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**Mortgaging Laguna Honda Hospital's Future**

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

When voters approved a general obligation bond measure to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) in November 1999, they understood at a gut level they were "mortgaging" Laguna Honda's future in the form of \$299 million in principal, plus additional interest, on bonds for a project voters were told was initially budgeted to only cost \$401 million. Voters were lured into believing the bond would fund a healthcare facility for our elderly.

Voters were not told in 1999 that in addition to the "mortgage" they were undertaking to rebuild Laguna Honda, that our City fathers would then turn around and enter into two separate rental leases on the value of LHH's property in addition to the bonded indebtedness, by issuing another form of long-term debt known as Certificates of Participation (COP's) that are based on leasing property owned by the City.

To date, \$227 million in COP's are being leveraged against the value of LHH's future in the form of principal payments; another \$163.4 million in interest will be required to pay off the COP's, even though only \$120 million of the \$227 million of COP's are actually being applied to complete construction of LHH.

Voters were told the bonds would be used to build some sort of "continuing health care facility," principally to care for San Francisco's "old-old" (a.k.a. the "frail elderly," meaning those over the age of 85) and disabled San Franciscans. To date, between the general obligation bonds and COP's,



New construction at Laguna Honda will cost taxpayers more than they bargained for

the City has leveraged Laguna Honda for long-term debt of \$745.7 million including principal and interest, and is using an additional \$177.9 million in other sources of funding (mainly from tobacco settlement revenues) to complete LHH's rebuild. This totals \$923.6 million between long-term debt and other financing sources to complete a project currently budgeted to cost \$594 million (at current minimum), only \$354 million of which includes "hard costs" for actual construction.

On April 28, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors approved issuing \$42 million in COP's using the "residual

Cont. p. 4

**RUMINATIONS FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR**



**Remembering  
Gene McAteer..**

By Quentin Kopp

As one reflects upon history, and especially San Francisco history, it is perplexing to realize that memories even in San Francisco wither and sterling leaders are disregarded. One example is the manner in which the San Francisco Unified School District has treated the (late and great) J. Eugene McAteer. Gene McAteer was a San Franciscan, born in 1916, and raised in the Mission district. A superb football player, he graduated from Mission High School and entered the University of California at Berkeley. A guard in an era in which football players performed "both ways," on offense and defense, he was a member of the Cal football team which defeated Alabama, 13-0, on January 1, 1938 in the Rose Bowl. During World War II, served with distinction as an officer in the U.S. Navy. On discharge from the Navy, he returned to his hometown and entered the restaurant business in a partnership, which operated Tarantino's restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf. Married to Frances, a Mission High School classmate, he enrolled and finished law school at night while operating the restaurant and raising sons Tom, Tim and Terry. After the Korean War broke out in 1950, Gene McAteer was recalled to active duty and eventually assigned to the North American Treaty Organization (N.A.T.O) in France. Upon discharge, he was admitted to the State Bar of California and in July 1953, after the so-called Korean Conflict ended, was appointed to fill a vacancy on to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was elected to the Board later that year, in the November election, serving from 1954 to 1958. In 1958, he was elected to the State Senate, replacing the late Bob McCarthy, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General. A strong force in San Francisco and the State Capital, whose Navy background endeared him to then-President John F. Kennedy, Gene McAteer aimed to run for Mayor in 1963. He would have

Cont. p. 4

**Westside Greenhouse Gas Emissions:  
A Solution Searching for a Problem**

by George Wooding

Like dominos falling, this year's financial collapse of Muni exposes the weakness of San Francisco's new, green "transit first" policies. Muni is currently \$129 million over budget and going broke fast. Muni is shortening existing routes, raising rates and reducing service. If San Francisco's mass transportation doesn't work, the City's future plans for redevelopment on the west side of San Francisco won't work either.

**A New Plan for the West Side:** Following the guidelines of California Senate Bill 375, "The Redesigning of Communities to Reduce Greenhouse Gases," San Francisco is preparing to reduce greenhouse gases in Westside neighborhoods by the amount of vehicle-miles-traveled. Although cars are the largest source of greenhouse gases in California, San Francisco has the lowest auto-ownership rates in the country. A greenhouse car in San Francisco will be relegated to the same status as smoking a cigarette in a kindergarten classroom.

**Soon, driving a greenhouse gas-emitting car in San Francisco will be relegated to the same status as smoking a cigarette in a kindergarten classroom.**

San Francisco's emission reduction policies are going to change Westside neighborhoods just as much as the introduction of cars changed the City over the last century. Our single family homes and the character of our neighborhoods will be changed by the mandates of SB375. In order to reduce VMTs, the City has created "transit corridors" throughout San Francisco. Streets (transit corridors) such as West Portal, Judah, Taraval, Ocean and 19th Avenue are all prime candidates for transit-corridor redevelopment projects. A transit corridor can be up to a mile wide, so there won't be many neighborhoods that are not impacted by this policy.

Reducing a neighborhoods VMTs means that future high-density developments will be larger, taller (four to

Cont. p. 3

## ENOUGH ALREADY WITH THE PARKING!

By Former Supervisor Tony Hall

My Good friend George Lum, a longtime City employee and Fiscal Officer for the Courts, recently paid me a visit and expressed his views about how difficult and expensive it is to try and drive and park in San Francisco. I suspect his views reflect the thoughts of many residents who live in our City. He brought up some very interesting facts that I thought were worth repeating. Like myself and many other civil servants who believe in public accountability, George is astounded at the ignorance, arrogance and audacity of today's generation of policy makers who seem to have their heads screwed on backwards and thus subject a trusting public to the expenses of their circular reasoning.

Consider for example the following facts: In 1970, the average fine for a parking meter violation was \$3. Today the fine averages \$50 to \$70 depending upon what part of the City you received the ticket. In 1970, the City wide meter fee was 10 cents per-hour, today it ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per-hour. You do the math. Has our City's population increased? Have our curbs, streets and signage been maintained, as was the original purpose for the fees? Are the most recently proposed increases remotely related to the welfare of our struggling storeowners or residents who must use their autos? Do we even really know where the proceeds of these gigantic revenues are spent? I think it is high time for the public to weigh in and stop accepting all the lame reasons that the robber barons put forth in order to increase the amount of your money that they spend while building their political empires.

The Municipal Transportation Agency, in its latest round of incompetent lunacy, has proposed a 50 cent per-hour increase in Parking meters, and the extension of the hours of operation and enforcement of those meters every day and night until 10 PM and—get this—Sundays included! I mean really, who are these people working for? They also want to limit each meter user to one hour during the day and up to four hours during the evening and increase garage rates at least \$2 more per-hour. All of this money grabbing is at the expense of those who out of necessity must drive a car as opposed to those who actually use municipal transportation. (Look out residents of District 7!) One genius who works at the chamber of commerce said “these proposals are great from a business perspective because it will encourage turnover!” (I believe this was the same character who proposed building-up our movie industry revenues by empowering 3rd rate local extras as opposed to enticing top-flight movie producers from Hollywood.) Well, to be honest with you and yes, realistic, these proposals will do absolutely nothing but further erode the attractiveness of downtown and neighborhood shops and penalize the auto driver. Any amateur student of public policy can tell you that someone suffers when fines and fees are increased. I don't know of anyone who can get anything accomplished in one hour downtown and the four-hour limit in neighborhoods will only pit residents against merchants without any new parking being made available.

Back in the late '80s and early '90s, I had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Lum. As Court administrators, we had the opportunity to analyze the impact that an increase in parking fines and fees would have on the public, as it was then under the auspices of the Municipal Court. The surprising results invariably demonstrated that

any such increases resulted in more scofflaws (people who don't pay their fines), more expensive enforcement in relation to revenue netted and certainly less “customer satisfaction”. At least, back then, we tried to justify any increase with input from all concerned parties, and then provide the public with something in return for their inconvenience.

It was during that period of time that I originated the location for the new Civic Center Courthouse on McAllister and Van Ness, paid for by an extra \$1.00 being added on to each fine collected. Today such analysis and constructive projects are totally ignored as the whole issue of public parking is seen only as it relates to the bottom line.

Another observation: back then a parking meter enforcement officer was hired at approximately \$68,000 including benefits and was expected to generate about 150% of his or her cost to the City per-year. Today they are hired at a much, much more expensive rate when benefits are included, and expected to produce 300% percent revenue in relation to their cost. Parking and the fees and fines associated with it have become a massive money source and local politicians have discovered they can engage in “taxation without representation” without even having to explain where the money is going.

We are told that the newly proposed increases will generate an additional \$9.5 million for a municipal transportation agency that is running a deficit of \$129 million per year. What we are not being told is the additional personnel costs associated with the enforcement and collection for the extended hours and the effect upon our quality of life here in San Francisco.

I know there are many people who believe in the “transit first” policy that has been in effect for the past 30 years and there is merit to that. I would be much happier if the policy had produced a mass transit system that—after so much invested time, material and money—actually works, is efficient, and pays for itself without discriminating against people who use autos. The solution is to concentrate on improving the transit system by making it self-sufficient, streamlining the routes, reviewing the hiring and work practices of personnel, and imposing modern stringent guidelines.

Now back to the automobile and how to handle its parking. The answer is certainly not to penalize or discourage its user as this only hurts the local economy. Other cities—and yes, even our sister city down south, Los Angeles—has embarked upon a policy of accommodating the auto-user with reasonable parking and rates that encourage the revitalization of the downtown sector. The conversion of property to provide safe, reasonable and convenient parking for Americans' unique and undeniable fascination with the auto is something that we should no longer deny but embrace. As much as we like to think that we here in San Francisco always know better, there are still some things that we must face up to. Our desire to demonstrate that almost all human activity can be regulated or legislated is beginning to make us look foolish and stifle our image as a world class City. We can do better than this!

*Tony Hall has worked for the city for 30 years and represented District 7 on the Board of Supervisors from 2000 – 2004*



just keep the lights  
behind him and  
keep 'em behind the  
ropes—they'll never  
know the difference



### AROUND THE TOWN...

#### Comings and Goings

By Mitch Bull

**Friday Night Lights** - If you haven't already visited the new **deYoung Museum** in Golden Gate Park make the trip. The museum sponsors great events on Friday evenings, opening their galleries, showcasing music and dance and other activities. Alice and I visited the current “Warhol Live” exhibition, listened to some World music, dined in their café, went to the top of the observatory tower (great views) and watched the movie “Factory Girl,” a tragic biopic of 1960s Warhol-promoted “superstar” Edie Sedgwick. The museum is terrific, and the very modern architecture is stimulating and thought provoking. San Franciscan's should be very proud.

