

## An Appeal to Mayor Ed Lee?

By John Farrell

**M**uni needs \$10 billion, the Homeless program is mediocre, the City is in dire need of affordable housing and we lost the 49ers to Santa Clara to name a few. On the other hand, unemployment is low and the City will receive a healthy increase in property tax revenue due to new construction going on all over the City.



I appeal to the Mayor to put a moratorium on any new proposals to increase taxes or fees until all revenue-generating City departments audit and report on potential revenues. Over the past year I have written articles identifying close to \$200 million in revenue to the City that is not currently being addressed. Is this the tip of the iceberg? You decide.

Mayor Lee before any monies are requested from taxpayers ... Are all City department lands that are rentable leased out, and if not, why not? Have studies been done to insure rental rates, permits, licenses, boat berths, etc...are at fair market and taxed accordingly? I can tell you as a fact they are not."

In February, I reported that PG&E is getting a \$5.2 million annual tax break. PG&E's franchise fee is subject to property tax but is not reflected in the annual appraisal, by the State Board of Equalization (SBE). The Assessor's Office should work closely with SBE staff to insure a fair market franchise fee assessment is accounted for in the SBE's annual appraisal resulting in property tax revenue to the City of approximately \$5.2 million annually (based on a market franchise fee of 3%).

Keep in mind we were just reviewing the property tax revenue from the franchise fee of PG&E. There are numerous companies with franchise fees that should also be assessed, resulting in additional millions to the City annually. There is also a potential increase in the existing PG&E franchise fee, set in 1939 to fair market, resulting in from \$27 to \$45 million annually to the City (reflects a 3% to 5% fair market franchise fee) compared to the existing payment to the City of \$5.5 million (based on the existing franchise fee of ½% electrical and 1% of gas from PG&E's gross receipts).

In December, I reported that the City is losing at least \$10 million a year in property tax revenue and well over \$100 million from the Presidio Trust since inception due to an unconstitutional loophole in the Presidio Trust Act that allows that tenants are exempt from all taxes. This includes transfer tax. Further, if the Lucas Plan for a Presidio Museum is approved, the City will lose at least \$8.1 million annually in property tax.

In 1989, the federal government closed the Presidio as a military base. Since the Presidio is no longer for military

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## Residents Divided Over Plans for Mt. Sutro Reserve

By Keith Burbank

**W**hether to thin the trees in the UCSF Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve is still dividing residents of the local area, despite changes in the university's plans. On one side are residents who want to maintain the forest as it is. Other residents agree with the university – that thinning needs to occur.

"It's really quite simple," said Jake Sigg, a retired gardener who lives on Ortega Street. He added that there are many more trees now than when Sutro first planted them, and many areas are so dense with trees it's not healthy for the trees themselves. "Any gardener can tell you that."

Doing the most damage is the dense understory, smaller trees and shrubs, which is keeping the trees from regenerating, Sigg said. The dense understory also blocks the light that seeds need to germinate.

He says residents who want to maintain the present condition of the forest are taking an emotional approach. And he's upset the university has backed off its original plans.

Those plans appear to never have fully developed. The idea to thin the Reserve has been dictated by a desire



Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve Management Plan was developed with substantial involvement from members of the community, but many outspoken opponents are strongly opposed to the plan

Sigg wonders if the university is creating a smoke screen to its real plans, which he said may be selling the land to developers ... an attorney said there is no legal impediment to a sale."

to reduce the Reserve's fire hazard. The university was exploring different ways of doing that until the community raised its opposition to the plans.

The new plan calls for thinning to occur in 25 of the Reserve's 61 acres, according to a fact sheet published by the university.

Besides the Reserve, thinning is planned for roadside areas along Medical Center Way, from Johnstone Drive to the Environmental Health and Safety

Cont. p. 2

## Behind the Trustees' Struggle for City College

By Dr. Anita Grier, Trustee

*I love City College. City College changed my life and granted me my first degree, I've served on its Board of Trustees 15 years.*



and moral responsibility to continue serving the people as it has for 78 years, and I'm convinced that we will.

Contrary to simplistic reports by education "leaders" who should know better, many reasonable, informed people at City College not only have recognized that we've had some problems, but that we've worked hard on many fronts to rectify them.

The college has always been recognized for having enlightened personnel policies and practices and high-quality instruction, even during the recent financial crisis and the destabilizing imposition of harsh, and in my view, unwarranted, sanctions by the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Respected educators have observed that CCSF has done the best job in the state of improving Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Not only have the faculty and classified staff unions and the Department Chair Council made major concessions at the bargaining table that have saved millions of

**A**s an African-American woman, I know how much an outstanding community college that is affordable and accessible can help people. City College of San Francisco has the educational mission

College's job-and our *only* job-is to *fully* meet the standards that are being followed by the other 111 community colleges in California." [His emphasis.]

I feel deep institutional grief to see City College in its present state. The college is more polarized and destabilized than it's ever been. Even though enrollments are plummeting, the administration is making further cuts in classes for the spring semester; the Board of Trustees has been exiled from all of the decision-making responsibilities the people invested in us; and on a daily basis, people point out the sad irony that a great, democratic college that serves up to 100,000 students in a progressive city like San Francisco is being run by one individual, a special trustee with absolute power who is paid more than \$1,000 a day.

Since our elected Board of Trustees has been dissolved,

I want to acknowledge my profound respect for the integrity, intellect, courage and perseverance of Marty Hittelman, a community college math teacher... When many of us at CCSF cautiously regarded the ACCJC as a responsible and respected institution with the credibility and integrity of a blue-ribbon grand jury, Hittelman was leading a lonely struggle to expose the ACCJC as a "rogue organization" that was abusing its power and causing great harm to City College ... and numerous other community colleges in California."

the responsibility of meeting our enrollment goals to avoid a massive loss of state funding rests with recently selected Chancellor Arthur Tyler and Special Trustee Robert Agrella. Now that City College has the financial resources to restore the cuts in classes and personnel as we promised the voters in our Prop A Parcel Tax campaign literature, will the two policymakers be able and willing to keep that promise, or will they continue cutting classes and part-time faculty?

As a member of the CCSF Board of Trustees before the takeover, I won't say that we are brilliant people; however, I believe we are competent policymakers, and we have learned

from hard economic times and institutional missteps. We also know the college well and, most important of all, the people elected us to provide, as effectively as possible, the comprehensive educational services that our students need.

The harsh ACCJC sanctions have brought responses ranging from massive demonstrations to three lawsuits. On January 2, 2014, Superior Court Judge Stanley Karnow granted a preliminary injunction against the ACCJC, barring "the Commission from finalizing their dis-accreditation decision pending further order of the court or final adjudication of the merits in this case." Judge Karnow also wrote:

"There is no question, however, of the harm that will be suffered if the Commission follows through and terminates accreditation as of July 2014. Those consequences would be catastrophic. Without accreditation the College would

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Mt. Sutro (Cont. from p. 1)

Buildings. The university wants to reduce the risk of fire to developed areas near the Reserve, too. “The work includes thinning the forest by removing trees less than 10 inches in stem diameter in the North and South areas, and less than 6 inches in stem diameter in the West area,” the fact sheet says. “Shrubs would be thinned and perennial plants would be mowed. Cut materials would be chipped and spread on the site.”

“Something needs to be done,” Sigg said. “It needs management.” He said the eucalyptus trees are overwhelming everything in the Reserve because the trees have no predators. The eucalyptus is native to Australia, Sigg said. And he said the only predators are in Australia.

“We think an understanding of Sutro Forest terrain and microclimate is essential to



understanding [the] risk associated with this forest,” said Rupa Bose, an advocate for maintaining the status quo. Bose said the trees protect the residential neighborhoods below the steep slope of the Reserve from landslides and rock slides. And she claims the Reserve has “mud and puddles” during the summer and fall when elsewhere the land is dry.

She said areas of the Reserve that have already been thinned are much drier, “even dusty.”

“The empirical evidence suggests that cutting and thinning may be precisely the wrong prescription for this particular forest,” Bose said. “The safest option may be to do nothing.”

“It’s perfectly healthy forest,” said Dr. Morley Singer, a physician who lives next to the Reserve. The “university has greatly exaggerated the risk of fire.” Like Bose, he said the floor of the Reserve is wet, and fire agencies have given the Reserve the lowest fire risk rating, he claimed.

Singer also disagrees with those who say the non-native eucalyptus must be cut down and replaced with native plants. He claims that’s an unscientific view.

Sigg wonders if the university is creating a smoke screen to its real plans, which he said may be selling the land to developers. Though the land is supposed to be maintained as open space in perpetuity, an attorney said there is no legal impediment to a sale.

University documents say there are no plans for a sale.

Keith Burbank is a local journalist.

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## RUMINATIONS FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR By Quentin Kopp



Photo: fogcityjournal.com

**P**robably the most significant measure on the June 2014 San Francisco Municipal Election ballot protects the right of San Franciscans to authorize any vertical desecration of our waterfront.

In the post-World War II era of waterfront devastation and general freeway spread throughout the state and nation, San Francisco political leaders and businessmen, together with the California Department of Transportation, facilitated the construction of the so-called Embarcadero Freeway. For about 30 years, many (if not most) San Franciscans clamored for removal of that waterfront impediment. The best that such like-minded people could accomplish was prevention of a freeway through the Panhandle near Golden Gate Park, and another one through the Marina to the Golden Gate Bridge.

**“No sooner last month was the measure certified for the June election than special interests filed a lawsuit to prevent San Francisco voters from voting on it. The suit is financed by the San Francisco Giants and big Labor Union organizations. It is scheduled for hearing in San Francisco Superior Court on March 13<sup>th</sup>.”**

On October 17, 1989, however, the world changed for the Bay Area in the form of the Loma Prieta earthquake, which expunged a portion of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (that will always be its name, notwithstanding venal politicians and their lackeys) and damaged other local freeways. Eventually, the Embarcadero Freeway was demolished and the real property upon which it was constructed was transferred to San Francisco by a State Senate Bill I introduced. Previously, the Port of San Francisco’s administration had been divested by the State of California to San Francisco under the so-called public trust doctrine, which essentially signifies that San Francisco must utilize all port properties for public benefit, and not simply to make money.

Last November San Franciscans rejected an effort by high-rise condominium developers to construct a skyscraper commonly called 8 Washington Street. That parcel was across the road from the water, not on the Bay itself. Almost all the political “big shots” attempted to enable such a view-hindering structure’s construction. The vote against it was approximately 66.6%. In the aftermath, many sincere citizens promulgated an initiative ballot measure for June 2014 with a simple requirement, namely, any future development on the Embarcadero which exceeds the current limits of approximately 50 feet must be expressly approved by a majority of voters at an election.

The signatures required to qualify such initiative ordinance were collected in a majestic three weeks. No sooner last month was the measure certified for the June election than special interests filed a lawsuit to prevent San Francisco voters from voting on it. The suit is financed by the San Francisco Giants and big Labor Union organizations. It is scheduled for hearing in San Francisco Superior Court on March 13<sup>th</sup>. I expect that regardless of the Superior Court ruling, the losing parties will seek review and reversal by the California Court of Appeal in expedited fashion. The principle is clear; it’s mystifying to believe California law stops voters from adopting a local ordinance, despite the opponents’ claim that the state statute transferring the Port to San Francisco only allows the mayoral-appointed Port Commission to set rules for waterfront land use. I predict the initiative, led by Jon Gollinger of Telegraph Hill, former Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, former Mayor Art Agnos of Potrero Hill, and Sierra Club President Becky Evans, will pass with as much as a 70% affirmative vote, (barring court rejection).

