**REYNOLDS RAP**

**Mayor London Breed’s legacy**

Will it be corruption and cronynism or cleaning up City Hall?

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

When I wrote my April 2019 Reynolds Rap column suggesting Mayor London Breed should fire Department of Public Works director Mohammed Nuru after decades of corruption and incompetence, I heard from many city workers who shared similar stories in their departments. In my May 2019 column, I said Breed’s reticence to fire Nuru might be because, according to several DPW sources, they had a romantic relationship. I also mentioned an anonymous letter detailing other messy Nuru scandals, including “creating the Fix It Department for current girlfriend Sandra Zuniga after she didn’t get a managerial position within DPW . . .”

Ten months later, the FBI arrested Nuru on fraud charges. In last month’s column, I wrote for a second time about Breed’s reluctance to let Nuru go, again surmising a romantic relationship might be the reason. Just two weeks later, on Valentine’s Day (you can’t make this stuff up), Breed came clean: She and Nuru had indeed been romantically involved some 20 years ago (though my sources say Nuru’s later, on Valentine’s Day (you can’t make this stuff up), Breed came clean: She and Nuru had indeed been romantically involved some 20 years ago (though my sources say REYNOLD’S RAP, continued on 4

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**Marina Times**

**MARINATIMES.COM | CELEBRATING OUR 35TH YEAR | VOLUME 36 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2020**

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**Marination**

Simplifying civic engagement in San Francisco

There’s no app for that

BY KEVIN FRAZIER

There’s no convenient way for the average San Franciscans get involved in city politics. Trust me, I’ve tried. I applied to city boards and commissions only to have the application hearing scheduled over my classes in Berkeley. I engaged with the local Democratic Party only to learn that I was either too young, too new, or too far back in a line of succession that’s known only to those near the front. But my barriers — namely, being a student and having a history with mental illness — are tiny hurdles in comparison to the walls facing those with young kids, day and night jobs, and seemingly endless commutes.

**Bureaucratic Labyrinth**

City Hall is too complex, too controlled by cliques, and too inconvenient to provide average San Franciscans with a meaningful chance to make a difference in local politics. The city doesn’t need an app to remedy this issue, but it does need to launch some updates to make it easier for San Franciscans of all sorts to get involved.

**Nightlife**

Thursday night’s all right

Date nights provide smart adult fun

BY JULIE MITCHELL

Whether you’re reconnecting with a spouse or partner or meeting up for the first time, weeknight dates always feel a little bit special. Often, though, dates after work tend toward drinks and dinner. There’s nothing wrong with that, but on Thursday evenings in San Francisco your postworkday outing can include not only food and drink, but also a visit to a museum or other venue where art, education, and entertainment can be part of the mix, making for a much more memorable evening.

**Wine and Food with a View**

In February, the Ferry Building kicked off Third Thursdays, a free monthly celebration of food, music, and the arts from 6 to 9 p.m. Visitors can sip Champagne and enjoy fresh oysters at a pop-up from Hog Island Oyster Company; munch on pizza specials from Boulette’s Larder; sample fresh-baked cookies and chocolates from Recchiuti Confections; try Fort Point Beer or wine from the Brews and Bubbles cart; and other treats. (There are also full dining options in the marketplace and nearby.) Author readings, performances from local entertainers such as breakdancing, piano sets, and live art installations are also featured. The lineup changes each month; visit ferrybuildingmarketplace.com for details.

**After Dark Exploration**

Also on the Embarcadero, the Exploratorium presents After Dark every Thursday night from 6 to 10 p.m. This adults-only evening offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in more than 650 interactive exhibits centered around perception, art, and science. Drinks from pop-up bars are available, and special pro-

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Left to right: Stephen Berkman’s Conjoined Twins and Remedy for Reverie. PHOTO, COURTESY CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM

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‘Predicting the Past: Zohar Studios, The Lost Years’ at the Contemporary Jewish Museum

BY SHARON ANDERSON

The Contemporary Jewish Museum presents an immersive photography installation by Los Angeles-based artist Stephen Berkman. Shimmel Zohar was a 19-century Jewish immigrant and photographer who founded Zohar Studios in New York City. The exhibition is a tribute to Zohar and his studio, the name Zohar also referring to a collection of writings that form the basis of Kabbalistic study. As an esoteric method, the mysticism of the Kabbalah is echoed in Berkman’s approach to his subjects and their sub-texts, obscurities, and tangents.

**The Photographic Process Through Time**

Raised in the Bay Area, Berkman also creates historical photography for large-scale Hollywood films and documentaries, including The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford and Cold Mountain. His ART WORLD, continued on 12

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**Thursdays at the Exploratorium**

AFTER DARK EXPLORATION

After Dark at the Exploratorium. PHOTO © EXPLORATORIUM, EXPLORATORIUM.EDU

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**WINE AND FOOD WITH A VIEW**

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**CENTRAL FOR ART AND EDUCATION**

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**WINE AND FOOD WITH A VIEW**

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**CENTRAL FOR ART AND EDUCATION**

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NO-NO NURU

I did not realize how really amazing and modest you are until I read your Reynolds Rap in this month’s Marina Times. Wow . . . your expose of the depth and extent of the corruption is so straightforward and staggering — more so now that Breed and Zuniga’s closeness and self-serving work and personal relationships with Nuru are now beginning to be exposed in the mainstream media. Kudos for your once again insightful, fascinating, and resourceful reporting. Not to mention how heroic I think you are on your investigative reports of stories that others either miss or shy away from.

J. Kampfeh

How many more [are] involved? The FBI left me with the impression there’s no shortage.

@ThatCatholicMedia, via Twitter

Bigger question is who [is] not involved?

@GeorgeCipparro2, via Twitter

I had to stop and send an email to tell you much I enjoy and appreciate your columns. You are a breath of fresh air in the absolute insanity of S.F. politics that is our world now.

This is certainly not the city that I grew up in, and I am outraged by the decisions being made, the mishandling of our tax money and the disaster of our streets. This looks more like Detroit than the City by the Bay. I have despaired for quite a while of anyone speaking up who might actually be heard . . . but you give me hope that we might still be able to knock sense into the self-serving fools who are destroying our city. Or at least create enough groundswell to get them out of office. Thank you for your efforts!

J. B.

Things are as they seem then. The columnists for the S.F. Chronicle have been acting as a P.R. machine for local government. Certainly explains why Heather Knight has always hidden behind the “I am a columnist not a reporter” when she has repeated false claims by government officials.

@eyesonfairoaks, via Twitter

I’d say just leave Breed in office and watch her like a hawk. Probably less dangerous than bringing in someone new.

@robotwalksinbar via Twitter

CRIME SCENE

Reader response to a post about Gov. Gavin Newsom and homelessness.

Because our politicians could care less about doing their job, they care more about what’s in it for them above and beyond their salary which they think is much too low. So much like Mr. Clean, they are probably spending time trying to see how they can somehow benefit first.

@CharlesDonahue4 via Twitter

[Gov. Gavin Newsom is] shooting for the presidency. It’ll be interesting if in 2024 he gets the nomination, with his track record in California.

@amanda_fawkes via Twitter

CITY COLLEGE SCAM?

You really need to focus next on the City College scam! Why the citizens are being asked to fund yet more debt via Prop A when auditors recently issued a warning to their trustees that City College was at risk as a going concern. In the last two years, over $24 million went out the door; 22 percent went to President Roach and his inner circle. Even the teachers have been overpaid by close to a half a million dollars, which the trustees didn’t approve and don’t understand why.

This institution has been a financial joke for years and has sucked hundreds of millions out of the city’s budget over the years. Everyone’s got their fingers in this pork pie — consultants, 501(c)(3) organizations, politicians, and city officials. There is absolutely no way these bonds won’t end up costing the city hundreds of millions or billions over the long run.

The real sad thing is their board in general has good intentions but are deer in the headlights when it comes to understanding the situation or solutions to fix the problem. Clearly Roach has zero financial understanding of how to run a junior college other than how to line his pockets. He is a big part of the problem when three quarters of a million dollars in open purchase orders are spent per month and no one can explain why or where the money is going. Shine the spotlight on this sad situation.

Newton Kindlund

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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Retail scene rejuvenation

Several new openings will reshape the face of our shopping districts on the Northside

COMINGS & GOINGS

**Made Renovation**

Made Renovation has opened its first showroom in the Marina (2108 Chestnut Street); the showroom features vintages, fixtures, and tile representing popular styles from the company’s design catalog, and customers are invited to touch, feel, and interact with most of the materials that are part of a bathroom renovation.

