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# WESTSID

Volume 29 • Number 2

Do Sex and Math Add Up?

By George Wooding

he San Francisco Board of Education (SFUSD) School Board has unanimously approved (7- 0) a resolution to expand its Condom Availability Program to include all middle school students in the SFUSD District, according to Chief Communications Officer Gentle Blythe.

The proposal to expand the program was recommended Tuesday night, February 23rd, in San Francisco where the school board was

angry and carried signs that read "Sex and Math Don't an arts center at three buildings owned by the school add up."

Even SFUSD Director of Safety and Wellness, Kevin 170 Fell Street. Gogin, accidently went off message when he stated to a KRON reporter, voters feel about the Middle School "Well we know that the law allows Good or bad, condom project and how they vote on childre...young ... young members of people will not forget the SFUSD bond. Interestingly, school society to access condoms."

on the KRON television broadcast said School condom issue that she was opposed to the idea of giv- when voting for the voters, and the presidential election ing middle school kids condoms as the SFUSD bond. program will start having kids thinking about sex at an earlier age.

Superintendent Richard Carranza recommended at the January 12th school board meeting that the district's middle schools distribute condoms to students as young as 11 years old, whether or not their parents want them to have access to condoms.

been contentious. Some parents are mad as hell, while using condoms. other parents are happy that the SFUSD has proposed to distribute condoms to Middle School students with no notification to parents.

Strategically, this was a very bad year to introduce the condom program. The SFUSD is going to try and



deciding whether to give condoms to middle- Superintendent Richard Carranza recommended distributing of condoms to middle school kids

Many parents attending the packed meeting were pass a \$300 million Bond in November to help create district within the block of 135 Van Ness Avenue and

There will be linkage between how dety to access condoms."

One unidentified high school girl

Calculated the Middle pass, not the usual two-thirds (66.7%).

Older voters, transient younger will all impact who votes. Good or bad, people will not forget about the Middle School condom issue when voting for the SFUSD bond.

According to the SFUSD own figures, the percentage of Middle School students who ever had sexual intercourse dropped from 13.4% in 1997 to 5.2% in

SFUSD studies also show that 61.5% of middle The SFUSD Middle School condom proposal has school students having sexual intercourse are already

> Kevin Gogin, SFUSD Director of Safety and Wellness states that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey "is a random and anonymous survey. While it captures a snapshot of the health and risk factors of San Francisco

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## Derailed M-Ocean View Streetcar **Brings MUNI Delays**

By Jonathan Farrell

www.westsideobserver.com

here were only six passengers on the trolley when it derailed early Friday morning. There were no injuries or damages. The Feb. 12 derailment of the M-Ocean View car around 6:20 am at 19th Ave and Holloway endangered a very busy intersection, it is the MUNI stop for one of the City's and the State's most populated university campuses of almost 30,000 students.

The derailment caused delays on the M-Ocean View and K-Ingleside train lines; and for the rest of the day SFMTA dispersed replacement shuttles between the Phelan Loop, near City College of San Francisco and West Portal. This was done so that commuters could transfer to other trolley lines to go downtown.

The Golden Gate Xpress also pointed out thatthe derailment comes on the heels of SFMTA's announcement of new plans for a subway M-Ocean View line. Once underground, the train line would suffer less frequent delays, according to the project's lead manager Liz Brisson.

With an average weekday ridership of 128,500 passengers, the MUNI Metro system is the third busiest light-rail (trolley) system in the nation. For the past two decades, as expressed at numerous community and public meetings, SFMTA officials have noted that much of the delay and complications in mass transit has been due to "above ground

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Photo Courtesy Twitter User Dustin Allen

# **Are You Kidding Me?**

By John Farrell

ver the past several years our City has flourished and money has been coming in hand over fist. Our tax revenues have increased substantially as tourism booms and buildings continue to go up like crazy changing the character of our neighborhoods. The Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion was \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago.

I have written articles identifying over \$200 million in tax revenue to the City that is not currently being appraised by the Assessor's Office, such as the unconstitutional loophole in the Presidio Trust that tax exempts tenants, the non assessment of naming rights at AT&T Ballpark and of the PG&E franchise fee by the SBE, to name a few."

and services are not as scrutinized in recession or depression. It's easy for our public officials to look the other way since we are flush with cash.

an estimated \$100 million deficit for the coming 2016-17 fiscal year. Are you kidding me! Who is minding the store?

It is reported that nearly half of this deficit is due to the increase in pension costs. In 2011, voters approved Prop C which was a pension reform measure spearheaded by Mayor Lee which was to resolve this issue. Of course it didn't since

As I have mentioned in previous the assumptions didn't take into account articles, in good times like now, programs retirees living longer and a return on investments that wasn't realized. Keep in the budget process as they would be in a mind, pension reform wouldn't have been addressed if it wasn't for Jeff Adachi.

So where do we go from here?

First off let's identify the problem. As you might have read our City has The City has no game plan other than asking City departments to cut up to 3% percentage of their budgets in order to balance the City's budget. Or to put it another way – live in the present. No plan for the future.

I have a better idea. It is called accountability. We need to run the City like a real business and stop the waste.

Cont. p. 4

# Watching SFPD's Body Worn Camera Videos

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

iolent and militarized encounters between police and communities of color, largely recorded by bystanders and shared on social media, have raised nationwide alarms. "Copwatch" groups are now "policing the police" to expose the dark side of law enforcement. Such community alienation can paralyze crime-fighting. In December 2014, the White House issued an edict titled "Strengthening Commu-

nity Policing" to "fortify the trust that must exist between law enforcement offirs and the communities they serve." It provides \$75 million in matching funds for police departments to buy 50,000 body cameras. On 4/30/15 Mayor Ed Lee grabbed the offer, allocating \$6.6 million over 2 years to deploy 1,800 bodycams "for every police officer on the street."

Police Chief Greg Suhr called for Defender Jeff Adachi released videos of cops illegally searching and ripping-off hotel residents. In 2013 Suhr cut a \$250,000 no-bid deal with TASER International to pilot bodycams. The SFPD bodycam pilot went nowhere, boggled by logistics, policy development and institutional resistance to being watched. On 4/18/14 the Board of Supervisors' Neighborhood Services & Safety Committee urged the SFPD to formulate a bodycam policy, despite a projected 5-year cost of \$21 million. A year later, DA George Gascon demanded action instead of "playing games."

that clip onto a police officer's uniform to record video and audio. They are tools for



body cameras in May 2011 - after Public the public and law enforcement, a "third witness" to hold police accountable and to deter spurious complaints. To build trust, bodycams must add to the transparency afforded by citizen videos, without enabling police cover-ups, intrusions on privacy, or mass surveillance. Bodycams should also be cost-effective. Once federal matching funds expire, expenses for maintenance, upgrades, video storage fees, personnel time and training will grow. However, bodycams could cut litigation costs by deterring misbehavior by police and civilians alike. In Rialto CA, they reduced citizen complaints by 88% "Bodycams" are pager-sized devices and use-of-force incidents by 60%. Such savings could be wiped out by lawsuits for



# Will EB-5 Visas Drive Up the Price of Beer?

By Lou Barberini

he San Francisco Giants are second only to the Boston Red Sox in the price of beer at a ballgame. We accept this as a compromise for living in a highly desirable area of the country.

inflation to every corner of baseball as debate. owners struggled to keep pace with Bill's spending. Bill's actions would singlehand- and wondered why someone that puredly raise the salary bar, causing a trickle down increase for the Giants bidding for even mediocre players. The ripple effect would be more expensive game tickets and even more expensive beer at AT&T Park.

A deluge of money into a concentrated area tends to overflow its banks. The Wall Street Journal recently discussed the billions of foreign money flowing into US construction projects through a special EB-5 visa program. For instance, the builder of the second post-9/11 World Trade Tower was looking to raise \$500 million through the EB-5 visa program. The former mayor of Oakland wanted to finance a new football stadium with EB-5 funds. The Huffington Post reported that personal residence. Yet, it is difficult to EB-5 money has been earmarked to build 12,000 homes and 3.1 million square feet a million dollars in the US probably have of office space on the old San Francisco shipyards.

exchange for a \$1 million investment, a non-US citizen can obtain green cards and gain residency permits for their families. The legislative rationalization for EB-5 visas is that the money must be applied to businesses, and that the money must create new jobs.

But what would happen if Bill Gates but three separate issues: a) the new prefdecided to purchase a small-market team erential treatment for wealthy immigrants, like the Pittsburgh Pirates? And what if b) skyrocketing housing prices tied to the Bill decided to employ his great resources instability of other countries' economies to lavishly bid for players and reward the and the resulting capital flight to the US Pirate fans? This much wealth suddenly dollar, and c) preferential visas that have flowing into Pittsburgh would spread not yet been factored into the inequality

Have you ever gone to an airport

chased a first class seat through a corporation such as United Airlines

What is this EB-5 the rural lands to metreceives preferential visa program? In exchange ropolitan areas. 60 Mingovernment treatment for a \$1 million investment, a segment on entire citlane? That is pretty a non-US citizen can ies that were built, but much the EB-5 message obtain green cards and continued to remain we send to people trying to enter our country gain residency permits for absent of people. Cheap money spurred buildtry. Foreigners can give their families. money to private busi-

nesses and get priority services from our mation of "Ghost Cities." government. This is quite a change from 'give me your tired and poor."

An EB-5 investment cannot fund a argue that foreigners that have invested some desire to purchase a home as well. The purchase of a US house parks capital What is this EB-5 visa program? In in our stable currency, while protecting the foreigner from further fluctuations in their home currency. Much of this "parked capital" sits in vacant homes that have been bid up beyond the reach of US families.

The numbers on how many houses sit empty is not clear. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that in Canada, ana-The topic here is not anti-immigration, lysts have resorted to looking in garbage

houses are "ghost homes." By their very nature, unoccupied homes are volatile investment. Money that comes in quickly can leave just as fast, leaving Americans to suffer from a pricked housing bubble.

Chinese nationals' US home purchases increased 27% between 2014 and 2015. The amount of capital fleeing the turbulent Chinese Yuan is so great that under pressure from China, HSBC bank will no longer lend money to Chinese nationals buying real estate in the United States. China is by no means the only country competing with American homebuyers. Petro-economies such as Russia, South America, and the Mideast are saturating our east coast.

Over the past decade, China has over-

ing for the sake of building and the for-

This should raise Californian's concern for contagion. The Los Angeles Times reported that 85% of EB-5 money in 2014 came from China. How many US construction projects are being built just because so much EB-5 bubble money is coursing freely into our economy? Is the leaking air from China's bubble now inflating a US bubble an ocean away?

The media and presidential candidates have been touting the popular issue of "inequality" while EB-5 garners virtually no media attention. Over the first 40 days of 2016, the word "inequality" appeared over 150 times on The Chronicle's SF Gate website. The term "EB-5" appeared once. The premise of inequality is that the

cans and checking utility bills to see if the wealthy have benefited more from lower interest rates and our tax structure, than have the middle class and the poor. *Those* damn Google buses. However, the issue of inequality is more complex- involving automation creeping up the food chain; the middle class not reproducing; and longevity straining our health and social programs.

> Are the wealthy really doing that much better, or are we just juicing richer immigrants into the wealth pyramid creating a more populated upper class? Is this any different than Mark Zuckerberg, Warren Buffett, and Bill Gates purchasing smallmarket sport franchises? If that were the case, it would be specious to claim that the owners were getting richer from the sport, and more accurate to say that more rich



people were becoming owners. And for the simple beer-drinking bleacher bums, foreign economies will continue to drive up the local cost of living, inflate homes beyond our reach, and force us to pare the Lagunitas IPA's at the Giants games.

Lou Barberini is a San Francisco CPA living in West Portal

# Spring into action.

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Heidi Wittenberg, MD March 16, 2016

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Anne Peled, MD April 6, 2016

ACL (knee) Injuries: Rehab or Repair

Robert J. Purchase, MD April 20, 2016

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Hello humankindness



### West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

#### **NEWS AND VIEWS...**

**ublic safety**, the **El Rey theatre**, and an update on the "affordable housing bonus program" were the main topics of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council.

President Roger Ritter kicked off the meeting at 7:30 in front of a small but attentive crowd and informed the group about several items. First, the SFMTA meeting regarding changes to the L-Taraval line. Over 200 people packed the Dianne Feinstein School to debate the proposed changes that MUNI wants to make to improve safety and to speed up the MUNI. Ritter said the crowd was loud and unruly, where people were talking over each other and Ingleside Captain Joe McFadden



shouting at the speakers. A temporary compromise was reached for now on a 6-month pilot program. He then spoke about the WOTPCC receiving three Airbnb host "registration" notifications for the following addresses: 2320 Cecelia; 1378 Portola and 915 Rockdale. It falls to each individual neighborhood association to follow up with the city and the applicants.

Treasurer Carolyn Squeri reported \$5225.25 in the account and that an ongoing P.O. Box snafu with the USPS, the WOTPCC and GWPNA has been straightened out and all of the invoices have been paid.

In committee reports, George Wooding (Public Health) reported that SF Middle schools would be the first middle schools locally to have **condoms** in stock for middle school students, and that a report on sex education showed that from 1997 to 2016 the percentage of sexually active middle school students has dropped from 13.7% in 1997 to 5.2% in 2016. Sally Stephens (Open Space and Parks) reported that the Board of Supervisors was to vote (on February 23) on placing a Charter amendment on the June ballot to create a funding mechanism to fund the parks for the next 30 years. (The BoS voted to approved the amendment and place it on the ballot in June.) She also informed the group about the new regulations being released by the GGNRA (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) about changes in areas where **dogs** will be allowed.

Four SFPD officers were in attendance and Captain Joe McFadden (Ingleside) gave a public safety report. The captain highlighted the complexity in prosecuting those who are responsible for the still-rampant car break-ins throughout the city. He detailed how felons are now working in teams to target cars, and that with the new laws decriminalizing such kinds of crimes from felonies into misdemeanors, the process now falls into 3 areas: 1). Breaking the car window 2). Taking the merchandise out of the car 3). Running away with the stolen goods. Basically, if more than one person does any part of these things, it is much more difficult to prosecute and gain a conviction.

McFadden urged the public to use the video capabilities of their cell phones to record instances when they see a break-in, but not to put themselves in a dangerous situation. Also, looking and reporting specific details about the perpetrators (types of shoes, shirts, print on hoodie, etc.) can help get a conviction. While most of these guys take off their "hoodies" soon after breaking into a car, they generally do not change pants, shoes, etc. A cell phone video or photo can be beamed out to all local law enforcement to help break up these teams that are responsible for many of the multiple break-ins.

He also said that even when people are caught by the police, the **D.A.'s office** and trial judges are not following up in prosecuting and sentencing these criminals, instead just letting them out on probation or a misdemeanor (where they can continue their

The police captain then gave tips about making your neighborhood safer, like installing a wide angle "go-pro" type of camera at your front door, to record anyone approaching the front of your home, leaving your home, etc. Work with you neighbors to know who has video systems so if a house is broken into the investigators can possibly use these video feeds to catch and prosecute the criminals.

McFadden also clarified the local emergency numbers that one should use to contact the police department. If you dial "911" the call will be handled by the Contra Costa County CHP office. To reach the SF 911 dispatcher, dial: 415-553-8090.

Following the discussion with the police officers, the discussion switched to a presentation from Dan Weaver, the Executive Director of the Ocean Avenue **Association**, regarding the building that housed the former **El Rey** Theatre.

The church that has operated the theatre as a school and place of worship for the last 30+ years defaulted on their mortgage and the property was foreclosed upon by the bank and subsequently sold at auction to new owners from Novato, who are looking into options for the site. To complicate matters, the City of SF had a lien against the property for debts owed to the city by the church but failed to act to collect their share prior to the property being procured by the new ownership.

Local neighborhood activists, including the Ocean Avenue Association, are looking into the process that is necessary to have the property declared a "historic landmark" and to investigate the interior condition of the theatre. Weaver said that much of the lobby is still relatively intact, as is much of the theatre inside, but there has been little chance for preservationists to inspect and categorize what is left of the original 1931 structure. It is a hope of the neighborhood groups that a non-profit type of organization could be established to purchase and renovate the theatre where it could be used as a joint performing arts/film exhibition venue for both San Francisco State University and City College. However the first step is to determine what is remaining, work with the new owners and the city to have the site "landmarked" and go from there.

