

MarinaTimes



City life

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February events

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MARINATIMES.COM CELEBRATING OUR 39TH YEAR VOLUME 39 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2023



Steven Love and Natascha McElhone in *Carmen*. PHOTO: COURTESY FALKUN FILMS / AIKEN HEART FILMS

A commonwealth of great cinema

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

WITH SO MUCH ACCLAIM earned by so many movies and actors from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India, South Africa, and New Zealand over the decades, it would be fair to say that British cinema isn't just an acquired taste like certain traditional English culinary favorites. (Black pudding, anyone?) In fact, the annual Mostly British Film Festival

is ongoing proof of the broad range, high quality, and universal appeal of new and vintage cinema from all of those English-language outposts beyond North America. Now in its 15th go-round, the MBFF is back at San Francisco's Vogue Theatre from Feb. 9–16 with a banquet of new feature films, documentaries, and shorts, as well as a few classics out of the vaults.

The kick-off will be on the evening of Feb. 9 with a 5:30 p.m. reception

followed by a 7:30 p.m. screening of *Emily* — a mix of biography and conjecture about Victorian author Emily Brontë, scripted and directed by Australian actress Frances O'Connor, and featuring Anglo-French star-on-the-rise Emma Mackey (*Sex Education*, *Eiffel*) as Brontë. Closing out the festival on Feb. 16 will be a 7:30 p.m. showing of *The Lost King*, a wry dramedy about the genuine 21st-century search for the remains of King

SNYDER, continued on 6

REYNOLDS RAP Opinion

Business owner hosing homeless woman highlights city's failures

Millions go to nonprofits, yet 'Q' remained on the streets for years

BY SUSAN DYER REYNOLDS

"My office is well acquainted w/the victim + have been trying for many months to get her support from @SF_DPH"

— Aaron Peskin, five-term member and current president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, on Twitter

IT WAS A LOOPHOLE IN SAN FRANCISCO CITY CODE that allowed Aaron Peskin to run for his old District 3 supervisor's seat after serving the maximum two consecutive terms from 2000 to 2008. Peskin realized there was nothing barring him from running nonconsecutively, so in 2015 he challenged the mayoral appointed incumbent, Julie Christensen. Since the *Marina Times* covers District 3, my publisher recommended I interview both candidates and run them

REYNOLDS RAP, continued on 3

SUPERVISOR Opinion

Restoring the public's faith in government

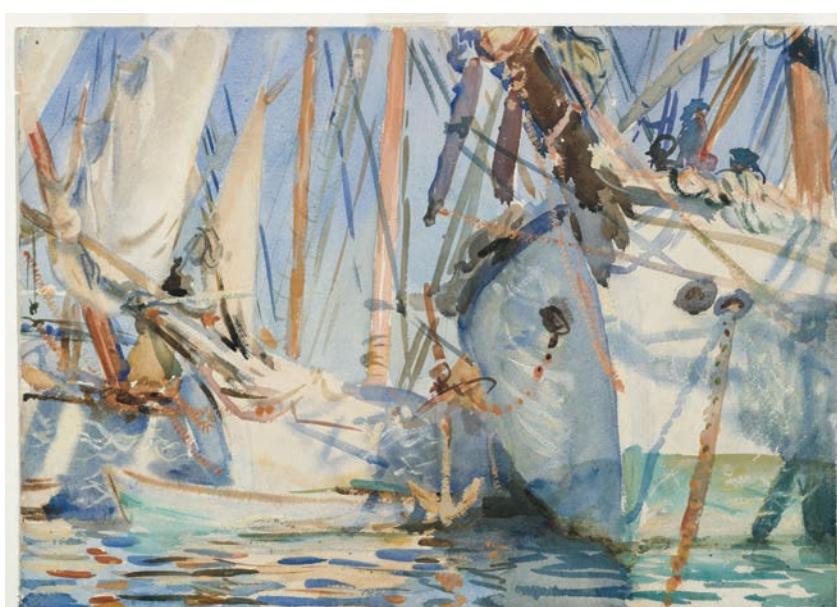
BY CATHERINE STEFANI

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, RARELY HAS A WEEK gone by without a story detailing a new scandal involving mismanagement of our nonprofit contracts. In early September of last year, an affordable housing nonprofit spent almost \$500,000 on an incredibly flawed ballot measure that would have penalized small businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic. In October, Positive Resource Center/Baker Places came to the city with a \$4 million bailout request because they had become insolvent. This request was made just as the outgoing director of that nonprofit was thrown a lavish goodbye party at a luxury hotel downtown. It was later reported that Baker Places employed a city employee at a rate of \$123,000 in addition to her \$428,750 city salary.

