



Happy holidays

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Liz Farrell takes in the city's holiday festivities. p. 10



December events

Celebrate with ACT's 'A Christmas Carol,' 36th annual Macy's Holiday Window, photos with Santa, the Parol Lantern Festival, and much more. p. 6

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Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell in *Spirited*, now streaming on Apple TV+. PHOTO: COURTESY OF APPLE TV PLUS

Happily ever after for the holidays

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

ACCORDING TO THE PERENNIAL tune, it's the most wonderful time of the year — and we're in the middle of it, complete with family gatherings that can be nourishing or trying. Such get-togethers are frequently enhanced or tempered by quality home entertain-

ment options, and the season seldom wants for fresh offerings.

Three new releases that are or will be available for streaming this month are redolent of the movie industry's inevitable need for "proof of concept" to green-light a project. Thus, we have a new version of Italian author Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio* wherein a lonely woodcarv-

er creates a marionette that comes alive — a story that originated in the late 1800s and actually inspired two movies this year; a sequel to Disney's charming and wildly successful and cheerfully musical twist on happily-ever-after fairy tales, *Enchanted*; and yet another take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

SNYDER, continued on 8

REYNOLDS RAP :: Opinion

The gift that keeps on giving

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

FULL DISCLOSURE: I HAVE BEEN A CRITIC OF SAN Francisco's multibillion-dollar homeless and "harm reduction" industries for over a decade. In numerous columns, I opined about the absolute failure of the players involved, especially the city's "nonprofit partners." In a critical 2020 performance audit of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DHS) by the Budget and Legislative Analyst, the department's budget was \$364 million — an 80 percent increase since its inception under the late Mayor Ed Lee in 2016. And the results? The number of people without permanent housing grew by 30 percent between 2017 and 2019. As of that March 2020 audit, DHS had contracts with 59 providers for 350 programs with total funding in FY 2019–20 of \$240.6 million.

THE \$22 MILLION LINKAGE CENTER LIE

The competition for those nonprofit millions is fierce, so it should come as no surprise that organizations like HealthRIGHT 360 (HR360) are willing to do anything to keep their slice of the golden goose. A purveyor of harm reduction, HR360 is best known for teaming up with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) to run the controversial Tenderloin Linkage Center. Proposed as a hub to connect substance abusers with services, it instead became a free-for-all "safe consumption site," where anyone could use drugs and, if they overdosed, be revived

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 11

POLITICS AS USUAL :: Opinion

Ho-ho-who?

What a justice-involved Santa taught me about the real meaning of democracy

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

'Twas the month before Christmas, when all through the town

Not a creature was stirring, as voting wound down. The people cast ballots with caution and care, In hopes of results that were more than just fair.

YOU COULD FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR as last month's election drew near. Seldom have elections been momentous on both the local and the national levels at the same time, and this one would turn out to have more surprises than an English Christmas cracker.

With delays in vote counting in numerous states and localities, it became a 12-days-of-Christmas sort of thing (or eight days of Hanukkah, if you will). Each day following Nov. 8, election officials somewhere would reach into their sack of toys and announce that this person has won, or that person had lost, ho-ho-ho.

Democratic worries about an electoral wave as red as Santa's coat proved to be needless, as they managed to hold onto the Senate, contain the GOP to a very slim

POLITICS AS USUAL, continued on 2

ART WORLD :: Paintings and sculptures by San Francisco-born artist



Joan Brown, *Self-Portrait with Swimming Coach Charlie Sava, at Larsen Pool, San Francisco, 1974*; COURTESY ESTATE OF DENVER ART MUSEUM / SFMOMA

SFMOMA presents in-depth Joan Brown retrospective

BY SHARON ANDERSON

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE examination in over 20 years of San Francisco-born artist

Joan Brown's vibrant, autobiographical paintings and sculptures is currently on view at SFMOMA through March 12, 2023. In her 35-year career Brown created abstract expressionist

canvases; figurative paintings portraying dogs, cats, swims, cityscapes, and her son, Noel; self-portraits; and works inspired by her spiritual explorations in the 1980s.

DEFYING CLASSIFICATION

As a second-generation member of the Bay Area Figurative movement, Brown was the only woman in this group yet defied easy categorization throughout her career. She once said, "I'm not just a teacher, I'm not just a mother, I'm not just a painter, I'm all of these things, plus." Having earned her BFA and MFA from the California School of Fine Arts, which later became the San Francisco Art Institute, her key mentor was artist Elmer Bischoff. Brown received early acclaim for her work, and by age 22 had experienced a considerable amount of commercial success.

Living and working in San Francisco for most of her life, Brown was a local hero and aligned herself with the antiestablishment attitude of the time. She also enjoyed the San Francisco Beat culture as she became widely known for her thickly painted works, which had more of an affinity

ART WORLD, continued on 8

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Politics as Usual

continued from cover

majority in the U.S. House, and then hold onto and even expand the number of governorships and state legislatures. And Republicans didn't just get a lump of coal; they can celebrate capturing the House of Representatives, and, I don't know, maybe getting Lauren Boebert reelected.

Statewide was the exception; there weren't surprises there. Gavin Newsom racked up another double-digit win without breaking a sweat. Nor did the propositions deliver a shock; and the kidney dialysis people can put that proposition back on their wishlist for future elections.

Locally, voters spoke with surprising clarity, sending a message that they're done with performative activism and they now want city leaders to actually address the city's ills. Homelessness, crime, a downtown in crisis, small businesses smothering under red tape.

That was on my mind when I noticed someone entering my condo through the chimney. I took a quick photo and was uploading it to NextDoor.com when he managed to get his rotund frame out of the chimney, and I recognized his red, fur-trimmed outfit.

"Santa?"

He brushed soot off his sleeves. "You should really clean that chimney."

"What are you doing here? It's not Christmas yet."

He shrugged, and explained he was earning extra money driving for Amazon. And with the rampant package thievery in the city, he found it better to deliver via chimneys rather than leave things on porches.

He certainly made himself at home, moving about my living room, picking up things, examining them, putting them back. "I'm mostly delivering election results, if you have to know. This was a big election, and that meant I have a lot to deliver," he said, patting a large bag he was pulling along behind him.

"So that's the famous Santa sack full of toys? Lemme look," I said leaning over to peer inside.

He quickly pulled it away from me, but I had already seen enough of its contents. "Hey, is that my iPad?"

His face turned beet red. "You shouldn't go looking into people's sacks."

"You shouldn't steal things. Give me my iPad back!"

He drew himself up to his full six-foot height. "I am Santa Claus, Father Christ-

mas, St. Nicholas, the Weihnachtsmann, uh . . . Kris Kringle! Don't be a bad boy and accuse me of being a thief."

But I wasn't scared. "San Francisco voters gave themselves a present by voting Brooke Jenkins in for a full term."

