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# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

Volume 29 • Number 10

Celebrating Our 29th Year

www.westsideobserver.com

December 2016/January 2017

## Phyllis Sherman

Former *West of Twin Peaks Observer* Owner and Publisher Phyllis Sherman passed away on November 25. A transplanted "easterner," she took San Francisco by storm and spent over 36 years of her life in the City by the Bay. For more than twenty of those years she published this newspaper, and wrote the column "Phyllis' Findings" in each issue, ending each column with an "endjoke." To remember and honor Phyllis, and to highlight her love of San Francisco, we are featuring a column that she originally wrote in 1983 for the *SF Progress*, and was featured in the *Observer* in 1999. We hope you enjoy it!

(On page 11, we reprint an article that Phyllis wrote for the now defunct *SF Progress* newspaper in July of 1983 - my how time flies when you're having fun!)



## Time to End Our Parks' Forests?

By Nancy Wuerfel and Sally Stephens

**S**an Franciscans love their trees. Nearly 80% of us voted last month to set aside money in the budget to maintain street trees. But there are those who consider trees in parks as little more than "invasive weeds" and want them cut down.

Unfortunately, this very vocal minority has the ear of the City's Recreation and Park Department (RPD) in the form of its Natural Areas Program. NAP began 20 years ago as a plan to preserve the small pockets of "native" habitat – arbitrarily defined as plants that were here when the Spaniards arrived – that remained.

The landscape back then was very different. Indeed, the initial Spanish explorers described San Francisco as "the very worst place for settlement in all of California" with "nothing but sand, brambles, and raging winds." It was grassland and dune scrub. There were no trees.

Over time, NAP's plans morphed from preserving small remnants into the destruction of large existing non-native habitats so they could be replaced with native plants. In, ironically, the biggest land grab in San Francisco since the Spanish arrived, NAP has claimed control of one-quarter of all City parkland, including all of Mt. Davidson. There was no public debate. They just took control.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will meet to certify

Cont. p. 4



## District 7 Alert!

### If the City Can Build It Here - They Can Build It Anywhere

By John Farrell

**W**e all agree that our City is in need of affordable housing. But one of the main concerns is that the City is in a reactive mode, pushing through projects without due diligence, like proper neighborhood input. This is the case with the proposed 5 story, 150 unit senior housing project at 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. The property currently consists of a church, daycare center and parking lot. The lot is 70,950 sq ft per the tax records, or approximately 1.6 acres, and is currently zoned for single-family homes RH-1(D).



Per the September 15th *Chronicle* article entitled "SF housing projects get help from city," the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) selected four affordable housing developers in need of predevelopment money for housing projects. One of the four developers included Christian Catholic Homes, (CCH) which will receive \$2 million from the City, and plans to build a 5 story, 150 unit apartment complex at 250 Laguna Honda Blvd for low-income seniors, of which up to 30% will be formerly homeless seniors who have lived in the City at least six weeks. The unit mix consists of 1 bedroom units

and studios with an average square footage of 595 and 382, respectively, and 60 parking spaces. By the way, the surrounding neighbors knew nothing about this project until this article came out.

As a result of the uproar from the neighbors concerned with the size and scope of the proposed project, there were meetings with MOHCD and church representatives on October 3 at the Forest Hill Clubhouse, and at the October 24 meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council. Each time the clubhouse was packed with Forest Hill neighbors. And each time

Cont. p. 2



## Westside Wins the Clean & Tidy War, but Watch Your Step

By George Wooding

**I**t's official: Supervisorial District's 7 and 4 have less human feces, hypodermic syringes, broken glass, graffiti, and homeless people than any other supervisorial districts in San Francisco. The Westside is not free of — but at least has fewer complaints than other supervisorial districts have — feces and syringe complaints. Indeed, District 7 saw a massive spike in the number of service calls involving human waste in the past year, so we need to keep watching where we step!

On October 25, the 2016 *Street and Sidewalk Maintenance Standards Report* (SSMS) report was issued. By law, the SSMS report must be issued every two years. Among other things, the report records the level of feces, broken glass, graffiti, and syringes by supervisorial district.

The City Services Auditor (CSA) charter amendment — created by Proposition C on the November 2003 ballot — requires that the Controller's Office and Department of Public Works (DPW) develop and implement standards for street and sidewalk maintenance and that the CSA issue an annual report of the City's performance under the standards. The current report provides an overview of the standards, highlights the results of evaluations and includes recommendations to improve work in these areas.

According to the 2015–16 report our, "population has grown by nearly 8% since 2010, adding more than 60,000 residents to reach a total of 866,583 as of Jan '16. About 136,000 new jobs have been created in the City over the past five years — an increase of 24.8% between Dec'10 and '15, and more than 1,234,000 people fill San Francisco during daytime work hours."

Additionally, "This continued growth... places additional demands on the City's service systems. Public service requests submitted to the City's 3–1–1 Customer Service Center increased significantly in recent years, growing by 25% in FY 2015-16 and reaching an average of 34,480 requests per month. The City collected more than 24,000 tons of loose garbage and abandoned items in FY 2015-16, an increase of 7.8% over FY 2014-15, and more total weight than any year since FY 2009-10."

Sadly, many of the areas in the City that have the highest amounts of complaints involving feces and hypodermic needles correlate directly with the highest amounts of homelessness. The *San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count* (p. 2) shows that District 7 had only 19 homeless people in '13 and 29 homeless people in '15, while District 4 had 136 homeless people in '13 and only 7 homeless people in '15. In 2015, 6,686 homeless individuals were found to be living in

the City, up slightly from 6,436 homeless people in 2013. District 7 and District 4 each had less than 1% of the total homeless population.

**Human Waste:** Watch your step in Supervisorial District 6! Data from 3–1–1 call reports shows service requests related to human waste increased across all Supervisorial Districts in San Francisco in FY 2015–16 at a rate well above the average growth in overall 3–1–1 use. District 6 had far more service requests related to human waste than any other district — three-times as many as the next highest count in District 9 — and nearly 30% more requests compared to FY 2014–15. This change appears to be driven mostly by additional reports along Market, south of 8th Street between Mission and Howard, and the area south of Hayes Valley between South Van Ness and the Central Freeway/Octavia.

Sadly, District 7 experienced a 67% increase

Cont. p. 2

## Lake Merced Plans

By Tony Taylor

**B**ike path improvement, erosion along the coast and falling trees around Lake Merced were major talking points during the Recreation and Parks Department's planning meeting in November. Held in the Lake Merced Boathouse, this was the first of three project meetings planned from Rec & Parks to identify improvement opportunities in the area.

Cont. p. 6





TOTAL UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED SAN FRANCISCO HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME  
General Count Population by District and Family Status (2013 and 2015)

DISTRICT	2013				2015			
	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILY	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILY	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
1	95	21	116	2%	48	29	77	1%
2	20	0	20	<1%	60	0	60	1%
3	190	0	190	3%	242	0	242	4%
4	136	0	136	2%	7	0	7	<1%
5	107	52	159	2%	192	118	310	5%
6	2,576	462	3,038	47%	3,487	349	3,836	57%
7	19	0	19	<1%	29	0	29	<1%
8	95	0	95	1%	163	20	183	3%
9	400	107	507	8%	313	63	376	6%
10	1,914	16	1,930	30%	1,255	17	1,272	19%
11	52	0	52	1%	123	7	130	2%
Confidential/Scattered Site Locations in San Francisco								
	20	10	30	<1%	11	24	35	1%
Golden Gate Park	144	0	144	2%	129	0	129	2%
Total	5,768	668	6,436	100%	6,059	627	6,686	100%
% of Total	90%	10%	100%	-	91%	9%	100%	-

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.  
Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

in 3-1-1 service calls involving reports of human waste, surging from 90 reports in FY 2014-15 to 150 reports in FY 2015-16. Citywide, reports involving human waste soared 39% — 4,274 more reports — increasing from 11,058 in FY 2014-15 to 15,332 in FY 2015-16!

**Needles:** Citywide, 3-1-1 reports of hypodermic needles increased by 40% in FY 2015-16, reaching a total of 3,551 service requests, after monthly reports reached an all-time high of 396 in May 2016. That year-over-year increase is well above the average growth in overall 3-1-1 use. Internal counts of needles collected by DPPW “Hot Spot” crews also increased nearly 40% , from roughly 16,000 to 22,300.

There were fewer 3-1-1 reports of needles in District 7 and District 1, but those were offset by significant year-over-year increases in District 6, 9, and 10.

Reports of needles were heavily concentrated in District 6 and 9, though nearby areas were also affected, including the Castro, Hayes Valley, Civic Center, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods. Several areas included exceptionally concentrated clusters of reports of needles between FY 2014-15 and 2015-16, particularly in District 6 that saw a 49% increase to 1,653 calls to 3-1-1, and in District 9 that saw a 45% increase to 752 calls. District 7 saw a 39% drop in the number of needles and syringes to just 14, from FY 2014-15. District 4 had a 58% increase, from 12 to 19. Citywide, there was a 41% increase, with an additional 1,024 calls (from 2,527 calls in between FY 2014-15 to 3,551 calls in FY 2015-16).

**Broken Glass:** Average 3-1-1 calls involving broken glass generally increased in FY 2015-16. However, reports of

Cont. p. 6

“When this project was first proposed to our Supervisor two years ago it was for a 50 unit housing project; it was subsequently submitted for the proposed 150 unit project.

District 7 Alert (Cont. from p. 1)

questions by neighbors were not answered.

On November 14 the Forest Hill Association Board of Directors, before a packed clubhouse of concerned neighbors, unanimously approved a resolution by the neighbors to reject the 150 unit project as proposed. All the directors noted that they were for affordable housing but that the project was just too large for the site.

Let me make this perfectly clear. I, like all the neighbors involved, am for affordable housing; however, I am strongly and vigorously opposed to this project as proposed, which

seeks to rezone a single plot of land designated for single-family homes RH-1(D) into zoning for a 150-unit development in Forest Hill. I am opposed to this unwise project for numerous reasons, including the fact that the project (1) ignores the unique nature and character of Forest Hill by proposing an intensive use directly adjacent to single-family homes, among other things; (2) does not take into account the already existing heavy traffic congestion on this portion of Laguna Honda Blvd.; (3) will result in the closure of a church, a preschool, and an important

notes that the proposed project’s site does not conform to the zoning (currently RH-1(D)) or height requirement (currently 4 stories). The environmental review will include 1) the review of the Historic nature of the church, since it was identified as an example of Expressionistic design, 2) a



Preliminary Archeological Review, since the project includes the excavation of up to 16 feet below grade and 3) a Geology review, since the project is within a Landslide Hazard Zone. How will the project affect the integrity of the hill, which has had landslides in the past?

When this project was first proposed to our Supervisor two years ago it was for a 50 unit housing project; it was subsequently submitted for the proposed 150 unit project.

I have a win-win solution. Have Park and Recreation buy the land from the For-



early childhood development center, all of which provide important services to the community, especially children of Forest Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods; and (4) the developer has not been transparent with the neighborhood about the nature and scope of its plans and timeline. This doesn’t even take into account what the impact of the project will have on the integrity of the hill, which has had landslides in the past. By the way, if the City recommends a project like this on this respective site, then any potential site in District 7 is at risk. When will the City realize that one size does not fit all?

CCH submitted a Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA) application to the City in July for the 150 units. The Planning Department responded in a letter dated October 4<sup>th</sup> identifying Planning review requirements for the proposed project including those related to environmental review, approvals, neighborhood notification and public outreach, the Planning Code, project design and other general issues of concern for the project. The letter

est Hill Christian Church for a park, as they did with the Franciscan Reservoir on Russian Hill in 2014 from the PUC. The City could have built hundreds of affordable units on this approximate 3 acre lot which was ideal for housing, but the Russian Hill neighborhood wanted a park. This makes sense. Let’s not have another poorly planned project, like the Millenium disaster, that could affect the adjacent homes on the hill.

Mayor Lee, please drive by the site at 250 Laguna Honda Blvd and see for yourself that a 5 story, 150 unit complex makes no sense. Why not build more senior housing by Laguna Honda Hospital? I would be more than happy to help you find suitable locations, and even provide you with sources of revenue currently overlooked by our City departments to assist in building them. We are in this together.

John Farrell Broker/Realtor® – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident - farrell-reinvestments@yahoo.com



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PROUD SUPPORTER



West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

The November (and 2016's last) meeting of the Central Council was a relatively quiet affair compared to the October meeting, but still provided updates to several large projects that will affect the Westside neighborhoods.

WOTPCC President Roger Ritter opened the session, at 7:35 with a crowd of about 25, in attendance, far fewer than the 67 who packed the Forest Hill Clubhouse last month. He spoke about the agenda for the evening and following the roll call it was determined that a quorum was reached, and the meeting continued with officer and committee reports.

President Roger Ritter informed the delegates three committees, Planning and Land Use, Transportation and Technology have open committee chairs and asked all delegates to consider volunteering to fill a position for the 2017 WOTPCC year. It was also announced that the CSFN (Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods) would have their holiday event on Tuesday, December 13 at the Patio Espanol. Cost is \$65 per person and Quentin Kopp will be the featured speaker for the event.

Sally Stephens followed with the Open Space and Parks committee report detailing the ongoing efforts by the Park and Rec Department to institute their "Natural Areas Planning" program, which calls for the elimination of all plants that were not found before the European Colonization, including up to 16,000 trees in areas such as Mount Davidson and Sharp Park. She reported that the Planning Commission and Park and Rec Commission is having a meeting on December 15, and are likely to adopt the program. She encouraged all of the delegates (and other interested parties) to write to the commissioners in advance of the meeting or to pack a lunch and spend the entire day (Dec. 15) at City Hall.

Lisa Spinali (Sunnyside) gave an update on the continuing work of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the planning of the process of the Balboa Reservoir Housing Project, detailing on the difficulty in reaching consensus on some of the 7 main areas the group is focusing on to craft the process of issuing a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) that can be issued to prospective development firms

who wish to submit a plan of action and design for the 17 acre site.

The most critical areas under consideration to be addressed include transportation (how to mitigate the Phelan Avenue congestion); coordination to reflect the City College's master plan and new/retrofitted buildings; and the affordable housing factors that meets the needs of the community and the city and state mandates. (info: sf-planning.org/balboa-reservoir

Dena Aslanian-Williams (Forest Hill) followed Spinali, explaining that the project being proposed at the Forest Hill Christian Church site is the opposite of the Balboa Reservoir project with very little public interaction and outreach. The development group has scheduled a meeting at the Forest Hill Christian Church on December 15 to again interact with local neighbors. The project also differs from the Balboa project in that the Forest Hill

project is on privately-owned land, versus the Balboa parcel (which is owned by the City of San Francisco).

Matt Chamberlain gave an update about the upcoming work in the West Portal Tunnel that will require (5) 9-day closures of the tunnel for track replacement. MUNI is planning to use "bus bridges" during these planned closures. Some of the track in the tunnel dates to the original installation in approximately 1918.

The agenda also called for a letter to be sent to Mayor Lee asking him to mandate that a new SF Police Chief should have to reside within the City. As Barbara Chionisini was absent from the meeting, the item was tabled until the January meeting.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, January 23 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Info: [www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

Errata Last month we incorrectly identified Forest Hill delegate Dena Aslanian-Williams as Kathleen Mertz of Christian Church Homes; and Kathleen Mertz (CCH/VP) as Mara Blitzer from the Mayor's Office. (We regret the error)



Lisa Spinali

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



Since this is my last 2016 column, it's time to reflect and enter 2017 with a proverbial "clean slate." I ruminate on popular culture and the nature of "flexible" politicians. I also scratch my head over the adoption by the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of a budget for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, which was based upon receiving approximately \$127,500,000 (over the two year budget period) from a sales tax increase not approvable by voters until November 8, 2016. And, as you know, voters rejected the San Francisco sales tax increase. Now, the Mayor must figure out how and in what manner he will reduce City Hall spending to maintain a constitutionally and Charter-required balanced budget. With a virtual \$10,000,000,000 budget, perhaps it will be easy.

