


If You Build It, Then Use It.

By John Farrell



In writing this article on the recycled water project at the City-owned Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica, the movie “Field of Dreams” with Kevin Costner comes to mind, a touching baseball story about a farmer who hears a voice. “If you build it, he will come.” So the farmer builds a baseball field in his cornfield and players from the past show up to play ball. One of the players in particular is his father as a young man. But enough of this sentimental gem. In regard to the Pacifica Recycled Water Project, a voice in my head says “If you build it, then use it.” And here is why.

In 2008, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the North Coast County Water District (NCCWD) entered into a contract to build a recycled water system from the Pacifica’s Calera Creek sewer treatment facility to the Sharp Park Golf Course, which is under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Department (Rec & Park), and to five other nearby recycled water customers including Oceana High School, Lacy Middle School and the Sharp Park Beach Promenade. Funding for the \$8.8 million project comes from our City (\$4.8 million), NCCWD (\$1.6 million) and from Federal monies (\$2.4 million). The project consists of a new pump station, approximately 3 miles of distribution pipeline, and a 400,000 gallon storage tank, saving 50 million gallons of potable water annually.

The Pacifica Recycled Water Project replaces fresh-

“The construction of the recycled water project was completed in March 2012 ... However, two years after the construction, Rec & Park has not turned on its part of the project ...”

water from Hetch Hetchy with recycled water to irrigate the Sharp Park Golf Course, the biggest customer in the project. This project is expected to deliver up to 80,000 gallons of recycled water daily to irrigate the golf course, saving over 29 million gallons of drinking water annually!

The project was put on hold in 2009 for review of the preservation of a habitat for several endangered species at the Sharp Park Golf Course. After a 7 month study, the Rec & Park Commission adopted a resolution to renovate the 80 year old golf course in conjunction with the endangered species habitat restoration in the lakes at the western edge of the course. In January 2011, the Rec & Park Commission unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the PUC to move forward with the project.

Cont. p. 4

Spring Brightens As West Portal Recovers

By Keith Burbank

At Trattoria Da Vittorio, employees are busy cooking and serving at 4 p.m. one weekday. Owner Vittorio D’Urzo looks busy, but unruffled. “We’re very happy to be in West Portal,” D’Urzo said. Since the day he opened, business has been steady.

“People here appreciate our food and our service.”

A few doors down, pure barre owner Lauren Fike said her whole-body fitness center has had a waiting list since it opened February 12.

And Art of Style owner Nadia Giusti said, “We’ve been doing great,” adding that her sales have been up every month from the previous month.

Other businesses made similar statements. “I think things are getting better,” said Maryo Mogannam, president, West Portal Avenue Association, a group representing the neighborhood’s merchants.



On March 10th neighborhood fixture Squat& Gobble reopened after 2012’s devastating fire that caused over \$7 million worth of damage to the block. Vin Debut, still in construction, opens later this summer

“Nicholson thinks business slumped after Squat & Gobble burned down. He is excited about the opening of La Boulange de West Portal, a cafe and bakery. “That’s going to be the catalyst” for greater business activity.”

Mogannam owns The Postal Chase at 58 West Portal Avenue and other Postal Chase locations in the City.

While some are happy with the improvement, some see a need for more changes. “It always needs to be improved,” said Christian Nicholson, partner, Two Cats Comic Book Store.

Nicholson would welcome a greater awareness of the district beyond the immediate neighborhood, a comment

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Photo: Luke Thomas/fogcityjournal.com

The “Affordability” Ploy

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

To believe Mayor Ed Lee’s pledge to build 30,000 housing units in San Francisco over the next six short years, you’d also have to believe P.T. Barnum said “There’s a sucker born every minute.”

For openers, although the mainstream media reported January 17 details of Mr. Mayor’s seven-point plan to solve the City’s number one crisis (affordable housing), the media failed to note the Mayor’s bloviated claim to issue 2,500 down-payment-assistance loans during the next six years — and increasing each loan to up to \$200,000 — may end up costing a half-billion dollars. The media didn’t report where the Mayor plans to come up with a cool \$500 million in order to hand out 2,500 interest-free loans within six years.

After all, the enabling legislation passed by voters in November 2012 authorized the Mayor’s new Housing Trust Fund to receive just \$36.8 million in diverted-from-the-General-Fund appropriations during the same six-year period. How do you divide \$36.8 million in fish and loaves, and come up with \$500 million?

Proposition “C” approved by voters on the November 2012 ballot, permitted the City to divert \$20 million annually from the City’s General Fund towards constructing housing. The City will add an additional \$2.8 million annually to the Housing Trust Fund on a compounded basis for the next 11 years, until 2024-2025.

By the time 2025 rolls around the General Fund will be tapped for \$50.8 million annually for this Housing Trust Fund. By 2025, a combined \$424 million will have been diverted from the General Fund to the Housing Trust Fund.

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Taraval Police Watch

Newsletter Moratorium?

By Keith Burbank

Last November, the San Francisco Police Department’s Taraval Station stopped emailing its crime report to stakeholders. Instead the report is posted each week on the station’s website, Taraval.org.

“I think it’s actually a good thing,” said Avrum Shepard, an area resident who suggested the change may be freeing up police resources for other work. For the past two years, West Portal has been asking for a beat cop.

Taraval Station Captain Curtis Lum did assign a beat officer to West Portal last year, but because of a drop in the number of officers at the station, currently there is no officer assigned to the neighborhood. In two weeks, Lum may be able to assign an officer to West Portal.

The decision to stop emailing the crime report was a staffing consideration. Both putting together the email and sending it took a lot of time. Emailing had to be done in groups because one email could include only so many addresses. The station sent the monthly report to about 2,000 addresses.

Posting the report on the station’s website frees up an officer to do other things. But Lum said that was not behind his ability to assign a beat officer to West Portal.

No one has complained about the decision to stop emailing the report. But people have asked why the emails stopped. A few months ago, the station informed recipients the report will no longer be emailed. Captain Lum said he sent out an email in November saying the station was ending its newsletter email distribution. The station directed people to its website where the same information is posted.

But many on the list did not receive the November email, and were left wondering what happened?

After *Westside Observer’s* queries were directed to the station, residents received a newsletter email with a message from Lum: “Attached please find Taraval’s newsletter covering events, daily crime reports and resourceful information in our neighborhoods and community ... Please be advised that I will be publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis instead of weekly. For constant updates on Taraval Station, please visit our website at www.taraval.org.”



Captain Curtis Lum

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Spring on West Portal (Cont. from p. 1)

echoed in the past by other owners. He wants West Portal to be a shopping destination for people in and outside of the City.

Karrie and Tina Finkel, owners of Curiosities, 207 West Portal Avenue, want to see more stores selling tangible retail goods rather than services. The avenue needs a child's clothing store, a haberdashery, and a men's shoe store. "Every neighborhood has a good shoe store," their mother, Lillian Finkel, said.

Some owner's said Squat & Gobble's re-opening is a boost for the neighborhood's businesses. At 1 West Portal Avenue, the restaurant is one of the first stores residents and visitors notice when they exit the MUNI station.

Nicholson thinks business slumped after Squat & Gobble burned down. He is excited about the opening of La Boulange de West Portal, a cafe and bakery. "That's going to be the catalyst" for greater business activity, Mogannam said. And Vin Debut is opening this summer. The wine store burned in the fire that consumed Squat & Gobble.

A slump or not, Mogannam thinks business activity has been steadily improving. "I like slow growth," he told Giusti and the Observer, because slow growth is sustainable.

"Steady to slow growth" is what Weston Stankowski's been observing since the August 2012 opening of Goat Hill Pizza. Stankowski is the store's manager. "We're fairing quite well. We've been slowly increasing our sales since we opened."

Tammy Wiggins said opening S. Marco Fine Leather, 201 West Portal Avenue, was a no-brainer because of the four MUNI lines through the neighborhood. "They [neighbors] love having something like this on the avenue," Wiggins said. The store means neighbors don't have to travel to another part of the City for purses, wallets, messenger bags and other fine leather.

To bring enough variety to the street so people can spend the day shopping and dining is an overall goal of the merchants' association. And Mogannam thinks the City needs to pay more attention to West Portal.

To help the West Portal business district, the City has begun a pilot project called Invest in Neighborhoods (IIN). IIN consists of three elements: baseline services, commercial district assessments, and customized services.

Baseline services include four elements: each neighborhood has a dedicated staff person at City Hall; a

separate staff person makes door-to-door contact with businesses and helps them navigate city departments; tracking and updating of vacancies is the third baseline service; and neighborhoods in the IIN program are given priority for some City grants and programs.

The Mayor's Office listed eight examples of customized services for the neighborhood. Examples include a grant for the Taste of West Portal, monetary support for the West Portal Merchants Association website, and the repaving of West Portal Avenue.

An Aide to District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee, said the office is addressing the vacancy issue, but whether a space is leased



is up to the property owner. She cited the successful addition of a new Italian restaurant and a wine bar.

The supervisor's office has been working to get 2 West Portal Avenue leased, but the property owner is still receiving payments from Walgreens, she said. Walgreen's said it "continues to meet its obligations under the lease" at 2 West Portal Ave.

Yee's office has asked SFMade to consider having members sell products from the location on a temporary



or longer term basis, said Kate Sofis, executive director, SFMade. "We're trying to think outside the box," Yee's office said.

