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Bock's Jewelers Calls It Quits

by Tony Taylor

Though they probably don't know it, Ernest and Susanne Bock's West Portal jewelry boutique has great reviews on Yelp.

"This guy has talent," Brian P. said in his five-star review. "I don't normally write reviews, but this company is definitely worth it."

"As I do with all my watches, I take them to the nearest mall and have the battery replaced," Brian P. continued in his review. "The last repairer damaged the watch case making it nearly impossible to fix. Mr. Bock said he could fix anything [and he] replaced my battery in 15 minutes."



In an age when craftsmen are being replaced with machines and skilled artisans are retiring without anyone to carry the legacy, Bock's Jewelers is a rarity. And, unfortunately, within a few weeks, the talented duo will pack up their

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FBI Probe of DPH Bribery Scheme

.....employees - who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, told the WSO that pay-to-work schemes exist in many departments but mostly the DPH - the City's largest with some 7,370 positions ... gifts can yield access to exam questions, preferred shifts and locations, or promotions."

by Drs. Derek Kerr and Maria Rivero

Recall when the FBI exposed "pay to play" schemes involving State Senator Leland Yee, Human Rights Commissioner Nazly Mohajer and staffer Zula Jones, as well as political consultant and former School Board president Keith Jackson? Less well known is the FBI probe of "pay to work" claims within the Department of Public Health (DPH).

In December 2015, DPH janitors, who are called porters, received a memo stating: "The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating allegations that a DPH employee requested payments from Porters (or applicants to be a Porter) in exchange for jobs, promotions, or assignments."

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Neighbors have questions about 250 Laguna Honda

by John Farrell

Christian Catholic Homes (CCH) plans to build a 5 story, 150 unit, low income senior housing project at 250 Laguna Honda Blvd, for up to 30% formerly homeless seniors who have lived in the City at least six weeks. The property currently consists of a church, preschool, and parking lot. The lot is 70,950 sq ft per the tax records, or approximately 1.6 acres, and is currently zoned for single-family homes RH-1(D). By the way, when this project was first proposed to our Supervisor two years ago, it was for a 50 unit housing project; it was subsequently submitted for the proposed 150 unit project.

In November, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association unanimously approved a resolution written by the neighbors to reject the project as proposed, since the development is too large.

First off, let's stop the name calling. Those neighbors who are against this 150 low income senior housing project as proposed have been called NIMBY's, privileged,

Cont. p. 2



Budget Democracy Comes to D-7

by George Wooding

It's very important that District 7 (D7) residents take the time to vote for your favorite Participatory Budgeting (PB) project(s); voting takes place between March 17 and March 31. Projects selected will be funded from the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget shortly after July 1.

In-person voting will take place at the Ingle-side Library at 1298 Ocean Avenue, and at the West Portal Library at 190 Lenox Way. The on-line link for voting is sfcbd.sfgov.org/d7/vote.

PB is a shining democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. It gives citizens power in setting budget priorities and allocations to community projects to be funded. The process involves: brainstorming project ideas, developing initial proposals, and selecting winning projects through D7 citizen voting.

Due to SF's financial cess-pool of budget mismanagement, trickery, collusion, and deceit, PB offers a real chance for residents to determine how some tax dollars are actually spent.

D7 Supervisor Norman Yee, and to a lesser extent D-10 Supervisor Malia Cohen, are utilizing PB in their respective districts. PB eliminates the budget middleman — the City — and allows district residents to select and fund projects they want built through PB grants from the City Budget.

Supervisor Yee was able obtain \$550,000 for his PB and Cohen managed to receive \$200,000 for hers. Yee was able to allocate \$300,000 this year for PB General Projects, and an additional \$250,000 for Pedestrian Safety Vision Zero Projects.

"I came into office wanting to encourage civic engagement and participation by as many D7 residents as possible." Supervisor Yee said, "D7 has a rich history of community activism by some, but not the majority of, people. It was important to me that I heard from the diverse population that makes up D7 to build stronger connections between the neighbors. A Participatory Budgeting program offers such connections."

"Who better to decide on which projects are needed and what should be funded than D7 residents themselves? The participation occurs at different levels, from the nine members in the volunteer Neighborhood Council to residents

submitting proposals, to all the residents who cast their votes to decide which projects receive funding.

"I have secured funding from our City for the program over the last four years. This year there is \$550,000 available for D7 residents to make decisions on what projects they want to support. My hope is that more City residents will have an opportunity to experience participating in a participatory budgeting program."

Yee's Legislative Aide, Erica Maybaum, said, "PB is an opportunity for residents to fully participate in decision-making and see direct outcomes from their involvement. It is inspiring to support leadership development and work with residents who love D7 and are passionate about building stronger and more connected neighborhoods."

This year's PB was a very competitive process: 46 project proposals were submitted — the most ever — and 21 projects were selected. Proposals not selected either didn't fit the PB parameters (such as being one-time or an on-going project), the description was too vague, or the project wasn't ranked high enough by the Neighborhood Council.

The Neighborhood Council — nine volunteer residents from across D7 — met several times to decide process parameters and help with outreach, and then reviewed, ranked, and discussed all proposals. Proposal's meeting guidelines were averaged. Highest-ranking proposals were reviewed by City departments for feasibility and budget confirmation. Proposals selected were translated and placed on the ballot for D7 residents to vote on which projects receive funding.

A project must receive at least 300 votes to advance. Voters must be at least 16 years-old and a D7 resident.

Don't forget to vote during the PB period! See the Projects below.

George Wooding Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods; wooding@westsideobserver.com
Questions? Contact Erica.Maybaum@sfgov.org, or (415) 554-6517, for questions.

Participatory Budget Projects

Pedestrian Safety (Please Vote for 5 of the 7 Projects)

Melrose Avenue Traffic Calming

This project would install two mid-block speed humps on Melrose Avenue between Gennessee Street and Mangels Avenue, where vehicles often travel well beyond the 25 mile per hour speed limit. This street is long and relatively flat, which allows drivers to build up speed, and has a bend with obscured visibility. This project would benefit residents in Sunnyside, Westwood Highlands and Miraloma Park, especially the elderly and young children. It would also benefit all pedestrians (walkers, joggers, dog walkers), especially those who may not have access to a vehicle, and who walk to and from the bus stops along Monterey Blvd.

Brotherhood Way Permanent Interactive Radar Speed Detection Signs

This project will provide two interactive radar speed signs along the western portion of Brotherhood Way, one in each direction-where

vehicles currently travel above the posted speed limit. Over 35,000 vehicles travel along this portion daily. This will be an important Vision Zero Traffic Calming measure.

Traffic Calming on Taraval Between 14th and Claremont

Taraval between 14th and Claremont (Dewey Circle) is a straight six-block section that has become a speedway, with no stop signs between 14th & Claremont. Our project proposal is to install speed humps on three (3) blocks along this stretch of Taraval Street as traffic calming devices to reduce the high speeds of vehicles traversing this section of east/west roadway. The Vision Zero High Injury Network includes Taraval west from Funston; this proposal fits well with the Vision Zero goal of preventing pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities.

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Bock's Jewelers (Cont. from p. 1)
watchmaker tools. It's time to retire.

This particular Thursday afternoon in West Portal is sunny with a gentle bay breeze. To the west, over rooftops, the ocean is visible from Junipero Serra Boulevard. An outbound two-car M train rumbles through the confusing 12-way intersection that connects West Portal to St. Francis Wood, Ingleside and Sloat Boulevard.

The subtle hum of traffic sounds distant behind the quiet neighborhood. A block of multi-level single-family homes line West Portal Avenue before an enclave of shops begin at 15th Street. West Portal Antiques, a trove of collectables from bygone eras, is across the street from Manor Coffee Shop, a dining destination since 1967.

A shiny electric teal BMW is parked nearby the post office as a parking meter maid slowly drives behind the cars parked perpendicular to the sidewalks. A woman inserts coins to the newsstand then pulls out a newspaper. Business turnovers aside, the neighborhood's visual landscape is mostly unchanged in the past few decades.

One of the larger boutiques on the block is SF Gold Buyers, an accessory pawn and loan shop. Across the street, two customers pick through kiwis and yellow apples outside of West Portal Produce Market. And immediately next door, under the bright blue awning of 226 West Portal Avenue, Bock's Jewelers has bedazzled the community since 1968.

Through the window, pendulums swing on wooden cuckoo clocks that hang on the walls. The window displays white jewelry fixtures that prop up delicate gold necklaces, jade rings and diamond earrings. The iron security gate is propped open and inside, a few customers move about the intimate, carpeted space.

"Susanne, can you get out some pearls for me?" Ellen Fishman says, eyeing a byzantium beaded necklace secured inside a glass jewelry case. Mrs. Fishman has been a loyal Bocks customer for "close to 15 years" and has lived in the neighborhood for 22 years.

Mrs. Bock unlocks the case for Mrs. Fishman and a girlfriend to browse while their patient husbands linger near the front

door. The phone rings as two more customers enter the boutique for a brief walk around. It is a busy afternoon for the jewelers.

Under a fluorescent light strip behind the counter, Mr. Bock squints one eye into a magnifying loupe while working on an intricate jewelry piece.

Photos of a smiling young girl and Kobenhaven postcards stick to the wall next to the antique, wooden cash register. Next to the register, Mrs. Bock is on the phone with a customer.

"Are you still interested in the rubies? We have two left," she says softly into the phone, making a note onto paper. She knows her products and customers well. Over the faint sound of jazz music, some chiming clocks strike noon while others read 10:15 and 3:45.

Mrs. Bock moves quickly, ending the phone call to ring up a male customer for



real jewelry shop here."

In 1968, the Bocks lived in Daly City. The then-shop owner of 226 West Portal was also a jeweler, and like the Bocks, was from Denmark. They were connected through a mutual friend who knew the

gratifying," she says.

Their rent was \$135 per month when they took over the shop and she declined to share the current rate. When asked what is their secret to so many years in business, Mrs. Bock says they didn't give up, "though the beginning was hard."

A customer enters the boutique, slow moving with the aid of a walking cane. Louise Tschudi, a friend of the Bocks, has been living in San Francisco for almost 60 years and used to own a restaurant for 27 years in the neighborhood. Today she needs a necklace fixed and the Bocks do not charge her for the quick repair.

"It's sad to see them leave," Mrs. Tschudi says, "but in life you have to know when to call it quits."

The Bocks now live in Burlingame. After closing the shop, Mr. Bock says they will visit Copenhagen with their daughter and grandchildren.

"We want to close [the shop] while we can do it ourselves," says Mrs. Bock. "We want to enjoy some good years together." Mr. Bock turned 82 at the end of February and Mrs. Bock says, "it's time."

Mrs. Bock admits with the advancement of technology they have had to keep up. "We go on the computer for inventory and taxes and we have an accountant," she says. And though they have braved the world of Facebook, they don't have a profile picture.

"We don't even know how to use it," she says with a laugh. There is no website for the boutique and chances are they haven't used Yelp. But, they don't need Yelp. 49 years of customer loyalty is enough.

March 31 will be the Bock's last day in business before a new jeweler takes over.

Tony Taylor is a local reporter. Photos: Tony Taylor

“There is no website for the boutique and chances are they haven’t used Yelp. But, they don’t need Yelp. 49 years of customer loyalty is enough. March 31 will be the Bock’s last day in business before a new jeweler takes over.”

a watch repair.

"It's \$15," Mr. Bock tells his wife from behind his work desk.

After a few deliberate strikes on the antique register keys and a pause for mental math, the bell jingles as the wooden cash drawer slides open. The man collects his change from Mrs. Bock and slides a small white envelope into his jacket pocket before maneuvering through the small crowd of customers to exit.

Mrs. Fishman takes this opportunity to bid adieu as well. She and her friend have decided against the pearls, but promise the Bocks they will return soon.

"Mr. Bock has always done excellent repair work," says Mrs. Fishman outside of the boutique. "They have fair pricing and there's no hard selling. They're an old fashioned type of jeweler."

"It's sad that there's another family business leaving West Portal," Mr. Fishman adds. "It's the last

shop was for sale.

"Ernest was a watchmaker who learned to repair jewelry," Mrs. Bock says of her husband of over 50 years. "It's what he had to do to take care of the customers."

In the 49 years they have been in business, Mrs. Bock says West Portal seems to be the same and they still have the same customers. "We never imagined owning this business and it has been very



250 Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 1)

anti-homeless, anti-seniors, and a lot of others.

Let me make this clear, the neighbors opposed to the project as proposed are NOT against low income senior housing in our neighborhood. The neighbors have major concerns regarding the proposed project. These concerns include the oversize of the project, the integrity of the hill that would be excavated and has had landslides in the

past, the closing of a church and preschool that provide important services to the community, especially children in the surrounding neighborhoods, and the lack of transparency of the developer with the neighborhood about the nature and scope of its plans. The good news is that the preschool is now being incorporated in the project as the result of neighborhood concerns.

CCH submitted a Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA) application to the City in July for the 150 units. The Planning Department responded in a letter dated October 4th identifying Planning review requirements for the proposed project, including those related to environmental review, approvals, neighborhood notification and public outreach, the Planning Code, project design and other general issues of concern for the project. The letter notes that the proposed project's site does not conform to the zoning (currently RH-1(D)) or height requirement

(currently 4 stories). The environmental review will include 1) the review of the Historic nature of the church, since it was identified as an example of Expressionistic design; 2) a Preliminary Archeological Review, since the project includes the excavation of up to 16 feet below grade; and 3) a Geology review, since the project is within a Landslide Hazard Zone. How will the project affect the integrity of the hill which has had landslides in the past?

On January 31st engineers and neighbors along the hill behind Castenada Ave met to discuss proposed hole drillings to determine the stability of the hill. Per the engineers, the process includes rolling equipment out on dollies over the hill sand to the drilling sites on the slope. The neighbors have concerns that this process for the core samplings will result in disruption of the hill sand, and more damage to an already at-risk hill. The engineers know that the hill is unstable and has had landslides.

Neighbors look forward to CCH's proposal in response to the issues noted in the PPA and working with CCH to address neighborhood concerns.

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



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West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

The February meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council was the first one with Acting President Sally Stephens running the meeting. With the resignation of former President Roger Ritter last month, Vice President Stephens has stepped into the role to keep the meetings running and setting the agendas.

A good crowd was on hand and a quorum was reached early in the meeting. The officers present reported the following: Carolyn Squeri gave the financial tally for the organization; David Goldman (Secretary) announced that the team is working with Avrum Shepard to have all of the minutes uploaded to the website; and Stephens (President) noted that Ritter has left the board and mentioned that several of the important committees (Planning and Land Use / Technology/ Transportation) are in need of volunteers to chair them.

George Wooding gave a brief update on Public Health, citing concerns with the disposal of syringes and pharmaceutical items, such as expired prescriptions. Citizens are reminded to **not throw unwanted pills and other prescriptions into the garbage or dump them in the**



Carmen Chu, Recorder-Assessor

drains or toilet. They can be disposed of at the Taraval Police Station, and at many pharmacies, including Walgreen's on West Portal Avenue.

Stephens followed with an update of the Open Space and Parks Committee, advising everyone that the Board of Supervisors was slated to hear an appeal of the **Rec and Park's plan to implement the NAP (Natural Areas Plan)**, the following day, February 28th. It was expected to be a lengthy meeting with many speakers prior to the Supervisor's vote.

Public Safety Committee chair Barbara Chionsini introduced SFPD Sgt. Scott Hom, (Taraval Station) and other members of his team (working undercover in plain clothes) as part of a continuing investigation into the **rash of robberies, break-ins, and a homicide in the Ocean Avenue/Plymouth corridor**. The investigation resulted in the arrest of a suspected gang member who was trying to leave SF airport and fly to Las Vegas. Sgt. Hom spoke on the increase in staffing levels at the Taraval station and the progress that they are making in investigating the robberies and vehicle break-ins that have greatly increased throughout the city, and on the Westside. In answering questions, he compared today's rash of crimes (being mostly property related crimes) being much less violent than in the 60's and 70's, but still partly as a result of stealing items to support drug and alcohol habits. He also reported that the team had recently solved a large counterfeiting case with other agents.

The next speaker also spoke of money, as Recorder-Assessor Carmen Chu gave everyone an update on how property taxes work within the city and county and what her office is doing to continue to eliminate the large backlog of assessments and tax cases that she encountered upon taking office. In the assessor's office, there was a **3-year backlog of assessments and cases**. She explained that now it is down to 18 months.

As the Recorder, her office handles the recording of items such as deeds, marriage licenses and other important records. Last year the office processed and recorded over 150,000 documents. As the "assessor" her office is charged with making a fair determination of the

worth of a property and/or building to determine the fair and equitable tax that should be paid by the owner. As properties are sold and transferred to new partners or owners, transfer taxes are collected. Last year **\$280,000,000 in transfer taxes** were collected within SF.

When breaking down where property taxes are allocated, she gave the following information. 65% of property taxes are used to fund SF City services such as Public Safety, Recreation and Parks, DPW, etc. 34% of all property taxes are allocated to public education, and the remaining 1% goes to help fund BART.

She also touched on a large issue within the office, the **archaic technology systems** that the city is using. For example, the computer system is one that is COBOL based, a computer language that virtually no one uses today.

The discussion also centered on the duty of her office; to provide fairness in taxation, not serve as a **"revenue generator,"** but to hold property owners accountable to pay their **"fair share."**

Ms. Chu also gave some (non-binding) advice to address questions on family trusts, ways to hold real estate, etc. She

finished her discussion by addressing the companies booking and managing "Short Term Rentals" like Airbnb, VRBO and Homeaway and how her office is trying to collect both TOT (Tenant Occupancy Tax) and business property (operation) taxes from the "hosts."

This led directly to the final speaker, Kevin Guy, who is the Director of the Office of Short Term Rentals. He spoke at length about the procedures and policies that his office is doing to try and manage the applications of people looking to become "hosts" to operate a **short-term rental**.

He spoke of the fines that can be imposed on a host who is unlicensed (**\$484 per day, each day the host is not certified**). Unfortunately, if a host turns themselves in, there is no provision to go back and look at their rental history to fine them for the extended period they have been running an operation.

Discussion then centered on the permitting process. Although an applicant is requested to have a copy of their lease or other documentation (such as CC and R's), it is the city's determination that these are "private" agreements that they will not take a position on, thus assigning a permit even if a lease or CCR prohibits the operation of a short-term rental. It's then up to the **neighbors or landlord to file a complaint** with the Office of Short-Term Rentals.

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

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, March 27th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Info: see www.westoftwinpeaks.org.