As promised, I wrote my own name in for President. So did a college classmate in Northbrook, Illinois. I needn't ask if anyone else did, because the California vote for President was already assured by our one-party status as solidly Democratic as Alabama and other southern states were before 1968. Speaking of elected officials reminds me not only of the President-Elect, who changes his positions on issues every two days, but also California stal-

accord such status to Luxor Cab Company, with its 162 cabs and corporate shareholders. As a "legacy" business it means an annual taxpayer donation of \$500 per employee. I've known Luxor Cab Company since my days on the Board of Supervisors, just as I knew Veterans Cab Co., De Soto Cab Co., Yellow Cab and others similarly situated. Luxor was at the head of the line in litigating against Board of Supervisors and eventually voter-adopted reform of

Now, another lawbreaker benefits from a romantic, costly City Hall idea to subsidize private businesses.

warts like Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, who supported California High-Speed Rail until two years ago, when he announced his understandable opposition to the mangled abandonment of the "high-speed" part of the true plan approved by California voters with a \$9,950,000,000 state general obligation bond issue in 2008. But last month, Newsom declared in a Sacramento Press Club speech that he would "100%" try to obtain a public funding source for the now-worthless, illegal project if he's elected Governor in 2018. (The sorry deception of California voters and taxpayers by the California High-Speed Rail Authority since 2011 will be the subject of a future column after the new Congress and President of the United States are sworn in next month.) Maybe Newsom's "flexibility" is catching on, because our Governor signed a bill in October amending the Political Reform Act of 1974 to allow taxpayer funds to be used by state and local elective office campaigns (it's commonly called "public financing") under specified circumstances. As introduced, that bill had properly required voter approval of such use by Californians in 2018. The Political Reform Act was passed by California voters in 1974, with the present Governor's much ballyhooed fostering of it as part of his winning campaign. Because it's a voter initiative, the Political Reform Act can only be amended by voters. The Governor, now a flexible politician able in his last term to ignore voters, signed the bill, which in August 2016 had been amended to remove voter approval as a condition to becoming law and added a baseless legislative finding characterizing the measure as "furthering the purposes" of the 1974 voter initiative. Now, that's a flexible politician of the highest order. Everyone has his or her post-Presidential election stories. I like the one from the Boston Public Schools, which announced the day after the Presidential election last month that counseling in public schools at taxpayer expense would be available not only for pupils, but their families and staff, concerned by Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton. The Superintendent of Schools referred to the need to remember "...our Culture of We as we continue our vital work...and ensure that our students feel safe..." He added: "...we want to demonstrate compassion, empathy and support to students and colleagues." Can you top "Culture of We" as a new cultural idiom?

Two other subjects merit attention. Last June, San Francisco voters were inveigled to pass a ballot measure establishing a "legacy business registry" and entitling any so-called "legacy" business to qualify for taxpayer funds if it needs taxpayer money to operate. On October 19, 2016, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to

the venal taxicab permit system, which allowed cab companies like Luxor to profit from the sale of government permits to operate a taxicab in San Francisco. In 2014 and 2015, Luxor Cab Company was successfully sued for violating state labor laws on overtime pay, meal breaks and working hours. It secretly settled those justified damage claims. Now, another lawbreaker benefits from a romantic, costly City Hall idea to subsidize private businesses. (Did I hear "crony capitalism?")

In my lifetime, never have police officers endured criticism, attacks, and second-guessing like now. That's true in San Francisco, with a disrespectful District Attorney, whose record speaks for itself, and the media. Nationally, under oblivious U.S. Attorney General leadership, police officers are victims of murder and personal injury from gun assaults. So-called demonstrators and "activists" stop traffic to vent hatred of the police not seen since the 1960's. Yet, in October, a Gallup Poll found that 76% of Americans declare "a great deal" of respect for police officers in their neighborhood, an increase from 64% in 2015. Only 7% stated they have "hardly any" respect for local police, and another 17% answered "some respect." In 2015, 53% of surveyed non-whites expressed great respect, but in the October 2016 poll, that figure increased to 67% with 80% of whites expressing great respect for local police. The largest increase in respect for police was discovered with political liberals, who in 2015 numbered only 50% in respect, but in 2016 soared to 71%. Try to find those poll numbers in local or most national media.

Finally, since the Presidential Election involved conflicting ideas on illegal immigration, I am reminded of President Theodore Roosevelt's 1907 statement: "In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. This is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...we have room but for one flag, the American flag. We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language." With a wife born in Europe to two parents, my own father and maternal grandparents born in Europe, President Roosevelt's ideas command embracement and adherence, not just by me, but all Americans.

I wish all of you a happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

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

## New Year's Eve at the Cliff House

Enjoy Special New Year's Eve Dinner Menus in the Bistro and Sutro's Restaurants!

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For New Year's Eve hours and menus please visit [www.cliffhouse.com/holiday\\_info.html](http://www.cliffhouse.com/holiday_info.html)

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NAP's Environmental Impact Review, and later that same day, the Recreation and Park Commission will meet to decide which recommendations about NAP to adopt. These meetings may well be our last chance to stop the proposed controversial plans.

**Take the Forests Out of NAP** Most of the trees in city parks are eucalyptus, cypress, pine and acacia, none of which are native to San Francisco. To get rid of these

Despite several decades' work, advocates cannot point to a single NAP-managed area that has been successful long-term. Many volunteers have spent hours planting new natives, only to return several months later to find them all dead.

"invasives," the NAP Management Plan calls for cutting down 18,500 trees in park areas controlled by NAP, including over 1,600 trees on Mt. Davidson.

NAP will leave some trees still standing, but large sections of Mt. Davidson, for example, will have over 80% of their trees removed. That's not thinning. That's clearcutting.

The NAP Management Plan is very explicit about how the program views trees: "The long-term goal of urban forest management in [many NAP-controlled areas] is to slowly convert those areas to native scrub, and grassland habitats or oak woodlands."

So, NAP's goal for the management of its urban forests is to get rid of the forests.

Ten years ago, tree advocates asked Recreation and Park Commissioners to ensure that an arborist or forester was included in the team that conducted the environmental review of NAP. The Commissioners refused.

So those reviewing NAP's tree-removal plans didn't need any background or experience in forestry. Is it any wonder they didn't find anything wrong with the plans to clearcut portions of the forests on Mt. Davidson and elsewhere?

By contrast, a few years ago, UC Berkeley Professor of Urban Forestry Joe McBride studied the forest on Mt. Davidson. He didn't see any conditions on the mountain that would require thinning of the trees at the levels planned by NAP.

McBride noted the proposed tree cutting will increase the amount of wind hitting the remaining trees, leaving them more susceptible to breaking limbs and falling over. NAP's plans will increase the potential danger for people walking on Mt. Davidson and for the homes that abut the park.

It makes no sense to allow native-plant advocates who see no value in the existing trees to continue to manage the forests in NAP-controlled areas. No tree should ever be removed just because its type wasn't here when the Spanish arrived.

All forested areas currently being managed by NAP – including in Mt. Davidson, Sharp Park, and McLaren Park – must be transferred from NAP control and turned over to Department arborists who will care for and nurture the trees.

**Stop NAP From Using Toxic Herbicides** There's actually very little that is "natural" about NAP-managed "natural areas." To kill non-native trees and plants and prevent them from re-sprouting, NAP requires repeated use of very toxic herbicides, including Garlon, which carries a

rating of "most hazardous."

Indeed NAP uses more poisonous herbicides than any other division of the Recreation and Park Department, except for Harding Park, which is maintained to professional golf standards. For example, NAP used nearly 80% of the Garlon used by the entire Department last year.

NAP must stop relying on repeated applications of toxic herbicides to kill non-native plants or to stop them from growing back.

**Implement the Maintenance Alternative** In the EIR for the NAP Management Plan, the "Maintenance Alternative" was deemed environmentally superior. Under this Alternative, NAP could maintain areas they've already converted to native habitat, but could not destroy any additional non-native habitat. No new trees could be removed simply because they're not native. This popular alternative sets limits on what NAP can do, whereas the Management Plan gives them free rein.

Despite several decades' work, advocates cannot point to a single NAP-managed area that has been successful long-term. Many volunteers have spent hours planting new natives, only to return several months later to find them all dead. In part, this is because the fundamental premise of NAP – that plants that were here 200 years ago are best suited for the area today – is wrong. In the time since the Spanish landed, the chemistry of the air and soil have changed from pollution and other human-driven changes. The non-native plants that flourish here today do so mainly because they are better suited

to the current conditions than the natives. Biology is all about change and evolution. NAP tries to deny both and force its areas to remain frozen at one particular point in time (pre-Spanish).

The Recreation and Park Commission should implement the Maintenance Alternative, not the NAP Management Plan.

**The Time to Speak Is Now** On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will meet to decide whether to certify the NAP Management Plan EIR. Many opponents of NAP feel this EIR does not adequately address serious questions, especially the proposed tree removals, and it should not be certified.

Later that same day, the Recreation and Park Commission will decide which alternative to adopt – the Maintenance Alternative or the NAP Management Plan.

If you cannot attend, please write to both Commissions and tell them you want forests transferred from NAP's control to RPD's forestry division, you want no toxic herbicides in NAP areas, and you support the Maintenance Alternative.

December 15<sup>th</sup> will be the last chance we have to keep our neighborhood parks tree-lined, green and lush, instead of NAP's treeless, brown and scraggly.

Nancy Wuerfel served on the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee for nine years. Sally Stephens is Vice-President of West of Twin Peaks Council.

## Open Letter to Al Casciato: Our Retirement Board Isn't For Sale! What Price for a Seat at the Table?

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

When a distinct group of people includes a subgroup consisting of 85% of the main group, shouldn't the subgroup deserve fair, balanced representation — and a seat at the table? Why should this be any different for City employee retirees?

How much does it cost to buy a seat at the table on SF's various Boards and Commissions? Consider the Employees' Retirement System's (SFERS) Board.

By reports, retired police captain Croce "Al" Casciato has bragged that the San Francisco Police Officer's Association (POA) intends to donate \$100,000 to elect him to SFERS' Board. Al also reportedly bragged IFTPE Local 21 may contribute another \$85,000 to his campaign, for a total of \$185,000 to buy a seat that is essentially an unpaid position. Why?

Really, \$185,000 for a seat at the table on our Pension Fund's board? What's in it for you Al, and what are your donors expecting in return? What's in it for *them*?

An October 20 letter published in the POA's November 2016 *POA Journal*, purportedly authored by 18 people affiliated with 13 labor unions, wrongly claims 24-year incumbent Herb Meiberger is suddenly unable to build strong working relationships with other SFERS Board members and SFERS' staff. That claim is pure nonsense. Herb has served with distinction for 24 years *collaboratively* as a Board member.

Meiberger has watched the backs of Police and Fire retirees. Herb convinced five of the seven board members to sign a paid ballot argument in the Voter Guide to enhance safety officers' retirement benefits in the 2002 San Francisco election.

Notably SFERS' then-Commissioners Joe Driscoll (SFFD) and Al Casciato (SFPD) did *not* sign on to the 2002 ballot argument.

Shamefully, the October 20 letter included not one actual signature. Does anyone — other than the signatories — really believe that the 18 "co-signers" speak for *all* of the union members of *each* of the 13 labor organizations listed in the letter?

The claim Meiberger is unable to build strong working relationships is absurd. SFERS' Commissioner Victor Makras (SFERS Board's immediate past president) and Commissioner Leona Bridges (former Managing Director for Barclays Global Investors of SF) have endorsed Meiberger for re-election. If he was disruptive, why did Makras and Bridges, former SFERS Commissioner Peter Ashe, two charter members of Protect Our Benefits (POB), and five past presidents of IFTPE Local 21 all endorse Herb for re-election?

Al, your candidate statement in the Retired Employees newsletter wrongly asserts that "Our pension fund lost \$1.5 billion last year." That's a Donald Trump-size lie! Audited reports presented during SFERS' open meetings show our Pension Fund was valued at \$20.4 billion on June 30, '15. A preliminary valuation of our Fund as of June 30, '16 estimates it was \$19.9 billion, a loss of just \$500 million, not the \$1.5 *billion* loss you in your candidate statement.

Like most Plan members, I want a fiduciary who can report accurate data.

In fact, you supported creating DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) retirement enhancement for police officers in 2008, effectively allowing police officers to "double-dip" — collect both a City salary, and deposits into their retirement accounts simultaneously while still employed.

You subsequently enrolled in DROP, presumably before the program sunsetted on June 30, '11. You retired in '12.

The City Controller's payroll database for Calendar Year 2012 shows you received \$203,471 in "Other Pay" and you received \$108,175 in "Regular Pay," indicating "Total Pay" of \$311,646 during the six months between January and June when you retired. Was that \$203,471 in "Other Pay" from your double-dipping DROP account?



San Franciscans are indebted for your service as a police officer Al, not as a financial professional. We need someone with tangible, measurable financial skills. Meiberger holds two higher education degrees, one a B.A. in Mathematics and Chemistry and a second, M.B.A. in finance from the UC Berkeley. In addition, Herb earned the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in 1987, which he has now held for 29 years. He's a finance instructor at SF State, and taught CFA review courses.

Bloomberg.com reports that you are a graduate of SF State, but didn't list the degree that you earned. Bloomberg also reported you attended the FBI National Academy, but again didn't list any degree or certificate you earned from the FBI. Google books reports that you earned a B.A. in Urban Studies in 1978 from SF State.

As well, you served as a SFERS Board member for 17 years. Mr. Meiberger has a total of 24 years as a SFERS Board member, and worked as an SFERS employee for 20 years, managing our Pension Fund's bond and private equity portfolios.

That Herb asks detailed, tough questions of SFERS' investment staff and consultants about proposed investments shows he's doing a great job at "due diligence" as a fiduciary to protect our Pension Fund's investments. That doesn't make him "disruptive," as you allege.

As a Commissioner, you rarely asked any meaningful financial questions from staff or consultants, rubber-stamping recommendations put before you. Perhaps that's why our Fund lost \$70 million in the failed Currency Overlay Hedge Fund investment you supported, and we lost \$100 million in the Stable Value Fund in the Deferred Comp. plan.

Meeting minutes show no record that you have attended *any* of 56 full Board meetings in the four years since you resigned from the Board?

When SFERS' Board proposed investing \$3 billion of our Pension Fund in risky hedge funds on February 11, '15 — with Commissioner Meiberger being the only "No" vote — you were AWOL.

Do I sleep better at night knowing that your 43 years of service as a San Francisco cop was invaluable? Yes.

Do I sleep better at night wondering about your financial qualifications to manage our \$21 billion Pension Fund? The answer to that question is "No."

If you win, all three of the elected seats will be monopolized by "Public Safety" officers (Police and Fire), and effectively will have a four-member majority on the seven-member Board. This would exclude the 85% of Miscellaneous members having representation.

City employees and retirees: Who do you want managing your Pension Fund? A second cop on SFERS' Board, or a dedicated, certified investment professional like Herb?

We're not for sale, Al. Haven't we earned — or do we not *deserve* — balanced representation?

The full version of this article will be posted on the Westside Observer's web site and at [www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com).

Monette-Shaw is a Westside Observer columnist, 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. He's a member of the California First Amendment Coalition (FAC) and the ACLU. He can be contacted at [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).



Commentary

This year's columns in this space have focused on affordability. Water, and sewage, which rides along with water as the charge for it is determined by water use, is not a large household expense. But it is enlarging. Ten percent and more annual increases do that.



“ Might it make more sense to build for downtown workers on that church lot, given the short walk from Forest Hill station? Western neighborhoods should help homeless, but services are located elsewhere.

Today if you are a 4-person household living in a single-family home using 41 gallons per person a day, the city average (warning: single family households typically use more), you now pay about \$1500 per year for water and sewer service. Next July rates go up nearly 12%. While future rates are not set (next: Spring 2018), expect similar increases for the foreseeable future. The seven billion dollar sewer program ensures that. Also, in the near term factors that have kept a lid on rates will likely reverse. Catastrophic events could add even more.

While you probably try to use as little water as possible, avoiding sewer blockage is also important. Many sewer lines were installed when water use was greater. Pipes that would flow at 7 gallons per flush may clog with 1.2 gallons per flush, especially if there is too much paper. Clearing a blockage can double your annual cost for water and sewer service.

Sea Level Rise. While rising seas expected over the coming decades will affect the east side of town much more than the west side, your pocketbook likely will not go unaffected. How will the city pay for the work required? On the west side, in the next few years wastewater infrastructure is at risk. The plan is to protect it for a few years with sand, and perhaps sandbags. Then an underground wall is to be built. This probably won't cost more than \$100 million. But eventually the Oceanside Treatment Plant may have to be moved. That would be costly.

