases during the pandemic has a lot to do with these reductions. The premium prices sellers once demanded are simply not sustainable given today’s changing economic conditions.

PANDEMIC RESET

While San Francisco is not on this list, the city’s housing market is slowing down, with June data revealing a drop in year-over-year appreciation levels, as well as an increase in inventory, a drop in listings going into contract, and a big jump in price reductions.

Meanwhile, a Federal Reserve economic survey released in mid-July points to elevated recession fears along with a belief that soaring inflation will last at least through the end of the year. As a result, the Fed is very likely to once again raise benchmark interest rates, which will of course lead to higher mortgage rates.

Gulp!

We asked Timothy Wood, senior loan advisor with CrossCountry Mortgage, to put all of this into perspective.

Wood said that growing economic headwinds have indeed led many economists to modify their forecasts to better reflect the possibility of an economic downturn, with some even sounding the alarm that a recession is imminent.

This, he said, begs the question: Is it still a good time to buy a home in San Francisco? His answer is, yes.

His reasoning? Generally during periods of economic deceleration, investments in real estate have performed better than competing asset classes, like stocks, and it’s certainly better than parking money in a savings account.

“In fact, looking back at the nine recessionary periods since 1960, home prices have significantly increased or at least remained stable during eight of them,” Wood said.

“The only recession in which home prices declined was the 2007–9 recession — the so-called ‘Great Recession.’”

Wood pointed out that when people think about recessions, the Great Recession is still fresh in their minds. But as far as recessions go, it was an outlier. It was preceded by the housing bubble of the early 2000s — a time when risky, nonverified mortgages were commonplace. This created a glut of supply in the real estate market, even before the recession began. Today’s housing market is the opposite. Demand still outpaces supply.

Wood acknowledged that rates are higher now than they have been in recent years, but he insists that historically, they are still attractive.

THINKING TWICE

Nevertheless, some prospective buyers worry that they will be locked into a higher mortgage rate given current home financing options. According to Wood, this is why the number of buyers choosing an adjustable-rate mortgage has soared.

ARMs are loans with a fixed rate and payment for less than the life of the loan. These include five-, seven- and 10-year fixed periods that roll to adjustable-rate mortgages for their remaining 30 years. The fewer years fixed, the lower the initial rate and corresponding payment.

While the mortgage rate will go up when the fixed period ends, Wood explained that most borrowers hold the same loan for fewer than 10 years anyway. Most owners will refinance or sell their home during that time span regardless of mortgage type.

In July, Ted Andersen with the *San Francisco Business Times* wrote that the supply of active listings in the city is rising, buyer pools have thinned out, and multiple offers have become an exception rather than the norm.

These are the market conditions that every buyer was longing for just a few short months ago. But of course, it’s not without its own set of unsettling economic news and challenges.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com



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