His face became stern, but then softened and he forced a smile. He reached into his bag and handed me my iPad. "Merry Christmas, John."

"It was already mine, you pilfering —"
"Hey, things have been rough for Santa lately, what with Covid and inflation."

I just held up my hands and gave up. "Whatever. If you're really delivering election happiness, you sure spread it around. Moderates got happy news in San Francisco with Brooke Jenkins, Joel Engardio, the school board, and more. Conservative Republicans got the U.S. House of Representatives —"

"A poisoned chalice, that," Santa said with a gleam in his eye.

I asked him what he meant by that remark. He cleared some items away from my kitchen table so he could set his sack on it, and he sat down with an "oof!" Then he answered me: "They have a very slim majority, and that means any faction in the House GOP caucus can grind things to a halt by demanding the speaker of the House do their bidding. It's what caused John Boehner and Paul Ryan so many headaches."

He saw me about to interject, and he cut me off. "Yes, the Democrats had a similarly small majority, but Nancy Pelosi is a historically shrewd and talented legislative leader. Kevin McCarthy . . . let's just say he's a poor man's John Boehner."

He went on to say that the raucous GOP caucus is likely to cause headaches for the Biden White House for the next two years, but because election-denying MAGA types in general (and Trump-endorsed candidates specifically) fared terribly across the country, a fire-and-brimstone GOP House is likely to further alienate independents and centrists and thereby help deliver a reelection for Biden and a Democratic takeback of the House.

I let that sink in, as I leaned over and gently removed my cell phone from Santa's bag and put it into my pocket.

He just shrugged. It was hard to not like the guy; he giveth and he taketh away. Just like voters.

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Merry Christmas from author: john@marinatimes.com

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Beefed-up police presence

Stefani gets additional police, ambassadors to deter crime

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

PHOTOGRAPHER ROBBERIES SPUR INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE

In the wake of two brazen robberies of wedding photographers near the Palace of Fine Arts, District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani has secured additional police presence for the Palace, as well as the nearby Chestnut Street commercial area.

“Everyday I hear from San Franciscans who are concerned about crime in our city, and I take this issue extremely seriously,” Stefani said in a statement.

Saying that her first priority “is to keep residents and visitors safe, and to make sure that small businesses can thrive,” Stefani said new patrols will be added, and an additional \$300,000 will be used to add community ambassadors to the area. The Police Department’s Community Ambassador Program uses retired police officers to supplement foot beat patrols in business and commercial areas.

KRON 4 quoted Police Chief Bill Scott saying that an increased police presence should be visible around the Palace of Fine Arts, Fillmore, Pacific Heights, Union Street, and other busy areas.

GGNRA TURNS 50

On Oct. 27, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area hit middle age, celebrating 50 years since its formation. Stretching from Alcatraz to Crissy Field to The Presidio to Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County, GGNRA manages some of the most popular tourist destinations in the region — as well as favorite locales for locals.

To commemorate the year, GGNRA is offering numerous events throughout the next year. There are monthly guided walks exploring “Presidio: Changes Through Time,” a “Fee Free Day: at Alcatraz,” a poster contest (the deadline is fast approaching: Dec. 16), opportunities for the community to share their GGNRA memories, and more. You can find a schedule of GGNRA 50th anniversary events at nps.gov/goga/50events.htm.

PELOSI SHIFTS ROLES

Following the Democrats’ narrow loss of the U.S. House of Representatives in the November election, and the shocking violent attack on her husband, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced she would remain in Congress but would step back from a leadership role. Pelosi, who has represented San Francisco in the House since 1987, used the announcement of her decision to usher in the next generation of Democratic House leadership, with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York expected to be the new minority leader.

Widely considered one of the most powerful House speakers in history — even ruefully by many Republican members of Congress — Pelosi’s announcement signaled not only a shift in generations but also a shift in regional power. Jeffries represents Brooklyn on the opposite coast from San Francisco. But if the current House Minority Leader succeeds in his

effort to be elected speaker, California will retain that position.

Pelosi was reelected to her House seat in November with 84 percent of the vote.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Soccer fans often feel isolated in cities that are filled with fans of baseball, basketball, and American football. Street Soccer USA and the city of San Francisco teamed up to hold public screenings of major **World Cup matches** in various locations throughout the city, including the JFK Promenade and Civic Center. The screenings continue through the finals on Dec. 18. Details and the schedule are available at worldcupsf.org. And you’ll even be able to wear a One Love armband . . . **Ristobar** (2300 Chestnut Street) is showing off its new look and tasty new menu. Take a look at ristobarsf.com

. . . According to a new ranking of the **20 best cities for members of Generation Z** (that’s people born between 1997 and 2012), San Francisco ranks — nowhere. In CommercialCafe’s ranking on the basis of

affordability, green spaces, “fun factor,” and other factors, Atlanta takes first place, Virginia Beach, Va., is in 20th place, and our fair city is nowhere to be found. Back in June, a similar Gen Z ranking by *Fortune* magazine gave first place to Austin, Tex. On the other hand, back in March, RentCafe ranked San Francisco in first place in its “Top 20 Trending Cities for Gen Z Renters in 2022,” so we got at least one win . . . Speaking of rankings, BetCalifornia.com ranks **California in second place**, but it’s not a great survey on which to be ranked so high. California is behind only Hawaii on a list of the 10 hardest states to own a home in the United States.

HOLIDAY FACTS AND FIGURES

501 Stanyan Street: Location of the home of John McLaren, Golden Gate Park’s builder, who decorated a cypress tree in his front yard in 1929, and the tree has been lit up every year since as the city’s official Christmas tree . . . **1880:** the year McClaren’s cypress was planted . . . **Jan. 1, 2023:** end date of the Macy’s Holiday Windows display in Union Square, which for the first time since 2019 features adoptable and adorable kittens and puppies . . . **Dec. 18:** date of the fifth annual Glowing Hanukkah Pop-Up in Ghirardelli Square, with crafts, dreidels, donuts, candle lighting, and more . . . **A.D. 280:** year of the birth of St. Nicholas in southern Turkey; his generosity toward the poor and disenfranchised is the basis of St. Nicholas and Santa Claus . . . **33:** percentage of men who wait until Christmas Eve to do their Christmas shopping . . . **98:** percentage of Christmas trees grown on farms . . . **733:** number of versions of “Silent Night” copyrighted since 1978 . . . **1931:** the year that illustrator Haddon Sundblom was hired to design the now-iconic Santa Claus (for Coca-Cola) . . . **8 billion:** the number of people Santa Claus will have to deliver gifts to on Dec. 25, according to the latest global population count.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com. News tips? Email: john@marinatimes.com



