

INSIDE

Quentin Kopp

Candidates and Issues
in the November 8th
Election — 3



Photo: Luke Thomas



George Wooding

Time for a
Neighborhood Slate
Card — 3

Steve Lawrence

Why Politicians Can't
Say "No" — 4



Will Durst

Dresses for Debates
— 4



WOTPCC

Lively Debate
on Prop F — 9



Around the Town

If It's Topical
It's In Here — 18



Bullying Epidemic

What Your Kids
Need To Know — 7



Best of the Net

More Than Voter Fraud

Mayor Lee Alliance Committee and Others Hide Their Donors
By Oliver Luby

Since the news came out that workers with independent expenditure group SF Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee for Mayor 2011 may have engaged in voter fraud, including marking others' ballots, accounts of serious voting irregularities have mounted at the feet of Ed Lee's campaign for Mayor. Seven of Lee's rivals have even issued a call for our election to be watched over by federal observers and state election monitors.

Less attention has been paid to another scandal: Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee has yet to disclose the receipt of a single campaign contribution. No donors appear in any of its disclosure reports on file with the Ethics Commission.

Nevertheless, it has spent a hefty \$135,000 in support of Mayor Lee, exploiting an ugly loophole in campaign reporting law, one that harks back to the days of Willie Brown's own election campaign.

One account to actually address controversy regarding Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee's lack of financial transparency appeared in the Fog City Journal. Luke Thomas's article indicated that Alliance coordinator and campaign consultant Enrique Pearce was told to leave the Buck Tavern by owner and former Supervisor Chris Daly, following an argument during which Daly queried Pearce about the source of Alliance's funding. Thomas's account of the argument indicated that Pearce said Alliance would not disclose its funding until the late October filing deadline provided by state campaign law.

Thomas further wrote: "Asked why the committee is not being forthcoming about the book's benefactors, Pearce said, 'Because we're complying with the law.'"

Whether you think

Traffic On 19th Avenue To Take A Turn For The Worse

Without a dedicated pullout lane, MUNI coaches stack up at Lincoln and 19th Avenue.

By Nancy Wuerfel

There are plans afoot (or should we say a-car) to make northbound traffic on 19th Avenue more congested than it already is. The MTA is floating plans to move the bus stop for the northbound #28 - 19th Avenue bus and the northbound #29 Sunset bus, to a small sliver of land inside Golden Gate Park (GGP).

Currently, these buses stop at the gas station on 19th Avenue, where there is a parking lane for them to pull out of traffic. Sometimes two #28 buses at a time are lined up there. When the #29 bus is added to the mix, three buses can arrive at the same time.

Putting a bus stop inside GGP with the attendant new paving and bus shelter, is yet another loss of our precious parkland. The proposed location next to the magnificent, monumental gates at Lincoln Way and 19th Avenue is particularly inappropriate.

Traffic-wise, it doesn't make sense either. There is no extra

Cont. p. 14

Two Tough Little Dogs Survive Attack of Two Hungry Coyotes

Two small dogs were attacked by coyotes in Glen Park at around 10 am on Thursday, October 20. The dogs ran away in two different directions, pursued by the coyotes, which also split up. One of the dogs, Simone, a wiry-haired 20 pound girl was recovered several hours later at a friend's house, but the other, Xena, an all-black, 25 pound girl with pointy ears wearing a bright red collar seems to have taken a tour of the City and finally was recovered two and a half days later.

Jean Butler was walking her dogs in Glen Canyon Park, a few blocks from her house. "Out of nowhere my two dogs were ambushed by the coyotes," she said. "One ran down the hill after Xena," a very shy rescued Formosan Mountain dog from Taiwan." The other chased Simone, who is smaller than Xena, up the hill. Simone and the other coyote disappeared.

Jean chased the coyote pursuing Xena down the hill, yelling loudly and successfully chased it away. Assuming Xena was safe, she turned her attention to Simone. "Against my better judgement I turned and went in the other direction. This proved to be fruitless, not least because I was exhausted from racing after Xena's attacker, but I had heavy hiking boots on, and we're talking about a very steep hill." Simone, who is as fast as a greyhound, ran for her life that day and escaped, but Xena ran too and they both took off out of the

park and were lost.

"I missed finding Xena several times despite sightings of neighbors and passers-by." Simone was found up at the top of another hill above their house after three or four hours. But Xena was gone.

"Simone and I hiked inside and outside the park for hours. We went up to Diamond Heights and searched some more. I must have hiked easily 20 miles that day and 20 miles the next. My friends helped

Cont. p. 5

More INSIDE

Meeting Notices	5
One Shoe Box At A Time	5
MUNI Subsidies	8
Money Matters	8
Dickens Christmas Faire . . .	12
Calendar	12
At the Movies	13
On Stage/Theater	13
Urban Gardening School. . .	13
Sharon the Health	15
Patrick Monette-Shaw	15
Remember When	16
Phyllis' Findings	16
Open Late	16
Sudaku/Brain Füd	16
Jack Kaye	17
Kocivar on Education	17
Real Travel.	19

WWW.WESTSIDEOBSERVER.COM

Neighborhoods United:

A Ballot Measure Slate Card For The People Who Actually Live and Vote in San Francisco



We the people of San Francisco have the right to determine our own agenda for the upcoming election.

By George Wooding

Surrounded by large donors, special interest groups, unions, think tanks, lobbyists, politicians, and City departments that no longer have the neighborhoods best interests at heart, this provides a voting slate for the people who live in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Neighborhood groups are truly the sleeping giants of San Francisco politics. When the neighborhoods unite and vote together, there is no local political force more powerful.

After much debate and careful thought, the San Francisco Neighborhood Voters Guide (SFNVG) recommends or opposes the following bonds, propositions, ordinances, and declarations of policy for the San Francisco neighborhoods.

Prop A: The School Bond YES

The SFNVG supports our children and our schools. This \$531 million capital improvement bond needs 55% approval of voters to pass. The average increase to property owners' property taxes will be \$29.42 for every \$100,000 of assessed evaluation from 2012 through 2036.

The school bond will fix aging school infrastructure such as electrical, heating, water, sewage, building enclosure systems, roofs, walls, windows, fire sprinklers, playgrounds, fences, and gates — and will replace temporary classrooms — and \$5

million will be devoted to “green” schoolyards. None of this money will be used for operational purposes, however; the deferred maintenance of school facilities cannot be paid for by the bond.

Good bond stewardship is a major concern: Previous school district projects have exceeded cost representations made to the public at least three times in the past. Additionally, the proposed bond is too small to cover the cost of planned school capital improvements.

Prop B: Road Repaving & Safety Bond NO

This \$248 million bond is a terrible embarrassment for San Francisco politicians. Only \$148.4 million will actually be used for street repaving. According to Budget Analyst, Harvey Rose's analysis of Prop B, “The proposed GO Bond is estimated to have an interest rate of 6.0%, resulting in a total debt service of \$437,249,617 over 24 years (\$248,000,000 in principal plus \$189,249,617 in debt financing), or an average annual debt service of \$18,218,734 per year.” Citizens are taxed and pay annually for infrastructure road repairs, but the City takes this money

and pays for the bloated payrolls of City employees. Now, having made the choice to under-fund road infrastructure for the last 20 years, the City comes begging for capital improvement bond money to pay for maintenance repairs that they should have been performing in the first place. This bond does not guarantee that your street will be repaved — and asks citizens to pay a second time for what we have already paid for. Vote No on Proposition B and force City Hall to use our money as it was budgeted and how it was intended.

Prop C: City Benefits NO

Most folks agree that the City pension plan is on a path that is unsustainable, and major financial reforms are required to protect the City's pension system and the critical City services delivered to residents. Background: The San Francisco Employee's Retirement System is funded through a combination of employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment earnings from the retirement fund. As pension fund investments have declined, and employee contributions have not been adequate to offset costs, the City has had to make up the shortfall in the retirement fund. This offset is costing taxpayers between \$300 million to \$600 million annually in current dollars. If no pension reform occurs, the City pension fund is estimated to have a shortfall of \$829 million in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Proposition C was developed through negotiations with Mayor Ed Lee, billionaire Warren Hellman, Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, and City unions through a series of negotiations that excluded meeting with retirees and the City's lowest-paid employees. The pension agreement between the hand-picked negotiating parties increases

employee pension contributions, increases retirement ages, requires employee increased contributions to the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, and changes the composition of the Health Services System Board. Proposition C is expected to save \$1.3 billion over the next 10 years.

The Proposition C pension savings are too little, too late. During negotiations, the City actually guaranteed future salary increases as an enticement to selected “public safety” unions to support Proposition C. The real knife in the back is the attempt by the Mayor's office to take over the appointment process of Commission members who serve on the Health Services System Board. Four of the seven commission members have traditionally been elected by rank and file union workers. Unfortunately, the same negotiation process that made this plan agreeable has also made this plan a weak step-child to Proposition D. Proposition C improperly bundles both health care changes and pension reform into a single ballot measure, which is what doomed Jeff Adachi's November 2010 Proposition B pension reform measure.

Prop D: City Pension Benefits YES

Proposition D is a charter amendment that would reform the funding of City employee pensions through increased pension contributions, increased retirement ages, and increasing the pension contributions for new employees. Proposition D is projected to save \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years.

This charter amendment was placed on the ballot by Public Defender Jeff Adachi through signed petitions. Adachi also failed to meet with retirees who will be affected. Proposition D is a better rescue attempt at saving the City's pension fund than Proposition C. Proposition D exempts all City employees making less than \$50,000 per year (37%) from making higher contributions. Second, City employee contribution rates will be

placed on a sliding scale: The more wages you earn, the higher percentage of your wages you pay as a pension contribution. Proposition D requires a contribution up to 18.5% of wages for a City worker making \$200,000 per year. Comparatively, Proposition C caps ALL employees at 13.5%. Proposition D does not address the unfunded mandate of increasing health care payments.

Neither Prop C nor Prop D addresses salary reform, a necessary precursor to pension reform. Neither measure addresses the 9,533 City employees (27.6%) who earn \$100,000+ annual salaries, at a cost of \$1.28 billion (gobbling 50.3% of the City's total payroll), which exacerbates the pension problem.

Ballot Box Deliberations

On the premise that this estimable journal will be published and disseminated before the November 8th election, I supplement my October commentary and voting recommendation.

A brief reiteration appears warranted. I endorse Public Defender Jeff Adachi and City Attorney Dennis Herrera for Mayor; Bill Fazio, former Deputy District Attorney for 20 years and President of the Lakeshore Acres Improvement Club, for District Attorney; and Sheriff's Captain Paul Miyamoto, Lowell High School graduate and 15- year veteran in the Sheriff's Department, for Sheriff. (I also note that former Supervisor Tony Hall has iterated strong positions on important issues such as stopping the baleful Central Subway Project and passing the Garbage Collection Competitive Bidding Initiative next June.)

Voting against Propositions A and B, a combined \$749,000,000 set of general obligation bond issues, is not only warranted, but virtually mandatory for taxpayer protection and trying to teach the City Hall “family” a lesson. Proposition A allegedly enables remodeling, repairing and renovating schools, the fourth such measure, including two parcel tax assess-

what's broken, because their children are shipped miles from their neighborhood pursuant to arcane school district policies. Not broken? In the 1969-70 school year, 90,790 pupils attended our public schools; in 2011-12, there were but 52,900, with another unidentifiable number choosing charter schools. Although the Board of Education may blithely ignore it, let's

Like all other cities and counties, San Francisco receives money from state gasoline tax proceeds (18 cents per gallon) for repairing our city streets. Instead, City Hall used state gasoline tax remittances for other purposes, usually related to Mayoral and Supervisorial favorite causes like tree-planting and a ramp to the Board Of Supervisors President's chair (over \$650,000 for that nicety!) Maybe they'll learn to spend our gas tax payments to repair potholes and maintain our streets.”

ments, since 2000. General Obligation Bonds represent City government borrowing. The San Francisco Unified School District has wrongly managed approximately \$1,000,000,000 (!) of parcel tax and bond proceeds over the past 10 years. Why reward it with another \$500,006,000 (plus 60% more interest) taxpayer obligation?

In the October 6 Examiner, Ken Garcia accurately exposes Proposition B as “...no minor pothole funding request.” He rightly states that it's a \$248,000,000 “bond measure aimed at doing what the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office have consistently failed to do.” That's the point. Like all other cities and counties, San Francisco receives money from state gasoline tax proceeds (18 cents per gallon) for repairing our city streets. Instead, City Hall used state gasoline tax remittances for other purposes, usually related to Mayoral and Supervisorial favorite causes like tree-planting and a ramp to the Board Of Supervisors President's chair (over \$650,000 for that nicety!) Maybe they'll learn to spend our gas tax payments to repair potholes and maintain our streets.

It's no contest as between Propositions C and D, respecting reformation of the City's deficit-afflicted pension system: Proposition D is genuine reformation; Proposition C is contrived to disguise a temporary cure of ever-higher general fund taxpayer contributions to the city retirement system and increasing pension plan deficits. Proposition C, for example assumes a 7 ½ % increase in value of the stocks and real estate owned by the city retirement system, although in the last ten years it has never been higher than 5 percent. Proposition D doesn't do that. Proposition D limits any pension to no more than \$140,000 annually; Proposition C allows \$190,000 per year pensions. (Did you know that only about 100 city employees receive less than \$50,000 in salary?)

I also urge a vote against E, F and G and a vote for Proposition H. Proposition H has suffered a viciously misleading and distorted opposition campaign, even though it's a mere declaration of policy expressing the view that public school assignments should, as a matter of policy, be based upon a child's neighborhood. One of the expensive multi-colored flyers clogging our mailbox from education establishment opponents claims: “Don't fix what isn't broken.” Isn't broken? Proposition H exists because of the herculean efforts of uncompensated parents and other citizens who qualified it as an initiative. They're the parents who know



Photo: Luke Thomas/fogcityjournal.com



Creating jobs. Getting it done.

That's Mayor

Ed Lee

ENDORSED BY:



Senator Dianne Feinstein

“San Francisco needs his steady leadership and unifying presence in City Hall.”

- Senator Dianne Feinstein



Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom

“Ed Lee is the best choice to lead San Francisco for the future and keep the City's economic recovery on the right track... He has the vision, the focus and the economic plan to continue creating good jobs for San Francisco...”

- Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom

Ranked-Choice Voting

Vote 1 or 2 or 3 for Mayor Ed Lee!



BE AN ED LEE VOTER!

- If you haven't already mailed in your ballot, drop it off at City Hall or your polling location.
- If you're voting at the polls, please know that your polling place may have changed. Call the Elections Office at (415) 554-4375 with any questions about polling places, absentee voting or voting procedures, or go to www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=599
- Polling places are open on Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MayorEdLee.com (415) 567-8554

Paid for by Ed Lee for Mayor 2011 ■ 990 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102 ■ Not paid for at public expense

“Diapers and politicians should be changed often, and for the same reason.”

No, “noisy cries” is not the reason – although surely these will be heard. In the one case, loud and guileless; in the other, soft, seductive, sibilant and full of guile.

What politician can resist promising supporters what they want? A public servant who promotes the “general welfare” receives scant thanks, few contributions, and probably not many votes. “Support me and mine” is the overwhelming demand of today’s voters. Successful politicians avoid saying no.

How might society encourage politicians to promote sound public policy rather than pay-back politics? In today’s world it is hard to imagine.

In times past, perhaps there were larger problems, and less largesse to spread, propelling real solutions. In the Great Depression the economy did not just fail to grow; it fell off a cliff. Unemployment reached 25%, and with households having but one breadwinner, unemployment was catastrophic. The safety net was flimsy. Attending to urgent problems was not optional. The size of your slice of the pie was not as important as whether there would be any pie.

Let’s hope we don’t return to those days.

...the typical bill for both water and sewer will be 4.3 times higher than it was. The typical monthly bill was \$45.35, and will rise to \$195.84. In terms of “affordability”, for a typical household with a 2009 income of \$70,644, the cost of water and sewer service was about 1.35% of income; that will rise to over 2.5% in the late 2020s



We need to stop accepting interest group-oriented, pay-back politics. It is destructive. Oh, it may achieve urgent goals in the short run. But it promotes narrowness, conflict, and a way of thinking inimical to achieving what is needed: government that promotes the general welfare without being overly expensive or overbearing.

Government is essential. Corruption — whether of the illegal variety, or simply favoring supporters — comes with the territory. One baby may soil his diaper more than another, but all need to be changed. So too with politicians and public servants in positions of authority.

Promote those least tempted to wield power to favor friends, or punish enemies. Look for those who seek out ways to promote the general welfare and good public policy. Let it not be about how much I and mine can get from government. Wu wei. Non-interference. It is time for government with a lighter touch.

Rates for sewer and water service. This space writes about the lowly: water and sewer. For the lifetime of the reader, rates have been remarkably low. But that is changing. Water rates have doubled over the past five years, and, well above the rate of inflation, will continue to rise to pay for the \$4.6 billion Water System Improvement Program. Sewer rates will rise sharply once the Sewer System Improvement Program gets going. These past few years the program has been delayed, although the interim program has been extended in time and scope, and has more than doubled in cost. On the main sewer program \$4.1 billion is to be spent during the upcoming ten years; the total bill for the program is \$7-8 billion (nearly \$10,000 per San Franciscan).

The SFPUC, the city department providing water and sewer service, has estimated rate increases needed to pay for all the work. In the fifteen years between 2005-6 and 2020-1 the typical bill for both water and sewer will be 4.3 times higher than it was. The typical monthly bill was \$45.35, and will rise to \$195.84. In terms of “affordability”, for a typical household with a 2009 income of \$70,644, the cost of water and sewer service was about 1.35% of income; that will rise to over 2.5% in the late 2020s. (Assumes incomes rise at 3% per year.)

All projections are based on assumptions that may prove inaccurate.

Ocean Beach. Two winters ago the beach and cliffs south of the western end of Sloat Blvd, at the Zoo and beyond, were dangerously eroded by ocean waves. Part of the Great Highway had to be closed, and then moved inland, and even more seriously, sewer infrastructure was endangered. Winters will go by without incident, but then, suddenly, tides and storms can combine to change the coastline in a matter of hours.