Keith Burbank is a San Francisco freelance journalist

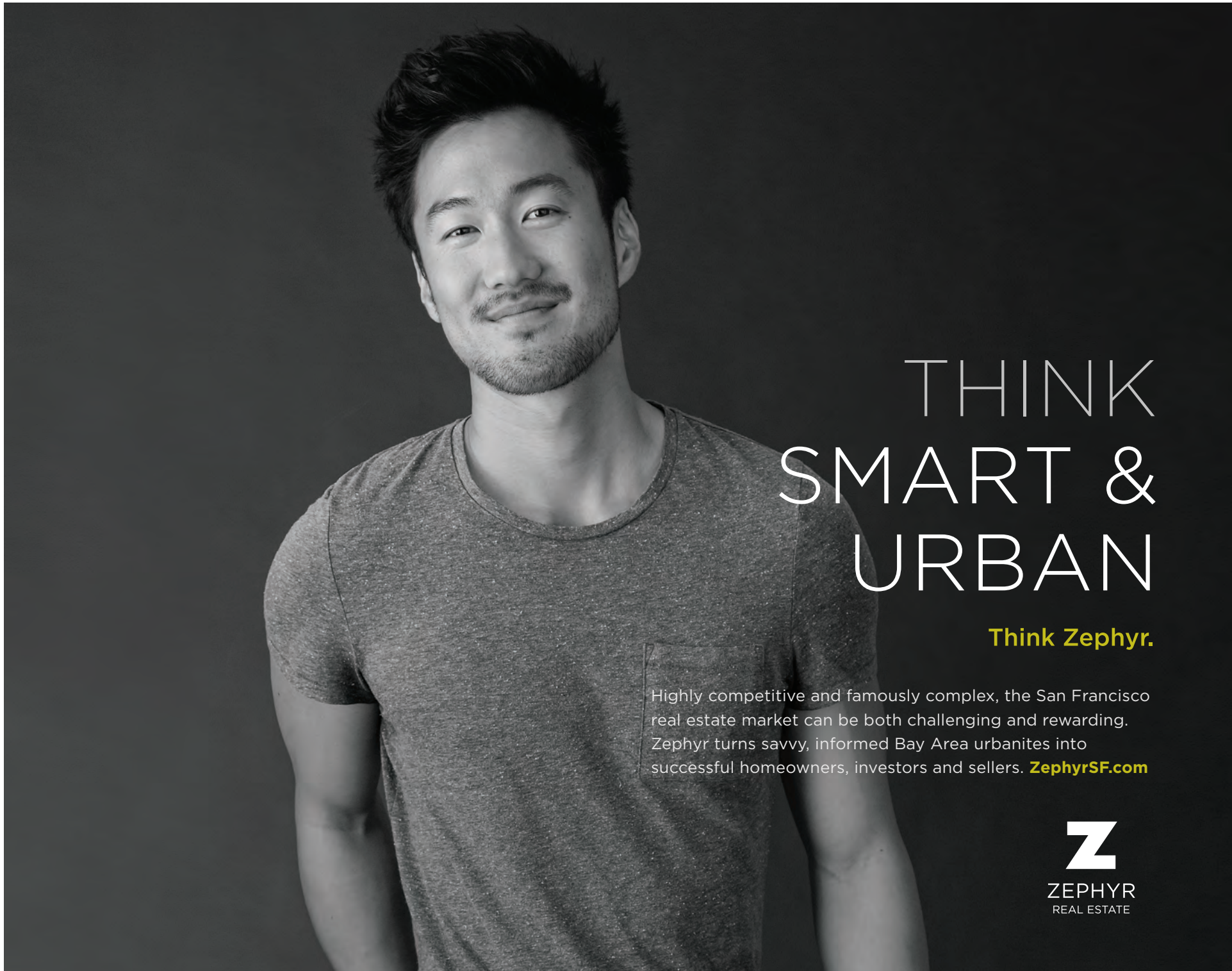
Rec and Park Commission

Vote on Beach Chalet construction contract

April 17th, 2014

This is only part of the contract -- the rest of the contract is being let by City Fields Foundation, and the public has NO way to impact that. This is one of the many problems of public-private partnerships.

The April 17th hearing is an opportunity to object once again to this project and to get the Commission to listen to reason. Go online to see the agenda 5 days before the hearing date. sfrecpark.org/about/recreation-park-commission/full-commission-documents/



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REAL ESTATE

Ruminations From A Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



For lovers of the venality in government, March was a dazzling month. In the state legislature, an attempt partially to repeal a foundation of the state constitutional amendment (Proposition 209) adopted by California voters in 1996, by bestowing preferential treatment because of an applicant's race in admission to state institutions of higher learning, stalled in the Assembly because of Chinese-American legislators, including two of our local "heroes." Senate Constitutional Amendment 5 (SCA5), sponsored by a Southern California Senate Democrat (Ed Hernandez), had received the minimum super-majority 27 votes, all from Democrats, required by California constitutional law, to present a proposed California Constitutional Amendment to voters. (All Republican members of the Sate Senate voted against it.) Included in the affirmative votes was State Senator Leland Yee, who represents part of San Francisco and half of San Mateo County. The *San Francisco Chronicle* pontificated editorially about the desirability and need of SCA5, claiming "a so called color-blind system is not providing equal opportunity for Californians." The professed rationale for SCA5 was the alleged decline of African-Americans on University of California campuses, and the failure of the Latino student population to increase more than slightly despite status as California's most prolific increasing minority, while the percentage of Asian-American students had risen strongly. Suddenly, in the middle of March, Mr. Yee and Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco abandoned SCA5. The *Chronicle*, in a second editorial, condemned Yee and Ting (invoking the word "shame") "for their roles in the demise of the measure." The *Chronicle* noted that Yee and Ting "insist they favor affirmative action-just not right now." (As "situational politicians" their reason for deserting SCA5 is understandable; if our taxpayer-supported higher education system functions on merit and non-preferential principles based on race [or gender or ethnic or sexual orientation], which are then changed to prefer applicants because of race, of course Asian applicants [and Caucasian applicants, God forbid] will be disqualified from admission. I care less that our high school beacon of academic excellence, Lowell, boasts a student body over 50% Asian! They're qualified.)

Proposition B is logical and will pass in June, unless the Giants, construction unions and real estate developers spend millions to thwart voters."

Prior to 1996 and Proposition 209, any California state and local governmental entities financed by all taxpayers used "quotas" in government hiring, promotion, contract awards and higher education admissions. "Affirmative action" was the rage at the expense of qualified students. Proposition 209 demonstrates that a color-blind system creates equal opportunity for California students because the word "opportunity" means an even chance for admission to a California State University and UC because of demonstrated ability, not racial identity or "identity politics." I'm pleased SCA5 was shelved by the Assembly Speaker utilizing the expedient ruse of forming a committee to "study" the issue for three years. Meanwhile, on March 28, Yee and 25 co-defendants were charged in Federal Court in San Francisco with some 147 counts of gun-running, legislative extortion and other serious felonies. One of the co-defendants, Keith Jackson, is a former member of the San Francisco Board of Education - if you can imagine. And, Yee was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for California Secretary of State until shortly after his arrest. Wonders never cease.

Last month, I mentioned the June ballot measure, Proposition B, which requires any construction project exceeding voter-adopted 1990 height limits on the Embarcadero to obtain approval by voter majority. I mentioned the filing of a lawsuit to force removal of the measure from the June ballot. The case was argued in San Francisco Superior Court on March 18, and three nominal plaintiffs (fronting for developers and unions), financed by the San Francisco Giants and construction industry unions lost their effort to deny San Franciscans the vote. They then sought to overturn the decision in the California Court of Appeal, which on March 27 rejected their claims. Proposition B is logical and will pass in June, unless the Giants, construction unions and real estate developers spend millions to thwart voters. Only then will it be close.

The San Francisco Ethics Commission, with the exception of Commissioner Peter Keane, former dean of Golden Gate Law School, former Chief Deputy Public Defender, trial lawyer par excellant and still a law school professor at Golden Gate and Hastings Law Schools, showed its impotence again. On March 24 Keane introduced a resolution for the dismissal of Public Utilities Commission Deputy General Manager Juliet Ellis, who was found guilty of awarding a \$200,000 taxpayer-funded contract to a non-profit operation called Green for All, supposedly to obtain jobs for minority people. At the time, Ellis actually ran Green for All! Ellis' violation of conflict of interest laws was thereafter exposed. She admitted her unlawful act, the \$200,000 contract was terminated and she was fined a record (for the Ethics Commission) \$8,500. But she kept her \$145,000 PUC job. At the March 24 Ethics Commission meeting, Keane's resolution was attacked by Ellis' superior, PUC General Manager Harlan Kelly, former Supervisor and NAACP president Reverend Amos Brown, Charlie Walker, a notorious shakedown felon with a Federal extortion conviction, and CNN television commentator Van Jones, who founded Green for All and is infamous for having been forced to leave the Obama Administration as "Special Advisor for Green Jobs" for the White House Council on Environmental Quality after his alleged near-Bolshevik views and public statements were published by the media. Reverend Arnold Townsend, who ought to know better, even analogized Keane's resolution to "another black lynching."

In introducing the resolution Keane remarked he had previously expected the PUC to dismiss Ellis for her "corrupt conduct" by which she had "disgraced herself." Eventually Keane was forced to withdraw his resolution. Even the Commission President, Ben Hur, who is a partner in a law firm with a high reputation for probity, criticized Keane for his principled resolution. It's events like that which appall and destroy the morale of San Franciscans who expect honest government, intellectually, financially and otherwise. Maybe spring will restore ideals and ethics in city government and the State Capitol. Wanna' bet?

Senior Smarts By Anise J. Matteson

Defining the Parish Nurse

When we refer to a nurse, it is usually as a licensed vocational nures (LVN), registered nurse (RN), or nurse practitioner (NP) in health care settings such as acute care facility, long-term care facility (e.g., skilled nursing facility (SNF)), home care, hospice, clinic and doctors office).

Nurses also provide services to the congregation of a religious faith as a Visiting Nurse or Parish Nurse—another resource for the homebound.

OVERVIEW

Faith Community Nursing, also known as Parish Nursing, Parrish Nursing, Congregational Nursing or Church Nursing is a movement of over 15, 000 registered nurses.

Faith Community Nursing (FCN) is recognized as a specialty nursing practice.

Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice was approved by the American Nurses Association in 2005 (and updated in 2012) and define the specialty as "...the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in the faith community."

(American Nurses Association, 2012, Faith Community Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice, Silver Springs, MD: Author, p.1).

To become a faith community nurse, the registered nurse must have a minimum of 2 years experience, must have a current license in the state where the faith community is located, and have completed a parish nurse foundation course for the specialty practice as recognized by the American Nurses Association.

Faith community nurses are not expected to provide patient care in the church or at a patient's home but rather to be a source of referrals for services in the community. They coordinate existing services and supplement them with holistic dimension of health and

caring.

Faith community nurses typically belong to the Health Ministries Association which is the national professional membership organization for faith community nurses.

(en.wikipedia.org/wiki_Faith_community_nursing.)

Registered Nurse

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary defines registered nurse as a nurse who has graduated from a state approved school of nursing, has passed the professional nursing state board examination, and has been granted a license to practice within a given state.

Holistic Health

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary defines holistic medicine as the comprehensive and total care of a patient. The needs of the patient in all areas such as physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and economic, are considered and cared for.

PARISH NURSE

This month's glossary term from "Caring for an Aging Loved One: The Family Caregiver's Guide Book" is parish nurse.

When I asked a registered nurse for permission to use text from carle.com website for the definition of a "Parish Nurse" and the role of the "Parish Nurse," Faith Roberts, RN, BSN approved the following information with one change/addition. Under definition: many places are using the term faith community nurse. This can be used interchangeably with parish nurse.

Definition of a Parish Nurse

A registered nuse who acts as a vital

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SUNSET BOULEVARD GREENWAY FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

Come see the final concept design for the Sunset Boulevard Greenway project, a stormwater management project for the 16 block corridor.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 — 11:00AM-2:00PM

2601 40th Avenue at Vicente Street
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THURSDAY, APRIL 19 — 5:00PM-8:00PM

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Want to get involved in more stormwater management projects on the west side? Join us and learn about the Urban Watershed Assessment coming to your neighborhood.

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SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | Grey. Green. Clean.

Sinking Sources

The Controller's Whistleblower Program

By Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

In 2003, voters funded the Controller's Whistleblower Program (WBP), expecting that it would engage whistleblowers to root out fraud, waste and abuse. In response to criticism for shutting out whistleblowers, the WBP's 2012-13 Annual Report laid it out; "The Whistleblower Program does not act as an advocate for complainants in their disputes with city departments..."