Kevin Guy, Director of the Office of Short Term Rentals

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



William Howard Taft, as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1916, wrote: "The President can exercise no power which cannot be fairly and reasonably traced to some specific grant of power ... in the Federal Constitution or in an act of Congress passed in pursuance thereof. There is no undefined residuum of power which he can exercise because it seems to him to be in the public interest." With multiple executive orders and even simple memoranda containing new rules, President Barack Obama acted regularly without regard to any act of Congress or the United States Constitution, simply because the United States Senate and House of Representatives wouldn't pass his desired legislation and it seemed to him to be in the public interest. President Donald J. Trump has displayed willingness similarly to use power which "cannot be fairly and reasonably traced ..." to the United States Constitution or any Congressionally-passed statute. While it's difficult, if not impossible, in San Francisco and the Bay Area to receive objective reportage from the so-called "mainstream" media, it's apparent that Mr. Trump will emulate Mr. Obama in a dizzying display of executive orders and rules by administrative agencies of the Federal government. Two wrongs don't however make a right.

A favorite local, statewide, and even national subject in coastal jurisdictions is "sanctuary." It significantly means, for the present, ignoring the Federal Constitution and statutes respecting illegal immigration to the United States, and even in many instances bestowing privileges of citizens and legal immigrants upon illegal aliens. In California, for example, an illegal alien can obtain from the Department of Motor Vehicles a driver's license. In the San Francisco Community College District, an illegal alien will now be enrolled without any tuition requirement, as if he or she is a citizen or legal immigrant. The rule of law has become a cliché, to be occasionally preached but not practiced.

As a Burlingame resident pointed out last month in *The San Mateo Daily Journal*, a United States President declared in his 1995 State of the Union speech: "All Americans are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold would otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public services they use impose burdens on our taxpayers. That's why my Administration has moved aggressively to secure our borders ... by deporting criminal aliens ... by cracking down on illegal hiring and by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens. We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit this kind of abuse of our immigration laws ... and we must do more to stop it." That President manifestly wasn't Donald J. Trump. It wasn't George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, or Ronald Reagan. It was President William Jefferson Clinton, and his remarks were followed by a standing ovation from Democratic members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (Mr. Clinton even bespoke the currently politically incorrect term, "illegal aliens," and not the contemporary linguistic cover-up, "undocumented immigrant").

For the son of an immigrant father and immigrant maternal grandparents, who were one-time *legal* aliens (my father at the age of 15) in the early 20th Century, it is discouraging to contemplate the vastness of illegal immigration in this century and the demonstrated disdain of law.

That's also true in other areas of public policy. Last September, I was appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to the five-member Ethics Commission to replace a resigned commissioner. The unexpired term ended last month. I applied for reappointment. A heretofore superficially respectable organization called Common Cause delivered opposition to my reappointment on the ground I opposed public financing of political campaigns, and public financing is a core of election to San Francisco public offices. (I am honored that entities such as Friends of Ethics led by Larry Bush, the California First Amendment Coalition, Ethics Commission Chairman Peter Keane, Mayor

Art Agnos, West Portal residents Bruce Brugmann, David Bisho, George Wooding, Joe Kelly, Jr. and other San Franciscans of their own volition appeared at the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee hearing last month to testify in support of my application, consistent with unanimous Rules Committee support of my reappointment.) The reason for Common Cause opposition has never thus far been publicly exposed. I now do so. In 1988, as a State Senator I sponsored with two other legislators a statewide initiative to limit state public office campaign contributions, prohibit transfer of money contributed to one candidate or officeholder to another and bar taxpayer financing (i.e., *public*) of candidates. Legislative leadership fought

It significantly means, for the present, ignoring the Federal Constitution and statutes respecting illegal immigration to the United States, and even in many instances bestowing privileges of citizens and legal aliens upon illegal aliens."

the initiative and with outside entities, qualified a weak competing initiative. California law provides that whichever ballot measure on the same subject matter receives more votes prevails and becomes law. My initiative prevailed.

Its provisions were attacked with partisan lawsuits in federal and state courts. Meanwhile, the City of Los Angeles adopted a public financing ordinance. Like San Francisco, it's a charter city, of which there are only six in the state. I sued in Los Angeles Superior Court to prevent operation of such ordinance but lost eventually in the California Supreme Court, which ruled that a state law of this nature could not govern a charter city. Fair enough. Public financing of political campaigns remained unlawful in California general law cities, of which there are approximately 460. In 2016, Common Cause sponsored a bill in the State Senate to place on the next statewide ballot a measure repealing the public financing ban in general law cities. In late April 2016, the San Francisco Ethics Commission adopted a motion to support such bill. That was a legally proper way for voters to change the law if a majority so desired. In late August 2016, however, that bill was altered to remove the requirement of voter approval of repeal of the law against public financing in general law cities, school, community college, and special districts. That was inappropriate, unlawful. It demonstrates lack of adherence to the rule of law. The Governor, a onetime Attorney General who should know better, but apparently doesn't want to, signed the altered bill. Thereafter, I was asked to be a co-plaintiff with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in Sacramento County Superior Court in a suit to overturn the law on the ground that a voter initiative can only be changed by a subsequent vote of a majority of California voters. The case is set for trial on August 4, 2017. A preliminary injunction will be sought so that matters cannot be changed until the Superior Court rules.

Meanwhile, what about my responsibilities as a member of the Ethics Commission respecting public financing of San Francisco campaigns? As a trial lawyer

Cont. p. 6

Planning Department OKs Steps to Address Sea-level Rise at South Ocean Beach

Initiating the amendments to the Western Shoreline Area Plan, begins the required 30 day notice period, after which the Planning Commission may hold a hearing and take action on the proposed amendments are designed to address coastal erosion, flooding, and sea level rise hazards in San Francisco's Coastal Zone. The current policies and zoning in the Western Shoreline Area Plan will remain unchanged.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved "initiating" the plan and set a tentative hearing for adoption on the matter for April 13th or thereafter. If it is approved at that meeting, it must then be approved by the Board of Supervisors and then by the California Coastal Commission.

Ocean Beach has been highly modified over the past 150 years, pushing the shoreline as much as 200 feet seaward of its natural equilibrium. These changes began with dune stabilization efforts in the 1860's, followed by the construction of the Great Highway, Esplanade and O'Shaughnessy seawall in 1929, the Taraval seawall in 1941, the Noriega seawall in the 1980's, and riprap revetments south of Sloat Boulevard over the past 15 years. From the late 1970's through 1993, the SFPUC constructed major sewer infrastructure at Ocean Beach, including the Oceanside Treatment Plant south of the Zoo, and the Lake Merced Tunnel and Westside Transport Box beneath the Great Highway. Sand has been placed on the beach since the 1970's, and the northern and middle reaches of the beach are stable, but erosion of south Ocean Beach has damaged the Great Highway, resulted in the loss of beach parking, and threatens to damage critical wastewater system infrastructure.

Sea level rise and the increased frequency and severity of coastal storms anticipated due to global climate change will likely exacerbate these effects in the

decades to come. The proposed amendments will add policies which address coastal hazards including erosion, coastal flooding, and sea level rise. These amendments will support near-term adaptation measures identified in the Ocean Beach Master Plan and in development by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Public Works, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco Recreation and Parks, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

For over a decade, the City has explored options for a planning framework to address erosion and coastal access through the Ocean Beach Task Force and the Ocean Beach Vision Council. The San

Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), an urban planning nonprofit organization, made substantial progress by completing the Ocean Beach Master Plan in 2012.

The Master Plan represents the cooperation and involvement of the City/County and a host of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community stakeholders in an 18-month planning process addressing seven focus areas: ecology, utility infrastructure, coastal dynamics, image and character, program and activities, access and connectivity, and management and stewardship.

The proposed Local Coastal Program amendment integrates portions of the Ocean Beach Master Plan, particularly managed retreat south of Sloat Boulevard. Below is a rendering of proposed shoreline retreat and wastewater protection structures, with the California Coastal Commission.

The Local Coastal Program addresses coastal access, public recreation, transportation, land use, and habitat protection within the Coastal Zone but does not address coastal hazards or sea level rise.

Pursuant to the California Coastal Act of 1976, all development within the state's Coastal Zone must conform to the public access and coastal resource protection policies of the Coastal Act. These requirements are implemented by the California Coastal Commission in partnership with the state's coastal cities and counties through local coastal programs.

San Francisco prepared its local coastal program (LCP), comprised of the Western Shoreline Area Plan and implementing policies of the Planning Code, in the early 1980s, and the City's LCP was certified by the California Coastal Commission as meeting the requirements of the Coastal Act on March 14, 1986. The City exercises coastal development permitting authority under the certified LCP, and the policies of the LCP form the legal standard of review for both public (state and local) and private projects under this authority.

The Coastal Commission retains

Cont. p. 6



Conditions at South Ocean Beach, February 1916



Eroding shoreline and rubble at South Ocean Beach, February 2016.

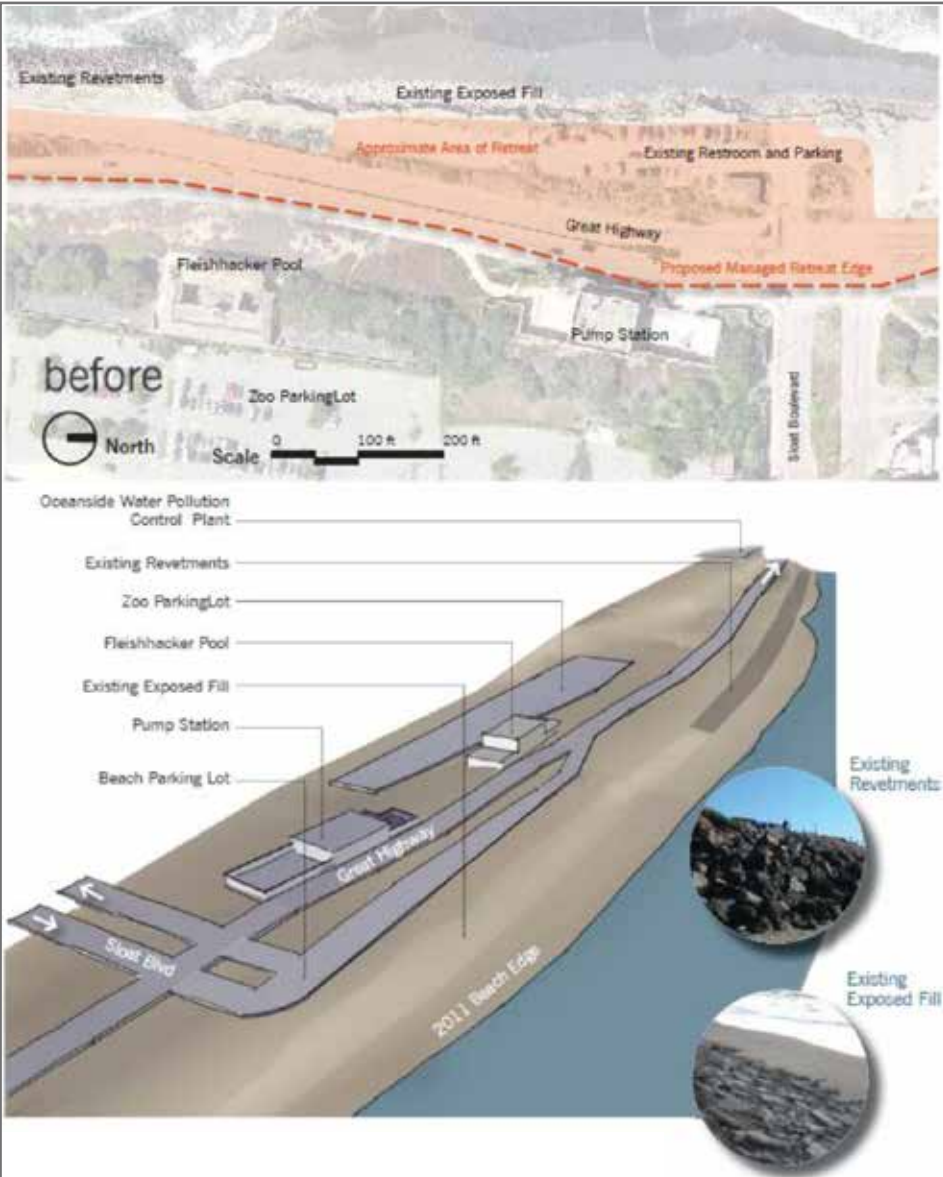
Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), an urban planning nonprofit organization, made substantial progress by completing the Ocean Beach Master Plan in 2012.

The Master Plan represents the cooperation and involvement of the City/County and a host of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community stakeholders in an 18-month planning process addressing seven focus areas: ecology, utility infrastructure, coastal dynamics, image and character, program and activities, access and connectivity, and management and stewardship.

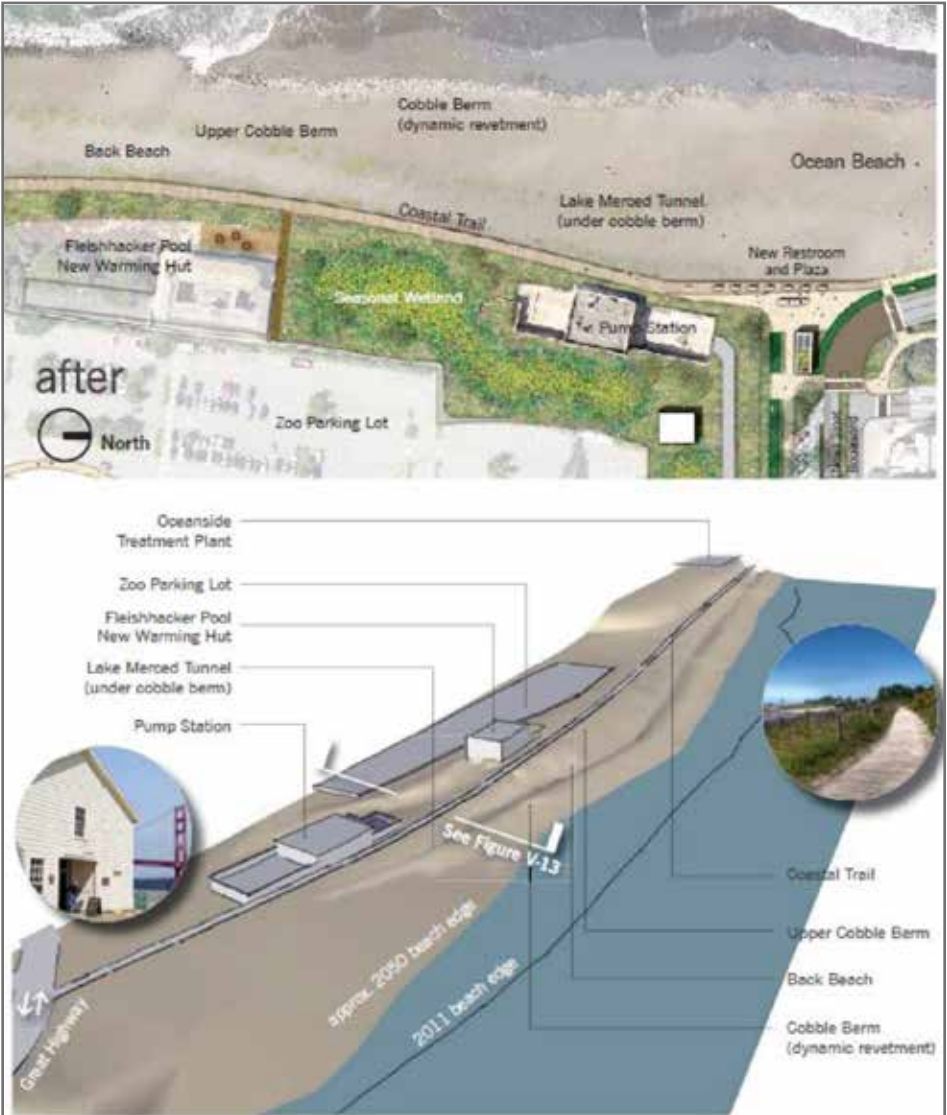
The proposed Local Coastal Program amendment integrates portions of the Ocean Beach Master Plan, particularly managed retreat south of Sloat Boulevard. Below is a rendering of proposed shoreline retreat and wastewater protection structures, with the California Coastal Commission.

The Local Coastal Program addresses coastal access, public recreation, transportation, land use, and habitat protection

Ocean Beach Master Plan Key Move 2, proposed removal of the Great Highway and parking lots between Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Drive with low profile protection for the Lake Merced Tunnel and other wastewater infrastructure. *Graphic Credit: SPUR, 2012.*



To date, the city has been defending the Great Highway south of Sloat Boulevard with boulder revetments, but many officials agree that the road is less of a concern than the Lake Merced Tunnel.



Key Move 2 proposal to remove the Great Highway at Sloat and the beach parking lot, and the addition of a multi-stage coastal protection system of cobble berms and sand nourishment.

Commentary

Is Housing the Next Public Utility?

By Steve Lawrence



Is there a right to housing? If yes, then there must be a corresponding public duty to provide housing for all. Is this San Francisco's emerging policy?

While the average cost of water and sewer may not seem alarming, the \$7 billion program to upgrade the sewer system has barely begun. At next rate setting, bills are sure to rise to make up for losses during the drought. It's a public utility; costs must be recovered.

Once water was provided by a private corporation. Now providing water and sewer service is done by a public utility, SFPUC. Recently the selling of electricity, in competition with PG&E, has been added.

Here's what a recent progressive publication wrote on the matter: "What if we said that housing is a right in San Francisco? What if we demanded the public financing of public housing? What if we ran our own ballot initiative to create a fine on vacant buildings and real estate speculation? These are ideas that would garner wide public approval..." - *San Francisco Tomorrow*

Now, in addition to public housing projects, San Francisco provides limited "affordable housing" to winners of a lottery. To enter, household income must qualify. Some may win a favored place in lottery contests: certain neighborhood residents, for example, perhaps teachers in the future. If Supervisor Katy Tang has her way, soon housing will be provided for the "missing middle."

Are public officials on the cusp of striving to house all comers? Public expenditure seems to grow and grow. While progressives are today not a majority, should that change, and should a progressive be elected Mayor, SF could declare a right to housing.

Yet while politicians strongly favor affordable housing, and housing for all, getting it actually done is not always a priority. Neighborhoods need to be consulted and the public process satisfied. Conveniently, this allows pols to be advocates while taking developers' money. Champion a cause, and also attract contributions. What pol wants that gone? But will voters tire of inaction?