To address storm erosion among other matters, a master plan is being prepared by SPUR. Whether to try to protect the highway and sewer infrastructure, and how, is a prime question. This past summer the Coastal Commission disapproved of rock that had been dumped as an emergency barrier, and also of a proposed pile wall. Now the idea that seems best is for sand from the shipping channel to be placed on the beach and then made into “vegetated dunes.” Hopefully this sand will slow the advance of the occasionally angry ocean, and will save the infrastructure. If, one of these winters, the sewer infrastructure falls to the relentless ocean, ratepayers will have yet another big bill. Let’s hope that funding for protection is found, and that effective protection is put in place in time.

Steve Lawrence is a longtime utility activist. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

www.westsideobserver.com

Publisher/Editor: Mitch Bull

mitch@westsideobserver.com

Associate Editor: Alice Bull

Editor: Doug Comstock

editor@westsideobserver.com

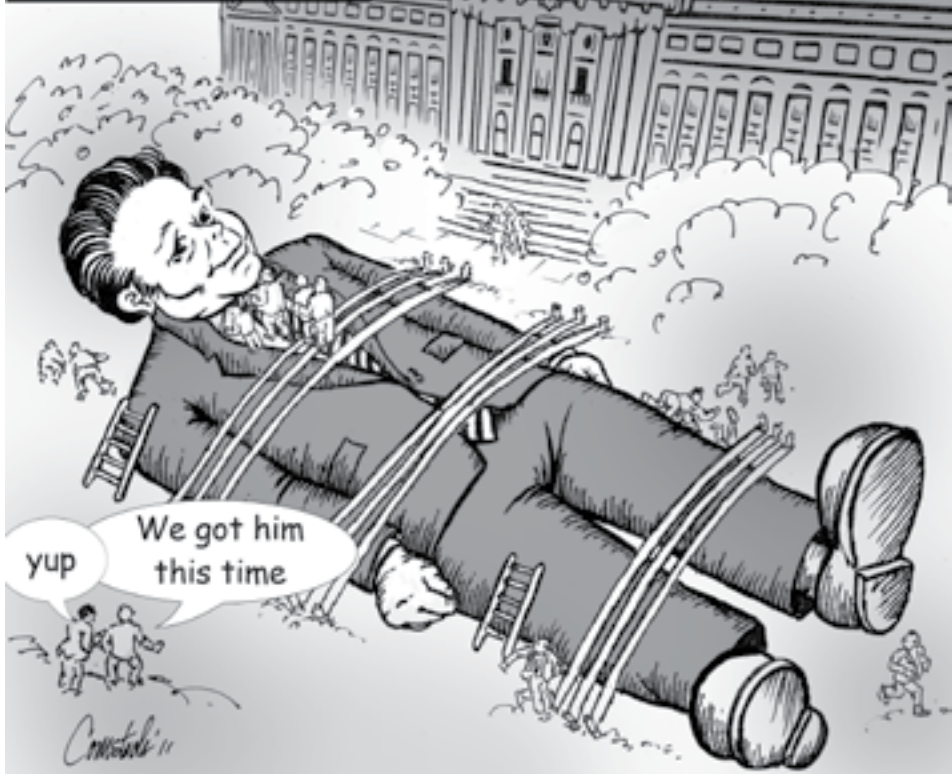
Ad Sales - Mitch Bull



The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The Westside Observer is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Circulation is 20,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 12,000 are distributed to-door, 1,500 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as libraries and other key drop-off points (see westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html).

WE’RE ALSO ON THE WEB
www.westsideobserver.com

Adachi’s Travels



MY TWO CENTS By Will Durst

WEARING MY DEBATE FATIGUES.

Time to sound the alarm on an ominous political epidemic sweeping the nation today. A feverish America finds itself larynx deep in the throes of a severe case of debate fatigue. As evidenced by the most recent gathering of GOP candidates in Nevada, which by any unofficial tally should count as the 367th debate in the past four months with about 519 to go before an actual nominee is grudgingly settled upon.

Nowhere are the symptoms of this malaise more apparent than amongst the participants themselves, who have slowly shifted from irritable to ornery to downright cantankerous. And it’s going to take more than a short regimen of low-grade antibiotics to kick this virulent bug.

You could say the last debate got a bit testy. You could also say that girl scouts make ineffective NFL middle linebackers. In nickel coverage. Against Aaron Rodgers. Mirroring the emotions of their constituents, the candidates are starting to get on each other’s nerves like somebody else’s disco music pinning the red in a bathroom with stainless steel walls.

After Rick Perry accused Mitt Romney of hiring illegal aliens to work on his lawn, the former Governor of Massachusetts put a condescending hand on the Texas Governor’s shoulder and received a look that would liquefy granite. Fortunately, Mitt is made of stiffer stuff. But only the presence of TV cameras kept the two from making a date to meet under the bleachers right after school.

Perry’s frustration is evident. The shine on his campaign has faded to root cellar dim partly due to an inability to form a complete sentence in public. Himself admitting, “debates aren’t my strong suit.” No. Not your strong suit. Weak suit. Leisure suit. Bathing suit. Or birthday suit. Face it, debates aren’t your Bermuda shorts. And neither is foreign policy Herman Cain’s black socks with sandals.

Michele Bachmann was confused by Libya being part of Africa, and Newt Gingrich may have scuttled his entire campaign by vowing, as nominee, to engage President Obama in a series of seven three-hour long debates. Smooth move. Like telling a man with heartburn you plan on serving nothing but jalapeno burritos for dinner the next two weeks. And the sour cream has curdled. Plenty of Tabasco, though.

The seven nominees in attendance spent the evening snapping at one another like hyenas over the last piece of zebra calf muscle. When the subject of immigration arose, they climbed across their podiums playing king of the hill on who would implement the strictest enforcement. Various promising to utilize the National Guard, electric fences, predator drones and I think somebody mentioned alligator pits. Domestic alligators, of course.

The experts claim these things are designed to build better candidates. “His new found confidence is a direct result of being hardened in the primary debates.” But where does “battle tested” end and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome begin? Could John McCain’s punch drunk staggering be attributed to the head blows he sustained over six months of these internecine conflicts four years ago?

Luckily for everybody, the next debate is more than three weeks hence. Plenty of time to grab some air and arrange a few photo-ops in stately poses such as handing out Halloween candy and voting. Not forgetting the most important presidential business of all, begging for more money. Power ties off. Knee pads on.

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 the website: Red-room.com to find out more about upcoming stand-up performances or to buy his book, “The All American Sport of Bipartisan Bashing.”

Letters to the Editor

As a journalist, I mostly avoid political involvement, for professional-ethics reasons.

The exception I make is on issues related to the First Amendment and freedom of information. The people have the right to freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly, and to transparency and accountability in government and in the political process.

That is why I have joined five former Ethics Commission members and a number of my Sunshine Ordinance Task Force colleagues in opposing Proposition F, a “reform” measure that would take away the right of us voters to decide what the rules of conduct are for campaign consultants, giving that authority to the commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Proposition F is an insidious, power-grab measure that deserves your NO vote.

Additional information is available at www.facebook.com/FriendsOfEthics.

Rick Knee, former Chair, SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

NEIGHBORHOOD SLATE (Cont. from p. 3)

Prop E: Amending or Repealing Initiatives.....NO

Currently, once voters approve anything on a City ballot, even the smallest changes can be made only with another citywide vote. Proposition E tries to change this.

This is a laughable attempt by seven-month Supervisor Scott Wiener to pass a charter amendment that will allow the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to change a proposition or an ordinance after the voters have approved it. Besides the obvious condescension to San Francisco voters, this charter amendment is actually asking voters to vote for a proposition that will allow elected officials to change what the citizens have voted for, including adjustments to revenue streams. Passage of Proposition E, very simply, would enable the will of voters to be overturned by the Board of Supervisors. Look upon Proposition E as a test of your own Intelligence Quotient (IQ): If you are dumb enough to vote for “giving away your vote,” you shouldn’t be voting. Note to Scott: Please

Supervisors to modify the consultant ordinance in the future. This is why Supervisor Scott Wiener really put this Proposition on the ballot. Just like Wiener’s ill-fated Proposition E, Proposition F would allow the Board of Supervisors and the Ethics Commission to change lobbyist laws whenever it suits them. Proposition F is really all about controlling lobbyist legislation. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors already have exclusive control over the Ethics Department’s budget and now they want to be in charge of lobbyist laws.

Prop F: Campaign Consultant Ordinance.....NO

Supervisors to modify the consultant ordinance in the future. This is why Supervisor Scott Wiener really put this Proposition on the ballot. Just like Wiener’s ill-fated Proposition E, Proposition F would allow the Board of Supervisors and the Ethics Commission to change lobbyist laws whenever it suits them. Proposition F is really all about controlling lobbyist legislation. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors already have exclusive control over the Ethics Department’s budget and now they want to be in charge of lobbyist laws.

Prop G: Sales Tax — The Safe Communities and Use Ordinance.....NO

This temporary State tax expired on June 30, 2011 and San Franciscans are now paying a retail tax rate of 8.5%. Never missing an opportunity to tax, San Francisco — under the leadership of District 4 Supervisor Carmen Chu and Mayor Ed Lee — is now attempting to add a half-percent gross receipts sales tax that would increase San Francisco’s sales tax to 9.0%.

This is a revenue tax that needs 66.66% of the vote to be approved.

San Francisco citizens were paying a 9.5% retail sales tax rate — one of the highest regressive sales tax rates in the entire state. Of this 9.5% rate, 1.0% was a temporary sales tax that was imposed by the state of California. This temporary State tax expired on June 30, 2011 and San Franciscans are now paying a retail tax rate of 8.5%. Never missing an opportunity to tax, San Francisco — under the leadership of District 4 Supervisor Carmen Chu and Mayor Ed Lee — is now attempting to add a half-percent gross receipts sales tax that would increase our sales tax to 9.0%.

The additional half-a-percent is expected to add between \$60 million to \$78 million in new revenue annually, and will expire after either 1) A ten-year period, or 2) If the State of California reinstates its recently expired sales tax. If the State sales tax is restored, the City would be required to repeal the Proposition G tax increase within a five-year period. It is possible that the City may suffer through a few years of 10.0% sales taxes with a reinstated State of California sales tax. This would be very bad for local businesses competing with surrounding cities with much lower

sales tax rates. Under this scenario, San Francisco’s sales tax revenue may actually decline, as more and more consumers turn to shopping outside of the City. San Francisco’s poor will be the most hurt by these regressive tax rates, as they generally have few ways to shop outside of the City. The revenue generated by the half-a-percent sales tax increase will be controlled by City Controller Ben Rosenfield, with the proceeds to be split 50-50 between senior citizen and children’s services, and public safety employees such as police officers and firefighters. These groups each expect to receive \$30 million annually, but the Board of Supervisors will only need a two-thirds majority to change the revenue-sharing sales tax allocations. This is especially distressing, since Safety employees may receive a much larger share of the proceeds over time than seniors and children’s services. The sales tax increase may supplement already existing sources of funding for seniors and children’s programs and public safety programs, rather than freeing up current safety programs funding for other desperately-needed and vital City services that remain unfunded, including routine pot hole and road repair maintenance.

Proposition H: School District Student Assignment Declaration of Policy YES

The San Francisco school system has never had a higher level of segregation. Rather than allow children to go to their neighborhood school, the SFUSD has developed a new admission policy that is requiring children to attend schools in zones that span the City.

Prop H is a non-binding Declaration of Policy requesting that neighborhood children be given preference to attend their neighborhood school. Prop H states



Beach Chalet Athletics Fields Draft Environmental Impact Report

(October 26, 2011 - Draft EIR to be released

November 16, 2011 - Historic Preservation Commission hearing

December 1, 2011 - Planning Commission - public hearing

December 12, 2011 - Close of public comment on DEIR

The Beach Chalet Athletic Fields proposal will replace over 7 acres of natural grass in the western edge of Golden Gate Park with artificial turf, concrete and asphalt paving. This multi-million dollar project runs counter to the 1998 Golden Gate Park Master Plan, which designates the western section of the park as more “wild and forested”. The Audubon Society has described the artificial turf as the environmental equivalent of placing a 7 acre asphalt parking lot in the middle of prime parkland. The project will also install 240,000 watts of night lighting, 60 feet tall. These stadium lights – just across from Ocean Beach and near a prime night-sky viewing area - will be turned on from dusk until 10:00 p.m. every night of the year.

SF Ocean Edge is an all-volunteer group whose goal is to provide recreation opportunities for youth while protecting the beauty of Golden Gate Park. We support renovating the existing grass soccer fields with natural grass and using the remaining millions of dollars to improve other recreation areas for the benefit of youth all over San Francisco. We ask that the public carefully review the Draft EIR, submit their written comments, and attend a public hearing. For more information, go to www.sfoceanedge.org

DEIR Online copies may be obtained at: <http://sfplanning.org/index.aspx?page=1828>

Two Tough Dogs (Cont. from p. 1)

look. We put notices in neighborhood listserves, put something on craigslist, posters everywhere she’d been spotted and called Animal Care and Control.” Animal Care and Control was helpful, “the guy helping me must have called me four times in one day with tips he got,” she said. “I spent a very sleepless night worrying about where she could be and whether she was anywhere the coyotes could get her, never mind get hit by a car.”

But all those things helped, especially the fact that she was wearing a bright red harness that was unmistakable. “A woman called me on Friday morning to say she’d just seen Xena walking down the middle of Market Street —two lanes of fast traffic—going against traffic towards Clayton possibly towards the Haight Ashbury. I raced over there with Simone and spent many hours walking, driving, calling. Nothing. Then in the afternoon a dog walker called to say she had just talked to another dog walker who saw her in the parking lot of the Randall Museum—she had turned east away from the Haight—naturally I had gone west looking for her. I went over there and searched and searched, but Xena had clearly gone. I drove down the street and in despair realized that she could only have headed for the Castro and the busiest section of Market Street. I could not possibly imagine her making it across the street, or not freaking out being around all those people, all of whom scared her.

But somehow Xena did make it back across Market Street. She headed up Church and went to Dolores Park. “I got a call from the ACC officer that she’d been spotted there in the park. I got there—nothing.” By this time it was 6:00 PM and Jean and Brian were worried that it would soon be dark. At least she seemed to be heading in the right direction towards home.

“Then at 3:30 in the morning we got a call from a woman that had—minutes before—seen Xena walking down the middle of Dolores Street. We raced down there in two cars.” Simone, was by now very depressed and walking in circles in the back yard. “Brian drove up and down every street calling her and Simone and I walked two miles to the park at 4 in the morning, putting down a scent trail that she might be able to use.”

Then it happened. “Just as I reached the park, Brian called. He had found her. Xena had moved steadily in the right direction towards home.” “He was hysterical, crying, and Xena was so happy to see him,” she did not walk, but crawled on her belly over to him.

“It was an amazing community response,” said Brian, “calls came in every few hours. We were touched by how many people were concerned, San Francisco never fails. Everybody watches out for everyone, it doesn’t matter who you are, black or white, gay, Asian, it doesn’t matter, people care. It’s why we love this City.”

Doug Comstock, feedback: editor@westsideobserver.com

City Sites Open To Collect Gift-Filled Shoe Boxes

Nov 14-21 Volunteers Working to Collect Over 4,800 Gifts While many San Francisco families are busy with holiday activities, a group of local volunteers is focused on filling empty shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, hygiene items and notes of encouragement for needy kids overseas. San Francisco families are participating in the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind—Operation Christmas Child—an effort that has hand-delivered 86 million gifts to kids worldwide since 1993.

This year-round project of Samaritan’s Purse is coming to its peak, as local businesses, churches and schools prepare to collect gift-filled shoe boxes during National Collection Week, Nov. 14-21. Volunteers can drop off their shoe box gifts at the bustling locations in the area to help kids in 100 countries know they are loved and not forgotten.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief and evangelism organization Samaritan’s Purse, uses whatever means necessary to reach suffering children around the world with these gifts of hope, including sea containers, trucks, trains, airplanes, boats, camels and dog sleds. Tracking technology also allows donors to “follow” their box to the destination country where it will be hand-delivered to a child in need. To register shoe box gifts and find out the destination country, use the Follow Your Box donation form found at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ. Local Collection Sites:

Sunset Church

3638 Lawton Street
San Francisco, CA, 94122

Operating Hours: Mon: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wed: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thurs: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Mon: Not Collecting

Mariner’s Community Church

225 S Cabrillo Highway 101C
Half Moon Bay, CA, 94019

Operating Hours: Mon: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Tues: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wed: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Thurs: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sun: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Mon: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.



The smallest gift can bring delight to a child living in Haiti

Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

aggrandizing local political candidate or from self-appointed academic experts. The truth is that repeal of Prop 13 simply won't happen.

Unknown to most San Franciscans, the independent and non-partisan California Poll by Mervyn Field, commonly known since its founding in 1947 as the "Field Poll", surveyed a representative 1001 registered California voters between September 1 and 12, 2011 in English and Spanish. The Field Poll found that Cali-

The Field Poll also asked voters whether they would change Proposition 13 to permit **business and commercial property taxation** at a higher rate than residential property. Surprisingly, 50% stated they wouldn't, 41% would and 9% were undecided. That's the lowest percentage of approval of the split roll for commercial property since just after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978. At that time 54% approved a split roll. In fact, in 1980 a Field Poll demonstrated 68% approval of a split roll. Voters also reject changing Proposition 13's two-thirds leg-

Stop the caterwauling about Proposition 13 because voters understand that a home is a non revenue-producing asset and shouldn't be taxed as if a "paper profit" (at least the "paper profit" in the pre-2008 days of surging real estate prices) puts cash in homeowners' pockets to pay the local tax collector. Proposition 13 will continue to sustain homeowners who live on fixed and modest incomes – fortunately."

formians would today back Proposition 13 by about the same margin as they did in 1978, namely, 63% to 29%, with 8% undecided. Support was broad. Majorities of voters within each political party endorse the measure, as do homeowners and even renters, including recent homebuyers. That's right: 53% of Democrats would vote for Proposition 13 again compared to 40% who would vote against it and 7% undecided. With non-partisan voters, like me, and smaller parties, 63% would retain Proposition 13. Even 58% of surveyed renters would vote for Proposition 13 as against 32% who wouldn't and 10% undecided. Among those purchasing a home in the last ten years, 62% would vote for Proposition 13. (You didn't hear any of that from local media.)

islative vote requirement to increase taxes, either by modifying it to a simple 50% +1 majority vote or even reducing the legislative vote requirement to 55%. That idea would lose by 65% to 30% with the rest undecided. The message to all politicians and academic and editorial soothsayers is plain: Stop the caterwauling about Proposition 13 because voters understand that a home is a non revenue-producing asset and shouldn't be taxed as if a "paper profit" (at least the "paper profit" in the pre-2008 days of surging real estate prices) puts cash in homeowners' pockets to pay the local tax collector. Proposition 13 will continue to sustain homeowners who live on fixed and modest incomes – fortunately.