After discussion, the WOTPCC members voted unanimously to submit a letter of support of the efforts of the Ocean Avenue Association to "landmark" the El Rey theatre and maintain it as an entertainment venue, cultural resource, and community asset.

In the final discussion of the evening, Jen Low, Erica Maybaum, and Jarlene Choy



Supervisor Yee's Legislative Aides: Jarlene Choy, Erica Mayback and Jen Low

introduced themselves as the new liaison contacts for Supervisor Norman Yee's office. Low gave an update on the "Affordable Housing Bonus Plan" and from Supervisor Yee's perspective, there has been too little community input, with no outreach being done in District 7, and that the supervisor feels that the plan is not well thought out and

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp

n 1928, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, dissenting from the majority decision in Olmstead et al. v. United States, wrote: "Decency, security, and liberty alike demand that government officials shall be subjected to the same rules of conduct that are commands to the citizen. In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously." Many applications of that unforgettable principle apply in today's world of

government, local state, and federal.

In 2005, then U.S. Senator Obama tried to prevent a U.S. Senate vote in a filibuster against President George W. Bush for the nomination of present U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

Senate Transportation Committee and California, which require taxpayer submember ex officio of the California Transportation Commission, I introduced 40% of expenses, as is the latter case with successfully legislation to begin establishment of high-speed rail transportation in all other public transit systems in the state. California, meaning an electrified system That means high-speed trains on the existcapable of achieving 220 miles per hour on ing Peninsula right-of-way, even as electritracks dedicated solely to high-speed trains. The measure was passed by the Senate and to four trains per hour in peak hours, with Assembly. Governor Pete Wilson vetoed it on the ground that it was unneeded. In the same periods. 1995, I sponsored a bill to form the California High-Speed Rail Authority with Authority has now lost many, if not most, nine members (five appointed by the Governor, two by the State Senate, two by the State Assembly) with the explicit responsibility of building a true highspeed rail system between Northern and Southern California. A bond measure Rail Authority announced it was changwas approved by the legislature for voter ing the first section from Los Angeles to approval after I became a Superior Court Northern California in favor of San Jose Judge. It expressly provided for a system capable of traveling from here to Los to Californians that the project was still Angeles in two hours and 40 minutes and from Sacramento to Los Angeles in two Angeles Times, San Jose Mercury News, and hours and 20 minutes, with a maximum San Diego Union Tribune devote space for of 24 stations and no taxpayer subsidies. That resulted in a November 2008 ballot measure embodying those requirements and authorizing \$9,950,000,000 of general obligation bonds, of which \$950,000,000 would be allocated to connecting other tating of the numerous environmental and state railway systems, local and regional, to the high-speed rail system.

approved the measure by about 53% to 47% despite organized opposition.

to build the first segment from San Francisco to Anaheim, and the second segment south to San Diego and north to Eshoo, of Palo Alto, and then-State Senator speed rail system in violation of the 2008 bond measure by requiring high-speed trains to share the existing Caltrain tracks on the San Francisco Peninsula with Caltrain, the commuter system. In order to obviate taxpayer subsidies for operating expenses, the High-Speed Rail Authority knew it must operate at least 10 high-speed trains per hour from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM and again from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, Attorney's January announcement that to achieve sufficient ridership and conse- he will pursue corruption cases against quent revenue to pay operating expenses. city government and other related actors. Contrast all 28 public transit agencies in

In 1992, as Chairman of the State the nine-county Bay Area and others in sidies, ranging from 90% of expenses to BART. It outperforms in fare box revenue fied, would share the tracks and be limited Caltrain commuter service of six trains in

The California High-Speed Rail of its historical supporters. The United States House of Representatives enacted legislation two years ago prohibiting any federal funds for California's now-bastardized system. In February, the High-Speed to Bakersfield, thereby trying to represent extant and viable. It is not. Only the Los accurate reporting on the project. Local press ignores it, except for public relations announcements from Authority "tax eaters." On February 11, 2016, in Sacramento County Superior Court, the most devasother lawsuits against the present plan was heard and taken under submission by the On November 4, 2008, voters trial judge. Kings County and two ranchers alleged eight distinct violations of the November 2008 ballot measure by the cur-The broadcasted business plan was rent Authority board. State law requires a court decision by June 12, 2016. I predict a decision for Kings County.

Meanwhile, again without any men-Sacramento. Having retired from the tion in local daily press, a voter initiative Superior Court, I had been appointed in was released by the California Attorney 2006 to the Authority board by the State General on January 30, 2016, for voter Senate and elected board president three signature collection and submission to years. My term expired in 2010. A new California voters this November. The ini-Governor was elected, and the business tiative allocated some \$10,700,000,000 for plan was changed by the force of Peninsula statewide water storage and amends the politicians, namely Congresswoman Anna California Constitution to provide that drinking water and irrigation shall be pri-Joe Simitian, also of Palo Alto, to prohibit mary water use priorities under an elected acquisition of 50 feet of right-of-way for board from eight districts in our state. The dedicated track, usable only by high-speed initiative redirects \$8,000,000,000 from trains to achieve voter-mandated speeds. the remaining unspent high-speed rail The cities of Atherton, Menlo Park, Burlbond fund and \$2,700,000,000 in previingame, and Palo Alto succeeded through ously authorized (2014) water bond funds Eshoo and Simitian in changing the high- for such purposes. The initiative creates no new debt or tax burdens on the state or taxpayers. A Golden State Poll - Hoover Institution poll shows that 53% of Californians would vote for such ballot measure, and water storage construction ranked as the first state priority by 62% of probable voters. The initiative must qualify by May 1, 2016. It will.

Last month, I referred to the District

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# Mayor Ed's Hiring Binge

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

nce again, retired City employees are wrongly being blamed for Mayor Ed Lee's looming budget deficit. The Mayor has quietly been on a hiring binge since taking office in January 2011, but seeks help from his media shills to obscure his budget failures by blaming retirees.



This is Ed Lee's own doing, not the fault of City retiree's living longer, despite the misinformation Matier and Ross used to whip up hysteria about increasing pension costs for City retirees...

gossip columnists Matier and Ross have and \$149,999 at an increased cost of \$162.7 rushed to Lee's rescue, using yet more million? Why did the City need an addi-Chronicle spin control.

On December 7, 2015, Matier and Ross reported that "nearly half" of a projected \$99 million deficit for Fiscal Year the City need an additional 559 employ-2016-2017 starting July 1, 2016 "can be ees earning over \$200,000 annually at an chalked up to skyrocketing pension costs." But Matier and Ross noted that just \$42 million is attributable to increased pension costs, which represents only 42.2% — not trates salary inequities that have worsened "nearly half" — of the projected deficit. While Matier and Ross railed against retirees, they neglected a basic duty of journalists to report facts fully, since they didn't bother reporting other causes of the remaining \$57 million projected deficit.

Fast forward a month to January 5, when the San Francisco Examiner reported Mayor Lee has requested that City departments cut spending by 1.5% to cover the \$100 million deficit for FY 2016-2017, earning less than \$100,000 dropped to and cut an additional 1.5% in their FY 2017-2018 budgets. The Mayor's budget ing over \$100,000 had average salaries of instructions claim that the two-year 3% budget cuts are necessary and are "roughly equivalent to the citywide impact of the increased pension costs in each of the next two fiscal years."

For its part, the Examiner rightly noted that there are other factors driving the budget deficit, including voter-adopted baselines and set-asides, along with projected increases in citywide operating costs, and other factors, which appeared to have been of no interest to Matier and Ross over \$100,000 saw their average salaries as they rushed to bash City retirees.

#### Mayor's Hell-Bent Hiring Binge

half-way point during FY 2010-2011 when tional growth in Muni-specific managers his tenure began on January 11, 2011. During the five years he has held office, he added 5,386 new of City employees across 41 City departments, according to the City Controller's fiscal year payroll databases, an increased cost of \$39.4 million — fully but offset that by eliminating 246 other 7% of Mayor Lee's additional \$567.4 mil-

tration is he has added 5,139 full- and part- 190 managers have improved operations time employees to the City's payroll at an of City departments. increased cost of \$567.1 million. And that's not including fringe benefits and increased Inextricably Linked to Total Payroll

to the amount of the payroll during Lee's just released its annual report for FY 2014requiring so many more City employees? Fattening the City Budget and Payroll

When Ed Lee became mayor on January 11, 2011 in the middle of FY 10-11, the City's total budget as adopted was \$6.56 billion. Within just four-and-a-half years, likely had nothing to do with the three by FY 14-15 the City's total budget skyrocketed to \$8.58 billion, a net change of \$2.2 billion — a staggering 30.8% increase.

Nearly 83% — 4,259 of 5,139 — of the increased staffing, and almost two-thirds of the associated salary cost increases, occurred in just seven City departments as shown in Table 2.

#### Rise in the "Fat Cat" \$100,000+ Salary Club

Mayor Lee has clearly been on a hiring binge for City employees earning over \$100,000 annually since assuming office.

Interestingly, Figure 1 illustrates that Mayor Lee added 3,127 employees earning over \$100,000 to the City's payroll between FY 10-11 and FY 14-15 at an increased cost of \$510.2 million annually.

Why did the City need an additional

Yet again, San Francisco Chronicle 1,290 employees earning between \$100,000 tional 1,265 employees earning between \$150,000 and \$199,999 at an increased cost of \$220.9 million? For that matter, why did increased cost of \$126.6 million? What do taxpayers gain with this bloat?

> More troubling Table 7 below illusunder Mayor Lee. Pay inequity between those earning less than \$100,000 annually and those earning over \$100,000 annually has dramatically worsened. Table 7 illustrates there has been a 33.3% increase in the number of employees earning over \$100,000 between FY 10-11 and FY 14-15, along with a 40.4% increase to the City payroll.

> The average annual salary for those \$48,715 in FY 14–15 while those earnalmost \$100,000 more, at \$141,704. Can Mayor Lee spell i-n-e-q-u-i-t-y?

> Table 7 also shows the inequities for those earning less than \$50,000 annually. There was a 16.9% increase — 1,754 — of such employees between FY 10-11 and FY 14-15, but their average salaries plunged by \$2,425 to just \$17,336, a whopping 12.3% loss in average salaries for those making less than \$50,000, even while the 33.3% increase in those earning increase by \$5.3%.

Tables 8 and 9 below show the growth Mayor Lee initially took office at the in City managers citywide and addibetween FY 10–11 and FY 14–15. Between the citywide managers and the Muni-specific managers and transit supervisors, the City added an additional 190 managers, at City jobs across 11 other City departments. lion increase to the City's budget. One rea-The net change under Lee's adminis- sonable question is how these additional

# **City's Pension Contribution Share**

It is indisputable the City has made As Table 1 illustrates, the 5,139 addi- higher pension contributions between FY tional City employees represents a 15.1% 10-11 and FY 14-15. The San Francisco increase in headcount and a 22.2% increase Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) tenure. What changed in City government 2015, which shows in FY 10-11 the City's employer share of retirement contributions totaled \$308.8 million and rose to \$592.6 million in FY 14-15, for a net increase of \$283 million across the four fiscal years.

The \$283 million increase more than factors Matier and Ross whined about (increased life expectancy of retirees, the supplemental COLA payment, or lower investment returns), since the lower investment returns did not occur until FY 14-15, the supplemental COLA lawsuit was only resolved towards the end of FY 14-15, and City retirees had been having a lower mortality rate for a number of years that was simply not discovered and reported by SFERS' actuarial consultants.

Instead, dollars to donuts suggest the \$283 million increase to the City's required employer share of pension contributions is more than likely attributable to the hiring binge Ed Lee has been on since taking office, which increased the City's overall

Cont. p. 18

Are You Kidding Me? (Cont. from p. 1) This is the perfect time for the City to do a zero-base budget and start being made accountable before the next bubble bursts. The Board of Supervisors should immediately direct the Budget Analyst Harvey Rose to conduct a zero-base budget as of a specific start time.

The City must cut unnecessary fat to ensure vital City needs are met. We need to prioritize essential services and programs and ensure they have sufficient are funded. It is just dumb to cut every department across the board. Especially revenue generating departments.

fact that the City must audit the revenue practices of our revenue generating City Departments to insure all revenue sources are identified. I guarantee they are not. Have Grand Jury and Harvey Rose audit recommendations been implemented? Have all backlogs, such as building permits, been addressed? Audit non-profit agencies and City contracts to insure that services are being provided and determine if they are even necessary.

For example: The Healthy San Francisco Program (HSF) was designed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in 2007 to make health care services available and affordable to uninsured San Francisco residents. In FY2013-14, DPH's estimated HSF expenditures totaled nearly \$112 million. Of this amount, \$28.76 million was covered by revenue and \$83.12 million was provided by the General Fund. This amount has been dramatically reduced due to health care reform - Obama Care. HSF should be reviewed for possible

elimination.

Another example: Domestic partner benefits. Domestic partnerships date back to the early 1980s, when lesbian and gay activists sought recognition of their relationships and new definitions of family. Domestic partners are unmarried couples, of the same or opposite sex, who live together and seek benefits comparable to those granted their married counterparts. These benefits were reasonable since lesbian and gay marriage were not previously funding before lower priority programs recognized. Now that lesbian and gay marriage is accepted domestic partnerships benefits should be eliminated.

Another example: Over the past year I We need to analyze and audit the have written articles identifying over \$200 entire City operation. I cannot stress the million in tax revenue to the City that is not currently being appraised by the Assessor's Office, such as the unconstitutional loophole in the Presidio Trust that tax exempts tenants, the non assessment of naming rights at AT&T Ballpark and of the PG&E franchise fee by the SBE, to name a few. If these high profile properties are not being assessed appropriately, then what about other properties in the city. Just think, this \$200 million in tax revenue not being addressed appropriately is just from a handful of properties and represents 10% of the City's total annual property tax revenue.

I could go on all day and know I sound like a broken record. But the bottom line is this - "Business as usual at City Hall has got to change."

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

#### **Central Council** (Cont. from p. 3)

not a good plan for the district. Note that the WOTPCC and the Ingleside Terraces Association have already gone on record as opposing the plan. Ms. Low also gave an update on legislation proposed by Supervisor John Avalos that would require any and all "illegal" secondary units to be brought up to code and legalized. In addition, if an owner buys a "family' home with an existing secondary unit,

they would be basically forbidden to take it out of service and make the space "family" space. The supervisor's office feels that this piece of legislation would place undo suffering and expense on small property owners of RH1 and RH1D units.

The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, March 28th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

#### **Quentin Kopp** (Cont. from p. 3)

Previously, text message exchanges among 10 San Francisco Police Department officers were revealed during a federal investigation, which contained comments indicative of bias and racial and homophobic prejudice. To address the alleged corruption the fighting District Attorney formed without Board of Supervisors or mayoral action a so-called "Blue Ribbon Panel on Transparency, Accountability, and Fairness in Law Enforcement" ("Panel"). He appointed three former judges, namely, and recalled one-time California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso. He asked the substantially undermine public confi-Mayor for taxpayer funds for such panel and its proceedings. The Mayor refused, having requested and secured a United States Department of Justice investigation of those allegations about the police officers. That investigation should be more than enough, but there are further inherent defects in the District Attorney's publicity stunt. The District Attorney was Chief of Police at the time some of the police officer messages were exchanged! As the assumed presenter of evidence to the Panel, he has a conflict of interest. He conduct occurring while he was Chief of Police. If the Panel finds bias in the San Francisco Police Department at such time, that finding will presumably implicate him as Chief of Police. The perception that he is investigating himself undermines Panel credibility. He should recuse himself and ask a district attorney from another county to appoint and oversee any such

panel, a body clearly superfluous in light of the U.S. Department of Justice investigation. Additionally. Judge Cordell must recuse herself. If she were still an active judge assigned to such a matter, her public comments would disqualify her from hearing the case. On December 23, 2015, for example, she tweeted, "Ten racist texting cops in SF get their jobs back?" That refers with an apparent opinion on her part upon the same matter ostensibly by the Panel. Commenting publicly about a matter before her would cause a judge's disqualification under California law. Judge Thelton Henderson, U.S. District Federal law would also require disquali-Court retiree, Judge LaDoris Cordell, fication because her "impartiality might Santa Clara County Superior Court retiree, reasonably be questioned." While Cordell is no longer an active judge, her comments dence that she would be objective and impartial in her role on the panel.

