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The Wild, Wild West of Density Development

By George Wooding

The newly-approved third revision of the 2009 Housing Element is about to turn the Westside of San Francisco into the wild west of density development.

After a lengthy collaboration between neighborhood groups, the Planning Department and interested community groups, the June 2010 draft of the 2009 Housing Element was issued and deemed acceptable by neighborhood representatives. An Environmental Impact Review (EIR) on the 2009 Housing element was completed and the public comment period was closed on August 31, 2010.

In February, 2011, the Planning Department issued its third revision of the 2009 Housing Element and this revision was approved at

the March 24, 2011 hearing of the Planning Commission. The altered third version of the Housing Element was very different from what neighborhood representatives had been shown and agreed upon in the June second revision of the 2009 Housing Element. Many sections of the approved 2009 Housing element had been changed and are now unfavorable to San Francisco's residential housing, one-family (RH-1) and residential housing, two-family (RH-2) neighborhoods.

Matt Chamberlain, the chair of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council's Planning and Land Use Committee, who worked as a neighborhood representative on the 2009 Housing Element states, "I was disappointed when I read the third draft of the 2009 Housing Element (HE). So much had been changed between that and the previous version that the HE Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) had worked on. Worst of all, these changes came after the EIR was completed for the Housing Element. The Planning Department did good work making sure that the early drafts of the HE reflected the needs of a wide range of residents. Then something changed, and they adopted their third draft... that so clearly favors developers and real-estate moguls over the people who actually live in San Francisco."

The Planning Department has been disingenuous with the neighborhoods. The February version of the 2009 Housing Element disassembled the neighborhood's RH-1 and RH-2 current zoning and attempts to apply "density zoning" to our neighborhoods. Density zoning is designed to create as many



housing units as possible in existing RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods. The Planning Department has no idea how many new housing units will be built, what will be built, or where the units will be concentrated. The only restriction is that the height and bulk of housing will supposedly conform to the character of the neighborhoods that they are destroying. The Planning Department has lost its way.

The new density zoning will open the floodgates to bad and irresponsible planning throughout the RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods. Our tranquil RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods, which we love, will be converted into "density units" that will become profit centers for developers, the City of San Francisco, and the Planning Department.

Take a good look at your street and remember what it looks like. Ten years from now, many of your neighbors will have secondary units/in-law units, and some houses will be torn down and rebuilt into multi-unit buildings. Yes, the Planning Department will still be charging permit fees and solving the many neighborhood disputes that are about to occur.

The planning contradiction: Why has the Planning Department invested years of time and study of planned developments such as Parkmerced, Balboa Park, or Treasure Island — but spent zero time considering its huge changes to the RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods? Large-project developers work closely with the City to determine transit needs, schools, water availability, parking impacts, payments, the need of a

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Follow The Supes' Money

By Larry Bush

All right, we'll admit upfront that it's not a lot of money. But it is your money, and each Supervisor gets to spend it without anyone asking questions – or even looking at the books.

What is it? It is the office account that each Supervisor can spend as he or she wishes – fresh flowers every day, paper hats for the staff to wear on constituent days, mani-pedi in the office Wednesdays, whatever.

So we asked for the records and we're ready to tell you what we learned.

Which supervisor was the most frugal? Who ran through almost every dollar in a matter of months? Which ones pay to subscribe to the San Francisco Chronicle, and which ones don't (the answer may surprise you)?

First, not all supervisors are equal. Everyone starts out with \$5,000 in mad money, unless they happen to be coming to the end of their term, in which case they get \$2,500, or are taking office in mid-year, in which they get \$2,500.

The Board President gets more – fifty percent more – for a total of \$7,500 (this budget, Chiu had a total of \$10,000 because he was Board President in two overlapping terms)

That's the base line facts. Now to the spin.

"Squeezed Every Nickel Award" goes to...ta da...Chris Daly. Bet you didn't see that coming. Daly was the most frugal of all the supervisors with his public dollars, spending just \$307.64 and leaving \$2,192.36 on the table to go back to the city budget.

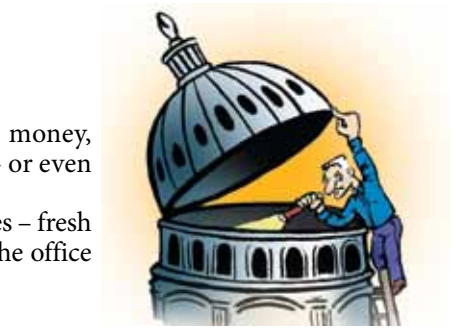
"Day Late and Dollar Short Award" goes to...Mark Farrell. After just 100 days, Supervisor Farrell has spent just about every dollar he had — all but \$6.69 of his \$2,500 budget. And this is the guy who wants to rewrite city tax law on stock options, which the Examiner pointed out

would benefit himself.

"Full Speed Ahead Award" goes to those supervisors who use their office account to pay for Allen's Press Clippings, which can provide a reservoir of news stories and headlines that just might be useful in a future campaign. Why would we even suggest such a thing? Well, for starters, just three supervisors spent office account money for the news clipping service. They were David Chiu, Bevan Dufty, and Ross Mirkarimi. All three will be on the November ballot seeking another office. Duh.

"Support Your Local Newspaper Award" goes to just three supervisors: Sophie Maxwell, Ross Mirkarimi, David Campos and John Avalos. Three out of 15 (includes outgoing and incoming supes). No wonder the Chronicle is in trouble. It can't even get city supervisors to subscribe. Not even the ones the paper endorses.

"What's Black and White and Read All Over Award" goes to those supervisors who subscribe to the out-of-town press (and, by coincidence, only one subscribes to local media). They would be Bevan Dufty (New York Times), Mark Farrell (The Economist and Bloomberg Business – btw, Mark, aren't those must reading for your job as an investment adviser?, Ross Mirkarimi (New York



Times), Sean Elsbernd (Harvard Business Review) and David Campos (New York Times).

"There's More to Our World Award" goes to those supervisors who used their office account to subscribe to community papers and translation services. John Avalos bought the Spanish translation for Internet Effectiveness. David Chiu subscribes to Sing Tao. Sophie Maxwell subscribed to the Sun Reporter. And that's it. No one else. Except maybe you could count Sean Elsbernd's subscription to the San Francisco Business Times.

"Doing My Job Award" goes to the supervisors who spent office money in an effort to be more involved in the people's work. Eric Mar, for example, paid his registration fee for the National Association of Counties. David Campos paid to attend the Immigrant Rights Conference. John Avalos outdid everyone with spending for neighborhood and community events in his district, from Community Initiatives meetings, to OMI and Excel-sior meetings, to district meetings.

"The Envelope, Please Award" goes to all of them, but we'll point out that some supervisors only spent on things like envelopes, toner cartridges and the like and didn't subscribe to any papers,

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GGP





Henry Sherman  
("Hank") Basayne

Resident of  
San Francisco  
March 29, 1927 –  
April 11, 2011

**H**ank Basayne passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family. He had just turned 84. San Francisco columnist, Humanist minister, and a Union Street restaurateur were just a few of the roles Hank played in his long entrepreneurial career. Each of his ventures emphasized and encouraged human vitality, the arts, and mental and emotional well-being.

Born in New York City, he graduated from the High School of Music and Art in 1945. He started his career at WCBS as Edward R. Murrow's "bag boy." He studied broadcasting at New York University and continued work as radio writer, producer, and executive producer at WCBS - Radio, program manager at WCCO - Radio (Minneapolis) where he won a Peabody award, and program manager at KCBS - Radio in San Francisco from 1960 through 1965. Hank also produced 50 TV shows for Westinghouse Television.

Hank loved San Francisco, arriving first in 1948 and then settling here for good around 1960. From 1964-68 he taught Broadcasting and Creative Arts at San Francisco State University, while researching and interpreting broadcast ratings as Western Division Manager for Media Statistics. He conceived and designed the Coffee Cantata in 1966, which became an internationally famous restaurant on Union and Buchanan Streets, and was featured in the film, "Bullitt." He also developed and initiated the Cantata Deli down the block and served as one of the first presidents of the Union Street Merchants' Association.

As Associate Executive Officer of the Association for Humanistic Psychology (1971-73), Hank developed national regions and chapters. He also became a certified Humanist Counselor. As Executive Officer of the Humanistic Psychology Institute (now Saybrook Institute), he secured State of California accreditation, and developed faculty, the board of Trustees, and the student body (1973-76). Creating the company Educational Events Coordinators, he designed and produced conferences with internationally renowned speakers across the nation, emphasizing human potential with seminars and workshops such as "Birth without Violence," "Holistic Health," "Non-adversarial Divorce," "Management of Stress," and "The Art of Dying." Hank co-authored the *Do-It-Yourself Allergy Analysis Handbook*, consulted with both profit and nonprofit businesses, and wrote numerous professional and lay articles primarily on humanistic psychology.

During 1982-86 Hank was Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of California. In addition, Hank officiated at more than a thousand Bay Area marriage, memorial, and naming ceremonies since he was ordained by the Humanist Society of Friends in 1968. He conducted some of those events while flying over the bay, in the shade of Yosemite's Half Dome, on the cliffs of Mendocino, and all over the Napa and Sonoma wine country. Hank co-authored *Weddings, The Magic of Creating Your Own Ceremony*. He's also been a long-standing columnist, with his "On the Plus Side" appearing in the *Westside Observer*, *The Marina Times*, and the *New Fillmore*. Hank also represented the New Fillmore Community Theater, did a stint as Executive Director of San Francisco's Press Club, and was once Executive Vice-President of the Bay Area Regional Arts Council.

Hank's love for community led him to serve on many boards, including the San Francisco Mental Health Association, California Institute of Integral Studies, Chamber Music Society of San Francisco, Young Audiences of America, and the Task Force on Future of the Family.

Hank is survived by his children Adela Basayne (of Portland, OR), Michael Basayne (of Napa), and Lisa Francesca (of Campbell), and his grandchildren, Megan, Ryan, Gabriel, Peggy, and Andrew. His enthusiasm, kindness, and ready wit will be missed by all who knew him.

Hank's last act of generosity was to donate his body to medical science. A memorial will be held on July 10 for friends and family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in his name to one or both of two organizations: Sutter VNA and Hospice, and the Palliative Care Fund of Seniors at Home, a division of the Jewish Family and Children's Services in San Francisco.

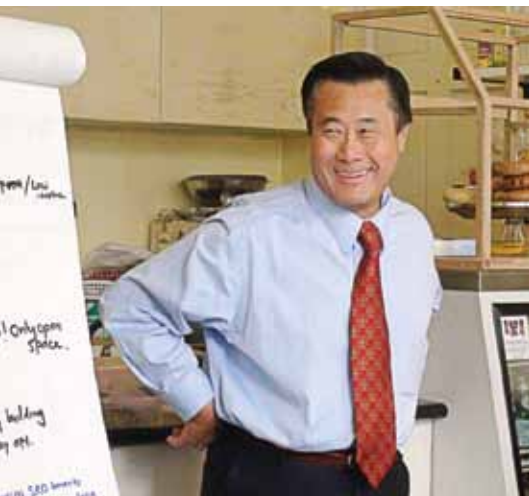
Yee Makes It Official on May 7<sup>th</sup>

**S**tate Senator Leland Yee opened his "exploratory" committee for his campaign for Mayor in November. Now, he plans to make his candidacy official with a launch event at his Van Ness headquarters on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Headquarters is located at 710 Van Ness Avenue, at the corner of Turk Street, and all San Franciscans are invited to attend.

Since November, Senator Yee has been meeting with San Franciscans across the city to get their views on the issues facing San Francisco and potential solutions. He has toured technology companies and start-ups like Ustream, Yelp, and Aliph, visited the biotech research facility at UC San Francisco, met with small merchants and merchant associations, toured innovative educational programs, and sat down with neighborhood associations at their monthly meetings. In addition, Yee has hosted dozens of neighborhood coffees that he calls "20-20's" at local restaurants like the Tennessee Grill.

Yee says these get-togethers are a different kind of campaigning. "We're not there to talk, we're there to listen," he said. "We go around the room, everyone talks about the issues that concern them, and we write it all down on a big piece of paper so everyone can see it and discuss it together. My role is just to listen and ask questions."

Now, he says, that's about to change as he puts all the ideas together and starts crafting his "20-20" vision for the city. The next Mayor is likely to serve until the year 2020, and Yee says that a long-range vision



there. I see the development of neighborhood schools as real community centers, where families, neighbors—any member of the community—can go to receive economic assistance, take adult education classes, meet and collaborate with other parents and teachers, even receive health care and mental health services in the after-hours. I believe that the more the schools serve the entire community, the more the community will support the schools. That means schools can become anchors within these communities, foster-

*I see the development of neighborhood schools as real community centers, where families, neighbors—any member of the community—can go to receive economic assistance, take adult education classes, meet and collaborate with other parents and teachers, even receive health care and mental health services in the after-hours.*

is what the city deserves.

"One of the clearer messages we have received in the last 5 months is that San Francisco needs to be more affordable for middle-class families," said Yee. "A recent survey showed that nearly 40% of families with children under 5 are considering leaving the city. There are two big reasons we've found for this – concern about the quality of public schools and the expensive cost of family housing."

Yee, the only candidate who attended San Francisco public schools himself (a graduate of Mission High) and who put all four of his children through the public school system, says he knows how vital public education is for working and middle class families to survive and thrive in San Francisco. As a child psychologist, educator, and former School Board President, Yee also believes he is uniquely qualified to lead the effort to improve public schools. But, he wants to go beyond that as well.

"My vision starts with vastly improved public schools," said Yee. "But it goes beyond

ing partnerships, connectivity and growth beyond just school improvement."

One of the other major themes to emerge from his citywide meetings is the need to streamline permitting for small businesses, which still provide the majority of employment for San Franciscans.

"We talk a lot about attracting new business like Twitter and Zynga to the city and that is extremely important," said Yee. "But there are a lot of small, local businesses that have been in operation for decades and they need our help, too. And, there are many, many individuals who would like a chance to start and grow their own business but are stymied by over-regulation and prohibitive permit costs. That's an area where a new Mayor can really make a difference."

Yee's small business plan includes placing case managers in city government that would be responsible for groups of small businesses on a geographic and economic basis. These case managers would

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RUMINATIONS FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR By Quentin Kopp

Garbage and Other Political Shenanigans

**S**an Francisco was manifestly a different city in 1932. On November 8 of that year, San Francisco voters adopted a new Charter, intended to reform a runaway and often corrupt government. Among other things, the Charter established the office of Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for the administration of the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Real Estate, the Bureau of Electricity and the Purchaser.

To stop political shenanigans at City Hall, the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, individual Supervisors and Board of Supervisor committees were enjoined from dictating, suggesting for interfering with appointments, promotions, compensation, disciplinary action, contracts, requisitions for purchases or other administrative actions of the Chief Administrative Officer or of department heads under the Chief Administrative Officer, or under the respective boards and commissions appointed by the Mayor. Any dictation, suggestion or interference by any supervisor constituted official misconduct. On appointment by the Mayor and confirmation by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Supervisors, the Chief

Administrative Officer served for life. In the 1970s, a ten year term was imposed by voters.

