



Spring in San Francisco

Liz Farell shares how to have family fun during March Madness. p. 10
Garey De Martini says the real estate market is heating up. p. 11



March Events

Enjoy Union Square in Bloom, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Bruce Springsteen, and more. p. 5
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Left: Irving Penn. *Mouth (for L'Oréal)*, New York, 1986. The Irving Penn Foundation. © The Irving Penn Foundation. Right: Irving Penn. *Still Life with Watermelon*, New York, 1947. The Irving Penn Foundation. © Condé Nast. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMSF

Major Irving Penn retrospective features Summer of Love photographs

BY SHARON ANDERSON

IRVING PENN'S DIRECT, expressive portraits are celebrated among the most recognizable photographs of the 20th century.

In a career that spanned 70 years, Penn was a regular contributor to *Vogue* magazine for more than six decades and revolutionized fashion photography in the postwar period. Exclusive to the de Young

museum, this major survey of Penn brings together 198 works including portraits of celebrities, cultural luminaries, laborers with the tools of their trades, abstract

ANDERSON, continued on 4

REYNOLDS RAP :: Opinion

Former Mayor Mark Farrell

Why he's running, and how he plans to get San Francisco back on track

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELESSNESS ARE THE TWO issues I've heard the most about and spent the most time on as a supervisor, and without a doubt they will remain two areas of focus for me as mayor. In terms of public safety, the property crime epidemic, whether it's car break-ins or burglaries, is out of control.

—Mayor Mark Farrell in an interview with the *Marina Times*, March 2018

I first met Mark Farrell during the 2010 campaign to elect a new District 2 supervisor when I invited all three candidates to my house for interviews. The reason was a personal one: My pit bull, Jazzy, was recovering from cancer surgery. Kat Anderson, Janet Reilly, and Mark Farrell all accepted, and I hosted each of them over the course of a weekend. I'm a fan of the adage, "I don't trust anyone who doesn't like dogs," and all three candidates passed the test with flying colors. Janet even knelt on the floor in an expensive suit and allowed Jazzy to give her a big kiss. Mark did that too, but he took it to the next level — he brought dog treats. It was that thoughtfulness, along with a boyish charm free of political baggage, that made me think this Farrell guy might actually have what it took to be the next District 2 supervisor.

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 3

POLITICS AS USUAL :: Opinion

Conversions here and there

Trying again, again

BY JOHN ZIPPERER

AS THE END OF DECEMBER APPROACHED, I WAS unprepared to discover my friends engaged in an activity wholly out of place. In their New Year's posts on social media, gone were the dreading-the-new-year messages of the past eight years, replaced by — could it be? — optimism. They were expressing their hopes and expectations for a better year, and I read all of the messages and agreed with the unfamiliar sentiment.

I feel optimistic, too.

In the past, I've engaged in the what-fresh-hell-is-this approach to each new year, worrying about murder hornets, Covid variants, new Trump antics, social and economic upheaval. This year, I share my friends' expectations that things will be better in a variety of ways.

Public sentiment doesn't always track with reality. For example, for years people have been telling pollsters they think the economy is terrible, inflation is running amok, and American business is faring poorly. But recent surveys have shown people and business leaders finally starting to catch up to the reality that unfolded throughout last year: The economy is strong, unemployment is around historic lows, job growth remains solid, corporate profits are good, income growth is up, and interest rates look like they'll start to come down in 2024.

On another issue, crime, there is also often a gap between public mood and public statistics, but an even bigger gap

POLITICS AS USUAL, continued on 2

EVENT HIGHLIGHT :: Museo Italo Americano



Riccardo Rossati. *Island of the Living*, 2007. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO

Riccardo Rossati: 'Villa Arconati & Imaginary Worlds'

THE COMPELLING WORKS in this exhibition by Italian artist Riccardo Rossati are surrealist, imaginative, and fantastical. Two themes are

represented: the Villa Arconati near Milan, and "visionary artworks" of imaginary cities and places.

Each series is known for its

surreal and imaginative visions, created with a style that exudes a mysterious and magical quality. Rossati's confident and fluid brushstrokes create a dreamlike world capable of emotionally engaging the viewer. While the works may initially appear to depict reality, his art takes viewers into a mysterious and fantastical realm where nature reigns supreme. The gardens' baroque architecture is depicted as vigorous, exuberant, and unstoppable, with water cascades replacing traditional pathways and creating a spectacle of energy and beauty. Water plays a significant role in his art. Torrents invade the internal spaces of the villa, resembling natural pathways between rocks. This water penetration gives rise to natural and unique environments, revitalizing these ancient spaces and enhancing well-being.

Villa Arconati & Imaginary Worlds: Tue.-Fri., noon– 4 p.m. & Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.–2 p.m. through March 31. Museo Italo Americano, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C, 415-673-2200, museoitaloamericano.org

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Politics as Usual continued from cover

is between public mood and elected officials. The FBI released its Uniform Crime Report for January through September 2023, drawing on 14,005 law enforcement agencies across the country. Murders are down across the country, in most cities big and small, with a few exceptions such as Dallas and Washington. Property crimes also declined in all regions except the country's northeast. Yet a large majority of surveyed Americans think crime is increasing. Perhaps because their elected officials keep fumbling the issue.

Mayor London Breed might be America's biggest fan of ranked-choice voting.

