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Supervisor Gordon Mar opens the hearing investigating the Joint Terrorism Task Force

A Precarious Partnership: SFPD and the FBI

by Dr. Derek Kerr

In its July report, *Joint Terrorism Task Force: Balancing Public Safety with Civil Rights*¹, the Civil Grand Jury recommended that the SFPD reconsider its expired counter-terrorism partnership with the FBI. Although the Jury did not recommend for or against re-affiliating with the FBI, the Mayor, Police Chief and Police Commission responded cautiously. Not mentioned was the turd in the punch bowl – a secret FBI White Paper² acknowledging grave conflicts between SFPD policies and those of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The SFPD received the White Paper in 2017, but couldn't disclose it. Superior Court ruled it was "property of the FBI." (Case CFP-19-516706) The FBI released it to Supervisor Gordon Mar this October.

Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) are FBI-led partnerships with local police and other law enforcement agencies that address national security threats. After the events of September 11, 2001 the SFPD joined the regional JTTF in 2002. That arrangement was secretly renewed³ in 2007, adding tighter FBI controls and secrecy, without notifying the Police Commission. When its contract with the FBI expired in February 2017, the SFPD bailed out amidst mounting civil rights concerns and the turmoil of switching its Police Chiefs.

... Supervisors unanimously passed the ... transparency and accountability provisions ... In effect, the law authorized SFPD brass and City officials to oversee its FBI-driven Joint Terrorism Task Force investigations."

San Francisco Taxpayers Tapped



ACLU Lawyer John Crew

Previously, the SFPD had usually assigned 2 full-time investigators to the JTTF under the direction of the local FBI Office, and ultimately the US Attorney General. However, City taxpayers paid their salaries. These officers received Top-Secret security clearances and access to classified data. Their identities were secret. They signed non-disclosure agreements that barred information sharing without FBI approval, and underwent polygraph exams. As federal deputies, they could operate anywhere in the US. As such, they could maneuver beyond local civilian oversight and local privacy and civil rights laws. Nominally, they were expected to abide by such laws, notably SFPD's Department General Order 8.10: *Guideline for First Amendment Activities*.⁴

Supervisors Weigh In DGO 8.10 was designed in 1990 to prevent police intrusions into religious gatherings, protests, and political assemblies. In the post-9/11 era, unwarranted JTTF practices began impinging on civil rights. Alarming reports and warnings were issued by the Human Rights Commission,⁵ San Francisco Bar Association,⁶ ACLU⁷, and 79 civic groups⁸ represented by the Asian Law Caucus, Council on American Islamic Relations and the ACLU. Accordingly, in 2012 the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance⁹ to govern SFPD participation in federal counter-terrorism activities. The Ordinance enshrined within City law the gist of DGO 8.10's transparency and accountability provisions. It also mandated Police Commission approval of agreements between the SFPD and FBI. In effect, the law

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Edgehill Mountain: Here We Go Again!

by: Former Supervisor
Tony Hall

Once again, we have an ill-advised, poorly planned, and incredibly myopic proposal to build Monster homes on what is one of the last areas of open forested space in San Francisco.

Edgehill Mountain is an oasis of natural beauty located almost geographically in the center of San Francisco. It is nestled between Mt. Davidson and Forest Hill, and presents stunning panoramic views from Twin Peaks to the Pacific Ocean.

The Edgehill Mountain Open Space is a protected mountain-side created in 1985 by the City to preserve what is left of our natural habitat. There is basically one trail running across the park from Knockash to Edgehill Street. Native Monterey pines and cypress trees, spread over a mystifying labyrinth of beautiful Franciscan chert rock, frame the landscape where red-tailed hawks hunt and nest. This



Neighbors protest five monster homes on rock-slide site Photo: thebaycitybeacon.com



I did not witness any evidence put forth by proponents of the project that indicated that this proposal was anything more than the result of bad planning, very little research, no neighborhood concern, monetary greed, and worst of all, ignorance of the facts and construction history of the mountain."

unique spot of the city should be preserved for residents who enjoy the peace and charm of its setting, now and in the future. Originally part of Adolph Sutro's San Miguel Ranch, the

Cont. p. 2

Proposed Laguna Honda Housing Ignores Dire Shortage of Skilled Nursing Beds

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Thirteen days after San Francisco voters passed the \$600 million Affordable Housing Bond on November 5, and also approved allowing construction of 100% affordable housing and teacher housing projects on public land zoned "P, Public" that previously barred residential housing on public parcels, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to build housing on Laguna Honda Hospital's (LHH) campus on November 18. Neither the Health Commission nor the Board of Supervisors held public hearings before the RFP was issued.

... the City has dumped at least 1,659 San Franciscans into out-of-county facilities between July 2006 and June 2019 ... Despite having been asked repeatedly to sponsor legislation requiring all facilities report their number of out-of-county discharges annually, Yee has failed doing so."

Project Proposal The RFP claims the project will include everything but the kitchen sink, including an unspecified number of independent senior housing rental units in studio and one-bedroom apartments restricted to those earning 30% to 80% of Area Median Income (\$25,850 to \$68,950 for a one-person household). Another portion of

Cont. p. 9



A New Oceanview Library Presents New Problems

by Glenn Rogers

It has been decided that the present Oceanview Library on Randolph Street is too small and a new 20,000 square foot library should be built to replace it. Presently, the location the City favors is at the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. Originally, the Greenbelt got its designation because there was historically a stream here, with organic soils and an earthquake fault. Today, the caution of building on a problem site has been dismissed.

Transportation Problems

In addition, the new Oceanview Library will be adjacent Orizaba Avenue, an extremely narrow street. To provide a public building here, would increase a traffic load to a street already overburdened. The neighbors in front of the new library would likely permanently lose parking in front of their homes. Safe to say, the more this library is successful, the more difficult traffic will be to overcome.

Why Build In The Greenbelt?

One of the reasons the site was chosen is that the land is owned by the City, therefore, the purchase of land is not necessary. The land is described as "free". However, numerous site problems will need to be addressed to build here. I believe the building of a library here would be the first step

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The Chronicle's Vanishing Crime (Stats)

Fewer Arrests Don't Represent Reduced Crime

by Lou Barberini, CPA



June 1997: An off-duty police officer was riding on a MUNI bus when he saw two juveniles steal a tourist's purse. The officer exited the bus and followed the juveniles until backup from Northern Station arrived to arrest the juveniles for "grand theft."

August 2016: The same off-duty police officer was bicycling on Phelan Avenue when he saw a man dart from Ocean Avenue into the bushes of an empty City College campus. The man's face nervously scanned right and left, as if he was at center court watching a Ping-Pong match. The off-duty cop continued biking. The next day the officer learned the man had stolen a woman's purse.

Prop 47

Were these examples of how indifference gradually creeps into police officers' attitudes over time? No, they are examples of how Proposition 47 changed the definition of what a felony is, and how it prohibits officers from arresting suspects for misdemeanor offenses. Same victim trauma; different statutory consequences.

Prior to the passage of Prop 47 in November 2014, if a thief stole an iPhone or a purse, it was deemed a felony, regardless of the value of the item stolen. Prop



a thief if the victim must agree to make a citizen's arrest first, and the outcome most likely will be a misdemeanor citation on a traffic ticket.

Predictability, more traumatized victims are not reporting crimes, resulting in San Francisco's larceny crime wave ascending to national records, while arrests collapsed to historic lows. Declining arrest rates are a reflection of San Francisco politics, implicit demographic arrest quotas, and a disconnected police chief.

In this environment, in March 2019 the *San Francisco Chronicle* penned a "Vanishing Violence" series, stating specifically, "San Francisco recorded a particularly dramatic reduction in juvenile crime" and advocated for the closing of Juvenile Hall. A few days after publication, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to study closing Juvenile Hall, and then in June, voted 11-0 to close the juvenile facility by 2021.

In its Vanishing Violence series, the *Chronicle* stated: "The youth crime decline would be easier to believe, experts said, if they understood why it happened," and went on to speculate that crime might have declined because of less lead poisoning. Seriously?

A friend of mine told me there are no fish in the ocean because he didn't catch any fish yesterday. Hey *Chronicle*, now there's a story!

47 — falsely billed as the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act" — redefined "grand theft" as a felony only if the victim's property had a minimum value of \$950, ignoring that victims suffer the same anguish, humiliation, and violation of personal safety as before.

Under the law, the 1997 incident above was indisputably felony grand theft, while the 2016 incident above — solely because of Prop 47 — was only a felony if there was a \$950 minimum value in the purse. Less than \$950 in the purse? A police officer can't make the arrest; the victim must make a citizen's arrest.

Thus, under the illogic of Prop 47, if Thief A and Thief B each steal purses with \$500 inside, but if the purse Thief A snatched also happened to contain a valuable wedding ring, Thief A would be booked into county jail. But if the purse Thief B snatched lacked a valuable wedding ring the Thief would just receive a ticket on a traffic violator form.



Neither thief has x-ray vision and their intents were the same. Steal from a rich person, go to jail. Steal from a poorer person, receive a misdemeanor citation on a traffic ticket.

Prop 47 had the effect of suppressing the reporting of grand thefts and larceny crimes for three reasons: First, for the thieves, there was now no immediate threat of a trip to county jail unless they were both caught and the stolen property exceeded \$950 in value. Second, when victims (or tourists) are told that they must make a citizen's arrest, the victims recognize the futility of taking further action. Ms. Tourist do you mind flying back here from Vermont to testify in court? Third, there is no benefit for an officer to chase

But how accurate was *The Chronicle* series? Factoring in how many San Franciscans and tourists have voiced complaints about the pervasive lawlessness and the record level of property crimes and auto break-ins, *The Chronicle's* findings seem to have diverged from the public's perception.

Consider:

- 1) **There is a difference between arrest statistics and reported crime statistics.** *The Chronicle* only tallied juvenile arrests and ignored the total crimes being committed by juveniles that were recorded by the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD).
- 2) ***The Chronicle* cited that between 2017 and 2018, juvenile arrests dropped 11% nationwide.** In response to my November public record requests, SFPD data shows that between 2017 and 2018, juvenile crimes increased 12%, confirming there is a distinction between arrests and levels of juvenile crime.
- 3) **The delayed responses** to multiple, successively reworded public records requests to pull SFPD's total number of juvenile crimes in 2017 and 2018 made it apparent to me that *The Chronicle* never ventured down the same road of inquiry. It was easier for *The Chronicle* to arrive at its erroneous reduced-arrests, therefore reduced-crime conclusion.
- 4) **Because what was considered an arrestable felony offense prior to Prop 47 is no longer a felony,** *The Chronicle's* yearly trend analysis is effectively an apples-to-oranges comparison.
- 5) ***The Chronicle* uses different assumptions depending on which side of**

Cont. p. 10



Edgehill Development (Cont. from p. 1)

Edgehill Mountain land was sold following his death in 1898. The land became one of the city's first subdivisions, known as Claremont Court, and houses were built on the mountain's western and southern slopes and eventually on the mountaintop.

Prone to Landslide and Rockfall



1950's, there have been dozens of instances of serious landslide activity on and around Edgehill Mountain that have threatened the homes, quality of life, and safety of neighbors living on and around the mountain. These instances include:

- 1952: a home at 275 Edgehill Way was evacuated due to a landslide.
- 1967: several tons of rock cascaded into the Nazarene Church property.
- 1978: Nazarene Church was forced to evacuate amid more landslide threats, and was not able to reopen until 1987, after selling off most of its property to pay for repairs and engineering efforts to mitigate future landslides (including retaining walls).
- 1982: neighboring Happy Times Nursery School, just west of the church, was forced to close after a rockslide damaged their building.
- 1995: a large rockslide forced a delay in the construction of several homes that are now on the parcel of the mountain now known as Knockash Hill.
- 1997: Following slides in 1996, a massive slide of more than 100 tons of boulders, mud and debris traversed a 10-foot retaining wall and slammed into the new homes on the Knockash Hill parcel, forcing evacuation of 13 homes and the demolition of a cliff-top house above Knockash.
- 1998: A rock fall overwhelmed a 60-foot retaining wall and dumped debris on the site of three houses under construction on Kensington Way, necessitating the construction of more retaining walls whose foundations are leaking on to



Kensington Way to this day.

Now, here we are in 2019 with yet another proposal to build on Edgehill Mountain. This time the plan is for five Monster homes to be built on the steep, rocky bluff along Kensington Way where it meets Vasquez Ave. on the western side of the mountain.

Housing Shortage We all recognize that more housing is needed with the current shortage, but such construction must always be in the best interest of the neighbors and residents of the community at large, and in compliance with good city planning and comprehensive safety concerns. This is not about denying anybody's property rights, but such property rights



come with obligations to insure that other people's rights, safety and peaceful existence are not threatened.

A neighborhood meeting with the developer, owner, project consultant and a representative from the City planner's office took place on Wednesday the 13th. The current Supervisor for D-7, Norman Yee was also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the plans for the proposal with the neighborhood. Several hundred people attended, as support for the Edgehill Mountain Open Space area and future development on the mountain is of primary concern.

I did not witness any evidence put forth by the proponents of the project that indicated that this proposal was anything more than the result of bad planning, very little research, no neighborhood concern, monetary greed, and worst of all, ignorance of the facts and construction history of the mountain.

Hiking and Walking Trail As a former Supervisor for District 7, and one of creators of the present area of open space for the Edgehill Mountain Hiking and Walking trail, I offered the following facts for consideration:

1. Edgehill Mountain, because of watershed run-off, ground water drainage, top soil erosion, forest canopy and root system destruction, **all due to past decades of multi-home construction**, is no longer a stable mountain!
2. History has repeatedly shown that excavation associated with construction on that mountain has **always** caused more landslides, more loose boulders, more fractured chert rock, and has **always** resulted in disastrous consequences for both the developers and the neighbors.
3. Millions of dollars have been spent on **landslide mitigation measures** that have not worked. Maybe it's time to consider stricter owner/developer liability guidelines when dealing with plans associated with Edgehill.

Cont. p. 12



Chancellor Mark Rocha (right) at Mission Campus, Feb. 28, 2018, with Trustee Tom Temprano (left to right), Assemblyman David Chiu and Trustee Brigitte Davila. Photo by Janeth R. Sanchez/The Guardsman

Salarygate at City College San Francisco (CCSF)

By George Wooding



This is the sad saga of the attempt of CCSF Chancellor Mark Rocha to greatly increase Administrative Salaries while eliminating over 300 once-offered classes, and over 100 faculty jobs, by reducing the number of educational counselors, full-time faculty, course listings and library hours

The stated CCSF goal was to decrease a \$32 million CCSF deficit to approximately \$16 million. The most important goal should be to provide the best education experience possible for CCSF students. **General Obligation Bond** CCSF will be presenting an \$800-\$845 Million General Obligation Bond for the March 2020 election. Unlike other property bonds, this bond will add \$11.00 for every \$100,000 in assessed value of property. For example, if your house is worth \$1 Million your annual property tax will include a separate line item for \$110.00. Do you want Chancellor Rocha handling this bond money? After CCSF's latest salary fiasco, I no longer trust his oversight.

Is public transparency dead at CCSF?