For over five decades, city government was largely free from municipal corruption. Then, came the deluge. First, a "progressive" supervisor successfully sponsored an

amendment to remove the Department of Public Health from Chief Administration Officer purview by creating a Health Commission. Then, the Office of Chief Administrative Officer was abolished in favor of an insignificant City Administrator, yet another civil servant. That was eventually

followed by an ill-advised rewriting of the entire Charter in 1995, instigated by a now-forgotten supervisor and purveyed to voters as a simplification of city government. It instead weakened protections against undue influence, even corruption. It certainly weakened the integrity of city hall decision making. By the beginning of this century, supervisors obligated to the good and welfare of the entire city were replaced by "district election" of such luminaries, giving way to ward bossism and, with ranked voting, a peculiar election system in which a candidate finishes first but loses because of second and third choices

government has not been simplified.

On November 8, 1932, San Francisco voters also adopted an initiative, known as the Refuse Collection And Disposal Ordinance. It provided rules for the collection and disposition of refuse. It created a Rate Board, consisting of the Chief Administrative Office as Chairman, the Comptroller and the Manager of Utilities. There were approximately 100 persons collecting and disposing of refuse at the time. The ordinance required every such person to obtain a permit. It established a schedule of rates for residential collection only; collection of refuse from commercial locations was unregulated as to rates or charges, subject only to contract between the producer of the refuse and a duly licensed refuse collector. It required no franchise fee for any collector. It did not regulate disposition charges or the cost of transferring the refuse to any disposition site. It did not assess a franchise fee for any refuse

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## Stink about Sewage

By Steve Lawrence

Now that cell phones are everywhere, how easy it is to dial 311 and report that unpleasant odor wafting up from the street sewer.

Apparently increasing reports recently came to the attention of Supes. I'll defer making a comment about how impossible it seems that that bunch could find objectionable the smell of sewer gas, given their own odoriferous business.

Hauling in a public employee, what the Supes heard was predictably defensive: yes, there were odors emanating from sewers, and more complaints about them, but such is not the fault of city workers. Low-flow toilets, climate change (including a warm, dry period mid-winter), and just more people living and wandering the flatlands of Mission Bay lead to gaseous complaints.



**Water rates have doubled in the past five years and will rise at least as much over the next few years. As water rates will have tripled, or more, and as the sewer program will spend double what the water program is spending, might sewer rates rise by six times?**

When the use of bleach to deal, disinfect and deodorize, was mentioned, environmentalists rose not only to defend low-flow toilets, but also to excoriate the shameful use of nasty chemicals. No, no, bleach does not flow into the Bay; it is neutralized to produce salts, the sewage folk (SFPUC) then explained.

It turns out that low-flow toilets save 20 million gallons of water. While that sounds like a lot, in fact it is about seven one-hundredths of one percent of the City's annual water usage. A drop in the bucket. Still, the less liquid flushing sewage along, the smellier.

All of this stink occurs in a context that most citizens will have understandably forgotten. In early 2002 a plan seven years in the making emerged from SFPUC, the City department responsible for dealing with sewage. At that time the plan was to spend a billion bucks to upgrade the City's sewer system and treatment plants.

Because there was opposition to components of the plan, and because SFPUC was most eager to acquire a larger chunk of money to fix the water system, the sewer plan was excised. SFPUC said it would return in two years, presenting a more agreeable plan.

Two years passed and all that happened was that \$150 million of urgent fixes was presented; the remainder was deferred. Now, some nine years later, we still have no solid plan to upgrade the aging sewer system, although there is a draft Sewer System Improvement Plan. The draft plan would cost four billion dollars in 2010 money.

In 2002 there was one Communications

employee at SFPUC to deal with the public. Today there are nineteen (down from twenty-two in better times). If you can't fix a problem, talk about it.

SFPUC expects a firm plan to fix the sewer system to ripen one day. When? There are no firm dates or timelines; public employees operate timelessly.

How will rates be affected? So far SFPUC's website lacks info, nor does the current draft Sewer System Improvement Program plan get to rates. But perhaps some guidance can be garnered from the water system improvement plan. That plan requires the City to pay about \$2 billion, half of what the sewer improvement program is expected to cost. Water rates have doubled in the past five years and will rise at least as much over the next few years. As water rates will have tripled, or more, and as the sewer program will spend double what the water program is spending, might sewer rates rise by six times?

Last month's column noted that rates for electricity are likely to rise with the coming of your new "green" electricity provider: CleanPowerSF, the City's poke-in-the-eye, or kick in the butt, of PG&E. If you smell that utility rates are rapidly rising all 'round in San Francisco, no, your nose is not out of sorts.

Out on City streets, though, if you smell stale odors, please don't be too fast with that phone finger. You're in for quite enough of a bill. Hold your nose, prepare to pay more, and pray it's not too much more.

Steve Lawrence is a longtime ratepayer advocate. [lawrence@westsideobserver.com](mailto:lawrence@westsideobserver.com)

## Rank Choice

By Crystal Bungori

Through voter's choice, the 2011 San Francisco mayors' election will be done through ranked choice for the first time.

Ranked choice is a selection method where voters choose their top three candidates instead of just choosing one. The candidate that receives the lowest sum of votes from the voters' first choice will be eliminated from the race. Voters' third choice will only be counted if their first and second choices are eliminated, and the candidate with the majority of votes will be elected.

For all the San Francisco residents that don't understand what ranked choice is, Leland Yee's campaign committee plans on going from door to door explaining how the rank choice voting system works. According to Leland Yee's campaign manager, James Stern, "Finally we have reached out to other candidates and campaigns and plan to host joint forums and town halls on issues and RCV—since voters have more than one choice, we believe that candidates can work together successfully to help inform and educate."

Since this is the first year dealing with a large list of candidates on the ballot, there might be a bit of confusion among voters.

"My opinion is America is a free country so there should be as many people that meet the requirements and should be able to run....I am definitely voting for Bevin Dufty, he gets things done," said 47 year-old Joe Costa. Bevin Dufty was the Castro district supervisor.

Candidates are going to have to work harder on their campaign this year so their name sticks out more to the candidates when they vote for their top three. "It comes down to talking about your record and talking about the future of San Francisco and how you're going to carry that vision out...I think the more the clarity you have with the voters the better the opportunity that you are going to make a clear concise case of why you are different from the other voters, and that's what I plan on doing."

Even though this year's voting system is different this year, San Francisco residents know what they are looking for. "I want someone very available," said 43 year-old Scott Hall.

Many locals are still unsure who are they voting for and are also unsure who all the candidates are. "No, I haven't given it thought yet. I tend to vote for liberal candidates," said 28 year-old Elizabeth Guli.

## MY TWO CENTS By Will Durst

### BIRTER BOZOS NEED A NEW NOSE.

Goaded into action by a nattering of numbskulls, Barack Obama finally released the long form of his Certificate of Live Birth from the state of Hawaii, and hopefully threw the last shovel of dirt onto this inception nonsense, but the suspicion is, no, probably not. As we speak, vanquished Birther Bozos are crawling out of the crypt searching for a new nose to wear. First the short form, now the long form, soon they'll want to see the director's cut. Then, on a television near you, the mini-series.

Anything to reinforce the strangeness of the first African American president. "Different than you and me." "Not a real American." Explains those silly cries of "We're taking our country back." Yeah. From the black guy. What they really want is the 1950s and the front of their buses back.

Don't think this is over. This is not over. Not by a long shot. People believe what they want to believe. Facts be damned. 30% of the GOP still believes Saddam Hussein was responsible for 911 and weapons of mass destruction are currently cruising the streets of Fallujah disguised as ice cream trucks. Driven by men wearing tinfoil hats.

Obama's actions spurred some on the Right to charge him with orchestrating this whole distraction to keep the country from the real issues. Wow. The perfect somersault of blaming the hit and run victim for walking alone on a sidewalk late at night. "He attacked my bumper with his chest."

Others, like Newt Gingrich, refuse to be convinced. "There are still questions." Yeah, and besides, Obama's citizenship is due to a technicality, because on August 4th, 1961, Hawaii had been a state for less than two years. Maybe the flipfloppers will switch tactics and demand proof he's not a Muslim. And won't be satisfied until they see a signed and dated parchment from Allah.

The disgrace is, the President was forced to hold a press conference, not to address the reshuffling of his national security team: but rather... where he was born. His exact quote was: "not going to be able to do our jobs if we get distracted by sideshows and carnival barkers." In response, the main carnival barker, Donald Trump, claimed to be honored for making the president jump through hoops like a trained Pomeranian. Who also would not be eligible to be president.

The Donald is that kid in high school oblivious to the whole class making fun of him, including the teacher. Faced with the very concrete evidence he insisted on viewing, you'd think he'd find a gracious way to back off, but you'd be as wrong as blaze orange camo. Buffalo chip cookies. Cheesecloth mittens.

The Aerodynamic Coif instead upped the ante to question how a guy named Barack Hussein Obama got into Harvard Law and wants to see his college transcripts, which is a really, really sly way of throwing out the "n" word. Surprised he didn't use "shiftless."

We need Trump to provide samples of his DNA to prove he's actually a carbon-based life form. Show us your hairline Captain Carnival Barker. What's next: a mole count? Will a committee be empanelled to investigate the number of moles on the president's body? "Where are they and why is he hiding them? And exactly how many of them are shaped like his socialist supervisor, Cuba?"

*The New York Times says Emmy-nominated comedian and writer Will Durst "is quite possibly the best political satirist working in the country today." Check out Redroom.com to find out about upcoming stand-up performances or to buy his book, "The All-American Sport of Bipartisan Bashing."*

## Letters to the Editor

### Arboretum Charges

The Westside Observer is the best paper in San Francisco. Where else would I find out about the privatization of our Parks and Recreation Centers. I had no idea what has been going on if it were not for the Westside Observer. I am now going to become actively involved in fighting this good fight.

My family, with my children born in the '50s and '60s would have missed so much activity and recreational opportunities if it were not for the Park Directors and their programs starting with the Tiny Tots programs. At almost 80 years of age I still have those wonderful pictures of the children in their graduation caps from Tiny Tots graduation ceremonies..We all must put a stop to this terrible privatization of the parks in San Francisco.

I can't believe there is a charge for admission to the Arboretum. It is bad enough now to be charged to enter the Japanese Tea Garden where the children loved walking through the beautiful, blooming, Spring garden and having tea in the teahouse. With four children and their cousins we could just about afford the cost of tea and cookies let alone now having to pay to enter the gardens.

Also, thank you for the listing of community meetings which I now will begin attending to let my voice be heard as a San Francisco citizen who raised her children in this wonderful city that I am sad to say is really deteriorating.

Valerie Klung, Westside San Franciscan

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## Laguna Honda

**Commingling of Public and Private Funds**

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

The on-going scandal of Laguna Honda Hospital's patient gift fund reveals that not only did administrators in charge of charitable contributions divert funds intended for patients for use by staff, other ethical lapses occurred involving the commingling of public and private funds between two separate non-profit affiliates and this public City hospital.

The chief finding of the City Controller's audit of LHH's patient gift fund determined that LHH needs to improve the management of its gift fund. The audit report outlined many sloppy accounting practices at LHH that appear to be a result of confusion about whether funds are private or public, and administrators who apparently believed they could spend public and private funds however they pleased.

On March 24, the Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee held a hearing on the City Controller's audit of LHH's patient gift fund. At the end of the hearing, Supervisor David Campos asked whether there was a clear finding of fact that money intended for the benefit of patients had not been used for the benefit of LHH's staff. Campos wanted a reassurance that, in fact, that had not happened. Tonia Lediju, director of the Controller's audits program, first tried to claim the problem wasn't with expenditures, the problem was with donations; she couldn't bring herself to say that the problem with donations incorrectly deposited into staff subaccounts obviously led to expenditures from staff subaccounts for the benefit of staff, even though the audit eventually restored \$350,000 in improper spending back to patient subaccounts.

Campos pushed harder, asking whether there was a guarantee that no money donated for the benefit of patients was in fact used for the benefit of staff. When Lediju replied that had not been the case for the 212 expenditure transactions reviewed during the audit, Campos asked whether funds intended for patients but potentially spent on staff may have

occurred for expenditures not in the 212 audited transaction sample pool. Lediju — remarkably — finally admitted for the first time that it could be possible patient funds were spent on staff for expenditures that weren't audited.

This substantiates the audit report's statement in Finding 3.3 that the audit team was unable to determine the cause of discrepancies, nor could it determine in many cases whether subaccounts had been incorrectly charged.

Campos continued the hearing to the call of the chair, providing an opportunity to hold a follow up hearing. What is clear is that private funds raised to benefit patients were used for perks for City employees, whether or not those funds were subsequently refunded as a result of the long-delayed audit.

**Laguna Honda Hospital's "rebranding" public relations spending.** Although the Public Health Department already had a public information officer paid \$129,000 annually, LHH spent an additional \$819,441 between 2008 and 2010 on just salaries for its in-house PR department. It's believed those salaries came from the City's General Fund.

LHH's PR salaries will reach \$1 million by December, across four years. In response to a public records request, LHH has refused to disclose its total PR budget.

LHH's PR spending isn't meant to enhance its image with safety-net Medical patients it purportedly serves, who have nowhere else to go. It's meant to assure Laguna Honda Foundation philanthropic donors everything is hunky-dory at LHH. That's public funds being used

to "market" a non-profit entity to private donors, eerily reminiscent of CSU's commingling of public and private funds.

LHH's Priest's Quarters were remodeled in 2003 and 2004 using City funds; the A-150 wing of LHH was specifically remodeled to house the offices of former City Attorney Louise Renne's non-profit entity, Laguna Honda Foundation, which eventually moved into the remodeled space in 2004. The remodel was designed around the operational needs of Renne's Foundation, possibly with its input.

In response to a public records request, the Controller's Office — after Gregg Sass, CFO of the Public Health Department initially claimed he could find no "responsive" records — later acknowledged that LHH's Priest Quarters remodel in 2003 cost only \$50,095, funding provided by LHH's annual \$900,000 capital improvements and facilities maintenance budget from the City's General Fund. The remodeling included lighting and electrical work of approximately \$16,000; flooring work of approximately \$16,000; and painting of windows, floors, and ceiling of approximately \$17,000.

But the furniture for the Priest Quarters remodel; a photocopier, fax machine, and kitchen appliances purchased; other telecommunication work thought to have been performed by the City's Department of Technology and Information Services, potentially including pulling cable into the Priest's Quarters; and additional electrical work was not included, and hasn't been itemized by the City despite a public records request for additional information, nor has the source(s) of funding for this additional scope of work been revealed. Was this additional work performed using private or public funds, or a combination of both? How much more did this work cost, above the first \$50,095?

As previously reported, Supervisor Elsbernd's February 2009 crab fest raised \$151,000 according to the tax returns for Community Initiatives, the separate fiscal sponsor that handles finances for the Laguna Honda Foundation. But after

Nichelle Lyons was paid \$42,998 for fundraising expenses — almost one-third of the event's purse — only \$108,652 reached Renne's Foundation.

Nine days before LHH's former executive director John Kanaley died on March 19, 2009, news had already broken on March 10 that Elsbernd's February 27, 2009 crabfest fundraiser for Renee's Laguna Honda Foundation had raised \$110,000.

It's remarkable that in the 11-day span between February 27 and March 10, 2009 the event's net proceeds later reported on IRS tax Form 990's had already been determined, or at least approximated. Here we are 10 months after LHH's June 2010 Gala Dinner, and we still don't know how much money was raised, or who the proceeds benefited.