WHAT'S ON OFFER London Breed is talking tough and proposing decidedly nonprogressive solutions to the fentanyl and crime problems, some of which are on this month's ballot (see "An ethical dilemma," February 2024, MarinaTimes). By the time you read this, most of you will have already cast your votes, including regarding Breed-backed Proposition C (aimed at helping downtown office properties be converted into housing), Proposition E (expanding police powers, including the ability to pursue suspects), and Proposition F (testing and treating drug abuse among people receiving cash aid). You already know which measures passed and which were defeated. But as I write this, the outcome is still up in the air, so I will instead look at the broader question: Is Breed's conversion to a moderate's tough-on-crime position real? If she wins reelection, will she govern accordingly? (And will the Board of Supervisors let her?) I have no idea. Plenty of politicians have changed their views to fit the times and have gone on to govern accordingly. Above my desk, I have a copy of Caravaggio's Conversion on the Way to Damascus, showing Saul "Call Me Paul" of Tarsus having fallen off his horse amidst a religious change of heart. Now, that was a change for the ages. On a smaller scale, Mitch McConnell was pro-choice back in the 1970s. Yes, the man who made possible the far-right takeover of the U.S. Supreme Court

and its consequent overturning of Roe v. Wade was perfectly fine with abortion — before he wasn't. And today, the GOP caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives has lots of members who personally support aid for Ukraine but are forced to publicly oppose it because their party has become a cult of personality. And it's not just on the Republican side. Probably most elected Democratic officials were perfectly fine with same-sex marriage but were scared of being out front on a "culture war" issue. Not until then-Vice President Joe Biden endorsed gay marriage did the rank and file suddenly grow spines. So Breed might or might not be a convert to moderate toughness. With what's shaping up to be a tough reelection year, she might not get the chance to prove it. Then again, with the moderate vote split between several strong candidates, we might all be surprised who ends up the final winner.

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU Just as you'll know the outcome of the March 5 election by the time most of you read this, you also will determine the outcome of the rest of the year. Who receives your donations, who gets talked about in your conversations and social media posts, and of course who gets your votes in November will go a long way toward shifting the direction of the city. We know one thing: The next mayor of San Francisco will be a Democrat. Maybe Mark Farrell, maybe London Breed again, but not a Republican. Not since George Christopher left office in 1964 has the city-by-the-bay had a Republican at the mayor's desk. So it is up to Democratic voters, office holders, and office seekers to offer real solutions, or else even a Democratic stronghold will turn to Republicans, just as New York made Rudolph William Louis Giuliani famous, before he became wacky. I'm optimistic about the new year, for a variety of personal, professional, and societal reasons. But I'm not optimistic that city leaders will do the right thing. So it's all up to you.

Comments: john@marinatimes.com

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

A political unknown, Farrell, a native San Franciscan, was raised in the Marina District. An attorney who worked in venture capital, he was tall and good looking, had a lovely wife who was also an accomplished journalist (she writes a column for the *Marina Times*), and two adorable children (now three).

The campaign was grassroots — his parents went door-to-door passing out flyers and stumped for him in grocery store parking lots. The hard work paid off, and he won the election. Nearly two terms later, he became the 44th mayor of San Francisco, voted in by his peers on the Board of Supervisors to serve until June when voters elected someone (the current mayor, London Breed) to serve the rest of the late Ed Lee’s second term.

When we sat down in Room 200 for a March 2018 interview, it was clear Farrell was the ideal pick because he was ready, after his stint as mayor, to return to the private sector, and to be fully present for his young family. “Our three children are the most important thing to Liz and me. Period. And Liz — well, I definitely married up. The thought of spending the next six or seven months gone from the house, on the campaign trail, not being able to coach our son’s baseball team ... to not be there for their school plays, and their activities, and just be the present father that I am today would have killed me, because we’re not getting these years back,” he said.

Many of the city’s problems that we discussed during our 2018 interview still exist today, but they’re much worse. So why is Farrell jumping into a crowded race that features not only incumbent Breed but also heir to the Levi’s fortune Daniel Lurie? For Farrell, it’s personal.

One of the most common questions I get from readers is ‘Why doesn’t Mark Farrell run for mayor?’ You were resistant for so long. Why now?

Over last five and a half years I’ve watched our city crumble. For me this is personal. This is because of our family. Last year my house was broken into while we slept upstairs. I want a city that is clean, thriving, and welcoming to families. I have a unique background with over seven years working in the private sector and as a private citizen.

What are the main differences between you and London Breed?

Breed has a great story, but after five and a half years, she has a failed record. I spent years practicing law, but I am also the longest serving budget chair on the Board of Supervisors. Breed’s policies haven’t worked. Our city has crumbled. No mayor has ever led such a steep decline. My policies will be very different, distinct, and effective. I will hit the ground running with a plan to set the city on the right track day one of my administration, starting with hiring a new police chief.

What are the main differences between you and Daniel Lurie?

Lurie is a good guy, but we come from very different backgrounds. I have 20 years in private sector law, in finance, and in business. I spent seven and a half years at City Hall. Lurie ran a nonprofit and has no civic background and no private sector background. We need a mayor coming out of the gate with policies for a safe, clean city with a vibrant economy, not someone who learns on the job.

What is the top priority for your administration?
Public safety. That has always my top

priority. We’re in a crisis. It has to stop. San Francisco will no longer turn a blind eye. I will have a zero-tolerance policy toward all crime — from bike thefts and car break-ins to neighborhood crimes like burglaries at our homes and at our small businesses. We will enforce all existing laws and publicly back the SFPD to do so.

We need a change of leadership at the San Francisco Police Department. I will hire a new police chief who inspires our force and can help improve the recruitment and retention of officers — someone who will be vocal about the budget and advocate for [the] department.

We will aggressively hire transfer officers from other Bay Area cities; reconstitute a program to allow retired officers to come back to work without hurting their pension; and flood the police academy with new recruits.

When I was mayor and budget chair of the board, the city funded an average of five academy classes a year with an average of 50 recruits versus three academy classes a year under Mayor Breed, with the last class coming in at only 19 recruits. Mayor Breed has directed all city departments to provide 10 percent cuts for this fiscal year, but I will make no budget cuts to public safety departments and services. The city budget grew approximately 30 percent over the past five years, SFPD’s has only grown by \$16 million, and San Francisco is down over 500 police offices during that period. It’s not surprising that public safety is our number one concern.

What do you think of your fellow mayoral candidate Ahsha Safai’s so-called cop tax?

I 1,000 percent support hiring new police officers, but I do not believe it should be tied to new taxes. It should be the job of our city government to fully fund our police department.

Other California cities are removing homeless encampments — in fact, Judge Donna Ryu who upheld the San Francisco injunction lives in Albany where encampments are banned. When you were mayor, you removed encampments and even showed up on scene. How would you deal with the city’s encampments in light of the Coalition on Homelessness injunction?