Decades ago almost all housing was supplied by private enterprise. Before "greedy" became the adjective that usually precedes "developer," entrepreneurs specialized in developing property, often run-down, sometimes unoccupied, to meet housing demand. In those by-gone days, it was believed that the market matches supply to demand most efficiently. That belief faded. Today we look to government to provide. Market supply will never meet demand for affordable housing, it is claimed. Only wise government can match affordable housing supply with demand.

Except that so far government provides only a fraction of what is needed.

Constantly, there is conflict about just what is needed, e.g. the maximum number of units, sufficient two-bedrooms so that families are accommodated, many smaller buildings or a few large developments? Micro-units? Elderly? Missing middle? Homeless?

There are always insufficient funds, even in good times with ballooning City budgets, to provide all with affordable housing. Too often, as government tries to do more and more, it does less and less well. Will San Francisco end up with tens of thousands of dull "council homes?" Will occupants, lucky lottery winners with qualifying incomes, decline promotions to stay within income limits? Will "neighborhood residents," code for favored groups, get lottery priority, fomenting resentment? Will those who bring retired parents to town intent on entering and winning the lottery usurp the housing rights of long-time community members? Will the "non-profits" which actually build and manage housing for the City enrich officers of those "non-profits?" Will corruption emerge? What budget limits, if any, are there? Does the City spend whatever it takes to house all pursuant to an idealistic policy declaration such as, "housing is a human right?"

Questions need to be asked and answered before the City proclaims a right to affordable housing. But the day may be coming.

Highlights: SFPUC's latest financial reports: During the drought, less water has been sold (and sewage processed); SFPUC liabilities have risen nearly ten percent. Despite selling less water, expenses have risen almost 2.4% annually over the past four years. The median water + sewer bill is \$91 per month, or \$1092 per year. Cost per person comes to little over a dollar a day.

While the average cost of water and sewer may not seem alarming, the \$7 billion program to upgrade the sewer system has barely begun. At next rate setting, bills are sure to rise to make up for losses during the drought. It's a public utility; costs must be recovered.

San Francisco is not alone. Huffington Post writes that nationwide, water bills could reach \$170 per month over the next five years, a level considered unaffordable for 41 million Americans.

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

California Supreme Court Clears the Cobwebs

California Public Records Act (CPRA) gave the public access to government documents and records in 1968, "access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state." (§ 6250.) But it was originally designed to deal with paper documents. Today, much of governments activities take place in the digital realm, and may take place outside the office, often using private e-mail and other digital means.

So when Ted Smith requested disclosure of 32 categories of public records from the City of San Jose, and other agencies, and officials in June 2009, he was disappointed when e-mails and text messages "sent or received on private electronic devices used by" and "on the personal accounts" of the mayor, city council members, and their staffs were not disclosed. He sued the City, arguing that CPRA defines "public records" as all communications about official business, regardless of how they are created, communicated, or stored. The City maintained that such messages

"are not public records because they are not within the public entity's custody or control." The trial court agreed with Smith and ordered disclosure, but on appeal the higher court stayed the disclosure.

Now, in a unanimous decision filed on March 2, 2017, the Supreme Court has reversed the Court of Appeal: "Here, we hold that when a city employee uses a personal account to communicate about the conduct of public business, the writings may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act."

Cont. p. 10



FAKE NEWS PREZ.

No matter what you think of Donald J. Trump, you got to admit he's a cracker-jack salesman with an uncanny gift for manipulating the mainstream media like a three-armed rental clown juggling pin-pulled grenades on an express elevator to hell.

Every single day something he touches starts smoking. You've heard of the Midas Touch; DJT has the Hades Touch. His very being is constructed to strike the flint that shoots a spark towards the tetchy kindling he calls staff.

At least living in the Eastern and Central time zones, folks experience the

Trump mentioned ratings numerous times. He gets good ratings. CNN has lousy ratings. He eats Ratings Bran for breakfast. From out of nowhere he proclaimed "a nuclear holocaust would be like no other" which is like saying total human extinction would be odd. You get the feeling he'd be okay with one as long as the ratings were huge. Which they would be, initially. Later on, not so much.

Anything he doesn't like or disagrees with gets labeled "fake news." Since the election he's jumped on the phrase like an old dog with a new chew toy. Fake news.

He finished by calling his administration: "a fine-tuned machine." Which sounds better than "out of control dumpster fire," but a tad less accurate. Whatever machine he's talking about, you'll want to wear a hard hat and keep the kids 50 feet away decked out in fire retardant clothes."

pandemonium in real time while we out west are doubly disconcerted, constantly waking up to wonder, "what fresh human bonfire has been set off already?" While we fitfully sleep in California, the Orange Firestarter has a three-hour head start to light another fuse to Armageddon.

In his first press conference since moving into the White House, the 45th President ignited further conflagrations, first by calling the media "dishonest" then disputing both logic and math. Say what you will, he does punch upwards. Logic and math are not lightweight opponents.

The real estate developer turned apprentice leader of the free world is an expert in ranting and raving while holding the press to standards he refuses to live up to or believe in. He bizarrely repeatedly claimed to have more electoral votes than anybody since Reagan, which is only true if you don't count Clinton, Bush One or Obama.

When a reporter pointed out the discrepancy, Trump dismissed him with, "well, I was given that information." Presumably by the same people who told him he won the debates, enjoys widespread popularity and has accomplished more than any other president at this juncture in his reign.

Fake news. Fake news. He repeats the phrase so much he runs the risk of becoming the Fake News President. Although many folks maintain the "news" part is superfluous.

He finished by calling his administration "a fine-tuned machine." Which sounds better than "out of control dumpster fire" but a tad less accurate. Whatever machine he's talking about, you'll want to wear a hard hat and keep the kids 50 feet away decked out in fire retardant clothes. The machine may be fine-tuned but either the mechanics are under-trained, have been given the wrong tools, or are disciples of the Three Stooges.

Trump says he knows stuff nobody else does. Can't imagine what it could be, but fairly certain we can rule out anything algebraically based. Meanwhile the biggest fear of a 3 million-majority segment of America is once this guy realizes he's destined to go down as the worst president in history, he might prefer to be remembered as the last president in history.

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By the Numbers

The Marshmallow Experiment: Genesis for Roth IRA's?

By Lou Barberini, CPA



Around the time of Woodstock and the team of Armstrong and Aldrin setting foot on the moon, a study was conducted on delayed gratification. The experimenter: Stanford professor Walter Mischel PhD. The subjects: 4-year old's. The reward: Marshmallows.

To measure patience around delayed gratification, Mischel and his research team sat 4-year-olds at a table and placed a marshmallow in front of them. The child was offered a proposition: Eat that marshmallow now, or wait a tortuous 15 minutes, and be rewarded with a second marshmallow for their endurance.

Mischel's, now famous *Stanford Marshmallow Study*, followed the children in two follow-up studies in the 80's and 90's over the next 30 years of their lives. Mischel found unexpected correlations between the results of the marshmallow test and the success of the children many years later, documenting that those children who could abstain from eating the first marshmallow earned higher SAT scores, achieved higher educational attainment, and maintained lower body masses.

“.....
The child was offered a proposition: Eat that marshmallow now, or wait a tortuous 15 minutes, and be rewarded with a second marshmallow for their endurance.”

Turns out, patience- and by extension, delayed gratification- is a virtue.

Similarly, the ability to postpone immediate gratification, and instead chose to invest savings for one's future contributes to an individual's ultimate financial freedom and greater options in life. Despite this, US tax laws have incentivized Americans to save by giving them an immediate tax deduction now by contributing to a 401k or IRA, only to have to repay those same tax savings back later when they retire. Kind of like: *We will give you a marshmallow now, but you have to give it back to us later.*

In 1997, the Roth IRA was born. The Roth option didn't entice taxpayers with an upfront tax deduction, but provided an offsetting reward that the taxpayer never had to pay any tax on the withdrawals. The Roth IRA was like a Cayman Island bank account, free from the eyes of the IRS.

Originally, the drawback to a Roth IRA was that the accounts were limited only to taxpayers with moderate incomes. Then, in 2006, Congress expanded the Roth mechanism to 401k's plans, and by doing so opened up the Roth tax benefits to taxpayers in all brackets.

Reducing the traditional 401K and IRA versus the Roth decision to its simplest form: If you think your tax bracket might be lower in retirement, take the upfront tax deduction offered by the traditional 401k and IRA today, and pay back the taxes in a lower tax bracket in retirement. If you think your tax bracket might be higher in retirement (or government budget deficits will increase future tax brackets) opt for the Roth now, and be rewarded with a lifetime pass from future higher tax rates.

As a CPA, I would have thought that there would have been a greater mass migration to Roth 401k's, Roth 403b's, and Roth Deferred Comp plans. There wasn't. While these Roth pension savings vehicles may not be for everyone, there are three factors I believe blind investors to their benefits:

Cash Flow: For an employee in a 33% tax bracket, a \$1,000 contribution to a traditional 401k plan results in an immediate \$333 larger paycheck. Or worded

differently: A \$1,000 traditional contribution only costs an employee \$667 after tax savings. On the other hand a \$1,000 Roth 401k contribution costs \$1,000. Postponing the marshmallow-sugar high tax savings of \$333 requires more patience, calculation, and delayed gratification.

Wealth Effect: Let's say in the prior example's tax brackets, a husband contributes \$1,000 to a traditional 401k, which really only costs a net amount of \$667. His wife, working for the same company, can only afford to save the same \$667 net amount, but opts for a Roth 401k. After many years in the exact same investments, the husband's account grows to a value of \$1,000,000 while his wife's only grows to \$667,000. While the husband feels like his account is more substantial, the reality is that both the husband and wife have the same net values in their accounts. The husband has an eventual \$333,000 tax lien to pay back taxes, whereas his wife does not. Thus, the traditional 401k can create an illusion of wealth. Or, it can create a false mental comparison of the \$1 million 401k value being equivalent to a million dollar house or even a million dollar Roth 401k account. It is not!

Partial Financial Advisors: Because a financial advisor, brokerage firm, or 401k administrator are often compensated on a percentage of an account size, they receive more income and have a beneficial interest in promoting the husband's \$1 million investment in a traditional 401k than the wife's \$667,000 in a Roth 401k- even though, after taxes, they are both equal in value.

Consult with your tax advisor about whether a Roth 401k, Roth 403b, or Roth deferred compensation account is best for your particular financial situation.

Investing is often framed by professionals seeking your business to be more complex than it actually is. Too many bells and whistles often mask inferior products. Remember that the attractiveness of the salesperson is often inversely correlated to the quality of their product. But we have a new paradigm: Invest and tax plan like a four-year old waiting for your second marshmallow.

Deferred Comp Update:

In answer to many of your questions about my recent articles, now 100 days later and counting, the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System's (SFERS) CEO still has not answered my questions.

At the February 8, 2017 Retirement Board meeting (two hours and 46 minutes into the meeting¹ when it was proposed that an audit of SFERS \$2.8 billion deferred comp account would only cost each of the 30,000 D.C. Plan participants \$1, the Chairman Comp Committee, firefighter Joe Driscoll vehemently objected. Joe asserted he wanted to protect City employees from the \$1 per person cost of an audit. That's ironic, because Joe said nothing in 2009, when SFERS' deferred comp plan investors lost \$4,000 on average due to failed investments in derivatives. Save a dollar, but lose four thousand of them? No big deal. Way to set your priorities, Joe.

Lou Barberini, CPA lives in San Francisco's West Portal neighborhood. Feedback: Lou.barberini@gmail.com

1. <http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view id=175>

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

for over 45 years and a trial court judge for 10 years, I believe in the rule of law, whether I agree or disagree with the policy embodied in the law or disagree. Public financing is but one of several subjects (open meetings of governmental bodies, access to public records, conflict of interest prevention, campaign donation and spending reports), which the Ethics Commission must, and does, administer. The suggestion of Common Cause that I will somehow subvert campaign public financing in San Francisco is insulting and ignorant. The San Francisco Ethics Commission, incidentally, has never supported the repeal of the 1988 initiative clause banning public financing in general law

Ocean Beach Plan (Cont. from p. 4)

coastal development permitting jurisdiction over projects located on tidelands, submerged lands, and public trust lands, and for any state, local, or private projects on federal lands. In addition, the federal Coastal Zone Management Act grants federal consistency review authority to the Coastal Commission for all projects affecting the Coastal Zone that are either undertaken by the federal government or that require a federal license, permit, or approval. The Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act – not the City's LCP – serve as the standard of review for the Coastal Commission's coastal development permitting and federal consistency review authorities.

All projects approved or undertaken by the City, regardless of location, are reviewed for consistency with the General Plan. Thus, the policies of the Western Shoreline Plan apply to both actions that are subject to the City's coastal permit authority and to the City's General Plan.

The San Francisco Coastal Zone extends approximately 6 miles along the western shoreline from the Fort Funston cliff area in the south to the Point Lobos recreational area in the north. The south end of the Coastal Zone includes the Lake Merced area, the Zoo, the Olympic Club, and the seashore and bluff area of Fort Funston. The Coastal Zone spans the Ocean Beach shoreline and includes Golden Gate Park west of Fortieth Avenue, the Great Highway corridor and the

cities without statewide voter approval. I conclude Common Cause cares less about the rule of law than it does in getting its way. That's in addition to three of its leaders informing the President of Friends of Ethics it would remove opposition to my reappointment if I withdrew as co-plaintiff in the above-mentioned lawsuit! Does that sound like “you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours,” as Friends of Ethics President Bush called it or oven extortion by a supposed “good government” organization? I'll let readers decide.

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

adjacent residential blocks in the Sunset and Richmond districts. The north end of the seashore includes the Cliff House and Sutro Baths area, Sutro Heights Park, and Point Lobos recreational area.

Most of the San Francisco western shoreline is publicly owned. Golden Gate Park, the Zoo, and Lake Merced contain 60 percent of the 1,771 acres which comprise the Coastal Zone area. Another 25 percent of the Coastal Zone is within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Only 14 percent of the land is privately owned, and 9 percent of this land is within the Olympic Club area. The remainder 5 percent is private residential and commercial property which fronts or lies in close proximity to the seashore.

Ocean Beach, the Cliff House, Sutro Baths, and Fort Funston are managed by the National Park Service as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The City's LCP does not govern federal activities or state, local or private projects on these federal lands. Therefore, policies included in the Western Shoreline Plan (under Objectives 6, 8, and 9) that address federal parklands apply only to actions that are subject to review under the City's General Plan.

This report used information from the Planning Department and SPUR.

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Bait-’n-Switch: Laguna Honda Blvd. Senior Housing

Housing Bond Lurches Down a Cliff

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

The extent to which voters and taxpayers have been, and continue to be, snookered by Mayor Ed Lee over the Affordable Housing Bond measure should be front-page news. Unfortunately, it’s not.

Since starting to cover the \$310 million Affordable Housing Bond for the *Westside Observer*, the scope of planned bond spending has shifted dramatically. The bond appears to be lurching down a cliff.

It’s time to speak Truth to Power: Voters were asked in November 2015 to pass a \$310 million *Affordable Housing Bond* measure. They were *not* asked to pass a nearly \$100 million dollar — and growing set-aside — *Housing for the Homeless Bond* measure. But the latter is what snookered voters will likely wind up getting at the end of the day, part of the bond lurching down the cliff.

The oversight body, the Citizens’ General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (CJOB), has done a terrible job so far holding the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) accountable for bond spending. CJOB received \$310,000, one-tenth of one percent of the gross proceeds of the \$310 million Housing Bond, to support CJOB, but seems to have done little to earn that allocation.

CJOB has heard from MOHCD on the Affordable Housing Bond only four times: January 28, July 28, and October 3 in 2016, and most recently on January 26, 2017. Successive updates from MOHCD keep shifting planned bond uses, and CJOB has done little to reign in MOHCD.

Bait-’n-Switch: 250 Laguna Honda

Although planning for the Affordable Housing Bond began in 2014, and although CJOB met three times during 2016 to hear reports from MOHCD about progress on bond spending, almost nobody knew about the proposed 150-unit senior housing project at 250 Laguna Honda until it suddenly appeared in MOHCD’s bond update presentation to CJOB on January 26, 2017.

Neighborhood Concerns

During CJOB’s January 2017 meeting, nine neighbors around 250 Laguna Honda testified in opposition — for many good reasons — to this project. First up was John Farrell, a prominent leader on the West Side who noted that like his neighbors, they are not opposed to affordable housing. He rightly noted that the project doesn’t take into account the already existing heavy traffic on this portion of Laguna Honda Boulevard. He noted the project would result in the closure of a church, a pre-school, and a childhood development center, all of which provide important services to the surrounding community.

Farrell noted there are legitimate concerns of what impact the project will have on the integrity of the hill behind the project, since construction for the project will excavate the hill. The hill has had landslides in the past. The project was initially presented to District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee as a *50-unit* project, but it inexplicably grew without warning to a *150-unit* project, which suggests that the project may be too large for its small acreage footprint.

Neighbor Carolyn Seeley indicated that a 34-page report from the Planning Department raised major concerns relating to the environmental impact, the green belt, and landslides, along with 15 homes that sit above the development that may fall. “*The developers have not performed a geological study about the 15 homes above the site, and a geological earthquake fault line runs right through the site,*” Seeley noted.



There’s those concerns again about lurching down the hill.

For his part, another neighbor, John Steadman, testified to CJOB on January 26 that the hill behind the present Forest Hill Christian Church on the site is extremely steep, and all neighbors are very concerned about the stability of the hill and construction of the proposed senior housing project, given proposed excavation. Steadman noted that in 1951 a house located at 50 Castenada Avenue directly above the church’s current parking lot slid down the hill.

Katrina Kranz, who lives on Castenada Avenue, testified the 250 Laguna Honda location is a very isolated spot, with little for seniors to do. She noted the nearest amenities are a French restaurant and a Home Equity Loan business. “*There’s no pharmacy, there’s no walkable grocery stores,*” Franz noted.

“... all neighbors are very concerned about the stability of the hill and construction of the proposed senior housing project, given proposed excavation. Steadman noted that in 1951 a house located at 50 Castenada Avenue directly above the church’s current parking lot slid down the hill.”

Marilyn Hsu, another neighbor who supports senior housing, noted the Forest Hill area is one of the worst areas for seniors because there’s no nearby amenities, and the traffic on Laguna Honda is dangerous. Hsu testified her mother was nearly hit several times trying to access the Forest Hill Muni station due to the traffic.