But in 2009, the March '09 minutes of LHH's Executive Committee show that Marc Slavin, LHH's Director of Government and Community Relations, and Arla Escontrias, LHH's then Director of Community Affairs, were tasked with "looking into" — soliciting — putting money from Renne's Foundation and the separate Volunteers, Inc. into public relations materials for the hospital. Neither Renne's Foundation nor Volunteers, Inc. have an IRS designation to fund PR materials, but it appears private donations solicited to fund either patient amenities or furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new hospital were likely used to fund PR materials for the public hospital, instead.

Clearly, public funds are being used to support PR efforts and the salaries of City employees performing PR work that accrues to the benefit of Renne's Laguna Honda Foundation, in addition to private funds probably being used to fund PR materials for the public hospital. In addition, LHH's web site — likely paid for from City General Fund expenditures — directs Laguna Honda Foundation's potential donors to call LHH's PR staff, who now occupy the Priest's Quarters that were renovated to house Renne's Foundation.

Cont. p. 14

Meenakshi Jain, MD  
INTERNAL MEDICINECharles Delatore, MD  
INTERNAL MEDICINERobert Napoles, MD  
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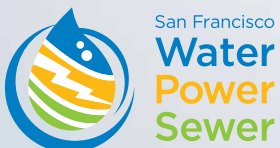
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BUSINESS CORNER

Smooth skin the easy way at the EUROPEAN WAX CENTER

By Mitch Bull

When you first walk through the front door at the European Wax Center in the Westlake Center, you immediately feel like you are at the entrance to an upscale European spa. Limestone tile, frosted glass, antique-looking exposed brick display cases welcome you to the center.

Only minutes from the freeway and the hustle and bustle of San Francisco, the center feels far from the stress of the everyday world and beckons you to try the skin smoothing advantages of waxing. Of course, many places have “waxing” services, but European Wax Center is different, both in the way they design their process, and in the level of customer service.

Owner Lynda Oliver, Manager Aaron Kahana and the staff are bringing the practice of waxing to a new level. Unlike most places that offer this type of service, the center uses a patented wax treatment in a 4-step process to provide a much higher degree of hygiene, skin protection and hair removal than their competitors. The four steps, Cleaning, Protecting, Waxing and Rejuvenating, are designed to keep skin irritation to a minimum and provide a premium result.

Kahana explained, “Many of our clients are first timers and they can be a little unsure of the process. Our process is very hygienic and as we are providing a treatment, we are checking in with the client during each process to make sure they are comfortable and at ease. The combination of the process and the service really makes this ‘The Ultimate Wax Experience.’”

Customers have started to find out about the Center as the business has been steadily growing since their mid-November opening. “When we started we were seeing almost 100 percent women, and many were first timers, but now men make up about 15 percent of our clientele. In fact, we have had to add some additional staff to handle the increased business,” said the manager.

The center has six rooms for waxing procedures, so it is best to pre-book and make an appointment for a treatment. Walk-ins are welcomed, but if you arrive at a busy time, with many of the rooms pre-booked you may have to wait for an opening. Another reason to pre-book is the Customer Rewards program that is offered at the center.

Each client receives “points” for items such as pre-booking appointments, booking on-line, enrolling in a pre-payment program, referring a guest, purchasing a gift card for services, or purchasing a



retail product (e.g. lotions, moisturizers). When a person has collected 1000 points, it equates to a \$10 discount on goods and services.

Some of the clients utilize the Pre-Paid program, where advanced payment is made for future blocks of treatments. Currently, first time clients receive 3 free treatments with the purchase of a Pre-Paid “Wax Pass” of 9 sessions.

Kahana explains why a “Wax Pass” makes sense. “Many of our clients are on a schedule where they schedule a treatment every 4-5 weeks, to keep their skin its smoothest. After 3-4 visits, the hair doesn’t grow back as fast, which makes the process easier.”

In addition, the European Wax Center is offering a free offer to new, first-time clients: for Women, a free bikini line, eyebrow, or under arm treatment; for Men, a free eyebrow, ear or nose treatment.

The company started in Florida as a single department within a family-run salon. The founders spent over 10 years developing and refining the concept. With 192 locations in 17 states, Oliver, Kahana and the team benefit from the marketing support and branding that comes with being part of a nationwide group, but in the end it’s all about the customer service and value. “We have to provide quality each and every time. Our motto for our clients is ‘Happy In and Happy Out.’ All of our estheticians are fully licensed and trained in our unique process so we can provide the ultimate waxing experience for our clients.”

European Wax Center is located at 518 Westlake Center. They are open Monday -Wednesday, 8:30 AM- 8:00PM; Thursday and Friday, 8:30AM – 8:30PM; Saturday, 8:30AM-7:00PM and on Sunday from 10:30AM – 6PM. To book a reservation: 650.991.9900, or [www.waxcenter.com](http://www.waxcenter.com)

Supervisors’ Money (Cont. from p. 1)

spend on any community meetings, attend any conferences, or do anything but clerical work. They would be Scott Weiner, Michaela Alioto-Pier, Jane Kim, Carmen Chu, and Malia Cohen.

So here’s the view from 30,000 feet of how the supes spent your money, and what they left on the table or still have in their wallet (first number is amount spent, second number is what’s still in the office kitty):

- Board President David Chiu
- \$10,000 budget (Board President twice), Spent \$5,347.57, with \$4,652.43 left
- Supes with \$5,000 budget
- Sean Elsbernd spent: \$1,131.56; balance left: \$3,868.44
- Eric Mar Spent: \$1,824; balance: \$3,176
- Carmen Chu Spent: \$2,629.45; balance left: \$2,370.55
- David Campos: Spent: \$3,417.95; balance left: \$1,582.05
- John Avalos Spent: \$4,773.62; balance left: \$1226.38
- Ross Mirkarimi Spent: \$3,503.98; balance left: \$1,396.02
- Supes with \$2,500 budget:
- Chris Daly Spent: \$37.64; balance left to city: \$2,192.36
- Sophie Maxwell Spent: \$737.08; balance left to city: \$1762.92
- Michela Alioto-Pier Spent \$921.24; balance left to city: \$1578.76
- Bevan Duffy Spent: \$1,927.77; balance left to city \$572.23
- Scott Weiner Spent: \$1111.40; balance left: \$1388.60
- Jane Kim Spent: \$1,071.99; balance left \$1,428.01
- Mark Farrell Spent: \$2,493.41; balance left: \$6.69
- Malia Cohen Spent: \$1,932.57; balance left: \$567.43

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MONEY MATTERS • By Brandon Miller and Joanne Jordan

How to Keep Rising Costs from Sinking Your Mood

Our favorite brunch spot has a new menu. With higher prices. Airfare for the trip you’re planning to Buenos Aires jumped over \$80 from the last time you checked. And the gas station you pass on your way to work is raising prices every other day.

Welcome to what could be a new era of high inflation. Blame it on the sluggish economy that refuses to pick up, devastating disasters happening all over the world or unrest in the Middle East. Whatever the underlying causes, the truth is, prices are going up. And yes, the truth hurts.

For the past two decades, inflation hasn’t really been on our radar. Only six years of the past 20 had even a modest annual increase of 3% (as measured by the Consumer Price Index). Contrast that with the previous 20 years, when prices rose by over 3% annually for all but one year.<sup>1</sup>

Right now, economic experts are growing concerned about the recent rises in essentials such as food, energy and metals (okay, maybe you don’t see the latter as an essential—unless you’re really into bling). The World Bank reports that food costs have risen 30% globally in the 12 months ending in January 2011.<sup>2</sup> The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline jumped 18% in 2010 according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency.<sup>3</sup> And that was before things got so dicey in the oil-producing nations.

If these higher costs persist, the effect will likely spill over into other areas of the economy. After all, you can’t expect the chic boutique you frequent to hold prices steady when they’re being squeezed by rising rent and utilities on top of price hikes from their suppliers to cover higher material costs, labor and transportation.

So now that you’re depressed about a slimmer wallet (the one area where thin isn’t in), here’s the good news. There are some strategies you can employ today to lessen the impact of inflation and its strain on your budget in the coming months.

5 Ways to Fight Inflation

You can combat rising prices with a smart approach to spending, saving and investing. Here are a few tips to consider:

- Make frugal your friend. Common sense tells you that the more you spend, the more costly your life will become if inflation becomes a serious issue. So now is the time to closely review your spending. Figure out ways to cut costs, such as taking public transportation more often to save on gas or buying grocery store brands instead of name brands to cut food costs.
- If it’s big, buy it. “Big ticket” purchases—think home, car or major home remodel—may be less expensive in today’s dollars than they will be if inflation causes prices to skyrocket. If it fits into your current budget, making these big purchases now may give you greater spending power.
- Get fixed. If you’re paying an adjustable interest rate for money you’ve borrowed, including a home loan, consider switching to a fixed rate. Right now, interest rates are low, but there’s no guarantee that they’ll stay that way when everything else costs more. So locking in a low fixed rate for an extended term now may make sense if you can possibly swing it.
- Don’t be negative. While low rates are great for borrowing, they don’t provide much of an advantage for your savings. With today’s paltry interest rates, putting a large amount of money into a bond or certificate of deposit for an extended period of time doesn’t buy you much—literally. And if inflation becomes more significant down the road, your return could actually be negative after you take into account rising living costs.
- Appreciate your assets. There are some companies that invariably grow during periods of high inflation. History has shown that commodities such as precious metals, agriculture, energy and real estate tend to perform well even as living costs rise dramatically. So investing in stocks or mutual funds comprised of these companies can work to your advantage. Just make sure your investment decisions are consistent with your long-term objectives and risk tolerance.

A review of your financial plan to make sure it can compensate for inflation is also a good idea. Your financial professional can help you determine which investments make the most sense for your situation.

Preparing now for higher prices may help lessen inflation’s sting—and let you still indulge in the things that make life fun.

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

- <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet>
- [http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/food\\_price\\_watch\\_report\\_feb2011.html](http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/food_price_watch_report_feb2011.html)
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**Kopp** (Cont. from p. 3)

collector, unlike other utilities such as gas or electric companies operating privately within San Francisco.

In the ensuing years, the individual refuse collectors combined their separate operations. Sunset Scavenger Company evolved from residential refuse collectors; Golden Gate Disposal Company evolved from commercial building refuse collectors. Most of the respective companies' members or shareholders lived in San Francisco. Local residential rates, under regulation by the rate board, were less than neighboring localities. In the 1990s, that changed. Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal Co. were consolidated under the rubric of NorCal Waste Co., Inc. An employee stock ownership plan was devised and approved by the then-Chief Administrative Officer under the premise that the cost of such team (attorneys, accountants, consultants) would not be included in the basic operating cost upon which residential rates were predicated. NorCal Waste Co., Inc. grew, absorbing lesser local operations throughout California and the United States. That is no longer true.

NorCal Waste Co., Inc. is now "Recology." It has used corporate buyouts and city hall lobbyists to build and maintain a \$200,000,000 plus monopoly by its exclusive residential refuse collection contract, which effectually guarantees record profits. In the Bay area, 37 of 38 cities utilize competition for refuse collection, residential and otherwise. In such cities, the low bidding refuse collector pays a franchise fee. Experts in the industry estimate a San Francisco franchise fee would provide \$50,000,000 - \$80,000,000 to the city's general fund. Although the 1932 ordinance does not grant exclusivity for transfer of the collected refuse to a disposal facility or the refuse disposition itself (typically to a landfill), much less a monopoly or recycling refuse or waste, Recology also profits from a January 2, 1987 "Facilitation Agreement" which mysteriously constitutes a non-compete, sole-source contract for Recology. Industry experts estimate that contract is worth \$200,000,000 - \$400,000,000 for transfer, transportation and materials processing. For the same services, San Mateo County in 2010 performed a national search for qualified bidders and found seven such groups to compete. San Francisco refuse is transported to a landfill in Alameda County (Altamont). Landfill operator is Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc., a subsidiary of another national garbage corporation. Its contract with the city expires December 31, 2025 or until 5,000,000 tons of solid waste have been deposited. Nevertheless, the Department of Environment, recommends to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor a new landfill disposal contract, claiming the Altamont landfill disposal capacity is exhausted and supporting Recology's effort to assume that responsibility at a Recology-owned location in Yuba County, approximately 150 miles Northeast of San Francisco. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors opposes such use. A further hearing by the Board of Supervisors Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, chaired by Supervisor Carmen Chu, friend of Recology, was continued late last month "to the call of the chair." Opposition to such proposed contract is fierce, based upon such actual contentions of availability to the city of eleven landfills, not just two as the Department of Environment solicited, of which eight are accessible by rail and barge, not simply by motor vehicles pounding northward on state highways.

One notes the Department of Environment budget has swollen to almost \$14,000,000 per year, almost half of which is paid by Recology from garbage fees. The Department contains over 100 employees. It is yet a fluffy city department financed not only taxpayers but by residential ratepayers. Recology fears competition in any aspect of garbage. Two of our Board of Supervisor's heroes, Messer's. Campos and Avalos, advocate a repeal of the 1932

ordinance, which has been turned into a monopoly. One mayoral candidate, Board President David Chiu, states at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting on April 25, 2011 that he opposes the garbage monopoly "in the abstract" but placing a repeal initiative ordinance on the November 2011 ballot would render the city a raging inferno of disputatiousness, which made me as a member of the audience think of Misrata, Libya or Kabul, Afghanistan. When I asked Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, in a telephone conversation last month if he supported abolition of the garbage monopoly, he turned the conversation to his advocacy of changing the PG&E franchise fee, which apparently has been increased since 1941. Meanwhile, ratepayer residents of San Francisco, including West of Twin Peaks Central Council members, plan a voter-sponsored initiative to abolish the monopoly in November. I am part of that noble civic endeavor. Don't count on Supervisor-Mayoral candidate Chiu or Supervisor Mirkarimi, who inescapably want the subject to disappear. Chiu declared to the West of Twin Peaks Central Council: "I've not made a decision on whether or not we should put this on the ballot." That, of course, refers to the Board of Supervisors, or any four members thereof. Instead, Messer's. Chiu, Mirkarimi, Mar force ratepayers to expend effort, time and money to do so, although Chiu declares that he serves in an elected office "to give back." (Give back to what?)

In 1993 a trio of young men in the business of recycling offered commercial buildings and establishments trash removal at lower prices than NorCal, which it then sorted into recyclables and waste. NorCal sued to stop the operations of Waste Resource Technologies. It consequently sponsored a ballot initiative, which qualified for the November election. If passed it would have allowed recyclers to charge fees, opened competition for commercial recycling and mandated a competitive bidding process for residential recycling and refuse-hauling in San Francisco. During the process of collecting initiative signature, it was reported that people in NorCal trucks searched for signature-gatherers, then radioed their location to headquarters, after which NorCal employees would arrive, crowd the signature-gathering citizens and tell people not to sign. The San Francisco Superior Court issued a restraining order against such harassment of voters. The proposed repeal of the 1932 ordinance eventually was defeated after NorCal spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to do so. The three sponsoring young businessmen couldn't match such expenditures. Since NorCal's campaign manager has ever since been on its Board of Directors and directs political strategy, citizens can expect similar behavior this summer and fall. The time for nullifying the garbage monopoly has, however, arrived so put on your citizen shoes, secure some voter signatures this month and next and create some free enterprise, competitive rates and a general fund injection come November.