Quentin Kopp is a former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge. Feedback: editor@westsideobserver.com



Eat at Joe's of Westlake



Italian-American Food A Landmark since 1956

Charcoal Broiled Steaks, Burgers, Chops, Pasta, Seafood, Veal and Chicken Dishes, Salads and Soups.

Open Daily 11:00 am - 11:00 pm
Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 am - Midnight

Lounge/Piano Bar

Live Music Wednesday thru Sunday
We can accommodate large parties
Reservations gladly accepted

(650) 755-7400

John Daly Boulevard
at Lake Merced Boulevard, Daly City

Plenty of Free Parking

Visit our website: www.joesofwestlake.com

Voter Fraud (Cont. from p. 1)

Pearce's justification for non-disclosure is reasonable or not, the detrimental nature of the non-disclosure becomes apparent when Alliance's reporting is scrutinized and contrasted with other campaigns.

Spending money out of thin air

Funding disclosure is the cornerstone of campaign finance reporting law and a key to election transparency. Without disclosing the financial contributions to campaigns, it becomes very difficult if not impossible for the public to learn who is paying for election propaganda.

In California, campaigns involved in an election are supposed to disclose their funding as of two "Pre-election" reporting deadlines (occurring in late September and late October in 2011). Most do. Others intentionally wait until one or more disclosures deadlines pass in order to delay their disclosure and public attention to its contents.

In late September when election campaigns' first Pre-election reports were due, Alliance reported only \$7,000 in accrued expenditures, with no funding source disclosed. In other words, Alliance was in the red from the get-go. In my prior *Citireport* articles about the financing of this year's election committees, I and co-author Marc Salomon referred to a committee whose accrued debts exceeded their cash on hand as lacking "solvency." In our August 8th article, we noted:

"While debt that exceeds available cash can sometimes be brief and innocuous, such as when a candidate incurs expenses when anticipating an influx of public financing, the circumstances are often indicative of troubling problems. Such problems can include financial mismanagement, gratuitous credit extended by vendors such as consultants, or the tactic of concealing expected contributors until a subsequent reporting deadline (often after an election)."

In the case of Alliance, surely the people arranging for Alliance to accrue debts had a sense of how they would pay the debts. Thus, a fair question is raised: Did Alliance intentionally avoid receipt of contributions and report only debt as of the September deadline in order to delay disclosure of its financiers?

Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee's insolvency has been compounded since late September. While continuing to report expenditures it made on behalf of Ed Lee, as required by local law, whatever funding Alliance received has still not been reported, despite to date spending \$135,000 in support of Mayor Lee. Alliance's next required report about all of its finances, including funding, is due this Thursday, October 27.

By delaying donor disclosure until October 27, the press, opponents of Alliance's efforts, and the general public will only have 12 days to learn about and react to the news. Such a limited amount of time diminishes the likelihood that the disclosure will meaningfully inform the public. Moreover, Alliance is free to once again report accrued debts that exceed its cash on hand, thereby further concealing additional donors, including until possibly after the election.

If you are wondering if such donor concealment could be intentional, consider this: Alliance's predecessor, the Run Ed Run campaign (conducted via the **Progress** for All campaign committee) repeatedly reported insolvency. As of its mid-year report filed in July, **Progress** for All had less than \$1,000 in the bank^[a] but over \$22,000 in accrued debts. By the September Pre-election deadline, **Progress** for All reported a negative cash balance (-\$1,162), but total debts of nearly \$38,000. We still don't know who will pay for that \$38,000, which is about 1/5 of the total amount spent by the committee. Such a track record may indicate that Alliance will continue to use debt reporting as means to delay donor reporting.

Which independent groups are concealing their donors

Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee's election activity is significant not only because

it spent the second largest amount of any independent group in support of Mayor Lee's election. Alliance also engaged in more spending without identifying funders than any other campaign in San Francisco's 2011 election. To illustrate the problem, the other lesser independent campaign culprits are as follows^[a] (as of Monday, October 24):

1. **Coalition For Sensible Government** with major funding by San Francisco Association of Realtors:

With its Treasurer, a known campaign loophole expert, attorney Jim Sutton, the Association of Realtors' newest general purpose committee has yet to report any campaign contributors (\$0 received), but that hasn't stopped it from spending \$85,000 on the election, including \$12,000 in support of Bevan Dufty for Mayor, \$12,000 in support of David Chiu for Mayor, \$14,000 in support of Alioto-Pier for Mayor, and \$47,000 in support of Mayor Ed Lee.

2. **San Francisco Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth PAC:**

Another committee using Jim Sutton as Treasurer, the Growth PAC's September Pre-election report disclosed \$0 in contributions received, contrasted with over \$1,000 in accrued debts. To date, the committee has spent \$33,000 in support of Ed Lee for Mayor. According the SF Ethics Commission's website, Growth PAC has also spent \$34,000 in support of George Gascon for District Attorney.

3. **Committee for Effective City Management—A Committee in Support of Ed Lee for Mayor 2011:**

As of September 24, this Ed Lee committee had \$14,000 in cash on hand. Since September 24, the committee has spent over \$73,000 in support of Ed Lee for Mayor.

4. **Cunnie for Sheriff 2011** sponsored by the San Francisco Police Officers Association:

As of September 24, this independent committee promoting Chris Cunnie for Sheriff had \$18,000 in cash on hand. Since September 24, the committee has spent \$54,000 in support of Cunnie.

5. **Coalition for a Safer California:**

This committee is designated as a California state committee. As of June 30 of this year, it reported having less than \$5,000 in the bank. Since then, the committee has spent \$25,000 in support of Ed Lee for Mayor. As state committee, a quirk of California law exempts the committee from having to file Pre-election reports in odd-numbered years (2009, 2011, etc). Thus, the public could be completely deprived of disclosure about this committee's financial backers until after the election. This committee may be in violation of state law requiring that it amend its status to become designated as a San Francisco committee.

6. **Educating Voters for Jobs Against Avalos and Adachi for Mayor 2011** a coalition of police and construction workers unions:

As of September 24, this independent committee opposed to Avalos for Mayor and Adachi for Mayor had \$17,000 in cash on hand. Since September 24, the committee has spent over \$18,000 against Avalos.

7. **San Franciscans for Safe Streets and Sound Government – a committee for Lee Mayor 2011, Gascon District Attorney 2011 & Cunnie Sheriff 2011:**

As of September 24, this independent committee supporting Ed Lee for Mayor, Gascon for DA, and Cunnie for Sheriff reported \$5,000 in cash on hand but \$5,219 in accrued debt.

8. **City Residents Opposing Ed Lee for Mayor 2011**, sponsored by American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO and AFSCME CA People:

Most of the large amount spent by this committee on the election can be attributed to disclosed funding sources. However, the committee's expenditure recently exceeded its reported funding received, so it is included in this list. As of September 24, this committee reported cash on hand of \$234,000. As of October 14, the committee

Cont. p. 14

The Bullying Epidemic—Why PARENTS Have to Take the Lead

Every few months, it seems, there's another headline about the death of a child or teen as the result of bullying. That's terrifying, and it's also unacceptable. To some extent we expect to hear about economic woes, political strife, and natural disasters. We don't expect to hear about the premature (and preventable) deaths of our young people. And we shouldn't have to. According to Todd Patkin, it's past time for America to realize that bullying is "the" problem of our day, and for parents and educators to lead the revolution on stopping this dangerous behavior.

If you're skeptical, consider the following statistics from www.bullyingstatistics.org:

- Almost 30 percent of young people participate in bullying behaviors or are bullying victims.
- Every day, around 160,000 students do not attend school because they are afraid of being bullied.
- Young people who have been bullied are two to nine times likelier than their nonbullied peers to consider suicide.

Perhaps most concerning of all, a 2009 study indicated that every half hour, a child commits suicide because he or she has been bullied. And that trend is on the rise.

"To put it bluntly, what we're doing to combat bullying clearly isn't working," says Patkin, author of the new book *Finding Happiness: One Man's Quest to Beat Depression and Anxiety* and—Finally—Let the Sunshine In (StepWise Press, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-9658261-9-8, \$19.95, www.findinghappinessthebook.com). "Suicides are still happening, and that's not even mentioning the thousands of kids whose lives are destroyed or diminished—but not ended—by bullying."

Yes, bullying is a big problem.

Patkin knows from personal experience just how devastating bullying can be. Being the target of several tormenters filled his high school years with much anxiety, and the effects of being bullied lasted into his adulthood.

"My tormenters verbally abused me, and they would also push me around and knock my books or drinks out of my hands," Patkin recalls. "They caused me to often dread coming to school or attending social functions. My confidence and self-esteem took a huge hit. And looking back, I believe that the negative self-image bullying cultivated lasted well into my adult years and contributed to the anxiety and depression from which I suffered."

Patkin isn't alone. In fact, research has shown that the fear, social anxiety, shame, low self-esteem, and anger that bully-



ing causes can rear their heads throughout adulthood, often at crucial moments, causing individuals who were once bullied to stick with "easy," "safe" or "defensive" choices instead of those that might prove most beneficial. There are definitive links between childhood bullying and adult depression. Being bullied can also lead to anger management problems and aggression in adulthood.

"The importance of combating and preventing bullying should be obvious," Patkin states. "By preventing a young person from being bullied, we may be freeing him or her from a lifetime of feeling inadequate and being haunted by horrible memories. We may even be saving a life."

So, why isn't the current approach working?

Yes, bullying has gotten a lot of media attention, and as a result, schools and communities are providing more and more resources for bullied kids. They're encouraging victims to reach out for help, and they're also instituting zero-tolerance

policies aimed at the bullies themselves. But too many victims are still slipping through the cracks. Why? According to Patkin, we're putting too much responsibility on the young people we're trying to protect.

"Schools put out a lot of rhetoric on dealing with and preventing bullying, but the problem is still rampant," he points out. "That's because our current approach revolves around requiring kids to tell on each other—and it's not as effective as we hoped. For several reasons, young people just aren't reporting the bullies."

First of all, kids who are being bullied often lack the self-esteem and confidence to stand up for themselves and let adults know what's happening. They also worry that turning a tormentor in will make them new targets, or intensify the former level of bullying.

"I certainly didn't ask teachers or my parents for any help when I was in high school because I was so ashamed of my weakness in dealing with my bullies," Patkin admits. "Also, I was afraid that if my teachers or parents stepped in, their interference would just make my tormenters focus their efforts on me more. I'd be even more on the outside because I'd ratted out my peers."

Patkin believes that many young people today feel just as powerless to speak up and "out" bullies—and he also points out that repercussions for them could be worse than those he might have faced due to cyberbullying. In other words, today's bullies aren't forced to stop once the school bell rings—their vicious and hurtful behavior can continue 24/7 thanks to social media sites, texting, and emails.

"How much longer are we going to let this problem go on?" Patkin asks. "Are we going to continue to allow more kids to become victims because, like I was, they're too scared to speak up? Not on my watch!"

Here's what our goal should be.

"We need to spark a culture-wide revolution to make bullying uncool—in fact, unacceptable!" Patkin insists. "There needs to be a palpable stigma attached to tormenting and belittling another person in this way."

Patkin compares the bullying problem to drunk driving. Once upon a time, getting behind the wheel after a few alcoholic beverages was fairly common and casual, and was not seen as "that big of a deal"—just as, until recently, bullying was seen as "a part of kids growing up."

Then an organization called Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) took up the cause and dramatically changed the way in which Americans viewed drunk driving. Through publicity campaigns and a grassroots movement, MADD caused the public to view driving while intoxicated as something that is reprehensible, irresponsible, dangerous, and even criminal. MADD's efforts also helped to enact stronger penalties against drunk drivers.

"Similarly, bullies need to lose the 'cool' image that comes with being at the top of the social pecking order," Patkin says. "The public—adults and kids alike—needs to view bullying as something that brands you with a modern-day scarlet letter. Our current zero-tolerance policies are a good start, but we need to add another prong to our anti-bullying approach. In short, parents have to lead the way (along with other students) to say that we are no longer going to accept this behavior. It has to start in your house."

What can parents do to change things?



"We as parents need to be more proactive in raising kids who are not bullies," Patkin says. "If young people see bullying as something to avoid at all costs—something that they don't want to participate in or allow to happen—we'll be directly attacking the problem instead of treating the symptoms. Over time, this attitude will spread and will hopefully become just as ingrained in the public psyche as our negative views on drunk driving. The best news is, getting started is pretty simple."

First, have the bullying talk. Talk to your kids about bullying, just as you would have the drug talk or the drunk driving talk. Most parents don't directly address this topic, perhaps because nobody ever thinks it's their kids. (Admit it; you've thought something along the lines of, My child would never make fun of someone just to be mean.) And as a result, many kids don't have a full understanding of how serious bullying and its effects can be. It's important to be specific in defining what bullying is (make sure your child knows that it can include physical abuse, verbal taunting, online harassment, or even passing on a hurtful message or rumor), and to explain just how damaging certain words and actions can be to others—even if your child didn't "mean" them or think they would have a lasting impact.

"You should also make a point to explain that when someone commits

suicide because of bullying, many lives are ruined," Patkin suggests. "As a parent, you don't want a young person's death on your head, or on that of your child."

Patkin is also adamant that if your child is caught bullying, you must take it very, very seriously. If you caught your child lying or stealing, you'd come down hard, right? You definitely wouldn't brush off the behavior as "just a stage." You'd do whatever was necessary to nip it in the bud. Treat bullying the same way.

"I'm not here to tell you how to punish your child—consequences are your family's business," Patkin clarifies. "Just make sure that your child knows that bullying behaviors are not okay in your family. Talk to him about why he reacted the way he did, why it was wrong, and how he can better respond in the future." Note to Editor: See accompanying timesheet for more strategies on how to squelch bullying.

"Ultimately, this is one social change that will happen because ordinary parents are purposeful in how they're raising their children," Patkin concludes. "In the past, bullies have been seen as 'cool'—they've even been glamorized in popular culture thanks to movies like Mean Girls. We have the power and responsibility to change this view, now that we fully understand the thousands of lives that bullying affects every day. And that change must start now."

Anti-Bullying 101: 14 Strategies to Squelch Bullying Tendencies in Your Children

One of the best ways to prevent bullying is to raise kids who don't participate in or tolerate the behavior. According to Todd Patkin, here are 14 things that parents can do in order to not raise bullies.

Have "the talk" about bullying. The truth is, nobody ever thinks their kid is a bully. It's always someone else's child who is calling other kids hurtful names, pushing them around on the playground, and sending nasty texts. But according to Patkin, even if you don't believe your children have even thought about crossing the line, talking to them about bullying is crucial. Have a specific discussion with them about what bullying behaviors look like, and make sure your kids know that these behaviors will not be tolerated in your family. (Think of it as having "the talk" about not using drugs, for example.)

Make sure your kids know that bullying is hurtful. Especially when they're younger, kids might not have the emotional maturity to make the connection between their words or actions and how they make another child feel. Explain to your children that bullying can have devastating effects on others (even if that wasn't the bully's intent) and on the perpetrators themselves.

Share statistics with your children. If you feel it's age appropriate, take a few minutes to research bullying statistics with your child. A quick internet search will reveal a large number of disturbing facts. For instance, according to www.bullyingstatistics.org,

- Almost 30 percent of young people participate in bullying behaviors or are bullying victims.
- Every day, around 160,000 students do not attend school because they are afraid of being bullied.
- Young people who have been bullied are two to nine times likelier than their non-bullied peers to consider suicide.

Seeing these statistics can prove to your child that bullying isn't just something that Mom and Dad are needlessly worried about—it's something that is happening at their schools and to their peers.

Teach your kids to intercede. Teaching your kids not to participate in bullying behaviors is a good start, but it's also important that they not allow their peers to be tormented. Encourage them to step in if they see another child being treated badly—if they are comfortable doing so. If not, make sure your child knows to talk to a teacher or other authority figure when another child is being tormented. Even an anonymous note on a desk can open an adult's eyes to a bad situation.

Be involved every day. It's tempting to think that the best thing we can do for our children is to provide a good life for them, to include not only the basics of food, clothing, and shelter, but also a good school, weekly piano lessons, and an everybody-plays sports team to participate in. No, those things aren't at all bad, but they also can't take the place of what's truly the most important thing in a child's development: his parents. Patkin is

Cont. p. 18

Got Wealth? Here’s Why You May Want to Give It Away

It’s hard to miss all the controversy arising from the average Joe’s frustration with how the money in this country is unfairly dispersed. But no one is talking about an easy way to redistribute some of that wealth.

For the tax years 2011 and 2012, you can give someone (or several some-ones) up to \$5 million dollars tax free. This lifetime gift tax exemption is usually \$1 million, so this is a substantial opportunity.

Now before you start laughing, “yeah, like I even have one million to give away,” you might want to consider this: Your estate, especially if you own multiple properties, may be worth much more than you think. There may be some instances where shifting a sizeable portion of your assets to someone else makes sense from a financial standpoint. And since same-sex couples don’t enjoy the same unlimited marital deduction that heterosexual spouses do, this may be an ideal time to equalize each partner’s wealth.

Tax-free generosity

There are two levels of tax exemptions for non-charitable gifts. The first is the annual gift amount of \$13,000. You can give as many people as you want up to \$13,000 each year and neither of you will owe tax on that amount.

The second level is the lifetime gift exemption. If you give one person more than the annual exemption amount in a single year, the excess amount counts toward your total lifetime exemption amount. For example, if you give someone \$20,000 in one year, \$13,000 is tax free and the remaining \$7,000 counts toward your lifetime limit. You’ll have to file a gift tax return for that excess amount, but you won’t have to pay any gift taxes unless you exceed the amount allowable in a lifetime.

With the lifetime gift exemption temporarily raised to \$5 million (versus the usual \$1 million), you can obviously shift ownership of many more of your assets. But you have to do that before the end of 2012.

When it’s good to give

There are a lot of advantages to giving gifts of cash, stocks, real estate and other assets during your lifetime. These can range from reducing the size of your estate for tax purposes to making someone really, really happy while you’re still around to enjoy their gratitude. Gifting can work for you if you want to:

- Give less to Uncle Sam while you’re alive. Reducing your assets through gifting may put you in a lower tax bracket.
- Give less to Uncle Sam once you’re gone. Probate is an estate-eating legal process that includes, among other things, identifying and inventorying

your property after you die. The less you have to inventory, the lower the probate costs for your heirs.

