



Central Council
Big Garbage rate increase announced at the West of Twin Peaks Council Meeting..... **3**

Police Crime Report
Update on increased burglaries and a great arrest **9**



Quentin Kopp
Takes Aaron Peskin to task on his SF Income Tax proposal **3**

Around Town
Mitch talks local Westside happenings big and small **9**



Patrick Monette-Shaw
Will the City get serious about protecting Whistleblowers? Don't hold your breath . **5**

Wild Flowers!
Another great by-product of the higher rainfall is the profusion of wildflowers **6**

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

Volume 30 • Number 3 Celebrating Our 30th Year www.westsideobserver.com April 2017

Carcinogenic “Blended Water” From Your Tap?

by George S. Wooding and Christopher L. Bowman

Neighbors who live in San Francisco’s west side, in the OMI, and in several other parts of the City should take a close look at the water that comes out of their taps.

Will the water look the same, smell the same, feel the same, and taste the same? Maybe “yes,” maybe “no.” Will the water be safe to drink, or will increased contaminants represent a health hazard to the general public, and those with weakened immunity?

Starting in the next couple of days, water from six wells from the Westside Groundwater Basin

side of Lake Merced.¹ Well water will be treated on-site with sodium hypochlorite (a disinfectant) and sodium hydroxide (to maintain pH levels), piped to the Sunset Reservoir where it will be treated again and blended with Hetch Hetchy Water, and then pumped to Sutro, Stanford Heights, and Summit Reservoirs for distribution.

“... there is no need this year – or perhaps even through next year, if we have normal rainfall in 2017-2018 – to turn on the spigot quite yet of groundwater being ‘blended’ into our tap water supply.”

(Aquifer) will be “blended” with Hetch Hetchy water. The “blended” water will “serve” nearly 60% of San Francisco residents.

Initially, only 4% of the water serving those residents will be “blended” well water, but that percentage will increase to 15% by 2020 — roughly one part of well water for every five parts of Hetch Hetchy water.

Three of the six wells are located in Golden Gate Park, two in the Outer Sunset, and one on the east

All water customers in the City served by those four reservoirs — plus the Forest Knolls, Mt. Davidson, and La Grande water tanks — will receive “blended” water.

All water customers in the City served by the Merced Manor, University Mound, College Hill, Hunters Point, Potrero Heights, and Lombard Street Reservoirs, will continue to receive 100% Hetch Hetchy water.

Supervisory Districts and neighborhoods that will receive

Cont. p. 2

Sewergate: Costly Conspiracies of Expediency

by Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

On March 17, 2017 an epic whistleblower retaliation trial rendered a \$2 million judgment against City Attorney Dennis Herrera. His former Chief Trial Deputy, Joanne Hoepfer, claimed she was fired for exposing a sewer repair scam involving the City Attorney’s Claims Bureau. Herrera maintained he had long-planned to fire her for “poor judgment”. After 3 weeks of testimony, a Superior Court jury unanimously spurned Herrera’s oath that Hoepfer’s sewer probe “had nothing to do with my decision to replace her.”

Prompted by an FBI tip about fraudulent claims, Hoepfer found that plumbing contractors drummed up business by checking City records to locate City trees. They drove around to video sewer traps without informing property owners. Then they knocked on doors, warning of tree-root problems needing immediate attention - even when residents weren’t experiencing sewer problems. After assuring homeowners that the City would pay, they filled out the paperwork to file a claim. Within days, the Claims Bureau would reimburse the homeowners - or pay the plumbers directly, though contractors lack legal standing to file such claims. While taking steps to block phony claims, the Claims Bureau viewed the hustling as “unethical but not illegal.” One staffer admitted, “It’s nearly impossible to prove collusion despite it being glaringly obvious.”

Sewer and tree-related claims were soaring. In

2002, 202 claims totaled \$1.1 million. By 2010 there were 522, costing \$4.6 million. The 10-year total was \$24 million, including legitimate types of sewer and tree maintenance. Other cities didn’t pay for sewers infiltrated by city-owned trees because roots rarely break sewers. They infiltrate existing cracks. And most can be cleared by root cutting for a few hundred dollars rather than spending thousands to dig up and replace entire lines. That’s why Oakland, with a comparable number of city trees, paid \$20,000 annually to replace sewers. Meanwhile, one SF contractor collected \$600,000 over 2 years solely from City sewer claims. When Oakland did replace sewers, it paid 50% to account for depreciation. SF paid full freight for brand new lines. Hoepfer surmised that dubious payouts had cost taxpayers \$10 million.



Most of the claims were for private sewer lines that run from homes to the sidewalk. By replacing decrepit private sewers, the City was providing capital improvements for property owners and big paydays for a handful of plumbing contractors. According to the Government Claims Act, cities are only liable for public sewers that run under streets. And City codes require the Department of Public Works (DPW) to fix street sewers through its contracting process. However, the Claims Bureau paid for some street sewer jobs. These irregularities were

tolerated as “a conspiracy of expediency”, i.e., work-arounds to expedite repairs. Hoepfer saw false claims and suspected corruption.

Herrera supported Hoepfer’s investigation - until her findings triggered blow-back. Matthew Rothschild, a politically-connected Herrera ally who heads the Claims Bureau, was rattled. He told Hoepfer; “You handled this all wrong...You’ll be sorry.” Also upset were PUC Manager Ed Harrington and DPW Director Mohammed Nuru. They blamed the Claims Bureau for mismanagement. Wagon-circling ensued - another conspiracy of expediency. Herrera summoned his Chief Deputy Attorney, Therese Stewart, to defuse tensions and wrap up Hoepfer’s investigation. Stewart counseled Rothschild and his staff, without notifying Hoepfer’s investigative team of her back-channel communications. She fended



Joanne Hoepfer

“... Hoepfer had offered to settle for \$1,895,000 while Herrera countered with \$355,000. Now, taxpayers face bills surpassing \$3 million for Herrera’s attorneys, plus \$2 million for Jo Hoepfer and around \$2.5 million for her attorneys.”

Cont. p. 2

A City Gone Amok!

by John Farrell

If the City and County of San Francisco were a Marvel Comic Book, Stan Lee would write an attention grabbing caption such as *A City Gone Amok!* Budget out of control, more than 5000 City jobs added since 2011. City wants more money to spend—potential City income tax. Aging infrastructure. Buildings go up like crazy, changing the character of neighborhoods. Drastic need for affordable housing. Family exodus. Homelessness, panhandling and drug use is epidemic. Crime. Break-ins. Pedestrian fatalities. Traffic congestion. The list goes on.



“The City must not continue this same approach to just balance the budget in order to get by without a plan for the future.”

If this were a comic book then the Avengers would be sent in, or maybe a new team would be created like the Accountability Squad with Audit Man and Transparency Woman. But this is reality folks, and that is not going to happen.

It is all good that our City officials want more affordable housing, to improve services, and to maintain our infrastructure. As concerned citizens we all want that. But before you start inundating the voters with initiatives, such as a City income tax,

I would highly recommend you look into your own backyard. Because if you did then you would not be considering measures like this.

The Mayor’s FY2016-17 budget of \$9.6 billion was \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago, yet basic issues such as safety, housing affordability, and homelessness seem worse than ever. And the budget wasn’t even balanced, since it depended on an increase in the sales tax that the voters rejected. And now with our new president, our City revenues are

Cont. p. 6



Tree roots can cause thousands in damage to sewer lines. It’s only natural that roots from trees grow toward sewer lines, a bountiful source of the water, nutrients, and oxygen that roots crave. But the expensive process also attracts unscrupulous swindlers as Drs. Rivero and Kerr continue to report.

Sewergate (Cont. from p. 1)

off Harrington's accusations, declaring: "Everybody has a hand in this...no need for finger-pointing." In June 2012, Nuru and Harrington barred the "pre-approval" of claims by the Claims Bureau without their okay.

Troubled by Hoeper's ongoing search for "something nefarious," Stewart demanded a "2-page summary" – and not "a blow by blow summary" of Hoeper's findings. Instead, Hoeper delivered a 27-page draft report on 7/18/12 recommending a "top to bottom" audit of the Claims Bureau. One week later, Herrera told Hoeper to retire - or transfer to the DA's Office for 18 months, then be released with full retirement benefits. It was an expulsion dressed as a soft landing, removing a threat rather than demoting an under-performer. Plus, Herrera's timing was daft. Interestingly, Rothschild, a target of the sewer investigation, knew of Hoeper's sacking a week before it was announced. Hoping that Herrera would reconsider, Hoeper accepted the transfer and a \$120,000 severance but rejected a no-sue clause. After her release from the DA's Office, she filed a wrongful termination claim in June 2014.

Herrera testified that he had "lost confidence" in Hoeper and resolved to replace her in "early 2010." He just couldn't find

the right person. He described a desultory recruitment effort that stretched over 2.5 years and stalled during his run for Mayor. He couldn't prove he interviewed candidates because he didn't keep notes of meetings and didn't ask any of them to testify. More evidence vanished due to furtive memory lapses and his reliance on private e-mail to conduct City business. Herrera has no government e-mail account. He had no documentation or recollections of having directly admonished Hoeper's performance. He never told Hoeper her career was on the chopping block. Why? He wanted to "find her replacement first," otherwise her removal would be too "disruptive". Yet, he abruptly fired her one month before installing her surprised replacement, Cheryl Adams. Subsequently, under Therese Stewart's supervision, the vexing sewer investigation went dormant.

Herrera's attorney, John Keker, tried to portray Hoeper as a problem employee – a loser. He scorned the trauma of her termination, arguing that she wasn't "too



Attorney John Keker

emotionally devastated" to take vacations or share her story with media outlets. He exhorted; "Press contact is not distress, it's a sign of wanting to win." As if the truly afflicted shun public attention. Keker asked why she accepted a transfer to the DA. Answer: "I needed a job." Why didn't she sue upon her transfer? "I was unsure if I

wanted to do it." Why did she finally decide to sue? "Because it would reflect badly on the City Attorney's Office if I didn't and it came out some other way."

Therese Stewart, now a judge, testified: "There was always some friction" between Herrera and Hoeper for "not doing a good enough job," underestimating liability, withholding information, scrambling from "crisis to crisis," "over-litigating" rather than settling – and making a paralegal cry. She cited key examples of said flaws from 2005-2007 – years before Herrera decided to fire Hoeper. They wobbled like pretexes under cross-examination by Therese Cannata and Mark Fickes, and were refuted by several witnesses.

Blended Water (Cont. from p. 1)

"blended water" include:

All of District 7, except for the John Muir apartments and parts of Lakeshore Village, Sunset Heights, Twin Peaks, and Clarendon Heights;

The eastern two-thirds of District 4;

Most of District 1, except between Balboa and Fulton, Ocean Beach and 43rd Avenue, and north of Geary between 36th and 44th Avenues;

Most of District 11, except for Mission Terrace; and

Portions of Districts, 2, 5, and 8; a third of Districts 3 and 9; about 10% of District 10; and roughly a dozen blocks in District 6 will receive "blended" water.

Unfortunately, if you want to determine whether or not you are receiving "blended" water, you cannot do so using the "Groundwater Blend Distribution Areas" map provided by the SFPUC in its SF Groundwater Supply Project. The map is both inaccurate (in that it erroneously includes the Presidio as receiving "blended" water, but excludes the service area of the Stanford Heights Reservoir that will provide "blended" water), and because the map is insufficiently detailed (in that it doesn't include a street grid).

One would think the SFPUC could provide notice to all landlords, property owners, and tenants as to whether or not they are receiving "blended" water, but they have chosen to not do so, nor do they have any plans to do so in the future.

Rather, one must contact the customer service office of the SFPUC — providing the staff with your name and address to get the information you need to determine whether or not you wish to continue to use tap water or buy bottled drinking water.

A bit of history, and why you should be concerned about the quality of "blended" water.

Since the 1930's, San Francisco's 862,000 residents, and nearly 1.8 million customers in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, have enjoyed high-quality water provided by the Hetch Hetchy System. Fully 85% of our water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the High Sierras, and another 15% from five Bay Area reservoirs.

In 2002, San Francisco voters approved a revenue bond measure to retrofit and upgrade the Hetch Hetchy system so that our residents would continue to enjoy a reliable supply of high-quality water. The project, which is now about 91% complete, will cost about \$4.8 billion. Little did voters know then that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) would spend \$66 million to provide 60% of San Franciscans with lower-quality, so-called

"blended" water starting this year.

The SFPUC justified its "groundwater supply project" on the basis of the ongoing drought; fear of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, that could cut off our water supply; and state legislation that required the City to find new sources of water to accommodate additional growth.

The Westside Groundwater Basin (Aquifer), from which San Francisco's "blended" water will come, is between 400 feet and 700 feet deep. The aquifer is made up of sand, silt, and other permeable materials that can readily yield water to springs or wells. It is replenished by surface water or fresh water lakes, such as Lake Merced, which seeps into the ground. Also seeping into the ground are fertilizers (which produce nitrates), pesticides, herbicides used in our golf courses and parks, byproducts from artificial turf, and leakage from our waste-water system that is transported along Ocean Beach to the Southwest Water Treatment facility near the Zoo.

There are conflicting findings in reports from the SFPUC on the level of nitrates detected in the wells that will be part of the "blended" water system.

California sets the Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) for nitrates at 45.0 mg/L.

According to the SFPUC's 2015 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report (September 2016), the Elk Glen 2 (site of the Central Pump Station) had nitrate levels of between 48.9 mg/L and 55.0 mg/L from 2000–2005. The Merced Pump ST MW155, which is located at the site for the new Merced Lake well, had nitrate levels of 48.0 mg/L to 49.0 mg/L from 2005–2007. And the South Windmill well had nitrate levels of 64% to 72% of the MCL, between 28.9 mg/L and 32.4 mg/L from 2013–2015.

These levels are problematic, particularly in light of the cumulative effect from years of drinking water contaminated with nitrates.

According to nitrate expert Linda Daily Paulson, "... high levels of nitrate in the water can cause health problems. ... Medical studies show nitrates in the drinking water are a particular problem for infants, especially those under the age of

six months, notes the EPA. This can cause a condition known as methemoglobinemia, or 'blue baby syndrome.' Excess nitrates decrease the ability of blood to carry vital oxygen through the body. Additionally, drinking water with high levels of nitrates can also pose health problems to older adults."

Dr. Ian Shaw, professor of toxicology at the University of Canterbury, states, "[T] here is a more sinister side to nitrate that is far less well understood and of uncertain impact on human populations. High nitrate doses are associated with some cancers. This is thought to be because nitrate is reduced to nitrite in the gut and nitrite reacts with specific food breakdown products (amines) to form highly-carcinogenic nitrosamines. This is a convoluted path to cancer, but is assuming greater importance as nitrate in food and drinking water slowly



increase worldwide."

The EPA (that the Donald Trump administration has proposed downsizing), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes: "Well water is particularly liable to have high nitrate levels since improper well construction and location can contribute to excess nitrates in the water. ... The most effective means of removing nitrate from drinking water supplies are ion exchange, reverse osmosis, and electrodialysis."

Unfortunately, none of those means are being used by the SFPUC to remove nitrates from our groundwater.