A cloak of secrecy and suspicion is starting to envelop the Rocha administration. There are too many off-site retreats, altered documents, violations of CCSF's policies, and attorneys speaking on behalf of the administration. CCSF policy gives the public at least two days to examine documents up for discussion. But on Aug. 22, when the board approved the executive raises that had been added to the thick budget the day before, "it could be argued that the (college) district did not comply" with its policy, Bruckman told trustee Lee. Lee, a professional legislator and lawyer, knew better. She understood that the



CCSF Trustees: Alex Randolph, President, Tom Temprano, Vice President, Brigitte Davila, Ivy Lee, John Rizzo, Thea Selby, Shanelle Williams

“Many times I have shot myself in the foot. This is a case ... in which I tried to shoot my foot clean off,” Rocha told CCSF budget chair Ivy Lee and budget committee member John Rizzo and the standing-room-only crowd, as he made his case for the raises.”

CCSF's Board of Trustees, Alex Randolph, Tom Temprano, Brigitte Davila, Ivy Lee, John Rizzo, Thea Selby, Shanelle Williams and Bryan Daily, fought back Rocha's hidden salary increases. In many cases the administrative pay increases were over 100% higher than the prior year. Rocha himself makes over \$360,000 a year. **Hidden Salary Increase**

The new administrative salary increases had been carefully hidden on page 105 in a 110-page budget document one day before the trustees were to vote for approval. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "CCSF officials appear to have violated their own public disclosure policy by adding executive raises to their budget just one day before trustees adopted the spending plan." Here is an example of one of Rocha's salary increases: the base salary for vice chancellors at the low end would more than double, from \$124,358, to \$250,000. The base salary for the same job at the high end would rise 23%, from \$210,895 to \$260,000. Who receives a \$125,000 raise in one year? College staffers broke no law, CCSF attorney Steve Bruckman told trustee Ivy Lee. But he remained mum on whether the action "met the spirit" of state and local laws meant to give the public enough time to review matters up for a vote. "The board did NOT approve pay raises," Trustee John Rizzo said, "secretly or otherwise, in closed session." The raises were approved in open session, but not discussed. Nor did the public know that the raises were voted on.

California Brown Act superseded CCSF's policy and refused to vote for the budget without a public hearing. The Brown Act is intended to provide public access to meetings of local government agencies. Its purpose is described in the Act: "The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them." E-mails sunshined by the *Chronicle*, "offer a behind-the-scenes look at how City College officials stepped into a public-relations debacle by doubling executive pay after complaining to City Hall about their deep financial woes. The e-mails reveal that college leaders tried to hide the damage by claiming it never happened — days after their lawyer privately confirmed to them, on Sept. 11, that the new executive pay rates had been legitimately adopted as part of the newly approved budget." **Staff and Faculty React** When CCSF staff and faculty found out about the increases weeks later, and accused the trustees and Rocha, they were enraged. On September 25th, students and faculty gathered at RAM Plaza where a mock funeral, advertised as "A Celebration of the Life of City College of San Francisco: Death by a Thousand Cuts", was held to point out the failing educational hopes and dreams of students. The protest was hosted by City College's Higher Education Action Team (HEAT).

Several community members walked around campus handing out flyers with event programs and lyrics to the live music that was played so that attendees could sing along. Protesters held posters

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Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp



Former President Herbert Hoover responded to a 1964 interview: "Honesty is not the exclusive property of any political party." We don't elect local officials in California on the basis of a political party, but Mr. Hoover's answer applies federally with an incumbent president confronting certain articles of impeachment and a predictable U.S. Senate trial January 2020. (Mr. Hoover's opinion is undoubtedly irrelevant in California, which has only one political party for all intents and purposes.)

Besides personal pleasure over strong passage of Proposition F, which exposes name, rank, and amounts of contributions to so-called "independent expenditure" committees for city offices, the most arresting election result was the contest for district attorney. A 39-year-old radical Deputy Public Defender was elected. His name is Chesa Boudin. His antecedents are intriguing: Both parents were active members of the Weather Underground, convicted and imprisoned for felony murder in driving the getaway car for accomplices who shot dead two police officers and a security guard while robbing a Brinks truck of bank funds in 1981. He is also the grandson of a deceased New York City lawyer, Leonard Boudin, who represented many, if not most, of the Communists in metropolitan New York and other Eastern areas during my public school years, college, law school, Air Force, and beginning practice of law in California.

Our new District Attorney, who has tried to jury verdict numerous criminal cases at the Hall of Justice, unlike two of his opponents and establishment favorites, gives expression to pursuing "corporate landlords" and prosecuting Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents should they "kidnap" San Franciscans. The Police Officers Association expended about \$700,000 in those tricky capital expenditures to defeat Mr. Boudin. A respectful relationship with police officers is indispensable for public protection. My concern with Mr. Boudin will also be his alacrity and consistency in pursuing corruption criminality in city government, which his elected predecessor (Gascon) utterly failed to do after seeking and obtaining from a compliant Board of Supervisors and Mayor an appropriation of \$2,918,078 three years ago for an "Internal Investigation Bureau," consisting of six prosecutors, six investigators, and two support staff. (The unopposed City Attorney similarly secured taxpayer money for a "Special Integrity Unit," which has produced no court civil actions regarding corruption.) The Ethics Commission constitutes a similar waste of taxpayer funds emblemized by its inaction and burying of misconduct complaints from private citizens. I hope for aggressive action by Mr. Boudin, who will have the benefit of recommendations and aid from retired Assistant Public Defender and Ethics Commission Chair Peter Keane, Friends of Ethics leader Larry Bush, former Common Cause area president, Charley Marsteller, and others. After adopting a foolish resolution by Supervisor Catherine Stefani last September instructing us to change our vocabulary in describing criminals, criminal proceedings, convictions, and jail and

prison sentences emanating from the Hall of Justice, the Board followed with another Stefani resolution declaring the National Rifle Association a "domestic terrorist organization and urging other cities, states, and the federal government to do the same." The resolution also urged San Francisco to "assess the financial and contractual relationships our vendors and contractors have with this domestic terrorist organization; . . . and take every reasonable step to limit those entities who do business with (San Francisco) from doing business with this domestic terrorist organization." After filing a suit attacking the resolution, the NRA decided to save its money by dismissing the case.

San Francisco Supervisors manifestly know nothing of free speech law reflected in a 27-page order by the United States District Court, Southern District of California, in a suit by a gun show operator at Del Mar Fairgrounds, the State Agricultural Association in San Diego, after Del Mar's board of directors voted a one-year moratorium at the Fairgrounds in September, 2018. The

moratorium was to study potential "safety concerns." The suit was based upon violation of the First Amendment. The court enjoined the moratorium, declaring it accorded "preferential treatment to shows featuring speech on all issues aside from these gun-related subjects." The court noted that attacking the content of a gun show which includes lectures, demonstrations, safety training, target shooting, gunsmithing, appreciation of guns as technological artifacts and study of historical objects, plus exchange of products related to lawful use of firearms. The Fairgrounds failed to appeal the injunction, and I predict the court early next year will grant judgment to the gun show operator.

Continuing City Hall antics, Supervisor Sandra Fewer, practitioner of public language vulgarity on election night at Mr. Boudin's headquarters, has introduced an ordinance to establish a San Francisco "public bank." Never mind that only one public bank (North Dakota) has successfully existed in over 100 years in the United States. City government does so well with the Municipal Railway, the Central Subway Project, the reconstruction of Van Ness Avenue, and emergency fire protection supply in local reservoirs, it surely can operate a profitable public bank. No wonder 30 people have started a recall, however futile it likely will be, of Supervisor Fewer, the lady with the potty mouth. Enough already. Let's hope for the best in 2020, and a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah for all.

Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7

West Of Twin Peaks Central Council by Mitch Bull

Mitch will return with the Central Council Report when they reconvene in January. Watch the February issue.

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LHH Leaders Fingering in Patient Abuse Scandal

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Here we are six months after first learning from Mayor London Breed about the outrageous abuse of 23 to 130 patients at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) dating back to 2016. We're no closer to getting answers about key questions because the scandal remains shrouded in secrecy as an on-going State investigation.

On October 23, LHH's leadership was finally fingered as primary contributor to the patient abuse and failure to report the abuse.

Fines Imposed On September 3, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) imposed a \$1 million fine against LHH for the 156 days between February 6 and July 11, 2019 during which patient's health and safety were in immediate jeopardy. Since 2007, LHH has been fined at least \$1.35 million, but has only had to pay \$966,295 because it

The accompanying chart shows LHH received five major sub-standard care deficiencies in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) July 12, 2019 survey, including the worst "L" finding, and received five additional lesser deficiencies during CDPH's September 3 resurvey.

City Attempts to Protect Officials Even before Breed's June press conference, LHH CEO Mivic Hirose was forced to step down, and LHH's Director of Quality Management was removed. The City tried

— Regina Gomez, RN.

The two leaders were pushed out even before CDPH released its 61-page investigation July 12 survey report. The report revealed Hirose and Gomez were interviewed by CDPH investigators three times between May 29 and June 19 in the presence of a Deputy City Attorney and LHH's Director of Nursing (DON). A Google search and public records revealed the DON was Madonna Valencia, RN.

Hirose, Gomez, and Valencia were also interviewed individually between May 29 and June 5. But Valencia wasn't pushed out until October 7. What else surfaced to force her out three months after Hirose and Valencia were ousted?

On October 23, 2019 CMS rolled out a new abuse icon on its Nursing Home Compare website to alert the public about nursing homes cited for abuse violations. LHH's CMS rating was promptly slapped with the red-hand "stop" icon.

During a Government Audit and Oversight (GAO) hearing on October 23, Supervisor Norman Yee asked whether LHH's leadership had either ignored, or didn't know about, the patient abuse scandal. Acting LHH CEO Margaret Rykowski responded, saying:

"[SFDPH's] review ... did identify deficits in executive- and management-level positions as a primary contributor ... that allowed cases of abuse ... to occur, perpetuate, go unreported, and be improperly investigated over extended periods of time. We've made initial steps [changing LHH's] executive leadership, and will continue to make more, as needed." Which

"deficits" weren't stated.

Some observers wonder whether the patient abuse went unreported to CDPH because LHH was then under a two-year period during which it could lose its license completely if it received a second "Class AA" citation from CDPH. "Class AA" fines are levied if abuse or neglect were a proximate cause of a patient death. LHH had received a "Class AA" citation and a \$100,000 fine on December 23, 2016. As early as November 2, 2017 — within the first year — one of the five patients who had been drugged tested positive for Methadone he hadn't been prescribed. He was drugged eight additional times with different opioids through August 2018. He died on September 2, 2018 while

the two-year rule was still in effect. It's probable LHH may receive another "Class AA" citation for his death.

Pensions, Penalties Pending? During the same GAO hearing, Supervisor Aaron Peskin asked whether it is true the terms of separation of the six nursing assistants apparently fired by May 6 include "the fact they can no longer access pensions." As of November 22, that question hasn't been answered, but should the three LHH leaders forced out also lose access to their fat City pensions?

Peskin also asked whether the City Attorney could sue the perpetrators for civil monetary penalties to help recover the City's fines. Should the City Attorney should also sue the three LHH leaders for their failure to report the abuse to the State?

Cont. p. 12

CMS Substandard Care Deficiencies Severity and Scope Scale		
SEVERITY		
Level	Description	SCOPE
4	Immediate Jeopardy To Resident Health Or Safety	Isolated: J, Pattern: K, Widespread: L
3	Actual Harm That Is Not Immediate Jeopardy	Isolated: G, Pattern: H, Widespread: I
2	No Actual Harm, With Potential For More Than Minimal Harm That Is Not Immediate Jeopardy	Isolated: D, Pattern: E, Widespread: F
1	No Actual Harm, With Potential for Minimal Harm	Isolated: A, Pattern: B, Widespread: C

Black bars in Scope ratings involve **Substandard Quality of Care**. All Scope ratings — except "Scope A" — require that a *Plan of Correction* be written and submitted to CA DPH.

Checkmarks — White: Citations CA DPH Survey 7/12/2019; **Black:** Citations CA DPH Re-Survey 9/3/2019.

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), "Severity and Scope" (s/s) Scale.

received some 35% discounts by waiving its rights and not contesting the determinations and fines. The fines are expected to soar significantly higher.

to block release of the director's name claiming it was a "personnel matter," but public records and a Google search easily revealed the name of the director

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sfhp.org

Supes: Westside Fire Readiness a “State of Urgency”

by Nancy Wuerfel

Good news for San Francisco! The Board of Supervisors has just unanimously approved on November 19, 2019 a resolution declaring that a “State of Urgency” exists because there is no plan to protect the entire city from fires following a major earthquake.

The legislation authored by Supervisor Gordon Mar resolved “That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares a State of Urgency to rapidly expand the City’s Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS) to protect all neighborhoods in the event of a major earthquake and fire, given that the vulnerability of the City poses a serious and urgent threat to the well-being of San Francisco and the safety of its inhabitants and environment.”

Supervisor Mar said “The current pace is not enough and we must expedite the expansion of this life saving infrastructure across the City.”

His resolution is in response to the July 17, 2019 Civil Grand Jury report that identified large parts of the City, particularly in the western and southern districts, that were not covered by the seismically safe, high-pressure Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS), which provides excellent firefighting protection.



On April 18, 1906 at 5:12 am, one of the most devastating natural disasters in American history left San Francisco in ruins. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake and the fires that it caused destroyed 80 per cent of the city, killed over 3,000 people and left another 250,000 homeless — 62.5 percent of the population at that time

The press release for this report stated “City leaders have known about this deficiency for decades, but have yet to develop concrete plans or a timeline to provide a robust emergency firefighting water supply for all neighborhoods.”

Now, the Board of Supervisors has responded by urging City departments to develop a comprehensive action plan with funding identified for expanding the multi-sourced EFWS, to cover the entire City by June 30, 2034. The Board also urges the City to provide them with consolidated annual reports beginning on June 30, 2020 on the state of

the EFWS preparedness.

Let us hope that the decades-old deficiency will finally be corrected.

Nancy Wuerfel is a government fiscal analyst and served as a member of the Park, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC) for 9 years.

SAN FRANCISCO’S HIGH PRESSURE AUXILIARY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Supervisory District	# of AWSS Fire Hydrants	Miles of AWSS Mains
1	→ 42	5
2	170	14
3	327	23
4	→ 3	0
5	188	16
6	366	27
7	→ 79	7
8	110	9
9	110	9
10	222	18
11	→ 24	1
TOTAL	1641	130

My 2nd • Will Durst © 2019

Will Durst Cancelled

Comedian and *Westside Observer* columnist Will Durst, suffered a stroke in early October while preparing to go onstage for the 60th Anniversary of the San Francisco Mime Troupe and has since returned to the ICU to be treated for an infection during his recovery

His wife, Comedian Debi Durst said “He’s doing ok, his brain has to re-boot itself and re-install more than a few apps.”

“While the process has been difficult,” she said, her husband is generally in good spirits and doctors are optimistic he will make a full recovery. Durst has been maintaining his usual wise cracks from his hospital bed, imploring the nurses to bring him a decent cup of coffee. Since the stroke, for the first time in 30 years, the 67 year-old Durst was forced to cancel upcoming shows.

Debi’s first reaction was to keep the stroke incident among family only, to assure a restful recovery, especially to social media.

