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**Quentin Will be back in September**

**This is the July/August Edition of the Westside Observer—we'll be back with more local news in September!**

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**Parkmerced May Meet Its Match**  
**The Highly Acclaimed Thomas Church Design Falls Prey to Ongoing Development**

By Christine Madrid French and Brian R. Turner

Preservationists are a hardy bunch, used to unexpected developments in the course of their work, but rarely surprised by the constant parade of new plans for old buildings (or the building's site). But one project on the boards makes even the seasoned professionals gasp: a plan to remove 170 two-story houses and clear nearly 116 acres in San Francisco, including an extensive landscape plan created by Thomas Dolliver Church, the celebrated founder of modern residential landscape design in the United States.

Parkmerced was developed during World War II and the immediate postwar era as part of Met-Life's nationwide effort to provide for the housing needs. It is one of four such comprehensively planned residential communities

remaining in the country and is particularly unique in its integration of housing, circulation, and landscape design. Now, the whole is to be replaced with new buildings between one and fourteen-stories high, with an additional 310,000 gross square feet of commercial and retail services (about the same square footage as three Wal-Mart stores). The only original structures spared in this wholesale clearance are 11 thirteen-story towers.

Preservationists now find themselves in the position of defending a cultural landscape that is on the fringe of public understanding in terms of historic significance, and itself a project of huge proportions. The process of creating an

Cont. p. 4

**TELLIN' IT LIKE IT IS**

By: Former Supervisor Tony Hall

About two weeks after his re-election as Mayor, Gavin Newsom started ramping up his impressive PR machine and started blowing about the enormous deficit that is to impact our City budget. This was a very clever and necessary political move for him and granted, somewhat risky, because in reality his statements ran counter to the windfalls of the day that should have been giving our treasury a surplus.



Let me explain. During Newsom's first term, the Assessor's office was consistently being inundated with one real estate tax "raise," "gain" or "windfall," whatever you choose to call it, after another, as real estate prices soared and the resultant sales resulted in unprecedented revenue to the City. This massive change of increased property tax income amounted to at least a \$2 billion dollar increase to the City coffers. Now add this to the fact that Willie Brown left office providing annual budgetary surplus to the incoming regime in Rm. 200. That surplus was publicized to be near \$65 million. For all his faults, Willie made some deals that were beneficial to the City, as did many of the Mayors before him, and that is because they took their responsibilities to the public seriously.

Newsom, the political empire builder, with little expertise in genuine government administration, and absolutely no concern for the "common good," makes his move in order to prepare for the next higher office on his agenda. He hires hundreds of political assistants to fill newly invented administrative "middle management" positions, and thus installs his future "army of volunteers" when the run for governor comes around.

As a result, the annual City budget goes up from \$4 billion to \$6.6 billion as this gross overspending for personnel and, related benefits entwined with a multitude of bogus social programs, creates the small army that he needs to help in his governor's campaign. As a result, we now end up with a budgetary deficit that exceeds \$565 million dollars!

Never at a loss to exploit a current issue, concern or even people in his dedication to self promotion, (remember the homeless in care not cash, or the LGBT community in same sex marriage, etc etc. ad infinitum). He then inherits

Cont. p. 4

**Fresh & Fruity Farmers Market At Stonestown**

A beautiful sunny day came with the opening of the Farmers Market at Stonestown. There were concession stands with every variety of vegetable, fruit, berry, melon imaginable, as well as local home-baked goods, great hummus and ethnic foods, flowers, orchids, cheeses, eggs, honey, home-made ravioli along with enough samples to make a meal. For the Kids there were bouncy rooms and pony rides. This will happen every week, according to organizers.

Cont. p. 16







Station 20 285 Olympia Way at Clarendon Avenue may be on the chopping block

## Save San Francisco's Fire Stations

by George Wooding

**T**he Board of Supervisors has proposed budget reductions that would force the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) to close up 12 of its 42 fire stations. After intense negotiations, the SFFD will probably be closing at least three fire stations.

On June 1, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors received Mayor Newsom's balanced budget proposal for Fiscal Year '09-'10. The Board was "angered" Newsom proposed slashing support for the City's Recreation and Park Department, and the Department of Public Health, by 12%-20%, in order to propose 3%-6% increases to public safety agencies such as the Fire, Police and Sheriff's Departments.

The Mayor is trying to balance San Francisco's \$438.1 million budget deficit. His proposed budget tries to protect core City services and his proposals were not unexpected. Progressive members of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee have had six months to understand these anticipated cuts, but the Board let both their emotions, and special interest public health groups that have contributed heavily to their election campaigns, convince them to transfer \$82.9 million from the Fire, Sheriff's, and Police Departments budgets into the Health, Recreation and Parks, and Human Services Agency Departments in the Board's alternative interim budget proposal. This \$82.9 million budget shift is an unexpected slap-in-the-face to the City's public safety agencies.

Making cuts to the SFFD budget is equivalent to making major cuts to public health. The SFFD is the first responder to almost all of San Francisco's medical emergencies. 70 to 80 percent of the SFFD's calls are medically related.

The Board's Budget and Finance Committee originally proposed cutting \$42 million to the Police Department, \$23.7 million to the Fire Department, and \$17.2 million to the Sheriff's Department. Police Chief Heather Fong stated that these budget cuts might cause as many as 325 of the department's 1,950 officers to lose their jobs. Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said that the cuts could result in the loss of 173 firefighters, and the closure of 12 of 42 fire stations. Hayes-White also warned of the possible reductions in response times to fires and medical emergencies.

On June 25, the Board's Budget and Finance Committee relented and proposed a budget cut of (only?) \$6 million to the SFFD. Hayes-White was quoted in the Chronicle as saying that budget cuts "will mean we will most definitely have to reduce or deactivate engine companies in addition to Station 35... It will be a challenge to meet mandated response times."

The Budget and Finance Committee's rash actions have now created a financial tug-of-war between public health, and public safety, agencies. Speaking at a June 16 firefighter's rally, Newsom stated that the Budget and Finance Committee's actions were so unplanned that they "had not even consulted the Board of Supervisors Budget Analyst before shifting funds."

**Brownouts:** The Fire Department's \$285.6 million budget has been a tempting target for Supervisors Chris Daly, Eric Mar, Ross Mirkarimi, John Avalos, Sophie Maxwell, David Campos, and David Chiu. All seven of these Supervisors voted in favor of reviewing the closure, or limiting the use, of selected neighborhood fire stations. This reduction in fire protection is called a "brownout" and response times can be slower if a fire or injury occurs at the wrong place at the wrong time. These seven supervisors are playing "Russian roulette" with the public's health and safety.

The Board of Supervisors escalated their attack on the SFFD by releasing a survey that showed San Francisco firefighters work only 48.7 hours per week — the lowest among 14 other nearby fire departments — but earned the third highest annual salary, at \$98,670. Perhaps the Fire Department should conduct a survey examining why Los Angeles only needs five Supervisors to run L.A. (having a population of 9.8 million people as of July 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau), while San Francisco's dysfunctional Board needs eleven Supervisors (in our City of only 809 thousand people, according to the Census Bureau). The Fire Department may also discover San Francisco has 11 Supervisors for its 46.7 square miles, while L.A. only has 5 supervisors for its 498.3 square miles.

Reasonable people agree that funding public safety is much more of a priority than saving a couple of bucks. In 2004, San Francisco experimented with brownouts and was able to save \$6.6 million. After a decline in response times due to San Francisco's unique geography, architecture, and population density, 57% of San Francisco voters passed Proposition F in 2005. Prop. F requires San Francisco to stop using brownouts and keep all San Francisco fire stations open with adequate staff. The measure also preserved the Fire Department's core services of fire suppression, prevention, and life support. The Board of Supervisors' attempt to reintroduce the possibility of brownouts flies in the face of the will of voters, public safety principles, and the very letter and spirit of Proposition F.

The Police Officer's Association voluntarily made a wage concession with the City, handing back \$16.7 million in deferments and monetary benefits over the next two years. The Firefighter's Association, Local 798, is reportedly (as this is written at press time) voluntarily negotiating a similar wage concession/deferment package worth between \$9.5 and \$10.5 million in concessions to the City. Fire Chief Hayes-White and her Deputy Chiefs are giving back half of the 4% raise increases they were due to receive this year. Both the Police and Fire Departments were working under negotiated contracts, and weren't obligated to open their contracts and make any wage concessions. Their unions, and management, came back to the table to help San Francisco

(Cont. on p. 4)

### Precious Moments Dept.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Remember When? Not Quite...

My hard copy of the June 2009 issue arrived this morning. As always, I am deeply grateful for this publication, and have high respect and admiration for all of the contributors. This paper is the best source of SF news around.

I do have one correction for you this time. On page 15, the "Remember When?" feature has a photo of the Stonestown apartment construction in 1949. The caption states, that "the picture was taken from Vernon and Shields Streets, a hill just east of the project." That is incorrect.

The photo was taken from a vantage point West of the project—otherwise we would not see Mt. Davidson and 19th Ave (just in front of the site) in the photo. The Vernon & Shields street corner is southeast of the project and could not give such a view. (Unless there is a camera in existence that would produce such unique shots!)

It is quite possible that the photo was taken from one of the apartment buildings under construction, as they were the highest points in that part of the City. (I was born here in 1943 and never left for very long.)

Carole Issel, WSan Francisco

#### Response to Jed Lane's "Enough Already With The Looking Back"

I was quite amused by the response of Jed Lane to my "Parking Column" in the May issue. Typical of the holier-than-thou San Francisco liberal, his desire to tell everyone how to live their lives seems to outweigh the facts. First of all, I do not drive a Harley or an SUV, or even a fancy sports car, but I am flattered by Mr. Lane's obsession with my personal modes of transit. (Are you stalking me Jed?)

I just love how, when today's self-appointed whiz kids are confronted with the truth backed by history, they just cannot handle it, and go on the offensive. A few tips for Mr. Lane, we all love good public transportation, we all respect sound environmental policies — transit first policies were around many years before being legislated in the City Charter — and thank goodness, not all of the environmental guidelines coming out of Sacramento are in the form of "mandates" that people like Mr. Lane seem to love. With his statements like "the raising of fees for destination parking are efforts to reduce driving" (ignoring the revenue aspect of fees) and references to the loss of the horse in favor of the auto, and the loss of the hitching post in favor of pavement, I think I can safely say that Mr. Lane has his ideas about carbon emissions mixed up with what used to be discarded by the horse! Readers, for a good laugh check out the You Tube clip of Jim Carrey "Environmental Guy"

Tony Hall, West Portal

THE WESTSIDE  
OBSERVER

PO Box 27176, SF 94127

www.westsideobserver.com

415 517-6331

Publisher/Editor: Mitch Bull

mitch@westsideobserver.com

Associate Editor: Alice Bull

Managing Editor: Doug Comstock

editor@westsideobserver.com

Dir. Advertising Sales • Catha Hall

650-365-6565 cell: 415-990-9330

**Contributors:** Hank Basayne, Julie Behn, Tina Blue, Mitch Bull, Sharon Caren, Doug Comstock, Christine Madrid French, Hilary Gordon, Tony Hall, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Jack Kaye, Dr. Carol Kocivar, Dr. Annette Lust, Don Lee Miller, Sergio Nibbi, Blair Randall, Charles Pfister, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Phyllis Sherman, Brian R. Turner, George Wooding.

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West of Twin Peaks Central Council News & Views

By Mitch Bull

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC) unanimously elected new officers at their annual meeting on June 22nd. The council, which is made up of representatives from 17 local neighborhood councils and improvement associations as follows: **George Wooding**, President; **Dan Dutil**, Vice President, **Carolyn Squeri**, Treasurer, and **Rae Doyle**, Secretary. Squeri and Doyle were re-elected; having served the previous terms in their respective positions, while Wooding and Dutil effectively “traded” offices.

Council President Dutil opened the meeting at 7:40 PM in front of a large crowd of about 45 attendees, for the organizations’ annual meeting, and also their last one until September. Last months minutes were approved and Treasurer Squeri reported that dues had been received from virtually all of the associations and groups.