Finally, another teacher at the existing Forest Hill pre-school on the proposed site, Sandra Pucinelli, testified seniors would have a difficult life on Laguna Honda since it’s a dangerous street. She, too, noted the lack of nearby facilities since there’s no laundromat, no grocery stores, and no pharmacies, and it’s a long walk to access public transportation. She noted “*Having a senior housing [building] that looks like a*

“For every housing unit built or acquired using this Bond funding that is set aside for housing the homeless, there will be a corresponding reduction of new, or preserved, units for low-income and middle-income San Franciscans.”

housing project from the 1970’s is unacceptable for the neighborhood,” and suggested it should be redesigned so it looks like it belongs in the area.

At the end of the hearing, Mr. Farrell noted “*When this project is presented to you, we want it to be honest about what’s being presented. What’s being presented [to you] is not honest.*”

Planning Department’s Concerns

In addition to concerns raised by neighbors, the Planning Department has raised significant concerns of its own, since the 250 Laguna Honda project has not been heard, approved, or received permits by the Planning Department or Planning Commission, despite the developer’s “*Preliminary Project Assessment*” application submitted to Planning in July 2016.

The Planning Department appears to be quite concerned about the project’s proposal to excavate 16 feet below grade. Planning has instructed the developers

to submit an “Environmental Evaluation Application” to determine whether a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review may be required. Planning also noted that the project may be subject to review by the Department’s Historic Preservation staff; may require a Preliminary Archeological Review (PAR) by a Planning Department archeologist; may require a Transportation Impact Analysis to determine whether the proj-

ect may result in a significant transportation impact; and because the project site is located within a Seismic Hazard Zone (Landslide Hazard Zone) any new construction on the site is subject to a mandatory Interdepartmental Project Review with a geotechnical study that must be prepared.

The Planning Department confirmed on February 22 that none of these requirements have been met to date, since no additional applications have been submitted, including an *Environmental Evaluation Application*, a *Legislative Amendment Application*, and a *Building Permit Application* specifically referred to in the Planning Department’s October 2016 response to the developer’s *Prelimi-*

request, MOHCD provided in February a preliminary proposed unit mix of the senior housing on Laguna Honda Boulevard. MOHCD indicated that preliminary plans for the proposed 150 units show 42 (28%) will be studio units averaging 382 square feet, about the size of a micro-unit. Another 107 (71.3%) will be one-bedrooms averaging 595 square feet. All units include kitchens and bathrooms, included in the square foot estimates.

By way of contrast, patient rooms at Laguna Honda Hospital just up the street average 218 square feet, although the double- and triple-room suites share a single bathroom in each suite. That means the studios at 250 Laguna Honda will be just 75% larger (with only 164 more square feet including a kitchen) than a patient room at LHH.

Cramming senior citizens into 382-square-foot studios and 595-square-foot one-bedroom units seems almost inhumane, given that many seniors have multiple pieces of durable medical equipment, including walkers and electric wheelchairs with recharging devices. Then there’s the issue that many seniors need live-in assistants to help them with activities of daily living, like showering and cooking meals.

Between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2016, our two county hospitals, Laguna Honda Hospital and SFGH, have between them discharged at least 260 patients out-of-county. Rather than dumping elderly San Franciscans out-of-county, how many of the 150 senior housing units at 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard will have a set-aside to keep these seniors and disabled San Franciscans residing in-county?

Homeless Housing Set-Aside Surges to 30%

As first reported in April 2015 in “*Mayor’s Housing Scam, Redux,*” background documents included a February 3, 2015 housing pipeline presentation prepared for the Mayor that noted on page 4 that 20% of the affordable housing to be developed with the proposed bond would be set aside for the homeless.

A Dirty Little Secret: Bond Wasn’t Earmarked for Homeless Housing

Even CJOB members were apparently surprised to learn in January 2016 there would be a set-aside of 20% of the bond to fund housing for the homeless. In January 2017 CJOB members were first informed that set-aside might climb to 30% for at least four of the planned projects funded by the Bond. Another surprise for them!

There’s not one mention in the legal text in the November 2015 the voter guide that bond funds would be used to house the homeless, and certainly not at up to 30% of gross bond proceeds.

Fast forward to now. Of the four non-public housing projects that will receive funding under this Bond, the number of units to be set aside for the homeless has suddenly climbed from 20% to potentially up to 30% in each project.

Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Leasing or Buying: Which Option is Right for You?

What's the best route to acquiring a new and reliable set of wheels? Choosing the make and model of the vehicle you wish to drive, as well as other factors like amenities and mileage are important. However from a financial standpoint, one of your most important decisions is whether to lease or buy. Like many financial decisions, there are pros and cons to each option, so consider the following before signing on the dotted line.

Leasing a car

When you lease a car, you generally make an up-front payment and agree to make monthly payments for a new car over a defined period of time. Lease payments cover the vehicle's estimated depreciation (how much value the car loses during the time you own it) and finance charges, but they do not help you build equity or ownership in the vehicle. Most lease agreements have an annual mileage limit, and you may incur a fee if you drive more than the amount allowed. Calculate your annual mileage from the last few years so you can negotiate a limit that fits your lifestyle. With an open-end or equity lease, you agree to purchase the vehicle at a predetermined price at the end of the lease. With a closed-end lease, you can walk away from the car once any outstanding fees are paid.

Advantages

Leasing allows you to drive a new car every few years with lower monthly payments and occasionally, with no down payment. When the lease ends, you don't have to worry about finding a new owner for the car. In many cases, if your car requires maintenance or repairs the costs will be covered by a manufacturer's warranty.

Disadvantages

Despite offering more affordable monthly payments, leasing rather than buying a car will cost more over time. This is because you won't be able to sell the car and recoup some of your costs when the lease is up. Additionally, you'll pay the car's depreciation when it is at its highest (in the first few years of ownership) and the newer vehicle may be more expensive to insure. Keep in mind that you may be charged a penalty if you want out of the lease early.

Buying a car

A big factor to consider when you buy a car is how long you intend to drive it. Knowing your length of ownership will help you prioritize various features, such as the mileage or model year you'd like to purchase. Keep in mind that if you'd like to eventually sell or trade-in your vehicle that some cars hold their value better than others. Regular maintenance and careful driving can help retain your car's resale value.

Advantages

In the long run, buying a car is generally a better bargain than leasing, assuming you keep the vehicle for several years after the loan is paid off. This is because you will own the car and be free of monthly payments at the end of the loan. If you finance a used car rather than a new one, your potential savings are even greater. Buying gives you the flexibility to keep the car or sell it at the end of the loan. You also have the freedom to drive as many miles per year as you like (although high mileage does affect resale value).

Disadvantages

Buying a car typically costs you more up-front, in the form of a down payment. While this amount is negotiable, its size will affect the amount you pay in interest and the length of your loan. As a car owner, you are responsible for repairs, which may add up over time.

Making the decision

Think about your financial circumstances and preferences when you're deciding which option – leasing or buying – is right for you. Find a reputable car dealer and ask questions before closing the deal. Compare specific offers with an online lease or purchase calculator, which allows you to plug in actual lease or loan terms. Ask your financial or tax advisor to help you assess the impact of buying versus leasing a car on your financial situation.

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



Bravo to the Dinosaurs

By Brian Browne

The dinosaurs drank the same water we are drinking today. It is a finite resource for planet earth. For us attached to the High Sierra it is both finite and random. Floods and droughts come and go in unexpected cycles. Investing in our infrastructure is probably even more important than throwing our resources (human and non-human) away in wars. These are resources that could be diverted into domestic infrastructure, especially our aging water systems. The Oroville Dam is a very good example. Why did this dam show cracks? Probably due to a lack of well-planned and well executed preventive maintenance. This is just the tip of the infrastructure iceberg.

Moral suasion and dictated rationing are effective means of curtailing natural resource use. I prefer greater reliance on the price mechanism. It is direct and it is immediate. It is also objective and removes the middle-person from the contract. Sophisticated metering must be implemented for every household and commercial entity. Master metering must be replaced with individual metering. Master metering can be unfair and a chronic beggar thy neighbor phenomenon.

Meters must be tied to your computer. You should be able to hop on your laptop or cell phone and see what your usage has been and what it has cost you. You should be able plan your future use by a planning application (app). Living in the heart of high tech-USA, I would wager "London to a brick" that such apps would appear in abundance with or without government initiation. This computerized system management of our water system would allow customers and management to quickly change the price (rate) and quantities available to optimize seller and buyer decisions. These data would all be available to sellers and buyers.

Management could supply real-time, online buyers with the cost elements of their delivery system on an aggregate (major cost of service elements such as operation & maintenance and debt service) and non-aggregate basis (such as peak and non-peak load, diurnal changes and so forth). The iterations are exponential and would develop and refine over time. These type dynamic relationships between buyers and sellers would allow for quick and efficient market signals to achieve system goals for rationalizing (allocating) the balance of supply and demand. This is done in parts of the world with power and even water.

A computerized system-wide program that tracks

Cont. p. 13



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TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



Captain's Message: Burglaries in the District

Many of you continue to reach out to me to voice your concerns regarding the recent increase in burglaries we have seen in the outer sunset. In my message posted on Friday the 24th, I discussed our efforts in addressing this crime trend which has impacted so many of you. Our efforts have included increased uniformed patrols, community outreach and undercover surveillance. Since President's Day weekend, we have utilized Taraval Station resources as well as our department resources to assist with the investigations.

On Sunday, February 26, 2017, members of the San Francisco Police Department Night Investigations Unit (NIU) arrested a known burglary suspect after witnessing him enter a home in the area of 37th and Taraval. On this evening, the suspect entered a residence using a crow bar through the front gate, on a house that was currently under construction. Shortly after exiting the residence, the suspect was taken in to custody. In this case, the suspect was on probation for burglary and had recently been arrested by the Taraval Neighborhood Team. Officers conducted a probation search of his residence for further evidence of burglaries he may have committed.

While this is not the suspect responsible for the President's Day burglary series, this is a great arrest against further burglaries in the area. Thank you to the members of NIU and Taraval station for your continued commitment to the prevention of burglaries as well as the identification and apprehension of burglary suspects. While

this arrest is a good example of our efforts in the area, it does not mean our efforts will decrease. Our commitment is driven by public safety and ensuring the residents of the Taraval district are confident in our ability to protect the community we serve.

In the past week, I have received many emails and calls from residents asking how they can safe guard their homes against burglaries. I have listed a number of steps that you can take to harden your home as a possible target. Also, we work in partnership with SFSafe to address these same questions. SFSafe offers a complimentary evaluation of your home where they will outline areas that you can focus on in making your home less attractive to burglary suspects. For more information, please call me at Taraval station or visit their website at www.sfsafe.org.

During this past week of surveillance, officers have seen homes with garage doors and entry way gates that have been left open. Please ensure that you take the time to secure your garage doors and entry way gates as well as doors that lead into the garage area or to the in-law area. It is the practice of burglars to check residences for unlocked gates and garage doors. I also strongly encourage all of you to get to know your neighbors. Look out for each other. Your observations of your neighborhoods are extremely valuable. Please continue to share that information with us as we work in partnership with you.

I am thankful for the emails and calls I have received and welcome you to continue to reach out to me by calling Taraval Station at 415-759-3100 or email me directly at denise.flaherty@sfgov.org.

Wednesday • Feb 1

Driving While Intoxicated – Arrested

7:38 pm | Vicente St & 18th Ave
A driver reported that he was rear ended by another driver. He followed other driver and was hit again he reversed into his vehicle. After a sobriety test, he was arrested.

Robbery

7:59 pm | Judah St & 25th Ave
The victim said he was walking home when two suspects suddenly approached him and pushed him against a wall before taking his property. They fled with the stolen items.

Shoplifting

11:19 am | 600 Irving St
The victim said the suspect stole several pieces of clothing fled from the store. Officers located the suspect on a MUNI, however, the victim did not want to press charges and the suspect was released.

Thursday Feb 2

Robbery

3:17 pm | Judah St & 40th Ave
The victim said 5 juveniles approached him on a MUNI train, punched him and

grabbed his backpack. They fled.

Recovered Vehicle – Methamphetamine

7:03 pm | 300 Faxon Ave
Patrol officers saw a double parked car and a computer check revealed it had been reported stolen. The suspects in the vehicle were detained despite several attempts to flee as they approached. A search revealed methamphetamine and marijuana on the driver and he was arrested.

False Impersonation – Theft

8:30 pm | 3200 20th Ave
A store employee notified police when a suspect attempted to upgrade a phone plan by purchasing a new cell phone with as compromised account. He was arrested.

Saturday, February 4

Theft

1:42 pm | 100 Vernon St
The victim said her son entered her room and took \$400 from her wallet. She then heard her son run downstairs and saw him giving the currency to someone who was outside. The suspect was cited.

Dog Bite

2:56 pm | 1400 Portola Dr

Increase in Taraval District Burglaries

Investigators at Taraval Station have been seeing an increase of burglaries in the area around Lakeshore Ave, 9th Ave to 25th Ave and also around Lincoln Ave. Leads are being investigated.

Be a good neighbor; if you see someone going door to door and ringing door bells for no apparent reason, please call the police!

Although home burglaries may seem random in occurrence, there is an active selection in process. Simply, homes are chosen based on several factors such as an unoccupied home with easy access (unlocked windows, doors, etc), the greatest amount of cover (to hide their actives from neighbors or pedestrians), and also homes with the fastest and easiest escape routes.

Make your home look occupied and therefor unattractive to potential burglars. For a list of Dos and Don'ts go to Taraval.org

The victim was walking on the sidewalk when a white dog suddenly bit him on the knee and pulled at his pants. He was unable to contact owner at their house. Officers followed up, the owner was cited.

Assault

2:06 pm | Judah St & 46th Ave
3 juveniles said they were throwing candy into the air and attempting to catch them in their mouths when one accidentally hit the suspect's shoulder. He reached for a knife and they fled. Officers located camera footage of the suspect following the victims and will continue to investigate the incident.

Sunday, February 5

Burglary

8:30 am | Taraval Station
Special Investigation Team Inspectors concluded their investigation into an earlier burglary case and located the suspect, who was already in jail on a separate case.

Robbery

5:47 pm | 3200 20th Ave
An employee reported a suspect returned to the same store he had attempted to detain for robbery several days ago because the suspect threatened employees with a knife. Officers successfully detained the suspect and he was arrested.

Concealed Weapon – Brandishing

2:29 pm | 3200 20th Ave
A driver who slowed down but failed to stop for a child stepping off the sidewalk into the street. He drove around the child but heard someone banging on his car. A suspect approached, reaching for a firearm. The suspect's friend said "not here" and they both left.

Monday, February 6

Battery – Threats

7:30 am | 700 Gonzalez Dr
The victim of a domestic violence said the suspect had been drinking and using drugs during a Super Bowl party earlier, returned home and yelled and threatened and choked her until she loss consciousness. She contacted police and he was arrested.

Wednesday, February 8

Assault – Arrested

10:45 pm | 1800 23rd Ave
The victim was unable to sleep because her neighbor was making too much noise. When she went upstairs to complain, he argued and pushed her. She fell to the ground hurting her back. He was arrested.

Robbery

9:01 pm | 3300 Kirkham St
The victim was walking on Kirkham St when the suspect approached her, pointed a gun and demanded her belongings. The suspect then fled in a waiting vehicle.

Robbery Attempted

12:18 am | 1300 25th Ave
The victim had just left her car when the suspect approached with a gun. He demanded her property, but she ran to the nearest houses, screaming, and rang several doorbells. He fled in a waiting vehicle.

Thursday, February 9

Battery

3:22 pm | 19th Ave & Ortega St
Officers responded to a report regarding a possible hate crime. The victim, a school facility member who was acting as a crossing guard for the students, reported that a vehicle drove by with a suspect who shot a glass ball at his arm while saying derogatory words at the victim. Officers were unsuccessful at locating the suspect.

Domestic Violence

2:00 am | Address Confidential

The victim was having dinner with his partner and his roommate when the partner and roommate began to argue. When he tried to intervene to diffuse the argument, his partner grabbed a plate and smashed it against his forehead. The suspect was arrested.

Theft

7:37 am | 200 San Benito Way
While on route to the scene, officers detained the described suspect and the car described in the auto boost report. The owner of the car showed video surveillance of the suspect rummaging through the car. He was the same person as the suspect in detention. He suspect was cited.

Battery – Domestic Violence

7:55 pm | 200 Sagamore St
The victim said he and the suspect had been having marital issues and an argument escalated. The suspect began slapping and punching the victim while he was holding their child. After investigation, the suspect was determined to be the primary aggressor and was placed under arrest.

Friday, February 10

Restraining Order

8:53 pm | 800 Irving St
Despite a stay away order from a nearby business, a suspect refused to move from underneath a truck. Officers, after further investigation, arrested the suspect.

Burglary

5:02 pm | 37th Ave & Santiago St
Investigating a burglary, a data search on the suspect determined his address. During surveillance, he was observed entering his garage. A probation search revealed stolen items and the suspect was arrested.

Warrant Arrest

6:20 pm | 2300 24th Ave
The suspect requested a Vehicle Release form for his vehicle at the Taraval Police station. However, the Warrants Bureau confirmed a warrant and he was arrested.

Saturday, February 11

Battery

11:24 | Judah St & 42nd Ave
The victim said he was jogging when several dogs jumped on him. When he told the suspect to control his dogs, he replied that the dogs weren't his and told the victim to leave, moving uncomfortably close. When he pushed the suspect away, he punched him, so he.

Falsify Identification Card

8:00 pm | 3200 20th Ave
Officers were flagged down by a loss prevention employee. Loss prevention told the officers that the suspect had attempted to pick up a new cell phone with a false identification card. Officers identified the suspect and after further investigation, the suspect was cited.

Sunday, February 12

Battery

1:47pm | 9th Ave & Lincoln Way
A woman pushing a stroller attempted to circumvent a man lying on the sidewalk, when he suddenly kicked the stroller, then the victim in the knee and ran out into the street. Officers arrested the suspect.

Monday, February 13

Robbery

9:35 pm | 1100 Ocean Ave
The victim was sitting at the back of a restaurant at the counter with his laptop when the suspect suddenly went behind the counter and grabbed it. The victim and a witness gave chase, but stopped when the suspect made a gesture indicating that he

Great Team Work Results In Great Arrest

Wednesday, February 8 | 1:30 pm a white pick-up truck was stolen from the area of 18th Ave. and Taraval St. That night, about 4:13 am, the suspects used the stolen truck to commit a burglary at an occupied home around the area of 1200 21st Avenue. At about 5:36 am, they attempted to burglarize a parked vehicle on the 1700 block of Great Highway.