Last month, 12 California legislators revealed they had formed a “Jewish Caucus,” even if three of the asserted members are not Jewish. That reminded me of history; it also reminded me of the continuing degradation of American culture (does anyone remember the “melting pot”?). On my election to the California State Senate in 1986, I discovered existence of a “Jewish Caucus”; I qualified as a Jew to attend

uneventful meetings. The chairman was a non-Jewish Assemblyman from Los Angeles, whose wife was Jewish and a conspicuous Democratic Party fundraiser. There were perhaps eight members, including a Republican Assemblyman from Marin County who decided in 1988 to seek election to the United States House of Representatives. The Democratic chairman of the “Jewish Caucus,” covertly and unknown to the other members of the group, lent his name to a Primary Election Campaign flyer for the Republican Assemblyman, proclaiming his status as “Chairman of the Jewish Caucus.” Upon discovery by other caucus Democratic members, indignation raged. The late Senator Leroy Greene, a Sacramento Democrat, demanded a meeting at which the offending chairman was excoriated for unauthorized conduct, and the “Jewish Caucus” was, thankfully in my strong opinion, dissolved on Senator Greene’s motion and my second. Senator Greene properly observed that a “Jewish Caucus” represented separatism, not the unified American culture the California Legislature should signify. We know that history repeats itself, whatever the professed motivation, in a legislature which I discovered already contains a Black Caucus, A Women’s Caucus, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus, an Outdoor Sporting Caucus, a Republican Women’s Caucus, a Latino Caucus, an Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, an Animal Protection Caucus, an Environmental Caucus, an Inland Empire Caucus, a Rural Caucus, and a San Gabriel Valley Caucus, plus a Mental Health Caucus with but two members! One expects in a legislature a Democratic Caucus and a Republican Caucus. That’s logical. (As the Legislature’s only Independent during most of my 12 years, I didn’t have a caucus.) Those do exist and employ at taxpayers’ expense numerous staff members. Now taxpayers’ increasingly must support additional state employees for proliferating special interest caucuses. That’s foolish and contributes to disrespect of the California legislature.

Here’s how progress overcomes history. In 1987, I organized, qualified for the ballot and secured passage of a San Francisco initiative ordinance forbidding imposition of San Francisco’s infamous utility tax on any residential utility consumers. (Commercial ratepayers can claim an Income Tax deduction). After passage, the initiative ordinance was challenged in Superior Court unsuccessfully, then in the California Court of Appeal unsuccessfully. Last month I noticed on my mobile telephone bill a “San Francisco Telecom Utility Tax.” Outraged at first, I discovered upon investigation that our cell telephones are not considered residential telephones and are, therefore, subject to the San Francisco Utility Tax, unlike our “landlines.” Is that progress? Why didn’t I cover that in 1987?

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

## City Attorney Disregards Public Records Law

## Sandbagging, Legal Fairy Dust, and Double-Speak

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

**C**ity Attorney Dennis Herrera’s disregard for San Francisco’s public records Sunshine Ordinance, as with all City Hall’s machinations, affect everyone.

Consider the City Attorney’s conclusion in the recent settlement of lobbying violations by former Board of Supervisor Michael Yaki. While Herrera wanted to send “a strong message that the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance has teeth,” the machinations of Herrera and his team to remove the teeth in San Francisco’s Sunshine Ordinance are extremely troubling double-speak.

**An alarming development.** The City Attorney’s Office has appealed the Superior Court ruling in Allen Grossman v. John St. Croix, Executive Director, San Francisco Ethics Commission; and the Ethics Commission to the Appellate Court. The City’s appeal aggressively seeks to strike down one or more key sections of our local open government Sunshine Ordinance, apparently with City Attorney Herrera’s blessing.

In the introduction to a so-called Good Government Guide written by Herrera for City department heads and senior managers, Herrera ironically quoted Franklin Knight Lane, San Francisco’s City Attorney a century ago: “A public office is not a job. It is an opportunity to do something for the public. And once in office, it remains for him to prove that the opportunity was not wasted.”

Herrera ended his Good Government Guide introduction reminding employees “a public office is a public trust.” He noted employees have a responsibility to conduct government functions in ways that are honest, open, and responsive to the citizens.

**Desperate to Stop Grossman’s Victory.** As the *Westside Observer* reported in our December-January issue, open government advocate Allen Grossman, a Harvard University Law School graduate, obtained his second Superior Court victory against the Ethics Commission and its Executive Director, John St. Croix. Judge Ernest Goldsmith ruled in Grossman’s favor on October 25, noting St. Croix and the City failed to meet their burden proving that records improperly withheld are exempt under either the Sunshine Ordinance or California’s Public Records Act (CPRA).

That should have ended the dispute. It didn’t.

The City’s 42-page Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandate and/or Prohibition filed in Appeals Court on November 22 is even worse, sprinkled with a heavy dose of fairy dust.



Allen Grossman receives the Society of Professional Journalist’s Award

The subject matter of Grossman’s records request, drafts of Ethics Commission procedural regulations that were being vetted as a legislative function and the City Attorney’s views, epitomizes the type of legal advice that does not depend on confidentiality. But Herrera is hell bent on keeping the City Attorney’s advice concerning draft regulations totally secret; so much for Herrera’s “public office is a public trust.”

Herrera repeatedly claims that the 1999 Sunshine “Ordinance is invalid because it conflicts with the [City] Charter.” Grossman asserts there is no such conflict.

The Sunshine Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1993, presumably “approved as to form” by then-City Attorney Louise Renne. “Approved as to form” means that an Ordinance has been reviewed to ensure it is not “unconstitutional” with respect to municipal law, including the Charter.

In 1999 voters passed Proposition “G,” the “Sunshine Ordinance Amendment,” by a 58.4% margin. The voter guide’s Digest clearly informed voters the amendments would eliminate the bureaucrat’s ability to hide behind the “public interest” as a sole basis for withholding records; prohibit the City from withholding records solely because they reveal the “deliberative processes” of City officials; and prevent the City Attorney from giving confidential advice to City officers or employees on matters concerning city government ethics, public records, and open meeting laws.

Had these proposed Sunshine Ordinance amendments so violated the City Charter, then-City Attorney Renne should have prevented them from being put before the voters when she reviewed the proposed initiative to assign its title and summary before signature gathering could begin. Nor did Renne attempt to prevent them from being enacted as “unconstitutional” with respect to municipal law.

**City’s Improperly Filed Appeal** Grossman’s Attorney Michael Ng noted that Herrera’s Appeal is more than likely void and shouldn’t be considered by the Appeals Court based on the fact that it was “ostensibly filed on behalf of the Ethics Commission and its Executive Director.” Ng wrote, “The Ethics Commission has not, however, authorized this proceeding, and public records indicate that it may not even be aware it was filed.” For that reason alone, Ng asserts the Appeal should be tossed out.

Ng notes only the Ethics Commission itself has authority to decide whether to mount a lawsuit defense, and only the Ethics Commission can decide whether to waive the attorney-client privilege. Such authority cannot be delegated to its Director, or the City Attorney.

**Is Sandbagging in Herrera’s “Kit Bag”?** Ng notes that the Appeals Court should give wide deference to Grossman because the City had not raised “the defenses on which they now rely until after Grossman filed a mandamus action in the Superior Court.”

Although the City concedes that the records Grossman requested fall within the scope of the ordinance, it suddenly claims on appeal this Sunshine provision is invalid because it conflicts with City Charter sections 6.11 and 6.102. Ng notes there is no such conflict. Ng suggests that if the Appeals Court tolerates such “sandbagging,” it would encourage dragged-out litigation, encumbering the judicial system.

“Sandbagging” has a special meaning in legal contexts. Black’s Law Dictionary defines sandbagging as “a trial lawyer remaining cagily silent when a possible error occurs at trial, with the hope of preserving an issue for appeal if the court does not correct the problem.” Trial lawyers are not supposed to notice, but then not mention, possible trial errors in the hope of using the error as the basis to mount an appeal should they lose at trial.

Ng notes there is no conflict between the Sunshine Ordinance and the City Charter; the two laws can be read in perfect harmony. Ng observes the Charter is “silent with respect to the confidentiality of communications with the City Attorney,” and no Charter provision mandates that such communications, or all communications, take place within the boundaries of attorney-client privilege. Herrera asks the Appeals Court to read into the Charter “silence,” a new blanket requirement that all communications are confidential.

**The Records** In Grossman’s case, the records he sought were not privileged. The City has known for over 13 years that the Sunshine Ordinance amendments adopted by voters specifically deemed the types of records Grossman sought are not protected from disclosure. For nearly a decade and

*Cont. p. 6*



City Attorney Dennis Herrera



# The Half-Billion Dollar Hole

By Steve Lawrence

Annually, SFPUC, the city department that supplies water, sewer and power service, is required to adopt a ten year financial plan. The idea is to look and plan ahead. It's part of "best practices" governing, and is required by the City Charter.

Most years the updated financial plan is dull. This year, one part of the proposed plan amounts to a "fiscal cliff," in the words of SFPUC staff.

While Water and Sewer are in balance, the Power part is not. Within the last year the cost to fix a portion of the Mountain Tunnel has escalated, digging a half billion dollar hole.

The Mountain Tunnel is one of the tunnels that bring water from the Sierras 167 miles to San Francisco. It was dug in 1920. The water that it and other tunnels and lines carry is for municipal purposes (drinking, fire protection, irrigation), and also for generating electrical power—which, since the Thirties, has been used by MUNI, street lights and City buildings. (Within the past decade the water-generated power has been proposed to be sold to households through CleanPowerSF, a new endeavor that has not achieved lift-off, and sits on the launching pad, unready.)

The proposed financial plan for Hetch Hetchy Water & Power was called by one commissioner "a disaster" and "not a plan." Staff said the Mountain Tunnel calls for a "momentous" decision. The Commission did not adopt staff's proposed plan for power, calling it a "projection" instead. The Commission asked to be updated quarterly.

Capital cost that affects both water and power is allocated to both. It's really one system providing water and power, but the bureaucrats find it convenient to divide up costs.

In about 2005 Mountain Tunnel work was excised from the capital program today known as WSIP (Water System Improvement Program). Former General Manager Susan Leal had the Mountain Tunnel work, and much more, removed in order to keep costs down, and to finish the program "early," this year—2014. That plan collapsed. Now the program is to be completed in 2019, four years late rather than one year early. (A smaller Calaveras Dam will be done about ten years later than planned in 2003, and at much greater expense.)

While rates for power are not directly billed to consumers (only to City departments and enterprises which now use the Hetchy power), water and sewer rates that you pay are

posing to raise price only for higher tier use. Multi-person households jump to the higher tier quickly; might it be that those living with many to a household tend to be poorer, and tend to be home, not out of town, more of the time?

Expect to read more about raising the price of water. It fits nicely with the predilections of bureaucrats. Recycled water is one great way to raise price while doing little good. Let's hope that San Franciscans, who already use remarkably little, are not stampeded into foolishness which fries their finances.

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

Expect to read more about raising the price of water. It fits nicely with the predilections of bureaucrats. ... Let's hope that San Franciscans, who already use remarkably little, are not stampeded into foolishness which fries their finances."