Finally, one notes the controversy over replacement of U.S. Supreme Court Judge Antonin Scalia by President Barack Obama. The expected U.S. Senate Republican demand that the President submit no replacement for confirmation during his remaining term of office sounds unjustifiable and even unprecedented. It's not. In 2005, then U.S. Senator Obama tried to prevent a U.S. Senate vote in a filibuster against President George W. Bush for the convened the Panel, which will investigate nomination of present U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. He was in good company. So did U.S. Senators Harry Reid, Hillary Clinton, and "Chuck" Schumer. There is an expression in politics and life: "What goes around comes around."

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

# **Drought Recovery and Flood Prevention**

By Steve Lawrence

oon the drought is likely to be over for San Francisco. In the course of delivering a report about the drought to the SFPUC Commissioners, the head of the water department characterized the snow pack. While there is still considerable uncertainty about how much water will flow into the SF Hetch Hetchy system, if the "medium" estimate turns out to be right (there are high and low estimates too), about one million acre feet of water will be available. To fill system reservoirs takes about 810,000 acre feet. Chances are, by July 15, reservoirs will be full. This forecast was given in early February; weather may defeat expectations. Note, too, that this is for San Francisco; much of the state is not in our enviable position. The Hetchy watershed is blessedly high in elevation. As of early February our water system had already captured 82,000 acre feet of water, more than captured over the past two years. (SF's water system delivers about 250,000 acre feet per year to well over 2.5 million customers.)

= Commentary =

Proposed projects will vary in terms of effectiveness and cost; those believed most effective will cost more. Costs are all in the hundreds of millions of dollars."

same system as does wastewater (sewage). While that can be good – both are treated - it is difficult, too. SF processes 60 million gallons on a typical day. But when it million dollar cost increment, expect your about ten times what is typical. Yet even that is not enough when it rains hard. Torrential rain may be increasing with climate change. In February 2004 a 100-year storm hit. In December 2014 two 25-year storms hit within a fortnight.

The SFPUC Commission, which sets mitted to addressing flooding. It will be neither easy nor cheap.

and another nearby. Wawona and 15th Avenue has flooded badly and remains vulnerable. An area at Cayuga near 280 is not too far from the southern Westside; this place floods during bad storms, such as the recent 25-year storms, and when it does, the effects are quite bad. (Another flood-prone place is Folsom and 17th St.)

Underway for SFPUC is a flood resilience study, due to be completed this Spring. After considering the study,

Now for the less welcome news: about projects to address flooding will become flooding. San Francisco has a combined the focus. Proposed projects will vary sewer system, unique in the West. This in terms of effectiveness and cost; those means that storm water flows into the believed most effective will cost more. Costs are all in the hundreds of millions of dollars. (The General Manager even breathed a billion dollars.) For each ten storms SF must process much more. The bill to rise by a couple of dollars a month. system max is 550 million gallons, so Fortunately for today's bill payers, none of the projects will be done before 2019. (Not that remediation has been foregone; \$150 million was authorized after 2004, more since. About \$23 million has been spent/ committed to address flooding at Wawona and 15th.)

Even with the coming expensive flood policy and makes big decisions, is com- control projects, flooding will occur. The aim is to have no significant flooding in a 5-year storm, 1.33 inches of rain in three There are three areas particularly vul- hours. But there are larger storms. Then nerable to flooding, one on the Westside, the aim is to reduce and minimize the damage of flooding. Preventing flooding altogether is too expensive.

> For individuals who have experienced flooding at their property and wish to take steps to avoid it, there are grants of up to \$30,000 available. See Grant Assistance for Floodwater Management within sfwater. org/StormPrep.

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



The newly revised Ocean Beach Fire Program allows the tradition of beach fires, rather than a permit system as was originally proposed, the program is designed to encourage visitors to take responsibility - including planning ahead and bringing appropriate materials to burn and adopting a "leave it better than you found it" ethic.

The program extends the fire curfew to 9:30pm and expands the number of fire rings from 12 to 16. It also allows an eight months burn season, from March through October. A no-burn period of four months avoids burning during the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Winter Spare the Air season and allows the NPS and SFRPD resources to accomplish other needed work at Ocean Beach.

The National Park Service will host annual public workshops to evaluate the program, share information, discuss how the program is working, and to chart a course together for the next burn season: parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram

# Letters to the Editor

I have been appreciating your local publication for the past few years as it has been one of the only newspapers that has reported on the wrongdoing and betrayal of trust by the administration at Laguna Honda Hospital.

I have been an employee of Laguna Honda Hospital and have seen firsthand the corruption that exists there. It is not just a sensationalized story. This is the same place that Mr. Llewellyn oversaw, and exploited to provide sweetheart deals to his girlfriend, and her painting company. This is the same place that fired Drs Kerr, and Rivero for whistleblowing regarding misappropriation from the patient gift fund, and contracting kick backs. Despite all of the publicity that you have provided, they are still up to their old tricks. CEO Mivic Hirose and most of her administration are still in place.

I have witnessed fraud on State surveys, Managers using accounts as their personal shopping sprees, employees being paid for work which they do not perform. A select group of people have each others' backs on the wrongdoings, and share the "fringe benefits." Everyone else is either complicit or scared to speak out, in fear of losing their job, or losing favor with the in-crowd. This is how incidents like the infamous Treasure Island Electrical department happen, or the idle Golden Gate Bridge painters happen. All on the taxpayers dime.

I assure you that you have silent supporters and followers at Laguna Honda Hospital and that your articles when released are present on break room tables. Continue shining the light so that everyone can see what kind of dirt we have, and make a change.



My 24 • Will Durst 0 2016

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SCALIA'S REPLACEMENT.

Has the issue of Justice Antonin Scalia's replacement on the Supreme Court turned a mite political?

A. You could say that. You could also say that flight simulation wind-tunnels are tough on comb-overs.

Q. How long after the first Italian US Supreme Court Justice's death did it take to get ugly?

A. Within minutes of the discovery of the body, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed to keep the seat vacant until after the November presidential election. Probably took longer for a family of five to order dessert at Applebee's.

**Q.** Is he alone?

A. No, every Republican in North America echoed his sentiments, especially the 6 remaining GOP POTUS candidates who see this as a big red flag to wave at supporters. And since unemployment is below 5% and gas around 2 bucks a gallon, they can use all the issues they can get.

**Q.** What about the Democrats?

A. Same thing-only different. Both Bernie and Hillary want President Obama to immediately nominate someone they can use to rally the base. Preferably a singlemother lesbian Hispanic with a limp and agoraphobia.

**Q.** So we're playing Hardball here.

**A.** We sidled way past Hardball in 2009. This is 9-inch steel Ball-Bearing Ball.

**Q.** What is the make- up of the remaining court?

A. 1 justice appointed by Reagan, 1 by GHW Bush, 2 by GW Bush, 2 by Clinton and 2 by Obama. 4 Republicans & 4 Democrats. 5 are Roman Catholics and 3 Jewish. Although most decisions will depend on which side of the bed Anthony Kennedy wakes up.

**Q.** What was McConnell's rationale?

**A.** Let the people decide which way the court swings with their choice of president.

**Q.** Didn't the people already decide when they voted for Obama the last 2 elections?

**A.** When Democrats speak, Mitch McConnell doesn't hear well.

Q. Does this mean a presidential term lasts only 3 years? A. Not only that, once this precedent is set, the next Senate could embargo midterm

years as well, then the months of May through August since Congress is in recess and not too close to holidays or weekends; until a Commander-in-Chief is only allowed to nominate a SCOTUS replacement on a Wednesday in the third week of September of odd numbered years.

**Q.** Can the court function with only 8 members?

A. Yes. They've done it before. In 1790 they started out with 6 and each decision required a two-thirds majority, which today would make agreeing on a lunch schedule

Q. Isn't Antonin Scalia the guy who said, "The only good Constitution is a dead Constitution?"

A. You nailed it. The irony is this strict Originalist would be appalled at his death being used for political purposes. Ain't life odd?

Q. I'll ask the questions. If Republicans stymie another Obama nominee, will it be viewed as more obstructionism?

A. Hasn't hurt them so far. Of course a series of 4-4 ties would focus attention on vacancy like blood on snow.

Q. Could Obama nominate himself?

A. Yeah. That's what Republicans want. HIM shaping law in a lifetime appointment. That and scorpions duct-taped to their underwear.

**Q.** Might this lead to a further breakdown in bipartisan relations?

A. As my daddy used to say: "Can't kill what's already dead."

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# SFMTA Presents "Full Subway" Option to Put M-Ocean View Line Underground from West Portal Along 19th Avenue to Parkmerced

The San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) cited "Superior travel time and safety" as the compelling reasons to move forward with the \$2.5-3 Billion "Full Subway" version of the project on Thursday, February 25th at a public meeting held at Waldorf High School on West Portal Avenue. But the subway planning is still in early stages and nothing has been approved, let alone funded. There is still plenty of time for public input.

Expansion plans at the University of San Francisco and the addition of 5600 units at Parkmerced have prompted transportation planners to rethink earlier proposals which would not likely be sufficient to handle the large influx of expanded populations. Capacity would be improved with the subway plan, which would allow 4-car trains. Travel time would also be at Parkmerced. improved, according to planners.

K-Ingleside line underground from West Portal Station to Parkmerced.

New underground stations would be created at Stonestown, SF State and Parkmerced. Stations on 19th Avenue would have multiple entrances on both sides of the busy thoroughfare. No information as "preliminary" and subject to refinewas presented regarding the station at St. Francis Circle.

It is hoped that these improvements would also diminish the traffic delays caused by the street cars on 19th Avenue, eliminating the conflicts with vehicles and the need to wait for signals. Removing atgrade crossings near Rosmoor Drive and at Junipero Serra Blvd. would improve traffic on 19th Avenue and the safety of pedestrians as well as cyclists.

would also allow for a re-design of 19th Avenue to include wider sidewalks and the new two-way bike path as well as a landscaped median.

The new terminal at Parkmerced, replacements, street repaving which had been planned as an at-grade facility in the original agreement with Fortress Investment Group, the developer at Parkmerced is not affected. It is not clear how the SFMTA will use the \$70 million provided by the developer to realign the streetcar into the residential neighborhood

While Federal funds are matched 80% This new subway plan places the for projects that are "commuter friendly," M-Ocean View line and part of the the funding for the latest iteration has not been determined in terms of matching

> No extension of the M-line to the Daly Serra Blvd. improvements City BART is considered in the current

All aspects of the plans were presented ment. The plans are subject to environmental review (EIR), project approvals by regulatory agencies are also required and no progress has been reported about identifying full funding. Residents are not likely to see disrupting construction activities for many years.

Public meetings regarding these changes are in the planning stages, but have not yet been posted.

Construction is underway for multi-Taking the M-line underground agency improvements to West Portal Ave and Quintara Street water main, sewer and paving projects thru the summer of 2016 from Ulloa Street to 15th Avenue. These include water and sewer main

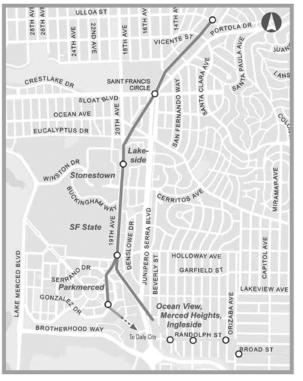
and pedestrian safety elements such as bulbouts and curb ramps.

West Portal Avenue transit and placemaking project is intended to improve Muni performance along West Portal, also planned for this year, but public meetings to share improvement options and seek input are expected prior to project implementation.

19th Avenue/Junipero / include modifications to the intersection at the north crosswalk to include a pedestrian refuge area adjacent to the

light rail tracks. Transit signal priorities are planned as well as red paint treatment at the entrance to the trackway as well as speed bumps.

Twin Peaks tunnel trackway improvements are also planned for the summer of 2016 to the fall of 2017 at the Castro and West Portal stations. Aged light rail tracks are to be replaced along the entire tunnel and in order to avoid future impacts to traffic and transit in the surrounding neighborhoods, infrastructure improvements are planned to take place at the same time, including seismic upgrades, repairs to the concrete reinforcements and cleaning and repairs to the tunnel drainage system.



## **Full Subway Plan 2016**

M Ocean View track replacements along 19th Ave. from Rossmoor Dr. to Winston Dr. are scheduled to take place from the fall of 2016 to the summer of 2017 from the north side of the Winston Drive platform through the Rossmoor Dr. intersection. Traffic signal priorities for transit vehicles are planned to minimize blockage and conflicts with the streetcar crossings.

28 line / 19th Avenue Rapid Project is designed to be implemented from 2016 thru 2018 and will include transit and pedestrian improvements at every intersection from Lincoln Way to Junipero Serra Blvd. This corridor had about 400 collisions in the last five years, and planners hope to improve safety.

#### Derailment(Cont. from p. 1)

complications." Car traffic, road work, pedestrians, all can be contributing factors to delays and malfunctions to light-rail and electrified bus lines above ground.

The MUNI Metro (or the underground as locals refer to it) is a contemporary incarnation of the traditional streetcar system that had served San Francisco since the late 19th century.

While many streetcar lines in other cities, and even in San Francisco itself, were converted to buses after World War II, five lines survived until 1980, when the streetcar lines were partially upgraded to light rail with the opening of the upper level of the Market Street Subway in that year. Full daily Muni Metro service was been reported, the system has undergone expansion, most notably the Third Street Light Rail Project. That was completed in 2007. The T-line inaugurated the first new rail line in San Francisco in over half

**Body Cameras** (Cont. from p. 1)

sound policies are essential.

directed the SFPD to create a Body Camera Working Group to draft a policy in 90 days. The Working Group met publicly 6 times between June and August 2015. Law enforcement was heavily represented. Also included were the Office of Citizen Complaints, ACLU, Public Defender, SF Bar Association, and Human Rights Commission. On 6/9/15 Supervisor Avalos rare, less than 3 per 10,000 arrests. Curintroduced Ordinance 150623 calling for a Surveillance Data Policy with annual audits by the Controller's Office. When the to "trigger recall" before filing a written Working Group's draft policy was deliv- report. The Police Officers Association ered on 8/11/15, one issue was unresolved: (POA) warned that cops will withhold whether officers involved in shootings, in-custody deaths or alleged misconduct bodycam videos. Although cops can be should view bodycam videos before or compelled to make a statement, whatever after writing their reports.

the Police Commission reviewed the draft the Peace Officer's Bill of Rights. So viewpolicy, adding the best practices set forth ing videos beforehand would better serve in Assembly Bill 69. Passed on 10/3/15, investigations and justice. AB 69 grants ownership of bodycam

a century. Other projects, such as the Central Subway, are underway.

When The Westside Observer inquired with SFMTA for details about the derailment, spokesman and media rep Paul Rose, said that the exact cause is still not known. "All service resumed that same day," he noted, and "the investigation continues. We apologize for the inconvenience."

When asked if SFMTA posted the news of the derailment on LinkedIn, he replied. "No, I would never post that." In today's tech savvy world, agencies like SFMTA have very strict rules about what is officially released to the media. Yet, social media sites like LinkedIn gave the impression that the post was issued by Rose and

Any important alerts to the public are inaugurated in 1982. Recently, as has posted on SFMTA's web page, Facebook and Twitter page.

> Ionathan Farrell is a San Francisco freelance journalist.

recordings to police departments with violations of privacy or freedom of expres- chain-of-custody rules, along with public sion. To preserve public funds and trust, access per the California Public Records Act. All agreed that officers could view vid-On 5/13/15 the Police Commission eos of routine encounters, but disagreed over viewing footage of critical incidents. While the Commission promised to "vote in recognition of the new normal that trust is a more important metric than an arrest rate," it had to appease both cops and civilians.