The time has also arrived for a new sheriff in town. The incumbent has announced his retirement and we are blessed with a bonifide in-town, Lowell High School and University of California-Davis graduate who lives in the Richmond District and is a Captain in the Sheriff's Department and a non-politician. (Can you imagine?) His name is Paul Miyamoto, born and raised in San Francisco, with over 15 years of actual experience, who merits undying support over a career politician, who cannot figure out what to do about a monopoly. I'll give you more data on Paul Miyamoto next month.

Remarkably, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *Bay Guardian* (of which I am now a special correspondent - whatever that means) all advocate competitive bidding for refuse collection, transfer and disposition.

*Quentin Kopp is former San Francisco Supervisor, State Senator and Judge.*

**Wild Development**(Cont. from p. 1)

project, the duration of construction, and a project's density. There is an entire planning process and an EIR that needs to be completed for each project.

The Planning Department now needs to develop a supplemental EIR, acceptable density levels, and a comprehensive plan for the density zoning changes in RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods that they are trying to force on the neighborhoods. Better yet, why doesn't the Planning Department leave the RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods alone and get rid of its ill-advised density zoning altogether?

If too many secondary units are built on your street — too bad — it's not the Planning Department's problem and maybe you should move, or build a triplex. If there is no longer any parking — too bad — it's not the Planning Department's problem and maybe you should **sell** your car. If mass transportation is poor — too bad — it's not the Planning Department's problem and maybe you should **buy** a car. If water rates are sky-high because there is less available water — stop taking showers. If too many people live on your street — learn to make friends. Worn-out roads, distant schools, fewer police and firemen per capita, loss of neighborhood character — Planning will now claim that none of this is its fault.

Lost in all of this new "density planning fever" is the simple fact that people purchased homes in RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods because they love the neighborhood character they live in. If we had wanted to live in crowded little boxes, we could have easily purchased one of the many existing vacant density units already available for sale.

The density concept was originally based on a planning formula to cram more people into multiple-housing units that are near accessible transit corridors, retail stores, and jobs. Generally, these multiple units have no parking, yards, or space between units. The Planning Department has extended its density formula into the RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods even though these neighborhoods have inadequate transit corridors, retail stores, or the jobs that are necessary. Joseph Stalin, the Russian dictator and part-time housing planner, was one of the originators of the same density concept in Moscow after World War II.

Acceptable housing size is also becoming smaller and smaller. The proposed Booker T. Washington housing project located at Presidio and Sutter is planning unit sizes of approximately 380 square feet. At one point the developer was considering unit sizes of less than 300 square feet. Of course, no parking is planned, but the good news is that they will have bicycle racks that can hold up to 70 bikes. The obvious advantages of such small units are that rent will be less expensive and you don't have to get out of bed to shave or make breakfast.

Members of the Board of Supervisors have until Wednesday, June 22 to vote against the revised 2009 Housing Element, or it will be automatically enacted by the City. The Supervisors cannot change any part of the housing element and it will take at least six votes to stop the revised housing element. It will be interesting to see which, if any, of our Supervisors takes a leadership role to vote down the approved 2009 Housing Element.

Fortunately, a group of 13 neighborhood associations formed a group called San Franciscans for Livable Neighborhoods (SFLN) and had the courage to file an appeal to the 2009 Housing Element on April 12. The appeal covers the Planning Department's revisions that were made after agreements had been made with the neighborhoods and after the EIR was completed in August 2010. Parts of the appeal cover 1) Changes in the definitions of what constitutes a "major transit line," 2) The removal of the new density zoning changes to RH-1- and RH-2-zoned neighborhoods, 3) The revision of the terms "neighborhood-supported" to "community-based" terminology, 4) The lack of sufficient water in San Francisco to support the Planning Department's new density formula, and 5) The Planning Department's failure to adequately describe how much housing it intends to create.

The Planning Department has alienated RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods throughout the City. By favoring the opinions of special-interest groups such as developers and a downtown social-engineering think tank over the neighborhood's point-of-view, Planning has altered the June, good-faith agreement that had been developed with the neighborhoods. The Planning Department has clearly demonstrated that the input from outside special-interest groups is far more important than neighborhood input. The Planning Department has forgotten who they serve.

Either the Board of Supervisors step-up and vote the 2009 Housing Element down or the Planning Department needs to re-adopt the June HE revision that the neighborhoods agreed upon. The Planning Department's new density formula does not serve the RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods well, and will lead to endless appeals and lawsuits.

*George Wooding. Feedback: [wooding@westsideobserver.com](mailto:wooding@westsideobserver.com).*

**Yee Makes It Official** (Cont. from p. 3)

be charged with solving problems, answering questions, and shepherding business owners through the maze at City Hall. They would also help spark legislative and regulatory changes, based on their experience, to help make the city a more hospitable place for merchants.

Yee says that although his campaign is now going to begin developing concrete plans for the future, the listening stage is not over. "We are going to continue to hold our 20-20 coffees in every neighborhood in the city. A lot of voters are just now focusing on the election. And, with ranked choice voting, it's a little more complicated than it has been in the past. So, we encourage people to come down and make their voices heard and participate in this critical election."

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WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL *By Mitch Bull*

Board of Supervisor President David Chiu fielded questions—mostly from disgruntled residents.

**P**lanning, traffic congestion, AT&T above-ground boxes and a Supervisor/Mayoral Candidate visit highlighted a well-attended and boisterous session at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting on April 25.

WOTPCC President George Wooding called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with about 40 people in the audience at the Forest Hills Clubhouse and a full agenda, which would stretch the meeting until nearly 10 PM. After the roll call of member organizations, a vote was called to readmit neighborhood organization “Forest Knolls” to the WOTPCC. A vote was subsequently taken and the organization was admitted by a unanimous vote.

Milo Hanke, past president of SF Beautiful, made a short presentation about proposed utility box installations by AT&T on public land and sidewalks, in which his group constructed a full-sized model of an AT&T utility box. AT&T is trying to install over 700 of the large (approx. 4'x3'x5') cabinets on sidewalks, etc., circumventing the regulations that require them to place the vaults either on private land or underground. More info can be found at [www.sfbeautiful.org](http://www.sfbeautiful.org).

Committee reports were then given by Avrum Shepard (Transportation), George Wooding (Public Health), Gus Guibert (Open Space) and Matt Chamberlain (Planning and Land Use). Shepard has written a report on the WOTPCC website highlighting SF Parking (our meter rates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the U.S., while fines for overtime parking are the highest in the country), MUNI, America's Cup Parking, Smart Streets/Smart Muni, Hayes Street 2-way traffic and Bicycle use planning. Check it out. WOTPCC President George Wooding brought the audience up to date on the continuing issues at Laguna Honda Hospital, the latest being that it appears that the facility is moving towards use as a 90-day short term center for patients, with less space for the long-term senior resident patients. Wooding also informed the group of the continued planning efforts for the Westside Mayoral Candidate event in late September/early October at the SOTA (School of the Arts) theatre. More details will be forthcoming. Guibert reported on a proposed “Dog washing station” in Stern Grove, to be operated on the weekends from 10-5. Obviously, dog owners love the idea while opponents cite it as another example of the privatization of the parks, and that it's good for the dogs... He also noted that a merger between the Neighborhood Parks Council and the Parks Trust Foundation is in the works.

Matt Chamberlain's report on planning issues warmed the audience up for speakers yet to come. He spoke on the draft policy on Residential Urban Power Generation (Windmills) that the WOTPCC Land Use Committee has been working on. It is now complete and ready to be reviewed and voted upon by the various neighborhood associations prior to being

sent on downtown. Chamberlain also updated the crowd on the other items that the Land Use Committee is working on: A policy on Cellular (RF) antennas in SF; Consideration of a Parkmerced Special Use District (PMSUD) and the problems with the 2009 Housing Element drafts 2 and 3.

This set the tone for the evening as the next speakers, Peter Albert, of the SFMTA, and Michael Yarne, from the Mayor's office of economic development, spent time presenting information about both the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor project study and the Parkmerced Development Project and Developers' Agreement with the city.

Albert's presentation spoke on the fact that the traffic congestion in the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor has increased by over 370% from 1965 to 2005, at a time when San Francisco's population has not deviated 5%, making the case for major changes to battle the increased congestion and gridlock that will be evident even without any changes in density on the Westside of the city. Through a series of slides, Albert showed the evaluations of traffic congestion and intersection failure using designations of “Tier 1 to Tier 5.” The Tier 5 plan, based on planning developed jointly to encompass the traffic impact of the Parkmerced project would reroute Muni off of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with grade separations built to eliminate traffic being stopped by the rail system, and include a “spur” that would/could eventually link MUNI to the Daly City BART station.

A focal point of the discussion was the large volume of students at SFSU that use MUNI and enter/exit at the Holloway and Winston stops. These are the highest traffic stops for MUNI and cause severe safety issues, as the railway location requires the pedestrians to cross 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the West when going to Stonestown Galleria, Parkmerced or SFSU.

Albert's Tier 5 study shows many proposed changes to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and gives a snapshot of possible traffic congestion reduction with all of the proposed changes implemented. Much of the funding is planned to be contributed by the Parkmerced Development team of Stellar Management and Fortress Investments. The number is upward of \$200 Million for infrastructure improvements.

Several members of the audience raised questions about the impact of the Tier 5 planning for adjacent neighborhoods to the north and east. Albert explained that planners had found virtually no impact to the area to the north along Sloat Blvd.

The next speaker, Michael Yarne, went over some of the details of the Development Agreement between the City and

Cont. p. 14

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490 Dellbrook Ave	2	1	1	N/A	04/01/11	617,000
153 Marview Way	3	2	2	1,270	04/01/11	790,000
281 Glenview Dr	3	2	1	N/A	03/23/11	601,540
312 Warren Dr	4	3.5	2	2,943	03/17/11	1,100,000
421 Dellbrook Ave	3	2	2	N/A	03/11/11	872,500
737 Panorama Dr	3	2	1	1,305	03/02/11	665,000
26 Woodhaven Ct	3	2	2	N/A	02/11/11	799,000

Source: SFMLS

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Several of us monthly newspaper publishers had the opportunity to sit and chat with Mayor Ed Lee last week about things around the town and it was quite a pleasurable experience. The Mayor, who told us he is definitely NOT running for the job on a permanent basis, was very forthcoming with his views and comments and quite a fan of the local, small businesses that make up the neighborhoods in San Francisco.

He emphasized his plans to continue working to ensure that San Francisco is SAFE (through Public Safety, as well as keeping essential social programs); SOLVENT (fixing the budget to ensure ongoing fiscal management) and SUCCESSFUL (focusing on what brings people to town, both as tourists, residents, and businesses). All in all I think he has vastly improved the communication between the Mayor’s office and the current Board of Supervisors, and as he is not seeking re-election he can focus on how to confront and solve the myriad of issues that the city faces.

Speaking of small businesses, there is a new business over at the Lakeshore Plaza Shopping Center, on Sloat Boulevard. “True Sound” is a new business that specializes in all things hearing-related. During the interview for June’s “Business Corner.” I was struck by how impactful hearing loss can be for a people and their families. Most people are embarrassed to admit hearing loss and reluctant to do something about it, affecting their enjoyment of everyday living – on average they wait 7 years. Check out the new store if you or someone you are close to has hearing loss or can benefit from doing a self-evaluation. It is well worth your time as it is comfortable and non-threatening with a very helpful group of employees. We will feature a more in depth look at “True Sound” next month.

I am in the process of reading a book of short stories by local West Portal-based writer, Ethel Rohan. Cut Through the Bone is an innovative and emotionally jarring collection that makes us ask questions and draw assumptions about most of the emotions we face in everyday life. The individual stories are short (3-4 pages each) and so well written that you cannot help but be hooked into the emotional fabric of each vignette. You have to check out the video trailer where Rohan reads pieces of the prose. Not being familiar with the book or the author, once I saw the video I had to have the book as soon as possible. The link is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B0y5ydm-v4> . We will be doing an interview with the author in the very near future.

A life well lived...Elsewhere in this issue we say farewell to columnist Hank Basayne, who passed away on April 11th. I cannot say that I knew him for many years, having met him only three years ago, but he had a remarkable way about him and shared himself with us each month with his “On the Plus Side” columns, often writing about aging and the fears and realizations that one sees upon the journey.

He also officiated at Bay Area weddings for over 30 years and assisted many couples as they started their married lives together. To me, he was great to talk with, truly kind, and an inspiration to be a better person. We are better for having known him (and his musings). Our condolences go out to his family and his many friends. We will miss him.

If you have an interesting story, idea, or some insights you’d like to get in the paper just drop it to us. You can reach me at: [mitch@WestsideObserver.com](mailto:mitch@WestsideObserver.com). Be sure to check out the Observer online @ [www.WestsideObserver.com](http://www.WestsideObserver.com).





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# WINE LOVERS' TUESDAY

On Tuesdays bottled wines are half price all day with purchase of entrée!

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# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

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# Monday, May 30, 2011

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## BAY TO BREAKERS IS MAY 15

Love it or flee, it's a San Francisco tradition for nearly 100 years; a 12k footrace held every third Sunday in May with serious runners and costumed participants alike.

## EVERY • SUNDAY MORNING

**Farmers Market** | Every Sun | 9 am–1pm | Stonestown: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Avenue @ Winston)

## EVERY • TUESDAY NIGHT

**Happy Hour Every Tues** | 4–8 pm | Que Syrah. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off of each bottle of wine consumed at the store. 230 West Portal Avenue 731.7000

## EVERY • THURSDAY–FRIDAY NIGHT

**5:30–9 pm** | Chef Val creates Tapas | Que Syrah. 230 West Portal Avenue 731.7000

## EVERY • FRIDAY NIGHT

**Friday Night Jazz Fri** | 7–11 pm | Cliff House, Balcony Lounge – 1 Seal Rock.

## FIRST SF MAYORAL CANDIDATES' FORUM

**5** **Thu May 5 | 6:00 pm** | McLaren Conference Centeron USF's Main Campus, McLaren Conference Center, 2130 Fulton Candidates will be asked how to restore trust in governmental institutions. They will be answering questions from local high school and college students.

## THUR • AUTHOR CAROLYN BURKE

**5** **Thur May 5 | 7pm** | Carolyn Burke will discuss *No Regrets: The Life of Edith Piaf* at BookShop West Portal. Burke, offers an empathetic depiction of the beloved French chanteuse in her new book, *No Regrets*. This enthralling biography captures Edith Piaf's charismatic appeal, along with the time and place that gave rise to her remarkable international career.  
May 7, 2011 - Saturday

## SAT • CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL 2011

**7** **Sat May 7 | 10am to 6pm** | Mission Dolores Park. 7th Annual Cincode Mayo Celebration.

SAT • 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OCEAN AVE ART WALK

**7** **Sat May 7 | 5pm to 7pm** | Ocean Ave./ Plymouth to Faxon Art Walk and Side-walk Sale. Support your local businesses and artists. Food, fun and more! Side-walk Sale: Noon to 6pm - Plymouth to Ashton Info: oceanave-oarc.org

## AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

**Sat. May 7 | 9:30pm** | AMERICANA JUKEBOX Dirt Floor Band + Marshall, Bolt & Harr @ Plough & Stars, 116 Clement St, SF. 415-751-1122 \$6-\$10 / 21+ www.shelbyashpresents.net/jukebox/jukebox.html

**Fri. May 20 | 9:30pm** | BLUEGRASS BONANZA! The Down Beets @ Plough & Stars, 116 Clement Street, SF. 415-751-1122 \$6-\$10 sliding scale / 21+ www.shelbyashpresents.net/bonanza/bluegrassBonanza.html

**Sat. June 4 | 9:30pm** | PEACE, LOVE & FOLK MUSIC Misner & Smith + Gwyneth & Monko @ Plough & Stars, 116 Clement 751-1122 \$6-\$10 sliding scale / 21+www.shelbyashpresents.net/jukebox/jukebox.html

## WED • GOLDEN GATE PARK UNDER SIEGE

**1** **Wed May 11 | 6:30pm** | Commonwealth Club, 595 Market Street, 2nd Fl. GG Park Under Siege. Panel: Mike

Lyons GG Audubon Society, Kathy Howard, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Anthea Hartig, Western Office National Trust for Historic Preservation George Wooding, West of Twin Peaks Council, Jim Chappell, SF Beautiful \$20. Info/ Res: commonwealthclub.org

## THU • LIVING WITH COYOTES

**1** **Thu May 12 | 6:30pm** | Discover behavior, biology, & the beneficial role coyotes play in our urban ecosystems, common causes of negative encounters & how to avoid them, and why lethal coyote control doesn't work. Get your questions answered by an expert on our native coyotes, tips & tools for coexisting, and more. Hall of Flowers GG Park, County Fair Bldg, 1199 9th Ave.