Unfortunately, reporting fraud invariably provokes "disputes" – and denials. And how do investigators tell whether tips are solid or figments of disputes? They check with implicated departments. If whistleblower claims are interpreted as "disputes" unworthy of engagement, the WBP risks acting as an advocate for respondents.

While shunning whistleblowers because "the program must conduct its investigations confidentially," the WBP closely collaborates with targeted City departments. Most complaints are referred back to them for investigation. Even in rare instances when the WBP independently conducts an investigation, department heads are fully appraised in a Confidential Memorandum that warns: "The information in this memorandum may not be discussed with or released to members of the public. "But the public does not retaliate; department managers do. Nothing in these memos reminds recipients that retaliation is prohibited. Although distributing copies of these memos is forbidden, the information they contain is shared with other managers.

The public is notified of substantiated complaints in the WBP's quarterly reports. However, complainants are told little more than their case is Closed– a slight that the 2010-11 Civil Grand Jury called "simply not welcoming or user friendly." Ominously, the WBP's 2012-13 Report withheld the number of retaliation claims filed with the Ethics Commission, after having reported 17 cases last year. Omitting retaliation claims makes it easier to ignore that none has ever been sustained.

The Annual Report also announced an "updated" online Complaint Form. The form is now so demanding that it repels tips. No complaint can be submitted without checking off: "I certify that all of the statements made in this complaint are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that...the Controller may require that persons...swear to the truth of their statements by taking an oath administered by the Controller...under penalty of perjury"... Oblivious to whistleblower fears and their limited access to evidence, the WBP presumes they are scammers. Dozens of potential sources will be turned off by this bristling language.

Tips sent to the Whistleblower Program have fallen from 465 to 291 in the past 5 years. WBP Manager Steve Flaherty ... was "unable to determine any causality..." Perhaps the Program should look within, at how it treats whistleblowers.

Compare this hectoring with the way our Police Department (SFPD) engages tipsters. The preamble to the SFPD's Anonymous Tip Line states: "Crime prevention cannot be achieved by the police alone. Professional law enforcement officers must work hand-in-hand with the public...we depend heavily on your assistance...tip lines are provided for your use and convenience." Using this Tip Line is a breeze. To foster communication, there's a field for Investigative units...to text back and forth with the tipster. The SFPD also offers an Online Reporting System that requires more detailed entries. But unlike the Controller's Office, the SFPD doesn't force sources to swear they aren't liars before accepting their tips. Although false reports to the police can have serious consequences, the SFPD just welcomes tips without the fire and brimstone.

Why is the WBP complaint process so adversarial compared to the SFPD's, if both were set up to uncover wrongdoing? Well, complaints to the Controller point to government misconduct whereas tips to the Police report public misconduct. When tips about government wrongdoing are unwelcome, whistleblowers are deterred. And it works. Complaints to the WBP have fallen below 300 for the first time since 2006.

This decline prompted WBP Director, Tonia Lediju, to agree to a Complainant Satisfaction Survey at the 11/21/13 meeting of the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (CBOB). Also announced was the launch of a Fraud Hotline Webinar Series to review best practices in the field. The one-sidedness of these teleconferences was revealed when a webinar lecturer opined about Satisfaction Surveys for hotline users, "Why don't you ask the prisoners why they don't like the Sheriff's treatment?" Programs that view whistleblowers as disgruntled losers should expect their tips to sink.

Tips sent to the Whistleblower Program have fallen from 465 to 291 in the past 5 years. WBP Manager Steve Flaherty examined external events, but was "unable to determine any causality..." Perhaps the Program should look within, at how it treats whistleblowers.

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com

If You Build It (Cont. from p. 1)

The construction of the recycled water project was completed in March 2012 and over the past year recycled users in Pacifica, such as the Lacy Middle School, have benefitted from the recycled water. However, two years after the construction, Rec & Park has not turned on its part of the project, since they are still in the process of retrofitting the golf course in order to adapt to the new system.

Our City is committed to conserve our precious drinking water, and to using our resources as effectively as we can, in addition to providing a drought-resistant water source and decreasing waste water discharge into the Pacific Ocean.

Hey Rec & Park! Let's get this up and running. "If you build it, then use it."

John Farrell **Broker/Realtor** – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Assistant Assessor-Budget and Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident

Cable Drama



My 2¢ • Will Durst

The Frigid Fracas

After an absence of 25 years, it's downright ducky to be able to welcome back one of the great socio-politico conflicts in the history of the planet. How about a round of applause folks, because the Cold War is back and it's colder and warrier than ever.



Like an old friend popping up on your doorstep after moving to South America or Akron a quarter century ago, it is with a mixture of exhilaration and dread to see him again. All the right words are mouthed: "No, YOU look exactly the same," but inside you're praying he's just here for a quick visit and no extended stay. "So, what are your plans?"—

To MI6, the British Intelligence Foreign Section Division, the Cold War was an extension of a conflict with Russia that began in the early 19th Century. To we USAers, it was a post WWII battle for the eternal soul of mankind. But it doesn't matter what you call it: Great Game, Frigid Fracas, Siberian Skirmish: the Cold War is guaranteed to ice your nerves and frost your sense of security. Freeze dried tension. Refrigerated Tang with a shot of paranoia.

Now that the mumps, measles and polio are on the comeback trail as well, the Teens are starting to look like the 50s all over again. The future will be televised in black and white, comforting we early Baby Boomers who always remained skeptical of that whole multi-hued thing. And like the Twilight Zone was scarier in black and white, so was Nikita Khrushchev. As was Speedy, the Alka-Seltzer mascot.

The return of this Arctic Animus means all sorts of retro activities accompanying it. Saber rattling. Nuclear standoffs. Propaganda, espionage. One inch wide ties. Poisoned-tipped umbrellas and exploding cigars, right around the corner. And Hula Hoops, only now they come with an app.

This won't be your father's ideological confrontation, however. No longer a showdown between Democracy and Communism, because that fight is history like shag carpeting. Russians may dream of Mother Russia but everybody else in the world wants to be Americans.

Besides, many more opportunities for corruption exist in a democracy than socialism. Who knew? And the Super Powers have gone the way of Howdy Doody and penny candy. Less relevant than chrome bumpers and tinfoil-covered rabbit ears.

No, this is more like that boxing movie Hollywood recently released with Stallone and DeNiro. Two aging Mediocre Powers trying to rekindle a dubiously-remembered time gone by in an age where you can watch Indonesian soap operas on your eyeglasses while walking over the street in an air conditioned skyway.

Putin ostensibly sent troops into Crimea because he was worried about the rights of its citizens. Putin. Worried about the rights of others. Unh- hunh. Real similar to a bobcat worried about a poodle's breakfast. A shark concerned with breakfast's feelings. Bacteria worried over spoiling breakfast. Ask the Chechens about Mister KGB standing up for people's rights. Or Pussy Riot.

And while the world retreats into a circle around the two combatants, Putin and Obama are busy picking teams for their recycled rivalry. Considering the playground nature of this squabble, wouldn't be surprised if it came down to shirts and skins. Pretty sure Putin is going to choose skins.

Copyright ©2014, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed political comic. One of three Bay Area comedians to be featured in the documentary film "3 Still Standing." To find out more about the post-production fundraiser on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at Alfred's Steakhouse, go to 3stillstanding.com. Info: willdurst.com

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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“Affordability” (Cont. from p. 1)

Between 2025 and 2043 (since it’s a 30-year program), the annual allocation to the Trust Fund will be based on the prior year’s appropriation that will ostensibly start at \$50.8 million, adjusted plus or minus an unspecified percentage of change to the City’s General Fund Discretionary Revenues. By 2043 an additional \$914.4 million will be generated, bringing the total 30-year contributions to the Housing Trust Fund to a staggering \$1.34 billion promised for a wide variety of housing, not just down-payment assistance loans.

Raising \$500 million for down-payment assistance loans is scheduled to take at least 14 years, not the six years reported in the media.

Housing Trust Fund Components The November 2012 voter guide stratified how the \$20 million Housing Trust Fund would be put to use, terms of which were to be determined by the sole discretion of the Mayor’s Office of Housing. First, the voter guide indicated an unspecified amount would be used to create, acquire, or rehabilitate rental and home ownership for households earning up to 120 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), including acquisition of land. The AMI amount as of January 2014 is \$67,950 for a one-person household, and \$104,850 for a five-person household; 120 percent translates to \$81,550 and \$125,800, respectively.

Second, the 2012 voter guide indicated that no later than July 2018, the City would appropriate \$15 million from the Trust Fund for down-payment loan assistance programs of up to 120 percent of AMI — ostensibly for non-first responders — and an unspecified percent of AMI for public safety first responders.

Third, the voter guide reported that also by July 2018, the City will appropriate another \$15 million from the Trust Fund for use as “assistance to reduce the risk to current occupants of a loss of housing,” and for use in making their homes safer, more accessible, energy efficient or “more sustainable” under a “Housing Stabilization Program” component of the Trust Fund for residents earning up to 120 percent of AMI.

Fourth, the Trust Fund would be permitted to use funds to operate and administer a “Complete Neighborhoods Infrastructure Grant Program” to accelerate the build-out of public realm infrastructure needed to support increased residential density.

Fifth, the voter guide indicated the City could allocate an unspecified, but “sufficient amount” to cover legally permissible administrative costs of the Fund, including legal expenses and, ostensibly, personnel costs.

The voter guide never told voters that up \$1.34 billion would be provided to the Housing Trust Fund over the 30-year legislation.

The Eligibility Feeding Frenzy Within two months of his stinging defeat over 8 Washington, the Mayor’s social media spin doctors had created a new persona for him: That as the “affordability mayor” pushing an “affordability agenda.”

But the food fight that broke out over use of the Housing Trust Fund was nasty. Back in July 2013, just after the City adopted its fiscal year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 budget, a coalition of advocates tried to broker an agreement that not only would teachers and nurses be eligible for the down-payment loan assistance programs (DLAP) along with police, firefighters, and sheriff employees, but all City workers would be eligible, too.

In particular, public safety dispatchers who dispatch 9-1-1 calls to police officers and firefighters had sought to be included in the first round of loan funding, but were rebuffed, as were the teachers and nurses. Supervisor Farrell fought bitterly with the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH) during negotiations regarding eligibility for the so-called “first

responders” carve out from the DLAP funds.

Supervisor Farrell’s meddling prevented the 9-1-1 dispatchers from eligibility, and dispatchers may not have been informed they could apply under a separate non-first responder’s down-payment assistance loan program, instead.

Farrell doesn’t seem to get it — as most politicians don’t — that 9-1-1 dispatchers are the City’s first, first responders.