Finally, one of the major reasons for the SFPUC initiating its "blended" water project was to make up for the drought conditions that started in 2011. The State of California is now officially out of the drought. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Station Precipitation Summary for California/Nevada RFC, as of March 25, 2017, 46 of 48 climate stations in California are above normal in rainfall for this time of the year, and 39 of the 48 stations have received more rainfall than they normally receive in an entire year. And that doesn't even account for the largest snow pack in the Sierras since 1982–1983 that will translate into record run-offs this spring and summer.

The key point here is that there is no

Something more than Hoeper's temperament caused Stewart to worry about "over-investigating" the sewer deals. As to why it took 2.5 years to recruit Cheryl Adams to replace Hoeper, Stewart glibbed, "no one thought of her" – even though Adams had sought the job while serving on the Trial Team.

Ironically, Herrera manifested the flaws he attributed to Hoeper, i.e., bungling a crisis, demonizing an adversary, withholding information, and running up costs by over-litigating. Records show that Hoeper had offered to settle for \$1,895,000 while Herrera countered with \$355,000. Now, taxpayers face bills surpassing \$3 million for Herrera's attorneys, plus \$2 million for Jo Hoeper and around \$2.5 million for her attorneys.



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: watchdogs@westsideobserver.com.

need this year — or perhaps even through next year, if we have normal rainfall in 2017–2018 — to turn on the spigot quite yet of groundwater being "blended" into our tap water supply.

According to a July 2016 report by San Francisco's Budget and Legislative Analyst, over the next 45 years the number of seniors (aged 65+) in San Francisco will increase from 131,163 to 298,536 (a 128% increase).

Our elderly, along with the nearly one million residents of the City, shouldn't face greater risk from nitrate carcinogens in "blended water", nor should our children and young adults, who face the prospect of the cumulative effects of nitrates from decades of drinking tap water contaminated with nitrates.

Given the possible health risks due to high concentrations of nitrates in the City's groundwater, would it not be prudent, since we have the time to do so, for the City to construct and institute a nitrates decontamination system, using either ion exchange, reverse osmosis, or electrodialysis, so that when we do need to augment our water supply from Hetch Hetchy using groundwater, the quality of our drinking water won't be degraded?

Contact the Board of Supervisors and demand that it hold hearings to require that the SFPUC install nitrate decontamination systems in "blended water." Tell the Board that it must require SFPUC to notify all property owners, landlords, and tenants whether they will be fed blended water containing un-decontaminated nitrates.

Your health — and cancer risk — may depend on the outcome of those hearings.

George Wooding, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN); he can be contacted at wooding@westsideobserver.com. Bowman is a Political Analyst.

1) North Lake well — in the western part of Golden Gate Park, south of Fulton St., adjacent to Chain of Lakes Drive;

2) South Windmill Replacement well — in the western part of GG Park, north of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and west of the Murphy Windmill;

3) Central Pump Station well — located near Elk Glen just west of Crossover Drive near Overlook Drive;

4) West Sunset well — located at the W Sunset Playground at 40th and Quintara;

5) South Sunset well — located at the South Sunset Playground at 40th and Wawona; and

6) Lake Merced well — west of Lake Merced Boulevard, south of Harding Park and west of Brotherhood Way.

West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

The March meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council came back to daylight with the return of daylight savings time. Acting President Sally Stephens opened the meeting at 7:30 (outdoors) at the West Portal Playground Clubhouse (as the group was temporarily locked out).

Reminiscent of the “soapbox speeches in “olde Londontown” Supervisor Katy Tang addressed the attendees about her legislation “Home SF,” the latest effort by City Hall to address the housing shortfall in San Francisco. A few minutes into the speech, the “keeper of the key” arrived and we all moved indoors.

Once seated, roll was taken and as a quorum was reached, the floor was turned back over to the Supervisor. The legislation is written as a voluntary measure for potential building owners and developers to add additional stories within the buildings in specific commercial districts to try and increase the number of housing units aimed at middle class and working families. Tang explained that, while the city has been focused on creating housing units, almost 100% of the efforts have focused on benefitting those at the bottom of the economic scale, with very little being done to address the middle and working classes such as teachers, fire fighters, police officers, etc.

“Home SF” would give builders the chance to apply building sizes to match the State-passed “density bonus” plan that allows an increased height in existing buildings. The SF plan is more stringent, mandating a height limit of two additional stories to the existing building and maintaining the same “retail” footprint on the first floor (if retail currently exists). The challenge will be keeping “Mom and Pop” retailers in business during a building’s remodel and renovation. For the density bonus, developers would have to make 30% of the units available at below market rates.

As the program is voluntary, Tang feels it is a good step towards creating additional affordable housing and estimates place the number of potential units at 16,000 over 20 years, with 5000 being in the below market, affordable units. It is important to note that the SF legislation mandates that there will be no demolition of an existing residential unit where someone is currently living.

The next presentation was “garbage,” literally, as representatives from Recology and the RatePayer Advocates office were on hand to discuss and collect feedback about the garbage rate increase that Recology is proposing.

Recology has applied for an increase in the garbage rate of approximately 21% over four years, with 16.4% in year one, 4.98% in year two, 0% in year three, and .62% in year four. The increased funding will be used for items such as new collection bins, labor increases within the workforce, expanded outreach and education services, and the expansion and modernization of the recycling facilities at Pier 96 and Tunnel Avenue.

For the average resident, the increase is expected to be about \$5.70 per month.

Residents will be receiving “blue bins” that are twice the current size as more recycling materials are being produced, especially with online purchases. Known as the “Amazon” effect, the increase in packaging materials that can be recycled is causing Recology to implement some of the changes. Residents who trade in their

current 32-gallon “black bin” for a smaller 16-gallon bin will see their increase limited to approximately 50 cents per month instead of the \$5.70. The goal overall is to push more recyclables to be collected with less and less going to the landfill as operations get closer to their Zero Waste goal. In the near future residents will be able to recycle plastic bags, and other goods that are not currently recyclable, as the new processing equipment comes on line.

Rosie Dilger, the RatePayer Advocate, explained at the meeting the plan to continue to reach out to the public for feedback and information as the proposal is discussed. If you want to make your input known, go to their website Ratepayeradvocatesf.org to weigh in on the proposal. Paul Giusti, from Recology, was on hand to answer questions about the recycling services and the specifics of the new bin arrangements.

Kevin Drew, from the Department of the Environment, spoke about the expanded outreach and education efforts that will be funded by the increase. The entire budget for the Department of the Environment (about \$10,000,000 annually) is generated from garbage fees, not from the general fund. The new rates will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

President Stephens gave an Open Space report, informing the attendees that the Rec and Park’s controversial Natural Areas Program will be going into effect, as the appeal to block it was denied. An increase in tree removal, non-native plant removal, and an increased use of herbicides will be the result.

George Wooding gave a brief update on Public Health, citing concerns that even after the passage of Prop Q five months ago, virtually nothing has been accomplished to “sweep” the tent cities as the measure had intended. With no permanent or temporary housing in which to place the tent dwellers, the proposition cannot be implemented.

The final speaker of the evening was Chris Bowman, speaking on the plan for the PUC to mix pumped out groundwater with Hetch Hetchy water for much of the Westside of the city. This topic will be addressed at the next WOTPCC meeting.

Following the question and answer period, President Stephens adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 24th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Info: (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).



Supervisor Katy Tang explains “Home SF” at the WOTPCC



Paul Giusti of Recology at the WOTPCC

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



It’s tax time. A double dose awaits us this month. One half of the annual property tax must be posted or received by the San Francisco Tax Collector by April 10, 2017; the annual federal and state income tax payments must be postmarked or received by the Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board, respectively, by April 15, 2017. Taxation has long been a subject, not just for taxpayers and politicians, but also for humorists. For example, some unknown observer noted that a taxpayer is a person who has the government on his (or her) payroll. In 1986, retiring United States Senator from Louisiana Russell B. Long of Louisiana proclaimed: “[a tax loophole is] something that benefits the other guy. If it benefits you, it is tax reform.” And, another nameless student of government defined federal aid as “a system of making money taken from the people look like a gift when handed back.”

With wonderment, if not fear, San Franciscans learned last month that Assemblyman Phil Ting, a former San Francisco Assessor, and Aaron Peskin, an otherwise exemplary supervisor of Telegraph Hill and North Beach fame are collaborating to allow San Francisco to add an income tax of its own to that levied by the United States and California. Peskin secured Board of Supervisors Government and Audit Committee approval of a resolution asking the California Legislature and Governor to change state law which since 1963 has barred any city or county, or San Francisco as a city and county, from imposing a corporate or personal income tax on residents or non-residents. There are some cities nationally, which levy a local income tax. New York City is the most notorious. In 1971, campaigning for Mayor, then-Supervisor Dianne Feinstein promised a San Francisco income tax as a means of assessing commuters, ignoring the 1963 California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 17041.5 prohibition. She lost. Peskin and Supervisor Jane Kim voted for Peskin’s resolution, in committee; the third committee member, Board of Supervisors President London Breed, voted against it, wisely observing that city government should eliminate wasteful expenditures because “... there is a lack of accountability on so many different levels.” She added: “Part of our role should also be to look at how we are spending money now and where is the accountability for those who receive money from The City, from the departments that waste money.” Nevertheless, a week later the Board of Supervisors passed the resolution, 8-3, sending it to the San Francisco lobbyist in Sacramento to effectuate. The dissenters were Supervisors Breed, Mark Farrell and Jeff Sheehy.

Peskin’s local income tax would apply to residents and non-residents. Assemblyman Ting has already introduced Assembly Bill No. 1007 to repeal the Revenue and Taxation Code prohibition on local income taxation. Note that in 2008, a similar effort by then-Assemblyman Mark Leno failed. So did an attempt last year by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to extract a county income tax. Should we be surprised? Probably not at a time that our Board of Supervisors contemplates creation of yet a new city department, a Cannabis Department, or allows bestowal of taxpayer money on successful corporations like Luxor Cab Co. and Boudin Bakery (see below.).

It’s also appropriate for a short examination of property taxation, which represents California’s historical means of financing, not state or federal government, but local government. Every tax should possess a rationale. Property taxation collects money to defray costs of such general governmental services as police, fire, education (in San Francisco that means public schools and the Community College District), welfare, and public health. Property taxes aren’t collected by the State, which relies mostly on the state income tax and sales taxation for its general fund. Local government may also charge such sales tax as voters authorize. Property taxes on California homes, offices, or stores don’t finance state government. Property taxation doesn’t support city streets, county roads, or state or interstate highways. Those are funded by motor vehicle users through the gasoline tax, currently 36.8 cents per gallon from state and federal legislation. That’s one levy predicated on the

logical theory that those who use streets, highways and roads should pay for their construction and maintenance. The California gasoline tax hasn’t been increased since 1993. Legislation from Governor Jerry Brown to do so is pending. It’s justified. Moreover, bicycle owners should pay comparable and (but lesser) fees for the streets and roads they use without tax or a fee because of the beneficence of motor vehicle owners and drivers.

In almost every California legislative session, prolific-spending politicians and fiscal wastrels will decry Proposition 13. Its 39-year history is in order. California voters adopted Proposition 13 on June 6, 1978 as Article XIII A of the California Constitution by a 65-35% margin. Residential real estate prices had been increasing continuously for several years. Retired homeowners existing on pensions or other fixed income endured soaring assessments and property taxation from an asset (their home) whose increasing value couldn’t be obtained without selling that asset. The Legislature and Governor disregarded the plight of homeowners, especially senior citizens whose home value increase represented nothing but a paper profit. Proposition 13 is as valid today with spiraling home prices as it was in June 1978 for pensioners and fixed income homeowners. Proposition 13 allows reassessment to current market value of a home or other real estate upon a “change in ownership,” an act which, except for transfer to spouses and children, causes reassessment at the sale price. That’s logical. So, too, would be treating a change in a majority of an owner corporation’s stock as “change of ownership.” Common stock represents corporate ownership of an office or retail store building or manufacturing plant. I tried to effectuate such a corporate “change of ownership” concept during State Senate service. It will require a state constitutional amendment. Ting, Peskin, and Kim should devote their time and energy to achieving that equitable legislation and forget taxing personal income of San Franciscans.

Finally, consistent with Supervisor Breed’s observation about spending waste in City departments, consider San Francisco’s Legacy Business Program, which spends taxpayer money on alleged “legacy” businesses after approvals by the Historic Preservation and Small Business Commissions. It allows businesses to receive \$500 of tax money annually for each full-time employee and grants more taxpayer money to real estate owners who extend such business leases for at least a decade. It was approved in 2014 by hoodwinked voters. The latest hoodwinking is the March action making Boudin Bakery eligible for \$500 per year for each of its employees up to 100. Besides its plant in the Richmond District, Boudin operates a retail business on two floors of a city building at Fisherman’s Wharf. It thrives with souvenirs, its products and its restaurant with gorgeous views. It doesn’t need taxpayer money. It now, however, is eligible for plenty of taxpayer money if it applies between July 1 and September 30, 2017, another transaction for Supervisors Peskin and Kim to ponder as they lobby at the State Capitol for a local income tax. Let’s us taxpayers keep an eye on this potential phenomenal giveaway!

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

More
INSIDE

Bond Oversight on TV ... 4
Will Durst ... 4
Pristine Water? ... 5
Money Matters ... 6

Police Reports ... 7
Barberini ... 8
Calendar ... 10
Theater ... 11
Jack Kaye ... 12
Remember When ... 13

Open Late/Brain Füd ... 13
Sudoku ... 13
Senior Smarts ... 14
Education/Kocivar ... 14
Real Travel/Nibbi ... 15

Commentary

A Modest Proposal:

Televisе Bond Oversight Meetings

A committee created in 2002 to oversee bond spending has an image problem: Few have heard of the Citizen’s General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (CГОBOC), or know of the many duties with which CГОBOC is charged. Broadcasting CГОBOC’s meeting on the City’s Government Channel (SFGOV-TV, Channel 26) would go a long way toward clearing up its image problem, and provide greater transparency of this important committee overseeing taxpayer money.

The public has a right to know how San Francisco government officials are spending billions in bond funds.

SFGOV-TV broadcasts and archives all meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its five or more various sub-committees; meetings of 34 separate Boards and Commissions in the City, including the Police Commission, Ethics Commission, Fire Department Commission, Public Health Department Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Planning Commission, and Public Utilities Commission, among others; and broadcasts free publicly for the Mayor.

Why should CГОBOC be exempt from broadcasting its meetings?

In March 2002 voters passed Proposition F to create this nine-member bond oversight committee to monitor expenditures of general bond proceeds and ensure bond revenues are spent only in accordance with stated bond measure provisions. Prop F’s legal text stipulated CГОBOC could commission independent outside auditors to review bond expenditures, and if the Committee found that funds weren’t being spent for purposes approved by voters, it could prohibit sale of any remaining funds.

CГОBOC currently oversees 11 general obligation bonds totaling \$3.6 billion, and has received \$3.6 million (one-tenth of one percent) from bond proceeds to support its functions. As of March 23, 2017 CГОBOC had a \$1.73 million current account balance.

“When Citizens General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee starts broadcasting and archiving its meetings, we’ll be watching.”

In November 2003, voters approved Prop C to create a City Services Auditor (CSA) in the City Controller’s Office. The CSA function sought to ensure every City program and City department receives regular management and performance audits. The Controller’s statement in the 2003 voter guide indicated that based on the FY 2003–2004 budget, an additional \$5.3 million would be set aside, in addition to the \$3.2 million then budgeted for auditing and performance measurement, for a total of \$8.5 million. CSA’s annual allocation — two-tenths of one percent of the City’s overall budget — is now \$16.3 million in the current City budget.