## FILM NOIR FESTIVAL/I WAKE UP DREAMING

**Fri May 13–Thur May 26 | 1 pm** | The Roxie will present a double feature of rare film noir gems, most not available on DVD. With the help of Columbia Pictures, and the UCLA Film and Television Archive, Lavine has found many film noir hits unavailable for many years. Edward G. Robinson and Gail Russell star in *Night Has a Thousand Eyes* (1948) based on Cornell Woolrich's story, *The Amazing Mr. X* (1948) with Lynn Bari, Robert Montgomery in *Ride the Pink Horse* (1947), Fritz Lang's *Ministry of Fear* (1944) with Ray Milland, and many others. info: www.roxie.com.

## FRI–SUN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FREE DAYS

**May 13th, 14th and 15th for ZIP codes 94117, 94127, 94131, 94132 | 55 Music Concourse Dr. GG Park.** Residents of these ZIP codes can enjoy our world class Academy of Sciences for free! Each visiting adult is limited to six children for free entry. Each visiting adult must also show a valid photo ID with proof of residency. The following items or combinations are acceptable: a driver license of state ID card, photo ID plus postmarked envelope, postcard, or magazine label with name and date, or a photo ID plus utility bill (gas/electric/cable), bank statement, or letter from a government agency with name and home address (not a P.O. Box).

51<sup>ST</sup> FILM FINALS SCREENING/SFSU

**1** **Fri May 13 | 6pm** | Awards Ceremony, Juried Film Finals: 8pm SF State Dept of Cinema. Students showcase, juried film program, guest speakers, awards and reception. SF State stay committed to their artistic pursuits and make films that go against the grain and beyond the budget. McKenna Theater, 1600 Holloway Creative Arts Bdg \$5-10 Info: kirthifilm@gmail.com Film Finals Trailer /sfsufilmfinals.org/ May 15, 2011 - Sunday

## SUN • BAY TO BREAKERS 2011

**1** **Sun May 15 | 7am to 4pm** | The 100-year old is one of the world's largest and oldest footraces. The name reflects the traditional course which takes tens of thousands of participants from the northeast end of the downtown area near The Embarcadero (the "bay" side of the city) to the west end of the city

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## THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

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The wily Figaro makes sure love conquers all. This modern spin on the 18th-century classic features a commedia dell'arte troupe and modern-day rock and pop influences in the music, costumes and sets, against Beaumarchais' comedic dialogue.

May 1–8, Little Theatre, From \$8 in advance

THE 51<sup>ST</sup> FILM FINALS

The next wave of film begins at SF State. Scores of innovative independent filmmakers and future Academy Award winners go against the grain and beyond the budget to get their films accepted to this annual juried screening.

May 13, 7pm, McKenna Theatre, From \$5 in advance

## CARMINA BURANA

DIRECTED BY DAVID J. XIKES AND MICHAEL PATCH

The choral grand finale of the year is Carl Orff's cantata based on the medieval collection of poetry. Performers include University Chorus, Women's Chorus, Percussion Ensemble and accompanists Victoria Neve and Inara Morgenstern.

May 13–14, 7pm, Knuth Hall, From \$10 in advance



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## SUN • FREE PET MICROCHIPPING CLINIC

**1** **Sun May 15 | 1-4 pm** SF residents can have their pets microchipped for free (nonresidents for \$15/pet). The second-to-last clinic for the year. Donations from SF residents (\$10/pet suggested) will be welcome to help defray the costs of the microchipping kits and the services of the administering vet. No appointment, no paperwork. Bring as many dogs and cats as you own, as long as each dog is on leash and each cat in its own carrier. SF Animal Care and Control, 1200 15th Street 822-5566

## TUE • POET MARY WINEGARDEN

**1** **Tues May 17 | 7pm** | Poet Mary Winegarden will read from *The Translator's Sister* at BookShop West Portal. Winegarden's response to the unexpected

death of her sister, Katharine Washburn - a critic, editor and translator of poetry, who was working on her first novel, *The Translator's Apology*, when she died in March, 2000. A moving meditation on the bonds of sisterhood. SFSU writers Jennifer Arin and Julian Peard will also read from their recent work. 80 West Portal Ave. Info: (415) 564-8080.

## TUE • TARAVAL PUBLIC SAFETY

**1** **Tue May 17 | 7pm** | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum, at the Taraval Station Public Safety Community Meeting, the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Taraval Station 2354 24th Ave.

## MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

**2** **Mon. May 23 | 7:30 pm** | West of Twin Peaks Central Council | A resource for neighborhood organizations. Learn and comment on issues. Fourth Mon each month Forest Hill Clubhouse at 381 Magellan Ave.

Got a local event? Send it to:  
[editor@westsideobserver.com](mailto:editor@westsideobserver.com)





## Keeping Your Brain in Top Condition

Since February, I’ve been instructing Reposturing Yoga classes for a Senior Residence and it’s been so rewarding to see these folks reaping the benefits of stretching and flexibility no matter what the age. Sometimes along with aging come symptoms such as memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer’s disease. WHY?

There has been a drastic rise in neurological disease such as Alzheimer’s dementia, vascular dementia, Parkinson’s disease, Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), and age-related memory loss. What do they all have in common? The primary cause of the above is **chronic brain inflammation**. High levels of a protein associated with chronic, low-grade inflammation in the brain correlate with aspects of memory decline in otherwise cognitively normal older adults, according to a study led by scientists at the University of California, San Francisco. The study was reported in a poster session at the American Academy of Neurology annual meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

### Don’t wait to address Brain Health

Research now confirms that most diseases begin as early as childhood and this is true for atherosclerosis. A buildup of plaque on the arteries feeding the brain can lead to strokes or vascular dementia. Recent research indicates that not only are the number of neurodegenerative diseases increasing, but they are occurring at a much younger age. Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease are also increasing dramatically at younger ages. What you do now can mean the difference between a full, happy, and productive life with your family or a life of disability and misery.

### Essential Oil of Peppermint: A Natural Anti-Inflammatory Agent

Therapeutic grade essential oil of peppermint is a wonderful and easy way to reduce inflammation anywhere in the body. It’s good for reducing headaches (headaches are caused by inflammation) and stimulates the brain when feeling tired or sleepy. You can apply it topically to the brain stem and temples, inhale it and/or put a drop in your drinking water.

### Good Food for the Brain – Fruits and Vegetables

The freshest, least processed and healthiest fruits and vegetables are the best for you. It’s best to prepare all your food fresh. All vegetables are not created equal. They vary in their nutrient content, disease exposure and age. Most vegetables in the grocery store have been shipped thousands of miles and consequently are picked before ripening. Many arrive wilted and beginning to deteriorate.

Studies have shown that organically grown vegetables have higher nutrient content. Here is the order of the best vegetables to buy: Locally grown, organic, shipped, shipped commercial vegetables, frozen, and canned is last due to lead toxicity from the can leaching into the contents. It’s best to buy fresh produce from the United States. Many countries use banned pesticides and herbicides that have a high risk of causing cancer and damaging your brain.

Watch for spots, brown or black, wilted areas and raised discolored bumps. Diseased plants secrete harmful toxins in an effort to kill the invading organisms or insects. These plant toxins can cause disease in humans, including cancer. Cut away these damaged areas using wide margins.

Wash all vegetables in a veggie wash before eating, even if it says pre-washed. The following are the most pesticide-contaminated vegetables: celery, broccoli, apples, peaches, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, lettuce, peppers, spinach, mustard & collard greens, cucumbers, squash, and potatoes.

### What Else Can I Do?

It is known that regular, moderate exercise such as walking, stretching, weight training, yoga or dance classes can significantly improve memory and thinking ability. Fasting once a week has also been shown to improve memory and thinking ability in animals for the same reasons as exercise; they both increase brain cell repair hormones called brain-derived neurotrophic factors or BDNF, important for long-term memory.

We know that reducing calories from sugar and highly processed carbohydrates can improve brain function and prevent

brain aging changes. We also have a principle called “use it or lose it.” Like muscles, the brain will atrophy (shrink) if it is not used. This can include working puzzles, reading material that requires attention and deep thinking, learning a new language, reading books upside down, or taking adult courses in new subjects and socializing. Often, we become lazy thinkers, doing things by repetition and utilizing notes and lists rather than memorizing material. This makes our brains lazy and encourages brain aging.

A new study on vitamin D comes from researchers in California who say their research sheds light on how Vitamin D may help promote brain health. Once Vitamin D is converted in the body to its active form, calcitriol, it binds to receptors in the brain. Natural sunlight and/or supplementation are helpful.

### Supplements for Brain Health

#### 03 Balance Brain Repair Formula

Dr. Russell Blaylock, a neurosurgeon of 24 years is the formulator of this supplement. He was one of the first neurosurgeons to utilize high-intensity nutritional supplementation in craniocerebral trauma patients with great success.

Most studies show the benefits of brain supplementation occur soon after taking the supplements, but continuous maintenance is needed to keep the brain healthy. This is because the brain has a very high turnover of these nutrients and has one of the highest metabolic rates of any organ in the body. To keep the brain working at peak performance we need to supply it with these nutrients. Also, as brain inflammation is always occurring, the anti-inflammatory nutrients are needed on a continuous basis as well.

Omega-3 oils play a vital role in brain development and brain health in babies, children, and adults. Omega-3 oils are composed of two functional components called EPA and DHA. The DHA plays the major role in brain health. The majority of omega-3 oil components in the human brain are DHA.

The major complication of omega-3 oils, immune suppression, bleeding tendencies, and a loss of control of diabetes is attributed to the EPA portion. Dr. Blaylock has formulated pharmaceutical grade high DHA oil for this supplement free of contaminants.

#### Prevagen

Laboratory research has demonstrated the oral supplement Prevagen has potent cell protecting activity through its ability to bind calcium ions. University studies have shown a reduction in brain cell death of up to 50% when compared to non-Prevagen treated cells. It was developed by scientists and University researchers in Madison, WI and intended to be taken daily to supplement and replace important proteins in the body, especially the brain. Prevagen is an all-natural product with no harmful side effects.

Prevagen’s active ingredient is the calcium-binding protein **apoeaquorin**. Apoaequorin helps maintain **calcium ion** homeostasis, which helps control the proper balance of calcium ions within the cell. Calcium is important for healthy bones and teeth, but **calcium ions** play a far greater role in your brain. **Calcium ions** are responsible for millions of cellular reactions and essential for brain cell health.

Throughout our lives, we lose calcium-binding proteins. The loss of these calcium-binding proteins becomes more pronounced with increasing age. Older cells are more susceptible to damage and have a greater need for the protection Prevagen provides.

With all of this new research and information available today, we can see how making the life style changes mentioned here can help in having a healthier brain and a better quality of life. Keep an open mind and apply what works for you!

*“The views expressed are those of the writer. If you have any questions about your health, you should always consult with your doctor.” If you are on any medications, please check with your physician prior to adding supplements to your diet, as some medications and supplements may interact, causing unintended side effects.*

Please call me with questions or comments at 650.359.6579 or [sharoncaren@comcast.net](mailto:sharoncaren@comcast.net). Also visit: [www.sharoncaren.com](http://www.sharoncaren.com)

## All About the Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren’t good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, “We didn’t have the green thing back in my day.”

That’s right, they didn’t have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn’t have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn’t have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn’t climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she’s right. They didn’t have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby’s diapers because they didn’t have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn’t have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn’t have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn’t fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn’t need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she’s right, they didn’t have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn’t have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn’t need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that old lady was right: they didn’t have the green thing back in her day.

*The article reprinted above was widely circulated on the internet, it’s origin is unknown, we just loved it. If you have information regarding it’s origin, contact us at [editor@westsideobserver.com](mailto:editor@westsideobserver.com)*

*Proudly Serving The Families of West of Twin Peaks*

*“Caring Service  
is our Highest  
Priority”*



### The Bud Duggan Family Serving the Bay Area Since 1903

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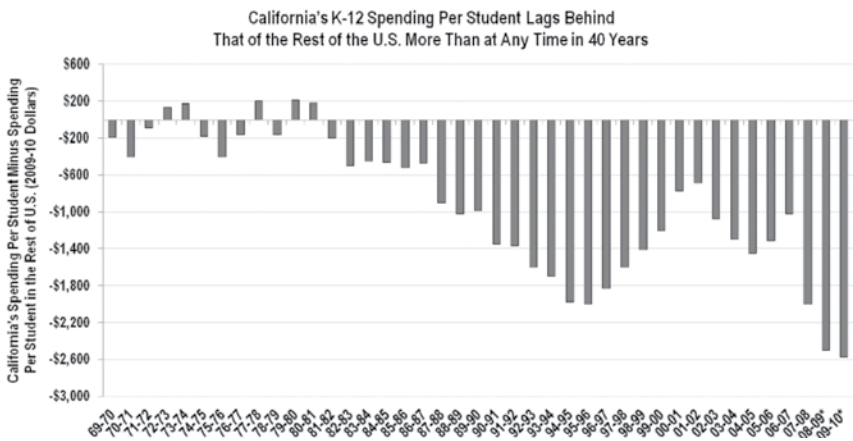
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## Cut\$ Hurt Kids: Coming to a School Near YOU!

By Carol Kocivar © 2011

If a picture is worth a thousand words, take a look at the picture below:  
It is a picture of spending on California's schools.



See those lines that just go down and down and down? It shows how California's per student spending lags the rest of the nation. If the descent was a ski slope, it would be marked with triple black diamonds. Down, straight down.

Looks bad, huh?

Well, to steal from one of my favorite songs, BBBbaby—you ain't seen nothin' yet!

The failure of the legislature to put a measure on the ballot to let the people decide if they want to support education and children's services, has school districts scrambling with what they thought was only a doomsday scenario. It is here today.

Unless the Legislature acts quickly, the Governor has said he will present an all-cuts budget in mid-May. This would mean an additional \$4 billion to \$5 billion reduction to K-12 education and even more drastic cuts to children's services.

Take Note:

That is in addition to the already \$18 billion in cuts our schools have suffered in the last several years. (Take a look at that picture one more time.)