After 40 years featuring Inuit sculpture, prints, jewelry, and masks, **Images of the North** art gallery (2206 Union Street) began selling online-only in February (imagesnorth.com). The long-anticipated opening of the new businesses at 3060 Fillmore Street is finally reality: the former Real Foods site now hosts the Rumble Boxing fitness studio, Michael Minial’s market and café **Indie Superette**, and the fast casual restaurant **Shake Shack** . . . **Maison Danel**, a French bakery, tea room, and café from the owners of Baker Street Bistro in Cow Hollow, has opened at 1030 Polk Street. . . And there’s no more syrup available at the former International House of Pancakes . . . and the fast casual restaurant **Shake Shack** . . . **Witter Coin** which is the new home for 60-year-old **Maison Danel**.

**Luke’s** confirms new Cow Hollow store

Cole Valley-based Luke’s Local looks set to open a new grocery in Cow Hollow. Though the company was rumored to be in discussions to fill the former Osha Thai location at 2033 Union Street, Luke’s is being tight-lipped about it. (‘Grocer eyeing Union Street,’ News Briefs, June 2019).

A spokesperson for Luke’s confirmed for the Marina Times that Luke’s is opening another store in the Cow Hollow, but would not confirm the address. An announcement is expected sometime in March.

Luke’s only other store opened at 960 Cole Street in 2016.

**UNION STREET GOES ON SPRING BREAK**

The popular Union Street Spring Festival and Easter Parade will be taking a break this year, as will the Easter egg hunt in Allyn Park. The event organizers told the Marina Times, “We will be taking the time to reorganize, restructure and revamp San Francisco’s biggest little parade in time to resurrect it for spring 2021.”

**JURY DUTY CHANGE COULD DRAW MORE PEOPLE**

Under a newly introduced bill, California jury duty would be opened up to more people than are currently in the pool of possible participants. The current system relies on registered voters and holders of drivers licenses or identification cards. SB 1001, from State Senator Scott Wiener, would expand this to include anyone who files state tax. According to Wiener’s office, the current system results in lists of jurors that “are not demographically representative, and thus the jury pool pulled from these lists tend to skew whiter, wealthier, and overall less diverse than the state actually is.”

**CRIME WATCH**

For the week of Jan. 27 through Feb. 2, there were 17 burglaries in the Northern Station district.

That brings the year-to-date total for 2020 to 73, down slightly from 76 for the same time period last year. Robberies were also down from 33 to 28.

**TACKLING QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES**

The Cow Hollow Association is looking to put together a coalition of citizens and organizations to try to address what it calls “San Francisco’s deteriorating quality of life,” citing concerns over blight, addiction, and mental health problems, homelessness, and other issues. This follows the organization’s survey of its members, which returned an overwhelming consensus that something needed to be done.

Interested residents can find out more at info@cowhollowassociation.org.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

4 percent: decline in the number of people getting married in San Francisco last year compared to the previous year. . . .

4 percent: decline in the number of young people getting married in San Francisco last year compared to the previous year. . . .

50: this year’s Pride celebration and parade will mark five decades of the event that began as Gay Freedom Day. . . .

50: this year’s Pride celebration and parade will mark five decades of the event that began as Gay Freedom Day.

$500,000: income that is below the average annual household income in Atherton . . .

100,000: number of state-owned properties, ranging from vacant lots to fairgrounds to armories and other state sites, that Gov. Gavin Newsom said would be made available to local governments, free of charge, for “homelessness solutions” . . .

$1,000: daily cost of shoplifting at a now-closed Walgreens on Market Street, according to Hoodline . . .

744: number of new homes coming to 3333 California Street as the result of legislation from Supervisor Catherine Stefani; 186 of the homes will be permanently affordable for seniors . . .

59.5: percentage of respondents to a Bospar PR survey who admit to using the term “San Fran” . . .

57.6: percentage of people in that same survey who said that the only appropriate name for the city is “San Francisco.”

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Reynolds Rap
continued from cover

it was much more recent. She also admitted to taking $5,600,000 “gift” from Nuru to fix an old car. Suddenly, every reporter in town was on it, many claiming they were long aware Breed and Nuru had dated. “It was an open secret at City Hall,” they said. But the public didn’t know, in effect allowing Breed to remain silent for years — and proving the level of connivance at City Hall extends even to the reporters who cover it.

Though it took 10 months and an FBI investigation, I’m glad to see other jour- nalists join the party, digging into the ties between Breed and Nuru, that $5,000 “gift,” and the identity of “Girlfriend 1” heard in Nuru’s wiretapped phone calls (likely Nuru’s most recent squeeze, the aforementioned Zuniga). Now in the FBI’s capable hands, these stories are old news — and only a tiny chimp of the giant iceberg. I’ve been writing about since my September 2014 column “It’s still Willie Brown town.” The subtitle, “Personal politics run amuck at City Hall” for decades, the current state of dirty politics in San Francisco, where the titillating stuff always leads to something even more nefarious.

PASS THE TEQUILA AND THE CHEETOS

Not only has Willie Breed played a role in picking every mayor since he left it, he has called on personal favors to get proteges and pals into lucrative city positions and contracts. The late Mayor Ed Lee and the now disgraced Nuru are just two of the cronies he helped up the ladder. Take, for example, Harlan Kelly Jr., head of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Brown officiated his wedding, and Mayor Lee — a passive bureaucrat who must take on the task, not only to save this once-great metropolis, but to save her legacy.

District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen feigned shock over Breed’s admissions of romance and gifts from Nuru and imme- diately called for her resignation. Ronen spent six years as an aide to Supervisor David Campos before succeeding him in 2016, so I fail to believe she wasn’t aware of the “open secret.” But I’m not interested in being seen as the reporter — or will she be remembered as just another San Francisco mayor who ignored corruption and pandered to cronies in will she be remembered as the mayor who bravely cleaned house and cleaned up City Hall? Let’s hope this time she makes the right choice.

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com
The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) manages the city’s transportation system. Our budget reflects the priorities of our agency and includes potential Muni fare and service changes. We want to know what matters most to you. Here’s how you can share your ideas and priorities:

**OPEN HOUSE**

March 11 4:00-7:00 PM
(arrive anytime!)

1 South Van Ness Ave.,
2nd floor Atrium

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

March 17 & April 7 at 1:00 PM

City Hall, Room 400
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

**CONVERSATION WITH JEFF TUMLIN, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION**

April 2 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
(connect anytime!)

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Tweet us your questions by mentioning them with our Twitter handle, @sfmtn_muni, and include the hashtag #SFMTAbudget. If you can’t attend the meetings, you can e-mail comments to sfmtabudget@sfmtn.com.

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The biker, the spitter, the booster, and the bad roommate

The latest crimes in the City by the Bay

**THE CASE OF THE VEHICLE CASER**

Jan. 6, 1:50 p.m.
Franklin Street and Golden Gate Avenue

Officers on patrol observed a suspect walking and appearing to case vehicles. When they heard glass shatter, they saw the suspect pop his head up from the broken window; he got on his bicycle and fled the scene. The officers pursued him in their patrol vehicle and then got out to pursue him on foot. After losing him in a parking garage, they notified other officers of the suspect. The next day, officers in the area of Golden Gate Ave. and Gough Street saw the suspect crouched behind several bags on the sidewalk. They placed him under arrest without incident.

**BRICKED**

Jan. 9, 12:59 p.m.
Location not provided

A victim told officers that he had seen the suspect walking around, knocking over various garbage cans. The victim told the subject to leave the area, and the suspect responded by first throwing a handful of leaves at the victim. He then walked over to a tree and attempted to pick up a brick to no avail; he settled for a rock, which he threw at the victim, striking him in the arm. The victim approached the subject but backed away when the subject put his hand in his pocket to simulate a handgun. The subject fled the scene.

Officers responding to a call of an aggravated assault located the subject nearby and noticed that he was vandalizing a building. They approached him and ordered him to drop everything in his hands; he did not comply, so officers removed the items from his hands and placed him in handcuffs. They conducted a pat search and found narcotics paraphernalia. After he was positively identified by the victim, he was placed under arrest. While sitting in the patrol vehicle, he began to scream, and then spat at the officers who leaned toward him.