Lack of Documentation On December 29, this author placed a records request to Mayor Lee asking for a list of the first and last names, job classification codes, and City Department of each applicant who had applied for assistance under the Prop “C” down-payment loan assistance program once the program began accepting applications in August 2013. Also requested was a second list of each applicant who had qualified, and a third list showing each applicant who had actually been awarded a down-payment loan and the amount of each loan awarded.

On January 13, Flannery finally provided an initial list showing that of the 12 employees whose names had been drawn from a lottery, eight were firefighters, one was a Sheriff’s Department employee, and three were police officers, but he neglected to include any information on loan amounts.

Shockingly, of the \$1 million set aside for the first-responders DLAP program for July 2013 to June 2014, a total of just four loans have been issued as of January 13, 2014, seven months into the fiscal year. The four loans totaled \$393,750, representing just 39 percent of the \$1 million initially set aside in the program’s first-year budget.

And notably, the non-first responders DLAP component had also been budgeted \$1 million for FY 2013-2014, but as of March 2014 — nine months into the current fiscal year — the program had not even launched and ostensibly had no applicants (even from nurses or 9-1-1 dispatchers), and no awards had yet been made from the second \$1 million DLAP program for non-first responders.

Initial Two-Year Housing Trust Fund Budget

To his credit, Mr. Flannery did provide the two-year Mayor’s Proposed Budget for use of the Housing Trust Fund in FY 2013–2014 and FY 2014–2015 authored by the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development. It paints a disturbing picture.

It shows that for the first year, just \$2 million — just 10 percent of the initial \$20 million diverted to the Housing Trust Fund — would be split equally between the separate first responders and non-first responders DLAP program components. The Housing Stabilization sub-program was budgeted to receive 14.1 percent, or \$2.8 million. The Neighborhood Infrastructure program was budgeted to receive just one percent, a paltry \$200,000. “Program delivery” — ostensibly including personnel and legal expenses — fared much better, at 5.8 percent, or \$1.15 million of the initial \$20 million.

Shockingly, fully 69 percent — \$13.8 million — was budgeted for “affordable housing development,” the same Affordable Housing Development component for which Flannery provided no program manuals or write-ups. Nobody has explained what the Affordable Housing Development component will do — or how over two-thirds of the \$20 million Housing Trust Fund will be used.

Across the first two-year budget of \$42.8 million for all uses of the Housing Trust Fund, this brings us to a two-year combined total of:

A mere \$5 million across both DLAP programs (\$2 million initially budgeted for first-responders, and \$3 million for non-first responders), representing 11.7 percent of the initial two-year budget.

Money Matters • By Brandon Miller and Joanne Jordan

Six Ways to Protect Your Identity

Recent data breaches at several national retailers illustrate the importance of keeping your identity safe and secure. Not only are identity thieves getting more brazen — hacking into retail computer systems and pilfering data and dollars from millions of debit cards — they continue to find new ways to abuse the electronic systems created to make our lives easier.



Identity theft is a broad term for unauthorized use of your personal data, typically for financial gain. It starts when someone “steals” your name, address, social security number, checking account or credit card numbers, passwords and other personal information. Your information is then used to falsely obtain credit cards, loans, cash, merchandise, medical services — even government benefits and tax refunds.

Not only is identity theft a personal violation, it is a costly problem for law-abiding citizens. Even if your personal bank account hasn’t been drained, you pay the price for identity theft every day in the form of higher-priced goods and services, inflated insurance premiums and higher taxes.

It may seem tedious to keep a close eye on your identity and the financials attached to it, but it’s worth the effort. After all, it’s doubly aggravating and time consuming to undo the damage caused by identity theft. Do what you can to avoid the headache and hard work of being a victim of identity theft with these simple tips.

Monitor your accounts regularly. Even if you prefer printed versus online bank statements, you shouldn’t wait until the end of the month to check that your accounts are reconciled (and nothing’s amiss). Take advantage of online access to your financial accounts and watch for fraudulent transactions. You know something’s not right with a transaction if someone has used your credit card to purchase train tickets in a foreign country. In a situation like this, contact your bank immediately.

Keep tabs on your electronic devices. Identity thieves will look for your private information on any electronic device with a wired or wireless connection to the Internet. Never leave your desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone out and unattended in public places. You may want to rethink plans to sell or give away an electronic device that you’ve used to store sensitive information. At a minimum, clear stored data by restoring factory settings and removing SIM cards (phones) or wiping your hard disk (computers).

Clear your history often. Get in the habit of clearing the cache or history in your Internet browser before you log out or step away from your computer. Doing so may not stop the most persistent thieves with forensic skills, but it will slow down the process of retrieving data you’d rather keep private.

Change your PINs and passwords. If you regularly access financial accounts and complete credit card transactions online, it’s particularly important to have several layers of security in place. For example, you can easily require a PIN or password login whenever you turn on your phone or start your computer. But if you use the same password to log on to your computer and your bank account, or to open your phone or retrieve your email, you’ve defeated the purpose and made the identity thief’s job that much easier. Make your passwords inscrutable to outsiders. While nonsensical strings of letters, symbols and numbers can be hard to remember, they will be tougher passwords for criminals to crack.

When in doubt, pay with cash. Another way to limit your exposure to identity theft is by reducing your credit card transactions. For instance, you might try using cash for all transactions under \$100. For larger transactions, it’s often better to use plastic. Not only do credit cards remain more convenient, carrying around large sums of cash makes you more vulnerable to old-fashioned theft targeting your wallet or purse.

Stay informed and alert. Because of the annual cost of identity theft, the federal government is interested in helping consumers stop identity theft before it happens. Stay informed about consumer identity theft with alerts, tips and other resources provided by the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

Brandon Miller, CFP and Joanne Jordan, CFP are financial consultants at Jordan Miller & Associates, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.

An also-paltry \$5.9 million — 13.8 percent of the initial \$42.8 million — for the so-called Housing Stabilization” program component. Just \$1.2 million — 2.8 percent of the initial \$42.8 million — for the “Complete Neighborhoods Infrastructure Improvements” component. A staggering \$28.3 million — 66 percent of the initial \$42.8 million — for the so-called “Affordable Housing Development” component, with no explanation whatsoever of what the Mayor’s Office of Housing intends to use those millions for, when, and with whom.

Rocky Road of Performance Data from the City Controller’s Office and the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst — Mr. Harvey Rose’s outfit — paint a troubling picture of the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development.

In response to a records request placed with the City Controller, it turns out that as of February 18, 2014 fully 92.8 percent — \$17.5 million — of the total \$20 million transferred from the General Fund to the Housing Trust Fund for its first year of funding remains unencumbered (unspent) fully nine months into the current 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Data from the City Controller shows that \$16.4 million of the remaining \$16.8 million for loans “issued by the city”

remains unencumbered, fully 97.6 percent of the funds the Controller said had been budgeted for “loans.”

The November 2012 voter guide made no mention of using any portion of the \$20 million Housing Trust Fund for “Affordable Housing Development,” but here we have the Mayor’s Office of Housing’s budgeting \$13.8 million in the first fiscal year towards that purpose, while the City Controller’s Office may have lumped any such expenditures into an index code designated as “loans.”

When Harvey Rose Speaks, People Listen

Harvey Rose — the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst — has weighed in, however unintentionally, on performance of the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development.

In February 2014, Rose submitted an analysis to the Board of Supervisors who were considering a \$2 million increase to an initial proposal to divert \$2.5 million from the City’s General Fund Reserve account to fund a new “Non-Profit Rental Stabilization Program,” increasing the proposal to \$4.5 million.

Rose noted such a decision might be premature and reported that way back in 2000, the Board of Supervisors had approved two ordinances to appropriate \$1.5 million from the City’s General

Cont. p. 7

Hidden Gems of San Francisco

24th Street, The Heart of the Mission

By Alixx Ottiz

While the recent onslaught of Ellis Act evictions diminishes the character of the City and destroys the ecosystem in favor of a more suburban beige experience, the south Mission neighborhood anchored by 24th street, el Corazón de la Misión, is the latest neighborhood under relentless attack. In solidarity, let's take a look at the some of the traditional iconic eateries serving some of the best food in the Mission.

Although our food tour routes change each time, often **Explore SF's Mission-South Food Tour** highlights the neighborhood's Latino gems, beginning with **Roosevelt Tamale Parlor**. Under new ownership they successfully blend the traditional—the *Famous Round Tamal*—with contemporary such as their own *Tamal Calabacitas Con Crema*. Stuffed with savory squash and smothered in tomatillo sauce, this perfect vegetarian option didn't leave



me wanting for grandmother's pork tamals! Next, **La Palma Mexicatessen**, a family owned institution famous for their fresh masa, fundamental to Latino Christmas gatherings. Try huaraches, similar to sopas, sandal-shaped and filled with chicken, bean, or cactus, they're superb fried in a bit of olive oil and served with a glass of pinot. Don't

miss the chicharrón at **La Espiga De Oro**, made with a thick layer of pork under the skin. You'll never accept snack "food" companies' offerings again!

Next up, is pan dulce from **La Victoria Panaderia**, a 60 year old institution offering baking classes for kids. When I get Gay Married this June, I'll have the Mexican Wedding Cookies and other pastries catered here! After sweets, we always take our tour groups shopping. While **Casa Lucas** is popular, I tend toward **El Chico Produce**, for no defensible reason. Both are well-stocked and locally owned, so I avoid sending dollars to Pleasanton, Monrovia or worse, Austin (Namaste). Both offer freshly made tortillas, an assortment of queso fresco, canned and packaged goods from North, Central and South America, as well as an array of dried chiles, a staple in my kitchen. Out front, keep an eye out for peddlers selling *elótl*—roast cob corn slathered with mayo, queso fresco, and chile limon. **Bellmar La Gallinita Meat Market** is our next stop for "street tacos," a must for any Mission food tour. Though begging for a fresh coat of paint, it's the only place to get *tacos sesos con limon*—beef brain tacos with a slice of lime. Less adventurous eaters opt for the skirt steak or pork. From here enjoy Precita Eyes Artists cooperative and the Balmy Alley Murals.

Pulled Pork Chile Colorado, my favorite recipe, all ingredients sourced on 24th St. (Embarrassingly easy to make)

- 15 dried New Mexico or California chiles
- 5 dried anchos, arbols or japones (med to hot)
- 3-4 dried pasilla negros
- Handful of dried smoked chipotles or Liquid Smoke (Yes, I cheat!)
- 1-2 c stock
- 2 med onions, chopped
- 4 lbs pork butts, visible fat removed

Wash, stem, and seed chiles. Soak overnight or quick boil and steep for 30 min. Discard liquid (too bitter). Puree in a blender with onions and some of the stock. Press through a sieve to remove skins and seeds. Cut pork into fist-sized chunks. Arrange in slow cooker and cover with sauce. Cook for 6-8 hours. Shred the pork with a fork. Season to taste with liquid smoke, smoked paprika, salt and pepper.