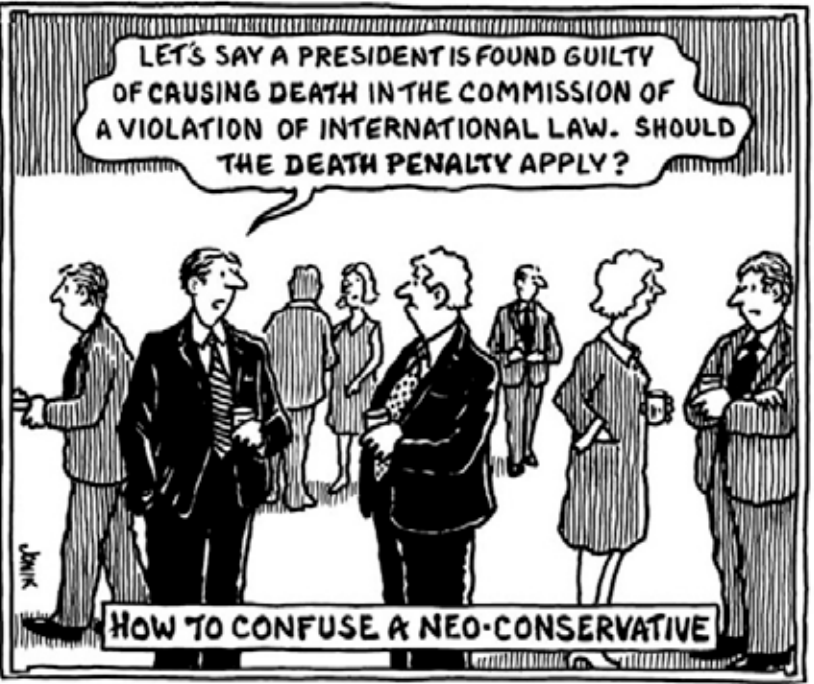
“I didn’t want a pity party, I didn’t want people to think he’ll never work again,” said Durst, “I just wanted him to be left alone so he could recuperate and get as much rest as possible.”

The annual Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show tour — a 26 year tradition Debi Durst says will go on this year, as usual, but sans Will Durst

in the line-up.

We at the *Westside Observer* and our readers, send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Durst Presents: The Big Fat Comedy Kiss Off: 8 p.m. Dec. 22. HopMonk Tavern, 224 Vintage Way, Novato; 8 p.m. Dec. 27. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton; 8 p.m. Dec. 28. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek; 7 p.m. Dec. 29. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda; 8 p.m. Dec. 30. Coastal Repertory, 1167 Main St., Half Moon Bay; 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Dec. 31. Theatre on San Pedro Square, 29 N San Pedro St., San Jose; 7:30 p.m. Jan. 1. Throckmorton Theatre, 142 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley; 7 p.m. Jan. 3. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill; 8 p.m. Jan. 4. Raven Theater, 115 North St., Healdsburg; 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5. Cobb’s Comedy Club, 915 Columbus Ave., S.F. Ticket prices vary by venue. For more details, go to willdurst.com



Let’s Get Rid of Ranked-Choice Voting

By John Farrell

Another election has passed and it is too bad we had to deal with this ranked-choice voting (RCV) scam as votes are split and not everyone’s vote counts in the end. This is a flawed system which in most cases elects a candidate without a majority vote of the total votes cast, and is unconstitutional.

The whole facade of RCV was to save the City money by switching from a run-off election to RCV, since voter turnout for run-off elections was typically lower. This is a scam. The main purpose of RCV is to manipulate the voting system to confuse voters and split the vote.

A prime example of how this RCV system failed is this past election for District Attorney (DA). First off, congratulations to all the candidates for stepping up to make a difference in our City, whether you believe in the candidates’ ideas, or not.

Per the Department of Elections, there was a 41.63% voter turnout. There were 193,168 votes cast in the DA race as follows: Chesa Boudin had 68,792 (35.61%), Susy Loftus had 60,002 (31.06%), Nancy Tung had 37,347 (19.33%), and Leif Dautch had 27,027 (13.99%). After the rankings were completed, Chesa Boudin received 86,696 and won by 2831 votes over Susy Loftus who had 83,865 votes. Chesa Boudin won with 44.9% of the total votes cast (86,696/193,168).

Now let’s get to the real problem of RCV. Of the total 64,374 votes for Nancy Tung (37,347) and Leif Dautch (27,027), there were 22,415 exhausted votes, reflecting over one third of the votes that did not rank either Loftus or Boudin, which cost Loftus the election.”

If we did not have this RCV boondoggle, there is no way Chesa Boudin wins over Susie Loftus in a run-off election. As in this case, a single progressive candidate won against three moderate/conservative candidates by having those candidates split the vote. This would not happen in a run-off, as the top two candidates would face off.

The people who came up with this flawed RCV system were fully aware that not all voters will rank everyone. Let’s face the fact that voters will not typically rank anyone other than their preferred candidate, and possibly another candidate. The end result in most cases is

a candidate who is elected without a majority vote of the total votes cast, as in this DA case. This is wrong.

By the way, I went through the RCV results since inception and many elected Board of Supervisors members would not have won in a run-off election. No surprise there.

It is essential that an election be fair and just to keep our democracy alive and well. Run-off election results are fair all the time. RCV results are not, as history shows. The system is manipulating and confusing to voters.

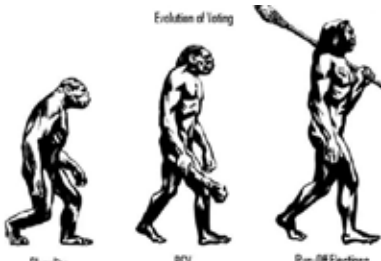
We need to return to run-off elections between the top two candidates. This gives the voters an opportunity to vote for the person they prefer most, or the lesser of the two evils, whichever applies, and everyone’s vote counts. This RCV system becomes more confusing as residents in our City turn over. The Department of Elections will always have to train voters on this RCV system every time there is an election. You never had to be trained on a run-off election.

I urge everyone, especially the quiet majority, to wake up, to contact the Mayor’s Office to place an initiative on the next ballot for the voters to decide whether to continue this failed RCV scam.

By the way, I get a kick because RCV was to save taxpayer monies by eliminating run-off elections, and then our City decides to provide public financing for elected positions. Nearly \$20 million of your tax dollars has been spent so far on candidates running for elected office in our City since inception of public financing. Don’t you think this money could be better spent elsewhere? I do. But that’s a discussion for another time. Let’s first get rid of RCV.

I wish you and your family all the best this holiday season. God bless.

John Farrell Broker/Realtor® – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former Assistant Assessor – Budget & Special Projects, Westside resident - farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com.



City College (Cont. from p. 3)

that said “My tuition is for college not for admin pockets” and “stop killing our college.”

After protests and rallies, Rocha apologized and issued a statement saying, “The fact of the matter is that the administrator salaries have NOT yet been approved.

“I take full responsibility for the process and the errors in the process on salaries,” Rocha told an auditorium of faculty, students and city residents who had staged protests and had angrily admonished him and the trustees before lower salary increases were proposed.

“It is time for us, especially myself, to be peacemakers. To come together as a college,” Rocha said.

A shot in the foot

“Many times I have shot myself in the foot. This is a case ... in which I tried to shoot my foot clean off,” Rocha told CCSF budget chair Ivy Lee and budget committee member John Rizzo and the standing-room-only crowd, as he made his case for the raises. There is never a good time to propose a salary increase, Rocha said. “However, this is the best time.”

Lee, the budget committee chair, moved to recommend that before considering the salary proposal, they hire an independent financial analyst to determine if it is “reasonable and fiscally feasible, and how our salaries compare with other institutions.” Trustee Rizzo seconded the motion

On Sept. 26, the trustees replaced the big administrative raises with much smaller ones: 10%, of which the college will pay only 6.74%. The rest will be covered by a state-funded cost-of-living increase. They also voted to hire a consultant to study whether additional raises make sense.

Rocha and the next four highest-paid executives — including Bruckman — will see no increase unless the consultant recommends it and the trustees approve it.

Why did City college hire Mark Rocha?

In 2013, after years of fiscal mismanagement and possible corruption, the State Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) threatened to revoke CCSF’s accreditation.

A five-year battle over CCSF’s accreditation status ensued.

Finally, in 2015, the ACCJC voted to establish a new accrediting system for CCSF. With full accreditation, CCSF then needed a fulltime chancellor. Out of 34 job candidates for chancellor, they voted six to one for Mark Rocha as fulltime chancellor.

Disturbingly, Mark Rocha was forced to leave his last chancellor position at Pasadena City College after the Faculty Senate voted 23-0 to express “no confidence” in his management. Rocha had also received a “no confidence” vote at Rancho Santiago

Community College.

The CCSF teachers’ union, AFT Local 2121, lobbied furiously against him, but the trustees, in closed session, voted to offer him the Chancellor position.

“With all respect to you trustees, are you out of your minds? Have we not been through enough hell?” Janet Lohr, an art instructor, told the trustees, expressing the views of most speakers.

Lone Vote of Opposition

Trustee Rafael Mandelman—now the current District eight Supervisor, the lone no vote, said it will be a “tough thing for the chancellor” to work in an atmosphere of opposition. But he pledged to “do everything I can to make him a successful chancellor.”

Regarding CCSF, Trustee Lee stated, “My goal is to ensure that this venerable institution remains a resource and a bridge to opportunity for decades to come.

“The very first step to realize that goal must be to stabilize the College’s financial footing so that everyone, from the chancellor to the administrators, to the faculty to the classified staff and students, can focus on education rather than the constant struggle to make ends meet. Stabilization requires having steady and rigorous financial oversight in real time — an annual audit is simply not enough because that only looks backwards. An audit only tells us what went wrong and suggests how to fix it in the future. We need a controller who can identify budgetary red flags before they become costly errors.”

Further, “Stabilization also requires implementing transparent budget controls at every level of the College — we should never be surprised by the budget or its content — and the entire college community, especially those in positions of decision-making power should be aware of our budget, our actual expenditures vs. budgeted expenditures, our enrollment projections, which play such a critical role in revenue, and the impacts that our budget will have on the class schedule and the physical locations that we are able to offer courses. This is not rocket science but it does require firm budget discipline.”

Finally, “There are so many programs at the College that are ready to grow and that provide San Franciscans with opportunities for real, solid-paying jobs, but also for a chance to achieve their educational dreams. That’s why it’s so important to keep pushing forward past the challenges, so many of which are a result of the chronic underfunding of education. Because the students of City College are worth the effort and worth our investment.”

George Wooding, Neighborhood Emeritus

SFPD/FBI (Cont. from p. 1)

authorized SFPD brass and City officials to oversee its FBI-driven JTTF investigations

That expectation proved unworkable because the FBI included “threat assessments” in its “classified” investigative activities. FBI “assessments” seek information about persons who may threaten national security or violate federal laws. Unlike formal investigations, no “reasonable suspicion” of criminality is required. In 2008, revised standards allowed more intrusive practices like pretext interviews, physical surveillance, telephone record searches and deploying informants, all without evidence of wrongdoing. Anyone could be targeted¹⁰ based on a tip or politics, religion or race, thereby landing on a federal “terror watch list”. Despite the slippery taxonomy, “assessments” are investigations that can circumvent criminal justice principles and First Amendment rights. And they are classified.

SFPD and FBI Conflicts As the FBI White Paper admits, such assessments were “generally assigned” to SFPD officers working as JTTF agents. Further, these assessments “usually involve, on some level, the exercise of First Amendment activities.”

This conflicts with SFPD policy because DGO 8.10 requires officers to submit memos showing “reasonable suspicion” of a crime to justify investigations involving First Amendment activities. And these memos must be approved in writing by two superiors plus the Chief of Police. But, per the FBI White Paper, “The FBI will not allow such disclosure.”

There’s more. DGO 8.10 states that the memos and approvals for investigations must be reviewed monthly by the Police Commission and audited annually by the Department of Police Accountability. Per the White Paper, “The FBI will not allow this type of information to be disseminated.”

Accordingly, none of the 119 assessments/investigations conducted by SFPD’s JTTF agents from 2014 through 2016 received departmental approvals. None were forwarded to the Police Commission or the Department of Police Accountability, records show. That’s because none targeted “solely constitutionally protected activities” as the SFPD repeatedly told the Police Commission. But, “That’s the FBI standard – not the SFPD standard”, declared former ACLU attorney and police practices expert John Crew and several Commissioners at the explosive 2/1/17 meeting. Plainly, DGO 8.10 requires approvals and oversight for investigations that “involve” First Amendment activities, not just those that “solely” target such activities. The SFPD had been bending, if not violating, its own rules by adopting FBI investigative and secrecy tenets.

Worse, SFPD’s JTTF activities defied the oversight imposed by the Safe SF Civil Rights Ordinance. Because JTTF activities are classified, they were withheld from SFPD brass, the Police Commission and the Department of Police Accountability. Those folks lack security clearances. Indeed, the Police Chief’s annual JTTF reports¹¹ to the Police Commission merely assert proper conduct, without evidence. The FBI White Paper addresses this disclosure impasse by proposing

workarounds including, “sanitizing” JTTF reports, or amending DGO 8.10 to withhold “classified information” from the Police Commission.

Secrecy in Violation All this secrecy surrounding JTTF investigations nullifies the Civil Grand Jury’s assurance that it “did not detect any instance of non-compliance with a DGO” by SFPD’s JTTF officers. This point was highlighted by former FBI counter-terrorism expert Mike German at the must-see Government Audit & Oversight Committee hearing¹² on 10/3/19. Further, an egregious violation¹³ did occur in 2014 when an SFPD JTTF agent badgered a Google engineer for filing a public records request. Inspector Gavin McEachern reportedly interrogated Sarmad Gilani about his “delusions of being persecuted” and tried to recruit him as an informant. The Department of Police Accountability determined¹⁴ that the officer had accepted an FBI assignment against SFPD policy due to “inadequate training”. Like all other JTTF assessments, it hadn’t been authorized by SFPD’s chain of command or audited by the Police Commission or the Department of Police Accountability.

JTTF partnerships are precarious because FBI policies protecting privacy and civil rights are weaker than those adopted in San Francisco and California. And those protections can be slashed, depending on the US Attorney General and President. As local politicians including Mark Leno, Scott Weiner, Jeff Sheehy, Tom Ammiano, David Campos, Rafael Mandelman and Angela Alioto warned in 2017: “if this (Safe SF Civil Rights) Ordinance is not effectively enforced...local offices will become entangled in the implementation of Trump’s policies, which our city’s leadership and residents have unequivocally rejected.” On the other hand, the Police Officer’s Association asked¹⁵ the Police Commission to restore its JTTF partnership, decrying that it was abandoned “in a political stunt.”

Currently, JTTF policies are antithetical to transparency and accountability. Upholding DGO 8.10 and the Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance keeps the SFPD accountable to the community it serves rather than the FBI. Involvement in JTTF political surveillance entrains our police to view First Amendment activities as potential threats. Worse, more law-abiding San Franciscans view police as potential threats because unreasonable JTTF activities contravene civil rights. There are other ways the SFPD and FBI can collaborate to address terrorism. Uncoupling from the JTTF, as Portland, Oregon has done, strengthens public trust in the SFPD.

Note: Source references for this article are provided as links in the electronic version at www.westsideobserver.com.

Acknowledgement: **Mission Local** and **The Intercept** first reported on the FBI White Paper.