**WINDOW SHOPPING**

Jan. 31, 4:14 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts

A surveillance action against auto boosters resulted in the apprehension of at least one suspect recently: A vehicle that had been connected to an auto break-in in Japantown was spotted later that day by plainclothes officers around the Palace of Fine Arts. The officers followed the vehicle and witnessed suspects in the vehicle casing numerous other autos. Eventually the suspect vehicle parked near another vehicle, suspects exited their vehicle, and the officers heard glass shatter. The police officers then moved in and approached the suspects, ordering them to get on the ground. They managed to grab one subject by the wrist and struggled with him, successfully placing him in handcuffs.

The other suspects got back into their vehicle and fled the scene.

**NEW ROOMMATE WANTED**

Feb. 2, 6:24 a.m.
Location not provided

A physical dispute between roommates led to the arrival of police officers one morning. It began when one roommate entered a bedroom and told the subject to be quiet, then closed the door and walked away. The subject punched a hole through the door and threatened the victim with a knife. The subject then threatened another victim who was preparing to leave and punched him in the face. That victim left the scene.

The subject then went to another roommate, entering his bedroom and approaching him while he was asleep. The subject put a knife to the victim’s neck and demanded his cell phone; the victim complied and the subject left the building.

Officers were able to identify the subject with his I.D. card that he had left behind, as well as from a mug shot. Other officers familiar with the subject were able to provide information on his frequent hangouts. He was located in the Mission District and arrested.

**BRIEFLY NOTED**

Feb. 16, 11:59 p.m., 400 block of Geary Street: Someone entered a hotel room through the window and stole a duffle bag. The duffle bag was later located on the fire escape.

Feb. 20, 7:20 a.m., 600 block of Broadway Street: A suspect was seen inside a closed cafe accessing the safe. More than $10,000 in cash was stolen.

Feb. 17, 11:02 p.m., Valelho at Sansome Streets: A woman took a photo of suspects she witnessed breaking into a vehicle. The suspects then attacked her. One suspect slammed her to the ground in an attempt to take her purse and dragged the victim into the street. A second suspect took her phone.

Feb. 15, 11:27 p.m., unit block of New Montgomery Street: The suspect entered a store and began throwing candy at the store’s customers. The suspect then threw a chair at a victim.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com
From the District 2 Supervisor | Updates

Taking stock

Even in challenging times, progress is being made

BY SUPERVISOR CATHERINE STEFANI

From tackling congestion at one of our major tourist hotspots, to preparing for the next major disaster, to creating a beautiful new open space for families, we’re addressing some of San Francisco’s greatest needs right here at the neighborhood level.

Given the challenges our city faces, it’s easy to lose sight of our progress. But in spite of those who say that the politics make solving our challenges too hard to even attempt, we must remember we can achieve great things when we work together as a community. That’s why, in this month’s column, I’d like to highlight the progress we’re making together.

LOMBARD STREET

On Monday, March 16, we’re launching the Lombard Street Site Management Plan to provide much needed relief to the Crooked Street. Ballooning tourism at the site over the past two decades has led to increased congestion and, unfortunately, property crime targeting both tourists and residents. Although our community was dealt a big setback in October with the veto of AB 1605, which would have allowed for the creation of a pricing and reservation system for the Crooked Street, we were undeterred.

Our new plan, which I funded in the most recent city budget, will provide increased staffing, training, and coordination to the street — all without requiring state approval.

Beginning this month, we’re adding mobile staff to the eastern and western halves of the street, where crowd control, auto burglary, and quality-of-life concerns are most acute. In addition, we’re placing stationary staff on Hyde and Leavenworth Streets to usher visitors out of areas unsafe for enjoying our iconic views and taking photographs. And, in response to heightened calls for service during long weekends, staffing is set to double around Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

I’ve worked for years with community stakeholders to address ongoing issues and develop the new plan, and we’re all looking forward to alleviating the growing stress on this neighborhood.

RESILIENCY

On a broader scale, one of my top priorities is to make sure that our community remains a safe place to live, from raising a family to retirement, so — on the 30th anniversary of Loma Prieta — I announced my Resilient District 2 initiative.

The images and videos from Australia’s wildfires shocked us all, and large earthquakes in Puerto Rico have reminded us how important it is for San Francisco to be prepared for the next major natural disaster, whether that’s a wildfire, an earthquake, or even a PG&E power shut-off. That’s why I’ve been working with the Neighborhood Empowerment Network to make sure that all of District 2 — from the Marina to Cathedral Hill, Russian Hill to Seward — is ready.

I have always believed that the best way to achieve change is to work with the community. Since last fall, I’ve been convening groups of neighbors, community-serving organizations, and subject-matter experts to build cohesion and resilience in our neighborhoods. The most resilient communities are places where people know and care about their neighbors, and I know our early investments will pay dividends in the next disaster.

FRANCISCO PARK

Finally, after more than a decade of work, I’m thrilled that later this year we will celebrate the opening of the brand-new Francisco Park on the site of the former Francisco Reservoir.

The reservoir was constructed in 1859 to serve San Francisco’s growing population in the wake of the Gold Rush. Nearly two centuries later, we’re experiencing another population boom, and it has never been more important to invest in our public open spaces.

In 2008, as a legislative aide to former Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, I wrote a resolution preserving the former Francisco Reservoir property for public recreation and open space. Over the following 11 years, and with the leadership of former Mayor Mark Farrell, our community pulled together and raised over $20 million to fund the park, and we finally broke ground in 2019.

When Francisco Park opens later this year, we will have transformed nearly five acres of unutilized space into a beautiful neighborhood amenity for all to enjoy, in one of the most densely populated parts of San Francisco. I’m so excited about what we’ve accomplished together, and I can’t wait to bring my kids to Francisco Park!

SOLUTIONS

All of this is not to suggest that we don’t face incredible challenges when it comes to property crime, homelessness, drug abuse, and the skyrocketing cost of living. We do, and facing these challenges requires our intense cooperation. I remain laser-focused on the fact that our criminal justice system is in disarray, the fact that our Police Department is under-staffed, and the fact that we all deserve better.

But we must also be sure to take stock of our progress, the power of community, and the achievements we have realized by working together. By ignoring the negativity and divisiveness at City Hall and insisting on change necessary to live in a city we can all be proud of, there’s nothing we can’t accomplish when we work together.

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Marination continued from cover

It’s probably easier to explain Harry Potter to someone than to detail the ins and outs and who’s who of City Hall. Given this complexity, it’s easy to see why people opt to give their undivided attention elsewhere. More residents can likely name every past and present Democratic candidate for president (including Tim Ryan) before they can name their supervisor.

It’s not that residents don’t care about the state of the city — everyone is fired up about something within the city’s authority to change, from parking to public safety; it’s just that residents don’t feel they can change anything.

In a city as complex as the wizarding world, residents find it simpler to sit on the sidelines. Finding out when, where, and how to get involved in city affairs presents search costs that stop people from even considering applying to a board or commission or showing up at a Board of Supervisors meeting. That’s why more city meetings and engagement opportunities should occur on a rotating basis in different districts. There are few substantive reasons why Board of Supervisors meetings could not alternate their meeting location and alter their starting time to give working individuals a real shot at making their voices heard. In the same way, city initiatives could solicit much more feedback by hosting joint community sessions that make it easier for residents to interact with a wide range of city actors and agencies at once. These are small logistical changes that could make a huge difference for people right on the edge of participation.

THE GOAL

Navigating City Hall should not feel like getting through a magical maze with ever-changing hoops and hurdles. Officials should recognize that their job isn’t to reinforce their own power but to devise new ways to share it with residents. By lowering barriers and increasing participation, city government can become more than just something people complain about.

Marina empowers residents to crowdsource ideas to improve the city on the digital Decide Madrid platform.

For example, Marina empowers residents to crowdsourc ideas to improve the city on the digital Decide Madrid platform. Once a certain number of residents have backed a specific idea, it goes to the government for consideration. The same process is used to provide residents with a greater say over the allocation of tax dollars. The Governance Lab at New York University refers to these sorts of platforms as CrowdLaw, “the practice of using technology to tap the intelligence and expertise of the public in order to improve the quality of lawmaking.”

For a domestic example, look to Utah, where Politicopia provides residents with a wiki-based source of information on bills before the state legislature as well as a way to directly provide feedback for their legislators to consider.

These tools don’t have to be fancy, just functional. If they can cut the time it takes to understand an issue and get involved in its resolution, then it’s a step forward from the status quo. It’s true that these tools come with costs, but the benefits of having an engaged public are far more important. For the many San Franciscans who like to complain about their tax bills, the chance to get meaningfully involved in the city will help them realize that taxes aren’t penalities but investment in the city they call home.