I will clear all encampments during my first year in office. I did it in six months as mayor and I will do it again. The current administration is hiding behind this Coalition on Homelessness lawsuit but we have tools at our disposal, including Proposition Q, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws, and public nuisance laws. We need to make it inconvenient to sleep in tents in the middle of the sidewalk. We will offer people help, but we will not make it hospitable for those who choose to live on our streets.

San Francisco’s homeless crisis is a drug and a mental health issue. When we cleared out large encampments, people proactively started leaving the streets. We have to take the high ground — we will treat people with compassion, but if they reject our offers of help, we will make it inconvenient. Kids and the elderly shouldn’t have to step over tents. The streets belong to the residents.

Where we are going to see results is with a mayor who won’t tolerate it. I will revamp Homeward Bound. When I was mayor I quadrupled their budget. Under Mayor Breed, the program is a shell of what it used to be.

Coalition on Homelessness executive director Jennifer Friedenbach was a full-time lobbyist for Proposition C. She controlled the funds and moved the last of the campaign money to her

own nonprofit. Would you consider shutting down the Our City Our Home committee, where Friedenbach now sits and decides where the money goes? Would you look for ways to move funds out of Friedenbach’s control?

Both. COH and all the nonprofits have controlled the narrative for the last five and a half years and we need to take our city back. We need to get people the help they need, and I don’t believe those decisions should be vested in COH.

In 2016, as District 2 supervisor, you sounded the alarm bells on Tenants Owners and Development Corporation, but your colleagues ignored your warnings. Would you pursue them again? And how big a priority is the corruption at City Hall for you?

It’s a huge deal. Residents deserve to feel officials are acting in their best interests. Allowing nonprofit developers like TODCO to do cash-out refinances and not put the money back into the properties but use it to fund political campaigns? I can’t believe it’s been allowed for so long. It has to end. If residents truly understood what goes on, they’d be shocked.

Would you support an audit of all nonprofits receiving millions for homelessness and harm reduction, then end current contracts and make them apply again with a results-based model? In other words, “Meet your goals or your contract won’t be renewed”?
I will do it on day one.

Many people feel the San Francisco Police Commission has too much power. Would you support an overhaul of the appointment process or disbanding the commission all together as some have recommended?
I would support an overhaul. Right now, the Police Commission is one of

more destructive forces in San Francisco and has made the job of our police officers much more difficult.

Would you work with San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins and the United States Attorney’s Office of Northern California to prosecute fentanyl dealers with harsher sentences and deportation?

Yes. I believe D.A. Jenkins is doing a great job and I welcome the new United States Attorney [Ismail Ramsey]. San Francisco had the highest number of drug overdose deaths in 2023 we have ever seen. We cannot allow what goes on in the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods to continue. We need the police staffing to arrest dealers, but if you use on public streets and are revived on Narcan, by law if that happens a second time, you can be taken into custody — and they can hold them longer under a fentanyl hold. We can’t just revive someone and think things get better. Sober housing is a must. Get them a chance for a better life. We have to change our policies.

How important is it as mayor to bring the San Francisco Unified School District up to par, and bring the school board’s priorities in line?

It starts with electing the right school board members — yanking algebra and renaming schools made San Francisco the butt of jokes all over the country. We are far from the best, so it was hard to watch. We must put the needs of kid first. Algebra is a must and shouldn’t even be a discussion.

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Anderson,
continued from cover

nudes, street scenes, nature, and of course fashion. In his most comprehensive retrospective to date, a section of the exhibition will be solely dedicated to Penn's photographs from his 1967 trip to San Francisco.

PORTRAITURE

After working for a short time at *Harper's Bazaar* and Saks Fifth Avenue, Penn traveled and took photographs before accepting a position in *Vogue's* Art Department. As one of *Vogue's* top photographers, he created a record of 20th-century cultural history in images. *Woman in Chicken Hat* (Lisa Fonssagrives-Penn) (1949) is a classic example of Penn's fashion photography and its keen sense of balance in composition and light.

The portrait *Joe Louis*, (1948) shows the famous boxer in his uniform as a triangulated figure propped up in a narrow corner-like sculpture. Similarly, Penn had photographed artist Marcel Duchamp and writer Truman Capote in 1948 and 1949 backed into that same corner, eyes confronting the viewer. In both his fashion photos and his representations of cultural figures, Penn presents form in a minimal style combined with the directness of the subject's gaze. This style of photographic representation became commonplace in the 1950s and 1960s, but Irving Penn popularized the approach.

THE SUMMER OF LOVE

In 1967, *Look* magazine com-



Irving Penn. *Rock Groups (Big Brother and the Holding Company and The Grateful Dead)*, San Francisco, 1967. The Irving Penn Foundation. © The Irving Penn Foundation. PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMSF

missioned Penn to travel to San Francisco to record the Summer of Love. While on assignment, he snapped images of Hells Angels, hippie communities, and local rock bands. An expanded selection of images from San Francisco in the late 1960s during its moment at the epicenter of the countercultural movement will be given a special emphasis in the exhibition. "Penn's images of West Coast residents capture a moment of electrifying social change, which forever altered the cultural landscape of

the Bay Area," remarked Emma Acker, Curator of American Art at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco and organizing curator of the exhibition.

In *Rock Groups (Big Brother and the Holding Company and The Grateful Dead)* (1967), Penn looks into the faces of the "new" San Francisco. Instead of the brightly colored, psychedelic scene one might expect, the photographer instead memorializes its subjects in black and white. The group, which includes Janis Joplin and Jerry Garcia, gaze

with intent into the camera with deliberate expressions lending the image a sincerity and sense of immediacy. *Hells Angel (Doug)* (1967) has the same strong sense of individuality and documentary characteristics.

TRADITIONAL ART AND COLOR

Though he was known for his black-and-white photos, Penn did experiment with color. In an homage to the style of Dutch still life painters, *Still Life with Watermelon* (1947) is a tradition-

al color image of a still life from the bowl of fruit in the upper register to the folded napkin and crust of bread in the foreground. Fast forward to 1986, and *Mouth (For L'Oréal)* (1986), a cropped image of nose, and lips splashed with diagonal hues of lipstick in pinks, browns, and reds exist as a nod to the style of 1980s fashion and advertising.