Taraval Special Investigative Team inspectors obtained videos and an email was sent out to the department to see if anyone recognized the suspect. Officer Schor, from Richmond Station, successfully identified one of the suspects. Sgt. Anderson located the stolen truck on 37th Ave at Rivera—the block of residence of the suspect Officer Schor identified earlier. Officer Ferraresi, who had contacts with knowledge of the suspect, identified the suspect. Sgt. Scott Hom and the Taraval TNT unit, Officer Gummo, Officer Dizon, Officer Biagini and Officer Montero conducted surveillance on the suspect's home, who was currently on probation. Everyone's efforts paid off and the suspect, who was still wearing the same clothing was taken into custody without incident. A search revealed the majority of property stolen during the hot prowl burglary. The victims identified and reclaimed their property.

Participatory Budget Projects (Cont. from p. 1)
Traffic Calming Measures for Myra Way
Myra Way is a narrow thoroughfare around the south side of Mt. Davidson. It is part of the MUNI Bus #36 route. Situated on this road is Miraloma Elementary School. The neighborhood has families with children and seniors. It is also frequented by dog walkers and hikers headed to Mt. Davidson. From Molimo Dr. to Reposa Way, there is little to deter cars from speeding. We are in need of better traffic-calming measures for Myra Way. Please support the installation of speed cushions to reduce vehicular speeds to a safe level for the neighborhood and its visitors.

Pedestrian Safety: Intersection off Portola Drive
A channelization island, already approved by the SFMTA in 2009, but not yet funded. The proposed island, at the confusing intersection of Santa Ana, San Anselmo and 14th Avenue off Portola Drive, would clarify the right of way for pedestrians and drivers, so that pedestrians could confidently use the cross walks at this intersection, slow traffic and

improve pedestrian safety.
Safety Enhancement: Panorama & Twin Peaks Blvd
This project would fund a traffic study in the area near the intersection of Panorama Drive and Twin Peaks Blvd (including the nearby area where pedestrian and automobile traffic enters Panorama from Midcrest Way) with a view to determining the most effective measures that could be taken to enhance the safe interaction of automobile traffic with pedestrians crossing Panorama in those areas. The project would include implementation of any relatively low cost measures that would improve the situation and cost projections for any more expensive changes that might require future budgeting.
Pedestrian Safety for Sunnyside Streets
Pedestrian safety improvements, including strategic stop signs, marked crosswalks, and other measures to promote visibility, directly address specific danger spots and will substantially increase the pedestrian safety. These improvements were assembled with the input of local residents and the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Culture (Please Vote for 2 of the 5 Projects)

Unity Plaza Events
Activate Unity Plaza with events where neighborhood residents and visitors can shop, eat, listen to music and dance. Events will be in partnership with community groups including City College of San Francisco, Urban Air Market, Popupsters, farmers market organizers, and music event producers. By holding regular outdoor events, Ocean Avenue will be a more lively and active place for all.
Mural Restoration Grant
This funding would be designated for a San Francisco historical landmark Mural Restoration Project in District 7 community center(s). Restoration funds would be targeted to preserving culturally significant murals displayed within the district for years to come.

Midtown Terrace Beautification Project
Nestled in the hills between Sutro Tower and Laguna Honda Hospital is a wonderful neighborhood called Midtown Terrace. The front neighborhood entrance consists of Midtown Terrace Park. With only two true entrances, Midtown Terrace is often overlooked. The neighborhood residents have long wanted the neighborhood entrance to be recognized. This beautiful stone wall will feature the MIDTOWN

TERRACE name at the front of the neighborhood. The proposed wall will serve as an architectural landmark for the 820 homes in Midtown Terrace and eventually become a landmark to surrounding neighborhoods.
Ocean View-Merced Heights-Ingleside Mural
The current mural on Ocean and Junipero Serra on PG&E is in need of restoration to bring back its artistic beauty by brightening the street and forming a gateway to Ocean Avenue businesses and community. The completion of this historical landmark and bringing it back to its initial beauty will be a great investment and important civic asset.
LHH Mural Project: Nature and the City
The dark green wall separating Laguna Honda Hospital from Laguna Honda Boulevard and Forest Hill Station has been transformed by a 200-foot colorful mural by Precita Eyes Muralists, which celebrates the neighborhood and the hospital's 150 years in the City. This project asks for funding to complete an additional 200-feet of the mural on the right of the entrance ending at Woodside Avenue. The mural will depict various native birds flying towards the city symbolizing civil migration and diversity towards San Francisco. The mural will create an attractive gateway into the neighborhood and inviting entrance into the hospital.

Neighborhood Services (Please Vote for 4 of the 6 Projects)

Clarendon Ave. Greening
Make Clarendon Avenue nicer and safer for public school students and community residents with median greening from Panorama to Olympia Way, designed to provide a better barrier and encourage pedestrians to use the crosswalk or footbridge.
Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood: Community Connectors Aging-in-Place Program
Isolation puts aging adults at risk. In the absence of a community center or library, this aging-in-place model will help us build pathways for aging residents to make connections, avoid isolation and stay in their homes longer. The program provides a supportive safety net, a place to socialize, exercise, and attend educational lectures such as: nutrition, computers, bone health, fall prevention, hearing and vision. Our isolated neighbors need ways to develop new friendships, find meaningful engagement, share experiences and continue to contribute and participate in our community. This program will meet the needs of our seniors and strengthen our entire community.
Miraloma Park Community Connectors
Miraloma Park does not have a senior or community center. This aging in place model encourages neighbors to help each other, reduce older adult isolation, promote socialization, and offer programs and activities needed to ensure that neighbors stay active, engaged and in their homes for as long as possible. For 10-15 hours a week a neighborhood resident coordinates exercise and other social/educational

programs. Studies show that isolation leads to poor health, but the reverse is also true. Connecting with others, learning new things, and a sense of purpose all improve well-being and increase longevity.
Miraloma Park Preparedness: One Block at a Time
One Block at a Time will improve disaster readiness at the block level by: training at least 50 new block captains/champions; identifying elderly, disabled, and families with young children on the block; purchasing and distributing at least 50 emergency supply bins to block captains/champions and block gathering sites for comfort and care; and, training neighbors in First Aid in order to better support gathering sites for comfort and care and comfort.
Neighborhood Crime Prevention
This innovative crime reduction program would help D7 neighbors acquire surveillance cameras, and other technology/ increased signage to track stolen goods/vehicles and deter crime. SF suffers the highest rate of property crimes of any major city in America, with 25,000 auto burglaries in 2015 alone, plus thousands of package delivery and home burglaries. All D7 neighborhoods and merchant areas have been impacted. Yet proven crime prevention methods can make a real impact. Similar programs in 30 countries have reportedly reduced crime by up to 50%.
Monterey & Genessee Parklet Project
A parklet on Monterey at Genessee Boulevard. Parklet will enhance beautification and unify neighborhood, as well as provide Muni riders a safe place to board bus.

School, Education, and Youth (Please Vote for 2 of the 3 Projects)

Family Teen Center in Lakeside Neighborhood
From the ages of 13-18, teens are experiencing a world of change. We can help support and guide this process for them by creating a safe and consistent space for them to do more than just “hang out.” The vision of the Family Teen Center is to have a space free from judgment and prejudice where individuals can express themselves and learn with others. The teen center will prepare teens to be productive community members and support them through their transition to adulthood.
New Play Structure at Commodore Sloat Community Playground/Shared Schoolyard
Commodore Sloat Community Playground/Shared Schoolyard needs a new play structure to replace the one removed last year for safety reasons. We have received a donated play structure, but have to raise the funds for installation of the structure and of required surface safety tiles. Near

the newly renovated basketball courts on the lower yard, the project will directly benefit the students of Commodore Sloat School, and the play structure will be available to families of the surrounding neighborhoods during weekends.
Ocean Avenue Youth Utility Box Mural Arts Project
District 7 Participatory Budgeting funds will be used to support a community youth-driven utility box mural arts project for a collaborative community arts project to create small scale murals on utility boxes along Ocean Avenue and neighboring streets. Artists in printmaking and photography will work with public high school students, primarily low income youth and youth of color, to develop community-driven digital print installations on the utility boxes which will allow youth to publicly showcase their voices in the city and to engage community members with the arts where they live.

Housing Bond (Cont. from p. 7)

For every housing unit built or acquired using this Bond funding that is set aside for housing the homeless, there will be a corresponding reduction of new, or preserved, units for low-income and middle-income San Franciscans. MOHCD has acknowledged that there are few funding streams available for middle-income housing, so the impact of diverting middle-income units to units to house the homeless is particularly severe on middle-income households.
MOHCD is not expected to present to CGOBOC again until July 27, 2017. We'll have to see what further changes to planned bond spending will be presented five months from now. Those probable future changes could portend that the Affordable Housing Bond will continue to lurch down a cliff.

The full version of this article: www.stopLHH-downsize.com includes expanded information and other issues too extensive for this print version include in-depth information on preserving existing rental units, and market-rate and mixed uses funded by the affordable housing bond.
Monette-Shaw is a columnist for the Westside Observer, and a retired City employee. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award in “Advocacy” from the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter in 2012. Contact: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

Supreme Court (Cont. from p. 7)

Reacting to the decision, Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors responded that “This is nothing new for the Members of the Board. Since the lower courts decision, I personally brief the Members, (including the new Members and their Legislative Staff) and I can tell you they understand and operate as city employees if they use their personal account to communicate official business the content may be subject to disclosure...”
Board Clerk Calvillo is to be commended, but City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who provides guidance for the other 40,000 full and part-time City employees has been less forthcoming. Sunshine activists have long been disturbed by Herrera’s obstinate blocking of public access to records. John Coté, Communications Director for his offices, responded meekly, “We are aware of this opinion and we’re reviewing it. We will be communicating to city employees about it in an appropriate manner.”
A particular bone of contention between the City Attorney’s Office and the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has been the City’s contention that older e-mails stored off-site are too burdensome to access, and therefore need not be disclosed. Herrera’s *Good Government Guide* opines, “... departments need not search their back-up electronic files in response to a public records request. Back-up files serve the limited purpose of providing a means of recovery in cases of disaster, departmental system failure, or unauthorized deletion. They are not available for departmental use except in these limited situations. Electronic records such as e-mails that an employee has properly deleted under the department’s records retention and destruction policy but that remain in back-up files are analogous to paper records that the department has lawfully discarded in the trash but may be found in a City-owned dumpster. Neither the Public Records Act nor the Sunshine Ordinance requires the City to search the trash for such records, whether paper or electronic.”
David Snyder, Executive Director of the First Amendment Coalition agreed, “*Smith v. City of San Jose* helps clarify the definition of “owned, used or retained” under the CPRA. Specifically, it applies that definition to e-mails sent via personal (i.e., nongovernmental) e-mail, concluding that such records are indeed “owned, used or retained” by the government agency, even though the records are no longer literally within government possession, in the sense that they are not held on government-owned servers.
“Analogizing to the physical world, it stands to reason that if records are removed from city offices and taken, for example, to the private home of a city employee or to an off-site storage facility, they would and should still be considered to be “owned, used or retained” by the city and, thus, subject to the disclosure requirements of the CPRA.”
It would be “appropriate” now for Herrera to revisit his “*Good Government*” model.

VOTE March 17 and March 31
Ingleside Library / 1298 Ocean Avenue | West Portal Library / 190 Lenox Way | Miraloma Elementary
Or online at sfcbd.sfgov.org/d7/vote



..... March 2017

Sunny Days (for now)...here we are after the deluge, just trying to dry out for a bit before the next storm rolls in, on the now infamous “atmospheric river”...at times this winter it has felt like an ethereal amazon, or the “Nile” of the clouds. At least we haven’t had the type of devastation that has happened on Highway 1 North of Big Sur, where the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge has failed, cutting off the route to Big Sur. Dry out, check your gutters and drains, for the next storm is only a few days away. (Photo courtesy Mercury News)



Local writer launches debut... local writer Ethel Rohan was featured at a book reading and signing event at BookShop West Portal on February 23 to celebrate the release of her first novel, *The Weight of Him*. A tale of suicide, grief, transformation and courage, it’s set in Rohan’s native Ireland and has won high praise from critics and readers alike. The event, in a very crowded “BookShop WP” was a fun and lively event, with violin music, reading, discussion; all intertwined with munchies, wine and Irish whiskey.

What Now?... BookShop West Portal followed on February 27 with another great event. Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, and Trevor Timm, Executive Director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation, had a “discussion” with author and *SF Chronicle* columnist David Talbot, on the recent book of essays, *What We Do NOW* – *Standing up for your values in Trump’s America*. Activism, Advocacy and Resistance were the words of the evening, in front of possibly the largest group of attendees ever crowded into the cozy BookShop West Portal.

Local “Oscar”: Happy to see local actor Mahershala Ali win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Moonlight*, which also took home the prize for Best Picture in that bizarre finish to the Academy Awards broadcast. He is also terrific in the Netflix drama “House of Cards.” A local basketball star from Hayward, he played for Mt. Eden H.S. in the 1990 Division III State Championship, before earning a scholarship at St. Mary’s College. In addition to his Oscar win, he and his wife welcomed a new arrival into their family, a baby daughter on February 22.



Superb “Sub”... the “locals” know about the great submarine sandwiches at the Submarine Center on Ulloa, and now everyone else does too. Local gourmet website “Eater SF” named the “Atomic Submarine” as one of the top 15 sandwiches in all of San Francisco. Pastrami, roasted turkey, corned beef brisket, lettuce, tomato, cheese, hot peppers, mustard, mayo and their “secret sauce.” Get one before the lines are too long.

An era is ending...Ernest Bock Jewelers at 226 W. Portal Avenue is closing in the near future, as the owners have decided to retire. They are the last of the four jewelers who once were on the Avenue, and are having a sale to help close out the business. Stop by to see if there are any “last chance” items you cannot live without. (See page 1).

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



Soccer anyone... Did you know that the North American Soccer League has a new team in SF? Based at Kezar Stadium, the SF Delta’s will have their opening night at the historic stadium on March 25. Tickets are available for the opening night match as well as other upcoming matches, starting at \$17 per ticket. For more information go to: sfdeltas.com.

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.



Ethel Rohan, far right, presents her book *The Weight of Him* at the Bookshop West Portal

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MONET: THE EARLY YEARS • PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

From the first painting Monet exhibited in public, View near Rouelles (1858) when he was just 18 years old, through the cool, gray coast of Normandy to the warm, lush forest of Fontainebleau, this exhibition is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience

Monet's mastery before Impressionism, and includes daring and surprising paintings. Palace of the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. Admissions/Hours: legionof-honor.famsf.org **ALSO** catch the Rodin Centenary - 50 objects in bronze, marble, and plaster.

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

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

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

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

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6–10 pm | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$15 (\$12 Members). calademy.org/nightlife.

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

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

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

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

SAT • FREE E-BOOKS

Sat 3-4 pm | Do you have an eReader, tablet computer or smartphone? Check out eBooks from the library for free? Download more than 40,000 eBooks with one-on-one help from a librarian. Bring your Kindle, iPad, smartphone or other mobile device with you. 20 minute appointments every based on availability. To RSVP email: info@sfpl.org with preferred date/ time, and device. 1st floor.

SUN • COMMUNITY YOGA

Every Sun | 10 am | Bring Your Own Mat for some outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Info: Playland Facebook Page

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

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

ONGOING • BUTTERFLIES & BLOOMS!

Through June 30 | Get eye to eye with a butterfly

in the exhibit Butterflies & Blooms as the Conservatory of Flowers in GG Park's delightful living butterfly exhibit finally returns. JFK Drive, GG Park.

SUN/SAT • THE CHRISTIANS



Thru Mar 11 | 7 pm | Pastor Paul's modest ministry has grown with thousands of believers coming through its doors. But as Paul and the live choir wrestle with faith—epic and intimate look at faith in America. San Francisco Playhouse, 450 Post, 2nd fl. Tix & times: sfplayhouse.org

FRI-SUN • FREE /ACADEMY SCIENCES

Fri-Sun Mar 3-5 | All Day | 94116 & 94122 residents explore the Academy of Sciences for free. Come see the world's only aquarium-planetarium-rainforest-livingmuseum! To learn more visit calacademy.org/ free. Golden Gate Park

TUE • EARTHQUAKE READY?

Tue Mar 7 | 7 pm | Personal Preparedness, Earthquake Mitigation and Fire Safety, first of a 3 part series presented by Self-help for the Elderly & Dept. of Building Inspection. **March 14th:** Response & Recovery, Basic First Aid & Hands-Only CPR **March 28th:** Graduation receive a First Aid Kit valued at \$50! Parkside Branch Library , 1200 Taraval.

WED • WOMEN VOTERS HAPPY HOUR

Wed Mar 8 | 6 -8 pm | Interested in getting more involved in local issues? Meet people who share your concerns about protecting voting rights? Spend International Women's Day with the League of Women Voters SF at our FREE happy hour, non-members welcome, so invite your friends! Tonic, 2360 Polk St, Tonic will donate the evening's tips to the League of Women Voters of SF nonpartisan voter programs.

THU-SUN • LOWELL'S FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Thu-Sat Mar 9-11 | 7:30 pm | Sun Mar 12 | 2 pm | Lowell High School's Fiddler: Tevye, a Jewish milkman, who tells the audience of the customs in the little Russian town of Anatevka. It is 1905, and life here is as precarious as a fiddler on the roof, yet, through their traditions, the villagers endure. At the Carol Channing Theater, 1101 Eucalyptus Dr. \$10.

SAT • ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Sat Mar 11 | 11:30 am | Begins 2nd & Market and heads down Market to the festival at Civic Center. The festival includes Irish music, dancing, and a never-ending supply of beer. The festival starts at 10 am and closes around 5 pm that afternoon.

SAT • SF SUMMER RESOURCE FAIR

Sat Mar 11 | 10 am - 2 pm | Over 200 exhibitors will be on site to share summer programs, classes, camps and activities at the County Fair Building in GG Park

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SAT • THE FRATELLO MARIONETTES

Sat Mar 11 | 3-4 pm | Enter the world of Mother Goose Land where Humpty Dumpty, Little Bo Peep, Mary and her Lamb, are brought to life in this warm and heartfelt production using exquisitely hand crafted marionettes. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox.

SUN • ST. PATRICK'S DAY BLOCK PARTY

Sun Mar 12 | 10 am - 5 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.

SUN • CENTENARY FIFE & DRUM BAND

Sun Mar 12 | 2 pm-4 pm | Discover the remarkable history of the Pearse and Connolly Fife and Drum Band and be entertained by a centerpiece of the SF Irish community. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PI

Tue Mar 14 | 1-3:30 pm | It's the FREE 30th annual Pi Day, celebrating the never-ending number π (3.14159...), and the spirit of wonder and quirk that science inspires, rituals, antics, and plenty of pie. Exploratorium, Pier 15/Embarcadero.