The most egregious example of mismanagement was widely publicized this past fall. The San Francisco Controller's Office found the United Council of Human Services to be out of compliance on numerous fiscal and procedural agreements, raising doubts as to their leadership and effectiveness as a nonprofit. The shortlist of infractions includes UCHS improperly keeping rental revenue instead of turning it over to its fiscal sponsor, noncompliance with hiring processes, improper calculation of income for most tenants, and providing housing for ineligible applicants.

SUPERVISOR, continued on 2

ART WORLD 'Sargent and Spain'



John Singer Sargent's *White Ships*. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

John Singer Sargent in Spain

BY SHARON ANDERSON

"You have to see the paintings with your own eyes. Prepare to be flabbergasted."

— Art Critic Sebastian Smee, *The Washington Post*

THE LEGION OF HONOR PRESENTS "Sargent and Spain," the first exhibition to explore the influence of Spanish culture on American expatriate artist John Singer Sargent (1856–1925). In keeping with many artists of his era,

the portrait painter sought inspiration from Spanish painters. In his early 20s, he began a series of visits to the country during which time he created a significant body of work.

SARGENT, TRAVEL, AND THE SPANISH INFLUENCE

Sargent was the definitive society portraitist of his era. His canvases bore a distinction for the individuality he portrayed in his sitters and their opulent fabrics represented in loose, gestural brushstrokes. He was born in Florence to American parents and received an art education in Rome, Florence, and Paris. Sargent traveled to Spain from his homes in Paris (1874–82) and London (1882–1925). His travels took him to Majorca, Madrid, Toledo, Cuenca, Seville, from Granada in the south to Camprodon and Santiago de Compostela in the north. Travel provided a wellspring of discovery and inspiration that complemented Sargent's work. "Sargent and Spain" is organized in sections that trace the artist's multifaceted approaches to portraying the landscape and culture of Spain.

ART WORLD, continued on 7



Visit Our Large Showroom!

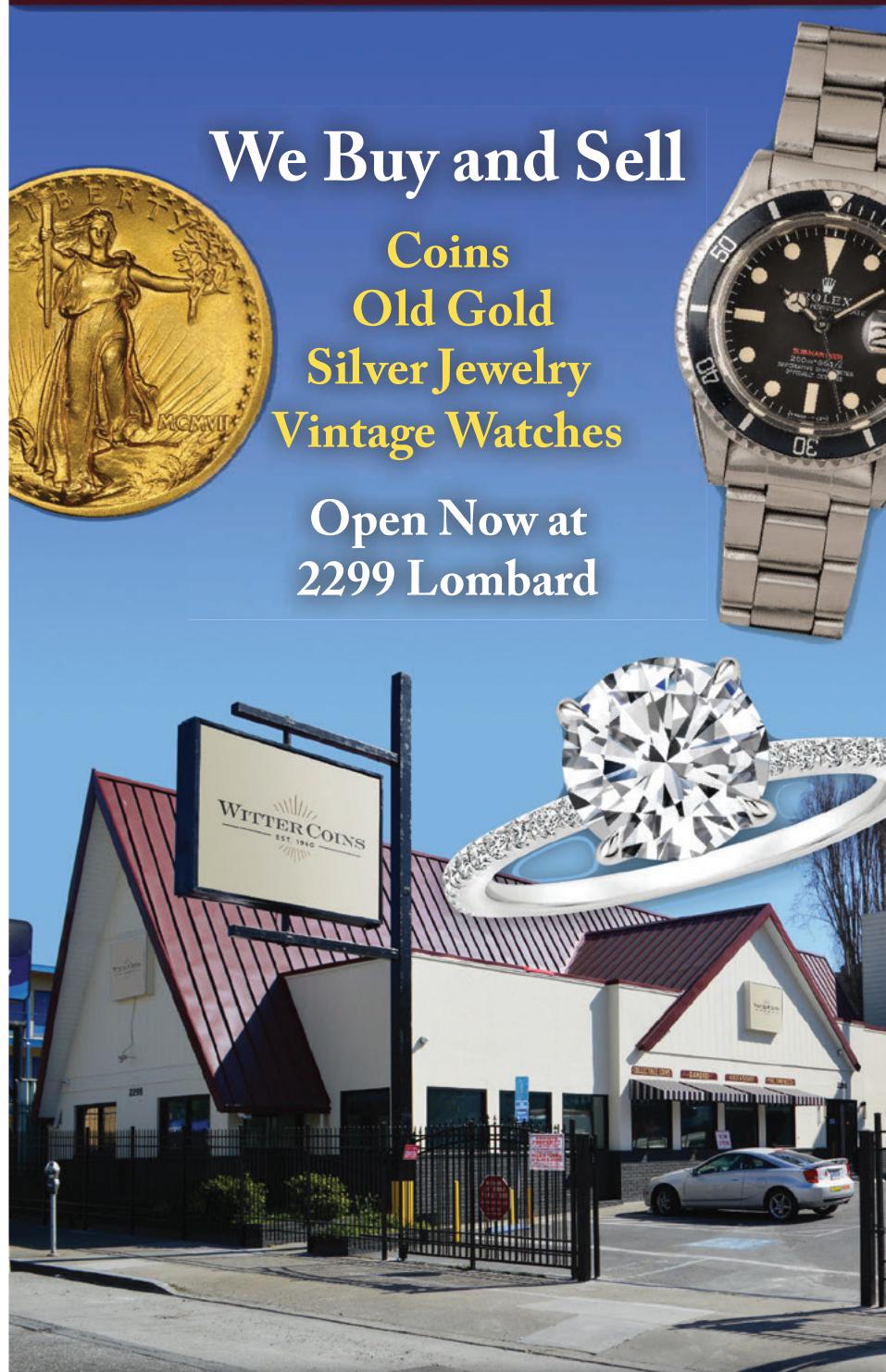
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Supervisor