Police Perspectives: The SFPD maintains that officer-involved shootings are rently, involved officers are interviewed voluntarily and allowed to see videos voluntary statements unless they can view they report under threat of disciplinary In 5 hearings from 9/2/15 to 12/2/15, action cannot be used against them per

Cops of all stripes emphasized that

SFPD policy demands that "all evidence" experienced, thus creating a "false level of shall be included" in their reports. Yet, the adrenaline-fueled reaction to traumatic incidents causes memory lapses, "tunnelvision" and "acoustic suppression." Only by viewing videos beforehand could they deliver "the most accurate and complete" practices in San Diego and Los Angeles. Entrusting officers to carry guns while denying access to bodycam videos would show that "you don't trust me," one said. Another emphasized that "being treated like a criminal suspect" would be more "divisive." Others faulted the logic of writing "a legal government document before holding that officers "shall not view" reviewing the evidence." Plus, video own-recordings of officer-involved shootings, ership was claimed as "the officer's point criminal investigations or in-custody of view." Writing an initial report, then deaths before writing a report, the Comviewing the video, and then writing a sup- mission granted a loophole: "subject to plemental report would "set up officers to the discretion of the Chief of Police." Chief fail" said Chief Suhr. It could expose them Suhr already supports officers viewing to the "gotcha" when their credibility is challenged for any discrepancies.

**Civilian Concerns:** There have been Commission claimed to retain it since the at least 100 SFPD shootings since 2000, Police Chief reports to the Commission. many controversial. The Office of Citizen This compromise calmed the opposing Complaints receives over 500 complaints parties as the bodycam policy had been annually. Many others are handled by reasonably and transparently created. But SFPD's Internal Affairs. Citizens testified that same day, a dazed, knife-wielding to fearing the SFPD and losing faith in 26-year old, Mario Woods, died from 21 police reports. For critical incidents, they gunshots by 5 police officers in the Baywanted officers to write a report, then view. Only bystander videos documented view the video and file an addendum, if the killing. Chief Suhr declared the shootneeded. They cited similar police practices in Oakland and San Jose. Further, the Inspector General's audit of the NYPD's bodycam pilot program determined that officers should not view videos before reporting on incidents with misconduct implications.

Since the legal standard for justifying use of force is "the officer's perception" of a threat, the officer's independent the policy is implemented, the Commisreport should be preserved rather than a sion will conduct a review. re-interpretation based on what appears, or does not appear, on the video. Jeff Adachi argued that viewing the video beforehand alters what officers remember, thereby tainting investigations. The ACLU warned that incriminating events that don't appear are forgotten while events that are captured are recalled as if

accuracy," and potentially enabling coverups. Since civilians cannot view videos before interrogations, allowing police to do so confers an "unfair advantage." Commissioner DeJesus insisted that "investigatory best practices" require that witnesses, statements expected. They cited similar including police officers, make a statement before viewing evidence. There is also a public safety interest in knowing how officers perceive threats. Discrepancies between officer recall and videos are expected, but gross distortions or fabrications could reveal malpractice.

> Commissioners' Compromise: While videos before making out reports. While ceding control to the SFPD, the Police ing justified. Then videos surfaced that countered his view and intensified distrust. Had bodycam videos been available, they might have revealed something about the mind-set driving such lethal force. The bodycam policy will return to the Police Commission for final approval after negotiations between Human Resources and the POA. Six months after

> 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

# The wait is over — Joe's is Back!

By Mitch Bull



he wait is over! After a two-plus year hiatus, the "new" and completely remodeled "Original Joe's of Westlake" officially opened on Wednesday, February 24th. Owners John and Elena Duggan hosted a large gathering of Daly City and San Francisco luminaries for a ceremonial ribbon cutting before opening for the lunch crowd at 11 AM.

closed in January 2014 when Melinda Scatena, daughter of founder Bruno Scatena, decided to sell the landmark restaurant. When looking for a buyer, she reached out to the brother-sister "New" Joe's since the door closed in 2014, ers team of John and Elena Duggan, and were on hand for the opening night. kitchen whose grandfather had opened the original, "Original Joe's "on Taylor Street in San Francisco in 1937, seat in the lounge was filled with people.". and had been a business partner

with her father before he branched out to open the resbeing a past patron and fan of taurant in the newly-developed Westlake district in 1956.

An agreement was reached and the restaurant closed the new incarnation of this clasto begin a period of renovation and freshening up. The sic is improved and refreshed in renovation was longer and more involved than anyone almost every way. Even some of expected, but the resulting remodel is top notch, blending the mid-century retro-modern look of Westlake and developer Henry Doelger, with the new sleek design of the counter, the bar, and the lighter and more open Garden and Cascade rooms.

re-opening of the "New" Joe's since the door closed in 2014, and were on hand for the opening night. The line stretched out the door, and every seat in the lounge was filled with people either watching the Warriors game, or having conversations about the new look. The staff did a great job both setting the expectations ("It's a 2 hour wait for parties of two"), and making sure that everyone was seated when an opening came up. For the opening evening, the twohour wait was pretty much on the mark, but few seemed to mind. Old "regulars" and new patrons told stories, spun yarns and marveled at the photos on the walls.

The service and food also measured up. While the menu leans heavily on the menu of the owners' San Francisco Original Joe's location in North Beach, Westlake favorites like "Steak a-la-Bruno" and Veal Parmagiana, still dot the menu, along with the An institution since 1956, "Joe's of Westlake" was house-made spaghetti and ravioli with the classic "Joe's"

sauce. Even with the "standing room only" start to the evening,

Long-time customers have been the mananticipating the re-opening of the  $\begin{array}{c} agement, \\ s e r v \end{array}$ The line stretched out the door, and every staff did a

admit to "Joe's of Westlake" and think that the former staff members have returned to usher in the new era of the landmark. Yes, the prices are somewhat higher, but that's to be expected. The food was



Ribbon Cutting for the eagerly awaited re-opening

and the crowds were enthusiastic. Part restaurant- part museum, the Duggans have done a masterful job of bringing this Joe's into the 21st century while tipping their caps and paying homage to our collective dreams and memories from the past. Welcome back!

Original Joe's is at 11 Glenwood Ave, Daly City. Phone (650) 755-7400. Open Daily 11am-11pm.



Long-time customers have been anticipating the very good, the service was great, The gleaming new kitchen at Original Joe's still provides a clear view of the progress of the work



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# The City's **ENERGY**

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# Money Matters By Brandon Miller

## **Merging Finances When You Begin Life Together**

hen a couple makes the decision to bring their lives together, it's inevitable that their financial lives will become intertwined. Even though the sentiment that "love conquers all," tends to overshadow financial concerns early in the relationship, the reality is that how each partner handles money could have a significant impact on your collective financial future.

If one or both of you is bringing debt to the relationship, such as student loans or credit card debt, it is important to agree how those will be paid off. Will both of you contribute to loan payments, or will the person who brought those debts to the relationship take sole responsibility?

than it might have been in the past. It's eliminating these debts should be a priormarry or live together at a later age than the household. was typical for previous generations. Or, Emergency fund couples may be coming together after one or both partners went through a divorce. couple is having a sufficient cash reserve In situations like these, both individuals in place to meet emergency needs, or proare often bringing more financial assets vide funding if special opportunities arise. and their own financial priorities into the A general rule of thumb is to have six-to-

finances:

#### **Income and expenses**

income will be directed to individual accounts or to a joint account. Individuals Financial priorities who are used to managing their money have a separate account for discretionary spending. If this is your preference, have a plan for who is responsible for each expense. Opening a joint account that both parties contribute to is a common way to pay for shared expenses, such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities, food. If you decide only to have a joint account, discuss how you'll handle discretionary spending. Many couples agree agreed-upon amount, so both partners to money matters in the future. feel involved in the decision.

#### **Existing debts**

If one or both of you is bringing debt to the relationship, such as student loans or credit card debt, it is important to agree how those will be paid off. Will you both contribute to loan payments, or will the person who brought those debts to the relationship take sole

This is a more significant issue today responsibility? Reducing and eventually more common for couples to choose to ity for the long-term financial stability of

An important consideration for any nine months of income set aside in a cash Here are key topics that every cou- account that is easily accessible when the ple should discuss before merging their money is needed. If both individuals earn income, both should contribute to this joint household account. Clearly com-One of the biggest decisions you municate what type of expenses warrant should agree on is how much of your dipping into this fund in order to avoid a potentially stressful situation.

Before you merge your finances, talk may want to maintain their account, or about your financial goals and dreams. Consider putting together a plan that prioritizes each goal and factors in the ideal timeframe for achieving each goal. As part of this discussion, talk about your spending habits, your approach to saving and how you will resolve disagreements about money. Be upfront about any issues you might have had with money in the past and how that might affect your lives going forward. Putting it all on the table at to discuss any purchase made above an the outset can help avoid problems related

> Brandon Miller, CFP is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals

## **Santa Clause at City Hall**

By Brian Browne

d. Mayor Lee is again beating drums for affordable housing. He is proclaiming the public good as his motivation. Two thoughts immediately come to mind; the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. Two droughts in the public good as his mouvation. own personal wellbeing (?).

As a senior I ride the Muni for free. One part of me is thankful. Another part of me understands that there are no free lunches, not even in San Francisco. Someone has to pay. My rides are being subsidized by non-seniors."

In previous essays I speculated on local?) issued ID. the groups who represent the recipient base for such public largess. In a number of recent exchanges (February 2016) with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Comthat there is a loose preference/priority ever, residence, citizenship, being a green sufficient. card holder are not required. All that is required is a government (federal, state,

The MHHCD stated that there are no formal criteria to prioritize the giving of these taxpayer-financed "affordable" units for such groups as: U.S. armed service vetmunity Development (MOHCD) I learned erans/serving, first responders, teachers, medical personnel, and other such people (vs. actual cast-in-stone requirements) for that are integral to the public wellbeing of people who live or work in San Francisco the City. I was greatly relieved to learn that (within household income limits), how- a library card was neither necessary nor

> For inclusionary housing (Planning Cont. p. 11

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# **City College's Front Page Gallery**

#### A Window to the World

n exhibition of exclusive photographs by City College 's Guardsman photographers published in local newspapers during their internships launches a premier show running March 10 to April 11 at the Front Page Gallery located in The Guardsman newsroom, Bungalow 615 on City College's Ocean Campus, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco.

The public is invited to a recep- Juan Gonzales said. "The exhibit is a clear tion Thursday, March 10 from 5 to 9:30 statement about their skill and passion for

p.m. Light food and refreshments will be available. The exhibition, from 11-5 p.m. on weekdays, is comprised of 22 photojournalistic prints.

"The exhibit reflects the photojournalistic success of our students following their initial training in the classroom and on the campus newspaper The Guardsman and the campus magazine *Etc.*," Journalism Department



Chair Ekevara Kitpowsong – San Francisco Examiner



Santiago Mejia - San Francisco Chronicle

journalism as recognized industry professionals. "The gallery, developed by the journalism department, is located behind George Rush Stadium where ample parking is available. "This exhibition will be surprising and revealing to the viewers. Every image featured



Ekevara Kitpowsong - San Francisco Examiner

work in the beginning of the City College of San Francisco journalism students' career, it is very rare to find this in any other photography exhibits," gallery curator and the former photo editor of *The* Guardsman news-



Elisa Parrino - El Tecolote

has a strong news value and artistic composition as well

as tells a meaningful story. I enjoyed

working collabora-

tively with talented

Guardsman photog-

raphers. It was an astonishing experi-

ence to hear many

great stories behind

the images they

"This show will feature significant

captured."

paper, Ekevara Kitpowsong said.

For more information about the exhibit and reception contact Department Chair Iuan Gonzales at jagonzal@ccsf.edu or (415) 239-3446.

James Fanucci - Sonoma Index-Tribune

# CCSF DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

# A Window to the Wo

An Exhibit of Photographs by Guardsman Photographers Published in Local Newspapers During Their Internship

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Time: 5-9:30 p.m.

# erred Action plan blocked Acces hardly a boon FRONT PAGE GALLERY

The Guardsman Newsroom 50 Phelan Avenue, Bungalow 615 (Below George M. Rush Stadium) **Ocean Campus** 

Exhibition Dates: March 10 - April 11, 2016

# Group photo exhibition featuring the work of

Santiago Mejia – San Francisco Chronicle | James Fanucchi – Sonoma Index-Tribune Ekevara Kitpowsong – The San Francisco Examiner | Elisa Parrino – El Tecolote | Frank Ladra – Bay News Rising Nathaniel Y. Downes – San Francisco Chronicle | Natasha Dangond – The San Francisco Examiner Beth LaBerge – The San Francisco Examiner | Bridgid Skiba – El Tecolote Yesica Prado – The San Francisco Examiner | Franchon Smith – San Francisco Chronicle

Curated by Ekevara Kitpowsong | For more information, call (415) 239-3446 | www.TheGuardsman.com



#### **New Community Safety Meetings**

n an effort to improve engagement with a population larger of the community, I have decided to change the cur-



rent format of the Captain's Community Meeting. Rather than meeting monthly at Taraval Station and at Minnie Love Rec Center, I will host four community meetings throughout the district. We will select four locations in the district where we can meet with the greater community. We are currently researching locations while keeping in mind, parking, public transportation and size of venue to accommodate those who may be attending. The format and the meeting time will change as well. In the past, it was traditionally the captain of the station speaking as well as a guest speaker. Under the new format, a panel will be present at each meeting to hear your concerns. The core members of the panel will be a member of the Board of Supervisors, a liaison from the District Attorney's Office, a liaison from SF SAFE and myself. We will also attempt to target the community's concerns by bringing other city agencies in as well. Our first meeting, on March 23, will be at the library on 38th Ave and Ortega St. As the Captain, in addition to the request of the crimes trends in the district, I also receive may emails regarding the homeless near the Ocean Beach area and the Irving St Corridor. For this reason, I have invited SFHOT to join us, so they may address any questions and attempt to give the community a better understanding of the current homeless situation in the district. The goal in changing the format is to engage with more citizens and to customize the agenda to address those concerns that are a priority to the surrounding neighborhoods. With that said, I will need the assistance of the community to reach out to me and let me know what you would like the meeting's agenda to include. This is a great opportunity to participate in the conversation that impacts you the most. I welcome all feedback and questions you have as a community, so please do not hesitate to contact me via email (SFPDTaravalStation@sfgov.org) or by calling Taraval Station (415-759-3100).

**Auto Boosts** Within Taraval, we are still seeing an increase in auto boosts. As discussed many times, auto break ins are a crime of opportunity. In most instances, if there is nothing visible in the vehicle, the suspect will move on. In order to address this increase, officers at Taraval Station are revealed the license plate was for another being deployed to areas experiencing the highest increase of this crime trend. We are also utilizing the Taraval Neighborhood Team (TNT) for high visibility and surveillance in these areas, as well. We are also working in partnership with SF Safe to supply flyers to merchants, as well as flyers that drivers can place on their dash board. The goal is to heighten the citizen's awareness of this crime trend so they may play a proactive role in not being victimized. I understand the frustration of all those who have been victimized by auto breaks in and am constantly reviewing data and accessing the best way to utilize the officers of Taraval Station.

Finally, I need to say Thank You to the men and women of Taraval Station. I witness your daily commitment to the community you serve and know at times, there are struggles you must cope with. I am honored as your commanding officer to know that you conduct yourselves with professionalism and selflessly give of yourself every day.

#### Shoplifting

11:33 am | 3200 20th Ave

A shoplifter was observed attempting to steal a purse. The suspect was the same person who had stolen from the same store last week. Officers determined that the suspect had a history of stealing from the store on previous occasions and the suspect was arrested.

#### Tuesday 2/2

#### Trespassing - Battery

11:04 am | 00 West Portal Ave

A victim told officers that the suspect was intoxicated, entered the store and asked for food. When he was denied and asked to leave he spat at the victim and refused. The suspect was detained in the detox cells and cited for the battery and trespassing.