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On Muni's Optimistic Future

How Google Might Transform San Francisco

By Howard Strassner

Popular culture has frequently tried to predict the future of transportation. The 1939 World's Fair in New York showed us the General Motors dream of a freeway running to every place that one might want to go to and people in cars moving under autonomous control. This writer may have seen that as a little boy. Star Trek introduced the concept of "beam me up Scotty" to tell us we could go anywhere we wanted to, if there was a place to land, or to facilitate improved taxi service, combined with Google's ongoing development of driverless cars; and the increased use of car share lead to my imagining a transportation "Nirvana" in San Francisco. This dream is also abetted by an 11/25/13 New Yorker article which suggests that driverless cars may be less than ten years away.

But first, we have to define Nirvana in a true San Francisco style, as different strokes for different folks. Some folks want to tap their cell-phone and have a vehicle come close to their front door to provide them with an easy, very convenient, relatively fast, twenty dollar plus taxi ride. Most of us will be happy with two dollar transit that we have to walk to for a ride that is much better than today. Almost all of us will be very happy to avoid a struggle for a parking place at one or both ends of our ride. Nirvana becomes more apparent when you consider that if the taxi is computer driven, and in use for many hours per day, that there are no financial reasons to own a car. Compared to auto ownership a driverless taxi will be a better deal because amortization costs are reduced, there is no cost for parking, and insurance costs will be reduced because computers will be better drivers than humans. This taxi will also have the convenience advantage of no struggle for residential parking or trips to the garage, and freedom to work or call while the car is moving. In addition, since the app includes provisions to select the level of luxury or size desired, very few people will want to own a car. Driverless taxis will also be less costly than regular taxis because there is no driver's salary.

In San Francisco, the reduced demand for parking will be the major change. But each component of this reduced demand must be explained.

One: There will be fewer cars because each car will be in use more hours per day. Today each owned car is parked about 95% of the time. You are average if you drive about an hour and fifteen minutes



park. More recently the advent of the "apps" per day. Even if you drive much more than average you will still be ahead by using a driverless taxi.

Two: The fewer number of cars will be rarely parked. They will only need a space at the curb while dropping off or picking up passengers, and for the short while they are waiting to be called to serve.

Three: Instead of roomy residential garages or curb side parking, all night, the driverless car will pull into its barn, or an unused residential garage, and be tightly parked. Most of the gassing and all of the servicing will be accomplished at night.

The reduced demand for parking can be used to release street width for wider sidewalks, planted areas with benches, or may provide space for an additional transit lane. However, parking space for delivery trucks will always be required. On short commercial streets that are Muni routes this parking can be just around the corner. When there is no parking to protect us from moving cars, a row of bollards will be required along the curb, similar to many European streets, to remind us not to test the skill of the robot driver. In addition, the autonomously driven taxis will be programmed to only stop in the transit lane if the bus is a minute or so behind so as not to interfere with transit. Most taxi stops will be on residential streets or in shopping malls. Studies have shown that people who today have to pay for every ride via a car share system actually drive about 20% less than they did when they already owned a car. They may be bunching their driving trips better, walking more, or using transit more.

Because there will be marginally less private autos moving on the streets, and there will be more dedicated lanes, Muni will move faster and come more frequently because there will also be more riders. But some trips for some people cannot be done with Muni; let me try to describe their autonomous taxi experience. First, just before he or she needs a

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“Affordability” (Cont. from p. 5)

Fund Reserve to provide rent subsidies to nonprofit arts organizations in immediate danger of being evicted or displaced by rent increases.

Rose reported on February 26, 2014, that the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development claims overall expenditures, including administrative costs, of the arts rental assistance program are “not currently available.”

Wait! What? The Mayor’s Office of Housing has no information available at all about how \$1.5 million may (or may have not) have been spent?

Rose’s report provided to the Board of Supervisors noted that Mr. Cheu in the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development advised Rose that there was also “no information” about the \$500,000 portion of the rent subsidies to nonprofit service and advocacy organizations.

Rose uncharacteristically included in his report a damning statement, saying, “... such that it appears that the City may have never implemented this portion of the program.” Really? Where’s the money?

Housing in the Wild, Wild West As recently as March 17, Mayor Ed Lee’s director of the Mayor’s Office of Housing, Olson M. Lee, was quoted in a San Francisco Chronicle article saying that the Mayor’s doubling of the down-payment assistance loans to \$200,000, from \$100,000 would be “a lot more helpful.” Olson Lee was reportedly referring to market-rate housing.

For the first time, we have an admission via the Chronicle that the loans appear to be reserved for buyers of “market rate” homes, not “below market rate” or “affordable homes” buyers, and then only for those earning up to 120 percent of AMI.

Although the mainstream media have reported Mayor Lee wants to issue up to 2,500 down-payment assistance loans, nobody’s talking about the fact that issuing just four loans per year (as the City did in the first year of the program), it will take

2,500 applicants a total of 625 years to perhaps receive loans.

Bumping it up to even forty \$200,000 loans per year will take the Mayor’s Office of Housing a full 62.5 years to issue 2,500 loans, not six years. After all, if the Mayor really plans to issue 2,500 down-payment-assistance loans during the next six years, his Office of Housing will need to process, approve, and issue 417 loans each year, not four each year.

The Mayor’s Seven-Step Plan reported in the media in January claims that 30 percent of the total housing goal would be reserved for lower-income residents, for example a family of four earning less than \$50,000 annually.

The media also reported in January that 25 percent of Lee’s Seven-Step Plan housing goals targets middle income families of four earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

That brings the lower- and middle-income beneficiaries to just 55 percent of the housing goals.

Presumably, fully 45% of the remaining housing goals will be targeted to four-person (or other) families earning more than \$150,000 annually, presumably to upper-income residents.

In fact, there’s no mention at all in the documentation Flannery provided on how the Trust Fund may split any percentage between lower-, middle-, and upper-income residents.

If I were a betting man, I’m not convinced I’d wager the Mayor’s seven-point “housing affordability” plan will come to fruition. P.T. Barnum provided fair warning about not being played for a sucker.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition. Feedback: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

This is an edited version; for the full article, go to westsideobserver.com

West of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Supervisor David Chiu’s upcoming legislation on legalizing secondary housing (in-law) units was the hottest topic at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting on March 24, with lots of discussion and a call to action.

President Matt Chamberlain opened the meeting at 7:32 PM, and although the agenda was less crowded than in past meetings, there was ample discussion, and topics to fill the evening. In the President’s report Chamberlain note the **May WOTPCC meeting will actually be in June on the 2nd** as a result of Memorial Day. There will be a second meeting on June 23. He also spoke on the nominating committee for the July election of new officers and solicited interest in anyone who wishes to sit at the “big table” at the front.

George Wooding gave a report on public health, touching on the Department of **Public Health laptop that was lost/stolen** containing the names and social security numbers of approximately 55,900 patients of San Francisco-owned public hospitals. Discussion focused on the total cost of the fines and fees associated with a security breach of this magnitude. Opinions cited the cost could range in the range of \$1,000,000. Wooding will continue to monitor the situation.

In a “win” for the little guys, **Avrum Shepard** reported that the MTA proposed changes to the **36 transit routes** were not implemented after public outcry denounced the proposal.

The **Ocean Avenue Cannabis dispensary** committee brought up their findings. The application for the third MCD has been temporarily withdrawn by the applicants pending a report by the Planning Department, which is considering weakening the current restrictions regarding where a MCD can be located in an effort to expand the so-called “**Green Zones**” where it is legal to locate a single or multiple MCDs in a cluster-type of arrangement. The WOTPCC committee formed to look into this has recommended a formal letter be sent opposing any additional MCDs on Ocean Avenue, and would like to see a permanent “cap” on Ocean Ave. dispensaries at the existing two. Following input from **Matthias Mormino of Supervisor Norman Yee’s office** concerning the Supervisor’s pending proposed legislation, the WOTPCC voted unanimously to send a formal letter to the Planning Department opposing any new MCD dispensaries on Ocean Avenue.

A representative from the **Clarendon Neighbors** group spoke about the illegal construction and approval (by DPW) of a **driveway on public space** on an unimproved portion of Stanyan St. The neighbors have been opposing this proposed driveway for ten years and the project has been rejected by the DPW the Planning and Land Use on at least two occasions. Recently the DPW reversed their previous findings and approved the proposed grading and paving. The group asked the WOTPCC delegates for a letter supporting their position to oppose the building of the driveway egress. The motion was approved unanimously and a letter will

Cont. p. 9



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Central Council (Cont. from p. 7)

be prepared.

Dave Bisho and several other delegates spoke next on the results of the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Economic Development committee meeting on the proposed legislation on **secondary units**. Bisho reported the meeting went over 3 hours and most of the people in attendance were solidly against the proposed legislation. Supporters of the legislation included tenant rights groups, architects, developers and the Asian Law Caucus. The committee moved the legislation to the full board "without recommendation."

Chamberlain said several supervisors could be lobbied to vote against it if enough people voiced their displeasure with the legislation. The options if the legislation is approved by the full Board of Supervisors range from asking for a Mayoral veto; filing a civil lawsuit; or gathering enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

Several speakers discussed how they felt they were “talked down to” at the meeting with comments to the homeowners such as “get out of your bubbles” and “the winds of change are blowing over the city” which made them feel as though their opinions were unimportant. Further discussion centered on how the legislation (if passed) could exist with homeowner CCR language.

Citing the lack of time prior to the final vote on the legislation, Chamberlain asked the delegates to go back to their homeowners associations and start lobbying supervisors so that the required six “no” votes can be found.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:10 PM.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, April 28th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Info: www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

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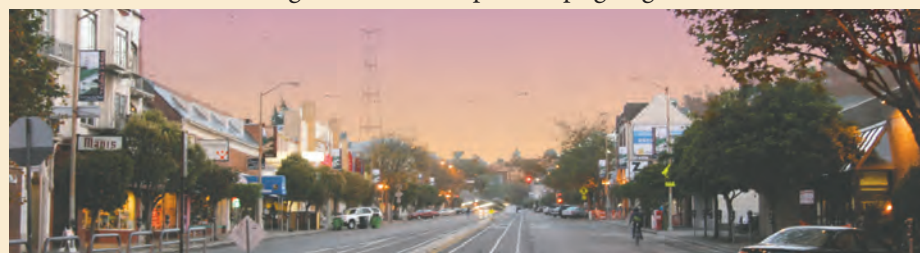
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Hours: Mon-Thurs 9AM-12PM and 1PM-4-PM

The seal of the City and County of San Francisco is located in the bottom right corner. It is a circular emblem with a gold border. The outer ring contains the text "SEAL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO" in gold capital letters. The inner circle features a shield with a red and white checkered pattern, topped by a golden eagle with spread wings. The shield is flanked by two figures: a Native American on the left and a Minuteman on the right. The shield rests on a red ribbon with the word "EUREKA" in white.

