



**Drs. Kerr & Rivero**  
Fear and Fanaticism at the Ethics Commission, get the lowdown ..... 2

**Steve Lawrence**  
Will the sewer system preclude our hopes for an "Affordable City?" ..... 4



**Quentin Kopp's Ruminations**  
The Governor takes a tougue-lashing from the formidable senior citizen ..... 3

**Will Durst**  
We're not sure the President will recover as Will takes on Typhoon Donald ..... 4



**Lou Barberini**  
A veritable sewage storm at the Hall of Justice has our CPA seeing red ..... 6

**Sergio Nibbi**  
Intrepid Sergio goes where our President fears to tread ..... 15

# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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## Gus Vardakastanis, Gone Too Soon

By George Wooding

My friend, Konstantinos "Gus" Vardakastanis, was killed in a horrible hit-and-run accident on Friday night, September 22.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Vardakastanis was killed early Friday when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver while

crossing a street in the city's Bayview neighborhood, where he had gone to the San Francisco Produce Market to peruse and purchase goods for his stores. The 57 year-old owner of Haight Street Market, Noriega Produce, and Gus's Community Market died at the scene of the collision, according to the San Francisco medical examiner."

Gus and his wife Georgia had immigrated from Greece in the early 1980's. With the help of their two sons, Bobby and Dimitri, they worked hard every day and built the Haight Street Market into a neighborhood institution. Everyone on Haight Street loved Gus. He was widely considered to be a neighborhood character. He sometimes seemed unapproachable, but he had a heart of gold.

Gus would get-up every morning at 1:00 a.m. to buy the



Gus Vardakastanis at his market Photo by @ediblesf

best fruit at the city produce center. He was crossing Jerrold Street at 2:12 a.m. when he was run down by a car traveling at excessive speed.

Jerrold Avenue is a busy thoroughfare that divides the two sides of the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market. Jerrold Street is dangerous for all of the people who work and do business there throughout the night.

The city had announced a \$100 million development plan

Cont. p. 5

## Preparing for Water War?

by Glenn Rogers

### THE TWIN TUNNELS:

After the recent drought, State officials are considering a remedy that would increase the water supply southward by up to 20%. However, the increase in water is not guaranteed. The proposal is to construct two tunnels 30 miles long, 40 feet high, buried 150 feet deep in the Delta, to receive more water from the Sacramento River, before it is tainted with salt water.

This water from the Sacramento River is said to require less pumping as it delivers water to existing aqueducts. Presently, pumping changes the direction of the water in the Delta, confusing fish when water is pumped — many endangered fish become caught in the pump mechanism.

The problems with the Twin Tunnels or WaterFix project are many. First, state officials are not sure there will be more water. Second, the funding for the project is in doubt as small water contractors, unable to afford the added expense passed on to their customers, are backing away from the project, making it more expensive for those willing to continue. Environmentalists fear the initial damage to the Delta as the tunnels are dug will be profound. Last, the cost for these tunnels will range between \$14.9 and \$17 billion.<sup>1</sup>

### STATE WATER BOARD:

The State Water Board sided in favor of more water being available for fish when it came to our Blended Water Program in San Francisco. Today, groundwater is being added to our pristine Hetch Hetchy water so more water is available to local rivers. Today, the State Water Board is also faced with a similar decision when it comes to the WaterFix project. Both the Trump administration and Governor Jerry Brown have asked for this project's approval, and have asked for

it to be fast-tracked. The WaterFix Project is like the Peripheral Canal Project of old. On July 28 the Department of Fish and Game, under the leadership of Chuck Bonham, asked to allow the WaterFix project to kill state-listed species of Chinook Salmon,

“... it has skirted voter approval ... If a revenue bond is used to finance this project, voter approval is not necessary.”

Steelhead, Smelt and other fish species in the construction of the WaterFix project. It is ironic how on one hand, the State Water Board can protect our local rivers beside San Francisco, then on the other hand, be asked to consider savaging the environment in the Delta in the construction of the WaterFix Project. With the Trump administration, Governor Jerry Brown, big agricultural interests in the southern part of California, and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) which services 19 million people, this WaterFix Project has enough clout to go forward. We can all



hope the State Water Board can remember its mission.<sup>2</sup>

### FINANCING THE WATERFIX:

One of the reasons this WaterFix Project is so unusual is because it has skirted voter approval. Governor Brown, in the interest to continuing his father's legacy of transporting mass quantities of water southward, is proposing funding the project with a revenue bond. If a revenue bond is used to finance this project, voter approval is not necessary.

When voter approval is necessary, large projects that are considered for the "public good" are financed with municipal bonds. The question arises, is this project really for the "public good" when so many fish are considered in peril from this project?

This November, Proposition 53 will be on the ballot. This proposition, if passed, will require a public vote on revenue bonds over \$2 billion, including the WaterFix Project. Traditionally, revenue bonds in the past have been floated for far less money.<sup>1</sup>

### ENDANGERED SPECIES IN PERIL:

"Public trust advocates say the California Delta Tunnels/

Cont. p. 14

## The Real Heroes

by John Farrell

When I was sitting back thinking about what to write many thoughts crossed my mind. There are so many things to write about.

Should I write about the many NFL players either staying in the locker room or kneeling during the National Anthem protesting President Trump's comments about kneeling being unacceptable? No.



“These are the people that deserve the accolades and a trip to the White House.”

Maybe write about the Civil Grand Jury noting in their recent report that the majority of our residents believe the City is headed in the wrong direction. That our City suffers from widespread public dismay, even though we reside in the heart of the most dynamic region in our nation. The three main issues: 1) the affordable housing crisis, 2) the highest property crime rate per capita in the nation, and 3) a homeless situation that has worsened. While people grow more frustrated with City Hall, its budget has doubled over the past 10 years. No. Not that either.

There are so many divisive issues going on around us I thought we need a breath of fresh air. So I decided to acknowledge all the people who risked their own lives to save those people and animals that were in grave danger due to the

massive flooding and rains during Hurricane Harvey and Irma. To all those who stepped up at a moment's notice and didn't hesitate to put another before themselves – Thank you!

To all our police, fire, emergency workers and volunteers throughout our nation - Thank you!

These are the people that deserve the accolades and a trip to the White House. These are the ones that we all should be looking up to and emulate. They are the fiber of America.

I also want to acknowledge all those who helped each other during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the massive earthquake in Mexico.

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## Haight Street's Veganburg—A Surprising Success

Our roving reporter pokes around the Haight

by Henry Wong

I am a lifelong meat-eater. I can devour hot dogs, burgers, steaks, burritos, tacos, chicken, fish or any combination without a second burp. The thought of vegan dishes always conjured images of scowling over a bowl of salad, long stems of celery, and dry tasteless bread. Vegan dishes were always dismissed as a serious alternative food choice while I continually gorged on traditional meals full of protein, starch, and a smattering of greens.

That being said, I have recently become more and more aware of how my diet directly ties into many of our planet's sustainability problems, and how it relates to our diminishing natural resources. Simply changing my eating habits away from the traditional meals full of farmed animal livestock can greatly reduce and even minimize the footprint that I will leave behind in this beautiful world. But as a lifelong meat-eater, I know this is a very difficult choice, but does it still have to be a difficult one to make nowadays? Fortunately, to my pleasant surprise, the vegan food scene has transformed these past few years and I recently got an

opportunity to revisit one scene to see what has actually changed. A good friend recommended this rather newish joint called Veganburg in the heart of the Haight here in San Francisco. Veganburg is a Singaporean food chain founded in 2010 and they claim to be the very first 100% plant-based burger joint in the world.

First impression? The place was spacious, clean, and modern. Luckily, it was not too busy so I was able to poke around without an elbow in my kidney. A very nice young lady named Grady was working as cashier. She patiently explained the many different selections on the menu.

Cont. p. 15





## Outraged YIMBYs Sideswipe Ethics Commission

By Dr. Derek Kerr and Dr. Maria Rivero

The Ethics Commission “recklessly” disregarded the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance when it “brazenly voted to send a letter without proper public notice.” The commissioners must “immediately resign” or face suspension. Either way, an appeal to “criminally prosecute” them for “official misconduct” has been launched. So warned a 5/2/17 complaint to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), the District Attorney, and City officials who appoint said Commissioners. It came from “outraged” pro-housing activists Laura Clark, Director of YIMBY (“Yes, In My Back Yard”) Action, Sonja Trauss, founder of SFBARF (Bay Area Renters Federation) and 5 associates. It was another oblique strike in a war against perceived barriers to housing development. Recall the guerilla tactics YIMBYs deployed in trying to take over the Sierra Club. This time, their anger was displaced onto a revitalized Ethics Commission that tackles corruption.

At the March 27 Ethics meeting, clean-government advocates with “Friends of Ethics” notified Ethics Commissioner Quentin Kopp of a potential conflict of interest. It involved Planning Commissioner Christine Johnson who had just been dubbed Director of SPUR’s San Francisco chapter following a term on SPUR’s Board of Directors. SPUR (SF Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association) is a member-funded “non-partisan” think-tank that also engages in advocacy. Its income for 2016-17 was \$7.1 million, of which 34% came from some 6,000



Commission President Peter Keane

member-donors including corporations, developers, realtors, as well as trade unions and public institutions. Another 33% came from grants, mostly private. Noted for past “urban renewal” fiascos, SPUR promotes development that is suspected of benefiting its contributors, among others. Kopp included Johnson’s alleged conflict among 10 suggestions he made to “supplement” Ethics’ work on an Anti-Corruption Ordinance - and future meeting agendas.

But the Johnson matter didn’t get on the

April 24 Ethics agenda. Instead, Friends of Ethics co-founder Larry Bush warned that in 3 days, the Planning Commission would review 2 competing Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinances that assigned different percentages of affordable units to new developments. One, crafted by Supervisors Kim and Peskin, proposed more low-income housing. The other from

Johnson acknowledged a conflict. She resolved it by contortion, vowing to avoid housing policy decisions at SPUR while continuing to vote on housing policy matters as a Planning Commissioner. Although she had told Mayor Lee she wanted to resign once hired by SPUR,”

Supervisors Safai, Breed and Tang favored more middle-income housing. SPUR and the Mayor’s Office supported the latter, as did developers and the Controller. Commissioner Johnson’s potential conflict seemed like an immediate concern given the Planning vote scheduled on 4/27/17. Unknown then, Planning had voted twice before on this matter and its votes were advisory. As one of 4 mayoral appointees to the 7-member Planning Commission, Johnson’s role was controversial. Not only



was Johnson SPUR’s salaried advocate and fundraiser, she had previously reversed her vote to tighten Airbnb regulations after a rebuke from the Mayor’s Office.

So Ethics had to decide: address an imminent vote potentially tainted by a conflict of interests, or wait until the matter could be agendized. By then, Planning would have voted. The Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance require that government meeting agendas be publicly posted 72 hours beforehand to allow public participation. But both allow action on

that the matter was urgent, important and in order. A required roll-call vote on this decision wasn’t taken but the commissioners proceeded in agreement.

What ensued was a one-hour open discussion punctuated by DCA Shen’s defensive refusals to discuss Johnson’s potential conflict. Larry Bush shared e-mails showing that the Mayor’s staff had called upon DCA Shen to advise them and Johnson about, “having to recuse herself from items at the Planning Commission...that are impactful to the Administration.” This



Commissioner Quentin Kopp

Shen did not disclose. Nor would he share that he told Johnson she incurred no conflicts, citing “attorney-client privilege.” He wouldn’t reveal if his advice was written or verbal. He even declined to guide Ethics

on the points of law related to conflicts of interest. Not once did he mention that the Brown Act allowed action on certain non-agendized matters. Awkwardly, Shen was caught in his own conflict of interests - serving several clients with differing views. Worse, Ethics was rejecting the “no-conflict” pass he had granted to Johnson. So he sought to stop the discussion, and suggested that one Commissioner send a personal letter to Johnson. Instead, supported by public comments, Ethics voted 4-0 to

Cont. p. 11

### INNER SUNSET STREETSCAPE PROJECT

### MUNI FORWARD



## Improvements are coming to your neighborhood

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and Public Works are constructing new transit boarding areas and curb ramps, replacing utilities, upgrading landscaping and traffic lights, and repaving streets along the N Judah Line between Carl and Cole Streets and 19th Avenue.

To support construction, bus shuttles will substitute N Judah trains  
**Between Church & Duboce and Ocean Beach**

**Weekends of 10/13 – 10/15 and 10/20 – 10/22.**



West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

The September meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council focused on the district and its challenges, with **Supervisor Norman Yee** speaking on current legislation efforts, and **Frank Noto** of StopCrime SF speaking about his group's efforts to instruct citizens to recognize and report crime.