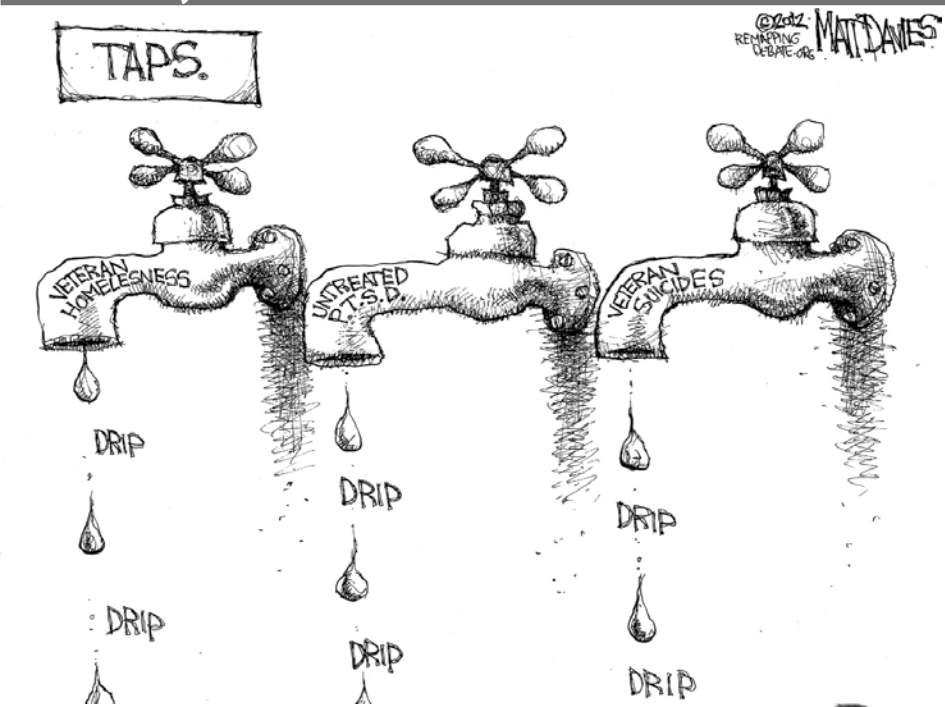
We have a finite area with 47 or 48 square miles, and we have to use our land judiciously ... in the area surrounding Laguna Honda or possibly around Twin Peaks ... you certainly could use some of that area for new housing."

The prior 1986 ROSE makes a strong case for the City acquiring new land for its many development projects instead of building up our parkland. However, the 2013 Draft ROSE leaves many loopholes for buildings on our scarce and precious park resources. Pertinent comments on these and other issues have been submitted by a group of community members, the ROSE Working Group. If you care what happens to open space in your neighborhood, review the ROSE, read the public comment letters, and come to a hearing on this vital policy document. This is the future of your parks and open space!

Katherine Howard, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance ROSE draft and approval schedule: <http://openspace.sfplanning.org/> Public comment letters can be found at: <http://www.takebackourparks.org/>



## The Band Plays On



My 2¢ • Will Durst

## GREEN RUSH MUNCHIES.

Easy to imagine an arena full of Phish fans raising and waving their lighters to honor US Attorney General Eric Holder for suggesting the feds might help states that legalize pot by allowing dispensaries to utilize banking services. Way to go, Super AG. That's so incredibly righteous of you.

These days, everyone dealing with marijuana distribution is forced to use cash in finan-

The smoke, it is a wafting. Banks can smell the money and are itching for a taste of the action. Lawmakers themselves are jonesing for additional revenue.

cial dealings. To buy inventory, pay employees, stock up on munchies, tip the pizza dude, everything. Even cover their taxes. Problem is, those amounts of dead presidents tend to attract the sort of unsavory company you normally associate with orange jumpsuit-wearing, ankle-shackle sporting, border-tunnel digging, Vin Diesel movie-watchers.

19 states have already approved medical marijuana and in 2014, the citizens of Oregon, Alaska, California, Arizona and DC will vote to legalize it for recreational use, joining Washington and Colorado in the Pot Club. The smoke, it is a wafting. Banks can smell the money and are itching for a taste of the action. Lawmakers themselves are jonesing for additional revenue. You've heard of squeezing blood out of a turnip? Think of this as scraping green off the green. A phenomenon that pot journalist Jack Rikess calls "Grassnost."

Grass. Tea. Weed. Reefer. Mary Jane. Wacky tobacco. Herb. Hemp. Happy leaf. Hippie lettuce. Parsley. Oregano. Cabbage. Chronic. Ganja. Da kine. Doobie. Dope. Blunt. Bone. Bud. Smoke. Spliff. Stank. Schwag. Shanizzle. Sticky icky. Indica. Tetrahydrocannabinol. The assassin of youth. Hairy purple skunk balls. Whatever brand name you prefer, lines are forming at the trampoline for corporate America to jump on The Green Rush Bandwagon.

Even President Obama admitted marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol and he should know. As opposed to Bill Clinton, who never inhaled, some skeptics doubt the 44th POTUS ever exhaled. In high school, as a member of the Choom Gang, he was noted for cutting off passing joints, intercepting extra hits. Seems to have lost some initiative in the days since. Typical.

But brah's right. Consider how many steps it takes to produce a bottle of whiskey. Not like you can walk into the backyard and pick a Daiquiri off the Cocktail Tree. Pot, however, grows right out of the ground. They don't call it "weed" for nothing. You saying God made a mistake?

Convincing politicians to stop lumping all drugs together would be a major victory. In their condemning zeal, they admit to no gradations. But even a fifth grader can tell you that heroin is to pot like an Uzi is to a banana. Heroin kills. Pot giggles.

What's the worst thing going to happen if you do run into a crazed pothead? You might get fleas. That's about it. Okay, There's Twinkie cream on your shirt, wipe it off. Can't get the song "Stairway to Heaven" out of your head-deal with it.

All that said, legalizing the stuff on a federal basis is going to be trickier than rolling three joints while swinging by your knees on a trapeze in a high breeze. Plan for heavy push-back from a variety of vested interests: the cotton and oil industries. Big Pharma. Prison guard unions. Mexican drug cartels. Mexican politicians. Taco Bell. Bail Bondsmen. The Catholic Church. Zig Zag Papers. Liquor distributors. Law enforcement agencies. ATM manufacturers. ATV manufacturers. Phish.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed political comic. Go to [willdurst.com](http://willdurst.com) to find about more about his new CD, "Elect to Laugh" and calendar of personal appearances including this week, the 19-23, at the Improv @ Harvey's Lake Tahoe.

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Watchdogs & Whistleblowers Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

Good-Bye Old Friends *Laguna Honda’s Changing Census*

The largest generation in US history – the Baby Boomers – began turning 65 in 2011. According to the 2010 census, 110,000 (13.7%) of San Francisco’s 805,000 residents were seniors. That number is expected to double over the next 20 years. Importantly, poverty rates for persons over 65 exceed the City average, and most will eventually need supportive services.

Although women comprise 49.3% of the City’s residents, the majority of our seniors are women. As they age, women increasingly outnumber their male peers. In San Francisco, there were 63,000 women over age 65 compared to 48,000 men. Of these, 22,000 lived alone, twice the number of solo males. Among those 85 and older, women outnumber men by 2 to 1.

Given the dramatic drop in elders and women served by Laguna Honda, what happens to “Old Friends” who can no longer care for themselves? Where do they go? Who checks whether the care they receive elsewhere is comparable to what the new \$585 million Laguna Honda provides?

These demographics explain why, for decades, the majority of Laguna Honda Hospital residents have been elderly - and female. Although LHH served more young patients than other nursing homes, caring for elderly, disabled San Franciscans had long been its core mission. Accordingly, “Old Friends” became the emotional theme of the 1999 Proposition A campaign to rebuild the hospital. At the time, hospital records show that two-thirds of LHH residents were over 65, 52% were over 75 years of age – and 56% were women.

That changed abruptly with the notorious Flow Project of 2004-05. Laguna Honda was repurposed as a repository for non-paying SFGH patients, as well as a way-station in the Care not Cash “housing continuum”. Suddenly, the Department of Public Health (DPH) introduced a new paradigm – the City’s “neediest” were those who needed “psycho-social rehabilitation”. Admissions from San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) surged from 54% to 73%, flooding LHH with “hard-to-place” patients. For the first time in memory, women - and elders over 75 - became minorities at LHH. The percent of female residents plunged from 53% to 47% in 2 years.

The new population included younger, able-bodied men with aggressive behaviors and substance abuse problems that endangered others and required specialized services. They needed a highly-structured, policed environment, while LHH’s elderly, physically disabled resi-

Year	Beds	Female	Male	Over 65	Average Age
1999	1060	56%	44%	67%	76
2005	1060	47%	53%	59%	69
2013	780*	41%	59%	47%	64

dents fared best in a home-like setting with more autonomy.

Although Mayor Gavin Newsom was forced to abort the Flow Project in 2005, the hospital’s gender and age balance didn’t return to its prior levels. Before the new building opened in December 2010, a revised Flow Project was launched.

For 2013, LHH reported that only 41% of the patients served were women – a record low. Notably, patients aged 65 or older are now a minority – an unprecedented 47%. Despite LHH’s reporting inconsistencies and fudged data, this table outlines the demographic shifts;

\*In 2013, LHH counted 1191 patients served during one year, instead of current inpatients.

Under CEO Mivic Hirose, and DPH Director Barbara Garcia, the new Flow Project favors transfers from SFGH, so other hospitals find it harder to place patients at Laguna Honda. Life-long San Franciscans are being shipped to out-of-County nursing homes. Since SFGH serves a much lower percentage of elders than the 13.7% living in the City, the new LHH will likely serve fewer elders and women.

The infirmities of old age, including poverty, persist. The number of City nursing home beds has decreased. The DPH’s own 2012 “Community Health Status Assessment” warns that; “...the population over age 75 will increase from 7% to 11% by 2030. The projected growth in San Francisco’s aging population has implications on the need for more long-term care options...”

No matter. As Patrick Monette-Shaw reported in the June 2013 *Westside Observer*, LHH is bringing in 45 patients from San Francisco General’s Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility. And in August 2013, LHH quietly deleted a long-standing safety measure from its Medical Staff Bylaws: 24-hour Sheriff’s security services are no longer required when patients with a police-hold are admitted.

Given the dramatic drop in elders and women served by Laguna Honda, what happens to “Old Friends” who can no longer care for themselves? Where do they go? Who checks whether the care they receive elsewhere is comparable to what the new \$585 million Laguna Honda provides?

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

Letters to the Editor

Re : Fukushima Plume: “No Evidence: of West Coast Threat Officials Say

Mike Hudson, President, Small Boat and Commercial Salmon Fishermen’s Association says “Our fish are safe. There is no Fukushima radiation in our fish or on the coast”, in spite of the radiation found in the tuna and water in Monterey bay by an eastern university research team two years ago.

Then there are the vast amounts of Sea Stars “melting” off the coast of North America; Killer whales dying off the coast of British Columbia; an epidemic of Sea Lion deaths due to starvation along the California Coastline ; Polar bears , seals and walruses along the Alaska coastline are loosing their fur and experiencing open sores ; Fish along the West Coast of Canada are bleeding from their gills, bellies and eyeballs.

High levels of cesium 137 has been found in plankton in waters of the Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and the West Coast effecting the food chain in a process called “biomagnification”. And regarding the potassium 40 found in bananas, the container cargo ships entering San Francisco bay can no longer be monitored for ratio active bomb material due to the bananas setting the radiation alarms off, and thus other means of protection are required.

Frank Norton, West Portal District

MONEY MATTERS • By Brandon Miller and Joanne Jordan

Retirement When You’re Self Employed

If you call yourself a consultant, a freelancer or an independent contractor, you’re one of the growing numbers of Americans without an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan. As a solo entity, you’re left without the luxury of the “employer match,” which many use to help grow their retirement nest eggs. Meanwhile, the full retirement age for Social Security eligibility has been pushed out, making it more important than ever for self-employed individuals to put retirement planning strategies in place. Here are three tips to help you prepare financially for your retirement years.



Max out your retirement savings

As a self-employed worker, have you established a SEP IRA or Solo 401(k)? These retirement savings plans are not mutually exclusive, and you can contribute the maximum (as much as 25 percent of your adjusted growth income) to both plans to accelerate your savings in any given year. But, you don’t need to stop there. If you’re looking for more ways to save, consider a Roth IRA as a vehicle for accruing supplemental retirement savings.

With the Roth, your contributions are not tax deductible in the year in which you make them. Down the road, however, your withdrawals in retirement will be tax-free if you have met all the qualifications. Because the tax rates of the future are not entirely predictable, this is a plus. Since you can withdraw direct contributions from the Roth at any time, you needn’t worry about not being able to access the money for emergencies. Earnings in your Roth account can also be withdrawn tax-or penalty-free once you reach age 59 ½ (sooner if your eligibility changes due to disability) and have had the Roth for five years or more. For 2014, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to your Roth IRA (if your income falls within certain income limits). If you are 50 or older, this maximum goes up to \$6,500.