You need a scorecard... storefronts continue to evolve on West Portal Ave. After a long time, Squat and Gobble has reopened following the devastating fire at 1 West Portal Avenue. Work is continuing on the other portions of the building that were affected, but it's a step in the right direction. Across the way, Le Boulange at West Portal is continuing the finishing touches of construction and should be open within a few weeks. We hear that the corner parcel at 2 West Portal may also have someone showing some interest. Let's hope so as it's a prime location and a great spot just outside the tunnel. In other changes, a new burrito establishment has opened at the tunnel entrance, and further down the street, the lovely photography studio/gallery has shuttered its doors; soon to be replaced by a sewing, dressmaking club/collective. Add the new bank (Sterling), yoga studio (Thriveability), leather good store (S.Marco) and the changes of Joxer Daly's to Mc McCarthy's and Tuttimelon to Quickly/Bento and the street just keeps evolving. It's a great sign of the faith that merchants have in the neighborhood. I hope it keeps going.



A close shave... my wife recently surprised me with an appointment to the 1512 Barbershop, located at 1512 Pine Street (at Polk), for my first experience with a straight razor shave. Barber (note—"not stylist") Sal Cimino has been shaving clients and giving haircuts for 25 years, continuing the craft that his father and grandfather passed down to him. BTW, Sal's father has been haircutting and shaving customers for 64 years, and still plies his craft several days a week in his Potrero Hill shop. While straight razor cuts are now back in vogue, it's not something that can be learned



Master Barber Salvatore Cimini

ditional” brushes for shaving cream have been outlawed in commercial shops since the 1890’s, due to the fact that the brushes are impossible to sterilize. Barber Sal also uses a straight razor with disposable blades, again for health reasons, although he has a cabinet of razors that he sharpens with whetstones and the leather strop. I loved the experience and recommend it highly, although I couldn’t imagine doing it every morning on the way to work... Visit the website at www.1512barbershop.com, or call Sal at 415.286.4371. Haircuts take about 30 minutes and are \$35; shaves take an hour and are \$50. Appointments are mandatory and it takes two to three weeks in advance to schedule appointment. No cuts, no nicks...a nice way to feel like you’re a part of history.

We really deserve better... the trappings of power seem to be everywhere and the length that people will do to keep the power seems to have no end. “American Hustle” came to our local doorstep with the criminal charges being filed against State Senator Leland Yee this past week. Somewhere (old time Mayor) Abe Ruef is smiling; it seems that patronage, bribery and campaign funding continue to go hand in hand. The allegations against the Senator and the others are unfathomable. Supposedly desperate to pay off the debt for the Mayoral run, while raising in excess of \$800,000 for the upcoming Secretary of State election, the lure of staying in power appears to have been too much. Personally, I tire of every Supervisor, Assessor, Mayor and Dog Catcher looking forward to the next elected position. (How about getting a non-governmental job in something they trained for?) Of course, we have a Mayor who wasn’t going to run, and then changed his mind. While I think he is doing a good job, again the power of the office seems to trump everything else. Where does it stop?



Better days for Leland Yee: A standing room-only crowd fills the Sunset Recreation Center at a 2010 rally for Senator Yee.

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.



Susan Eastman



Frederico Demondon

26th Annual

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April

CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am-1 pm
Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY MON & TUE • JOB SEEKERS LAB

Mon 11 am-2pm & Tue 10 am-1 pm Internet-ready computers are available for independent work such as resume, preparing job applications and/or searching for jobs. Some staff assistance. Bring a flash drive. Main Library, 100 Larkin, 5th Fl.

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 731-7000

EVERY THURS - NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6-10 pm | The Academy of Sciences is transformed with live music, provocative science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calademy.org/nightlife.

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. cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html.

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

Every Fri | 5-8:45 pm | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30 - Live Bands 7:30-10:30 pm
| Off the Grid/Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? Now that's a party. Ft. Mason Ctr. Marina Blvd.

WED • GWPNA

Wed Apr 2 | 7-9 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn, West Portal Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way, 1st Wed each month.

THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE/SUNSET

Thu Apr 3 | 7 pm | Formerly Taraval Parkside Merchants Assn. Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave. 1st Thu each month, 269-7080 - www.sf-pops.com/

THU • AUTHOR ANCHEE MIN

Thu Apr 3 | 7 pm | The Author of bestselling memoir *Red Azalea*, will read from her sequel, *The Cooked Seed* (now available in paperback). Min shares an immigrant story that takes her from homeland China to the sudden bounty of America - without language, money or a clear path. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080



FRI-SUN • ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

Fri - Sun, Apr 4-6 | 10 am - 5 pm | West Portal's annual Sidewalk Arts and Crafts show on West Portal between 15th and Ulloa. More: More than 40 artists

displaying everything from photography, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and much more. Details : www.facebook.com/PacificFineArts

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun Apr 6 | 10 am-5 pm | Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. Special exhibitions may require separate charges. 200 Larkin St.

TUE • LEARN COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue Apr 8, 15, 22 | 1:15-2 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • SIX HEALING BREATHS

Tue Apr 8 | 1:15-2 pm | Jun Wang will introduce and demonstrate the "Six Healing Breaths," one of the popular Qigong exercises from her book *Cultivating Qi: An Introduction To Chinese Body-Mind Energetics*. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Dr. Wang, is assistant professor at the Institute of Holistic Health Studies, Dept. of Health Studies, SF State University. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox.

WED • FREE DAY AT THE ZOO

Wed Apr 9 | 10 am-4 pm | Northern California's largest zoological park, by Pacific Ocean, provides a comfortable climate all year round. 250 different animal species. 1 Zoo Rd. at Sloat Blvd. SF Residents only Free.

THU • AUTHOR FRED MARTIN

Thu Apr 10 | 7 pm | Fred Martin discusses *Abraham Lincoln's Path to Reelection in 1864*, his new book relates the most important election in the US history, when the fate of the Union and the emancipation of slaves were at stake and his words changed public perspective, drove emancipation, reignited the ideals of freedom, and saved democratic government. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080



SAT • FARM VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Sat Apr 12-4 pm | Learn to grow your own food. The School Farm at the Academy of Arts and Sciences 555 Portola Dr. Enter gate on O'Shaughnessy Blvd just before it crosses Portola. From the parking area at the top, proceed on foot to the right, down the hill towards the athletic field.

THU • DIST COALITION MEETING

Thu Apr 10 | 7-9 pm | Meets 2nd Thu each month. Info: 586.8103 or ssuval@sbcbglobal.net Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave.

THU • ART OF AGING GRACEFULLY

Thu Apr 10 | 9:30am - 2:45 pm | Seventh annual Art of Aging Gracefully Resource Fair. features presentations from UCSF Medical Center on healthy living and positive choices such as "How NOT to Have a Heart Attack." Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St, Info: jccsf.org/adult/adult-prog-con/the-art-of-aging-gracefully or 292-1260.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Apr 15 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Community Room, located at 2345 - 24th Ave. 759-3100.

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WED • HEALING CUISINE

Wed Apr 16 | 6 pm | Foods that prevent and heal chronic disease Meredith McCarty, natural health expert shows you how using a whole foods, plant-based diet. Author of cookbooks on vegetarian, macrobiotic and dairy-free desserts, she has worked with Drs. Benjamin Spock, Dean Ornish, John McDougall and Neal Barnard. Free. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. Latino/Hispanic Rm. 557-4277 or sfpl.org



THU • AUTHOR NITZA AGAM

Thu Apr 24 | 7 pm | Agam discusses *Scent of Jasmine*, a gripping memoir, set in San Francisco and Israel, crisscrosses the ocean as she finds true love - only to face the loss of her beloved to the Yom Kippur War ('73). The love and loss



never leave her. This is the tale of how she finds herself - a mother, a wife, and a writer. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Apr 24 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. SF State Warriors and Recology are invited. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Apr 28 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Last Monday each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

SAT • SHARP

Mon Apr 28 | 7 pm | Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon of each month - sharpssf.com for details. 1736 9th Ave @ Moraga.

Local event? editor@westsideobserver.com
Priority: Westside Events

At the Movies / Don Lee

DIVERGENT IMAX

Courageous, fearless Tris: Shailene Woodley lives in dystopian sci-fi Chicago, ravaged postwar, but divided into five factions by personality traits. Tris's family is in the Abnegation faction (selfless, dressing like 19th century Amish). On her Choosing Day (the 16th birthday when survivors divide into one of five factions when they are ripped from their families), Tris envies her mentor, Four: Theo James, a tattooed torso Dauntless. (The other three factions are Amity, Erudite and Candor.) Her mother Natalie: Ashley Judd and father Andrew: Tony Goldwyn head the supporting cast which includes Tris's nemesis: erudite politician Jeanine Matthews: Kate Winslet and wise Tori, who administers Tris's personality test: Maggie Q. Eric: Jai Courtney, Marcus: Ray Stevenson and Christina: Zoë Kravitz play fellow initiates in Dauntless, the faction based on bravery. [Since Season One of Downton Abbey, James has been known as The Turk who thrust too much of his sex with Lady Mary and gave his life.] Tris projects sincerity. In love scenes, Tris looks at her feet or the wall, but when the lips part and the spit thins, she and Four gaze at each other lovelorn. Tris discovers a conspiracy against those who don't mesh exactly within the boundaries of only one faction. Despite scaling to the top of a Ferris wheel, the story remains grounded. Four explains her thrill to Tris: "Fear doesn't shut you down, it wakes you up." Divergent owes a lot to 2013's top-grosser The Hunger Games: Catching Fire and Veronica Roth's young adult trilogy, including the two upcoming sequels. Director Neil Burger and the screenplay by Evan Daugherty and Vanessa Taylor provide the film with charismatic leads for a young audience. Intense violence and action. Some unsettling images of blood and gore. Some sensuality.

3 DAYS TO KILL

Voluptuous Vivi Delay: Amber Heard approaches dying FBI agent Ethan Renner: Kevin Costner with the offer of a drug that may save his life in exchange for one last hit on an international terrorist. Ex-wife Christine Renner: Connie Nielsen has gone out of town and has left teen daughter Zoey: Hailee Steinfeld in the care of her eccentric ex-husband. Zoey slips out one night and gets drunk in a nightclub. The Paris seen here is the neighborhoods rather than the tourist areas. Director McG presents both sides of the coin: the fast and furious underworld and the slower home life. The screenplay by Adi Hasak with story and screenplay by Luc Besson, with some humor, involves the viewer in caring for Ethan and Zoey as they risk their lives in the criminal environment. Intense scenes of action violence. Some sexuality. Profanity.

NON-STOP

During an Atlantic crossing flight from London, the air marshal Bill: Liam Neeson starts

receiving text messages on his cell phone that every 20 minutes a passenger will die unless an offshore bank account is credited with a deposit of \$150-million. His seatmate Jen: Julianne Moore, pilot Tom: Scoot McNairy and Chief Stewardess Nancy: Michelle Dockery (Lady Mary on PBS's Downton Abbey) get very involved in helping Bill. Stewardess Gwen: Lupita Nyong'o has less than ten minutes of screen time and does not get to show the talent range for which she received the Supporting Actress Oscar for Patsy in 12 Years a Slave. Director Jaume Collet-Serra and screenwriting-story by John W. Richardson and Christopher Roach, plus Ryan Engle, keep the tension taut with nails digging into the arms of the viewer's seat. Intense violence and action. Some profanity, sensuality and drug references.