What are we getting for that outlay? Every City program and department has not received performance and management audits from CSA in the 14 years since Prop C passed. About half of CSA’s audits have been compliance audits of City contracts. Virtually no comprehensive departmental or programmatic audits.

Prop C also expanded CГОBOC’s duties to serve as a Citizens Audit Review Board (CARB) to review audits CSA prepares, to ensure all audits meet requirements, and also requires that CГОBOC review complaints submitted to the Controller’s whistleblower program.

In October 2016 members of a loosely-knit group of accountability activists known as the Sunshine Posse, members of San Franciscans for Sunshine (veteran activists for open government), and members of Friends of Ethics began advocating that CГОBOC broadcast its meetings to increase transparency of its many oversight functions.

Change orders to bond-funded capital improvement projects have long been a problem CГОBOC has all but ignored. Change orders — various categories of changes to a project’s scope of work — lead directly to project cost overruns, construction delays, and higher project costs.

Back in 2010, CГОBOC’s then-chairperson, Abraham Simmons — a former member of San Francisco’s Civil Grand Jury — agreed CГОBOC should demand that the City Controller work closely with CГОBOC to develop a thorough and standardized change order management policy to supplement CГОBOC’s limited focus on just financial bond encumbrances and expenditures to prevent cost over-runs. Since then, CГОBOC has all but abandoned examining change orders.

Broadcasting and archiving CГОBOC’s meetings on SFGOV-TV is estimated to cost just \$9,579 annually, a ridiculously modest 0.55% of CГОBOC’s \$1.73 million current budget balance. That’s why this is characterized as a modest proposal.

At its January 2017 meeting, CГОBOC voted 3-to-2, plus one abstention, to

approve broadcasting, two votes shy of the threshold, so the motion failed.

City Controller staff *mistakenly* told CГОBOC members in January that there was a “wait list” for agencies seeking to broadcast. But Kathleen Clark, Acting Deputy Communications Director at the Department of Technology, said “SFGOV-TV does not have a ‘wait list’ for coverage.”

Due to public comments submitted prior to its March 23 meeting, CГОBOC re-considered its decision, voting 7-to-1 to approve broadcasting and archiving its meetings, with the lone “No” vote cast by CГОBOC’s Chairperson, Brian Larkin.

One member who voted “No” in January changed his vote to “Yes” after he listened to audio tapes on CГОBOC’s web site and agreed the quality of the out-dated audio technology is terrible. The member who “Abstained” changed his vote to “Yes” after being chided during public comment.

Cultural anthropologist Margaret Meade’s famous dictum — “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.” — proved true in San Francisco on March 23.

When CГОBOC starts broadcasting and archiving its meetings, we’ll be watching.

Whistleblower Vindicated, Herrera Not So Much

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr first began reporting on the Joanne Hoepfer “Sewergate” debacle in September of 2014, as their entries on the website indicate.¹ Their service to the City is commendable, as is Ms. Hoepfers.

With a staff of 188 lawyers, the City Attorney’s Office spent 3 million taxpayer dollars to hire the City’s most expensive lawyer, John Keker, in an apparent attempt to intimidate Ms. Hoepfer to no avail.

Initially, due to conflict of interest concerns—since Herrera is the defendant—he referred Hoepfer’s claim to San Mateo City Attorney for an independent assessment. San Mateo declined.

Herrera’s staff would be hard pressed to give him objective advice. Using his subordinates would be like defending himself. But he should have gone to an outside City Attorney for the trial representation - as required by City codes. Or he could have done the right thing and retained Hoepfer.

1. westsideobserver.com/news/watchdog.html#sep14

A Matter of Principle



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2017

MARCH MADNESS.

The entire nation is transfixed like a litter of kittens in front of a fishbowl of hyperactive minnows as the screwy shenanigans known as March Madness unfold. And mad is right. It’s crazy out there. Totally zany. Nuttier than the hospitality suite at a squirrel convention. As kooky as a skateboard rack in the foyer of an assisted living facility.

The productivity of offices has sunk to 4 am levels as Americans find it impossible to turn off our devices and look away from the streaming spectacle of backcourt body slams, missed lay-ups and crowd hysteria. The howling of normally disinterested bystanders periodically shatters the quiet hum as we watch amateurs get smoked and lambasted in the face of daunting odds.

But alas, this isn’t about a bad case of hoops frenzy. We’re talking about the wild,

on his credibility, both the House and Senate Intelligence committees announced finding no evidence to the President’s accusation that his phones were tapped by former President Obama. He said he heard someone on Fox News making the claim, but even Fox News said, “You’re kidding, right?”

Sean Spicer, the press spokesperson, whiffed on a series of free throws, trying single-handedly to keep the ball in play but

“Trump-Care, was criticized by both teams, the crowd, shoe manufacturer reps, beer vendors and even some cheerleaders, for looking suspiciously like Obama Care, without any of that “Care” part attached.”

weird and wacky machinations emanating from the Trump White House. Most administrations try to hit the ground running. This one careened out of the tunnel tripping over the ball rack, hoisting crazed half court hook shots while backpedalling into mascots and playing defense. Badly.

Instead of a fast break after his opening tip, both POTUS’s Muslim bans got blocked. The 45th President stomped up and down the court railing against the refs for banning the ban, and the media for calling his Muslim ban, a Muslim ban. One announcer wondered why Muslims wouldn’t enter the country simply pretending to be Christians, as that’s what most of us do. They’d fit right in.

Next, in what should have been a slam-dunk, TrumpCare, was criticized by both teams, the crowd, shoe manufacturer reps, beer vendors and even some cheerleaders, for looking suspiciously like Obama Care, without any of that “Care” part attached.

Although he’s plastered his name on chocolate bars, vodka, eyeglasses and bar stools, the president objected to calling the replacement health care bill, TrumpCare. Which sort of made even his own trainers and assistant coaches wince and do a double take. With the clock winding down

got caught double-teamed on the baseline with nowhere to pass, because Kellyanne Conway was back in the locker room nursing a strained microwave or some other subversive kitchen appliance.

The President himself was of little help, demanding to play point guard, power forward and center without any knowledge of the playbook, game, opponent, what was at stake or on which bench the rest of his team was sitting.

Setting records for unforced turnovers with fumbled rebounds, errant passes, double-dribbles, traveling violations and a flurry of airballs, D. J. Trump committed so many flagrant offensive fouls it was a miracle he wasn’t hit with three or four technicals and kicked out of the game, if not sent back to the team hotel on the company bus. But he wasn’t, because, as those of us watching at home know: he’s also the coach. And the sponsor.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and former bartender in the Upper Peninsula. For a calendar of personal appearances, including his upcoming week at the San Francisco Punch Line April 12- 15, please visit willdurst.com.

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

www.westsideobserver.com

Award Winning News for the Neighborhood
— Society of Professional Journalists



PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

Publisher: Mitch Bull
mitch@westsideobserver.com
Editor: Doug Comstock
editor@westsideobserver.com
Ad Sales • Mitch Bull

Contributors: Linda Ayres-Frederick Lou Barberini, Christopher L. Bowman, Mitch Bull, Julie Casson, Doug Comstock, Matt Davies, Will Durst, John Farrell, Sharone Franzen, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Jack Kaye, Dr. Derek Kerr, Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Steve Lawrence, Anise J. Matteson, Brandon Miller, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Sergio Nibbi, Dr. Maria Rivero, Glenn Rogers, George Wooding
Photos: Mitch Bull.

The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The *Westside Observer* is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Circulation is 18,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 16,000 are distributed -to-door, 2000 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as libraries and other key drop-off points ([see westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html](http://westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html)).

City Employees Deserve Strengthened Anti-Retaliation Law

Slouching Toward Whistleblower Protections

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

A fair question to now ask is “Have 33 members of the Board of Supervisors failed to screw in a light bulb during the past 14 years”? Really? How many does it take?

Taxpayers throughout San Francisco have a keen interest in the answer, because it goes to a larger question: Just how much fraud, waste, and abuse has gone undetected due to the Supervisors failure to adopt a meaningful Whistleblower Protection Ordinance (WPO) since 2003?

Grand Jury Raises Over-Arching Issues

In July 2015, the *Westside Observer* published “*Retaliators Keep Their City Jobs*,” noting the 2014-2015 Grand Jury report, “*Whistleblower Protection Ordinance Is in Need of Change*.”

The Jury noted voters enacted proposition C in 2003 adding a mandate to the City Charter requiring the Board of Supervisors to “enact and maintain an ordinance ... protecting City officers and employees from retaliation” for filing complaints about improper government activity.

Ethics Commission Sticks Its Toes in the Water

Because the Grand Jury required the Ethics Commission to respond, the Commission waded into the water.

When proposed WPO amendments were heard on March 28, 2016 the Ethics Commission's new Executive Director, LeeAnn Pelham provided background to Commissioners, with two options for potential amendments.

Option 1 involved minor changes only to Ethics Commissions **regulations** to become effective 60 days later.

Option 2 recommended **amending the Whistleblower Protection Ordinance** to:

- Expand the definition of a complaint to include “oral” communications that would be transcribed by the recipient of the complaint into written format.

- Expand the amendments to allow whistleblowers to disclose reports to City agencies other than the complainant's own City department, and provide anti-retaliation protections to complainants who make disclosures to County, state or federal agencies.

- Expand the WPO to cover anti-retaliation protections for employees of City contractors, in addition to City employees. Pelham specifically noted that amendments to the WPO should provide that employees of contractors could bring forward information about “**improper governmental activities**” and should receive whistleblower protections.

- Expand the definition of “other adverse employment” actions beyond just termination, demotion, or suspension.

- Add a provision in a new subsection to permit the Commission to issue an order to call for cancellation of retaliatory employment terminations, demotions, suspensions, and other “adverse employment actions” against whistleblowers.

- State explicitly that in order for complainants to establish that retaliation had occurred, the Ethics Commission would determine during **administrative proceedings** that by the “preponderance of evidence” protected activities had been a substantial motivating factor for adverse employment actions.

Dr. Derek Kerr, whistleblower wrongfully terminated from Laguna Honda Hospital, notes:

“Proving retaliation to the Ethics Commission by a ‘preponderance of the evidence’ isn’t feasible because whistleblowers cannot access all the evidence. Unearthing it takes subpoenas and depositions. That’s done by our lawyers in Civil Court, not by Ethics investigators on the City’s payroll.”

The Ethics Commission subsequently forwarded proposed amendments to the WPO to the Board of Supervisors on April 11, 2016.

Gang of Four's Delay: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Once the Board of Supervisors got its hands on the Ethics Commission's proposed recommendations you could almost predict there would be more delays slouching towards whistleblower protections reform.

The “Gang of Four” includes the Board of

Supervisors, City Controller, Department of Human Resources (DHR) and surprisingly, the Ethics Commission itself. There have been no public meetings of the four-agency team to take input or public comment on the proposed revisions to the WPO.

DHR responded March 2, 2017 to a public records request and provided the current working version, as of January 17, 2017, of proposed WPO amendments being collaboratively hammered out by the four agencies.

Comparison of Changes Recommended by Ethics vs. Gang of Four Changes

A side-by-side comparison of proposed WPO amendments submitted by Ethics to the Clerk of the Board and subsequent revised amendments made by the four-agency team is instructive. Major changes to proposed WPO amendments include:

- \$4.100 FINDINGS Neither the March 2016 nor January 2017 versions provide anti-retaliation protections if a whistleblower complaint is submitted to private lawyers involved with litigation against the City, to media outlets, other law enforcement agencies, or to watchdog and whistleblower third-party private-sector agencies.

- \$4.105(a) COMPLAINTS Although the Ethics Commission expressly included in its March 28, 2016 recommendations to allow complainants to file complaints with other County, State or federal agencies, that provision suddenly vanished from the January 17, 2017 four-agency collaborative proposed revisions to the WPO.

The March 2016 amendments Ethics submitted to the Clerk of the Board had specifically incorporated the Jury's concern that **gross waste, fraud and abuse** of City

resources be added to definitions of improper government activity, but gross waste, fraud and abuse was **eliminated** in the January 2017 version.

- \$4.115(a) PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS — RETALIATION PROHIBITED Both March 2016 and January 2017 versions of proposed WPO amendments require that complaints have

to be filed with City government supervisory employees. This is nonsense, since there are thousands of high-level City managers who don't directly “supervise” any employees. They're managers. If a whistleblower files a complaint with a manager who isn't supervising anyone, will those complainants still face retaliation?

- The Grand Jury noted in footnote 18 of its report that the Board of Supervisors had amended the WPO in 2008 to provide anti-retaliation protections for people who had filed complaints with the City Controller's Whistleblower Program. Although the March 2016 proposed amendments retained existing language providing anti-retaliation protections to complaints submitted to the Whistleblower Program, the January 27 proposed amendments **removed** that provision.

- There's still no explicitly-stated anti-retaliation protections anywhere in \$4.115(a) for whistleblower complaints submitted to private lawyers, media outlets, law enforcement agencies, or to watchdog and whistleblower third-party private-sector agencies.

- \$4.115(a) also still provides no retaliation protections for City employees who exercise First Amendment free speech rights. San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance \$67.22(d) currently provides that City employees **shall not be disciplined** for expressing their personal opinions on any matter of public concern while not on duty. Sunshine Ordinance \$67.22(e) goes further, saying “public employees shall not be discouraged

Cont. p. 8

SAN FRANCISCO'S WATER: no longer pristine?

by Glenn Rogers, PLA

Soon, San Francisco's pristine water will be blended with groundwater. The program is called the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project and is part of the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's (SFPUC) effort to develop numerous water supply alternatives to reduce dependence on the Tuolumne River. This program has been in existence for 10 years.

Those supporting this project believe having San Francisco depending on one source for 85% of its water leaves us vulnerable to extremes in climate change. Those against blending fear it will negatively affect the water responsible for the good taste of many of our local foods and beverages in San Francisco, including sourdough bread, beer and coffee.

This is a plan to diversify our water needs to prepare for future extreme weather events, or a disaster such as an earthquake, when water sources are damaged. The plan will allow more water to remain in the streams and rivers we currently divert for our drinking water. San Francisco is required to come into compliance with environmental laws that didn't exist when the system was built. Locally, increased releases are now required in San Mateo and Alameda Creeks that total 7-8 million gallons per day. The Tuolumne River is currently the subject of negotiations at the State Water Board. Currently, about 80% of the river's flow is diverted for agricultural use and 10% for urban uses, but the Board wants to increase spring flows, which will require additional releases. To provide streams and rivers with more water is the explanation for the blending of groundwater, now imminent.

Reduced snowmelt and increased climate variability will reduce the amount of Tuolumne River water available in the future. The PUC's own studies have shown a 7% reduction of flows by 2050. Sadly, even with these conservation measures, the City has still been using pristine water, the envy of the nation, to clean our City's streets.

The amount of water added in the first year is planned to be 3%. In four years, the amount of blended water will increase to over 15%. Reports of the water's taste vary. In a side-by-side comparison, some recognize no difference in taste, some believe the flavor is improved, and others prefer the original taste of the unblended water. However, no difference is noticed without a side-by-side comparison.