SFPD Sgt. **Judy Riggle** gave the Police Report and reported that a Ponzi-scheme type of financial fraud was being operated as an investment business from a storefront in the 1100 block of Irving Street. All matters pertaining to the fraud are now being handled by the F.B.I. If you have any information regarding this fraud, you can call the SFPD at the Taraval Station and they will refer you to the agent in charge at the FBI. Sgt. Riggle also informed the attendees that Capt. Chignall has been on vacation, prior to wrapping up her remarks with a call for questions, of which there were none.

In the “New Business” portion, **Paul Conroy**, head of the nominating committee, detailed the proposed officers for 2009-10, and thanked the other committee members, **Dave Bisho**, **Denise LaPointe** and **Matt Chamberlain** for their work in putting together the slate of officers. As no nominations from the floor were submitted, the proposed slate was formally approved in a unanimous manner by a voice vote of the delegates.

The nominating committee thanked the outgoing officers for their service over the past year and congratulated the new officers for their election.

Discussion was held on the resolution submitted several meetings ago by the Miraloma Park Improvement Association regarding the **transfer of Police Captain’s between districts** with no apparent reason. The resolution was not approved at the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods and it was re-read for the WOTPCC to consider.

Discussion was opened with comments by **LaPointe** regarding the time stated in the resolution (3 years), and asked who is to judge if 3 years, or 5 years or 3 months is adequate for a captain to become knowledgeable about and comfortable with working with the community at large. She also stated that the difficult position of Chief of Police requires the position to have the authority to make decisions such as transfers. These are not judgments that we can make as neighbors.

Other discussion focused on the “without cause” statement, and it was mentioned that these transfers, usually have cause by the PD, either to more seasoned applicants for promotion, or to ensure that “fiefdoms” are not created.

A resolution was drafted by the WOTPCC to send a letter to the new Chief Of Police, Mayor, Board Of Supervisors, and Police Commission urging them to reevaluate the practice of rotating captains without considering the impact that the continuity has on the community. The letter will also state that the community has the expectation of continued quality of service and performance. The motion was unanimously passed to draft and submit the letter.

**State Senator Leland Yee** was the first of two esteemed speakers for the evening. The Senator briefed the attendees on the budget debate in Sacramento centering on the \$24 billion shortfall that California is facing due to decreased revenues in corporate taxes, sales taxes and property taxes.

Yee outlined the fact that the economy is struggling throughout the world and this has a major impact on the State, as we are a large exporter of goods and services. He painted the picture as it has progressed over several years as sales of luxury goods have been dropping, which points to less disposable income, which translates to less sales tax and dollars generated for individual and business tax returns. For the first time, the State initiated mid-year budget cuts in 2008, cutting the budget by \$7 billion.

In January of 2009 another \$42 B was cut, but the economy still isn’t responding, so further cuts to the budget have to be weighed. To date, Yee said that the legislature has identified \$21B in cuts to close the shortfall to \$3B, and are looking at using a portion of the reserve fund to close the shortfall. The more conservative side of the legislature, and the governor is opposing this option. When asked what the reserve fund is for, the Senator stated that “it’s for use in very difficult times, and if these are not very difficult, I don’t know what is.”

As the Governor and the conservative elements have vowed to support “no new taxes” it is going to be difficult to make all of the cuts and/or generate revenue to close the shortfall. When asked about the stimulus package Yee explained that the stimulus package is a one-time thing that should not be relied on to be the “fix” to the issue of continued revenue shortfalls in the State. The budget has risen approximately 3% per year over the last 5 years, according to Yee. He closed the discussion by taking several questions from the audience.

The second speaker was the **Public Defender Jeff Adachi**, who gave an update of the state of his department, as well as a history of the office in San Francisco. We have one of the few elected public defenders in the country, as most are appointed positions.

A 4th generation Japanese-American, Adachi told the story of learning in school about the internment camps where American citizens of Japanese ancestry were relocated in World War II, and then asking his mother about it. He found out that his parents were in one of the camps for 4 years, along with over 110,000 other Japanese-Americans, with no opportunity for a trial, etc. This helped to spark his interest in the criminal justice system.

He then gave a short history of the Public Defender’s office in California, and San Francisco before explaining the present situation where he has trimmed his staff by 10, resulting in a \$3M savings, but is in a tug-of-war with Mayor Newsom over additional cuts that the Mayor is trying to impose, that Adachi is refusing to implement. The staff of 170 works on a staggering 28,000 cases per year. Of these 28,000 cases, 2200 are women, 1500 are children and over 23,000 are men. Cases involving citizens who are mentally ill account for approximately 4500, or almost 20% of the total.

Adachi feels that the department has become much more professional and effective under his tenure, as well as his predecessor, Jeff Brown. “Our job is to enforce the laws and uphold the Bill of Rights afforded to protect the right of the individual citizen who is accused of a crime,” said Adachi, who continued, “I believe in the jury system with citizens serving on the jury. I believe it is the best way to achieve a just and fair result.”

Following a short question and answer session he closed the talk by sharing his experience representing a case (he lost) that was recently overturned by the courts on appeal after 17 years, based on evidence that was withheld from the defense team.

President Dutil thanked the speakers, asked for a motion to adjourn, and once seconded, and voted on, closed his tenure as the meeting ended.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will occur on Monday, September 28th at the Forest Hills Community Club House at 7:30 PM.



Public Defender Jeff Adachi



State Senator Leland Yee



Rae Doyle, Dan Dutil, George Wooding

AROUND THE TOWN...

Comings and Goings...  
Do you know the way to San Jose... Or West Portal Avenue?

Apparently some people don’t. Ursula, owner of the **White Rose Boutique** on West Portal Ave. reports that several people have visited her store and asked her “How long have you been open?” and are amazed when she replies “Twenty Years.” She asks if they are in the neighborhood, and they acknowledge that they are.

West Portal Avenue is a great street, but can be hard to find for the “newbe,” or someone who hasn’t been there before. One end has the Muni tunnel, and the other an intersection that “may have been designed by Rube Goldberg” – who was famous for his convoluted mechanical solutions to simple problems.

Unfortunately, the avenue doesn’t get the “drive through” traffic that benefits the merchants. Once you find it, it’s a quaint street with great restaurants, interesting retailers, a few watering holes, and a lot of businesses with “spa” or “salon” in their name ...and challenging parking.

I write this with sadness that two merchants have announced closures: **Little Fish Boutique** and **Old Krakow Restaurant**. The high cost of rent, and the downturn in the economy just proved to be too much in their current locations. I wish them well, and hope to see them possibly resurface in the future as they were great establishments.

The future of the small retailer/merchant is in the balance, as even the big guy’s are suffering (Circuit City / Good Guy’s, Comp USA / Mervyns, etc.). When you are looking to go out to dinner, have a facial, buy a bottle (or glass) of wine, get eyeglasses, a new stereo or TV, make travel plans, or buy a new top or outfit check out the customer oriented shops on the Avenue. The owners are local, they know their merchandise, and give great advice and customer service.

I attended a seminar last month about the state of things in California, entitled, “The Golden State is Tarnished- What can we do about it?” It centered around a panel discussion with several speakers trying to make sense of the terrible fiscal condition that our state is in. Much of the blame can be put on the passage of Prop 13 all those years ago, where tax relief was achieved but the results were far reaching and some of the (unknown) ramifications have helped to put the state in the current situation.

Some ideas can be found at the website of the group “California Forward.” The more I read about the problems and see inaction in Sacramento, maybe it’s time for the voters to move towards a constitutional convention to make some meaningful changes, (like not having the budget held hostage by a handful on “no new taxes” radicals in the Central Valley and Southern California. We also cannot continue to pass well-intended propositions without figuring out where the money is coming from to pay for them. We can’t continue to crave parks, highways, social services, and other amenities without looking at the earmarked funds within the government, and the lack of revenue that California is bringing in.

It’s important to fix (or dismantle) Sacramento, as money and services should be focused on the local cities and towns where we have a better local feel for governance. As it is today, “ol’ Sacto” will be siphoning off more of the local taxes to fund their insatiable demand for larger government.

**Best Wishes...**  
A quick “Get Well Soon” to my niece, **Lindsay Bull**, who lives in Maryland. She is recovering from a tonsillectomy and we wish her a quick and speedy recovery. Use this column to hit your dad up for an ice cream to soothe that throat.

And a quick note of congratulations to **Supervisor Sean Elsbernd** and his wife on the birth of their first child. Best wishes to the family.

What about you? If you have an interesting snippet, or some other fact you’d like to get into the paper just drop it to us. You can reach me at: mitch@westsideobserver.com Be sure to check out the *Observer* online @ www.WestsideObserver.com.



Parkmerced (Cont. from p. 1)

argument that effectively conveys the importance of the site, and doing so quickly and efficiently, is one of the biggest hurdles facing the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, and the several citizens groups working to save Parkmerced.

Citizens, preservationists, and developers alike attended a recent scoping meeting, held at a local YMCA. Under the California Environmental Quality Act, the scoping period is intended to help the lead agency identify feasible alternatives to the proposed action to be explored in the environmental impact statement. Several displays were on hand for the project proponent's plan to re-design Parkmerced over the next three decades. Even on paper, the plan is oversized. From the Notice of Preparation: "The proposed Parkmerced Project is a long-term mixed-use development program to comprehensively re-plan and redesign the Parkmerced site, increase residential density, provide new commercial and retail services and transit facilities, and improve utilities within the development site. About 1,683 of the existing apartments located in 11 tower buildings would be maintained, and over a period of 30 years, the remaining 1,538 existing apartments would be demolished in phases and fully replaced, and an additional 5,679 net new units would be added to the Project Site." The landscape would be heavily graded so all rain water would filter into a pond at the current site of Juan Bautista circle, the streets redesigned, and underground parking constructed.

Noticeably absent from the displays on hand were existing conditions of the site and the recent

Noticeably absent from the displays on hand were existing conditions of the site and the recent determination, completed by the research and history firm Page & Turnbull, that the site was eligible for the National and California Registers as an historic district.

determination, completed by the research and history firm Page & Turnbull, that the site was eligible for the National and California Registers as an historic district.

The public meeting started with a brief presentation from the proponent showing the intent for Parkmerced and focusing on "sustainability" concepts. The representative then suggested that the townhomes were built as "temporary" structures, naturally nearing the end of their productive lives with no mention of the historic importance of the landscape.

All but a few of the thirty to forty speakers were ardently opposed to the project. Many were near to early retirees and had concerns that they were being forced to choose between spending the last years of their lives in a construction zone or move out. Several speakers said they lived in Parkmerced for more than 20 years, one woman for 50 years. There were, as usual, concerns with traffic, but the sense of community preservation

was also very strong. Several people who grew up in the apartments lamented that the redevelopment would force people out, similar to the process undertaken in the Fillmore years earlier. One person jokingly cried "Where's Leona Helmsly when you need her?" Most spoke favorably of the proximity of their homes to the outdoors and the integration of the landscape with housing. One common concern is that the development would be primarily used as dormitories by the adjacent San Francisco State University.

**Parkmerced** Other advocates spoke out against the proposed new development at the scoping meeting included Andrew Wolfram with DOCOMOMO US/

Northern California Chapter and Aaron Goodman with the Parkmerced Residents' Organization (PRO). Though PRO hasn't formally taken a stance on the issue, Goodman expressed grave concerns that Parkmerced management has been modifying portions of the landscape without respect for its historic design.

The project approvals that will be required are extensive – California Environmental Quality Act for planning code and general plan amendments, a Coastal Zone permit, and a Section 404 (Clean Water Act) permit that will trigger Section 106 review. The Environmental Impact Report must discuss the magnitude of the new plan's impact to local, state, and national history and evaluate feasible alternatives. The National Trust believes strongly that project goals to increase density and environmental sustainability can be achieved without demolishing the existing townhomes and landscapes.

It is imperative that the California Environmental Quality Act analysis for the project include a feasible preservation alternative that meets a reasonable number of the project objectives and complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Such an alternative may include the newly proposed environmental contributions to Parkmerced such as energy retrofits, water recapture, and transportation improvements. Sustainability and historic preservation are not mutually exclusive.