ROBOCOP

Alex Murphy: Joel Kinnaman, a cop in 2028 Detroit suffers severe wounds but is pieced together by Dr. Dennett Norton: Gary Oldman and the corporation OmniCorp run by Raymond Sellars: Michael Keaton. Wife Clara Murphy: Abbie Cornish and son don't realize how much of Alex is machine and how little is the man they loved. He has become a killing machine. OmniCorp considers Alex the prototype of their new half-cop/half-machine line they want to manufacture. Director Jose Padilha, screenwriter Joshua Zetumer and the 1987 screenplay writers: Eduard Neumeier and Michael Miner are credited with this sci-fi action flick. The strong supporting cast includes Police Chief Karen Dean: Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Rick Mattox: Jackie Earle Haley, Liz Kline: Jennifer Ehle, and Pat Novak: Samuel L. Jackson. Intense action with frenetic gun violence throughout. Brief profanity, sensuality and some drug material.

SON OF GOD

After a twenty-minute summation of the entire Old Testament, the story gets to the manger. The cast stars Adult Jesus: Diogo Morgado, Mary Magdalene: Amber Rose Revah, John: Sebastian Knapp and Mary, Mother of Jesus: Roma Downey, who doubles as producer with her husband, Mark Burnett. Filmed in Morocco, Christ's story hits all the highlights throughout his life culminating in tear-inducing empathy. The costumes and settings look authentically period. Director-writer Christopher Spencer is supported by other writers: Richard Bedser, Colin Swash and Nic Young. Some unsettling images and sequences of violence, including spikes being driven into Christ's limbs. Intense and bloody depiction of The Crucifixion. Unsettling images through the holes in Christ's hands in the Resurrection scenes. Superbly filmed and well worth seeing.



At the Theater / Flora Lynn Isaacson and Linda Ayres-Frederick

Shavian Comedy Arms and the Man at RVP

Ross Valley Players just opened the critically acclaimed romantic comedy, *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw. This play takes place during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian war. It's heroine, Raina Petkoff (Kate Fox Marcom) is a young Bulgarian woman engaged to Sergius Saranoff (Peter Warden), one of the heroes of the war, who she idealizes.

One night, a Swiss mercenary soldier in the Serbian Army, Captain Bluntschli (Philip Goleman) bursts through her bedroom window and first threatens Raina, then begs her to hide him so he is not killed. Raina complies, though she thinks the man a coward, especially when he tells her that he does not carry pistol cartridges, but chocolates. When the battle dies down, Raina and her mother Catherine (Stephanie Saunders Ahlberg) sneak Bluntschli out of the house disguised in an old housecoat.

The war ends and Sergius returns to Raina, but also flirts with her insolent servant girl, Louka (Robyn Grahn). Raina begins to find Sergius both foolhardy and tiresome but she hides it. Bluntschli unexpectedly returns to bring back the old housecoat and to see Raina. Raina and her mother are shocked, especially when her father, the distinguished Major Paul Petkoff (Ron Dailey) and Sergius reveal they met Bluntschli before and invite him to stay for lunch and to help them with their troop maneuvers. Bluntschli's return stirs several emotions in Raina and she starts to have feelings for her "chocolate cream soldier."

Director Cris Casell has reverence for Shaw's impressive combination of intellect, his perception of human nature, and high comedy. On this last

note, "high comedy," she is a little over the top in her direction. Most of the cast is too much like cartoon characters with the exception of Philip Goleman as Bluntschli when she pictures him a realist. Kate Fox Marcom is appealing as Raina and Warden steals the show as Major Sergius Saranoff. Ron Dailey is impressive as Raina's father.

High praise goes to Ken Rowland's set design, which is very colorful, Michael Berg's costumes, Ellen Brooks' lighting design, and Billie Cox's sound design. George Bernard Shaw gave Leopold Jacobson the rights to adapt his play into what became the 1908 operetta, *The Chocolate Soldier*, with music by Oscar Straus. Bluntschli is the kind of soldier who sneaks into enemy lines and into a lady's boudoir armed with chocolates in place of cartridges.

Arms and the Man pokes satiric fun at the dangers, bravado and idealistic motives of romantic love.

Performances: Thurs 7:30 p.m., Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m. All performances take place at the Barn Theatre, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross, CA. To order tickets, call 415-456-9555 or go online at www.rossvalleyplayers.com.

Coming up next at Ross Valley Players will be Other Desert Cities a 2012 Pulitzer Prize Drama finalist, also nominated for five Tony awards written by John Robin Baitz and directed by Phoebe Moyer, May 16-June 15, 2014.

Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick



Flora Lynn Isaacson

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Muni/Google (Cont. from p. 6)

ride a cell phone will call the taxi system. Within minutes the taxi will be close and call back to have the rider come to the curb with the four digit code that will open the taxi door. This system will be safer than the current taxi system because they will know everything about you including the credit card that you want to use, just like Amazon. The taxi will proceed effortlessly, at the speed limit, carefully giving Muni and pedestrians the right of way. The rider may work or call or sleep, and arrive faster, safer and cheaper than driving one's own car.

This new taxi system will probably be owned by companies similar to today, because while the SFMTA will oversee the system, like today, we will not want Muni to own the system. In the next ten years we can hope the dispatching system will be universal and work much better than today. The system will probably have different mileage and time fees based on the demand for taxi service at different times of the day, just like some taxis do today. Late at night, when there are few riders, the fares will be just high enough to cover marginal costs, which will be low because there are no wage costs figured in. Muni may also find it advantageous to provide fast pass users with a nearly free ride during the middle of the night. This might increase ridership

Cont. p. 12

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215 Corona St	Ingleside Terrace	4	2	1	1,200,000	1,500,000	125.00
2-2 Mercedes Way	Ingleside Terrace	6	3	3	2,550,000	2,350,000	100.00
141 San Pablo Ave	St. Francis Wood	3	2	2	1,895,000	1,900,000	100.26
219 Bella Vista Way	Miraloma Park	4	2	1	1,100,000	1,100,000	100.00
215 Claremont Blvd	West Portal	3	1	2	995,000	1,238,000	124.42
1378 Portola Dr	West Portal	3	2.5	1	1,190,000	1,500,000	126.05

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St. Francis Woods [Undated] If you have any information about the date or location from which this picture was taken please share it with us (editor@westsideobserver.com). We will share it with the SF History Center. Permission of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

BRAIN FÜD

STRU musical MENTS

Can you decipher the musical instruments represented below?

1. P O
2. BA BA
3. ECLART
4. @ # \$ %

Answer

1. Piano (P and O)
2. Tuba (Two BA)
3. Clarinet (CLAR in ET)
4. Cymbals (Symbols)

OPEN LATE



By Julie Casson

3		7	6		4			2
			2		8		6	
6		5						3
5	6	4	7	8				
				4	3	5	2	6
2						6		1
	4		3		1			
9			4		5	2		7

Sudoku-fun!

Rules:
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.
The Object:
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer:

2	3	2	5	6	4	8	1	9
8	5	9	1	2	3	6	4	7
1	4	9	6	7	8	3	5	2
6	2	5	3	4	1	9	7	8
4	7	8	9	6	5	2	3	1
9	1	3	2	8	7	4	6	5
3	8	7	4	1	2	9	6	5
5	9	6	7	8	3	2	4	1
7	1	9	2	4	5	6	8	3

Muni/Google(Cont. from p. 11)

during the day, by people who only drive because they will need a ride home late at night. Since a large portion of Muni's costs are covered by parking fees and fines, which in the future will only be paid by visitors or commuters, we will need another source of funds. Most of the money will come from the taxis, as determined by the SFMTA based on time of use or destination because taxi use only has to be slightly less costly than ownership plus parking costs.

Howard Strassner is the former President of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, and Transportation Chair for the SF Sierra Club



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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....." Well, that's me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the jersey shore in the picture.

17 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 them 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

Now...Find out for yourself and benefit from an AMAZING OFFER- Look, It should not cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health expenses, you may as well write a lesser one for chiropractic. Anil know you're smart. You want to get to the cause of the problem, and not just cover it up with drugs. When you are one of the first 20 people to call and schedule a new patient exam (by October 24th) you will receive that entire exam for \$37. That's with a consultation with the doctor, examination and x-rays... the whole ball of wax, and there are no hidden fees. But call right away because we expect to be flooded with calls as this exam costs \$317. Again there are only 20 of these slots so don't miss out. I hope that there's no misunderstanding about the quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. I just offer that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

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 assistant is Karen and she is friendly 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 San Francisco Family Spinal Care and it is at 505 Beach Street (we are at the corner of Beach and Jones on the edge of North Beach). Our phone number is 415-771-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first, 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.



The Real Estate Answer Man / By Kevin Birmingham



Q: How have the influx of tech startups moving to SoMa affected home pricing? Has this caused any appreciation? Have more residential buildings converted to commercial office space? - *Liza*

A: San Francisco has been home to a thriving tech industry for years. While the jobs this industry provides do attract a lot of young tech workers to SoMa, the companies themselves aren't particularly interested in commercial space there. The SoMa neighborhood was historically an industrial district and so much of the housing available there is converted from these old buildings, which don't lend themselves particularly well to traditional office space. Most of the new residential development in this neighborhood is built over ground-floor commercial space, but again, this usually ends up leasing to retail.

Q: Can my girlfriend co-sign for me if she has had a short sale in the last 2 years? - *John*

A: Generally, conventional financing allows a buyer with a repaired credit history to get a loan with 20% down 24 months after a short sale or pre-foreclosure. After 48 months, you should be able to get a loan with just 10% down. It takes up to 84 months for the short sale to stop affecting your ability to secure a loan.

Q: What are the best neighborhoods to avoid the fog in San Francisco? - *Louis*

A: Divisadero Street in San Francisco is so-named because it's the line that defines the city's sunbelt. The traditionally sunny neighborhoods are to the right of Divisadero, especially the Mission, Noe Valley, and Bernal Heights.

Ask local real estate expert Kevin Birmingham: kevin@kevinbirmingham.com

Second Thoughts / By Jack Kaye



A Question of Privacy

We have heard many public discussions lately about the issue of privacy with seemingly intelligent people expressing outrage over recent revelations that our country's spy agency is spying. They are spying, in part, by obtaining telephone and email data on American citizens right here on American soil. The billions of bits of data involve phone numbers, dates of calls and their duration, as well as email connections made at certain times and dates. No one has suggested that the phone calls' or emails' contents were ever involved. A recent in depth study found there to have been no known abuses. And yet some still cite the Fourth Amendment which forbids unlawful search and seizure.

I find it very hard to consider what they are doing at NSA a violation of the Fourth, just as I don't see how requiring guns buyers at gun shows to pass background checks, or limiting the kind of weapons citizens can buy to defend themselves, would be a violation of the Second Amendment.