continued *from cover*

The CEO at the helm of UCHS during this time was responsible for managing \$28 million in public funds. These findings represent a betrayal of public trust at best and alleged criminal conduct at worst. In fact, the controller's audit has since been turned over to the FBI and the District Attorney's Office White Collar Crime division for further review. No one should accept this level of blatant mismanagement. San Francisco deserves accountability and transparency when it comes to how and where it uses our taxpayer dollars.

Sadly, the nonprofit contracting crisis we currently find ourselves in was totally predictable. In 2001, then-Supervisor Sophie Maxwell established a city Contracting Task Force after a civil grand jury found that the city's contract management system was "too decentralized and place[d] administrative burdens on non-profit organizations." She asserted in a unanimously passed resolution that, "Failure to address this growing burden for the non-profit community can and will ultimately create a crisis at the core of this city's safety net, wasting scarce resources directed at . . . San Francisco's most vulnerable population."

The task force met for 18 months, developed 13 recommendations, and shared an implementation plan with the Board of Supervisors in June 2003. Twenty years and countless reports later, the city is still muddling through how to best manage nonprofit contracts within an incredibly siloed system of city agencies. In the meantime, former Supervisor Maxwell's fear has become a reality. With each new headline, the public's faith in the city's ability to properly manage nonprofits deteriorates.

San Francisco contracts with hundreds of nonprofit organizations to provide essential services to the city's most vulnerable populations to the tune of \$1.4 billion annually, which has increased by 180 percent from 2012–13. With a looming fiscal crisis, we absolutely must do better.

Restoring the public's faith in government is what I have been working toward since I was first elected in 2018. When I discovered that the Behavioral Health Commission's fiscal agent was grossly mismanaging the commission's finances, I authored legislation to restore legitimacy to the commission. I voted no, twice, on a contract extension for

a failing pretrial diversion project that was not achieving the results expected nor reported by the nonprofit managing the program. And I passed one of the most comprehensive reform measures for grants management that the city has seen. From 2017 to 2020, city departments issued 5,746 grant awards totaling \$5.4 billion without open solicitation, transparency, fairness, or documentation. Now, the city is required to impartially award these grants after competitive solicitation.

In August of last year, the city controller released a citywide nonprofit performance audit. In it, the Controller's Office called for standardizing and streamlining existing processes, strengthening performance measurement and monitoring, and requiring a level of transparency that currently does not exist. We need to do a much better job of evaluating the programs and services the city funds and whether they meet the community's needs, especially as we rely on nonprofits to deliver critical services. According to the audit "it is difficult to measure overall impact of the programs and services provided because performance measurement and program monitoring vary among city departments and most data is not shared." If this sounds familiar, it is because the 2003 task force report recommended that this be addressed 20 years ago.