- Eliminate inequality. If you and your partner have a significant income disparity, giving him or her a sizable chunk of your estate can put you on more equal footing.
- Get rid of landlord duties. Deeding a rental or business property to someone else relieves you of property management worries. This may also be a way of providing a partner with an income—and job.
- Take care of business (partners). If you own a business and are nearing retirement, you can transfer ownership to your business partner(s) to keep unhappy heirs from later obtaining any part of your company.

You can make an outright gift directly to your recipient or put it in a trust. A trust may involve fees for trustees, accountants and attorneys, but it also offers advantages such as professional asset management and control over how the gift amount is dispersed (as needed, a set amount per year, etc.). Forgiving a substantial debt and making interest-free or below-market loans are other ways of gifting.

Another strategy is to title your property jointly. For example, if you want to give your partner half ownership of a home you own, you are essentially giving a gift of 50% of your property’s value at the time the additional name is added to the title.

However you choose to make a gift, you’ll want to work with of financial, estate planning and tax professionals to ensure the gift works within your financial plan and offers all of the benefit you want for your estate.

If you’re one of the lucky ones with considerable assets to shift to someone else, the rest of 2011 and 2012 is an excellent time to make your gifts and capitalize on the \$5 million lifetime gifting amount.

And if you don’t have any assets to shift, maybe it’s time to find that sugar daddy or mama you’ve always wanted. But start looking now because you only have until the end of 2012.

Brandon Miller, CFP and Joanne Jordan, CFP are financial consultants at Jordan Miller & Associates, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, helping individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals. For more information, please visit jordanmilleradvisors.com.

Is MUNI Subsidizing Auto Drivers?

By Howard Strassner

The majority of San Franciscans are willing to extend themselves a little to help fund Muni, even if they rarely use the system. Others feel that Muni is overly subsidized. I suggest a study of Muni expenditures and sources of revenue, and comparison with expenditures and revenue sources to facilitate driving. I believe Muni riders, who can drive but choose to endure less than ideal transit, subsidize drivers by reducing traffic so that drivers can get close to their intended destination and then not have to pay even higher parking fees. But this does not measure funding. We should uncover all of the expenses and all of the funding sources, including City fees, fares and taxes and separately list the funds that come from the State and Federal Governments for transit and to facilitate driving and see they are appropriate. Numbers are important, but transit users subsidize drivers by reducing congestion, when they endure less than ideal service.

The study will require agreements on definitions and budget items:

Subsidies (per dictionary) are monetary assistance granted by a government to a person or private commercial enterprise.

Taxes (per dictionary) are required contributions for support of government from persons, groups or businesses within the domain of that government. Taxes are required to be paid even if someone doesn’t want or value all of the government services provided.

Public Service (not dictionary) is a service provided by the government because it is agreed that the service should be available regardless of ability to pay or because it is difficult for the government to collect funds for the service. In San Francisco some examples of public services are streets; schools; parks; police; fire; and part of Muni. The Park provides a portion of its public services from fees, which are voluntary and greater than the cost of the service purchased.

Parking fees (not dictionary) are the charge for a parking space that someone is willing to pay at a meter, or City or private parking garage; because they value convenience. They could have used transit or walked further.

Fines (per dictionary) are the sum of money imposed as a penalty for an offense. Parking fines are imposed to induce compliance in order to: provide turnover for merchants; preserve curb space for residents; move traffic or allow for efficient street cleaning. Fines are not taxes because they can be avoided. Fines are not imposed to provide a service or subsidy.

Parking Taxes are part of the voluntary parking charge paid to a garage or lot operator. Because parking fees are market rate removing the tax would not change the cost of parking. The parking tax is a reduction in the profit of the operator. The SF planning code and the parking tax limits the supply of new parking, which increases the profitability of existing parking.

Transit Impact Development Fees are collected in order to provide capital to provide transit service to new projects. This is a fee that may more properly be considered a tax, because it cannot be avoided.

Expenditures for Transit mostly come from the SFMTA Muni operations and capital budget. Transit should also be charged for a portion of street repair budget from

Department of Public Works (DPW) based on streets used and bus weights. A portion of Prop ‘K’ funds (sales tax) and other bond issues will clearly be for transit, along with traffic signals.

Capital Expenditures included in a departmental budget should be separated by source, SF or State or Federal, and annualized.

Expenditures for Drivers and Trucks should include most of DPW street repair; Prop ‘K’ funds and other bond issues used to facilitate driving. A portion of police, court and jail costs are due to drivers. Muni pays for some police service as part of the SFMTA budget. Most traffic control signals and officers serve driving. Parks maintains roadways and free parking areas to facilitate driving. Street cleaning is a general public service and not a driving expense. A recent study accumulated SF General Hospital costs for pedestrians injured or killed by auto collisions. Most of this is a cost of driving, along with a portion of the SF Fire Department emergency response. Part of long term care costs resulting from auto collisions is a City cost of driving. Most of these costs are paid by State, Federal or families but should be mentioned in the study.

Some Prop ‘K’ funds and parts of bond issues are for bicycles, pedestrians or beautification. These amounts are not transit or driving.

The Muni budget includes para-transit and ADA provisions for regular transit. I suggest that these costs be considered as essential social welfare, similar to police and fire service and not a transit or driving expense. Discounted fares are also a social service and should be considered as fare revenue not collected and not a cost.

After we have the actual numbers we can decide if the amounts are appropriate. This study will provide a transparent overview for government and stakeholders. The determination will be partially subjective, and the breakdowns, reasoning and amounts should be available to all rather than remain in the fog as part of a \$6 billion budget.

If you want to know more about how to make Muni work better go to my blog: <http://bettermuni.wordpress.com/>

Howard Strassner is former President of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and Transportation Chair for the Sierra Club



Lively debate echoed throughout the Forest Hills clubhouse, as President Matt Chamberlain and the WOTPCC were the audience for a discussion of the ballot Propositions E and F. District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, the proponent of the two propositions, explained his rationale for the proposed ordinances, while Community College Board member John Rizzo and Sunshine Task Force member Bruce Wolfe opposed the propositions.

Wiener explained that Prop E, placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors in a 7-4 vote, is a first step to reform the system by which ballot measures are placed upon the ballots and voted upon. As it now stands a ballot measure can be placed on the ballot in several ways: by the Mayor; by a vote of only 4 supervisors and by the initiative process where citizens collect signatures. Once a measure has been placed on the ballot, often with little or no public discussion, the voters can only vote yes or no to approve or reject the law, with no recourse to change parts of it (or all of it) prior to implementation. Once approved by the voters, ANY changes would require the revised ordinance or law to be put back on the ballot for voter approval of the changes.

Obviously, changes (even to poorly constructed or flawed laws) are rarely placed on the ballot for revision. Prop E would present a method for revisions (up to and including repeal), but only after a law is in effect for 3 years. During years 4-7 the Boar of Supervisors would be allowed to make amendments to the ordinances. After year 7 a measure can only be changed by a ballot amendment approved by the voters. Wiener noted that the Proposition is endorsed by the SF Chronicle and a majority of the Supervisors, and that it only would apply to ordinances submitted by

the mayor and supervisors, and not those placed on the ballot by a voter-based signature drive.

Rizzo countered that while it is commendable that Wiener is trying to improve the process, Proposition E just goes too far. He contends that the Proposition would allow the Board of Supervisors to change the will of the voters at 3 years, and not just a tweak but also a full repeal. He also stated that the supervisors could change the use of money collected through taxes and bond measures. In fact, he countered that the law would even allow the Supes to modify Prop E, and that it is not wise to trust the supervisors with that power.

Wiener responded that because Prop E is a charter amendment, it would be covered by state law that forbids changing any charter amendment without a vote of the citizens. He also added that Rizzo was not accurate in his belief that Prop E would allow monies to be redistributed easily, stating that “set asides and taxes that are dedicated” cannot be redistributed or redirected under current state law.

The discussion then moved onto Proposition F, a proposal to reform the “Campaign Consultant Disclosure Ordinance” which was approved for the ballot by an 11-0 vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Currently, political consultants earning \$1000 are required to file documents on a quarterly basis disclosing their clients. The forms can be submitted as paper reports, or electronically. Paper reports are eventually scanned and placed into the system where they can be reviewed by “Sunshine” proponents and other groups.

Prop F would amend the current ordinance to:

- Require consultants to file paperwork monthly, as lobbyists are required to;
- Require electronic filing, so that documents can be more readily placed into the system;
- Increase the dollar threshold from \$1000

Cont. p. 14

DIMITRA’S FALL HOLIDAY SPECIALS

LATISSE ONLY \$40

with any Facial or Massage

LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER

BOTOX & JUVEDERM

Get up to \$300 Botox FREE

CALL FOR DETAILS

CHOOSE ANY MASSAGE

Get Extra 15 min FREE

Try our Hot Stone Massage

20% OFF PRODUCTS

SEE ALL OUR SPECIALS - dimitras.com

Dimitra’s

SkinCare & MediSpa

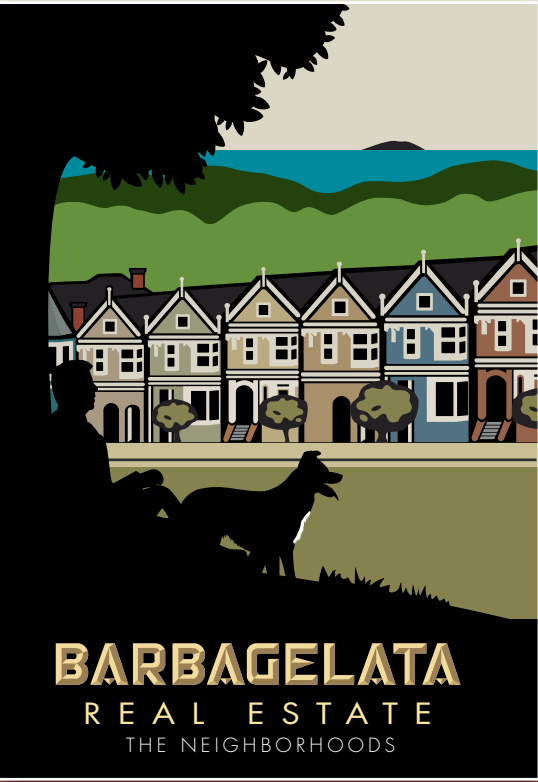
The Best of Both Worlds

Make Your Appt NOW! (415) 731-8080

324 West Portal Ave • www.dimitras.com

#1 IN NEIGHBORHOOD SALES

#1 IN SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



Help us support our local businesses by posting *your* favorites on our Facebook site.



Like us on Facebook and win a FREE 18 x 24 Vintage Poster!
Visit: www.facebook.com/BarbagelataRealEstate

RealEstateSF.com | Office: 415.566.1112 | DRE #01259825

Westside Democratic Club

The Westside Democratic Club represents Democrats in the Sunset, the Richmond, the West of Twin Peaks Neighborhoods, Ingleside, and other neighborhoods on the Westside of San Francisco.

The Westside Democratic Club proudly endorses:

DENNIS HERRERA
MAYOR

THE MAYOR WE NEED - NO STRINGS ATTACHED

George Gascón
for District Attorney

CHRIS CUNNIE
for SHERIFF

Contact us at: info@wdcsf.org | [facebook.com/wdcsf](https://www.facebook.com/wdcsf)

Listings in your Neighborhood...



130 Midcrest Way Charming 3BR/1BA well maintained home. Open spaces, clean lines, & garden views. Outdoor lover's paradise. Large lot with beautiful deck & plenty of fruit trees.
\$725,000



47 Cityview Way Beautiful 2BR/1BA home remodeled with impeccable taste. Wonderful kitchen and bathroom, wood floors throughout. Large garage and unfinished basement.
\$719,000



8 Dellbrook Avenue Modern 2BR/1BA home with great open floor plan, remodeled chef's kitchen, skylights, 2 car garage, garden. Located on large wooded lot.
\$675,000



49 Clairview 3BR/2BA home. Needs TLC inside and out. Good Midtown Terrace location. Solid oak hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 2 car garage. Huge upside potential.
\$675,000

Interested in learning more about these properties?
Curious about what your property is worth?
For a free consultation, contact:



John Kirkpatrick
(415) 412 - 0559
www.johnkirkpatrick.com
john@johnkirkpatrick.com

Top Individual Producer in San Francisco's Largest Office
The TRI agent who sold the most San Francisco properties company wide in 2009 & 2010



53 West Portal Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94127
415 665-ROTI (7684)

www.rotibistro.com
rotibistro@gmail.com

Roti

INDIAN BISTRO

EXPERIENCE WORLD CLASS DINING
DINNER: Su/Th 5-9:30PM/Fr-Sa 5-10PM

Serving Food As Good
As Our Prices Are Low

TENNESSEE GRILL

1128 Taraval St.
(415) 664-7834
Open 6am-9pm
Where Friends Meet

Que Syrah

a wine bar

NEW
November 12th 5-8PM
Paella & Iberian Wine Tasting
\$22 per person
Call 415-731-7000 for more information

Tuesday Happy Hour
\$1 off all wines by the glass from 4-8 pm

TAPAS on Thursday & Friday
Chef Val is serving up Spanish inspired Tapas
small plates ~\$3-7 from 5:30-9pm
Closed Monday

Also available for private events
230 W Portal Ave • 415.731.7000
Tues-Thu: 4-10 pm • Fri, Sat & Sun: 3:30-11 pm
Retail Wines and By the Glass

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Honor & Remember

Friday, Nov. 11, 2011

Parade 11:00 AM
Market Street
Montgomery to McAllister to City Hall
415-222-5723 • sfveteransdayparade@gmail.com

FREE WAX OFFER

FOR FIRST TIME GUEST

Women: Free Bikini Line, Eye Brow or Under Arm.
Upgrade to a Brazilian for \$21.00.
Men: Free Eye Brow, Ear or Nose.

CALL NOW TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!
650.991.9900

European Wax Center • Daly City
518 Westlake Center
Daly City, CA 94015
www.waxcenter.com

THE ULTIMATE WAX EXPERIENCE

Franchise Opportunities Available
*No purchase necessary, first time guests only, see store for details. Must be local state resident.



Election day is upon us and we are being reminded by email, telemarketers, newspapers and television ads about the candidates and the initiatives. Like the first snowflakes in winter, it's finally feeling like an electoral contest as some of the campaigns are dropping the "we all get along well" gloves and ratcheting up the hyperbole and rhetoric.

Allegations of voter fraud, not "really" supporting marriage equality, questionable donors and other "newly-discovered facts" seem to be popping up each day as the campaign "machines" try to discredit their closest perceived opponents. Who is to know what is true? The District Attorney's office is looking into some of the actions, but how long will that take and will it make any difference to the voters? Could an investigation cloud the results of an already murky process known as ranked choice voting?

Especially troubling are the various videos, which clearly show volunteers with "Ed Lee" shirts on "helping" people to mark ballots, even to the point of using stencils to ensure the correct box is filled in. The interim-Mayor states that these people are independent and not on his campaign. The clamor for investigations is rising as his challengers are rightfully asking for a thorough investigation into these issues. Lee claims not to know the group behind this, or the group that produced the book about his life, one that his wife Anita was signing for supporters. It truly sheds a bad light on Lee and the campaign. "Officially" these "volunteers" may not be working for Lee's campaign but conducting voter fraud in an unofficial capacity is just as troubling. This campaign has already had to answer questions about the "behind the scenes" impact of Rose Pak and (former Mayor) Willie Brown, and to see people in "Ed Lee" shirts breaking the law undermines the credibility of his campaign, and smacks of "Chicago-style" electioneering. I don't know the truth, but the videos bring up very troubling questions that need to be investigated.

As we go to press, the choice of who to elect is in the hands of the voters and as such it is imperative for the Department of Elections to ensure that the ballot results are correctly tabulated with audits and cross checks done to ensure that the process is as true and uncorrupted as possible. No one wins when hints and allegations of voting irregularities occur. The District Attorney's office has to be forthright on the investigations into the ballot tampering that is evident on the videos.

We should be truly proud to live in an area where our office holders and citizens are so passionate about public service and making a difference. There is much work to be done in San Francisco, and regardless of the final outcome to select the next Mayor, District Attorney, and Sheriff, it is going to require the office holders to partner with all of the stakeholders. Each will need to focus on inclusion, listening to staff and citizens, to craft workable solutions to the challenges that face San Francisco. Governmental honesty, ethical responsibility for actions taken, and true transparency should serve as the cornerstones of our local elected and appointed public servants. As voters we should demand no less, however difficult it is to implement and audit these values.

Our duty, as citizens, is to exercise our right to vote, and to make our choices known. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is one that requires participation from the citizens, and protection by the officials charged with ensuring that the elections results are not tarnished by fraud. We deserve the truth about what is going on here.

Do you have an interesting story, idea, or some insights you'd like to get in the paper? Just drop it to us in the mail, or email me at: mitch@westsideobserver.com. Be sure to check out the Observer online @ www.WestsideObserver.com, or on Facebook and Twitter.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

- Private holiday events in the elegant Terrace Room
- Dine in the stylish Sutro's or casual Bistro
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

Voted Best Romantic Restaurant 2011!

www.CliffHouse.com
1090 Point Lobos
415-386-3330

What's next in your life?

Get inspired & envision your next steps!

Find your passion and chart your path to a fulfilled future through **Coming of Age** programs, workshops & volunteer opportunities for people 50+!



"Explore Your Future" workshops are scheduled for **San Francisco** and the **East Bay**. Visit www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea or call (888) 308-1767 for more info.

Capturing the Talent, Energy & Expertise of People 50+

I planted it, You plate it.



It's harvest time! Join us and connect to the farmers who grow your food, the bakers who bake your bread, the artisans who feed your creativity, and the ritual of sharing a meal with your family and friends.



SUNDAYS, 9 AM - 1 PM, YEAR ROUND
AT THE NW PARKING LOT OF THE STONESTOWN GALLERIA

AGRICULTURALINSTITUTE.ORG A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT

Don't Miss Another Issue!