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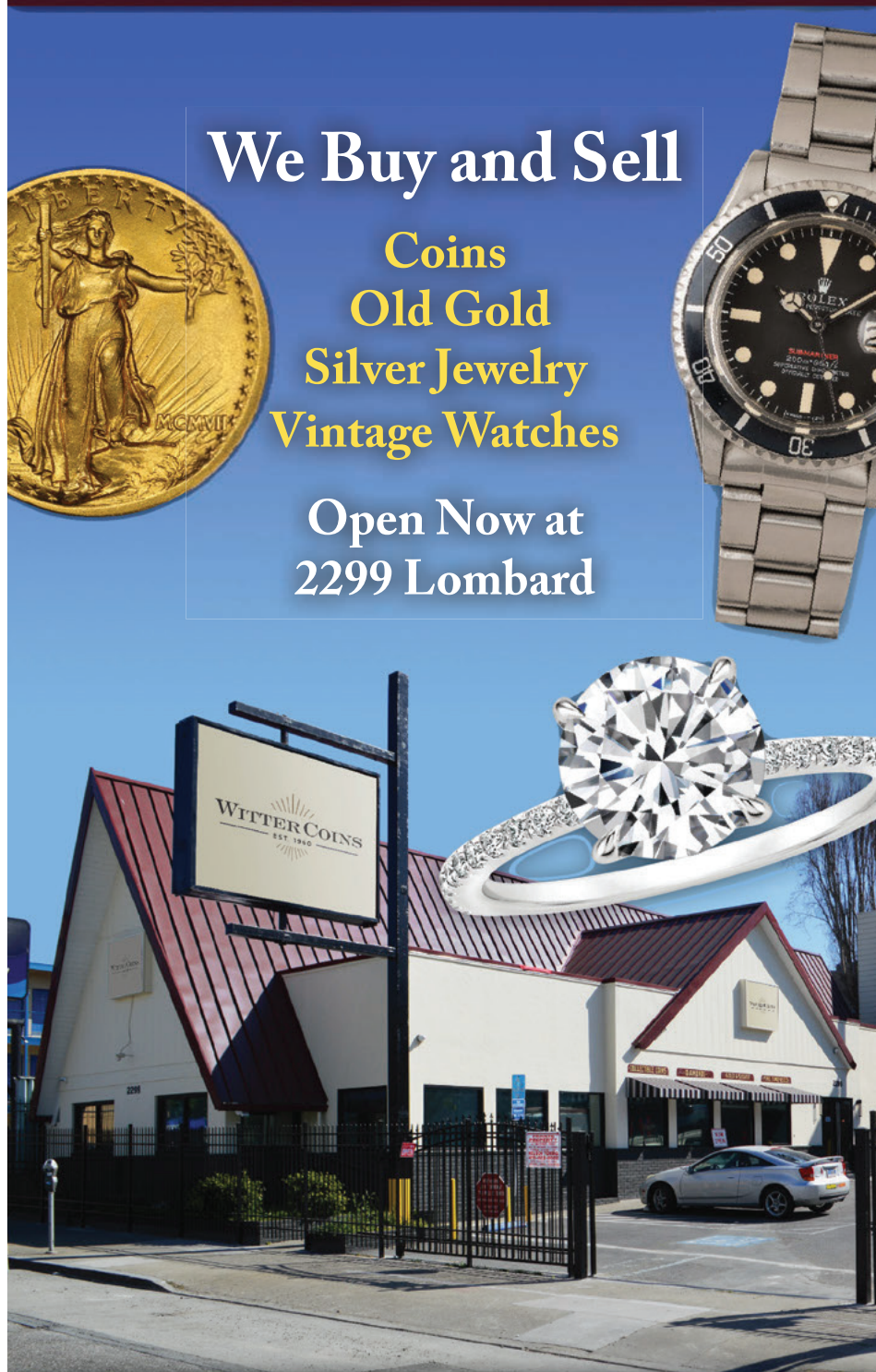
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San Francisco real estate: It's anybody's guess

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA LED the country in economic growth in 2022, with a 4.8 percent increase in GDP, according to a new report from the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. Sounds pretty good, right?

That is until you read that the tech sector accounted for most of this growth, and some of the biggest names in technology just announced layoffs.

There's simply a steady stream of mixed signals. The U.S. GDP accelerated at a better pace than expected in the third quarter. Is there light at the end of the economic tunnel? Don't get your hopes up, say economists.

Inflation is down, so that's good, isn't it? Yes, but still high. And the Fed is likely to raise rates again to combat it.

Mixed signals everywhere you turn.

Matt Fuller, cofounder of Jackson Fuller Real Estate and a past president of the San Francisco Association of Realtors, summed it up this way when describing the vibe in real estate today: "Everyone knows something is happening, and absolutely no one knows what that is. Inventory. Interest Rates. Layoffs. Remote work. Empty downtown. State housing elements. Supervisors."

He added with a smile, "Destination unknown, full speed ahead!"

AUTUMN PERFORMANCE

Fuller believes the 2022 real estate season wrapped up early, and separating signal from noise for the rest of the year is likely a fool's errand. He has been attending industry events recently, and says that his takeaway is real estate's best and brightest economic thinkers have landed on one consistent theme: Nobody knows what's ahead.

Locally, realistic buyers and sellers are making deals happen. Most, however, are choosing to sit on the sidelines, hoping to time the market, expecting to make their move when conditions become more favorable for them.

In the middle of November, SocketSite reported on the large number of homes for sale in San Francisco. Inventory levels were effectively at a 12-year high on a seasonally adjusted basis, save for when the market was frozen in 2020 due to the pandemic.

What's more, in November more than 40 percent of the homes on the market in San Francisco had reduced their asking prices at least once, which was the highest percentage of reduced listings since the fourth quarter of 2011.

Homes priced at \$3 million and above, and condos, are in general having the hardest time selling at this point.

Ted Andersen of the *San Francisco Business Times* said in a November article



Is it dusk or dawn for the San Francisco real estate market? PHOTO: UPSPLASH / INFINITEVIEWSLLC.COM

that some of San Francisco's most recent condo developments still have many unsold units after sales failed to tick up during the third quarter — a time when inventory and sales expectations rise each year.

"While large downtown condo towers such as the 392-unit Mira (280 Spear Street) and the 298-unit Harrison (401 Harrison Street) have filled up, others have fallen far short," he wrote for the *Business Times*. "For example, the Serif at 960 Market Street, delivered last year, has only sold just over 50 of its 252 units. Likewise, One Steuart Lane has sold 40 of its 120 units."

TIMING

High interest rates are blamed for some of this buyer reluctance. Completely understandable. But there is a saying in the business that might resonate for some potential buyers: "Marry the house and date the rate."

The idea is you purchase a home regardless of what the rate is, with plans to refinance later. The home is the keeper; the mortgage rate is not. This strategy has

worked well in the past, but of course, there are no guarantees going forward. Never overextend yourself, as it might take a long while for rates to come down.

But if you find something you like, and if you've got the money, maybe mortgage rates shouldn't get in the way.