In short, this pattern of total removal and re-development is fiscally irresponsible, culturally insensitive, environmentally disastrous, and ultimately unsustainable. The good news is there are still alternatives – and a little time – for supporters to act on behalf of Parkmerced. More on Parkmerced: [www.tclf.org/landslide/parkmerced](http://www.tclf.org/landslide/parkmerced) Christine Madrid French is the Director of the Modernism + Recent Past Initiative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Her colleague and co-author, Brian R. Turner, is the Regional Attorney for the Western Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Hall (Cont. from p. 1)

an easily supplied "blame" point to cite as the cause of the current budget deficit — the economic downturn! Never one to let an opportunity slip by, or reality and truth to get in the way, the very fact that the deficit that he created took place much earlier than the downturn is not even acknowledged or challenged, and his "PR spin machine" just keeps on rolling on!

Meanwhile, he is now cutting all the convenient scapegoat victims out of his misspent payroll scheme by laying off regular City maintenance, recreation, social service, and protective personnel while leaving his "volunteer army" untouched. Services that the public expects from local government are drastically cut in order for them to feel the "pinch" while his favored department heads and political appointments continue on with their empire building. Millions of dollars are squandered and unaccountable with meaningless social programs and development schemes that are only designed to attract media attention. Indeed, his "czar/business guru" for economic development, Mr. Michael Cohen of Hunters Point, Candlestick, Treasure Island and 49er fame, (just to mention a few), has yet to deliver on one single project for the City in eight years! It's not about results, but the media attention that can be gained in preparation for his next political move. What he personally doesn't cut in his budget, he then smirkingly forwards in his budget submission to a naïve and overzealous Board of Supervisors to do the rest of the dirty work.

Along with the "cutting" comes new methods of sucking more money out of an already strapped, trusting and yet apathetic public. Muni fares, parking meter rates, parking fines, recreational and licensing fees, and a whole array of new public charges soar to higher plateaus. All possible enforcement actions that could possibly produce new revenue are stepped up as our quality of life here in San Francisco deteriorates. All of this upsurge revenue activity is what one might call Newsom's "volunteer army tax." Police and fire services are cut, street and pavement conditions worsen and our recreational and public facilities deteriorate as bona fide civil servants and old school blue collar jobs are replaced with Gavin's army of untouchable, make work neo-managers who run around engaged in meaningless and nonsensical mini-projects

"Never one to let an opportunity slip by, or reality and truth to get in the way, the very fact that the deficit that he (Newsom) created took place much earlier than the downturn is not even acknowledged or challenged, and his "PR spin machine" just keeps on rolling on!"

designed to attract attention. Quietly his army of political operatives posing as middle managers remain on the payroll while those who were truly dedicated to working for the public are laid off.

I am no stranger to how these City employed and funded political operatives take to the streets when a political campaign is shifted into gear, having had to fight them in several local campaigns. One only has to look at several of the recently elected Newsom lackeys and yes-men on the Board of Supervisors to understand how the least qualified and most duplicitous of characters can get

elected. If you are willing to do his bidding, one can avail him or herself of unlimited campaign resources, and the sad fact is, they usually get elected. I can only imagine how "his army" will be mobilized for a statewide campaign. Thankfully these types of "volunteers" are usually just hacks doing a job for the boss and not heart-dedicated believers, so hopefully genuineness will prevail in the governor's race.

To repeat, with the \$2 billion windfall real estate tax surplus from the 2004-2007 years, and the \$65 million surplus that this administration inherited from the former administration, this City today should be enjoying a fine surplus, and certainly be able to withstand the perils of the present economic downturn. Even if we just held our spending to what came in, or double that of Willie Brown's last budget, plus the \$2 billion dollar windfall, we would be in great shape. This of course would require some minor degree of integrity and moral responsibility, as opposed to political maneuvering. The \$565 million deficit that we are faced with today was avoidable, is totally unnecessary, and directly attributable to Newsom's political power needs. Hopefully, his city-funded army of political volunteers will be dismantled when his private army of wealthy backers comes to the inevitable realization that this guy cares about no one but himself.

Former Supervisor Tony Hall was elected Supervisor for District 7 in 2000.

Firehouses (Cont. from p. 2)

balance its budget.

Beyond the obvious good works they continually perform, San Francisco's firefighters have worked financially with the City. In fiscal year (FY) '03-'04, firefighters agreed to pay their own member pension contributions in order to help the City, while satisfying the cost-sharing requirements under the Charter to gain a retirement improvement. In FY '04-'05, firefighters voluntarily saved the City \$3 million by deferring wage increases, and increasing their weekly working hours from 48 to 48.7 hours, on average. Last year, firefighter's Local 798 agreed to reduce their holiday premium pay over a period of three years, which will yield current and future savings of \$6.17 million for the City.

It was a stupid move to pit San Francisco's health and human services against its public safety services. The Board will gain little from the drama they have created. The SFFD utilizes less than 7% of the City's total budget, while public health and multiple related human services departments utilize 23% of the City's budget, consuming over two-thirds of General Fund expenditures.

Unfortunately, San Francisco's myriad public health and human services "entitlements" have become so large, cumbersome, and expensive, they must now bear the brunt of the 1,600 jobs that will be cut if the Mayor's proposed budget is adopted. The Board of Supervisors should not make the Police, Fire and Sheriff's Departments scapegoats for predictable financial failures in the so-called public health "safety net."

San Francisco has a great Fire Department and we should keep it that way. Every City department, non-profit organization, and labor organization needs to reduce their operating budgets, but cutting San Francisco's fire stations is a ridiculous short-term budget solution.

Supervisors would think twice about cutting San Francisco's neighborhood fire prevention services if they thought their own house might one day be on fire. George Wooding was recently elected President of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council.



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## Laguna Honda Hospital: Pot-bellies v. Beds?

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

One outcome of California Pacific Medical Center's (CPMC) plans to close three of its San Francisco hospitals and build its new Cathedral Hill hospital on Van Ness Avenue, is that the lack of planning for skilled nursing beds in San Francisco has become painfully evident.

There are multiple failures to plan thoughtfully. In March 2005, then-Health Commission president Lee Ann Monfredini requested that Director of Public Health Mitch Katz update his 1998 White Paper regarding needs for long-term care skilled nursing facility (SNF) beds. Now four years later, Dr. Katz hasn't produced an updated report. In May 1997 the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California authored its San Francisco Nursing Facility Bed Study, which now hasn't been updated in twelve years. Both studies predicted San Francisco faced a potential 4,207 SNF-bed deficit by 2020, but a number of their assumptions proved false.

The Council's 1997 study predicted the then-existing stock of both "freestanding" and "hospital-based" SNF beds would be "maintained." That hasn't happened: San Francisco has already lost 746 SNF beds since 1997, and CPMC plans to eliminate another 180 licensed SNF beds, which will soon bring the total close to 926.

When I reported in "Mortgaging Laguna Honda Hospital's Future" in the Observer's May issue that voters weren't told in 1999 that, rather than building critically-needed SNF beds at LHH for elderly and disabled San Franciscans, we'd get — instead — community amenities, hiking trails, and street improvement projects, I was unaware of new facts.

First, I didn't know CPMC's plans include reducing its total licensed capacity from 1,498 beds in 2004 to just 842 beds by 2015, a loss of 656 acute, psychiatric, and SNF beds. CPMC's plan to close 180 of its short-term SNF beds will leave it with only 38 SNF beds in-house. CPMC's plans to outsource operation of only 63 short-term SNF beds will supplant, by eliminating, long-term (defined as longer than 90-day) "custodial care" SNF beds in private facilities.

Even while admissions to Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) have been severely restricted — and while San Francisco faces a twin epidemic of a significant shortage of SNF beds, combined with a huge surge in the number of elderly who will eventually need some level of nursing home care — planning efforts to ensure sufficient bed capacity across various levels of care is woefully inadequate, since the City refuses to plan for long-term care beds in nursing homes, claiming they are "institutions."

Second, I didn't know that on June 11, the Mayor's Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) would pass a resolution calling for citywide health planning for acute care, post-acute care, rehabilitation services, and transitional care, but pointedly eliminated calling for planning for SNF level of care, an obvious planning need. The LTCCC completely eliminated from its final resolution a statement contained in its June 3 initial draft that said CMPC's plans "will have a significant and negative impact on the overall availability" of SNF beds for vulnerable adults.

LTCCC member Herb Levine, who is Executive Director of the Independent Living Resource Center and a fierce hater of anything involving Laguna Honda, stated he couldn't support including long-term care SNF bed planning in the resolution eventually adopted on June 11. This is the same Levine who told me in September 2004 that "If the right supports were in place to provide community-based alternatives to LHH, there would be a need for zero beds at LHH." He's misguided, at best, since he conveniently forgets the LTCCC's mission statement specifically includes guiding development of "institutional" services for older adults.

The Council's resolution claims a nationwide trend to eliminate hospital-based SNF beds. If other San Francisco hospitals follow CPMC's lead closing SNF beds, we may lose another 200 SNF beds on top of the 926 already closed. Although the resolution calls for not closing CPMC's SNF beds until "reasonable alternatives" are established, the Council's April 8 meeting draft minutes expressed concern that people needing long-term care may be shoved out of county.

When LHH cut its beds to only 780, and restricted admissions in January 2008 to only rehabilitation, AIDS, and hospice units, admissions plummeted from 625 in calendar year 2004 to only 242 admissions in 2008 (a 61.3% net reduction, or 383 fewer admissions), according to LHH's January 2009 Board of Supervisors quarterly report publicly available.

Third, although I knew data compiled by the Lewin Group presented to the LTCCC on April 8 claimed San Francisco's population in 2030 would be less than it currently is, I didn't know then the Lewin Group was wrong. California's Department of Finance released new



data on April 30 documenting San Francisco's population increased 1.2% between 2008 and 2009 to 845,559 — though it had projected in 2007 we wouldn't reach 844,000 residents until 2020. We've reached this threshold 11 years early; now we're projected to have 855,000 residents, including 179,375 people over the age of 65, by 2030. (Notably, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos on June 14 the Lewin Group's "public health plan" single-payer data are being questioned.)

Fourth, I later learned the Alzheimer's Association projects a "silver tsunami" by the year 2030 of 26,868 San Franciscans over the age of 55 having Alzheimer's, six percent of whom — or 1,612 people — will at some point need nursing home level of care. Given San Francisco's minimum 4,207 SNF-bed deficit, where will we care for Alzheimer's patients needing nursing home care?

This is crucial, since the Alzheimer's Association also reports that it currently costs Californians \$86,692 annually to provide for a Medicare-certified and licensed home health aide for just 44 hours of care per week for home care, but only \$64,068 annually for a semi-private room in a 24-hour-per-day, 168-hour-per-week skilled nursing facility, a difference of \$22,624 more annually for just 44 hours of home care, compared to almost four times as many hours of care in a nursing facility.

Fifth, I didn't know in late April that a prominent observer would question in May whether pot-bellied pigs and gardens planned for the new LHH might be great, but not if there aren't enough beds for patients displaced due to LHH's reduced size. San Francisco's League of Women Voters (LWV) monthly newsletter started a new "Bond Watch" column to track general obligation bond performance. The column is written by LWV's treasurer, Kristin Chu, who is both a member of SF's Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee and the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. In her May column (at [www.lwvsf.org/pages/bonds.html](http://www.lwvsf.org/pages/bonds.html)) Chu wrote about the LHH bonds: "Pigs and gardens are great but shouldn't we have a bed for each patient from the demolished building?," referring to LHH's loss of one-third of its beds and pot-bellied pigs planned for its farm.

Sixth, Mayor Newsom's Deputy Chief of Staff for Health and Human Services, Catherine Dodd, stated during the Mayor's LTCCC's May 14 meeting that since SEIU Local 1021 members rejected a contract deal the previous day, there was nothing preventing Mayor Newsom from cutting more beds at LHH. Her comment was censored from that LTCCC meeting's minutes.

Although Dodd didn't specify the number of beds being considered for closure, the Mayor linked SEIU's contract rejection to LHH's size was unmistakable. She didn't even mention any impact on patients, or that LHH has already lost 420 beds. Prior to SEIU's second contract vote on June 3, anecdotal reports surfaced that a senior LHH nurse also told some LHH units its 780-bed capacity may be cut by another 200 beds.

Finally, I hadn't completed an analysis of SF's current SNF capacity. My research found that rather than having a 4,207 SNF-bed deficit by 2020, San Francisco potentially faces a 5,341 SNF-bed shortage by 2030, assuming no further closure of "freestanding" and "hospital-based" SNF beds, and excluding plans to further cut LHH's beds.