THE PEOPLE’S FORUM

The city should also follow the lead of communities around the world in more proactively soliciting resident feedback.

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Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com. Follow Kevin Frazier on Twitter @KevinTFrazier

OUR CULTURE

BY JOE DWORETZKY

My Personal Data

Minus the Data I Shared With My Apps

Minus the Data I Gave My Services, Engines

Minus the Data I Gave Away by Sharing

Minus the Data I Gave Access

Minus the Data I Shared on Line Queues

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salitoscrabhouse.com
Know where your food comes from

The Butcher Shop and Niku Steakhouse

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

For years as a food writer I’ve stressed the importance of knowing where your food comes from, particularly meat. In today’s world, where many deadly viruses are traced to poor treatment of animals, I believe it’s still the most important thing to know when you buy meat or eat it in a restaurant. Nowhere is this knowledge clearer than at The Butcher Shop by Niku and at Niku Steakhouse next door.

Guy Crims, head butcher at The Butcher Shop, is a whirlwind of brilliance and passion when it comes to his craft and his product. He started working as a butcher at 14 and never looked back. Like a museum curator, Crims lines the sparkling glass case with stunningly white marbled Japanese A5 Wagyu beef, the finest in the world. The Butcher Shop, he proudly explains, is the exclusive retailer of A5 Wagyu from Oto Farms in Central Japan and the only certified Kobe retailer in San Francisco.

Most people know Japanese A5 Wagyu as Kobe beef, but while all Kobe beef is Wagyu, not all Wagyu is Kobe. Like French wine, Japanese produces beef by region, or prefecture. Kobe was known as Tajima in ancient times (some still refer to it as Tajima beef) and the cattle are descendants of “kuoge Waygu,” or black-haired Japanese cattle.

SOMMELIER OF PROTEIN

As a butcher, it’s important that customers not only be able to learn the lineage of the A5 Wagyu beef from multiple prefectures in Japan (each of the calf can be traced from birth) but also to feel comfortable asking questions about cooking techniques and cuts (standard cuts are available daily, but aficionados can request custom thickness or quantity). Along with A5, dry-aged domestic USDA Prime beef and Reserve grade Imperial Wagyu beef from Nebraska, domestic Heritage Kurobuta pork from Iowa, and lamb sourced from a fourth-generation Basque farm, Superior Lamb Company, are also available for purchase.

In the butchery, you’ll find Crims’s personal copy of Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle, which he read in 1994 (“It had a profound effect on me”) alongside Clean Meat. His father was a biker and his mother a hippie, which Crims says helped form his sensibilities. He and his apprentices use every part of the animal and keep a Shinto shrine in front of the meat, just as they do at each processing facility in Japan. “It’s about love, respect, and care,” Crims says. Last year The Butcher Shop did seven of the 200 metric tons of Wagyu brought to the United States. They had the first and only bone-in Wagyu product in the Western Hemisphere.

Crims is so serious about wagyu that he has a tattoo of the A5 symbol. He also sent his apprentices to learn butchery in Japan, and entrusts their creativity and vision when doing intimate “invite only” dinners at the shop.

Try it all at Niku Steakhouse

If you’re not lucky enough to score one of those invites, check out dinner at Niku Steakhouse. You’ll find meat from The Butcher Shop cooked to perfection by young chefs, under the tutelage of executive chef Dustin Falcon, who are just as passionate about wagyu as the butchers next door.

Sit at the counter in front of the grilling station and watch the care that goes into every dish. We started with briny Miyagi oysters nestled in Asian pear, horseradish “pearls” and crème fraîche; salmon tartare “tom kha” served with rice toasted and blackened with squid ink and dehydrated into thin crisps; and A5 and imperial wagyu meatballs beside a bowl with sesame seeds and an egg yolk floating in a toro soy dipping sauce.

The showstoppers are the imperial wagyu tomahawk (a Flintstone-sized bone that takes 45 minutes to cook) and the 38-ounce bone-in, dry-aged rib eye — slices of glistening ruby-hued beef encased in a caramelized crust that melts in your mouth. But for the true wagyu experience, order the A5 flight: six medium rare, two-ounce lollipops, the ideal pair with the mind-blowing meal.

Wagu flight at Niku Steakhouse. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

Marina Times / March 2020

CELEBRATE WITH CONFIDENCE

Share some memorable moments over Boho’s delicious and artfully plated dishes with your special guests: your loved one, your dad, your mom, your sis or your friend!

Dinner: Weekend Brunch (with bottomless mimosa $18), Private Events, Group Parties, Private Room, Take Out. Catering and HAPPY HOUR!

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E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com. Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes
The Wonderful World of Wine
Women in wine: Jamie Benziger of Imagery Estate Winery
BY KENNETH MAJER

If the name sounds familiar, it should. Jamie Benziger hails from the esteemed Benziger Family Winery, notable for its biodynamic, organic, and sustainable farming practices in addition to its award-winning wines. Growing up in the family business, Jamie Benziger leapfrogged from the tutelage of her wine-maker father, Joe Benziger, and became the winemaker of Imagery Estate Winery.

Before taking over the top winemaking job at Imagery, Jamie Benziger and Joe Benziger created 35 different wines, from Malbec to Muscat. Imagery has now received numerous awards praising their unique portfolio of wines. Jamie Benziger was featured recently in Wine Enthusiast as one of the Top 40 under 40 Tastemakers of 2019. The annual list represents some of the best talent in the country working to push the boundaries of what’s possible in winemaking. This is just one of the achievements we can look forward to in her remarkable young career.

GROWING UP

Energy-filled as a youngster, when Jamie Benziger wasn’t playing soccer, she was riding her pony. She always knew she wanted to join the family wine business, and as a kid she worked selling tour tickets at the Benziger Family Winery in Glen Ellen. She studied marketing at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, but longed to be back in the Wine Country, and completed her wine industry studies at Sonoma State University. After interning at Gundlach Bundschu and learning more about the chemistry of wine at St. Francis and Bogle, she worked harvest in Villa Maria in New Zealand. From there it was back to the family business in Sonoma County and working side by side with her dad.

MAKING HER MARK

As the winemaker at Imagery, Jamie Benziger is clearly not sitting on family laurels. She recently launched Imagery California, a “New Collection for the Next Generation” carrying on the Imagery tradition of going beyond the normal conceptions of what makes a high-quality wine experience. Her vision for crafting these new wines is to “add a little twist” and create something a little different from the expected. Each of the new Imagery California wines takes a traditional varietal and adds something a little out of the ordinary, like Sauvignon Blanc with a hint of Muscat.

Her approach complements the artistic legacy of Imagery: like a painting that seizes the imagination with a quirk that captures the eye. (The original artwork for the Imagery labels by the many international artists who have created them are displayed in the tasting room’s gallery.) The legacy of artistry is not only the creative imagination reflected in the artwork, it’s also reflected in the artistry of the wine in the bottle.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS

Jamie is as interested in helping other young wine professionals as she is in advancing her own career. Once asked how she would counsel women who want to enter the wine world, she offered this advice: “In the wine world, it is important to always work hard and keep driven, especially as a woman. Even though I came from a well-known wine family, it was very important for me … that I deserved any position I held and that I was the best person for that job … I did not want anything handed to me. It was essential that I worked hard and earned it.”

Spoken like a real professional who understands that the core values of work and dedication are the keys to success in any endeavor. What a treat to know that young pros like Jamie go beyond their personal desires to serve as models to those who wish to follow.

Nothing more needs to be said about this remarkable young woman winemaker. Just try her wines.

Imagery Estate Winery: Monday–Friday 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., 14335 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen, 877-550-4278

Kenneth Majer is a consultant to the wine industry. Email: ken@kenmajer.com
obession with Victorian culture has made him an expert at the extremely difficult chemical photographic process known as wet collodion. In 1851, the process was respected for the level of detail captured in the final photo. One side of a glass plate is coated with ether, grain alcohol and nitrate cellulose, to which point the plate is dipped in silver nitrate. Exposed to light, the image must be developed and fixed immediately after making the exposure. A later alteration to the process in which a undersized negative backed with black paper or fabric — an abrotype — became popular, the same process backed with lacquered metal, known as a tintype.

THE PAST AS PRESENT

Berkman, who has worked with the wet collodion process since 1997, has also been working on the Zohar Studio project for more than 20 years. "I appreciate the visual code of the nineteenth century, the formality of it, the way things looked, and the mix between art and science," says Berkman. "What intrigues me is getting inside the minds of people from another time and feeling that their time, what we now consider the past, was at one time contemporary. We are both the beneficiaries and victims of history."