Also make time for the **California Academy of Sciences**, located just across the drive from the deYoung. The building is also of a breathtaking design and the exhibits should thrill young and old alike. They are offering free admission on special nights, arranged by zip code. Check out their ad on the back page of the *Observer*.

Congratulations to Sanford Johnson and Kimberly Leshner, owners of **Sunset Pet Supply** on Taraval Street. They have opened a second location, “**Sunset Pet Supply – Ocean Beach**” at 3809 Noriega Street (at 45<sup>th</sup> Ave.). What's Next – Sunset Pet Supply – OC? We wish them the best of luck on their new venture. They are good people who really give back to the community.

**Restaurant Cheers and Tears Dept:** We recently dined at **Villa d'Este** for Easter brunch. Owner /Chef Ramon Oropeza and his staff turn out an amazing variety of choices at very reasonable prices. In an era where portions are shrinking and ingredients are compromised, the Villa still offers “complete” dinners that include antipasto, soup, salad, pasta, coffee and ice cream for between 17.50 and 25 dollars. “A la carte” selections are \$4 less and still include a choice of soup or salad. To top it off, the restaurant features live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Sadly, we have to report that two of our favorites, the **Granada Café**, and **Julius' Castle** have closed for the time being, with the Granada being a victim of an early morning fire. It's been reported on the blog, “Eater SF” that the operators of Julius' Castle are in a nasty dispute with their landlord. We hope they both will reopen soon, as they represent real “old school” San Francisco. Another favorite, **Alfred's**, is featured in our *Business Corner* this month.

This is the last week to check out the **SFSU museum exhibit**, “**Caravan across Persia: An Architectural Tour of Iran**,” as it ends May 8<sup>th</sup>. Rare 1930s photographs and ancient and medieval ceramics are featured. Located in the University Museum in the Humanities Building 510, the exhibit is open from 11 to 4 on Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

The **Commodore Sloat School** is preparing for a Silent Auction Fundraiser for their annual “Rainbow-A-Fair,” to be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> we hear it's a “one of a kind event.” The school is located at 50 Darien Way.

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

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#### 2009 HOUSING ELEMENT MEET-

#### SF Planning Department

Wednesday, May 6 • 6—7:30pm

Miraloma Park Clubhouse

350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd. (at Del Vale)

The Planning Department is required to solicit neighborhood feedback and input before the Housing Element is approved. Please come to this meeting and let the Planning Department know what you think. The future of our Westside neighborhoods is at stake, and your voices need to be heard.

West of Twin Peaks Central Council News & Views

### It's all about the Water

By Mitch Bull

The WOTPCC meeting on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> was lightly attended but full of information. Chairman Dutil opened the meeting in front of a small audience of about 20, falling just short of the necessary representatives to have a quorum (although the quorum would be reached later in the meeting).

With little to initially vote on, the group had discussions on the topic of the replacement of Police Captain Denis O'Leary at the Ingleside Station by Captain Dave Lazar, a qualified leader, but one who will now have to learn about the neighborhood groups from scratch.

Treasurer Squeri brought up the point that during the very warm weather of April 15-20, people were leaving their windows open at night and a burglar had committed 10 break-ins in the St. Francis Wood, Forest Hill, and West Portal neighborhoods. Most of the robberies occurred between 1:30 and 4:30 AM, while people were sleeping. Reports were made to Captain Chignall of the Taraval Station and was taken seriously enough that undercover officers were assigned and the thief was caught at the MUNI station with stolen laptops in his possession. Supervisor Elsbernd chipped in stating that Chignall was the one who assigned the plain-clothes officers and blanketed the area so that a successful arrest could be made. The group agreed that a big "Thank You" should be sent to Capt. Chignall and the team at the Taraval Station.

Elsbernd also addressed the reassignment of the Captain at the Ingleside Station, explaining that the Police Commission has conducted over 6 studies of the Police Department organization and the Ingleside changes are the start of the implementation of some of the recommendations from the commission. Ingleside is to be the "guinea pig" test station. In addition to reassigning O'Leary and inserting Lazar in the Captain's chair, detectives (inspectors) are being assigned "on-site" in the precinct station instead of being based at the Hall Of Justice (as they are currently). The Supervisor added that this was not related to the possible downsizing of the number of police stations.

Chairman Dutil, then introduced Ed Harrington, the General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), as the speaker for the evening. Quickly, the focus of the meeting turned to water delivery, water rates, and wastewater collection.

Harrington opened his remarks by discussing the basics of the Hetch Hetchy Water System, where snow runoff is collected in the mountains and stored in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. Using gravity, the water is transported to SF where it is sold at a retail cost to the businesses and residents of the City. The City's portion of the water sales is approximately 81 Million gallons per day. Another 184.9 million gallons per day is sold at a wholesale rate to the water districts throughout the Peninsula from Daly City to San Jose.

The General Manager noted that

while the SFPUC Operating Budget for 2010 is lower than in 2009, the rates will be increasing over the next 5 years to pay for a large Capital Improvement Program to both protect the Water Delivery System against Earthquakes, and to improve the wastewater management system of pipes, sewer mains and treatment facilities. He mentioned that while many facilities have been strengthened and improved; such as the Oceanside Treatment Plant, much more work must be done to improve the Southeast Water Treatment Plant, and the aged sewer mains and pipes that carry rain runoff and wastewater to the treatment plants for processing prior to pumping the treated effluent into the bay or ocean.

A key to the SFPUC planning is the contract with the suburban water districts which is up for renewal (and will be approved and signed by the time this is printed). The previous 25 year agreement between the SFPUC and the suburban water districts allowed the suburban districts to pay their portion of Capital Improvement charges over a 50 year "life of the asset" time period, instead of being charged the "current" amount of improvements in a "pay as you go" type of charge. The new agreement will require these wholesale customers to pay their share of the Capital Improvements as they are built.

The new contract in final negotiations would move the suburban districts into line with the SF retail water users who have to pay for improvements at the time of the improvements. On the supply side, Harrington estimated that the average bill will increase 32 cents/day to an average of \$23 / month. The larger increases will come with the sewer charges, which he estimates will be about \$40 / month, depending on usage. The PUC is expecting rates to increase about 10% per year for the next 5 years to pay for the capital improvements needed for the system.

At the end of the discussion Harrington answered some questions from the group concerning the SFPUC. The "short term" goal of the department is to keep the "Assets Strong," that is, to ensure that an earthquake doesn't take down the water supply systems that keep fresh water flowing to SF. As the Hetch Hetchy system intersects 3 fault lines, the chance of an event and the planning for one is needed as the chance of a quake on one of the faults is 67% within the foreseeable future.

Another short term need is to increase maintenance on the small pipes and sewer drains in the City. Broken sewer mains are a primary cause of erosion based sink holes, and as they are not under pressure, like the fresh water side, they may go on for years before detection.

The longer term issue for the PUC revolves around "Global Warming." Harrington cited that Hetch Hetchy as designed for a large snow melts, and snow melts are being seen less and below, 3-4K feet. In addition as the bay waters rise, the SF water treatment plants are at risk due to the possibility of salt water infiltrating and ruining the pricey equipment.

For more information for SFwater.org.



#### Greenhouse Gases (Cont. from p. 1)

eight stories), and will be limited to half-a-parking-spot per unit or no parking per unit. Current Westside developments usually have at least one parking spot per unit. Developers love these new parking standards because they can build more units instead of parking. The Planning Department also likes more development because 90% of its revenue comes from development fees. Surrounding neighborhood streets will become off-site parking lots for these new developments. More emphasis will supposedly be placed on mass transit such as Muni and reduced focus will be placed on car travel. As bike lanes are added, hundreds of parking spaces may be removed on streets such as Portola Avenue. Wider sidewalks will be added for pedestrians, along with longer traffic lights, more crosswalks, and, of course, fewer lanes for cars.

High-density traffic corridors are not theoretical. The City has already set a planning precedent by approving the Market Street/Octavia project, which was based on 1) Balancing transportation by considering people movements over auto movements, 2) Reducing parking requirements to encourage housing and service requirements without adding cars, 3) Allowing flexible types of new housing to meet a broad range of needs, and 4) Building a 400-foot-high housing tower consisting of 603 residential condominiums. Westside neighborhoods are prime targets for transit corridor developments because of the low population density of single family homes.

The Balboa Park development plan, approved this April for the areas surrounding the Ocean Avenue Bart and Muni stations will produce as many as 1,780 new housing units and 104,680 square feet of commercial development over the next 20 years. The neighborhood

zoning density, size, height and scope have all been increased. Project developers are actually not required to build ANY parking. In fact, developers are being discouraged from building parking and must follow stringent guidelines if they do want to build parking. The Balboa Park Development Plan states, "Residential parking is not required and generally limited. Commercial establishments are discouraged from building excessive accessory off-street parking in order to preserve the pedestrian-oriented character of the district and prevent attracting auto traffic."

In truth, San Francisco's new high-density, transit corridor developments are more about increasing City property taxes, development fees and commercial taxes than they are about reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Muni's funding is based on fares, State funding for transit operations and — you guessed it — parking tax receipts and additional parking revenues. The more cars that Muni takes off of the streets, the less money Muni will have for its transit operations. Car fees represent approximately 25% of Muni's revenue.

**Predictions:** Westside neighborhoods will become clogged with the cars of the people who move into brand new high-density condominium developments and have nowhere to park their cars. Finding a parking place in your neighborhood for your visitors will become as impossible as finding parking in downtown. The unique character of Westside neighborhoods will be altered. Muni will continue to remain under-funded, underperforming, and unreliable. As the Westside population density increases, Westside greenhouse gas emissions will INCREASE, rather than decrease. Do Westside neighborhoods even have a high amount of greenhouse gas emissions?

WEST PORTAL MERCHANTS

"GET SMART" SIDEWALK SALE

SATURDAY MAY 16<sup>th</sup>

Stroll the Avenue of Knowledge

Brief Merchant Demos with Q & A

Head-to-Toe: Hair, Skin, Jewlery, Nails, Clothes

Health-to-Wealth: Body, Eyes, Teeth, Law, IRA

House & Home: Toys, Antiques, Food, Flowers

WEST PORTAL MERCHANTS

BREAST CANCER 3 DAY Raffle

Susan Koman 3-Day Breast Cancer

THOUSANDS of DOLLARS of MERCHANT PRIZES

## Sidewalk Sale story...

Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 2)

rental value of Laguna Honda Hospital’s property,” on advice of the City’s Real Estate Division and the Mayor’s Office of Public Finance, who assert that LHH’s “special use” is not fully leveraged. They also assert the \$42 million in new long-term financing via COP’s are the “most efficient way of timely accessing capital” to finance street improvement projects, by adding a second lease and sub-lease to Laguna Honda Hospital’s \$575 million “market value.”