Over the next couple of decades the Embarcadero Seawall needs to be repaired. That will cost \$4 billion in today's dollars, supposedly, if as seems likely it is raised a few feet.

But public works projects such as these tend to overrun in cost (and time) often by surprising factors. Example: the eastern span of the Bay Bridge: less than a billion originally estimated, but six billion and counting. Former Mayor Brown has said that the initial estimate is a “down-payment;” no one takes it seriously.

Should an earthquake shake the city, as seems probable, then costs will go through the roof.

It is interesting to watch the debate about developing the church lot on Laguna Honda, near ends of 7th Avenue and Clarendon, for 150 housing units: 30% to homeless, rest to low-income aged. Those high on the hill, away from the proposed development, find the proposal admirable. Those closer to it are often more NIMBY: great idea, but...density, hearings, consequences, not so hasty. Progressive San Franciscans value compassion, but...crime, traffic, buildings that don't fit in, exceeding zoning height and type. Neighborhood change is resisted. Sure, SF should encourage lower greenhouse emission per person, lower water use, less miles commuted to work, all green goodnesses, but, please, without disrupting my neighborhood and life; we can't accommodate unlimited population. Might it make more sense to build for downtown workers on that church lot, given the short walk from Forest Hill station? Western neighborhoods should help homeless, but services are located elsewhere. Back and forth we go. Perhaps experiencing the feeling of conflictedness teaches us why such problems are so intractable.

The growth of the financial sector is one of the stories of our time. Three percent of GDP in 1951, finance is now 9%. We are more mortgaged, have more consumer credit and debt, and owe much more getting educated (\$1.3 trillion in student loans). We routinely lease or finance autos, furniture, and more. Government borrows for most capital expenditures; it is under-invested to meet retirement and healthcare obligations. Running up this debt has juiced growth; easy credit fuels business and job creation. Yet debt cannot grow endlessly.

Are we at a point where debt and credit growth have stalled? Did the financial freeze of 2008 spook financiers? Has our ageing society cut consumption? Addicted to digital devices, perhaps traditional goods are less compelling? With jobs in tight supply, and transient, lenders become nervous, borrowers grow more careful. Is the run over, or just in a lull?

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

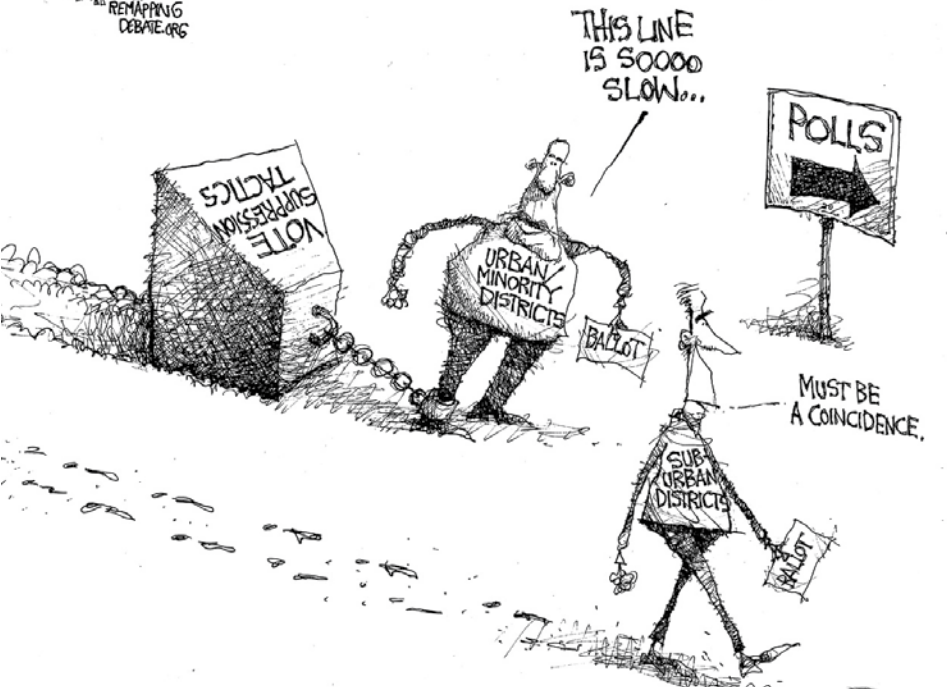
Letters

Always enjoy your “free to us “neighborhood paper” about all the issues that affect us west of Twin Peaks. However, as a long time resident of Forest Hill, it should be noted that Forest Hill does consist of one hill and always has. Its common to add “s” to Hill, but it is just Forest Hill. Thank you — Keep the paper coming. Linda Kent

The lead article in the November 2016 issue of the Westside Observer was “Midtown Terrace Rezoned to RH-1(D)” by George Wooding, whose bio line at the end of the article reads “George Wooding; Midtown Terrace Home Owners Association; contact wooding@westsideobserver.com”.

I am writing as President of the Midtown Terrace Home Owners Association (MTHOA) and at the direction of its Board to request that you print this letter to make clear that the George's article and, in particular, his comments about Supervisor Scott Weiner, were not approved by the board of MTHOA and should not be taken to represent the position of the Association or its board of directors.

George is a longtime, highly respected former officer of the MTHOA Board of Directors and continues to serve the association as an active member of the Board. How a community like ours was able to educate itself about the importance of its unfortunately erroneous zoning and to work with our Supervisor and various levels of city government to achieve what was ultimately unanimous approval of the zoning correction is an important story. However, the Board was not informed that the article would also contain George's personal views about the role of Supervisor Weiner in the process. While George has every right to express his views, the MTHOA and its board have not taken any position on those views and does not necessarily agree with those opinions, and it is unfortunate that the bio line implied that he was writing as a representative of the Board. The Board has now unanimously adopted a resolution that board members submitting opinion pieces for publication must, if they identify themselves as board members, make clear whether they are writing on behalf of the board or are expressing their own personal opinions. Rick Johnson Midtown Terrace Home Owners Assn.



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2016



HOLIDAY HEARTBURN

And now a public service announcement for all you prodigal sons and daughters making the pilgrimage back home for the annual Turkey Day reunion. Prepare for some ultra ugliness out there, people. Expect extra enmity. You are entering enemy territory and should anticipate the landing area will be mined.

“ First things first-lock up all the liquor. Intoxicants and politics go together like lug nuts and garbage disposals. Same with the sharp objects.

We're not talking about the normal stomach spasms associated with tryptophan poisoning by over-sampling the turducken, or Aunt Hoogalah's dupamouche. Beware the bubbling casserole dish nowhere near any apparent heat source.

This is more about the turmoil that could result from intermingling with family members who went down a different presidential preference path. It is said that people felt sort of passionate about this past election. It is also rumored that the Pacific Ocean is moist.

So, chances that supporters of either winning or losing candidate are prepared to let this one slide are about the same as a case of 16 pound sledge hammers thrown through a greenhouse in the dead of winter in Duluth, Minnesota is good for the broccoli rabe.

First things first-lock up all the liquor. Intoxicants and politics go together like lug nuts and garbage disposals. Same with the sharp objects. Remember, a stabbed aunt is no longer a cookie-making aunt. Collect smart phones at the door. Keep a tire jack handy in a prominent position for the particularly recalcitrant.

Declare the television off-limits, specifically the news. No CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, PBS, HBO, QVC or even HGTV allowed. Commandeer the remotes. If withdrawal symptoms persist, three NFL games are scheduled. This time around, football is your friend, even the Dallas Cowboys. But only this time.

Instead of turkey or ham, choose a menu that requires a mite more than the standard concentration. Alaskan King Crab legs, artichokes, jumbo prawns with the heads on, whole coconuts, poisonous puffer fish, pistachios, pomegranates. Engage the whole clan in a game of “Mushroom. Mushroom. Who's Got the Bad Mushroom?”

If these precautions prove inadequate

and your philosophical bent is called into question, consider these helpful responses to keeping altercations to a minimum.

SKIRTING MESSY ELECTION QUESTIONS AT THANKSGIVING DINNER.

Feign ignorance. “Election? What election? There was an election?”

“How many times do I have to tell you, we residents of the planet Melmac are not allowed to interfere in Earthly affairs.”

“I voted for Ferris Buehler.”

Try something to offend everyone: “I don't care who the president is, as long as Justin Bieber is still Dreamboat-in-Chief.”

Pander egregiously: “To me, there is now and always has been, only one president. Richard Milhous Nixon. (Or Ronald Wilson Reagan. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Pick the apropos president for your particular situation. Alfred E. Newman.)

As soon as a direct question is asked, stare off into middle distance and begin to drool heavily.

Diversion: “Hey, did the mango chutney oyster dressing spontaneously combust,” then run into the bathroom and lock the door until the threat level dissipates.

Divert. “How bout them Niners?” (or Colts, or Packers, Cardinals or Roll Tide, whatever works geographically)

Giggle as if you thought they said erection. Continue to giggle and point, snickering “erection.”

“It's the pets of the children of the Christian Vets I worry about.”

And finally, if all else fails, put your hands over your ears and sing the “la, la, la, la, la, la, la” song. Be prepared to repeat the refrain for 4 years.

Copyright © 2016, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and former assistant manager at a Pizza Hut in West Allis, Wisconsin. For a calendar of personal appearances, go to willdurst.com.

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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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).



By the Numbers

# Dude, Where's my investment?

By Lou Barberini, CPA

After two years of relying exclusively on MUNI, BART, and my *Bianchi*, last year I broke down and purchased a car—my first new car in twenty years. Negotiating for a car has become much simpler. Immediate mobile phone price comparisons have squeezed dealers' commissions and forced dealerships to rely more on volume and customer service.

Similarly, internet price comparisons have reduced fees on mutual funds investing. When I purchased my car, I delivered a check and told the representative I would pick my car up the following week. The rep said he would register my car with DMV and it would be waiting for me in stall #1234. By happenstance, the next day I invested in a mutual fund. I wrote a check and the representative offered to send me the shares or the company would hold my shares in account number #1234. Pretty simple. Pretty similar transactions.

So with technological advances, it causes one to question why has the San Francisco Employee Retirement System (SFERS) left public employees' \$3 billion deferred comp so convoluted that no one can define what type of investment it is. Allow me to apply SFERS methodology to a hypothetical example of a car purchase, where the car is the metaphor for an investment in a mutual fund. If you find the complexity of my example discouraging, you should question whether your entire investment exists, and who is holding the shares that do exist.

Assume a San Francisco police officer, a fireman from Seattle, and an accountant from El Paso visited a car dealership to purchase cars for their children that were scheduled to graduate from college at the end of the semester. When the three public employees pulled out checkbooks, the dealer advised them, "Don't write the check to us. Make your check payable to State National Life Insurance." The fireman protested that he didn't need life insurance, whereby the salesman responded, "By writing a check to the life insurance company, you will acquire the car for a cheaper price." The police officer, obviously the smartest person, inquired, "Businesses all try to eliminate the middleman, but you are adding a middleman, and claiming that this will lower the cost? Is the life insurance company working for free?"

One month later, the accountant from El Paso visited the salesman to take a photograph of the car her son would receive upon graduation. She asked what stall her son's car was parked in and the salesman responded: "Your car is actually registered to State National Life Insurance Company and parked in their lots. The insurance company has converted your ownership into three 'units' which act like a claim voucher." The accountant pressed, "How do I know that State National Life actually purchased my car and that they aren't just using the float on my money until my son's June graduation?" The salesman's answer: "Trust us."

There are four primary problems with this scenario, and by extension SF's deferred comp:

First, to accept that adding an extra insurance middleman-layer lowers costs requires a willing suspension of disbelief.

Second, if car buyers are not provided evidence of owning a specific car, and they don't need the car right now, one can question whether State National Life is buying the car or substituting a cardboard replica until the buyer actually needs the car.

Similarly, Prudential's contract with



the city, (Item 5(a)) provides Prudential with the flexibility to replace derivatives, futures, and options for the mutual funds investors think they are buying. These esoteric instruments are leveraged, risky, and complex; and allow Prudential to mimic a mutual fund's investment performance for a fraction of the investment outlay. This frees Prudential to use some of deferred comp investors' money for other Prudential uses. In 2009, one of the SFERS' deferred comp components lost over \$100 million from derivatives— not a temporary fluctuation of price, but a permanent vaporization of the investment.

Third, because investors' cars are not earmarked and they instead acquire a proportional interest in State National Life's entire fleet, if the Seattle fireman's check bounces, that has the effect of reducing the value of everyone else's "claim vouchers."

Likewise, Prudential's marketing brochure describes how every public employee from Seattle to El Paso to San Francisco has his or her investment commingled into one big multi-employer account. Thus, even if SFERS claims that their members are pure of derivative diseases, the fact that SF employees are swimming in the same infected pool with other cities means that the financial health of SF's assets are still subject to the contagious Prudential contracts with other cities.

Fourth, like FDIC insurance, SIPC insurance exists to protect mutual fund investors from transgressions up to \$250,000. The security of that SIPC insurance is forfeited when Prudential alchemizes mutual funds into one large insurance account.

Prudential's annual independent audit verifies the assets on Prudential's books. However, that audit does not investigate the security, composition, or proportional value of San Francisco's \$3 billion stake in the great Prudential commingled account. The only way to confirm that a) Prudential actually invests 100% of San Francisco's money, and b) San Francisco's assets are segregated from the contractual whims of other municipalities; would be for SFERS to present the account statements from Vanguard and Fidelity. If the Vanguard and Fidelity statement values do not exactly match the values SFERS disclosed in their annual report, the annual report must have been based on conjecture.

As discussed above, embedded in SFERS' 2008 annual report, were the spreading sparks of disparity between what SFERS reported as balances and an investment component that was evaporating. The end result: a \$100 million firestorm that the next generation of city employees had to replenish. Without an independent audit, or SFERS providing the source documents for their annual reports, investors' are doomed to repeat themselves.

I met with SFERS Executive Director Jay Huish on November 21<sup>st</sup> and presented him with the aforementioned issues.

Lou Barberini is a West Portal CPA. Feedback: Lou.barberini@gmail.com

## Clean Report (Cont. from p. 2)

broken glass citywide increased by 24% in FY 2015–16, driven by large increases in District 3, 6, and 9. District 8 appeared to decrease slightly, reporting 206 instances in FY 2015–16 compared to 233.

Once again, District 7 and 4 have the lowest rates involving broken glass. Much of the broken glass comes auto break-ins.

The rampant looting of autos soared last year, with break-ins jumping 31%

Chinatown. District 7 had a small, 14% decline in graffiti.

In a clever legal maneuver, the City Attorney's Office is asking the Courts to allow it to sue for damages to pay for graffiti cleanup. It makes for some odd phrasing when the court complaint filing says, "Plaintiff is ... the owner of real personal property in San Francisco, consisting of City Hall," as if the single block City Hall sits on is the only area of the City experiencing the same problem the other 10 supervisorial districts face on a daily basis. One question for City Attorney Dennis Herrera is: Why weren't those other

## Lake Merced (Cont. from p. 1)

The Lake Merced Improvement Project was allocated \$2 million in 2012 as part of the Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. Construction is estimated at \$1.5 million. Project and construction management, architectural and engineering design services and permits are part of an estimated "soft-cost budget" of \$500 thousand.

"We are interested in hearing concerns about facility, program improvements and your priorities," said Levi Conover, project manager for Recreation and Parks Department, who led the meeting. "If there seems to be a big demand, that will certainly get priority."

With nearly 20 people in attendance, the first of several community members spoke out about her concerns of hazards on the multi-use path along the perimeter of Lake Merced.

"Rec & Parks does nothing for bike riders who want to get a real work out," said the cyclist. "The multi-use path is unsafe because there are dogs without leashes and high bumps in the pavement. Some people have ear buds in and they don't hear my bicycle horn."

She suggested adding a bike lane that could connect with Great Highway, Golden Gate Park and the Presidio for faster pedalers.

"We need to paint a line down the middle and there needs to be signs reminding people to be aware of their surroundings," she added, "because there is no awareness. We all need to understand that the path is for everyone."

Conover said pedestrian safety is absolutely a priority for Rec & Parks.

"The bike path on the perimeter is a good example of an issue that will not come under the \$1.5 million budget," said a member from the group. "Can that drive the next bond measure?"

Lisa Wayne, natural resources manager of Rec & Parks, said the department will flag any requests that seem unreasonable.