This exhibition presents more than 30 intriguing photographs addressing both Jewish and secular life and the state of scientific understanding over 150 years ago. Richly hued and dynamic in their precision and execution, the photos characterize a range of dreamers, eccentrics, and malcontents embellishing upon the conventions of 19th-century studio photography. The titles of the work, steeped in ambiguity, create the idea of a broader story and mystery. A Wandering Jewess depicts a stern-faced woman carrying an umbrella, sitting on a chair strapped to the back of a man embarking on a journey down a winding road toward what looks to be an active volcano. Conjoined Twins shows identical twins linked only by a shared handlebar mustache stretching between them.

The Absent-minded Soothsayer squints with one eye looking forward, and as a soothsayer, possibly into the future. We are left to wonder why he is absent minded as he clutches a bugle and points a finger heavenward. In a lush jungle setting, The Songbird and the Sharpshooter has in its center a hirsute hunter staring into the middle distance, a bird perched on his index finger. The grandiose background and costuming hearkens back to a time when a photographic portrait was an event in which the setting and presentation was meticulously orchestrated in advance.

The Best of Books

The Marina Books Inc. best-seller list

COMPiled by BRIAN PETTUS

1. Ageless Painless: Ten Days to Get Yourself from Pain, Injuries, and Limitations and Unlock Your Athletic Potential, by David Sarbach Smith (paperback)
2. Little Fires Everywhere: A Novel, by Celeste Ng (hardcover)
3. Metropolitan Stories: A Novel, by Christine Coussoul (hardcover)
4. American Dirt: A Novel, by Jeanine Cummins (hardcover)
5. North Water, by Ian McEwan (paperback)
6. Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari (paperback)
7. Our House Is on Fire: Scenes of a Family and a Planet in Crisis, by Greta Thunberg (hardcover)
8. The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir, by John Bolton (March 17). John Bolton served as National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump for 319 days. A seasoned public servant who had previously worked for former President Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush, Bolton brought to the administration 30 years of experience in international issues, and a reputation for tough, blunt talk. In his memoir, he offers a substantive and factual account of his time in the room where it happened.
9. Bring Up the Bodies, by Hilary Mantel (March 10). Mantel brings to a triumphant close the trilogy she began with her Booker Prize-winning novel Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies. This is the story of Thomas Cromwell, the boy from nowhere who climbs to the heights of power, offering a portrait of predator and prey, of a contest between present and past, between royal will and a common man’s vision of a modern nation making itself through conflict, passion, and courage.
10. Maggie Murders: A Novel, by Anthony Horowitz (paperback)

MARCH NEW RELEASES

Writers and Lovers: A Novel, by John Bolton (March 3). Casey, a former child golf prodigy, now waits tables in the last days of a long youth, at a time when every element of her life comes to a crisis. Written with King’s trademark humor, heart, and intelligence, this transfixing novel explores the terrifying and exhilarating leap between the end of one phase of life and the beginning of another.

The Mirror and the Light, by Hilary Mantel (March 10). Mantel brings to a triumphant close the trilogy she began with her Booker Prize-winning novel Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies. This is the story of Thomas Cromwell, the boy from nowhere who climbs to the heights of power, offering a portrait of predator and prey, of a contest between present and past, between royal will and a common man’s vision of a modern nation making itself through conflict, passion, and courage.

The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir, by John Bolton (March 17). John Bolton served as National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump for 319 days. A seasoned public servant who had previously worked for former President Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush, Bolton brought to the administration 30 years of experience in international issues, and a reputation for tough, blunt talk. In his memoir, he offers a substantive and factual account of his time in the room where it happened.

Our House Is on Fire: Scenes of a Family and a Planet in Crisis, by Greta Thunberg (March 17). When climate activist Greta Thunberg was 11, her family was facing a crisis in their own home. Thunberg had stopped eating and speaking, and her parents had reconfigured their lives to care for her. Desperate and searching for answers, her parents discovered what was at the heart of Thunberg’s distress: her imperiled future on a rapidly heating planet. Written by a remarkable family and told through the voice of an iconic mother, Our House Is on Fire is the story of how they fought their problems at home by taking global action. And it is the story of how Greta decided to go on strike from school, igniting a worldwide rebellion.

Brian Pettus is the manager of Books Inc. in the Marina (2251 Chestnut Street, 415-931-3633, bookstore@marinabooks.com).
I continued

I lost touch with everyone in my life because Flix, have distracted me with high-value productions, and include free admission to all members; memberships are $45 (regular daytime admission is $10). Memberships are $20 ($15 for regular daytime admission). Advance tickets average $15 and include free admission to all Thursday night events, special events, and tours. Members receive a discount at the museum store for one year. For more information, visit exploratorium.edu.

A CULTURAL FEAST

From January through September, and every Thursday until 9 p.m. at the Asian Art Museum offering an eclectic array of events, including dance performances, author readings, cooking demonstrations and tastings with local chefs, film screenings, and live music. Your $10 ticket includes access to the museum’s collections (special exhibitions are an additional $10).

On Thursday, March 12, celebrate the visit of Asan Hoss and Mehdi Parnia of Oyna Natural Foods. Arrive at 6:30 to enjoy tea and sweets. Music, including a store closing, will round out the evening.

Sunday at the Museum — the newly renovated cafe offers happy hour (4–6 p.m.) and dinner (4–8 p.m.) on Thursdays. For more information, visit asiart.org.

ROCK YOUR INNER SCIENCE GEEK

Over at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, you can visit NightLife from 6–9:30 p.m. on Thursdays and enjoy seasonal craft cocktails from multiple bars throughout the museum and noshes from the Academy Food Cart in the front lobby accompanied by live music. Each Thursday has a different theme — on March 5, NightLife celebrates International Women’s Day, honoring women in science. All science exhibitions are on view, including free admission to the Morrison Planetarium (passes required and tend to sell out) and the Rainforest Dome. Advance tickets average $15 and admission to programs and lectures is first-come, first-served. For a casual dinner, the Academy Cafe, featuring local, seasonal, and sustainable fare, is open during NightLife. For additional information, visit calacademy.org.

LATE HOURS FOR ART

If you’re south of Market, check out the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art’s late hours on Thursdays — until 9 p.m. — providing a chance to linger in the museum’s spacious galleries or to check out a new exhibition; films are often shown on Thursday evenings and private, guided tours are available. Michelin-starred In Situ with star chef Corey Lee at the helm offers a unique dining experience in a spare, minimalist space with a gourmet menu, a welcome respite from a hectic day. General admission is $25, exclusive of special exhibitions. Visit sfmoma.org for additional information.

Why wait for the weekend to plan a night on the town in the city by the bay? Email: julie@marinatimes.com

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

I can’t wait for the upcoming seasons of those other thrillers: Dark — the ultra-complex, time-bending sci-fi drama,pri...
### MARCH EVENTS NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

#### MAJOR EVENTS

**S.F. Ballet: A Midsummer Night’s Dream**
Various days, March 6–15
S.F. Ballet (War Memorial Opera House)
George Balanchine’s first full-length ballet, this Shakespearean favorite returns triumphantly to San Francisco after a nearly 30-year absence and features music by Felix Mendelssohn. $35–$199, 415-866-2000, sfballet.org

**American Tulip Day**
Saturday, March 7, 1–4:30 p.m.
Union Square
The public is invited to enjoy over 100,000 tulips on Saturday and Sunday along San Francisco’s own Very Own Tulip Trail. Free, flowerboulevard.com

**169th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade & Festival**
Saturday, March 14
Presidio Market (at 2nd to Grove St., 11: 30 a.m.
Festival: Civic Center, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Join the yearly festivities and enjoy an entire day of Irish culture and activities. Free, stpatricksday.sf

**14th Annual S.F. International Chocolate Salon**
Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
S.F. County Fair Building
Indulge in chocolate confections from dozens of local chocolatiers, attend demonstrations and presentations, chef and author talks, and more. $20–$30, 415-345-7575, sfochocolatopia.com

**26th Annual Red Cross Gala**
Saturday, March 21, 5:45 p.m.–midnight
City Hall
Enjoyed to recognizing local heroes and supporting the Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies, this event offers a new theme: inspirational exceptions, three-course dinner, live auction, entertainment, and an after-party. $135 up, redcross.org