Also on view are Penn's rarely seen experimental photographs of nude workshop dancers performing American choreographer Anna Halprin's *The Bath*.

THE ICONIC AND THE EVERYDAY

Penn approached photography as fine art long before the medium was recognized as such. The exhibition presents his photographs of such leading lights of the screen as Marlene Dietrich and Audrey Hepburn, renowned designers Gianni Versace and Yves Saint Laurent, architect Le Corbusier, writer Joan Didion, and others. Penn lent that nuanced sense of composition and human expression to his portraits of everyday people also — tradespeople, street vendors, and residents of Cuzco, Peru are seen through the egalitarian spirit of Penn's lens so that familiar faces and strangers are equally powerful.

Irving Penn: Tue.–Sun., 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m., March 16–July 21, \$32, de Young Museum, 50 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., 415-750-3600, famsf.org

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

THE BEST OF BOOKS : Flying off the Shelves

The Marina Books Inc. best sellers

COMPILED BY EARLE PETERSON

Here is a list of the most popular books sold last month at Books Inc. in the Marina:

HARDCOVER FICTION

- 1. **Original Sins: A Novel**, by Erin Young
- 2. **Martyr!: A Novel**, by Kaveh Akbar
- 3. **Medea: A Novel**, by Eilish Quin

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. **Tripping on Utopia: Margaret Mead, the Cold War, and the Troubled Birth of Psychedelic Science**, by Benjamin Breen
- 2. **UFO: The Inside Story of the US Government's Search for Alien Life Here — and Out There**, by Garrett Graff
- 3. **Why We Love Baseball: A History in 50 Moments**, by Joe Posnanski

PAPERBACK FICTION

- 1. **Bride**, by Ali Hazelwood
- 2. **What Lies in the Woods: A Novel**, by Kate Marshall
- 3. **Before We Were Innocent: A Novel**, by Ella Berman

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

- 1. **Your Table is Ready: Tales of a New York City Maître D'**, by Michael Cecchi-Azzolina
- 2. **Four Thousand Weeks**, by Oliver Burkeman
- 3. **Belonging: The Science of Creating Connection and Bridging Divides**, by Geoffrey Cohen

YOUNG READERS

- 1. **I Lived Inside a Whale**, by Xin Li
- 2. **Averil Offline**, by Amy Parks
- 3. **Drop of Venom**, by Sajni Patel

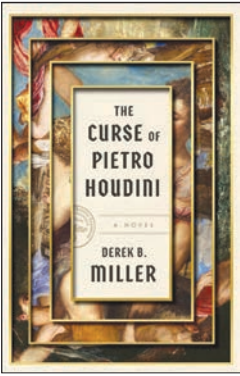
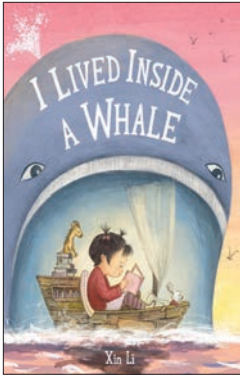
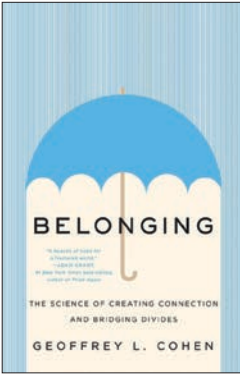
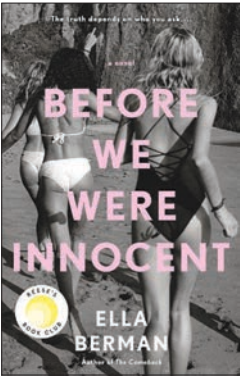
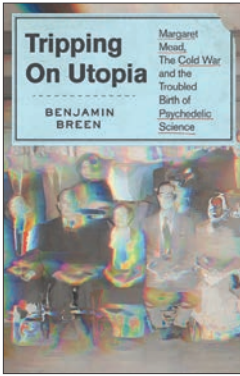
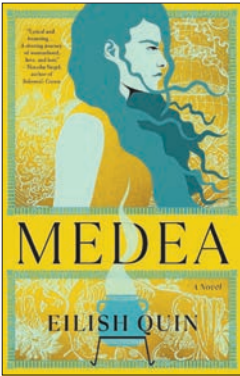
NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

Book of Doors: A Novel, by Gareth Brown
Cassie Andrews, a mild-mannered bookseller in New York City, inherits the mysterious eponymous volume from a deceased customer. Discovering its magical ability to transport her to any place she envisions, Cassie, accompanied by her spirited roommate, Izzy, embarks on an adventure. However, as they realize the perilous potential of the book, they find themselves entangled

with an enigmatic man known as the Librarian, who protects a collection of similarly magical books, and pursued by malevolent forces seeking the power of the Book of Doors and all the other volumes like it.

Curse of Pietro Houdini: A Novel, by Derek B Miller

August 1943: 14-year-old Massimo is all alone. Fleeing Rome after surviving the American bombing raid that killed his parents, he is attacked by thugs and finds himself bloodied at the base of the Montecassino. It is there in the Benedictine abbey's shadow that a charismatic and cryptic man calling himself Pietro Houdini, the self-proclaimed "Master Artist and confidante of the Vatican," rescues Massimo and brings him up the mountain to serve as his assistant in preserving the treasures that lay within the monastery walls. But can Massimo believe what Pietro is saying? When it becomes evident that Montecassino will soon become the front line in the war, they execute a plan to smuggle three priceless Titian



paintings to safety. They are joined by a nurse concealing a nefarious past, a cafe owner turned murderer, a wounded but chipper German soldier, and a pair of lovers along with their injured mule, Ferrari. Together they will lie, cheat, steal, fight, kill, and sin their way through battlefields to survive, all while smuggling the Renaissance masterpiece-

es and the bag full of ancient Greek gold they have rescued from the "safe keeping" of the Germans.

Visit marinatimes.com for additional new releases.