Before any further strategic planning decisions are made, capacity available at short-term care, vs. rehabilitation facilities, vs. long-term care SNF facilities must be updated, and tracked regularly with greater specificity.

Otherwise, the only alternative is to use lipstick-on-a-pig to gloss over failures to plan comprehensively for elderly San Franciscans needing affordable long-term care in a skilled nursing facility.

*Monette-Shaw, is an accountability watchdog. Reports cited in this column are at [stopLHHdownsize.com](http://stopLHHdownsize.com).*

## SECOND THOUGHTS

### Am I Old Yet?

by Jack Kaye

My mother would be in her 100th year now had she not died five years ago. In her last years she lived in a wonderful nursing home here in San Francisco. I visited her every



week. She no longer remembered that she had ever had a son and thought that I was her favorite cousin who was her childhood friend. The man for whom she mistook me was a good 40 years older than me but had resembled me slightly in that he was also bald. What she could never understand is

why I looked so old, especially compared to her. She thought that I looked old because I was in my late 50s then and probably looked at least 40, and she was sure that she was still in her 30s.

Nothing could make her believe that she had ever had a son and nothing would make her believe that she was not in her 30s. I could understand her forgetting someone whose birth was painfully unintended. But how could she forget that she was old? Every moment reminded her that she was old, feeble and unable to take care of herself, and yet she was so sure.

Now I know.

I am in my seventh decade and my body knows it all too well. Almost every part of it has been tested beyond the recommended limits and the result has been continuous malfunction and pain. These are constant reminders of my condition and age and yet I don't believe it.

I repeatedly think of myself as a young man in his mid-30s.

When I see people of that age, I think that they are like me. I still look at an attractive young woman as though she were still available to me only to again be made to feel invisible as the object of my admiration looks past me to smile and wave at an approaching contemporary. I am no longer of interest to her no matter how great mine is for her.

Surely, I am still young. I see so much as though for the first time. My mind is still full of new ideas and dreams of utopian futures. I love not only the classic songs of Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel, and Joan Baez but also the recent ones by Cold Play, Death Cab for Cutie, and Sarah McLachlan. I still have passion for nature, cars, dogs, Persian carpets, beauty and philosophy the way I did when I was in my 30s. I can still fit the tuxedo I wore at my sister's first wedding when I was 17, but have no occasion to wear it.

And when I see "elders" — those in their late 40s and beyond — I credit them for doing as well as they are in their advanced years. Part of me thinks that the "elders" also see me as their junior. Some of these presumed elders look to me to be at least 150 years old even though I know that people don't last that long. I confess that at times I have been tempted to go up to such advanced seniors and ask them just how terribly old they were or whether they were actually the oldest people on earth.

I wonder how many people have been tempted to approach me in that way? How many wonder whether I am traveling on my last legs? And how many elders look to me as their senior?

I can still walk long distances but can no longer run. I can still sing my favorite songs, but I can no longer dance to them. I always listen carefully, but can't always hear. I look with eyes wide open, but am not always able to see clearly. I find steep hills and staircases menacing and can no longer suffer cold wind and fog that seem to pierce me like arrows through cotton candy.

Am I still too young to imagine myself old or have I gotten so old that I can't remember that I am no longer young?

Am I really old yet?

*Readers with thoughts, feelings or suggestions to offer regarding this column can e-mail [JWTKAYE@g-mail.com](mailto:JWTKAYE@g-mail.com).*

### POLICE BLOTTER

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Police Captain Paul Chignell,  
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# July Calendar

## 60+ AT SF STATE

**Are you 60 plus?** If so you are wanted on the campus of SF State. “Sixty Plus” of SFSU welcomes anyone with a lively mind who is 60 years of age or older to join in a variety of activities at this lifelong learning organization. The annual membership fee is \$75, but interested people are encouraged to go to a meeting and “try it out” before the next year starts in September. Info: Eileen Ward, Sixty Plus SFSU, 1600 Holloway Ave. HSS 242, or e-mail [sixty@sfsu.edu](mailto:sixty@sfsu.edu) for program information.

## QUE SYRAH – EVERY TUESDAY

**Happy Hour 4-8 pm.** Take \$1 off of each glass / \$10 off of each bottle of wine consumed at the store. 230 West Portal Avenue 731-7000.

## FARMERS MARKET

**Every Saturday 10am–2pm** | Corner of Arballo and Serrano (1 block off of Lake Merced Blvd. to Higuera

**Every Sunday 10am–3pm** | Stonestown Galleria, 19th Avenue at Winston.

## CLIFF HOUSE –FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ

**7:00 –11:00 pm** 1 Seal Rock – in the Balcony Lounge.

## BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

**Tue & Wed Eves 7:30-9pm Starts July 28th** Beginners Social Ballroom Dance Classes July 28 (Nite Club 2-Step) and July 29 (West Coast Swing). Covenant Presbyterian Church Taraval & Funston. Exercise your

## NOW AT THE MOVIES

by *Don Lee Miller*

## EASY VIRTUE

About 1920, American racecar driver Larita: **Jessica Biel** wins the Grand Prix at Monte Carlo for about a minute, until the title is bestowed upon a male. But, during that minute her eyes meet those of hunky Brit, John Whitaker: **Ben (Prince Caspian) Barnes**. When the newlyweds arrive at the family manse in the Nottingham countryside, cold mumsy Veronica: **Kristen Scott Thomas**; beatdown hubby : **Colin Firth** with beard; and two repressed sisters: Marion: **Katherine Parkinson** and Hilda: **Kimberley Nixon**, plus butler Furber: **Kris Marshall** greet them. The war of the American vs. the Brits begins with a major battle being the loss of Poppy, the puppy on the sofa under where Larita sits down. Mahvelous! cast based upon a witty play by **Noel Coward**, —tunes by **Cole Porter** and **Coward**.

## FOOD, INC.

This documentary looks at the American food industry with a sharp critical eye and exposes a lot of facts the viewer may not want to know. Chickens with large breasts are grown in huge dark barnlike buildings

## AT THE THEATER

*Dr. Jean Lust and Flora Lynn Isaacson*

## JACK GOES BOATING AT THE AURORA

The perfect play for a summer evening in Berkeley, opens on a couple of New York limo chauffeurs, Jack (**Danny Wolohan**) and Clyde (**Gabriel Marin**) discuss their work and a girl named Connie (**Beth Wilmurt**). Jack, who has just met Connie, is smitten with her, but the shy limo driver does not know how to go about pursuing his dream.

Director Glaudini succeeds in turning a banal, old-fashioned dramatic action into an animated, highly comical one that holds our attention throughout. The simplicity and innocence of old-time values has the audience laughing at their naïveté and even rooting for their lily-white principles.

Jack’s realization of his dream comes at the end of the play when a rowboat descends from the ceiling — Jack and Connie climb in and row away, to a standing ovation. *Until July 19th. For info/tickets (\$40-42 510.843.4822 or .auroratheatre.org.. Dr. Annette Lust*

## “ROMEO” ROCKS CAL SHAKES

As pop/rock rhythms energize the youth, Cal Shakes launches its 35th Anniversary with director Jonathan Moscone’s *Romeo and Juliet*, a modern-dress tragedy of a violence-wracked urban environment is a vivid, engrossing and energetic remounting of the familiar story.

The young lovers played with sincerity by **Alex Morf** and **Sarah Nealis** are most engaging in Act I a masterpiece from the opening of the play with **Julian Lopes-Morillas’** regal Prince and a solid cast: **James Carpenter** and **Julia Eccles** as Lord and Lady Capulet, **Catherine Castellanos**, a bawdy nurse, Lady Montague, **Catherine Castellanos**

mind and body! No partner needed. \$7. Info: [bdproductions94121@yahoo.com](mailto:bdproductions94121@yahoo.com)

## THE CHEAP BASTARD SHOW- EVERY SAT

**2-4 pm** | @The Music Store. 66 West Portal Ave, 664-2044. The show is free, however tips are encouraged. But not only is the show free, they also give you 25% off all used CDs, LPs, DVDs! Watch for these special shows: July 18 | 5–8pm | The Fighting Supaks (Alt Country) July 25 | Blind Lemon Pledge

## CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

**Wed. Jul 1 | 7 pm** Award-winning author of *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow Sun* , Adichie moves from the personal to the communal with striking immediacy the consequences of prejudice, corruption, tyranny, and violence in war-torn Nigeria and unaware America at BookShop West Portal 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

## YMCA HEALTH SCREENINGS

**Jul 1-Every 1st Wed. [9:30-11:30 am** Free at the Stonestown YMCA. A different screening every month: cholesterol, glucose, body mass index, blood pressure and bone density. 923-3155.

## STROKE SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

**Jul 2- Every 1st Thu | 1-2:30 pm** Share survivor experiences. 2100 Webster Street, Suite 119, Conference Room. RSVP 923-3155.

## WHAT’S THE BUZZ ON SUGAR?

**Tue Jul 7 | 12:30–2pm** | Long-term consequences of high-fructose corn syrup and sugars 2100 Webster, Ste

in 49 days; many dying every day from the chemicals they are fed. The slaughtering of beef, pork (32,000 per day) and chickens causes workers fingernails to drop off; there are no unions protecting the laborers, mostly illegals from Mexico. Fifteen workers are turned over to immigration each day on a rotating basis. The industry is growing by 20% each year. **Robert Kenner** directs.

## THE HANGOVER

Three L.A. professionals (Phil: **Bradley Cooper**; dentist Stu: **Ed Helms**; and brother-of-the-bride Alan: **Zach Galifianakis**) take their best bud, Doug: **Justin Bartha**, who’s getting married, to Vegas for his bachelor party. They remember going to the roof of their high-rise hotel but nothing that happened during the rest of the night! Stu sees he’s missing a front tooth and has married a lovely stripper, Jade: **Heather Graham**. Stay for the end credits when the camera photos of their wild night is finally seen for its only showing. Director **Todd** (Old School) **Phillips** Language, sex, nudity, drug use.

## HE PROPOSAL

Publishing exec Margaret Tate: **Sandra Bullock** finds her Canadian green card about to expire and presumes her assistant

and **Jud Williford** brilliant performance as Mercutio, **L. Peter Callender** as Romeo’s father, **Dan Hiatt**’s hopeful Friar Lawrence, **Craig Marker**’s slick Tybolt, and **Liam Vincent**’s “noble” Paris.

*Info: Noel Coward’s Private Lives July 11 to Aug 2 at California Shakespeare Theatre 510-548-9666 or calshakes.org.. Flora Lynn Isaacson*

## UNFULFILLED RUSSIAN DREAMS/THREE SISTERS

Porchlight Theatre Company presents Anton Chekhov’s “*Three Sisters*,” a story that takes place in the Russian countryside around 1901.

When the play opens, it is Irina’s (**Thais Harris**) 20th birthday. Officers from the local garrison sit around as Olga (**Julia McNeal**) the oldest sister, fusses with preparations for a party. The third sister, Masha (**Tara Blau**) dressed all in black, sits reading. Their brother, Andrei (**Jon Wesley Burnett**) stays in his room and plays his violin. All three live in their memories of a happier past or dream of a rosier future. The people they gather around them include Kulygin (**Ryan O’Donnell**), a schoolteacher, and Masha’s husband. Vershinin (**Nick Sholley**), the new officer in town, becomes Masha’s lover. Chebutkin, the aging drunken army doctor is played by **John Mercer**.

**Rebecca Castelli** plays Natasha, an upstart country girl who not-so-subtly takes over, after marrying Andrei. **Craig Neibaur** plays Baron Tuzenbach who has loved Irina for 5 years. Solyony, who also loves Irina, is played by **Michael Barr**, a social misfit.

There are wonderful cameos; **Candace Brown** as the family nursemaid, and **Don Wood** as a hearing-impaired porter. The two orderlies, played with much versatility by **Lowell Weller** and **Jarrold Quon**.