**President Sally Stephens** opened the meeting at 7:40 at the Forest Hills Clubhouse with a moderate turnout of delegates and attendees. Stephens started by welcoming everyone to the meeting and having the roll call, which resulted in not enough delegates being present for a quorum. (Several additional delegates arrived later to make a quorum)

**Supervisor Norman Yee** opened the meeting by speaking to the attendees on legislation that he has pursued over the last several months, starting with a 2-year study that his office has been doing to push the City into approving "true" family housing units, such as **2-3 bedroom units** with family amenities within the site proposals. He next discussed the work he has done for **Vision Zero**, the effort to increase pedestrian safety and reduce the numbers of people killed or injured by motor vehicles. The supervisor discussed additional **lighting on O'Shaughnessy**; trying to get the **crosswalk lights** to operate correctly on West Portal Avenue, and improving pedestrian safety at **Detroit and Monterey**.

Small business woes were also discussed with the release of a study showing that large-scale **city projects had damaged local merchants** the most in the Castro and West Portal neighborhoods. Yee said he is trying to gather information on the numbers of closed businesses and see if the city can do some mitigation to lessen the effect of construction projects in the future. He next took on the "robots," as he spoke of legislation that would ban **delivery robots** from using public sidewalks. "Sidewalks are for people, not robots!" he stated.

Public Safety is a big concern with the attendees and the Supervisor spoke on several topics relating to local crime. An agreement has been reached with the primary rental car companies to make rental cars harder to identify by **smash and grab** gangs by making the identifying barcodes much smaller and locating them on the windshield. Rental cars are a favorite target for these types of burglaries as there is usually luggage stored in the trunks and the people rarely show up in court if the cases get that far.

Yee is trying to organize a task force with the SFPD and the Police Commission to look at the actual **number of SFPD officers** that is really necessary to patrol the city, stating that an arbitrary number has been assigned (1971) but really no one knows where the number came from, or if it is an accurate number as the population of the city has grown significantly over the last 15 years. Whatever the number is, the city is substantially below the 1971 number, but is working to recruit and train new officers through increased academy classes.

Yee also discussed having a dedicated unit established to investigate and handle **property crimes**, with one person being assigned at each police station to handle these types of crimes. His expectation

is that these ten individuals could share information and see trends as a better way to tackle the increasing problem. There has been push back from the SFPD and the Mayor's office on setting up a "dedicated" unit.

The Supervisor also addressed the problems with **crime on Twin Peaks**, with several options such as placing additional cameras in areas where people frequent, (in conjunction with Rec and Park). Sixteen new cameras have been installed. Another idea that has been floated is to install gates that would close the roads up to the "parkland" at dusk, much like other parks within the City.



Supervisor Norman Yee explains his legislation



Frank Noto of StopCrimeSF addressing the WOTPCC

Following Yee, **Frank Noto**, co-founder of the advocacy group, StopCrime SF addressed the group, detailing his organization's goals and operations. A coalition of 6-7 neighborhood associations, Stop Crime SF works to **provide help to victims of crime** and to call for more criminal justice accountability. The group attends and speaks at public hearings to make its presence known and to monitor progress of trials and outcomes.

All of their efforts are volunteer, and they're looking for more neighborhood groups to join, as well as volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more about StopCrime SF, visit the website at StopCrimeSF.com, or like them on Facebook: Facebook.com/StopCrimeSF, or give them a call at 415-830-1502.

President Stephens followed by calling for an open discussion for important **issues that delegates wish the WOTPCC board to look into**. Number one on the list is the afore-mentioned Property Crimes, followed by topics such as Groundwater Blending, Water and Sewer rates, Garbage rates, coyotes, and the SF Budget.

Short report by **George Wooding** and **Chris Bowman** on the continuing fight against the SFPUC blending groundwater into the drinking water used in certain parts of the City (including some of the Westside) followed.

Following the report, a motion was made for adjournment, seconded and approved at 9:10 PM.

*The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, October 23 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).*

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp



The Prime Minister of Ghana once observed: "I don't like hypocrisy – even in international affairs." I don't think voters and taxpayers like it either. By the time you read this monthly diatribe, we'll probably know the hypocrisy level of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. The State Legislature last month enacted Senate Bill No. 149 by Senators Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Mike McGuire of Healdsburg. That both of those worthies are Democrats is relevant. The proposed law would require Presidential candidates to make public five years of their federal and state income tax returns as a condition for placement on the California ballot for President in 2020. The impetus for the bill arises from our blithering President's refusal to provide prospective voters and the needy media with his New York and United State tax returns before the 2016 election. (He must have some "beauties," because New York State in its wisdom allows, unlike California, cities to add a local income tax to that demanded by the state. A San Francisco income tax supposedly to sock commuters, incidentally, was in Senator Dianne Feinstein's platform the first time she ran for Mayor in 1971 against Mayor Joseph L. Alioto and Harold S. Dobbs, even though California in 1964 had expressly prohibited local income taxation.)

...because of pressure from the July 2016 California Bar Examination passage rate of 43%, the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California recommended to the California Supreme Court that the passing score on the bar examination be lowered. A State Bar survey of California lawyers generated 34,000 responses, with the majority of lawyers favoring retention of the current score standard."

Similar measures have been attempted this year in other legislatures because disclosure publicly of income tax returns by Presidential candidates has been custom and practice for some 49 years. Such legislation emanates from that precedent. The fact that the current President has his hands and those of family members in a variety of businesses creates strong possibility of conflicts of interest which could taint his actions as our President. That the Democratic candidate lost the election constitutes unspoken motivation for Senate Bill No. 149.

Under the California Constitution, Governor Brown has until October 30, 2017 to sign the bill, veto it, or allow it to become effective without approval or veto. The Governor provided California in 2010 with the second act of his glorious career in elected public office. That time, he refused to release his state or federal income tax returns. He was elected. He successfully sought reelection in 2014. He again refused to disclose those pesky income tax returns. Senate Bill No. 149 is probably unconstitutional. That's the opinion of the Legislature's lawyer, the Legislative Counsel. A President under the U.S. Constitution must be a natural-born citizen, 35 years of age or older, and a U.S. resident for at least 14 years. That could be Democratic Governor Brown's veto escape hatch. Otherwise, we needn't rely on an African nation's prime minister if he allows such a law to satisfy the anti-Trump hordes.

It's not exactly hypocrisy, but it is another astonishing lack of understanding of constitutional law by California's senior U.S. Senator, the aforementioned Dianne Feinstein. In early September, Feinstein, Vice Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, accused U.S. District Court Judge Amy Barrett, whom Trump nominated for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago of allowing her Roman Catholicism to influence her District Court decisions. Feinstein commented that some such decisions seemed to reflect "dogma," as in Roman Catholic dogma. Her Democratic Committee colleague, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, a Roman Catholic, evidently trying to exceed Feinstein's insinuations, asked Judge Barrett if she'd ever been an "orthodox" Catholic! As Tom Myse of Oakland points out in a letter to The Wall Street Journal, what shades of Catholicism exist? Is there a "lukewarm Catholic" or a "cafeteria Catholic"? (Catholicism isn't Judaism, which contains three theological branches, namely, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reformed Judaism.)

Forgotten or ignored by the two critical U.S. senators is Article VI, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, which declares that all members of Congress, members of state legislatures, executive officers of the

United States and several states, and judicial officers shall be bound to support the Constitution, "but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." It's puzzling, if not amusing, to reflect upon the fact that Feinstein's parents were Jews from Russian immigrant families, and she graduated from San Francisco's Convent of the Sacred Heart, a prestigious private Catholic high school, pursuant to her mother's wishes, according to the Jewish Women's Archive, after attending "a Jewish religious school." (She evidently never attended public schools although a Sunset grammar school bears her name, courtesy of the Board of Education.)

Finally, in this age of "inclusiveness" and "diversity," catch-alls for much collegiate and educational agitation, a recent Princeton University study measuring the effect of race and ethnicity upon admission to college by using Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores revealed that African Americans received a so-called "bonus" of 230 points and Hispanics a bonus of 185 points. Asian-Americans, however, were penalized 50 points. The study's author, Ann Lee, co-founded HS2 Academy, a college preparatory business which assumes racial bias represents a factor in college admissions and advises students accordingly. HS2 Academy teaches countermeasures to Asian-American college applicants. At the same time, society lowers standards in general. For example, the West Virginia Board of Education last month proposed lowering teacher requirements by exempting education degree holders who meet minimum grade point averages from a basic knowledge test. In California, because of pressure from the July 2016 California Bar Examination passage rate of 43%, the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California recommended to the California Supreme Court that the passing score on the bar examination be lowered. A State Bar survey of California lawyers generated 34,000 responses, with the majority of lawyers favoring retention of the current score standard. It won't be long before the California Teachers Association attempts to lower standards for aspiring California public school teachers despite a U.S. Department of Education finding that there exists a glut of over 3,800,000 public school teachers and the California student population has increased from 6,220,000 in 2010 to only 6,230,000 in 2016. The canard of a teacher shortage in California and elsewhere is concocted by the teachers' unions, state and national. Pity the pupils.

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

More INSIDE

Piazza in North Beach .....	4	Dispensary .....	12
Around the Town .....	7	Remember When .....	13
Police Report .....	8	Open Late/Brain Füd ....	13
Calendar .....	9	Sudoku .....	13
Money Matters .....	11	Education/Kocivar .....	14
Senior Smarts .....	12	Real Travel .....	16



Commentary

Affordable City?

What will the sewage system upgrade really cost?

SFPUC (water-sewer-power agency) is finishing up its \$4.8 billion water upgrade (WSIP), original price \$3.4 billion, and has launched its even larger program upgrading the city sewer system. The sewer upgrade is called SSIP, Sewer System Improvement Program, \$7 billion. Back in 2002 the cost was one billion dollars; with time, work and cost expand. There is \$12 billion of need, according to SFPUC.

The SSIP program stretches over more than twenty years. While the price tag is \$7 billion, what will it really cost?

No definitive answer is possible. But let's take a look.

Change orders added 25% to WSIP's cost. If the same percentage is added to SSIP, then cost would rise to \$8.75 billion.

There is reason to believe that more than 25% may be added.

Differing site conditions accounted for the vast majority of changes to the water system (WSIP) contracts; such changes cost two-and-a-half times what all other WSIP changes cost. A differing site condition is an unknown, usually underground, condition materially changing the work. Obstructions qualify. So may unexpected soil conditions.

WSIP's work was along much of the 167 miles from San Francisco to the Sierras, where most of our water is sourced. Much of the work was new. And much was done in rural places. But SSIP work is in San Francisco. All sorts of man-made things are under the surface of the ground. Even the soil itself is often changed (fill).

It is not practical to sample all the soil a contractor will encounter doing its work. The consequences of finding say a buried

Officials hope to keep household water and sewer cost under 2.5% of median household income. But that ceiling is already looming. With more cost increases, hopes die.

###

Selling one's property, or remodeling in a major way, is soon likely to become more expensive. SFPUC's Commission is considering steps to address flooding. Some steps apply to all properties, even though only a small fraction of properties are flood risks. One step discussed is requiring the sewer lateral to be inspected upon sale or remodeling. Unasked was, how expensive will that be? (How typical is this? Public servants care not about cost.) Additionally, a backwater valve requirement is to become the subject of firmer enforcement. Both these proposed changes will cost homeowners.

"Collateral damage" might be the term. When government sets out to solve problem #1, it may identify and address problem #2. The cost of #1 may be discussed, but the cost of #2 is simply imposed without discussion.

So it's not just that government grows like topsy (which it has and does). It's also that government keeps nibbling away.

“It is not practical to sample all the soil a contractor will encounter doing its work. The consequences of finding say a buried ship, or more normal obstructions, can be much greater in a city. Where there are consequences there are inevitably costs.”

ship, or more normal obstructions, can be much greater in a city. Where there are consequences there are inevitably costs.

Differing site conditions may include the object of the work itself. If, when dug up, a sewer pipe is in worse condition than expected, that, too, could entitle a contractor to a change, adding cost to the project.

In July staff presented a requested memo to the SFPUC Commission aimed at reducing the 25% change order swell for SSIP. The memo is mostly justification; that's what bureaucrats do. Well intention though the effort was, reading the memo, there is little reason to expect success.

Perhaps the first really big project, building new digesters for Southeast Plant, will shed further light on how change orders will add to the cost of SSIP. Construction is scheduled for August 2018 through May 2024. Underground work, to dig foundations and drive piles, will be done early.

Let's hope the Transbay Transit Center is not indicative of how costs will run for SSIP projects. The cost there has jumped by about 50% even though the work is not far along. The main reason seems to be that estimates were made before the city became such a magnet for construction. In the wake of hurricane season 2017, construction resources may flow to needy locales, further depleting construction resources and raising bid prices here.