Earle Peterson is the manager of Books Inc. in the Marina: 2251 Chestnut St., 415-931-3633, booksinc.net.

MARCH EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS



UNION SQUARE IN BLOOM

Saturday, March 9–Saturday, Aug. 17
Union Square

Returning for its third year, don't miss a wide range of events celebrating arts, culture and nightlife, and cocktail offerings highlighting Union Squares rich floral history, which kicks off with **Tulip Day** (noon–4 p.m., March 9) followed by **Spring Fling** (March 23, 3–6 p.m.) Visit website for additional information and schedule. Free, visitunionsquaresf.com

PHOTO: COURTESY OF VISITUNIONSQUARE.COM

173rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival: Unite S.F.
Saturday, March 16
Parade: Market St. (at Second) to Civic Center Plaza., 11:30 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Festival: Civic Center Plaza, 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Enjoy over 100 floats, Irish dance troupes, and marching bands as they make their way to the Civic Center Plaza and the opportunity to experience Irish culture with food, beverages, dancing, music, and more. Free, uissf.org

Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band
Thursday & Sunday, March 28 & 31, 7:30 p.m.
Chase Center

Fans won't want to miss the first time the icon has toured with the band since 2017. \$170 & up, 800-943-4327, chasecenter.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

Cow Hollow Triangle Cleanup
Sunday, March 24, 9:30–11 p.m.
Meet: Wilder (3154 Fillmore St.)

Join your neighbors and help clean up the Cow Hollow Triangle. All supplies provided. Sign up at mobilize.us/togethersf (search for event name) or email info@refuserefusesf.org. Free, refuserefusesf.org

GALAS AND BENEFITS

29th Annual Art Inspiring Hope Gala: Candy Land
Saturday, March 23, 5 p.m.
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

Celebrate Camp Okizu's 42nd year of supporting Bay Area children with cancer and their families at this gala featuring a reception, gourmet dinner, hosted bar, and auction. \$500 & up, 415-382-9083, okizu.org

ARTS AND CULTURE

21st Annual Crossroads Irish-American Festival
Various days, March 9–April 13
Various Bay Area venues

This literary, musical, and cultural event invites the public to come together around inspired, creative, and relevant events regarding Irish and Irish-American history and culture. Visit website for schedule and pricing, 415-810-3774, irishamericancrossroads.org

Asian Art Museum | Into View: New Voices, New Stories
Thursday, 1–8 p.m. & Fri.–Mon., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. through Oct. 17
200 Larkin St.

This exhibition features recently acquired paintings, sculptures, ceramics, prints, and mixed-media work by local and international contemporary artists who challenge and subvert convention by transforming familiar stories, stereotypes, and techniques. Free (first Sundays)–\$35, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

THEATER
ACT | Big Data
Tue.–Sun. through March 10
Toni Rembe Theater (415 Geary St.)

Sam loves Timmy, and Lucy loves Max, but the pressures of modern life leave them susceptible to the siren song of tech. This funny, sexy, uncanny world premiere explores whether our devices really know us best — are our digital footprints predictive of our future choices, or are they choosing for us? \$25–\$116, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

42nd Street Moon | Falsettos
Wed.–Sun. through March 17, 8 p.m.
Gateway Theatre (215 Jackson St.)

Hilarious, heartbreaking, and unique, contemporary musical is about family, relationships, Bar Mitzvahs, baseball, and AIDS. When Marvin leaves his wife Trina and son Jason to be with his lover Whizzer, tempers flare, problems escalate and everyone learns to grow up. \$40 & up, 415-255-8207, 42ndstmoon.org

S.F. Playhouse | The 39 Steps
Thu.–Sun., March 7–April 22
450 Post St. (in the Kensington Park Hotel)

Following a mysterious murder, Richard Hannay launches on a high-speed chase where he must dodge devious spies, woo beautiful bombshells, and attempt to reveal secrets of The 39 Steps, an international spy ring. Four nimble actors play more than 100 characters in this riotous spoof that is equal parts slapstick comedy and film noir thriller. \$30 & up, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY

S.F. Jazz | Women's History Month Celebration
March 7–24
201 Franklin St.

Celebrate Women's History Month with the Lisa Hilton Quartet, Brandee Younger, Caroline Davis, Katie Thiroux, Pamela Rose, and others. Visit website for schedule and ticketing, 800-920-5299, sfjazz.org

New Century Chamber Orchestra | Playing with Structure
Fri.–Sat., March 8–9
Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave.)

American cellist Sterling Elliott joins Daniel Hope and New Century for Joseph Haydn's beloved first cello concerto, a virtuoso showpiece for the instrument. \$30 & up, 415-960-3949, presidiotheatre.org

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Contemporary Jewish Museum | First Light: Rituals of Glass and Neo Art
Thu.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. through April 24
736 Mission St.

This exhibition explores mastery in craft as a devotional pursuit, presenting breathtaking artworks that connect both artists and viewers to spirituality, wonder, and universal questions of human existence. The exhibiting artists utilize both science and art as equally noble methods to explore the mysteries of the universe and its reflection in their consciousness. The exhibition features artworks in neon, glass, and plasma, large-scale sculptures, and installations that invite visitors to learn about fascinating scientific processes, and inspire deeper contemplation of the role of light in our quest to understand our place in the universe. Through these works, the artists gain an intimate understanding of light as a profound and transformative force. Experience awe, make spiritual connections, and discover the science and craft of neon and glass artwork. Free (first weekends of the month)–\$16, 415-655-7800, thecjm.org

Walt Disney Family Museum | Disney Cats & Dogs
Thu.–Sun., 10 a.m.–4 p.m. through June 2
104 Montgomery St., the Presidio

This exhibition explores the evolution and innovation of Walt Disney Animation Studios' animal-inspired animation and storytelling through the decades, and the massive undertaking involved in bringing their iconic cats and dogs to life on screen. \$15, 415-345-6800, waltdisney.org

SFMOMA | Yayoi Kusama: Infinite Love
Mon.–Tue., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 1–8 p.m.; Fri.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. through Sept. 7
151 Third St.