The more you have working for your future security, and the more predictable your retirement income can be the better. Consult your financial advisor and visit IRS.gov for more complete rules on retirement savings plans.

Budget for healthcare costs

Nearly all of us will eventually need costly medical care at one time or another and that possibility rises in retirement. Evaluate income streams such as annuity or interest income that may help you defray eventual medical expenses. If you’re within five years of leaving the workforce, it’s a good idea to anticipate what your healthcare needs may be and how you will pay for those expenses.

It’s important to know that regardless of your work status, you must sign up for Medicare by age 65 to avoid potentially delaying your coverage and paying higher premiums. Visit Medicare.gov to familiarize yourself with premium and deductible costs for hospital, general medical and prescription coverage offered by the government. Talk to your insurance broker to explore supplemental plans that can help you manage deductibles and pay for services not allowed by Medicare. By all means, do what you can to maintain your health, but don’t ignore the likelihood that you’ll need costly medical care at some point in retirement.

Keep working if you’re able

The amount of your monthly Social Security check is determined by how much you earned annually over your working life and your retirement date. This means delaying your retirement will result in a bigger monthly Social Security check. If you’re in good health and enjoy working, there’s no hard and fast rule that says you have to remove yourself from the workforce.

These retirement planning tips are especially important for self-employed individuals, but they also have value for workers of every variety. As more employers retreat from the business of providing extensive retiree benefits, everyone in the workforce needs to be mindful of how they will manage the bills in retirement. At the end of the day, you’re the boss of your own retirement. Make your retirement finances a priority by working with a financial professional who can help you establish a solid retirement plan.

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

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**Herrera v Public Records** (Cont. from p. 3)

a half, Herrera had to have known they can't use magic dust to convert non-confidential documents.

Ng notes Dennis Herrera's own so-called Good Government Guide states that "The Sunshine Ordinance provides that notwithstanding any exemption [permitting withholding of records] provided by law, any written legal advice about conflicts or open government laws may not be withheld from disclosure in response to a public records request."

**Inappropriate Condescension** Herrera's 22-page Reply to Opposition filed on January 14, 2014 stoops to a heavy dose of inappropriate condescension, insulting Grossman as a person at every opportunity.

Voters hold the ultimate plenary power over the City's legislative affairs. The communications Grossman sought involved Ethics Commission procedural regulations being vetted as a legislative function, over which voters should have some control and input. Herrera reduces the development of the regulations to "mere policymaking," as if of no interest or consequence to voters.

While Herrera argues development of policy regulations is "mere" policy-making, he nonetheless wants to elevate the policy-making to the same standard of protected attorney-client privilege provided for litigation cases.

**Misleading the Appellate Court** Herrera misleads the Appeals Court that the Sunshine Task Force is a "purely advisory body." It is, in fact, a quasi-judicial body. By claiming it's "merely" an advisory body, he seeks to persuade the Court that the Task Force has no authority to issue any Orders of Determination to any City department ordering compliance with the Sunshine Ordinance, when it specifically provides that when the Task Force determines a document is a public record, it shall [must] order the Custodian of the record to comply and produce it.

**What's At Stake?** Should the City persuade the Appellate Court that §67.24(b)(1) (iii) is not enforceable and should be struck down, other sections of the Sunshine Ordinance may also be in jeopardy.

It could invalidate provisions that currently bar the City from claiming "deliberative process" and various "privilege" exemptions to justify withholding public records otherwise disclosable.

If multiple sections of the Ordinance are struck down by the Appellate Court, it would permit the City Attorney and his clients to keep secret all communications regarding public records access issues. It would permit

the full weight of the City Attorney's Office to be used to defend errant City employees and departments against citizen Sunshine complaints, which the City Attorney is currently barred from doing.

This appears to be Herrera's end game: To completely strip the Sunshine Task Force of its ability to order City departments and City employees into Sunshine compliance.

Given that the 1995 voter guide stated citizen initiatives moved to Charter appendices could only be changed by the voters, why is the City asking the Appellate Court to strike down sections of the Sunshine Ordinance, rather than asking the voters to amend it?

As the San Francisco Chronicle reported in "Ex-supe Settles Lawsuit" on February 21, the \$75,000 fine against former Board of Supervisor Michael Yaki involving 70 instances of lobbying violations involved Herrera wanting to send "a strong message that the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance has teeth."

Ironically, Herrera stated, "We City officials take seriously our duty to protect transparency in our legislative process." If that were true, why is he trying so stridently to block the transparency of the legislative process involving the Ethics Commission's regulations by appealing Grossman's Superior Court victory?

Is Herrera cherry-picking which aspects of transparency, which City Ordinances, and which legislative functions City officials will take seriously? It will be interesting to eventually learn how much Herrera spent to protect transparency in Yaki's case, versus what he has spent to prevent transparency in Grossman's case.

Herrera attempts to distract the Court and drown out facts in Grossman's case. It's an age-old trick: Scream scary analogies often and loudly. Toss in handfuls of fairy dust. Stir in sandbagging. These bait-and-switch tactics are designed to make the Appeals Court panic, confounding issues before the Court.

The City is arbitrarily seeking to inflate the necessity for confidential communications in a case that only involves development of legislative regulations. The fairy dust — that all City Attorney communications involving advice on compliance with open government laws must be deemed confidential — must end.

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

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

**City College** (Cont. from p. 1)

*almost certainly close and about 80,000 students would either lose their educational opportunities or hope to transfer elsewhere; and for many of them, the transfer option is not realistic. The impact on the teachers, faculty, and the City would be incalculable, in both senses of the term: The impact cannot be calculated, and it would be extreme."*

On January 2, 2014, just before Judge Karnow granted the injunction, California Community College Chancellor Brice Harris wrote a letter to San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera regarding the City's lawsuit against ACCJC. Chancellor Harris wrote:

*"While neither my office nor City College is a party to these actions, we have a continuing responsibility to the community and students of San Francisco to ensure that no additional harm is dealt to the College as a result of the court's decision. One of the greatest threats to the long-term health of the college is the dramatic decline in its enrollment."*

Wouldn't it be more rational and productive for Chancellor Harris to motivate Special Trustee Agrella, who's had supreme policy-making power at CCSF since July 2012, to conceive and implement actions to stop the dramatic decline in enrollment?

As the trial goes forward, the court may find that the ACCJC was acting responsibly and within the scope of its authority. If the petitioners prevail, however, and the court nullifies or drastically modifies the ACCJC's

punitive decisions, what will that say about the judgment of Chancellor Harris and the Board of Governors, the allies of, and apologists for, the ACCJC?

I want to acknowledge my profound respect for the integrity, intellect, courage and perseverance of Marty Hittelman, a community college math teacher, longtime union activist and former president of the California Federation of Teachers. When many of us at CCSF cautiously regarded the ACCJC as a responsible and respected institution with the credibility and integrity of a blue-ribbon grand jury, Hittelman was leading a lonely struggle to expose the ACCJC as a "rogue organization" that was abusing its power and causing great harm to City College of San Francisco, and numerous other community colleges in California. (See accreditationwatch.com.)

I'm convinced that City College is on a firm path to stability and will survive in spite of the institutional missteps, shortage of funding, and the destabilizing influences of the past 18 months. Now that we have a permanent chancellor, we hope he has the vision, intelligence, communication skills, long-term commitment, and humanity to ensure that CCSF will continue to serve the comprehensive human and educational needs of the people of San Francisco.

*Dr. Anita Grier has served as an elected Trustee of the City College of San Francisco for 15 years.*

**Hidden Gems of San Francisco****The Redstone Building: From Red-Light District to Realtors-Ambition District**

By Paula Tejada  
**Chile Lindo**



**I** have always thought that the Redstone Building has good karma. Located on 16th Street between Mission and S. Van Ness, it was originally built in 1914 as The San Francisco Labor Temple. It was the headquarters of labor union activity during a time when San Francisco was a spirited union town. In 1968 the building was sold and renamed The Redstone Building. In 1997, an artists' coalition, the Clarion Alley Mural Project, acquired a grant and permission from the owner to depict the building's history through various murals that line the entrance. Years later, in 2004, the Redstone Tenants Association obtained landmark status for the building.

Chile Lindo is a 10 ft x 20 ft empanada and coffee shop in the Redstone Building. It was originally the Labor Temple's barbershop. I acquired the storefront in 1995; it's been Chile Lindo since 1973. After numerous ups and downs over the years, the empanada shop has become a community icon.

Why do I think The Redstone Building has good karma? Because of the building's community: activists, artists, nonprofits, and small businesses. Overall, we are a supportive group. In spite of the whirlwind of changes that have buffeted this landmark over the years, today the tenants' frame of mind echoes that of its founders. The prevailing *raison d'être* among the tenants is to improve the conditions of the underprivileged. Considering the growing rigidity of our unyielding society, such a community offers a welcome support system.

The corner of 16th and Capp has seen many a transformation and an array of characters. It's gone from red-light district to realtors-ambition district. Today, it is not unusual to see real estate developers in their suits and ties pointing out the neighborhood's charm to potential buyers, rubbing elbows with anti-eviction activists wearing protest t-shirts ...all waiting for a cup of coffee from Chile Lindo.

I have always welcomed everyone in my empanada shop and I pride myself on the diversity of my customer base: Mission district old timers; the immigrant melting pot from Mexico to China to Palestine; the city's spectrum from techies to artists to activists; and the income gamut from homeless to very well-off.

When Chile Lindo gets visits from Explore San Francisco's Mission District Food Tour - North, the attendees are just as interested in the food as the neighborhood's history. The Mission's small business owners have a story to tell, and that story is what gives a neighborhood character and vibrancy. Small business owners don't just watch the shop, they cultivate relationships through conversations. Regulars vent their troubles one day, and the next day they celebrate their triumphs. The conversation continues.

It takes years to build the layers that tell a story and make up the history of a community. Then it seems that in no time it is being bulldozed. Up to now, the Mission has seen many chapters. However, it had managed to remain, over the years, a working class neighborhood. Now that it's being gentrified quickly, the layers of history are sinking under the rising skyscrapers that are in the works. With any luck, the supportive community that prevails in The Redstone Building will continue to exist and I will continue serving the community as only small businesses can—with the human touch.

*Explore San Francisco, a co-op of guides who explore the City's "hidden gems." Info: [www.ExploreSanFrancisco.biz](http://www.ExploreSanFrancisco.biz) or 415.793.1104*

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# Infrastructure: Taking on the Big Picture

By Howard Strassner

Our Mayor finally realized that our City's transit, streets and sidewalks are suffering from a failing infrastructure that is severely diminishing our quality of life. So he convened a Transportation Task Force of forty-five politicians, agency managers, business representatives and a few stakeholders to find a solution for these problems. They put together a list of construction projects, hopefully designed to please almost everybody, along with a series of taxes to fund the projects that they hoped would not upset too many of us too much. I suggest that they may have come close in both regards, but there are problems.

**Vehicle License Fee** The largest part of the funding, about 37% of almost three billion dollars, is supposed to come from an increase in the local Vehicle License Fee, (VLF) from 0.65% to 2.0%. This was the State fee before it was reduced by Schwarzenegger. A new State law allows counties to increase the tax back to 2.0%, locally, with a vote of the people, and use the funds for their streets, highways and transit operations, with fifty per cent vote.

**Sales Tax Increase** The second largest funding source is from a half percent increase in the sales tax, providing about 35% of the 3 billion. This kind of tax increase usually passes in SF because the tax is regressive and partially comes from non-residents. Our two earlier versions of this tax had 75% of the funds used for transit and passed easily. The currently proposed uses for the increase will be similar and maintains our position as a County with one of the highest sales tax rates.

The remaining 28% of the 3 billion is proposed to come from a bond issue to be paid back from a small increase to our real estate taxes. We are well under our maximum bonding amount and this will probably pass because for most of us, with low Prop 13 assessment levels, it will be barely noticed.