Fuller wanted to talk about one thing that no one seems to be discussing. He believes San Francisco's inclusionary housing program is profoundly broken. He argues that city officials are building a new class of housing that isn't market rate, isn't rental, and may be a disaster for owners thinking they will come out better off than if they had just rented.

Fuller thinks part of the problem is all the red tape involved with the program. Economic headwinds make the real estate market scary enough, but problems with this well-intentioned but possibly flawed "Below-Market-Rate Program" make it sound even scarier. Especially for those already having a hard time making ends meet in the city.

Feedback: letters@marinatimes.com



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- Exposure to high temperatures
- Bleeding
- Hit by car
- Fall from height
- Changes to oral gum color
- Difficulty breathing
- Exposure to any chemicals

- Allergic reaction (hives, facial swelling, severe itching or red eyes)
- Seizures, loss of balance, and inability to walk
- Trembling or shaking
- Bite wounds from other animals
- Broken bones
- Behavior changes or actions that just don't feel right in your mind



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Meet Our Doctors

- SueJin Hwang, DVM
- Karen Truong, DVM
- Emily Wong, DVM

DECEMBER EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH



Holiday ice rink at Union Square. PHOTO: CEDRIC LETSCH/UNSPASH

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

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Ice Rink in Union Square
Daily through Jan. 16, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Union Square

Ring in the holiday season at this outdoor rink with 60-minute sessions starting every 90 minutes. Visit website for special event programming (Let it Go Wednesdays, Flashback Fridays, and more). \$20 (includes skate rental; online ticketing only), 415-295-1588, unionsquareicerink.com

ACT I A Christmas Carol
Most days through Dec. 24

Toni Rembe Theater (415 Geary St.)
A Bay Area favorite holiday tradition returns in this production that stays true to Dickens's timeless story of redemption and brings a playful sensibility to his rich language. \$15–\$130, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org



36th Annual Macy's Holiday Windows

Thu.–Sun., noon–5 p.m. through Jan. 1 (except Dec. 25)

Macy's Union Square
The SFSPCA's magical Holiday Windows adoption outreach program returns to find forever homes for homeless pets. SPCA volunteers will be on hand to introduce the animals and the adoption process. Free viewing, 415-554-3000, sfspca.org

PHOTO: NORA STRATTON / FACEBOOK.COM/SFSPCA

S.F. Ballet | The Nutcracker
Most days, Dec. 8–27

War Memorial Opera House
In this unforgettable holiday tale, enter a magical wonderland of toy soldiers, a blizzard of snowflakes, and a kaleidoscope of more than 150 dancers in Helgi Tomasson's dazzling San Francisco-inspired production accompanied by a live orchestra performing Tchaikovsky's beloved score. \$19–\$495, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org

29th Annual Union Street Festival of Lights

Friday, Dec. 9 & 16, 3–7 p.m.
Union Street (btw. Gough & Steiner) Fillmore Street (btw. Union & Greenwich)
Come celebrate for the first time in three years Union Street's famous holiday lights. Santa, the missus (or elf) will be handing out treats throughout the seasonally decorated neighborhood. Strolling carolers dressed in Dickens period attire will also be part of the festivities. Visitors may also find surprises (treats, promotions, or events) offered by merchants in their stores. Free, 628 224-1549

Christmas at Grace Cathedral
Sat.–Mon., Dec. 10–19 & Wed.–Fri., Dec. 21–23

Grace Cathedral & livestream
Celebrate the season with *A Cathedral Christmas* (Dec. 10–11, 17–18, & 23); *Brass and Organ* (Dec. 12); *Sing You a Merry Christmas* (Dec. 10, 17, & 21–22), and *Soulful Joy* (Dec. 19). \$17–\$86, 415-746-6300, gracecathedral.org

JCCSF's Glowing Hanukkah Party
Sunday, Dec. 18, 3–6 p.m.

Fountain Plaza, Ghirardelli Square
This family-friendly event will feature live glowing music, crafts, games, and special menus from the restaurants at the square. Visit website for schedule and registration. Free, 415-775-5500, ghirardellisq.com

Kim Nalley: Gospel Christmas
Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 p.m.

Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)
This annual tradition features S.F.'s favorite acclaimed vocalist performing all your favorite holiday songs, special guests, and a few sing-alongs at this rollicking, joyous, family-friendly concert. \$60, 866-663-1063, feinsteinsf.com

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

American Bach Soloists | A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera

Saturday, Dec. 31, 4 p.m.
Herbst Theatre
Enjoy an early night on the town with a delightful program of arias, duets, and instrumental music from Baroque opera and concert, with soprano Liv Redpath and bass Alex Rosen. \$25–\$125, 415-621-7920, americanbach.org

New Year's Eve Meditation & Celebration
Saturday, Dec. 31, 6:30–8 p.m.

Location provided at registration & livestream
Ring out the old and ring in the new with meditation, live music, and words of wisdom in this contemplative ceremony. Free, register at bksanfrancisco.org

New Year's Eve with Seth MacFarlane
Saturday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall
The Academy Award- and Grammy-nominated singer, actor, and director brings classic, crooning vocals and cool pizzazz to a "big band-era" performance of jazz standards and holiday hits. \$99–\$229, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org

New Year's Eve with Kelli Barrett & Jarrod Spector

Saturday, Dec. 31, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.
Feinstein's at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)
Celebrate with husband and wife "Broadway royalty" as they perform a gamut of iconic and beloved Broadway hits. Includes a glass of sparkling wine or cider. \$125 & \$150, 866-663-1063, feinsteinsf.com

Black & White Ball
Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

The Hibernia (1 Jones St.)
This elegant soiree in the elegant historic Hibernia Bank with stained glass skylights will feature local and world-renowned D.J.s spinning hits for nonstop dancing. Includes open bar. \$150–\$280, eventbrite.com

13th Annual Eye Heart New Year's Eve
Saturday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Headlined by Alesso and featuring Sam Blacky, and others, this New Year's extravaganza features two stages, theatrical performances, open bar, and more. \$150–\$225, sfnye.events

Under the Fireworks New Year's Eve Cruise

Saturday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.
San Francisco Spirit (Pier 3)
Ring in the new year in style, with two levels of music, open bar, mix-and-mingle food menu, amazing firework skyline, and under-the-bridge views on the bay. \$259–\$349, eventbrite.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

S.F. Firefighters Virtual Toy Drive
Daily through Dec. 31

Online
The S.F. Firefighters Toy Program is the nation's oldest program of its kind. Shop online to purchase gifts and toys or set up your own virtual toy drive. Visit website for instructions. 415-777-0440, sffirefighterstoys.org

GALAS & BENEFITS

Holiday Heroes
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Oracle Park
Celebrate this season of giving and bring holiday joy (celebrity guests, crafts, and more) to hundreds of Bay Area families who need a little help to make this season magical. Visit website for details. \$250 & up, 650-321-4142, holidayheroes.org