Director **Susannah Martin** seems well versed in

106 RSVP 923-3155..

## CAROL SNOW AND BRIAN TEARE

**Thu Jul 9 | 7 pm** Local poets Carol Snow *Artist and Model* and Brian Teare *The Room Where I Was Born* at BookShop West Portal 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

## URBAN COMPOSTING

**Sat July 11 | 10am–12noon** Come learn what you can do to improve your garden and prevent organic waste from ending up in the landfill! Rot On! Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. To pre-register: 731-5627, or [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org)

## CAREGIVERS’ CAFÉ

**Tues July 14 | Every 2nd and 4th Tues | 2:30–3:30 pm** Meet with other caregivers in a group led by a social worker. 2100 Webster Street, Suite 119, Board Room RSVP: 923-3155

## COPING WITH GRIEF AND LOSS

**Wed Jul 15 | 12:30–2pm** | Grief can affect the physical, emotional and spiritual self. This interactive workshop will address the needs of those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one through discussion and the sharing of resources. 2100 Webster, Ste 106 RSVP 923-3155

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

**Jul 17 | Every 3rd Fri | 1-2pm** Keep track of your blood pressure at these screenings. 2100 Webster Street, Ste. 100. RSVP 923-3155

## DROUGHT RESISTANT GARDENING

**Jul 18 | 9am–1:30pm** SF Botanical Gardening Society

Andrew Paxton: **Ryan Reynolds** will step in and rescue her. First, they must venture to Alaska to convince his parents, Joe: **Craig T. Nelson** and Grace: **Mary Steenburgen**, plus almost-90 year old grandmother Annie: **Betty White**. If only the vehicle were as strong as its stars; they shine despite their weak material. Lots of yuks. Nudity, language.

## THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3

Updates of the ‘70s flick which starred Walter Matthau and Robert Shaw. Dispatcher, Walter Garber: **Denzel Washington**, deals with the audacious Ryder: **John Travolta**’s gang, including Phil Ramos: **Luis Guzman** and Bashkim: **Victor Gogaj**, asking ransom of \$10-million for 17 passengers. Authorities bring in negotiating expert, Camonetti: **John Turturro**, he’s nixed by Ryder. As the NYC Mayor, **James Gandolfini** does the best he can in an impossible situation. It’s overkill for screenwriter **Brian** (Mystic River, L.A. Confidential) **Helgeland** to throw in a “Motherf.....!” in every other sentence. If the victims don’t die immediately from their gunshot wounds they bleed to death on screen. Violence, profanity.

## TERMINATOR SALVATION

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## CAROL CHANNING-ONE NIGHT ONLY

Jul 18 | 7pm The legendary lady of the stage returns home for anight of memories and signature tunes at SF State, McKenna Theatre, 1600 Holloway. Tickets (\$25-75) 392-4400 [ir.cityboxoffice.com](mailto:ir.cityboxoffice.com)

## RHYS BOWEN & FRIENDS-MYSTERY NIGHT

**Tue Jul 21 | 7pm** Rhy Bowen reads from Royal Flush starring Lady Georgiana, 34th in line for the throne, the worlds favorite penniless heiress at BookShop West Portal 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

## ERICA JOHNSON DEBELJAK

**Thu Jul 23 | 7pm** Author reads from *Forbidden Bread* recounting her struggle with Slovenia and its struggle from communist to capitalist society at BookShop West Portal 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

## GREYWATER

**Sat Jul 25 |10am–12noon** Wastewater from washing dishes, laundry and bathing, is a valuable water resource that can be recycled to irrigate plants! Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. To pre-register: 731-5627, or [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org)

## WAYNE MONIZ

**Tue Jul 28 | 7pm** Moniz reads from *Under Maui Skies* stories of Maui’s rich history and culture at BookShop West Portal 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

Dr. Serena Kogan: **Helena Bonham Carter** in 2003 saves convict Marcus Wright: **Sam Worthington** from death by lethal injection. John Connor: **Christian Bale** leads a Resistance attack in 2018 against a Skynet base, discovering human prisoners and, horrors! the plans for developing new Terminators with some living tissue. Marcus is saved from a Terminator by Kyle Reese: **Anton Yelchin**, who is Number One on the Skynet “kill list,” followed by Connor. This noisy, befuddled mess could have benefited from more story, less rampant terminators. Sci-fi, violence, sex content.

## UP

Widower, Carl Fredricksen, voice of **Ed Asner**, a grumpy 78-year old man with nothing going on in life, recalls the astronaut Charles Muntz, who was the hero of his youth: voice of **Christopher Plummer**. Carl attaches thousands of balloons to his home and sets off for South America where he locates an extinct colorful bird. As a surprise, he finds the pesky neighborhood Explorer Scout, Russell: voice of **Jordan Nagai**, clinging to his front porch. Their relationship develops into a form of friendship. **Pete Docter** directs with **Bob Peterson** and both are credited with the clever screenplay.

Chekhov. She pays strict attention to the specific gestures of each character and demonstrates the importance of the unspoken word. Under her capable direction, all of the performances are like vignettes. Martin has put together a moving, funny and thought provoking production of *Three Sisters*.

*Thursday-Sunday at 7 p.m. through July 11 at Redwood Amphitheatre, Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Phone 415-251-1027 or porchlight.net*

## BEYOND THE MIRROR

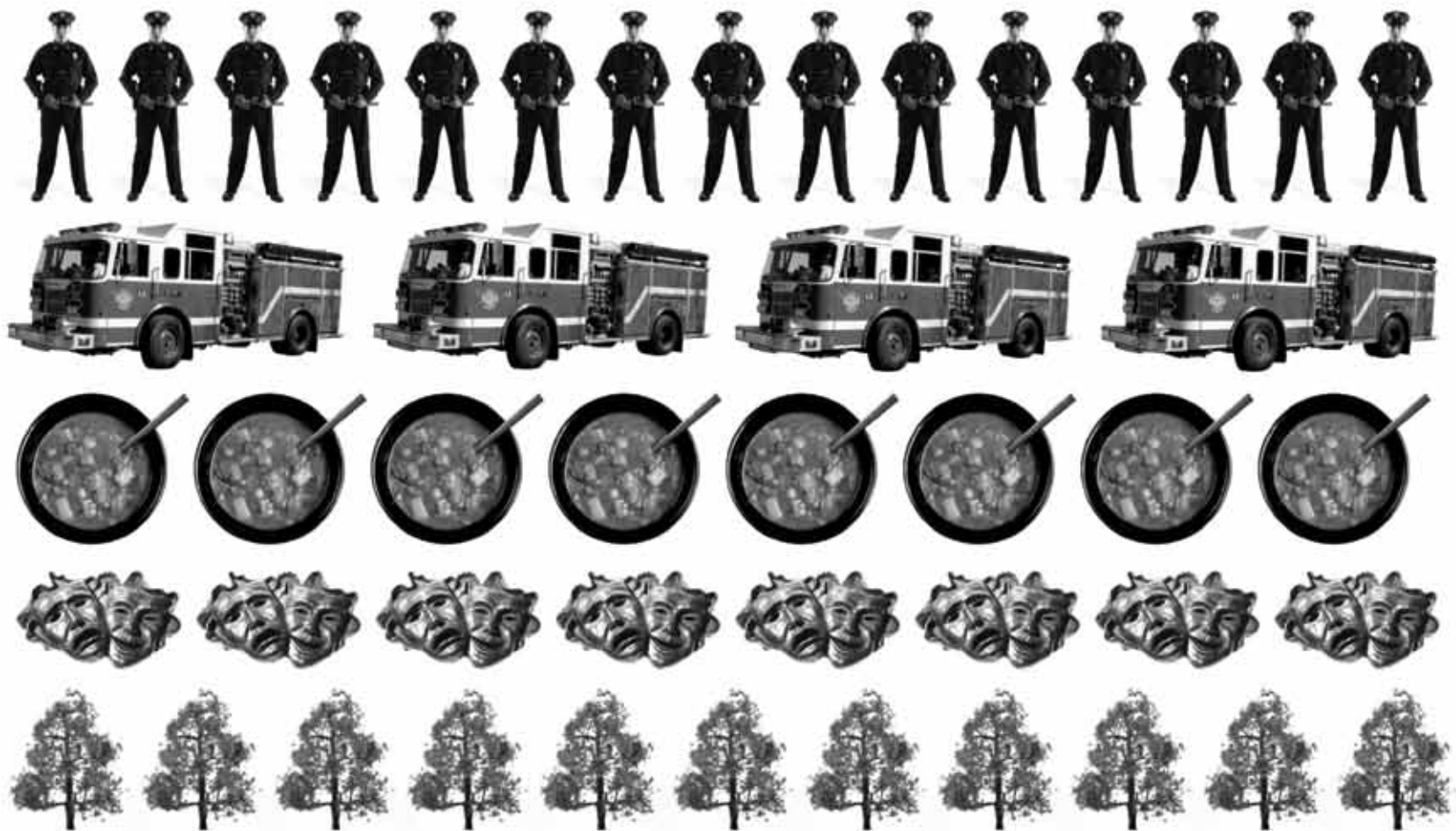
West Coast Premiere of Afghan Theatre of Exile and Bond Street Theatre’s Beyond the Mirror at the S.F. International Arts Festival

In their West Coast appearance of their world wide tour of Beyond the Mirror, the New York Bond St. Theatre, present the Afghan’s struggle to survive three decades of military domination. To the accompaniment of the gentle soft notes of the rubat, anAfghan ancient lute.

Beyond the Mirror begins with a video montage of beautiful Afghan snow-capped rolling hills and valleys, followed by scenes of quiet streets and inhabitants peacefully shopping in market places. Soon frenzied scenes show soldiers and villagers running from bombs. Bond Street Theatre’s unique incorporation of multiple physical styles conveys its humanitarian issues. Searching for a universal physical language, they have performed in international festivals, workshops and training in refugee camps and post-conflict areas. They are a company that is making a difference.

*Beyond the Mirror continues to tour nationally and internationally. For information [bondst.org/activities/12/us-premier-of-beyond-the-mirror](http://bondst.org/activities/12/us-premier-of-beyond-the-mirror) Dr. Annette Lust*





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265 Moncada Way	3	2	2	1700	6/5/09	1,275,000
51 Gladeview Way	3	2	2	1291	6/11/09	800,000
1435 Portola	3	2.5	1	1754	6/10/09	1,026,295
50 Chaves Ave.	2	1	2	1235	6/17/09	780,000
369 Los Palmos Dr.	3	1	2	1182	6/15/09	859,000
350 Hearst Ave.	1	1	1		6/10/09	450,000
169 Granville Way	4	2	2		6/12/09	1,175,000

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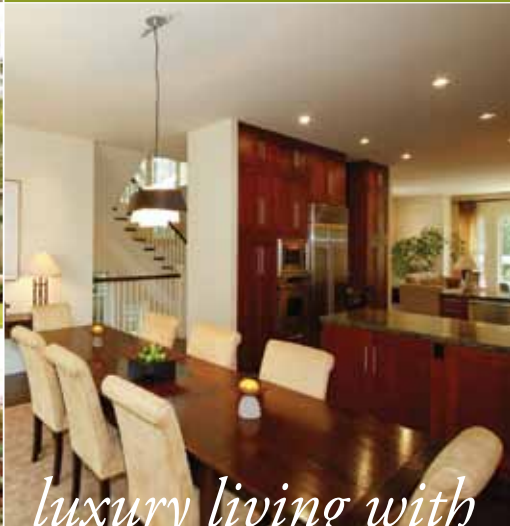
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# Ken Topping Home Improvements

## Remodeling the Westside of SF for 55 years!

By Mitch Bull

In this day and age, businesses come and go, and this is especially true in the Bay Area, where the cost of real estate has skyrocketed over the past 30 years or so. So when you find a business that is celebrating its' 55th year in business you know it is one where the owners and staff concentrate on meeting the needs and expectations of their customers.

Ken Topping Home Improvements is a perfect example of a well-run business that puts their customer's needs first. Run by Ken Topping and Kathy St. Clair, KTHI focuses on interior home remodeling, from kitchens and bathrooms, to family rooms, home offices and

entertainment areas.

Topping started in business in 1953, building homes in San Francisco, but quickly was bored with the concept of just building houses from the ground up. "Ken was doing well building homes from start to finish, but really wanted to do something where every job was new and different, so he decided to concentrate on the remodeling business," explains St. Clair, who works closely with Topping and manages the day to day operation of KTHI's projects.

"Remodeling is different in that each



homeowner has a different sense of taste and design values, so every project is unique and you don't find yourself doing the same thing every day; houses that are built next door to each other with the same layout can end up being radically different due to the taste and scope of what the owner wants," she added.