The street improvement projects include Union Street, Montgomery Street, Kearny Street, Chestnut Street, Stockton Street, Steiner Street, Castro Street (between Divisadero and 15th Street), and Bush Street (between Van Ness and Battery Street), among other streets nowhere close to LHH.

The street COP projects are in addition to the planned \$309 million “Road Repair and Safety Improvement” general obligation bond in November 2009 that also deals with street resurfacing, and in addition to any federal stimulus money San Francisco may receive for street improvement projects.

Recently, Peter Scheer, a lawyer, journalist, and executive director of the California First Amendment Coalition, noted that “Legitimacy, the most valuable asset of any court, is diminished by judicial secrecy and enhanced by openness.” Reasonable people assume that Mayor Gavin Newsom, and his appointed president of San Francisco’s Health Commission, Jim Illig, would know by now that the legitimacy of Newsom’s administration is diminished by its level of secrecy and failure of open government. The nearly-secretive COP’s are not the only change

affecting Laguna Honda’s replacement project and its changing mission.

The Health Commission’s subcommittee known as the Laguna Honda Joint Conference Committee (JCC) secretly discussed on January 12 reducing its monthly meetings to quarterly meetings, when Commissioner Illig introduced the discussion without placing it beforehand on the JCC’s publicly-noticed agenda. Remarkably, minutes of its January 12 meeting fail to document that this discussion had actually taken place. The LHH-JCC has managed to add a layer of secrecy to Laguna Honda by holding fewer public meetings annually. Illig now claims this decision wasn’t made on January 12, as some meeting participants asserted had occurred. Instead, he now claims the decision to reduce the number of the LHH-JCC’s public meetings was made at a later date and doesn’t require notice under San Francisco’s open-government Sunshine Ordinance. He neglected to elaborate on whether this decision was possibly made during an illegal seriatim meeting of the Health Commission outside the public view.

During the LHH-JCC’s April 22 meeting, both Illig and LHH’s Communications Director, Marc Slavin, noted that “themes” being advanced include Laguna Honda’s evolving “community mission” to bring San Franciscans on campus as a recreation destination of hiking trails, public park space, and community auditorium, with the help of the Mount Sutro Stewards, a group dedicated to expanding trail spaces and habitat restoration.

In 1999, Laguna Honda supplied one-third of skilled nursing beds in San Francisco. By the year 2013, given additional skilled nursing beds that are projected to close,

Laguna Honda will provide just over one-quarter of desperately-needed skilled nursing facilities for San Francisco’s frail elderly, who are expected to increase by the year 2030, since San Francisco is projected to have another 1,280 people over the age of 85, and another 15,790 people over the age of 75 who also may need skilled nursing level of care.

Voters weren’t told in 1999 that rather than building critically-needed skilled nursing beds for elderly and disabled San Franciscans we’d get, instead, community amenities and hiking trails from the bond expenditures and COP funding being used to complete LHH’s replacement project, or that a third “mortgage on the future” would be added to bond expenses by renting and subleasing Laguna Honda’s property to fund street improvement projects.

Reasonable people must now consider whether before completing LHH’s rebuild the City will issue even more COP’s for other non-project uses, claiming LHH’s “residual rental value” justifies leveraging additional mortgages against Laguna Honda Hospital’s future. After all, various forms of principal and interest for long-term debt, combined with additional financing sources, now stands at \$923.6 million “leveraged” against LHH — just \$76.4 million shy of a cool one-billion-dollar investment — for a project of \$354 million in construction hard costs.

At what cost — in both dollars and declining health-care services — will mortgaging LHH’s future end? *Monette-Shaw, an accountability watchdog, operates www.stopLHHdownsize.com .*

Kopp (Cont. from p. 1)

confronted then-member of Congress John F. Shelley, but was dissuaded from the race in then-popular lore by then-President Kennedy on the theory that asserted that Shelly, who had served seven terms in the House of Representatives, was entitled to the mayoralty as a matter of seniority.

The mayoral term of Jack Shelly having proved less than riveting, in 1967 Gene McAteer announced without equivocation his candidacy for mayor that November, only to die from a heart attack in July 1967 while engaging in his favorite sport, handball, at the Olympic club. That eventually laid the foundation for Joseph L. Alioto to run for mayor successfully that November after Jack Shelly was persuaded by Democratic chieftains to withdraw. Frances Mc Ateer, a high school cheerleader and all around athlete, served for over 10 years on the Recreation and Park commission. McAteer’s sons achieved prominence in business and public school administration. The McAteer family home, replete with swimming pool, on Santa Anna Avenue in St. Francis Wood, was occupied by Frances and son Tom until her death a few years ago. Miswrite, it represents a San Francisco treasure.

In 1969 the San Francisco School District built a new high school on Portola and O’Shaunessey Boulevard. It was rightfully named J.Eugene McAteer High School, celebrating the life of the native San Franciscan who attended only San Francisco public schools in contrast to some public schools named after persons

who did not attend San Francisco schools. McAteer high school became an important part of San Francisco, containing a sturdy football field and track used by thousands of young San Francisco athletes over the years. Then, in February 2002, in that burst of revisionist history that has befallen other San Francisco landmarks like Army Street, the Board of Education decided to remove McAteer High School from its’ nomenclature, turning the school into a” School of the Arts” and relegating the McAteer name to an almost illegible afterthought as the “J.Eugene McAteer campus” thereof. With Gene McAteer dead and a changed San Francisco policy, no public indignation occurred. And, so it goes for San Francisco political history.

Noted in the last edition of this mighty journal was an account by Tony Hall of mismanagement of Treasure Island. Missing from the account was, again history. If Hall’s analysis is accurate, an act of legislative history may be relevant. During my service as a State Senator, the closing of military bases throughout the country occurred. One of those bases was the Treasure Island Naval Facility, which included the command post for the Pacific Fleet. In all instances throughout the state of closure of Air Force, Army and Navy bases, legislation for redevelopment of such real estate occurred and the governing authority for such reclaimed real estate reposed in a conjuries of city, county and other local elected officials. A theory was obviously balancing the power between various governmental entities and persons, rather than permitting one person to control.

Located within the City and County of San Francisco, Treasure Island was treated differently, not because of any desire on the part of the legislature, but because of the demand of the then-Mayor, operating through then Assemblywoman Carol Migden. Instead of a bill separating the governing board between the Board of Supervisors members and the Mayor, Migden introduced a bill conferring exclusive governance power upon the Mayor. Despite my efforts to secure parallel treatment respecting governance of the redevelopment of Treasure Island as the legislature had done elsewhere in California, the bill was eventually passed by the legislature and, curiously, signed by then-Governor Pete Wilson just prior to the last day for Gubernatorial actions. That legislative history should form the foundation for commentary about the present state of Treasure Island, perhaps even explaining a City government contract under yet another Mayor (the present one) which enabled the afore-mentioned Hall to leave his mayoralty-appointed post as then-Executive Director of the Treasure Island Development Authority with a severance payoff of \$250,000. The idea of “severance payments” for City employees must stun members, like me, of the Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco; I suspect they notice also the \$500,000 payoff handed Susan Leal last year. At the time the current Mayor terminated her as General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission in favor of the then-City Comptroller, but from a historical standpoint the concept of such severance payments flies in the face of the sound civil service practices of yesteryear.

One of my noble disappointments from State Senate service involved my proposed constitutional amendment to revise in a logical way the process for enacting the annual State Budget Act. In a depression era compromise, the legislature submitted a state constitutional amendment (which voters approved) requiring a two-thirds super majority vote of the Assembly and the Senate for enactment

of the Annual Budget Act. Over the last several decades, and especially now, pundits, commentators and majority party (usually Democratic) complain bitterly of the unjustification of such provision, noting correctly that only two other states require more than a simple majority for adoption of an annual budget. During my Senate service, I twice introduced constitutional amendments (1) to require a simple majority for passage of the budget act, (2) require an annual reserve equal to 5% of general fund expenditures, (3) alter the date by which the Budget Act must be completed from June 15 (a date never honored by compliance in over 50 years) to July 1, the date of State Government’s fiscal year, (4) require forfeiture of legislative pay for each day after July 1 until date of passage of the Budget Act. In order to submit a constitutional amendment to voters, a two-thirds vote of each House must be obtained. I was twice able to secure passage of my measure by the Senate, with even a couple of Republican votes, but never achieved the two-thirds margin in the Assembly, although closing to within 3 votes of doing so in 1998. I argued to Republicans that one day they would constitute the majority in the legislature, but would be frustrated on the two-thirds vote requirement by the Democratic minority. Although persuasive to a few Assembly Republicans, that argument was always trumped by the forfeiture-of-pay provision, which reminds me of Proposition 1F on the May 19, 2009 State-wide Special Election Ballot. Proposition 1F merely prevents a salary increase for legislators and other state officers if the Director of Finance certifies to the California Citizens Compensation Commission that there “will be a negative balance on June 30 of the current fiscal year in the initial Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties in an amount equal to, or greater than, 1 percent of estimated General Fund revenues.” Historians can contrast our salary increase prevention device with salary default for failure to perform lawful budget obligations.

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SECOND THOUGHTS

Reflections on  
Lost Memories

by Jack Kaye

**M**y computer crashed last month. I was advised that the hard drive had failed and would need to be replaced. That meant that all my memory would be lost. Every e-mail I had sent or received, all the music I had stored on I Tunes, all my pictures of family and friends, and all my written work includ-



ing all my past columns, my novel, which in the process of being reprinted, and my book on metaphysics, which was backed up on another system, thank G-d. I took the great loss well and I started thinking about memory and its loss. My novel concerned one person who was destined to be forever forgotten and another who lost his memory of himself. The loss of memory was a punishment for the first character and a blessing for the other. What is our memory to us?

When I first studied psychology in the early 60s, I was taught about a concept called “the halo effect.” The theory was that first impressions color the way a person is forever regarded and remembered. If a person had been considered bright and honorable at first meeting, everything he did from then on would seem somewhat bright and honorable. The next year I had a chance to test the theory. I was the French teacher’s favorite and best student. I was bright and hard working and got A’s on my first tests. But by the end of the semester, I had missed some tests and done badly on others. My teacher viewed me as a poor student who just didn’t have what it took. She remembered the last few weeks of school rather than the first impression, which had seemed justified for most of the semester. I realized it was the most recent experience that colored our memory of people and events and not the first.

Take the weather. If it is warm and sunny in San Francisco for a week, people say that it has been that way forever. When the weather changes and it is cold, foggy and/or wet for a few days, people say that this weather seems like it will never end.

Or take relationships. Two people have a great relationship for a period of time. Then something happens to make

them split a part. If it was a bad ending, there is a good chance that it will make the memories of the good times less so. It was the last experiences that revealed the true nature of each person and the relationship.