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Endnotes

1. civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2018_2019/JTTF_Final_Report.pdf
2. www.scribd.com/document/433018968/FBI-White-Paper
3. sfbgarchive.48hills.org/sfbgar-

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Oceanview Library (Cont. from p. 1)
in further development of the Greenbelt for other City needs— e.g., Affordable Housing. Marc Christiansen, Vice President of METNA, has asked for a statement from the City, that no further development would occur on the Greenbelt in the future, if a new library is built here.

The Greenbelt Construction Difficulties



- A signal light would need to be installed on Sagamore/Orizaba to slow down the pace of commuters and to channel vehicles into Orizaba Avenue at a manageable pace.
- The curb on the west side of Orizaba Avenue would need to be widened to allow easier access. (Eventually, houses will not allow any widening of Orizaba Avenue to correct traffic difficulties)
- A telephone pole on the side of the new library, would need to be removed.
- To build on organic soils with an earthquake fault, concrete piers would need to be part of the library's foundation.
- Approximately 12 trees, with 24" diameters, would need to be removed with their root system.
- Since no building here is present, new gas, water, sewer and electricity will need to be installed.
- A lengthy EIR is required.
- The library would cast shadow on neighboring properties.
- A library at the Greenbelt provides no economic synergy with other businesses.
- Original zoning inhibiting building on the Greenbelt is being ignored.

Therefore, although the land is "free", site conditions here make this site expensive to build on. Traffic solutions for the library will need to be polled by neighbors and may or may not be approved. The new library is 1-1/2 blocks away from the M streetcar, on a difficult grade for seniors or the disabled to walk to. Younger people that would walk to this site, will need to walk past the Oceanview Supermarket, where questionable people are present selling their wares. To walk to the new library at night, through the Greenbelt, could be like walking through Central Park in New York, where assaults regularly occur.

SFMTA: Engineering the Library's Success?

For the library to be located at the Greenbelt on Orizaba Avenue, a traffic solution is required by the SFMTA. However, the SFMTA has shown itself to be clumsy in solving traffic problems. For example, the 54-bus travels up St. Charles St., which is very narrow, to go to Daly City BART. Last week, I saw 3 buses trapped there and unable to deliver their passengers because the congestion was so bad. A simple fix would be to have the 54-bus travel to BART by using John Daly Blvd, but this solution is ignored. SFMTA has designed numerous failed designs for the M streetcar along 19th Avenue over the years. One solution was to travel underground through the business district along West Portal Avenue. This means commuters to not see businesses —more pain for this business district. Another SFMTA plan was to skip the business district at the Lakeside Village. Then, to have an underground station at Mercy High School, creating a traffic jam of biblical proportions, as this station was being built. The point is, if this new Oceanview Library is dependent on a satisfactory solution from the SFMTA, that solution may not happen.

Ignoring a Better Site on Broad St.

Choosing this site in the Greenbelt for the library, the City is ignoring a large available site at 137 Broad Street. This site is 9,350 square feet and includes a shuttered building and a large vacant side yard beside it. This site could easily provide the necessary space for the new library. Already two existing barbershops, two family grocery stores and two churches would benefit from a library here with the increased foot traffic. Ironically, if the Oceanview Library returned to Broad and Plymouth Street, it would be returning close to the original location of the old library which was at Ana's Market, a nearby grocery store.

Advantages of Broad Street Site

- No traffic gridlock is created with the library here.
- This location is beside a M streetcar stop.
- Walking to the library from the M streetcar stop is on flat ground.
- Demolition to prepare the site for construction would be easy.
- Sewer, water, gas and electricity are readily available.
- This site is closer to the Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center.
- The Sheridan Elementary School is closer to this location.
- A library here would remove the blight of an abandoned building.
- This site would benefit a nascent business district with more foot traffic as the original library did at Ana's Market.
- No EIR is required because a library was previously near here, in the not so distant past.
- Most importantly, a library on Broad street preserves the Brotherhood Greenbelt and preserves the original zoning given the site.

How Lame Are These Excuses?

Numerous poor excuses to not build on Broad St. are offered, and all the justifications for the less desirable site are made with misstatements and fiction.

One misstatement was the site was too small being only 5,000 square feet in total. This information immediately dismissed this site as an alternative. However, this information was false. The Senior Architect, Andrew Sohn, visited the site and confirmed the site was 9,375 square feet.

The next excuse was that the land is zoned residential, not commercial. A stroke of the pen can change this designation. If zoning is a concern, the fact that the Greenbelt has been zoned off limits to development for over a century, should be an impediment.

Next excuse? The site should remain zoned residential because the City needs more residential housing. However, Oceanview district needs a more robust business district also. More residential housing could be gained by rebuilding at numerous shuttered businesses in the district, converting them into housing.

Another argument is that there is no parking at 137 Broad Street, but neither site has parking, and, the Greenbelt site has the intrinsic traffic problem of too narrow a street.

Recently, objections have been raised that the site is a single-story neighborhood presently and a two story library would not be allowed. Is the fact that nearly every house on this block is two stories irrelevant?

The last excuse was that 137 Broad Street was next to a previous crime scene where shootings had occurred. However, simply by the addition of a camera, shootings here have stopped. Sociologists believe eyes and foot traffic discourage crime. With the presence of a library here, and a greater police presence this can be mitigated.

The property on Broad St. would

Cont. p. 12

Education Carol Kocivar ©2019

Things I Need To Work On For The New Year.

Hello, Nice to Meet you.

The other day I was introduced to someone I had never met before. At least, I thought I had never met her. So I said what I always say," Hi, nice to meet you."

She laughed and said we had sat next to each other at a meeting. Busted again.

I am terrible at remembering names. Ah...in my semi state of embarrassment, I quickly tried to use a mental trick. People always say that you can remember better if you put it to music. So now she is "I dream of _____ with the dark brown hair." I still don't need to use this mnemonic for my husband but if I did it would be "Terry Terry bo berry, Fee-fi-mo-merry. Terry!"

I know I parked the car somewhere

I am terrible with cars. I can't tell one car

If it is an entirely HUGE parking facility, I take a picture of the car and the number so I can find it. Yes, I really do. But starting next year, I am using my phone's find my car map which magically will help."



Photo: driversed.com

from the other.

I have a friend who picks me up regularly to go swimming. Same car. Every time. Is it blue? Black? Electric? Thank goodness she has the common sense to park in front of my house so I have a clue..

This car disability gets even worse in large parking lots. I have my tricks. It is not a coincidence that I always FOLLOW my friend or my husband back to where they parked the car.

Goodness, what if I am alone in a strange place? If it is an entirely HUGE parking facility, I take a picture of the car and the number so I can find it. Yes, I really do. But starting next year, I am using my phone's find my car map which magically



will help. (Sort of reassuring that I am not the only one with this problem.)

Read a Good Book Lately?



On My Bookshelf

I am a book club drop out. I tried, I really tried. But I flunked Book Club 101. I like the food and the social aspect but I am totally unable to have a serious discussion analyzing the nuances of a book with others. Could it be I was an English major? Could my failure to buy the book in time have anything to do with this. Hardly likely.

But this does not stop me from reading new books and even sharing books with friends. My most recent strategy: I listen carefully to what book friends recommend and immediately reserve it ON THE SPOT using the LIBBY app on my phone. This clever APP connects to the public library. Throughout the year I get these wonderful notices that the book I reserved is now ready to download—for free.

One other trick. Look at the window of BOOKSHOP West Portal. They always have great recommendations. Then pop in and buy one. Nice to support our local bookstore!

One More Thing to Work on For the New Year.

Don't forget to say thanks. Sometimes we are too busy, too impatient. Too Too Too.

I remember once losing it completely at an airport after a multi-hour delay. The first words out of my mouth fell far short of "Thanks for trying to sort this out."

To those folks who serve you at Peets. Thanks! To the instructor at the Y. Thanks.

Let's try to restore more civility to a world torn apart.

Oh..... Thanks for reading this!

Children's advocate Carol Kocivar lives in the Westside: kocivar@westsideobserver.com



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Taraval Station Community Meeting

Tuesday, November 18 • 6 pm – 7 pm at Taraval Police Station • taraval.org



TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

Friday | November 1

Robbery

9:30 pm | 00 Vidal Dr

The victim, who had been cut with a knife, said he was walking home after watching a soccer game when a suspect grabbed his bag from behind, cutting his chin with a knife. The suspect fled with the bag.

Assault

3:57 pm | Sloat Blvd & 47th Ave

A woman said she was intoxicated and engaged a ride sharing company to take her home, but she fell asleep in the back-seat when the driver got into the back seat and began touching her inappropriately. She got out and the suspect drove away.

Theft – Burglary Tools – Cited

6:41 am | 100 West Portal Ave

Officers, following a tip, found the suspect attempting to break into a parking meter. The suspect was detained and a search located picks used to break into locks and numerous quarters in the his possession He was cited.

Saturday | November 2

Counterfeit Money – Cited

7:41 pm | 3200 20th Ave

The clerk said the suspect paid for merchandise with counterfeit money before leaving the store, but was escorted back to the store by security and returned the merchandise. He tried to walk away, but security, who initially attempted to detain him stopped when they thought they saw a gun. Officers detained him, but a search found no gun. He was cited.

Warrant Arrest – Theft – Arrested

9:24 am | 2400 Noriega St

When officers recognized a known subject, who had recently stolen money from a nearby church, they detained him and after investigation, he was arrested.

Tuesday | November 5

Robbery

9:21 pm | 200 Jules Ave

A woman said she was walking home with her earphones when she felt tugging on her backpack. When she turned around she saw he had a gun. He took the backpack and fled.

Robbery

7:57 am | Stratford Dr & Holloway Ave

A woman said she was looking at her cell phone while walking, when a suspect reached over and snatched it, then ran into a waiting vehicle and fled.

Wednesday | November 6

Assault – Arrested

8:30 am | 700 Taraval St

A woman was waiting for the bus when the suspect walked up to her and hit her face. As officers interviewed her, another woman said she had also been slapped in the face for no reason by the suspect. The suspect was located and arrested.

Warrant Arrest – Arrested

3:25 pm | Sloat Bvd & Great Hwy

When patrol officers saw the suspect littering on the streets, he was detained and a computer check revealed an arrest warrant. He was arrested.

Stolen Vehicle – Arrested

9:21 am | 500 Lakeview Ave

Officers found the reported stolen car and detained the suspect found asleep inside. An investigation revealed involvement in disposal of stolen vehicles. After further

investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Brandishing a Weapon

3:36 pm | 1300 46th Ave

A store employee said he encountered the suspect on a previous occasion when came into the store and without buying anything and had to be told to leave. Today, he yelled to the clerk to come out and lifted up his shirt to reveal a gun, then fled.

Thursday | November 7

Found Property – Controlled Substance

9:43 am | 2500 16th Ave

An employee of a car share rental company, said they disabled a car when they discovered it was fraudulently rented out. The witness found the car and discovered a gun and illegal drugs were left inside.

Brandishing a Weapon

7:44 pm | Great Hwy & Noriega St

A woman said a car was speeding and abruptly changing lanes before pulling up besides her car. She looked over and shook her head at him. He responded by pointing a gun at her and threatening to shoot her. She slowed down and the suspect continued on ahead of her.

Brandishing a Weapon – Stolen Property

10:12 am | 00 Cambon Dr

The manager for a rental car agency said he was cleaning out a car and had some personal items next to him when the suspect walked by and took his property. He confronted the suspect who responded by brandishing a butter knife at him. Officers found him and detained and cited him.

Friday | November 8

Assault – Arrested

6:20 pm | 3800 Noriega St

When officers arrived on scene they determined that a road rage incident began when both parties made rude gestures at each other. The suspect got out of his car and confronted the second party, pushed him, then attempted to hit him with a metal rod. The suspect was arrested

Robbery with a Gun

1:51 pm | 1900 Ocean Ave

A clerk said a group came in and pointed a gun at him, demanding money. The suspects then ransacked the store and stole several items of jewelry before fleeing.

Robbery with a Gun – Assault

5:35 pm | Winston Dr & Lake Merced Blvd

A man stopped at a corner to eat his food after leaving a mall when two suspects approached him with a gun and demanded his property. A witness approached the suspect and confronted him and the suspect fired the gun near the witness, causing burn marks on his biceps then fled.

Robbery with a Gun

11:04 am | 20th Ave & Taraval

A man said he went to a bank to withdraw money and when he returned to his car the suspect approached him with a gun demanding his money. He complied and the suspect immediately fled.

Saturday | November 9

Warrant Arrest – Arrested

11:41 am | Great Hwy & 48th Ave

Responding to an incident of possible theft of at a construction site officers saw a suspect entering a closed site. The suspect said he climbed over the barrier to get some cigarettes. A check revealed a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested.

Robbery

7:35 pm | 32nd Ave & Taraval St

A woman said she was walking when she heard noises behind her and looked behind to see two suspects walking towards her. The suspects grabbed her purse and pulled her to the ground and threatened violence unless she gave them her cell phone. They fled with the phone.

Traffic Violation – No License – Arrested

12:48 am | 19th Ave & Crespi Dr

When officers LIDAR determined that a car was speeding at 70 mph in a 35 mph zone, they conducted a traffic stop. A check revealed an arrest warrant, expired registration and no license. He was arrested.

Sunday | November 10

Stolen Vehicle

1:43 pm | 3200 20th Ave

Notified that a stolen car was nearby, officers conducted a traffic stop. The driver, was detained and after further investigation, was arrested.

Monday | November 11

Stolen Vehicle

7:39 pm | 400 Bright St

Officers investigating a car blocking a driveway contacted the suspect, who was inside. Investigation revealed that the car was rented but was not returned when the rental period expired. He was arrested.

Tuesday | November 12

Assault – Arrested

6:45 pm | Montana St & Capitol Ave

A man said he was walking across the street when a sped up towards him. The car stopped and the suspect confronted him. After an argument, both parties separated, but while he continued to walk, the suspect returned from behind began punching the his back. Officers found the suspect and he was arrested.

Warrant Arrest – Arrested

9:37 am | Ulloa St & Lenox Way

When officers saw a man unconscious on a public bench, they conducted a well being check. A computer check on the his name revealed a warrant and he was arrested.

Wednesday | November 13

Stolen Vehicle – Arrested

3:28 am | 100 Font Blvd

The victims said someone broke into their garage stole their car. Officers found the car with two suspects inside. After further investigation, they were arrested.

Warrant Arrest

4:13 pm | 700 Taraval St

When officers heard a report of suspicious activity — a suspect observed looking through many car and building windows — they found the suspect standing by a parked car. A check revealed two arrest warrants and he suspect was arrested.

Vandalism to Property – Arrested

9:15 pm | 1900 Great Hwy

A man said he was asleep when he heard loud banging outside. He went to investigate and saw the suspect vandalizing the front door. Officers found him in possession of a crowbar and hammer. A search of the area revealed recent damages to the door. The suspect was arrested.

Thursday | November 14

Vandalism to Vehicle – Arrested

9:09 am | 200 Stonecrest Dr

When a neighbor left his house, he saw the suspect break the rear window of a nearby car with the stick like object he was carrying, and continued walking away from the broken window. When he reported it, officers detained the suspect and he was arrested.

Friday | November 15

Battery

12:20 pm | Ocean Ave & Miramar Ave

A woman was talking on her cell phone when the suspect walked by her and suddenly kicked her for no apparent reason. The suspect then walked away.