The team at KTHI have been "fixtures" in the neighborhood for many years, as Topping started out of his garage on 48th Avenue, then eventually opened a storefront showroom on 24th Street. In 1965 he moved to a larger location at 25th and Lawton (due to a fire in the 24th St. building) which he operated for 25 years. The business has been located at the current Vicente Street showroom for 19 years, since 1990.

Any business that has operated in a neighborhood for 55 years must rely on top-notch performance at a reasonable price, and KTHI is no exception. Their credo is that

(Cont. on p. 10)

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## Nothing To Be Done

*Hank Basayne*

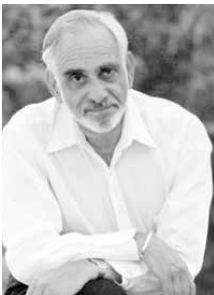
**Y**ou have absolutely no idea what's going to happen tomorrow. Neither do I. It's likely that there will be surprises—pleasant, unpleasant, welcome or unwelcome. If it's one of those days when I'm alert and paying attention to what's going on, I may even discover some unexpected delight. On the other hand I may receive a letter from the IRS or someone else I don't especially want to hear from.

It seems unfair that we can only see life through a rear-view mirror. I'm reasonably certain I can recall most of what yesterday was like. But tomorrow? Totally opaque. With the spectacular advances in all the new tech tools that have appeared in the past decade—some of which I can use, but none of which I've really mastered—you'd think that somebody somewhere would have figured out how to get a peek ahead. I would gladly receive even a little one.

But not all technological advance is actually progress. For instance, if I were texting or tweeting these musings, I might have titled this "0 2 b dun", thereby contributing to the deterioration of what was once our elegant, precious, precise and evocative language. All these sort of short cuts—in use primarily by the young using their thumbs—strip our communication of its grace. I can't imagine what they do with all the time thus saved. Maybe they just get to tweet more. But I digress.


Douglas Adams taught me—and many of you who are over thirty—the answer to life's most difficult question: Forty-Two. But even all the endless information stored in his vast array of computers couldn't insulate me in advance from the astonishment, despair, elation, pain or pleasure that tomorrow's rising sun may bring. *It is unfair*, but I'm not sure where or to whom I should address my complaint.

There are those who claim they are able to see into the future and will happily share that information, usually for a price. I've known such sensitive people. I'm especially fond of one of them. But neither the lines on my palm nor the Tarot deck of cards were able to warn me in advance of the cat



bite that hospitalized me last year. Nor the death of someone close. Nor the economic meltdown that presently is injuring nearly all of us. For the likes of us, maybe the future should remain hidden and mysterious.

There's no escaping it. The next higher stage of evolution may produce beings who can know for sure whether they can safely cross the street against the traffic light. At our level of development we cannot. I hate to be the one who brings you this bad news, but the truth is we're stuck where we are. Nor all our piety nor wit....etc.



I'm walking backwards down a country road in the twilight, barely able to discern the landscape I've just passed, but absolutely without a clue about the truck that may be bearing down on me from behind. No way of knowing whether it will safely pass me or send me flying out of here and into whatever is next.

What to do about this rotten limitation to our vision of what the future holds? The answer is as simple and obvious—and as unsatisfying—as Forty-Two. There's nothing to be done about it. The only possible response is to learn to live with the uncertainty that clouds the next pages of the calendar. We can plan, We can hope, We can gird ourselves against possible, foreseeable misfortunes. We had better get ready to jump this way or that, as circumstances emerge.

And I've found it helpful to hear myself saying, Hey, it's okay. There are just a ton of things I'm not going to be able to ever know, especially in advance.

Oh, about Forty-Two. Explanation to be found in *Life, The Universe and Everything*, the third book in Adams trilogy. Don't read the next line if you don't like spoilers.

(Six times Seven equals Forty-Two).

*Hank Basayne is a San Franciscan, a minister and an author who advises the uninitiated to hasten to the bookstore or library and catch up on Douglas Adams' masterpiece, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" so we can discuss it in our next class.*



## New book by Local Author Manfred Wolf

*By Charles Pfister*

**L**ong-time Sunset resident and retired SFSU professor Manfred Wolf has published a new book. *Almost a Foreign Country: A Personal Geography in Columns and Aphorisms* is based on a selection of columns Wolf has written over the past 10 years for a neighborhood newspaper. The book presents a quirky San Francisco, West-of-Twin-Peaks view of 50 years of American life and culture, from the trivial to the profound — not to mention the absurd. Some of the book was written at the Green Earth Café on Taraval Street.

Wolf has appeared on Michael Krasny's KQED program "Forum," as well as on John Rothmann's late-night slot on KGO.

Is it time to negotiate with bin Laden? Is lying about sex ever — or perhaps often — a good idea? Can we ever really be happy? And what happened to those No Smoking signs at State College in the '60s?

Manfred Wolf, the author of hundreds of academic and literary articles on literature and culture, has also been writing for a popular audience. A number of his reviews and articles have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and in 2001 he published *Amsterdam: A Traveler's Literary Companion* as part of a popular series of books on literature for tourists.

His new book gives readers a chance to experience the wit and whimsy that has charmed fans of his columns over the years.

Wolf was reared in the Netherlands. His happy childhood was torn apart by the Nazi invasion of Europe. After several years of terror and hand wringing, Wolf and his parents made a daring escape from occupied Netherlands via Spain and Portugal in 1942. Almost none of his father's relatives survived the war.

Over the next 10 years, Wolf experienced a bewildering series of dislocations from the tropical lushness of Surinam and Curacao in the West Indies to the paradise of an idyllic college education at Brandeis University, and finally, to San

## ON THE PLUS SIDE

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**Ken Topping** (Cont. from p. 10

"Designs are only as good as the people who install them. Our success is based on Quality Workmanship, Design Expertise, and Personalized Service to each of our clients."

St. Clair has known Topping for over 30 years, with the last 18 working with him at KTHI. She is a Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer, accredited by the National Kitchen and Bath Design Association. When I asked her about the “Master” designation, she explained that the designation is one she is proud of, “The certification comes from a testing board, after an 8 hour test, that measures knowledge and proficiency in all phases of design and installation, including foundations, mechanical and electrical systems, framing, as well as interior design experience and color rendering.” She went on to say that a designer has to have 7+ years of business prior to being tested, and a “Master” designer is someone who has over 10+ years of experience after initial certification. Currently, less than 1000 designers in the US have been certified as “Master Designers.”

Walking through the showroom with St. Clair, I asked about new trends in Home Improvement. “Green” remodeling is at the forefront, with new materials (such as “zodiac” quartz based counter top material), bamboo flooring, and even kitchen backsplashes that are “poured glass” made from recycled glass bottles. Granite flooring is still a natural alternative, although cork and a new type of linoleum manufactured from linseed oil and hemp is an example of a new alternative. There is even a countertop that is made from recycled paper products, called Richlite.

“Being “green” is now a huge part of our industry, from new flooring, countertops and cabinets, to energy-star rated appliances that use much less electricity and water. It’s really exciting to be involved in this industry at the present time,” said the master designer.

Projects completed by KTHI have been featured in several magazines and trade journals, such as Better Homes and Gardens, Women's Day, Kitchen and Bath Magazine and Kitchens by Professional Designers.

Walking through the showroom, there is a myriad of choices and finishes, but one underlying fundamental is the same; Quality Materials, Personalized Service and a Commitment to Excellence for each and every client. It's easy to understand why Ken Topping Home Improvements has been successfully bringing "affordable excellence" to SF homes for over 55 years.

*Ken Topping Home Improvements is located at 3101 Vicente Street (at 42nd Ave.). The showroom is open Monday – Saturday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. More info: 415-731-3930, or [kentopping@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kentopping@sbcglobal.net).*



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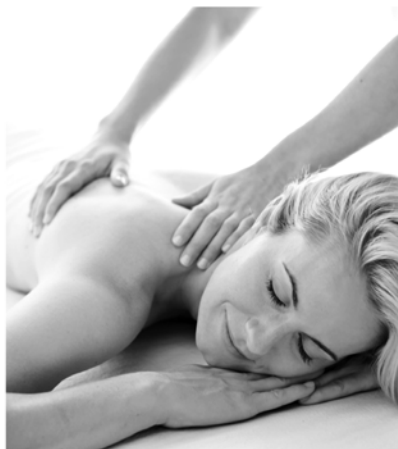
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## Fresh Clean Water: TheNextGeneration

By Sharon Caren

It's Summer...the perfect time to put consciousness on drinking more water, the liquid of life. I want to thank all you readers for your overwhelming responses after my June article. Nice to know so many of us are on the same page when it comes to health and safe drinking water. If you didn't get a chance to read it, go to [www.westsideobserver.com/columnists](http://www.westsideobserver.com/columnists) scroll to the bottom and click June 2009 under Sharon Caren. I'm loving my water system and happy to share it with you.

Meet the futuristic non-electric alkalizing water ionizer - The next step in water ionizer technology.

This new and improved water ionizer has several benefits:

- 1) Can be used under or on top of the counter
- 2) Produces smooth tasting water
- 3) Raises water pH to 9.5 or higher
- 4) Removes impurities and ionizes the water

Nex Gen - Rejuvenator Water Ionizer is like a cross between the beneficial effects of several pre-filters like reverse osmosis and the alkalizing effects of water ionization without the need for electrolysis. The Nex Gen uses a new improved way to make high pH alkaline micro-structured water. The system uses a series of 3 pre-filters to remove all the contaminants before the water is ionized with the 4th filter to reduce, restructure, and re-mineralize the water while bringing it to a pH of 9.5 or higher.

Nex Gen - Rejuvenator combines the features of reverse osmosis with the healthy benefits of a water ionizer all in one unit. It has the ability to transform tap water into a powerful antioxidant for wellness, weight loss and anti - aging. Can be used at home, in RV's, boats, traveling, and attaches to a standard faucet or plumbing.

Nex Gen Comes with 4 filters:

Sediment Filter - It acts as a sieve to reduce solid particles such as rust flakes from water pipes, sand grains, small pieces of organic matter, clay particles, or any other small particles in the water supply. Water with a high sediment level can

### SHARON THE HEALTH

change the aesthetic value of the finished beverage.

Pre-Carbon Filter - Its primary function is to remove the chlorine and larger impurities prior to the Carbon Filter.

Block Carbon Filter - It uses a piece of activated carbon to remove contaminants and impurities, utilizing chemical absorption. Each piece of carbon is designed to provide a large section of surface area to allow contaminants the most possible exposure to the filter media. Carbon filters are most effective at removing chlorine, sediments, and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) from water.

Remineralizing - Alkalizing Filter - It's a new revolutionary futuristic filter using a proprietary mixture of grade A minerals to achieve ionization and re-structuring of the water clusters. Not only does the water reach a high pH (9.5) but it's full of antioxidants and reaches a strong negative (ORP) oxidation reduction potential.

The retail price of the Nex - Gen is \$599.00 but for the next 30 days it's specially priced at \$499.00 plus \$25.00 shipping and handling. Online go to [www.purelifestore.com](http://www.purelifestore.com) and click on products. Look for Rejuvenator Nex -Gen. Mention this article and receive a FREE pH (acid/alkaline) food chart by simply clicking the contact button, fill out the form and ask for your free chart in the comment box provided. Enter this code SCFC. Or if you're not online, the number is 1-561-790-2004. You'll love it. I have my chart on the fridge and reference it daily. View it on the website.

There are two other products I recommend and use. The RainShow'r Filter CQ-1000 for the shower and The Rejuvenator Portable Water Ionizer Stick to take with you if you have to use bottled water while traveling. If you have any questions please call me, 650.359.6579.

In the future, I'll be writing about "Your Body's Many Cries for Water".

Don't hesitate to Rejuvenate.

More Sharon Caren: [westsideobserver.com](http://westsideobserver.com)



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## There's A First Time For Everything

By Sergio Nibbi



If it takes a State House full of crooked politicians and a bunch of home grown gangsters to run a city then San Francisco should take notice and follow suit. It works great in Chicago and as I've said many times before Chicago is a beautiful city, clean, well maintained and full of very nice people and where

pedestrians always have the right of way. Homelessness does not exist and graffiti is not to be seen. We're here for a short stay, just long enough for Karen to spend the day with our granddaughter Katie at the American Girl Place. A 10th birthday present that fit in very well with Spring Break.