Experience the kaleidoscopic world of the iconic and globally celebrated artist Yayoi Kusama in her first solo Northern California presentation, which encompasses two Infinity Mirror Rooms, including her newest room, *Dreaming of Earth's Sphericity, I Would Offer My Love* (2023), a cosmos of dancing color and light and *Love is Calling* (2013), a darkened environment illuminated by vividly colored inflatable floor-to-ceiling forms accompanied by the sound of the artist reciting a poem about love. Visit website for ticketing and dining packages. Free (first Thursdays for Bay Area residents)–\$150, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

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LÚNASA

Saturday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave.)

Described as “the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet” by *The Irish Echo*, Ireland’s all-star band, named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, returns for their second appearance in the Presidio. \$35 & up, 415-960-3949, presidiotheatre.org

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PRESIDIO THEATRE

MUSIC: CLASSICAL

S.F. Symphony | Salonen: All Sibelius
Thu.–Sat., March 14–16, 7:30 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall

Salonen conducts Lisa Batiashvili and the S.F. Symphony in a program featuring Sibelius’s Finlandia, Violin Concerto, and Symphony No. 1. \$39 & up, 415-864-4000, sfsymphony.org

Old First Concerts |
71st Junior Bach Festival
Sunday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
1751 Sacramento St. & livestream
Enjoy an all-J. S. Bach concert showcasing fabulous young soloists and ensembles. \$20 & up, 415-474-1608, oldfirstconcerts.org

Chanticleer | Breathe Together,
Sing Together San Francisco
Saturday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
S.F. Conservatory of Music
Lose yourself in sublime melody and gentle harmony in this evening of meditation and mindfulness. Music will include prayerful Gregorian and Buddhist chant, meditative Renaissance polyphony, and soothing contemporary compositions. \$25 & up, 415-252-8589, chanticleer.org

DANCE

S.F. Ballet | A Midsummer’s
Night Dream
Tue.–Sat., March 12–23
War Memorial Opera House
Enter Shakespeare’s enchanted forest of whimsy, mistaken identity, and jest — where fairies rule and love (eventually) reigns supreme. Choreographed by George Balanchine, this production returns to the stage set to music by Mendelssohn, with updated costume and set designs by celebrated French designer Christian Lacroix. \$29 & up, 415-865-2000, sfballet.org



ODC/DANCE | DANCE DOWNTOWN 2023

Wed.–Sun., March 27–31
Blue Shield of California Theater, YBCA (700 Howard St.)

Two programs feature world premieres and major reprises by Brenda Way, Kimi Okada, KT Nelson and guest choreographer Sonya Delwaide. Both programs conclude with Nelson’s *Dead Reckoning*. Springing from the raucous world of cartoon, the front pages of the news, the intimacy of human connection, or the mystery of artistic process, Dance Downtown invites the viewer on a visceral, thought-provoking journey and breathtaking dance.. \$34 & up, 415-978-2787, odcdance.org

PHOTO: RJ MUNA

technology of xenotransplantation. \$20, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

Jonna Mendez: Unmasking my Life
in the CIA
Monday, March 18, 6 p.m.
110 The Embarcadero & livestream
Hear the bestselling co-author of *The Moscow Rules* and *Argo* tell her riveting, courageous story of being a female spy at the CIA and battling against the prevailing culture of sexism at the time, all while undertaking dangerous missions for America’s safety during the height of the Cold War, as told in her new book, *In True Face: A Woman’s Life in the CIA, Unmasked*. \$10 & up, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

37th Annual Pi Day
Thursday, March 14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Exploratorium
Enjoy pi-themed activities to honor the never-ending number 3.14159. Join the Pi Procession (1:59 p.m.) with live music to the Pi Shrine — followed by pie, of course. \$40, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

City Public Star Party
Saturday, March 16, 7–10 p.m.
East Meadow, Presidio Tunnel Tops
Join the S.F. Amateur Astronomers for free public stargazing of the Moon, planets, globular clusters, and more. Dress warmly; rain, heavy fog, and overcast skies cancel (check SFAA website prior to event). Free, sfaa-astronomy.org

POTABLES AND EDIBLES

Howell Mountain Bud Break
Celebration
Saturday, March 23, 1–4 p.m.
The General’s Residence (1 Fort Mason, Bay & Franklin sts.)
Taste world-class wines from 30 Howell Mountain wineries and gourmet small bites from McCall’s. \$125 (until March 22); \$250 (door),

707-965-2665, howellmountain.org

Pop-Ups on the Plaza: Celebrating
Black Women Makers
Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Ferry Terminal Plaza and Ferry Plaza
Farmers Market
Celebrate Bay Area Black women makers and Women’s History Month with a day of festivities, family fun, and delicious food. Free admission (food available for purchase), foodwise.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Sound Bath
Saturday, March 16, 7–8:30 p.m.
Grace Cathedral
Listen to calming, beautiful sounds, and focus your attention on the music performed by live musicians as you connect to a higher state of consciousness. May be experienced while seated or reclining on your personal yoga mat/blanket. \$20 & up, eventbrite.com

Crissy Field 5K
Sunday, March 17, 9–11 a.m.
Starts/Ends: Yacht Harbor Parking Lot,
Little Marina Green
Enjoy this flat, scenic run along the bay to Fort Point and back. A half-mile kids’ run for ages 12 and under starts after the 5K. \$10, dserunners.com

CHILD’S PLAY

SFMOMA |Second Sunday for
Families: Magic!
Sunday, March 10, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Koret Education Center, Floor 2
Making art sometimes feels like making magic — enjoy an exploration of art processes that seem impossible. Free (18 & younger)–\$30, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

Bunny Chalk Art
Wednesday, March 27, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
Marina Branch Library
Explore negative space while creating a bunny shadow with chalk. Free, 415-355-2823, sfpl.org

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*Check individual business hours for inside locations.