Warrant Arrest

11:44 am | 19th Ave & Irving St

Officers conducted a wellbeing check when they saw the subject lying on the corner near an intersection. A check revealed an arrest warrant, and the subject was arrested.

Brandishing a Weapon

10:56 pm | 1800 Ocean Ave

Cont. p. 13

Jennifer Rosdail

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Missing In Action

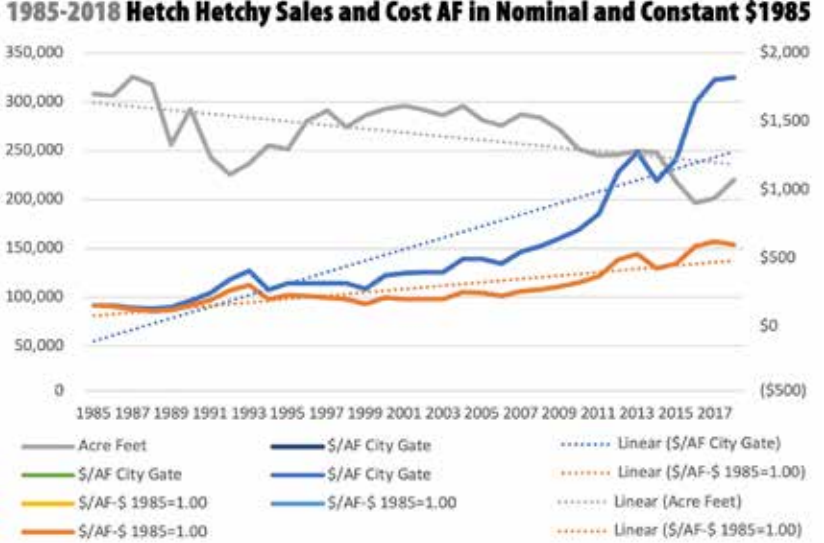
by Brian Browne

On November 15, 2019 I requested that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) provide information as to 1) why they used an 8.5-year designer drought in their long-term planning, and why they 2) assumed that the system was selling 265 million gallons of water a day (MGD). The 265 MGD is the linchpin for misallocating Hetch Hetchy water between the peninsula and San Francisco—done at San Francisco’s expense. It has been seen as a spurious reason why the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and the SFPUC seek higher Tuolumne river uptakes than may be required through prudent and logical planning.

The SFPUC response to my request under the SF Sunshine Ordinance by email on November 19, 2019:

“Thank you for your request for public information. We do not have a document responsive to your request.” (SFPUC Public Records)

This is a sobering and egregious admission by the SFPUC. I believe two things must happen immediately: 1) the 2009 Water Sales Agreement must be renegotiated, water allocations reset to fairly reflect the history of Hetch Hetchy sales to the SFPUC and BAWSCA, and 2) The design drought estimations must be redone with detailed and transparent model specifications proving its justification.



The figure above shows historical water demands and the relationship between demand and price. Econometric analysis of water demand shows that rate hikes do drive conservation. There are other causes.

Agreement must be renegotiated, water allocations reset to fairly reflect the history of Hetch Hetchy sales to the SFPUC and BAWSCA, and 2) The design drought estimations must be redone with detailed and transparent model specifications proving its justification.

The 2009 Water Sales Agreement gave BAWSCA 184 MGD in perpetuity and SF 81 MGD, comprised of possibly 4 MGD of recycled brine. City stakeholders points out (WSO) that this source is statistically less safe and definitely more expensive than traditional city-gate Hetch Hetchy water. The average water use by BAWSCA between the two agreements (1984 to 2009) was 162.4 MGD and San Francisco used on average 88.3 MGD.

The 2009 WSA allocations should have been based on the Hetch Hetchy statistically significant system average of 251.7 MGD, not the improvised 265 MGD. There is a 50/50 chance that water demand will be equal or greater than 251.7 MGD. Chance water supplies equal or in excess of 265 MGD are expected approximately 1 in 4, not the 1 in 2

expected from using the statistical average from normally historical sales data. Bottom line, the then-GM and Mayor must be held accountable for this mistake. As a member of the RBOC I asked to attend these negotiations. This request was wrongly rejected.

The 265 MGD smoke cloud is difficult to dismiss. Lingers like a bad and unwanted smell. On October 22, 2019 Mr. Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, SFPUC Water-Enterprise, at a Commission meeting stated that SFPUC-Hetch Hetchy

water sales remain at 265 MGD. Best estimates are that today’s water sales by the Hetch Hetchy system are around 200 MGD. Why did he regurgitate 265 MGD as current?

Where does the 265 really come from?

The 265 MGD does not come from Hetch Hetchy system-flow history. It was developed by BAWSCA in submitting their individual member allocation requests (dictates)

BAWSCA took a high-sales year (2007-08) as their test or base year, added to this statistical outlier additional incremental demand increases by individual BAWSCA agencies and presented it to the secret negotiators. No worries mates -ask and you shall receive. Thus, a somewhat camouflaged and manipulated statistical outlier was used to set system sales at 265 MGD. All this done with less than grade school algebraic manipulations. None of it made sense from a rigorous and detailed analysis.

These two non-documented assumptions (265 MGD and 8.5-designer drought) have broader regional and state consequences. In 2018 the State Water Board adopted mandatory 40 percent flows on the Tuolumne River. The Tuolumne River Trust, prime advocates for husbanding the Tuolumne River, have expressed concern with Governor Newsom’s

1) stalling of these mandatory flows; 2) failing to reappoint “environmental champion Felicia Marcus” as chairwoman of the State Resources Control Board; and 3) vetoing S81 that would have protected California’s

water from federal tampering. The illogically derived 265 MGD and most probably over-estimated 8.5- year designed drought must be redone. Redoing these two attributes should lead to renegotiating the 2009 Water Sales Agreement. The portfolio of scarce water resources must not be overstated nor understated by any stakeholder and/or planners.

The buck stopped with Mayor Newsom in 2009 when he failed to produce a fair and equitable Water Sales Agreement. He now seems



Laguna Honda Housing (Cont. from p. 1)

the project calls for an unspecified number of assisted living units, and an unspecified number of Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) units, which are similar but a different kind of facility, collectively referred to as the “Assisted Living” component of the project.

The Illusive Assisted Living Component The assisted living component hinges on a future “financial feasibility study” MOHCD hasn’t conducted. Worrisome, MOHCD, at its sole discretion, may elect to make the Assisted Living component

“The report also documented San Francisco faces a 1,745-bed Skilled Nursing Facility gap between supply and demand within 14 years, by 2030, in part because 192,000 San Franciscans aged 65 and older will comprise 20% of San Francisco’s population by 2030.”

a separate project under a separate RFP to ensure creating a financially viable sub-project. It may vanish if not viable financially.

The project also calls for an early childhood education center, and an Adult Day Health Center (ADHC) for an unspecified number of adults needing day care.

Where’s the Site? MOHCD claims the project will be built on an “unbuilt lot” adjacent to the two new patient towers of the LHH replacement hospital.

The *San Francisco Examiner* reported November 21 city officials “envision” at least 200 units will be built. It’s unclear whether the 200 units are for the entire project, or just for the independent rental housing component of the project.

Approval Uncertain MOHCD is proposing to transfer the undeveloped lot site, subject to final approval by the Board of Supervisors and the Health Commission, to a qualified developer through a long-term ground lease. A prominent West Side leader who has attended multiple pre-planning sessions with Supervisor Norman Yee and his staff believes the project will be awarded two-thirds (\$100 million) of the \$150 million portion of the Affordable Housing Bond earmarked for senior housing.

This suggests the earmarked senior housing funds may largely benefit a single Supervisorial District, Supervisor Yee’s.

Major problems with the proposal.

First, the “undeveloped site” is a north-east spot on the Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) campus that went undeveloped when 420 of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) beds were eliminated from the planned hospital rebuild in 2010 after cost overruns soared to nearly \$200 million.

In February 2016 the Health Commission documented San Francisco had lost 1,163 hospital-based and freestanding SNF beds between 2001 and 2015, a 52.3% decline in SNF beds.

The report also documented San Francisco faces a 1,745-bed SNF gap between supply and demand within 14 years, by

2030, in part because 192,000 San Franciscans aged 65 and older will comprise 20% of San Francisco’s population by 2030.

Second, the City has dumped at least 1,659 San Franciscans into out-of-county facilities between July 2006 and June 2019 from our two public hospitals and two of the six private-sector hospitals, in large part because of the severe shortage of in-county SNF beds. Despite having been asked repeatedly to sponsor legislation requiring all facilities report their number of out-of-county discharges annually, Yee

has failed doing so.

Third, the proposed site is extremely far away from the Forest Hill MUNI station, making use of public transportation extremely difficult, given that the slope of LHH’s campus hills are prohibitively steep for elderly people to walk up, or down.

Fourth, there are virtually zero nearby neighborhood amenities — like grocery stores, restaurants, and pharmacies — within walking distance of the proposed site.

Fifth, prioritizing space for a childhood pre-school over space for SNF or Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) beds, or senior housing, is simply obscene. Seniors do not find “purpose,” as Yee alleges, babysitting three- and four-year-old barely-verbal preschoolers.

Sixth, LHH eliminated its long-existing Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) from the rebuild project, which should have been included in the replacement hospital.

Finally, the proposed site should be reserved for additional SNF beds, to capitalize on economies of scale and ready access to LHH’s existing medical services like the physical therapy and occupational therapy gyms, therapeutic swimming pool, nutrition services that provide meals to patients, and the hospital’s cafeteria, among others.

Yee’s Problem Yee may want a legacy of building more housing for the elderly, but he’ll forfeit a legacy of addressing the dire shortage of SNF beds.

Yes, there’s dire need for more senior housing and RCFE facilities. But failing to address the also-dire shortage of medical-based SNF beds may kill us all, or exile us out of county.

It’s time to stop pitting the need for additional SNF beds against the need for senior housing and RCFE beds. We desperately need more SNF beds on that “vacant” spot of land.

Monette-Shaw operates stopLHHdownsize.com. monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.





The Greatness of Humanity

Mahatma Gandhi is quoted as saying, “The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane.” Every year the San Francisco Vegetarian Society holds their “World Veg Fest” in Golden Gate Park’s County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers to all you old-timers.) The event has evolved over the last 20 years from vegetarian (dairy, eggs OK) to vegan (no animal products.) The SFVS focuses on four main subject areas - the health aspects of a vegetarian diet, the humane implications, the benefits to under-served communities, and, of course, the benefit to the environment of cutting down on the production and consumption of animal products.

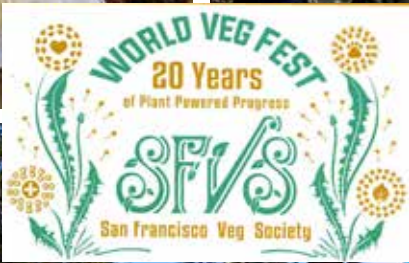
This year the talks and tables ranged from ‘Building Bridges Between Vegetarians and Non-vegetarians’ to ‘Vegan dogs’. I cruised the tables and talks to find out what is new and different in the efforts to create a healthier, more sustainable, and humane society. Here are some of the folks whom I met and how they are trying to change the world.

Food Empowerment Project: food production, supermarkets, and local communities



Lauren Ornelas is the founder and director of the Food Empowerment Project (F.E.P.), a “vegan food justice nonprofit seeking to create a more just world by helping consumers recognize the power of their food choices.” Among the many projects she is embarked on are promoting ethical veganism, helping farm workers have better working conditions, advocating for chocolate that comes from farms that do not use exploitative child labor, and encouraging access to healthy foods in low-income communities.

Our discussion of food access led to an enlightening conversation about the practices of certain supermarket chains. According to Ornelas, some chains put restrictions on their deed when they leave an area and sell or lease the land. The restrictions can mean that no other property owner can open another supermarket on that property for a specific number of years — sometimes 15 or even 20 years. Although this might seem a smart marketing practice if the market is moving a few blocks away, unfortunately the limitations include sites that are far away from the new location for the store. In urban areas land is hard to come by, and large locations for supermarkets are even harder to find. This practice is especially impactful for low-income communities, where people have



few options for travelling far from home to buy their groceries.

One company that follows this practice, according to Ornelas, is Safeway/Albertsons.¹ Learn more about this practice and

how you can persuade Safeway/Albertsons to not restrict grocery stores in low-income communities.

Chilis on Wheels: Not just another food truck

Just around the corner from Ornelas sat Tiffany Walker-Roper with Chilis on Wheels. Walker-Roper explained that the group started just like its name, serving vegan chili to homeless people

low-income communities; they felt that it was necessary to serve meat and that eating meat somehow meant that people had ‘arrived’ into the middle class.

In contrast to that, Chilis works all over the US to make veganism accessible to underserved communities. Their goal of “treating all living beings with kindness, empathy, and respect . . .” extends to all species - from the human homeless to animals. According to Walker-Roper, “Instead of focusing only on animal rights activism, we are spreading the message of compassion to our unhoused neighbors by feeding them delicious home-cooked vegan food.” As part of their work, Chilis also provides support networks and help to empower local communities.

The newly formed Bay Area Chapter² is now into its second year here and, yes, they can use volunteers!

VAPA: Vegan outreach to vets and humane training for vet students

What about Fido and Fluffy? Is anyone speaking up for them? As a matter of fact, yes. Dr. Armaiti May is an integrative house call veterinarian and vegan advocate in Los Angeles. Dr. May founded the Veterinary Association for the Protection of Animals. According to May, their goal is “to educate the veterinary profession about the benefits of veganism for people and to encourage veterinary schools to adopt humane surgical teaching methods in their curriculum.” This would include allowing high school students to use alternatives to dissection, ending the requirement for terminal surgeries in veterinary school education, using mannequins and surgical models as well as interactive multimedia software, doing beneficial work with actual animal patients, and collecting deceased pets for students to practice their training on, instead of raising and killing animals for that purpose. You can start with the 540 page online resource³: “From Guinea Pig to Computer Mouse,” or contact Dr. May at that site.

But, wait, there’s more....

Other talks and tables included such intriguing topics as Green Mondays (FFAC, Factory Farming Awareness Coalition, www.ffacoalition.org) and combating massive agriculture tax subsidies to the meat and dairy industries (the Vegan Justice League⁴). And, of course, lots of great vegan food.

You can always count on the festival for a new and humane perspective on our changing world. To learn more, go to their website.⁵

Katherine Howard is a local open space and environmental advocate.

- Endnotes
1. foodispower.org/shame-on-safeway-afj
 2. www.chilisonwheels.org/chapters/bay-area/
 3. vapavets.org/tax_resources/document/
 4. www.veganjusticeleague.org
 5. www.sfvs.org

Vanishing Crime (Cont. from p. 2)

a cause they are advocating. When promoting zero San Francisco traffic deaths (Vision Zero), *The Chronicle* has disparaged SFPD for writing too few traffic citations, which means the writers assumed that SFPD does not catch all traffic violators. However, when it came to advocating closing Juvenile Hall, the assumptions were changed to conclude that SFPD catches all juvenile criminals and no juvenile crimes exist beyond the juveniles arrested.

6) *The Chronicle* also used different scales depending on what they were advocating. For traffic deaths and Vision Zero,

The Chronicle just used recent year-to-year comparisons, ignoring that precipitous fall in traffic fatalities since the ‘70s. Yet, for its Vanishing Violence series, *The Chronicle* contrasted current arrests to the ‘80s, ignoring the Department of Justice recent survey that reported between 2014 and 2018 juvenile victims of violent crimes had increased 20%.