Schools have many budget choices—None of them good:

Shorten the school year

Close school libraries

Crowd more students into each classroom

Lose our counselors, classroom

aides, reading specialists and more

Reduce summer school

Reduce transportation

Close schools

End of music, art and drama in our schools

Now, more than ever, your voice is needed to speak up and let our elected officials know that CUT\$ HURT KIDS!

Don't just get mad. Get Active.

Join the PTA campaign to support the children of California.

**Sign Up for PTA Legislative Alerts.** Urge 5 friends to sign up too. <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/legislative-alerts.cfm>

**Make a video**, using your phone or camera, about the impacts of the cuts on the children in your school and community and upload it to Facebook.

**Wednesday, May 11: Celebrate California Day of the Teacher** by letting your child's teachers know you appreciate them and take a moment to send an **e-mail or call your elected representatives to tell them you value education.**

**Friday, May 13:** Participate in one of the rallies being held around the state by members of the Education Coalition.

Remember: **Cut\$ Hurt Kids: Coming to a School Near YOU!**

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

### WOTPCentral Council (Cont. from p. 9)

the **Parkmerced Development** Companies. A major point is that the agreed-upon conditions stay with the land, even if the current owners sell or otherwise drop from the project. Yarne went into detail about the **"rent controlled"** replacement units provisions that are included in the document, explaining that while they meet current guidelines, there is **no guarantee** that they can be 100% upheld as this part of the agreement has no historical case law precedent to draw upon.

District 7 Supervisor, **Sean Elsbernd**, addressed the crowd and fielded questions about anything the group wanted to discuss. A few questions about the number of units of "affordable housing" built during the last 7-8 years (deemed to be less than 20) were the main topic of the short Q&A.

**David Chiu**, current President of the Board of Supervisors, and Mayoral Candidate, was the final speaker of the evening. Chiu started with some personal history of his parents immigrating from Taiwan, and his eventual journey to San Francisco. He spoke about wanting to give back to the community being the catalyst to running for public office. During his remarks, Chiu touched on the importance of maintaining the qualities of SF's neighborhoods while planning for growth; getting the budget under control; and working with businesses to create a diverse economy.

Fielding questions from the attendees, the Mayoral candidate got a loud and clear message about the frustration of the neighborhood groups being ignored and (worse) stripped of their input and power by the **Planning Commission** through the adopted "Draft 3" of the 2009 Housing Element. A passionate dialogue between WOTPCC Treasurer Carolyn Squeri and Chiu highlighted the topic and forced Chiu to conclude that the homeowners on the Westside are very upset with the actions of the Planning Commission, and that he needs to review the differences between Draft 2 and Draft 3 of the Housing Element to get up to speed on the problems with the document. **Judge Quentin Kopp** also questioned the candidate about his opinion on the question of having a **garbage company bid process** within SF, and was stymied in his efforts to have a simple "Yes or No" response to his questions.

After the presentations, the speakers and the attendees spent the better part of the next hour having smaller discussions on the topics in small groups and one-on-ones.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be Mondat, May 23 at the Forest Hill Club-house, 381 Magellan Avenue at 7:30 PM.

## SECOND THOUGHTS / By Jack Kaye

### Who Says and Who Knows?



This column has reviewed several well-known and much respected and repeated sayings from very reliable sources and shown them to be terribly flawed.

There is the famous Declaration of Independence slogan "that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal...." Thomas Jefferson and his associates did not believe that all men were cre-

ated equal just white American men were. Non-whites and women were not considered equal and could not enjoy the same benefits of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. (See "Are We All Created Equal?")

Then there was the quotation most associated with Jesus: "Love thy neighbor as thy self." As described in the column "Loving Thy Neighbor," it is unlikely that that is what He said (remember this happened years before the Internet, television, tape recorders or even daily newspapers). If he said "thy neighbor" instead of saying "everyone" then it would have meant only people who are very much alike in background. Also, we cannot tell ourselves to love everyone. As Bonnie Raitt taught us "I can't make you love me if you don't and you can't make yourself feel something that you don't."

I think that the saying was poorly translated from Aramaic. What I think He must have meant was to treat each person as an end in himself or herself. That is how we treat people we love, most especially ourselves.

There is a more secular version of this idea and that is "Do unto others as you would have

Emma Lazarus, who was coerced into writing it by some newspaper magnates. The Statue was a gift from the French.

It is a poem. It is not in the Constitution or Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights. It does not reflect American foreign or domestic policy. It is not meant to be an open invitation by the citizenry of America to the billions of desperately impoverished in the world.

Perhaps the President or Congress could authorize a new poem. It would tell people that while we sympathize with the suffering that is endemic throughout the world, we are no longer accepting any more poor and huddled masses. We have a \$14 trillion budget deficit and we have 15 million American citizens without full employment. One out of every four or five of us lives below the poverty level. There are more than 194 other countries (if you count Scotland, Wales and Northern Ire-

*...while we sympathize with the suffering that is endemic throughout the world, we are no longer accepting any more poor and huddled masses.*

them do unto you." I see many problems with this one. Now that we live in this wonderfully diversified country and world, we identify with vastly different cultural values. We are not as alike as we used to be. By treating everyone the way I want to be treated suggests that they should see the world and react to it the way I do. If they don't, they might not respond the way I would like them to and they might not appreciate my behavior as much as I do.

I always say "please" and "thank you" when requesting or receiving favors. I always say "hello" when first seeing someone and "good bye" when leaving. At least half the world's population does not use these forms of interaction. I might be used to putting my hand out to shake with someone, but again, half the world's population and people with obsessive compulsive issues might not appreciate this behavior. I like to always tell the truth but many more sophisticated people consider social lubrication more important than honesty. Almost no major religion considers lying a sin, especially not if it makes the other person feel better. I might want to go up to every beautiful woman, kiss her and tell her that I can't live without her, but they might not really appreciate it, though I'd love them to do that to me.

I think that this saying should be "Do unto others as they would have you do unto them as long as it does not violate your values." If your friend does not want to hear the truth even though you want to always express it, avoid saying the truth that he would mind. If your friend is from Asia and prefers bowing, or is a person who does not want germs, ever, don't shake hands with him or her even though that is what you would want. And don't say "G-d bless you," "Thank G-d" or "Merry Christmas" to an atheist, for G-d's sake, no matter how much you like to say or hear it.

Another way to phrase this is again to "treat everyone as an end in himself."

Then there is the poem on the Statue of Liberty that includes "Give me your tired, your poor and huddled masses....." It was written by

land as also separate countries, as you should, then there are at least 197), maybe some of them need a larger underclass. Or perhaps, you could stay in your own country and help make it better. The Germans and Japanese have worked wonders with their countries in the past 60 years. Look at Brazil how well they are doing now, at long last. And India and China are on the rise. Your own country can do the same. Don't leave your beloved homeland. Change it.

I don't know how to say that in verse, but I'm sure someone could. Or we could just say "Closed for restructuring."

But I have saved the best one for last. Students of Eastern mysticism all know this phrase and consider it the highest realization: "Those who speak do not know and those who know do not speak." So if someone tells you that he knows why things are the way they are or what they might become, then he does not know. And if someone knows something, he shouldn't, wouldn't or couldn't say anything.

The first question I have is "Who said that?" According to this saying, whoever said it didn't know. So if he said but did not know, then what he said was not true. So those who speak do know. Well if that is true then the one who said otherwise is correct and those who speak do not know. But then he did not know. And so it goes *ad infinitum*. (It's like saying "I'm a liar." If I'm a liar then I'm not telling the truth so that means that I am in truth not a liar. But if I'm not a liar then I'm telling the truth and I am a liar, and on and on.)

What is the point of knowing if you can't express it to others? Should we therefore disregard all thought and all religion? Are you nodding?

Having said all this, it is now incumbent on me to come up with some new phrases that everyone can accept without giving them a second thought. Hey, that would be a great name for a column, but please don't quote me on any of this.

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

### Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 5)

The commingling of public and private funds at Laguna Honda Hospital mirror the scandal of commingling public and private funds at California State University. Both cases point to a need that finances of these entities be brought under the purview of the California Public Records Act to allow for greater public scrutiny, in part because the tax returns for the Laguna Honda Foundation continue to report zero revenue and zero expenses to the IRS, when clearly commingling of private and public funds is occurring.

Because the large amount of funds involve a "substantial nature" and there is reasonable

cause to believe the gift fund whistleblower complaint was well-founded, records of the Ethics Commission's and City Controller's investigations of Drs. Kerr's and Rivero's gift fund whistleblower complaint should be made public. And a completely independent audit of the gift fund should be redone — given provisions in the Charter to hire independent auditors — since the City Controller has a potential conflict of interest auditing City employees who may have knowingly commingled public and private funds.

Monette-Shaw is an accountability advocate and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. Feedback: [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).



## NOTICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**To: Neighborhood Groups, Neighbors & Owners within 500' radius of 375 Laguna Honda Blvd.**

### Meeting Information

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2011  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Where: St. John's United Church of Christ  
501 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 941027

### Site Information

Address: 375 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Block/Lot 2842/07  
Zoning: P

### Applicant

AT&T Mobility

### Contact Information

AT&T Mobility Hotline  
(415) 646-0972

AT&T Mobility is proposing to relocate an existing wireless communication facility at 375 Laguna Honda Blvd., needed by AT&T Mobility as part of its San Francisco wireless network. The proposed AT&T Mobility site is an unmanned facility consisting of removing the existing AT&T antennas and installing twelve (12) roof mounted panel antennas, screened within faux vents. The equipment will be located inside an existing equipment penthouse, not visible from public right-of-way. Plans and photo simulations will be available for your review at the meeting. You are invited to attend an informational community meeting located at St. John's United Church of Christ, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd. on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about the project.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal and are unable to attend the meeting, please contact the AT&T Mobility Hotline at (415) 646-0972 and an AT&T Mobility specialist will return your call. Please contact the San Francisco Department of City Planning at (415) 558-6378 if you have any questions regarding the planning process.

**NOTE: If you require an interpreter to be present at the meeting, please contact our office at (415) 646-0972 no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday May 3, 2011 and we will make every effort to provide you with an interpreter.**

## NOTIFICACIÓN DE REUNIÓN DE VECINDARIO

**Para: Grupos del vecindario, vecinos y propietarios dentro de un radio de 500' de 375 Laguna Honda Blvd.**

### Información de la reunión

Fecha: Jueves, 5 de mayo de 2011  
Hora: 7:00 p.m.  
Dónde: St. John's United Church of Christ  
501 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 941027

### Información del lugar

Dirección: 375 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Cuadra/Lote 2842/07  
Zonificación: P

### Solicitante

AT&T Mobility

### Información de contacto

Línea directa de AT&T Mobility  
(415) 646-0972

AT&T Mobility propone reubicar una instalación de comunicaciones inalámbricas existente en 375 Laguna Honda Blvd., necesaria para AT&T Mobility como parte de su red inalámbrica en San Francisco. La ubicación propuesta de AT&T Mobility es una instalación sin personal que consiste en la remoción de antenas AT&T existentes y la instalación de doce (12) antenas panel montadas en el techo, cubiertas con pantallas de ventilaciones falsas. El equipo se colocará dentro de la sala de máquinas existente en la azotea, y no será visible para el público. Habrá planos y fotos disponibles para que usted los revise en la reunión. Se lo invita a asistir a una reunión informativa de la comunidad que se realizará en St. John's United Church of Christ, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd. el jueves 5 de mayo de 2011 a las 7:00 p.m. para tener más información sobre el proyecto.

Si tiene preguntas relacionadas con la propuesta y no puede asistir a la reunión, por favor, llame a la Línea Directa de AT&T Mobility, (415) 646-0972, y un especialista de AT&T Mobility le devolverá el llamado. Por favor, contacte al Departamento de Planificación de la Ciudad de San Francisco al (415) 558-6378 si tiene alguna pregunta relacionada con el proceso de planificación.

**NOTA: Si necesita que un intérprete esté presente en la reunión, por favor, contacte a nuestra oficina al (415) 646-0972 a más tardar el jueves 3 de mayo de 2011 antes de las 5:00 p.m., y haremos todos lo posible para proporcionarle un intérprete.**

## 社區會議通知

**致：Laguna Honda Blvd. 375 號周圍五百英尺內的居民組織、居民和業主**

### 會議資訊

日期：2011 年 5 月 5 日（星期四）  
時間：下午 7:00  
地點：加利福尼亞州三藩市 Laguna Honda Blvd. 501 號 St. John's United Church of Christ（郵編 941027）

### 設施地點資訊

地址：Laguna Honda Blvd. 375 號  
街區 / 地段：2842/07  
分區：P

### 申請公司

AT&T Mobility

### 聯繫資訊

AT&T Mobility 公司熱線電話  
(415) 646-0972

AT&T Mobility 公司計畫重新安置位於 Laguna Honda Blvd. 375 號的一座現有的無線通訊設施，作為 AT&T Mobility 公司在三藩市無線網路的一部分。計畫中的 AT&T Mobility 設施為無人操作設施，現有的 AT&T 天線將被拆掉，然後在樓頂重新安裝十二(12) 根平板天線。這些天線將被隱藏在人造通風口後面。相關設備將被放置在一間現有的設備閣樓內，從公共通道上看不到這些設備。我們在會上將提供計畫書和類比圖片供您參考。我們誠意邀請您參加定於 2011 年 5 月 5 日（星期四）下午 7:00 在 Laguna Honda Blvd. 501 號 St. John's United Church of Christ 召開的社區通氣會，以便您瞭解有關本專案的更多資訊。

如果您對該計畫有任何疑問，但是無法出席這次會議，請撥打 AT&T Mobility 公司熱線電話(415) 646-0972，AT&T Mobility 公司的一位專業人員將會回復您的電話。如果您對本規劃程式有任何疑問，請致電 (415) 558-6378 與三藩市城市規劃署聯繫。

**注意：如果您需要一名翻譯陪同您出席會議，請在不晚於 2011 年 5 月 3 日（星期二）下午 5 點前致電 (415) 646-0972 與本辦公室聯繫，我們將盡力為您配備一名翻譯。**



Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

**ARTHUR**  
Wealthy Arthur Bach: Russell Brand lacks the pixie humor which made Dudley Moore so right for this role in the original film released in 1981. Arthur's nanny, Hobson: Helen Mirren dumps the blondes and the ash trays after each night's penthouse party until the day that Mrs. Vivienne Bach: Geraldine James has had enough and threatens to disinherit Arthur if he doesn't marry the office go-getter Susan: Jennifer Garner and settle down. Her construction tycoon father, Burt Johnson: Nick Nolte with a gravel voice has something to say about whom his daughter will wed. The Manhattan police are as familiar with Arthur for his outlandish behavior as they are with a charming young unofficial tour guide, Naomi: Greta Gerwig, who charges tourists \$5 for an NYC tour. Arthur is as entranced by Naomi as he is not with Susan. Director Jason Winer's use of Peter Baynham's screenplay from Steve Gordon's story is about as subtle as a hot dog. Profanity, nudity, sexual situations.