#### Wednesday 2/3

#### **Battery - Resisting Arrest**

11:57 am | 320020th Ave

An employee said she recognized the suspects walking into the store who had a prior history of shoplifting and told them not to come in. After they pushed, punched, and slapped the victim they fled. Officers located the suspects and transported to the station, where they kicked the officers and refused to obey a lawful order. One suspect was arrested the other was cited.

#### Thursday 2/4

#### DUI - Hit and Run

11:16 pm | 2000 20th Ave

Officers responded to a report of a hit and run collision. Officers located the vehicle and the driver. The driver showed symptoms of being intoxicated and the officers conducted a field sobriety test on the driver. After failing the test and after further investigation, the driver was arrested.

#### Assault

4:18 am | 1700 26th Ave

The victim was asleep when his roommate came home and began making noise. After text messages had no affect, he to told him to quiet down. The suspect opened the door and during the fight, started hitting the victim over the head with a chair. The victim got out and called the police. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

#### **Reckless Driving**

11:56 pm | Faxon Ave & Grafton Ave Sergeants on patrol observed a vehicle driving suspiciously. A computer check vehicle. The suspect started driving faster to evade the officers-they didn't pursue due to reckless driving, but after a few blocks, the vehicle hit another vehicle. He attempted to flee, but was apprehended. The suspect was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

#### Saturday 2/6

#### **False Registration - Drug Offense**

3:23 am | Faxon Ave & Elmwood Way A computer check on a random vehicle revealed it was last registered in 2013 despite its 2016 sticker. A traffic stop revealed a suspended license. An arrest search found cocaine rocks inside the suspect's socks. The suspect was arrested.

#### Battery - Vandalism - Theft

1:56 am | Gonzalez Dr & Josepha Ave A taxi driver said he picked up the suspect who fell asleep during the ride. When they arrived, he woke the suspect up and asked for his fare. The suspect said he had no

the area followed him and reported to the officers. The suspect was located and cited.

#### **Burglary-Burglary Property**

5:24 pm | 1400 Funston Ave

The witness said she noticed the suspect using a stick to reach in under the gates to steal packages. When officers arrived and located the described suspect and the stick used to steal packages. He had numerously addressed mails. The suspect was arrested.

#### Robbery

8:34 pm | Eucalyptus Dr & 26th Ave The victim told the officers that she had just gotten off the MUNI bus and was walking home. She was about to unlock her door when the suspect pulled her back, grabbed her purse and fled to a waiting vehicle. She did not hear the suspect because she had earphones on and was listening to music.

#### Sunday 2/7

#### Methamphetamine Offense

10:49 pm | Great Hwy & Taraval St

Officers observed a person rummaging through the cabin of a truck. The suspect said it belonged to his friend. A suspicious vial was confirmed to be methamphetamine. A computer check revealed two arrest warrants, he was arrested.

#### Assault

3:39 am | 1300 46th Ave

The victim was getting into her vehicle when the suspect took out a can of pepper spray and discharged it at her. She got some in her eyes. The suspect fled

#### Thursday 2/11

#### **Attempted Robbery - Assault**

12:31 am | Buckingham Way & 20th Ave The victim waiting for the bus when the suspects started taking his backpack. In the struggle, suspects kicked and punched him. A witness who saw the assault called the police. Responding officers located the suspects. The first suspect immediately tried to flee then attempted to strike the officers with a skateboard. The second suspect was placed into handcuffs without further incidents. They were arrested

#### Friday 2/12

#### Robbery - Narcotics and Paraphernalia 9:15 pm | 3200 20th Ave

Dispatch reported that Loss Prevention was fighting a suspect, who selected three jackets before walking away from the

money, pushed the driver and struck him display. The suspect tried to walk out of on the chest and kicked the vehicle caus- the store. Loss Prevention got the duffle ing damages before fleeing. A witness in bag away from the suspect before officers arrived. During the arrest search officers found heroin and methamphetamine in **Tools-Stolen** his pocket and stolen items along with pliers and a glass pipe. He was arrested.

#### Saturday 2/13

#### Robbery

7:40 pm | 27th Ave & Ortega St

Two suspects approached the victim and started making small talk before asking for his wallet. The first suspect pulled out a knife, the second showed the handle of a gun tucked into his waistband. They punched and kicked the victim before taking the victim's wallet and fleeing.

#### Tuesday 2/16

#### **Recovered Stolen Vehicle**

2:22 am | 3900 Moraga St

A sergeant observed a suspect crawling into a double parked vehicle occupied by another person. A computer check revealed the vehicle was stolen. A search revealed stolen property from a break-in. One of them was on probation. Both suspects were arrested.

#### **Exhibiting Weapon**

6:41 am | 300 San Miguel

The victim was in his car with a friend w in the back seat when the suspect suddenly opened and closed the car door. When the victim got out to confront the suspect, he brandished a gun before fleeing. Officers located the suspect and a loaded magazine inside the suspect's pocket. A check revealed he was a felon, he was arrested.

#### **Possession of Air Gun**

12:40 pm | 200 Holloway Ave

Officers were on patrol when they recognized a suspect who had a warrant for his arrest. The officers confronted the suspect and located an air gun in one of his bags. The suspect was arrested for the warrant and possession of an air gun.

#### Sunday 2/21

#### **Possession for Sale**

1:53 am | Broad St & Orizaba St Officers investigating a shooting found a

suspect on probation. The search located a backpack filled with marijuana, cocaine, and bullets, also a scale and large amount of money. The suspect denied they belonged to him. He was arrested.

#### **Assault**

10:04 am | 600 Capitol Ave A witness said the suspect had an argument

Cont. p. 19

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"Super Bowl City" has come and gone and we are waiting for the official tally of how much the NFL's biggest game brought into the coffers of Bay Area cities and



companies. The traffic was heavy and somewhat inconvenient, but we all got through it. The squabbling over what the city will have to pay out (due to less than stellar negotiating with the NFL) should be offset by what the television cameras showed the world, that we live and work in a very compact, expensive, and special place.

As if the Super Bowl City related traffic wasn't enough (and the traffic snarls from various protests around the city), the traffic in and around Union Square and Chinatown was at its' pinnacle last week for the Chinese New Year Parade and celebration. Glorious weather and large crowds combined with the many street closures made for a driving test that would even stump the DMV instructors...it certainly did catch everyone's GPS unaware with lots of "turn right, or turn left" into blocked off streets. Adding to the fray was the closed streets in Union Square that are trenched out as part of the Central Subway project. (I expect even Karl Malden and Michael Douglas couldn't have found their way around the "Streets of San Francisco".)



**Re-openings 2.0:** Several of our favorite places have recently reopened their doors after major changes. West Portal Avenue's Vin Debut has reopened following the devastating fire in 2014 with a larger and modern space, wonderful wines and small plate appetizers. Their wines are terrific, the food is great and it's wonderful to see them back in action after so long

being shuttered. Across the Daly City border in Westlake, "Westlake Joe's" (aka Joe's of Westlake) has returned after a sale and 26 month remodel as the newly named "Original Joe's - Westlake." A mix of menu items from both the "Westlake" menu and that of Original Joe's SF menu appear in the new menu selections. John and Elena Duggan, the proprietors of Original Joe's and, grandchildren of the founder, have done a great job of keeping the spirit of the old place while replacing virtually everything to upgrade the property and systems to modern code. Two venerable downtown restaurants have also re-opened, as the Daniel Patterson Group has reopened Alfred's on Merchant Street after a 7 week refreshing and retooling, and the Alioto and Cippolina families have reopened the historic Original U.S. Restaurant on Columbus Avenue in a new location in North Beach. It really is great to see these restaurants reopened and (hopefully) operated for generations to come.

West Portal Shirts... the West Portal Merchants Association have produced great sweatshirts imprinted with street signs proclaiming "West Portal." Very cool item. Contact them at 415-215-2094 for more information.

MUNI furor... over 200 people packed the room at the Dianne Feinstein School to make their feel-

ings known about the SFMTA's proposal to eliminate stops along the L-Taraval Muni route to make the trains run faster.



A very heated debate ensued with much opposition to the proposal mainly from seniors who would be inconvenienced and from merchants and residents who would lose lots of parking to MUNI's plan. The compromise reached will be a pilot program for 6 months to evaluate the impact of the restriping and stop modifications. Keep you input flowing to MUNI.

Bonus Plan... since our comments last month about the "Affordable Housing Bonus Plan," several people have asked what it could mean to the neighborhood commercial zones. Let's take West Portal Avenue, or Ocean Avenue in Lakeside Village as an example. Some of the blocks in West Portal are three stories, with commercial on the first floor and offices/apartments on floors 2 and 3. If a developer is entitled to add 2 more stories, these buildings could be demolished to make way for a 5-story structure. What happens to the small businesses, and other tenants of these buildings during the lengthy demolition, design and rebuilding process? Most will either leave the area or close their businesses. The "corridor" would then resemble some of the new multi level architecture that has transformed the Market/Castro/Octavia area. Is that the type of neighborhood that we want to see? If not, let the Board of Supervisors know. They need to hear your input.







Get your Irish on... at the 13th Annual Crossroads: Irish-American Music Festival kicks off its month-long events March 4th with Grammy-award winning Eileen Ivers Band, Whelan-Kennelly Academy of Irish Dance \*Connecting the Roots: a musical journey through Irish/Celtic traditions and American Roots Music/bluegrass/ Cajun/Appalachian/country music\* at the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium at Marin Civic Center 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, 8pm / \$25-\$60 / all ages Info & Tix: irishamericancrossroads.org/

Gardening 1-2-3... The Garden for the Environment Center is offering classes in March at their 7th Avenue and Lawton Street center. Classes on Urban Composting; Growing your own Food; Gardening in a Drought; Gardening with Greywater and Permeable hardscapes will be offered. Contact them at 415.558.8246, or visit their new  $web site\ at: www.garden for the environment.org$ 

Park Funding to the ballot... The Board of Supervisors voted to place a charter amendment on the June ballot to create almost \$ 1,000,000,000 in new park funding over the next 30 years. The SF Parks Alliance and Supervisor Mark Farrell spearheaded this legislation that will provide sustainable funding for SF's parks, playgrounds and open space. The ballot measure will be on the June  $7^{th}$  ballot and will require over 50%of votes to become law.

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

#### City Hall Santa (Cont. from p. 8)

Code Section 415) wherein private developers are mandated to make a fee payment or set aside 20 percent of a project's dwellings as affordable housing, there is no formal citizenship, green card or other ary, and specific guidelines. There must be such requirement. Zilch!!! I Is this an Oklahoma land rush equivalent from the world? Remember in Oklahoma it was the Indian lands that were being given away to strangers without permission.

A government mandated set aside (PCS 415) is no different to any other fiat tax or bond raised financing mechanism. There must be a strict hierarchy of socially acceptable ways to assign these publicly funded assets that meet the overall goals of complementing our social wellbeing. Past, present and anticipated contributions to society by citizens and legal residents as first responders, military, teachers and other major societal contributors must be recognized and quantified in their giveaway formula.

Process and the process constraints do determine outcomes. The process described above gives the politicians a near blank check on who gets taxpayer subsidized housing. It seems like an open invitation to institute a near unregulated spoils system. Without strict rules and regulations governing the allocation of these

units it is clear that this current system is far too subjective and open to opportunistic behavior by the designated gift-givers.

The political decision makers must be given unequivocally clear, non-discretionreal and transparent oversight for making "affordable-housing" decisions. San Francisco cannot afford the charade of so called oversight committees that in actual reality are nothing more than rubber stamps for the chaos of subjective, often self-serving, government give-away programs.

As a senior I ride the Muni for free. One part of me is thankful. Another part of me understands that there are no free lunches, not even in San Francisco. Someone has to pay. My rides are being subsidized by non-seniors. I think this is just another Ed Lee "feed them cake" political maneuver to build up his dwindling popularity. I would prefer to pay my way and see these funds diverted into more effective policing. The free bus ride does not substitute for the fear I have in the early AM walking to the bus stop without a more visible presence of security.

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created. Feedback: browne@westsideobserver.com



#### A ROARING 20'S FESTIVE FLOATING SOIREE

#### Historic Ferryboat Eureka • Sat Mar 12 • 6 - 10 pm

\$100 General Admission • \$75 SFMNPA Members, 2905 Hyde Street Pier. Join us aboard the historic Ferryboat Eureka at Hyde Street Pier on a journey into history-1920's style- the heyday of ferryboat transportation on the Bay. Enjoy a delicious family-style dinner, music, entertainment by the DecoBelles and Clint Jazz ensemble, wine hour and much more! Proceeds t will help to support the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association Education Programs.



#### CONTROVERSIAL MURALS OF RINCON CENTER

#### Sat Mar 19 | 10:30 am | Guide: Daniel Sheehan | Mission And Spear | \$15

Scandalous! Shocking! Revolting! Partisan hysteria echoed to Washington D.C. when these murals were unveiled. Powerful voices called for their destruction, yet 30 years later, they saved the building from demolition. The murals tell many stories, from early SF to Cold War politics. Discover the artistic and political drama behind these New Deal treasures — a great overview of the city's history. Tickets: sfhistory.org



#### **CLAUDIA THE CONDOR ARRIVES!**

#### Daily | 10 am - 4 pm | 1 Zoo Road (Sloat & Great Highway)

SF Zoo welcomes an Andean Condor named Claudia. Hatched in 1985, the condor now weighs about 25 pounds and has a 10-foot wing span. She is available for visitors to view in the Puente Aviary for at least six months, possibly even longer. Her previous home was the Turtle Back Zoo in New Jersey. "She has striking red eyes and extraordinary black-and-whitefeathered wings. We hope her presence here will help educate visitorsaboutthenearthreatenedstatusofthe Andean Condorspecies," said Tanya M. Peterson, Executive Director of the San Francisco Zoo Tickets: SF Residents \$16, Sen: 11.50, Child 9.50, under 3 Free.

#### EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

#### EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

**Sundays** | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture of the city's first suburb in the neighborhood of Lafayette Square. San Francisco's illustrious history and some steep streets. Many fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. sfcityguides.org

#### EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am | Get into shape, improve your health. FREE exercise classes. Kinesiology students from SF State in partnership with SF Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol Ave. 100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com, www.100citizens.org

#### EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

#### EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

**Every Thu | 6–10 pm |** The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and coctails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calademy.org/nightlife.

#### JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

Every Fri | 7–11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html.

#### FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

**Every Fri | 5–8:45 pm |** Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. the Day 2 On-Road course. Register online at sfbike. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays

#### SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

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

#### DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

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

#### SUN · ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

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

#### THU · VISIONARY WOMEN

Thu Mar 10 | 6 pm | Honor visionary women at the League of Women Voters of SF's "Women Who Could Be President Gala." City Club of San Francisco, 155 Sansome Street. Tickets at lwvsfgala.eventbrite.com

#### THU • GGP TENNIS CENTER RENOVATION

Thu Mar 10 | 6 – 8 pm | Learn about plans including improved court surfaces, new landscaping, a larger clubhouse, and ADA improvements. County Fair Building | 1199 9th Avenue just inside Golden Gate Park

#### FRI - SUN · CABARET

Fri -Sat Mar 11 -12 | 8 pm | Sun Mar 13 | 4 pm | Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts' CABARET welcomes you into the Kit Kat Klub, where Emcee, Sally Bowles, and a raucous ensemble take the stage nightly. Defiant and gleeful. 555 Portola Dr. Tickets \$15 -25.

#### |SAT•ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Sat Mar 12 | 11:30 am | The West Coast's largest Irish event the 165th Annual Parade and Festival, attracts some 100,000 revelers every year and is one of the city's most popular events. Begins at 2nd and Howard Streets. Festival at Civic Center is 9-5 pm.

#### SAT • LEARN TO MAKE PIZZA

Sat Mar 12 | 11 am - Noon | The essentials of all of the best pizza making methods—sauces, toppings and the art of crust & take home a pizza of your own! (Free; Limit 15) Eagle Pizzeria | 1712 Taraval Street at 27th Ave. Info: (415) 554-7460.