Or take retail. Do you remember what Abercrombie and Fitch used to be? It was a totally different store that specialized in high end sports equipment. In the 1950s I was big into ping pong and would buy my special paddles at Abercrombie’s. It was not a store for young people wanting to be sexy. But who remembers that? Do you remember what Banana Republic sold and why they chose their name? They sold surplus uniform items from banana republics.

And then there is our lack of memory about taxes. The highest marginal tax rate is threatening to go from 35% to 39.6%. People are screaming “unfair exorbitant tax increase on the rich.” The 35% top rate was part of the former administration’s temporary tax cut for those in the highest tax bracket. “It means that when adding state, local and payroll taxes, the wealthiest among us will be paying almost half their earnings in tax. What will it do to productivity when people see so much of their earnings taken from them?” the well-to-do ask. We forget that it is a marginal tax rate which means it is applied to only the highest part of the person’s net income. (So for a person making \$500,000, with \$100,000 in deductions and a net of \$400,000 would pay an extra 4.6% on the \$42,000 over \$358,000, the beginning of the top bracket, or \$1932 more in taxes. This is less than four tenths of one percent (.38%) of their income We also forget that this is what the top earners paid from the 1980’s to just a few years ago. But we also forget something else. While America was its most productive, from 1946 to about 1980, the highest marginal tax rate in America was 90%.

I remember growing up in an upper-middle class family where my father earned about \$40,000 a year in the 1950’s. He paid at a 50% marginal tax rate so whenever he lamented the cost of something, like my boarding school, he would double the amount because he figured, incorrectly, that all of his earnings were taxed at the 50% rate and therefore everything actually cost twice as much net income dollars.

But a bad memory is also a plus. We forget some of our past prejudices as our culture evolves taking us along with it. The latest presidential primaries and election were cases in point. One major party picked an African-American over the wife of its most successful past president and then the majority chose him over a good old boy, who was the son and grandson

of full admirals. It showed that many of us have forgotten our past racism enough to give an excellent candidate a chance to make a difference.

Our bad memory helps when we must forgive someone’s past transgressions and find it harder and harder to remember exactly what they had been or why they mattered so much. It helps us forget some of the pain that life provides us so generously. Mothers have forgotten how painful their pregnancy was so that they can look forward to having more children. We forget the pain of open heart surgery so that we can face it again when it’s needed five, ten, or 15 years later. It surprised me when my reaction to being told I needed open heart surgery again made warm salt water cover my cheeks. My body still remembered the trauma even though my mind

had forgotten.  
But, perhaps, what we should never forget is how lucky we are to be alive and that no matter how hard life seems to us, it could always be a lot worse. And we should not forget those who love us and those who have helped us. And we should try to remember that no matter what we did, it was the best we could do at the time and that there is plenty of room for improvement in the future. And that if this applies to us, then it should also apply to everyone else as per Kant’s categorical imperative.  
And, if you don’t agree with any of this, then you can just forget about it.

More Jack Kaye is available at [www.westsideobserver.com/columns/kaye.htm](http://www.westsideobserver.com/columns/kaye.htm)



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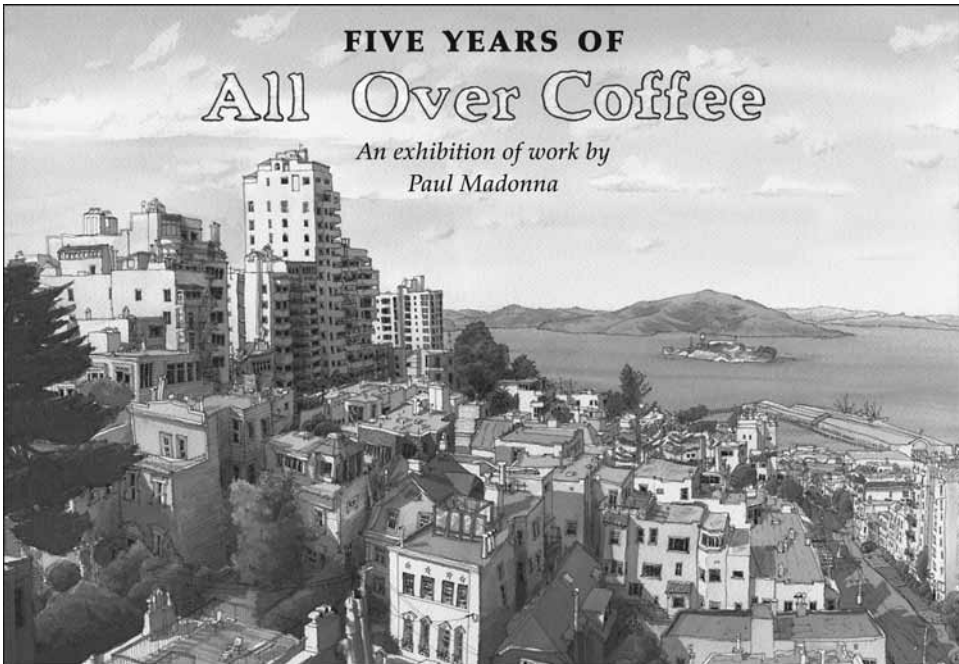
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## May Calendar

### May 1-3

#### FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ - FRIDAYS

Every Fri. | 7-11pm The best Bay Area Jazz Musicians in the Balcony, Cliff House Lounge 1 Seal Rock

#### CHEAP BASTARD SHOW —EVERY SATURDAY

Every Sat. | 2pm | 5/2 Kemo Sabe plays "punk-grass," 5/9 Deborah Crooks & Kwame Copeland, folk-rock, 5/16 Foxtails Brigade, indie-folk, 5/23 The Grooverobbers, jazz-funk, 5/30 Guella, funk-rock The Music Store, 60 West Portal 664-2044.

#### SPEIR TOWN HALL MEETING

Sat. 5/2 | 10-11:30pm | Congresswoman Jackie Speier Reports. Ulloah Elementary School, 2650 42nd Avenue

#### URBAN COMPOSTING!

Sat. 5/2 | 10am-12pm | Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street, Free. Info 731-5627, or email [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org).

### May 4-10

#### WRITERS RESUME

Wed. 5/6 | 7-8:30pm | Joan Gelfand, local award-winning poet, new workshop titled *Build Your Writer's Resume: How to Get*

*on the Road to Publication*. \$90, class is limited to ten writers. BookShop West Portal, 80 West Portal 564-8080.

#### BENEFICIAL BUGS

Sat. 5/9 | 10am-12pm | Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street, Free. Info 731-5627, or email [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org).

#### HOUSING ELEMENT MEETING

Wed. 5/6 | 6-7:30pm | Miraloma Park Clubhouse 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd. The Planning Department is required to solicit neighborhood feedback and input before the Housing Element is approved. Please come to this meeting and let the Planning Department know what you think. The future of our Westside neighborhoods is at stake, and your voices need to be heard.

#### QUE SARAH—HAPPY HOUR EVERY TUESDAY

Every Tue. | 4-8pm | Take \$1 off of each-glass /\$10 off of each bottle consumed at the store. 230 West Portal Ave. 731-7000.

#### FREE LECTURE ON HANDLING PROBLEMS

Fri. 5/8 | 8pm | How to Handle Problems. Church of Scientology, 2501 Judah St. Info: 661-9494.

### May 11-17

#### FREE SQUARE DANCE CLASSES

Mon. 5/11 | 8-9:30pm | A fun 20 week class FREE! First 3 Lessons St Paul's Presbyterian Church Hall 1399 43rd Ave. at Judah. Caper Cutters Club, [www.sfsquaredancing.org](http://www.sfsquaredancing.org) Barbara & Dave 751-3105 No dance experience needed Square dancing is physically and mentally stimulating. Bring friends and meet new folks.

#### BOUNTIFUL BRASSICAS

## NOW AT THE MOVIES

by Don Lee Miller

#### ADVENTURELAND

In the summer of 1967 when college misfits, James Brennan: Jesse Eisenberg and Em Lewin: Kristen (Twilight) Stewart, can't find other jobs they work at Adventureland--a seedy amusement park in Pittsburgh. The older handyman mechanic Mike Connell: Ryan Reynolds hears James' lovesick tales. Em is unhappy with her father's new bride and only works to be away from them while carrying on with Mike, but toying with naïve James' affections. Not the ideal bosses, ditzzy Bobby: Bill Hader, Paulette: Kristen Wiig, manage the amusement park. Profanity, sexual content.

#### ALIEN TRESPASS

Why set your film in 1957 and show a 1958 movie, *The Blob*, integral to the plot? Spoofing the 1950 sci-fi films, James Swift and Steven P. Fisher write the often funny satire directed by R.W. Goodwin: *X-Files* with a knowing feel for the period and the non-Technicolor processes. A spaceship crashes in the Mohave Desert near the home of

astronomer Ted Lewis: Eric McCormack. A motley bunch of misfits reporting to Chief Dawson: Dan Lauria, including Vernon: Robert Patrick, young Cody: Aaron Brooks all have their encounters with the one-eyed monster from the spacecraft. Spunky waitress Tammy: Jenni Baird, a blond with a brain, puts them all to shame. Profanity, disturbing images.

#### CRANK: HIGH VOLTAGE

Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor: both co-direct and co-write their expose of Los Angeles' seamiest side. Chev Chelios: Jason Stratham searches for the Chinese warlord who has replaced his superhuman heart with a machine that is wearing out. Chelios is assisted by Eve: Amy Smart, a pretty blond stripper; Ria: Ling Bai, a tough stripper with a mouth; and Doc Miles: Dwight Yoacum, who's on stand-by to replant Chelios' heart, as soon as he gets it back from the gang who took it. Poon Dong: David Carradine, the 100-year old warlord, is awaiting his implant of new energy. Self-mutilation reaches a new low when an oriental hood cuts off his own nipples. Crude language, Violence!, Nudity.

#### GOMORRAH

periodically tears into everyone. A disturbing portrait of the family members attacking one another and attempting to survive emotionally in tight quarters. *Plays until May 2. For information about the company's View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller July 2-August 22, call 510-835-4205 or visit [www.offbroadwaywest.org](http://www.offbroadwaywest.org). Dr. Annette Lust*

#### MISS JULIE

Mark Jackson's direction of Strindberg's 1888 *Miss Julie* about male-female and class power struggles passion and lust has audience members captivated by the high powered action between the flirtatious Miss Julie and her sexually attractive footman Jean under the moral gaze of Christine the cook, Jean's fiancée.