On a different project, *Chronicle* (10/24/19) writers published the results of their test of the fastest mode of transportation between Powell and Market Streets and the Warrior’s new arena. Defying physics, a *Chronicle* writer biking at an absurd 3.7 mph, arrived four minutes after a *Chronicle* writer who had walked. Another example of finger-on-the-scale agenda journalism — like using arrests instead of reported crimes to

purport preposterous conclusions. In its Vanishing Violence series, *The Chronicle* stated: “The youth crime decline would be easier to believe, experts said, if they understood why it happened,” and went on to speculate that crime might have declined because of less lead poisoning. Seriously? A friend of mine told me there are no fish in the ocean because he didn’t catch any fish yesterday. Hey *Chronicle*, now there’s a story! Lou Barberini spent 21 years with SFPD. He can be reached at lou.barberini@gmail.com

“Steal from a rich person, go to jail. Steal from a poorer person, receive a misdemeanor citation on a traffic ticket.”

Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

Start Your Financial Plan with The Sound of Music

December and the end of the year may have you thinking about getting your finances in order. My thoughts, however, drift to... the annual airing of The Sound of Music. I can't help it; I love that movie. I still hold my breath when the von Trapps are hiding in the convent cemetery. And I still feel a pang of betrayal when Rolf literally blows the whistle on them. How could someone so handsome be so cruel?

Before I go too far down lederhosen lane, let's get back to putting your finances in order. Financial planning can be somewhat intimidating. Especially if your wealth doesn't justify a full-service financial advisor. Luckily, there are other options. Lots of companies are democratizing financial planning and how advice is delivered.

And every one of these options has the same starting point. So in the words of Julie Andrews as she's teaching the Captain's children to sing, "Let's start at the very beginning. A very good place to start."

Cash Flow Is Where It All Begins

If you don't know where you are, how can you move forward? Start by figuring out the money that moves through your hands each month. How much is coming in, how much is going out and how much—if any—do you have left over? Cash flow is so basic that many people overlook it. But being in the dark means you have no idea how much you have to

- calculators that let you easily perform what-if situations.
- Robo-advisors—These focus on the numbers, not your life goals, but they can work fine for basic investment plans.
 - Hybrid solutions—Even established organizations are embracing some benefits of automated planning, and offer a robo-advice solution with the option for human oversight and input.
 - Advice by the hour—If you just want a one-time or sometimes relationship with a human advisor, paying only when you want advice may be a good option.
 - Full-service advisors—Yes, you'll pay more. But you'll also get help understanding the nuances of your goals, creating a plan customized to those goals, adapting to life's changes, and keeping you disciplined and accountable.

Implement Your Plan and Stay on Track

Once you have your financial roadmap,

Start by figuring out the money that moves through your hands each month. How much is coming in, how much is going out and how much—if any—do you have left over?"

invest or how deep a hole you're digging. If you're racking up debt faster than savings, you'll obviously need to make changes in your spending habits, get a second or better-paying job, or find a sugar daddy or mama. That also applies if you're saving, but at a rate that will require three lifetimes before you have enough.

There are lots of online tools that can help you figure out your cash flow and take control of your budget. Perhaps start your quest at your current bank, where they may have online cash-flow tools. A budgeting tool I like is Mvelopes, an updated strategy from our great-grandparents, that uses digital envelopes and automatic transaction tracking to help you plan for and see where your money goes.

Create a Plan with Automated and/or Human Help

- As I mentioned, this is a new era of democracy in financial planning. You can be as hands on—or off—as you want or your financial situation dictates. Your options now include:
- Online tools and resources—Educating yourself about financial strategies is easier than ever with the Internet at your fingertips. I particularly like Dinkytown.net, which has a gazillion

don't neglect to actually follow it! Invest the amount you planned when and where you planned. Make it automatic so you don't have to remember each month.

- Two incredibly easy ways to start investing are:
- Acorns—rounds up your transactions to an even amount, harvests that change and invests it for you.
 - Stash—offers fractional shares so you can invest as little as \$5 at a time in stocks, ETFs and bonds.

Now that you know some new options, I hope you don't let another year end without getting your financial act together. Just follow the advice of the future Mrs. Von Trapp (sorry, I should have given you a spoiler alert). Start at the very beginning. A very good place to start.

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20/20

After leaving Costco's checkout area, I never fail to take a quick glance at the eye chart in front of the Optometrist's office to make sure I can still pass the next driving test. So far so good as

far as looking forward but what about looking back? Is there a special set of glasses to handle that? 2019 is teetering towards the history books but what great adventures have we lived in the last 12 months that are worth reviewing? We recently returned from a very enjoyable cruise to Mexico and a few months before that we visited our relatives in Chicago. All very pleasant adventures but what about all the political madness that we're facing every day? Our State almost became a roasted marshmallow with all the wildfires and may soon be known as the "State of S'mores".

The New Year started out rather innocently with good cheers and high hopes. A few birthday parties, some joyful anniversaries, new children welcomed into loving arms and sadly a few departed souls. Not all that unusual starting with a few business gatherings, fund raising events, ribbon cuttings, and an occasional doctor's appointment. The Napa Valley had another successful harvest and the world-famous vineyards were spared complete annihilation while Pebble Beach showed its true elegance while hosting the Concours d' Elegance.

On Ground Hog's Day, we looked for that shadow hoping for warmer, clearer

days. The happiest of all events were Father's Day, Mother's Day, Christmas and certainly, the ugliest day of all was April 15, the day that income taxes were due. Being the eternal optimist, I always see the bright side, the glass is always, half full. Three of our grandchildren are finishing college; the other four are well on their way to successful careers.

Looking back, it was not so painful but now it's time to put on those forward-looking spectacles once again. Here's to everyone's good health, happiness and to a peaceful world so let's raise our glasses to a brand new year, 2020 here we come.

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Oceanview Library (Cont. from p. 7)
probably cost less than the cost of the improvements to the site on the Greenbelt, since it would include earthquake proofing, MTA changes on Sagamore, demolition of 24 trees and their root system, a telephone pole replacement, a lengthy EIR process, as well as running sewer, gas, electric and water lines to the new library. All of these improvements are expensive and not necessary on the Broad St. library site.

Another excuse is that the Broad St. location is not at the corner of the block. “All libraries are at the corner of the block,” we were told. However, the original library at Ana’s Market was not at the corner of the block. In this part of the OMI district, superblocks are very common, which reduces the opportunity to have intersections, as streets are as long six regular blocks. In a neighborhood with so few intersections, having a library at the corner is desired but difficult to provide. One neighbor explained, if 137 Broad was discovered to be the site of the new library,

Edgehill (Cont. from p. 2)

4. Edgehill Mountain is a unique urban wilderness specific only to San Francisco. We have been foolishly chipping away at it for years. Once it’s gone, it will be lost forever.

A Conflicted Supervisor Yee After listening to the presentation, and Supervisor Yee’s explanation of no position due to a potential “conflict of interest,” I was more bewildered than ever.

How this project even got this far through the planning department is astonishing, given **proper notices were not sent out**. As to Supervisor Yee, I don’t understand his “conflict of interest,” as his interests are supposed to be the interest of the residents of District 7. I did not witness one person at the meeting who was in favor of the project.

Development Déjà vu Respecting the property rights of all involved, I concluded the public input by recalling how I dealt with the same problem back in 2002-2004 when I was the Supervisor for the District.

Back then, Spiers’ Construction had applied for permission to build a minimum of 5 homes on what is now Edgehill Mountain trail. When I became aware of the project and the ensuing neighborhood outcry, I arranged for a series of meetings with the Spiers to see if we could avoid construction on the mountain. Being good, reasonable and concerned neighbors themselves, they gave me time to work

Elder Abuse at LHH (Cont. from p. 4)

Many key questions remain. The California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform asked on September 11: What’s being done to bring the perpetrators to justice? What’s the Police Department — specifically its Special Victims Unit — doing? Why hasn’t the State Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Unit filed charges against the perpetrators? And why hasn’t CDPH denounced the abuse and publicly released its findings?

After all, the drugging of patients with unprescribed opioids was first detected and reported to LHH’s Medical Director, Dr. Michael Mcshane, as early as February 26, 2018 by doctors at other hospitals where five patients had been transported with life-threatening conditions, including respiratory arrest. Mcshane replied the same day that an internal investigation was underway at LHH. Did Mcshane ever conclude that internal investigation?

Culture of Silence In his November *Westside Observer* article, former LHH physician, Dr. Derek Kerr — wrongfully terminated in June 2010 in retaliation for whistleblowing — asked what had happened with investigations by LHH’s physician-run Medical Quality Improvement Committee and its Performance Improvement and Patient Safety Committee, since both committees have offered only silence. That mirrors

they would increase the price of the property, making this solution too expensive. Well, the City has had no hesitation in purchasing property in the Fillmore district, for half the true value of the real estate, during the restoration of the Fillmore. In the negotiations of real estate, the City can be very forceful, which could also include obtaining property by imminent domain.

CALL TO ACTION

The City continues to be in favor the site at Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. Oceanview residents and all San Franciscans need to contact and voice your disapproval:

ahsha.safai@sfgov.org
mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org

Also, please ask sue.Blackman@sfppl.org at the Library Commission when the next outreach meetings will occur so you can be present and voice your opinion in person.

Glenn Rogers,RLA is a landscape architect living on the westside. See his website at alderlandscarearchitecture.com

something out. I was able to identify a parcel of property that was owned by the City at the corner of Gough and Grove Streets that was newly vacant due to the demolition of the central freeway. As the City was desirous for new housing then, as now, I was able to eventually arrange for the swap of that land to the Spiers in exchange for their Edgehill property.

This exchange took place on July 15, 2004, and it was a happy ending for all, as the City got 5 times the number of housing units built on Gough St. by the Spiers, and also acquired the open space on the mountain now designated as Edgehill Mountain Walking and Hiking trail.

Supervisor Yee, as president of the Board of Supervisors, should be able to do a similar deal today so that the City could acquire more open space on Edgehill and the owner of the lots for the 5 Monster homes is not left out in the cold.

Good government involves good motives, good planning, and good execution to the benefit of all concerned. As San Franciscans, we deserve at least that much considering all the money we are spending on our local representatives.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Tony Hall is a former Supervisor for District 7. His writings for the District and City can be accessed at tonyhallarchives.wordpress.com

LHH’s pandemic culture of silence.

Personally, I wonder why the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office hasn’t announced criminal charges in this scandal?

Oversight? A key part of DPH’s leadership problems extends to Health Commissioners Dr. Edward Chow and Dr. David Sanchez who have served as Commissioners for 30 years and 22 years, respectively. Both men served repeatedly on the Commission’s LHH Joint Conference Committee that is charged, in part, with receiving LHH’s Quality Management reports.

Hirose, Gomez, Valencia, Chow, and Sanchez all had to have known the December 2016 “Class AA” citation’s two-year period hadn’t ended. Is that why the patient abuse wasn’t reported to the State?

On November 19, CDPH responded to a records request saying “CDPH cannot comment on an ongoing investigation.” Why has CDPH’s investigation dragged on from at least May 29 to November 19 without conclusion? Stay tuned.

A greatly expanded version of this article with significant details is available at stopLHHdownsize.com.

Monette-Shaw operates stopLHHdownsize.com. Contact him at monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

It’s hard to believe, I know, but it’s true. Last year more Americans were killed by prescription drugs than by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined ... But we’ll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years”...(and we just moved to our new office on Clement Street). Well, that’s me. I’m also the woman hugging her niece at the Jersey Shore in the picture.

Seventeen years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend when she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car. We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse. For years I tried everything that I could find. For an escape from the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists, I tried special pillows, and anything I thought might help. I spent a lot of time and money. Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and felt like I was 100. That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week. So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam, and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange, but I was so happy and grateful for the relief that I still thank him every day! After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor, and that’s how it happened!

I have adjusted many children within the first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously didn’t complain of neck pain or back pain; I adjust them to keep them healthy... as with all the hundreds of children I care for in my office.

You see, it’s not normal for kids to get ear infections, asthma, allergies or a number of other illnesses we see clear up in our office everyday.

When the nervous system is working correctly your internal resistance and healing powers are enhanced.

A healthy family does NOT rely on medication to make it well. My family does not turn to medication to seek health and we don’t have a “medicine chest” in our home. Due to years of advertising saturation from the pharmaceutical companies most Americans do seek health from outside in and most families have a “medicine chest” filled with an average of 16 different medications.

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5



million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

If drugs make people well, then those who take the most should be the healthiest, but this simply isn’t the case.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn’t need any help; it just can’t have any interference. With chiropractic, we don’t add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it, thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

We get tremendous results ... it really is as simple as that.

For the past eight years, people from San Francisco and the surrounding area have come to see me with their pinched nerve problems.

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries, just to name a few.

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

“I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!” — A. McGrath

“All possible medicines and doctors, you made a miracle taking away my pain!! I am a happy wife and mother again!” — L Igudesman

“I have had chronic neck, shoulder and arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Dr. Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my own pants and there is no longer a need for me to ice my arm in the morning and night! I feel more energetic, and can move my arm and neck pain free!” — C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

I am a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, I have published articles in leading chiropractic journals and taught chiropractic to chiropractors! I’ve been helping your neighbors in San Francisco since 2004. I’ve been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to athletes that you may know.

My assistants are Miranda and Nancy and they are friendly and helpful and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called Healthy Life Chiropractic and it is at 101 Clement Street (at the corner of Clement St. and 2nd Avenue). Our phone number is 415-751-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you.

Thank you.—Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That’s why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

P.P.P.S. Of course, all people respond differently to care.

Remember When?



West Portal of Twin Peaks Tunnel with Christmas Decorations on Tunnel | November 18, 1958. Permission to use this image from the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Committee

Police Report (Cont. from p. 8)

A group said they were playing basketball when the suspect asked to join the game. When they told him he would have to wait until the current game was over, he waited about 10 minutes, then angrily threw a water bottle on the gym floor and took a gun out, but did not remove it from it's holster nor point it at anyone. Then he walked away.

Sunday | November 17

Robbery

7:18 pm | 1300 11th Ave

Two women were walking when a car stopped and two suspects exited got out. One of the suspects offered a gold colored necklace to one of the women, reaching over to put it over her head. She refused and blocked the first suspect but the second grabbed her own necklace and fled with it.

Stolen Vehicle – Stolen Property

7:20 am | Ocean & Harold Ave

A man reported that his car was missing and on his way to the station to file a report when he discovered his car nearby with the suspect inside it. Officers responded and detained

the suspect. A search of the car located more of the victim's property. When a check revealed a warrant for his arrest, he was arrested.

Auto Burglary – Arrested

12:46 pm | Great Hwy & Sloat

Responding to a report, officers were approaching car when the suspect attempted to exit. They detained the suspect also identified and detained two other suspects in the area. Two of the suspects were later arrested and one suspect was cited.

Monday | November 18

Robbery

8:06 pm | Plymouth Ave & Broad

A woman was sitting near the door of a LRV when the suspect grabbed her cell phone. She tried to stop him, but he pushed her and a nearby elderly passenger out of the away and fled with it.

Wednesday | November 20

Battery

9:06 am | 1400 La Playa St

Two neighbors argued about one party's dogs urinating on her plants. Fighting ensued and both parties requested to press charges. Officers cited both parties.