"We want to manage expectations," Wayne said. "We try to synthesize what people are saying, then put some costs to it and make decisions for the community."

Falling trees and overgrown roots near Harding Road was an improvement opportunity mentioned.

"Rec & Parks lets the trees fall over the edge of the lake and eventually they are going to fall into the water," said a male. "Either through this bond issue or something else, that needs to be addressed."

In November of 2012 San Francisco passed the Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, a \$195 million General Obligation Bond. The funding is divided into two allocations based on the jurisdiction of the parks and facilities scheduled to receive funding, with \$160.5 million committed to the Rec& Park Department.

"Isn't that a maintenance issue when you've got gaps six inches tall on the path?" a female inquired. "The bumps have been there for years. The tree roots are an issue and should be taken care of right away."

Sunset Circle and the north end of Skyline Blvd require erosion control. Trail perimeters are in need of repair on the asphalt path. Picnic areas and regrading pathways on the viaduct near John Muir

neighborhoods included as plaintiffs in the City's lawsuit and also allowed to sue for damages?

Homeowners in District 7 and District 4 are some of the luckiest people in San Francisco. Things can only get better if we keep maintaining our neighborhoods and are kind to one another.

**Editor:** Data in this article will be posted on the Westside Observer's web site, along with links to the two City reports.

George Wooding, Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods; contact: wooding@westsideobserver.com

Drive and east Lake Merced Blvd require replacement and renovation. An increase in ADA accessibility and attention to a "massive tree that could use some work" were suggestions that emerged.

Rec & Park and the neighborhood agreed that restrooms and porta-potties need to be addressed, as well. "There is a dire need in the community for more restrooms, particularly around here. It's mayhem," said a female volunteer from the Boathouse.

Several community members felt the Boathouse area had been neglected and immediate attention was necessary. Youth from the California Dragon Boat Association prefer to change in their cars because no locker rooms are provided. It was proposed that 25% of the bond be used as seed money for increased boat storage.

"We are stretched very thin of money the city is giving us" Conover said. He added that smaller renovations such as paint jobs must rely on bonds due to a lack of general funding.

"They just spent a bunch of money on speed bumps in Golden Gate Park," a voice spoke out.

In November, Rec & Park installed \$128 thousand worth of gradually sloping, 3¼ inch high asphalt mounds and one raised walkway between Transverse Drive and the Great Highway.

Due to erosion, there are roughly 65 areas around the lake that require retaining walls. The most egregious ones identified are at the edge of the decomposed granite highway. Rec & Parks has put temporary erosion devices on the slope of sandy areas around the lake below Sunset Circle, but they say it continues to wash out. "We are starting to lose the earth end trail," said Wayne. "A small retaining wall would require a 12" high retaining wall to keep the trail intact. If we keep it that way, it will start eating into the asphalt path." Wayne added, "we will lose all of that soil and land to the lake if we don't stabilize the path."

From Sunset Circle, exposed roots from the cypress trees can be seen along Harding Road. A male voice from the crowd said he has noticed that "trees have gone down taking tons of dirt with them."

"We need to support what makes the lake special; the water and rowing boats," another local said, adding his bid for boat storage and pier maintenance as priorities.

There is an eight month process for planning, said Conover. Rec & Parks will reconvene for another community meeting in early 2017. Design and construction are being determined for spring or summer.

"The intention is to find a conceptual plan," Conover said. "Some projects may be expensive, but easy to plan — while others, inexpensive yet complicated."

One final community member stood. "Look at it realistically," he said, "the introductory proposal only has \$2 million. [That's] a drop in the bucket. These are wonderful concepts, but is there going to be a budget for new staff to maintain it?"

For the complete list of community feedback: [sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-1103\\_Meeting-Notes.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-1103_Meeting-Notes.pdf)

Tony Taylor is a local reporter.





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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

## How to Be Financially Prepared for the Holidays

For many of us, the holiday season is a time of joy and rest. However, planning for the season's festivities can feel hectic and create financial stress. According to the Consumer Reports National Research Center, top holiday stressors for Americans include gift shopping, crowds and long lines, traveling and taking on some level of debt<sup>1</sup>. So how can you give generously but not go overboard on your budget? Here are five ways to keep your cash outlays in check while still having a fun and memorable holiday season:

### Set a budget

One way to keep tabs on what you spend during the season is to set a limit and try to stick with it. Start by looking at what you spent last year and use that as a baseline for this season. Did you spend more or stay on budget? While gifts and travel may be the first items that come to mind, also consider what you'll spend on food, decorations, charitable giving and traditions, such as sending holiday cards.

### Use your credit card wisely

Gifts, travel and festive meals can add up. If you are going to charge expenses over the holidays, try to spend at a level that enables you to pay the bill when it arrives. Otherwise you're "borrowing" the money by using your credit card and slowly paying down the debt you've accumulated with high interest costs. If you have multiple credit cards, think about using one for holiday purchases that will give you cash back for savings or airline miles for an additional perk.

### Focus on more than the price tag

Most of us would appreciate a smaller but more meaningful gift over something expensive that we will likely regift. One way to do this is to give experiences that create memories. For example, consider bringing your family to a holiday play or making reservations for a special dinner you can enjoy together. If you have a large family that tends to give gifts to each other, you could suggest drawing names to make the process a bit less demanding on everyone.

### Shop carefully

Getting a head start on gift buying usually results in savings. It gives you time

to explore options and compare prices from different retailers. Planning ahead can also help you avoid expensive costs for rush shipping. If you're an online shopper, consider sending gifts directly to the recipient's home so you won't have to ship the gift a second time. If you prefer to shop at the mall, look up each item online while waiting in line to checkout. Many stores have a price-match policy, so it's worth your time to do your research.

### Consider an alternative to a pricey party

If you typically host a seasonal bash for a bunch of friends, consider another option – inviting that group to volunteer together instead. Contact your favorite charity or search volunteer sites such as All For Good (allforgood.org) to find opportunities that would allow your group to spend time together without the big cost. If festive parties help you get in the spirit, put a spin on tradition by asking guests to bring their favorite holiday dish or suggesting a round-robin dinner. With either option you'll enjoy the party without the big price tag.

If you feel like you've overspent in the past, look at this holiday season as an opportunity to be creative as you find ways to have fun while keeping your spending in line.

<sup>1</sup> – Prevention Magazine: "11 things you stress most about during the holidays." Nov. 20, 2014. By Holly C. Corbett. <http://www.prevention.com/mind-body/solutions-holiday-stress>

*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*



## Pinocchio - Noses are getting longer

By Brian Browne

In the September 2016 issue the *Westside Observer* (WSO), I expressed my concerns as to the ability of the SFPUC's Finance Dept. to manage vast sums of revenue bond-generated funds, their acquisition and use of a costly incoherent and undocumented ratemaking model, plus their continuing role as the lead department in actual rate design. The consulting model cost the SFPUC approximately \$450,000.

After that report, I received an invitation to meet with the SFPUC-GM and his two top financial executives. It was a very good meeting. The GM, unlike the chairs of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC), allowed the discussion to go forward uninterrupted. My questions and comments were neither rephrased nor diverted, as was the case while a member on the RBOC. Very little was said by these two financial executives to divest me of my negative take on their current deliverables (rate and financial models). The GM recommended to these executives that they stay in touch with me.

After the meeting concluded, I asked the CFO as to the status of his current ratemaking efforts. He said it would not start for another couple of months. Through Sunshine I have now learned that the SFPUC had issued, at the time of the SFPUC meeting, a Request for Proposal (RFP) to help in their rate efforts, and that the same consultants that produced the previously muffed model had been rehired with a \$350,000 time and materials contract.

Shades of the Pentagon's failed all-purpose F35 fighter plane program? Good money after bad? A big difference is that the F35 can fly and this rate-model cannot withstand a proper cross-check by truly skilled and competent experts.

Obfuscation and half-truths must not be tolerated in our government. San Francisco has been more than generous with its bureaucratic remuneration. Market-based

wage theory is based on the marginal value in use of an employee. Just like any normal supply and demand generated piece of information as to value. Governments who operate by fiat (administered prices and hiring) are outside of the "law of supply and demand." This phenomenon has led to the cult of resume misfits with bloated salaries and considerable expertise in the superficiality of unending and banal PowerPoint presentations.

It is time to reassess all SFPUC salaries. A Taskforce led by a strong and impartial leader can work. Willie Brown's Infrastructure Taskforce worked (2000-2002). Westsider Rich Bodisco, as Chair, allowed this multidisciplinary

group to have their say, unimpaired by any hidden agenda or pre-determined parliamentary shenanigans to suppress and deflect ideas. Rich believed the First Amendment was applicable, even in San Francisco. Its brilliance, as expressed in its two sage reports (2001 and 2002), was ignored and business as usual has since prevailed. Hopefully a wave of voter unrest will reach into the dark cobwebs of City Hall, and that government as a career will again attract our brightest and best, whose contributory value to society will actually justify their wages and benefits. Let's get started.

Merry Christmas

*Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created.*



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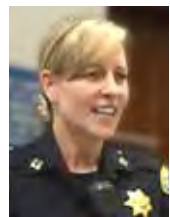




TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

— Taraval Station Community Meeting —

Dec 20 | 7 pm – 9 pm • Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave • taraval.org



**Officer Downs Recovering**

Everyone here at Taraval Station would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for the huge outpouring of support during these past few weeks. We are especially grateful for the thoughtful well wishes and concern for Officer Kevin Downs and are happy to share with you that Officer Downs has recently been released from the rehab center and will be continuing and finalizing his recovery in the comfort of his home. Note: to donate — gofundme.com (search for Kevin Downs).

West Portal Ave Cell Phone Store Burglary Suspects Arrested

October 22 three unknown male suspects wearing masks, hooded sweatshirts, and gloves burglarized a cell phone store on the 200 block of West Portal and stole a large safe with property and cash valued at over \$30,000. An investigation led to the identity of one of the suspects and another vehicle used in the burglary. On November 3 a surveillance on one of the suspect vehicles lead to five suspects observed forcing open the back door of a cell phone store in the Dixon, CA and stealing a safe containing numerous cell phones totaling over \$40,000 also wearing masks and gloves. Following one of the suspect vehicles, after a traffic stop, taken into custody were 33 year-old Layne Bishop (on Probation in Alameda County for Threats to a Police Officer), 36 year-old Duane Bishop, and 36 year-old William Owens (on Probation in LA County for Reckless Driving), all are residents of Oakland, CA. The second suspect vehicle and subsequently arrested 24 year-old Christian Bishop (on Probation in Santa Clara County for Burglary) and 32 year-old Alvin Chambers (on Probation in Alameda County for Burglary), both are residents of Oakland, CA. All the suspects were booked in Solano County Jail on charges of Burglary, Grand Theft, Conspiracy, and Possession of Burglary Tools.

On November 11, Taraval's officers executed search warrants in Oakland, and located and seized approximately \$105,500.00 in U.S. currency, along with several stolen cell phones and various other electronics totaling over \$25,000. A sixth suspect believed to be part of the burglary remains outstanding. While arrests have been made, this is still an active and ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the SFPD Anonymous Tip Line (415) 575-4444 or Text a Tip to TIP411 and begin the text message with SFPD.

Tuesday, November 1

Assault on a Police Officer – Battery

8:27 pm | 1700 46th Ave  
The victim, who wanted to press charges against her son, the suspect, in an earlier incident, called the police again. While officers were at the scene, the suspect drove by and threw a glass bottle, which shattered near them and when he attempted to drive away, he drove into a stop sign. The suspect was arrested.

Warrant – Possession of Paraphernalia

4:09 pm | 600 Taraval St  
Officers acting on a tip of illegal drugs, located the suspect matching the description, and observed two suspects rolling a possible marijuana cigarette, which was dropped immediately they approached. A computer check showed a warrant for one suspect, who also had a glass pipe used for methamphetamine. He was arrested. The other suspect was advised and released.

Assault

8:53 pm | Address Confidential  
The victim said the suspect put his hands over her mouth to quiet her and wouldn't let go until she scratched at his face. The suspect admitted covering her mouth when he came home after work and found her yelling, but denied harming her. After interviewing a witness, he was arrested.

Wednesday, November 2

Battery – Robbery

10:25 am | Address Confidential  
The victim said she was at the suspect's house discussing their relationship when he angrily struck her face, pinned her to the floor, hitting her head. He demanded that she take some money out for him and drive him to work before he would allow her to leave, which she did, then went to Taraval Station to report the incident.

Thursday, November 3

Battery

10:59 pm | Address Confidential  
The victim of a sexual assault reported that she had felt a male leaning his entire body against her with his genitalia touching her below her buttocks. When she confronted the suspect, who was fully clothed, he

argued with her, the suspect then fled in an unknown direction.

Battery

4:25 pm | Taraval St & 28th Ave  
The victim was parked in a white zone at the post office. She honked her horn when she noticed another vehicle about to hit her car. The suspect yelled at her to move her car, then got out and verbally abused her. She tried to take photographs and a video of the suspect, who grabbed her phone and threw it before fleeing. Local surveillance cameras was not helpful.

Saturday November 5

Robbery

2:33 pm | 500 Buckingham Way  
The victim said he was walking towards school with a computer monitor under his arm, when a suspect grabbed his arms while a second suspect took the monitor. Both fled the location in a vehicle.

Vandalism to Property

10:39 pm | 100 Rice St  
The victim said the suspect came to her house and pounded on the door before leaving. When she went to investigate, she found the glass pane of the front door was shattered. A broken jar with an unknown liquid was also lying among the shattered glass inside her house. The next day, officers arrested a suspect matching the description in the area acting agitated.

Robbery Attempted

9:58 am | 2000 Sagamore St  
The victim said the suspect bought something at his garage sale, but returned and threatened him with a baseball bat because he wanted to return the item plus additional money for his trouble. When the victim tried to call the police the suspect swatted the phone away. However, a witness also observed the incident and contacted the police. The suspect was arrested.

Tuesday, November 8

Burglary Possession of Stolen Property

9:52 am | 700 Taraval St  
A witness said the suspect concealed multiple items before trying to exit the store. The suspect had a known history, and as officers detained him, the suspect failed

an attempt to flee. A search of the suspect's backpack revealed a cutting tool and a computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest, he was arrested.

Wednesday, November 9

Battery

10:52 am | 100 Farallones St  
Responding to a report of a fight, officers were told that it started when a mother went to pick up her children but discovered that her ex-husband's girlfriend was there. The fight ensued with both parties blaming the other for starting it and both claimed that they kicked and hit each other out of self defense. After further investigation, officers cited both parties.

Robbery

1:19 am | 43rd Ave & Judah St  
The victim who said he was approached by two suspects asking for a cigarette. One of the suspects then grabbed him while the other pointed a gun, demanding his wallet. They threw him on the ground, stole his property and fled

Thursday, Nov 10

Domestic Violence

4:57 am | Address Confidential  
The victim who said she was asleep when the suspect came into the room, pulled the sheets off of her and accused her of taking his wallet that was next to his bed. Then he poked her head with his finger and when she pushed him away from her, he tripped and hit his head against the door frame. He struck her with a metal curtain rod, on her thigh. After

investigation, he was arrested.

Domestic Violence

9:26 pm | Address Confidential  
Responding to a report of a dropped 911 call, the victim told officers that an argument about vacation plans escalated and the suspect threw food then a cell phone which hit him on the head. He sustained a laceration to his knuckle attempting to defend himself. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Drunk in Public

12:42 pm | 9th Ave & Judah St  
Responding to a report of a man swinging at people on the street, several pedestrians directed officers to the suspect, who was yelling at people walking past him. Observing a strong odor of alcohol on the suspect, he was arrested and transported to a sobering center.

Cont. p. 16

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## Sanctuary City SF Style

By: Former Supervisor Tony Hall

As we near the end of another wonderful year in our City by the Bay, I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year. Your presence in this City is what makes San Francisco special throughout the world.

As many of you know, next year will bring many changes with a new administration.

President-Elect Trump issued his pledges of action for his first 100 days<sup>1</sup> in office on Wednesday, and among them he promises to cut off all federal funding to so-called sanctuary cities. This could mean that over \$1 billion a year, about 10% of the City's budget, could disappear. The City's budget is close to 9 billion dollars a year, and is now three times higher than it was ten years ago!

According to the Center for Immigration Studies ... Of the 8145 released, 63%, or 5,131 were previously convicted, or charged with a serious crime and labeled a "Public Safety Concern."