**THE CONSPIRATOR**  
Filmmaker Robert Redford has distinguished himself with his take on the military tribunal of the last civilian trial in 1865. Owner of the Washington, D.C. boarding house, Mary Surratt: Robin Wright, where John Wilkes Booth, her son and others met to form their plans to kill Lincoln, the Vice-President, and the Secretary of State, is put on trial by President Johnson, determined to condemn anyone connected. Secty. of War Edwin Stanton: Kevin Kline opposes Sen. Reverdy Johnson: Tom Wilkinson, first chosen to defend Mary, but the steps down for Attorney Frederick Aiken: James McAvoy. Judge David Hunter: Colm Meaney and opposing gatty Joseph Holt: Danny Huston are only too happy to carry out Johnson's speedy trial with a guilty verdict. Fred's relationship with his best friend, Nicholas Baker: Justin Long and his fiancé, Sarah Weston: Alexis Bledel become strained. Mary's daughter, Anna Surratt: Evan Rachel Wood, assists Aiken. Expect this to be the first film of the year with Oscar possibilities, encompassing the leads, masterfully shaped by Redford and James D. Solomon, whose screenwriting and co-story with Gregory Bernstein spare nothing, allowing the sepia earth tones to establish the feel and look of the period. Action violence, blood.

**DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES**  
Seventh grader Greg Heffley: Zachary Gordon

and fat friend, Rowley: Robert Capron don't start out getting along with older brother, musician Rodrick: Devon Bostick. Things change when Greg develops a crush on pretty blond Holly: Peyton List. Susan: Rachael Harris and Frank: Steve Zahn work hard at being good parents. Director David Bowers and screenwriters Gabe Sachs and Jeff Judah adapt situations from Jeff Kinney's book, capturing a feel of both boys' peers. Mild profanity.

**HANNA**  
Hanna: Saoirse Ronan, a 16 year old, is taken from her father, Erik: Eric Bana, by Marissa: Cate Blanchett because she's part of a controlled genes-at-birth experiment gone wrong. Hanna is held captive underground in Morocco until she escapes in a breathless, fast action sequence. Marissa and her henchmen: Isaacs: Tom Hollander and red-headed Sebastian: Jason Flemyng track Hanna down, sheltered by Rachel: Olivia Williams, mother of the family with whom Hanna hides out. Their trek goes to Spain and winds up in Berlin where intelligence operative Marissa begins a killings spree. Joe Wright directs this very suspenseful screenplay, with interesting locales, by Seth Lockhead, who co-wrote with David Farr. Violence. Language.

**HOP**  
There are two parallel tales intertwined here. Parents Henry O'Hare: Gary Cole and Bonnie: Elizabeth Perkins have a slacker, Fred: James Marsden, on their hands who find severe excuse not to take a job. The animated part has reigning Easter Bunny: voice of Hugh Laurie, father to successor-heir to the throne, E.B.: v.o. Russell Brand, who wants to be a drummer and run off to Hollywood, attaching himself to Fred. Fred's sister, Sam: Kaley Cuoco, gives Fred the job of house-sitting for her boss in his upscale WLA mansion, not expecting untidy E.B. Drummer E.B. gets his chance on a talent show hosted by David Hasselhoff, who doesn't seem surprised that a talking rabbit is loose in Hollywood. There are three Pink Berets hot in pursuit of E.B. Back at Easter Island in the candy factory, a plotting Carlos, v.o. Hank Azaria, wants E.B.'s lifestyle/position. Tim Hill directs the mildly humorous screenplay by Cinco Paul, Ken Daurio + 3. Mild profanity.



**INSIDIOUS**  
This haunted house thriller is indeed a scary movie! When Josh Lambert: Patrick Wilson and his wife, Renai, Rose Byrne move into an old Victorian house, their son Dalton: Ty Simpkins goes into a coma one night. Renai sees horrible, noisy forms at night and is convinced their house is haunted. Josh's mother, Lorraine: Barbara Hershey summons long time physics friend, Elise Rainier: Lin Shaye, to clear the air. After the Lamberts move to a more modern home, the hauntings follow and must be dealt with. Filmmakers James Wan, director, and Leigh Whannell, screenwriter, creators of the first Saw film, present their homage to Poltergeist, but it's much scarier and more violent. Profanity.

**RIO**  
A kidnapped blue macaw, Blu: Voice of Jesse Eisenberg, falls off a truck in Minnesota where he is rescued and raised by Linda: v.o. Leslie Mann. Fifteen years later, she is visited by Brazilian ornithologist Tulio: Rodrigo Santoro, who invites Linda and Blu to come to Rio de Janeiro to mate Blu with Crystal: v.o. Anne Hathaway as they are the last of their species. The adventure starts when the birds are left alone for an evening of romance and are kidnapped. Involved are Rafael: v.o. George Lopez, Pedro: v.o. Will.i.am, Nico: v.o. Jamie Foxx, and Luiz: v.o. Tracy Morgan. Carlos Saldanha directs this gorgeous tour of Rio during Carnival and co-wrote the compelling story with 20 others. The screenplay was written by Don Rhymer + 3 others. Animated 3-D

**SCREAM 4**  
Survivors of the original Scream, Sidney Prescott: Neve Campbell and TV newswoman Gail Weathers-Riley: Courtney Cox, wife of Sheriff Dewey Riley: David Arquette, find that youths are not afraid of a killer on the loose. The cast is rounded out by Jill Roberts: Emma Roberts, daughter of Kate Roberts: Mary McDonnell, Kirby Reed: Hayden Panettiere, Charlie Walker: Rory Culkin, Det. Hoss: Adam Brody, Rachel: Anna Pacquin, Chloe: Kristen Bell, and Trevor Sheldon: Nico Tortorella. Events center around a horror movie marathon held at a secret location, they can't escape the presence and results of Ghostface! Put on extra help in the Emergency Ward! Director Wes Craven teams again with the original Scream writer, Kevin Williamson. Lots of knives, blood and violent deaths; profanity.

**SOURCE CODE**  
This mystery-romantic sci-fi adventure

features an Air Force pilot on assignment in Afghanistan, Colter Stevens: Jake Gyllenhaal, who wakes up on a new mission: he has been pulled to identify the bomber in a train explosion in Chicago. While reliving the final eight minutes before and including the phenomenal bomb burst and fire, Colter becomes interested in his seatmate, Christina: Michelle Monaghan, and is determined to save her. Colter has to disarm the explosive device and learn who the bomber is so he can be stopped from causing future explosions of horrific magnitude. Colter's sympathetic audio contact, Goodwin: Vera Farmiga, reports to Dr. Rutledge: Jeffrey Wright. Director Duncan Jones and writer: Ben Ripley take your breath away, and then they do it again! Action violence. profanity.

**SUCKER PUNCH**  
Director/co-writer Zach Snyder of this fantasy action adventure has a unique way of presenting the perils of Baby Doll: Emily Browning, a wide-eyed innocent whose evil stepfather has institutionalized her in a rural Vermont asylum. When she's dancing for the male clientele, she's in an alternate world where the Wise Man: Scott Glenn sends her and her four young inmates into violent defensive situations where they fight off evil giants and warriors with incredible gravity-defying moves. Her quartet includes: Sweet Pea: Abbie Cornish, Rocket: Jenna Malone, Blondie: Vanessa Hudgens, and Amber: Jamie Chung. Their den mother-choreographer, Dr. Vera Gorski: Carla Gugino, tries to protect them from the abusive Blue Jones: Oscar Isaac. Jon Hamm has the double role of High Roller and a doctor at the institution. Action violence.

**YOUR HIGHNESS**  
Medieval princes Thadeous: Danny McBride, alazy good-for-nothing wastrel weed-smoker (also co-writer w/Ben Best), and gallant Fabious: James Franco are the sons of King Talious: Charles Dance. The women involved are spunky warrior Isabel: Natalie Portman and not-too-bright Belladonna: Zoe Deschanel, the bride-to-be of Fabious who is kidnapped and must be rescued. Two of the knights not to be trusted are short Julie: Toby Jones and red-headed Boremont: Damian Lewis. Director David Gordon Green does a fine job of rounding up the evil critters and dragons that would harm, even kill, the royalty. To the rescue! Charge! Crude humor. Sci-fi violence.

AT THE THEATER • By Dr Annette Lust and Flora Lynn Isaacson

FRINGE: A HIGH FIVE FOR PROGRAM TWO

Dr. Lust opened the 27<sup>th</sup> season of Program Two on Saturday, April 16 with a tribute to Bob Weiss, who recently passed away. She dedicated this festival to his memory. For the past ten years, Bob Weiss has been Associate Director of the Festival, and tonight's program included an opera libretto by Weiss entitled *Daniel*. This season's festival also included, in addition to one act plays and solo performances with family, social, satirical, biblical and psychological themes, a pantomime performed by "Teacher of the Year at Dominican University," Professor Henry Schreiber.

The opening play, *Convention of Spies*, was a comedy written and directed by Bill Chessman. This was a fast-paced farce about an imagined meeting between Walt Disney (John Vincent Burke), Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (C. Conrad Cady), and Marie Antoinette (Patricia Inabnet) at an International Spy Convention. Jim Colgan played Brad Donaldson, who got into the wrong convention. Lots of comic business ensued.

The second play was a solo performance by Charselle entitled *Juice: Scenes from a Life*. Charselle drew upon her own life experiences for her material. She has extremely good stage presence and diction, even with an Oklahoma accent. She moves well on stage and is a great story teller.

The third presentation was a powerful drama, *Bindings* by Gaetana Caldwell-Smith. Here we have a meeting between a half-sister and a half-brother after the death of their father. Claudia Rosa plays Ginny, who comes to call on Richard (sensitively portrayed by Tyler Hewitt). Richard had been the one to look after their ill father and Ginny comes to get back a copy of her book. Claudia Rosa's ability to listen and react to Richard's predicament was right on target.

The first half of the program concluded with *Daniel*, a rap version of the biblical story written by Bob Weiss and performed by Suzanne Birrell in a tour-de-force performance that encouraged audience participation. She moved gracefully, had a great sense of rhythm and did an



Dr. Annette Lust



Flora Lynn Isaacson

amazing transformation of characters.

The second half of the program opened with my favorite play, *Stanislavski*, written by Kevin Brookes and directed by Buzz Halsing, with Emily Surface as Assistant Director. In this delightful play, an acting instructor, Conrad (Johnny DeBernard) inveigles his friend Damon (Ron Dailey), a food critic, to take over his acting class for one evening. The group of acting students played by Javier Alarcon, Patcharee Boyd, Bryana Tunder, Tom Dembski and Victoria Williams were all wonderful.

Next up was an amazing solo performance titled *The Girl on BART*, written by Linda Ayres-Frederick and Claudia V. Rosa, and beautifully directed by Linda Ayres-Frederick. In this solo performance, a girl studies the face of a woman she encounters and this triggers some emotional memories in her own life. Claudia V. Rosa is a superb actress in a very rich performance.

The final play of the evening was *Patio Dreams*, a comedy written by Don Sampson and directed by Carol Eggers. In this play, Janice (Claudia Rosa in a 3rd performance) and Tom (Rick Roitinger) play a married couple on vacation in the islands who plays imaginary games on one another to live up to their relationship. This play was both professionally acted and directed.

The Fringe of Marin discovers fresh voices and brings in the community to participate either as artists or spectators. Program Two continues Fridays, April 29 and May 6 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 30 at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, May 8 at 2 p.m. Program One plays Saturdays, April 30 and May 7 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 1 at 2 p.m. All performances are held at Meadowlands Hall, Dominican University in San Rafael. For reservations and more information, call 415-673-3131 or visit Fringe of Marin .com. Flora Lynn Isaacson

INFERNO THEATRE'S AGELESS ILIAD

In an innovative physical theatre version of Homer's tale of the wars between the Trojans and the Greeks, stage director adaptor Giulio Perrone, with his company of physically trained international actors, brings this ageless theme of waging war into modern times. Accompanying Perrone's highly physical interpretation in the program are a timetable and historical information to remind the spectator of the plots and themes in Homer's epic poem based on the quarrel between King Agamemnon and Achilles over the kidnapping of Helen, wife of the Greek

King Menelaus, by Paris. Interwoven in this physical dramatization are the themes of Achilles' wrath, the need for revenge, and the search for glory and honor. Mixed into these themes is the use of modern language, props, and attire that render the piece even more relevant. The male characters wear soldier fatigues and the women modern high heels. They utilize cell phones and refer to safe sex. At one point, one of the actors cries out in prosaic language, "The people don't want war; only the leaders want it!" as we have heard today's citizens often decry.

The entire seven member cast, although coming from diverse training backgrounds, are well prepared by Perrone to meet the task of interpreting his creation with high-level physical theatre standards. His poetic dance/mime of the *Iliad* offers beautifully choreographed group movement, at times provoking fierce combat, and at other times, scenes with the characters embracing one another.

Perrone's *Iliad* is a beautifully spun dance mime poem reminding us that man cannot thrive without satisfying the primitive urge to enter into violent animal-like combat with his fellow men.

Next up at the Inferno Theatre Company is *Galileo's Daughters* at the Theatre San Pedro Square in San Jose from April 22 to May 8. For information visit [www.tabardtheatre.org](http://www.tabardtheatre.org) or call 800-838-3006. Dr. Annette Lust

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: THE ECCENTRICITIES OF A NIGHTINGALE

If any play is more revealing of the personal life and character of Tennessee Williams it is his *Eccentricities of a Nightingale* that he reworked for seventeen years. This was to render Williams' version of the same theme in *Summer and Smoke*, a still more truthful depiction of a female revolting against the conventions of her time and family.

Southern accents are well-depicted by the cast, and period costumes (Laura Hazlett) are well-designed. Set design by Liliana Duque Pineiro, with lights by Jim Cave, is economically conceived and spacious enough to allow for group and other movement.

*Eccentricities of a Nightingale* reveals the trials and tribulations of Williams' personal life depicted in a heartfelt manner in one of Williams' most captivating masterpieces.

*Eccentricities* plays until May 8<sup>th</sup> followed by Edward Albee's *Delicate Balance*. Info 510-843.4822 or visit [www.AuroraTheatre.org](http://www.AuroraTheatre.org) Dr. Annette Lust



Remember When?



Car & Bus At End of "B" Line. Date Mar. 20, 1927. Folder: S.F. Districts-Ocean Beach-1920's. Reprint permission was obtained from the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

OPEN LATE

Hi mom! Happy Mother's Day!

You got the card? Oh good.

What? You thought that?

If we were pregnant, we wouldn't tell you on a return address label.

By Julie Behn  
www.JulieBehn.com

**BRAIN FUD**

“Assassin” is a popular game on college campuses. The game consists of several players trying to eliminate the others by means of squirting them with water pistols in order to be the last survivor. Once hit, the player is out of the game. Game play is fair play at all times and all locations, and tends to last several days depending on the number of participants and their stealth. At Troyhill University, 5 students participated in a game that only lasted four days. Can you determine each player's first name, their color, their assassin alias, how they were eliminated, and their major?

**Names:** Liam, Anabel, Bella, Oliver, Ethan  
**Colors:** Red, Green, Blue, Purple, Black  
**Alias:** Captain Dawn, Night Stalker, Dark Elf, McStealth, Billy  
**Capture:** Caught at weekly study group, Caught helping friend with car trouble, Ambushed during sleep, Caught on the way to class, Winner  
**Major:** Economics, Biology, Art History, Sociology, Psychology

**MONDAY:** Liam, the girl named Captain Dawn, and the person in purple avoided any action that day. The psychology major was able to easily catch Ethan because she already had a study group meeting with him that day. Since it was a weekly engagement, he didn't suspect a thing. Goodbye red player.

**TUESDAY:** Everyone tried to get in on the action today. The girl masquerading as the Dark Elf (who was wearing either black or red) and the sociology major lived to see another day. The purple player was able to catch the obliging yet naive green player by calling her and pretending he had car trouble.