I think both Constitutional claims are fine examples of demagoguery.

So what constitutes an invasion of privacy?

I think having our medical or financial records made public would be a serious invasion. And stealing our identity for fun and profit by criminal hackers is perhaps the most egregious such trespass.

I think having naked or otherwise embarrassing pictures of ourselves distributed without our approval, another.

I would consider having my private conversations made public, or having my personal emails read aloud to a group people not considered admirers, to be in this category.

Most of us would rather have privacy while having sex, some wanting complete privacy, insisting on separate bedrooms. The same with our time spent eliminating our waste products.

Also private thoughts and feelings are usually intended to remain so.

But what about our picture, should that be private? Should people not see you? Corporations and government agencies are working to produce a facial recognition system. The system would recognize each of us and produce advertising that would best suit us individually. The system could track us as we shop at the mall and put up ads just for us. Will this be an invasion of privacy? Surely, we are not all suspects of the crime of shopping too little, of not being willing to help our struggling economy. Why not just do this to people known to be shopping too little?

It is now easy to find people we have been looking for, to find out where they live, how long they have been there, how much they paid for their home and how much it is currently worth. If you are willing to pay a few dollars, you can also find out how much the person owes on the mortgage, how much he claimed to earn, whether he has been arrested or married or divorced. You can find out if and when the person entered the country and all those who came here at the same time.

Should all that information be private unless you are suspected of an existential crime?

A person in law enforcement could see your license plate and run it to find your name, address, birth date, aliases, height and weight, as well as your picture. The person can then check to see if you own a gun, have ever been arrested and so on. Is that an invasion of privacy even if it is well supervised?

When we donate to a charity we start getting requests from every similar fund. If we give to an environmental group, we will hear from every other one. How does that happen? Is our privacy being violated?

When we go online, we see ads to the side of most entries. They are targeted at us specifically. How does that happen? Is our privacy being invaded and sold to advertisers?

What about when people listen in on our cell phone calls because we speak loudly in their close proximity, and sometimes speak while on speaker phone so both sides of the conversation can be overheard? Is that yet another violation of our privacy? If so, why do we make it so easy for them?

Are our names, addresses and phone numbers private? If yes, then why do we have to pay extra to have them not made public by the phone company?

When crossing the Golden Gate Bridge which connects San Francisco with Marin, two of the most liberal counties in America, perhaps the world, there are no toll takers to collect our money. Instead the system takes a photo of us driving our car through the toll gate and sends us a bill in the mail. How does it know who we are and where we live? Why did they gather this personal information on us? We did not commit any crime. Is this a violation of our civil rights as mandated by the Constitution of the United States of America in its hallowed Fourth Amendment? Should we all start taking the ferry to avoid this unconstitutional infringement on our G-d given right of privacy?

Regardless of whether or not you agree with what I have written here, please let's keep it just between us. Surely, I'm entitled to some privacy; that's why I write a column.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

I Took the Test

By Carol Kocivar

First of all, let me tell you that any test that has the word "SMARTER" in its name is just begging me to try. (I mean, who wouldn't want to be smarter?)

So this week I went on-line and took a sample SMARTER BALANCED test. That is the test that is being rolled out this spring for students in grades 3 through 12 as a sort of practice run for the new Common Core academic standards.

I took the test right after I finished a soccer game so I could simulate in some way what it feels like to be a fourth grader.

Yes, I know, I have graduated from high school. I have graduated from college. I have graduated from law school. And you ask me why I took the fourth grade level test.

(Refer back to the title of the test. Let me be perfectly honest. I wanted to see if I was a smart as or smarter than a fourth grader.)

I hadn't taken a real test in years. Ooops—except for renewing my driver's license earlier this year. I studied for days, even listening to the driver's manual on my iPhone. So you know I am a little bit obsessive.

I had heard it was not a simple fill-in-the-bubbles test. It would ask me to think. So fourth grade seemed like a good place to start.

I am still recovering from my experience years ago when my son was in fourth grade. He would come home with the *Problem of the Week*. We did finally figure out how many times we would have to go to the ice cream store to get a double scoop with 31 different combinations of flavors. I think I gained 5 pounds figuring that one out.

Back to SMARTER BALANCED.

The education world is buzzing about this change. In California, it is a little bit of a triple whammy. They are changing the education standards. They are changing the way kids are tested and they are

changing who decides how money is spent so more decisions are made locally.

The test I took was a sample. Want to take it too?

Here is the link: <https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org/student/>

So that is the first big deal. This is a test you take on the computer. Not more number two pencils. Not only do you need to know the substance, it sure helps to be able to do some simple navigation in the web page. (Thankfully, I know I passed this part of the test.)

I took the math and the English Language arts sample.

My takeaway: It does make you think—both in math and language arts.

The math problems required a lot more than simple calculations.

You had to figure out things like if you are going to buy a desk and it is going to look like an "L" when it is set up, how many square feet is it going to take.

Then there were questions to show not only your understanding of geometric shapes but also sequential calculations.

The English language arts required reading and listening comprehension. Wow, the computer talks to you!

You had to read a story and then type in an ending that you make up. To keep you on your toes, you must look for supporting information to justify a conclusion you drew from the text.

I know. I know. You want me to tell you if I passed! Let's just say I am glad I started at the fourth grade.

Next week...high school!

Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Assn. and she lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com



It's Wine Time

By Susan Hartman

As I am writing this article for April I realized spring is in the air here in the Sierra Foothills. The grasses are turning green and the daffodils are in bloom already. With many traditional spring feasts this month, they are bound to be accompanied by good wine. My recommendation for your holiday gathering and spring parties is going to be two different wines. I do suggest you serve both. This way it will please all of your guests based on their personal preference. Imagine serving your Ham with a nice Chardonnay, or your roasted Leg of Lamb with a nice Pinot Noir.

Chardonnay is a great choice when it comes to pairing with your holiday ham because it will not compete with the sometimes saltiness or honey flavoring of the ham, whether it be smoked or baked. It will not compete with any of your other traditional side dishes either. The Chardonnay should be a lightly oaked one. Here is my suggestion for wine choice no. 1: 2012 Antica Chardonnay. This chardonnay is pure, ripe, yet fine and delicate. I found it to have notes of pear, nectarine and very subtle hints of vanilla. The finish was very pleasant. The price range is \$28.00 to \$35.00 per bottle. It will go nicely with your appetizer, or perhaps a spring salad with feta and watermelon.

Now for my choice no. 2: can you say Anderson Valley California Pinot Noir? A coastal Mendocino appellation due north of Sonoma County, it is among California's most chosen spots for cool-climate Pinot Noir, and viticulture playground for producers from around the state.

2009 Husch Vineyard Pinot Noir runs about \$35.00 per bottle. This particular vintage received 94 points. I found it to have concentrated flavors of wild berries, some spice like cardamom, along with coffee. It had mature tannins which completed the wine. This would pair nicely with many things you may be serving for your holiday. I could really see it being nice with some roasted duck or garlic eggplant. A vegetarian meal would pair nicely as well.

Happy Spring!

Susan Hartman is a Northern California based writer and wine aficionado.



Senior Smarts (Cont. from p. 7)

link between the faith and medical communities.

The role of the Parish Nurse

Health educator: Presents educational programs to the congregation for health screening and illness prevention.

Health counselor: Provides individual counseling services in the home or long-term care setting.

Advocate: Provides assistance to congregational members in finding their way through the health care systems.

Referral agent: Provides assistance with finding and making referrals to agencies, organizations and support services to improve the congregational member's quality of life.

Develops support groups; Initiates and organizes groups designed to assist the participants with a specific issue.

Volunteer training: Recruits and trains volunteers to provide assistance.

The Parish Nurse is a source of preventative and restorative care, ministering holistically to individuals and families.

The Parish Nurse is not a direct medical care provider.

Some of the services a Parish Nurse can provide:

Help in accessing and navigating the health care system.

Programs to promote healthy exercise and nutrition.

Education on health issues.

Support groups.

Health screening.

Assistance to new patients.

Support for hospitalized or home-bound family members.

©Information courtesy of Faith Roberts, RN, BSN, carle.com.

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, and writer of reference books for seniors, "Caring for an Aging Loved One: The Family Caregiver's Guide Book," ©2007. This article is an excerpt from her book. She can be reached at cfaalo@yahoo.com.



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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



A Bag Full of Memories

We were recently treated to an overnight stay at the Vitale Hotel, which is located on Mission Street just a few comfortable steps from the Embarcadero. Its clean, modern look is a stark contrast to the Beaux Arts style of the Ferry Building immediately across the street. As evening approached we were mesmerized by the undulating lights on the Bay Bridge, coupled with the Ferry Building's clock chimes, which are based on portions of the Westminster Quarters. As an added treat, we enjoyed a specially prepared dinner at Boulettes Larder in the Ferry Building as we watched the scurrying ferry passengers, relaxed tourists, and spectacular views of the bay and the bridge.

It's amazing how many adventures can be stuffed into such a small bag and literally forgotten over the years. We always think about the photos and videos that we take for granted, but what about the other items that come back with us in our overstuffed bags?

Although our stay was short, we thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and as we checked out of our room I instinctively reached for a bar of soap as a reminder of our pleasant stay, as if we had just left the most exotic hotel half way around the world.

Once home and ready to unpack I looked at the bar of soap and was magically brought back to all those adventures from the past. I have dozens of mementos from our travels, and have always placed them in a shopping bag whose contents might to be used at some later date. Reaching in, I discovered a bar of soap from The Plaza Hotel in New York, years before Donald Trump took it over. From the other coast a small bottle



Vitale Hotel on San Francisco's Embarcadero has great views and stunning interiors

of shampoo from the Ritz-Carlton, a tooth brush and some bath salts from the Hotel Bauer Grunwald in Venice, and a shower cap from the Scottsdale Plaza, perfect for the start of baseball season. Next was a sewing kit from Crystal

Cruises, a bar of soap from the Ahwannee Hotel in Yosemite, and a miniature bar of soap from Lucca's Hotel La Luna. The scariest find was a shower cap from the Villa Pambuffetti in Montefalco, Perugia, where suddenly in the middle of the night we were rocked by a massive earthquake that did extensive damage to the surrounding area. Fortunately for us, the 600 year old brick and stone structure held up without so much as pebble falling on our heads. The John Rutledge House Inn in Charleston, South Carolina brought back memories of canopy beds and horse and buggy rides, and finally, some body lotion from the Relais Todini in Todi, which has always been one of our very favorite destinations. The ancient hunting lodge has been converted to a fairly small but exquisite hotel with a wonderful restaurant, pool, and tennis courts overlooking the Umbrian countryside.

It's amazing how many adventures can be stuffed into such a small bag and literally forgotten over the years. We always think about the photos and videos that we take for granted, but what about the other items that come back with us in the our overstuffed bags? A shirt, a sweater, some stale cookies, fake jewelry or occasionally items of real value, but maybe in the future we should consider something as simple as a bar of soap to make our travels lighter and our memories sweeter.

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