**Legacy Benefit for La Cocina**
Saturday, March 28, 6–10 p.m.
Swig Suita, Fairmont S.F. (950 Mason St.)
Join SprouterS of S.F. in this elegant affair featuring wine tasting, an open bar, appetizers, silent auction, and more. $200 up, sproutersofsfo.com

**8th Annual Macys Flower Show**
Daily, March 22–April 10, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Macy’s Union Square
For this year’s theme, the show at Union Square A Sea of Imagination, visitors will embark on an exciting vision of the ocean, discovering long-forgotten treasures and aquatic beauty along the way. Visit website for details. Free, 415-397-3333, socialmedia.macy’s.com/flowershow/

**Sunday Streets: Mission**
Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Valencia St. (Duboce to 26th)
Come celebrate the kickoff of the 2020 season and experience the fun and free street festival to get you out and active in our diverse neighborhoods. Free, sundaystreets.sf

**Music: Classical**

**Beat250Von Anniversary Festival**
Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.
Old Dias (1751 Sacramento St.)
Enjoy a special three-hour concert evocative of gatherings from Beacheto’s time with members from piano trios and ensembles, as well as short instrumental works performed by some of the Bay Area’s leading performers, followed by a Brats and Biergarten reception. $25, 415-474-1468, olddiasconcerts.com

**Telegraph Quartet**
Tuesday, March 17, noon
San Francisco (California St.)
The quartet joins with soprano Abigail Fischer to present a program of masterworks by German composer Robert Schott’s Contrastarps for Soprano and String Quartet with Libretto by Stefan Carlucker. Free, telegraphquartet

**DANCE**

**Huma(Nature)**
Friday, March 6–Saturday, March 14–12 Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St.)
This dance, theater, and circus production will celebrate the diversity and vulnerability of our relationship to nature, our dominion over it, our influence upon it, our reliance on its systems, and our place in it. A dance project in collaboration with designer and equalists, transsexuals and queer artists, us. Free, 415-850-4441, dancemissionsf.org

**Drupadi**
Sat., March 14–15
Various Bay Area venues
This woman-centered retelling of the Mahakalārata’s central arc is presented in cinema and staged. In Drupadi, tells her own story — the men’s world of the epic through the eyes of a powerful woman, who takes all five Pandavas through trials of fire and water, and equals, transcends unpalatable implications at the hands of the gods and the virtues of the goddesses to the devastation of catastrophic war. $30 & $100, 415-392-4400, picotheatre.org

**QDC: Dance Downtown**
Thu.–Sun., March 26–29
YBCA Theater (700 Howard St.)
The program features Grassland, by Brenda Way, and a nod to nature’s diversity, where beauty is found in both variety and oddities set to a score by Marcelo Zarvos and Soap and fetch building that became a dance company, and a community, set to go by Joan Cloud. $40–$80, 415-798-2787, qdcdance.org

**NIGHTLIFE**

**Jim Briskman**
Fri.–Sat., March 6–7
Feinstein’s at the Nikko (222 Mason St.)
Don’t miss this hit-making singer-songwriter, best-selling solo pianist, and multiple winner award his 25th Anniversary “Greatest Hits” tour. $50 & $103-1800, Feinsteinssf.com

**Ásgeir**
Monday, March 9, 8 p.m.
Great American Music Hall (859 O’Farrell St.)
This one-man fusión of theatrical comedy based on the best-selling book of the 1990s! This one is a musical journey of the life of one of the most important people in the world, the power of the innocent mind. The band composed of voices and the power that happens when women work together. $35–$125, 415-677-9595, sfplayhouse.com

**Broadway S.F.: Men Are From Mars; Women Are From Venus**
Fri.–Sat., March 17–April 25
Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)
Set in a tiny factory in East L.A., five full-figure factory employees work to deliver a company order amid the threat of deportation in this microcosm of the Latina immigrant experience that celebrates real women’s books, the power of the innocent mind. $35–$125, 415-677-9595, sfplayhouse.com

**BROADWAY: COMING TO SAN FRANCISCO**

**The Fab Four: Ultimate Beatles Tribute**
Saturday, March 7, 8 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
The Emmy Award-winning Fab Four has amazed audiences around the world and is elevated above every other Beatles Tribute due to their precise attention to detail including the costumes changes representing every era of the Beatles ever-changing career. $45–$65, 800-663-8000, palaceoffinearts.org

**An Evening with Bernadette Peters**
Friday, March 7, 8 p.m.
Davies Symphony Hall
One of Broadway’s brightest stars presents an evening of music from her Broadway shows and Grammy award-winning albums with standards from Show Boat, and Hamlet, Stephen Sondheim, and many more. $32–$129, 415-864-6000, sf symphony.org

**MUSIC: CONTEMPORARY**

**The Real Irish Comedy Fest**
Wednesday, March 11, 8 p.m.
The Independent (628 Divisadero St.)
The Real Irish Comedy Fest with Ireland’s finest comedians and a score of other personalities welcome Ireland’s songwriter- The Real Irish Comedy Fest with Ireland’s finest comedians and a score of other personalities welcome Ireland’s songwriter- Ásgeir approaches emotional expression/uni00A0with Ásgeir/uni00A0on his 25th Anniversary “Greatest Hits” tour. $50 & $103-1800, Feinsteinssf.com

**Frances Cone**
Monday, March 25, 8 p.m.
The Independent (628 Divisadero St.)
The band will perform from their new album, Late River. The evening will also feature the nod to nature’s diversity, where beauty is found in both variety and oddities set to a score by Marcelo Zarvos and Soap and fetch building that became a dance company, and a communit...
Films & Lectures

Suffrage 100: A centennial celebration — Women’s Right to Vote: How the West Was Won Thursday, March 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Mariners’ Institute (57 Pier St.) Journalist and award-winning author Elaine Elinson, who has written extensively about women’s suffrage, will be in conversation with Professor Jennifer Helton, whose scholarship includes a broad history of the Suffrage Movement. $15, eventbrite.com

17th Annual International Ocean Film Festival Daily, March 12–15 Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, Roxie Theater, and San Rafael Film Center View all things aquatic in the film fest and be inspired to become a better ocean steward to help to protect our oceans. $25–$80, 415-567-6251, oceanfilmfest.org

Robert Reich Monday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. Sidney Goldstein Theater (275 Hayes St.) The former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration, Reich has written 15 books, in The System, he shows how wealth and power have interacted to install an elite oligarchy, eviscerate the middle class, and undermine democracy; in conversation with Astra Taylor. $29 & $45, 415-392-4400, cityarts.net

Science & Environment

33rd Annual Pi Day Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Exploratorium Enjoy pi-themed activities to honor the never-ending number 3.14159 ... including a procession ending number 3.14159 ... including a procession on learning of basic basket making techniques. Free, 415-923-3159, cnf.org

How Many People Can Earth Support? Tuesday, March 24, 6 p.m. Commonwealth Club (130 The Embarcadero) What if the Earth’s carrying capacity is limited to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down to three billion humans and humanity’s century-long binge has caused an unsustainable ecological debt that must be paid down. Join this evening slow vinyasa-style sensory experience to move your body, soothe your eyes with stunning views, and experience sonic sounds and dope beats. $26 & $30, eventbrite.com

Potates & Edibles

St. Patrick’s Day Tuesday, March 17, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sur la Table (2224 Union St.) Forget green beer — celebrate with an Irish-inspired feast. Irish cheddar and spring onion soda bread and mustard and honey-gazed corned beef. You’ll get plenty of hands-on practice braising cabbage, mashing potatoes, and baking a bittersweet chocolate cake infused with Irish whiskey. $79, 800-243-0852, surlatitude.com

Just For Fun

The Great S.F. Crystal Fair Sat., March 7–8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.) This magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, jewelry, and the healing arts features over 50 vendors. $12, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

Nature & Spirit

14th Annual California Artisan Cheese Festival Fri.—Sun., March 27–29 Sonoma County Event Center (1350 Bennett Valley Rd.), Santa Rosa Experience chef demonstrations and pairings, farm tours, and more in this weekend all about cheese. $25–$130, 707-837-1928, artisancheesefestival.com

7th Annual BrewFest Saturday, March 28, 1 p.m. Sports Basement Presidio (610 Old Mason St.) Enjoy unlimited tastings from local breweries, games, music, food (for purchase) from The Grilled Cheese Guy, and more. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity Greater S.F. $10 & 15, 415-934-2909, sportsbasement.com