The groundwater will come from an aquifer 400 feet underground in

six different locations on the western part of the City between Golden Gate Park and Lake Merced. Contaminants that exceed state standards of safety have been found in all but two of these wells: nitrate, hexavalent chromium and/or manganese. Rather than treating these at the wellhead, the SFPUC will pump the groundwater to the Sunset, Sutro, and Summit Reservoirs, then blend the ground water with the Hetch Hetchy imported supply. This blended water will be distributed to the whole City; however, most of it will be provided to the west side of San Francisco.

What are these contaminants?

- Nitrate, which has been regulated since the '60s, is considered an acute contaminant because it is harmful to infants and fetuses. Nitrate is produced by the leaching of fertilizer or sewage into the groundwater.

- Hexavalent chromium, colloquially known as the Erin Brockovich chemical, is only regulated in California, which adopted its standard in 2014 because it is a carcinogen. While it has been associated with industrial pollution, hex chrome actually occurs naturally in groundwater throughout California. Golden Gate Park's contamination is also almost certainly naturally occurring.

- Manganese is what's known as a secondary contaminant: it is regulated not for health issues, but because at high levels, it gives water an unpleasant odor and taste.

Will these contaminants prevent groundwater from being tapped in an emergency? In the case of the well containing nitrate, yes. However, hexavalent chromium is regulated for its long-term effects. Drinking water containing this chemical during a short-term emergency, while not ideal, should not be hazardous. During an emergency, two wells found to have no contaminants, could be used as an emergency water source.

In 2007, the SFPUC projected that San Francisco's water use would be 285 (MGD) million gallons per day in the year 2017-2018. Instead, because of a drought and

Cont. p. 15



VALUE YOUR BUILDING.

**Gavin Coombs Sells
2-4 Unit
And 5+ Unit
Apartment Buildings**

**Don't Be Shy.
Good Relationships In Life Are Important.**

**Gavin Coombs, Vice President
Paragon Commercial Brokerage
15 Year SF Market Veteran
Email Gavin GCoombs@Paragon-re.com
Broker #01351580**

Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Don't Derail Your Retirement:
Watch for These 3 Risks

If you're in or nearing retirement, you're likely thinking about it as a time to relax, check items off your bucket list and enjoy what you've earned. But from a financial standpoint, it's important not to get too comfortable. Once you leave the workforce, you will likely be reliant, at least in part, on your savings to cover living expenses. So it is important to stay diligent and be aware of potential risks to your financial security. Here are three key risks to keep an eye on in retirement:

1. Not revisiting your investment strategy

As you approach or enter retirement, you may have to re-assess your risk tolerance and make sure that your portfolio aligns with your goals, the lifestyle you want in retirement and your financial situation. Remember that you may have less time to recover from market swings, so consider protecting your portfolio as you prepare to live off your savings. With that said, being too conservative isn't always the right solution. With many retirees living decades in retirement, you will likely have time for your assets to grow or at least, keep up with inflation. Plan to periodically review your portfolio in retirement to make sure you're comfortable with your progress and risk tolerance.
2. Spending too much too quickly

When retirement rolls around, you may find you have more money accumulated than you've ever had before. This can lead to a false sense of financial security and prevent you from adjusting spending in retirement. But if you begin spending at an unsustainable level in the early years of retirement, you risk depleting your nest egg too quickly. If you dream of traveling or starting a business after you step away from the workforce, factor those activities into your retirement budget. That way you can feel good about enjoying what you've earned while also being cautious about not outliving your assets.
3. The rising cost of living

Many retirees believe the amount of money they can generate from their investments and other sources of income, such as Social Security, will be sufficient when retirement begins. But keep in mind that, historically, the cost of living has risen over time. For example, if you live for another 25 years after you retire and the cost of living rises by an average of three percent per year, your annual living expenses could potentially double in that time. Consider the possibility that retirement may be much more expensive as time goes on. Accounting for inflation impacting the most prominent items in your budget, such as health care or travel, is a good place to start.
- The benefits of being prepared

Preparation and discipline can keep you on track and feeling secure about your finances in retirement. You can take steps to help address these risks prior to leaving the workforce with proper planning, diligent saving and a portfolio that is aligned with your goals and risk tolerance. If you've already entered retirement, these risks deserve consideration to help you continue to manage your assets on the way to achieving long-term financial security.
- Brandon Miller, CFP is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.



California Native Garden: Irises, Poppies, and Meadowfoam Photo: Saxon Holt

WILDFlowers

It's a good year to be a plant in California. This winter has brought an abundance of much needed rain to the state and an end to the long drought, and some very WILDFlowers are getting ready to put on a particularly vibrant show this spring and summer right in the heart of the city at San Francisco Botanical Garden.

In the aftermath of winter's rain, a dramatic spring and summer bloom is expected right in the heart of the Golden Gate Park at San Francisco Botanical Garden.

Meadowfoam Photo Travis Lange

Above-Mediterranean Garden: Flanders Poppy Photo: Cathryn Taggart

Left-Succulent Garden: Puya alpestris Photo: Saxon Holt

Main entrance is at 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way in GG Park;
365 days a year, starting at 7:30 am—Closing time seasonal

Can you keep
your lifestyle
in retirement?

Let's talk.

415.623.2450

Brio Financial Group

A private wealth advisory practice of
Ameriprise Financial Service, Inc.

44 Montgomery St, Ste 4210
San Francisco, CA 94104-4815

415-623-2450 BrioFG.com

Ameriprise
Financial

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC.
© 2016 Ameriprise Financial, Inc., All rights reserved.

DESIGN · BUILD · MAINTAIN

EST. 1990

JANET MOYER

Landscaping

Specialists in Residential

Urban Landscaping

Janet Moyer Landscaping specializes in the creation of custom residential landscapes that address the unique challenges posed by San Francisco's climate, terrain and architectural constraints.

Irrigation Association Certification
Certified Irrigator Contractor, Certified
Irrigation Designer, Certified Landscape
Irrigation Auditor

Award winning design
"Outstanding Achievement Award"
California Landscape Contractors
Association, 2007 - 2009, 2012 & 2013

415-821-3760 · 1031 Valencia St., San Francisco · jmoyerlandscaping.com

Landscape Contractor License 853919 · Pest Control License 36389

Gone Amok (Cont. from p. 1)

expecting to lose at least \$1 billion in federal monies as the ramification of being a Sanctuary City.

Our City has a projected deficit for FY2017-18, and the Mayor has asked our City departments to cut up to 3% percentage of their budgets in order to balance the City's budget. The City must not continue this same approach to just balance the budget in order to get by without a plan for the future.

I know I sound like a broken record but we need accountability and to run the City like a real business. As I mentioned in previous articles, the Board of Supervisors should immediately direct Budget Analyst Harvey Rose to conduct a zero-base budget. And with the many signs that the economy is slowing down and with new presidential policies, we need to cut costs and develop future plans to ensure vital city services are met. Further, we need to audit the practices of our revenue generating departments to ensure all revenue sources are addressed.

Over the past several years I have written articles identifying over \$200 million in tax revenue to our City that is not currently being addressed. The tip of the iceberg? This \$200 million would go a long way without asking taxpayers to pay the bill and potentially save millions in bond interest payments.

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



TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



More Arrests for Burglary and Robbery

Members of Taraval Station and also the whole of SFPD continue to make significant arrests in incidents of burglary, theft from vehicles and robbery. On March 12, 2016, Sgt Jennifer Marino was conducting a follow up investigation on a burglary case. While in the area of the 2200 block of 45th Ave, she on viewed a suspect who was attempting to break into a residence.

Sgt. Marino notified headquarters of her observations and officers quickly responded to assist her with the arrest. The subject was taken into custody and booked on charges of attempted burglary. The investigation of this incident revealed this subject was on probation is San Francisco for burglary. Great job Sgt. Marino!

On March 10, two commercial burglaries occurred in the Taraval. One took place on the 1200 block of LaPlaya at the 76 gas station. The second, took place on the unit block of West Portal at McCarthy's Bar. Sgt Jennifer Marino was assigned to investigate both incidents. Once again, there was video evidence available which captured the image of the suspect. Sgt Marino issued a department wide crime alert to assist with her investigation. On March 13, 2017, the subject captured in those images was taken into custody by Bayview officers. This subject was also responsible for burglaries in the Bayview district and was arrested on those charges. Sgt Marino was subsequently notified of the arrest and will have the subject charged in connection to the 76 gas station and the McCarthy's Bar burglaries.

Early this morning, an off duty SFPD officer on viewed a subject who was breaking into a car on the 1400 block of 14th Ave. The officer quickly jumped into action and began a pursuit the subject on foot. Officers of Taraval station responded to the area and assisted the off duty officer with taking the subject into custody. At the time of the arrest, the subject had in possession numerous items that had been stolen out of the victim vehicle. The subject was arrested for burglary in the 2nd degree and possession of stolen property. The subject is currently on probation for narcotics offenses and a probation hold was placed on the subject.

These three examples of arrests are part of the ongoing effort the SFPD is putting forth in order to address the incidents of burglary and theft from vehicles. Each arrest is significant as we know the suspects of burglary, both home and auto, have committed several crimes in one week. These officers should all be commended for their dedication to protecting our community. As a commanding officer, I see

examples like these every day throughout the city. I am incredibly proud of the hard work of the officers and for their relentless pursuit of suspects who victimize the citizens and visitors of San Francisco.

In recent months, residents of the Taraval and Ingleside have been victimized by a crew of residential burglary suspects. We have numerous ongoing investigations into these incidents. A department wide effort to identify and apprehend the suspects is now being coordinated through the SFPD Investigations Division. The investigations have revealed that 3-4 black male suspects, wearing all black clothing, are committing these burglaries. They are driving around in a minivan with paper plates and are incredibly quick when committing these burglaries. The suspects in these cases are using a crow bar to gain entry into a residence and are completing the burglaries within minutes. We ask that if you observe anyone matching this description and driving a minivan with paper plates, please call 911.

Shooting at 47th Ave

Yesterday evening Taraval officers responded to the area of 47th Ave and Vicente regarding calls of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located a victim who sustained gunshot wounds. The initial report revealed 3 suspects approached the victim and a witness. During this time, one of the suspects produced a firearm, shooting the victim. Due to the quick response and actions of the officers, all suspects in the case were detained. The suspected shooter in this case has been booked for the shooting. This is an ongoing investigation and I am limited as to the information I can share. The officers of Taraval station are understanding of the stress violence can cause for a community and we are attentive to the needs and concerns of the residents. We value our partnership with the community and recognize the strong benefit of community feedback. I would encourage you to reach out to me at Taraval station for any questions, concerns or comments you may have. 415-759-3100

Please feel free to contact me directly at 415-759-3100 or email me at denise.flaherty@sfgov.org

Wednesday / March 1

Burglary – Arrested

11:56 am | Sloat Blvd & 22nd Ave
Awakened in the night by the sound of the suspect entering his room, the victim saw the suspect climb out through the kitchen window into the backyard before fleeing towards Stern Grove. Officers found the suspect inside the park. He was arrested.

Battery

4:09 pm | 3100 Noriega St
Holding an ice pack to the left side of her face, the victim said she was in a store when the suspect confronted her about an online feud and punched her three times in the face. Officers will use surveillance footage of the incident for further investigation.

Thursday / March 2

Robbery

11:06 pm | Ashton Ave & De Montfort Ave
The victim was walking on the sidewalk when two suspects pushed him towards the wall of a nearby house and searched him. He gave them \$500 and they fled.

Concealed Weapon – Arrested

5:12 pm | 34th Ave & Sloat Blvd

Man Arrested in Taraval Kidnapping

On March 23, 2017, at approximately 5:00 pm, a 13 year old girl was walking on Forest Side Avenue. She saw a white male walking towards her, and he grabbed her and pushed her into his car, while making threats. She screamed, drawing the attention of several witnesses who came to her aid and freed her from the suspect's vehicle. He fled south on Forest Side Avenue

Taraval officers responded, and provided a description of the vehicle to Dispatch for broadcast. Special Victims Unit investigators responded to the scene and began their extensive investigation.

At approximately 10:30 pm, two Taraval officers spotted a vehicle that matched the description in the Taraval District and stopped the vehicle. The driver, 26 year-old San Francisco resident Lee Mason

Eigl, was positively identified as the suspect involved in the kidnapping and was taken into custody without incident and was booked for kidnapping and assault with intent to commit rape on a person under 18 years old. Due to pending identification matters, the subject's photo has not been released.

The San Francisco Police Department thanks the good Samaritans who acted quickly to save the victim and provided the department with pertinent information which assisted in the suspect's arrest.

Although an arrest has been made, investigators are asking anyone with information on this case to contact the San Francisco Police anonymously at 415-575-4444 or text-a-tip to TIP411 with SFPD at the start of the message.

a doorstep looking through a bag was reported, officers checked her records. They found she had been arrested for burglary and there was an active warrant for her arrest. They also found bolt cutters in her purse and she was arrested.

Domestic Abuse – Arrested

8:36 pm | Address confidential
The victim said she and her husband had an argument he choked her. After confirmation of the incident by the victim's three children, he was arrested.

Saturday / March 4

DUI – Arrested

9:57 am | Arch St & Alemany Blvd
After a driver came nearly struck a pedestrian, officers found the suspect asleep inside his vehicle in spite of the loud music inside his car, with a bottle of alcohol. He had no driver's license, but a check revealed a suspended license. He refused a sobriety test, so he was transported to SF General Hospital for a blood test. He was arrested for DUI and suspended license.

investigation, the suspect was arrested.

No License Issued – Cited

11:46 am | Lincoln Way & 18th Ave
When officers saw a car without license plates, they stopped the driver and asked for his license. He did not have one. He was cited for driving without a license.

Threats – Domestic Violence – Arrested

8:27 am | Address confidential
The victim who first denied that there was any trouble and did not require any help, later called to report that her husband threatened her. After the suspect was placed under arrest for violent behavior and verbal abusiveness, officers obtained a restraining order for the victim.

Domestic Violence – Arrested

9:11 am | 200 Thrift St
The victim said her boyfriend arrived home drunk after an earlier argument, and physically abused her several times. A restraining order was granted against the suspect and he was arrested for domestic violence.

Battery

2:26 pm | 1100 Wawona St
When her son did not do his homework, the victim took away his electronics. He responded by throwing something which struck her on her head and caused bleeding. However, she declined to press charges.

Domestic Violence

9:43 am | Address Confidential
The victim told her boyfriend to leave and never return because he blamed her for damage to his laptop and punched her in the face multiple times. Later he reappeared, threatening to kill her and holding a hammer, unless she paid for the damages. Police granted her a restraining order.

Sunday / March 5

Suspended Driver's License

11:27 pm | 35th Ave & Qunitara St
Officers saw a car without headlights and a check on the driver revealed a suspended license and a history of driving without a license. He was cited and his vehicle towed.

Possession of Narcotics Paraphernalia

7:36 pm | 25th Ave & Noriega St
When officers drove by a suspect with a long history of arrests for robbery and burglary, he immediately turned around

and walked away before breaking out into a run, despite an order to stop. A search revealed numerous candies and a residue filled glass pipe, commonly used for methamphetamine. He was cited for the possession of narcotic paraphernalia and delaying officer's duties.

Robbery – Assault

8:17 pm | 1700 Great Hwy
The victim saw the suspect dumping a tv on the street and confronted him. He yelled at her and tried to punch. She took pictures of him with her phone but he grabbed it and threw it over a fence and fled. Officers found the suspect and he was arrested.