All of these taxes will make a noticeable dent in our transit and transportation infrastructure needs but, because our needs are so great, over ten billion dollars, and our funds so meager we have to be more precise about the priority of the projects selected and how they are implemented. Most of the items listed will be useful but, it is essential that all of the pedestrian and bicycle funding items be implemented along with necessary street repaving, for most efficient construction, and be combined with improved transit lanes for Muni buses even if this reduces auto traffic and/or parking lanes. The proposed items include funds for the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP), and new vehicles which will help many of our busier routes. There are useful items for: transit efficiency; maintenance infrastructure; pedestrian and bicycle improvements and a small contribution for the SF share for Caltrain, which should greatly reduce auto congestion.

I suggest a few small changes to the uses of the new funding. Over 6% of the funding is proposed for Market Street improvements, most of which can be delayed for many years. More ideally this item should be reduced to provide design only for complete transit, pedestrian,



bicycle and streetscape Market Street improvements but initially only construct the transit bus islands. This is essential because buses too often "bunch" on Market Street now, and a large increase in bus service for our expected population increase will require carefully designed loading islands and service improvements. Part of the rest of this item should be used for what might be called TEP2 to start design and environmental studies to provide bus bulbs and other improvements for more transit for our new dense areas. This will be a higher priority use because improving Market Street to encourage greater use during evenings can wait. A small portion of this item should be used to increase the operating budget for more maintenance, and more service to provide for our growing population, additional service on our over crowded routes.

Most of the funds are for capital projects, and we can have some hope that improved efficiency will help Muni provide better service without fare increases that are greater than inflation, but most probably the system will need still more funding to meet operating needs. This should come from a small portion of the VLF increase. This is essential because we have to maintain current Muni service while we gear up for increased population and transit use because our streets do not have capacity for increased auto use. Unfortunately, initially, this will reduce some funding for repaving and also delay a few the concurrent pedestrian and bicycle improvements. That must be for another day and another bond issue.

If we want to make a bigger dent in our transportation infrastructure needs we will need more funding. One source might be a small long term parcel tax which will compel this writer to pay his fair for his Muni service. Parcel taxes are easy to pass because, cynically, they don't severely burden those with means or large businesses. In the same way, we will need a local gasoline tax to fill in the rest of the pot holes and allow for concurrent pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Those who drive a lot don't like to hear these words, but improving transit is the best way to reduce congestion by getting a few cars off the road so that you can drive and park more easily.

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

# Drought – the truth about the water works

By Brian Browne

We have a major drought. This is not the first, nor will it be the last drought. Our water overlords are failing to deliver on their multiple promises of an enhanced system for gathering, storing, delivering, and transporting water and sewerage.

The 2009 Master Water Sales Agreement (2009-MWSA) of the SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) made very sure the City would be left high and dry relative to its peninsula customers. This Agreement ensured that San Francisco's control over its Hetch Hetchy system would be gobbled up by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSA), a state empowered water district, with a minority vacant seat (30%) just waiting for San Francisco to occupy.

I owe the good citizens of San Francisco a major Mei Culpa. As a member of the Mayor's Infrastructure Task Force (2000-2002) in drafting 2002 Proposition P—I, along with other members—pushed to include a BAWSCA member on the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC). Adding a district representative was a first for San Francisco and a major blunder, hopefully never to be repeated. The one solace that can be gleaned is that they may

have, by their behavior on the RBOC, provided the very reasons for not allowing them to take over the system.

BAWSA in 2002 and again in 2009 telegraphed, by state law (AB1823) and contract (2009 MWSA), that it wanted to run the Hetch Hetchy system. It is content to wait and give the money changers and political bunglers sufficient time to hang themselves. Both AB1823 and the 2009 MWSA have the same time limit to fix Hetch Hetchy - 12/31/2015.

The objectives of the SFPUC's money lenders to play games with your bond-finances (February *Westside Observer*) and BAWSCA's dream of running the Hetch Hetchy system merged in an unholy alliance, to the detriment of San Francisco and its ratepayers.

BAWSA, through its representatives, from the very first meeting of the RBOC, did everything in its power to thwart the real intent

Cont. p. 9

## WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL By Mitch Bull

Vice President Roger Ritter chaired the February meeting of the WOTPCC as President Matt Chamberlain was out of town for the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Forest Hills Clubhouse.

Although the agenda was less crowded than in past meetings, the presentations from Emily Salgado from the office



Tyrone Lue and Crispin Hollings



Emily Salgado

of Assemblymember Phil Ting, and Tyrone Lue and Crispin Hollings of the SFPUC elicited much discussion and questions while providing important information related to the City's planning for future bicycle infrastructure, and the costs of rebuilding the infrastructure of the water and sewer delivery systems, respectively.

George Wooding reported on several Public Health issues concerning challenges that enrollees in San Francisco's groundbreaking HealthySF medical plan are having with the provisions (or lack thereof) in the new Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as "Obamacare." The Health Commission has met about the issues and has postponed the decision on a course of action to a future date. In other Public Health related issues, it was reported that on average 3 people are struck by vehicles in San Francisco each day, with a new fatality being reported this week at the intersection of Yorba and Sunset. Finally, residents on Treasure Island have reported finding radioactive and other toxic objects in and on the ground near their housing. The city is looking into it.

Avrum Shepard updated the meeting on a series of public meetings that are being conducted by MUNI to gather feedback on proposed route changes. Check out the MUNI website for more information.

The attempted addition of another marijuana apothecary on Ocean Avenue was the next topic, as Mattias Mormino from Supervisor Yee's office spoke about legislation sponsored by the D7 supe to stop the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> site. Vice President Ritter called for a committee to investigate this topic and was joined by delegates Paul Conroy, Dave Bisho, and Denise LaPointe. A motion forwarded by Bisho for the WOTPCC to oppose the proposed third dispensary site (on Ocean Avenue) was passed unanimously. Mormino clarified that there are three "green zones" in D7 where dispensary sites are conditionally acceptable: Ocean Avenue, West Portal Avenue and the Park Merced Shopping Center. (It should be noted that any dispensary that wishes to open in these areas still has to go through the planning commission review, including public comment.)

Emily Salgado from Assemblymember Phil Ting's office addressed the gathering about Ting's AB 1193, which would modify California's design process for cities, to design bicycle infrastructure projects by mandating design guidelines for Caltrans to establish so that the design and implementation costs for future projects of this type in SF would be less expensive to gain all necessary design and planning approvals. It would bring SF into compliance with Caltrans policy, while still maintaining local control in cycle track projects. Although AB 1193 doesn't determine where and when bike infrastructure should be built, many of the questions centered on getting bicyclists to obey traffic laws, etc. Salgado explained the bill's aim is to reduce the cost for SF infrastructure planning, promote bicycle safety for riders, and to help ensure that cyclists better obey the traffic laws.

Infrastructure development was also the crux of the next presentation by several members of the SFPUC. Tyrone Lue and Crispin Hollings presented an overview detailing a PUC proposal to raise the water and sewer rates for water and sewer users. In a nutshell, the PUC proposal will increase the water and sewer rates to water users by 8.9% per year for the next four years, resulting in an effective compounded increase of approximately 38%. The increases are necessary to continue to pay off the debt incurred to rebuild and strengthen the Hetch Hetchy water delivery system, with the goal of delivering water not more than 24 hours after an earthquake. Hollings, the finance half of the duo, said that for an average SF single family the increase would take an \$87 bill for water and sewer usage and increase it over four years to \$120. He also said that more increases would be coming in the long-range future to pay for future upgrades to the sewer system within the city. For more information on this topic, check out the SFPUC website at SFWater.org.

Two important topics closed the meeting as Vice President Ritter announced that Supervisor David Chiu is accelerating his legislation regarding secondary units and is aiming for a March 13<sup>th</sup> hearing by the Board of Supervisors. The WOTPCC has opposed secondary units in RH1 areas several times over the years. An invitation will be extended by the WOTPCC to Supervisor Chiu to speak at the next meeting (March 24.)

In the final piece of business for the evening, Kristine Zaback, President of the Forest Knolls Association, spoke about a resolution their group has drafted to ask MUNI to maintain the same level of service for the 36-Teresita bus line as it currently operates. MUNI is considering reducing this service, possibly affecting six neighborhoods in a most dramatic fashion. The resolution was read to the delegates and a motion to support it was seconded and approved unanimously so that Zaback could present the resolution at the MUNI public hearing on 2/25.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, March 24th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website ([www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org)).





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# LOCAL & IMPRESSIVE

## 2013 TOP PRODUCERS

**TOP 10 PRODUCERS** (L-R) Donald Woolhouse, Tanya Dzhibrailova (Company Top Producer), Richard Meyerson, Laura Kaufman, Sherri Howe, Robin Hubinsky (West Portal Top Producer), Todd Wiley, Bonnie Spindler (Upper Market Top Producer), Deborah Nguyen (Noe Valley Top Producer), Tim Gullicksen (Pacific Heights Top Producer)

**2013 TOP PRODUCERS** Bill Kitchen | Tanja Beck | Amy Clemens | Michael Ackerman | Vicki Valandra | Tim Hawco | Chris Sprague | David Baskin | Faye Dibachi | Ken Eggers | Darryl Honda | Isabelle Grotte | Dave Cunningham | Erik Reider | Gillian Pontes | Ravi Malhotra | Richard Sarro | Lynne L. Priest | Steve Dells | Andrew Roth | Michael Salstein | John LePage | Peter Goss | Hugh Grocock | Michelle Kim | James R. Holloway | Daniel Fernandez | Nadia Ruimy | Jan Medina | Wes Freas | Britton E. Jackson | Damon Knox | Kevin Markarian | Dan Bunker | Harry Clark | John Zhou | David Antman | Eric Castongia | Jeff Hand | Lily Remoundos | Christine Doud | Danita Kulp | Claire Chesson | Tyron Hooper | Jane Mermelstein | Rita Roti | Nancy Meyer | Matthew Goulden

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**Drought** (Cont. from p. 7)

of the RBOC for independent review and for the RBOC to act as a true ratepayer advocate on your behalf. BAWSCA's gamesmanship would not have been productive without the clear and unwavering support of the majority members on this failed and nullified committee.

Beginning in 2007 the Contracts Working Group (CWG) of the RBOC pushed for an independent review of the SFPUC's vast multi-billion dollar infrastructure program by academia. After many starts and stops, due mainly lack of enthusiasm by staff and strategically placed Committee members, UCB and UCLA came up with a well thought out program to do a full body overhaul of the SFPUC's water improvement program (\$4.6- billion-WSIP).

One question of overwhelming importance that had to be answered by this contract was, what is the system's real (v imagined PR) capacity to deliver water supplies? In 2000 BAWSCA (then BAWUA) and the SFPUC had agreed, based on historic-hydrologic conditions and system integrity, that the system could reliably deliver 239 million gallons per day (MGD) on a long-term basis. By 2002 this number had morphed upwards to 265 MGD and by 2009, just prior to signing the 2009 MWSA, 265 MGD had become contractual dogma with even the hint that going to 300 MGD would not be a stretch by these imaginative contract negotiators.

These brilliant professors were asked, among many other things, to evaluate the reality of 265 MGD in the context of their overall review of the entire WSIP project. The 2009 MWSA (SF's largest contract ever), between San Francisco and BAWSCA, is a house of cards without independent verification that 265 MGD as a reliable long-term system delivery number. If 265 MGD is invalid, then it would seem prudent to call for renewed negotiations of the MWSA.

These senior UCB professors, with degrees in economics and engineering, and their doctoral candidates agreed that flows and system capacity must be investigated. The professors and their students went through a careful and well thought out review of their RFP.

The then-Chair of the CWG and well known water industry expert, Kyle Rhorer, publicly praised these professors and stated the high-value of their contributions to the SFPUC obtained during the RFP process.