TUE • PATCH ADAMS - THE MOVIE

Tue Mar 14 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | The true story of an unconventional physician who attempted to heal patients with laughter with Robin Williams & Philip Seymour Hoffman. W Portal Library, 190 Lenox.

TUE • AUTHOR MEG HOWREY

Tue Mar 14 | 7pm | Join Howrey on her launch date of *The Wanderers* especially appropriate given that her book is about launching the first manned mission to Mars. "Howrey's expansive vision left me awestruck." *New York Times*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

WED • AUTHOR JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

Wed Mar 15 | 7pm | As Maisie searches for the killer of a Belgian refugee in *In This Gravest Hour* England braces for the blitz— and Maisie nears a crossroads of her own. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

WED • HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA WINE

Wed Mar 15 | 6 pm | How did California's wine industry grow into the powerhouse it is today? UC Davis wine historian James Lapsley. Enjoy a glass of wine from Bouchaine Vineyards & explore post-Prohibition era labels. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St. \$10.

WED • HEALING & MUSIC

Wed Mar 15 | 7:30 pm | Singer, songwriter, sound healer Clare Hedin on the healing of music. Use your own voice for sound generation to shift your mood and consciousness. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

FRI-SAT • SOTA'S OPERA BUFFO

Fri-Sat Mar 17-18 | 7:30 pm | Asawa School of the Arts presents a Gala of Comedic Opera Scenes, includes The Magic Flute, Figaro, Don Giovanni -more sotashows@sfsota.org. Dan Kryston Theatre, 555 Portola, Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, Students \$7.

FRI • THE HELP/TEEN MOVIE

Fri Mar 17 | 3:30 pm | After a white woman graduates from college, she returns home in Mississippi and begins her writing career interviewing the African-American servants in her neighborhood. Ortega Library | 3223 Ortega St.

FRI • YMCA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Fri Mar 17 | 11 am Reg 12 pm Luncheon | Join the YMCA of SF for the youth led Y For Youth Luncheon, celebrating your support of youth empowerment and the future leaders of the Bay Area. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St.

SAT • SF CHOCOLATE SALON

Mar 18 | 10 am - 5:30 pm | Once you enter the Fall Chocolate Salon, you can savor, discover, and enjoy samples from any of the participants. (must be over 21 to taste wine or spirits) Hotel Kabuki Ballroom Garden Level, 1625 Post St.

SUN • NEON TOUR/MISSION-CASTRO

Sun Mar 19 | 7 pm | Flow through corners of three neighborhoods with iconic neon signs: from the Castro Theatre marquee to the city's largest neon cocktail giant orange press. [\\$18](http://ticketleap.com)

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Mar 21 | 7-9 pm | Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Relations Forum Meeting: 2345 24th Ave.

TUE • PHOTOGRAPHER BETH MOON

Tue Mar 21 | 7:45 pm–9:30 pm | Moon reveals some of the darkest corners of world, where constellations and nebulas shine more brightly, far from the obscuring lights of civilization. Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga. SF Amateur Astronomers

THU • SUFFRAGETTE - THE MOVIE

Thu Mar 23 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | Inspired by true events, the passion and heartbreak of the women who risked everything in their fight for equality in early 20th century Britain. Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne Marie Duff, Ben Whishaw, Romola Garai and Meryl Streep. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox.

THU • WOMEN IN 60S & 70S PROTEST

Thu Mar 23 | 6 pm | Hear from women who participated and led social and political movements, like the Yippies and Black Panthers, and art protest in comics and underground newspapers, like *Wimmin's Comix* and the *Berkeley Barb*. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St. \$10.

THU • OUTER SUNSET/PARKSIDE

Thu Mar 23 | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm | Residents from the Outer Sunset and Outer Parkside (the area west of Sunset Boulevard) to discuss key issues and opportunities in the neighborhood. Outer Sunset Parkside Residents Association (OSPRA). Ortega Library, 3223 Ortega St. mediasusan2@gmail.com

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Mar 23 | 7 pm | Due to major work at Temple UMC the OMI-NIA General Meeting will be the third Thu in March. Temple UMC, 65 Beverly.

SAT • HOME IMPROVEMENT

Sat Mar 25 | 10 am | Questions regarding a potential home remodel project? Building requirement or City laws? Grace Lutheran Church | 3201 Ulloa Street (at 33rd Ave). Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/1PbjThW>

SAT • MAITRE RUMMAGE SALE

Sat. Mar 25 | 9 am | Maitri, a state residential care facility caring for the poor with advanced HIV/AIDS. All proceeds go to medical care of our residents. Cash/ credit cards OK. 100 Church St.

SAT • ART INSPIRING HOPE

Sat Mar 25 | Every year, Okizu holds the fundraiser which helps make it possible for more than 700 children to attend programs for children with cancer and their families. Black-tie evening features gourmet food, specialty drinks, silent and live auctions, and headline entertainment. Ft Mason Pavilion, 2 Marina Blvd. INFO: okizu.org

SAT • CHINESE AND IRISH RAILROAD

Sat Mar 25 | 1 pm-3 pm | Roundtable discussion: roles and treatment of Chinese and Irish workers creating the first transcontinental railroad in the US. United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave Free.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Mar 27 | 7 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics the 4th Mon monthly. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • BART & HOUSING / S.H.A.R.P

Mon Mar 27 | 7 pm | BART update from Nick Josefowitz and Corey Smith from SFHAC. sharpsf.org - 1736 9th Avenue.

WED • AUTHOR CONSTANCE WOOLSON

Wed Mar 29 | 7 pm | Local writer Stephanie McCoy discusses Constance Fenimore Woolson: She-Novelist (1840-1894), in observance of Women's History Month. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

SUN • IRISH IN SF ORAL HISTORIES

Sun Apr 2 | 1 - 3 pm | 7th annual event honoring participants in the Irish Oral History Archive of the Bay Area, a family afternoon of storytelling! United Irish Cultural Center,, 2700 45th Ave. Free

WED • GWPNA

Wed Apr 5 | 6:30 | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org

THU • BALLROOM DANCING

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

THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE SUNSET

Thu Apr 6 | 7 pm | formerly Taraval Parkside Merchants Association) at Taraval Police Station, 2345 24th Ave (Santiago).POPS sponsors special events, advocates on behalf of the neighborhood, and works with residents and other merchants.

Got an event? editor@westsideobserver.com
Priority for local and non-profit events

Dinosaurs (Cont. from p. 13)

rainfall, river flows, statutory limitations (1913 Raker Act, etc.), reservoir levels, and other storage, treatment, and transmission nodes with customer use would be an excellent planning tool for both sellers and buyers. An algorithm (computer program) that evaluates past demand and supply profiles with projected demand and supply uses against best effort forecasts of rain and snow would provide a dynamic and real time estimate of projected shortfall or under use, and present immediate adjustment scenarios for implementation by both buyers and sellers.

This approach would be consistent with Proposition 218 that mandates utility services only charge customers for current services being supplied. This wish-system turns on the very idea that costs and rates are both present and future, and the real concept of cost is the opportunity-cost of not making the right investment decision to ration that resource we share with the ancient dinosaurs (and our neighbors).

Brian Browne was a former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee Feedback: browne@westsideobserver.com

ARRIVAL

When a space ship about a block long, upended, settles on a Montana plain, the U.S. government sends military investigators to check it out. There are eleven other ships scattered around the world. A communications professor in rare languages, Louise Banks: Amy Adams, is recruited from her home, with military man: Ian: Jeremy Renner. Col. Weber: Forest Whitaker rounds up the crew, including Agent Halpern: Michael Stuhlbarg. Scenes of Louise with Ian and others inside their ascent structure next to the space ship and their meetings at the top with the aliens are fascinating. Director Denis Villeneuve directs from Eric Heisserer's screenplay of Ted Chiang's book, "Story of Your Life". PG-13: Brief Strong Profanity.

Awards: AA: 8 noms. incl. Best Pic; Won Sound Editing. BAFTA: 8 noms. Won Best Sound. AFI: Won Best Movie of the Year. Am. Cinema Editors, USA: Won Best Edited

Feature Film – Dramatic. Austin Film Critics Assn.: Won Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Film, Third Place + 4 noms. ACCA: Won Best Dir.: Villeneuve & Adapted Scrn. + 5 2nd place awards, 3 noms. DFCS: Best Science-Fiction/Horror Film + 6 noms. Dublin Film Critics Circle Awards: 3: Dir., Actress, Scrn. + 2nd place: Best Film + 3rd place: Best Cinematography. Empire Awards, UK: 7 noms. FloridaFCCA: Won Best Visual Effects + 4 noms. IowaFCA: Won Best Actress. Kansas CityFCCA: Won Best Adapted Scrn. &Outstanding Sci-Fi, Fantasy or Horror Film. Nom. Best Film. Las VegasFCCA: 8 noms. National Board of Review: Won Best Actress, Top Ten Films. NevadaFCS: Best Adapted Scrn. NYFC, Online: Top Films of the Year. PhoenixCC: Best Sci-Fi Film + 5 noms. SFFCC: Won Best Scrn., Adapted, Film Editing + 6 noms.

FENCES

Denzel Washington not only stars as Troy, but directs August Wilson's 1983 family drama about a youth who dreamed of becoming a pro-baseball player, but was considered too old when the major leagues began admitting black athletes. He's now a sanitation worker in 1950's Pittsburg. Wilson wrote the screenplay which was revived on Broadway in 2010 with the five leading adults reprising their roles here. Wife Rose: Viola Davis delivers a performance even more brilliant than usual. New to the cast is son, Jim: Stephen Henderson, whose pro-baseball ambitions are squelched by his dad. Troy's friends include Cory: Jovam Adepo; Lyons: Russell Hornsby; and Gabriel: Mykelti Williamson. PG13: Thematic elements, profanity, and some suggestive references.

Awards: 8_Academy Award noms.: incl. Film, Actor: Washington, Sup. Actress: Davis, Scrn.: Wilson. 2017 Golden Globes: Won Best Sup. Actress: Davis; nom. Best Actor: Washington. SAG Awards: Won Best Male Actor: Washington; Female Actor in a Supporting Role: Davis. BAFTA: Won Best Sup. Actress: Davis. AFI Award: Won Movie of the Year. AAFCA: Won Top 10 Films: 2nd place; Best Actor, Sup. Actress, Scrn. Best Actor, Sup. Actress & Scrn.: Black Film Critics + Won Best Ensemble; Critics Choice Awards + 3 noms. Best Actor & Sup. Actress: Won 6 Film Critics groups, incl. San Francisco + Scrn. Nom. Best Sup. Actress: Won 20 FC groups.

THE FOUNDER

Floundering salesman of restaurant paraphernalia, Ray: Michael Keaton discovers the fast food restaurant run by the MacDonald brothers in N. Calif. His notion that they could become partners and develop a chain nationwide doesn't quite work out to his advantage; they only give him 3% when he's doing all the work to develop the new openings. After buying the land first for each new MacDonald's, Ray gains control by buying them out with \$3-million. Laura Dern plays his first wife.

Award: Capri, Hollywood: (tie): Capri Actor Award: Keaton.

HACKSAW RIDGE

As a youth, we see how his family upbringing influenced his views. When it's time for Desmond Doss: Andrew Garfield to join the infantry, he tells the Army that he won't carry a rifle. They put him through the worst hell of extra assignments. When his father arrives in his old uniform, he finally gets his commanding officer to believe that he's a true conscientious objector and his religious belief is against killing and to authorize him for medic training. His first overseas assignment is to land on occupied Hacksaw Ridge, Okinawa. The first night when they have to retreat, Desmond alone, personally rescues 90 stranded/wounded men, drags them to the cliff edge, ties them to with a rope, and lowers them about 70 feet to the beach below where the troops now are. Naturally, his men finally see him as a hero when he is awarded the Medal of Honor. Director Mel Gibson has assembled a wealth of talent cast, capable of presenting this multi-legged modern war story. The Doss parents are Tom: Hugo Weaving & Bertha: Rachel Griffiths. This is an incredible-brave-true story. Rated R: intense prolonged realistically graphic sequences of war violence including grisly, bloody images.

Awards: Oscars: 2: Best Achievement in Film Editing, Sound Mixing + 4 y. incl. Best Picture, Actor: Garfield, Direction: Gibson, and Sound Editing. AFI: Won Movie of the Year. AACTA International Award: Best Director: Gibson. Australian Academy CTA & Australian Film Institute: Both 13 Noms. Won 9, incl. Best Picture, Director: Gibson and Actor: Garfield. Boston Film Critics AA: 7 Noms: Won Best Action Movie, Best Actor in an Action Movie. Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain: Won Best Foreign Film. Capri, Hollywood: (tie): Capri Actor Award: Garfield. Hollywood Film Awards: Won 3, incl. Dir. Natl. Board of Review, USA: Top Ten Films. Phoenix Film Critics: 8 Noms: Won Best Screenplay Adapted & Film Editing. Satellite Awards: 8 Noms. Won 3: Actor in Motion Picture, Film Editing (Mixing & Sound). + 83 Noms.

Now At the Movies • Don Lee Miller

HIDDEN FIGURES

These three black women at NASA put Scott Glenn into space to beat the Russians: Dorothy Vaughan: Octavia Spencer, Mary Jackson: Janelle Monáe and Katherine Johnson: Taraji P. Henson. All three actresses bring individual distinction to their roles in the US space program. Support is provided by Al: Kevin Costner, Vivian: Kirsten Dunst, Paul: Jim Parsons, and Col. Johnson: M. Ali. Known as "human computers", the three quickly rose in the ranks of NASA. Their desire to dream big placed them in American history as true heroines. PG: Thematic elements, some Profanity.

Awards: SAG Award: Outstanding Performance by a Cast. AA: 3 noms. Casting Society of America, USA: Won Outstanding Achievement in Casting – Big Budget Feature – Drama. Hollywood Film: Production Designer of the Year: Wynn Thomas, Spotlight Award: Monáe. WomenFCCA: The Women of Hidden Figures: Invisible Woman Award, Josephine Baker Award, Karen Morley Award, WFCF Award: Best Movie About Women, Best Female Images in a Movie & Women's Work/Best Ensemble + 3 noms.+ 64 noms.

LA LA LAND

At last, a musical! And it's a humdinger! From the opening musical number, with drivers exiting their cars on the freeway, singing and dancing, it's unique. When Sebastian: Ryan Gosling honks at the car ahead of him, he gets a finger from Mia: Emma Stone. What a beginning for a romance! She's an actress; he's a jazz pianist in this tribute to their city of Los Angeles. Damien Chazelle ("Whiplash") directs the "Crazy Love" co-stars in a snappy, fresh manner. As their avidity and success increase, so does the chance for a rift. Bill: J.K. Simmons supports. PG-13: Some Profanity.

Awards: 6 Oscars: Actress: Emma Stone, Director: Chazelle, Cinematography, and Production Design + 7 Noms. Golden Globes: Won 6: Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy, Best Director: D. Chazelle, Best Actor MorC: Gosling, Best Actress MorC: Stone, Best Original Score: Justin Hurwitz. BAFTA: Best Film. Chazelle: Directors Guild of America Award, BAFTA. Stone: Best Actress: SAG, BAFTA. Another 172 wins and 221 Noms.

LION

Saroo: Sunny Pawar, a five-year old child in Eastern India, falls asleep on an empty train, waking up in Calcutta, 1,500 miles west of his home. When he can't find his way back, he is adopted by a Tasmanian couple: John Bierley: David Wenham and Sue: Nicole Kidman. They raise him to manhood: Dev Patel. He becomes interested in finding his first home and succeeds, visiting his mother: Mrs. Sood: Deepti Naval. His girl friend, Sue: Rooney Mara, doesn't return to India with Saroo to live with his mother. PG-13: Thematic material and some sensuality.

Awards: BAFTA: Best Actor: Patel. AA Noms.: Best Sup. Actress: Kidman and Sup. Actor: Patel.

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

When his brother Joe: Kyle Chandler dies, his 16-year old youth, Patrick: Ben O'Brien is dumped on his Uncle Lee: Casey Affleck, who leaves his apartment complex janitor job in Boston to return north to his hometown, Manchester. Lee is sullen, antisocial and angry because of the incident that made him leave and divorce his wife, Randi: Michelle Williams. R rating for Profanity throughout and some Sexual Content.

Awards: Golden Globes: Won Best Actor, Drama: Affleck. Critics Choice: Won Best Actor: Affleck. Oscars: Won Best Actor and Original Screenplay: (Director) Kenneth Lonergan. BAFTA, Best Actor: Affleck.

MOONLIGHT

Young Chiron lives with his single, drug-addicted mother, Paula: Naomie Harris, in a crime-ridden neighborhood, receiving some kindness from Juan: Mahershala Ali, the neighborhood drug dealer. The tale is presented in three acts, with only Paula in all three: young adolescence, mid-teen, and young adult for Chiron. He is a withdrawn, shy child, partly from his mother's neglect; she is more interested in satisfying her carnal needs and getting her quick fix than in taking of him. He is bullied at school, but protected by Juan and his kind girlfriend, Teresa: Janelle Monáe. She provides him with sanctuary away from the bullies and his abusive mother. The adult Chiron is portrayed by Ashton Sanders. Barry Jenkins, who co-wrote and directs, gives much consideration to his talented performers. Rated R for some Sexuality, Drug Use, brief Violence, and Profanity throughout.

Awards: Oscars: 3: Best Motion Picture of the Year, Best Sup. Actor: M. Ali, Best Adapted Scrn. Golden Globes: Won Best Motion Picture Drama; Nom: Best Sup. Actor: Ali. Won Best Sup. Actor: SAG Awards & Critics Choice: Ali. AAFCA: Breakout Performance: Monáe. BlackFCCA: Rising Star Award: Monáe. Black Reel:

Awards: Academy Awards: 2 noms.: Best Achievement in Sound Mixing & Visual Effects. ACCA: Won Honorable Mention (The Next Ten Honorable Picture Contenders.) + 3 noms. Empire Awards, USA: 9 noms. Golden Schmoes: 3 wins: Favorite Movie Poster of the Year, Most Memorable Scene in a Movie (Darth Vader battle), Best Line of the Year "I am one with The Force. The Force is with me." 3 Second Place, 3 noms. IndianaFJA, US: Best Vocal/ Motion capture Performance: Alan Tudyk. NevadaFCS: NFCS Award: Best Visual Effects. Online Film & Television Assn.: Best Sound Effects Editing, 2nd place: Best Movie Trailer, 3rd place: 2 noms. + 55 Noms.