#### SAT • BIKE TRAFFIC SKILLS

Mar 12 | 10 am-2 pm | Looking for more than an introduction into urban riding? This two-part course covers everything you need to know about biking in the city. A Day 1 Classroom course is a prerequisite for org Class at Park Police Station (1899 Waller St)

#### SUN • ST. PATRICK'S DAY BLOCK PARTY

Sun Mar 13 | 11 am - 4: pm | United Irish Cultural Center, Java Beach Café and United Irish Societies, Block Party FREE family fun. There will be Irish bands, face painting, jumpy castles, food and more! 45th Ave @ Sloat & Wawona Street.

#### MON • 28TH ANNUAL PI DAY

Mon Mar 14 | 1 - 4 pm | An international holiday celebrating the never-ending number  $\pi$  (3.14159...), and the spirit of wonder and quirk that science inspires. Free Exploratorium ,Pier 15. π-themed activities, rituals, antics, and plenty of pie.

#### TUE · MAKE YOUR OWN STAMP

**Tue Mar 15 | 7 – 8:30 pm |** Carve your own stamp to print on cards! Parkside Library, 1200 Taraval St. To register, call (415) 355-5770 or email psimgr@sfpl.org For more events at Parkside Library, sfpl.org/index. php?pq=0100002401

#### **WED · CA WOMENS RIGHTS**

Wed Mar 16 | 7 pm | Since statehood, women in California have been at the forefront of the fight for civil rights. Elaine Elinson, the presenter, coauthored Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California, Gold Medal in the California Book Awards. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston St.

#### THU • LEARN BALLROOM DANCING!

**Thu Mar 17** | Learn the Samba, Rhumba, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing and more! Ballroom dance classes for couples will be held at Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. Six lessons \$80. per couple. For times, reservations or more information please call (415) 661-2746.

#### FRI · 10TH ANNUAL CHEESE FEST

Fri-Sat Mar 18 - 20 | An exploration of handcrafted cheeses, foods, wines and beers. Petaluma's big weekend. Meet international award-winning cheesemakers and learned how to taste, buy, serve and enjoy distinctive artisan cheeses from the experts. Hours/Tickets/Info: artisancheesefestival.com

#### SAT · IRISH EASTER RISING OF 1916

Sat Mar 19 | 12 noon | Walking the Rebellion: Irish-Americans and the 1916 Easter Rising in the Mission District. Meet up at 518 Valencia Street @ 16th Street-Please RSVP by email: info@irishamericancrossroads. org Free. Donations welcome.

#### SAT · BATS!

Sat Mar 19 | 4 pm | Come learn all about our night time neighbors with presenter Corky Quirk and her rescued bats! Merced Branch Library 155 Winston Dr.

#### SAT · ANNUAL ART INSPIRING HOPE

Sat Mar 19 | 5 pm | Camp Okizu, a summer program for children with cancer at no charge. The annual black-tie evening features gourmet food, specialty drinks, silent and live auctions, and headline entertainment. \$275 Ft. Mason Festival Pavilion. okizu.org

#### WED · COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

**Wed Mar 23 | 6 - 8 pm |** Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty. March 23, 2016 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Ortega Branch Library at 3223 Ortega St & 39th Ave. This is a special 4 times per year meeting.

#### THU · POET ELAINE FEENEY

Thu Mar 24 | 7 pm | Feeney The Radio was Gospel has been called "the freshest, most engaging and certainly the most provocative poet to come out of Ireland in the last decade." (Fionnuala Flanagan). Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

#### SAT · WHISKIES OF THE WORLD

Sat Mar 26 | 6 pm - 9 pm | Benefitting the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund WOW brings together distillers from around the world to share their finest spirits and knowledge with whisky enthusiasts. Whisky and food pairings. SF Belle Hornblower Yacht, Pier 3 Embarcadero @ Washington\$130.00

#### SUN • EASTER PARADE/SPRING CELEBRATION

Sun Mar 27 | 10 am - 5 pm | The 25th Annual Easter Parade & Spring Celebration on Union Street, (Gough & Fillmore ) a fair and parade for the whole family, live performances, food and the Easter Bonnet Contest! Kids' rides and games, the Easter Bunny, fun costumed characters, face painting, a petting zoo, a pony ride and live entertainment.

#### MON·S.H.A.R.P/POLICE & D.A.

Mon Mar 28 | 7 pm | DA George Gascon and Representatives from the Taraval and Park Police Stations Discuss Crime in the Neighborhood. 1736 Ninth Avenue (between Moraga and Noriega)

#### MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Mar 28 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. No meeting in December. Meets the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

#### THU · JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

Thu Mar 31 | 7 pm | Working with the British Secret Service on an undercover mission, Maisie Dobbs is sent to Hitler's Germany in this thrilling twelfth novel in "New York Times bestselling series that seems to get better with each entry "(Wall Street Journal). At Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

#### TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

Tue Apr 5 | 10 am-4:30 pm | An intimate, up-close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants from more than 50 different countries. Opened in 1879, the wood and glass greenhouse is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 J F Kennedy Dr.

#### TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue Apr 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

#### TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue Apr 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free first Tues.

#### WED•GWPNA MEETING

Wed Apr 6 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse ,131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org.

#### THU • AUTHOR RHYS BOWEN

Thu Apr 7 | 7 pm | Rhys Bowen discusses Time of Fog and Fire. Her award-winning Molly Murphy and Constable Evans mysteries have garnered an impressive array of awards and nominations, including the Anthony Award for her novel For the Love of Mike and the Agatha Award for Murphy's Law. Bookshop W Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

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

# Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

#### **DEADPOOL**

Wade Wilson/Deadpool: Ryan Reynolds leaps from a bridge onto a van, attacking Ajax: Ed Skrein, the man who gave him superhuman powers, disfiguring him in the process. He jumps the men in the van, beating them up, beheading one thug with a chain and another villain gets gorily splattered into a signpost. He is attacked by another group of thugs; he gets three with one bullet because he's only got 12 with him. The last survivor comes at him with two knives, but he quickly skewers him and chats with the audience that he is different kind of hero and to know his story properly, he must start it a year back. A mercenary-for-hire in NYC, Wade visits his friend Weasel: T.J. Miller in the bar where he works. There he meets a prostitute, Vanessa: Morena Baccarin, whose life is as messed up as his is. Before he knows it, there's love. Rated R for strong violence and prurient profanity throughout, sexual content and graphic nudity.

#### HAIL, CAESAR

Brothers directors/writers Ethan & Joel Coen have fashioned a story around the Capitol Pictures studio fixer Eddie Mannix: Josh Brolin set in the 1950s, Eddie's rounds of the sets include a western with Hobie Doyle: Alden Ehrenreich doing nifty stunts while fighting the bad guys, despite his thick Suthern drawl. Director of "Merrily We Dance," Laurence Laurentz: Ralph Fiennes wants Hobie to play a sophisticated British type with a line he can't master: "Would that it were so simple." DeeAnna Moran: Scarlett Johansen stars as a mermaid in a spectacular water ballet although she's just found out she's pregnant and is ill-tempered. When the star of "Hail, Caesar" (Baird Whitlock: George Clooney) is missing from the set, Eddie needs to find him asap. Baird wakes up in a Malibu beachouse. Eddie is on the set for a sailor's dance number featuring Burt Gurney: Channing Tatum (the most professional dance number in movies of the past decade!) Baird learns the men at the house are studio writers, who as communists are getting flack; they want Baird to support their cause. Eddie talks with director Arne Seslum: Christophe Lambert with whom DeeAnna has been having an affair. Arne's married so they figure the perfect fall guy Joe Silverman: Jonah Hill will play along with them. Eddie gets together the \$100K ransom money for Baird. Eddie rescues editor C.C. Calhoun: Frances McDormand when her scarf is caught in the editing machinery and is choking her. Next, he deals with sister gossip columnists, Thora and Thessaly Thacher: Tilda Swinton separately. Hobie notices the ransom satchel being picked up and follows it. Some suggestive content. Smoking.

#### **KUNG FU PANDA 3**

Both directors Alessandro Carloni and Jennifer Yuh v.o. Li: Bryan Cranston. At the Jade Palace an announcement is made by voice of (v.o.) the Kung Fu Master Chifu: Dustin Hoffman that he's retiring and from now on the master will be v.o. Po: Jack Black. Po has just found his long lost father. Collecting all the chi in the Spirit Realm, the villainous yak (v.o.) Kai: J.K. Simmons v.o. Tigress: Anjelica Huston, v.o. Monkey: Jackie Chan, v.o. Mantis: Seth Rogan, and v.o. Viper: Lucy Liu meet for lunch at v.o. Mr. Ping's: James Hong noodle shop. Po's eating record is broken by a much larger panda, Li Shan: v.o. Bryan Cranston searching for his long lost son. All of Po's friends comment on how much Po and Li look alike. They realize they are family and rejoice. A baby panda v.o. Mei Mei: Kate Hudson plays with Tigress's action figure. Po must train all the villagers to fight off Kai and the warriors who form from amulets Kai tosses to the ground. The music by Hans Zimmer adds to the enjoyment of the animated comedy. PG: Some martial arts action and mild rude humor.

#### THE LADY IN A VAN

British writer Alan Bennett: Alex Jennings permits neighborhood nomad Miss Shepherd: Maggie Smith to park her van in his drive for a few days that turns into 15 years. Miss Shepherd knew Underwood: Jim Broadbent in her younger days; he pops up occasionally to check on her. Being rather eccentric, this is a very good thing. As her vigor and health decline with age, she comes to depend more on Alan. He has two sides to his character which are presented to the audience as two men, identical only in looks. A broad base in theatre and film fill the background of director Nicholas Hytner (The History Boys [Bdwy. stage, Tony], The Crucible [directed Oscar-nominated Joan Allen], Carousel [Bdwy. stage, Tony], and The History of King George [directed Oscar-nominated Nigel Hawthorne & Helen Mirren]); Alan Bennett wrote the "mostly true" screenplay. Both Jennings and Ms. Smith are divinely suited for their astute performances. PG-13 for a brief unsettling image.

#### THE REVANENT

Suddenly, its Golden Globe awards for Best Drama and Best Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio puts The Revanent out front for Awards season. Hugh Glass, LDiC delivers a Best Actor of the year performance as a trapper-explorer in the frozen wilderness of the 1820's. With very little dialog and character interaction, he is left to express with his eves, face and body all of his anguishes. He survives a brutal bear attack only 15 minutes in and it's uphill from there. "Friendly" coward John Fitzgerald: Tom Hardy leaves him to die from animal attacks or freezing. The way Glass avoids the latter is by gutting a dead horse and crawling inside for warmth from the blizzard. Later on, Hugh is aided by Capt. Andrew Henry: Domhnall Gleason. Direction is by A.G. Iñárritu, who co-wrote the script with Mark L. Smith, in part from the novel by Michael Punke. When the Canadian snow melted, the location moved to Argentina. Strong frontier combat and violence including gory images, a sexual assault, profanity and brief nudity.

Awards: 3 Oscar wins, incl. Actor: DiCaprio, Dir.: Iñárritu, & Cine. & 9 noms.incl.: Best Picture, Sup. Actor: Hardy, Film Editing, Sound Editing, Visual Effects, Prod. Des., Cos. Des., Makeup & Hairstyling; 3 Golden Globe wins: Actor, Dir., Motion Picture: Drama; BAFTA: won 5: Film, Actor, Dir., Cine., & Sound; SAG: Actor; Art Dir. Guild: Prod'n Des.; + 42 wins & 124 noms.

#### ROOM

Kidnapped at 17 by a male and imprisoned for 7 years in a 10 x 10 windowless back yard shed, Ma: Brie Larson was raped and now has a 5-year old son, Jack: Jacob Tremblay. She devotes full-time to keeping Jack happy in the home she calls Room. They celebrate his fifth birthday while she nurses a bad tooth. They escape and are welcomed home by her mother, Nancy: Joan Allen. Her father, Robert: William H. Macy cannot accept Jack which makes matters difficult for Ma. Her adjustment to life with her mother and TV interviews, etc. make for a very moving, heart-wrenching tale from director Lenny Abrahamson from Emma Donoghue's sensitive screenplay and novel.

Awards: AFI: Movie of the Year. Best Actress: Brie Larson incl. Oscar (of 4 noms.), Spirit Award, BAFTA, Golden Globes, Awards Circuit Community, Austin Film Critics (+ Best Screenplay), Black Film Critics Award + 64 wins & 114 noms.



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 $\equiv A$ t the Theater ullet Flora Lynn Isaacson

#### A Full House Applauds

#### ARCHES, BALANCE AND LIGHT

wonderful set by Michael Cohen greets us as we take our seats. Flora Lynn Isaacson Stage Right is the living room of Julia Morgan (Ellen Brooks) in 1947. Center Stage is a large photo of Julia Morgan, famous architect, who designed Hearst Castle and 14 buildings in Marin County, alone, between 1908 and 1932. At Stage Left is a bench for flashback scenes of young Julia (Zoe Swenson-Graham) as a young woman studying architecture in Paris from 1898 to 1903 at the influential art school École des Beaux-Arts.

Playwright Mary Spletter based this historic-fiction play around the life of Julia Morgan, and any reference to her actual life is intentional. Mary Spletter takes full credit (or blame) for combining history and fiction to tell a story that also honors Julia's many accomplishments.

The play opens as Julia Morgan looks back over her long career to ask whether she has had any regrets over her choices in life. The answers certainly will inform us about the hurdles she had to overcome to achieve her dream and may even offer surprises.

This play is brilliantly directed by well-known, award-winning Director Jay Manley, whose musicals and plays throughout the Bay Area have earned him repeated praise, and he has won numerous awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics

The play opens when a woman by the name of Marguerite (Anastasia Bonaccorso) calls on Julia to find out whether she is her mother. The answer to this question helps us understand the daunting hurdles Ms. Morgan overcame to become the architect and designer of more than 700 buildings.

We are taken back to see young Julia fall in love and have a child with her French professor Victor (a charming performance by Robin Schild). After the birth of her child, Julia leaves Victor to raise their baby on his own, as she believes the baby will interfere with her ambitions to become the architect and designer of famous buildings.

John Simpson capably plays three roles: Cedric, Montgomery, and Porter. Both Ellen Brooks, as the older Julia, and Zoe Swenson-Graham, as the young Julia, give brilliant performances.

A World Premiere by Mary Spletter at Ross Valley Players. You'll leave this wonderful play wanting to learn more about this California legend.

ARCHES, BALANCE AND LIGHT began February 18 and will run through March 6, 2016. Regular performances are scheduled for Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays 8:00 p.m., Saturdays 8:00 p.m., and Sunday Matinees are at 2:00 p.m. For tickets to Arches, Balance and Light go online to www.rossvalleyplayers.com or call 415/456-9555, ext. 3. All performances take place at The Barn, home of the Ross Valley Players, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross.

Coming up next at RVP will be Boeing-Boeing by Marc Camelotti, Beverly Cross, and Francis Evans, directed by Christian Haines. April 1 – May 1. FLORA LYNN ISAACSON

# NERT

#### **Upcoming NERT Trainings**

March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 | Wednesdays | 6:30pm – 10:00pm

The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a program to help the citizens of San Francisco be self-sufficient in a major disaster situation. NERT training helps citizens develop multi-functional teams that are trained in basic emergency skills. Through this program, individuals learn how to prepare themselves and loved ones for a disaster while also creating a resilient community. All trainings are free. Sunset Ministry | 3010 Noriega St. at 37th Ave

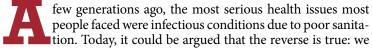
For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/1RMdWKG or call (415) 970-2024



# Health Matters • By Sharone Franzen

# **Garden of Eating**

By Sharone Franzen, LAc



are just too clean. Our diets are made up of sterile imitations of real foods, lacking in vitamins, minerals, and enzymes. The missing quality isn't just freshness, but something just as alive as ourselves: bacteria. Although this usually makes us think of contagious diseases or sour milk, many of us are actually at a bacterial deficit. "Good" bacteria formally found in almost all traditional diets – are essential to health. Probiotic, properly

...try making some ferments on your own kitchen counter – it's ridiculously easy. Most recipes call for just vegetables, water, and salt; the hard part is waiting a week until it's done!"

fermented foods may be our missing "food course of antibiotics, many of our bengroup."