Monitoring our nonprofits is an opportunity for our departments and the city as a whole to understand better the day-to-day work nonprofits perform and to ensure that the money the city pays to nonprofits is spent appropriately to provide the intended services. Additionally, we can't overburden our nonprofits with duplicative and confusing requirements not pertinent to their mission. It takes away from their ability to provide the essential services they are contracting with the city to deliver.

I will not stand idly by while our city suffers the ills of unchecked management of our nonprofit contracting. I will continue to use the powers vested in the legislature to help disentangle this web of funding and contracting. That's why I have asked the City Attorney's Office to draft legislation that would implement the recommendations outlined in the controller's August audit. The solution to simply throw money at our city's biggest problems of homelessness, mental health, public safety, and addiction is not working. Clearly, we cannot spend our way out of these crises and by our own hand create a new one.

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Reynolds Rap

continued from cover

side-by-side in our election issue. Even though I had criticized Peskin in the past, he graciously agreed to meet with me for coffee on a sunny Friday afternoon in Telegraph Hill.

During our nearly two-hour taped conversation, I asked tough questions — about his reputation for late-night drunken phone calls to other city officials and using his power as a former supervisor to bully his critics and adversaries. I also expressed dismay with the time he worked with his old reporter friend Joe Eskenazi, then with *S.F. Weekly*, to do a hit piece on me for supporting a Pet Food Express on Lombard Street. Why? Because Peskin was consulting with the small pet shops in the area (the Pet Food Express was voted down, but the small pet shops closed anyway). I expected him to deny all of it, but he didn't. In fact, he took full responsibility — and he apologized.

"That was the old Aaron Peskin," he said. "This is Aaron 2.0 — I've changed for the better. I've learned from my mistakes."

It was a classic "get more bees with honey than vinegar" tale, but he seemed sincere. Then we got down to the brass tacks of running a city that was clearly losing its way. A car parked right in front of us had its windows shattered, leaving what we locals call "San Francisco diamonds" sparkling in the gutter below. Peskin passionately told me what he planned to do to make life in San Francisco better for all — and it made perfect sense.

Q wasn't high on Peskin's to-do list until that viral video put a spotlight on his ineffectiveness.

ness to escape the inclement weather. That's right — for all the outrage over what was an indefensible act, numerous nonprofits that take in millions of dollars and the second most powerful official in the city did nothing to help her. Prior to the viral incident, Q was sleeping in the freezing cold, soaking wet from the recent atmospheric river that bombarded the Bay Area after years of drought. It wasn't until the video hit social media and the news that Q was taken to the hospital.

Kristie Fairchild, executive director of the homeless services nonprofit North Beach Citizens, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that she began interacting with Q at the beginning of the pandemic. Fairchild recalled Q appearing lucid at times and even helping her organization, which is well respected by local residents, with tasks like folding clothes at their resource center.

A number of *Marina Times* readers also recalled seeing Q in the area, some as far back as 2015, seeking restaurant handouts and sleeping in doorways of various buildings. "Everybody is aware of who she is, and we've all been trying to get her the services that she needs," Fairchild told the *Chronicle*. "The reality is that she needs conservatorship. ... But the burden of proof to create that kind of case can be so arduous."

That's an understatement.

Under California state law, San Francisco can now conserve people who are deemed severely mentally ill and who have been taken to an emergency crisis unit — known as a 5150 hold — at least eight times. Fewer than 700 people are currently conserved

in San Francisco, for both inpatient and outpatient care, but a walk around the city tells you not enough is being done.

Peskin claims his office "repeatedly tried to help Q," telling the *Chronicle* he was "scheduled to speak with Department of Public Health Director Grant Colfax to see if Q could stay in the hospital and receive psychiatric treatment." But he also said his constituents had reached out to him about Q in the past, saying "she's in misery," and asking, "can you try to help?"

So why did it take a viral video for Peskin — one of the most powerful politicians in San Francisco — to schedule that meeting with Colfax?

Having frustrated business owners and residents reach out to me for help facilitating communications with Peskin's office over a variety of issues, I'd say it's because Q wasn't high on his to-do list until that viral video put a spotlight on his ineffectiveness.