SF currently gets \$478 million a year from the federal government, as well as \$915 million from the state of California, a large portion of which is federal money. And that doesn't include the federal funds that have gone toward things like the Central Subway.

Mayor Ed Lee, meanwhile, won't be swayed by Trump's threats. "Being a sanctuary city for me is the DNA of San Francisco," the Examiner reports<sup>2</sup> the mayor saying at a Thursday morning news conference. "We'll always be a sanctuary city. We're not going to change who we are."

Following a gathering on Monday, which brought together Mayor Lee, the Board of Supervisors, SFPD officials, and others to reaffirm San Francisco's status as a sanctuary city, the Board of Supervisors passed a strongly worded resolution in response to the election of Donald Trump.

To those of you who are interested, I think a short background on the history of Sanctuary City in San Francisco might be helpful so that the issue may be analyzed intelligently.

The Sanctuary City movement grew out of efforts by churches in the 1980's to provide sanctuary to mainly Central Americans who were fleeing violence and political and religious persecution in their countries.

Like most Americans, I am sympathetic to the plight of those who come to escape persecution, are law abiding, and demonstrate in their personal lives and work ethic that they truly want to become citizens for the betterment of themselves and their families.

However, the prevailing sentiment of tolerant Americans in the '80s was a clear signal to the political "intelligencia" of San Francisco who sensed an opportunity to show the world just how wonderful and concerned they were about the plight of refugees. As a result, they passed a 1989 law called the City and County of Refuge ordinance, which prohibited city employees from helping federal immigration enforcement efforts unless compelled by court order or state law.

In 2007, then San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, never one to pass up a political grandstanding opportunity, reaffirmed that no city employee would be allowed to help in any "way, shape or form" with immigration enforcement.<sup>4</sup>

In 2013, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Due Process for All Ordinance, severely limiting the ability of local authorities to honor any requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It's hard to believe that this Ordinance was passed in the wake of the horrible 2008 SF Bologna family murders, where a mother lost a husband and two sons to a known illegal criminal alien who should have been deported before the murders but was protected under sanctuary laws!<sup>3</sup>



No matter how well-intentioned a law may be in its creation, to enforce it in reality often brings unwanted consequences. If city employees and local law enforcement agencies are forbidden from cooperating with ICE unless such cases involve a court order, they can easily ignore the primary tool that ICE uses to initiate deportation proceedings against illegal criminal aliens. A detainer is the primary tool used by ICE to notify another law enforcement agency that ICE intends to take custody of criminal aliens for deportation. The detainer

includes information on the alien's criminal history, immigration violations, and potential risk to public safety.

By forbidding City employees from cooperating with Immigration authorities without a court order, our "leaders" have now created a more serious problem. By not allowing cooperation, detainees are ignored, with the result that the more serious illegal criminal offenders can be shielded under Sanctuary City laws from deportation proceedings. Why would anyone *not* want to have the information provided in detainees readily available to local authorities sworn to protect society?

Certain opportunistic politicians have found it rewarding to pander to a specific constituent base without thinking through their effect on the public safety. Sanctuary policies, while purporting to protect the innocent and law-abiding, actually give cover to illegal criminal aliens.

As of last year, over 276 jurisdictions across the country have adopted some form of sanctuary policies that encourage non-compliance with some or all of the detainees issued by ICE. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 2014, 8145 criminal alien offenders were released because Sanctuary Cities refused to cooperate with detainees from ICE. Of the 8145 released, 63%, or 5,131 were previously convicted, or charged with a serious crime and labeled a "Public Safety Concern." Of the 8145 released, 25%, or 2036 were already felons at the time of release. Of the 8145 released, 25% went on to commit an additional 4300 serious crimes. Since Aug 31 of 2014, the number of criminal aliens released by sanctuary jurisdictions has exceeded 17,000, with 60% still at large.

Sanctuary City policies actually hinder the ability of local law enforcement to protect society because information, such as provided in detainees, is ignored.

Advocates often promote the "myth" that society is safer because the policies allow illegal immigrants to cooperate with law enforcement. But federal "U Visas" already afford illegal aliens protection in cooperating with law enforcement.

The present immigration system is wholly mismanaged and underfunded. They cannot even keep up with the tracking and deportation of some 60% of existing illegal alien felons who have been released into society by sanctuary cities.

To make matters even worse, last year the Obama administration gave sanctuaries free rein to ignore detainees by ending the successful Secure Communities Program (SCP), replacing it with the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) which explicitly allowed local agencies to disregard ICE detainees of deportable aliens in their custody. Detainers were replaced with "requests for notifications" which contain no information about the alien in

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## Show-Down on Cronyism and Conflicts of Interest

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) convened on 9/19/16 to respond to charges of "favoritism, nepotism, and cronyism" in City hiring and promotion. These complaints, mostly from Human Services Agency (HSA) and Department of Public Health workers, rattled the CSC last November. (see WSO, May & June 2016)

Appearances matter. Perceived high-profile entanglements fuel claims of "favoritism" and erode the sense of organizational integrity that keeps employees loyal and motivated."

CSC Executive Director Michael Brown reported that of the 27 complaints, one was validated. Nine were deemed outside the Commission's purview, and 17 showed no violation of existing rules. Non-violations predominated due to the "broad discretion" granted to appointing officers since "Civil Service Reform" in 2005. Despite Brown's findings, CSC Chair Gina Rockanova identified an "unfair hiring process" as "the elephant in the room." Indeed, complainants asserted that "managers do whatever they want" including secret promotions, stacking or over-ruling interview panels, and black-listing dissidents. While all City jobs require minimum qualifications, indignant employees insist they are "not given a fair opportunity to compete" because non-merit factors like relationships and favoritism influence appointments.

Representatives from the most-blamed departments were summoned to the Commission. DPH Human Resources Director Ron Weigelt indirectly acknowledged a diversity "breakdown" within Laguna Honda's nursing department, which is disproportionately Filipino. However, he didn't explain why it happened or if any private entities benefitted from it. He vowed to extend outreach and recruitment efforts to under-represented communities. Since January, DPH hiring managers and interviewers have been required to study "implicit bias" and sign an agreement that nepotism, cronyism and discrimination are prohibited.

Vividly absent was HSA's beleaguered Human Resources boss, Luenna Kim. Instead, her subordinates prescribed more outreach and recruitment – even though HSA's workforce is already ethnically balanced, unlike the DPH's. Once again, Commissioner Rockanova re-directed; "Complaints are not just about diversity – but about unfairness in the hiring process." Then HSA announced that hiring managers and recruiters are being paired with HR analysts to coach them on "implicit bias" and "potential conflicts" so that job-related criteria guide hiring decisions. HSA also pledged to "increase transparency" by communicating with staff about its recruitment and selection processes.

The Commission announced a forthcoming Relationship Policy to deal with romantic and familial relationships between job applicants, employees and appointing officers. Currently, employees are prohibited from influencing the hiring of family members or supervising them directly. However, both the DPH and HSA have been roiled by charges of favoritism and conflicts of interest involving contractors as well as employees. The renewed focus on relationships is partly due to controversy swirling around Antonio (Tony) Lugo, HSA's Welfare to Work and Workforce Development Director since 1999. His base salary was \$169,080 in 2015.

Lugo is a Program Manager, but is also listed as a Deputy Director. Deputy Directors, according to the City's Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code; "...shall disclose income (including gifts) from any source, interests in real property, investments, and all business positions..." In his capacity as a Program Manager within San Francisco, Lugo checked "no reportable interests" in his Statements of Economic Interest from 2012 through 2015. He wasn't required to file them previously, HSA told us. HSA's Statement of Incompatible Activities, a guide to avoid conflicts

of interests states; "No officer or employee may knowingly provide selective assistance (i.e. assistance that is not generally available to all competitors) to individuals or entities in a manner that confers a competitive advantage on a bidder or proposer who is bidding on a City contract." Problem: Public records suggest a possible conflict involving Lugo and Dalila Ahumada. She's the Director of Arriba Juntos, a venerable, major non-profit provider of job training and employment services to HSA's Welfare to Work Program – a program headed by Lugo. Ahumada earns \$125,000 annually at Arriba Juntos, and previously served on Grievance and Oversight committees in the Cal-WORKS Program overseen by Lugo. Alameda County property records show that since September 2002, Antonio Lugo and Dalila Ahumada have co-owned a rental condo in Albany. Their mailing address for property taxes is a house in San Pablo, owned by Ahumada. Controller's records show that Arriba Juntos has received some \$44 million since 2006 – largely through HSA grants. About 25% of the grants came directly from City funds, the rest from federal grants administered by HSA. IRS records for 2014-15 show that half of Arriba Juntos revenues - \$5.3 million - were government grants.

There's more. An 8/24/16 Controller's independent audit identified significant lapses; both in HSA's oversight and in Arriba Juntos' delivery of services. Although Arriba Juntos is inspected annually by the Controller's Citywide Non-Profit Monitoring Program, HSA representatives are closely involved in these inspections. The Controller instructs the Lead Monitors; "...your first resource should be your supervisor and/or your department's Steering Committee representative."

The big question is whether an outside relationship between Tony Lugo and Dalila Ahumada may have given Arriba Juntos an advantage in securing HSA grants. Typically, HSA solicits bids via a public Request for Proposals. Applicants submit proposals and bids, and they are interviewed by a Review Panel whose 3 members ask a set of standardized questions. Scores are assigned to each response and tabulated to determine which vendor has the highest average score. Tips from an HSA insider can give a favored bidder a competitive advantage.

While grants are approved by the Human Services Commission, CEO Trent Rhorer, and HSA's Contracts Director, the actual selection occurs when competing bids are reviewed. That process is approved by the involved Program Manager, among others. For example, on 6/19/15 Arriba Juntos won a \$495,000 HSA grant after successfully bidding for a street-cleaning job program. Workforce Development manager Bill Wedemeyer, who reports to Tony Lugo, co-authored a Request for Proposals, co-wrote the interview questions and co-selected the 3-member Review Panel that assessed the responding bids. Lugo was among those who oversaw the process, per HSA records.

Grant renewals and modifications undergo far less scrutiny. For example, Arriba Juntos got a \$7.4 million grant over 3 years in 2013. It was modified to \$8.4 million in 2015, then renewed for \$6 million over 2 years in 2016. Renewals and modifications rely on a Program Manager's recommendation. HSA told us the final decision also involves Budget and

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December 2016

**Remembering Phyllis...** it is difficult to sit here and bang out a column and not be moved by the passing of former *Observer* Owner and Publisher **Phyllis Sherman** on November 25, at the age of 88. She was one of the brightest people I know, a voracious reader and a news junkie. She came to the City for a “Mensa” convention, fell in love with the charm and vibrancy of San Francisco, went back to her home in Connecticut, and (shocking her family) sold her home and moved west, where she enjoyed the theatre, movies, musicals and the urban experience of San Francisco for the next 36 years of her life.

Eventually, she got into the journalism business, with a partner, running the “*West of Twin Peaks Observer*.” As it goes, the partnership ended, with Phyllis continuing to publish the “*Observer*” for the better part of twenty years before she made the decision to sell the paper. That’s where I came into the picture, working with her to “see how (her) paper was meant to be managed” and continuing to work with her, in her continuing role as a columnist. Even after the sale, years later, I would get a telephone call and upon answering the phone, a voice at the other end would simply say, “Too many words, not enough pictures!” or “Good job on the ads this month.”

Occasionally we would get together and she would ask me if I would be interested in “selling her newspaper back to her.” It was her way of keeping in the loop and having a little fun with me. Phyllis was one of a kind and those of us that worked with her will miss her. She wasn’t always the easiest person to manage, but you could never stay cross for long, as she had a twinkle in her eye. A cross between a Jewish grandmother and a leprechaun, she loved telling jokes, and was an “equal opportunity” story-teller, poking fun at every segment of society, politically correct or not.

All I can say is: “Phyllis-thank you for bringing me into the San Francisco neighborhood newspaper business. It’s been a fun and enriching experience and you helped make it possible by passing the reins to me. I hope we can always put out a newspaper that you would be proud of.” To the Sherman family: “Our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of loss. Thank you for sharing Phyllis with all of us in San Francisco. She made an impact and a difference in this city and we are all better off for having her in our lives.”

**Congratulations...** congratulations to all of the candidates in the hard fought District 7 Supervisor’s race, and to **Supervisor Norman Yee**, who was re-elected for another term representing the district. Any campaign is a collection of opposing and like views and ideas and I hope that the best of these ideas and views can be incorporated into plans and policies that will benefit the district for the foreseeable future. The city has never been a place where the “status quo” is good enough.

**Development Planning...** two important projects are in the planning phases and your input is needed to help guide and shape the future. The development of the (public property) **Balboa Reservoir** parcel is moving along with the active involvement of the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee), while the planned development in Forest Hill, on the privately held **Forest Hill Christian Church property**, is also generating neighborhood interest. These are both projects that will define their respective neighborhoods for years to come. Now is the time to get involved and help to shape the future of these developments.

**Thank you...**as this is our last issue of 2016, I would like to say “Thank you” to all of our contributors, writers, staff, advertisers and readers who help to ensure that this endeavor functions on a monthly basis. It is a labor of love for all of us and we hope you enjoy the “*Observer*”. To our colleagues in the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association we thank you for your camaraderie and support and wish you a rewarding and profitable 2017. Best wishes to all for a merry and joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year! See you in February.

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

**Neighborhood Meeting**

**Proposed Rousseaus’ Boulevard Landmark District Designation**  
**Tuesday, Dec 6 • 6 – 7:30 pm • Grace Lutheran Church (Ulloa Street at 22nd Ave)**

The Rousseaus’ Boulevard Tract homes (bounded by 36th Ave, Kirkham St, 34th Ave, and Lawton St) were built from 1932-1933 by brothers Oliver and Arthur Rousseau. The 2012 Sunset District Historic and Cultural Resource Survey identified the area as a potential historic district for its exceptional and intact architectural character and a draft of the landmark district designation report was made available to the public on November 15. Join SF Planning staff on report findings, next steps in the landmark designation process, and property benefits for owning a home in a local historic landmark district. INFO: [sf-planning.org/rousseau-boulevard](http://sf-planning.org/rousseau-boulevard)



**SUNSET HOLIDAY MERCANTILE**  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH • 11AM – 4 PM**

Sunset Mercantile is a festive open air metropolis featuring artists, crafters, makers and local merchants. at the San Francisco County Fair Building (1199 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way). For more information, please visit [www.sunsetmercantilesf.com](http://www.sunsetmercantilesf.com)

PHYLLIS’ FINDINGS

**M**other came to visit. For two and one half years I’ve been urging her to come out from the East Coast and see what San Francisco is all about. “But, I was there, Phyllis. 15 years ago I came out on a tour and visited Fisherman’s Wharf. I know it’s nice there.”

When I decided to move to California, Mother vehemently protested. “I know people in California who aren’t happy! Whoever heard of moving cross-country like that?” “If you want to move from Hartford, (where I was living), why not try Boston? Remember their great chowder? At least you’d still be on the East coast.” Finally, “O.K., so you’re going to California. At least leave your furniture here. It shouldn’t be so hard to come back if you don’t like it there.” You can’t say she didn’t give it the old one-two. A big E for Effort. So getting her out here to visit was quite a feat.

I took her to several of my favorite restaurants. We tried FUJI, the Japanese restaurant on West Portal. THE HIGHER TASTE, the Indian vegetarian restaurant in the Haight, and PANOS, the Greek restaurant on 24th St. She thought the Miso soup that you drink directly from a bowl was pretty cute in the Japanese restaurant but thought some kreplach tossed in would improve it. The curry concoctions were not sufficiently identifiable for comfort in the Indian restaurant, although the background chanting was quite atmospheric, she agreed. She enjoyed the salmon at PANOS, and especially the “Greek-God-type” waiters. She raved about the wonderful pasta at PICCOLO PUB on Columbus Avenue in North Beach and thought LA ROCA, the Spanish seafood restaurant outstandingly good.

But finally she said, “Can’t we go to a REAL restaurant. So we went to BAGATELLE in West Portal, a “real restaurant,” and she enjoyed every minute of it. I didn’t have the heart to tell her it was quasi-French.