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

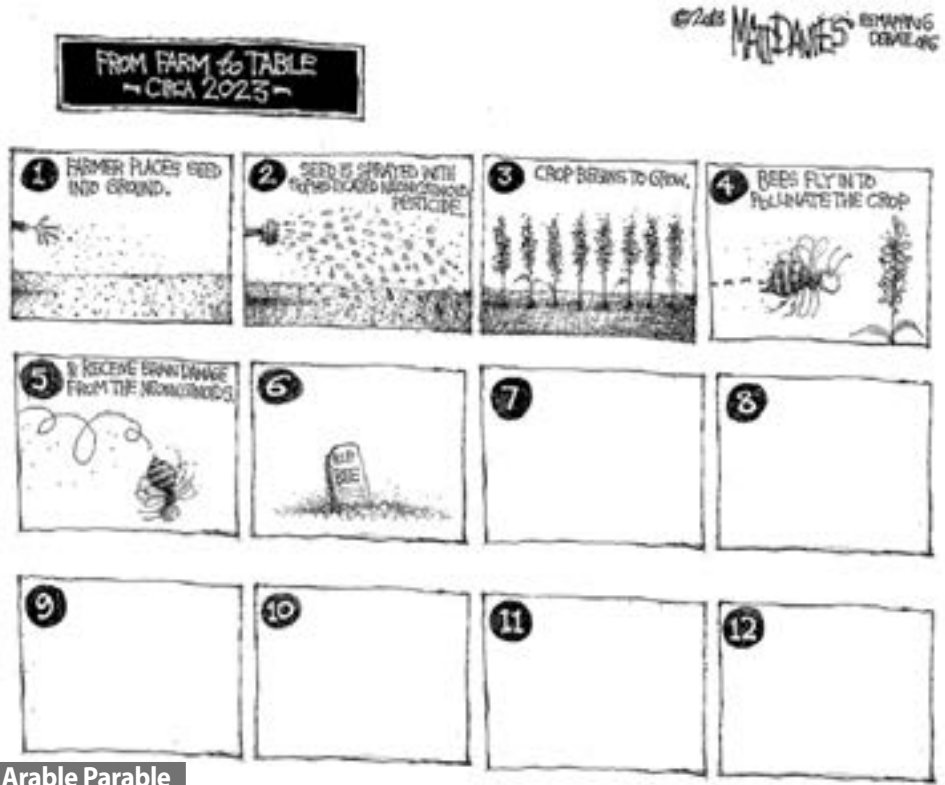
People NOT Pavement

There sure are a lot of San Franciscans who think of themselves as environmentalists, but there are also many for whom it is merely greenwash. This becomes apparent when a small personal sacrifice is involved, such as making a right turn in their car—something that turns these greeny beanies into militant asphalt advocates.

120 feet of pavement in North Beach at Vallejo, Columbus and Grant is the subject of opposition from these pavement huggers who refuse to budge on converting the little slice of asphalt bounded by the Shrine of Saint Francis on the north and the Cafe Trieste on the south into a beautiful, peaceful European-style piazza for people to congregate, rest and recharge. It's called Piazza Saint Francis, The Poets Plaza, and

the Italian marble—all the materials—have been donated to build it.

But the real opposition is political retribution from Supervisor Aaron Peskin. His obdurate protection of that bit of pavement has prevented its completion and added immensely to the cost of its construction which could have been done when Vallejo was closed for sewer construction. Pavement? Please. Build the Piazza!



Arable Parable

TYPHOON DONALD.

Considering the severity of the cascade of disasters descending upon us lately, we should thank our lucky stars we're able to talk about them. Earthquakes, heat-waves, flash-floods, non-flash-floods, wildfires raging across the West, multiple Category 5 hurricanes strafing the Caribbean and Donald Trump addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations. The only way things could get worse is if Mitch McConnell embarked on a singing career.

These are not what you call happy times for the Western Hemisphere. Not only does the planet seem especially angry at us, but also newly adept at organizing its individual weapons into a coordinated assault. Mother Nature has gone Rambo. An actual Sharknado cannot be entirely ruled out of the question.

In the most awkward and preventable of the recent litany of bad, the Tweeter of the Free World took his carnival barker act to the UN, regurgitating his "America First" campaign for all to hear. At the UN. Similar to waving skewers of pork kabobs at a PETA convention wearing an ermine coat with pockets full of cottage cheese. Still surprised peace-keeping troops weren't called in to quell this uprising of Trump's id.

Reading off a teleprompter in his patented indoor voice, the former real estate developer announced to the world that if Rocket Man, his pet name for Kim Jong Un, doesn't get his act together, North Korea will be totally destroyed. Ostensibly by B-B-B-B-Benny & the Jets.

As previously demonstrated, our neophyte Commander-in-Chief is not big on the "spoonful of sugar" style of negotiations. More a "wave a sledgehammer to push in a thumb tack" kind of a guy. Imbued with all the diplomatic skills of a rhinoceros suffering from Athlete's Horn. Crazy, or crazy like a fox, the adjective remains constant.

Despite receiving death stares that would cauterize a satellite, the orange canopy finished by putting the rest of the world on notice, including Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, Nambia, Chad, Jeremy, Vincent, The Republic of Tiny Dancer and any

other entity that might consider crossing him whose name wasn't then and isn't now Russia.

Russia being his lifelong irrevocable BFF who as far as he's concerned can do anything and everything their little heart desires. Including supporting North Korea's weapons program as long as they keep it on the down low. And refuse to release certain videotapes. No matter how much the New York Times offers. Because that's not what a BFF would do. Is it Vlad?

Apparently when the professors at Trump University teach the phrase "bully pulpit" the major emphasis is on the first two syllables. But this time, the president's slander was matched in intensity by the North Korean leader who responded by calling Melania's husband a "dotard."

This archaic insult sent reporters to their Webster's to discover the definition... "suffering from senile decay." And when the world's most notorious psychopath starts calling you names, that's not good. Of course, Ted Cruz & Hillary Clinton could have told us that.

The more we experience Typhoon Donald's foreign policy the more it becomes apparent that when future generations discuss our current beloved leader they will most likely develop a custom where they spit on the ground after saying his name. That is, if there are future generations.

Copyright © 2017, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and a fork-lift operator in Milwaukee Wisconsin. For a calendar of personal appearances, visit willdurst.com.



WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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**Gus** (Cont. from p. 1)  
in 2012 that would reroute public traffic away from the market, but of course, that work has not yet happened.

I met Gus because he always worked hard and was always at the store in the morning stocking the shelves. Over time, brief hellos turned into conversations. I will miss my friend Gus. He was a working man's hero: A son, a husband, a father, a brother, and a grandfather. Rest in peace, Gus.

**Summary and Vision Zero Context**  
The goal of Vision Zero is zero traffic deaths, period. Too many people die on the streets of San Francisco each year. Every death in this report represents an indescribable loss suffered by the individual and their family, friends, classmates, co-workers, and community. The report summarizes traffic death patterns to inform Vision Zero monitoring and initiatives to save lives.

The overall number of traffic deaths in

2016 was 30, compared to 31 in 2015 and 2014. Pedestrians made up the largest number of deaths, comprising over 50% of all traffic fatalities. Over 40% of all traffic fatalities were suffered by seniors. The most frequent primary collision factors for fatalities included red light running, vehicle failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk, and speeding.

San Francisco's number of traffic deaths has been relatively flat despite the increases in population that have occurred in the city over the last few years. This is in stark contrast to traffic collisions on a national level. Preliminary data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) points to the number of traffic deaths rising in other cities nationwide. Road deaths in the U.S. rose 8% in the first nine months of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015, driven by increases in pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorcyclist deaths. Regardless, any traffic fatality is unacceptable.

City agencies are supposed to be working diligently to improve the safety of our streets, taking a comprehensive approach that includes engineering, enforcement, education, policy and evaluation, requiring coordination across multiple city agencies.

So far, the coordination between city agencies has been poor. The bulb-outs built by the Department of Public Works (DPW) have made it extremely difficult for fire trucks to make turns at narrow intersections. The bulb outs are six inches high and new city firetrucks can only go over four-inch curbs.

If you ever wondered why city speed-bumps have large cuts in them — which will allow cars to drive through the speed-bump rather than having to slow down and go over the speedbump — understand that they were damaging city firetrucks.

Three years ago, the entrance to San Francisco General Hospital's emergency room was on 23rd Street. The emergency vehicle entrance has now been moved to 22nd Street, in front of which a median has been installed, reducing access for emergency vehicles and patients in route to the emergency room. To reach the hospital entrance, vehicles must now make a U-turn on Potrero Street and drive the wrong way on Potrero.

Pedestrian deaths are rising at a rate of about 11% a year. The real problem is the lack of personal responsibility of both drivers and pedestrians. Everyone has heard of distracted drivers texting on their smart phones or driving under the influence, but few people think of distracted walkers, (smartphone zombies).

A smartphone zombie is a pedestrian who walks slowly and without attention to surroundings because they are focused upon their smartphone. This is now a significant safety hazard since distracted pedestrians cause accidents. Cities such as Chongqing and Antwerp have introduced special lanes for smartphone users to help direct and manage them.

In 2014, China had over five hundred million smartphone users and more than half of them have a phone addiction. In Chongqing, the government built a cell-phone sidewalk, separating the phone users and the non-cell phone users. In Hong Kong, they are called *dai tau juk* ("the head-down tribe").

A ban on pedestrians looking at mobile phones or texting while crossing the street will take effect in Hawaii's largest city in late October, as Honolulu becomes the first major U.S. city to pass legislation aimed at reducing injuries and deaths from "distracted walking."

The ban comes as cities around the world grapple with how to protect phone-obsessed "smartphone zombies" from injuring themselves by stepping into traffic or running into stationary objects. San Francisco has plenty of irresponsible, distracted walkers and drivers.

Starting October 25, Honolulu pedestrians can be fined between \$15 and \$99, depending on the number of times police catch them looking at a phone or tablet device as they cross the street, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell told reporters gathered near one of the city's busiest downtown intersections on Thursday.

Who knows if San Francisco's Vision Zero program can save pedestrians from themselves. The millions spent, the endless construction, the narrowing of car lanes, the bulb-outs, the added medians clogging the streets cannot save wandering pedestrians. Only vigilant car drivers can save these zombies from themselves as they carelessly place their lives in the hands of drivers.

I miss my friend Gus Vardakastanis and wish that we could have had just one more conversation, just one more laugh. Tomorrow night, September 28, I am going to attend Gus' memorial service to say goodbye to a great, noble man who died far too soon, far too young.

*George Wooding, President, Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods*





San Francisco Public Library



# OPEN

## San Francisco Public Library Service Hours

The Library is undergoing a required five-year assessment of our current open hours with a series of 11 public hearings. The Library welcomes community feedback to provide us with the information needed to update or maintain library hours that best serve the needs of San Francisco residents. Please join us this fall. Translators and closed captioning will be available.

For more information, visit [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org) or call (415) 557-4277

Dates and Locations:

<p><b>Tuesday, October 24</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> SF Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room (District 6)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, October 28</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Marina Branch (District 2)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, November 4</b> <b>3 p.m.</b> Ortega Branch (District 4)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, November 14</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Bayview/Linda Brooks-Burton Branch (District 10)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, October 25</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Excelsior Branch (District 11)</p>	<p><b>Thursday, November 2</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Western Addition Branch (District 5)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, November 8</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Merced Branch (District 7)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, November 15</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Glen Park Branch (District 8)</p>
<p><b>Thursday, October 26</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch (District 3)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, November 4</b> <b>12 p.m.</b> Mission Branch (District 9)</p>	<p><b>Thursday, November 9</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch (District 1)</p>	



By the Numbers

Is Jury Duty a Health Risk at 850 Bryant?

By Lou Barberini CPA

Outlined against a blue-gray March sky, Officer Layden felt queasiness as he balanced precariously on the rickety ladder. With the street looming five floors below, he tightly clutched the 60-year-old key in his right hand. Sergeant Miller steadied the ladder with both hands, while Officer Crowley stood guard at the entry door. With the apprehension of a drug dealer awaiting a delivery, Officer Harry Stuhldreher nervously scanned the hallways as the four San Francisco police officers implemented their clandestine *Operation Fresh Air*.

The four worked at the San Francisco Hall of Justice, a building constructed in the late fifties, over a decade prior to when poisonous materials were poured into New York's World Trade Center. Today, The Hall accommodates municipal courts, the District Attorney's offices, and one remaining floor of San Francisco police officers. The uniqueness of The Hall is the reluctant occupants on the top two penthouse floors — the residents of County Jail.

Over the past couple of years, the *San Francisco Chronicle* has published several articles on the yellow stained ceiling decorating the District Attorney's office on the third floor. Per one article, urine was cascading down the floors from the jails on the upper two floors. It is logical that if the sewage emanates from the top floors, it must flow through both the fifth and then the fourth floor, but *The Chronicle* has failed to cover the epicenter of the storm.