Guardsman Tree Lot Party

Saturday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center
Celebrate the season with a magical night of dancing and beverages in an indoor winter wonderland. \$120 & up, 415-856-0939, treelotparty.com

PHOTO: TREETLOTPARTY.COM

ART AND CULTURE

Shipyards Holiday Party & Art Show
Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Building 101, Hunters Point Shipyards (451 Galvez St.)
Start your holiday shopping with an afternoon of art, treats, and festivities as Shipyards artists open their studios for this festive once-a-year event. Free, shipyardartists.com

20th Annual Parol Lantern Festival
Saturday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Yerba Buena Gardens
The parol lantern is the quintessential Filipino holiday symbol of joy and hope. Get into the holiday spirit with specialty parols made by Filipino artists and creators, free samples of traditional Filipino holiday treats, live music, and a parol lighting ceremony. Visit website for workshops on making your own parol. Free, 415-239-0249, parollanternfestival.com

Festa Dei Dolci
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2–5 p.m.

Museo Italo Americano (Fort Mason Center)
Celebrate the holidays Italian style with sweet and savory Italian treats accompanied by cheese, wine, and coffee for a delicious start to the season. The Festa also features ornament-making activities for young ones,

live Italian music, access to the Museo's current exhibition, and more. \$Free–\$60, 415-673-2200, museoitaloamericano.org

THEATER

Custom Made Theatre Co. | Shoshana in December: A New Musical

Thu.–Sun. through Dec. 18
Phoenix Theatre (414 Mason St.)
This poly-holiday musical explores Hanukkah, Christmas, and the traditions we create for ourselves. \$35–\$55, 415-798-2682, custommade.org

BATS Improv | The Good, The Bad & The Jolly

Saturdays through Dec. 29, 8 p.m.
Bayfront Theatre (Fort Mason Center)
Whether you love the holidays or hate them, revel in the winter cheer or barely notice it, you'll enjoy this collection of musical vignettes exploring and celebrating all things holiday. \$20 & \$50, 415-474-6776, improv.org

30th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy
Fri.–Sun., Dec. 23–25, 5–7:30 p.m.

Congregation Sherit Israel (2266 California St.) & livestream
Enjoy this uniquely Bay Area holiday tradition of Jewish comedy with Chinese food. This year's show features Mark Schiff, Cathy Ladman, Orion Levine, and The Geduldig Sisters. A portion of proceeds benefit S.F.–Marin Food Bank and Center for Constitutional Rights. \$25–\$50, 415-522-3737, koshercomedy.com

DANCE

City Ballet | The Nutcracker
Sat.–Sun., Dec. 10–11, 2 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
Get into the holiday spirit as Clara and an amazing cast of characters dance their way through their incredible adventure. \$65, 415-966-6991, palaceoffinearts.org

Smuin Ballet | The Christmas Ballet
Wed.–Sun., Dec. 14–18 & Wed.–Sat., Dec. 21–24

Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA (700 Howard St.)
The two acts of *The Christmas Ballet* feature the best of both worlds: classical ballet set to carols and red-hot contemporary works set to pop favorites with Smuin's signature medley of ballet, contemporary, character, Broadway jazz, and tap. \$36–\$99, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

Stapleton School of the Performing Arts | The Nutcracker

Sat.–Sun., Dec. 17–18, 1 & 5 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
The 34th annual production features a cast of over 150 performers dressed in lavish costumes, vibrant sets, and spirited choreography is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. \$40–\$55, palaceoffinearts.org

World Ballet Series | The Nutcracker
Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
This production is performed by a multinational cast of 50 professional ballet dancers and features over 150 hand-sewn costumes and hand-crafted sets to bring this most beloved holiday tradition to life. \$55–\$185, 888-469-1011, palaceoffinearts.org

MUSIC

Holiday Harmonies A Capella Event
Sunday, Dec. 4, 4–6 p.m.

Bayfront Theater (Bldg. B, Fort Mason Center)
Enjoy Bay Area choral groups singing pop and seasonal tunes for the whole family. \$25, 415-347-1807, bcvocals.com

S.F. Symphony | Handel's Messiah
Fri.–Sat., Dec. 9–10, 7:30 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall
Masaaki Suzuki leads the S.F. Symphony and Chorus in this celebrated masterpiece and holiday favorite, one of the best-loved musical works of all time. \$30–\$65, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

CALENDAR, continued on next page

Snyder
continued from cover

Speaking of happily ever after, they are all worth a watch, even if they are of varying quality.

GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S 'PINOCCHIO'

The most memorable and gratifying of these movies is filmmaker Guillermo del Toro's visually stunning stop-motion animated *Pinocchio*, which pays homage to the look of vintage images that accompanied Collodi's book. But del Toro's adaptation, currently in theaters and premiering Dec. 9 on Netflix, shifts the setting from the 1800s to a village in Italy during World War II when fascist dictator Benito Mussolini ruled the country and the townspeople were increasingly under the heel of his minions. Although this gives the project an astute, if overt sociopolitical perspective, the heart of the tale remains the same as Geppetto, mourning the loss of his flesh-and-blood son, fashions a puppet that comes alive due to the magical ministrations of a friendly fairy. In line with all interpretations, a plucky talking cricket is tasked with keeping watch over the naïve wooden-headed creation that's given the name Pinocchio.

Even as these latest adventures of Pinocchio parallel those of the source material as Geppetto must undertake a dangerous quest to find his wayward progeny, the historical context invites tweaks to the narrative by fantasy master del Toro and his co-screenwriter Patrick McHale that never feel gratuitous. And all of it is rendered onscreen with such beauty and grace and fluidity, as directed by del Toro in partnership with animator Mark Gustafson, that the animated characters have emotional impact comparable to what would be delivered by a live-action cast. Of course, none of this would fly without exceptional voice performances, and they are evidenced throughout, led by venerable British actor David Bradley as Geppetto, alongside usual leading man Ewan McGregor as the cricket and young Gregory Mann as Pinocchio, with starry support



Amy Adams, Gabriella Baldacchino, and Patrick Dempsey in *Disenchanted*. COURTESY OF DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC. © 2022 DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

from Tilda Swinton, Cate Blanchett, Christoph Waltz, John Turturro, among others.

There are serviceable songs sprinkled throughout del Toro's *Pinocchio*, none of which seem as timeless as those in Walt Disney's 1940 cartoon telling of Collodi's tale. In fact, those classic Disney numbers, including "When You Wish Upon a Star," are reprised in the studio's live-action and computer animation remake released earlier this year. Despite the presence of a white-wigged and mustached Tom Hanks playing Geppetto and the technical expertise displayed by blending him and other actors with CGI, the decision to reproduce the familiar character designs from the older 2-D movie in 3-D form and lean on the old tunes gives this "re-Disneyfied" *Pinocchio* a stale, pedestrian feel, especially when compared to the vitality of del Toro's approach. And when Hanks trots out a stereotypical Italian accent that sounds like it was stolen from silly video game stalwart Mario, it's hard to know whether to laugh or cringe.