What is most moving in this tragic and highly emotional drama is Jean's mounting power over the authoritative Miss Julie who, once she has given in to her sexual impulses, slowly descends through her shame for her action and deception over her servant's true intentions. The ups and downs in the emotional scale through which Jean progresses from passionate lover to ambitious

Maurizio Braucci based his screenplay on Roberto Saviano's best-selling book which has been directed with zest by Matteo Garrone. In the opening scene in a tanning salon, five gangsters are gunned down. The labyrinth tale in suburban Naples interweaves five plots of the Italian gangsters who run the toxic waste sludge, drugs, and extortion rackets. Don Ciro: Gianfelice Imparato has been delivering rations to families of mob prisoners too long; he now wears a bullet-proof vest for his own safety. Toto: Nicolo Manta, the young teen must earn the gun he's been entrusted with. Pasquale: Salvatore Cantalupo, a haute couture tailor for a mob-owned designer, takes on a second night-shift job training Chinese workers how to cut the fabric. He's smuggled into the factory in a car trunk for his own safety, but the mafia still finds out. The other two plots involve illegal toxic waste dumping and two hoods who steal a stash of weapons from the mob...which they regret. Disturbing images, Graphic violence, Strong language. Italian w/English subtitles. 135m. IFC Films Cannes Film Festival: Grand Prix

#### MONSTERS VS. ALIENS

This animated feature grows on you...

social climber, dragging along Miss Julie, is dynamically portrayed by Mark Anderson Phillips as Jean and Lauren Grace as Miss Julie, the seductive count's daughter, under the calm eye of the cook Christine, played by Beth Deitchman.

This is one of Aurora's most puissant productions, an exceptional treat offering outstanding dramatic content, expert direction and acting.

*Miss Julie plays at the Aurora Theatre through May 10. Clifford Odet's Awake and Sing plays from August 21 thru September 29. For information call 510-843-4822 or visit [www.auroratheatre.org](http://www.auroratheatre.org).*

#### "ROBOT'S REVENGE" STEALS THE SHOW

*FringeRobot's Revenge—A Relevant Pantomime* by Dr. Annette Lust and directed by Sasha got this critic's vote for most outstanding production. Erica Badgeley also gets my vote for Best Actress as The Robot. Christine Clemmons was delightful as the Engineer's Wife, Johann Schiffer added able support as the Engineer, and Lauren Rigor interpreted the Company President. Sasha's masterful direction and precise directorial movements are reminiscent of both Morris

Sat. 5/16 | 10am-12pm | Kale, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Brusselsprouts, Mustard Greens, and many more. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street, Free. Info 731-5627, or email [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org). Cost: \$10.

#### SUNDAY STREETS MEETING

Tues. 5/12 | 7pm | Concerns about "Sunday Streets" and the impact on Sunset District residents with the Sunday Streets organizers. Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. Sup. Carmen Chu 554-7481.

#### SUNSET REC CENTER REBUILD MEETING

Wed. 5/13 | 6pm | Sunset Recreation Center (28th Ave. & Lawton St.) Rec/Park community meeting.

#### WEST PORTAL SIDEWALKSALE

Sat. 5/16 | 10am-3pm | Stroll the Avenue for Brief Merchant Demos and sales. Charity Raffle for Breast Cancer.

#### MEET WITH LOCAL POLICE

Tue. 5/19 | 7pm | Talk with community police every 3rd Tuesday at the Taraval Station. 2324 24th Ave.

### May 18-24

#### ART SHOW

Fri. 5/22 | 7-9:30pm | Art Show. See the works of local visual artists and also hear live performances of local musicians. Church of Scientology, 2501 Judah St. Info: 661-9494.

### May 25-31

#### PERENNIAL VEGETABLES FOR SF

Sat. 5/30 | 10am-12pm | Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street, Free. Info 731-5627, or email [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org). Cost: \$15.

rapidly as the bride Susan Murphy: v.o. Reese Witherspoon becomes Ginormica, taller than the church she was to be married in. The nut jobs that she is turned over to are a bunch of alien weirdos! General Monger: v.o. Kiefer Sutherland is quite a character. Of special local interest are the No. Calif. and SF settings. Also 3D.

#### OBSERVE AND REPORT

Bi-polar mall security guard Ronnie Barnhardt: Seth Rogan is summoned to stop a flasher who distresses make-up counter clerk, Brandi: Anna Faris. When they finally go on a date and Brandi passes out, Ronnie practically rapes her. Before irritating Ronnie can get to the bottom of things or conquer his delusions of grandeur, surly cop Det. Harrison: Ray Liotta is brought onto the case. Nell, a winsome coffee-shop girl with a bandaged leg: Collette Wolfe deserves better material and leading men. Dennis: Michael Pena, another mall cop-Ronnie's friend from Mexico, tries to help him. Ronnie and another guy shout the f-word back and forth for more than a minute; this has to be the most repugnant scene on film. Writer-director Jody Hill, NM. Crude language, Male frontal

Cont. p. 10

## AT THE THEATER

Dr. Jean Lust and Flora Lynn Isaacson

#### MEET JULIE

Off Broadway West's third season presents one of Pinter's '60s plays, *The Homecoming*. A dysfunctional family comprised of Max, an elderly tyrannical retired butcher (Graham Cowley), his pimp-like son Lenny (Nick Russell), son Joey training to be a boxer (Conor Hamill), son Teddy, a philosopher (Gregory Daniels), his daughter-in-law Ruth (Sylvia Kratins) unhappily married to Teddy, and Uncle Sam (Randy Hurst), are all involved in a struggle to hold one's own side by side. Ruth soon gains the affection of Max and his two other sons, flirting with them with sexual innuendos. She takes on the role of mother and wife and possibly earns money through her favors to the men Lenny provides.

As in all of Pinter's plays the dialogue is brief with hidden meaning behind the characters' words. Comic moments, particularly in Act Two, alleviate the atmosphere of suppressed violence that bring about outbursts, particularly on the part of Max who

Panych (ACT-The Overcoat) and Marcel Marceau.

Best Solo Performance in Program II goes to Lucas McClure for his interesting piece, direction and performance in *McBooth* that, besides being entertaining, offered a history lesson about Shakespeare's Scottish play.

*Special*, written and directed by Ann Meredith, about five women whose high school math teacher molested them, in their later years are able to reclaim their stolen innocence by speaking the truth. Meredith's play is both disturbing and riveting and gets my vote for Outstanding Ensemble Work with Kathryn Kim, Ida VSW Red, Lynae Ades, Roy Anne Florence and Mandy Omoregie.

In *One Shoe On*, a humorous bachelor party by Dr. K. Adour directed by Robin Schild, two of the characters were doctors known by retired physician, Dr. Adour. There were several "in jokes" and Robin Schild made the most of comic bits of business. Outstanding performances were by Rick Roitinger as Steve and Byron Lambie as Harvey, a zoologist. The lead character,

Cont. p. 10

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# Alfred's — The Classic Steakhouse

By Marjorie Ford

The word classy came into the English language in 1891 — slang — meaning “superior; high class.” Just 37 years after the Oxford English Dictionary recognized the word, Alfred's Steakhouse opened in San Francisco. “Classy” was how people described it from the beginning. That was 1928. 81 years later, the word still fits. And there are reasons, according to how the word class is defined and redefined over the centuries, according to the O. E. D.

Back in 1928, a waiter everyone in the city liked, named Alfred Bacchini, wanted to have his own restaurant, and he knew just how he wanted it to be. He found an ornate Victorian on Broadway, high on the hill over North Beach, above the spot where the Broadway Tunnel is now. But there was no Broadway Tunnel then. The plans for the tunnel had been laid in 1863, but the city officials wrangled for 85 years, and it took a total of 87 years for construction to be finished. Meanwhile, Alfred's stood proud on that steep hill while the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay Bridge were built. By the time you could drive through the Broadway Tunnel Alfred's had been the classic steakhouse for 24 years, minus a brief time when the police shut it down, for a violation of Prohibition. The shut—down lasted barely more than a week, because the politicians couldn't go long without those steaks, and those vibes — and no doubt those martinis.

Albert Bucchini presided over his restaurant for 45

years, until 1973, when he retired and sold it to another Italian family, Art Petri and his son, another Al, Al Petri. If you go in on a Thursday, when the lunch crowd is thinning, you'll probably see Al and his wife Pat sitting down, at last, to enjoy lunch in each other's company. Al's sister Teri's husband, Will Growney, might be the person who greets you: he's also a partner in the family restaurant. The new Al and the Petri family have kept up the original Alfred's tradition — adding their own delicious touches.

Now it's not just the place where San Francisco dignitaries go for the comfort of a great martini, the best steak in town, and a sophisticated wine list, but the spot other restaurateurs and celebrity chefs go when they get a night off.

I first tasted that steak—like-no-other—steak when Alfred's was still in that old house above the Broadway Tunnel. There were red leather banquettes so plush you wanted to cozy in and spend the night. The décor was so fancy it was decadent: chandeliers, red—flocked wallpaper, a sense of a time you wished you'd lived in. The steak was sizzled by fire to a thin crisp on the outside, bursting with juices when you bit in.

Then Alfred's moved. This was twelve years ago — 1997. I was mad. I couldn't imagine anything as good as the old place. The new place was in the Financial District — on Merchant Street, the little alley between the Transamerica Pyramid and Kearny, the site of a lifelong institution, The Blue Fox. Good, but not Alfred's. I dug in my heels and couldn't be dragged there. Except — some friends from the East had long heard and read about

Alfred's. They begged. I called upon my kind heart and gave in...for their sake.

And so we walk in.

My heavens. The air changes. There's a hush — combined with an electrifying energy. The ceiling is midnight blue, lit not by stars or chandeliers but by repeating circles of inset golden globes. The drama of it stuns, because of the understatement. In a much more modern way, it's plusher than the old place. In this light, the women are beautiful. The food is bright. The steaks glisten. The scampi glisten. The vegetables have all the color — and taste — that nature gave them. My favorite is the creamed spinach — green as green. It's creamed, but with just a

Cont. p. 15



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# Never Mind

Hank Basayne

**Q**: What is Mind? A: It doesn't matter.  
**Q**: What is Matter?  
A: Never mind! This tautological nonsense may be a few centuries old but I first heard it in the 1940s. Then in my teens, I thought it very clever. Now, I'm not so sure.

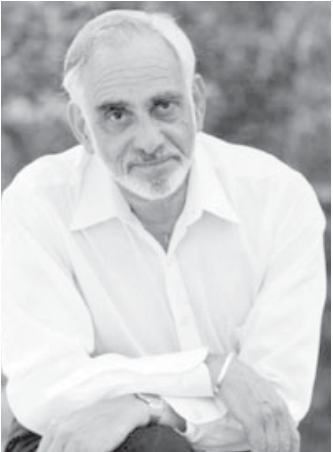
The poet Edna St. Vincent Millay once compared someone's mind to an escalop of oysters: first a layer of crumbs, then an oyster-y taste, then another layer of crumbs. I could find no description of the reaction of the poor woman so described.