The employees in charge of The Hall are silencing the problem. In a December 4, 2015 *Chronicle* article, John Gavin, Chief Policy Advisor to the City's real estate division, comically claimed that the recognizable yellow hue on the third floor walls "was from a water-only pipe."

Subsequent to Gavin's comments, on February 22, 2016 the fifth floor of the Hall of Justice was hit with a sewage storm. Sewage leaked into the Police Commission room, flooded the hallways and on into Room 511, and stained the common hallway ceilings. This fecal storm was remedied with carpet shampoo, paint, and yellow caution tape.

The carpets were shampooed but not replaced. The crawlspace above the ceiling tiles was neither touched nor cleaned. Instead, the brown-stained ceilings were literally and figuratively whitewashed, i.e., merely painted over. To keep visitors and employees in the dark about this biohazard, yellow crime scene tape was used instead of proper biohazard warnings.

There was another smaller shite storm in 2016, followed by a greater one in January 2017. The police officers privy to what was occurring started to take matters into their own hands: First, officers started propping open an exterior stairway exit door to allow fresh air to ventilate throughout the fifth floor; and second, one SFPD unit sought an outside environmental firm to assess the safety of the fifth floor biohazard.

A San Francisco police officer in charge of the Hall of Justice maintenance contacted lieutenants and sergeants of the units closest to the fecal storm and advised them the exterior door had to be sealed to maintain the biometric pressure of the building. A cat-and-mouse game of propping open the exterior door ensued. When the exterior door was closed, and without a working cooling system in many of the offices, the stale fecal air temperature climbed into the upper 70's.

On March 13, 2017 Envirocheck Inc., a private company, presented its survey on the safety of the Police Commission

room, which documented the presence of sewage in that room, and the Envirocheck representative orally stated there was evidence of fecal matter in the center of that room.

One has to wonder, if the fecal matter that was found in the Police Commission room was it deposited from the sewage storms of 2016 or 2017? And if the fecal matter existed after the City's 2016 shampoo and whitewashed-over remedy, how many San Francisco citizens that were required to attend meetings in the Police Commission room were exposed to fecal matter, or possibly black mold, because of the City's lackadaisical concern for their health? And if sewage can leak down to the third floor on the District Attorney's side of the Hall of Justice, how many San Francisco citizens have been mandated to attend jury duty in contaminated third floor courtrooms directly under the Police Commission room?

Just three hours after the Envirocheck presentation, an alarm was installed on the exterior door to end the police officers' cat-and-mouse game of trying to provide fresh air ventilation. There are four stairwells at the Hall of Justice and only one of the four stairwells was alarmed — the one closet to the fecal storm. Obviously, a retaliatory gesture against officers who brought Envirocheck into the picture.

Between March 17 and March 24, the Department of Public Health's Industrial Hygentist Kevin Milani was in Room 511 on a different ergonomic matter. Milani noted in an email that Room 511, which had received sewage overflow in 2016, had high temperatures, "noticeable sewage-like odors," and visible signs of water damage. Milani's tests did not evaluate the common hallways where the 2016 sewage spill was simply painted over.

In response to Milani's May 9th email comments, our police officer with the self-proclaimed expertise in biometric pressure stated that the Police Commission room carpets were replaced and "no other leaks were affected by the leaks emanating from the sixth and seventh floors." It is ironic that the carpets were replaced in the Police Commission room only after Envirocheck was hired, and that Room 511 — which was only issued sandbags after the 2016 sewage storm flowed onto its carpets — apparently was not worthy of new carpets. The biometric cop's email also accused Sergeant Miller of violating protocol by contacting the Department of Public Health. After all, protocol trumps the quality of the air coworkers breathe.

With a nod to Grantland Rice's immortal

words, SFPD's four horse-men's stealth mission in Room 511 was not nefarious. *Operation Fresh Air* was simply an attempt to circumvent the biometric pressure cop, and an attempt to access fresh air by cracking open a window a mere four inches. Under that blue-gray March sky, Officer Crowley (me) reached the conclusion that his health was imperiled more by someone wearing the same uniform, than by all of the robbers, drug dealers, and car boosters roaming the streets of San Francisco. Two weeks later, Officer Crowley rode off into the Sunset — literally and figuratively.

Six months have passed since *Operation Fresh Air*. The sewage still drips, drips, drips into Room 511. There is a symbolism to the dripping. A mayoral appointee is indicted under one administration only to be arrested under a subsequent administration for accepting bribes from an undercover FBI agent. Drip, drip, drip: The resume of a UC Berkeley pension employee, released for hiring a convicted felon friend who went on to defraud the Berkeley pension, is worth a \$300,000 salary at the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System. Drip, drip, drip: A San Francisco cop, more fascinated with biometric pressure than the health of his coworkers and citizens is, as of this writing, representing his coworkers

with the mayor's junket to Ireland.

Drip, drip, drip: The sewage keeps flowing.

Names of Notre Dame football legends were substituted as aliases to protect the innocent.

Lou Barberini resides in the West Portal area. He has an MBA in Taxation and worked for investment companies and a Big Four CPA firm. He currently works with clients at Nich Capital Partners ([nichcapitalpartners.com](http://nichcapitalpartners.com)). Lou can be reached personally at [lou.barberini@gmail.com](mailto:lou.barberini@gmail.com)



...the Hall of Justice was hit with a sewage storm. Sewage leaked into the Police Commission room, flooded the hallways and on into Room 511, and stained the common hallway ceilings. This fecal storm was remedied with carpet shampoo, paint, and yellow caution tape.



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..... OCTOBER 2017 .....

**What is Important to us...**Each month I attend the **West of Twin Peaks Central Council** meeting, which brings together representatives of the 19 homeowner groups that make up the West of Twin Peaks area. The council has been advocating for homeowners and neighborhoods since 1936 and have played a large part in helping to formulate policies and the direction of SF government. The other evening **Sally Stephens**, the President of the Council for 2017-18, asked the delegates to list the critically important issues for residents in the Westside.

The list shouldn't surprise anyone who has been paying attention to the news: *Property Crime* (car break-ins, burglaries) tops the list, followed closely by: *Groundwater Blending; The poor condition of SF Streets; SF's bloated budget; Increases in the Water and Sewer bills; Garbage Rate increases*, and *The Increased Number of Coyotes*. Other items centered on mass transit deficiencies; housing policies, and other topics. What do you think?



.....



**West Portal turns 100...**As we prepare for press, late September marks the 100-year anniversary of the West Portal (Park) neighborhood, which predates the February 1918 opening of the Twin Peaks tunnel. (Did You Know: The land upon which West Portal Park was built was part of the Rancho San Miguel land grant? This land was purchased by Adolph Sutro in the 1880's, and subsequently 49 acres were purchased by Fernando Nelson and Sons, for the sum of \$300,000

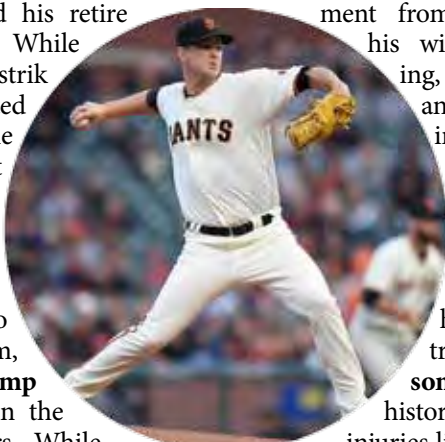
in 1916 to create the new neighborhood. The rest is history ... **Happy Birthday West Portal!** You certainly don't look your age... For more history on West Portal and the other West of Twin Peaks neighborhood, check out the website of the Western Neighborhood Project. It's chock full of great information, fantastic photos and articles and podcasts which bring our history to life. [www.outsidelands.org](http://www.outsidelands.org)

**Cowboy (or Cowgirl) Up...** Bucking Broncos, bull riding, clowns, rodeo riders and animal judging are all highlights of the **71st Grand National Rodeo**, running at the Cow Palace on Geneva Avenue on October 13-14 and 20-21. There is something to see for everyone in the family, and tickets start at \$14 for children and seniors. There's also live music nightly, a western BBQ and lots of other activities. For more information, check out their website: [www.grandnationalrodeo.com](http://www.grandnationalrodeo.com). or [www.cowpalace.com](http://www.cowpalace.com). call 415-414-4100 for tickets.



**Vittorio "Caters" to You...** As our "indian summer" fades and the autumn breezes blow in, it's time to look at holiday planning. I was walking up West Portal Avenue the other day and saw several people rolling large carts with black containers down the sidewalk. When I asked what was going on, the group was delivering food to a catered event, lunch for 100! It was our local restaurant, **Trattoria Da Vittorio**, whose namesake owner and chef, **Vittorio D'Urzo** creates menus handed down from his mother and grandmother, both in the restaurant and in catering he does for clients. I asked him about catering, and he says that, "If you want to do a special party at your home or office, give me a call – I love to cater special events." For authentic family-derived recipes, look no further than Trattoria Da Vittorio. Give him a jingle at 650-504-7976 and tell him you saw it in the Westside Observer!

**Kudos for Matt Cain...** prior to going to press, **San Francisco Giants** starting pitcher Matt Cain announced his retire- ment from baseball, ending a terrific 13-year career. While his win-loss record doesn't look particularly striking, he endured multiple seasons where he crafted an earned run average under 3.0 runs per nine innings, only to get virtually no run support from the Giants. Yet, we never heard him whining in the press about it, he just went out the next time and tried to pitch the best that he could. Believe it or not, he is third on the list of all-time Giant players who have played their entire careers with the team, trailing only **Jim Davenport** and **Robby Thompson**. He also pitched the only "perfect" game in the history of the team, stretching back over 134 years. While injuries limited his effectiveness over the past 2-3 years, anyone who saw him at his best saw a hard-nosed competitor who played the game the "right way." Congratulations on a great career.



### Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Wine Lovers' Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines\*
  - Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$35 Three-Course Prix Fixe
  - Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
  - Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet
- \*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

### Guided Historical Walks

Spend a memorable Saturday morning exploring Lands End. Start with a continental breakfast at the historic Cliff House then walk through Adolph Sutro's magical 'kingdom by the sea' with historian guide John A. Martini. Regarded as the ultimate authority on this part of the City's fabled past, John's walks will be offered on October 7 and October 21.

For more information and to make reservations please visit [www.cliffhouse.com/history-walk](http://www.cliffhouse.com/history-walk).

1090 Point Lobos 415-386-3330 [www.CliffHouse.com](http://www.CliffHouse.com)

**Ocean Beach Art & Music Festival October 14** The Outer Noriega Merchant Association (ONMA) and its residents are joining together to celebrate Noriega Street. It will be held on Saturday, from 11am to 7pm on Noriega Street between 45th and 47th Avenues. This family friendly festival will feature stages for live music, food trucks/vendors, two beer gardens, art, a kids zone, and a pumpkin patch. (This is a no smoking and single use plastic free event.) For more information about this event, please send an email to [obmusicartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:obmusicartfestival@gmail.com).



**Hey Guvnor' –It's the Dickens Fair...** Under colorful swags of Union Jacks and boughs of holly, **The Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party** returns for five week- ends amid the theatrically-lit halls of the historic Cow Palace (2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA) on Saturdays and Sundays (as well as the Friday after Thanksgiving) from November 18 through December 17, 2017, to offer visitors a delightfully immersive holiday experience unlike any other. An annual tradition for Bay Area natives and visitors alike, The Great Dickens Christmas Fair's 800 Victorian characters, from waltzing royals

chimey-ulate over three light-lit shops, and dance halls. from 10AM to 7 the Early Bird September 7 - Save \$7.00 per & \$4.00 per for the first two Early Bird ing avail the first two ends only at [dickensfair.com](http://dickensfair.com) through October 15. Adult Tickets (13+ yrs.), «Early Bird» discount price: \$23.00 (Valid Nov. 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26) Child Tickets (5-12 yrs.), «Early Bird» discount price: \$10.00 (Valid Nov. 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26) Children under 5 are free.



**At the Library...Knitting Circle** – Tuesday, October 10 at 6 pm. All levels of knitters, please join us with your knit projects and spread the inspiration! Practice supplies provided, but bring your own if you have a special project in mind. For ages 13 and up.

**MED-Project Prescription Drug Take-Back** - Wednesday, October 11 from 10 am to 2 pm. Get rid of old prescription medications that are cluttering up your medicine cabinets! Bring them to the MED-Project Prescription Drug Take-Back that will take place outside the entrance to the branch.

**Protect Yourself: Flu Immunizations** – Wednesday, October 11 from 1 to 2 pm. Ahead of the flu season, Walgreens pharmacists will administer flu vaccines on site for eligible patients covered by insurance or Medicare.