2nd Annual Whiskies of the World Expo Saturday, March 28, 6–9 p.m. Humbleby yacht S.F. Belle (Pier 3) Sample over 200 whiskies and meet the distillers who make them in this event featuring pairings, seminars, buffet, and more. Proceeds benefit Casa Circulo Cultural. $45, 408-223-0446, whiskeleword.com

Sports, Health & Wellness

Soulflow Yoga @ the Palace Wednesday, March 4, 6:15–9 p.m. Palace of Fine Arts Join this evening slow vinyasa-style sensory experience to move your body, soothe your eyes with stunning views, and experience sonic sounds and dope beats. $26 & $30, eventbrite.com

8th Annual Nutrition & Wellness Fair Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Loyiby, CMPC (2100 Webster St.) Celebrate National Nutrition Month and enjoy food demos, healthful recipes, local health and wellness resources, free health screenings, raffle prizes, and more. Free, 415-923-3159, cnf.org

Flow Piano Sound Bath Friday, March 27, 8–9:30 p.m. Grace Cathedral (1100 California St.) This one-of-a-kind live musical performance and meditation experience is led by award-winning composer and pianist Ravi Mehta to celebrate the Spring Equinox. Meditation experience not required; bring a yoga mat and/or something to keep you warm and comfortable. $25–$95, eventbrite.com

Child’s Play

A Tradition of Making: California Native Basketry Tues.–Sat. through August, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Randall Museum (199 Museum Way) This interactive exhibition explores the history and art of baskets and basket making by Native Californians and includes weaving stations for hands-on learning of basic basket making techniques. Free, 415-354-1620, randallmuseum.org

S.F. Sea Scouts Open House Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Aquatic Park (3500 Van Ness Ave.) Sea Scouts leadership-based sailing club invites all local youth and their families to attend a special day of sailing, rowing, free food, and knot tying. No previous boating experience required; dress warmly. Free, RSVP at seascout.org

Mark Foehringer’s Alice in Wonderland Sat.–Sun., March 21–22, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center This 50-minute dance theatre version based on the Lewis Carroll’s classic case Alice in Wonderland is set to a musical score by Camille Saint-Saëns. $21–$43, 415-345-7575, mfdpsf.org

Exploring our deeper connection with nature

125th Anniversary San Francisco California National Historic Landmark March 13–15, 20–22. Many FREE weekend events. The Great S.F. Crystal Fair Sat., March 7–8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.) This magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, jewelry, and the healing arts features over 50 vendors. $12, 415-383-7837, crystalfair.com

Free entertainment, activities and fun! GoldenGatePark150.com

CELEBRATE GOLDEN GATE PARK 150 YEARS

Join us on Community Day

Saturday, April 4, 2020

10 am–10 pm

Free entertainment, activities and fun! GoldenGatePark150.com

San Francisco History Center

National Historic Landmark

125th Anniversary


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National Historic Landmark

125th Anniversary

**LudoSport: A tough workout**

The art of lightsaber combat

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

**G**

**yms have always bored me** because I grew up as the only child of a high school sports coach who instilled a love of sports in me at a young age. I played catcher on softball teams and did Muay Thai kickboxing with a private trainer. When I developed anxiety disorder, a psychiatrist prescribed drugs that had weight gain side effects (a career in food writing didn’t help). I gave my stepfather a subscription to Nutrisystem for Christmas which we’re doing together, and as of press time I’ve lost 14 pounds. I hike regularly with my pit bulls Skylar and Blue (a combined 150 pounds of muscle), but still wanted something more intense, so when my friend Kin told me about LudoSport I was intrigued.

Founded nearly 14 years ago in Italy, LudoSport began at a party when three friends, all martial artists, started playing with model lightsabers like the ones seen in the Star Wars series. They quickly realized it could be a real sport, so after three years studying all things Star Wars, they created LudoSport in Milan. The academy now has around 40 “halls” of muscle, but more advanced students to the other side of the room.

Our instructor is Michael Christopher (left) and Michael Masangkay (right) demonstrate proper lightsaber sparring. PHOTO: SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

**Fitness First**

**A sport from a galaxy far, far away**

**FRIDAYS WITH THE SABERS**

Upon arrival, we are greeted by dean and president of the San Francisco academy, Michael Masangkay, the 2018 U.S. style champion. He also represented the United States in the International Champions Area that same year. An instructor teaching Form I and the more advanced Course V, he is an all-around athlete who has completed a 70.3 Ironman and triathlons. He takes the more advanced students to the other side of the room.

Our instructor is Michael Christopher, rector of the academy and certified in Form I and II (he represented the United States at the International Championships Arena in 2017 and 2019). He studied dance and martial arts as a teen, and that focus on body movement proved perfect for LudoSport. We start with a light warmup and then learn to turn on the lightsabers (it’s more complicated than you might imagine). Because LudoSport was founded in Italy, commands are in Italian and the techniques are called “forms” (so as not to conflict with any Star Wars copyrights). The first is “Guardia” (“guard”) — one foot slightly in front, a bit like fencing. The lightsaber handle, or hilt, is held close to the pelvis at a 45-degree angle. “This is not a sword,” Christopher says. Scoring rules, he explains, mean aiming beneath the neck, and above the knees. When he shouts, “fendente!” (“slash”) we tap our sparring partners lightly on the head. Next we learn “destra” (right) and “sinistra” (left) attack moves and how to block them. Suddenly I realize that softball and kickboxing won’t help me in LudoSport as the motions are dancelike, precise, and complex, made up of various coordinat-ed arm and leg movements as you try to strike your partners or block their attempts to strike you.

After nearly two hours, I still feel like a klutz, especially when the two Michaels engage in a combat demo of ethereal, elegant forms. At the end of class, each newbie must spar with Christopher (he’s gentle on us). The familiar sound of the lightsabers clashing (even if you’ve only seen one Star Wars film you know it) is exhilarating, and I began to see why people enjoy LudoSport. Still, I felt deflated at my lack of prowess. As the daughter of a high school sports coach, I expect to “get it” from the start. But Christopher has some soothing words of wisdom: “What you learned here today takes a year or more to master.” In other words — or better yet in the words of Yoda — “to master LudoSport, you must have your young Padawan.”

**LudoSport: Form I class Saturday 2:30-4:30 p.m., $40–$80. Studiomix SF, 1000 Van Ness Ave, 415-910-5545, usa.ludosport.net.**

E-mail: susan@marinatimes.com. Follow the Marina Times on Twitter @TheMarinaTimes and like us on Facebook @MarinaTimes
OVER THE HOLIDAYS OUR FAMILY ventured across the world for an unforgettable and life-changing experience in South Africa. We went on safari and saw so many animals up close in their natural habitat, we explored wine country, and saw all the sights in Cape Town. One of the most memorable experiences was a day in a nearby village. The villagers had to walk to get fresh water, had three-room schoolhouses, and often lived with extended family. We saw first-hand where the African proverb “it takes a village” comes from. Many parents work on the nature reserves or safari camps and spend several weeks at a time there, so child raising is done by grandparents or extended family.

At the end of our trip I took a bad fall sand boarding and had emergency surgery for a fractured collar bone. I had no idea that the impactful experience I had in the village was a sort of foreshadowing to what the next month would hold for me. I learned a lot about myself and the true meaning of it takes a village.

IT’S O.K. TO ASK FOR HELP
I came home in a considerable amount of pain, was not able to drive or do much, and needed to rest and allow my body to heal. This sounds like an easy recovery plan but with three active children, a dog, and an upcoming move, it was anything but. My husband and I went above and beyond to help and take care of me but with a busy full-time job he couldn’t do it all. I realized I enjoy helping others but have a hard time asking for help. I tend to think I can do it all and anything less is a sign of weakness. Sometimes it takes a drastic experience to make me realize there is no weakness in asking for or needing help. My village, which includes extended family, rallied around me with meals, dog walks, laundry, carpools, and help getting us packed and prepped to move. When we can’t do it on our own either physically or emotionally, it is invaluable to have a village to lean on.

ACCEPT THE HELP
Another part of having an amazing village is when that village knows what you need before you even ask. By the time we arrived home, we had meals set up several times a week for the following three weeks. We had an outpouring of help and support, and I’ll admit there came a point where I thought I couldn’t ask one more person to do something. I was tired of asking, I was tired of being needy and I just wanted to get in my car and drive to the grocery store myself.

One of my friends ran into my sister and told her she wanted to help but didn’t know how. My sister told her, “She won’t ask for help but if you show up and offer it, she won’t turn you down.” This was true. Whether it was a ride to physical therapy or help cleaning out closets for the move, I needed help because I couldn’t do any lifting or move my arm much. Friends came to help pack and take things to Goodwill. I learned to accept the help and in turn became a good delegator.