\$15. Per Year

Mail to the Westside Observer with your check to:
POB 27176 SF, CA 94127 or E-mail mitch@westsideobserver.com

Follow us on Twitter! @WestS_Observer



www.westsideobserver.com

Become a friend on Facebook



EVERY • SUNDAY MORNING

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

EVERY • TUESDAY NIGHT QUE SYRAH

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.
Tapas Every Thur & Fri | 5:30-9 pm
230 West Portal Avenue 731.7000

EVERY • THURSDAY–BALLROOM DANCING

Social Ballroom Dance classes for couples - 6 lessons for \$70. per couple. Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. 661-2746.

EVERY • FRIDAY NIGHT

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

THU • TARAVAL-PARKSIDE MERCHANTS

Thu Nov 3 | 7pm | First Thurs of each month. Taraval Police Stn. 2345 24th Ave. Dallas Udovch 753-8925.

FRI • GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Fri Nov 4 | 8pm | First Fri of each month. 4134 Judah St. 564–4230

SAT • SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FAIR

Sat Nov 5 | 10 am–3pm | SFUSD Con-course Exhibition Center, 635 8th St, SF, Learn about school choices for the 2012-2013 school year. Every SF public school represented. Principals, teachers and parents about school programs.

TUE • VOTE!

Tue Nov 8 | 7am–8pm | Don't forget to vote.

WED- 37 AVE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Wed Nov 9 | 7pm | Sunset Ministry, 3010 Noriega St. at 37th Ave. 2nd Wed each month. Meet your neighbors, discuss ongoing neighborhood concerns. Art Tom 452-7804/Art.Tom@cnorcal.com.

THU • JONESTOWN REMEMBERED

Thu Nov 10 | 6:30pm | Author Julia Scheeres discusses her book *A Thousand Lives: The Untold Story of Hope, Deception and Survival at Jonestown* SF Main Library, Latino Hispanic Community Room 100 Larkin Information: sfpl.org

SAT • GREY 2 GREEN

Sat Nov 12 | 9–10am | SF County Fair Building, GG Park, SF Botanical Garden workshops teach you everything to “green” your sidewalk. Step-by-step instructions to transform your sidewalk into a garden including permitting, designing and maintenance. grey2green.eventbrite.com.

SAT • BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE

Sat Nov 12 | 10am–1pm | GG Park, SF Botanical Garden end of season plant sale, 9th Ave at Lincoln Way. sfbotanical-garden.org.

SAT • ZOO VOLUNTEER DAY

Sat Nov 12 | 8am | 2nd Sat- every month, SF Zoo, 1 Zoo Rd, Sloat at Great Hwy. Help keep the zoo beautiful: pickup trash, paint, etc. Receive a coupon for a free steam train ride. 753-7080, sfzoo.org.

SAT • PAELLA & IBERIAN WINETASTING

Sat Nov 12 | 5–8 pm | Que Syrah Special Event Paella and Iberian Wine Tasting \$22 per person 230 West Portal 731.7000

SUN • AUTHOR ANNIE BARROWS

Sun Nov 13 | 11am | Annie Barrows returns to BWP to read from her latest in the series: *Ivy & Bean: No News Is Good News*. Ivy and Bean decide to write a newspaper and sell it to earn ten dollars. All they have to do is snoop around the neighborhood. 80 West Portal Ave. Info: (415) 564-8080.

TUE • TARAVAL PUBLIC SAFETY

Tue Nov 15 | 7pm | Captain Curtis Lum, Taraval Station Public Safety Community Meeting, the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Taraval Station 2354 24th Ave.

TUE • AUTHOR ALAN KAUFMAN

Tue Nov 15 | 7pm | He discusses *Drunken Angel*. The son of a French Holocaust

survivor, recounts the alcoholism that took him to the brink of death, the PTSD that drove him to the edge of madness, and the love that brought him back. 80 West Portal Ave. Info: (415) 564-8080.

WED • AUTHOR ALAN KAUFMAN

Wed Nov 16 | 7pm | He will discuss *Paris par hasard: from Bagels to Briches* - a spirited, anecdote-filled memoir of contemporary Paris through expatriate eyes. 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080.

WED • FREE DAY ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Wed Nov 16 | 9:30am–4 m | 3rd Weds are free on a first come, first served basis, and early arrival is recommended. Final entry on free days is 4pm. Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park.

WED • HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wed Nov 16 | 12:30–4:30 pm | Hearing on the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields proposal to replace over 7 acres of natural grass in the western edge of Golden Gate Park with artificial turf, concrete and asphalt paving. City Hall, Commission Chambers Room 400

THU • SUNSET DIST NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

Thu Nov 17 | 7pm | Meeting, the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Taraval Station 2354 24th Ave.

THU • SUNSET/PARKSIDE NERT

Thu Nov 17 | 7pm | Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, www.sfgov.org/site/sfnert) meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Incarnation Episcopal Church, 29th Avenue near Noriega

MON • SUNSET-PARKSIDE MEETING

Mon Nov 21 | 6pm | SPEAK aims to educate Sunset/Parkside residents on a variety of issues, including public safety, zoning, planning and public services. 3201 Ulloa St. (at Grace Lutheran Church) 3rd Monday of the month. speaksanfrancisco@yahoo.com

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mon Nov 28 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council | A resource for neighborhood organizations. 4th Mon. Forest Hill Clubhouse at 381 Magellan.

TUE • REDISTRICTING OUTREACH

Tue Nov 30 | 6pm | Redistricting Task Force - Community Outreach Meetings - District 4, 7 and 11 Balboa High School Auditorium, 1000 Cayuga Street. Preliminary community meetings about population increase/decrease per district.

THU • JUDAH BEACH MERCHANTS MTG

Thu Dec 1 | 1-2pm | 4019 Judah St. Celia's Restaurant, 1st Thu of month. Judah Beach Association includes merchants along the Noriega corridor from the ocean to Sunset Blvd. Buffy Maguire 606-1884 or buffy@javabeach.com

THU • TARAVAL-PARKSIDE MERCHANTS

Thu Dec 1 | 7pm | First Thurs of each month. Taraval Police Stn. 2345 24th Ave. Dallas Udovch 753-8925.

SAT • PHOTOS IRENE POON & CHARLES WONG

Sat Dec 3 | 12–3pm | Book signing and exhibit of photographs by Irene Poon and Charles Wong. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Dr. 681-5400

SUN • MUSIC ON THE HILL

Sun Dec 4 | 7pm | *Christmas in Paris* Early Music for harpsichord, violin, viola da gamba and Baroque flute. Defense Philidor will perform the Paris Quartet by Tellemann also Couperin & more. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr, Diamond Hts. S.F. Tickets \$15/\$9. Reserve tickets: mothmuse2@yahoo.com or 820-1429.

TUE • GREATER WEST PORTAL-GWPNA

Tue Dec 6 | 7:30pm | West Portal Play-ground Clubhouse, 139 Lenox Way. We welcome new members at any time who are interested in the vibrant life of this community in the “Western Heart” of San Francisco. gwpga.org

Got a local event? Preference given to West Side events. editor@westsideobserver.com



54TH SF INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Saturday, Nov. 19–27 This year's show will fill Moscone Center with exhibits in the north and south halls and the Gateway plus the north and south lobby areas. Vehicles representing the work of more than 37 manufacturers for the year 2012 and beyond will all be on display including alternative fuel, hybrid and high-mileage vehicles plus special exhibits including the Academy of Art University Classic Car Collection, the Aftermarket Alley, hot rods from Dominator Street Rods, race cars and an auto accessory area. Its at the Moscone Convention Center 10am–10pm.



Great Dickens Christmas Fair: Early Ticket Discounts
By Jonathan Farrell

The day after Thanksgiving the annual Great Dickens Christmas Fair will open and usher in the Holiday season. “Early bird tickets” went on sale this past Oct 15, and while obtaining tickets early offers significant discounts, the long-standing family-operated festival has always been a big hit with everyone associated with it. Based upon last year’s attendance, according to Adrienne Biggs, publicity rep for the Great Dickens Christmas Fair, the event anticipates over 30,000 visitors.

The Patterson Family established the Great Dickens Christmas Fair in 1970 and since then, over the years, experienced many obstacles, including very tight budgets. Earlier this year in January, patriarch Ron Patterson died at age 80. He and wife Phyllis initially just wanted to entertain friends for a holiday theme party. But the spirit of the Dickens Fair theme only grew stronger each year.

“There were times we were not sure if the fair could go on,” said Phyllis to this reporter in an interview some time ago. Yet, the festival goes on two generations later, thanks on behalf to the many people who volunteer much of their time to ensure the Christmas fair’s success.

Ron & Phyllis’ son Kevin and wife Leslie Patterson have taken over as the proprietors of the Great Dickens Christmas Fair has become a passionate commitment they maintain throughout the year. It is not an easy endeavor to organize and coordinate the Christmas Fair, but it is the Patterson family’s labor of love, thankfully presented every year.

Over 700 costumed actors, acrobats, singers, dancers and musicians collaborate to recreate an authentic Victorian holiday atmosphere. Relying on research, study and months of preparation, the ever-expanding cast and crew revels in the opportunity to entertain and delight audiences. Over three acres of old London unfold to greet and delight visitors. Each exhibit, stage production, and vendor does their very best to present an authentic experience of Victorian Era London.

Each year the cast introduces new shows and themes, and since 2007 the Dickens Fair has expanded its Victorian literary repertoire to include other writers of the period such as Jules Verne and Lewis Carroll. Based upon the familiar *Alice in Wonderland* and *Twenty Thousand*

Leagues under the Sea stories, these attractions met with audience approval and since have become part of the festivities.

This year there will be six stages that will feature singing, dancing and various theatrical renditions aiming to enchant and please; including the magical West End Illusion Show. While the fair is very family orientated with plenty for children, such as the Mother Goose Story Time and the Father Christmas Parade, there is much for the grown-up to enjoy also.

Mad Sal’s Dockside Alehouse, the Can-Can Bijou and the “saucy French Postcard Tableaux Review have remained popular for older patrons as they are designed to appeal to the “nighttime entertainment” crowd over 18.

Over 100 vendors provide plenty to eat and drink for visitors and audiences to enjoy. A wide array of goods will appeal to holiday shoppers. This reporter has been to the Great Dickens Fair several times. Some of the highlights are an authentic English Tea of the period, complete with cucumber sandwiches, clotted cream and rum cakes; tree trimming and lighting, and a heart-inspired rousing rendition of the “Alleluia chorus from Handel’s Messiah.”

For those who wish to experience something truly original and in keeping with the holiday season, The Great Dickens Fair is the place to be. Visitors of all ages are welcome and encouraged to dress in Victorian style costume. A Free shuttle will be available from Glen Park BART station to the Cow Palace. Parking is available for \$10.00 per vehicle. Group rates are available for 15 or more.

Visit web site at: www.dickensfair.com or call 1-800-510-1558, Ext. 114.

Jonathan Farrell is a free-lance SF reporter. Feedback: jonathan@westsideobserver.com

EVENTS • PERFORMANCES • EXHIBITIONS

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

NEW MOVES DANCE SHOWCASE

DIRECTED BY SUSAN WHIPP
Mix it up. Stir in cool jazz and hot modern. SF State's fresh crop of 12 choreographers heat up the stage. Exciting dance pieces range from tender to raucous, joyous to serene. Sampling bits from ballet, hip-hop, jazz and modern, *New Moves* presents a repertoire that is uniquely its own.
Dec 1–3, 8pm, McKenna Theatre, Tickets—creativearts.sfsu.edu

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

BY TOM STOPPARD
DIRECTED BY JO TOLANIN AND JOHN WILSON
Adapted from William Shakespeare, British playwright Tom Stoppard's masterpiece invites audiences to engage in the chaotic and absurd world of fate experienced through the lens of two minor characters found in *Hamlet*.
Dec 1–11, Little Theatre, Tickets—creativearts.sfsu.edu

ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET

MORRISON ARTISTS SERIES
The world-renowned Alexander String Quartet, quartet-in-residence at SF State, plays its annual Morrison Artists Series concert. The *Los Angeles Times* writes: “This is a group deep in its element, firm in its stride.” Debussy, Dutilleux, Schumann.
Master class, Dec 2, 2pm, Admission free
Concert, Dec 4, 3pm, Pre-concert talk, Dec 4, 2pm, Admission free
The Morrison Chamber Music Center is funded, in part, by a generous gift from the May Treut Morrison Trust.

CREATIVEARTS.SFSU.EDU

415/338-2467

Now At The Movies • By Don Lee Miller

50/50

When 27-year old writer Adam: Joseph Gordon-Levitt is diagnosed with a rare spinal cancer, you are presented with a clear-eyed, matter-of-fact view of the hilarity and horror of facing cancer at a young age. Adam's raunchy best friend, Kyle: Seth Rogan supplies the humor. His therapist, Katherine: Anna Kendrick lends an understanding shoulder to lean on. Adam's girl friend: Rachael: Bryce Dallas Howard breaks off their romance when she learns of his condition. His mother, Diane: Anjelica Huston remains loyal. Set in NYC, the understated and natural acting of the lead makes him one to cheer for. Direction by Jonathan Levine makes this one of the better dramedies of this fall.. Profanity. Crude humor.

THE DOLPHIN TALE 3D

This warm hearted tale for the whole family starts when Sawyer: Nathan Gamble cuts the ropes entangling a beached dolphin who has lost her tail in a crab trap and is transported to the Florida beach animal preserve run by Dr. Clay: Harry Connick Jr. and his dad, Reed: Kris Kristofferson. Sawyer is befriended by Clay's daughter, Hazel: Cozi Zuehlstdorff who slips him in to see his dolphin, Winter (whose true story is presented here). As soon as the experts figure out that the dolphin only responds to care by Sawyer, he starts skipping summer school to tend his pet. When his mother, Lorraine: Ashley Judd finds out, she is furious. Dr. Cameron: Morgan Freeman plays a fishing buddy of young Sawyer who comes to the rescue. Directed by Charles Martin Smith. IMAX

FOOTLOOSE

Ren: Kenny Wormald is the new arrival in town who challenges the law prohibiting dancing. Ariel: Julianne Hough (Dancing with the Stars), the daughter of the Georgia town preacher, Rev. Shaw Moore: Dennis Quaid and Vi: Andie McDowell, becomes his love interest. With

two professional dancers as the leads, you would expect more dance numbers. This cheesy remake near the cotton fields, while acceptable and inoffensive, rises to a rather low bar when the hokum outshines the exuberance. Directed by Craig Brewer. Profanity. Sexuality. Rough fights.

THE IDES OF MARCH

Stephen: Ryan Gosling works for the mid-corn country Gov. Mike Morris: George Clooney, whose presidential candidate campaign is guided by Paul: Phillip Seymour Hoffman.. Tom: Paul Giamatti is the campaign manager for the opposition candidate. An intern, Molly: Evan Rachael Wood gets more involved than she should and draws the attention of Ida: Marisa Tomei, political columnist for the New York Times. If you are looking for a tough drama, directed and co-written by Clooney with Grant Heslov and Beau Willimon, based on his play, Farragut North, it's one to watch at Oscar time. Violence. Profanity.

THE THING

Dr. Kate Lloyd: Mary Elizabeth Winstead has her life upturned when she suddenly is pressed into service for an expedition. Scientists from Norway and Holland are sent to Antarctica to investigate the finding of a frozen prehistoric monster. Sam Carter: Joel Edgerton is easy on the eyes as he helps battle the monster. Dr. Sander Halvorsen: Ulrich Thomsen rarely agrees with Kate on tactics. Viewers who remember the 1982 John Carpenter version will still be frightened by this film well directed by Matthijs van Heijningen Jr. Violence. Gore. Profanity.

18 Reasons and Garden for the Environment announce their new Urban Gardening School

What: A workshop- and lecture-based introduction to the fundamentals of growing edibles in urban spaces.
When: 3rd Wednesdays 6:30-9PM + 4th Sundays 10AM-2PM, January-June: 12 sessions total.
Where: 18 Reasons (3674 18th St) and Garden for the Environment (7th Ave @ Lawton)
Cost: 12 pt Series: Sliding scale: \$350-\$425 (two scholarships available)
Anyone, with any amount of space, can grow food. Whether you want to start a small herb garden on your fire escape or build raised beds in your back yard, and we are going to teach you how to get the most food possible out of your space.
Growing food is a powerful act, offering personal joy, skill development, and community building benefits to the gardener. Whatever your reasons for wanting to, edible gardening in urban spaces takes skills and knowledge, especially in San Francisco. The classes and garden days are scheduled to mirror the actual planting season: you will learn about garden planning and soil vitality at the beginning, then how to plant varieties and plant them, and last how to harvest and set your garden up for the next round of production. This way we will be by your side during your first growing season.
Classes meet twice per month on the third Wednesday and fourth Sunday of each month.* Wednesday classes are lectures at 18 Reasons and Sundays are gardening days at Garden for the Environment. If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact Rosie at 18 Reasons: rosie@18reasons.org by December 1, 2011.
Gardening equipment: GFE supplies all garden-based equipment for the Sunday classes. Participants are responsible for their own gardening clothing: gloves, sturdy shoes, and a hat.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/205766 Contact: rosie@18reasons.org

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

HONEY BROWN EYES

Stephanie Zadravec's *Honey Brown Eyes* introduces the SF Playhouse's 2011-2012 season. Content and performance-wise, the play is a powerful portrayal of the ethnic conflicts between natives of Bosnia and Serbia in the 1991 war-torn Yugoslavia. Two former band mates, a Serbian paramilitary soldier and a Bosnian resistance fighter, undergoing the consequences that war brings them, meet women that will influence their actions. The play that describes the horrors of genocide, female abuse and human massacres and burnings, rises above the horrors of this ambience to reveal the power of human kindness and artistic brotherhood.

When Serbian soldier Dragan (Nic Grelli) realizes that Alma (Jennifer Stuckert) was the woman he admired and loved when he was a band player, instead of persecuting her he find ways to aid her and her daughter. In another moving and comical scene, Denis (Chad Deverman), a Bosnian fighter, hides in elderly Serb Jovanka's (Wanda McCaddon) house, and despite their ethnic differences, protects her. And so, while other ethnic groups are slaying one another, these characters place human values above all others.

Expertly directed by Susi Damilano, the sets of two kitchens by Bill English are superbly realistic. Costumes (Miyuki Bierlein) and props (Jacqueline Scott) enhance the ethnic ambience. Lights (Kurt Landisman) and sound (Brendan Aanes) empower the dramatization. This riveting drama that grabs hold of spectators who are mostly familiar with televised or printed news about Eastern European conflicts is a veritable revelation, as well as a moving testimony of how the heart can place human values above the urge to kill for one's country.