Breaking Windows – Probation Violation

8:26 pm | 2600 Ocean Ave

A woman said she heard the suspect banging on the window next to her but ignored him until she heard the window cracking and saw the glass shattering. Officers detained the suspect and he was arrested.

Friday | November 22

Breaking Windows – Arrested

8:07 am | 00 West Portal Ave

A man, who appeared to be intoxicated and was bleeding, fell down, but got up and kicked at the front window of a restaurant before running away. Officers detained and he was arrested.

Stolen Vehicle – Arrested

7:00 pm | 100 Broad St

A woman called police when she saw the suspect parking a car in front of her home, despite a stay away order. Officers found the car and discovered it was stolen. The suspect was found at the corner and was arrested.

Search Warrant – Arrested

8:33 am

SIT Sgts and TNT officers investigated a robbery that had occurred

earlier. The suspects were identified and a search warrant was conducted. One was arrested and a second suspect was cited.

Warrant Arrest – Arrested

1:24 pm | 200 West Portal Ave

When officers saw a suspect standing in the roadway, causing a hazard, they detained him and a check revealed an arrest warrant. The subject was arrested.

Saturday | November 23

Robbery

9:53 am | Rivera St & 19th Ave

The victim, who was found asleep on the street, reported that he observed three suspects beating someone, he tried to break up the fight but they started hitting him as well. He said that when he awoke, his jacket was missing.

Robbery

8:16 am | Broad St & Capitol Ave

A woman was sitting on a LRV, holding her purse, when a suspect grabbed the purse and ran off the LRV with it.

Burglary

12:24 pm | 300 Sloat Blvd

Investigating a report of a suspicious person in Stern Grove, officers detained the suspect, and

determined he stole property from an unlocked Rec & Park building He was arrested.

Sunday | November 24

Robbery of a Residence

3:27 am | 00 Byxbee St

At Taraval Station, a man said that he contracted an escort service and when the escort arrived, he went back outside to "get something" but walked back in with two more suspects who pointed a gun at him. They stole his money and other property before fleeing

Tuesday | November 26

Robbery

4:21 pm | Taraval St & 22nd Ave

Two juveniles said they were on a LRV when four suspects, also juveniles, started an argument with them and demanded their property. One of the suspects punched one of the victims in the face and a second suspect brandished a knife before they stole the victims' property and fled.

Editors Note: This feature is an abbreviated version of the Police Report found at www.taraval.org

OPEN LATE



SFPD/FBI (Cont. from p. 13)

- chive/2011/04/26/spies-blue/
- 4. [sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/DGO8.10 Guidelines for First Amendment Activities.pdf](http://sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/DGO8.10%20Guidelines%20for%20First%20Amendment%20Activities.pdf)
- 5. sf-hrc.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRC_Publications/Articles/AMEMSA_Report_Adopted_by_HRC_022411.pdf
- 6. www.sfbay.org/forms/newsroom/basf-safe-sf-ordinance.pdf
- 7. www.aclu.org/blog/national-security/discriminatory-profiling/fbi-foia-docs-show-use-mosque-outreach-illegal-intel
- 8, 15, 17. [sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/Letter to Police Commission Regarding Joint Terrorism Task Force.pdf](http://sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/Letter%20to%20Police%20Commission%20Regarding%20Joint%20Terrorism%20Task%20Force.pdf)
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Missing In Action (Cont. from p. 9)

to be running afoul of his avowed environmental supporters. Former Governor Gray Davis was dismissed over his power policies. Water is of even greater import.

Finally, I disagree with the *West-side Observer's* utility expert about Mr. Kelly. He has been the most open and accessible GM. He is a keeper.

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created. Feedback: browne@westsideobserver.com



December/January

Shifting SF Sports Scene...What a difference a year makes... A year ago, the Giants were coming off of another bad season, the 49ers were suffering through an injury plagued season, and the Warriors were headed to their 5th straight NBA finals. 365 days later, here we sit; The Giants have a load of questions with an uninspiring managerial hire, the Warriors are 2-11, with so many injuries they are starting players that almost none of the fans recognize, but the 49ers have flipped the script, going 9-1 so far, a missed field goal away from starting a perfect 10-0. Oh, there's lots to fret about with the remaining schedule, a load of injuries, and the inconsistency of developing players. Even with the injuries, the team looks vastly improved and deeper at almost every position. It should be fun down the home stretch towards a probable playoff berth. Now if the Giants can turn things around in 2020.



SantaCon 25th Anniversary - Saturday, December 7th. . . It's that time of year again - Be prepared to get your Santa on!!!! Last year between 10-12,000 attendees made the event a success, collecting over 1,500 toys!! Great job for the Santas! It was reported on ABC7 TV news, by the SFPD, that SantaCon is the largest single contributor of toys in the history of the SFPD toy drive! Join the fun at SantaCon 2019. For more info – www.SantaCon.info

"Another Hole in the Head" -Film Fest... The 'Another Hole in the Head' Film Festival is a two-week cinematic excursion into the realms of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and assorted other genres. Taking its cue from other legendary festivals such as Cannes, Sundance, and Crazy Steve's Bootleg Basement Extravaganza, Another Hole in the Head pulls together a diverse collection of films from all varieties and budgetary considerations. From your buddy Keith's skateboarding footage in an enchanted forest, to Burt Reynolds in Space, to tomorrow's cult classic destined for Lionsgate, Another Hole in the Head provides a unique vehicle for independent cinema. This year's festival will occur December 1st - December 15th at New People Cinema 1746 Post St in San Francisco's Japantown and will screen over 180 films in a two-week period. For more info please reach us at www.ahith.com



Holiday Crafts Day at the Randall Museum... Get crafty and make presents and decorations for the winter holidays this year at the Randall Museum's annual Holiday Crafts Day, Saturday, December 7 from 10 am – 2 pm. The museum, at 199 Museum Way, will be bustling with fun holiday craft activities for the whole family. Kids can create one-of-a-kind hand-made gifts and items to decorate their homes. Learn how to roll beeswax candles and make handmade lip balm, then sweeten the season by creating a candy house with marshmallow and gumdrop chimneys, licorice doors and peppermint siding. Explore new areas of the museum for unexpected surprises while enjoying familiar favorites likes building toy trains, soapmaking and more. It's free to join in the fun. For more info call: 415.554.9600 or visit the website, www.randallmuseum.org

FREE At the West Portal, Merced and Ingleside branches of the SFPL for December...



Dec 3 -Book Club: Merced Branch Library Book Club | 7-830 pm Join a lively discussion of SF's 2019 One City One Book selection *There There* by Tommy Orange. Meets bimonthly, and new members welcome. Info: at 415 355-2825 or mermgr@sfpl.org.

Dec 4, 11, and 18 - Ingleside Branch, 10 am–Noon Technology: Basic Computer Help for Seniors in English and Chinese - No sign ups required, come with your questions!

Dec 7,14, 21, 28 - West Portal, 2–4 pm Technology: Computer Help for Adults/Seniors - Drop-in and get help with a tech savvy teen volunteer. Learn to use your laptop, eReaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets or cell phones.

Dec 10 – Knitting Circle - Merced Branch, 6-7:30 pm Join us with your knit projects (all levels) and spread the inspiration! Practice supplies provided, but bring your own if you have a special project in mind. For ages 13 and up.

Dec 11- Craft Night - Merced Branch -6-7:30 pm Join us the second Thu each month for a fun night of crafting! (Ages 13 and up). Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Sign up with a librarian or 415 355-2825. Sign up starts on the first day of the month.

Dec 11-Wellness: Laughter Yoga For All Ages - West Portal Branch, 6:30–7:30 pm No mats. No poses. No jokes. Just laughter in community. Laughter is healing and contagious. A Laughter Yoga Leader will show us how. All ages are welcome.

Dec 13 - Craft: Jewelry Making- Ingleside Branch, 4–5:30 pm Join Chelsee Robinson for jewelry-making instruction and construction. All materials are provided — tools,

beads, stones, crystals and gift bags. Info: Nina.Pogosyan@sfpl.org or 415 355-2898.

Dec 18 - West Portal Book Club - West Portal Branch, 11 am –12:30 pm *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn. We meet the 3rd Wed monthly and read both fiction and nonfiction. New members welcome. What are we reading next? 415 355-2886 or go to the West Portal Library web page.

Dec 18 - Discussion Group of West Portal - West Portal Branch, 6:30–8:30 pm If you like great ideas, great writing, and stimulating discussion, we meet the fourth Wednesday (most months). Info: Jim at 415 613-4746 or to find out how to get the selection.

Dec 19 - Craft: Beaded Mandarin Orange - West Portal Artistry and Craft Club | West Portal, 6:30–8 pm We meet the third Thursday of each month for conviviality and craft-making. Join us. Space is limited. Info: 415 355-2886.

Dec 21 - Crafts for the Holidays -Ingleside Branch, 2:30–4 pm Join Esther to make crafts. Adults, seniors and children 8 and up accompanied by adults are also welcome. -

Dec 26 - Craft: Adult Coloring Club - Merced Branch, 6–7 pm Enjoy coloring for relaxation or creative expression. Bring your own or the library will provide coloring pages, pencils and crayons. Meets the 4th Thursday monthly. New members welcome.

Please Note: All Library locations will close at 5 pm on Tue, Dec 24 and Tue, Dec31. All Library locations will be closed on Wed, December 25.

Merced Branch | 155 Winston Drive (at 19th Ave) | 415 355-2825 | www.sfpl.org

West Portal Branch | 190 Lenox Way at Ulloa | 415 355-2886 | www.sfpl.org

Ingleside Branch | 1298 Ocean Avenue | 415 355-2898 | www.sfpl.org

Bluegrass Bonanza! ... West Portal Avenue's own Shelby Ash (The Music Store) presents music reflecting the best of "new" bluegrass and Americana music.

December 7 – Honky-Tonk Saturday Night with Nashville Honeymoon - Join us for a night of swingin', two-steppin' and honky-tonkin'. Featuring the Bay Area's most loved husband-wife classic country band. Pick up your copy of the brand-spankin' new N.H. "Two-Bit Town" at The Music Store on West Portal or at the show | Plough & Stars, 116 Clement St. | 9 pm – 12 am Info/tix: www.shelbyashpresents.net



December 13 – The Pine Box Boys present The Feast of Three Arms with Junk Parlor To celebrate the holiday of the same name, join us Friday the 13th as we honor the Woman with Three Arms, the Boy that Loved Her, and The Man that Done Her Wrong. The Junk Parlor and "Gentleman" Jimmy Hadley and the Swindling Drifters will join the celebration. | Milk Bar, 1840 Haight St. - 9 pm | Info/

tix: [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Get into the Garden... The Garden for the Environment folks at 7th Avenue and Lawton have the following workshops available. Give them a call or go online to register.

Educational Volunteer Hours | Wed & Sat | 10 am to 3 pm | Free Join us on Wednesdays and Saturdays to help with garden maintenance tasks. You'll work alongside staff and fellow volunteers on a range of activities like composting, vegetable planting and harvesting, pruning, and weeding. Info: bit.ly/GFEVolunteer

Urban Composting | Saturday, Dec 7 | 10 am to 12 pm | Free!

Learn to make your very own compost! The backbone of every healthy garden, compost improves all soil types and can be the difference between success and failure with many plants. In this class, we will teach you how to make compost in your backyard, and introduce you to our worms that make their own special fertilizer. Sponsored by the Department of the Environment Register: bit.ly/GFEComposting2019

The Edible Garden | Saturday, Dec 14 | 10 am to 12 pm | \$25

Learn to take full advantage of the unique San Francisco gardening climate, where you can grow your own fruits and vegetables year-round. This workshop will focus on planning for your fall and winter garden and summer pests and diseases to look out for. Register: bit.ly/GFEEdibleGarden2019

Garden for the Environment | 7th & Lawton St | www.gardenfortheenvironment.org (415) 558-8246

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at mitch@westsideobserver.com and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.



Christmas Tree Lighting | Friday, December 6 | 5-6:30 pm | McCoppin Square

Albert Chow announced the annual People of Parkside (POPS) Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Friday, December 6, from 5-6:30 pm at McCoppin Square (Taraval Street & 23rd Avenue). POPS will provide hot chocolate, popcorn, live Christmas music that you can sing along with. You are invited to bring your own ornaments to help decorate Taraval's Tree!

Don't Miss Another Issue!

your check to:

Mail your check to:

\$20.

Per Year

POB 27176, SF 94127 • mitch@westsideobserver.com

CELEBRATE THE 75TH YEAR — THE NUTCRACKER — SF BALLET



75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Wed Dec 11 | 7 pm | +Various times thru Dec 29th. Continue a tradition or create a new one with those you care about. Nutcracker is for everyone so whether it's with friends, family, co-workers or a special someone, attend the 75th Anniversary Celebration. It will be a spectacular experience. More than 150 costumed characters—from Clara and the Nutcracker Prince to mice, fairies, a Snow Queen and more! Tchaikovsky's classic score performed live in full glory by the renowned SF Ballet Orchestra and elaborate scenery and costumes by a Tony Award-winning design team. Tix: (\$25-285) sfballet.org

Please note: Nutcracker is most magical for children 5 and older. No children under age 3 are allowed, including babes in arms.

December/January

C A L E N D A R

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm | Fresh fruits and vegetables stars in this popular market, rear parking lot: Stonestown (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR



Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture Lafayette Square. SF's illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations MUNI 1, 3. Check out many tours of SF: SFCityGuides.org

SUNDAYS • FREE COMMUNITY YOGA

Every Sun | 10 am | Bring Your Own Mat for outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Cancellations: Playland Yoga Facebook Page.

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE



Every Fri | 7–11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. For INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/jazz

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

Every Tue Happy Hour | 4–8 pm | Que Syrah Wine Bar. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off each bottle (consumed on site). 230 West Portal Ave. 415 731-7000

EVERY THURS • NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6–10 pm | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calacademy.org/nightlife.

FRIDAYS • TEEN COMPUTER CORPS

Fri | 4-5:30 pm | Trouble with Technology? We can help with kindles, email, laptops, tablets, cell phones and other electronic gadgets at the Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval. Info: 415-355-5770.

SATURDAYS • COMPUTER HELP

Sat | 2-4 pm | Drop-in help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, eReaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets or cell phones and we can help you learn how to use it. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox.

ONGOING • GREAT DICKENS FAIR



Thru Dec 22 | Immerse yourself in a world of music halls, theatres, pubs, and charming shops overflowing with hand-made holiday treasures. Enticing aromas of roasted chestnuts and hearty foods fill the air. Over 800 lively and colorful characters from the imagination of Charles Dickens and the sometimes saucy world of the Victorian stage. Tix: dickensfair.com

ONGOING • EMBARCADERO ICE RINK

Thru Jan 3 | Sun-Thu: 10 am - 9:30 pm / Fri-Sat: Until 11:30 pm | Bay Area's largest outdoor ice rink, at Justin Herman Plaza, across from the historic Ferry Building. \$12 • (8 & under) \$7 • Skate Rental \$5. May close for rain or private-parties. Info: 415 837-1931 | echolicay-rink@gmail.com | embarcaderocenter.com

ONGOING • NIGHT BLOOM



Now through - Jan 7 | Light up the season with Night Bloom, a light and sound exhibition in an illuminated Conservatory of Flowers bursting with vibrant and luminous displays through the five galleries. AVAIL-ABLE DAYS: conservatoryofflowers.org/nightbloom/ JFK Drive, GG Park.