**Movie: Bless Me, Ultima** – Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm. Set in New Mexico during WWII, centers on the relationship between a Mexican-American boy and an elderly medicine woman who helps him contend with the battle between good and evil that rages in his village

**Marc Chagall, Amedeo Modigliani & Sonia Delaunay:** Three Artists of Uncommon Beauty – Wednesday, October 25 at 7 pm. Marlene Aron presents a fascinating slide lecture on three bold, beautiful, and deeply personal. artists. They worked in paint, stained glass, stone, and clay.

**Book-A-Librarian:** Learn Basic Computer Skills Choose a topic--searching library databases, setting up an email account, or surfing the Internet. Basic mouse and typing skills required. Sign up in-person or call to book a 45-minute one-on-one session.

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





# TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



Schools are already back in session. We want to remind all the drivers out there to slow down near school zones. Don't double park any longer than necessary for a drop off or a pick up. There are designated locations for this purpose at each school. Also, be mindful of neighbors trying to get in and out of garages. There's a scary trend—parents dropping-off children without putting them in safe seats or in a booster seat. Remember the law requires safe and secure seats for children.<sup>1</sup>

**Burglaries** Taraval has seen a reduction of burglaries with a total of 19 incidents in the month of August. However, four of those incidents happened between 4 to 8pm, when occupants were often at home. In June, we saw a total of 34 incidents and July's total was 25 incidents. Although this decrease is good, it is still not good enough. We will continue to work hard on this. However, we still need your help. Watch out for one another. If you see something, say something! Take a look at tips for protecting your home.<sup>2</sup> We are also on the lookout for a person pretending to be a PG&E employee going door to door and possibly targeting homes in the area for future burglaries. PG&E employees always carry ID and will not ask for personal information. Call PG&E 1-800-PGE-5000 to confirm.<sup>3</sup>

**Robberies** We had nine incidents of robbery last month. Three of the incidents happened between the hours of midnight and 4 am. Of the nine incidents, an arrest was made on two of those incidents. In June, we had 11 incidents and July, a total of 21 incidents. In most of the incidents, the suspect saw the victim using a cell phone (either talking or texting) or holding onto something the suspect thought was of value. Don't walk alone during late-night hours and walk in groups if possible. Make note of vehicles following you and avoid places where someone could hide such as vacant lots, wooded areas, alleys and secluded areas. If someone or something makes you uneasy, walk the other way and head towards a more populated or safer area. Don't display expensive items in public!

**Car Break-ins** In August, we had 106 incidents of theft from vehicles vs. June's total of 149 and July's total of 148. In one of the incidents, a suspect was arrested. Remember, don't leave items visible — even if you are returning in a few minutes. It takes less than a minute to break into a vehicle and take the property! Also, don't leave your garage door opener in your vehicle when you park on the streets.

**Beatops** Recently, we have increased the number of personnel on foot and to our homeless resources. We currently have three foot beat locations; Irving, West Portal and Ocean. We are also working closely with the city's homeless outreach team (HOT).

**New Signs** As a reminder eastbound and westbound traffic on Taraval has a lane dedicated to MUNI, taxis only and left turns. Also, there are signs for no left turns on 19th Ave and Sunset Blvd. Certain intersections on 19th Ave also have no turn on red signs.

**Take a Minute** While the weather is still good, take the time to check your vehicle's tires, windshield wipers and lighting system. Make sure make sure your head lights, tail lights and stop lights are also working properly. Remember, it is the law to ensure that all the equipment is working properly on your vehicle.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any concerns, questions or suggestions. Please contact me at Taraval Station 415.759.3100 or email me at Denise.flaherty@sfgov.org

1. [www.taraval.org/?p=11330](http://www.taraval.org/?p=11330)
2. <http://www.taraval.org/?p=11051>
3. <http://www.taraval.org/?p=8112>

## Friday - September 1

### Assault – Robbery

11:26 am | Lincoln Way & 8th Ave  
The victim said the suspect yelled at him before kicking a sign that was next to the victim before punching him, snatching his backpack and chasing him into a nearby store, where he escaped the suspect. Officers found the suspect, the stolen property was returned, and he was arrested.

### Threats – Resisting Arrest

10:08 pm | 00 Alviso St  
Officers found three parties in a heated argument in the driveway, but, seeing officers, the suspect exited into the garage and closed the door. The victim said he was walking home when the suspect threatened to shoot him, following him into his bedroom and punched him several times. The suspect was handcuffed, despite continued angry resistance and attempted to flee while being escorted out of the garage. He was subdued and restrained. A check revealed a warrant and he was arrested.

### Battery–Gas Station Robbery-Hit & Run

8:20 pm | 1300 19th Ave  
At a Shell Gas Station, the victim said the suspect tried to purchase a cigar but became upset when he asked for identification. She grudgingly produced her ID and payment for the cigar, but took offense to the way the victim took the identification. She suddenly snatched her ID back, along with the cigar and the cash and ran back to her vehicle. When he tried to retain her, she reversed her vehicle into another car and fled. A witness confirmed.

### Robbery

9:43 pm | 100 Lakeview Ave  
The victim said he was talking on his cell phone when he felt something hit the side of his face. He fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When he awoke, his cell phone was missing.

## Saturday - September 2

### Battery – Arrested

9:15 pm | Clarendmont Blvd  
The victim was on the ground and unconscious when officers arrived. He said he and his friend were at a bar when the suspect decided to drive home while drunk. A fight ensued when he grabbed the suspect and punching him in an attempt to make him drop his keys. The witness confirmed and the suspect was arrested.

### Sexual Battery

1:29 pm | 18th Ave & Irving St  
The victim said she was out walking in shorts and a t-shirt. Returning home, she was starting up the stairs when she felt something on her hips pulling her shorts down and grabbing at her buttocks.

## Sunday - September 3

### Warrant Arrest

7:14 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
The witness, a store employee, saw the suspect conceal merchandise in her bag but did not want to press charges. A computer check revealed a warrant, she was arrested.

### Assault

3:58 pm | 1500 Ocean Ave  
The victim went to a salon to get her nails done when the suspect, who arrived earlier, started to use profanity. When she was asked to stop, the suspect yelled at her. Attempts to calm the suspect failed and the suspect punched her several times before immediately exiting the salon.

## Monday - September 4

### Assault with Knife

3:25 am | 3000 San Jose Ave  
The intoxicated victim appeared to have a non-life threatening cut to his right wrist. He said he was assaulted by three suspects, about ten blocks away but was unable to provide details. A search was unsuccessful in determining the crime scene.

## Tuesday - September 5

### Robbery with a Gun

7:39 pm | 1400 28th Ave  
The victim was talking on his phone while walking to his car when two suspects approached. The first pointed a gun and both took all of his property, then fled in a double-parked car driven by a third suspect. He said he was uncertain if the gun was real and was unable to describe the suspects because they had covered their faces and were wearing hooded sweatshirts.

### Vehicle Tampering – Vehicle Vandalism

9:59 pm | 46th Ave & Lincoln Way  
The victim parked his car, but left it unlocked. When he returned, he saw the suspect sitting inside his car, then he fled the area on foot. The victim said property was moved around in the car, and that the center console was removed with additional scratches. Officers located the suspect and he was cited.

## Wednesday - September 6

### Package theft – Possession Stolen Property

10:11 am | 1200 Ulloa St  
A witness told officers a suspect had just stolen a package. Seeing the suspect carrying a large brown box, officers caught up to the suspect and found the box. After investigation, the suspect was arrested.

### Burglary Tools – Methamphetamine

12:59 am | Lincoln Way & La Playa St  
US Park Police detained a suspect acting suspiciously around several vehicles and reported to officers that they had observed the same suspect swing a metal rod at passing vehicles earlier. Officers searched the suspect and found methamphetamine. After investigation, he was arrested.

## Thursday - September 7

### Robbery with Force

9:48 pm | 900 Ocean Ave  
The victim said two suspects approached while he was putting gas in his car. One suspect punched him while the other grabbed his wallet before they both fled.

## Friday - September 8

### Vehicle Burglary – Probation Violation

2:02 am | Lincoln Way & 48th Ave  
The victim parked his car in his driveway and went into the house to sleep. Hearing a loud noise, he found the passenger window of his car shattered. A witness saw the suspect standing by the car earlier and he was seen returning to scrape away the broken glass with a pair of gloves and rummaging through the vehicle. Based on a description officers found the suspect, who was later confirmed by the victim and witness. A computer check revealed two warrants and was currently on probation. After further investigation, he was arrested.

## Saturday - September 9

### Robbery

9:15 pm | 1700 Ocean Ave  
The victim was walking up to the gas station's service window when one suspect suddenly ran towards him while a second approached him from behind and punched him. They took his wallet and fled.

## Sunday - September 10

## Sexual Assault

9:40 am | Address Confidential  
The victim said she and a friend had been drinking and took an Uber home. When she arrived home, the suspect followed her and assaulted her inside her home before leaving. She couldn't recall the details due to intoxication but she believed it was either the driver a passenger in the vehicle.

## Monday - September 11

### Assault on a child – Arrested

2:27 pm | 300 Eucalyptus Dr  
The witness said she and her daughter, the victim, and the suspect were in the store's changing room. The suspect inappropriately touched the victim while she was naked. Officers took statements from witnesses, the suspect was arrested.

## Wednesday - September 13

### Robbery with a Gun

4:47 pm | 1300 Holloway Ave  
The victim walked past the suspect, sitting in the front seat of a car with her cell phone in her hand. Then she felt somebody grab her neck from behind and looked down to see that a gun was pointed at her. The suspect grabbed her phone and run away.

## Thursday - September 14

### Robbery

10:00 pm | Great Hwy & Judah St  
The victim was walking down the street when he felt an unknown object suddenly pressed into his lower back. He heard a voice behind him but could not understand the words. However, he raised his hands and felt the suspect take his property, then the suspect fled. He did not know if it was a gun.

## Friday - September 15

### Robbery

3:17 am | Gonzalez Dr & Rivas Ave  
The victim was in front of his home smoking when a suspect approached him and pointed a firearm at him demanding his property. Another two suspects slapped him and stole his property. The suspects then fled the scene.

## Saturday - September 16

### Vehicle Burglary – Arrested

1:34 am | 300 Stonecrest Dr  
Officers found a reported suspect that had just broken into a car. They observed what looked like a firearm in his pocket that was determined to be an imitation. On information from witnesses, he was arrested.

## Monday - September 18

### Robbery

12:08 am | 1200 41st Ave  
The victim was walking home from 7-11 when a suspect approached behind him spoke but didn't catch what was said but saw something black in his hand. He refused to give him his phone and wallet but ran back home instead. Later he found a BB pellet stuck to the bottom of his shoe.

*Editor's Note: this is an incomplete and abridged report due to the constraints of available space. For more space, please support and thank our advertisers. For the complete reports, visit taraval.org*

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GRAND NATIONAL RODEO • OCTOBER 13-14 • COW PALACE, 2600 GENEVA AVE.

71ST GRAND NATIONAL RODEO Rides into the Cow Palace

Dust off your hats, and get your spurs on! The Wild, Wild, West returns to the Bay Area as the annual Grand National Rodeo, Livestock Exposition and Horse Show opens at the Cow Palace next week. Now in its 71st year, the Grand National Rodeo will celebrate the time-honored tradition of America's West by presenting the best of the best in the competitive sport of rodeo.

The two-weekend event, October 13-14 and 20-21, is presented by the Cow Palace in partnership with the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association), and produced by Cotton Rosser and the Flying U Rodeo Co. which has produced the event for the past 48 years. The Grand National Rodeo features traditional rodeo events including bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, bull riding and barrel racing.

During the livestock exposition, real farm equipment and animals are on site with interactive displays to learn about how food is grown. Exhibitors will show cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and rabbits, along with photography and fine art inspired by agriculture and western lifestyle.

Other highlights include:

- Western marketplace (open daily from 2 – 11 pm)
- Classic Western BBQ - down-home comfort food
- Nightly LIVE music by Buck Nickels & Loose Change Band, and Chad Bushnell (9:30 – 11pm)
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys show (7:30 – 9pm)

- Equestrian competitions
- "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" day (in support of breast cancer awareness month)
- Military Day (GNR partners services for Veterans)
- Mechanical bull rides and more!

**Ticket prices** are \$24 for adults Dress Circle, \$44 for Box Seats and \$14 for children and seniors, and can be purchased online at [www.grandnationalrodeo.com](http://www.grandnationalrodeo.com) or in-person at the box office. Although tickets must be purchased for the Grand National Rodeo in the main arena, the Livestock Exposition, Horse Show, Interactive Agricultural Area, and Marketplace are FREE and open to the public. For more details visit [www.cowpalace.com](http://www.cowpalace.com) or contact [info@cowpalace.com](mailto:info@cowpalace.com) or call 415-414-4100.

October Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

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

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

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

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS - NIGHTLIFE

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

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

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

[cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html)

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

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

SAT • FREE E-BOOKS

Sat 3-4 pm | More than 40,000 free eBooks with one-on-one help from a librarian. Bring your Kindle, iPad, smartphone etc. 20 minute appointments available. RSVP: [info@sfpl.org](mailto:info@sfpl.org) with preferred date/time, and device. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

SUN • COMMUNITY YOGA

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

DAILY • ART OF EYVIND EARLE

Daily (except Tue) | 10 am - 6 pm | Best known as the lead stylist for Walt Disney's classic Sleeping Beauty (1959) and for concept art as well as his popular silk-screened prints. Walt Disney Family Museum, 104Montgomery, Presidio. Closed Tuesdays.

FRI-SUN • HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS

Fri-Sun Oct 6-9 | A FREE gathering in Golden Gate Park, Hellman Hollow, Marx and Lindley Meadows, featuring over 90 acts on 7 stages. Times, performers, etc: [hardlystrictlybluegrass.com](http://hardlystrictlybluegrass.com)

BOOKSHOP  
WEST PORTAL

SEPTEMBER 2017  
BESTSELLERS

1. What Happened  
by Hillary Rodham Clinton

2. A Legacy of Spies  
by John Le Carre

3. A Gentleman in Moscow  
by Amor Towles

4. Al Franken, Giant of the Senate  
by Al Franken

5. My Absolute Darling  
by Gabriel Tallent

6. Y is for Yesterday  
by Sue Grafton

7. The Marriage Pact  
by Michelle Richmond \*

8. Astrophysics for People in a Hurry  
by Neil Degrasse Tyson

9. Forest Dark  
by Nicole Krauss

10. Dead on Arrival  
by Matt Richtel \*

11. The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye  
by David Lagercrantz

12. The Choice: Embrace the Possible  
by Edith Eva Eger

13. Little Fires Everywhere  
by Celeste Ng

14. The Ministry of Utmost Happiness  
by Arundhati Roy

15. Dinner at the Center of the Earth  
by Nathan Englander

\* Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

HARDLY STRICTLY  
BLUEGRASS  
17

Fri-Sun Oct 6-9 | A FREE gathering in Golden Gate Park, Hellman Hollow, Marx and Lindley Meadows, featuring over 90 acts on 7 stages. Times, performers, etc: [hardlystrictlybluegrass.com](http://hardlystrictlybluegrass.com)

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

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

FRI/ONGOING • LITQUAKE

LITQUAKE  
San Francisco's Literary Festival

Oct 6-14 | Various venues | SF's literary festival,

now in its 18th year. Events are all-ages unless noted otherwise. Book sales are offered when and where appropriate. Events without ticket reservations are first-come first served. Info: [litquake.org](http://litquake.org)

SAT • BEST OF BOOT CAMP

Sat Oct 7 | 1:30 & 5:30 pm | The Best Of Bootcamp 2017—Scenes & Monologues (Classic & Contemporary) selected by and from the entire Asawa SOTA Theatre Department. Tickets: \$7 Students (K-12) \$15 Adults \$10 Seniors & Alumni. Studio Theatre 555 Portola Drive

SAT • DAY OF THE DEAD ALTER

Sat Oct 7 | 2 pm | A hands-on workshop and help create a Día de los Muertos community altar. Colorful and overflowing with offerings—a celebration of those who have passed. Bring a photo or other memento of a loved one who has passed if you wish. Materials will be provided. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

SUN • ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

Sun Oct 8 | 12:30 pm | The Parade action begins at the foot of Jefferson and Powell Streets in Fisherman's Wharf, proceeds south through North Beach on Columbus Avenue and ends in Washington Square in front of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

TUE • THE RICHMOND - SF HISTORY

Tue Oct 10 | 7:30 - 9 pm | The Western Neighborhoods Project shares stories behind images of the Richmond District. Unique views of the past, tales of cemeteries, theaters, amusements, and day-to-day life in one of the most interesting neighborhoods. A project of WPN, [OpenSFHistory.org](http://OpenSFHistory.org) features thousands

of online images. SF Museum and Historical Society. (\$10 non-members, \$5 for non-member seniors, students, K–12 teachers, and people with disabilities.) Check for updates at [sfhistory.org](http://sfhistory.org). Roosevelt Middle School, Arguello & Geary on-site parking (from Palm Ave.) public transportation nearby.

TUE • GUITAR RECITAL

Tue Oct 10 | 7:30 pm | The first concert of the season, with an eclectic selection of musical styles, original compositions and few surprises! Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. Adults \$15, Seniors 10, Students 7. Studio Theatre, 555 Portola Drive

WED • NASTY WOMEN FORUM

Wed Oct 11 | 7 pm | Bookshop West Portal presents Nasty Women: Feminism, Resistance, and Revolution in Trump's America: (at 80 West Portal) Samhita Mukhopadhyay - Nasty Women editor Kate Harding - Nasty Women editor Mallory Ortberg - Author of Texts from Jane Eyre and founder of feminist website The Toast Kate Schatz - Author of Rad American Women and founder of Solidarity Sundays Carolyn Jasik - Director of the Women's March for the state of California Debra Cleaver - Founder and CEO of Vote.org

WED • ANNUAL POOL TOSS

Wed Oct 11 | 6-9:30 pm | With fabulous food, libations, wacky entertainment and a wet-and-wild celebrity auction pool toss...benefiting TND's Tenderloin After-School Program (TASP)! Every October, local leaders take the plunge at the historic Phoenix Hotel/Chambers to raise funds that help families thrive. \$125 & up, [tndc.org](http://tndc.org), 601 Eddy, 358-3906.

WED • BLESS ME, ULTIMA

Wed Oct 8 | 6:30 pm | Set in New Mexico during WWII, the movie centers on the relationship between a Mexican-American boy and an elderly medicine woman who helps him contend with the battle between good and evil that rages in his village. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.



Now At the Movies • Don Lee Miller

## BRIDGET JONES' BABY

Bridget: Renée Zellweger returns for the third installment as the bumbling British reluctant "spinster" and journalist of Helen Fielding's novels, looking just like the 43-old woman she is supposed to be. She delivers enough charm to carry the film but fortunately has the two bed-mates who may be the father for aid. There's the barrister, Mark Darcy: Colin Firth, who's almost a stuffed shirt; then the

refreshing billionaire American Jack: Patrick Dempsey, whom she meets at a tented music festival with a coworker Shazzer: Sally Phillips at the TV station where Bridg is a news producer. Zellweger's gynecologist, hilarious Emma Thompson, has three scenes, especially the delivery. Bridg's parents, loving Jim Broadbent and Gemma Jones, who is running for elected office, supports single motherhood and

gay rights. RZ's choices of lifestyle and companion-ship, plus the excessive profanity that goes along with it, are embarrassing. There's a surprise at the end re the missing Daniel: Hugh Grant. Director Sharon Maguire has assembled a wealth of talent cast, capable of presenting this multi-legged modern Cinderella story. Profanity, sex references, and some nudity.



## THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

While gathering the Seven for the face-off with a mysterious villain, Bartholomew: Peter Sarsgaard, about fifty bodies stack up in the first hour. Most are just shot, but others get it with a wielded ax, needlepoint hairpins, scalping, bow and arrow, and other devious devices. Not any one of the Seven uses the same weapon of choice—it makes it more interesting. At only rare moments does this new version of the old star-studded classic face much challenge. A bounty hunter from Wichita, KS [where I was born], Chisom:

## SNOWDEN

Oliver Stone's latest true political drama tells the tale of young analyst Edward Snowden: Joseph Gordon-Levitt as his career ascends at an underground security site in Hawaii. Along the way, his work contacts include a Who's Who: there's Laura: Melissa Leo; confidant Ewan: Tom Wilkinson; girlfriend Lindsay: Shailene Woodley; Hank: Nicolas Cage; Janine: Joely

Denzel Washington collects his partners in crime from various (factitiously named) Western towns: Josh: Chris Pratt, Goodnight: Ethan Hawke, Jack Horne: Vincent D'Onofrio, Byung-hun Lee: Billy Rock, Vasquez: Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Red Harvest: Martin Sensmeier. Their funding boss, Emma Cullen: expects satisfaction but won't be too unhappy if revenge is exacted. The supporting players round out the big cast: there's her brother, Matthew Cullen: Matt Bomer (TV's White Collar [09-14], The Nice Guys), Teddy Q:

Luke Grimes, Dinali: Jonathan Joss, and McCann: Cam Gigandet (2008 Award winner:

Young Hollywood Award: One to Watch; 08&09: MTV: Best Fight: Never Back Down, Twilight; 09: Best Movie Rumble: Twilight). Denzel is the central focus, without any question; all others are subsidiary. Antoine Fuqua directs the screenplay attributed to Kurosawa, plus four. Extended and intense scenes of Western violence. Historical smoking, some profanity, and suggestive material.

Richardson; Hawaii coworkers: Glenn: Zachary Quinto; CIA Agent Geneva: Timothy Olyphant; Trevor: Scott Eastwood; Robert: Ben Chaplin; Corbin: Rhys Ifans; and, ultimately in the final scene, Snowden, himself. Edward and Lindsay's global travels provide a world tour: Washington, Munich, Bavaria, Germany, Hong Kong, China and Moscow. Director Stone

co-wrote the screenplay + 3. What every American will forever thank Snowden for is exposing the government wire-tapping of our personal phone conversations and e-mails, all kept in a huge underground bunker in Hawaii. Obama subsequently has stranded him in Moscow for years, confined in the Peruvian embassy, where Lindsay eventually joined him.

## FRI • HAMILTON - HISTORY

**Oct 13- Feb 18 2018 | Ongoing** | Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804) captivates the public more than two centuries after his death. The New York Historical Society and Chase bank present original artifacts and documents illuminating his role at the foundation of the US. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St. Hours: californiahistoricalsociety.org

## FRI • COLONIZING CALIFORNIA

**Oct 13- Feb 18 '18 | Ongoing** | Meanwhile out West: Colonizing California, 1769–1821 At least 300,000 indigenous people lived in Alta California when the Spanish Crown asserted sovereignty in 1769. In five decades, Spain left an enduring imprint on the Native peoples and heritage. Explore the period through manuscripts, books, paintings, and artifacts from the California Historical Society's collections 678 Mission St. Hours: californiahistoricalsociety.org

## FRI • KIDSFEST AT THE ZOO



**Fri Oct 13 | 6 - 8 pm/8-10 pm** | KidsFest—enjoy exclusive wildlife presentations, music, Little Puffer train rides, face painting, fun activities and crafts. Food trucks on hand for great cuisine options and kid (and adult) beverages. Fun for the whole family! 8-10 Music and DJ for the "night owls." One Zoo Road at Sloat Blvd.

## SAT • AQUAPALOOZA /

**Sat Oct 14 | 7-9 pm** | The first Aqua-

paloosa party of the fall - a night of drinks, bites, and fireworks at the Aquarium of the Bay, Pier 39, Embarcadero at Beach St. Sip bubbles with the animals that make them while you walk through our amazing underwater tunnels or learn about the different animals from our biologists. \$15-20.

## SAT • NEXT PLEASE!



**Sat Oct 14 | 1 pm** | Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts Musical Theatre Department presents the 2nd Next, Please! An audition style afternoon of song and monologue selections. Dan Kryston Theater, 555 Portola Dr.

## SAT • MAKE SALSA!

**Sat Oct 14 | 2 pm** | Learn to dice and chop vegetables for a fresh salsa at West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

## SUN • EGGERS &amp; HARRIS



**Sun Oct 15 | 10 am** | A special Sunday morning event at Bookshop West Portal. Eggers wrote the best-selling memoir *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. Dave Eggers & Shawn Harris will discuss their new picture book *Her Right Foot*. A great way to introduce children

to the world of books. At 80 West Portal.

## THU • AUTHOR ROBIN SLOAN

**Thu Oct 19 | 7 pm** | Hosts of Mother Jones Magazine's Bite Podcast\* join Author Robin Sloan. This is the magazine's food-related podcast. Sloan's novel, *Sourdough* talks about visa problems that cause her neighborhood diner to close, but the owners bestow their sourdough starter on her to keep alive. Bookshop West Portal will also be featuring fresh-from-the-oven sourdough from Noe Valley Bakery! 80 West Portal

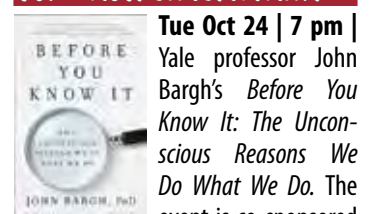
## SAT • TRICYCLE FESTIVAL

**Sat Oct 21 | 3 pm** | Joanie Leeds and the Nightlights direct from New York, combines fun music, lead vocals and guitar and drums to make your feet tap and sway to the various fun themes in her songs at the 3rd annual Tricycle Music Fest. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval.

## MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

**Mon Oct 23 | 7:30 pm** | West of Twin Peaks Central Council is comprised of westside neighborhood group delegates. Meets to discuss neighborhood concerns on the 4th Monday of the month at Forest Hill Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

## TUE • AUTHOR JOHN BARGH



**Tue Oct 24 | 7 pm** | Yale professor John Bargh's *Before You Know It: The Unconscious Reasons We Do What We Do*. The event is co-sponsored by Wonderfest, the Bay Area Beacon of Science2. Expect a robust turn-out! Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

## TUE • APPLE CRUMBLE!

**Tue Oct 24 | 7 pm** | Nothing says "fall" like apples! Join us for a demo and tasting of Apple Crumble, a simple yet delicious dessert. Space limited; call 415-355-5770 or email psimg@sfpl.org to register. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval.

## WED • SLOAT &amp; SKYLINE MTG.

**Wed Oct 25 | 5 pm** | Master Plan to reconfigure the intersection to create the most efficient way to accommodate rerouting the Great Highway, which will be closed south of Sloat due to the ongoing threat of coastal erosion. Java Cafe, 2650 Sloat Blvd.

## WED • 3 GREAT ARTISTS

**Wed Oct 25 | 7 pm** | Marlene Aron fascinates with Chagall, Modigliani and Delaunay, who created bold and deeply personal work in paint, stained glass, stone, and clay. They designed sets for ballet, theatre and collaborated with poets. Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

## THU • OMI NEIGHBORS

**Thu Oct 26 | 7 pm** | Meets last Thu each month. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

## FRI-SAT • CHAMBER MUSIC

**Fri-Sat Oct 27-28 | 7:30-9 pm** | Vocal and chamber music concert from the Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts, Dan Kryston Theater, 555 Portola Dr. sfsota.org for prices, information.

## SAT • DAY OF THE DEAD ALTAR

**Sat Oct 28 | 3 pm** | A hands-on workshop and help create a Día de los Muertos community altar. Colorful and overflowing with offerings—a celebration of those who have passed. Bring a photo or memento of a loved one who has passed if you wish. Materials provided. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

## MON • SUPE YEE / S.H.A.R.P.

**Mon Oct 30 | 7 pm** | Supervisor Norman Yee, District 7 was re-elected in 2012 and so is serving his last term. His participatory budgeting allows residents to choose projects to be funded from designated money. 2017's winning proposals included \$23,000 for security cameras and other crime-prevention equipment. 1736 Ninth Ave.

## TUE • MONSTER CUPCAKES

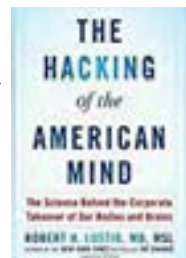
**Tue Oct 31 | 4 pm** | Scare yourself... hungry while we decorate some monstrous cupcakes for Halloween. All materials will be provided. For ages 8 and up. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval.

## WED • GWPNA

**Wed Nov 1 | 6:30** | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. gwpna.org.

## THU • AUTHOR

**Thu Nov 2 | 7 pm** | Robert Lustig best-selling author of *Fat Chance* and local UCSF professor reveals the corporate scheme to sell pleasure, driving the international epidemic of addiction, depression, and chronic disease. *The Hacking of the American Mind: The Science Behind the Corporate Takeover of our Bodies and Brains* at Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.  
1. www.motherjones.com/topics/bite/  
2. www.wonderfest.org  
3. opensfhistory.org



## Local event?

editor@westsideobserver.com  
Priority: Westside Events

At the Theater • Flora &amp; Linda

## Neil Simon's Early Witty and Lighthearted Comedy

## Rumors

*Rumors* premiered at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego in September 1988, then opened on Broadway in November 1988 at the Broadhurst Theater and moved to the Ethel Barrymore Theater where it closed after 535 performances and 8 previews.

For this production, as I went to take my usual seat in the front row, I was immediately met by a stark white set. Then, as the play unfolded, the masterfully-designed set by Michael Walraven opened onto a well-appointed

living room. Tightly directed by Trevor Scott Floyd and Elliott Hanson Assistant



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick

Cont to page 12

## BUYERS &amp; SELLERS REPRESENTED

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KEVINANDJONATHAN.COM



Money Matters By Brandon Miller

## Successful Financial Conversations when You're Engaged



While money is a leading cause of marital strife, a recent Ameriprise study found that nearly seven in ten couples say they have good financial communication. Before wedding planning kicks into high gear, make conversations about your finances a priority. Taking the time today to talk through money matters can create a solid foundation for your collective future. Use the following six principles to guide your money conversations:

**1. Open-minded.** Take turns sharing your vision for money management as a married couple. Listen carefully to what your future spouse says is important to him or her. Acknowledge your differences and build on your strengths. If your expectations don't match up, try to find a compromise. Some couples sidestep conversations about money to avoid feelings of hurt, fear, anger or remorse. Creating a habit of regular communication may help you avoid heated arguments, and can help ensure you're on the same page financially before you walk down the aisle.

**2. Honesty.** Financial secrets can destroy trust. Share the specifics of your financial history and current situation if you haven't already done so. Your future spouse deserves to know if you're paying off college debt, or if you've made any financial mistakes in the past (and how you've rectified them). Disclose the good news, too. Divulge details about savings you've tucked away or a family trust that helps supplement your income so you both know the sum of where you stand.

**3. Forward-thinking.** Once you've shared your current situation and history, discuss your goals for the future. Be open about what your dreams are, but be ready to compromise. While you don't have to agree on everything, having shared goals (purchasing a home, saving for college if you choose to have children, retirement, etc.) allows you to combine forces on savings and gives you a road map for spending.

**4. Cooperation.** To avoid any miscommunications as newlyweds, discuss and assign responsibility for financial roles. Is one of you better at monitoring online accounts and paying bills? Are you both enrolled in a retirement account and taking maximum advantage of employer

contributions? Who will be the primary contact for your financial advisor, tax professional or estate planner? Two is better than one when you're able to divide and conquer financial tasks, but make sure you're both in the loop on key decisions and money matters.

**5. Diligence.** Once you're married, make it a priority to update your financial documents. It takes discipline, but taking care of these housekeeping tasks right away protects you in case something unexpected happens. Several steps to consider:

Update financial accounts, insurance policies and credit cards with any name changes, and if needed, add your spouse as an owner and beneficiary to those accounts.

Consider combining your bank accounts if it makes sense for your situation.

Update or write your will and estate plan to reflect your collective wishes.

Amend your tax withholdings, to make sure the right amount is withheld from your paycheck now that you're married. Consult your tax professional before making changes.

Choose your health insurance. If both of your employers offer health insurance, carefully evaluate your coverage options and premiums for the best fit.

Like most things worth achieving, preparing for a lifetime of financial compatibility takes work. If you and your future spouse can commit to the same money values, it may help you create a solid financial foundation.

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

### Ethics Commission (Cont. from p. 1)

send a letter advising Planning Commissioner Johnson that her "dual roles may be incompatible" and to recuse herself from acting on "housing or other development projects."

At the 4/27/17 Planning Commission meeting, a fuming Commissioner Johnson called on DCA Jon Givner to address the issue. Givner acknowledged that his office had verbally

advised Johnson that her employment at SPUR posed no conflict of interest - based on what Johnson said about her job duties rather than any "independent investigation." Givner defined conflicts of interest narrowly, based on whether Johnson or SPUR made money from her Planning decisions and whether SPUR lobbied the Planning Commission. But why would SPUR bother lobbying the Planning Commission when its own advocate already sat on it? And admittedly, Givner's assessment "did not pierce the veil" on influential SPUR donors. Capping Givner's presentation, Johnson stated she was "extremely dismayed" at receiving an Ethics warning without the opportunity to defend herself. Yet, the Ethics letter only urged recusal - not suspension or criminal prosecution - as did the YIMBY complaint

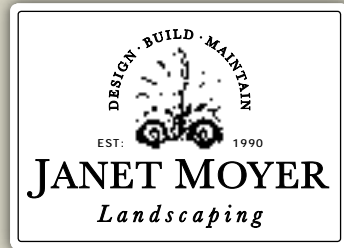
against the Ethics Commissioners.

Johnson acknowledged a conflict. She resolved it by contortion, vowing to avoid housing policy decisions at SPUR while continuing to vote on housing policy matters as a Planning Commissioner. Although she had told Mayor Lee she wanted to resign once hired by SPUR, Lee asked her to stay until he appointed another commissioner - a stay lasting another 7 months.

She walked out during public comments that overwhelmingly favored the Kim/Peskin proposal. However, she did support one amendment that favored low-income residents. Tensions dissipated once Supervisor Jane Kim arrived to announce that the dueling proposals would be melded into a "consensus" Ordinance. But the YIMBY grievance against Ethics proceeded.

On 9/6/17, before the full Sunshine Task Force, Ms. Clark and a handful of YIMBY supporters faced off against Commissioners Keane and Kopp and their allies. Intriguingly, the YIMBYs' fervor for sunshine laws surpassed that of long-committed sunshine advocates like Bruce Brugmann, Rick Knee and Bob Planthold who backed the Ethics Commission. The all-white YIMBYs injected victimology and identity politics into their main

**Ethics made a good-faith effort to fulfill its duty and met the immediacy exemption allowed by the Brown Act. YIMBYs desiring fairness can report to Ethics the alleged conflicts enveloping other Planning Commissioners. And Ethics should replace its conflict-bound City attorney with independent counsel."**



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argument, namely; it's discriminatory to challenge Johnson because other Planning Commissioners harbor conflicts of interest. Clark lamented that "I had my character thrown under the bus." Previously, she had argued it was unfair to "drag someone (Johnson) through the mud." She labeled Ethics "a rogue agency...filled with politically-motivated individuals who drop the hammer on whoever they deem a political opponent." Housing Action Coalition CEO Todd David declared, "It's about old white men not liking Christine Johnson." Dismissing conflict of interest concerns, YIMBYs condemned Ethics for "a political witch-hunt for a minority female woman," "a political vendetta," "selective prosecution," "abuse of power," and "new levels of hypocrisy." They also maintained that the Ethics letter didn't address any emergency because Ethics had received tips about Johnson's conflict weeks before and she had previously voted on inclusionary housing. It almost worked. A motion to find that Ethics had violated the Sunshine

Ordinance died on a 5 to 3 vote - one short of the 6-vote threshold needed to pass. Commissioner Johnson wasn't there to back her supporters. Neither was DCA Shen.

In sum, Ethics made a good-faith effort to fulfill its duty and met the immediacy exemption allowed by the Brown Act. YIMBYs desiring fairness can report to Ethics the alleged conflicts enveloping other Planning Commissioners. And Ethics should replace its conflict-bound City attorney with independent counsel.

*Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda*



*Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing. Both*



*are local San Francisco residents. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com*



Senior Smarts

Announcements

I previously mentioned I am planning a Bereavement Roundtable as part of a Seniors Ministry. I am proud to announce on September 16, I received certification as a bereavement facilitator.

It is time to begin preparing for cold weather while we enjoy the remaining warm/hot weather. (See WSO: “Getting Ready for Winter”, Part 1 - Oct. 2016 and Part 2 – Dec. 2016.)

I hope your loved ones along the hurricanes path survived and are coping. To those who lost loved ones, my sincerest condolences.

Managing Dental Care

Due to a dental emergency, Part 2 - “Managing Dental Care”, in the series on dental health will appear soon.

The article will address: dentistry; dentist; dental technician; root canal; bridge; dental hygienist; x-rays; treatment plan; oral medicine; oral surgery; resources.

Anise J. Matteson, CBF, is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors.

Theater (Cont. from p. 10)

Director, the play begins with shocking events at an anniversary party for the Deputy Mayor of New York. First guests at the party are a lawyer, Ken Gorman (Montgomery Paulsen) and his wife Chris (Candace Brown), and they recognize something is horribly wrong. They discover that the Deputy Mayor has been shot in the head! Since they don't know what happened, Ken and Chris have to figure out what to say to the doctor and the police.

Chris wants to call the doctor, but Ken tells her it's not a life-threatening wound – it's only a shot through the earlobe. With that, the doorbell rings and other friends arrive – Lenny (Timothy Geracoulis) and Claire (Haley Bertelsen). They have their own drama – as in a car accident – also no life-threatening wounds, however. Now the rumors begin and the effort to keep rumors from expanding out to the public! Claire and Lenny say they heard that either the Deputy Mayor or his wife was having an affair, so maybe that's why the Deputy Mayor shot himself. In further discussing the situation with Ken, Lenny wants to call the police but lawyer Ken says no.

Another couple arrives – Ernie Kusak (Jim McFadden), a psychiatrist, and Cookie (Marilyn Hughes), his eccentric wife. Not wanting to spread rumors, the other guests initiate general party conversation – with no rumors and nothing divulged about the unfolding drama around the Deputy Mayor.