A visit to the CLIFF HOUSE and their interesting Musee Mechanique was good fun. Especially when for ten cents the Fortune Telling Lady in the black booth told her she was “quite sensitive, with master mind, great organizational and analytical powers.” Also “good money sense and diplomatic skills.” So what else is new? Like we didn’t know!

We watched the seals through telescopes, learned all about the original Sutro Baths, and had delicious sandwiches in



their Cafe. Mother bought a postal card of a 1920’s bathing beauty and sent it back home to a friend. She inscribed it, “Look how revitalized I look after two weeks in San Francisco!” I know she had a good time and yet when I commented, “Aren’t the views fantastic? Isn’t this a beautiful city?” she countered with “Central Park isn’t beautiful? Something wrong with Fifth Avenue? Did you forget what it’s like to watch the skaters in Rockefeller Plaza?”

Try as you might, with Mother you didn’t win. It’s been almost sixteen years since I wrote that piece. In that time, many of the restaurants have either changed hands or gone out of business. And we miss them...but even more, we miss Mother. Mother has died...even though she downplayed our City...well, that was Mother. She was a good old gal who used to say, “Phyllis, there’s nothing that you can’t do if you want it enough.” Still, she probably never forgave me for choosing San Francisco over Boston. In retrospect, I realize that the only things that have remained the same here are the magnificent views. You can’t go home again...although JETBLUE keeps urging me to try.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Endjokes:**

Out of the mouths of children:

A little boy was attending the wedding of a close relative. After the ceremony, his cousin asked him, “How many women can a man marry?”

“Sixteen,” the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly.

“How do you know that?” “Easy,” the little boy said. “All you have to do is add it up, like the Rabbi said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

\*\*\*\*\*

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December / January Calendar

NUTCRACKER 2016 • SAN FRANCISCO BALLET • OPERA HOUSE



A Uniquely San Francisco Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky's holiday classic, choreographed by Helgi Tomasson

On Christmas Eve 1944, the audience experienced the American premiere of Nutcracker. An instant sensation, the ballet launched a national holiday tradition.

This holiday season, join us as the lights dim, the music soars, snowflakes swirl, flowers dance, and a little girl dreams about a whole new world in a Nutcracker that is as unique as it is magical. Due to popular demand, SF Ballet has expanded its performance schedule this year—get great seats when you buy today.

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness. Tix: [sfballet.org](http://sfballet.org)

REINDEER ARRIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS - SF ZOO

Three reindeer “Belle,” “Holly” and “Peppermint” can now be found at the Playfield Lawn, near the Elinor Friend Playground to spread holiday cheer! .

Learn what they eat (besides carrots and leftover cookies on Christmas Eve) and discover other fun facts at the exhibit. For instance, the audible “clicking” noise reindeer make when they walk is the sound of tendons in their knees, and that distinct sound helps herds stick together.

Reindeer and caribou are classified as the same genus and species - Rangifer tarandus. Reindeer are domesticated caribou and are listed as “vulnerable” after a 40% decline over the last 20-30 years.

San Francisco Zoo & Gardens is open 365 days a year, even on Thanksgiving and Christmas, for guests to explore the 100-acre park, conservation center,



Photo: Marianne Hale classroom and Zoo.

Located at the edge of the Pacific Ocean where the Great Highway meets Sloat Boulevard, the Zoo is open 365 days a year from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and is accessible by San Francisco MUNI “L” Taraval Line

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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 in the neighborhood of Lafayette Square. San Francisco's illustrious history and some steep streets. Many fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org)

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am | Get into shape, improve your health. FREE exercise classes. Kinesiology students from SF State in partnership with SF Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol Ave. [100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com](mailto:100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com), [www.100citizens.org](http://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 \$12 (\$10 Members). [calademy.org/nightlife](http://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. [cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliff-house.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](http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays)

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

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

SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

Every Sat | 11 am | Come play outdoors, in nature. Enjoy a rejuvenating morning flow and meditation for body, mind, and spirit. GG Park, Big Rec Baseball Field (across from the Botanical Garden). Bring a mat or blanket, FREE. Cancelled if raining. Dog OK

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills. Choose a topic—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.

DAILY • ART OF PINOCCHIO

10 am - 6 pm | *Wish Upon a Star: The Art of Pinocchio*. Until Jan 9. Discover how one of the most influential animated films in history was produced. Walt Disney Museum, 104 Montgomery, Presidio. Closed Tues.

DAILY • HOLIDAY ICE - EMBARCADERO

Wed Nov 2 - Jan 8 | 10 - 9:30 pm (11:30 Fri, Sat | Celebrating 30 years! The Bay Area's largest outdoor ice rink, a beautiful city setting and an array of shops and restaurants to enjoy. Info: [embarcaderocenter.com](http://embarcaderocenter.com) / 837-1931. Tix: \$11, children \$7.

ONGOING • BUTTERFLIE & 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 • SF FIREFIGHTERS TOY PROGRAM

Daily | In its 61st year of helping children, the Toy Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys. Bring toys to any S.F. firehouse 415-777-0440, [sffirefighterstoys.org](http://sffirefighterstoys.org)

WED • SCROOGE IN LOVE!

Dec 7 - 24 | Various | Last Year's Smash Returns! Scrooge's life takes a turn for the romantic—includes wonderful new songs like “Happier,” “The Hours In Between,” “A Kitchen Built for Twenty,” and “Just One Year.” A perfect holiday show for the whole family! 42nd Street Moon, tix & times: [42ndstmoon.org](http://42ndstmoon.org)

WED • GWPNA

Wed Dec 7 | 6:30 | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. [GWPNA.org](http://GWPNA.org)

FRI • CITY COLLEGE FACILITIES

Dec 9 | 11 am- 2 pm | - Facilities Master Plan Advisory Working Group meets to review results of workshops and Board update, discuss Preferred Option for the Ocean Campus and all Centers. Ocean Campus, Multi-Use Building, Room 357 Sat • Pre-Christmas Outreach

Sat Dec 10 | 8:30 am - 3 pm | SF City Impact hosts the 29th annual Help deliver groceries, cook, prepare and deliver meals to Tenderloin residents, disperse toys to kids, and serve hot meals in a dining room setting to the homeless. \$25 415-292-1770, [sfcityimpact.com](http://sfcityimpact.com).

SAT • HISTORIC VINTAGE LABELS

Sat Dec 10 | 11 am | Wine, Beer, and Spirits Labels—the exquisite collection produced by SF's now-forgotten Lehmann Printing, the labels graced mass-manufactured, wines and liquors, invoking unrealistic fantasies of peace, plenty, and the high-class life. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St.

SUN • SUNSET HOLIDAY MERCANTILE

Sun Dec 11 | 11am-4pm | Eat, drink, shop, play at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park (1199 9th Ave. @ Lincoln Way). Explore 60+ artisans, artists, merchants and engaging children's activities, lively entertainment, scrumptious food, and spirits at the Lawton Tap Room beer and wine tasting! Free and fun for all! [www.sunsetmercantilesf.com](http://www.sunsetmercantilesf.com)

WED • NATURAL DYEING

Wed Dec 14 | 6 pm | The ancient techniques of

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weaving and dyeing are still practiced in countryside dye houses and backyards around the world. Transform a piece of plain white cotton cloth into a unique resist-dyed art work and wall hanging to take home. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

WED • PEARL HARBOR AT 75

Wed Dec 14 | 7 pm | Poet, playwright, actor, and librarian Hiroshi Kashiwagi discusses his World War II experiences when all people of Japanese descent were removed from the West Coast. He will read from his books. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

SAT • GIVE ME SHELTER

Sat Dec 17 | 2-5 pm | A documentary illustrates what is really going on in the animal world such as the underground black market trade of wild and exotic animals, puppy mills, poaching, animal abuse and neglect, conservation, the food we consume, the fur and pet industry. Koret Audit., 100 Larkin St.

SUN • S.H.A.R.P / LUNCHEON

Sun Dec 18 | 12 - 2 pm | 2016 Winter Solstice. Jack Barry, spouse May Pon, and SHARP are again hosting. Add your potluck contributions, and you have a feast bordering on a food festival. Free to SHARP members, \$10 public. RSVP : [sharpssf.org](http://sharpssf.org) - 1736 9th Avenue.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Dec 20 | 7-9 pm | Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty at Taraval Station. This is a special 4 times per year meeting. 2345 24th Ave

SUN • CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Sun Dec 25 | 8:30 am - 3 pm | SF City Impact's 30th annual ministry to serve food, clothing and gifts to low-income families, at-risk children and isolated residents of the inner city. \$25 415-292-1770, [sfcity-impact.com](http://sfcity-impact.com).

WED • FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Wed Dec 28 | Celebrate Hanukkah with the Chabad of Pacific Heights at Westfield SF on Level 4, Under the Dome. This community event is open to the public with live music, treats, crafts for the whole family, and the lighting of the menorah. 5th & Market St.

SAT • RING THE BUDDHA BELL

Sat Dec 31 | 9:30 (members) - 11:30 am (public) | 31st Annual Japanese New Year's Bell-Ringing Ceremony. Take a swing at a 2,100-pound, 16th-century Japanese temple bell, with a purification ritual and chanting of the Buddhist Heart Sutra. Leave behind any unfortunate experiences, regrettable deeds or ill luck. Asian Art Museum 200 Larkin St.

THU • DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

Wed Jan 5 | Noon | An alien lands and tells the people of Earth that they must live peacefully or be

destroyed as a danger to other planets. Main Library, Koret Audit., 100 Larkin St.

THU • AUTHOR JOHN BOILARD

Thu Jan 19 | 7 pm | Local author Jon Boilard will be discussing his story collection, *Settright Road*. He'll be joined in conversation by Ethel Rohan, author of the forthcoming novel *The Weight of Him*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W. Portal Ave.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Jan 23 | 7 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics on the 4th Mon each month. No meeting in December. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. [westoftwinpeaks.org](http://westoftwinpeaks.org)

WED • LEVI STRAUSS: BLUE JEANS

Wed Jan 25 | 6 pm | Lynn Downey's lecture illuminates his contributions to SF culture, and politics and how he and a Reno tailor invented blue jeans. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St.

WED • AUTHOR WILL SCHWALBE

Wed Jan 25 | 7 pm | Will Schwalbe will be discussing his book, *Books for Living*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

THU • INVASION: BODY SNATCHERS

Thu Jan 26 | Noon | A small-town doctor learns that the population of his community is being replaced by emotionless alien duplicates (1956). Koret Audit., Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Jan 26 | 1-3 pm | OMI-NIA General Meeting, the last Thurs of the month. Temple UMC, 65 Beverly .

MON • GOLDEN AGES OF SICILY

Mon Jan 30 | 7 pm | In two golden periods a millennium and a half apart, Sicily led western civilization into the future. Douglas Kenning's richly illustrated talk captures the beauty and significance of a brilliant, important place. 1736 9th Avenue. Meets last Monday of the month

TUE • RIGHT OUT OF CALIFORNIA

Tue Jan 31 | 6 pm | Right Out of California: The 1930s and the Big Business Roots of Modern Conservatism. Historian Kathryn S. Olmsted reexamines the explosive labor disputes in the agricultural fields of Depression-era California that inspired a generation of artists and writers and triggered the intervention of FDR. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St.

Local event? [editor@westsideobserver.com](mailto:editor@westsideobserver.com)  
Priority: Westside Events



H.M.S. Pinafore

Ross Valley Players presents the comic musical H.M.S. Pinafore as the second selection in its 2016-17 Season. Written by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, H.M.S. Pinafore tells the story of a ship captain's daughter in love with an ordinary sailor while her father has a more sophisticated suitor in mind.

When we enter the theatre, we are aboard the H.M.S. Pinafore, a wonderfully designed and constructed ship-set by Ron Krempetz and Eugene DeChristopher, with Scenic Artist Dhyanis, and lighting by Designer Frank Sarubbi.

The play opens with the crew of the H.M.S. Pinafore polishing the ship's brass work as Buttercup (Heather Werkheiser) arrives with a basket of wares, singing "Poor Little Buttercup." With a patch over his eye, Dick Deadeye (Jim Fye) appears, easily as unpopular as he claims. Able Seaman Ralph Rackstraw (Cordell Wesselink) enters singing "A Maiden Fair to See." He is in love with a girl far above his social station, Josephine, the Captain's beautiful daughter (Sibel Demirmen).

Enter Captain Corcoran (Bobby Singer), reveals that his daughter Josephine is being sought by Sir Joseph Porter KCB (the well-known actor Norman A. Hall, who steals the show as the First Lord of the Admiralty). However, Josephine enters carrying a small basket of flowers and sadly tells her father that her heart is given to a humble sailor on her father's ship. Sir Joseph sings, "I Am the Ruler of the Queen's Navy," disclosing that he has no naval experience.

Josephine laments Sir Joseph's advances and spurns Sir Joseph's advances, calling his attention to the difference in their social stations. When Ralph decides to shoot himself, Josephine sings, "Stay Your Hands, I Love You."

Act II finds the Captain singing, "Fair Moon to Thee I Sing," as Buttercup gazes

longingly at him. He would love her, he declares, but for the difference in their social stations.

Sir Joseph comes in to tell the Captain that Josephine, his daughter, just "won't do" as his wife. Josephine then laments the quandary in which she finds herself – whom shall she choose? – Sir Joseph with his wealth and social status, or Ralph, the one she dearly loves? Dick Deadeye then arrives and reveals that Ralph and Josephine are planning to elope. The Captain, Sir Joseph, and Deadeye intercept them, vowing to put Ralph "to the lash." The crew sings, "He is an Englishman." Sir Joseph defends Ralph as "anyone's equal," when Josephine appears and rushes to Ralph's arms – whereupon he demands that Ralph be taken to the ship's dungeon!

Buttercup divulges her long-kept secret: long ago, she had two infants, one of lowly birth, the other a Patrician. She mixed up the two, switching one for the other! The Captain was the common-born child and Ralph the child of privilege. Ralph then, can marry Josephine. The Captain has no social standing over Buttercup and can marry her.

Sir Joseph then decides that Hebe (Dana Cherry), his cousin, would be his wife! Three weddings will take place.

Jef Labes, Musical Director, was the Accompanist vocals were masterfully directed by Gloria Wood. High praise goes to Michael A. Berg for the costumes; to Sandra Tanner for the choreography and, of course, to James Dunn for his brilliant direction of this talented cast.

H.M.S. PINAFORE runs Nov 17 - Dec 18. For tickets/schedules, go to [www.rossvalleyplayers.com](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com) or 800/838-9555 All performances take place at The Barn, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross.

And coming up next, Emilie, written by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Patricia Miller Jan 13 - February 5.

Flora Lynn Isaacson



HANDEL'S MESSIAH • GRACE CATHEDRAL • DECEMBER 14, 15 & 16

Since 1998, ABS has presented Messiah in San Francisco's historic Grace Cathedral to more than 38,000 attendees. This holiday tradition has become an essential part of the musical year for many music lovers and was voted "Best of the Bay" by the readers of SF Classical Voice in 2015. 1100 California Street Tix: \$35-118.

Sanctuary City (Cont. from p. 10)

question or provisions for enforcement.

If local or state laws forbid compliance because of Sanctuary City policies, how are agencies supposed to coordinate a custody transfer?

One solution is for Congress to revamp our federal immigration system to insure fairness to those law-abiding aliens who seek citizenship, and at the same time spell out in federal law that local law enforcement agencies must cooperate with ICE detainers regarding serious criminal offenders or face sanctions from certain kinds of federal funding.

Our local leaders owe it to the people of San Francisco to take an honest look at our Sanctuary policies, and do what is best to protect the safety and welfare of all San Franciscans, not just the segment of society that they choose to politically exploit. They owe it to the residents of our City to look closely at the programs that will be cut or severely impacted if federal funds are withheld before they so cavalierly express themselves in avoiding change at all costs. I respect their desire to publicly state their compassion for illegal aliens, but concerns for compassion should first be focused on the safety and plight of

American citizens, lawful immigrants, and then law-abiding illegals as opposed to those aliens who repeatedly violate our criminal laws. A good portion of federal funding actually goes toward helping those law-abiding illegal immigrants. Lets not throw the baby out with the wash just to show the world how "compassionate" and "politically correct" we are!

Instead of creating laws that obstruct, wouldn't it be unique if our leaders actually expended effort in trying to work with the Feds and Congress to fix or repair our broken immigration system. By working with them to resolve our immigration problem, those who deserve to stay here will have a chance, as opposed to those who have demonstrated that they should be deported because of their criminal activity.