Which brings us back to Gwin. While his behavior was inexcusable, some people have also said it was understandable, because business owners aren't equipped to handle San Francisco's homeless crisis. With more than a billion dollars a year flowing to hundreds of nonprofits that face zero oversight, what can San Franciscans really expect?

This was a cry for help, not only from Q, and others like her, but also from Gwin and fellow business owners who just want city leaders to lead, stop the endless virtue signaling, and do their jobs.

For an extended version of this column and more exclusive content, sign up for Susan's free newsletter susanreynolds.substack.com.

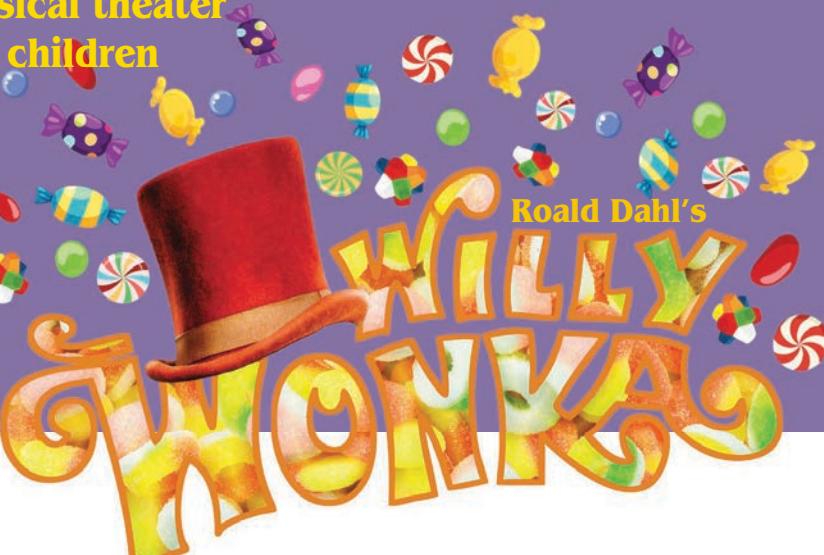
*Follow Susan and the *Marina Times* on Twitter: @SusanDReynolds and @TheMarinaTimes.*

PESKIN'S PERFORMANCE

As it turns out, the woman, who goes by Q, was well known around Peskin's district. Before his arrest, Gwin told several media outlets that he has been trying to get help for the woman, even allowing her to sleep in the doorway of his busi-

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**JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT
COURSE SCHEDULE**

Semester begins January 17!

**SPRING 2023
COURSE OFFERINGS**

Online	Jour 19	CONTEMPORARY NEWS MEDIA	3 Units
Thursday	Jour 23 6:10p-9p	Alex Mullaney	Online
Mon & Wed	Jour 25 12:10p-1:25p	COPY EDITING Molly Oleson	3 Units Remote
Monday	Jour 29A 4:10p-9p	NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION II Juan Gonzales	3 Units B615
Monday	Jour 29B 4:10p-9p	INTRO TO MAGAZINE PRODUCTION Juan Gonzales	3 Units Mis 217
Monday	Jour 29C 4:10p-9p	INTERMEDIATE MAGAZINE PRODUCTION Juan Gonzales	3 Units Mis 217
TBA	Jour 31	ADVANCED MAGAZINE PRODUCTION Juan Gonzales	3 Units Mis 217
Tues & Thurs	Jour 35 9:40a-10:55a	INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE Juan Gonzales	3 Units Remote
Tues & Thurs	Jour 36 11:10a-12:25p	DATA JOURNALISM Molly Oleson	3 Units Remote
Wednesday	Jour 37 6:10p-9p	INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM Juan Gonzales	3 Units Mis 217
		INTRO TO PHOTOJOURNALISM Jessica Lifland	3 Units Mis 217

Questions about courses and registration?
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<https://www.ccsf.edu/academics/class-schedule>

FEBRUARY EVENTS

NOT TO MISS THIS MONTH

Editor's note: Covid regulations vary by event; visit individual websites for up-to-date information.