Our early Monday morning flight was very normal except for the fact that our United 767 must have just come from the factory and unwrapped just before whisking us off. It still had that new car smell and what a surprise as we sat down in our Business Class seats to find out that we were going to ride backwards! A little unnerving at first and a bit strange as we rolled down the runway seeing what we were leaving rather than where we were headed and landing was just as strange. It seems that the layout had every other pair of seats facing backwards. I remember the old San Francisco streetcars that had movable backrests that could be moved back and forth depending on the direction of travel but these were beautiful Recaro seats that made up into full size beds.

Considering the smoothness of the flight and the excellent service it was well worth the experience. At least we now have something new to talk about at the next cocktail party.

We chose to stay at the Drake Hotel, having stayed here a few times before and because of its stellar location right on Michigan Avenue and directly across from the lake. The Miracle Mile is still miraculous and the spring clothes decorating the windows are in full bloom regardless of the near freezing temperatures outside. Still too early for the beautiful flowers in sidewalk planters to be in full regalia but the parks are clean and perfectly manicured.

Chicago is synonymous with good food and our first night was no exception. With many relatives in the food business Karen and I started out with the Erie Café where my cousin EJ greeted us, entertained us and feed us until we raised our hands in surrender. EJ has a restaurant of his own in Skokie, appropriately called EJ's Place. What a pleasant surprise when he answered the phone at the Erie Cafe and told me he was filling in for his brothers for a couple of nights. Perfect timing for us and a truly enjoyable evening.

Tuesday night we were hosted to an old fashioned Italian dinner at my cousin Ray's house where his wife Nancy started us out with home made ravioli followed by roast hens, cutlets, fresh spinach and an amazing dessert. North Beach does not even come close. On the way out we made a side trip to visit President Obama's house but the area is totally barricaded for blocks and is now the Fort Knox of the neighborhood. Great duty for a bunch of Chicago's finest.

But man can not live on bread alone so Wednesday we took a 2 hour Architectural River Cruise along the Chicago River while we listened to our guide describe

every style of architecture, which architect did what, which building was the tallest until the next one came along and finally showed us the site of the new Chicago Spire skyscraper which when completed will tower over 2,000 feet. I wonder how Donald Trump will feel when his new hotel and condo project will no longer be the 2nd tallest in this marvelous city.

The next treat for us was watching Michael and Laura's 2 beautiful children as Michael and Laura went out on the town celebrating their 14th wedding anniversary. The concierge had recommended Carmine's, just a few short blocks down from the hotel. "Carmine's" sounds so New York, so Little Italy, and so Mafioso! Actually it was great! Good food, excellent service and a waiter that had 2 small children of his own and treated Katie and Andrew like they were family.

Chicago is well known for all its museums, aquarium, planetarium and city parks. Having seen most of them in the past we chose to visit Trump's new International Hotel and Tower located just off Michigan Avenue and bordering on the Chicago River. After seeing a couple of the rooms and spa I had to tip my cap to Mr. Trump—it is spectacular. The hotel has been open for a year and unfortunately we found out too late but it's definitely our choice for our next visit. Although we were not guests at the hotel we were welcomed to use the spa facilities so first thing this morning (Friday) Karen and I took advantage of the ultramodern facilities and cursed the fact that our one hour massage went by much too quickly.

The short mile back to our hotel was refreshing if you can call freezing weather and arctic winds fun. So cold but so much fun working up an appetite and so for our finale we crossed the street from our hotel to Bloomin' dales where on the 5th floor there is a great little food

Cont. p. 12



## A Good Summer Read

By Carol Kocivar

**T**here is hubris of sheer certainty that comes with youth.

Now, I am not so certain I know it all.

In fact, the older I get, the less I know I know.

And this has nothing to do with forgetfulness.

Listen... and you will learn.

I was reminded of this last week at a conference on the arts. We were given a homework assignment. Read this:

"Cultural responsiveness, racial identity and academic success: a review of the literature.

This research, commissioned by the Heinz Endowments, looks at the connection between racial identity and school success.

For anyone who grew up with headlines and battle lines over school integration, this is important research.

It talks about the traditional mainstream view that "achievement for racial minorities is dependent on assimilation into white society." And once this occurs, student will succeed.

Hmm. Fast forward to the achievement gap.

This literature review questions some basic assumptions:

Noting that desegregation increased equity in resources and fostered civil rights, it also finds it "undercut the value of education

for African Americans."

The number of black teachers declined and "because of the cultural change in the teaching force, racial uplift and religion were no longer central aspects in the education of black children."

"The research shows that many children use their culture and racial identity every day in striving for success in school and life, only to have their race, language and culture disparaged in the process."

"When culture is suppressed or denied, students are educationally disempowered. They find it hard to use their culture to learn."

The conclusion of the literature review: "Culturally responsive pedagogy and positive racial identity can play major roles in promoting academic achievement and resilience for African, Latin, Asian and Native American children."

This research, written by Drs. Mary Stone Hanley of George Mason University and George Noblit of the University of North Carolina, recommends designing programs that:

- Use culture to promote racial identity
- Use culture and racial identity as an asset
- Education about racism and racial uplift
- Employ the arts
- Develop caring relationships
- Assume success
- Promote active learning, problem based instruction and student involvement
- Include the community
- Acknowledge the challenges.

You can find out more at the web site of the Heinz Endowment: [www.heinz.org](http://www.heinz.org).

## Quotation Marks: Where Do the Commas and Periods Go—and Why?

by Tina Blue

Whenever we have to use a question mark or an exclamation point with a sentence that ends in a quotation, we follow the dictates of logic in determining where the question mark or exclamation point goes. If it is part of the quotation itself, we put it inside the quotation marks, and if it governs the sentence as a whole but not the material being quoted, we put it outside the quotation marks.

- Have you read the assigned short story, "Flowering Judas"?
- No, but I did finally get around to reading last week's assignment, "Where Are They Now?"

When it comes to commas and periods, though, logic doesn't enter into the equation, at least not in the United States. Universal American usage places commas and periods inside the quotation marks, regardless of logic.

- "Diane," she said, "put the book down and go outside for a little while."
- "I will in a minute," she replied, "as soon as I finish this chapter."

This rule applies even when the unit enclosed at the end of the sentence is just a single word rather than an actual quotation:

- To get to the next page, just press the little button marked "Enter."

The only exception is when that last little item enclosed in quotation marks is just a letter or a number, in which case the period or comma will go outside the closing quotation marks:

- The buried treasure was marked on the map with a large "X".
- The only grade that will satisfy her is an "A".
- On this scale, the highest ranking is a "1", not a "10".

Of course, if another set of words or a parenthetical citation gets between the quoted material and the end of a sentence, then the comma or period will follow the intervening elements:

- "Diane, put the book down and go outside" was what her mother said, but what Diane heard was "Blahblablahblablah" or something even less meaningful.
- The question is whether the persona is expressing a death wish in those identical final lines, "And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep" (15-16).

Now, keep in mind that this comma and period inside the quotation marks business is strictly American usage. The British don't do it that way. They are inclined to place commas and periods logically rather than conventionally, depending on whether the punctuation belongs to the quotation or to the sentence that contains the quotation, just as we do with question marks and exclamation points.

My American students, though, don't get to choose. They have to do it the American way, just as they have to drive on the right side of the street, even though the British drive on the left side. (Of course, the British also drive on the right side when they are in this country, so maybe that's not such a good comparison.)

Anyway, the point is that if you are an American, you need to keep your commas and periods inside your closing quotation marks, where they belong.\*

And just why, you may ask, do they belong there? Well, it seems to be the result of historical accident. When type was handset, a period or comma outside of quotation marks at the end of a sentence tended to get knocked out of position, so the printers tucked the little devils inside the quotation marks to keep them safe and out of trouble. But apparently only American printers were more attached to convenience than logic, since British printers continued to risk the misalignment of their periods and commas.

More grammar help from Tina Blue: <http://grammartips.homestead.com/inside.html>

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*Travel (Cont. from p. 11)*

court with a restaurant called Frankie's Scaloppini. The risotto with shrimp and vegetables would rival any you would find in Italy and Karen's pizza was delicious. I should add that Chicago is also well known for its food as we found out again last night while having dinner at Gene and Giorgetti's. "Gene," like my uncle Gene, who was my mother's brother, and while the restaurant is now run by other members of the family it is still one of the best steak houses in Chicago. The bowser bag barely fit in the taxi.

So now we start to pack and get ready for our very early morning flight back to Burlingame that gets us home in time for an early lunch but not before we get together with 14 of the cousins tonight for a Good Friday dinner celebration. Its been a short but wonderful trip and I really don't care which way we face heading home—I only hope that those beautiful seats do make up into a bed, I'm looking forward to a long winter's nap heading west.

*Sergio Nibbi came to San Francisco in 1940, where the business he and brother Larry operate maintains its headquarters. Contact: [sergio@nibbi.com](mailto:sergio@nibbi.com)*

## Surviving the Drought Mini-Seminar on July 18

As Bay Area gardeners are tightening their belts like everyone else, they are choosing a garden that is drought-tolerant to help conserve time, money and water, without sacrificing beauty. To help them achieve that goal, SF Botanical Garden Society (SFBGS) presents "Surviving the Drought" mini-seminar on Sat., July 18, | 9am to 1:30pm. at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park at Ninth Avenue/Lincoln Way. Members: \$65, non-members, \$75.

The program will feature several speakers who are experts in various aspects of creating and maintaining water thrifty and more sustainable residential gardens. SFBGS Curator **Dr. Don Mahoney** will share his expertise about "Drought Tolerant Natives and Mediterranean Shrubs" from 9 to 11 am. Plants will be available for sale.

In "part two" **Janet Moyer** and **Michael Hofman**, owners of Janet Moyer Landscaping, will present "Water-Thrifty Techniques" from 11am to 1:30pm. They will "show and tell" the tools and techniques they use in their landscape designs to keep residential gardens healthy and beautiful by using as little water as possible, applying good cultural practices and using drip irrigation to avoid over-watering. As a California Certified Water Manager Hofman will share his expertise about the new "smart" water management systems that utilize the latest technology to water the garden "just right."

Info: 415-661-1316, x400, or visit [www.sfbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.com).

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FROM THE BORDER

NOSTALGIA AND THE TRANSPLANTED GARDNENER

by Hilary Gordon Photos by Blair Randall

Many of my most precious memories are tied up with plants. When my mother moved to a new house, she took slips from her mother's (my grandmother's) lilacs to plant by the kitchen window. Now when I smell the heavy, dreamy fragrance of lilacs, the sweetness brings three generations of gar-

*"By translating the spirit of my grandmother's garden into the language and palette of California climate appropriate plants, I can have my memories and still do what she did; grow a healthy and sustainable garden with love and respect for nature."*



Iris at the Garden for the Environment.

I've planted and cared for them here in the Bay Area. But unfortunately, people travel to different climates more easily than plants. Most Japanese maples in San Francisco are showing burned leaves by mid-summer. They object to wind, dry soils, and salty air. Many lilac varieties bloom erratically or not at all without a cold winter. Lawns are not a sustainable choice in a state constantly troubled by water shortages.

A Deeper Look

To connect with the gardening stories from my family's past, I have to look deeper than the specific plants. My grandmother's garden echoed the seasons in the wildwood. Her ferns and Jack-in-the-Pulpits were the same ones blooming in the local forests. The soft, natural shapes in her garden followed Nature's lead with generous and curving beds of plants that looked as though they had grown there on their own. The succession of bloom and fruit and fall color were modeled on the successive wonders of the unfolding year.

I can have all these qualities in my California garden, if I follow the inspiration of my grandmother's garden without trying to copy the specific plantings. The California native landscapes offer the variety of shapes and colors I need. I can bring the beauty of a



seasonal creek bed, wet in winter and dry in summer into my garden. Or perhaps I'll mimic the deep reverence of a redwood forest understory, or the bright generosity of a seaside cliff in spring sunshine, buzzing with pollinators.

By translating the spirit of my grandmother's garden into the language and palette of California climate appropriate plants, I can have my memories and still do what she did; grow a healthy and sustainable garden with love and respect for nature.