Robbery

8:18 pm | 200 Winston Ave
The victim walked out of McDonald's when a vehicle pulled up and the suspect exited the vehicle and pushed him, threatened him and simulating having a firearm, demanding his property. He complied and the suspect fled with the stolen property.

Robbery

5:18 pm | Capitol Ave & Montana St
The victim was walking home when three juvenile suspects approached him and attacked him. They went through the his pockets, took his money and fled.

Saturday / March 6

Battery – Annoying Phone Calls

10:42 am | 1800 Ocean Ave
A personal trainer said a gym member constantly phoned her, followed her around at work and hugged her. She admitted she had gone out with the suspect twice, but they were not dating. Officers detained and advised the suspect that his membership had been revoked due to his behavior.

Violation of Restraining Order

9:37 pm | 1100 Taraval St
Officers following a tip, observed a known suspect carrying a pole. They knew he had a restraining order prohibiting him from carrying a pole or stick. He was arrested.

Violation of Stay Away

7:49 pm | 300 Gonzalez Dr
The victim said her mother had a stay away order from her, but came to her door and started knocking and screaming. Officers detained the suspect and she was arrested.

Assault

5:56 pm | 500 John Muir Dr
The victim had just gotten off the bus when an Uber driver drove around him in an unsafe manner. He yelled and flipped him off and the driver yelled back. He walked up to the driver's window but the driver pepper sprayed his face and fled.

Battery

8:16 pm | 1100 Ocean Ave
The victim heard the doorbell ring and her ex was at the door. He continued to ring until she finally opened the door. He suddenly pushed her demanding money. She refused and he left. Officers detained the suspect and a computer check revealed a restraining order. He was arrested.

Tuesday / March 7

Possession of Burglary Tools – Theft

2:55 pm | 23rd Ave & Moraga St
A retired police lieutenant detained a juvenile suspect, but the witness said there were two suspects — both were observed looking into parked vehicles. One of the suspects

Cont to page 15

By the Numbers

How To Acquire Shares in Apple From Thin Air

by Lou Barberini, CPA



Mr. Jay approached the lectern: *This semester I am going to teach you how to survive the investment jungle. I am going to show you how to invest, not with hypothetical investments, but with your skin in the game. Starting next week, I want every student to contribute \$10 per week, and together we will collaborate on a successful investment journey.* Thus, began my fall semester in Mr. Jay's Investment 101 class at San Francisco's Eleanor Roosevelt School, also known as "SFERS."

With the passage of winter, I bragged to my wife how Mr. Jay's class had produced a 30% return on Apple stock in just six months.

My wife questioned: "Of course, that's a hypothetical gain?"

"No, everyone in Mr. Jay's class contributes \$10 per week and we pooled our money together."

"Wow, five classes, \$10 per week, 26 weeks, plus a 30% gain, that's a \$50,000 account! Where are the Apple shares held?"

"Mr. Jay never discussed that."

The first thing the next morning, my wife was knocking on Mr. Jay's door to check up on her share of our community property.

"Mr. Jay, what financial company is holding your classes' shares of Apple stock?," she asked.

Mr. Jay opened up his laptop and pulled up an Excel spreadsheet. He pointed to two columns. The first column listed, "Apple Inc." The second column listed, "\$50,700."

My wife was startled. "It looks like you created that spreadsheet yourself. Without even a brokerage company account statement evidencing you bought Apple, your investment is no different than a third-grade class using Monopoly money!"

This story may sound absurd, but it is playing out in real life in San Francisco. In my January column, I questioned how City employees could be assured their \$2.8 billion Deferred Compensation investment, entrusted to Prudential, exists in its entirety.

Deferred Comp is a supplementary 401k-type plan City Employees can voluntarily contribute to to generate supplemental retirement savings. The existence of public employees' \$2.8 billion investment became much less certain when San Francisco Employees Retirement System's (another SFERS acronym) CEO Jay Huish admitted SFERS has never hired an independent auditor to verify the Deferred Comp plan's valuation. Suspicions were further elevated when the chairperson of the Deferred Comp Committee, Joe Driscoll, vehemently protested a proposal to budget \$30,000 for an audit that would have cost a mere \$1 per Deferred Comp investor.

Deferred Comp investors have to ask: *If no independent audit was conducted, what documents did SFERS use to establish the Deferred Comp values for its annual report?* We are talking about \$2.8 billion here! Either SFERS is playing loose with facts like Mr. Jay's spreadsheet, or SFERS must have received a brokerage statement from a firm holding City employees' assets.

To investigate this further, a *Westside Observer* reader took it upon himself to find what account statements SFERS used to substantiate its annual report. Prudential had to be ruled out, because it insisted it "acts solely as a record keeper."

So, to keep it simple, the reader focused on a single Deferred Comp investment option—the Vanguard S&P 500 Fund (VHIX). SFERS' FY 2014-2015 Annual Report stated the combined City employee assets in this Vanguard S&P 500 Fund were \$199,014,798. Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, the reader asked SFERS to provide the Vanguard account statement that matched this amount and that SFERS relied on to prove the existence, title, and value listed in its annual report.

Instead of an account statement, SFERS delivered a generic spreadsheet—absent a

Vanguard letter of transmittal, Vanguard letterhead, or a Vanguard corporate logo. The reader made a second request, and then received a different spreadsheet, again with no indication it originated from Vanguard. SFERS is acting like a student who refuses to include footnotes with his term paper.

SFERS' cavalier accounting for City employees' Deferred Comp assets is alarming enough. However, a March 13 front-page *Wall Street Journal* article shed more light on Prudential Insurance's group annuity program. The article exposed how Prudential has been acquiring large corporation's pensions (such as General Motors'), moving the employees' pension assets to a group annuity, then selling off some of the employees' pension assets so that Prudential can directly lend the cash out—all while Prudential Insurance strives to earn a "12%-13% return."

In Prudential's own legalese: Prudential "makes most Separate Accounts (Deferred Comp) available as commingled investment vehicles." If we combine Prudential's commingling philosophy with SFERS' misdirection away from the dedicated SF Vanguard account that does not exist, we have to conclude San Francisco's assets are commingled with Seattle's and El Paso's public employees' assets. But now SF public employees have to worry if General Motor's employees' assets have also been stirred into the Prudential's trillion-dollar group annuity pool.

Further, if Prudential decides to trade some General Motor's low-paying AT&T bonds for speculative Aleppo, Syrian municipal bonds, the water level of the commingled Prudential group annuity pool will drop, and San Francisco's portion will also be contaminated.

SFERS failure to ensure that San Francisco public employees' assets are segregated from General Motor's assets confirms four problematic SFERS' characteristics: 1) The SFERS Annual Report Deferred Comp values are not authentic; 2) Prudential is probably overcharging fees on SF employees' nonexistent mutual funds that Prudential may have replaced with Florida swampland, Antarctica vineyards, or Aleppo condos; 3) It is hard to imagine that SFERS' sloppy stewardship of Deferred Comp is not indicative of why the City employees' mandatory pension now faces, as reported by *Bloomberg*, a \$5.5 billion deficit; and 4) Should Prudential's group annuity suffer losses due to Prudential ratcheting up the investment risk, ultimately San Francisco taxpayers will have to backstop SFERS for its failure to exercise proper fiduciary care.

So here is what I learned from Mr. Jay's Investment 101 class and from SFERS' Jay Huish: I can open up a blank Excel spreadsheet, type in a \$2 million value for imaginary Apple stock, claim my spreadsheet is a valid financial statement, and take my spreadsheet to a bank and use it as collateral for a \$2 million cash loan to buy \$1 million of real Apple stock, and gamble on \$1 million worth of Aleppo bonds. Presto, all synthetic!!! You are laughing? Don't you think Prudential, SFERS, CEO Jay Huish, and Deferred Comp Chairman Joe Driscoll are laughing at city employees as well?

Lou Barberini is a San Francisco CPA living in West Portal

Whistleblower (Cont. from p. 5)

from or disciplined for disclosing any information that is public information or a public record to any journalist or any member of the public." It's long past time extant language in Sunshine §67.22(d) and §67.22(e) be replicated as is into WPO §4.115(a).

• §4.115(b)(iii) PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS — BURDEN OF ESTABLISHING RETALIATION Neither the March 2016 nor the January 2017 versions of proposed WPO amendments note that the "burden of proof" shall not apply during preliminary review of whistleblower complaints submitted to the Ethics Commission.

§4.115(c)(iv) PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS — PENALTIES AND REMEDIES The March 2016 recommendations Ethics submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors commendably recommended permitting the Ethics Commission to cancel/reverse retaliatory employment actions against City employees. Remarkably, the January 2017 WPO amendments proposed by the four-agency collaborators deliberately removed Ethics Commission cancellation of retaliatory job actions for City employees, but retained cancellation of retaliatory job actions for employees of City contractors.

§4.115(f) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION AWARENESS TRAINING The new §4.115(f), "Whistleblower Protection Awareness Training in the January 2017 proposed amendments obviously doesn't go far enough, first because it doesn't call for re-training of existing employees on changes to the WPO, just training of new-hires. Second, providing "awareness" training isn't the same as providing "prevention" training. This new section should be revised to require annual on-line training annually for all employees, not just new hires.

Continuing Shortcomings of Proposed WPO Amendments

Larry Bush, principal co-founder of SF's Friends of Ethics group, notes:

"Friends of Ethics has testified at every Ethics Commission session with the Whistleblower reform on the agenda. We remain concerned that several critical elements still are not included:

There is not a specific requirement that all records (including on private cell phones) be retained regardless of standard retention policies, that all employees and not just supervisors be trained on the rights of whistleblowers, and that there must be an ability to be protected from retaliation regardless of who is informed, including federal and state officials.

It must be recognized that contractors have been forced to engage in unlawful and improper acts by city managers overseeing their contracts, and such incidents must be heard by officials outside the affected agency. We plan to address these issues when the Board holds a hearing on the reforms, something it has not done after nearly a full year of the issue pending at the Board."

Other unresolved major issues include: Because proposed WPO amendments submitted by Ethics to the Supervisors have been changed by the four-agency team, and many of the recommendations Ethics had proposed to the Board were deleted, the Commission should consider re-instating the deleted recommendations and take those issues directly to the voters at the ballot box.

A major conflict still remains. The proposed WPO amendments still appear to ignore

California's Whistleblower Protection Act, in particular, retaliation prohibited by California Labor Code §1102.5(b). Indeed, Labor Code §1102.5(a) requires employers, in this case, the City itself, may not adopt any rule or regulation preventing employees from disclosing information to a government agency.

There are other unresolved issues described in the full version of this article.

Whistleblower Bravery: \$58.2 Million+

In July 2016, the *Westside Observer* published "Bullying Costs Soar to \$41.6 Million" providing an update to previous reporting of costs associated with 27 different types of personnel actions prohibited by law. Between 2007 and May 29, 2016 costs reached \$41.6 million to settle 259 lawsuits, plus another 63 cases then still outstanding, for a total of 322 lawsuits.

Since then two other lawsuits brought by employees of the Housing Authority were settled for another \$1.3 million, and between May 29, 2016 and March 8, 2017, another 24 lawsuits have been settled for a total of \$8 million. Joanne Hoeper's recently-announced settlement against her wrongful termination by City Attorney Dennis Herrera, and projected costs in City Attorney time and expenses in her case, appear to have added another \$7.5 million alone, resulting in a \$16.6 million increase just between May 2016 and March 2017, and perhaps higher. Another eight pending cases were added in the same period, with 71 cases still pending.

That gets us up to a minimum of \$58.2 million and growing in on-going costs, between the now 286 cases settled to date and 71 lawsuits now still outstanding, for a total of 357 lawsuits, including 57 cases involving wrongful termination.

In all of these cases, City employees have faced great danger, and the costs to the City have been significant, given the bravery it has taken City employees to fight corruption in City government.

Rachel Maddow reported that Russian president Vladimir Putin's opponent, Alexei Navalny, and Navalny's "Anti-Corruption Project" involved daring and bravery from leakers and whistleblowers. She noted bravery doesn't happen in safe places, it happens in the presence of real danger. Danger from retaliation is what City employee whistleblowers face, too.

Just how long is it going to take for City employees to obtain meaningful anti-retaliation protections?

The full version of this article posted on www.stopLHHdownsize.com with expanded reporting in this article.

Monette-Shaw is a columnist for the Westside Observer, and a retired SF City employee. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award in the "Advocacy" category from the Society of Professional Journalists—Northern California Chapter in 2012. Contact: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

BUYERS & SELLERS REPRESENTED

"They did a great job from start to finish and clearly really love what they do. The best in the business."

— Karen & Paul, Lawyer + Electrician, Sellers

SF Real Estate from the Experts.

Kevin K. Ho ESQ.
415.297.7462
TOP PRODUCER | REALTOR
kho@vanguardsf.com
SBN 233408 | BRE 01875957

Jonathan B. McNarry
415.215.4393
TOP PRODUCER | REALTOR
jbm@vanguardsf.com
BRE 01747295



KEVINANDJONATHAN.COM

VANGUARD PROPERTIES



..... April

Sunny Days ... Spring is here and the sun is finally out, while the snowpack is 160+% of normal, so our streams, lakes and reservoirs should have a healthy supply of water for the foreseeable future. Lots of info in this issue about the PUC plan to add well water to the Hetch Hetchy flow.



New “Noe” Bakery ... Proprietors Mary and Michael Gassen opened their newest location of the fabulous Noe Valley Bakery at 28 West Portal Avenue last week, going into the former Noah's Bagels site. The cakes and pastries look delightful and the lines at the counter show that the neighborhood was ready for an artisan bakery. We wish them well in their endeavor, and welcome them to West Portal!



.....

Shopping “local”... this is just a reminder to shop local when you can. Our city is unique with many “village-like” commercial venues such as West Portal Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Irving St., Columbus Avenue, Taraval St., etc. With online shopping chipping away at sales, and the cost of rents skyrocketing, we need to continue to support our neighborhood “retail warriors” while they are here for us. You don’t have to look closely to see increasing vacancies in all of the districts, from the Sunset to the Castro and everywhere in between. I know that parking can be problematic, but if you can shop locally, it helps everyone. Studies show that over 50% of the dollars spent at locally-owned establishments stay in the local economy.

.....

At the Legislature ... Earlier this month I spent a day at the State Capital in Sacramento to meet and discuss issues with our elected officials. One of the journalism principles is to find out what is going on with our elected officials.

For this 2017 legislative term, the major areas of interest are expected to address the state infrastructure, especially as it is related to transportation. The legislators are working on several transportation bills, the largest of which is projected to be a 10-year \$60,000,000,000 (60 billion) measure to fix bridges, roads, highways, and other transportation related projects. It looks as though funding could come from a variety of sources, such as an increase in the gasoline tax, increasing bridge tolls throughout the state, and possibly increasing the vehicle registration fees. Drivers of purely electric vehicles will probably be asked to contribute a fee to assist in the maintenance of the roads, as they currently do not contribute through gasoline taxes. Of course, with the issues associated with the dam at Lake Oroville in the news, infrastructure is on everyone’s mind in Sacramento. If you have thoughts or ideas on these matters, Assembly members Phil Ting, David Chiu, and State Senator Scott Wiener want to hear from you. For a democracy to work, we need to make our needs known to those who represent us at all levels of government.

.....