At the Theater • Flora Lynn Isaacson & Linda Ayres-Frederick

Upcoming 41st Annual

BAY AREA THEATRE AWARDS GALA!

It's not only film actors that receive awards at this time of year. Our own San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle has announced the nominees for its 41st Annual Excellence in Theatre Awards for 2016, which will be presented on Monday, March 27, 2017 at the historic Victoria Theatre in San Francisco.

In addition to the 60 plus performance and production award categories for excellence in Bay Area Theatre, the SFBATCC also presents four Special Awards, recognizing long time contributors to the Bay Area theatre scene and exciting new talents and organizations. The following recipients will be presented their awards at the Gala as well.

Robert Kelley, Artistic Director of TheatreWorks, will receive the **Jerry Friedman Lifetime Achievement Award**. Named for the KGO Radio theatre critic who served as SFBATCC president for 22 years, this award is given to an individual who has furthered the creativity and growth of theatre in the Bay Area throughout his/her career. Mr. Kelley is a Bay Area native and Stanford University graduate. He founded TheatreWorks Silicon Valley in 1970 and has directed 175 TheatreWorks productions, including many world and regional premieres. His productions have received numerous SFBATCC Awards of Excellence, including Outstanding Direction for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Into the Woods*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Rags*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Another Midsummer Night*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Caroline, or Change*. He recently directed *Daddy Long Legs*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Cyrano*, and *Jane Austen's EMMA*.

The **Paine Knickerbocker Continuing Contribution Award** is named for the former theatre critic of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and is presented to an organization that has made a continuing contribution to Bay Area theatre. This year the Paine Knickerbocker goes to **Ray of Light Theatre**. Founded in 2001 by Shane Ray, Ray of Light Theatre's mission is to entertain, educate and enrich our community with productions of contemporary musicals and fresh takes on classical musical theatre. It provides diverse audiences with an opportunity to see live theatre by presenting affordable, high-quality productions that reflect the rich culture of the San Francisco Bay Area. Show highlights include *Heathers: The Musical*, *LIZZIE*, *CARRIE the Musical* (West Coast premiere), *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Assassins*, *Jerry Springer the Opera* (West Coast premiere), *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Bat Boy*.

Jasson Minadakis, in his eleventh season as Artistic Director of the Marin Theatre Company, is the recipient of the **Gene Price Professionalism Award**. Named for

the former arts editor and long-time theatre critic of the *San Francisco Bay Times*, this award honors a person who embodies superlative professionalism and passion for Bay Area theatre.

At Marin Theatre Company, Mr. Minadakis has directed *August: Osage County*, *The Invisible Hand*, *Anne Boleyn*, *The Convert*, *The Whale*, *Failure: A Love Story*, *Lasso of Truth* (World Premiere), *The Whipping Man* (SFBATCC Best Production and Best Acting Ensemble Awards) *Waiting for Godot*, *Othello*, *the Moor of Venice*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Edward Albee's Tiny Alice*, *Seagull* (World Premiere), *Happy Now*, *Equivocation*, (SFBATCC Best Director Award), *Sunlight* (World Premiere), *Lydia*, *The Seafarer*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *said Said*, *Love Song* and *The Subject Tonight is Love*.

Last but not least is **The Annette Lust Emerging Talent Award**, named for the late Dominican University professor and longtime Critics Circle member and former theatre critic of the Westside Observer. This award is given to a promising new theatrical talent or an organization that has demonstrated early in its existence the potential to have a significant impact on Bay Area theatre. And this year the Annette Lust Award goes to **3Girls Theatre Company**.

3Girls Theatre Company is proud to be one of the very few theatre companies in the nation that only produces plays by women playwrights. In 2011, SF playwrights AJ Baker, Suze Allen and Lee Brady decided it was time to stop complaining about the lack of production opportunities for women playwrights in American theatre and take action! They recruited a company of amazing women writers who shared their passion to get more women's voices on stage, and the non-profit 3Girls Theatre Company was born. Over the past six years, the Company (under the leadership of Artistic Director Baker) has helped bring more than fifty new plays by women to life through its Salon Reading Series Development program, presented five annual New Works Festivals for the community, and staged eight full productions. 3GT also sponsors special projects, including GirlWrights, a playwriting lab for young women, and LezWrites!, a short performance series by LGBTQ writers.

Congratulations to all the awards recipients. Entertainment by The Lost Trio, food and refreshments are included in the price of admission.

Doors open at 6pm. Awards begin at 7pm. March 27, 2017 at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street (at Mission) S.F. This annual event often sells out so get your tickets in advance if possible.

INFO: sfbatcc.org. Tickets for the SFBATCC 41st Awards Gala are available in advance, \$26.87 (includes fee) and \$35 at the door. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2847499>.

Linda Ayres-Frederick



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick

Senior Smarts

When Your Decision Matters!

By Anise Matteson

Emergency preparedness includes preparing for a medical emergency. Who will speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself?

Your medical emergency could happen one evening when you are on your way home and you are taken to the hospital.

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

“Your medical emergency could happen one evening when you are on your way home and you are taken to the hospital. 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 (Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary)

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.)

Secular Health Care Directive

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

End of Life Options Act

A California law that permits terminally ill adult patients with capacity to make medical decisions to be prescribed an aid-in-dying medication if certain conditions are met. Signed into law by Governor Brown in October 2015, the law went into effect on June 9, 2016. (coalitionccc.org/tools-resources/end-of-life-options-act/)

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 counsel 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, financial) and other involving older people. (<http://definitions.uslegal.com/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 Dif-

ference Between “Revocable” and “Irrevocable” Living Trust (April 2015).©2015.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY

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.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 16.

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)

The following **Self-Check** can help you prepare to discuss this important subject with your loved one.

RESOURCES

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

End of Life Option Act. SB-129. Bill Text.¹

Five Wishes – Aging with Dignity. 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.²

Secular Health Care Directives. For more information contact.³

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

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 session in the monthly publication *At the Library* or sfpl.org.

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

1. leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20150160SB128
2. agingwithdignity.org/forms/5-wishes.pdf
3. CompassionAndChoices.org

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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

No Truth in Labeling

One of the most interesting and disturbing aspects of this past year's coverage of the campaign for President was the way the media and people quoted in it found it easy to label people based on remarks or actions. Labeling allows us to quickly react emotionally without having to think much about it, and to discredit everything the labeled person says or does to dramatically limit free speech with which we disagree.

The two greatest Russian metaphysicians, George Gurdjieff and P.D. Ouspensky, theorized that emotions are much faster than thoughts and that many of us have been conditioned to react emotionally to certain images formed by labels, making us more like machines whose reactions are pre-programmed.

During this election cycle we have heard many people label others based on something that person had allegedly said or done. And worse yet, we saw people

He reprinted a poster showing that his opponent was in with Wall Street. The poster had a star with some writing on it. The star was six pointed, the same as a Jewish star and the star worn by many law enforcement officers. But the star associated with money labeled him an anti-Semite. He has a daughter who is married to an Orthodox Jew. Their children are Jewish. His daughter became Jewish. The Prime Minister of Israel supported him. And Trump is anti-Semitic?

The people hear these labels and respond with anger and fear. They take their frustrations to the streets, feeling justified to respond violently to someone labeled sexist, racist, xenophobic, misogynistic and isolationist. The crowds become angry mobs spewing anger, hatred, vulgarity, and destruction, while feeling self-righteous and licensed to any level of abuse. The mob-like crowds feel entitled to hate the accused hater, to be intolerant of those labeled intolerant, to be vulgar about

Let us begin to insist on fair, honest, in depth reporting free of political bias, editorializing, and sensationalizing.

labeled by extending their past actions to extremes. The examples abound.

The main, but not only, focus was Donald Trump. He said that he wanted to build a wall on our southern border to stop illegal immigration from that direction. He said some illegals were bringing drugs, crime, and even rape. This was translated as him saying that all Mexicans are drug dealers and criminals. It was morphed into him being against all immigrants and that he was afraid of other cultures. He was labeled anti-immigrant, xenophobic, and racist. When actually, he was against illegal immigration. He married two immigrants, hired thousands, and started businesses in countries all over the world. How is that being anti-immigrant, racist or xenophobic?

He insulted several people. We don't like people doing that and for good reason. He insulted a famous personality known for not mincing words. She insulted him and he insulted her. For insulting a woman he was labeled a sexist and a possible misogynist. When we heard a tape of him talking like a teenager to an entertainment T.V. host, who happened to be the first cousin of a former president and the nephew of another, with the mic still on, we were convinced. It was vulgar and immature. But it confirmed our label that he was a misogynist, especially after a few women came out claiming to have experienced unwanted advances, which were then labeled sexual assaults. Misogynists hate women. That is exactly what the name means. How does what he said or did equal hatred of women? It shows the opposite - an immature attraction to women. People who hate women are very dangerous. They do not have long loving relationships with wives and daughters.

Trump called for a delay in accepting Muslims from dangerous countries until we can be sure that they will not be a threat to Americans. He was labeled as hating all 1.7 billion Muslims, even though his comments addressed only a small percent of the 200 million people who represent less than 12% of the world's Muslims. This concern about radicalized migrants also was seen as proof that he was xenophobic and racist.

He said he was against intervening in conflicts that do not have anything to do with us. Examples are Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Egypt, and Yemen. He said that the U.S. is paying too much, while other NATO countries are paying too little for their defense. He was labeled a treaty breaker and unwilling to aid other countries. He was labeled isolationist.

vulgarity, and racist toward accused racists, seeing no irony or hypocrisy in their behavior.

The lack of truth in labeling has brought out the worst in some of our people. Labeling is the gateway drug to bigotry.

Political leaders and journalists have to be aware that they reach a wide audience, and that the words they write or speak affect different parts of the population differently. Some take in the reports and balance them with other sources of information. But others with serious issues to deal with take this misinformation and overreact to it.

Now we hear that immigrants are worried and live in fear of immediate deportation from the Promised Land. Even though the president said he would close the border and end illegal immigration, it does not mean that he will immediately deport 11 million people. He has said that he wants those who are involved in criminal activity to be identified and sent packing first. Then those who have arrived recently could be repatriated. Still, we hear that even those not subject to removal are living in fear.

We hear reports that women are rushing to get birth control before Trump ends the Affordable Care Act, as though that would happen immediately. If they would think rather than feel, they would realize that it would take at least a year or two to make any real changes to the ACA, and even with them, they will still be able to get birth control. They are frightened without reason and it is not helpful.

Muslims living in this country are saying that they don't feel safe now. This concern, even though the issue has been accepting future refugees from countries having radical activity until they are fully vetted. It is not against all Muslims or all immigrants.

We are seeing that there is a great cost to sensational, superficial, and subjective reporting. This latest wave of examples is the most exaggerated form of it.

If we are at the beginning of a revolution against the status quo, let this status be no longer quo. Let us begin to insist on fair, honest, in depth reporting free of political bias, editorializing, and sensationalizing. And let us learn to think before we react with emotion-driven violent protest.

And please don't label me or this column something for being against labeling, but if you do, I will not label you as narrow-minded or of limited intelligence.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication.

Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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

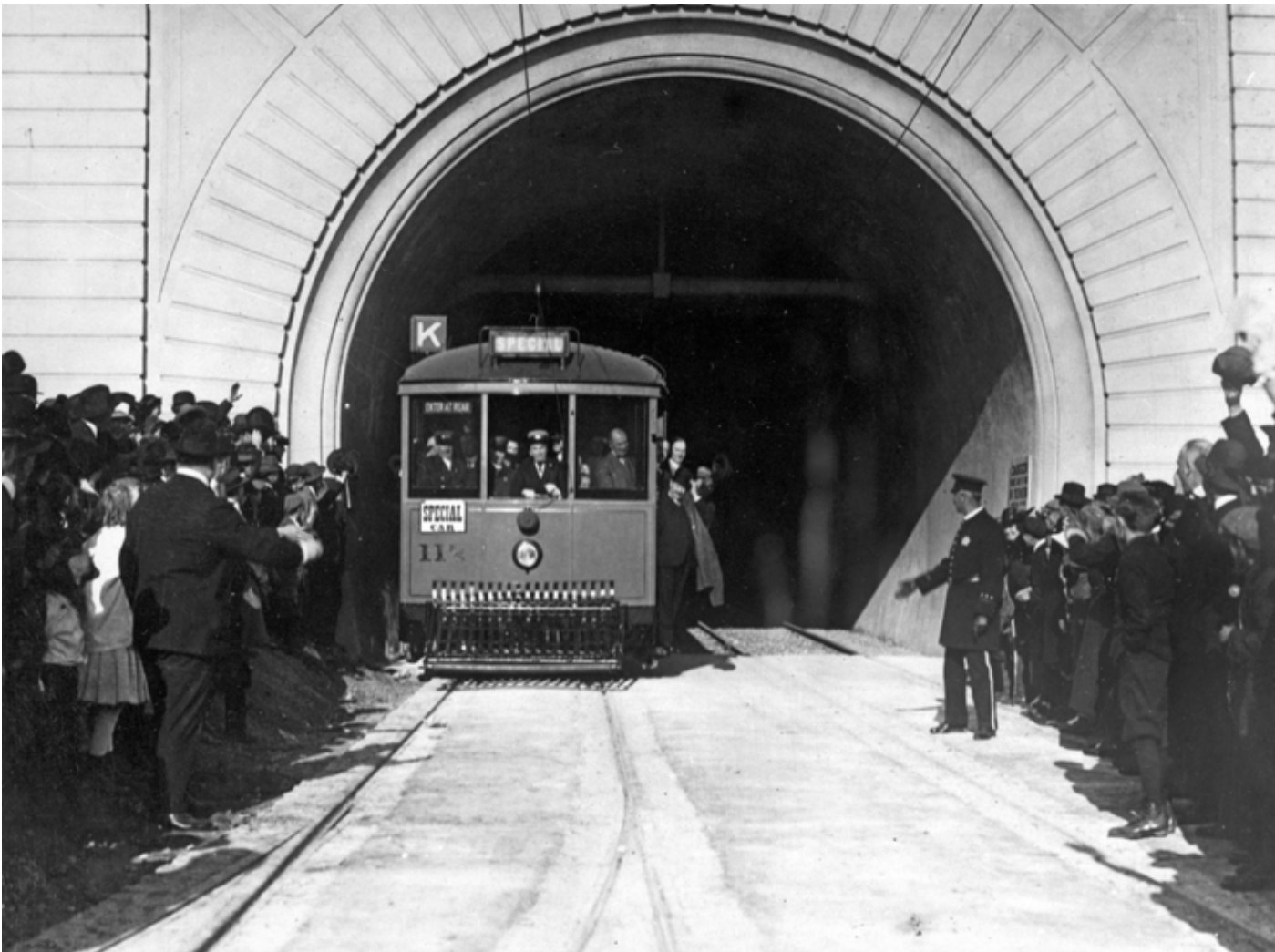


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Opening Day of Twin Peaks Tunnel Showing Mayor Rolph at Controls of Streetcar 11 Emerging From West Portal of Twin Peaks Tunnel • February 3, 1918 Published by permission of the SFMTA Photo Archives • SFMTA.com/photo • Amazing video of the construction and opening: <https://archive.org/details/TwinPeak1917>

BRAIN FÜD

Half a Dozen Down: A riddle

With my mates I toil day by day
But never do I complain

I speak up if I have words to say
and have an agile brain

I rarely sniffle or blow my nose
A medical man I am not

I do not yawn or try to doze
Can you name me with the info you've got?

Answer

I am Happy from Snow White and the Seven
Dwarfs.
With my mates I toil day by day (I'm a miner)
But never do I complain (I'm not Grumpy)
I speak up if I have words to say (I'm not
Bashful)
and have an agile brain (I'm not Dopey)
I rarely sniffle or blow my nose (I'm not
Sneezy)
A medical man I am not (I'm not Doc)
I do not yawn or try to doze (I'm not Sleepy)
Can you name me with the info you've got?
(Happy is the only dwarf left.)

99 Years Ago: Twin Peaks Tunnel Opens

The Twin Peaks Tunnel is a 2.27-mile (3.65 km)-long light rail/streetcar tunnel runs under the Twin Peaks and is used by the K Ingleside, L Taraval, M Ocean View, and T Third Street Muni Metro lines. The S Castro Shuttle also uses the tunnel for game day runs.

The tunnel was opened on February 3, 1918. The eastern entrance to the tunnel is located near the intersection of Market and Castro streets in the Castro neighborhood, and the western entrance is located at West Portal Avenue and Ulloa Street.

The service through the tunnel has evolved from streetcars into light rail, and while there are longer light-rail tunnels elsewhere (such as Portland's Robertson Tunnel), the Twin Peaks Tunnel remains one of the world's longest streetcar or light-rail tunnels. There are two stations along the tunnel, Forest Hill Station, near the western end, and the now disused Eureka Station, near the eastern end.

When the Muni Metro system and Market Street Subway were built, they were connected to the Twin Peaks Tunnel to be used by the K Ingleside, L Taraval and M Ocean View lines. The Eureka Station was closed, and the Metro lines stop at the nearby Castro Street Station instead.

The original eastern entrance to the tunnel in the middle of Market Street at Castro was removed and new entrances were placed on the sides of the street further up the block, though no Metro or streetcar lines use them in regular service (they were used during construction of the Market Street subway and are occasionally used in non-revenue service such as rerouting trains around construction projects). Instead, trains continue directly from the Market Street Subway into the tunnel without going above ground. West Portal Station, which was originally a surface stop outside of the tunnel's western entrance, was rebuilt as a high-platform station located just inside of the entrance.

Info courtesy wikipedia.com

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

Sudoku-fun!

Rules:
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

The Object:
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer: appears right.

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

OPEN LATE

By Julie Casson

FBI Probe (Cont. from p. 1)

It came from DPH's Human Resources boss Ron Weigelt. Written in both Chinese and English, it explained, "if you give truthful information to the FBI about these allegations, DPH will not use that information to seek discipline against you." Immigrant porters are more vulnerable to workplace coercion due to their limited English proficiency and knowledge of laws. Some complained about bribery, extortion and a covert *quid pro quo* culture, according to DPH sources. But the mostly Chinese-speaking porters weren't reassured by Weigelt's promised immunity from reprisals. None were willing to testify and the FBI probe collapsed.

Janitors maintain safe, clean, functional environments for every City department. Those working in health facilities are called porters. Those working in non-clinical departments are called custodians. Paying \$23.70/hour or \$49,270/year, these entry-level jobs attract immigrants and minorities with basic manual and language skills. The City now offers a "Pathways to Entry Level Positions" training to help candidates with applications, exam preparation and job readiness. Last year, 959 janitors worked for the City. Meanwhile, there were 812 applicants for a small number of openings. There's plenty of competition.