For a complete list of locations please visit marinatimes.com/where-to-find-it



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EATING YOUR FILL ∴ The power of food

Sweet and savory memories

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

WHILE IN RESIDENCE AT MY Russian Hill apartment, I regularly mosey on down to Cheese Plus at Polk and Pacific streets where I grab a fresh Acme Bakery mini-baguette as part of my late-morning meal. It may be a subconscious attempt to dispel the gray dankness of winter, but lately, my visits to Cheese Plus remind me of one sunny day last summer when I came upon the gourmet grocery’s 18th Annual Artisan Food Festival. The “foodie block party,” which was happening on the Pacific Street side of the establishment, has celebrated the various purveyors keeping Cheese Plus stocked with the good-est of the goodies since its opening. That meant I was confronted with a selection of high-end savories and sweets to sample, including one item that triggered a flood of sense memories with one crunchy bite: an anise-flavored pizzelle!

A little backstory is in order. When I first moved to the Bay Area, my initial forays into the San Francisco night-life scene included regular stops at the venerable Tosca Cafe in North Beach, where I would invariably order the bar’s specialty, the House Cappuccino — a soothing, steamed blend of bourbon, Armagnac, heavy cream and a proprietary mix of bittersweet chocolate, vanilla syrup, milk, and a bit more cream. It was a perfect, warming antidote to the evening chill, served in an Irish coffee glass despite there not being any actual coffee in the drink.

At the center of each table in the Tosca was a basket filled with free-for-the-snacking pizzelles. These thin, crisp Italian waffle cookies with a touch of anise were an ideal complement to the House Cappuccino and a welcome way to soak up some of the alcohol consumed, especially if a second or third round was in order. I’m not going to say that the gratis pizzelles were why I would return to the Tosca again and again, although their presence didn’t hurt the cause. What did hurt was showing up at the establishment one evening and realizing that the once-omnipresent baskets of the cookies had disappeared. I looked into the source of the waffle wonders, learned they were made at a certain local Italian bakery, and sought them out when I had the occasional craving.

PIZZELLE PASSION

I’m not sure whether the bakery stopped making pizzelles or went out of business. In any case, it had been years since I had eaten a pizzelle until coming upon a table devoted to Fogliani’s waffle cookies at the Cheese Plus street festival of eats. The elegant woman in charge of the sidewalk pizzelle presentation was Kristina Fogliani — the wife of Christian Fogliani, heir to his grandmother’s recipe for the cookies. The Foglianis founded the company back in 2015 in Orange County, moving their expanding business to Santa Rosa in 2017, where it has grown into a nationally distributed operation.

Kristina had put three of Fogliani’s flavors on display — vanilla, chocolate, and lemon. I tried the lemon and was impressed. So much so that I told Kristina about the anise variety that I had enjoyed back at the Tosca. She responded that there was a fourth Fogliani flavor that didn’t sell quite as much as the other three, even though it had just won an



Pizelles, the pretty Italian waffle cookie that launched a thousand memories for the author. PHOTO: STEVE SNODGRASS VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

award at a food show. Then, she produced a box of anise pizzelles, opened it, and offered me a cookie. With one chew, I was transported back to the night at Tosca when I had my first nibble on a pizzelle, followed by a rapid-fire mind montage featuring a few of my after-hours escapades and indiscretions from that era. I quickly consumed the rest of the airy, delicate treat and told Kristina that Fogliani’s version was easily as good, if not better than the bakery’s classic take.

The experience with Fogliani’s anise pizzelles was like something out of French author Marcel Proust’s seminal seven-volume novel *In Search of Lost Time* (*À la recherche du temps perdu*), also known in English as *Remembrance of Things Past*. In the first volume of the book, Proust writes of his adult self dipping a petite madeleine into a cup of tea and having the taste of the tea-infused cookie spur recollections of his childhood. So my pizzelle reverie was positively Proustian.

THE FRISSON OF FLAVOR

I would venture to say that many may go on similar inner voyages to bygone moments if launched by the right sensory input. For me, it could be a scent, such as sea air, a forest of eucalyptus trees, or a brand of cologne. Most often, it’s due to something I’m eating. So an exquisitely juicy and sweet Frog Hollow Farm peach returns me to a long-ago picnic on Mt. Tam with a winsome girlfriend who went out of her way to secure a bag of the fancy fruit. A fresh pain au chocolat from La Boulangerie or one of Duverger’s raspberry macarons at Le Café du Soleil on the corner of Fillmore and Waller streets can transport me to a spring afternoon ramble through Place de la Bastille in Paris.

Almost any version of spicy tuna on a small rice cake evokes a dinner with a lost and lamented love at the equally gone-but-not-forgotten Italian-Asian fusion palace Oritalia that was on Fillmore Street. And a slice of the glorious Kanoute pistachio pesto pizza from Pink Onion on 14th Street in the Mission makes me think of a memorable L.A. dinner party thrown by my pal Bobby to inaugurate his own wood-fired pizza oven with a delicious pistachio pie

based on a certain celebrity chef’s recipe. The fact that specific eats can act as touchstones from the past and generate a wide range of emotional responses is a gift. Embrace it, like I embraced the box of Fogliani’s anise pizzelles I secured to revisit special moments in my life with the aid of a snack.

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

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

March madness

BY LIZ FARRELL

THERE IS SO MUCH TO LOVE ABOUT the month of March — St Patrick’s Day, the first day of spring, and daylight savings time, which means more daylight. For basketball fans, March means the March Madness, the branding for the NCAA Men’s Division I basketball tournament. I have always loved basketball — I played through high school and helped coach all my kids’ teams at the Presidio YMCA. I was fortunate enough in eighth grade to attend the West Coast Conference men’s tournament. Although we saw several exciting games, unfortunately it ended in tragedy. We were at the game where Loyola Marymount’s star player Hank Gathers collapsed on the court mid-game only to find out a few hours later he had died. The whole experience was so upsetting but what I will always remember is how that team came together after this tragedy of losing a teammate and made it to the Elite Eight.