In 1937, when the general reading public was first becoming aware of psychology, the unparalleled James Thurber wrote a book titled *Let Your Mind Alone*, a phrase I find more and more appealing as I continue to age. In it he offers alternative prescriptions to the many self-help books emerging at the time. His interpretations were based on a Marxist philosophy—Groucho's, not the other one.

I loved another piece Thurber composed called *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*, a wickedly funny response to Dale Carnegie's all-time best seller. Twenty years later this genius produced another wonderful spoof, *Is Sex Necessary?*, continuing to puncture the balloons of our widely held assumptions.

Some years ago a beloved companion once characterized my mind as "a fine instrument, out of control". The passing years seem to have added validity to her portrayal. For instance, when I hear a reference to a cell phone my mind sometimes hears it as Self Phone. When I see the words "bar code" my somewhat odd intellect conjures up the way dogs communicate with each other: Bark Code. Sorry. I just can't help it.

"Leave your mind alone" is a not-so-silly injunction from the wisest Zen masters. The whole point of the practice of meditation is to empty the mind, to stop the internal noise, to still the inner chatter. Learning to quiet my random, unpredictable thoughts is a never-ending, never fully successful pursuit. I'm not a very self-disciplined person, but even when my attempts are partially achieved, the effort is well worth it.



I've found two very different approaches to shutting off my mental prattle. The traditional one is to focus intently on one thing, counting the breaths, a candle flame, a flower or a mantra. This doesn't work well for me; my haphazard thoughts keep popping up, unbidden. The other, almost opposite method is to allow each thought to appear, but not to get stuck with it. "I observe the birds cross the sky; I do not go with them," says an ancient Japanese recipe. It is repetition that gives one thought more weight than another.

I use a sort of mental wind-shield wiper: with my mind as quiet and blank as I can make it, I let a thought arise, notice it, then wipe it away to let the next thought arise. After fifteen or twenty minutes of this practice I am surprisingly refreshed and peaceful. I know that the "noise" will return but I feel somewhat more in control of this thing called my mind.

With all the new and extensive research into the brain, and the scientific assumption that it is the seat of the mind, I find a more poetic and romantic hypothesis more appealing. Who is to say that my mind isn't located in my left elbow, in Antarctica, or somewhere in outer space? As I am reminded every Valentine's Day, we still more or less assume that our feelings of love are situated in the heart, however anatomically incorrect that may be.

I think—there I go again—we spend altogether too much time and effort thinking about minds, our own and the minds of others. We indulge too much in mind-reading, thinking we know what someone else is thinking or feeling. I've often confused my own thoughts with reality—whatever that is. It then comes as a jolt to recognize that my own perceptions are not universally held. And if you find these ruminations confusing, perplexing or not very useful, never mind!

**Hank Basayne is a San Franciscan, a Humanist Minister and the author of Weddings: The Magic of Creating Your Own Ceremony. Who knows what he'll think of next?**

**At the Movies**(Cont. from p. 6  
nudity, Drug use, Sexual content, and Violence.

**17 AGAIN**  
Hayden High never had it so good! Mike O'Donnell, high school senior: Zac Efron dances with the cheerleaders before a H.S. basketball game. He's captain of the team and very popular; a girl declares: "If he were an apple, he'd be a delicious!" That's 1989! The present: he's aged to become Matt LeBlanc, a not too successful pharmaceutical salesman separated from wife Scarlett: Leslie Mann and not communicating with their high school kids, Maggie: Michelle Trachtenberg and Alex: Sterling Knight. Along comes a vortex Mike enters, getting to go back to Hayden to relive his past. His eccentric rich best friend, Ned Gold Freedman: Thomas Lennon, with whom Mike stays, starts dating the school principal, Jane Masterson: Melora Hardin. If only everyone was as funny as this pair! Mild profanity & violence, some sexual material and teen partying.

**SIN NOMBRE (UNNAMED)**  
Teenaged Sayra: Paulina Gaitan from Honduras reunites with her father, making her dream of getting into the U.S. via Mexico a possibility. They gather near the train yards at Mexico's southern

**At the Theater** (Cont. from p. 6  
David Rouda, was cleverly directed in a pratfall, getting tangled up in the cord of the phone.

Stanton Close's comedy **Darcy's Sex Scene**, directed by Nina Lescher, is based on a clever intrigue- in which a women's writing group meets and Darcy (Jill Cagan) presents her story to the group. Two actors downstage, Jonathan Vittum and Pami Malinova, comically pantomime what Darcy is reading to the group. Darcy is at times inaudible and the acting of Sara James, Gretchen Olivero and Gretchen Lee Salter is uneven.

**Plutarch's Lives, A Darkish Autobiographical Comedy**, written and performed by Donna Budd and directed by Christine McHugh, takes us to the heroine's hometown in North Carolina. Although Donna's perfect dialect was hard to understand due to soft projection, she had a sly sense of humor and an intelligent script, expressive eyes and gestures.

border, prepared for the journey of over a week atop the boxcars, through tribal gang territories. When Willy: Edgar Flores is wounded and she bandages him, they become friends and pair up to get to Texas. They battle the elements together, but he has crossed the gang and they're after him. Cary Fukunaga directs his own debut screenplay of the trials of border-crossing. Violence, profanity. Won Directing and Cinematography Awards: 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

**STATE OF PLAY**  
D.C. newspaper publisher Cameron Lynne: Helen Mirren teams her top reporter, rumpled but experienced Cal McAffrey: Russell Crowe with newbie blogger Della Frye: Rachel McAdams to solve the murder of a congressman's mistress. Rep. Stephen Collins: Ben Affleck would like to keep wife Anne: Robin Wright Penn out of the loop. He's in deep with Sen. George Fergus: Jeff Daniels. McAffrey decides to get some info from sleaze Dominic Foy: Jason Bateman. Robert Bingham's: Michael Berresse ties go way back in this political action thriller. Nothing prepares one for the twist in the last quarter hour. Strong violence, sexuality and profanity.

Opening night of Program II, Saturday, April 18, 2009 played to an enthusiastic sold out house with standing room only. The Fringe of Marin Festival offers stimulating and entertaining theatre that discovers fresh voices and brings in the community to participate as either artist or spectator. *The Fringe plays through May 3, 2009. Performances are Fridays-Saturdays, at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at Meadowlands Assembly Hall, Dominican University, San Rafael, CA. For information, call 415-673-3131. Flora Lynn Isaacson*

**LIUTENANT OF INISHMORE**  
If you enjoy violence-especially bloody violence-check out Martin McDonagh's Lieutenant of Inishmore directed by Les Waters at Berkeley Rep. From the opening of Act One we witness a dead cat with a bloody severed head supposedly run over by Davey (Adam Farabee) who brings the cat home to the older Donny (strongly played by James Carpenter)

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claiming she/he (difficult to know which sex because the character has hair and body like a girl and voice like a boy) did not run over the cat with her/his bicycle but only picked it up. In the next scene we see the owner of the cat, Padriac (Blake Ellis) torturing a drug dealer hanging upside down by cutting off his toes.

If one can view the play with a detached sense of humor and not take the farcical exaggerated use of blood curdling violence seriously but accept it as a good theatrical device, this dynamically staged and acted play can be hilariously funny. In fact it is reminiscent of the crude shocking buffoonery found in the Commedia dell' Arte, one of the most vital dramatic forms found throughout Western Theatre. *The Lieutenant plays until May 17 at Berkeley's Roda Theatre. For info call 510 647-2949 or 888 4-BRT-tix (toll-free) or visit berkeleyrep.org.*



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SHARON THE HEALTH

Why Posture Matters  
AKA Straighten Up and Fly Right

by Sharon Caren

Do you remember as a kid hearing “stand up straight, don’t slouch, you look sloppy?” At 48, I began to learn the reasons for good posture. In my March 2009 column, I shared my story of how I was led to this education and to personal healing (go to [www.westsideobserver.com/columnists](http://www.westsideobserver.com/columnists)).



Posture is not static but a free flowing dance with gravity.

Our body is an incredible and intelligent capsule for the soul. It automatically knows how to balance itself according to gravity without conscious thought, like breathing. However, when muscles become tight and the body is no longer flexible, the natural balance we have normally (the dynamic dance with gravity) is compromised. How do we know if this is happening? We’ll feel it in the form of PAIN. Pain is the body’s way of communicating something is wrong. It’s not a bad or scary thing, something to be afraid of or to get rid of with pills, but a warning. Pain means something needs attention. When we feel or sense this communication, it’s time to look for the CAUSE of the pain or discomfort. Our intuition can also play a part in finding the cause. This takes a little more time and effort than popping a pill but will lead to a greater quality of life in the long run. So let’s look at how the body was originally designed. We have bones (skeletal system) and muscles, to hold the bones in place and give us freedom of movement. Bones are designed to hold the weight of the body. That’s their

job. Having good, strong bones is essential to keep us upright. The job of muscles is to hold the skeletal system together and allow us to move, walk, run, jump, drive, play golf, swim, etc. If the body is out of balance, the muscles get involved in weight bearing. Muscles are not designed to hold the weight of the body....so we feel PAIN.

**Picture This**  
**Good Posture** —Most Efficient Shoulders back, arms hanging midline of the body or behind midline, head and neck balanced with the chin down, and eyes looking comfortably forward.  
**Poor Posture** — Less Efficient Shoulders rolled forward, arms hanging in front of the midline, head pitched forward (following the shoulders), jaw and neck jetting forward, eyes looking partially downward.

**Have you or anyone you know experienced carpal tunnel or thoracic outlet syndrome, TMJ or jaw disorders, sciatica, knee or ankle pain?**  
These conditions are prominent when posture is less efficient. With poor posture, the muscles in the front of the body are too short and tight, pulling the shoulders and upper body forward. Then, so the body doesn’t tip over forward, an adjustment is made in the hips. The pelvis tilts back to balance the weight of the upper body coming forward – make sense? (Newton’s law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction)  
Follow me on this. When the body’s natural balance is compromised in this way, major body functions are also being compromised. If the shoulders are rolled forward, the rib cage collapses downward toward the pelvis. There’s a huge amount of compression now pushing on the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, stomach, intestines, sexual organs, etc. That means blood, oxygen, and nerves are also being compressed and crimped off by tight muscles and cannot flow comfortably or easily to all of the cells of the organs to keep them healthy.  
Also, with the misalignment of the body comes back pain. When the muscles in the front of the body are short and tight, the muscles in the back of the body are being pulled longer than those muscles were designed to be. The

spine and back muscles are constantly trying to pull the body back to the most upright position. This constant tug of war with the muscles and gravity is exhausting. Why do we become so tired and fatigued...poor posture, maybe? It might also show up in high blood pressure, breathing problems, digestive, stomach or elimination conditions, sexual dysfunction, muscle and nerve aches and pains and the list goes on. If these issues become escalated, they can lead to life threatening diseases.