Honey Brown Eyes plays until November 5th. For information about this play or upcoming productions at the Playhouse call 415-677-9596 or visit www.SFPlayhouse.com Dr. Annette Lust

HOW TO WRITE A NEW BOOK FOR THE BIBLE

Bill Cain's family comedy/drama premiere that instantly involves every viewer opens with the line that the first rule of writing is to write what you know. And so we are invited into an intimate narrative of Bill Cain's memories of his mother's sickness and his devoted care to help her through her final days. What follows is a heart-wrenching account of Billy's day by day care for his dying mother. This authentic account began after Bill Cain's mother's death, first written as a book in which it was not seen as a loss but rather as a celebration. It was only later that Cain adapted it as a play.

The dramatic action begins as a partially acted-out narrated autobiography of Billy's family life. We learn about the death of his father and Billy's moving in with his mother to care for her. Although this storytelling device is drawn out and jumps from one narrative detail to another, what lightens this are the comical scenes of, for example, Billy's Mom hiding her cigarette lighter in the bathroom where she smokes against Billy's rules and lies to Billy about doing so. In the second half the narrative transforms into dialogue. The play gains emotional power as Billy faces his mother's weakening condition and her growing need for his aid. This true to life portrayal of Billy's dying mother grows so moving the audience is silenced and attentive to every detail of Billy's mother's last moments. This sensitive dramatization of the approaching loss of a mother is an experience that each viewer can relate to in some manner.

Well-directed by Kent Nicholson, the play gains in emotional depth when the narrative style is lessened and the actors interact. The performance of Mary as an aging sick woman by Linda Gehringer

gives the dramatic interest its raison d'être and viability.

Through his vibrant stage presence, Tyler Pierce holds the audience's attention as a narrator/actor throughout. Leo Marks as Pete and Aaron Blakely as Paul provide good characterizations of father and brother.

Scott Bradley's minimal set on a bare stage empowers the dramatic action.

Bill Cain's touching dramatization of his devotion to his dying mother in accessible language veritably proves that the Bible is not an academic rule book but rather a story of family life told simply.

The play runs through November 20th on the Berkeley Rep Thrust Stage. For information call 510-647-2949 or berkeleyrep.org Dr. Annette Lust

MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS

Off Broadway West Theatre Company has just opened their 5th season with a superb production of *Master Harold and the Boys*, a one act play that takes place in St. George's Park Tea Room on a windy Port Elizabeth (South Africa) afternoon in 1950.

This Off Broadway West production deserves high praise for both its fine acting and brilliant direction by Richard Harder. The audience gave the play a well-deserved standing ovation. Bert van Aalsburg's set of St. George's Park Tea Room is also amazing.

The trio of actors is wonderful! Each is perfect for his part. LaMont Ridgell plays a dignified, wise and understanding Sam. Anthony Rollins-Mullens plays a boyish and naive Willie, and Adam Simpson's Master Harold is intellectually curious but not challenged by his classes. His lack of enthusiasm for his monotonous school routine contrasts with the enthusiasm he takes in teaching and debating with his servant Sam. When faced with the return of his tyrannical father, Harold directs his anger and pain toward his servants, transforming their relationship for the first time from childhood friends and companions into subservient help. Director Richard Harder makes each moment come alive. Master Harold and the Boys is a tribute to the director and his talented cast. Run, don't walk to see this fine production!

Master Harold and the Boys plays at Off Broadway West Theatre Company through November 19, 2011. Performances are held at the Phoenix Theatre, Suite 601, 414 Mason Street (between Geary and Post), San Francisco. For tickets, go to www.off-broadwaywest.org or call 800-838-3006. Flora Lynn Isaacson

28th Fringe of Marin Festival

For its 28th season this fall, the Fringe of Marin will produce a translation of noted Paris playwright Benoit Vite's world premiere of *Can One Make Love Wrapped Up in the French Flag?* in which a couple mock French chauvinistic patriotism. The play is directed by James Colgan, Bay Area director of The Story of O , that won first place in the 2010 Fringe of Marin and was then selected out of 1200 plays to perform in the New York Off Off Samuel French One Acts. Among other Bay Area plays that will be showcased are Marin film director George Dykstra's *No Kidding*, the *Meaning of Life*, A Magical Mystery Tour by magician Michael Belit-sos, a musical (The Perfect Step).

The Festival kicks off November 4th weekend through November 20th.

For information and reservations (415) 673-3131 or jeanlust@aol.com or www.FringeofMarin.com.



Dr. Annette Lust



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Voter Fraud *(Cont. from p. 6)*

remained solvent, despite making large amounts of expenditures (over \$200,000). As of October 18, the committee's total expenditures made since September 24 in opposition to Lee for Mayor exceeded \$260,000.

By comparison, the following other independent committees made expenditures that did not exceed their reported sources of funding[iii]:

1. **San Franciscans for Jobs and Good Government, Supporting Ed Lee for Mayor 2011:** Supporting Ed Lee for Mayor.
2. **Committee for a Safer San Francisco, Sharmin Bock for District Attorney 2011:** Supporting Sharmin Bock for District Attorney.
3. **SEIU Local 1021 Candidate PAC:** Supporting John Avalos for Mayor, Bevan Dufty for Mayor, & Leland Yee for Mayor.
4. **SEIU Local 1021 Independent Expenditure PAC:** Supporting John Avalos for Mayor, Bevan Dufty for Mayor, & Leland Yee for Mayor.
5. **California Nurses Association PAC:** Supporting John Avalos for Mayor, David Chiu for Mayor, & Leland Yee for Mayor.
6. **SEIU United Healthcare Workers West:** Supporting Ed Lee for Mayor.
7. **Support Drafting Ed Lee for Mayor 2011:** Supporting Ed Lee for Mayor.

Comparison of those independent committees that were insolvent to those that were not potentially suggests a political trend. Those taking advantage of loopholes to make expenditures without reporting funding sources supported Lee for Mayor, Gascon for DA, and/or Cunnie for Sheriff, or opposed Avalos for Mayor (or Lee for Mayor), while those who did not take advantage of the loophole supported Avalos, Chiu, Dufty, Yee and/or Lee for Mayor or supported Bock for DA.

Familiar loophole signals a pattern

Under California law, a campaign “contribution” can take various forms: money; donated nonmonetary items of value; payments made by third parties for communications; loans; enforceable promises to pay. That last one is telling. Only enforceable promises to pay count as campaign contributions that must be reported.

One way a donor's promise to make a contribution becomes enforceable is if the promise is in writing and the campaign relies on that expectation of funds by entering into a contract with a vendor. If the promise is not in writing (if the donor merely verbally tells the campaign that they can count on their support), the promise is not enforceable and, therefore, the promise is not a legal contribution that the campaign must disclose to the public. Within that legal architecture is the key to a loophole. If a campaign has reliable donors that it does not want the public to know about, it can get verbal commitments from the donors, rack up debts, and delay disclosure of the donors used to pay the debts until a later date.

That campaigns are able to exploit this loophole of reporting total expenditures greater than total contribution receipts, thereby concealing donors, is not a new phenomenon. Various articles have exposed examples of this campaign trick.

However, this trick is not just something used in recent years; it is vintage. For example, in 2000, an independent expenditure committee called the **Willie Brown Leadership PAC** (Treasurer, Jim Sutton) reported debts that exceeded available cash, including by June 30 (\$4,037 in debt with just \$642 cash on hand) and September 30 (\$8,570 in debt with just \$108 cash on hand) of that year.

Similarly, the original real estate-backed **San Franciscans for Sensible Government** PAC spent nearly \$400,000 advocating for Mayor Willie Brown in the 1999 general and run-off elections, but disclosed none of its 7/1/99-12/31/99 period activity until after the election, exploiting the antiquated California rule that allows state committees to be exempt from Pre-election reporting in odd-numbered years such 1999 and 2011.

A variety of other committees over the years, often those backed by wealthy business interests, follow the same pattern. The key is always concealment of the source of funding, a frequent embarrassment for interests backed by big money trying to convince the general citizenry about how to vote.

How we get out of the problem

In 2006, the Board of Supervisors in office at that time passed a law designed to address one form of abuse by campaigns reporting accrued debt. Following the 2003 election, Mayor Newsom's campaign was effectively bankrupt, with massive accrued debt which took until 2005 to pay down. Thus, the debt effectively functioned as a loan (primarily from Newsom's campaign consultant), circumventing the \$500 contribution limit. However, the 2006 reform made it illegal for San Francisco candidate campaigns to not pay their debts after 6 months. Unfortunately, campaigns such

as **Neighbor Alliance** for Ed Lee may still use debt reporting as disclosure concealment, as discussed above.

While San Francisco law passed to supplement loopholes in state law requires that independent election advocacy spending of \$5,000 or more on San Francisco candidates must be disclosed within 24 hours, the independent group responsible for such spending need only disclose its sources of funding in that 24 hour report if it takes the form of “electioneering communications,” an obscure form of election advocacy that is itself a plug to a loophole in the definition for typical “independent expenditures” (the latter are what most voters think of when they see election mail or ads from independent sources telling them how to vote). As result, most election advocacy communications by independent groups involved in San Francisco elections do not trigger any supplemental reporting about who is the source of funds used to pay for the communications

If you hope that the San Francisco Ethics Commission may be swift to take action on such loopholes and require funding disclosure for all independent spending of \$5,000, I am afraid I have some bad news for you.

Recent amendments passed by the Ethics Commission, which, in the words of its Executive Director John St. Croix, were “designed to clarify, strengthen and simplify the [Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance],” have entirely eliminated the requirement of donor disclosure from the third party reports, even regarding “electioneering communications.” In addition, the amendments replaced 24 hour reporting with a rate of less frequent reporting, thereby reducing the amount of public disclosure.

To address accrued debt and donor reporting loopholes, the following is needed:

(1) The California Fair Political Practices Commission should propose and the state should pass an amendment to the Political Reform Act, providing that the Pre-election reporting threshold applicable to state General Purpose Committees applies not only in even-number years but also in odd-numbered years.

(2) In San Francisco, local committees should be banned from accruing expenditures that exceed the committee's available funds.

(3) In San Francisco, the reporting requirement regarding \$5,000 independent spending should include a provision mandating disclosure of all previously undisclosed sources of funding, as is currently required by the state's independent expenditure disclosure requirement applicable during the 16-day period right before elections.

(4) For all independent campaigns such as **Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee** that have been spending on our election without disclosure of the complete sources of their funding, the public should demand both immediate public disclosure of the funding sources and that independent campaigns conduct no further spending without concurrent disclosure of sufficient funding sources.

Disclosure: Oliver Luby has contributed \$25 to the John Avalos mayoral campaign and \$15 to the Ross Mirkarimi for Sheriff campaign. Mr. Luby has also done some volunteer work for the Avalos campaign. Mr. Luby has endorsed David Onek for District Attorney, Ross Mirkarimi for Sheriff, and John Avalos for Mayor, and continues to weigh the options for 2nd and 3rd choices out of the mayoral candidates who are not Ed Lee. Mr. Luby is friends with Enrique Pearce but cannot abide donor concealment. This article was written in the author's capacity as a longtime advocate for campaign finance disclosure, and the work was independent of any election campaign.

[i] Progress for All later filed an amendment to correct its mid-year reporting, raising its reported cash on hand balance to over \$11,000, still less than what was needed to pay its accrued debts.

[ii] One committee that technically spent more than it disclosed receiving was excluded from the results noted above. Despite reporting a \$0 cash balance as of June 30th of this year, Unite Here Local 2 PAC has since then spent \$120,000 in support of Dennis Herrera for Mayor, \$8,500 in support David Chiu for Mayor, and \$28,000 against Ed Lee for Mayor. However, Unite Here Local 2 PAC's lack of funding disclosure is less significant than that of committees such as SF Neighbor Alliance for Ed Lee, given that Local 2's contributions received are regularly reported to be unionized lump sums (amounts of less than \$100 per contribution) received from its union members. By contrast, independent groups not supported by labor union dues tend to disclose large figures from deep-pocketed interests.

[iii] For the relative amounts spent by these committees, please see Section 1 of the October 20 article in Citireport [http://www.citireport.com/total-contributions-public-financing-and-independent-expenditures-by-candidate-and-ballot-measure/].

Larry Bush's citireport.com is The Wall St. Journal's Blog of the Year 2011

WOTPCC *(Cont. from p. 9)*

to \$5000;

- Include an amend ability provision allowing changes if approved by 4/5 of the Ethics Commission and a supermajority of the Board of Supervisors.

Wiener explained that he really felt that Proposition F would be very non-controversial, and has been surprised by the amount of resistance.

Wolfe, a member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, believes that Prop F is the “beginning of the end of ballot box legislation” and that the Ethics Commission should not have any right to be able to change laws. He also agrees that more disclosure is necessary, but everyone should be held to the \$1000 threshold, with amounts over that disclosed and audited.

Following a challenge from (former Supervisor and retired Judge) Quentin Kopp to Wiener on the impact of the Ethics Commission (other than spending money), the conversation temporarily drifted into a discussion on the failings of the commission. Council President Chamberlain quickly brought the discussion back to the topic of Prop F where questions and answers were fielded by the opposing orators.

Following a handshake and applause, the meeting switched to a discussion of less controversial topics. Chamberlain discussed the success of the recent “Candidates Forum” (kudos to everyone involved) and that the council showed a profit from the event and will be redistributing the profits to the homeowner groups involved in the future, whether by a direct payment or a credit against 2012 dues (to be decided in the near future).

In committee reporting, both the By-Laws Committee and the 2012 Goals Committee were filled with volunteers. Avrum Shepard of the Technology Committee has redesigned the WOTPCC website and is seeking guidance in selecting photos and graphics for the site.

George Wooding updated everyone on Public Health issues, as did Gus Guibert on Open Space topics concerning Stow Lake and the Beach Chalet soccer field project. Nothing new was discussed on Transportation and the Planning and Land Use committee is currently devoid of members.

The last topic of discussion was the examination of the by-laws and a vote to admit the “Golden Gate Heights” neighborhood as the 20th neighborhood into the WOTPCC. The Golden Gate Heights representative, Sally Stevens, detailed the boundaries of the neighborhood and the size, approximately 400 households. A motion to accept and a second were procured and the organization was admitted to the council by a unanimous 13-0 tally.

The WOTPCC will next meet on November 28th at the Forest Hills Clubhouse, starting at 7:30 PM. For more details on the topics, visit the WOTPCC website at www.westoftwinpeaks.org

19th Ave MUNI *(Cont. from p. 1)*

lane in the park for buses to pull out of the traffic lanes, thereby stopping vehicles behind a bus. What will be the impact on northbound traffic when two #28 buses together have to stop in the traffic lane going north inside GGP, OR when a third #29 bus is added to the mix?

Intensify this traffic nightmare with the cars that turn right from Lincoln Way northbound onto 19th Avenue, in between pedestrians crossing. How will cars or pedestrians deal with one, two, or three buses stopped in the middle of traffic?

This proposal moves a major bus stop from a well-lighted, visible corner at a 24-hour gas station to an area inside the Park and behind the large corner pillars. How safe will riders feel at night, as they wait for the buses that come — well, when they come.

What about people who transfer from the #28 bus or the #29 bus to the #71 bus going eastbound? With the current bus stop location, they can walk a few feet to the #71 bus without crossing a street. With the new plan, all transferring riders will have to cross Lincoln Way, including those in wheelchairs. Even a new handicap ramp will not diminish the increased risk of this extra crossing at a corner that has what could be conservatively described as having intense traffic issues.

Please let the MTA and Rec and Park know that they need to rethink this plan to gum up traffic and mar a major entrance to Golden Gate Park. You can contact them at: tony.young@sfmta.com or Recpark.Commission@sfgov.org

The Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance is also interested in the public's opinions on this project. Please copy them on your letters. ggppa@earthlink.net

Nancy Wuerfel, Parkside

SHARON THE HEALTH / By Sharon Caren

The Real Issue with Vitamin E

Are you confused about supplementing with vitamin E? That's not surprising. There is much contradicting information being published right now and I'd like to shed some light on the subject.

My personal knowledge and experience with vitamin E began early. After a surgical procedure in the late 1970's, my doctor recommended I take it orally to lessen scar tissue. I felt it did help as I experienced minimal scarring. I took the supplement for a couple of years. However, I don't remember the dosage.

The controversy at this time seems to be with how much is safe to take.

Results from the recently published, large SELECT trial on Oct. 15th, 2011, showed that vitamin E supplements (400 IU/day) may harm adult men in the general population by increasing their risk of prostate cancer. Follow-up studies are now assessing whether the cancer risk was associated with baseline blood levels of vitamin E and selenium prior to supplementation, as well as whether changes in one or more genes might increase a man's risk of developing prostate cancer while taking vitamin E.

This type of news is alarming and as you can see in the paragraph above, they don't really have all the information. What I find missing in the statement altogether is what type of vitamin E supplement did they use in the study. Was it a natural or synthetic vitamin E? Our body knows the difference!

Natural vitamin E is the single molecular configuration that occurs in nature. Synthetic vitamin E is a mixture of 8 molecular configurations, 7 of which occur when made by man. The vitamin E most often referred to and sold in stores is a synthetic form of vitamin E called dl-alpha-tocopherol.

Dr. Graham Burton, associated with the National Research Council of Canada, studied the body's response to natural vitamin E compared to synthetic vitamin E. The study strongly indicates your body prefers natural vitamin E, showing that it is retained in your body many times longer than the synthetic vitamin E, with specific results showing:

5.3 times more natural vitamin E in the brain; .6 times more natural vitamin E in red blood cells; 2.6 times more natural vitamin E in the lungs; 2.4 times natural vitamin E in the plasma; 1.9 times more natural vitamin E in the heart; 1.7 times more natural vitamin E in the muscles

Why does the body prefer natural vitamin E? Research scientist Maret Traber's work indicates that the liver preferentially recycles the natural form of vitamin E (d-alpha tocopherol), causing the excretion of synthetic forms.

Some researchers have questioned whether special configurations of tocopherol found only in synthetic vitamin E are actually hindering the body because they tie up receptor sites, stopping the naturally occurring form of vitamin E from acting. This is like someone putting the wrong key into a lock. The right key cannot open the lock if the wrong key is in it.

There are many benefits of vitamin E for skin health. For skin care, the topical application is more beneficial than taking it orally because the skin is able to absorb it effectively.