Attending the meeting as supposedly interested but independent parties were two RBOC members, but non-subcommittee members, Mayoral appointee Kevin Cheng and BAWSCA appointee John Ummel. Kevin Cheng is currently the Chair of both the RBOC and the SFPUC's Rate Fairness Committee. John Ummel was then the Senior Administrative Analyst at BAWSCA. Concern has been raised about a possible conflict for Cheng being on an independent-RBOC committee overseeing the SFPUC while on the SFPUC's Rate Fairness Committee.

Ummel in an email (obtained under Sunshine – 2/14/2011), to then-Chair Aimee Brown and current member, Treasury Oversight Committee, addressing the UCB-RFPs investigation of flows on the Tuolumne River (85% of the HH supply) and the impact of Global Warming etc. stated the professors were “off base and disorganized.” Ummel added in this report to Brown that, “Kevin [Cheng] was at the November (2010) meeting, will attest to how wishy washy the UC report was.” The qualifications of these two individuals to evaluate this RFP remain a mystery. Neither man is an engineer, hydrologist, or economist, exactly the disciplines sought when this RFP was designed. This is a classic case of the San Francisco epidemic of resume misfits.

The UCB contract was made to disappear by the RBOC Chair and her accomplices. No apology or explanation was offered to UCB and UCLA. This proposed RFP was a real chance to let the public know if the WSIP and other massive utility expenditures are actual or mainly just smoke and mirrors. One inescapable fact is that BAWSCA does not stand on firm ground should they actually try and absorb the Hetch Hetchy system. They have been integral to the negation process and hence the dysfunctional outcomes.

*Brian Browne was a former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee*



*The Art of Spin (must read this)...*  
Sheila Hyman from Pacifica sent this to me. It doesn't matter what side of the aisle you're on, it's hilarious...

Judy Wallman, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree and discovered that Senator Harry Reid's great-great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Senator Reid share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus Reid shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the photo that Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: "Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1883, escaped 1887, by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged i

Judy then e-mailed Senator Reid for information about their great-great uncle and believe it or not, the Senator's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

“Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883 he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887 he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889 Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.”

How's that for poetic license...



Juke Box” before him, he adds a bit of fun and fanciful flavor to the City.

**19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Study...**  
The 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Study Final Report is now available from the CTA and can be downloaded from the SFCTA website. Several public meetings will take place in March in the process to consider and approve the project. March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10: and Programs Committee), Agency Board).

***So you Think You Can Dance?...*** Beginning March 20<sup>th</sup>, Ballroom dance classes for couples will be offered on Thursday evenings at the Forest Hill Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. The cost is \$70 per couple for all six lessons. For information please call 415.661.2746.

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



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## Intimate Impressionism from the National Gallery of Art

March 29, 2014 – August 3, 2014

Intimate Impressionism, on view at the Legion of Honor, showcases approximately 70 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, interiors, and portraits, from the collections of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

The exhibition will illuminate the process of painting directly in nature with Impressionist precursors. Eugène Boudin and Johan Barthold Jongkind's plein-air practice inspired artists including Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, and Alfred Sisley. Complementing these paintings of the natural world are depictions of artists' studios and domestic interiors; several captivating self-portraits by Edgar Degas, Henri Fantin-Latour, Paul Gauguin, and Édouard Vuillard; Renoir's 1872 portrait of Monet; and representations of the artists' families, including Berthe Morisot's *The Artist's Sister at a Window*, of 1869.



This celebration of fleeting moments and personal places also highlights some of the Impressionists' most iconic subjects, such as ballerinas and racehorses by Degas, still lifes by Paul Cézanne, and beautiful young women by Renoir. The exhibition also includes examples of flattened perspectives and patterned surfaces by the Nabi painters Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard.

The temporary closure of the National Gallery's East Building for major renovation and expansion has made possible the rare opportunity to see this select group of paintings in San Francisco, the exhibition's first venue.



### March CALENDAR

#### EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

#### EVERY MON & TUE • JOB SEEKERS LAB

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

#### EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

#### EVERY WED • FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING?

**Every Wed | 7-8 am** | Toastmasters helps you become a confident public speaker. Tennessee Grill, 1128 Taraval. RSVP 564-6069.

#### EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

#### JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

**Every Fri | 7–11 pm** | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. [cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html).

#### FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

#### WED • GWPNA

**Wed Mar 5 | 7-9 pm** | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn, West Portal Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way, 1st Wed each month.

#### THU-SAT • SPAMALOT

**Mar 6, 7 & 8 | 7:30 pm | Mar 8 | 2 pm** | From the classic Monty Python and the Holy Grail, King Arthur and his Knights features a bevy of show girls, not to mention cows, killer rabbits, and French people. Ruth Asawa School of Arts. Tickets: [sfsota.org](http://sfsota.org). 555 Portola.

#### THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE/SUNSET

**Thu Mar 7 | 7 pm** | Formerly Taraval Parkside Merchants Assn. Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave. 1st Thu each month, 945 Taraval St. #350 Phone: (415) 269-7080 - [www.sf-pops.com/](http://www.sf-pops.com/)

#### FRI-SUN • FREE/ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**Fri-Sun Mar 7-9 | 9:30(11 Sun) am-5pm** | Free Day for Sunset and Parkside residents (94116 and 94122). California Academy of Sciences, GGP. Info: 379-8000 /

[calacademy.org/visit/](http://calacademy.org/visit/)

#### SAT • FREE/DE YOUNG MUSEUM

**Sat Mar 8 | 9:30 am-5:15 pm** | Free Day for District 7 residents. Please bring your ID or proof of residence (ZIPs: 94117, 94112, 94116, 94122, 94114, 94127, 94131, and 94132) deYoung Museum, GG Park.

#### TUE • AUTHOR JEFFREY MASSON

**Tue Mar 11 | 7 pm** | Author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson discusses *Beasts: What Animals Can Teach Us About the Origins of Good and Evil*. In the 20th century alone, one animal killed 200 million members of its own species: there is something different about us. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal, 564-8080.

#### TUE • SF ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS

**Tue Mar 11 | 7:30 pm** | In *Remnants of San Francisco: Pieces of the Bygone City, Part II*, Christopher Pollock describes fragments of the past scattered around the City. The Old Mint, 88 Fifth St at Mission

#### TUE • LEARN COMPUTER SKILLS

**Tue Mar 11, 18 & 25 | 1:15-2 pm** | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

#### FRI • ST. PADDY'S DAY FEST

**Fri Mar 14 | 7-9 pm** | Music, Singing, Comedy, Dancing benefits young ladies to compete in a Gaelic Football tournament Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. \$35 Gen, \$20 Kids. Full Bar, 510 316-2696, [ifhyl.org](http://ifhyl.org)

#### THU • DIST COALITION MEETING

**Thu Mar 13 | 7-9 pm** | Meets 2nd Thu each month. Info: 586.8103 or [ssuval@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssuval@sbcglobal.net) Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave.

#### MON • KATHERINE HASTINGS READING

**Mon Mar 17 | 7 pm** | 11th Annual Crossroads Festival with Sonoma County Poet Laureate Katherine Hastings, who will read from her new collection *Nighthawks*. Stay for Irish soda bread and other tasty delights. Free! Info: [IrishAmericanCrossroads.org](http://IrishAmericanCrossroads.org)

#### TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

**Tue Mar 18 | 7 pm** | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Community Room, located at 2345 – 24th Ave. 759-3100.

#### THU • BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

**Thu Mar 20** | Couples—learn the Samba, Rhumba, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing and more! Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd.\$70 per couple. RSVP/ Info: 661-2746.

#### THU • AUTHOR PETER STARK

**Thu Mar 20 | 7 pm** | Meet Peter Stark, who's *Astoria* chronicles the 1810 Astor Expedition establishing the first American settlement in the Pacific Northwest. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

#### TUE • LEARN TO USE LINKEDIN

**Tue Mar 19 | 6-7:30 pm** | Business and media experts help create a LinkedIn account. Bring your



## SPRING AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

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- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$28 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

\*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

### The Lands End Lookout

Be sure to visit the Lookout Cafe at the Lands End visitor center. Operated by the Cliff House team, the cafe serves delicious, locally sourced grab-and-go items. The center, operated by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, offers educational exhibits, stunning views, and the amazing Lands End Trails.

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#### MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

**Mon Mar 24 | 7:30 pm** | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Last Monday each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

#### TUE • AUTHOR CARA BLACK

**Tue Mar 25 | 7 pm** | Cara Black, the New York Times bestselling author of the Aimee Leduc mystery Series of novels set in Paris previews *Murder in Pigalle*, at Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

#### THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

**Thu Mar 27 | 7 pm** | Meets last Thu each month. SF State Warriors and Recology are invited. This meeting

is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

#### SAT • ANNUAL CRAB FEED

**Sat Mar 29 | 6 pm** | The Castro and Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club's Crab Feed bened, Aids Emergency Fund, Breast Cancer Emergency fund and more. St. Anne of the Sunset. \$50. Dinner at 7pm includes pasta, salad, dessert and show. 905-4667.

#### SAT • SHARP

**Mon Mar 31 | 7 pm** | Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon of each month - [sharpf.com](http://sharpf.com) for details. 1736 9th Ave @ Moraga.

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



At the Movies / Don Lee

ENDLESS LOVE

Blue-collar valet David Elliot: Alex Pettyfer (Adam: Magic Mike) contrives to meet his dream-girl, blond Jade Butterfield: Gabriella Wilde (Carrie), both graduating high school seniors. They date despite the opposition of her snobbish dad, Dr. Hugh B.: Bruce Greenwood (who's obsessed on the recent death of his son). Jade's mother, Anne: Joely Richardson, remembers what it is to be in love and provides secretive support. Upstanding David gets some help from his dad, Harry: Robert Patrick, owner of an auto repair shop. Poor and rich make for a messy romantic brew by director/co-writer Shana Feste. Top-notch performances all around. Sexual content. Brief partial nudity. Some profanity. Teen partying.



LEGO 3D

Our hero, obedient likeable construction worker Emmett: voice of Chris Pratt (Parks and Recreation) lives and works in Bricksburg. He is mistaken for MasterBuilder, the leader of resistance forces against nefarious President Business: v.o. Will Farrell. Bad Cop/Good Cop: well voiced by Liam Neeson tries to capture Emmett and terminate Bricksburg. Vitruvius: v.o. Morgan Freeman leads the good guys. Screenwriters Phil Lord and Christopher Miller liven up the animation. Action. Mild rude humor.

LABOR DAY

Depressed, unglamorous mother Adele: Kate Winslet tries to watch over her teen son Henry: Gattlin Griffith when they are forced to shelter an escaped convict Frank: Josh Brolin who is running from the police. He proves surprisingly resourceful in making needed repairs around their home in the woods over a Labor Day weekend. As Adele's trust increases, so does her love. Tobey Maguire makes a cameo in the final scenes as the adult Henry. Jason Reitman directs his screenplay. Brief violence. Sexuality.

MONUMENTS MEN

In 1944, Harvard art historian Frank Stokes: George Clooney (who does double duty as director) is tasked by FDR with putting together a platoon of art experts to save the world's masterpieces from winding up in the collection of Hitler. He receives resistance from the French archivist Claire: Cate Blanchett who initially doesn't believe the American group is trying to return the paintings and sculptures to their original owners. Finally, James: Matt Damon wins her over. Those recruited include: Jean Claude: Jean Dujardin (Oscar-winner for The Artist), Richard: Bill Murray, Walter: John Goodman, Donald: Hugh Bonneville (Downton Abbey), and Preston: Bob Balaban. Fifty years ago, Burt Lancaster fought Nazi general Paul Scofield on The Train for the same artworks; Frankenstein of The Train pulled more tension and excitement from the similar situation. Some images of war, violence, and smoking.

SAVING MR. BANKS

Author P.L. Travers: Emma Thompson arrives in Hollywood to work with Walt Disney: Tom Hanks on their filming of her Mary Poppins. Unbearably obstinate, inflexible and negative, she doesn't get along with her chauffeur, Ralph: Paul Giamatti or the assigned composers, the Sherman Brothers. Disney makes every effort to be pleasant to the disagreeable spinster. Some unsettling images.