The Garden Echoes Nature

This month at the Garden for the Environment, the drought-tolerant demonstration beds by the south gate of the garden echo the colors and textures of a California seaside meadow. In early summer, as California seaside soils dry out from winter rain and the salty sea air rolls in with marine fog and wind, tough summer meadow plants are blooming amid golden flowering grasses. At the GFE, their garden hybrid relatives are putting on the same glamorous look. The gorgeous orange of self-seeded California poppy contrasts with the yellow button flowers and silvery foliage of Lavender Cotton. Behind them rise the soft, flat butterfly platforms of yarrow



Asteriscus, yarrow, lavender at GFE

"Gold Coin" opens its yellow daisy eyes, surprised by the brilliant brick-red of yarrow "Papricka". Graceful and tall, fernleaf lavender stands at attention to anchor the view.

New Memories

The Mediterranean climate garden has its own magic and mystery. My children's memories will be full. True, they won't have my memories of mown grass, thunderstorms and lightening bugs. But they will have the vivid summertime jumble of Bougainvillea, plum blossoms in January rain, springtime Ceanothus (California Lilac) singing with tiny wasps and bumbling bees. These are the fragrances, colors, and sounds that will nourish their sweetest remembrance.

Hilary Gordon is Perennial Plants Collection Manager at the GFE. A life-long gardener, she has worked as a professional landscape gardener from 1984 until the present. If you have questions for Hilary, meet her in the garden Wednesdays 10-2 and Saturdays 10-4.

deners together. When I was born, my mother and father planted a Japanese maple sapling in their front lawn. "They are slow-growing," my mother explained, "so we thought you could grow up together."

Like many Californians, I am a transplant from another climate zone. The plants in my personal stories, the lilacs, maples and lawns of New England, were ones I wanted in my Cali-



Lilac at the Garden for the Environment.

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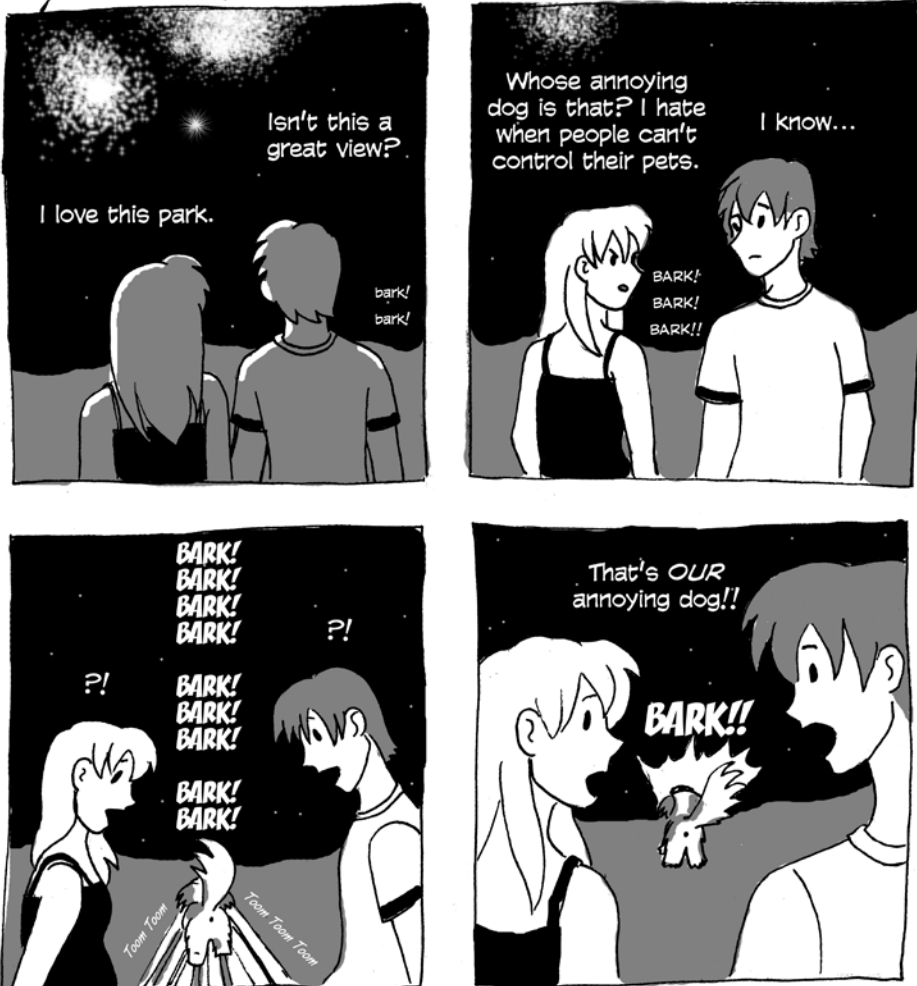
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						1	8	
6	2		1				4	
1		9	4					7
			7			5	2	
9		4				7		3
	7	2			6			
7					5	6		8
	3				1		7	2
	4	6						

**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 in such a way that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

**Answer:** The answer appears aside..

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

BRAIN FUD

Inside of each set of the following words, there are a pair of smaller words. By moving letters and inserting an ampersand "&", you can make a familiar phrase. (For example: "Thighbone / Swallowtail" conceals "High and Low"). See how many you can figure out.

Skyrocketing / Trolleyman  
Thermometer / Apoplexy  
Delaware / Bordering  
Surprised / Trashiness  
Throughout / Stumblebum  
Answer to Brain Fud:  
Rock & Roll

Mom & Pop  
Law & Order  
Rise & Shine  
Rough & Tumble



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Forest Hill March 3, 1945

Photo courtesy of the San Francisco History Center, SF Public Library

Cameraman Eddie Murphy, who took this picture, describes it in the following poetic words: ‘A bit of Forest Hill from the grounds of Laguna Honda Home, with Dewey-blvd angling off to the left and the top of Forest Hill Station hiding shyly in the trees at the bottom, lower right.’ (Gosh, you’d never think Eddie had such fancy thoughts in him!)”

# PHYLLIS’ FINDINGS

By Phyllis Sherman

Single women are always complaining about the lack of interesting single men in the Bay area. They say single guys are like parking spots—they’re either already taken or their handicapped. Well, I’ve got an idea for the single gals—the rest of you can stop reading now. Have you checked out Craigslist—women seeking men or men seeking women?

If you’ve got a few bucks and are planning to take a cruise, Craigslist has over 200 cities all over the world where men are seeking women. Let’s say you’re sailing out of Vancouver, Canada. Did you know that there are 30 men in Vancouver listing themselves on Craigslist searching for someone like you? I checked it out, specifying only the over 55 year-olds. You could arrive in Vancouver a few days early, write to the guys in advance and have several dates set up before you take off on your cruise.

OK, if you don’t have time for Vancouver or are leaving from another city, check out where the liner makes stops. There are usually City tours lined up for passengers but if you check out Craigslist for your port in advance, you might be able to have your new boyfriend show you around. I checked several foreign cities and this is what I found out.

There’s a Russian lady in Seattle who’s put an ad for a boyfriend for her Mom who’s moving to Moscow—she wants a man who’s 50 to 63 and has inserted a photo of her Mom who looks more like 60 to 73, or more. She said she’ll translate for her Mom who only speaks Russian.

In Buenos Aires there’s a 59-year old guy who’s seeking a nice female. There’s an ad in Frankfort put in by a fellow in Austin, Texas who is offering citizenship to anyone. In Berlin a man advertises that he likes German women. And in Amsterdam a 66 year-old Dutch guy seeks relocation to wherever you live and he’d like to start another family. Here’s your chance! A 49 year-old in Rome is seeking a big-breasted Italian woman to spoil him with money so he can race motorcycles. He’d like a good cook also. So if you’re busty and can come up with a good spaghetti sauce, he might be the answer for you. Another 50 year-old in Rome is seeking a Sugar Mommy. Don’t knock it ‘til you’ve tried it.

I found five eligible men in Madrid, ten listed in Mexico City, lots of 50 to 65 year-olds in Shanghai (so what’s wrong with a slightly younger man?) This is just the surface of what’s available overseas and in the US too. Of course if you’re visiting friends or family in Albany or Chattanooga or Mobile, Alabama, you’re on your own. I didn’t

check out those cities, but who would want to visit them anyway, and what kind of eligible men would you find there? Good luck. I’d love to hear a report of your findings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Things are different in China. Thanks to its 30 year-old population-planning policy and customary preference for boys, China has one of the largest male-to-female ratios in the world. Using data from the 2005 China census—the most recent—a study published in last month’s British Journal of Medicine estimates that there was a surplus of 32 million males under the age of 20 at the time the census was taken. That’s roughly the size of Canada’s population.

Now some of these men have reached marriageable age, resulting in intense competition for spouses, especially in rural areas. It also appears to have caused a sharp spike in bride prices and betrothal gifts. The higher prices are even found in big cities such as Tianjin. The males seem to have an above-average savings rate, even after accounting for factors such as education levels, income and life-expectancy rates. Areas with more men than women, the study notes, also have low spending rates--suggesting that many rural Chinese may be saving up for bride prices. 14,000 people located in central China’s Shaanxi province has over 30 men of marriageable age, but no single women. As in other parts of the country, village customs dictate the groom’s family pay the bride’s family a set amount—known as “cai li”—while the bride furnishes a dowry of mostly simple household items. I’ll tell you next month what problems begin to exist. Let’s just call it “runaway brides.”

\*\*\*\*\*

ENDJOKE An elderly Jewish man has just moved to a new town when he is taken ill and decides that he needs to see a doctor.

In the waiting room he tries to find out a bit about the doctor. He asks the man sitting next to him if the doctor’s fees are expensive. The man says:”Well, he is and he isn’t. You see he charges you \$1,000 for your first visit.” The Jewish man exclaims in shock, “A thousand dollars?” The man replies, “Yes, but all your visits after that for the rest of your life are free!” The Jewish man thinks about this, and then gets called by the nurse to go in to see the doctor.

On entering the doctor’s office, he says casually, “Hello doctor, here I am again!”



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**P**ascal Destandau, Cheesemaker, and his partner Eric Smith, the Goatherder make the best goat cheese this side of heaven. They own and operate Pugs Leap Farm in Healdsburg, an organic and eco-friendly orchard, vegetable and herb garden where their 27 goats roam and forage. "Each goat has a name and gets milked 300 days a year," says Pascal, a Frenchman "via Australia," who likes to sell directly to the public, "with the 250% markup most stores charge, few could afford a fine handmade cheese like this," he says. Priced at \$5.75, 8. and 12.—we agree. Pugs Leap has been featured in San Francisco Magazine, National Geographic Traveler and California Home.



### Farmer's Market (Cont. from p. 1)

With so many eaters celebrating the perks of locally grown food, it's no surprise that every neighborhood is calling out for its very own farmers market. However there is one piece of the puzzle that eaters sometimes forget— farmers. In California, eaters outnumber small to mid-sized farms 12,500 to 1; with approximately 36,000,000 Californians to the 2,900 certified producers currently participating in farmers markets. Instead of spreading farmers too thin by demanding that they set up a booth in every corner of our urban landscape, it's time that we reach a compromise.

On Sunday June 28th, Marin Farmers Markets (MFM), in partnership with its sister organization Marin Agricultural Institute (MAI), celebrated the opening of its new farmers market at Stonestown, running from 9 AM to 1 PM. This is MFM's first farmers market in San Francisco, and the first new market that MFM has opened in 7 years. The new market, will run year-round. They currently operate 4 farmers markets in Marin County, and 3 farmers markets in Alameda County.

While the surge in the demand for local food has been remarkable, consumers are still trapped in the culture of convenience. With over 500 markets in California, the farmers are in the driver seat when deciding how many markets they can attend and which ones. We need more farmers, more people growing their own food. But in the meantime, it's important that we compromise and develop markets that have both the needs of the customer and the farmer in mind.

Thanks to excellent public transportation, as well as the abundance of parking available at the Stonestown Galleria, the Stonestown Market is extremely accessible.

*The market will be open year-round every Sunday from 9 AM -1 PM. Stonestown Galleria is at 3251 20th Avenue, SF*



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Sample some artichoke spread? You bet!



Lily Schneider is eager to explain the value of growing and eating organic food.



Sam Shacleford talks about pesticide-free gardening — common practice for most of the vendors at the Farmers Market, even those that haven't been officially certified — its best practice at RHS Farms, his 60 acre farm in Woodland.



Bill Yang is proud of his Heirloom tomatos from his Nou Vang Farms in Sanger (near Fresno).

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