Tony Hall served twice as Supervisor for District 7

1. [npr.org/2016/11/09/501451368/here-is-what-donald-trump-wants-to-do-in-his-first-100-days](http://npr.org/2016/11/09/501451368/here-is-what-donald-trump-wants-to-do-in-his-first-100-days)
2. [sfexaminer.com/mayor-lee-sf-will-remain-sanctuary-city-despite-trump-presidency/](http://sfexaminer.com/mayor-lee-sf-will-remain-sanctuary-city-despite-trump-presidency/)
3. [sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Newsom-pledges-to-make-SF-a-sanctuary-for-illegal-2600279.php](http://sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Newsom-pledges-to-make-SF-a-sanctuary-for-illegal-2600279.php)
4. 2. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin\\_Ramos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Ramos)

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# Getting Ready for Winter

By Anise J. Mattheson

The holiday season has arrived. On Thanksgiving Day, we reflected on our blessings and asked ourselves: What are you thankful for? As we prepare for Christmas, we [many Christians] will observe Advent—the solemn season of preparation—emphasizing repentance and hope.

**Part 2: Hypothermia** Senior Smart articles intended to provide solace for families coping with an anticipated loss or who have lost a family member this year: “Coping with the Holidays During Bereavement,” December 2014, pp. 15 & 18; “Learning from Grief,” February 2015, pp. 15, 18 & 19.

I am currently drafting the Session Plan for a Bereavement Roundtable as part of a Seniors Ministry. More details later.

At the end of this article is more information to assist you during the hectic days of preparing for the holidays.

**WINTER** Writing the December article, today’s November weather forecast: sunshine 60-63°, evening 30s to low 40s, rain over the weekend.

Winter has arrived! I encourage you to read and share the October article, “Getting Ready for Winter,” p. 23.

Winter is the coldest season of the year—December through early March. Winterlike weather sometimes occurs in November or even earlier, and as late as May. Winter storms produce large snowfalls in some areas. The most snow falls in the western mountains and in much of the northern region east of the Rocky Mountains. Many winter storms bring rain to warmer southern areas.[1]

Remember to keep in touch with your loved ones, or have someone check on them. In addition to hypothermia, dehydration can pose serious problems for seniors during the wintertime.

**Hypothermia.** Occurs when the body temperature drops below 95°F as a result of

exposure to cold weather, prolonged exposure to indoor temperatures or immersion in a cold body of water.

## BODY TEMPERATURE

**ETIOLOGY[2]** The heart rate and blood pressure decrease during mild to moderate hypothermia—95°F to 82°F. Breathing becomes slower and shallower. From 86°F to 82°F, the victim becomes

unconscious. During hypothermia—64°F to 59°F—the action of the heart and the flow of blood stops completely. The electrical activity of the brain also stops at this level.

**NB:** Left untreated, hypothermia can eventually lead to complete failure of the heart and respiratory system and death.[3] Seek immediate medical attention

**Accidental hypothermia.** Occurs, for example, among hunters, sailors, swimmers, climbers, the indigent, homeless persons in winter, and alcoholics due to exposure to wet and cold conditions.[4]

## RELATED FACTORS[5]

**Age:** Older adults are more vulnerable to hypothermia because of: 1) the body’s ability to regulate temperature and to sense cold may lessen; 2) a medical condition that affects temperature regulation;

3) inability to communicate when they are cold; 4) mobility issues inhibit seeking a warmer location. **Mental Status:** Dementia (wandering). **Medical Conditions:** Stroke, severe arthritis, Parkinson’s disease, hypothyroidism, diabetes, dehydration. **Medications:** Antidepressants, antipsychotics, narcotic pain medication and sedatives.

## SIGNS/SYMPTOMS[6a]

**Early Signs:** Cold feet and hands; puffy or swollen face; shivering (not all individuals shiver); pale skin; slurred or slower than normal speech; sleepiness; anger or confusion. **Late Signs:** Slow movements, difficulty walking, or clumsiness; jerky arm or leg movements, stiffness; slow heartbeat; slow shallow breathing; loss of consciousness.

## FIRST AID[6b]

**CAUTION:** Do not rub arms and legs. Do not apply heating pads or electric

blankets. Do not give the person a warm bath. Do not allow the person to consume alcohol.

**NB:** The condition can present itself differently in older adults. (For example, some seniors will shiver a lot, while others may not shiver or have obvious signs of dangerously low body levels.) Look for cold skin and hands, pale skin, bluish lips and fingernails, confusion, fatigue, weakness and slow breathing.[7]

**PROTECTING OLDER ADULTS** An elderly person’s home should be properly insulated and heated with living areas kept at a temperature of 70° F.[8] The thermostat should never be set below 65° F for a person who is 75 or older.[9]

Drink liquids consistently to prevent dehydration. Postpone outdoor activities

when it is very cold outside.

Warm clothing and bedding are essential.[10] (Dress warmly indoors and outdoors—indoors: dress in layers, wear hat or cap; outdoors: wear a hat, a scarf, gloves or mittens, and warm clothing.) Use blankets or throws on your legs and shoulders, especially if you are sitting or lying down for prolonged periods of time.[11] Warm the bed and bedding before going to sleep.[12]

**Heaters:** *Gas-powered:* You should have a carbon monoxide detector. *Electric:* Make sure the cords are not damaged or frayed. **NB:** 1) Keep all heaters away from flammable materials—at least

2 feet—(e.g., cloth and paper). 2) Make sure the smoke detector is working properly[13]—functioning batteries. (As of July 1, 2015, California has ban the sale of smoke detectors with replaceable batteries. [abc7news.com – July 29, 2015])

**Fireplace:** Have the chimney and flues inspected. Clean yearly.[14]

**RISKS** of carbon monoxide poisoning: fireplace, gas heater, lanterns. **NB:** Never heat your home with a gas stove.[15]

**Detectors\*:** Many local fire departments offer periodic free giveaways that include carbon monoxide detectors and/or smoke detectors. Contact the fire department to find information on their free carbon monoxide detector and similar programs. (www.ehow.com/facts\_8054315\_can-carbon-monoxide-detectors.html)

The American Red Cross has distributed and installed free smoke alarms in some counties (e.g., Solano County). [Posted: Sep 30, 2015. www.redcross.org/news/press-release...] \*NOTE: Due to submission deadline, this information has not been researched for updates.

Seniors who live alone should have someone they can ask to check on them—during very cold winter weather—at least once a day (e.g., a friend, a neighbor).[16]

Cont. p. 17



Mild Hypothermia 93.2°F - 96.8°F



Moderate Hypothermia 86°F - 93°F



Severe Hypothermia Less than 86°F

# THINK DYNAMIC & TENACIOUS

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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

## Whom Do You Trust?

When I was going to school on the west side of Manhattan in the mid-1950s, I used to get free tickets to see a new quiz show broadcast just down the block. The name of the show was “Who Do You Trust?” and was hosted by a young man from the Midwest named Johnny Carson. He later replaced a future Westchester village neighbor of mine named Jack Paar on another show called “The Tonight Show.”

I don’t remember what the quiz show was like anymore, but do remember the incorrect grammar of it, “Who” instead of “Whom.”

But now the question arises in my mind on a more frequent basis. Whom or who do we trust? Whom should we trust?

We always trusted our priests. Now we know that there have been many abuses of young parishioners by Catholic priests and realize, though the mass media has never mentioned it, this practice has probably been going on for centuries. And what made matters worse was that those on top of the church hierarchy covered up the crimes, making more people subject to abuse. Our evangelical leaders fared no better, not able to resist the sexual relations they preached against. And let us not forget the mullahs who preach hatred and

while having his hands up. A grand jury and then the U.S. Justice Department found that he was attacking a police officer and his hands were not up. There was the case of the young drug dealer reacting to his 20th arrest of the year while riding around in a police van. He accidentally hit his head and died a few days later. The media blamed the six assigned officers. These misperceptions caused by biased, superficial and sensationalized reporting led to riots which destroyed property and threatened lives. The riots in Baltimore based on misinformation resulted in 56 homicides in six weeks - a record even for Baltimore, once the murder capital of America. What the media did not report was that 55 of the victims were black, as were their assailants.

But the media has outdone itself during this election cycle. The mainstream

“..... We have 535 people in Congress representing our best interests. Or are they? Currently only nine percent of our people trust the Congress. You can only wonder who these nine percent are.”

violence to foster their campaign of the subjugation of women, their apparent raison d’être, and remain silent while their dictators slaughter their own people and their extremists torture the innocent. Should or can we trust our religious leaders?

What about our bankers and financiers? Can we trust them? If you had money in Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo or Barclay’s, you have probably realized that you cannot trust them to put your welfare above or on a par with their own interests. They actually admitted it to a congressional committee trying to find out what caused the financial crash of ’08. Companies like Goldman Sachs knowingly bundled bad loans and sold them to their own clients while actually betting against them at the same time. Why would anyone continue to do business with such companies, companies they can no longer trust?

But surely we can trust our doctors. Now we learn that there are at least 100,000 deaths a year due to hospital error. Every night on the national news we learn that the doctors were wrong about something else and that we should stop doing what they told us to do. The drugs they offered women to prevent problems with their bones only work for five years, after which they actually cause bones to break. Aspirin was recommended for everyone to avoid stroke, heart attacks and even cancer, now it has been found to present too many other health risks and should be used only by people with known heart problems. Then there are mammograms, MRIs, x-rays, all thought mainly beneficial, now found to cause to potentially life-threatening problems if overdone. We spend more on medicine than any other developed country and yet have some of the worst results. Can we trust our physicians?

But what about our free press, blessed by our very first amendment to the Constitution, surely we can trust the media to give the information we need, or can we? Not only has our mass media been characterized as sensationalist and shallow or just inaccurate, it can also be biased. We have seen them show their bias in cases involving racial violence, seeming to want to fan the flames of violence and destruction in their superficial and sensational reporting. There was the alleged “stand your ground” murder of an unarmed high school football player that turned out to be a clear case of self-defense. There was the case of the unarmed former high school football player who allegedly was shot in the back

media has not tried to conceal its choice for our next president and has done whatever it could to make their hope a reality. If it weren’t so serious, it would be funny. We talk about the billionaires stealing this election, when it is the media which has left its fingerprints all over the crime scene. Talk about being superficial, sensational and subjective. It should be their slogan. The *Times* should change theirs to be “All the news that we see fit to print.” The result of this terrible reporting is mobs expressing fear and hatred while protesting against them. Tolerant people feeling they have license to be intolerant of those labeled intolerant, and to hate those labeled as bigoted. They don’t see the irony in, and hypocrisy of, their misguided position.

But at least we have our elected officials. At the core of our great nation’s democracy is representative government through free and open elections. American citizens can vote for and elect the person whom they feel best represents their interests. We have 535 people in Congress representing our best interests. Or are they? Currently only nine percent of our people trust the Congress. You can only wonder who these nine percent are.

It has come to light that many of these legislators were on the take. Some bought or sold stocks based on inside legislative information. Others accepted favors from corporations, like free golf trips to Scotland on private corporate jets in exchange for favorable legislation. Still others allowed lobbyists to actually write legislation favorable to their efforts. The only word that comes to mind to describe such people is a five letter unmentionable name which begins with the letter “W” and is usually attributed to pliers of the second oldest profession. Using this term for legislators is an insult to their namesakes. Not even congress people trust congress people and they should know.

So who or whom does that leave? We can hopefully trust our family and friends, much of the time, except when too much money is at stake. We can trust our instincts if they are in conjunction with clear thinking and honest observation.

There are some wonderful spiritual leaders in every religion with great faith and wisdom. There are even some honest bankers and financiers who put their clients first, give generously to charity, and want to make this a better country. Banks are at the heart of our economy, enabling families to borrow and save money to buy

## 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.





# WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 11/1/16

FACT: INVENTORY HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER WHEN COMPARED TO BUYER DEMAND

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
776 Victoria St	Ingleside Terrace	2	1.5	1	1285000	1350000	105.06
155 San Aleso Ave	Balboa Terrace	3	3	2	1499000	1565000	104.4
23 Lansdale Ave	Sherwood Forest	4	3.5	2	1595000	1700000	106.58
2 Allston Way	West Portal	3	2.5	1	1625000	1830000	112.62
76 San Rafael Way	St. Francis Wood	3	1.25	3	1750000	2300000	131.43
754 Ulloa St	West Portal	4	3.5	2	2598000	2600000	100.08
129 Terrace Dr	St. Francis Wood	4	3.5	2	3,300,000	3,300,000	100

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Theater(Cont. from p. 16)

Fox theater on Market Street advertising a sale before being demolished in 1963. The Fox Theatre was the largest movie palace in San Francisco from its opening in 1929 until its demolition in 1963. On the 50th anniversary of this sad event, some extremely rare footage was unearthed in the Oddball archive of the interior of the theater as well as the Fox's closing night party featuring Hedda Hopper. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjFSKtVGBHE) Photo published by permission of the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

## Police Report (Cont. from p. 9)

### Burglary - False Imprisonment

4:57 pm | 00 Fuente Ave  
The victim said he was home alone when he answered a knock on the door and three suspects, wearing black and ski masks, entered the house with a handgun that pointed at him. They threatened to kill him if he didn't reveal valuable items. They transported them out in a black duffle bag. They fled and are at large.

### Friday - November 11

#### Battery

10:33 am | 00 Westgate Dr  
When the victim told the suspect that she was going to feed his dog, he became angry and punched the victim in the face. She went into the victim's room and threw his clothing out into the hallway. She did not touch the victim but wanted him out of the house. Officers advised her that she can not legally touch the victim's property without permission.

#### Graffiti - Traffic Violation

3:09 am | Randolph St & Orizaba Ave  
Officers observed the suspect riding a bicycle without lights or reflective equipment. When detained, he quickly stuck his hands into his pockets, accompanied

by the rattling sounds of a spray can. Further observation revealed that the suspect's hands and clothes showed remnants of fresh paint and located the evidence nearby, he was cited.

#### Battery - Warrant Arrest

3:30 pm | 19th Ave & Holloway Ave  
A witness reported that they observed the victim and suspect in a loud argument at a bus stop and saw the suspect pick up something and hit the victim before pushing him. He said nothing happened while she said she grabbed on to him. Research showed a warrant for his arrest. Both parties were arrested.

#### Burglary - Arrested

1:15 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
Officers responded to a report of a shoplifter. Responding officers spoke to the witness, who reported that the suspect was observed placing multiple items of merchandise, worth over \$1000.00, into a Macy's bag and walk out of the store without paying. The witness detained the suspect without incident. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

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

## BRAIN FÜD

### The Cannonball

A person in a boat drops a cannonball overboard; does the water level change?

The cannonball in the boat displaces an amount of water equal to the MASS of the cannonball. The cannonball in the water displaces an amount of water equal to the VOLUME of the cannonball. Water is unable to support the level of salinity it would take to make it as dense as a cannonball, so the first amount is definitely more than the second amount, and the water level drops.

Answer

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

## 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.

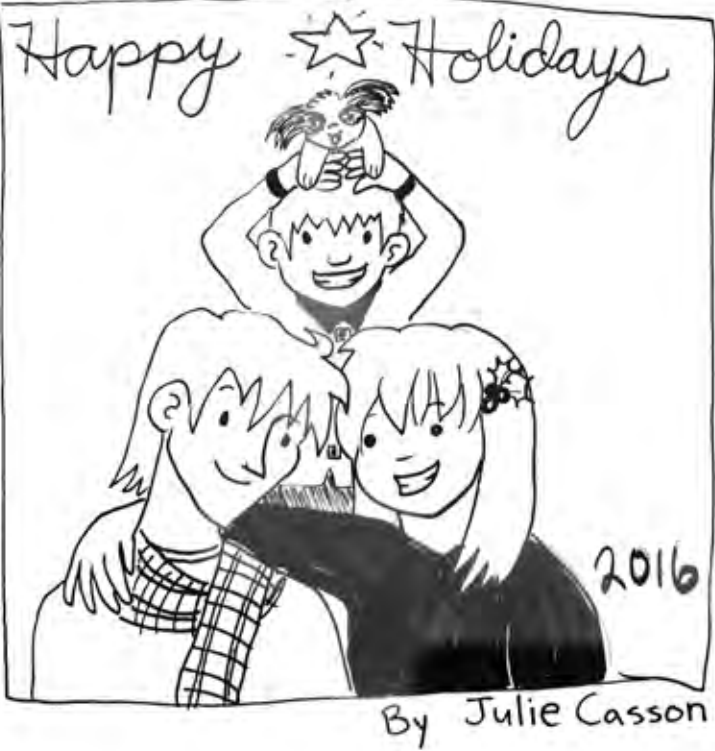
### The Object:

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.