March Madness is full of hope and upset, which is what makes it fun and also very frustrating. Regardless of whether you love basketball, there are many ways to get the family involved and have some fun. Here are a few:

FAMILY BRACKET

I’m old school so I still like to print out brackets, but you also now can do a family bracket challenge online. This year all picks must be made before March 21. It is easy to set up and doing it online makes

it easy to keep track of everyone’s points. Points are given for each game won and the points increase in each round. We like to set a friendly wager to make it more fun and a little more interesting so everyone can put in \$5 or pick the restaurant for a family dinner or winner gets out of doing dishes and garbage chores for a week. Choose whatever will be interesting and keep everyone engaged in your family. If someone doesn’t follow much basketball but still wants to participate, there’s always the “auto pick” option.

MASCOT BRACKET BINGO

If your children are younger and don’t know enough about specific teams or players, another fun way to play along is by creating a mascot bracket so you choose the team that will win each game based on the mascot. It is also a fun way to learn about all the different collegiate mascots. My daughter when she was younger always chose her favorite teams to win based on the which color uniform she liked better. It can also be fun to create a bingo card or print one out and put a chip down when different things in the game happen that match the bingo card. Do whatever it takes to keep it fun and interesting for all ages and interest levels.

LIFE LESSONS

The reason March Madness has become so popular goes beyond the sport of basketball. Both the men’s and women’s tournament are full of life lessons. The upsets of high seeds getting out in the early rounds, cheering for the “Cinderella”



Get the family involved for the most fun during March Madness. PHOTO: ADOBESTOCK

team that was underrated and goes farther than anyone thought — that is what makes this tournament so fun — it rarely is all the number one seeds that make it to the Final Four. Getting to the tournament is about hard work, competition, being ready for a challenge and giving your all. These are all great life lessons exhibited in these games that make for great family conversations. It is also a wonderful time to talk about sportsmanship. Having attended a lot of sporting events at all levels, this is a value that seems to be withering away. You can ask your children, “who has it and who doesn’t.” You can also get them to identify actions they see that exhibit good sportsmanship and encourage them to try to implement those in their own sports or even just on the playground at recess.

Brackets during March Madness have become a family tradition in our house. Even if you aren’t super into basketball or you don’t choose a lot of winning teams, I guarantee once you try this as a family you will want to do it again. This tournament has become one of the most watched college sporting events and part of its allure is that there are so many unexpected twists and turns. No one really knows how it will end up which is why it is so fun. Everyone in the family gets a fair shot at victory no matter how much you know about basketball. So as the pundits say, “enjoy the dance” and good luck.

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. Comments: letters@marinatimes.com.

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Optimistic outlook for San Francisco’s real estate market

BY GAREY DEMARTINI

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, 2023 WAS A difficult year for San Francisco real estate. Mortgage rates were incredibly high, and inventory was terribly low. Buyer interest seemed to evaporate. And across the nation there was incessant talk about San Francisco’s so-called inescapable doom loop.

This year has to be better, right? It’s still early, but so far, so good.

SFGate.com reported that there has been a significant shift in the city’s real estate market. Even older listings are beginning to heat up. In January and February, some properties that couldn’t sell last year were suddenly getting offers.

The California Association of Realtors forecasts that home sales in the state will increase by 23 percent year-over-year.

“There has been a notable increase in homes being prepared for the spring listing season,” said Annie Williams, a top agent with Sotheby’s International Realty. “Stagers, painters, and inspectors are busy again!”

She explained the timing of this advance work is strategic, and suggests sellers intend to capitalize on the traditionally active spring market — in part to avoid the potential uncertainties and disruptions often associated with a fall election season.

TECH STILL RULES

Where is all this renewed energy and

interest coming from? To paraphrase one-time San Francisco resident Mark Twain, “The reports of this city’s death are greatly exaggerated.”

Indeed, *The Economist* published a story in mid-February explaining how San Francisco has staged a surprising comeback. The writer argues that whenever a global economic transformation takes place, a single city usually drives it forward.

For example, the first initial public offering took place in Amsterdam in 1602. London was the center of the first wave of globalization during the 19th century. And, according to the writer, today the city at the center of a global transformation is San Francisco, with artificial intelligence at the heart of this transformation.

It’s a breakthrough technology that has caused a bull market in American stocks, and which many economists believe will power a global productivity surge.

Almost all big AI players and tech investors are based here. In fact, San Francisco’s AI concentration has reached a critical mass, with success begetting further success. London and Paris may be AI rivals, but they are a long way behind.

Unlike previous tech booms, artificial intelligence may not result in waves of new tech workers coming to the city. Still, this has changed the mood of San Francisco. There is a renewed energy and excitement about the place.

A BULL MARKET

What’s more, as mentioned, the stock



The Presidio has become a popular location for tech companies and startups.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PRESIDIO TRUST

market did well in early 2024, with the S&P 500 breaking 5,000 for the first time in history in February.

“San Francisco’s luxury real estate market is complex, influenced by both macroeconomic conditions and local factors,” said Williams. “But I have observed over the years that our real estate market tracks the stock market quite closely, and it’s been booming lately. That gives buyers confidence and enables them to grow the size of their down payments.”

REVERSE MIGRATION

Williams added that she and other agents have noticed that a number of people are now moving to San Francisco from places like Manhattan and the upper Midwest — perhaps representing a significant change from recent outbound migration patterns.

Meanwhile, that same *Economist* story said despite headlines about an exodus of the rich, San Francisco’s tech elites mostly weathered the storm — its population decline was, in fact, mostly driven by the exit of poorer residents. As a result, inhabitants are now better paid and more educated than before Covid.

OFFICE SPACE INVESTING


One last item of interest: While office vacancy rates in San Francisco have recently reached new heights, according to SFGate.com, an investor is preparing to swoop in for some bargain hunting. Ian Jacobs, an heir of the Toronto-based Reichmann family, plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars buying office space downtown.

Jacobs has reportedly spent the past year lining up financial commitments for a plan to buy 3 million square feet of property, which, based on recent building sales, implies a price tag between \$600 million and \$900 million. His great uncle did the same kind of thing in New York City during an economically bleak period in the late 1970s. He made a fortune once that city’s social and economic recovery was complete.

It’s a buy-low, long-game strategy that reveals a fundamental faith in San Francisco’s intrinsic value. And, while it’s still early, it’s another indication that 2024 is shaping up to be a much better year than 2023.

Comments: letters@marinatimes.com

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