'DISENCHANTED'

Disenchanted is another case of Disney going back to a well once more, but it doesn't feel like once too often. This pleasant, lively, cluttered continuation of 2007's *Enchanted* revisits the cartoon princess turned real-life woman Giselle, played once more by Amy Adams with verve, innocence and a relentless sweetness that is thankfully undercut by events in the

movie. In the previous chapter, Giselle was sucked out of the animated storybook kingdom of Andalasia and plopped down into the harsh realities of modern-day New York City where she eventually adapts — while talking to the local fauna, singing and dancing as she would in a 'toon musical — and finds her true love: Robert, a handsome, pragmatic attorney and single dad played by Patrick Dempsey.

Picking up a decade-plus later, *Disenchanted* finds the now-married Giselle and Robert with a baby daughter, while Robert's daughter Morgan is now a sulky teen. An overwhelmed Giselle convinces Robert to move the family to a small town where she might find something akin to her origins. Yet, Giselle's idyllic dreams are challenged when the local queen bee is reluctant to let the guileless newcomer into the fold. When Giselle's princely former beau and his lady love (James Marsden and Idina Menzel reprising their *Enchanted* roles) visit from Andalasia and bring a magical gift, Giselle is driven to use the boon to make her circumstances more like they were before she came to this dimension. Alas for Giselle, when you wish life were a fairy tale, you might not be thinking of the Grimm parts.

It isn't as dazzling as *Enchanted*, which had a ball with turning fairy tale tropes inside out and frankly had better musical numbers. To their credit, the Disney honchos had the good sense to bring back the four principle actors and to add the come-

dic gem that is Maya Rudolph as Giselle's small-town nemesis. Songwriters Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, whose *Enchanted* score was such a treat, are also in the fold once more; "Love Power," their showpiece for Broadway superstar Menzel, is a high point, as is "Badder," a duet/duel between Adams and Rudolph. Yes, it's overloaded with plot, and a familiarity with *Enchanted* is recommended. Still, with the talent involved and accomplished director of contemporary movie musicals Adam Shankman at the helm, *Disenchanted* — streaming on Disney+ — is never less than fun.

'SPIRITED'

Perhaps the Dickens-inspired *Spirited* merits lowered expectations, considering it's a musical comedy starring odd couple Will Ferrell as the Ghost of Christmas Present and Ryan Reynolds as the wildly amoral corporate public relations consultant the ghost is assigned to haunt and reform. Well, fie on such negativity! *Spirited* is, in fact, an enjoyable romp. The leads have decent chemistry and excellent comic timing, and the music by the Oscar-, Grammy-, and Tony-winning team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul is better-than-average fare. Ferrell and Reynolds sing and dance their hearts out — and don't embarrass themselves. The reliable Octavia Spencer is onboard as the public relations guy's right-hand woman, and Tracy Morgan skulks around as the visually chilling, verbally funky Ghost of Christmas Future. Director-coscreenwriter Sean Anders hasn't reinvented the Yule log here, and that's O.K. Now available on Apple TV Plus, *Spirited* provides laughs, a bit of heart-tugging, occasional clever moments, catchy melodies, and an enthusiastic ensemble. It won't be a lump of coal in your stocking; in fact, it may deck your halls.

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

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

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPILED BY CHRIS HSIANG

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel**, by Bonnie Garmus
2. **Desert Star: A Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch Novel**, by Michael Connelly
3. **Small Things Like These**, by Claire Keegan

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **I'm Glad My Mom Died**, by Jennette McCurdy
2. **Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships**, by Nina Totenberg
3. **New Kids in the World Cup: The Totally Late '80s and Early '90s Tale of the Team That Changed American Soccer Forever**, by Adam Elder

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **It Starts With Us: A Novel**, by Colleen Hoover
2. **It Ends With Us: A Novel**, by Colleen Hoover

3. **The Silent Patient**, by Alex Michaelides

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **Attached: The New Science of Adult Attachment and How it Can Help You Find — and Keep — Love**, by Amir Levine and Rachel Heller
2. **Unwinding Anxiety: New Science Shows How to Break the Cycles of Worry and Fear to Heal Your Mind**, by Judson Brewer
3. **The Dope: The Real History of the Mexican Drug Trade**, by Benjamin T. Smith

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

1. **Stellarlune (Keeper of the Lost Cities Book 9)**, by Shannon Messenger
2. **Construction Site, Merry and Bright**, by Sherri Duskey Rinker and Ag Ford
3. **Enemies (Berrybrook Middle School #5)**, by Svetlana Chmakova

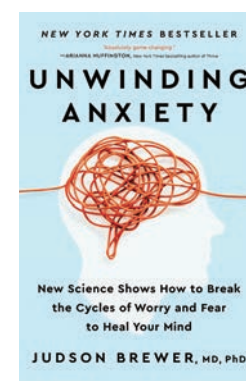
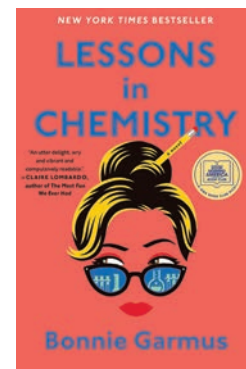
NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

Dangerous Business, by Jane Smiley

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Smiley goes for history and mystery in a tale set in 1850s Monterey, Calif., featuring Eliza Ripple, who's been working as a prostitute since her husband's death in a bar fight. When young women are found murdered in and around town, Eliza decides to emulate Edgar Allan Poe's detective Dupin and pulls friend Jean into a hunt for the killer. As their madam says, "Being a woman is a dangerous business."

Elizabeth Taylor: The Grit & Glamour of an Icon, by Kate Andersen Brower

Brower's book takes the reader into the private world of the most famous celebrity of the 20th century. Elizabeth's heart, mind, and passion come vividly alive on each page. We see her as a woman who struggled and ultimately survived to rewrite the



playbook on celebrity and power. I never wanted it to end!

— Brooke Shields

A Private Spy: The Letters of John Le Carré, by John Le Carré and Tim Cornwell

The never-before-seen correspondence of John le Carré, one of the most important novelists of our generation, is collected in this beautiful volume. During his

lifetime, le Carré wrote numerous letters to writers, spies, politicians, artists, actors, and public figures. This collection is a treasure trove, revealing the late author's humor, generosity, and wit — a side of him many readers have not previously seen.

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

Art World

continued from cover

with abstract expressionism. Brown abandoned this style to focus on smaller works more rooted in the figure, a distinctive style based more on memory than models or photographs as source material.