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

## OPEN LATE





Senior Smart (Cont. from p. 14)

**Fire Extinguisher.** A fire extinguisher is a metal container filled with water or chemicals used to put out fires. The kind used depends on the type of fire involved. [13] The extinguisher tells you for what class of fire it can be used. There are four types of fire extinguishers: dry, chemical, water, carbon dioxide and halon. [See: "Weather Forecast Preparedness: Rain, Lightning and Thunderstorm," WSO - June 2016, pp. 17 & 18.]

Readers were asked to contact me if you would be interested in my offering a seminar on how to use a fire extinguisher.

**Warming Center.** Short-term emergency shelter that operates when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind and temperature become dangerous. Their purpose is the prevention of death and injury from exposure to the elements. This may include acute trauma from falling objects such as trees, or injury to extremities due to frostbite. A more prevalent emergency which warming centers seek to prevent is *hypothermia*, the risk for which is aggravated by factors such as age, alcohol consumption, and homelessness.[20]

**DEHYDRATION IS A CONCERN** According to Amedisys Home Health Care [literature from Boomer/Senior Expo several years ago], dehydration is one of the top 10 causes of hospital stays among people 65 years and over.

**ETIOLOGY:** Seniors are especially prone to becoming dehydrated because they eat and drink less than younger people. People also feel less thirsty during the winter and so are more prone to not drinking enough as they should.[17] AT-RISK are older adults who do not drink enough water.

**SYMPTOMS:** The person may appear flushed and have dry skin and mucous membranes, cracked lips, loss of skin turgor, and oliguria. Mental confusion and hypotension indicate a very serious

dehydration.[18] Weakness or lightheadedness (particularly while standing), dark urine.[19]

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Results in fatal shock, acidosis, uremia, cellular disruption, renal failure, or death.

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

Faith Community Nursing, also known as Parish Nursing, Parrish Nursing, Congregational Nursing or Church Nursing is a movement of over 15,000 registered nurses. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki\_Faith\_community\_nursing)

Faith Roberts, RN, BSN (carle.com) defines a parish nurse as a registered nurse who acts as a vital link between the faith and medical communities. [See: "Defining the Parish Nurse," WSO - April 2014, pp. 3 & 14.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Medicare:** Open enrollment ends **December 7, 2016.**

**Covered California:** Apply by **December 15, 2016** to make sure your coverage begins on **January 1, 2017.** Open enrollment for private health coverage through Covered California begins **Nov. 1, 2016** and ends on **Jan. 31, 2017.** (Tax penalty for not being covered: \$695 or 2.5 percent of your income, minus federal tax filing threshold whichever is greater.)[www.coveredca.com]

**Editor's Note:** Due to space considerations, this is a shortened version, for the complete article go to westsideobserver.com/health

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND LIFE'S BEST IN 2017!

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors. Seminars by announcement. Information is educational. For specific questions and medical care, contact your

Education



Trump That...

By Carol Kocivar © 2016

I just spent the last couple of weeks trying to decide on just the right presents for the grandkids, ages 2 and 6.

We are flying to visit them on the east coast and I am a true believer in carry-on luggage. That includes the presents. I would rather deliver them personally than have the nice folks from Fed EX drop them off.

How did we shop? The old fashioned way. We took out the Wish Book, the Montgomery Ward catalogue, and flipped through pages of flannel shirts, wool socks, musical instruments and holiday toys."

Nothing big. Nothing fragile. Nothing heavy. Nothing with a million parts that requires you to Google "How do you put this together?"

Nothing that requires batteries or screw drivers or has little bits that get lost like the second sock in the dryer. And sorry Apple and Android and Facebook and Instagram, nothing with a screen of any kind.

So what am I looking for? I guess I want to help capture the spirit of the holidays.

When I was a little girl we lived in the country. We did not have Malls or Shopping Centers. The closest store was miles away and its staples were bread and milk. How did we shop? The old fashioned way. We took out the Wish Book, the Montgomery Ward catalogue, and flipped through pages of flannel shirts, wool socks, musical instruments and holiday toys.

I don't remember what we bought. It really does not matter.

What I remember is the time we all sat together in the kitchen—dreaming. I remember licking the side of the bowls from the cakes and cookies we made only a few times of the year. I remember the warmth of the room.

BINGO!

My gifts are small this year.

Cookie cutters in the shapes of stars and snowflakes. Measuring spoons and cups in holiday colors. Big and small spatulas—just the right size for a six year old and a two year old. A gingerbread cookie mix. And yes, a gingerbread house and train set.

Gifts of time and imagination and warmth—something we all need a little bit more of this year.

Wishing you and yours good health and good heart throughout the year.

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

The Riptide's 12th Toy SFFD Drive & Concert

December 18 | Sunday | 9:00pm • The Riptide | 3639 Taraval Street

The Riptide is now open for business! Grab a cup of cheer by the fireside and bring a wrapped toy for the annual toy drive hosted by the Riptide and the San Francisco Fire Department. Music starts between 9:00pm and 9:30pm. For more information, call (415) 681-8433.



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**Conflicts of Interest?** (Cont. from p. 10)  
Contracts managers because “there has to be sufficient funding and a decision by management to use the funds for this”, and it “must be vetted by upper management.” Still, Lugo’s key position and his apparent ties to Ahumada have kept staffers buzzing. It’s not the first time. Between 2007 and March 2016, Lugo co-owned an Ocean View house with Terri Austin. Austin rose to Principal Administrative Analyst in Lugo’s Workforce Development Program until 2012 when she became HSA’s Integration Coordinator.

Potential conflicts of interest can be averted by segregating the involved individuals from relevant decision-making, disposing of assets that create the conflict, or obtaining an Advance Written

Determination from the CEO stating that no conflict exists. We asked HSA, CEO Trent Rhorer and Tony Lugo if such steps were taken regarding Lugo’s apparent real estate holdings with a former subordinate (Austin) and a vendor (Ahumada). HSA found “...no existing documents (or) explanatory statements of administrative action surrounding potential conflicts of interest”. Nonetheless, appearances matter. Perceived high-profile entanglements fuel claims of “favoritism” and erode the sense of organizational integrity that keeps employees loyal and motivated.

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

**Kaye** (Cont. from p. 15)  
homes and pay for college tuition, and helping businesses to develop and grow.

Our doctors have saved countless lives with skilled and innovative surgery and/or the prescription of appropriate medication. They are on the front lines fighting cancer, heart disease and the other medical causes of our suffering. This very column would not exist if not for excellent surgeons who have performed numerous life-saving operations on behalf of its author.

There have also been courageous reporters like Morrow and Wallace, but also Russert, Cronkite, Brinkley, Lehr, McNeil, and even Anderson Cooper on a good day. There were the great humorous news sources like Jon Stewart of the Daily Show, Stephen Colbert, and we still have Bill Maher of Real Time. I find that PBS


can usually be relied upon for accurate and in-depth reporting.

When it comes to our Congress, it seems hard to trust those on the right who seem to be clearly in the wrong on several social and fiscal issues, and those on the left who are moving us too far off center, creating a culture of ubiquitous victimhood to expand their underdog base. Surely, there are senators and representatives who truly love their country and try to work cooperatively to improve the lives of our people. However, no name comes to mind.

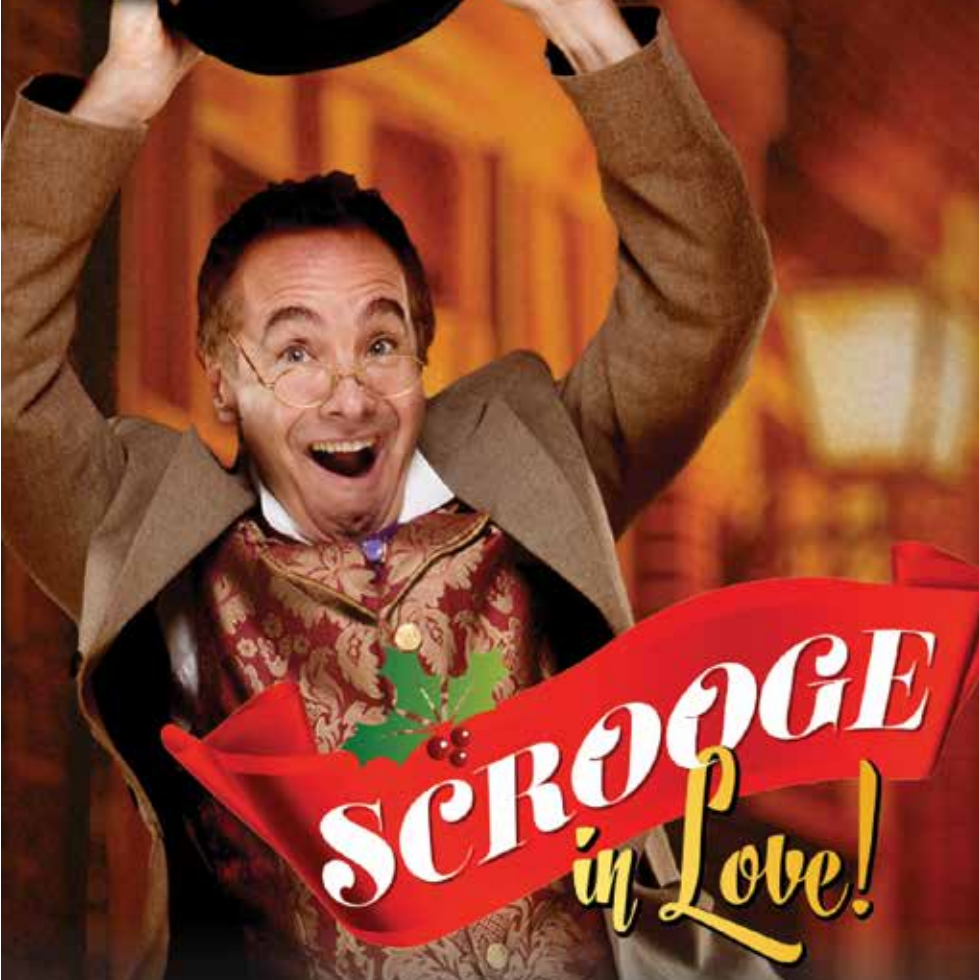
And when all else fails, you can trust this column to bring you ideas whose author truly believes will be of benefit to you. Trust me that I am someone whom you can trust.

*Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com*

**ADA Lawsuit Letters Targeting Small Businesses**  
**Small Business beware!** Several merchants recently received letters from attorneys and an individual in a wheelchair, demanding monetary compensation for ADA violations. If you receive a verbal or written complaint, you should follow up immediately. Prior to responding, be sure to contact the Office of Small Business or Lily Lo of Northeast Community Federal Credit Union at 415-434-0738 for various resources.



# The perfect holiday family musical!



## SCROOGE in Love!

### DECEMBER 7-24

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# MUNI PRICE CHANGES JAN. 1, 2017

<b>ADULT "A" MONTHLY PASS</b> INCLUDES BART WITHIN SF	<b>\$91.00</b>	<b>DISCOUNT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (CASH AND LIMITED USE CARD)	<b>\$1.25</b>
<b>ADULT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> (CASH AND LIMITED USE CARD)	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>DISCOUNT MONTHLY PASS</b> YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (MUNI ONLY)	<b>\$36.00</b>



Clipper/MuniMobile Adult Single Ride Fare stays at \$2.25. Clipper/MuniMobile Discount Single Ride Fare stays at \$1.00.

[sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes](http://sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes)

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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



## A Scary Santa

**I**t was December 1980, and our oldest son Bob was midway through his six-month stay in Florence as part of Stanford's "Overseas Study Program." It was also a perfect opportunity for a Christmas celebration in Tuscany.

Our adventure started in San Francisco and brought us to Milan by way of London. We met Bob in Milan, and after the usual greetings it was off to bed to burn off our jet lag. Having been to Milan before, we knew that one of our first stops was at the Duomo, Milan's spectacular Gothic cathedral which took over 600 years to build, and is the largest church in Italy other than St. Peter's Basilica, which is part of the Vatican State. Fortunately, there is an elevator that took us to the roof, bypassing hundreds of steps, and from there we could see the intricate details of the statues, towers, spiky spires and gargoyles. The weather happened to be clear enough so we could see not only the entire city, but the surrounding snow-covered mountains as well.

Our next stop was to admire Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper", painted on the wall of the refectory next to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, but not before stopping by Bob's recent find of a small deli known throughout the city for its amazing Panzerotti. Imagine a small pizza, folded in half, deep fried and served piping hot. With a bottle of Pellegrino water in one

hand and the Panzerotti wrapped in foil in the other, we sat on the street curb, looking all the part of a real tourist.

La Scala, the famous theater, was also on our list, but having seen it before we settled for some of the more mundane sites and chores. Sadly, packing for our next stop, Florence, was one of them. Not being as familiar with the trains in Italy as we are now, we chose to drive, arriving in Florence in late afternoon. Arriving at the Augustus Hotel was like reuniting with old friends. We didn't need any recommendations for restaurants



since Bob had been there for three months. After the first few choices I pleaded, "no more pizza restaurants, I want some real food." I got my wish and we finally returned to some of our old haunts and the food was delicious.

On Christmas eve we all attended mass at Santa Maria dei Fiore, Florence's main church, which is also known as the Duomo and surrounded by the Baptistery and Giotto's Campanile. With so much beauty and reverence one would think that the people would attend the service with respect and dignity rather than walk around, look around, and pay no attention to the priest preaching fire and brimstone.

Once back at our hotel we exchanged our modest Christmas gifts and said a silent prayer that our traditional Santa was a little more generous than the "Befana", the legendary Italian legend of a little old witch who



Cathedral in Milan (Duomo)

delivers presents on the feast of the Epiphany which occurs on January 5<sup>th</sup>. She is reputed to look like an unkempt old lady, with straggly hair, patched-up skirt, raggedy shawl and a broom. If you've been good she leaves candy, fruit, nuts and small gifts, but if you've been bad it's a lump of coal in your stocking.

We obviously made the cut and got to celebrate with some nice sweaters, Fila sportswear and some delicious Florentine candy, Torrone and Panforte being our favorites. The following morning, we headed to Lucca where we celebrated Christmas day with a few of our remaining relatives, and then it was time to head

back to Milan, celebrate the new year, and head for home the following day.

Bob continued his studies for the remaining three months in Florence. We returned to San Francisco eternally grateful for our two-week stay in Italy while enjoying the sites and holiday sounds of such a beautiful region, and especially thankful that we were spared

the embarrassment of having to explain to the Customs officials why our suitcases were laden with chunks of coal.

In retrospect, after going through the last few weeks of election madness, we now have our choice of what to expect in our Christmas stockings. Is Santa going to leave us with a basket full of sweet candies or merely a box full of dusty coal? As the eternal optimist I hope it's going to be a nice box of See's candies. Merry Christmas and Happy Trump year to all. Here's to a happy and healthy 2017.

Sergio gets around—the world. Feedback: [sergio@westsideobserver.com](mailto:sergio@westsideobserver.com)



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## MUNI FORWARD

# WHAT'S COMING TO TARAVAL STREET

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Starting in January 2017, you'll see a variety of changes on the corridor – from new paint on the street to enhanced signage reminding drivers to stop for loading Muni passengers.

This is the first phase of a multi-year project to upgrade Taraval Street. Learn more at [muniforward.com/L](http://muniforward.com/L)!



# Helping you be prepared

“As a meteorologist, I work to make sure PG&E crews are **ready for any weather**. We want our customers to be prepared too.”

**SCOTT STRENFEL**  
Meteorologist

**Whether we’re in a historic drought or facing severe storms in an El Niño year,** the weather can have a serious impact on our electric system. That’s why PG&E and its team of meteorologists monitor the weather 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We send crews out ahead of storms and extreme weather to minimize any outages.

We want our customers to be ready and stay safe. In the event of extreme weather, a natural disaster or an emergency, planning ahead is the key first step. Learn how you can be prepared at [pge.com/beprepared](http://pge.com/beprepared).



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