Artists at the Shipyard – Open House ... More than 100 artists - painters, sculptures, printmakers, jewelry makers, and photographers will have their free spring open studio show at the Hunter’s Point Shipyard, 300 Donahue, on April 22-23, from 11-6. Parking is free. It’s the largest artist collective on the west coast, and right in our back yard. Check it out - www.shipyardartists.com for directions and participating artists.

.....

Like classic cars? ... the 61st Annual Hillsborough Concours d’Elegance will be held on July 16th at the Crystal Springs Golf Course (off of highway 280). The event, which raised money for local charities, is the longest continually running “concours” event in the world. It’s a great chance to see beautiful classic and antique cars from the U.S. and Europe, and even with “Brexist” the featured marque this year is Jaguar (along with Chrysler). Mark your calendars and make a date, as it raises much-needed charitable dollars.



.....

Bike Lanes coming to Vicente Avenue ... In addition to the bike lanes, to improve pedestrian safety by daylighting some intersections, the SFMTA is proposing to restrict parking at some locations on Vicente resulting in 13 lost spaces. This would be offset by the additional parking spaces added between 44th and 46th Avenues, resulting in a net gain of 5 parking spaces along the corridor.

The project will appear for public comment at the SFMTA Engineering Public Hearing on April 14, 2017 at 10: am, Room 416 at City Hall. Please contact Jonathan Chimento (Jonathan.Chimento@sfmta.com) at the SFMTA with any questions.

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.



More decisions to make — Noe Valley Bakery is now open on West Portal

SPRING AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

Warm & Cozy Inside – Amazing Views Outside

- Wine Lovers’ Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$30 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge

1090 Point Lobos
San Francisco
415-386-3330
www.CliffHouse.com

Valet parking every night after 5:00 pm.
*Some restrictions apply.
Promotions are not valid on holidays.

Serving Food As Good As Our Prices Are Low

TENNESSEE GRILL

1128 Taraval St. • (415) 664-7834 • Open 6am-9pm

Where Friends Meet

Proudly Serving The Families of West of Twin Peaks

**“Caring Service
is our
Highest Priority”**

The Bud Duggan Family Serving the Bay Area Since 1903

<i>Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, Daly City</i>	415 587-4500	<i>FD1098</i>
<i>Driscoll’s Valencia St. Serra Mortuary, SF</i>	415 970-8801	<i>FD1665</i>
<i>Sullivan’s Funeral Home, SF</i>	415 621-4567	<i>FD 228</i>

**DUGGAN’S
SERRA MORTUARY**

Parking Available at all locations
Most Convenient San Francisco/Peninsula Locations
Traditional and Cremation Services
Contact our Pre-Arrangement Department for your

**FREE Personal Planning Guide
“My Funeral, My Way”**

VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER ACCEPTED

dugansserra.com • driscollsmortuary.com • sullivanfuneralandcremation.com



STUART DAVIS: IN FULL SWING APRIL 1, 2017 - AUGUST 6, DE YOUNG MUSEUM

Tues–Sun | 9:30 am–5:15 pm | The first major exhibition in 20 years dedicated to this key figure in American Modernism. Featuring approximately 75 works—spanning from the artist’s breakthrough series in the 1920s focusing on tobacco packages and household objects to the painting left on his easel at his death, in 1964—the exhibition highlights Davis’s unique ability to assimilate the visual languages of European Modernism, the imagery of popular culture, the aesthetics of advertising, and the rhythms of jazz into colorful, complex works. The artist’s times. \$15 non-members, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr, Golden Gate Park.



MATISSE/DIEBENKORN • SF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Presenting a new view of two of the twentieth century’s most extraordinary painters, Matisse/Diebenkorn is the first major exhibition to explore the profound inspiration Richard Diebenkorn (1922–1993) found in the work of Henri Matisse (1869–1954). It brings together 100 extraordinary paintings and drawings—40 by Matisse and 60 by Diebenkorn—that reveal the connections between the two artists in subject, style, color, and technique. 151 Third Street Info: sfmoma.org

April Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture of the city’s first suburb - Lafayette Square. SF’s illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. sfcityguides.org

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am | Get into shape. FREE exercise classes. SF State & Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie & Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol. 100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com, www.100citizens.org

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 brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$15 (\$12 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/Bands 7:30-10: pm | Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? That’s a party! Free. Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

SAT • FREE E-BOOKS

Sat 3-4 pm | Check out eBooks from the library for free? More than 40,000 eBooks with one-on-one help from a librarian. Bring your Kindle, iPad, smartphone etc 20 minute appointments based on availability. RSVP: info@sfpl.org with preferred date/time, and device. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

SUN • COMMUNITY YOGA

Every Sun | 10 am | Bring Your Own Mat for some outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are

FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Info: Playland Yoga Facebook Page

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills—searching databases, setting up email, or surfing the web. Basic mouse skills required. Call 355-2825 to make an appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

ONGOING • BUTTERFLIES & BLOOMS!

Through June 30 | Get eye to eye with a butterfly in the exhibit Butterflies & Blooms as the Conservatory of Flowers in GG Park’s delightful living butterfly exhibit finally returns. JFK Drive, GG Park.

DAILY • MACY’S FLOWER SHOW

Thru Apr 9th | 10 am - 9 pm | Annual spring welcome at Macy’s—transformed into breathtaking floral scenes with blooms, fantasy flowers and lush plants from around the world. A two-week exhibition. Union Square, 170 O’Farrell.

TUE-SUN • JOHN

Tue-Sun thru Apr 23 | A drama that took off-Broadway by storm ,Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker (*The Flick*). Twentysomethings Jenny and Elias arrive at an old bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg—he wants to tour the historic battlefield, she wants to be left alone. Every crack between the couple starts to surface,a twenty-first-century nerve-jangler that had critics raving. Strand Theater,1127 Market Street

TUE-SUN • NOISES-OFF

Tue-Sun thru Apr 13 | Called the funniest farce ever written, *Noises Off* is a comedy about putting on a comedy. A backstage farce about a second-rate theatrical troupe, combines slapstick, a British sex comedy, and a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing On*. San Francisco Playhouse. 450 Post St. Info: sfplayhouse.org

WED-SUN • NEW GIRL IN TOWN

Wed-Sun thru Apr 16 | A woman with a secret past tries to re-build her life by returning to her hometown. This Tony-winning musical is based on Eugene O’Neill’s *Anna Christie*. 42nd Street Moon. Eureka Theater, 215 Jackson St. Tix-Info: 42ndstmoon.org

WED • COYOTES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Wed Apr 5 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | Informational Talk and Workshop: Join SF Animal Care & Control, Project Coyote and SF Rec and Park at the County Fair Building GG Park 9th Ave and Lincoln Way.

San Francisco’s
SOURDOUGH PIZZA
since 1975

Join “Goat Hill Rewards”
Fast delivery!
Order online - www.goathill.com

SOMA
Delivery • Pick up
171 Stillman St
415-974-1303

Potrero Hill
Dine in • Pick up
300 Connecticut St
415-641-1440

West Portal
Counter Service • Delivery • Pick up
170 West Portal Ave
415-242-GOAT (4628)

ORDER ONLINE
www.goathill.com

Goat Hill Pizza

THU • BALLROOM DANCING

Thu Apr 6 | Samba, Rhumba, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing and more! Ballroom dance classes for couples Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. 6 lessons \$80 per couple. RSVP/Info: (415) 661-2746

FRI-SUN • WEST PORTAL ART & CRAFTS

Fri-Sun Apr 7-9 | 10 am - 5 pm | West Portal’s Annual Sidewalk Fair will feature 40 professional California artists in an art al fresco experience. Check out West Portal Avenue this weekend.

FRI/SAT • CHICAGO — MERCY HIGH

Fri Apr 7 & Sat Apr 8 | 7pm | A lively musical, based on the 1926 play *Chicago*, tells the stories of notorious women killers, from the book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse. Mercy High Theater, 3250 19th Ave.

FRI-SUN • SPRING OPEN STUDIOS

Fri-Sun Apr 7-9 | 7 - 11 pm | Art Explosion provides affordable art studios and art shows for its member artists to to explore their talent and interact with the public in a creative environment. 2475 17th St. & 744 Alabama Reception Friday.

TUE • HISTORIC HAIGHT

Tue Apr 11 | 7:30 pm | For the past half century, the Haight-Ashbury has been the “must-see, go-to” neighborhood for tourists. This presentation will fill many historic holes, as well as solve some historic mysteries. Angus MacFarlane has written several articles published in The Argonaut. Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium, 460 Arguello Blvd (at Geary) Refreshments 6:45pm. Free members. Others \$10 (\$5 students, teachers, seniors, disabled).

WED • POETRY MONTH @ BOOKSTORE

Wed Apr 12 | 7 am | National Poetry Month event: featuring Lynne Barnes - *Falling Into Flowers*, D. R. Goodman - *Greed: a Confession*, Frances Schenckan - *Mr. Stevens’ Secretary* at the Bookstore West Portal, 80 West Portal.

THU • AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS

Thu Apr 13 | 7:30 pm | After gaining international fame for reviving the classic sound of Cuban son, tres master Juan de Marcos turned the Afro-Cuban All Stars into a sensational showcase for Cuba’s most prodigious young musicians. de Marcos first gained notice in the US as founder of the Buena Vista Social Club. SF Jazz Center, Franklin & Fell St.

THU • LET THE BODY SPEAK

Thu Apr 13 | 7:30 pm | An Evening of Spoken Word, Music + Dance. A one-night-only event will feature spoken word in endangered languages, live music, and dancers from LINES Ballet. Taube Atrium Theater, War Memorial Veterans Bldg. Civic Center

SAT. • EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Sat Apr 15 | 11 am - 3 pm | Egg hunts, carnival rides, games, live entertainment, food trucks. Free bike valet at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park

SUN • EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sun Apr 16 | 6:30 am | 95th celebration at America’s largest cross is a citywide non-denominational service featuring local clergy, community leaders and special musical performances. Pastor Jordan Hall of Trinity Church will deliver the Easter message. At the summit of Mt. Davidson predawn lighting serves as a beacon for Easter pilgrims. Muni’s 36 line will begin at 5:30 a.m. and run every 15

minutes from Forest Hill Station to the park gate located at the intersection of Lansdale Avenue, Myra Drive and Dalewood Way. Dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes for the short walk to the summit from 39 Dalewood Way affords the easiest route to the top. Details, call (415) 566-8393.

MON-FRI • BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL

Apr 17-21 | Citywide - thousands of youth at over 90 schools will ride in with parents and teachers in “bike trains,” use their own pedal power, hop on bike trailers and backseats, or roll by scooter, skateboard, wheelchair, and stroller. List of participating schools at sfsaferoutes.org.

WED • WELCOME TO PARENTHOOD

Wed Apr 19 | 6:30 - 8 pm | Part II of Series features a variety of West Portal Neighborhood service providers with expertise to share for new & more established parents. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox Way presents experts the 3rd Wed each month.

WED • GILBERT GRAPE

Wed Apr 19 | 6:30 - 8 pm | What’s Eating Gilbert Grape? After his father’s death, Gilbert (Johnny Depp) has to care for his mentally-disabled brother, Arnie (Leonardo DiCaprio in his first Oscar-nominated role), and his morbidly obese mother (Darlene Cates). Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • WHAT WE DO NOW

Thu Apr 20 | 7 pm | Cleve Jones – When We Rise-David Talbot – Season of the Witch, etc. at Bookstore West Portal, 80 West Portal.

THU- WED • GREEN FILM FESTIVAL

Thu Apr 20-Wed Apr 26 | From the Amazon to Standing Rock, from the streets of SF to the fields of Ethiopia, see new stories from around the world. Meet filmmakers & expert guests. Schedule/Info: greenfilmfest.org

THU • WEST PORTAL BOOK CLUB

Thu Apr 20 | 2-3:30 pm | The West Portal Book Club will be discussing *Art as Therapy* by Alain De Botton. 3rd Thu of the month. We alternate between fiction and nonfiction. New members are always welcome. West Portal Library 190 Lenox Way.

FRI-SUN • BAY AREA DANCE WEEK

Fri Apr 21-Sun Apr 30 | Featuring 600 events—a grand tour of dance styles, including Argentine tango, classical Indian, jazz, hip hop, ballet, traditional hula, and more. Free, Info: 415-920-9181, bayareandw.org

SAT • EARTHDAY / SIERRA CLUB

Sat Apr 22 | 10 am - 4 pm | Join the Sierra Club at SF Civic Center to hand out literature and talk to people about what they can do to protect the environment. RSVP: Kathy Howard at sfoceanedge@earthlink.net

SAT/SUN • GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Sat Apr 22 | 8 pm -Sun Apr 23 | 2 pm | Lamp-lighters it’s 64th Season closes with *A Song to Sing, O!: The Gilbert & Sullivan Story*. One of the greatest partnerships in theater history, as told in their own words through their letters and diaries, with musical highlights from all 13 of their comic operas. lamplighters.org Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave.

SAT/SUN • SHIPYARD OPEN STUDIOS

Sat–Sun April 23–24 | 11 am–6 pm | Hunter’s Point Shipyard & Islais Creek Studios features 100

At the Theater • Flora & Linda

Peerless

According to **Jason Minadakis**, Artistic Director of **Marin Theatre Company**, “We welcome **Jiehae Park** for MTC’s 50th Anniversary Season.” In its West Coast Premiere, *Peerless* is the new play at MTC and is a hyped-up, crazy, kinetic and (often) disturbing evening of theater. Playwright **Jiehae Park** is presenting her view of high school life in the here and now, focusing on Asian-American twin sisters, excellently portrayed by **Rinabeth Apostol** as “L” and **Tiffany Villarin** as “M”. *Peerless* is essentially about exactly how far these girls will go to get early acceptance to the college of their choice.

Director **Margot Bordelon** has worked exceptionally well with the playwright and her designers in fashioning a flashy, fast-moving production. *Be warned*, though! This show tends to focus on the underbelly of vices, and a number of scenes can be viewed as *psychotic* in tone. Still, **Park** stays true to her vision and, if you are willing to go with it, *Peerless* can be quite a hair-raising ride.

way one would hope. The choice of not having actual names for the characters in this show distances them from their audience; they often feel at *arms-length*. Also, *Peerless* does dip into the realm of *bizarre* with strange dream sequences, and it is ultimately confusing as to exactly what occurs to the main characters near the con-



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick



From its opening moments, *Peerless* immediately displays the kind of show that’s going to be wildly hyper, with electric lighting effects and scene changes and a *cold*-feeling that permeates the entire play. It is somewhat appropriate that none of the characters have actual names; pointedly, the twin girls at the center of the show are known simply as “L” and “M”. Their first scene has them speaking in rapid-fire, often hilarious dialogue, frequently finishing each other’s sentences. The plot of *Peerless* is essentially the single-minded pursuit of these girls to get what they want without any thought of the consequences. They are, basically, psychopaths willing to do anything to anyone who stands in their way!

The biggest assets of *Peerless* are the performances of its terrific cast. **Rinabeth Apostol** and **Tiffany Villarin** are perfectly matched as the twins, and they are both *wickedly wonderful*. Dressed in stylish *matching* costumes (provided by the excellent Designer **Sydney Galas**), they prove to be quite a pair. The supporting cast is equally good: **Jeremy Kahn** is appropriately *nerdy* and insecure as “D” – a classmate of one of the twins (and the first in line for the college where L and M are striving to get acceptance). The more athletic “BF” (**Cameron Matthews**) doesn’t have quite as large a role as his fellow cast members, though he is certainly memorable in the stage time he does have. Finally, **Rosie Hallett** is appropriately *gothic and creepy* as the “Dirty Girl” who supposedly can predict the future, and she makes a brief appearance as “Preppy Girl.” **Dave Maier** does an excellent job as Fight Director.