LIFE AS ART

Brown drew inspiration from many sources to create her offbeat body of work based on autobiography, fantasy, and whimsy as well as weightier metaphysical themes. She maintained a long-term relationship with SFMOMA, and even held her 1989 marriage to Michael S. Hebel in the museum under Alexander Calder's mobiles. As a teacher she taught introductory painting and drawing classes at the California School of Fine Arts, and later was a professor of art at the University of California, Berkeley.

Brown, a swimming enthusiast, trained with International Hall of Fame swimming coach Charlie Sava, who appears in several of her portrait paintings. After successfully suing the Dolphin Club, the Ariel Club, and the South End Rowing Club to admit women, she became an active member of the Rowing Club. In 1975, Brown nearly drowned during a women's Alcatraz swim in the San Francisco Bay, which became the subject of a series of introspective self-portraits. In *After the Alcatraz Swim #1*, the painting behind Brown depicts the frightening swim in which she became disoriented in the high waves, swimming in circles for over an hour before she was rescued.

Brown's life in San Francisco is reflected in works such as *The Dancers in a City #2* and *Gordon, Joan and Rufus in Front of S.F. Opera House*. Other paintings, including *The Golden Age: The Jaguar and*



Left to right: Joan Brown's *The Dancers in a City #2*, 1972, and *After the Alcatraz Swim #1*, 1975. PHOTO: COURTESY SFMOMA

The Tapir, *The Long Journey*, and *A New Age: The Bolti Fish* reveal Brown's interest in self-understanding.

SYMBOLISM AND SPIRITUALITY

Imagery such as animals, objects, and swims in the bay created a symbology that reached its zenith in the 1980s. Later in life Brown concentrated on public sculpture and imagery based on Hindu and Egyptian icons. Her involvement in public art stemmed from her desire to remove her work from the marketplace and the machinations of art as commerce. Traveling the world and experiencing different cultures took her to India and, while installing

one of her obelisks, she and several others died when a concrete turret from a balcony collapsed. At the time of her death in 1990, Brown had produced more than 400 paintings and 50 sculptures.

"How do I know when I've finished a painting?" Brown said in a 1979 interview. "It's when that element of surprise is there. I can feel the flow start to happen just in terms of working, which is actually an altered state of consciousness."

'JOAN BROWN AND FRIENDS'

Coinciding with the Joan Brown retrospective, *Bay Area Stories: Joan Brown and Friends* is a collection-based installation

linking the interconnected network of artists working in the Bay Area from the 1950s through the 1980s and beyond. Brown serves as the primary coordinate between shared teachers, studios, homes and art institutions.

"Joan Brown:" Mon.-Tue. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., through March 12, \$25, SFMOMA, 151 Third St., 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

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

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Favorite ways to enjoy holiday festivities in San Francisco

BY LIZ FARRELL

EACH YEAR IT SEEMS WE BARELY have time to take a deep breath after Thanksgiving before the holiday season is upon us. This year many of our beloved holiday traditions are back after being put on pause due to Covid. Whether you prefer something outside or warm and cozy inside, there are so many wonderful activities to enjoy around the city that can help anyone, no matter your age, feel festive. The key, especially with children, is finding something age appropriate and not over scheduling, which can lead to over-tired children and frustrated parents. Whether you are looking for some inspiration or just to mix it up a bit, here are a few of our family favorites:

UNION SQUARE

Even before Thanksgiving it was already starting to feel festive in Union Square, home to fabulous window decorations, the city's most popular ice-skating rink, and a beautiful Christmas tree that is sure to be the backdrop of many family photos. After last year's viral videos of mass looting at stores in Union Square, there is an increased police presence designed to make everyone feel safe. The ice-skating rink is already open with lots of special events. Families might like the early morning (8–9 a.m.) sessions on Saturdays and Sundays where beginning

skaters can get lessons from professional instructors for free. There is also "Let it Go" Wednesdays when you can skate to songs from *Frozen* and those in costume have a chance to win prizes. Sessions are 60 minutes and begin every 90 minutes from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. daily. Tickets are \$20 and \$15 for children 8 and under.

From Dec. 18–25, a 25-foot menorah will light up Union Square every night of Hanukkah. The lighting ceremony starts at 5 p.m., but there will be kids crafts, food, music, and other activities for all to enjoy.

GOLDEN GATE PARK

Now that JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park is permanently car-free, expect there to be even more festive programming this year. Starting Dec. 1 when the tree lighting at McLaren Lodge took place, there will be public pianos and lighted attractions. One of the park's most popular light attractions, "Entwined," is returning for a second year to Peacock Meadow. This year's exhibition is expected to be bigger and better with new and more interactive light displays. The show runs nightly starting at 5 p.m.

Also in Golden Gate Park just a short walk away is the Sky Star, which is a great way to get a full view of the park and the city on a clear night. After riding the wheel you can check out the bandshell for free, family-friendly concerts nightly through Dec. 10. The bandshell was

brought to life during the pandemic with a new stage, new lighting, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

AROUND TOWN

Other favorites around town include the Fairmont Hotel's two-story gingerbread house. This masterpiece stands 22-feet tall and contains nearly 2,000 pounds of candy. The house is open to the public for viewing, but if you are looking for an especially unique experience that comes with a pretty price, you can enjoy a private dining experience inside the famed gingerbread structure. Heading to the Fairmont for a Christmas picture in front of the beautiful tree in the lobby, a walk through the gingerbread house, and brunch is a great way for our family to get into the holiday spirit.

Another family tradition is going to the *Nutcracker*. When we were growing up, my husband and I both went every December with our families and now this is a fun family tradition we have passed down to our children. The *Nutcracker* is a classic story and an amazing experience performed by the super talented San Francisco Ballet. There are performances daily through December

but purchase tickets early. I recommend this event for children 5 years and older, not just because the tickets are pricey but it is a long time to ask someone younger to sit still.

There are so many ways to experience the holidays in San Francisco, but no holiday celebration is complete without remembering the reason for the season. It is never too soon to include in

your holiday traditions the importance of giving back. There are so many nonprofits helping the underserved. Organizations such as St. Anthony's or the San Francisco Fire Department's toy

drive are always happy to receive new toys or clothes for those in need.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and hope you can take time to remember the truly important thing this season, which is being together with family and friends. Happy Holidays!

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

Don't over schedule, which can lead to over-tired children and frustrated parents.



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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

by staff using opioid antidotes like Narcan. Overdoses that occurred outside the center's well-guarded walls were 7 percent more likely to result in death, according to a recent study (more on that study later). Tenderloin residents were unimpressed, even angry, with what they saw — drug dealers and users flocking to the area, and a facility so enigmatic even I couldn't get inside after revealing to security personnel that I was a journalist. "So let me get this straight," I said to one very large man. "I can come in if I want to shoot fentanyl but not if I want to shoot what's happening in there for a story." As he nodded yes I leaned around him to snap a photo with my iPhone, but he put his hand in front of the lens. "No pictures allowed," he said sternly.