**WEDNESDAY:** The biology major (who was still “alive”) was surprised to hear that the Psychology major, who wasn't Anabel the art history major, ambushed Night Stalker as he slept in his dorm.

**THURSDAY:** The black player was declared the victor after luckily spotting “Billy” on his way to Mammalian Physiology, a class required by his major.

**Answer**

Liam, Blue, Night Stalker, Ambush, Sociology  
Anabel, Green, Captain Dawn, Car, Art History  
Bella, Black, Dark Elf, Winner, Psychology  
Oliver, Purple, Billy, Class, Biology  
Ethan, Red, McStealth, Study Group, Economics

**Sudoku-fun!**

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

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

**Answer:** The answer appears below..

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

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

**Phyllis' Findings / Phyllis Sherman**

**THE CASE AGAINST VANITY PLATES**

I have this thing about car vanity plates. I'm convinced that the people who invest in vanity plates (and it does cost money)...with their name or profession embossed...are either insecure, egocentric, vain or pretentious. (Maybe all four.) Why else is it necessary to proclaim to the world that “Joe Blow” or “Jay Tooth DDS” is driving his Chevy Blazer or yellow Mercedes, as the case may be. Seinfeld had a funny schtick recently when Kramer (in one of their reruns) ordered vanity plates and the DMV mixed them up with someone else's and so Kramer had plates that said ASSMAN. Jerry and cohorts spent quite a while until they discovered that they belonged to a proctologist who was glad to get them back.

I had a friend in Connecticut some years ago who was quite a ladies' man. As a matter of fact he “ladies' manned” all over town until he realized that his vanity plates caused him untold misery. Everyone knew where he was at all times which was certainly not his intention given his predilection for fun and games.

If you want to have vanity plates, stick to vanity dental plates. Then you only make a statement every time you open your mouth.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HERE'S SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU IN THE SF PAPERS:**

Anyone convicted of a crime knows a debt to society often must be paid in jail. But a slice of Californians willing to supplement that debt with cash (no personal checks, please) are finding that the time can be most bearable. For offenders whose crimes are usually relatively minor (carjackers should not bother) and whose bank accounts remain lofty, a dozen or so city jails across the state offer pay-to-stay-upgrades. Theirs are a clean, quiet, if

not exactly recherche's alternative to the standard county jails, where the walls are bars, the fellow inmates are hardened and the privileges are few. Many of the self-pay jails operate like secret velvet-roped night-clubs of the correction world. You have to be in the know to even apply for entry, and even if the court approves your sentence there, jail administrators can operate like bouncers, rejecting anyone they wish. One 22 year old gal said “I'm aware that this is considered to be a five-star Hilton.” She was recently booked into one of the Orange County jails and paid \$82 per day to complete a 21 day sentence for a drunken driving conviction She shopped around for the best accommodations and said from a sort of couch found in a hospital ER and spoke from a jail day room, “this place is clean, safe, and everyone here is really nice.”

Next time the cops pick you up, consider this option, tell them you'll pay a little extra and ask for the creme brulee.

*This is a previous column from Phyllis. We all hope for her continued improvement. Feedback: phyllis@westsideobserver.com*



## West Portal Family’s Garden Transforms Beautifully Over Time

When Sally Maske and her husband Chris moved into their West Portal home in San Francisco 21 years ago, like many new homeowners they concentrated their time, attention and budget on fixing up the house, with plans to renovate the garden later. With a 7-year drought also underway, they sensed no great urgency.

“Those were the years when we lived in each of our rooms at one time or another, pulling our futons around with us,” says Sally. “We concentrated on the interior of the house first, hired a contractor to handle structural issues, and did the finish work ourselves.”

By 1998 they were sufficiently settled to begin a total redesign of the front and back yard landscapes. According to Sally, both were filled with junipers and blackberries that didn’t promote much inspiration.

Again they sought the help of professionals to draw up a plan that would develop a garden of their dreams over time and within certain budget constraints. By way of an ad and some garden tour information she saw in a Victorian Alliance bulletin, Sally came across Janet Moyer Landscaping, a San Francisco-based company that specializes in designing, building and maintaining urban residential landscapes throughout the city.

“We hired them because they listened and understood both our design and budget objectives,” says Sally. “We wanted a drought tolerant, low maintenance, kid-friendly garden where we could entertain in the back and enjoy seasonal colors throughout the year everywhere.”

The result has been a total transformation into a landscape that attracts hummingbirds and their feathered cousins, has a splash of color in each season, and features edible plants and fruit trees including lemon, apple, Asian pear and cherry. With a patio made of Connecticut blue stone, the family has an area that is inviting and suitable for hosting outdoor lunches and tea parties. Along with drought tolerant plants, a smart irrigation watering system was installed front and back.

The front garden design takes its cue from the charming informal home with its rounded staircase going to the front door. Plants were placed to emphasize the staircase as a focal point by wrapping around it in the same direction.

In the back yard, the same soft shape was used to create paths that direct the eye to the most desirable view and best access for maintenance. Seating areas were placed to take advantage of ocean views and protection from the wind. Privacy has been created with plant material that creates a tapestry of plants rather than a hedge. The lawn is surrounded by a pathway, which acts as an overflow area for low maintenance and does not require water. The veggie beds are placed in the area with the most sun and protection by the fences.

One of Sally’s favorite times to enjoy her garden is when she drives home, parks in the driveway and can watch the hummingbirds darting among the flowers. In the



Modest beginnings—a lifeless backyard is transformed into lush garden with paths that wind around and present a variety of views.

meantime, her neighbor loves the peaceful gurgling sounds of the backyard fountain that the birds use as a favorite place to perch and dip. In this garden, there’s something beneficial and rewarding for everyone.

*Is your garden a source of pride? Send us your makeover: editor@westsideobserver.com*



### Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

#### For Whom the Bells Toll

Just like clockwork you can hear their melody every hour on the hour and every fifteen minutes in-between. It may not look like Big Ben or sound like St. Peter’s Basilica on Easter morning, but this modest little chapel nestled amongst San Francisco’s historic fishing fleet provides the sweet sound of its bells for all to hear. Built over 30 years ago, the Fishermen’s and Seamen’s Memorial Chapel has served as a haven for visitors, locals and most importantly, as a memorial for those lost to the sea.

The bronze plaques in the foyer, immediately past the entry doors, display the names of those brave souls who never made it back to the safety of land, home and family. Names like Alioto, Balestrieri, Lazio and Caito to name just a few. Herb Caen’s name, one of the greatest supporters of the chapel, is proudly displayed amongst the names of some of the oldest fishing families whose lineage goes back to the old Sicilians who came to this great country of ours in search of a better life, plying their trade, oblivious to the dangers that they faced every day.

The most prominent figure and greatest supporter of this great project is Alessandro Baccari, a well-know historian, educator, author, and consultant to many of today’s modernized fishing enterprises. With Alessandro’s vision the chapel took shape many years ago. Not long ago a campaign was initiated to build a campanile next to the chapel itself. Again, through Baccari’s determination and fund-raising efforts, the tower became a reality. With great pride and anticipation the bronze bell, cast in 1860 and donated by the Port of San Francisco, was rung for the first time as proud onlookers cheered, the workers’



arms covered in goose bumps.

A final fund-raising event was successfully held shortly after the completion of the campanile and was attended by all the members of the local fishing community. A board of directors has been set up to manage and maintain this unique landmark.

The chapel itself is open to all faiths and has been home to weddings, ceremonies, celebrations and sadly, funerals for those family members that have given so generously to the lives of every bay area resident.

The chapel is used over 200 days a year and is far more than just a tourist attraction. Located across from Pier 45, it provides peace and solace to those looking for a moment of spirituality away from the crowds that engulf Fisherman’s Wharf on a daily basis.

In addition to the weekly Sunday mass, the chapel is home to the “Blessing of the Fishing Fleet,” a celebration that is held on the first weekend of October. It is locally known as “La Madonna del Lume,” a tradition that has its roots in medieval times and was brought to San Francisco by Mrs. Rosa Tarantino in 1936.

To the more than twelve million tourists that visit the Wharf annually the main attraction will always be the shops, the restaurants, Pier 39, and of course the sea lions. But to those living and working in the area of Fisherman’s Wharf the sound from the Carillon bells, capable of hundreds of different melodies, will always be a reminder of the hard work and dedication of the Italian immigrants of years past, to the many races and nationalities that ply the bay and oceans of today.

Perhaps your next visit should be to the Fishermen’s and Seamen’s Chapel to see yet another side of San Francisco, one that will certainly be more rewarding and hold more charm than a pantomime or street



artist. Take a minute to listen to the waves breaking on shore, the boats’ masts singing in the wind and imagine life as it was at the turn of the century. So much history, such an amazing place from which to relive it.

*Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com*

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# APRIL SHOWERS

From the Border

By Hilary Gordon Photos by Blair Randall © 2011

After cold deluges in March, spring arrived overnight at the Garden for the Environment. A visitor passing through asked me, "What are those bright blue bushes up on the hillside? They are so amazing!" I stopped what I was doing to walk over with him. "Those are Ceanothus 'Dark Star'. Listen!" As we stood quietly, you could hear the buzzing from the shrubs, heavy with flowers, their leaves almost invisible under the bright burden. "Look." I told him. "The Ceanothus is full of honey bees, but if you look closely you will also see our fat bumbling native bees, and many tiny wasps, with flies of all kinds. It's a pollinator party, and a loud one!"



Ceanothus is a California native plant, and part of our botanical heritage right here in the Bay Area. As you drive on local highways, you can see them blooming on dry hillsides in our wild lands. They come in all sizes and shapes, from flat growing ground-covers to big tree-sized shrubs. They bloom now, white through light blue and lavender to the vivid dark blue of 'Dark Star'. Like all native plants, they are a perfect fit, not only for our soil and weather patterns, but also for the local wildlife, including all the players at the pollinator party. (Photo: Ceanothus)



From now through July the beautiful and vigorous native plants in our native garden will bloom in turn. This is their active season, with water in the soil from winter rains, and warm days ahead. By July, the soils are dry and the fogs roll in. Our native garden quiets down, because the dry late summer months are the dormant time for California native plants. Once the first rains return in the fall, they perk up again and start to grow through the mild wet winter, reaching their bloom time again as the first warm days of spring arrive.

This year at the GFE there is more to see than ever. For many years, we've had a



Enjoy the path through the hillside, where visitors to the garden can now walk among the blooming natives, and enjoy the beautiful views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin headlands

small demonstration garden which is landscaped entirely with native plants. Right next to it is the Victory Garden, where we demonstrate "all out food production." Above these small fenced gardens, a steep sandy hillside rises to the street. This hillside is full of native plants, but difficult to access and difficult to maintain. The shrubs were getting raggedy, and blackberries were starting to arch up through the spent flowering stalks of last year's Bee Plant. Just as we were scratching our heads about how to access and care for these native plants, unexpected and very welcome help arrived. (Photo: Poppy)

Patrick Haesloop and Spencer Honeyman, local landscape magicians and native plant lovers came to our rescue and donated labor and many plants to renew the native hillside. They created a path through the hillside, so that visitors to the garden can now walk among the blooming natives, and enjoy the beautiful views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin headlands from the top of the GFE. To find the new native walk from 7th and Lawton, head up Lawton to the top of the garden, and turn left. Walk past the small fenced area, and enter the garden through an opening in the fence under the Monterey Cypress (the biggest tree on the block). Although some parts of the hillside are still being planted, there are many new and old California native plants here for you to enjoy. Many, many thanks from us to Patrick and Spencer of REvive Landscapes for their hard work on behalf of the native hillside.

The garden is open every day of the year for everyone to enjoy, and staffed on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Come by to enjoy the best blooming and green oasis in town, have a picnic, admire our views, or pitch in and help us weed for half an hour. We'll always be glad to see you!

Have questions on how to get involved? E-mail [suzi@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:suzi@gardenfortheenvironment.org).

Hilary Gordon is Sustainable Landscape Education Manager at the GFE. A life-long gardener, trained at the City College Horticulture program, she has worked as a professional landscape gardener from 1984 until the present. Have a question for Hilary? Meet her in the garden Wednesdays 10-2 and Saturdays 10-4 at the Garden, 7th and Lawton St.



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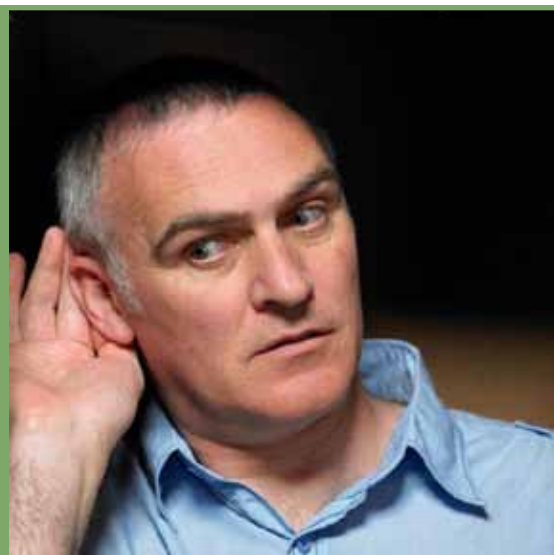
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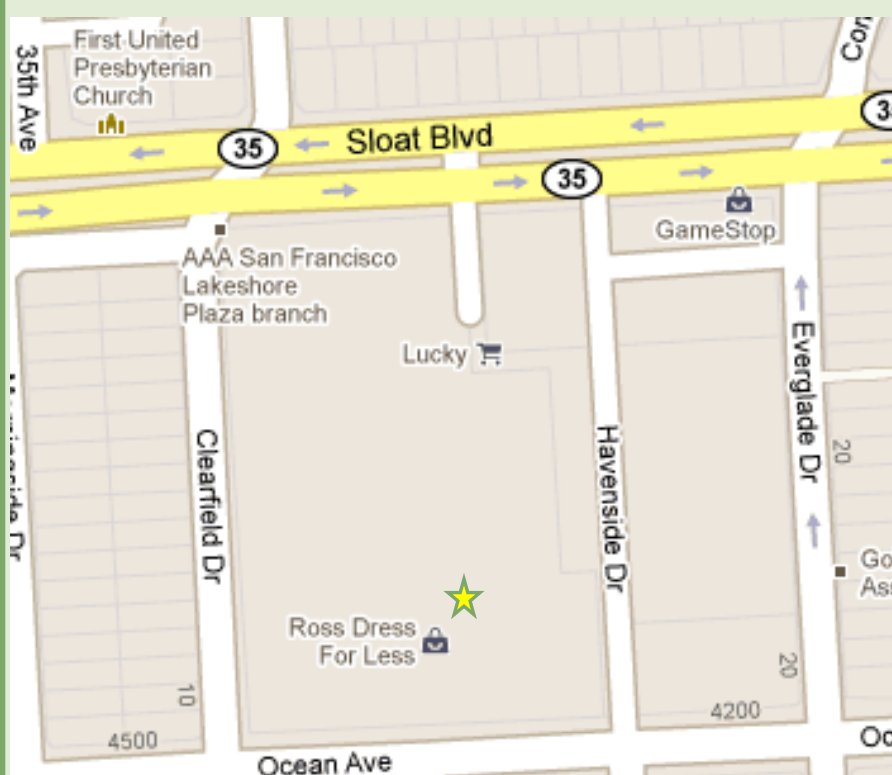
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