It must be stated that in spite of the *virtues* in *Peerless*, the whole play doesn’t always come together in the

clusion. It just seems to stop, and we don’t know what happens to them. Further, Director **Margot Bordelon** keeps the action and dialogue moving at such a clip the audience can barely keep up with the dialogue, in particular.

However, some of these problems are eventually glossed over by the choreography and technology used in the play. She has worked spectacularly with her designers. The work of Scenic Designer **Kate Knoll** is quite dazzling, and high-tech Lighting Designer **Heather Basarab** works in perfect harmony with the Scenic Designer in giving the set an almost *futuristic* look and feel. The work of Composer/Sound Designer **Palmer Hefferan** is also impressive in its overall coordination with the play action and set design.

Peerless at the **Marin Theatre Company** is quite an experience and goes by in a *flash* as one almost-*psychedelic*-intermission-less Act. Playwright **Jiehae Park** can be commended in taking chances in her writing, and the world she has created onstage is ultimately quite fascinating (and *frightening*). This play will never be everyone’s cup of tea – mainly because its main characters can clearly be seen as *psychopaths*. Nevertheless, *Peerless* certainly does hold one’s attention throughout and is quite unlike anything I have ever seen onstage.

Flora Lynn Isaacson
Photography by **Kevin Berne**
Peerless began its run March 9 and ended on April 2, 2017, at the home of the Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley.

Coming up next will be the Bay Area Premiere of *Guards at the Taj* by **Rajiv Joseph** and directed by **Jason Minadakis** opening April 27th and continuing through May 21st, 2017.

featured artists offering a variety of artwork, while enjoying food and music. Info: shipyardartists.com

THU • ROAD TO JONESTOWN

Thu Apr 20 | 6 pm | A young Indianapolis minister who preached a curious blend of the gospel and Marxism, his extramarital affairs, rampant drug use, and fraudulent faith healing, Jeff Guinn brings the real Jim Jones to life in *The Road to Jonestown: Jim Jones and Peoples Temple*. California Historical Society SF, 678 Mission St.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Apr 24 | 7 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics the 4th Mon monthly. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • S.H.A.R.P. / SF ARCHITECTURE

Mon Apr 24 | 7 pm | Post-1920 SF Residential Architecture, with James Dixon. After both world wars, SF reinvented itself to house the many people who flocked here. helped define how America would house its burgeoning middle class. Last Mondays of the month, 1736 Ninth Avenue (between Moraga and Noriega)

TUE • AUTHOR MEGAN MIRANDA

Tue Apr 25 | 7 pm | In *A Perfect Stranger* the masterful follow-up to the New York Times bestseller *All the Missing Girls* a journalist sets out to find a missing friend, a friend who may never have existed at all. Meet Megan Miranda at Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

WED • LA PLAYA PED IMPROVEMENTS

Wed Apr 26 | 5-7 pm | A pedestrian plaza at the end of the N-Judah Muni line to promote safety and mobility, enhance the community, and to create a public spaces on La Playa and Judah Streets at Java Beach Cafe 1396 La Playa St.

WED • AUTHOR SONIA BELASCO

Wed Apr 26 | 7 pm | For Melanie, it’s the loss of her larger-than-life artist mother, taken by cancer well before her time. For Damon, it’s the loss of his best friend, Carlos, who took his own life. A moving story of the ties that bind us together. Meet the author of *Speak of me as I am* at Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

THU • LETTERS FROM INTERNMENT CAMPS

Thu Apr 27 | 6 pm | Using original letters from the intern-

ment camps of WWII, this presentation focuses on Japanese Americans who spoke out during and after internment. Contemporary descendants, writers, historians, activists, and performers will read from the letters and share their responses, including: Stan Yogi author of *Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California* and others. Presidio Officers Club: my.californiahistoricalsociety.org

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Apr 27 | 7 pm | OMI-NIA General Meeting is the last Thu each month. Temple UMC, 65 Beverly.

THU • EMBARCADERO SKYWALK

Thu Apr 27 | 10 am | SF Guide Rob Spoor takes flight (sort of)! Most of the tour is above the ground. View “Rockefeller Center West” from a different angle and discover a hidden urban oasis. Tread on buried ships that once housed saloons, jails, stores, and brothels. RSVP by 2 pm Apr 25. \$15 (415) 537-1105 ext 0 or www.sfcityguides.org

SAT • INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY

Sat Apr 29 | Time TBA | Alex Kenin – *Urban Trails San Francisco* Book Scavenger Hunt?? Bookstore West Portal, 80 West Portal Avenue. Info: 415.564.8080

SFCITYGUIDES.ORG SAT • SFUSD ARTS FESTIVAL

Daily Apr 29–May , 9:45 a.m.–5 p.m. | This annual celebration of student creativity includes a visual art exhibition featuring artwork by 2,000 students, live musical and dance performances, screenings of student films and videos, poetry readings, and hands-on art activities. Asian Art Museum 200 Larkin St. Free sfusdartsfestival.org

SAT • KOREMATSU SPEAKS UP

Sat Apr 29 | 11-12 am | Fred Korematsu challenged the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans when few others did. *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* explores this civil rights hero’s life Authors Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi read excerpts from the book. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox Way

THU • AUTHOR JENNIFER BERTMAN

Thu May 4 | 7 pm | In Jennifer Chambliss Bertman’s *The Unbreakable Code* Mr. Quisling is definitely up to something mysterious, and Emily and James are on high alert. First, there’s the coded note he drops ... at Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

50TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL • SAT & SUN APRIL 8-9 & APRIL 15-16, 10 AM - 5 PM



One of California’s most prominent celebrations, over 200,000 people attend the celebration of Japanese culture including food booths, cultural performances, martial arts, live bands, the Queen Program and Parade. Vendors will be charging for their foodgoods and some retail products; and some specialized events will require a fee. Check: sfcherryblossom.org for events and times.

Now At the Movies • Don Lee Miller

Don Lee Miller will be back soon.





Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

Religion and Science/Metaphysics and Physics

I was recently forwarded an article comparing the beliefs of my spiritual ancestor, Swami Vivekanada, with those of our scientific messiah, Albert Einstein. I found that they had very different beliefs but shared one: that someday science and religion will meet. I agree and believe that that day has finally arrived.

The swami was a Vedantin monk from India. He is credited with bringing Hinduism to the West in the 1890s. He came to San Francisco in 1899 to establish a Vedanta society here. Vedanta is the mystical end of the Vedas, the essence of Hinduism just as Kaballah is for Judaism, Mahayana is to Buddhism and Sufism is to Islam.

Einstein was a physicist who discovered that space and time were interdependent and that energy and matter were interrelated just as were water and ice.

While science has never been my strong suit, I learned to appreciate some of the basic laws of physics and saw their relationship to metaphysics, a subject that has interested me for almost 60 years.

One of the basic laws is that energy cannot be lost in the universe - the conservation of energy principle. Another is that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Another is that everything finite is subject to disorganization - entropy. And a more recent finding in physics is the discovery of fractals - infinitely complex patterns that are self similar across different scales (with the emphasis on infinite). Every finite thing has an infinite number of fractals.

In metaphysics these laws are also expressed if somewhat differently.

The conservation of energy principle is called reincarnation in Mahayana, Vedanta and Kaballah. The soul or energy force of living beings cannot be lost and so is reborn into different forms. Reincarnation explains all our differences and provides motivation to live this life as though it weren't our first or last. It explains how three year olds sit down at a piano and begin playing or how some are doing math or reading at that age. It also explains homosexuality and transgender inclinations. People who prefer partners of the same sex probably had some experience in a past life that made them so inclined. Transgenders probably had several successive past incarnations as one gender so when suddenly born as the other gender after so many past incarnations, the person feels to be the wrong gender and wants to change. Reincarnation also provides us with a basis for belief in ultimate justice.

The law of equal and opposite reaction is called karma in Vedantin and Buddhist

are generous in this lifetime, you will be rich in the next. But if you are generous because you want to be rich, you will be rich but will suffer in some other way.

Entropy might be the explanation of why there is suffering. While the Buddha thought that suffering was caused by attachment to the finite, the more basic cause could be entropy. Everything finite is subject to disorganization, whether it be a living being getting old, sick, crazy, dishonest, poor, or violent or whether it is a system or thing like marriage, finances, policy, diplomacy, weather conditions, appliances or geography becoming disorganized. Everything that has a beginning will have an end.

The discovery of the existence of fractals which are infinite within every finite being or thing is perhaps most profound. It reveals the ultimate and essential paradox - the finite is infinite and the infinite is finite. This idea is not new but its expression is. Hindu, Greek, Roman and even Christian mythology point to this paradox. Hindu, Greek and Roman gods were immortal - not finite - but took human forms which were finite. Christ was mortal. He was born, grew older and died. But he was also part of the trinity - the father, the son and the holy ghost - three aspects of G-d. So he was mortal and immortal - finite and infinite.

There is a story about a young man who travels to India to ask a great guru how to find G-d. The guru says "Tat twam asi" or "you are that." The man is overwhelmed. He runs to the middle of the street and sees an elephant rushing toward him. He orders the beast to stop given his newfound infinite power, but the elephant keeps coming and the young man has to jump out of the way to avoid being crushed. He goes back to the guru and asks him why the elephant did not obey him given that he was G-d. "The elephant is also G-d," the guru answers.

Some scientists now concede that everything - both matter and energy - is and has consciousness. Mystics have said that it is all consciousness. That's why the Vedantins and Buddhists call the material world "Maya" - illusion - the product of consciousness. The Hebrew bible begins with G-d creating the universe saying "let there be." The mystical belief is that G-d is

constantly making the world - thinking it. A zen koan expresses this by asking what is the sound of a tree falling in the forest if there is no one to hear it. The answer is that absent consciousness, nothing can be said to exist. Consciousness precedes and creates existence. Consciousness is both infinite and finite.

We can finally assure the spirit of our good swami and that of our greatest scientific theorist, that science and religion have been joined - physics meets metaphysics.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

The law of karma says that activities have consequences either now or later. If you are good to others, others will be good to you.

metaphysics. The law of karma says that activities have consequences either now or later. If you are good to others, others will be good to you. If you do others harm, you will later suffer harm, though it might not happen right away or even in this lifetime. The law of karma gives reason to do the right thing because we never get away with anything. Tibetan Buddhism has a most complex understanding of karma relating both to the action and its motivation. So for Mahayana Buddhism karma is based not only on the act itself but also on the thought that goes with it. If you

Red Cross calls for O negative and AB blood donors

The American Red Cross is issuing a call for type O negative and AB blood donors to make an appointment to give after severe winter weather in some parts of the country caused about 250 Red Cross blood drives to cancel in March, resulting in more than 8,500 uncollected blood donations.

Type O negative blood and type AB plasma are two of the most in-demand blood products by hospitals, it can be transfused to patients with any blood type and is often needed in emergency situations when there isn't time to determine a patient's blood type.

Type AB is the universal plasma type and can be transfused to patients of any blood type in an emergency.

Eligible donors : use the free Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Do you have a pinched nerve?
We can help.

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you. —Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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



CREATING WEALTH AND OPTIONS FOR OUR CLIENTS SINCE 2002.



Jennifer Rosdail
REAL ESTATE SALES
a KWSF Partner

TOP 1% SF REALTOR JenniferRosdail.com 415-269-4663 Blog: Living415.com

BRAIN FÜD

**Caesar Says...
a logic puzzle.
Can you solve it?**

Caesar says 5 = 4
Caesar says 6 = 9
Caesar says 9 = 1
According to Caesar, 12 = ?

Answer
12 = 55
Spell the first number and extract the Roman numeral value of the second number.
five = 4
six = 9
nine = 1
twelve = 55
Caesar never told me what 11 is equal to.
Is it 55 or 50 and 5? I'll ask next time I see him.



Wreck of the Ohioan • October 1936 • This photo also shows the Sutro Baths intact and operative. Photo published courtesy of the Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives.

Remember When?

Wreck of the SS Ohioan

SS Ohioan was a cargo ship built in 1914 for the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company. During World War I, she was taken over by the United States Navy and commissioned as USS Ohioan.

Ohioan was built by the Maryland Steel Company as one of eight sister ships ordered by the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company for inter-coastal service cargo via the Panama Canal. When the canal was temporarily closed by landslides in late 1915, Ohioan sailed via the Straits of Magellan until the canal reopened in mid 1916. During World War I, USS Ohioan carried cargo, animals, and a limited number of passengers to France, and returned over 8,000 American troops after the Armistice, including the highly decorated American soldier Alvin York. After Ohioan's naval service ended in 1919, she was returned to her original owners.

Ohioan's post-war career was relatively uneventful until 8 October 1936, when she ran aground near Seal Rock at the Golden Gate, the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Attempts to free the ship were unsuccessful and, because of the close proximity of the wreck to San Francisco, the grounded Ohioan drew large crowds to watch salvage operations. Angelo J. Rossi, the mayor of San Francisco, toured the wreck on 19 October. Ohioan's hulk caught fire in March 1937, and the wreck broke into two pieces in a storm in December. As late as 1939, some of Ohioan's rusty steel beams were still visible on the rocks. (wikipedia)

		9						
				4		2	5	9
	3		6					7
			5		6	4		3
4								1
3		6	4		8			
7					3		8	
9	8	4		7				
						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: appears right.

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

sun slides like cream
through the never washed
window

blaring on counter
and watered life

like a horn of plenty
and glides away

from the narrow light well
it carelessly clotted

just so the year slid
into my world
uncalled for

wandering past ennui and age

like a stopped clock
and casts coins

into the world's begging hands

Lynda Beigel lives in San Francisco

OPEN LATE

On the bus.

I know. Yep.

Here's the thing.

A rich man is just a poor man with money.

Am I right?

Huh?

Uhm...

By Julie Casson



We're On The Web: www.westsideobserver.com



April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day

by Anise Matteson

A day to “inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning.”

“...an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding health care and providers and facilities to respect those decisions whatever they may be.” (nhdd.org) National Healthcare Decisions Day - April 16, 2014 San Francisco Public Library - Glen Park Branch

This year marks the 1th Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day and the 4th Annual Healthcare Decisions Day in San Francisco with Healthcare Decisions Week from April 9 through April 16. During the week, neighborhood branches of the San Francisco Public Library acknowledge advance care planning with books/materials for Advance Directive, wills, trusts and estate planning.

Participating branches (at the time of this writing): Bernal Heights, Chinatown/Lai, Excelsior, Glen Park, Merced, West Portal. Library on Wheels (Seniors) [Bookmobile]. Past participants, RSVP not yet received: Mission, Mission Bay, Visitation Valley, Western Addition.

SFPL will be open on April 16, Easter Sunday. (Contact your neighborhood branch to inquire if participating.)