As the Kusaks prepare dinner, the final guests arrive – Glen Cooper (Matt Farrell), a politician, and his wife, Cassie (Hande Gokbas). The party conversation is lively – but still no mention about the shooting of the Deputy Mayor.

However, once dinner is served, the party totally disintegrates into conflict and confusion. As dinner ends everyone knows everything. Then, police officers arrive – Officer Welch (Shari Clover) and Officer

Putney (Sandi Weldon). Officer Welch asks several probing questions (unrelated to the drama in the house but, instead, related to the car accident) and gets suspicious when confusion ensues about the situation (unrelated to the car accident), and he notices the absence of the Deputy Mayor. The collective storyline of the guests unravels. The officer demands to see the Deputy Mayor but getting nowhere, finally allows the excuses given by the guests to stand, and the officers leave.

Sighs of relief from the guests are short-lived as yet another drama seems to be developing in the basement! Eventually, the party develops into a night to remember without spreading any rumors.

I was delighted to see Candace Brown play Chris and have the opportunity to perform a more glamorous role than her previous old women character parts. Marilyn Hughes was funny and a delight to watch as Cookie. Hande Gokbas who plays Cassie Cooper was very strong. Of all the men, at the show I attended, the outstanding performance was by Timothy Geracoulis who plays Lenny. That said I'd like to put in a good word for Montgomery Paulsen, who did amazing work as Ken. The Police Officers were quite believable.

Barbara Bandy's Costume Designs were very appropriate. Simon Eves always does a great job with Sound Design, and the Lighting Design by Danny Osburn was excellent.

As always, the publicity was excellent by Publicist Gary Carr.

For an evening of fun and frolic, I hope you didn't miss this farcical delight!

Flora Lynn Isaacson

Rumors began its run September 7 and ran through September 24, 2017.

Coming up next at NTC will be the musical Chicago, from October 19 through November 12, 2017, and directed by Marilyn Izdebski, with music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb. The book was written by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse.



Proposed Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in the Sunset District  
2505 Noriega Street Update

On July 13, 2017 the Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use authorization to allow a Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD), the Apothecarium, to open at 2505 Noriega Street at 32nd Avenue. Two appeals have been filed in objection to the approved project. The Board of Supervisors held a hearing regarding the two appeals on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. (As we go to press). In the meantime, send your comments to Katy.Tang@sfgov.org, who has promised to take all comments into consideration.

Do you have a pinched nerve?  
We can help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5

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

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

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within.

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you.—Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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





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BRAIN FUD

A River Runs Through It  
What does the following represent?

ohm ohm ohm ohm  
path ohm  
ohm ohm ohm ohm  
ohm ohm ohm

Answer  
(the) path of least resistance  
The word "ohm" is defined as the standard unit of electrical resistance in the International System of Units (SI). Therefore, a greater number of "ohm"s represents more resistance.  
Of the four lines in the puzzle, the word "path" is found on the one with the fewest occurrences of the word "ohm" (only one). Therefore, it is the "path of least resistance";



West Portal of Twin Peaks Tunnel View From Lenox Way and Ulloa Street | April 29, 1949 Published by permission of the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency Photo Library



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

Sudoku-fun!

Rules:

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

The Object:

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

Answer: appears right.

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



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Education Carol Kocivar ©2017

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

### It's in the Cards

Everyone has a favorite children's story. Mine is about my daughter when she was about four. You have to know a little bit of family dynamics to fully appreciate this.

My husband LOVES to play card games. There is not a solitaire game he doesn't know. And don't get me started on cribbage. So when the kids were young, he wanted to make sure they could play cards, too.

I had no problem. My education rationale? It's a really good way to teach kids number recognition and simple addition. (And here is a bit of history: playing cards can be traced back to the 9th century in China. The Europeans changed the images on the cards to represent royalty. Remember that factoid.)

Anyway...my husband took it upon himself to teach the little ones cards. They would practice putting cards in the right piles, sorted by suit—hearts and clubs and diamonds and spades.

He taught them which cards were more valuable. They could count using kings and queens and jacks. On occasion, they would try to make a house of cards.

I wouldn't say they were card sharks but they sure knew the basics of cards.

We were living overseas at the time. When my daughter was about four we visited London and stayed in a house right

near Buckingham Palace. Every time we went anywhere, we pointed out the Palace and told her, "That is where the Queen lives."

We'd go to the park and tell her, "That is where the Queen lives."

We'd go get groceries and point out that huge building and tell her "That is where the Queen lives."

It is hard to know what is going through the head of a young child. She would stare quizzically at the guards—who of course—resembled the playing cards dad had taught her.

Finally, about the 10th time we went past the palace and said, "That's where the Queen lives" she was able to talk about what had been going through her mind. Pointing at the building, she asked, "Where does the joker live?"

And we knew in a flash that her dad was the best teacher of playing cards in the whole wide world.

Carol Kocivar is a children's advocate and lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com



**Water Fix** (Cont. from p 1)

WaterFix project would not only hasten the extinction of Central Valley steelhead, winter and spring-run Chinook salmon, Delta and longfin smelt, green sturgeon and other fish species, but would also imperil the salmon and steelhead populations on the Trinity and Klamath rivers that have been an integral part of the culture, religion and livelihood of the Yurok, Karuk and Hoopa Valley Tribes for many thousands of years."

**THE SOLUTION TO OUR WATER DILEMMA:**

Providing more water to thirsty farmers and residents of Southern California is not the solution for California's water woes. In doing so, we hasten the demise of our local fish industry and allow more salt water intrusion into the Delta, making farming more difficult for our local growers. What we need to do is to improve a number of existing reforms and incentives. First, we need to improve the incentive where owners of lawns are encouraged to plant drought-tolerant CA natives. Today, the rate of buy back is \$2 a square foot. Maybe it could be increased? Secondly, the incentive to use more drip irrigation replacing the use of flood irrigation should become more common. Lastly, we need federal farm subsidy reform, where the federal government encourages farmers to grow less water-intensive crops. After all, California is considered a desert. Alfalfa, cotton and rice, which require large quantities of water and are often flood-irrigated, should actually be grown



Source: California Natural Resources Agency

in the deep south, where water is more available. Eventually, Northern California will have no water to give away. I think that time is today.

Glenn Rogers is a landscape architect who lives in the Westside.

More INFO: westsideobserver.com/news/rogers.html#jul17

1. kqed.org/science/2016/07/25/about-that-17-billion-water-project-delta-tunnels-101/
2. redgreenandblue.org/2017/08/01/delta-tunnels-dfw-issues-permit-kill-endangered-salmon-smelt/

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# Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

## Scaling the Wall

**T**hank God that our presiding President hasn't built that wall yet because between the earthquakes and the hurricanes it would have tumbled down and the remnants blown away. It took Mother Nature to show us what should and shouldn't be done to our fellow human beings and we're just starting to see the real story.



Under misty skies and with a slight chop we left San Francisco's beautiful Cruise Terminal and headed out to sea, past Alcatraz, Fort Point, and under the spectacular Golden Gate Bridge, leaving behind two Coast Guard patrol boats escorting us, and eventually the Bar Pilot as he fearlessly jumped off our ship, gripped the safety rails on his craft and smartly made a U-turn back to the City of St. Francis.

We obviously had serious reservations before leaving on September 20th for an 18 day cruise on Oceana's Regatta to Miami by way of the Panama Canal, going through some of the devastation that has been fill-

ing the TVs and newspapers, but at our age what do we have to lose?

The Regatta is small by comparison, and with only 510 of the normal 685 passengers joining us, we soon learned most of the names and faces of our fellow passengers. We're surprised at how many couples are from other countries. Since there's just the two of us it's always fun to share a dinner table and make new friends every day. The first night we sat with two couples, one from South Africa and one from London. The second night we were honored

to be asked to sit at the Captain's table, and again more world travelers to meet and trade stories. Our Captain, Luksa Kristovic, is from the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia and what a nice, personable individual he is. And to make things even sweeter, I was seated next to Jennifer Smith, a beautiful young woman who is an on-board entertainer and who recently graduated from Boston's Conservatory of Music. The eight of us talked the evening away and we made sure to catch Jennifer's show at the Regatta Lounge the following evening. After a day at sea we arrived in Ensenada, took the two dollar bus ride into town and walked past all the beer joints and barkers. My first impression was how nice and polite every-

one is and certainly enterprising. My greatest treat was honing my negotiating skills, and after scoring two hats and a very nice pair of ten dollar sunglasses I couldn't help but feel guilty about beating up on those poor merchants, so we stopped by the local church and left a few dinero in the collection plate.

If this is what Trump is trying to keep out perhaps he should consider building a gate instead of a wall to let these wonderful people into our country. I've yet to see a homeless person or a beggar on the streets, and certainly San Francisco could take some lessons from what we've seen so far.

Specialty restaurants, Toscana, where the food was delicious and Pasquale's service spectacular. Sunday morning we were awakened by the sound of the anchors being dropped, and after the usual announcements, we headed for the tender ride into Cabo San Lucas. Shops, shops, and more shops. Barkers and beer was once again the norm, and there were more offers of boat rides and tours than people. Cuban cigars are big with the street vendors, and with every pharmacy plastering their wind-

ows with the Viagra and Cialis ads, and with all that Tequila, one would think that siesta time would run 24 hours a day! The most amazing part of this area is the amount of new construction going on. Beautiful hotels, condos and huge yachts are everywhere. The restaurants are packed and the music louder than ever. Certainly no signs of a slowing economy. Security is very tight with young men and women patrolling the area, their AK47's at the ready. The only thing that we managed to walk away with was a copy of Gringo Gazette and, as its masthead proudly proclaims, "Priceless."

So tomorrow is another day at sea before reaching Acapulco on Tuesday, which gives us plenty of time to catch up on what's been happening in Cabo. But the best part is, as it says in the dateline, "No Bad News."

Sergio gets around—the world!

## Veganburg (Cont. from p. 1)

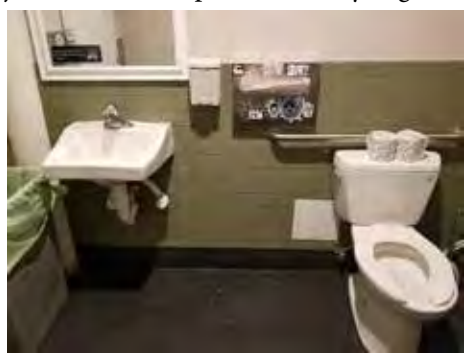


Flash please, flash

ready, and within about five minutes the token flashed and off I went to retrieve my meal.

After the first few bites I could tell the artisan buns were fresh and still warm from cooking in the oven. I also liked that they did not skimp on my seaweed fries, which had a great combination of a crispy exterior along with a soft interior that made me nod my head in approval with every bite. The most important thing for me was going to be the patty, which Veganburg says they make with a combination of soy and mushrooms. Mine was covered in layers of onion, fresh lettuce, and slices of tomato with a very savory sauce that has a smoky flavor. Honestly, two bites into it I almost forgot to question whether I was eating a vegan burger or not. Coming from a Burger King background, I must say that Veganburg exceeded my expectations.

Unsurprisingly, the texture of the patty was not like our local Nation's Giant Hamburgers over in Daly City. But truthfully, not many burger joints can compare favorably against



A clean, modern restroom — a rarity in the Haight

Nation's, vegan or not. Disappointingly, the bacon in my burger was just a little too dry and crunchy for me. That was very surprising because I've always believed that everything is better with some bacon. And the only thing that I can say about my small mango lemonade drink is that next time I will need to order the large mango lemonade drink. Or

pay the extra \$1 for a refill.

Finally, the price of the entire meal cost me a total bill of \$16.35, which included the gratuity charge. Personally, I was expecting a sticker shock so I will not hold this against them too much, but this is a bit steep for a lunch that is almost 30% more expensive for something similar that can be found at a non-vegan joint like another local burger spot, Tony's Cable Car Restaurant, located on Geary Boulevard. This cost factor may be a hurdle too high for some who may want to consider chang-



The customer line moved rather quickly, once I decided which burger to choose

**“Honestly, two bites into it I almost forgot to question whether I was eating a vegan burger or not. Coming from a Burger King background, I must say that Veganburg exceeded my expectations.”**

ing to a vegan diet. But even so, I would have to say that Veganburg has removed many of my previous negative impressions about vegan food. As a viable alternative food choice, possibly as our primary food choice, the discussion is likely to escalate. The idea of going on a vegan or vegetarian diet permanently doesn't seem radical anymore. Although improvements are still needed, pioneering places such as Veganburg are sure to play an important role in that transitional gap for so many of us that are still deciding on changing our diet and lifestyles for a better future.

If you are interested in giving Veganburg a try, it's at 1466 Haight Street - (415) 548-8000 you will find more helpful information from their website at [www.veganburg.org](http://www.veganburg.org).

Henry Wong is a San Francisco writer living way out on the westside.



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## READY To TAKE A...

# Coffee Break...

join  
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