There's a good reason for the center's secrecy. One worker, who spoke to me on condition of anonymity, told me about a guest known by other homeless for doing sexual favors. "Today she came to the center telling everybody she 'needed d**k,' wearing a blonde wig and leopard-print handcuffs as she was walking through. Telling her to stop just made her do it more. It's so absurd really. Nothing makes sense in the field."

While that may be the reality at the center, it's not what the city sold to the public. "This is not the city's safe consumption site. The site will not include medical oversight for safe drug use," San Francisco's official government website proclaims, "However, guests may arrive at the facility after having used drugs. In order to promote safety, site staff will include community and peers who are trained in overdose

prevention and harm reduction to monitor and engage with guests who may be experiencing the effects of recent drug or other substance use."

HEALTHRIGHT 360 FUDGES THE NUMBERS

As criticism of the center grew so did HR360's desperation to keep their lucrative deal, leading vice president of public affairs and policy Gary McCoy to fudge the figures in an attempt to make the program look more successful than it was.

Emails reveal DPH officials actively conspired with HR360 executives to minimize McCoy's fabrication. In a Feb. 8, 2022, email to colleagues, Dr. Rob Hoffman, special project manager with the DPH, wrote, "I think Gary is just making up random numbers." That was in reference to the 659 "meaningful engagements" recorded by staff for the week ending Feb. 7, 2022. Hoffman said he and a coworker had visited the linkage center over the same period, writing: "I observed the HR360 staff and did not see anything that can account for the high numbers of meaningful engagements."

Alison Hawkes, DPH director of communications, personally modified a response to press queries that replaced words like "mistake" and "inaccurately" with a sprinkle of public relations magic. The original statement, written by Dr. Matthew Goldman, read, "Part-way through the most recent reporting period, the TLC metrics team discovered that one of the CBOs was inaccurately recording data on engagements. ... This mistake has since been resolved." Hawkes reworked it to say, "one of the providers at the site was defining engagements in a way inconsistent with other teams on the site."

Even public relations magic couldn't erase the actual figures: Between January and March of 2022, just 18 of the 23,367 visitors to the Tenderloin Linkage Center — or 0.7 percent — had been referred for medical or substance abuse treatment, and there was no way to track them.

The word "linkage" was later dropped from the name, and the center is slated for closure on Dec. 4, but that doesn't mean DPH is giving up — in fact, they're looking to open additional sites based on the same model, and HR360 wants a slice of that golden goose, too.

THE \$500,000 STUDY EXECUTED BY HEALTHRIGHT 360

Last month, DPH released a study claiming open air drug use and drug paraphernalia litter had decreased nearly 20 percent since the Tenderloin Center opened compared to the same area in 2019. According to the project contract, the city paid Alex Kral of the North Carolina-based Research Triangle Institute nearly \$335 per hour for 100 hours of "work." The total cost of the study came in at nearly half a million dollars, which also covered two people walking each Tenderloin block one time in 2018, 2019, and 2022. The cost, however, isn't nearly as shocking as the client listed on the contract: none other than that lover of golden goose HR360, executed by President and CEO Vitka Eisen on April 14, 2022. The ceiling for billable hours was set at \$499,815, and the billable hours came in at — you guessed it, \$499,815. The contract states these rates are "exclusive of travel, equipment, subcontracts, and other direct cost items, which will be billed separately."

HR360 has millions of reasons to want to keep their position as one of City Hall's favorite recipients of tax dollars — with

revenue of \$144,275,651, they spend \$64,822,045 in salaries and wages, which includes over \$2 million in executive compensation. Nine officers make between \$234,000 and \$312,450 annually. The most highly compensated is CEO Vitka Eisen. Medical Director Ako Jacintho makes nearly \$253,000 annually, despite the fact his medical license is limited on practice due to probation, which lasts through May 21, 2023. According to the Medical Board of California, Dr. Jacintho admitted to "gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, altered, modified, or created false medical records, and prescribed drugs without prior medical examination or indication of care and treatment."

In December 2021, Mayor London Breed announced a State of Emergency in the Tenderloin district, allowing city officials to "bypass the bureaucracy and expedite the process of increasing social services to help mitigate drug overdoses." The Tenderloin Linkage Center sprang from that declaration. In a statement on the HR360 website, Eisen wrote, "There is a tired old trope about San Francisco being ungovernable because we can't agree on things, but you won't hear that from me. If you think I'm going to defend the status quo in the Tenderloin, I hate to disappoint you." One year later, it's safe to say she has disappointed us — and unless city officials start paying attention to where each slice of the golden goose goes, it surely won't be the last time.

For an extended version of this column and more exclusive content, sign up for Susan's free newsletter susanreynolds.substack.com. Follow Susan and the Marina Times on Twitter: @SusanDReynolds and @TheMarinaTimes.

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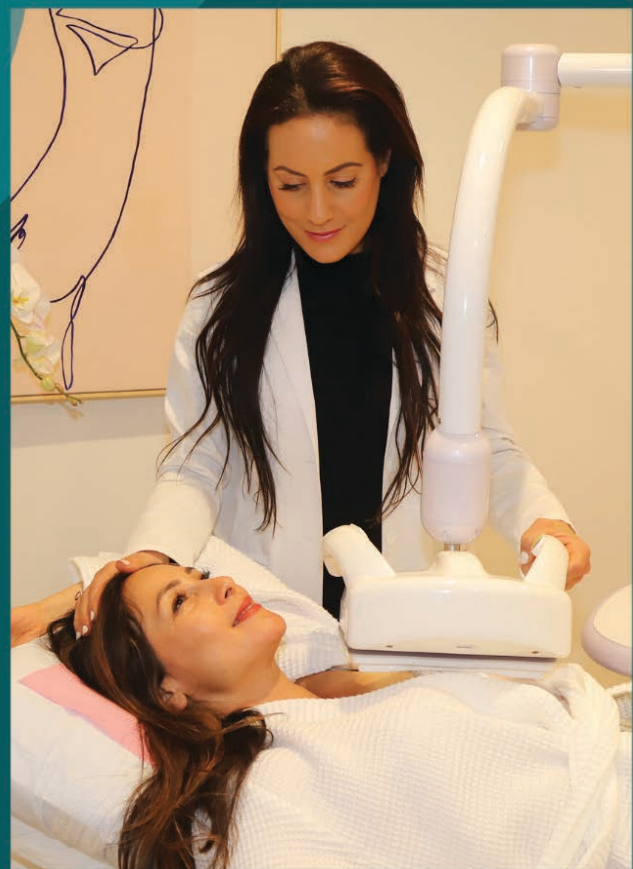
"And make sure you get an ultrasound if you have dense breasts, nearly half have dense breasts, which can make it difficult for mammograms alone to detect abnormalities." - Katie Couric

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