Applicants must have 6 months experience in commercial janitorial work, or complete a certified Custodial Training Program. To get hired, they must pass a 2 hour test with 75 multiple-choice questions. The next hurdle is getting a permanent Civil Service position with benefits, rather than being hired provisionally or "as needed". Then there's competition for job locations, shifts, and promotions. Each of these decision points can be tainted by favors, bribes, kickbacks and extortion. Current and former City employees - who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, told the WSO that pay to work schemes exist in many departments but mostly the DPH - the City's largest with some 7,370 positions. Allegedly, sums up to \$5,000 or expensive gifts can yield access to exam questions, preferred shifts and locations, or promotions.

For some, these are good deals. Others, who earn their jobs and assignments, resent the corruption and safety risks when less-qualified workers can buy a job. Pervasive corruption can be subtle when bribes and favors are expected rather than demanded. Some who refused to pay tribute were reportedly bullied or given negative performance appraisals or denied vacation dates and desired assignments. Such wily retaliation is hard to prove. Rather than complaining to managers, several janitors confided with a non-profit agency serving immigrants. Fearful, none were willing to go on record. That reticence stymied the FBI probe, as well as a City Attorney investigation.

None of this came to light until 8/15/16 when two City employees told the Civil Service Commission about the FBI investigation. At the very end of the meeting, Department of Human Resources (DHR) Director Micki Callahan

admitted that the FBI interviewed "some people at the DPH" and that a City Attorney investigation "led to the termination of a DPH employee on similar claims". The Whistleblower Program also looked into the bribery complaints and according to Callahan; "their assessment was that these were historical claims; there wasn't anything current."

At the October 3 Commission meeting, Callahan whittled the narrative down to "one allegation centering on one individual who...was terminated". Nonetheless, she was launching a training program to remind City janitors of their rights. Commissioner Kate Favetti emphasized that the City has reduced the number of employees who linger vulnerably in provisional and "as needed" positions. Commission Executive Director Michael Brown initially characterized the bribery claims as a "new thing" then acknowledged that investigations had already occurred but "those people that are affected are not coming forward." On that point everyone agrees.

There is disagreement on the scope of the problem and how to proceed. Officialdom describes an "isolated incident" while our sources say that 3 DPH employees have been fired. DHR records show that in August 2016, 4 SEIU 1021 members e-mailed the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and department brass to report the FBI investigation and advocate for surveys and policies to counter workplace favoritism, bribery and the resulting conflicts among employees. Promptly, DPH Director Barbara Garcia and Ron Weigelt conferred with a City Attorney about curtailing the sender's use of DPH e-mail during work hours. Then DHR Director Callahan notified Louise Renne's Public Law Group about the FBI probe.

One month later, DHR Policy Director Susan Gard responded officially that additional layers of policy wouldn't eliminate "a problem being caused by people who are willing to break the law and disregard City policy." Instead, she wrote; "rooting these people out of the system is the most effective way to eliminate this type of abuse." There's an impasse because victims aren't willing to testify. Also, the anti-corruption efforts of Management and Labor are driven by different political expectations.

Records show that the two sides agreed on training janitors about workplace rights, and mounting posters that explain how to get help if violations occur. We asked the DHR for any notices or policies related to workplace bribery or extortion developed since the issue arose in 2016. On 1/27/17 there were "no responsive documents." Federal agencies will likely be more adversarial toward San Francisco in coming years. Better to quell corruption internally - before the feds step in.

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



Ron Weigelt, Director of Human Resources
Department of Public Health

There's an impasse because victims aren't willing to testify. Also, the anti-corruption efforts of Management and Labor are driven by different political expectations.

Education Carol Kocivar ©2017

Vouchers: The Right Choice?

Carol Kocivar © 2017



President Trump is rekindling debate about whether school vouchers are a good strategy to improve the education of low-income students. California's voters soundly rejected school voucher proposals twice. With billions potentially at stake, now is a good time to review the voucher concept.

What are they? Do they work? Are there better options?

If you have limited time, here's

study of voucher outcomes, concluding "vouchers have had no clear positive effect on student academic achievement, and mixed outcomes for students overall"

In 2015 the National Bureau for Economic Research followed up with a study of similar breadth. While allowing that there have been cases where vouchers have made a positive difference for some students, the authors also noted

... students in voucher programs in Louisiana and Indiana scored lower on reading and math tests than similar students who remained in public schools."

the spoiler: Yes, there are lots of better options than vouchers to help low income students.

What are school vouchers? Vouchers are government-funded coupons good toward payment of tuition at a private school, usually including religious schools. If you trace the origin of the word "vouch" to the 1690s, a voucher was a "receipt for a business transaction."

Starting in the 1950s, economist Milton Friedman argued that market forces could help create better and more efficient schools. He suggested that students get vouchers toward payment for their education at any school, including private schools. The idea found favor with free market proponents, religious school leaders and think tanks.

Vouchers also found favor with segregationists. The timing of Friedman's proposal coincided with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, which required desegregation of public schools. The desegregation order triggered a wave of white flight to private schools, which were not subject to the ruling. To thwart the law, some southern states began issuing tax-funded tuition vouchers, which were accepted at private segregated schools.

School Choice Options Although there is lively popular support for the general idea of school choice, voucher programs are a very minor mechanism for providing it. Most private school students attend a school affiliated with a religion. Most state constitutions, including California's, prohibit the use of taxpayers' money to support religious-affiliated schools. Voucher programs only exist in fifteen US States and Washington, D.C. Instead of vouchers, most states and districts have opted to deliver school choice through non-sectarian public charter schools, magnet schools, and district-wide open enrollment lotteries

Are voucher programs successful? Setting all of that aside, is there evidence that voucher programs deliver stronger educational outcomes for students than regular schools or charter schools?

The short answer is no.

There have been many studies of voucher programs, most of them sponsored by religious orders or other pro-voucher organizations with a clear bias. Early small-scale experimental programs seemed to suggest almost miraculous results, but those findings have not survived broader examination.

In 2011, the Center for Education Policy released a ten-year

evidence of negative effects. "A perhaps surprisingly large proportion of the most rigorous studies suggest that being awarded a voucher has an effect that is statistically indistinguishable from zero."

Do voucher programs hurt? Sometimes. A study by the Brookings Institute, On the Negative Effects on Vouchers, found that students in voucher programs in Louisiana and Indiana scored lower on reading and math tests than similar students who remained in public schools. The magnitudes of the negative impacts were large. Studies in Ohio also indicate negative effects.

With these kinds of results, there is little sense in investing in programs that do not move the needle on student success.

What Works?

Money: Evidence is piling up that in schools we get what we pay for. A 2016 study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that sustained increases in spending in low-income school districts were associated with increased student achievement. How much improvement? According to the study, "*The implied effect of school resources on educational achievement is large.*"

Strategies to use money wisely: A 2016 international PISA study points to strategies that have been shown to improve educational outcomes:

Rigorous and consistent standards in all classrooms.

Investing in high quality teachers and school leaders.

Providing additional resources to support at-risk students and low performing schools.

Providing early education, after school support, health and counselors.

On-going analysis of what works and what needs to be improved--focusing on high need students.

Additional research shows that giving kids a well-rounded education that includes the arts, physical education, and summer school are also successful strategies.

The Bottom Line Vouchers should not be high on the list of strategies for systemic educational improvement. If a voucher movement leads to less money for public schools, it could do real harm.

Read Ed100.org to learn more about education.

Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Assn. and she lives in the Westside. Feed-back: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

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Police Report *(Cont. from p. 9)*
had a gun. The suspect fled with two other people who were in a waiting vehicle.

Tuesday, February 14

Robbery
1:01 am | 19th Ave & Kirkham St
At a bus stop, the victim was holding her cellphone with earphones on when the suspect got out of a car and walked towards her then snatched the cellphone out of her hand and ran back to his car and fled.

Battery
6:43 pm | Victoria St & Ocean Ave
The victim was waiting to catch the MUNI when the suspect came up to her and started yelling incoherent obscenities. She attempted to film the suspect, but he pushed her. Officers located the suspect and he was cited.

Battery
5:01 pm | 2500 Ocean Ave
The victim was working behind the counter when she saw the suspect stealing merchandise. She tried to stop the suspect, who pushed the victim and fled. Officers were unsuccessful in locating the suspect.

Wednesday, February 15

Shoplifting
1:00 pm | 1500 Sloat Blvd
A store manager told police an employee failed to deposit store proceeds into the business account. The employee claimed he lost the deposit but after questioning, admitted he had a drug problem and stole it. He was cited.

Indecent Exposure
5:45 pm | West Portal & Ulloa St
The victims saw the suspect with his genitals exposed as they walked on the sidewalk. The suspect did not make any advances or speak to the victims. They left and called the police.

Vehicle Theft - Stolen Property – Tools
7:00 am | 300 Kensington Way
The victim noticed that his car door was open and found that multiple items were missing. He drove around until he encountered the only other person on the street. Looking into the bag (after receiving permission) he saw his personal items and detained the suspect until officers arrived. They found burglary tools and the stolen items. The suspect was arrested.

Saturday, February 18

Battery
1:04 pm | 37th Ave & Ulloa St
Patrol officers were flagged down regarding a road rage incident with a mutual fight between the drivers. Both parties wanted to press charges. Both parties were cited.

Battery
3:28 pm | 800 Ulloa St
The victim saw the suspect swinging an emergency cone towards several females, who were screaming. He attempted to calm the suspect down but was also hit by the cone. The suspect then walked away.

Battery
4:56 pm | 1000 Quintara St
The victim said he was working when a suspect, in a passing vehicle, threw glass marbles at him.

Monday, February 20

Battery – Arrested
12:26 pm | Address confidential
The victim said she had been dating the suspect for weeks and he was forcing her into a sex trade. She admitted she had been drinking and using drugs and an argument ensued between her and the suspect over money and he hit her. The suspect denied the charges. After further investigation, he was arrested.

Robbery
5:55 pm | Plymouth Ave & Holloway Ave
TNT team and Sgt Hom developed information regarding a suspect who was involved in a previous incident of robbery. The officers located the suspect and he was subsequently arrested.

Tuesday, February 21

Robbery
8:26 pm | Judah St & 44th Ave
The victim was leaving the grocery store when four suspects, in a car followed him. A suspect got out, threatened the victim and he gave up his wallet. They fled.

Battery
4:22 pm | 19th Ave & Quintara St
The victim was walking home when three of her school mates approached her and an argument escalated. She was hit on the head before the suspects left.

Assault
10:34 pm | 100 Ramsell St
The victim said he was picking up their son when the suspect approached and hit the victim with the back handle of a cleaver. The suspect said she was angry because he hired a babysitter for their child rather than allow the child to stay with her. She was arrested.

Vehicle Collision – Drunk Driving
6:30 pm | Lakeview Ave & Plymouth Ave
A witness of a collision said the driver had passed out so he knocked on the window, waking the driver, who reversed his car hitting another car. Medical assistance determined he was drunk. He was cited.

Wednesday, February 22

Assault
2:35 pm | 15th Ave & Quintara St
The victim said a driver running a stop sign narrowly missed him and he yelled at the suspect, who responded by throwing an empty bottle at the victim, then attempted to hit the him with his vehicle several more times before leaving the area.

Burglary
1:11 pm | 2300 36th Ave
The victim said four suspects forced their way into her home and came into her bedroom to demand her valuables. She gave them her money but they imprisoned her in the bathroom while searching for more valuables. She left the bathroom when she heard no sound. There were signs of forced entry but officers did not find the suspects.

Battery
8:48 pm | 3200 20th Ave
The victim, a store employee, said the suspect was using a laptop that belonged to another customer. When he asked the suspect to stop using the laptop, the suspect threatened the victim, who evaded the suspect's attempts to punch him but the suspect spat in his face before fleeing the store. Officers documented video surveillance for further investigation.

Thursday, February 23

Attempted Robbery
7:25 pm | 00 Grijalva Dr
The victim was looking at his phone while sitting in his car when the suspect approached him pointing a firearm and demanding that the victim get out of his car. But he refused and the suspect fled with two other suspects.

Assault
9:07 am | Confidential
The victim was making breakfast when the suspect confronted her about missing money from his bank account. She denied knowledge of it. The suspect attempted to choke her. After further investigation, he was arrested.

Battery
8:58 pm | Address confidential
The victim said she had been dating the suspect for fourteen months and they lived with roommates. When she asked him to consider moving out he pushed her to the floor and hit her. Officers arrested the suspect.

Robbery
7:50 pm | 1100 Plymouth Ave
The victims said three suspects approached with a gun and demanded their property. A victim gave his property to one of the suspects and all three fled.

Friday, February 24

Assault
8:17 pm | 1100 Ocean Ave
The victim said the suspect walked into his work and choked him and held a pair of scissors against him. Officers could not find the suspect.

Elder Abuse
9:28 pm | Address confidential
The mother of the suspect, was watching her grandson play with toys when the suspect pushed her and swore at her, picked up her grandson frightening her because the suspect was intoxicated. Officers arrested the suspect.

Saturday, February 25

Battery
3:02pm | Address confidential
The victim said the suspect continued to call her mother names in front of their children. He pushed her away and closed the door, pinning her against the doorway and causing injuries. The suspect was located and arrested.

Sunday, February 26

Assault
1:32 am | 00 Higuera Ave
Officers responded to a report of a person with a gun, but the victim said no gun was involved. The victim was at a small party when the five suspects began picking fights with the rest of the party. The victim attempted to defend his friend when they punched him many times and fled.

Burglary – Probation Violation – Resisting Arrest
11:25 pm | 2300 37th Ave (SEE page 9)

Warrant Arrest
12:42 am | 00 Santa Paula
The victim said the suspect was yelling and damaging her plants and the watering system. Officers found him and a computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest. After further investigation, he was arrested.

Battery
5:47 am | Address confidential
The victim said the suspect had a history of violence when drunk had hit and punched the victim multiple times that night. Officers found the suspect, who was hostile and aggressive, and after investigation, he was arrested.

Monday, February 27

Forgery
2:00 pm | Undisclosed address
TNT Officers and Sgt Hom conducted an investigation with Secret Service regarding forgery and counterfeit money, they identified suspects and conducted a search warrant arresting three suspect involved in the incident.

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

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Bad Hombres

North Korea, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia. Ominous names in today's crazy world. Nuts with nukes and spooks around every corner spying on all of us, but that was certainly not the case when in 2009 we took a cruise on Azamara's Quest from Singapore to Hong Kong. The ports of call and our accommodations were superb, and we saw both sheer poverty and opulence of the highest order.

One of our most interesting stops was Ho Chi Minh City, previously known as Saigon, where our captain told us the night before that he would be on the bridge at 3am to guide the ship down the narrow, winding Saigon River. We had reserved a car and driver for the day and as it turned out our "Miss Saigon" turned out to be a fine young man named John who was waiting for us at the dock Saturday morning. Our first stop, the President's Palace, where we saw firsthand the famous palace gates where the Russian and then the Chinese tanks broke through, virtually ending the American involvement in the Vietnam War.

The American Embassy building was just a few blocks away, and again we all remembered those famous pictures of the last American helicopter leaving with hordes of people trying desperately to grab on to any part of the aircraft for a last chance at freedom.

John then took us to the War Museum, where American tanks and aircraft guard the entrance to this large building which displays some of the most gruesome pictures of that horrible conflict.

The only pleasant part was our stop at the museum's shop where I bought a "Good Morning Vietnam" T-shirt, and a Vietnam Army fatigue cap emblazoned with the communists' yellow star on a red background — I made sure that I did not wear that coming through Passport Control in San Francisco!

John's choice for lunch was a bustling restaurant in the center of town whose claim to fame was Bill and Chelsea Clinton's visit in 1990. The service was quick and the food OK and we would have gotten out of there sooner had it not been for our struggles with the chopsticks — eating soup with chopsticks is not easy.

The following day we arrived at the port of Tien Sa, which got us into Danang

Cham Museum to view some of the oldest sand carvings dating back thousands of years.



Along the way, we passed by China Beach, made famous by our GIs enjoying some much-deserved R&R. The short drive to the city of Hoi Am was congested with motor scooters, each carrying three or four people. Hoi Am is an ancient city that was spared destruction during the war and is a tourist Mecca. We visited a silk factory where we saw silk worms, from infancy to maturity, turn into cocoons of silk which were then spun

into beautiful textiles. The embroidered art work was absolutely marvelous and of course the shops next door were wide open for business.

The following day we arrived in Hanoi where we stayed overnight at the Sofitel Hotel. Our one-hour rickshaw ride was our reward for having endured a four-hour drive from Halong Bay to Hanoi. Imagine driving for 4 hours down a two-lane road ruled by motorbikes racing four to six abreast — most with three or four passengers. The road has a broken white line down the middle, but that is strictly for decoration. They drive wherever there is space, weaving back in as the approaching vehicle madly flashes its lights, horns blaring. On the way to Hanoi we saw one overturned car, four motorcycle accidents and a poor cow in the middle of the road lifting its badly bleeding hoof.

On the way back, we drove by two automobile accidents, two motorcycle accidents and an overturned truck carrying a load of pigs. A couple of the pigs looked like they might end up on someone's breakfast buffet in the morning.

Bright and early we were on the stump again with our first stop at Ho Chi Minh's marble and granite tomb. Security was tight and cameras absolutely forbidden. I must say, the father of Vietnam looked great lying in state with the four soldiers guarding his tomb, motionless, as if cast in bronze.

We then proceeded to Ho Chi Minh's cottage and private lake, the One Pillar Pagoda and the two block long Temple of Literature, dedicated to Confucius, and finally to the Hoa Lo Prison, nicknamed "Hanoi Hilton" by our captured pilots. Only a small remnant remains, the rest of the compound has been developed into a high-rise office and



condominium complex. The French, who built the prison in 1896, made no bones about who they tortured or how they did it. The original guillotine still looked ominous, as did the metal bucket ready to accept the heads of those still willing to fight on for freedom.

Seeing John McCain's flight suit and photos of his capture and treatment, gave me chills and definitely a lump in my throat. On the way back we were driven by the lake where McCain ditched after being shot down. Why was this amazingly patriotic man not elected president?

And speaking of presidents, perhaps our 45th. President can take a brief tour of this area and see how real people live, considering that the average farm worker or fisherman earns about \$1,000 a year. Certainly not Mar-A-Lago, but a reality check is often good for the best of us.

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



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bright and early. Our driver, Ti, and our guide, Huang, brought us to the open air





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