A healthy digestive system is home to a few hundred *different* types of beneficial bacteria, and everyone's bacterial makeup is as unique as a fingerprint. We carry a couple of pounds of these creatures with us at all times – but this is not weight we want to lose! It was once thought that our immune systems kept resident bacteria from harming us, but now it's becoming clear that bacteria are our immune systems. The trick is in the balance. Organisms in the gut are constantly vying for supremacy, and whichever predominates will affect us and can *infect* us – their hosts and homes. So, while salmonella typhi certainly can make us sick, lactobacillus acidophilus and her cousins can help us sustain our digestive health. Additionally, research shows a link between a healthy bio-diversity and good mood and brain function - which substantiates the idea of having a "gut feeling" about something.

Unfortunately, every time we take a

eficial bacteria get wiped out along with the infectious ones, and it takes months to repopulate our "colonies". In the meantime, opportunistic microbes can take advantage of the lull and overgrow - tipping the delicate balance between beneficial and opportunistic organisms. This can be the genesis of eventual digestive issues, weight problems, allergies, food intolerances, etc. This is not to say that we should never take antibiotics! However, protective measures should always be part of the treatment. Years ago, doctors commonly prescribed nystatin with a course of antibiotics in order to prevent subsequent candida infection; today they will often suggest taking probiotics with or after antibiotics.

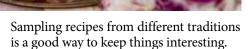
Rather than just going on the defensive during a course of antibiotics, we can - and should - nourish our internal biosphere on a daily basis. Nearly every culture in the world has a tradition of using home-fermented foods: sauerkraut,



kimchee, kvass, kombucha, yogurt, ripened cheeses. These foods are essential for maintaining our organic equilibrium, and in turn suffers the consequences.

For example, if you've ever had Korean barbecue, you've no doubt been served many small side dishes of pickled vegetables with your meal. Traditionally, these dishes were fermented, which helped one digest the heavier nature of the barbecued meats. Nowadays, these side dishes are prepared with vinegar instead of fermentation, giving them a longer shelf life and a similar sour flavor to their old-fashioned counterparts – but at a steep nutritional price. Koreans now have the highest incidence of stomach cancer in the world.

There are several simple ways to add foods are available in the refrigerated sections of most healthy grocery stores; just check the labels of sauerkraut or kimchee for the absence of vinegar. Most companies that make fermented foods will proudly stamp something like "probiotic" or "vat fermented" right on the front label.



When you're ready, try making some as they have fallen out of use, each culture ferments on your own kitchen counter it's ridiculously easy. Most recipes call for just vegetables, water, and salt; the hard part is waiting a week until it's done! The following list of books will provide you with plenty of recipes:

- *Nourishing Traditions* by Sally Fallon
- Wild Fermentation by Sandor Ellix Katz • Fresh and Fermented by Julie O'Brien

The last book may be especially appealing for beginners: in addition to her fermentation recipes, Julie O'Brien has great ideas on how to actually USE all of your sauerkraut in various dishes. One calls for a spoonful of kraut in a smoothie - surprisingly tasty. (Not kidding!) If you fermented foods to your diet. Probiotic need even more inspiration, fermentation recipes abound on the Internet as well.

> Here's to you and your family of microbes!

> Sharone Franzen is an acupuncturist and herbalist in Lakeside Village.





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**Charis (KiChun) Yip** 

# Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

# What Me Worry? What Should We Fear?

ach day, I watch several network news shows and read several of our country's major newspapers telling us about the many terrible things that are happening to us. The media provide us with some of the details of each event, make it as frightening as possible and then tell us that we are afraid.

What must we fear and how can we know not to worry?

ing thousands of people in three countries there. We were told that Americans were going over there to save the area from total devastation. Then came the news that one person with dual citizenship returned to the states from one of the affected countries felt sick and went to the hospital but failed to tell them from whence he came. He died. When it was diagnosed as Ebola, we were told that it could have spread throughout the hospital and into the community. We were told how frightening this prospect was. An American doctor who worked over there returned with full blown Ebola. He was treated and recovered. A nurse might have contracted it but recession? she was also cured. She and the family of the deceased man both filed lawsuits.

The media told us how frightened we all were.

In the past year or so, we have been hearing about unarmed black people who resisted arrest being killed by police. A New York City mayor whose son is biracial told us that he always warns his son about steering clear of the police for fear of what they might do to him. This was after a morbidly obese repeat offender died of a heart attack while resisting his third arrest. The victim was 6'5 weighed over 300 pounds, had severe heart, kidney and diabetes issues. His family successfully

suicide while in jail for attacking a police not equal even though he is against all of officer. Her family did not put up the \$500 bail for her and would not return her calls. The department was sued for allowing her

So should we now fear the police?

In the past year or so, the media have reported that record numbers of migrants have crossed our southern border seeking refuge in our rich country. We are told that many were children and that we could not turn them back immediately because they all fear for their lives. Some Americans are telling us that we should fear this invasion; that it will mean great costs for our taxpayers, lower wages and fewer job opportunities especially for young minority American job seekers who lack a college education. Should we be concerned about the effect of this migration will have on our schools and social welfare programs? Should those of us in the minority community be afraid that our American children will not find entry level jobs?

Now we are learning from news reports that Islamic terrorists, influenced allow it to continue and the several remby ISIS and Al Qaeda, are attacking us edies to end the problem. We should also here in our homeland. There were several failed attempts but two young terrorists costs of the possible remedies. planted bombs during the Boston marathon killing several people and wounding it would be helpful to put it in perspective. many more a few years ago. We learned that the residents were Boston strong and somehow found a way to go on after this tragedy. Then, recently, two young terrorists attacked people at a nursing home and killed 14 people. Some of the victims' families are suing saying that this not have It is the spread of incomplete, sensational, happened.

Now after these two tragedies we are told that we are at war and under attack. Some recommend that we let no believers in Islam, a religion of peace, to enter our country until the problem is understood and eliminated. Should we fear an-all out invasion by Islamic terrorists?

After years of hearing reports of rising oil prices and fears that with a growing demand by India and China and a diminishing world supply of the liquid gold will cause the price per gallon to rise to \$5-\$6 and more, we feared that this

A few years ago, we learned of an increased cost would wreak havoc on our Ebola virus in western Africa that was kill- economy. Now we are told that there is a glut of oil and we are using less, driving the price per barrel of crude oil to below \$30. We still remember the experts from the now-defunct oil newsletter warning us that we will never see \$50 a barrel prices which were at the time over \$100. We were told to worry then. Now we are told to worry about low oil prices which are saving American drivers almost \$1,000 a year per car. The stock market, our nation's fear index, is way down for the year by more than 2,000 points from the recent high. Investors are frightened by the good news gas prices.

Should we fear low gas prices and a

Recent media reports tell us of a new fear - campus unrest. We are told that groups of students at several universities have protested some lack of political correctness on campus and want the administrators fired for not doing enough to limit acts that might possibly offend some students. The targeted educators are promptly resigning, seeming to be happy to get away from that environment as quickly as possible. Comedians and pundits are threatening to stop visiting campuses because of the spread of protests against free speech that the group disagrees with. It happened at the home of the free speech movement, Berkeley, where some students objected to a liberal hero's views on religion. He had In another case, a woman committed the temerity to suggest that all religions are them. Should we fear the cancer of political correctness?

> The mainstream media seem more concerned with helping us feel than with helping us think with reporting tailored to getting us to react to conditions about which we have insufficient information.

> When telling us about a medical crises that could affect us, like Ebola or Mad Cow disease or swine flu, we should be reminded how remote the chances are of us being affected by it especially when following some simple advice.

> When reporting about a person being arrested or shot by police, we need to know the background and have the numbers put in perspective. If an unarmed man is killed after attacking a police officer, we need to know what had happened immediately prior and what was this person's history.

> If there is a problem with illegal immigration, we need to know the current magnitude of the problem, the real reason for the increase, the flaws in our system that be given the actual cost of activity and the

> When reporting on a terrorist threat, How does the untimely death of 25 Americans in the last 14+ years since September 11 caused by terrorists compare with the number of Americans who die of other causes during the same period?

> I have found what my greatest fear is. superficial and subjective information leading to knee jerk reactions by the misinformed who have been conditioned to feel rather than to think. It is the overdose of resultant political correctness which in turn stifles free speech in order to avoid any chance of the cognitive dissonance that leads to thought and change.

What me worry? Yes, I do.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

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

Dear friend

Last year more Americans were killed by

by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined...But we'll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years"...(and we just moved to our

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 as simple as that. of another car. We were all shaken up. 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 • Backaches 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 have said: pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain 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 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 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!

first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously didn't complain of neck pain or back pain; for in my office.

ber 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... It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. 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 underthat health from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn't

new office on Clement Street). Well, that's need any help; it just can't have any interferme. I'm also the woman hugging her niece ence. 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

For the past eight years, people from police were called and we all went to the 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
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries just to name a few.

Here is what some of your neighbors

"I had back pain for 15 plus years and with tingling and numbness down my right two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!" - A.

"All possible medicines and doctors, me about a chiropractor that they thought you made a miracle taking away my pain!! could help. As a matter of fact, after the first *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 x-rays of my head and back. After that he night! I feel more energetic, and can move *my arm and neck pain free!*" — C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

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

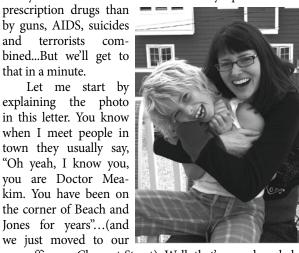
My assistants are Marcy and Raquel I adjust them to keep them healthy... as and they are friendly and helpful and ready with all the hundreds of children I care to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we You see, it's not normal for kids to get try our best to make you feel at home. We ear infections, asthma, allergies or a num- have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called Healthy Life Chiropractic and it is at 101 Clement Street (at the corner of Clement St. and 2nd Avenue). Our phone number is 415-751-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you.

> Thank you.—Dr. Christina Meakim D.C. P.S. When accompanied by the first

> family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

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

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



# WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 1/31/16

ADDRESS	ТҮРЕ	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
270 9th Ave	Forest Hill	4	3.5	2	1,795,000	2,150,000	119.78
16 Miraloma Dr	St. Francis Wood	6	4	7	2,295,000	2,700,000	117.65
132 Marietta Dr	Miraloma Park	2	1	1	849,000	920,000	108.36
73 Teresita Blvd	Miraloma Park	3	3	2	1,349,000	1,307,000	96.89
127 Molimo Dr	Miraloma Park	3	2	2	1,395,000	1,630,000	116.85
251 Kensington Way	Forest Hill Extensio	3	1.5	2	1,495,000	1,600,000	107.02
192 Yerba Buena Ave	Monterey Heights	4	2.5	1	1,695,000	1,915,000	112.98
195 St Elmo Way	Monterey Heights	5	3.5	1	2,250,000	2,425,000	107.78

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Twin Peaks tunnel from the West Portal access • (195-) Published by permission of the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

#### OPEN LATE









By Julie Casson



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	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.

τ	۷	9	7	Þ	8	s	3	6
6	Þ	7	S	۷	ε	8	Ţ	9
3	S	8	9	6	Ţ	7	۷	Þ
Z	ε	۷	6	8	Þ	τ	9	S
8	9	6	τ	2	S	۷	Þ	3
S	τ	Þ	۷	ε	9	6	8	7
9	8	τ	ε	S	2	Þ	6	۷
۷	2	3	Þ	τ	6	9	S	8

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

8

2

#### **Linked Pairs of Words**

6 S 8 9 Z E Z T

What is the hidden link that joins these word pairs?

- 1) presently, triumphed
- 2) moistens, simmer
- 3) dug, jean
- 4) dresser, prize

Each pair of worc are palindromic v



#### By Anise J. Matteson

## **When Your Decisions Matter!**

mergency preparedness focuses on more than an emergency preparedness kit in the event of an earthquake, or a grab-and-go backpack if you have to leave your home suddenly because of a disaster. It includes preparing for a medical emergency. Who will speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself?

An Advance Directive will provide your loved ones with the answers they need to assist health care professionals with a treatment plan.

#### **ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**

Advance Directive 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.

An advance directive is a written document in the form of a living will or durable power of attorney prepared by a competent individual that specifies what, if any extraordinary procedures, surgeries, medications or treatments the patient desires in the future, when he or she can no longer make such decisions about medical treatment. [1]

You should have an Advance Directive to specify your decisions in the future regarding health care, end-of-life care, nutrition, hydration, hospice care, No Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and organ donation when you become unable to express your wishes. (Examples with supporting documentation: do not hospitalize, autopsy request, feeding restrictions, medication restrictions, other treatment restrictions.)

#### **Sectarian Health Care Directive**

"An optional addendum to your advance directive. The language in this addendum clarifies that admission to a religiously-affiliated facility does not imply consent to particular care mandated by the institution's religious policies, and directs a transfer if the facility declines to follow the wishes outlined in an advance directive." (CompassionAndChoices.org)

#### **ELDER LAW**

Elder law attorney refers to an attorney who specializes in providing legal services for the elderly, especially in the area 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/e/elder-law-attorney)

For an elder law attorney perspective, see Boomer Legal by Helene V. Wenzel, Esq. solo practitioner in Estate Planning and Elder Law, "Let's Talk Boomer Legal and Advance Care Planning": Power of Attorney, Advance Health Care Directive, Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, The Difference Between a "Living Will" and a "Will" (March 2015); and Living Trust, What Happens To The Estate if the Deceased Does Not Have A Will?, Preparing for an Appointment if an Attorney Prepares Documents, The Difference Between "Revocable" and "Irrevocable" Living Trust (April 2015). ©2015.

#### NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS 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 providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be." (nhdd.org)

As Advocate for National Healthcare Decisions Day, in 2014 I started Healthcare Decisions Week in San Francisco from April 9 through April 16. I invited San Francisco Public Library neighborhood branches to participate in acknowledging advance care planning.

See the April issue for this year's details.

#### **Your Story**

Why should you have written instructions for end-of-life care?

Please share your experience if you have recently lost a loved one and they did not have an Advance Directive. Submit by March 12 for April article on Advance Care

#### **RESOURCES: ADVANCE CARE PLANNING**

Advance Health Care Directive. To download form visit the California Health Care Association at cmanet.org.

Five Wishes - Aging with Dignity. agingwith dignity.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

Secular Health Care Directive. For more information contact CompassionAnd-Choices.org.

#### **RESOURCES: Planning**

Seniors & the Law: Guide for Maturing Californians, "PLANNING AHEAD," pp. 6-7. State Bar of California educational guide. To request publications contact 1-888-875-5297 or visit www.calbar.gov.

#### **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.

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, writer of reference books and Caring Boomers Newsletter article excerpt ©2012, and Advocate, National Healthcare Decisions Day. Information is educational only. For specific questions and advice, consult your physician and an attorney. mattesonecs@yahoo.com

Cont. p. 17



# Let's talk about something retirement communities hardly ever mention. Accreditation.



Because having the confidence and peace of mind of accreditation is important. So, let's talk.

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#### Retiree Pensions (Cont. from p. 4)

payroll by \$567 million during his tenamount of City contributions towards pension contributions.

increase in the number of City employees on the payroll, and a 22.7% increase to the increase in the amount of City employer contributions that are required to be made.

Since the City's share of employer payroll, it's obvious that if the percentage of employer contribution remains constant (or even increases), but is applied to a significantly larger payroll (say a payroll that has increased by \$567 million), the total employer contribution is going to increase simply because the size of the payroll has increased. This has nothing to do with actuarial estimates of mortality vs. longevity, age at the time of hire, and length of time being a City employee.

As a partially hypothetical example, if the employer contribution rate is 10% and is applied to a year when San Francisco's payroll was \$2.5 billion (San Francisco's actual payroll in FY 2010-2011), that suggests the City was on the hook to make \$250.1 million in pension contribuis applied, the City may then have been on the hook to make \$306.9 million as the fault of City retiree's living longer, despite employer's pension contribution share, for a net increase of \$56.7 million extra as the City's share. [Note: The contribution rate in this example is hypothetical; payroll amounts are not.]