WINTER'S TALE

Akiva Goldman, co-producer, writer and director (Oscar-winner for A Beautiful Mind) presents a magical tale set in an alternate-universe Manhattan. After a brief prolog in 1916, it skips to the love story of 1924, concluding in 2014. The central characters who never age are burglar Peter: Colin Farrell and his nemesis, Pearly: Russell Crowe, the hammiest villain in decades, bashing in a waiter's head for a minor mistake. Imagine what he wants to do to Peter, a former employee of his Short Tails Gang, who went independent. Pearly puts up a big bounty for the runner who escapes with rescues by his flying white Andalusian, Anthasor [also Peter's helpful spirit guide], who whisks Peter to safety. He finds shelter with Beverly Penn: Jessica Brown Findlay (Downton Abbey) in the mansion of her father, wealthy newspaper owner, Isaac Penn: William Hurt. In the final stages of tuberculosis, Beverly could benefit from Peter's power of reincarnation. Unfortunately after only one night of bliss, she dies in his arms. Peter returns in 2014 to complete his destiny, meeting Virginia: Jennifer Connelly and Adult Willa: Eva Marie Saint. But he must also deal with Pearly. Farrell makes a smooth transition from bad boy roles to romantic leading man.

John Farrell(Cont. from p. 1)

use, the federal government transferred jurisdiction to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1994. Did this transfer to GGNRA end its tax-exempt status? Could the city now tax private tenants? This has never been addressed.

Due to this unconstitutional loophole, the City is losing an additional \$12.5 million from the recent sale of Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012 (based on a 2.5% transfer tax on a conservative \$500 million assessment). An ownership transfer in CA includes a lease of 35 years or more. Lucasfilm had a 66 year lease at the Presidio transferred to Disney. Per the CA Rev & Taxation Code this is a legal transfer, with which the SBE will concur. There is no rationale why there is no transfer tax.

The City has decided to adhere to the legislation by Congress to tax exempt tenants at the Presidio, even though Congress does not have the authority per Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution which provides the Powers of US Congress. In other words, this provision is unconstitutional.

In Nov, I reported that AT&T's naming rights at the Ball Park are subject to property tax but were never valued by the Assessor's Office. In 2000, Pacific Bell paid \$45 million for naming rights over 25 years, which were subsequently transferred to AT&T in 2006. If valued accordingly, AT&T should be paying the City at least \$525,000 annually (based on a 1.1691% tax rate on a \$45 million assessed value). The Assessor's Office can go back 4 years and even longer since AT&T's naming rights agreement is unrecorded. Therefore, AT&T should receive tax bills for approximately \$4.2 million, reflecting 8 years of benefits for the naming rights.

In Oct, I reported that the City is subsidizing San Mateo County for Police and Fire at San Francisco International Airport (SFIA). Since SFIA is located in

San Mateo County, all property taxes at SFIA are paid to San Mateo County. Property taxes pay for public services such as Police and Fire. The \$11.6 million in property taxes received annually by San Mateo County from SFIA should be reimbursed to San Francisco to help defray the costs of Police and Fire services at SFIA.

In July, I appealed to the Giants owners and management to withdraw all their current assessment appeals, to reduce their 2012 Ball Park assessment from \$196.8 assessment to \$140 million, a potential tax revenue loss of over \$650,000 annually. The Giants built their ballpark for \$355 million in 2000 and lease land from the Port. The 2012 assessment of \$196.8 million is already at least \$200 million under-assessed, in my opinion, resulting in an annual loss of tax revenue of over \$2.3 million annually. If the Giants are getting a tax break, what are the Warriors expecting.

These are a few examples of properties that are not assessed or under-assessed. If these high profile assessments are not being assessed appropriately, then what about other properties in the city?

Mayor Lee, before any monies are requested from taxpayers, audit the revenue practices of our City departments." Have Grand Jury and Harvey Rose audit recommendations been implemented? Are all City department lands that are rentable leased out, and if not, why not? Have studies been done to insure rental rates, permits, licenses, boat berths, etc...are at fair market and taxed accordingly? I can tell you as a fact they are not.

These are the facts. Not the Spin.  
Everyone should pay their fair share.

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

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

West Coast Premiere of Jerusalem at SF Playhouse

San Francisco Playhouse Artistic Director Bill English and Production Director Susi Damilano have launched the New Year with the West Coast's first production of *Jerusalem*, Jez Butterworth's epic Tony and Olivier award winning play.

Bill English directs and Brian Dykstra stars in the role of Johnny "Rooster" Byron. On St. George's Day, the morning of the local county fair, Byron, local waster and modern day Pied Piper, is a wanted man. The council officials want to serve him an eviction notice, while his son Marky (Calum John) wants his dad to take him to the fair. Troy Whitworth (Joe Estlack) wants to give him a serious kicking, and a motley crew of mates wants his ample supply of drugs and alcohol. This play makes frequent allusions to William Blake's famous poem from which the title is derived.

*Jerusalem* has a large cast of around 15 characters. Some of the main ones are as follows. Particular attention should be paid to Brian Dykstra as the die hard, drug dealing, rural squatter, and master-of-illicit-ceremonies Johnny "Rooster" Byron. Ian Scott McGregor plays Ginger, the pathetic underdog of the group. He is older than the others who hang around with Johnny, never having grown out of this lifestyle. He aspires to be a D.J. but is, in fact, an unemployed plasterer.

Richard Louis James plays the Professor, both vague and whimsical—he spouts philosophical nothings and unwittingly takes LSD. Joshua Shell plays Davey, a young teenager who visits "Rooster" regularly for free drugs and alcohol. Joe Estlack is Troy Whitworth, a local thug and villain of the play who beats up Johnny. Paris Hunter Paul is Lee, a young teen who enters the play having been hidden in the sofa, asleep, after the first 15 minutes of the play. Julia Belanoff stars as Phaedra (Troy's stepdaughter), who opens the play singing the hymn *Jerusalem*, dressed in fairy wings. Pea (Devon Simpson) and Tanya (Riley Krull) are two local girls who emerge from underneath Johnny's caravan, having fallen asleep drunk. Maggie Mason is Dawn, Johnny's ex-girlfriend and mother to his child. She disapproves of his lifestyle. Christopher Reber is a delight as Wesley, the local pub landlord who is involved in the festivities for St. George's Day and has been roped into doing the Morris Dancing. Courtney Walsh plays Fawcett and Aaron Murphy plays Parsons, the County officials who place eviction notices on Johnny's mobile home.

Cont. p. 13



Linda Ayres-Frederick



Flora Lynn Isaacson

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160 Encline Ct	Miraloma Park	4	3	2	1,248,000	1,285,000	102.96
140 Hernandez Ave	Forest Hill Extensio	3	3	1	1,179,000	1,406,000	119.25
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Remembver When?



View of the Sunset District from Golden Gate Heights Jan 16, 1940 "Here is a section of the rapidly growing Parkside District, which, like other areas, has its civic problems. Picture taken from Golden Gate Heights looking toward Pacific Ocean. Arrow marks Abraham Lincoln High School, prompt completion of which is a problem which Mr. Fixit plans to discuss in detail." Permission of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

OPEN LATE



By Julie Casson

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

Sudoku-fun!

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

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

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## Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

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



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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

My assistant is Karen and she is friendly and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called San Francisco Family Spinal Care and it is at 505 Beach Street (we are at the corner of Beach and Jones on the edge of North Beach). Our phone number is 415-771-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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

## THE REAL ESTATE ANSWER MAN By Kevin Birmingham



**Q:** We just bought a house and we are planning to invest a lot in landscaping the yard. Does this add value to the property?

Donna L.

**A:** Anything you do to increase the curb appeal of your house will help to increase the value. Traditionally, however, interior renovations see a bigger return on investment. Re-doing kitchen and bathrooms can add a tremendous amount of value to a home when it comes time to sell it.

**Q:** Which party typical pays for the underground tank inspection and is it a part of an inspection contingency?

Martin D.

**A:** Typically an underground storage tank inspection is paid for by the seller, but this is negotiable between buyer and seller. Regardless of who pays for the inspection, if a tank is discovered it's the seller's responsibility to have it removed.

**Q:** When selling a home, is staging really necessary?

Daniel O.

**A:** Staging can add a great deal of buyer appeal to a house, but the decision of whether or not to stage depends on the property. If a home is in move-in condition, a stager can help design living spaces to show buyers each room's maximum potential. A well-staged home can excite buyers and often helps to fetch a higher price in less time. On the other hand, a home that needs a little more TLC may not benefit as much from staging.

Ask local real estate expert Kevin Birmingham: [kevin@kevinbirmingham.com](mailto:kevin@kevinbirmingham.com)

## SECOND THOUGHTS / By Jack Kaye



### A Modern Journalist's Insight

Frank Read (not his real name) is 51 years old, approximately, and has spent much of his adult life as a journalist reporting for the mainstream media. His professors taught him lessons that most journalists still follow. The main one being always make the story personal by involving an affected person. The feeling widely accepted in the profession was that reporting should be kept simple so that people with very little education could relate to it and continue to buy the publication. Simple people need short sentences and human drama that is sensational enough to grab their attention, while they might get confused by statistics, data, comparisons or in depth investigation. One editor put it more clearly: "keep it simple, and sensational."

But Frank has had a change of heart. He no longer believes what he was taught and what his fellow journalists still practice on a daily, routine and thoughtless basis.

He watched a news segment on his favorite news hour about the effects of the low minimum wage that is currently just over \$7 an hour. Instead of showing us what that means to a full time worker and how it compares to the rest of the work force in dollars and cents, it showed us a woman who was a supervisor at a fast food chain in New York City. She made more than the minimum, but still only about \$9 an hour. We learned that after taxes are taken out, she must use the little she has left to buy food and pay rent for her recently laid off husband, two aged parents and two children as well as herself. We see that it takes only a few days to use up her earnings. Frank notices that there is no mention of food stamps and wonders why this woman would not be eligible. The reporter caught that too and asked the woman about it. She explained it lapsed for some reason. The reporter had her go and reapply, and she got food stamps for her family of six.

Frank noticed that no mention was made of the husband's unemployment insurance checks, which could be as high as \$600 a week. The report forgot to mention that the two elders were eligible for either Social Security retirement, if they ever worked, or SSI if they never did. This would add \$1500 to \$3000 a month. The report also did not mention the rent subsidy that reduces the rental cost of her apartment. It did not mention that she would owe and pay no federal or state income taxes and would receive earned income credit that could be as high as \$4000 from the government.

Frank realized how much more accurate and effective it might have been had they not used this person's example, flawed as it was and as it usually is for a variety of reasons including confidentiality, not wanting to embarrass, not knowing enough to ask and wanting to make it sensational. They could have told us that a full time worker is paid for about 2000 hours a year. At \$7.50 an hour (the federal minimum is \$7.25), that comes to \$15,000 a year. The report could have shown this to be below the poverty

level for a family of four. It could have tracked how much a minimum wage worker earns for his employer. It could have compared the worker's wages with that of the CEO and show the latter to be thousands percent more - \$15,000 versus \$300,000 or \$3 million. The report could have shown how much the government spends to subsidize these low wage earners and how the government is actually also subsidizing the employer by making up for what he doesn't pay. But Frank saw that none of this was done.

Frank started noticing this everywhere. Fellow reporters were trying to personalize every disaster by interviewing as many victims as possible for as long as possible. The victims could never tell the whole story but the part they did say was always similar: "We have been here for a long time and have lost everything. We are grateful that none of us died and we will rebuild knowing this will happen again. There is nowhere we would rather live."

Frank noticed his colleagues doing the same with news stories by asking people on the street what they think. The answers range from admission of total ignorance as in "I didn't know it happened" to "I think it is a good idea as long as it works," to some limited comment reflecting a minimum of thought.