**Stretching and Flexibility**  
This isn’t a doom and gloom situation. The wonderful news is that tight muscles can always be stretched. One of my clients, a beautiful and healthy 62 year old woman, told me her husband was going to buy her a wheel chair—for the past year she hasn’t been able to stand or even walk for longer than 5 minutes at a time because of constant pain in her right hip. She tried many things before a friend referred her to the Reposturing bodywork. She shared that as a child she was never very flexible and had fear around stretching “too far” and really injuring herself. Using the Reposturing hands-on bodywork technique, she is able to walk over 4 blocks and stand without pain! Stretching her deep postural muscles and correcting her posture so her body weight is balanced, her strides have increased and the pain has drastically lessened after 8 sessions and will continue to get better and better as her flexibility increases. No surgery, drugs or wheel chairs.  
Go outside the box for answers when looking for the CAUSE of PAIN. Be open to new and different ideas and techniques for natural healing. If you’d like more information on Reposturing, please call 650.359.6579. For all of you Westside Observer readers, call for a free consultation to assess your individual needs. When you call, mention the paper.  
*Note: Reposturing Certification Training Class for Legs and Feet on May 22-24 in Belmont, CA at the Summerfield Suites Hotel. If you or someone you know is interested in learning this life changing work, please call or go to: [www.reposturingdynamics.com](http://www.reposturingdynamics.com) More columns from Sharon Caren are available at [www.westsideobserver.com/columns/sharonTheHealth.html](http://www.westsideobserver.com/columns/sharonTheHealth.html)*

King Salmon

By Mike Carroll

I know many of you are disappointed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has cancelled the King salmon fishing season again this year for California and part of Oregon. As a butcher and proud owner of Carroll’s Meats in Brisbane, I know that the Pacific coast produces some of the best King salmon on Earth. But I’ll let you in on a little secret: I don’t have to disappoint my King salmon-loving customers at times like this. Thanks to my friends at Triad Fisheries in Bothell, Washington, I carry the finest, freshest additive-free Alaskan King salmon you have ever tasted. The quality of Triad King salmon is, well, literally sashimi-grade. All of Triad’s King salmon is flash frozen on their stringently-sanitary boats within minutes of being caught. The salmon stays in this state until it reaches guys like me, who then thaw your salmon steaks and fillets and maintain their peak freshness for you to purchase and enjoy. Which means that you don’t have to go without fantastic King salmon when you want it. That’s what I call a beautiful thing. I’ve included a recipe that’s perfect for our Springtime weather. For more information call me at 415-467-3007.



From the Kitchen:

Mike Carroll is the owner and operator of Carroll’s Meats on Visitacion Avenue in Brisbane. No stranger to the Westside of SF, Carroll has lived and worked in the SF area for all of his life including a stint at the Tower market. As fast with a quip as he is with a spatula, he has been featured on 107.7 “The Bone” radio with Lamont and Tonelli. We welcome him to the pages of the Westside Observer.

**CARROLL’S FIRECRACKER GRILLED SALMON**

**Ingredients:**

- 4 (4 to 6 oz. each) Alaska Salmon Steaks or Fillets
- 1/4 cup Peanut Oil
- 2 Tbsp Soy Sauce
- 2 Tbsp Balsamic Vinegar
- 2 Tbsp chopped Green Onions
- 1 1/2 tsp Brown Sugar
- 1 clove Garlic, minced
- 3/4 tsp grated Ginger
- 1/2 tsp Red Chili Flakes (or more to taste)
- 1/2 tsp Sesame Oil
- 1/8 Salt

**Directions:**

Place salmon steaks or fillets in a glass dish. Whisk together remaining ingredients and pour over salmon. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in refrigerator 4-6 hours. Remove salmon from marinade and place on a well-oiled grill 5 inches from coals. Grill salmon for 10 minutes per inch of thickness, measured at the thickest part, or until salmon just flakes when tested with a fork. Turn halfway through cooking. Makes 4 delicious grilled salmon dishes.

## Thank You!

By Carol Kocivar

Here is a little memory test.

Close your eyes. Now try to remember your elementary school teachers.

I did that the other day and while I may misplace my keys or my cell phone, I have not misplaced the mental pictures my teachers—each one.

I attended a two-room schoolhouse and can still remember sitting around the piano—the highlight of the week—and hearing my teacher play. (As an aside, this was also snack time and we ate pecans and walnuts from a sack—no kidding!)

I remember practicing for the school play. I remember learning how to do wood work. I remember learning the national anthems of countries throughout the world.

Long ago? Yes. But these memories are made everyday in our schools.

May is the time to say Thank You. Thank you for the skills and caring that indeed last a lifetime.

Saying thank you makes a world of difference. You can do it with a simple handwritten note or an email.

Here are some more ideas from the PTA that you can use to recognize the teachers and to increase public awareness about the important work teachers do.

Host a special breakfast or lunch for your school's teachers and staff. If space allows, invite

parents, school board members, the district superintendent, district personnel, and prominent community leaders to join you at the event in showing appreciation for teachers.

Create a giant teacher thank-you card for display in the school community. Place markers by the card so community members can add their words of thanks.

Start a "teacher feature" on a school or library bulletin board. Each week or month, profile a different teacher. Include quotes by and about the teacher, as well as the teacher's picture, background, hobbies, and philosophy of education. Alternatively, use the school or PTA newsletter to publish interviews with teachers and stories about teachers' accomplishments. Consider having students conduct the interviews and write the stories. Publish stories throughout the year.

Ask each teacher what his or her favorite book is and buy a copy for or have a copy donated to the school library. Include in each book a bookplate with the name of the teacher who chose the book.

Present certificates of appreciation to all teachers, as well as to substitute teachers, aides, and other support staff.

Take out an ad in the local newspaper to thank the teachers in your school or district.

The San Francisco Education Fund has a GREAT "Thank a Teacher Today" web page—<http://www.thankateachertoday.org/> you can visit for even more ideas.

379-8000. The schedule below outlines the program by zip code neighborhoods.

**Sunset, Parkside, Stonestown, Lakeshore, St. Francis Woods** (94122, 94116, 94127, 94132) SPRING 2009 Free Days: May 8, 9, 10 FALL 2009 Free Days: Sept. 11, 12, 13

**Richmond, Seacliff, Western Addition, Pacific Heights, Laurel Heights, Presidio** (94121, 94118, 94115, 94129) SPRING 2009 Free Days: May 15, 16, 17 FALL 2009 Free Days: Oct. 2, 3, 4

**Excelsior, Ingleside, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Visitacion Valley** (94112, 94134, 94124) SPRING 2009 Free Days: May 22, 23, 24 FALL 2009 Free Days: Oct. 9, 10, 11

**Castro, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Miraloma Park, Cole Valley, Haight** (94117, 94114, 94131) SPRING 2009 Free Days: June 12, 13, 14 FALL 2009 Free Days: September 18, 19, 20

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## California Academy of Sciences Announces Neighborhood Free Days

San Francisco residents will have expanded opportunities to visit the newly rebuilt California Academy of Sciences free of charge during its first year of operation. Over the past ten years, thousands of San Francisco residents have visited the Academy during Neighborhood Free Days each year. In 2009, the first year after the Academy's reopening in Golden Gate Park, the number of Neighborhood Free Days will double. Each neighborhood, defined by zip codes, will have two opportunities to visit the Academy for free over a three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday). The first series of weekends runs from May 1-June 14, 2009, and the second from September 11-October 25, 2009.

"Access to cultural and educational institutions is one of our top community priorities at Bank of America because it's one of the things our associates, customers and other Californians tell us they care deeply about," said Janet Lamkin, President of Bank of America California. "Investing in venues like the California Academy of Sciences enriches the lives of people who visit them and contributes substantially to the local economy."

Each visiting adult must prove residency by showing a driver's license or a utility bill. Only residents from the zip codes invited on the designated dates will be admitted free of charge. Information about Neighborhood Free Days is available at [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org) and at (415)

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## Writer's Resume Workshop Begins in May

**Joan Gelfand**, local award-winning poet, will teach a new workshop titled *Build Your Writer's Resume: How to Get on the Road to Publication* at BookShop West Portal on Wed., May 6, June 3, and June 17, 7-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$90 and class is limited to ten writers.

Joan Gelfand, president of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) and author of the poetry collection, *A Dreamer's Guide to Cities and Streams*, will teach a series of three sessions for writers who want to build their resumes and ensure successful publication. The first session is an introduction to the Writer's Resume. The second session will focus on fine-tuning: editing, when and where to find a professional editor, online vs. hard copy submissions, and networking. In the final session, Gelfand will help writers get ready to build on their reputation, work on submissions, develop relationships with editors, and get support when they need it.

To register, please call BookShop West Portal at (415) 564-8080, or stop by the store. [www.bookshopwestportal.com](http://www.bookshopwestportal.com) 80 West Portal Ave

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FROM THE BORDER

What’s In A Name?

by Hilary Gordon • Photos by Blair Randall

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes...”

In the well-known play by Shakespeare, young Juliet gives her opinion that a name doesn’t matter. Her opinion matches that of many people who are beginning to learn about gardening. Why do we need to learn all those stupid Latin names for plants?

But thirteen-year-old Juliet turns out to be a little naïve, and as the play develops, the names of Montague and Capulet turn out to be a matter of life and death for Romeo, Juliet, and their young friends. (photo: Rose at GFE)

While not nearly so dramatic, the names of plants turn out to be important also. So you want a sage in your garden. Do you want one that is eight-feet tall and drought-tolerant with bright red winter flowers? Or do you want a plant that stays four inches tall, likes shade and moist soil, rewarding you with blue summer flowers. Or do you mean the culinary herb that is used in Tuscan bean soup, *Salvia officinalis*? Or do you mean the silvery-leaved foliage plants whose common names include the word “sage” like Sandhill sage or Big Sagebrush, which are not salvias at all but rather artemesias with tiny daisy-type flowers?