You would think this basic math would have been patently obvious to Matier and Ross.

#### City Looses Lawsuit

In November 2011, the City placed a ballot measure before voters seeking, in part, to strip City employee retirees of supplemental COLA (Cost of Living) benefits, in part based on bad advice from City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who surely must have a team of labor-relations lawyers on his staff who should have known this gambit wasn't going to pass muster in

a court of law.

After voters wrongly approved ure, resulting in the increased total dollar restricting COLA payments to retired City employees, a group called Protect Our Benefits sued and eventually won in court, with the City ordered to pay the withheld You simply can't have a 15.1% two supplemental COLA payments, along with interest on the delayed payments.

Of approximately 26,000 retired City City's total payroll, without a concomitant employees, the City has agreed so far to restore and pay approximately 17,000 former City employees the COLA benefit who retired after 1996. The City and the contributions is based on a percentage of Retirement Board are still arguing over whether to extend the COLA back payments to another 7,800 to 8,315 employees who retired prior to 1996.

The upshot is the City had to pay out \$40.7 million wrongly withheld from post-1996 retirees, and SFERS did so from funds set aside during the lawsuit (including for the pre-1996 retirees) that had been placed into some sort of "reserve" account. So neither the City nor SFERS is "out" any funds from the Court ruling, since they had already been placed in some sort of a special reserve account.

In the end, the fact remains that rather than blaming City retirees for living longer and trying to assert that the COLA payments are the main cause of the City's looming budget deficit, the real cultions as the employer's share. But when prit may be that Mayor Lee has been on San Francisco's actual payroll jumped to a patronage hiring binge, driving up the \$3.1 billion in FY 2014–2015, when the amount the City has to contribute as its same hypothetical 10% contribution rate employer share of pension contributions.

This is Ed Lee's own doing, not the the misinformation Matier and Ross used to whip up hysteria about increasing pension costs for City retirees, while simultaneously ignoring massive spikes in baseline set-asides and other operating cost increases.

An expanded version of this article is available on www.stopLHHdownsize.com.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter in 2012. He can be contacted at monette-shaw@ westsideobserver.

#### **Condoms in Schools** (Cont. from p. 1)

exact reason or cause for why there might be changes in results over time."

Further, "There have been significant changes in middle schools since the first survey administration in 1992 that include having school district nurses and social workers on sites, greater efforts in implementing HIV/STI education, and comprehensive sexual health education, in addition to implementing comprehensive health education. All of these factors may have influenced the drop in number."

postponed until February 23rd to accommodate families who were celebrating the Lunar New Year.

In addition to supplying condoms at middle schools, the district wants to the program by making an appointment update the language of the policy to clarify that parents cannot opt their kids out of the condom distribution program. That would bring the policy into compliance with state law, which allows a minor to consent to medical care related to preventing or treating a pregnancy.

According to Family Code 6925, minors may participate in a Condom Availability Program (CAP) without parental permission. However, in an attempt to partner with parents, (SFUSD) Student, Family, and Community Support Department notifies all families of incoming high school students about the program through the Student and Parent/ very weak partnership.

On-site CAP coordinators assist with logistics such as liaison with site staff, youth, it does not allow us to find one SHPD staff, and health care professionals. They collect data and ensure that the policy is correctly implemented.

District health care professionals partnered with each school provide counseling, sexuality and abstinence education, referral service, data collection, and condom availability. Condoms are made available through the Department of Public Health, HIV Prevention section.

Kevin Gogin adds, "After discussions with the San Francisco Department Carranza's proposal was supposed to of Public Health, the Centers for Disease be discussed at a February 1 curriculum Control, and School Health Programs and program committee meeting, but was staff, we [SFUSD] decided to expand the condom availability program into the middle schools in San Francisco Unified

> "For students who decide to access with a school district nurse or school social worker, it will be a helpful resource for a student to determine whether sexual activity is the right choice, and if so, how to proceed safely."

Verbal and/or written information shall be available to all students obtaining condoms which stresses that abstinence is the only 100% effective method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and which does not condone or in any way encourage sexual activity among or with minors. Students will receive additional information as appropriate and necessary regarding the proper use of Guardian Handbook. This seems like a condoms and their effectiveness. Youth friendly clinic information is also included

Education



aybe it is local pride but I think San Francisco has the best public school arts programs in the whole state. Hands down. A large part is our thriving arts community — coupled with a vote of our citizens to invest in arts in our public schools.

Lucky for us, we can all enjoy performances in the 'hood.

By Carol Kocivar @2016

Here are some events to put on your calendar at nearby Ruth Asawa School of the **Arts,** 555 Portola Drive.

Note: Please make sure to double check times on the school web site. You can purchase tickets at: sfsota.org/upcoming-events/

#### **Spring musical: Cabaret**

March 11-13 and 18-20 8 pm Friday and Saturday. 2 pm Sunday Check out the local student

cast on line: sfsota.org/cabaret/

The most memorable songs in theatre history, including Cabaret, Willkommen, Im Variety Show and Maybe this time. Winner of 12 tony awards and 8 academy awards.

#### **Chamber music**

Thursday, march 24, 2016 7:30pm 9:00pm

Instrumental music, piano, band, orchestra.

#### Shorts - a festival of 10 minute plays

Wednesday, March 23.Friday, March 25 4:30pm 6:00pm

#### **Creative writing**

Friday, April 8, 2016 7:30pm 9:00p

#### Musical theatre

Saturday, April 9, 2016 7:30pm 9:00pm

#### **Junior Senior Visual Art Show**

Thursday, April 14, 2016 5:30pm 7:30pm

#### **World Music**

Friday, April 15 and Saturday April 16 7:30pm 9:00pm

Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:30pm 8:30pm

#### Opera Scenes

Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23 7:30pm 9:30pm

#### Theatre - The Conference Of The Birds

April 23,24,25, 26, 27 Asawa Sota Outdoor Stage

#### 6th Annual Tech Fashion Show

Friday, April 29, 2016 7:30pm 9:30pm

Jazz

Saturday, April 30, 2016 7:30pm 9:30pm

Check Web Site For Times: sfsota.Org/ Upcoming



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with the condom.

School Board Commissioner Jill Wynns states, "We had included an "optout" provision for parents in our condom availability policy, but state law has been changed disallowing any opt-out. Recently we have had to explain this to parents after the fact. It is important that we update our policy to comply with the law."

Wynn agrees with Gogin and states, "Our goal is to keep students safe, healthy, and ready to learn. San Francisco has high incidences of sexual transmitted infections among youth: A program where students can speak with a health care provider to determine whether the student should engage in sexual activity. If so, resources, referrals, and prevention can be available to the student.

Finally, Wynns states, "This is a good idea [proposal]. We know that more information and access to pregnancy prevention actually contributes to fewer sexually active teens and fewer teen pregnancies. I have heard experts in the field express the reasoning behind it in this way, 'Condoms are health products and should be ubiquitous like soap and paper towels."

In summation, one can only ask, 'What is the real purpose of schools?"

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association.

# Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

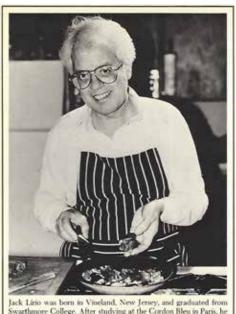


enjoyable than watching the cooking shows on Saturday morning while preparing a special breakfast side by side with all those

TV professionals? Sinfully good and certainly better than an Egg McMuffin. There's no doubt that today's chefs are all fun to watch but one of my favorites has always been Jacques Pepin with his simple but masterful style that

always makes it look so easy. Sadly he's now wrapping up his career with his last televised series called "Jacques Pepin, Heart and Soul." Fortunately after years and years of pure joy in the kitchen his work has been recorded and published for all of us to enjoy.

but how about seeing him in person? It was niques. I'll never forget watching him prealmost 45 years ago when my wife and I decided to take some cooking classes and the one person that was highly recommended to us at the time was a gentleman by the name of Jack Lirio who had a modest home on Monterey Blvd, just up the street from where the Safeway store is now located. A basement room had been con-



verted into a demonstration kitchen that held about 20 people as we watched Jack cooking while we followed his recipes, took notes and eventually enjoyed the fruits of all his hard work.

his school "San Francisco's top cooking school." His recipes have appeared in Cuinine, House & Garden and Bon Appetit, and he has taught at some thirty-five cooking schools across the country.

Jack Lirio was not a professional chef or restaurant owner, although he did study at the Cordon Bleu in Paris and truly enjoyed cooking and teaching. He eventually wrote two cook books called "Cooking with Jack Lirio" and "Fast Fabulous Desserts."

His classes were held once a week and although the food was delicious the biggest attraction was the exposure to foods that we never would have tried on our own

like Peking duck or fried cheeses with fennel sauce. On one particular evening he told us that there was a young French chef who would soon be teaching a few of his classes. His name, Jacque Pepin, a virtual unknown to most of us but it didn't take long to become mesmerized by his endl talent. Most cooking teachers would bring in food already cut, trimmed, boned or shaped but not with Jacque Pepin. Boning a squab or slicing and dicing was not done ahead of time but rather right there as he told Jaques, Claudine and Shorey





Watching him on television is great stories and demonstrated his flawless techpare a tart shell molded from a flat sheet of dough, no drawn circles, no pattern, no measuring, yet when it was finished it was a perfect circle, the same height all around and ready to fill and bake. Amazing!

> At that time one of Jack Lirio's helpers was a woman by the name of Charlotte Coombs who eventually started her own cooking school in Redwood City and again we had the pleasure of sitting in on more classes taught by Jacques Pepin. The two of them seemed to have a special bond and it brought a new dimension to the evening. A couple of the students would even bring their own bottle of wine and enjoy both the wine and the demonstrations adding to the evening's pleasure.

> In the ensuing years we've taken cooking classes in Lucca, Florence, Paris and even in Oakland from Linda Carucci, who was a chef instructor at the International Culinary School in San Francisco and who cooked a very special birthday meal for me years ago but somehow we always seem to associate with Jacque Pepin.

> After all these years we still have two binders full of recipes from both Jack Lirio and Jacques Pepin so if you want to whip up a lobster soufflé or some braised squab accompanied with carrots vichy just let me

So now Jacque Pepin has celebrated his 80th birthday blowing out all those candles with so many of his chef friends surrounding him but he still enjoys doing what he's done so well for all these years along with his daughter Claudine and now his granddaughter, Shorey, cooking and telling stories.

What an amazing, rewarding and successful career that has given so much pleasure to so many of us. So let's keep enjoying his great talent and never forget what he's always been so fond of saying at the end of each television program, "Happy Cooking."

Sergio Nibbi gets around—the world! Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com



#### **Police Report** (Cont. from p. 10)

with the victim, a referee prior to a game. During the game, the victim called a Yellow Card on the suspect. After another argument, the victim called a yellow card on the suspect and also a red card. The suspect punched the referee from behind and fled.

#### Discharging a Firearm

12:41 am | 200 Broad St

A witness heard three shots and saw a green vehicle speeding away. Officers located vehicle finding several bullet holes and a flat tire. The victim said that someone shot at him but refused to cooperate further with the investigation. It was later discovered that the victim was a felon previously

#### arrested for guns and drug sales. **Graffiti – Graffiti Tools**

10:05 pm | Winston Dr & 19th Ave Officers located two suspects matching a description of graffiti. The male suspect was observed with blue paint on his hands and in possession of numerous paint markers and a can of spray paintone matched the color on the utility box. Finding several other locations within the city that also had the suspect's moniker. The female suspect said she didn't have anything to do with the incident. She was released and he was arrested.

Editors Note: Police Reports are printed as space allows. For a complete report go to: taraval.com

# 75 Howard - Harbinger of Things to Come?

By Glenn Rogers, PLA

On January 27th the Board of Appeals, the last resort after any Planning Commission decision, ruled on the side of development's interest in San Francisco. The Paramount Group, plans to demolish an eight story existing parking garage in this location, to replace it with a new 220 foot high luxury condominium tower. The vote was 3-2 supporting the Appeal but for the project to be overturned, there needed to be a vote of 4-2. No affordable housing will be on site. Instead, 15.7 million dollars will be given to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Development for housing to be built elsewhere in San Francisco. Rick Swig, one of the Appeal Commissioners, valiantly protested the inappropriateness of the architecture of 75 Howard, which does not match any existing



architecture nearby.1 This structure, with no appreciable setbacks, would cast shadow on Rincon Park. Also, this project will provide a Wall along the Embarcadero, which the citizens of San Francisco recently disapproved of in the last election. With this decision, San Francisco could eventually look like Miami, with tall buildings along its waterfront, blocking the views of those that live or work behind.

Rincon Park, the park with the bow and arrow sculpture, is not protected from "shadow" as other parks in San Francisco are because it is on Port property. Therefore, this decisions avoids the spirit of the "shadow" ordinance over a technicality. Many pro-building activists, no doubt some of them architects themselves, testifying as a favor to past colleges that supported their projects downtown, endorsed this project. One pro-developer, even claimed the "shadow" cast by the arrow sculpture itself, would deny more light to the park, than the construction of the 75 Howard Street project. Dave Osgood reminded the Commissioners, that a scientific study was certified by a "shadow expert" and that shadow was cast on this park when completed. The issue of "shadow", was attempted to be portrayed as an opinion, rather than pure science. In this farce, the pro-developers succeeded.

The pro-developers in the audience had buttons on their clothing stating "Housing, not parking." This statement is ironic since the luxury condominiums will not provide any worthwhile increase in the housing stock in San Francisco because the luxury sector is saturated. Those that are middle class and those making less, need housing. Sue Hester claimed these 133 apartments could sell for as much as \$20 million each. Clearly, only the few can afford homes such as these. Therefore, the defense this tower will provide new housing stock in San Francisco is ludicrous.

Recently, an article in the New York Times, brought attention a new form of investment in the United States, whereby "shell companies" purchase expensive property for their clients, that remain unknown so that their investment remains safe. The United States has the greatest lack of regulation controlling real estate purchases that hide "dark money" Sixty Minutes reported in their program on January 3, 2016. These real estate purchases, can be obtained by Russian oligarchs, numerous crime families and wealthy Chinese businessmen. <sup>2</sup> For these wealthy individuals, price is unimportant but secrecy and the safety of the investment, is paramount.

The Appeal Commissioners seemed very excited about the addition of fees contributing to the Housing Mayor's Office. The fee has been raised to \$15.7 million from \$9.7 million. This fee, is claimed to be 33% of the market rate of the condos' value, however, this fee could be undervalued. After all, the asking price and the final sales price, are often widely different in San Francisco, especially with a view this spectacular. Supposedly, this fee will provide 38 new units of Affordable Housing. Now, the question is, where will the housing be and since these fees have been avoided in the past, will they really be built?

The opportunity of having Affordable Housing on site cannot be underestimated. Not only would Affordable Housing at 75 Howard make the housing less interesting to wealthy, undesirable speculators but could provide housing for those that actually work downtown. Wealthy tenants are likely to not live in San Francisco year round. Hypothetically, they might never live here at all, providing housing to no one!

In summary, we have a project that will build a Wall along the waterfront, block views of buildings behind it, be inhabited by residents out of state, that will not provide housing for local residents, that will threaten fragile infrastructure, remove existing parking downtown which is at a premium, diminish the communal architecture of downtown and provide "shadow" on Rincon Park. What is surprising is that the Planning Commission originally approved this project in the first place.

- (1) sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Deluxe-condo-tower-at-75-Howard-St-narrowly-
- nytimes.com/2015/02/08/nyregion/stream-of-foreign-wealth-flows-totime-warner-condos.html?\_r=1&smid=fb-share

Glenn Rogers, PLA, Landscape Architect lives and works in District 7



# OCAL & IMPRESSIVE

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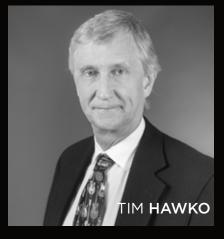
















































Sprague







































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Eric

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Ames



Levenson



Tam



Kohlmyer