Taking it orally, it is an indispensable member of the body's antioxidant system. Other functions of vitamin E in the body are to promote heart and respiratory health, circulation, good for the brain, supports prostate and breast health, helps with normal PMS symptoms, and may help hot flashes in menopausal women.

Discovered in 1922, it is only in the last decade that we began to be educated about the critical fact that vitamin E is not a single compound, but a general name for a whole family of compounds.

Important Facts to Know About Vitamin E

Vitamin E is essential to life — we cannot live without it.

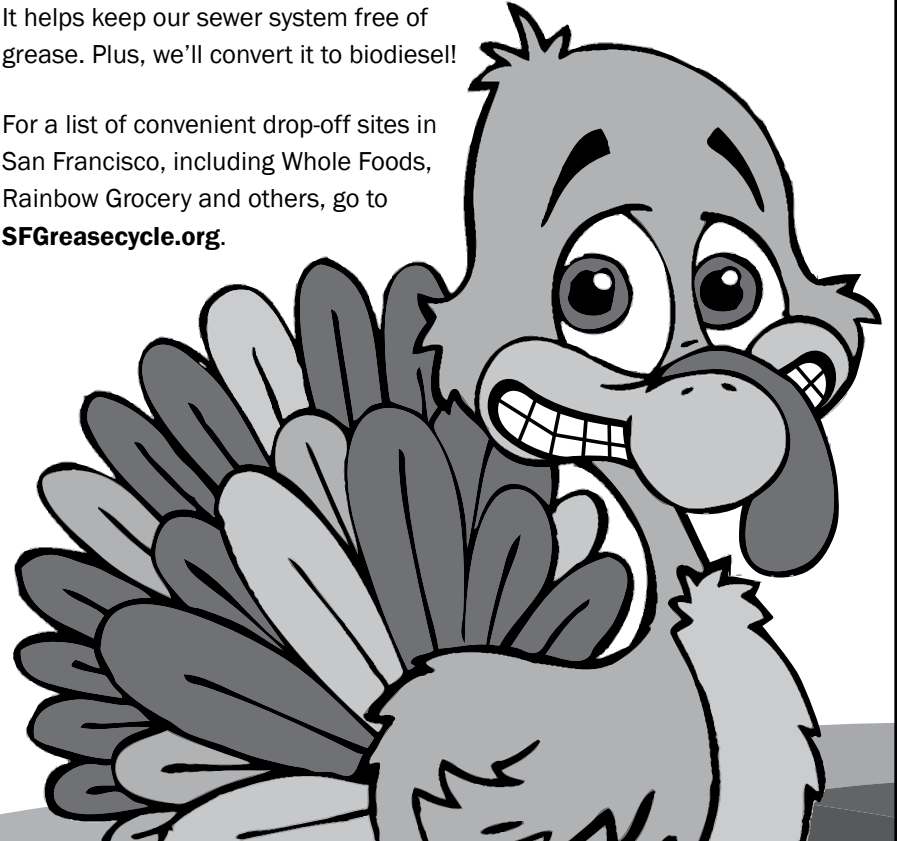


Be a good bird.

This holiday season, drop off your used cooking oil.

It helps keep our sewer system free of grease. Plus, we'll convert it to biodiesel!

For a list of convenient drop-off sites in San Francisco, including Whole Foods, Rainbow Grocery and others, go to **SFGreasecycle.org**.





San Francisco
Water Power Sewer
Services of the San Francisco
Public Utilities Commission



SFGreasecycle
Recycle your cooking oil for biofuel. **Save our sewers.**

When you drop off your oil, tell us about it! Take a brief survey at **SFWater.org/grease** and get a **FREE** stainless steel water bottle *(while supplies last)*.



Six Deadly Ballot Measures

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

As I wrote last month, the dueling pension reform ballot measures both have it backwards: Neither measure addresses salary reform, a necessary precursor that must come first, since salaries drive pensions.

The alphabet soup of ballot measures on the November 8 ballot represent six deadly sins, and six misguided ballot measures, some of which are being bankrolled by billionaires seeking to overwhelm the electoral process, now that the U.S. Supreme Court case Citizens United has permitted unlimited spending by corporate voices.

Proposition B will only spend \$148 million of the \$248 bond measure on actually repairing roads, which should be covered by the City's General Fund, to avoid incurring interest on long-term debt. The interest payments should be better spent on actually funding road repair rather than feeding junk-bond dealers more of our tax dollars. Vote No on Prop B.

Proposition C, bankrolled by billionaires, claims in its campaign materials that Prop. C does not expose the City to a “significant legal challenge.” This is untrue, since it bundles both pension reform and health care reform into a single ballot measure, which is precisely what doomed Jeff Adachi's November 2010 Prop. B ballot measure. If Prop. C passes, it will most surely end up facing legal challenges.

New data on the unfunded pay raises for senior managers surfaced on October 3, when Matier and Ross reported in the Chronicle that the City now has 2,325 employees (fully 6.7% of all employees) earning over \$150,000 annually, though Matier and Ross neglected to mention that is costing taxpayer's \$407.6 million, a staggering 16% of total payroll, plus benefits, just for these 2,325 employees.

Comparison of calendar year data to fiscal year data shows that in just six months, there was a decrease of 1,541 City employees earning less than \$60,000 annually, saving the City \$40 million. Across the same six-month period, comparing calendar year to fiscal year data, there was a \$34.6 million increase in salaries paid to City employees earning over \$100,000 annually. Was the \$40 million decrease to those earning less than \$60,000 used to award \$34.6 million in salary increases to those earning over \$100,000?

Given this data, you have to ask who's fattening at the trough, because without salary reform you still have lipstick on a pig masquerading as pension reform.

Prop. C's campaign materials claim it does not “single out certain employees for better or worse treatment,” and alternatively claims there “will be no special treatment for one group of workers over another.” This is fiction at its worst, or an outright lie, since Mayor Ed Lee negotiated a backroom deal that singles out safety employees for favorable treatment: if Prop D passes, a key contract provision kicks in, exempting public safety employees (firefighters and police officers) from additional contributions until 2015, a backroom deal Ed Lee announced only after he had jumped into the mayor's race.

Prop. C campaign material claims that the same billionaire backers of Adachi's 2010 Prop. B are supporting Prop. D, but Prop C is not acknowledging that it has a different set of billionaires backing its own measure. Worse, Prop. C campaign literature accuses Adachi of having written his competing measure in secret, when in fact, the pension measure backed by Mayor Lee was completely developed in secret and not released until the deal with safety officers was already struck.

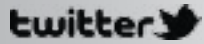
Both measures refused to meet with actual retirees of multiple City unions, shut out of both negotiations.

We're On The Web

www.westsideobserver.com



Follow us on
Twitter!@WestS_Observer



Become a friend
on Facebook





Lakeshore - • January 25, 1951 • By permission of SF History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Remember When?

BRAIN FUD

Emperor Akbar once ruled over India. He was a wise and intelligent ruler, and he had in his court the Nine Gems, his nine advisors, who were each known for a particular skill. One of these Gems was Birbal, known for his wit and wisdom. The story below is one of the examples of his wit. Do you have it in you to find out the answer?

A farmer and his neighbor once went to Emperor Akbar’s court with a complaint. “Your Majesty, I bought a well from him,” said the farmer pointing to his neighbor, “and now he wants me to pay for the water.” “That’s right, your Majesty,” said the neighbor. “I sold him the well but not the water!” The Emperor asked Birbal to settle the dispute.

How did Birbal solve the dispute?

Answer: Birbal asked the neighbor, “So, the well belongs to him now, but you have kept your water in his well. Is that right? Well, in that case you will have to pay him a rent or take your water out at once.” The neighbor realized that he was outwitted. He quickly apologized and gave up his claim.

Phyllis’ Findings / Phyllis Sherman

BE WARY OF TELEMARKETING SCAMS

The telephone rang some weeks ago and a somewhat inarticulate man asked me if I was at least 50. I said, “Why do you want to know that?” He said, “Because you sound like a younger woman and we’re looking for women over 50, 60, or 70 who have at least \$30,000 in assets and would like to know how to preserve their funds and add to them.” I wasn’t about to give him any information but was curious as to his game. “OK, so I’m over 50 with assets. Now what? And what’s your name?” “My name is Will, and I represent the Gentry Group..we’re authorized by Congress and have an 800 number. Next Friday at 10AM, Ms. Ardena Terry would like to visit you and explain what we do. You can check us out on our 800 number. It’s 800-735-2898. By the way what’s your favorite color?” “My favorite color, Will? Mauve.” “What, I never heard of that. Will obviously not a Kelly-Moore customer or into the newest hues for decorating design. “OK, my favorite color is blue. Why is that important?” “Well, Andrena Terry will come to see you with something ‘blue’ so you’ll know she’s authentic...next Friday at 10 AM.” I subsequently called the 800 number and a woman reiterated that Ardena would show up Friday to show me how to increase my bottom line. I said, “That way we’ll both make more money?” “Right,” she said. I told her I’d rather skip the whole thing and immediately called the San Francisco Fraud Division. Inspector Gregory Ovanessian at 533-9073 was very helpful and said I did the right thing, and said they would send me material regarding telemarketing scams and investment fraud and abuse.

If you call him, he’ll send you any information you like. I recently dialed the Gentry Group’s 800 number again on a Saturday, inasmuch as Ardena never did show up, and it rang and rang and the operator said it was not in service. Perhaps they were out checking on the newest paint shades.

A labor problem is stalking parts of the U.S. economy, and it’s not the awful 9.1% unemployment rate. It’s a labor shortage, and major cause is the crack-down on illegal immigration. Even with the high joblessness overall, shortages exist at both the high-and low-skilled ends of the labor market. At the high end, tech companies have trouble finding computer scientists and engineers. They need more visas for foreigners who study science and math in the U.S. And at the low end, many employers can’t find enough hands to pick their crops, bus tables, or in some places do construction. That’s because thousands of laborers from south of the border have been scared away by U.S. immigration laws, leaving unfilled tens of thousand of jobs that few Americans seem to want. Hardest hit here are farmers. Most of the 1.6 million agricultural laborers in America are Hispanic, and a majority of them are assumed to be undocumented immigrants. Without a steady

pool of migrant labor during harvest season, farms have lost millions of dollars as crops have needlessly rotted. In Washington state, apple orchards are running a radio recruitment campaign offering jobs that pay \$100 to \$150 per day, but so far with little success. California avocado growers and Texas vegetable farmers are also desperate for help. Similar stories come from Colorado, Idaho, Oklahoma, Vermont and more. Many states are resorting to desperate measures to find labor. Idaho and Arizona use incarcerated criminals to work the fields and Georgia and Alabama are looking into it. Georgia initially tried to get people on probation into those jobs but found few takers. The work is strenuous and experience matters, which is why farmers prefer to see the same immigrant employees coming back each year. Migrant labor is highly sensitive to market signals. When the economic or political climate sours, they choose not to come or to avoid certain states. Over time, food producers can make a similar decision and move their operations overseas. Peaches don’t have to be grown in Georgia, or lettuce in Yuma.

Republicans have made immigration control one of their main passions, yet they continue to ignore the economic costs. They claim to champion

Cont. p. 18

SECOND THOUGHTS / By Jack Kaye



Who Is Elite?

The word “elite” usually is used to refer to excellence. An elite military unit is one that is the best trained and equipped. An elite university, like Harvard or Stanford, is one considered better than most. Statistically, the elite are those in the top of the bell curve, being at least in the third standard deviation above the mean or above 95% of the sample population.

Today, the word “elite,” means something very bad to the people on the left politically and to those on the far right.

To the people on the left, the elite are the cause of all problems in the world. Since the Left firmly believes that we were all created equal, it blames the manipulation by the elite to oppress the working class to increase profits and personal wealth for making the poor, poor. They also believe that elite countries like the U.S. and England have been the cause of so many failed countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, countries that would be successful were it not for outside intervention.

To those on the left, the elite are those who have the most money and power. They are corporate CEOs, hedge fund managers, stock brokers, bankers and heirs to family fortunes. The Left finds these people to be greedy, gluttonous, power hungry, cruel, biased and taking unfair advantage of the working class. It is these elites, the Left says, who control our elected representatives with their demands for their special interests because they want to have all the money and power and want to control our country and then our world. These elite pay lower tax rates and live the high life while the rest of us suffer.

To those on the right, the elite are those who are highly educated. The elite attended our most elite colleges and universities. They are college professors, medical doctors, high-brow lawyers, psychologists and psychiatrists, economists, philosophers, journalists, historians, and scientists. The Right finds these people to be weak, condescending, amoral, controlling and trying to destroy our country’s moral and economic fiber with liberal laws and socialistic economic policy - taxing the rich too much to give free handouts to the undeserving poor. The Right feels that many on the left pay no taxes while trying to bleed the productive members of our society in their attempt to force equality of outcome on all of us.

It has therefore come as a shock to those reading the latest data concerning our distribution of wealth. It turns out that 90% of Americans are worth less than less than \$600,000. This personal wealth includes the value of one’s stock, real estate, equity, bonds, 401Ks, and art collection. Many on the left, especially in the Bay Area, are worth much more than that. Are they then the elite - the top 10% of household wealth? And add to them many on the left who worked for local government and have retired with generous pension and medical coverage benefits? What are they worth?

A police officer or fire fighter who retires from service in San Francisco, as well as many nearby cities, will receive as much as 90% of his final pay as the base of his pension payments. This same person also will receive a Cadillac health coverage that costs the City \$15,000 a year, more if the retiree has a dependent. Say the total value of both (the pension and medical coverage) is \$100,000 a year, how much would one need to have in the bank or in stocks to earn \$100,000 a year? At 2%, it is equal to \$5 million. That’s a lot more than \$600,000. So how many government retirees and members of the left are the elite?

The Right has similar problems though still comes closer to being its own ideal. The Right hates the educated elite and yet many on the right have college degrees and some have advanced degrees. But with the right, it causes one to wonder about the value of the education because of its lack of apparent effect. One current darling of the right has a medical degree. Another got a law degree being in the first and last graduating class at her decertified law school and went on to get a post graduate degree at a school that offers no such degree - another singular educational accomplishment. A third favorite of the right has a bachelor’s degree from the

fifth college she attended. Only about one of every four Americans has a college degree, less than 10% have graduate degrees. So these leaders of the right who decry the intellectual elite, are themselves in that category, at least on paper. The minute they start talking, we forget about their educational credentials and so do they.

So what are we to do about this apparent cognitive dissonance? We can stop using the word “elite” in a negative manner and preserve it to honor excellence. We can start using the appropriate adjectives to describe what we misnamed “elite.”

The Left should start to clearly identify the culprits and their sin. I suspect that they are the corporate CEOs, the Wall Street bankers and brokers, the lobbyists and the defense industry. Their collective sin is placing personal and corporate profit over morality or patriotism. They are not elite but they are rich and powerful and could have used their talents to help this country rather than just themselves.

The Right must come to realize that intelligence, education, science and philosophy are not bad or scary things. They are tools that can be used for good rather than greed. Those on the right can also be educated and let their minds and hearts combine to do the right thing. Their fight is, or should be, not with intelligence or education but with philosophy. What they object to from the left is its apparent and mistaken belief that we are all created equal and so our lives should have equal outcomes. The Left seems to always blame society rather than the individual when both are at fault. Those on the right legitimately believe that some people work harder and have more talent than others and should be rewarded accordingly. But they also mistakenly believe that the free market should be left to regulate itself without government interference disregarding the many past examples to the contrary. They would do well to realize that government regulation is necessary for everyone’s sake even the person or company that is tempted to trespass against someone. The Wall Street crash and recent real estate debacle should be sufficient evidence of that.

The Left must recognize that we are not all created equal and our effort and outcomes will not be the same. Some people have much more talent or perseverance than others in some areas. Some provide services that pay more than others and some people will have a lot more money and all that it buys. The people of the left must acknowledge that individuals and cultures have a responsibility to themselves and others to do their very best to achieve their full potential. People must be more self reliant and less dependent on the kindness of strangers and taxpayers. Unions, the darlings of the left, must appreciate individual differences and not treat all members as equally deserving regardless of actual performance. Merit should trump seniority and politics. The Left must accept the fact that with almost 50 million of our people living in or near poverty, we cannot invite more poverty from other countries. American jobs should go to Americans and not the imported or exported poor.

Those on opposite sides of our political and philosophical spectrum should be able to come together on our many shared beliefs. We can produce a simple and fair tax system and use our collective wisdom to find the best uses for our redistributed wealth. We can reduce or eliminate waste, fraud, duplication of effort, and inappropriate government activities. We can encourage a culture that allows all of its citizens to achieve their highest level of activity and joy. We can be brought together by our unanimous and unifying love of our country and its people.

Or we can allow our extremes to tear our country and culture apart. The choice is ours to make.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Thank you for all you do....

By Carol Kocivar © 2011



I remember the day I wrote my first “thank you” note to a teacher. My daughter was just completing kindergarten. I wanted her teacher, Mrs. McKay, to know my daughter looked forward to going to school almost every day and came home after school to excitedly show me her drawings.

So I wrote a short note thanking her for making my daughter’s first year of school such a success.

I loved saying thank you to someone who made such an impact on my daughter’s life. And Mrs. McKay made a point of stopping me at school to let me know how much she appreciated the note.

A lesson learned about the importance of “Thank you”.

Ever since then, I tried to let my children’s teachers know how much I appreciated their work.

You may well ask: “Why am I saying this? It is not teacher appreciation week.”

Here is why:

We are living at a time when our teachers—now more than ever—need a note of thanks.

Every year teachers—good teachers—get pink slips and don’t know if they will have a job.

We are living in a world where teachers have many more students in their class and less support to help them.

Like that old children’s song about “no more pencils and no more books,” our teachers are living in a classroom

world of “no more” lots of things.

And while they are helping our children learn to read and comforting a struggling child, the political “noise” somehow blames our teachers for the havoc caused by massive budget cuts to education.

Our teachers have furlough days and less support to improve their practice. Yet they are held accountable as if they live in Lake Woebegone during this Great recession.

I don’t want to live in a world of “us” versus “them”

I want to live in a world of “us”—A world where “we” can work together.

And let me follow up on my story:

Years later ... and I mean lots of years later ...after my daughter was through high school and even through college, I ran into Mrs. McKay. We looked at each other.

And then she asked, “How’s Deane?”

After hundreds and hundreds of students, she looked at me and remembered my daughter’s name.

Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

Ballot Measures (Cont. from p. 15)

Proposition D, also bankrolled by billionaires, is similarly flawed, as I reported in the last issue.