DAILY • SF FIREFIGHTERS TOY PROGRAM



Daily | In its 64th year of helping children, the Toy Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys. Bring toys to any S.F. firehouse 415-777-0440, sffirefightertoy.org

TUES • HISTORY: WOMEN'S LUNG CLINIC

Tues Dec 3 | 6 pm | In 1911, with the help of wealthy society women, Dr. Philip King Brown opened the Arequipa Sanatorium in Marin County. Together, Brown and his all-female staff gave new life to hundreds of working-class women suffering from tuberculosis. RSVP: space limited. CA Historical Society, 678 Mission St. Cost: \$5, non-members.

WED • GWPNA

Wed Dec 4 | 6:30 | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Zephyr Real Estate Office, 215 West Portal Avenue. GWPNA.org

WED • TREE LIGHTING/CIVIC CENTER

Wed Dec 4 | 4-7 pm | Civic Center Plaza Holiday Tree Lighting: On the bill of family-friendly festivities are live music, the Tap Dancing Christmas Trees, visits from the Grinch and Santa, and a toy giveaway, free. Polk and Grove www.civiccentercommons.org

WED-SUN • SCROOGE IN LOVE



Dec 4-22 | Wed-Thu 7 pm; Fri 8 pm; Sat 6 pm; Sun 3pm; Sat Mat, Dec 14 | 1pm | A year after the Dickens tale, we find a reformed Scrooge looking for his lost love, Belle, and revisiting past, present, and future with hilarious, ghostly friends! Both side-splitting and hopelessly romantic—now a cherished SF tradition! Gateway Theater, 215 Jackson St. 42ndstmoon.org

Holiday Parties at The Cliff House



The Terrace Room

Offering sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, historic ambiance and delightful cuisine, the Terrace Room is a truly unique private event venue for groups up to 120.

Private Events Direct 415-666-4027
virginia@cliffhouse.com

The Lands End Room

Located in the Sutro's Restaurant, the Lands End Room is a semi-private space for smaller parties of 17–49 offering California cuisine, awesome ocean views and Sutro Baths history.

Large Parties Direct 415-666-4005
halima@cliffhouse.com



Call soon to book your event!

1090 Point Lobos
415-386-3330
cliffhouse.com



25TH SANTA CON • SAT • DEC. 7 • 10 AM-6 PM • UNION SQUARE

Though Rec & Parks has still denied SantaCon a permit request for amplified sound to host costume contests and a singalong for this year's event, Santas won't be deterred. Thousands of Santas, Mrs. Clauses, Elves, reindeer, and grinchies will continue the holiday caper, without a singalong or a contest. The first SantaCon took place in San Francisco in 1994

and the phenomena has grown so much, it now takes place in well over 100 cities around the world. Last year's SantaCon had more than 10,000 people get out to Union Square to have fun and give a little to those in need. The event is free, 21+, and attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy that can be donated to Toys for Tots. (Photo Steve Rhodes)

THU • POPS: PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE

Thu Dec 5 | 7 pm | Marketing Taraval begins the meeting, SFMTA update and the cardboard crisis. at the Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave. Every first Thursday.

FRI • JOHN KALLEEN GROUP



Fri Dec 6 | 7-11 pm | It's a hot version of "Summertime," a cool version of "Footsteps" and beautifully crafted originals! The JKG is a jazz quartet in the classic style. Cliff House, 1090 Point Lobos.

FRI • GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Fri Dec 6 | 11 am | Guide Dogs for the Blind Holiday Luncheon: The 43rd annual fundraiser includes a reception, raffle, boutique, meal and program. \$150. St. Francis, 335 Powell St., www.guidedogs.com

FRI • FILM: ROCKETMAN

Fri Dec 6 | 2 pm | A musical fantasy about the fantastical human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.



SAT • LANDS END & SUTRO TOUR



Sat Dec 7 & 14 | 2 pm | There are a few ocean vistas more arresting than Land's End — a fact millionaire Adolph Sutro was well aware of when he built the first passenger steam train to the park in 1880. He wasn't done there—Meet: Entrance gate to Sutro Park on Point Lobos & 48th Ave. SFCityGuides.org.

SAT • AUTHOR EMILY WU

Sat Dec 7 | 1 pm | The author will speak and answer questions about her inspiring memoir of a young girl helplessly caught up in the chaos of the Cultural Revolution in China, *A Feather in the Wind* and *A Single Tear*, a family's persecution, love and Endurance in Communist China. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.



SUN • FILM: ALADDIN

Sun Dec 8 | 3 pm | A live-action adaptation of the 1992 animated film. Aladdin, a poor homeless orphan, falls in love with Jasmine, befriends a wish granting genie, and battles the wicked Jafar. PG Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

SUN • AUTHOR SHANTA SACHAROFF

Sun Dec 8 | 2 pm | Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff will give a lecture-demo on how to make alcohol-free beverages and healthy vegetarian snacks. Her current book, *Cooking Together: A Vegetarian Co-op Cookbook*, contains recipes from today's program. Tasting of beverages and snacks to follow.. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

MON • SING IT YOURSELF MESSIAH



have the option to sit in the audience with our chorus members and group together by part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). \$25-45 Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. goldengatesymphony.org

THU • OPEN HAND LUNCHEON

Thu Dec 12 | 11 am | Project Open Hand's 27th seasonal fundraiser Hand to Hand supports its efforts to serve meals to people in critical need. \$250. Fairmont, 950 Mason St., www.openhand.org

THU • DAY AFTER TOMORROW



Thu Dec 12 | Noon | Jack Hall, paleoclimatologist, must make a daring trek from Washington, D.C. to New York City to reach his son, trapped in a sudden international storm which plunges the planet into a new Ice Age. PG-13, Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal, Emmy Rossum. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

FRI • SOMETHING BIG



Fri Dec 13 | 7-11 pm | It's a delightful musical cocktail — a bit spicy with a dash of cool jazz and James Bond. Eva Jay Fortune — vocals, guitar, and percussion; Kevin Bertness — keyboards; Steve Fowler — standup bass; and Nicky Garratt — Guitar. Cliff House, 1090 Pt. Lobos

FRI • LIGHTED BOAT PARADE



Fri Dec 13 | 6–8 pm | Fisherman's Wharf Lighted Boat Parade: 60 decorated boats parade along the waterfront in the event, held since 1994, Fisherman's Wharf Benefit District & St. Francis Yacht Club. free. Pier 39, www.visitfishermanswharf.com

FRI • DOCENT TOUR: OLD US MINT

Dec 13 | 3 pm | Journey through 150 years of history with a CHS docent who will share stories, discuss the architecture, and answer questions about the Old U.S. Mint. 85 Fifth St. Meet: NW side. CA Historical Society \$10. 415-357-1848 ext. 22

SAT • PAROL LANTERN FESTIVAL



Sat Dec 14 | 4-8 pm | Parol Lantern Festival & Parade: The Filipino community hosts the 17th annual yuletide display and festivities, preceded by lantern-making workshops. free. Jessie Square, Mission & Yerba Buena Lane, www.bayanihancc.org

SAT/SUN • SUNSET HOLIDAY MERCANTILE



Sat – Sun Dec 14-15 | 11am – 5pm | Eat, drink, shop, play). Explore 85+ artisans, artists, merchants and children's activities, lively entertainment, scrumptious food, beer and wine tasting! Free and fun for all! County Fair Building in GG Park (1199 9th Ave. @ Lincoln) sunsetmercantilesf.com

SAT • AUTHOR YOLANDA NAVA

Sat Dec 14 | Noon | The Talking Books and Braille Center welcomes the author of *Journey Through the Dark*, her latest book about a woman's inner revolution as a result of sudden blindness due to an undiagnosed auto immune disease that nearly took her life. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.



THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Dec 14 pm |1-3 pm | OMI-NIA No meetings in Nov or Dec. Instead — Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway at Minnie & Lovie Rec Center @ Capitol and Montana.)for families in 94112 & 94132 only.

SUN • SF MADE GIFT FAIR

Sun Dec 15 | 11 am - 5 pm | The 9th shopping event offers locally made gift items from 60 vendors—jewelry, chocolate, apparel, toys, decorations, stationery and more. free. California College of the Arts, 1111 Eighth St., sfmade.org

SUN • HOLIDAY BRASS/SF SYMPHONY



Sun Dec 15 | 8pm | The popular Holiday Brass concert is back! Feel the power and precision of the SF Symphony brass section as they fill the Hall with a festive mix of classical and popular holiday favorites

SUN • POET KIM SHUCK

Sun Dec 15 | 2 pm | SF's seventh poet laureate has two new books. *Deer Trails* is a love letter to the city. *Murdered Missing* about murdered and missing Indigenous women. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Dec 17 | 6-7 pm | Meet with Captain Rainsford at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Room, 2345 24th Ave. Meets every 3rd Tues. taraval.org

TUE • WORLD FILM: ARABY (BRAZIL)



Tue Dec 17 | 5:45 | When a factory worker is injured. Andre is tasked with going to his house to pick up his clothes, and discovers a notebook, which works as a catalyst to transform Andre's life. (Subtitles) Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

FRI • MOONGLOW GROUP



Fri Dec 20 | 7-11 pm | From the gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt, and classic blues, swing, soul and pop - violinist and vocalist Richard Chon, formerly with Dan Hicks mixes it with guitarist Mike Wollenberg and bassist Bing Nathan. The Balcony at the Cliff House. 1 Seal Rock. INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.

SAT • RUSSIAN BELLS CONCERT

Fri Dec 20 | 7-11 pm | The majestic sound of Russian bells with SF Symphony's guest percussionist, Victor Avdienko, the program includes an introduction On Russian Bells and Bell Ringing by Mark Galperin, Bell Concert by Victor Avdienko, screening of Blagovest Bells' film A Voice of Pure Earth: The Sacred Bells of Russia. Main Branch, 100 larkin St.

SAT • FILM: STARDUST

Sat Dec 21 | 2 pm | To win the heart of his beloved, Tristran ventures into the Stormhold, a magical and surprisingly sunny world populated by witches, lightning smugglers and bloodthirsty nobles, who literally bleed blue, to retrieve a fallen star. PG-13. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • FILM: MARY POPPINS

Sat Dec 21 | 2 pm | When the children of a wealthy, uptight family are faced with a new nanny, they are pleasantly surprised to embark on a series of adventures and try to pass on some of the nanny's sunny attitude to their parents. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

SUN • FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Sun Dec 22 | 4-6 pm | Hanukkah candle-lighting and songs. Ghirardelli Square, 900 N Point St., RSVP: jc-center.com.



SUN • FILM TOY STORY 4

Sun Dec 22 | 3 pm | Woody's priority is taking care of his kid, whether that's Andy or Bonnie. But when Bonnie adds a reluctant new toy to her room, adventure alongside will show Woody how big the world can be for a toy. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

MON • LIVE NATIVITY

Mon Dec 23 | 5-8 pm | Experience the Nativity with all the animals and music and its hope and good will. Shrine of St. Francis and Portziuncola Nueva, Vallejo at Columbus, North Beach.

TUE • A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tue Dec 24 | 2 pm | Disney's animated adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. Starring Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman and Colin Firth. , Ocean View Branch, 345 Randolph.

TUE • FILM: SAN FRANCISCO



Thu Dec 26 | Noon | A Barbary Coast saloonkeeper and a Nob Hill impresario are rivals for the affections of a beautiful singer, both personally and professionally in 1906 San Francisco. 115 mins., 1936, with Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, Spencer Tracy Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

FRI • TURNAROUND JAZZ



Fri Dec 27 | 7-11 pm | An East Bay-based jazz ensemble performing original and classic straight-ahead, bossa nova, Latin music, ballads and blues—a swinging, harmonious ensemble that has delighted audiences since 2007. Cliff House, 1090 Pt. Lobos

SAT • FILM: CITY OF BONES

Sat Dec 28 | 2 pm | In New York City, when her mother disappears, a seemingly ordinary teenager named Clary Fray learns that she descends from a line of Shadowhunters — half-angel warriors who protect humanity from evil forces. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • FILM: MARY POPPINS RETURNS

Sat Dec 28 | 2 pm | In Depression-era London, a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins, who's magical skills help the family rediscover the joy and wisdom missing in their lives. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

SUN • KWANZAA (4TH DAY)



Sun Dec 29 | 1 pm | On this fourth day of Kwanzaa celebrate Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) with the West African music of Jesse Sahbi. The program will be followed by a feast. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • RING THE BUDDHA BELL



Tue Dec 31 | 11:30 am (public) | 34th Annual New Year's Bell-Ringing Ceremony. Take a swing at a 2,100-pound, 16th-century temple bell, with a purification ritual and chanting of the Buddhist Heart Sutra. Leave behind any bad experiences, regrettable deeds or ill luck. Asian Art Museum 200 Larkin St.

BOOKSHOP
WEST PORTAL

December 2019
BESTSELLERS

- Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators Ronan Farrow
- The Dutch House Ann Patchett
- The Testaments Margaret Atwood
- Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know Malcolm Gladwell
- Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth Rachel Maddow
- The Last Train to London Meg Waite Clayton *
- The Water Dancer Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Agent Running in the Field John Le Carre
- Where the Crawdads Sing Delia Owens
- Olive Again Elizabeth Stroud
- The Body: A Guide for Occupants Bill Bryson
- Blue Moon Lee Child
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- Year of the Monkey Patti Smith
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* Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

2020
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SF COMEDY FESTIVAL

Thu-Sun Jan 9-26 | Various venues | SF Sketchfest was founded in 2001 to showcase Bay Area sketch comedy groups and has grown rapidly into a nationally recognized comedy festival for the best up-and-coming groups from throughout North America for a month of sketch, improv, stand-up and alternative comedy. Info, schedule and tix: sfsketchfest.com.

THU-SUN • FOG

Thu-Sun Jan 16-19 | 11 am - 7 pm (Sun 5 pm) | FOG Design+Art fair assembles leading international galleries and design dealers, plus exciting public programming for an unforgettable experience unique to SF. \$25 Fort Mason Pavilion, 2 Marina Blvd.

SF RESTAURANT WEEK

Jan 22-31 | A 10 day celebration of SFs world-class dining community. 130 restaurants offer special prix-fixe minus to showcase their passion for sharing great food. Visit www.sfrestaurantweek.com for a list of participating restaurants.

SAT • OMI NEIGHBORS

Thu Jan 23 | 7 - 8:30 pm | Regular meetings resume. (4th Thurs) Temple UMC 65 Beverly St. (Shields)

MON • S.H.A.R.P

Mon Jan 28 | 7 pm | Meets last Monday of the month at 1736 Ninth Avenue (between Moraga and Noriega). 6:30 p.m. for cookies and conversation. For updated meeting info: sharpssf.org

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Jan 27 | 7:30-9 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets the 4th Monday of the month to discuss local topics. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

Got An Event? (Westside Events Get Priority)
editor@westsideobserver.com



CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES • GOLDEN GATE PARK • THE REINDEER ARE BACK!
Celebrate the return of the “nomads of the north!” Sporting the largest antlers relative to body size among all living deer species, these majestic mammals (also known as caribou) migrate vast distances every year. More at *Reindeer Rendezvous* (www.calacademy.org/exhibits/tis-the-season-for-science) daily at noon.