After all this it has dawned on Frank that his professors and colleagues have been wrong. The public needs to know as much as possible that is relevant to each story. He realizes that he is not a stenographer, just quoting what people said, and he is not a salesman trying to make the story interesting enough, while not necessarily accurate.

He has reformed and promises to no longer condescend to his reading public with heart wrenching stories of personal tragedies. He won't use an individual to generalize a situation.

He even objects to my using him as an example of this overused and lazy form of journalism. I apologize. I don't know what I was thinking.

Feedback: [kaye@westsideobserver.com](mailto:kaye@westsideobserver.com)

### Theater (Cont. from p. 11)

Bill English's set is impressive, showing Johnny's old mobile home. This play, although beautifully directed by Bill English and performed by a very large cast, is overly long—over three hours.


*Jerusalem plays at SF Playhouse January 26-March 8, 2014. Performances are Tuesday-Thursday at 7p.m., Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 415-677-9596 or go online to [www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org). The SF Playhouse is located at 450 Post Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Kensington Park Hotel b/n Powell and Mason), San Francisco.*

*Coming up next at SF Playhouse is Bauer by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Bill English, March 18-April 19, 2014. Flora Lynn Isaacson*



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[sutterhealth.org](http://sutterhealth.org)



We Plus You

## Great Entertainment from SF Students on the Calendar for March

By Carol Kocivar

**Y**ou might not realize it but one of the best parts of living West of Twin Peaks is theatre. I know what you are thinking...run that by me one more time.

One of the best parts of living West of Twin Peaks is theatre and art and music brought to you by the many talented students at our local high schools.

Lowell High School and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts provide great community and great entertainment.

Lucky for us, these distinguished and award-winning schools have events coming up within the next few weeks.

So mark your calendars and get ready for some fun!

**February 27 - March 8**  
**Thurs/Fri • 7:30 pm • Sat 2 pm & 7:30 pm**  
Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts  
**Monty Python's SPAMALOT**  
Dan Kryston Memorial Theater  
555 Portola Drive  
*Catch their great commercial on YouTube*

**Sunday, Mar 9 at 4 pm**  
**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC** Guitar Program  
Community Music Center  
544 Capp St.

**Mar 13-14-15 | 7:30 pm / March 16 | 2 pm**  
**Ronald Dahl's WILLY WONKA**  
Lowell High School  
1101 Eucalyptus Drive

**Thur - Mar 13 at 5:30 pm.**  
Open business hours the following week.  
**SOPHOMORE VISUAL ART SHOW**  
Art Gallery  
Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts  
555 Portola Drive

**Opening Night Event: Thursday, Mar 13**  
**& Friday, Mar 14 at 7:30 pm**  
**BAND CONCERT**  
Dan Kryston Memorial Theater  
Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts  
555 Portola Drive

**Saturday, Mar 15, 2014 at 7:30 pm**  
Instrumental Music  
**CONCERTO CONCERT**  
Dan Kryston Memorial Theater  
Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts  
555 Portola Drive

**Fri 3/21, 3/28, 4/11 • 8 pm Sat • 3/22, 4/12**  
**• 8 pm Thu • 3/27, 4/10 • 8 pm**  
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**HAIR: A LIVING HISTORY LESSON OF THE 1960'S SUMMER OF LOVE.**  
Southside Theater at Fort Mason Center  
Building D, Third Floor,

Tip: You can buy your tickets online for many of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts performances. A good idea to do this ahead of time so you can make sure you have a seat. For more information, go to:

<http://www.sfsota.org/sota.cfm> and then click on "SOTA SHOWS" to check times and purchase tickets.

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

## Senior Smarts: Preparing for the Unexpected – Part I

By Anise J. Matteson

*March article will address planning for the unexpected from the health care professional perspective. April will present the elder law attorney perspective.*

When a resident is admitted to a long-term care facility, he or she must provide information for the responsible party, next of kin in emergency, and mortuary preference.

### CARE PLANNING

*Care Planning* is defined as: Mobility/Safety/Self-Care (physical functioning); Nutrition (oral/dental); Elimination; Skin Condition; Sensory/Communication (hearing, speech, vision); Psychosocial/Recreation/Activity/Socialization (cognitive, behavior patterns, moods, psychosocial well-being, activity pursuits); Medical Management (disease diagnoses, health conditions, medications, special treatments and procedures).

*Medical Management* focuses on a specific problem: alteration in health maintenance; potential for injury; impaired adjustment; potential for death; alteration in diagnosis; unstable condition; exacerbation of diagnosis; refuses treatment; condition changes; recurrent symptoms; seizures.

Related *approaches* for addressing the problem: terminal care; Durable Power of Attorney; hospice; treatment as prescribed; medication as prescribed; monitoring signs and symptoms; notification of M.D.; diagnostic tests; emergency treatment; No CPR/Do Not Resuscitate; counseling; therapy.

### ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Advance Directives and Durable Power of Attorney provide instructions in your own words to family/caregivers, friends, and health care professionals when there is a significant condition change.

"Physicians and more than 75 national organizations believe that advance directives are so important that recently 50 states adopted the first National Healthcare Decisions Day, which takes place on April 16. [WHAT IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE, July 16, 2009. By Jeneane Brian. [www.livestrong.com/article/14354-what-is-an-advance-directive/](http://www.livestrong.com/article/14354-what-is-an-advance-directive/)]

### National Healthcare Decision Day

April 16 is a day to "inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning."

"...National Healthcare Decisions Day is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding health-care and or providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be." (nhdd.org)

### Examples

Some examples of Advance Directives with supporting

documentation are: living will; Do Not Resuscitate (No Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation); do not hospitalize; organ donation; autopsy request; feeding restriction; medication restriction; other treatment restrictions.

### RESOURCES: WILLS

Write Your Will Workshop, Write Your Will Seminar and Introduction to Wills & Trusts are held at various branches of the San Francisco Public Library. You can find information on upcoming sessions at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

### RESOURCES: ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

**Advance Health Care Directive.** To download form visit the California Health Care Association at [cmanet.org](http://cmanet.org).

Five Wishes - Aging with Dignity. [www.agingwithdignity.org/forms/5wishes.pdf](http://www.agingwithdignity.org/forms/5wishes.pdf).

### FIVE WISHES

#### MY WISH FOR:

- The Person I Want to Make Care Decisions for Me When I Can't
- The Kind of Medical Treatment I Want or Don't Want
- How Comfortable I want to Be
- How I Want People to Treat Me
- What I Want My Loved Ones to Know

State Bar of California educational guide Seniors & the Law: A Guide for Maturing Californians section titled "PLANNING AHEAD." To request publications contact 1-888-875-5297 or visit [www.calbar.gov](http://www.calbar.gov).

Next Month: Boomer Legal by Helene V. Wenzel, Esq., solo practitioner in Estate Planning and Elder Law.

### TERMINOLOGY

Elder law attorney refers to an attorney who specializes in providing legal services for the elderly, especially in the areas of Estate Planning and Medicaid Planning. They handle general estate planning issues and counsels clients about planning for the management of assets and health care with alternative decision-making documents to prepare for the possibility of becoming incapacitated. Elder law is a specialized area of legal practice, covering estate planning, wills, trusts, arrangements for care, social security and retirement benefits, protection against elder abuse (physical, emotional and financial), and other involving older people. (<http://definitions.uslegal.com/elder-law-attorney/>)

*Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors. Article revised from Caring Boomers Newsletter ©2012. Email: [cfaalo@yahoo.com](mailto:cfaalo@yahoo.com).*

## It's Wine Time with Susan By Susan Hartman

**W**ith so much going on with the weather nationally, I have enjoyed hearing the frogs with the rain that we recently had in the Sierra Foothills, and that all of the grasses are turning green again. In planning a St. Patrick's Day meal, there are so many wines one could have with Corned Beef and Cabbage. I am only going to do two varietals this time. You might be surprised at how wine's subtle complexities are a pleasant compliment to the dish's simpler tastes.

My first selection is a Riesling- Tatomer 'Vandenberg' vintage 2010, which sells for a very reasonable \$21.00 dollars. Tatomer was founded in 2008. It is a small vineyard located in western Los Alamos, close to Vandenberg Air Force Base. The town of Los Alamos is wedged between the Santa Maria Valley and the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. This wine can be purchased online, or in San Francisco at Arlequin Wine Merchant.

The spicy peppercorns, coriander seeds, allspice and clove used to cure corned beef are the perfect flavors to play off of the dry Riesling. Pairing the cabbage cooked in the same juices as the meat picks up a spicy, cured flavor that pairs well with a wine that has apple and rich citrus flavors, like Riesling.

My second selection is going to surprise you; how about Leprechaun Hard Cider.


The price is \$7.50 to \$9.00 for a 22-ounce bottle at retail. The Founder/Owner of Leprechaun Cider Company is Jake Schiffer. A "Renaissance" is the only word to genuinely describe the world of artisan ciders in the United States today. The time has come for the original American drink to be treasured once again. It is refreshingly crisp and pairs nicely, instead of the traditional stout, with a St. Patrick's Day meal. It is always nice to mix things up and have your guests talking.

Wishing you all a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!

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## The Innocence of Squaw



**I**n a classic case of security gone wild, the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics will soon be history and best remembered more for the explosive tooth paste and world-wide terrorist threats than the challenges and victories of those talented young athletes from around the globe. The coverage has been spectacular and certainly to be expected in this electronic world of ours. But how many of us still remember or even know about the 1960 winter Olympics, held only a few hundred miles away at, of all places, Squaw Valley.

It was 1956, and as a young man I remember driving to Lake Tahoe and putting up with the endless delays as men and equipment worked fearlessly to expand Highway 80 in order to handle the additional traffic. While drilling rigs bored into the sides of the mountain, brave men packed the chambers with dynamite in order to disrupt the beauty of nature for the sake of mankind. The wait was endless as we sat patiently anticipating the next “boom.” The roadway signs warning us “Do not turn on radios.” Just imagine with today’s i-Phones, cell phones and i-Pads the mayhem in controlling the threat of a premature explosion. Talk about terror!

Once Squaw was chosen the challenge was to turn the virtually unknown and undeveloped Squaw Valley into a world-renowned resort. The task was accomplished in an unbelievably short length of time for a total cost of 80 million dollars, a far cry from today’s billions spent in recent years by host countries. Without today’s fanfare or chain-cutting, the politicians were able to deliver the project on time and probably under budget, but that was the California of old. Edmund G. “Pat” Brown was governor and should have taken a little more time educating his young son in the ways of governing, but wait a minute, this is about history and not political comment, which shall be left for the more talented columnists appearing on these very same pages.

The amount of planning, design and construction is unfathomable in today’s litigious society, and starting from a clean slate was an advantage and disadvantage at the same time. McKinney Creek Stadium, as well as Blyth Memorial Arena, were built from the ground up, and the latter used as the site of both the opening and closing ceremonies. And who better to chair the Pageantry Committee than Walt Disney himself, who was responsible for both ceremonies.

But even then, as we see today, politics reared its ugly head as the Cold War politics between the United States and Russia wrestled over the participation of China, Taiwan, North Korea and East Germany. Eventually cooler heads prevailed and they allowed entry to athletes from Communist countries. History was made as South Africa competed at the Winter Games for the first time, and West and East Germany competed as a united team under a common flag. Television was certainly not new to the Olympics, but when CBS was asked by the officials if one of the skiers had missed a gate, the era of instant reply was born.

I vaguely remember attending the spectacle and being enthralled by the high jump as skiers soared hundreds of feet in the air. I only wish I had stayed to see the closing festivities, but the treat of driving back on a brand new four lane Highway 80 was too tempting to resist.

Now there’s talk of Squaw Valley being considered once again for the 2026 winter Olympics, but considering today’s endless rules and regulations, it may take that long to rebuild that winter wonderland. Perhaps we can put George Bush in charge of security, Obama in charge of the contestants’ medical center, and Jerry Brown to head up the high-speed rail system to Tahoe. That may make a lot of sense, but am I getting political again?



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