GRATITUDE
I am now more than a month out from the accident, and have been cleared to drive and have resumed a lot of normal activities. If there is one thing this experience taught me, it was gratitude. Gratitude for health, and that this was what I called a “fixable problem.” Gratitude for the countless family and friends for their help and support. I always try to look for silver linings in tough situations, and the one here was the number of friends who came to visit and help keep my spirits up — many whom I don’t often see.

I can truly say without a doubt our family would not have been able to get through January without our village. I am thankful for the African village that allowed me to see and experience how important it is to have a village, to lean on your village when you need it, and in turn to help and support others to keep the village thriving and strong. I had no idea that day how important those lessons would be in my own life, and I am grateful for the life lessons the accident has taught me. No matter whether it is a new baby, death of a family member, an injury or a major life altering event, look to your village — they are there and willing to help.

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

March Outreach 2020
Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. Call us today at (866) 401-3212 or visit our office at 617 Mission Street to learn how we can help. Information is also available online at www.sfgov.org/cdss.

GET FREE, TRUSTED HELP WITH YOUR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION! The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative provides free legal help from community immigration support providers at the San Francisco Public Library. Resources for the citizenship application fee are available onsite. Learn more at sfcitizenship.org

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020. Registration open from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. No appointment needed!

Where: City College of San Francisco, Cafeteria, 50 Frida Kahlo Way, San Francisco, CA 94112

APPLY TO BECOME A CENSUS TAKER!
Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the nationwide census. The Census Bureau is recruiting to fill important temporary positions with great pay ($30/hour) and flexible hours. Entry-level positions begin immediately. If you’re interested in joining the Spring 2020 Census Taker team, please apply online NOW at 2020census.gov/jobs.

Make a Difference, Become a Literacy Volunteer
Half of San Francisco’s 3rd and 4th graders are not reading at grade level. By volunteering to tutor through the Library’s award-winning FOG Readers program, you can help students in grades 1-4 increase their confidence and gain half a grade level within the first three months. Currently, there are more than 300 children waiting for a volunteer to help change their lives. For more information, visit sfpl.org.

March Outreach 2020
The San Francisco Public Library offers qualified applicants the opportunity to make a positive difference in citizens' daily lives and keep our community safe. We encourage you to apply today to see how you can become one of San Francisco’s Finest. To learn more, contact our Recruitment Unit at (415) 837-7270 or JoinSFPD@sfgov.org. For more information, visit SFPDCareers.com.

Join San Francisco International Airport’s expanding, world-class team. Airlines, shops, restaurants and other organizations operating at SFO now hiring 800+ professionals in security, airline customer service, food & retail, and baggage/cargo positions. Entry-level careers starting at $17/hour; the sky’s the limit for advancement opportunities—come fly with us! Visit www.flysfo.com/careers to learn more.

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
The Task Force advises the Board of Supervisors and provides information to City departments on appropriate ways in which to implement the Sunshine Ordinance; to ensure that deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people’s review. Visit https://sfbos.org/sunshine-ordinance-task-force for upcoming term expirations or vacancies.

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.
**SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEIGHBORHOOD</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS</th>
<th>SALE PRICE</th>
<th>ABOVE/BELOW ASKING PRICE</th>
<th>DAYS ON MARKET</th>
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<td>Marina</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Heights</td>
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<td>Presidio Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Cliff</td>
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**CONDOS**

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**CONDO LOSSES**

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**Realtor Op-Ed**

**By Compass**

**The Marina Times Real Estate Market Report: January 2020**

**Marina Times Real Estate Reporter**

**Industry Changes**

**Buyers and sellers? — beware**

As Zillow and others change the home-buying landscape, it is unclear who wins

**BY JOHN ZIPPERER**

**QUOTE UNQUOTE**

“This state does not have a future economically if people can’t afford to purchase houses here of any sort — a one-bedroom condo to a single-family home. This state does not have an economic future if people cannot afford to rent here. And we’re on a current path that puts us in that position. We currently are (there) in many parts — places like San Francisco, Los Angeles where I reside, and other parts of the state. And every single year, more and more so as we creep inland it becomes less affordable as well. Dramatic action has to take place.”

— Carson Bruno, policy analyst

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com. Real estate news tips? Email: john@marinatimes.com

This is not your grandparents’ real estate world anymore. **PHOTO: PAULBR75**
It’s no accident: The not-so-pretty history of our housing crisis

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

The project seemed simple enough. I set out to examine San Francisco housing — what the city envisioned in the 1970s and ’80s, what it envisions today, and what it may envision in 20 years.

Having worked in San Francisco real estate for 15 years as a marketing executive — promoting brokerages, agents, and properties — I have tracked, predicted, and written about our local real estate trends for well over a decade. And yet, as it turns out, I was completely unprepared for what I discovered.

FROM THE BEGINNING

San Francisco’s housing situation is extremely complicated. I had always heard that was the case, but until now, I had never understood why.

According to a number of sources, racism and class issues have been a big part of the city’s housing policies right from its earliest days. According to Hunter Oatman-Stanford, writing for Collectors Weekly, in 1870, during a time of rampant real-estate speculation in a boomtown renowned for its lawlessness, a new law required boarding houses to offer a minimum amount of space per tenant.

Oatman-Stanford says, “Officials claimed this would promote safer housing and improve residents’ quality of life, a noble cause for government intervention. But the law’s true purpose — to criminalize Chinese renters and landlords so their jobs and living space could be reclaimed for San Francisco’s white residents — set an ominous precedent.”

More than 100 years ago, San Francisco was one of the first cities in the nation to introduce the idea of “local control” via land use zoning.

I’ve always been a fan of zoning — on the surface it seems to make sense. For example, in the early days, zoning helped push slaughterhouses and industry well south of Market Street, away from San Francisco’s residential and business districts.

ZONED OUT

Zoning, however, is not as simple as it would appear.

“In theory, zoning was designed to protect the interests of all citizens by limiting land speculation and congestion,” Kenneth T. Jackson writes in Crabgrass Frontier. “In actuality, zoning was a device to keep poor people and obnoxious industries out of affluent areas. And in time, it also became a cudgel used by suburban areas to whack the central city.”

Jackson points out that the most strident advocates of stronger land-use restrictions lived in suburban districts on the city’s fringe, a tradition that continues to this day. “They sought minimum lot and setback requirements [regulations that drive up the cost of housing] to ensure that only members of acceptable social classes could settle in their privileged sanctuaries.”

And so it goes. Year after year, decade after decade. Redevelopment programs, some perhaps well intentioned and others deeply rooted in structural racism, are initiated and implemented and often result in the displacement of residents and significant unforeseen consequences.

Space in the city is limited, and so supply and demand will always play an important part in the price of San Francisco properties. Owners love the fact that their homes go up in value, and buyers take comfort in thinking that their investment will likewise gain value over the years.

The thing is, as we have all seen, this kind of hyper-appreciation in the price of real estate can be detrimental to communities. Workers flee for more affordable locales. Restaurants and shops close. Businesses relocate to other cities.

NOT NEAT OR CLEAN

What’s to be done?

A number of government leaders believe requiring cities and counties to change local zoning laws to allow for new, denser housing near job centers and public transportation is the answer. Yet State Senator Scott Wiener’s polarizing housing bill SB 50, which would have done just that, failed to pass in the state senate in late January.

After the vote, Senator Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, said, “Housing policy is not neat or clean.” She was referring to historic racism and class issues baked into policies. “The issue of gentrification is a core fear,” she said, adding that she was heeding her constituents’ wishes.

So what does the future hold? San Francisco’s elite and poorest residents seem (ironically) to share a dislike for potential redevelopment in their respective neighborhoods. Everyone agrees something needs to be done, just not where they live.

San Francisco is gorgeous. The neighborhoods are distinct, one from the next, each with its own special appeal. In my experience, on a micro level, every time a house is put up for sale it is revitalized and becomes even more beautiful than it was. In this way, house by house, block by block, the city is new again.

But in terms of a vision for San Francisco housing now and in the next 20 years, it appears there is no consensus, and I for one don’t have a clue as to where it’s headed.

Send feedback to letters@marinatimes.com

A desire to limit Chinese lodgers led to San Francisco’s first restrictive housing legislation. PHOTO: WATERS NICKEL SERIES, THE BANCROFT LIBRARY, UC BERKELEY
Let’s talk cannabis.

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