In his September article in the Westside Observer, Jeff Adachi claims San Francisco’s retirement system is underfunded “by anywhere between \$2.5 billion and \$7.0 billion.” This is simply untrue.

“The City’s pension fund is underfunded by \$1.5 billion, but is 91% funded according to our last annual report. It’s among the best-funded plans in the country,” says Herb Meiberger, an elected member of the San Francisco Retirement Board.

“The plan’s market value as of June 2010 was \$13.1 billion, and is now at \$15.4 billion as of June 2011,” he adds, another \$2.3 billion improvement. Meiberger notes “The fund’s returns were 12.55% for FY 2010, and 21.85% for FY 2011, ending June 2011.”

That sounds to me like strong performance over the past two years, despite Prop. C’s and D’s unsupported, wild claim an actuarial 7.75% projected return will bankrupt the pension system.

Adachi also quoted Northwestern University Professor Joshua Rauh as saying San Francisco’s public employee pension fund will run out of money in the year 2032. “The probability of our pension system running out of money is miniscule. The retirement fund would have to have horrible returns for quite some time to become insolvent,” says Meiberger.

Vote No on both C and D.

Proposition E will allow the Board of Supervisors to amend or potentially repeal ballot measures initially passed by voters. Sponsored by freshman Supervisor Scott Weiner, passage of Prop. E would mean that you can only challenge decisions made at City Hall if they allow you to. Otherwise, they’ll just repeal your vote, effectively ending democracy in San Francisco.

As George Wooding notes in the San Francisco Neighborhood Voting Guide, “Look upon Proposition E as a test of your own Intelligence Quotient (IQ): If you are dumb enough to vote for giving away your vote, you shouldn’t be voting.” Vote No on E. While you’re at it, consider donating to the Friends of Ethics, a committee opposed to Measures E and F at <http://www.facebook.com/friendsofethics>.

Proposition F will allow the Ethics Commission to rewrite hard-won local law on campaign consultants, without voter approval. The campaign to pass propositions E and F is funded in part by a right-wing multimillionaire who has declared “We need to take back our City [from the progressives].” Props E and F are opposed by mayoral candidates Jeff Adachi, John Avalos, Tony Hall, Phil Ting, and Leland Yee. Vote No on both E and F.

Proposition G provides for the very real possibility of pushing San Francisco’s sales tax to over 10%, assuming that the State will eventually restore its one-percent sales tax that has been temporarily suspended. Prop. G claims it will split the estimated \$60 million in anticipated revenue equally between public safety programs and public safety net services for seniors and children. But the new poison pill in Prop G is that the Board of Supervisors or Mayor will be permitted to change how the revenue is shared between the two “beneficiaries” with a two-thirds vote by the Board, without allowing the citizens to further vote on changing the allocation of this new revenue source. Vote No on G.

Send the six deadly billionaire-backed measures packing: Vote No on Props B through G.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition, a city employee, and a write-in candidate for Mayor. Feedback: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.



Bullying (Cont. from p. 7)

adamant that no activity, program, or hobby can replace time with your kids. Being involved in their lives on a daily, nitty-gritty basis will allow them to stand the best chance when it comes to making all the right choices (not just avoiding bullying). Don't leave your children's development in the hands of others or up to chance.

Don't be afraid to discipline. Patkin isn't advocating "spare the rod; spoil the child"—but he is saying that kids need to be aware of boundaries from a young age. They need to know that if they violate the rules, there will be consequences. Period. It's important to squelch bullying behaviors the moment they appear instead of writing them off as a "stage" or "normal part of childhood." For instance, if you see your daughter being nasty or overly bossy to her younger brother, tell her that she needs to play more nicely. Pre-determine consequences that will be enacted if the behavior doesn't change and make sure your daughter knows about them. Then stick to your guns.

Explain the why. Making sure your children know the rules of good behavior—and the consequences when they step over the line—is a good first step. But if you want those behaviors to "stick" when you're not around (not to mention after your kids leave home), it's a good idea to make sure they understand why the rules are there in the first place. For example, explain why you don't make jokes about the way somebody looks—because it hurts feelings!

Be a good example. You can't hold your kids to one standard of behavior and then flout those rules yourself. Make sure that your own actions are friendly, compassionate, and courteous. Say "please" and "thank you" to wait staff, for example, and resist the urge to browbeat that snarky salesperson into shutting up and helping you more quickly. And if you do slip up, be sure to admit your mistake and point out to your kids how you could have reacted differently.

Encourage empathy. Look for teachable moments that you can use to help your child consider how others are feeling. Getting kids into the habit of considering others will cut down on the chances that they'll bully someone else. When your kids are young, look for children's books that illustrate how badly others feel when they are left out or teased and read them together. You can also use family movie night as a starting point—after all, very few films are free of harsh words, taunts, or nasty behavior (even if they're PG-rated). Press the pause button and ask your child how he thinks the character who is being treated badly feels. You can also do this as you go about your day (for example, if you see a customer treating a cashier rudely at the grocery store).

Help your children understand "different." Many children who are bullied are somehow "different"—from a different culture, a

different socioeconomic group, handicapped, etc. As much as possible, expose your children to "different" people to promote understanding and friendship. For example, check out a library book about another culture's religious holidays and read it together. Sign your family up to participate in a walk for autism. The more your kids understand the world around them—and the more they learn that "different" doesn't mean "less than"—the less likely they'll be to target other groups.

Teach them to lead selflessly. It's an understatement to say that our society encourages kids to be leaders. Everything around them practically screams, "Be number one! Climb as high on the ladder as possible! Do everything you can to be successful!" It's important to teach kids to achieve those goals by earning the respect of others—not by hurting others. Explain to them that yes, you can reach the top of the pecking order by putting others down and intimidating them—but these tactics will ultimately cause you to be unpopular, despised, and alone. Talk about how people who work with others to achieve common goals are ultimately happier and more successful.

Talk about technology. Within the past generation, technology has made bullying much more prolific; after all, taunts no longer have to stop when the school bell rings. Plus, the relative anonymity of an online identity makes kids much bolder than they might be face-to-face. Have a frank discussion with your kids about what is and isn't appropriate for email, texting, social media, etc. Make sure they understand what's said online can be just as hurtful, and that it's much more public and permanent than what's said in the school hallways. Also, talk about the fact that even passing on a text that originated with someone else makes you guilty of bullying.

Encourage them to spend time with positive people. While no child wants to hear from her parents that she's hanging out with the wrong crowd, you can encourage her to spend time with people who approach life with positive attitudes and healthy perspectives. Also, pay attention yourself to who your child is hanging out with. If you identify a bad influence, don't be afraid to limit the time your child spends with him or her. Yes, as a parent you're the biggest influence on your child's development, but don't forget that her friends will also have a huge impact on her behaviors and beliefs.

Take every opportunity to build their confidence. Many bullies pick on others because they themselves have low self-esteem, and putting down others makes them feel more powerful. By helping your child be confident, happy, and fulfilled, you reduce the chances that he will be a bully.

From Finding Happiness by Todd Patkin

From the Border Hilary Gordon

Hillary Will Be Back Next Month

Hilary is on a well deserved vacation.

Hilary Gordon is Sustainable Landscape Education Manager at the Garden for the Environment at 7th Avenue and Lawton



DESIGN · BUILD · MAINTAIN

EST. 1990

JANET MOYER

Landscaping

Janet Moyer
Landscaping is a
full-service
landscaping company
specializing in
sustainable landscapes

One of the
"100 Fastest Growing
Private Companies"
in the Bay Area
*SF Business Times,
2008 & 2009*

Award winning design-
"Outstanding
Achievement" Award
*California
Landscape Contractors
Association, 2007 & 2008*

415-821-3760 · 1031 Valencia Street, San Francisco · jmoyerlandscaping.com

Landscape Contractor License 853919 · Pest Control License 36389

Phyllis' Findings (Cont. from p. 16)

deregulation and business-led growth, but then they impose new hiring and enforcement on any business's most important assets — its workers.

There's a better way. At the state level, stop treating Mexican fruit pickers like alien invaders. In Congress, overhaul the guest worker program to widen avenues for legal immigration, and offer those in the country without papers a way to become legal. The result would be fewer crops rotting in the fields, more jobs for Americans, faster economic growth, and fewer farmers taking their production overseas. And President Obama should do less campaigning and more job solving and soul searching.

(The previous information was extrapolated from a variety of national newspaper editorials.)

On the movie front you can skip "50-50" despite some reasonably good reviews. A 27 year old becomes a cancer victim and although reviews cited some good laughs, we found it not laughable, and a merely depressing film. "THE WAY" was well acted by the four characters, on a pilgrimage to Pamplona to distribute some ashes belonging to the son of one of the characters, but the film was moribund and easily skipped.

Feedback: phyllis@westsideobserver.com

ADDITION & GARAGE BUILDER

DESIGN/PERMIT & BUILD SERVICES

FOUNDATION & RETAINING WALL
FRAMING & STRUCTURAL UPGRADE
DECK, BALCONY & WATER DAMAGE REPAIR
SOFT STORY EARTHQUAKE UPGRADE

FREE ESTIMATES

More than 20 Years of Experience
Civil Engineer Lic.#043437
General Contractor Lic.#564297

415-747-1000

SAFE ENGINEERING

www.SanFranciscoFoundationConstruction.com

The Steak Experience

Alfred's

STEAKHOUSE

Since 1928

Real Steak Real Martini Real San Francisco

Complimentary Self Parking (For Dinner Only)
At The Financial District Hilton's Public Parking Entrance on Washington St.

639 Market Street (by Kearny & Washington)
415.781.7055 www.alfredsteakhouse.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

Duggan's Serra Mortuary, Daly City	415/587-4500	FD1098
Driscoll's Valencia St. Serra Mortuary, SF	415/970-8801	FD1665
Sullivan's Funeral Home, SF	415/621-4567	FD 228

Parking Available at all locations
Most Convenient San Francisco/Peninsula Locations
Traditional and Cremation Services
Contact our Pre-Arrangement Department for your

DUGGAN'S SERRA MORTUARY

FREE Personal Planning Guide
"My Funeral, My Way"

VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER ACCEPTED

duggansserra.com driscollsmortuary.com sullivanfuneralandcremation.com

Real Travel *By Sergio Nibbi*



The Prodigal Son

The best part of being jet-lagged is that you can stay up all night and work on things that you forgot to do before leaving home and still have the entire day for sightseeing. The problem is that we've been awake all night and then end up sleeping until noon. It's taken us almost a week to settle in with the new time but considering that we have no hard and fast plans, we seem to be okay. Walking around the streets of Lucca is always a treat as we revisit old sites and new stores. Somehow we always seem to end up Via Filungo, aka, Rodeo Drive. No one seems to have the knack for arranging the store windows like the Italians and the fall fashions are in full bloom.

Early in the week I inquired at the tourist information center as to where I might find records on my ancestors. They directed me to an official looking building just a block away where I happened to meet one of the nicest ladies in all of Lucca. I explained to her what I was looking for, and after a quick search determined that my having been born in Carraia, a small village just outside of Lucca, and the records would be in the province of Capannori. After a quick phone call to an old friend that worked there, she found out that indeed, the records were there and gave me directions to the "Comune di Capannori." We were to ask for Sylvia. What should have been a 15 minute drive turned out to be an hour and a half, but that's another story. (At least we got to see a lot of the surrounding area around Lucca.)

The following morning we drove to the Comune and as instructed asked for Sylvia. One would think that the Pope had walked in. Without my realizing it she saw the Nibbi logo on my shirt and immediately jumped up from behind her desk, rushed towards me and proclaimed "e arrivato il signore Nibbi!" With that she handed me four perfect 11 by 17 inch copies of the official records, all originally done in beautiful calligraphy and wet stamped proclaiming the documents to be official copies. All she had was my name and my parents name yet was able to find all this information on us as well as my grandmother. My parents' birth certificates also showed their wedding date. My paternal grandfather came from an orphanage and again, she proceeded to give me information on where I might look in Pisa where a large orphanage still exists. Not wanting to sound too greedy, I asked her if she could gather more information on the rest of the family—their records go no further back than 1866. Not a problem, and the best part, no charge. From my iPad I showed her a 10 page section from my family tree and was told to e-mail it to her and she would start on the research as time allowed. She knew that we would be here for another two weeks and if not ready in that time she would either e-mail or mail me the information. What a wonderful woman!

The truth be told, the main reason for coming to Italy this year was to receive a gold medal and certificate from the organization "Lucchesi nel Mondo". I had been notified earlier this year of having been selected for this great honor and so our plans were put in place. The Lucchesi nel Mondo is headquartered in Lucca and has affiliations all over the world. Presently there are about 40,000 Lucchesi living within the walled city of Lucca, about 400,000 in the province of Lucca and another 1.5 million Lucchesi scattered around the world.

The organization selects individuals from around the world that, according to the newspapers and the press around town, "have distinguished themselves abroad." The front page of the Wednesday newspaper said it nicely "I Magnifici 16". ("The Magnificent 16" — now you can say you knew me when!) Of the 16 chosen, only



a few were from the United States, one from Chicago, one from Pittsburg and yours truly. The rest were from Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Belgium, Montreal and Mexico. The ceremony was held this last Saturday, the 10th in the "Casa del Commercio" (The Chamber of Commerce.) As typically Italian, the 10:30 am ceremony started a tad after 11:00 with the various mayors and dignitaries all dressed in full regalia with red, white and green bands over their shoulders and across their chests and military members in full uniform. After the usual speeches and introductions the medal ceremony started as Ilaria Del Bianco, the vice-president of the organization, read a glowing introduction of each "premiati" while Alessandro Pesi, the president of the Lucchesi nel Mondo looked on. Each medal and certificate was presented by the mayor or representative from their home town. I was given my award by Giorgio Ghingaro, the mayor of Capannori.

The room was loaded with reporters, and after a ton of photos and video a lovely reception was held in the lobby followed by a five course, four hour lunch at Lucca's premiere restaurant, Buca di Sant'Antonio. The saddle of rabbit wrapped in lard was followed by a vegetable soup in olive oil, large raviolis ragu, veal scaloppini with porcini mushrooms and finally a delicious semifreddo with hot chocolate sauce and biscotti to dip in the vin santo. The local white and red wines from Monte Carlo make for a very relaxing afternoon. That evening Karen and I barely made it through a light salad for dinner.

I think that I can share with you that on Sunday morning my curiosity got the better of me and so we went to the local news stand, asked the proprietor if there were any stories on the Lucchesi nel Mondo function— three separate newspapers had full page articles with color photos of all the honorees. As I went to pay, the owner congratulated me. How did he know? The following day while having lunch at a local, well known restaurant, Da Giulio, the owner came over to congratulate me once again. This is getting embarrassing! The final straw came when



my friend Sylvia called and told me that she had finished all the research on my family tree and the information was ready to be picked up, and by the way, congratulations on your award. At that point I bought a set of dark glasses, a straw hat and a false beard.

Seriously, this has been an amazing experience and I can't express in words the pride and joy that this recognition has brought me. Aside from the medal, all the people that we've met have been so kind and so accommodating. Lucca is loaded with tourists, mostly German and Brits, and the town is jumping with all the celebrations. 150 years of Italy's unification, Puccini's birthday with signs

and banners all over and this Tuesday is the feast of Santa Croce. The highlight is a festival of lights called the "Luminaria" where the street lights are turned off and the parade route is illuminated by candles. This is part of what they call "Settembre Lucchese" — Lucca's September.

Wednesday we leave for three days in San Gimignano and some sightseeing in the Tuscan countryside. I would hope that by that time I can remove my disguise and just be myself. Yes, the prodigal son has returned and graciously accepted all the accolades. Now if only I can get some respect from my wife.

Sergio and Karen, Santa Croce Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com

Massage Envy S P A.

Massage Envy Spa

now offering Murad® facials!

For noticeably healthy skin, schedule today.

\$59 Introductory 1-hour
Healthy Skin facial session*

\$49 Introductory 1-hour
massage session*

DALY CITY
239 Lake Merced Boulevard
Westlake Shopping Center
(650) 757-ENVY (3689)

MassageEnvy.com
Franchises Available • Convenient Hours
Open 7 Days: M-F 8-10, Sat 8-8, Sun 10-7

*See clinic for details. ©2011 Massage Envy Franchising, LLC.

A place to share and care.

"Residents are the heart of our community."



Assisted Living | Memory Care

Join us for our Thanksgiving Buffet
Thursday, November 24th | 11:00 am–1:30pm
Kindly RSVP by calling 415-337-1339

ALMAVIA of SAN FRANCISCO.


an ELDER CARE ALLIANCE community

One Thomas More Way, San Francisco

almaviaofsanfrancisco.org


AlmaVia, an Elder Care Alliance community, a nonprofit organization, is cosponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas West Midwest Community & the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. RCFE Lic # 385600270. © 2011 West

MOLLIE STONE'S




The Best of Both Worlds®


Visit Our Newest San Francisco Location!
Now Open at 18th and Collingwood in the Castro...



Tower Market
635 Portola Drive
(415) 664-1600




Castro Market
18th at Collingwood
415-255-8959



Grand Central
2435 California St.
(415) 567-4902

*Your Local Grocer for Fresh Meat,
Seafood, Poultry, Produce,
Deli and Catering*





We understand more than money. We understand you.

Navigating the complexities of your financial life is easier with guidance from someone who's an expert on LGBT challenges. Jordan, Miller & Associates has been providing intelligent financial advice to individuals and couples in our community for over 10 years. So we can help you devise wealth-building and protection strategies tailored to your life and financial goals.

Contact us today for a free consultation or meet us at one of our upcoming community support or financial education events.

Next Event: Nov. 12 | Retirement Boot Camp
FEATURED TOPIC: LGBT Aging

Dec. 14 | Holiday Tea at the Rotunda

Visit www.jordanmilleradvisors.com for details and more events.

Joanne Jordan & Brandon Miller,
Managing Partners

Jordan, Miller & Associates
A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

415.623.2450
www.jordanmilleradvisors.com



Ameriprise
Financial

Brokerage, investment and financial advisory services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Some products and services may not be available in all jurisdictions or to all clients. © 2011 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



Hearing OK?



Visit www.truesoundhac.com and do
the free online hearing check.



TRUE
SOUND



Hearing Aid Center

Lakeshore Plaza
1539 Sloat Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94132

Open:
Mon – Fri 9am to 6pm
Sat 10am to 4pm

(415) 681 1312