One of the foundation plants of the border at the GFE is copper canyon daisy, *Tagetes lemmonii*. For years, I called this plant Mexican marigold, having learned that (wrong) common name from another gardener. When I went to buy some more of these plants at the nursery, and asked for Mexican marigold, I was shown to a bench with a completely different type of plant, the annual marigolds that are familiar old-fashioned garden plants. These plants would last less than a week in our borders at the GFE. They are a favorite appetizer for snails and slugs, need constantly moist soil, hotter days than we can offer, rich garden soil, and lots of TLC to reach their ultimate 12 inch size. They bloom beautifully and then die, like any good annual. (photo: Tagetes at GFE)

The plant I was looking for, by contrast, is tough as nails, grows six feet tall or taller, thrives on poor dry soil, isn’t picky about heat and fog, and will probably be going gang-busters in our border after we are long gone, blooming prolifically year after year without the least fuss.

The two plants have similar looking foliage, and in a four-inch pot, it wouldn’t be hard to mistake one for the other. Since I had the name wrong, it was a good thing I knew the plant I wanted very well (it has a distinctive smell) and I knew right away that I wouldn’t buy the plants labeled “ Marigold”. Instead I went to the reference desk, looked up my plant, and then armed with the right name, went back out in the nursery and found what I wanted.

The scientific names of plants, like those of other living things, are Latin words. The first word indicates the genus of the plant, and the second word indicates the species. Most of the Latin words turn out to be simple descriptions of the plant. These descriptions are often very commonplace when translated such as *pittosporum* (sticky seed) or *coprosma* (manure smell). Sometimes the Latin name includes the name of a person, such as the person who first classified the plant, or the name of someone they wished to honor, such as the rose “Lady Banks” which is named for a person. These names always make me imagine stories, adventuresome or romantic, and wonder who that person was and why, when their contemporaries are long forgotten, we still discuss them every year in the garden. (photo: Shasta Daisy at GFE)

The last part of the plant name, if it appears in apostrophes, means something quite different. Ceonothus ‘Diamond Heights’ for example, is not a species, but rather a specific plant that was either discovered or hybridized intentionally. This plant is propagated not by seeds, in which case each individual plant would have its own unique genetic make-up, but by cuttings or some other type of asexual propagation. As a result, each plant you buy with that apostrophized name is genetically identical to the original, and will perform exactly the same under the same conditions. *Ceonothus ‘Diamond Heights’* for example is a cultivar of California lilac which has variegated green and yellow leaves unlike the pure green leaves of most Ceonothus, and which is happy to grow in some shade, unlike most Ceonothus which prefer full sun.

Here at the GFE we are in the middle of an enormous project of creating a data base which will allow visitors to the garden to look up the name of most plants in the garden. This huge project would not have been possible without the determined efforts and expenditure of time of one of our committed volunteers, Christophe Kreis. Each garden bed will be assigned a number, and soon an up-to-date list of plants currently growing in that bed will be available on our website. Many of the plants will also have photographs available, so if you want to plant a Copper Canyon Daisy after reading about it in this article, you will be able to go to the garden and find one growing. That way you can find out what the plant actually looks like, and what you’re going to have when the plant is mature. (photo: Gaillardia at GFE)

Romeo and Juliet learned that a name may make a tremendous difference in the outcome. The same is true for gardeners, and it is worth the effort the learn the right names for the plants you buy, or grow from seeds or cuttings from friends and neighbors. Hilary Gordon is Perennial Plants Collection Manager at the GFE. A life-long gardener, trained at the City College Horticulture program, she has worked as a professional landscape gardener from 1984 until the present.

Have a question for Hilary? Meet her in the garden Wednesdays 10-2 and Saturdays 10-4.

Ribes sanguineum at the Garden for the Environment.

Bike to Work Westside!

By Wes McCullough

Bike to Work Day is coming May 14! And while the hills of the Westside may not seem like the ideal terrain for bicycling, you may find it easier than you expect. Living on the slopes of Mt Davidson with my office at sea level in SOMA, I have a long climb home everyday, to be sure. But the morning commute is smooth, sweatless, and at less than 20 minutes, it’s faster than driving a car! And even my 40-minute evening workout/commute comes out ahead of driving when I factor in the gym time saved. Meanwhile, I save money on gas, I can run errands downtown with no parking hassles, and I come home feeling tired in a good way rather than stressed out from traffic. If you’re still not sure about safety, join the Commuter Convoy leaving Creighton’s Bakery at 7:45 AM on Bike to Work Day and try it with some backup! Or learn to be safe and confident at one of the Bicycle Coalition’s Urban Cycling Workshops. Because on the Westside, you can have your quiet streets and bike them too.

For more information on Bike to Work Day, see <http://www.sfbike.org/?btwd>  
Wes McCullough lives on Portola Drive on the West side.



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Open Late



That's it? That's how it ends?

Everyone has been telling me this movie is a huge tear-jerker, but I just didn't get it.

...oh...nevermind.

By Julie Behn  
www.JulieBehn.com

Sudoku-fun!

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

Rules:

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

The Object:

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

Answer:

The answer appears aside..

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

BRAIN FOOD

Brain Füd:

A missing triplet is simply where three letters have been left out of the word. In this case, you have five words, with the same three letters taken out of each. Can you put the same three letters back into each word? You may not jumble the word, and the letters will always remain in the same order. They may not be all next to each other, but if the missing triplet is NTP, there will never be a T before an N.

And, here's a little clue. One of the letters in the triplet is 'K'.

1. F R A L

2. M O E S

3. U L U C

4. J U A R D

5. B L A L

Answer to "Brain Füd":  
The missing triplet is 'NPK'.  
1. FRANKLY 2. MONKEYS 3. UNLUCKY 4. JUNKYARD 5. BLANKLY



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REMEMBER WHEN?



View of San Francisco from Twin Peaks: Sept. 1, 1928. Written on back: S.F. Real Estate; Mediterranean Village

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

PHYLLIS’ FINDINGS

By Phyllis Sherman

If you remember correctly, many years ago the slogan, “Less is More” was popular. I could never really understand that. “Less” is not “more.” At least it wasn’t years ago. Today may be a different story. In those days, “More” was “more.” Mother always said “never throw anything away...it will always come back.” But how long must one wait? And where to put it all?

Even if the peplum skirt were to become the rage again...or those bulky shoulder pads were still popular...the skirt will be outgrown, the shoulder pads merely weighty. The only one who wears Harlequin glasses is Dame Edna (who’s still around and popular in Florida,) but who wants to emulate her? Remember snoods? And what they used to call “bell bottom trousers” and now referred to as “boot pants.” Saddle shoes have staged a comeback of sorts and even uncomfortable girdles are now designated with a more appropriate title — “gentle shaping, moderate controllers.” They don’t do the same job, but at least you can breathe.

Many years ago, Philip Roth wrote “LETTING GO,” in which he attempts to describe the frenetic contest between one’s sympathies for others and one’s instinct for self-protection. Only at the end of the novel are we able to see the hero “letting go” and plunging headlong into the confusion of human life.

Most people hang-on too long and are dreadfully fearful of letting go. That goes for more than just old clothes. It also concerns outmoded attitudes and ideas ... and papers ... there’s just no end to the paper wars.

\*\*\*\*\*

To attempt an attack on the paper wars, I hired an Organization Maven who showed me how to file, organize papers, throw out and generally simplify my life. I knew I could --and should-do this on my own, but I didn’t. I needed her to show me the how, what and where to put things, and which things to discard. And I discovered, that “yes, less is absolutely more.” Things are easier to find when there aren’t so many of them. There are very few documents that can’t be retrieved from the original source if absolutely necessary. All that stuff you file...how much do you ever go back to? Well, that’s fine..but that was THEN...and this is NOW and it looks like I need another organizer.....and the Yellow Pages are full of them.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Golden Gate Receptor Observatory needs Hawk Migration Counters. They’ll train anyone over 15 years old how to do this. Information is at Fort Mason and you can call them at 331-0730 or email GGRO@Parks Conservancy.org. Here’s your chance to identify, track and monitor birds of prey. Weren’t you looking for a new interesting

hobby?

Theatrically speaking, I wasn’t as absorbed as reviews would suggest for two recent productions. “Rabbi Sam” with Charlie Varon on stage was a two hour production at the Marsh Theater. Charlie plays 12 different characters and details the problems as a small Jewish congregation copes with its messianic new rabbi. Varon is voluble and forceful in his role but the solo performance dedicated to creating 21st century Judaism was only somewhat amusing...early Woody Allen, it wasn’t.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Berkeley Rep is currently showing THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE and employs “explosive Irish dialogue and a perfectly oiled plot that is brutal, bloody, yet irresistibly funny. As part of an I.R.A. splinter group, Padraic thinks nothing of murdering and mutilating his enemies--but the sudden death of his beloved cat leaves him heartbroken.” There’s plenty of carnage and LOTS of blood. A farce about terrorism, it left many of the audience with a problem trying to decipher the Irish dialect. Playing through May 17.

\*\*\*\*\*

Still the best of the Berkeley Rep was the recent VIBRATOR play which is heading to Broadway. Les Waters is directing Sara Ruhl’s new comedy for Lincoln Center Theatre. That comedy about marriage, intimacy and electricity was a winner and drew raves.

\*\*\*\*\*

END JOKES: A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa: “The material we put in our stomach are enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat food can be disastrous. Long term harm caused by germs in your drinking water is another. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years, often after eating it?” After several seconds of quiet, a 75 year-old man in the front row raised his hand and softly asked, “Wedding cake?”



Alfred’s (Cont. from p. 9)

dream of cream. I tried to get the recipe for you but the chef said no. It’s a secret. And at Alfred’s the Caesar’s salad is the real thing — nothing like anything you’d have in a common restaurant.

Which brings us back to the word “classy” — or, to go back further, “classic.” That word started in Roman times, when people actually spoke Latin. The word then was classis, coined by Servius Tullius when he divided the Roman people into six orders, for the sake of taxing them. The word classic came into English (originally as classick) in 1656. By 1772 it had come to mean “the division of society according to status”; soon it came to mean “of the first rank and of acknowledged excellence.” Even more relevant to Alfred’s, a later definition of classic is “purity of art and design.” Alfred’s has kept its focus sharp. After all these years (81) — through Prohibition and the Beatniks and the hippies and the dot—coms, through fast food and slow food, through Julia Child and Alice Waters — through all these changes, Alfred’s has never tried to be anything but Alfred’s. The classic steakhouse.

Alfred’s Steakhouse, 659 Merchant Street (415) 781-7058. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 5:00 PM (cocktails) and 5:30 PM (Dinner). Alfred’s is also open for lunch on Thursday only from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Reservations are recommended.

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Richmond, Seacliff, Western Addition, Pacific Heights, Laurel Heights, Presidio	94121, 94118, 94115, 94129	May 15, 16, 17
Excelsior, Ingleside, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Visitacion Valley	94112, 94134, 94124	May 22, 23, 24
Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill, North Beach, Cow Hollow, Marina	94109, 94133, 94123	May 29, 30, 31

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