Patient Self-Determination Act

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 1990, it became effective on December 1, 1991. The purpose is to inform patients of their rights regarding decisions towards their own medical care, and ensure that these rights are communicated by the healthcare provider. Specifically, the rights ensured are those of the patient to dictate their future care (by means such as a living will or power of attorney) should they become incapacitated. ... (See WSO – April 2016, p.17)

California law provides individuals the ability to ensure that their health care wishes are known and considered if they become unable to make these decisions themselves. (www.cmanet.org/about/patient-resources/end-of-life-issues/)

Prepare for the unexpected
Visit the library. Discuss your wishes with your loved ones, primary care physician and/or attorney. Name someone to speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself—complete your Advance Directive on April 16.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

An Advance Directive is a part of patient-centered care—a treatment plan specific to a patient’s needs. It provides instructions in your own words.

Self-Check: Advance Health Care Directive
Do you know if the elder has named an individual as agent to make health care decisions if the elder becomes incapable of making his or her own decisions?
Do you know if the elder has named an alternate agent to act for him or her if the first choice is not willing, able, or reasonable available to make decisions for the elder?
Do you know if the elder wants artificial nutrition and hydration and other forms of care?
Do you know if the elder wants cardiopulmonary resuscitation?
Do you know if the elder wants to donate organs or tissues?
Does the elder’s primary care agent know where to find a copy of the Power of Attorney document?
©2012. Rev. 2015. MATTESON ELDER CARE SERVICES. (Elder Diary: Starter Kit)

NOTICE: I have an advance directive.

Name: _____

My health care agent is: _____

My health care agent’s phone number is: _____

A copy of my advance directive can be found: _____

When you have completed your advance directive, you may indicate this with the wallet card that states you have advance directives.

RESOURCES

A Letter to My Primary Health Care Provider Concerning Decisions to be Made at the End of My Life. www.compassionandchoices.org. To download sample of “Letter to my doctor” (-Gentle-Death-A-Letter-to-My-Doctor.pdf).

Advance Health Care Directive (English/Spanish). California Hospital Association. www.calhospital.org/resource/advance-health-care-directive. To download FREE Form 3-1.

GOOD to GO RESOURCE GUIDE. Compassion & Choices MAGAZINE, Special Issue, 2010 Reprint. (800) 247-7421. www.compassionandchoices.org. Chapters include: How to Make Your Health Care Decisions Known, Your Wishes, Glossary, The Conversation.

Hospice by the Bay. (415) 626-5900. www.hospicebythebay.org/index.php/locations/san-francisco. Community services: include Advance Care Planning Seminars, Estate Planning Seminars, and Community Grief Counseling and Support Groups.

My Life My Choices™, Planning for Future Healthcare Decisions. www.hospicebythebay.org/index.php/about/speakers-bureau. Hospice of Marin Community Education Program.

Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. http://cap-olst.org. To download “POLST FOR Patient and Loved Ones.”

Anise Matteson is an Advocate for National Healthcare Decisions Day, elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors. Information is educational only. For specific questions, consult your physician and an attorney.



Should We Cut After-School Programs?

For most parents, the answer is a no-brainer. Cut after school programs? No way. We need more after school support—not less. Yet in both California and in Washington, after school programs are in danger.

Let’s take a look...

Nearly half of California schools get government funding for before and after-school school programs. The money comes from a combination of sources:

- California’s After School and Education Safety (ASES) program
- Federally funded 21st Century Learning Centers

These programs target low-income students and also include local community contributions.

Here’s the problem:

Funding for California’s After School and Safety program has not kept pace with costs. In 2002, California voters approved Proposition 49 to provide after school education and enrichment programs for children kindergarten through 9th grade. This is the proposal supported by Arnold Schwarzenegger that propelled him into California politics. Fast forward to today. Funding for ASES programs has been stagnant for a decade. Minimum wage increases and state mandated paid sick leave have raised operating costs.

So what happens?

To stay open, after school programs reduce their hours and cut academic activities.

A 2016 report from the Partnership of Children and Youth projects that during that year, programs “will have to operate with annual deficits of \$10,000 - 15,000 or more per program site.” There are also estimates that if funding remains flat some

programs may be forced to close.

Efforts are underway in Sacramento to increase funding. Citing the possibility that 67,000 students could potentially lose access to after school programs, Senator Leyva has introduced SB 78 to protect these programs.

Cuts in Federal Money

At the federal level, the President proposes to cut \$1.2 billion from after school and summer programs, which serve nearly 1.6 million children, mostly poor. While the White House may claim that these programs don’t work, there is lots of research that finds that well run after school programs work. They support learning and provide a safe place for children after school. Looking for more data? Google *Fifteen Years of Evaluation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers: A Driver for Program Quality and Capacity in the Field*.

For today’s families, whose workday does not end at 3 pm, after school programs are increasingly essential.

Should we cut after-school programs? Ask a parent. The answer is a no-brainer. No way. We need more after school support—not less.

You can find more information about the importance of After School Programs at www.Ed100.org.

Carol Kocivar is a children’s advocate and lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com




95th Easter Sunrise Service at Mt. Davidson Cross on Sunday, April 16 is at 6:30 aml (p. 10)

You Live It
We'll Frame It

Fine Custom Framing
since 1978

Walter
ADAMS

348 West Portal Avenue
(415) 759-2002




Real Travel

By Sergio Nibbi

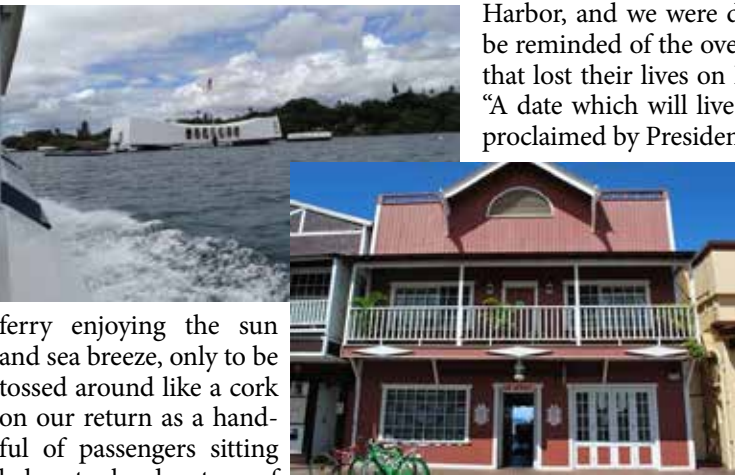
Tempus Fugit

Fifty years ago, the ground under San Francisco shook violently once again, but this time it was not due to seismic forces but to human interaction. Sex, drugs and rock and roll were the main ingredients as thousands of young people gathered at the infamous intersection of Haight and Ashbury. Would-be hippies from all over the country came to San Francisco to “Turn on, tune in and drop out.” 50 years ago, the only thing that I dropped was into the office every day from early morning to late evening and I certainly didn’t wear flowers in my hair, even though I still had hair in those days. “A Summer of Love” for all to enjoy but I often wonder if the thousands that gathered at the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park ever thought about the fact that a mere 25 years earlier the entire world was shaken by the brutal surprise attack on Pearl Harbor?



Hawaii has always been one of our favorite vacation destinations, from our honeymoon to numerous trips with our children and grandchildren. Through the years, we have traveled from island to island and stayed at various hotels, but my favorite spot has always been the Island of Maui, and especially the village of Lahaina. Our first stop was always at the Lahaina Yacht Club, where we had reciprocal rights and enjoyed all the privileges of a regular member. Be it lunch or dinner, the views of the ocean and the passing yachts were

always memorable, and the strolls down the lively Front Street picture perfect. I still remember visiting the Pioneer Inn, and of course, the U.S. Seamen’s Hospital, but the day was never complete without a stop at a souvenir shop for a new T-shirt or two. On our honeymoon we stayed at the Kauai Surf Hotel that has since been replaced with one of the major chains, but I still remember sitting on the bench on our veranda overlooking Nawiliwili Bay as the sun set. Our trip to Lanai was an adventure all in itself, as we sat on the top deck of a 50’



ferry enjoying the sun and sea breeze, only to be tossed around like a cork on our return as a handful of passengers sitting below took advantage of the little paper bags neatly tucked behind the seat in front of them. Somehow, Paradise and mal de mar did not quite seem to match up. Honolulu, which is on the island of Oahu, is the most commercial of the islands, and home to the ship terminals and Honolulu International Airport. A little more hectic than the other islands, the view of Diamond Head from Waikiki Beach is spectacular. Again, one of our favorite spots was relaxing and dining at the Outrigger Canoe Club, which is a private club founded in 1908, but again, we had reciprocal rights and enjoyed not only the Club but also the beach at Waikiki. During one of our first trips, we visited the USS Arizona Memorial, which is reached from the naval base at Pearl

Harbor, and we were deeply saddened to be reminded of the over 2,400 individuals that lost their lives on December 7, 1941, “A date which will live in infamy” as was proclaimed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. So much sadness in such beautiful surroundings. Our visit was very sobering, and one has to wonder if the hippies that invaded our beautiful City had ever heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the thousands of brave men and women who fought two wars simultaneously so they could romp around the streets of San Francisco free to do as they pleased. Perhaps their time would have been better spent reading history books, rather than dropping LSD and psychedelic drugs. They should have found out more about the dead, instead of the Grateful Dead. The San Francisco Chronicle recently printed a magazine on the “Summer of Love” and in perusing through it, I thought I recognized a few of the people in the crowd. In fact, I could swear that one looked like Bill Clinton. After all, he admitted to smoking pot, but wait a minute, I just remembered, he didn’t inhale! Sergio@westsideobserver.com

Areas to get groundwater blend

Beginning next month, San Francisco will start adding local groundwater to its longtime supply from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and distribute the blend to about 60 percent of the city.



Fresh Water? (Cont. from p. 5)

due to the conservation efforts of shorter showers, low flow toilets, low-use water washing machines and drip irrigation, actual water consumption was down to 180 MGD in the year 2015-2016. Faced with this conflicting information, SFPUC revised their water use estimate for the year 2017-2018 down only 20%. This new estimate would also appear to be in error as San Franciscans use less water yearly. Included in this prediction of the SFPUC by David Sunding was the forecast that jobs in San Francisco would decline because of a lack of water. Instead, during 2010-2015, jobs have increased by 125,000. This information was reported by Peter Drekmeier at the State Water Board on 12/16/2016, gathered at a time when the SFPUC decided they needed ground water blending in San Francisco. Therefore, based on an inaccurate study with false data, the decision to have blended water in San Francisco was made.

Glenn Rogers, PLA is a local Wesside landscape architect.

Plants For Birds

Let's grow one million bird-friendly plants together



Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a butterflyweed. Photo: Dave Maslowski

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With Audubon’s Native Plant Database, you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Explore all of our native plant resources at audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Police Report (Cont. from p. 7)

grabbed a phone from a nearby victim and both suspects fled, but one suspect was detained. On probation for a previous robbery, he was cited.

Thursday / March 9

Elder Abuse
5:40 pm | Vernon St & Sargent St
A worker from Adult Protective Services told officers the victim claimed her attorney sexually assaulted her. However, the APS employee said she suffers from dementia and was unsure the claims were credible.
Domestic Abuse
11:48 pm | Address confidential
Officers found the suspect in pursuit of the victim and attempting to punch her. They detained him. She said she and the suspect argued about parking of their vehicle and she attempted to run away from him. She obtained a restraining order and he was arrested.

Friday / March 10

Robbery
4:56 pm | 500 Buckingham Way
The victim was in a parking lot by a movie theater when the suspect demanded his camera. He gave up his camera, though he did not see a gun. The suspect fled.
Threats
4:30 pm | 1800 34th Ave
The victim said his neighbor crossed the street and threatening him, yelling racial slurs and obscenities. Responding officers found the suspect and he was arrested.
Stalking - Shooting - Loaded Firearm
3:25 am | 00 Garfield St
A woman encountered her ex at a nightclub but did not speak to him. But she found

him trespassing when she returned home. After an argument, he left when she threatened to call the police. When she heard several loud noises she suspected he was shooting into the house. When officers found the suspect they also found a loaded rifle. He was arrested.

Saturday / March 11

Robbery
12:10 pm | 100 Font Blvd
After having a single drink, the victim was dropped off by his apartment before suddenly losing consciousness. When he woke up, he was missing his keys and money. He did not see who had hit him or stole his property.
Battery
7:12 am | 19th Ave & Eucalyptus Dr
Officers spoke to both parties reportedly fighting on a MUNI train. They admitted to a verbal argument with no physical assault. But witnesses said the suspect hit the victim several times. He was arrested.

Sunday / March 12

Burglary - Methamphetamine
3:49 pm | 2200 45th Ave
Officers found the suspect trying to force open a garage door. He was detained and a search found a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine and a clear colored rock (suspected to be meth). He was arrested.

Monday / March 13

Battery
9:59 pm | Holloway Ave & Brighton

Ave
A driver was trying to find a parking spot when the car in front of her stopped and the driver asked why she was following them. An argument ensued and the suspect spat and punched her and fled.

Battery
10:18 am | Moraga St & Sunset Blvd
A driver was about to make a right turn when the suspect made a left turn first. The victim rolled down the window when the suspect yelled back and spit in the victim’s face before driving away.

Robbery
7:23 am | 19th Ave & Rossmoor Dr
The victim was asleep on a church stairway when he felt someone trying to steal his bag. He ran off but the victim gave chase. When he caught up the suspect brandished a knife, but he wrestled the knife away and detained the suspect.

Robbery
9:03 pm | 1400 23rd Ave
The victim got off the MUNI train when the suspect pointed a handgun at him, demanding his property and then fled.

Tuesday / March 14

Violation - Suspended Driver's License
9:58 pm | 19th Ave & Moraga St
Officers stopped a car making unsafe lane changes and cutting off other vehicles. A computer check revealed a suspended license, he was cited.

Editor's Note: This is an incomplete report as space allows. For the entire report go to: www.taraval.org

HAIR SALON AND BARBER SHOP



STERLING ART-CHI-TECH

650-735-5731 / 650-219-5776

Stations Available

— Enhance Your Image —



29th annual
WEST PORTAL
SIDEWALK FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

A boutique handcrafted
art al fresco experience

West Portal Avenue
between 15th & Ulloa

APRIL 7·8·9
Friday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

40 PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS



Presented by
**THE WEST PORTAL AVENUE
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION**

 A PACIFIC FINE ARTS FESTIVAL | pacificfinearts.com    



Gayle Mayhew

Join Us At Church For Our
Easter Service



Sunday April 16th 10am
Child care available
St. Francis' Episcopal Church
399 San Fernando Way at Ocean Ave



Easter Egg Hunt after the service!
www.stfrancisepiscopal.org

Why do you do things you
later regret?

Find out
BUY AND READ

DIANETICS
The Modern Science of Mental Health

by L. Ron Hubbard

PRICE \$25.00

701 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
1(800) 801-3944
www.dianetics.org

©2017 CCSF. All Rights Reserved. Dianetics and Hubbard are trademarks and service marks owned by Religious Technology Center and are used with its permission.



Assemblymember
PHIL TING
invites you to a



BIKE FAIR



Saturday, April 15
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Jose Ortega Elementary School
400 Sargent St, San Francisco 94132

OBSTACLE COURSE
BELL GIVEAWAY
BIKE REPAIR
BIKING EDUCATION
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

RSVP
415-557-2312 or
asmdc.org/CJ

Event Partners Include:
Safe Routes to Schools San Francisco, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, YBike, WalkSF, Jose Ortega Elementary School, Jose Ortega PTA, Clif Bar, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Recology

Paid for by Phil Ting for Assembly 2018, FPPC#1393484