MAJOR EVENTS



S.F. Ballet | Next @ 90 Festival

Most days through Feb. 11

Davies Symphony Hall

In celebration of the ballet's 90th anniversary, this festival presents nine world premiere ballets by nine international choreographers. Val Caniparoli, celebrating his 50th anniversary with the company this year, has created a beautiful and stunning ballet in *Emergence*, set to Dobrinka Tabakova's Concerto for Cello and Strings. Bridget Breiner of Staatsballett Karlsruhe has based her ballet, *The Queen's Daughter*, on the biblical story of Salome. It features a Greek chorus in the cast of 13, and is set to Benjamin Britten's only violin concerto. Yuka Oishi, in her U.S. and S.F. Ballet debut has created an energetic ballet, *Bolero*, with themes of life and death set to Maurice Ravel's iconic and compelling score. Two additional programs are performed in repertory: Robert Garland's *Haffner Serenade*, Jamar Roberts's *Resurrection*, and Danielle Rowe's *MADCAP*; and Nicolas Blanc's *Gateway to the Sun*, Claudia Schreier's *Kin*, and Yuri Possokhov's *Violin Concerto*. Visit website for program descriptions. \$29-\$448, 415-885-2000, [sfballer.org](#).

PHOTO: YUAN YUAN TAN AND ESTEBAN HERNÁNDEZ IN OISHI'S *BOLERO*. COURTESY: SFBALETTER.ORG / © LINDSAY THOMAS

Black History Month

Wed.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Feb. 1-28

Museum of the African Diaspora (685 Mission St.) & virtual

Many of the featured programs are in conjunction with the current exhibition, "The New Black Vanguard: Photography Between Art and Fashion" and include film screenings, programs on fashion, food, and more. Visit website for schedule. Free (Feb. 11)-\$12, 415-358-7200, [moadsf.org](#)

Edwardian Ball

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 3-5, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Regency Ballroom (1290 Sutter St.)

The Edwardian Ball is an elegant and whimsical celebration of art, music, theater, fashion, technology, circus, and the beloved creations of the late, great author and illustrator Edward Gorey. Set in a reimagined Edwardian Era, guests are encouraged to dress in period costume. All ages. \$45-\$150, [edwardianball.com](#)

Chinese New Year Community Fair & Parade

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 4-5

Chinatown

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with a street fair (Feb. 4-5) featuring 120 booths and concessions, folk dancing, opera, and more, and the colorful Chinese New Year Parade (Feb. 5) featuring the crowd favorite 288-foot Gum Lung (Golden Dragon). Don't miss the rabbit statues displayed around the city spotlighting local artists. Visit website for details and parade route. Free, 415-982-3000, [chineseparade.com](#)

S.F. Beer Week

Daily, Feb. 10-19

Various Bay Area venues

Brewski lovers unite: This event includes a stellar lineup from local craft brewers and features myriad themes and events from the

(questionable) Girl Scout Cookies & Cookie Beer tasting to a Superbowl watch party, a brewer's dinner, and much more. Bottoms up! Visit website for schedule and pricing. [sfbeerweek.org](#)

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART

Hearts in San Francisco 2023

Heart display: Daily through Feb. 28, Ferry Building

Gala: Thursday, Feb. 9, 5 p.m., City Hall

Hearts After Dark: Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., City Hall

The public is invited to view both the mini tabletop hearts and the large hearts up close, and to learn about the artists, the program, and the gala/after party, which supports Zuckerberg S.F. General Hospital and Trauma Center. Free (heart viewing)-\$2,500, 415-206-5959, [sfghf.org](#)

Champagne Cabaret: Valentines & Beyond

Thu.-Sun. (and Tuesday, Feb. 14), Feb. 9-March 4, 7:30 & 11 p.m.

Great Star Theater (636 Jackson St.)

Dancers, musicians, aerialists, and more share their most intimate fantasies in performances that will make you blush. \$30-\$90 (Valentine's VIP package available), 415-735-4159, [greatstartheater.org](#)

Vis Valley Jazz & Chocolate

Friday, Feb. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Good Chocolate (25 Leland Ave.)

Give your loved ones bean-to-bar chocolates made by you, then enjoy a special Valentine's Day-themed jazz concert (99 Leland Ave.) featuring Noa Levy and leading Bay Area musicians. \$45, [eventbrite.com](#)

Valentine Broadside Printing

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2-4 p.m.

S.F. Main Library (100 Larkin Street)

Experience letterpress printing on the library's 1909 Albion hand press and take home a unique keepsake for your Valentine. All are welcome, but keepsakes are limited to first 100 participants. Free, 415-557-4560, [sfpl.org](#)

Masquerade Valentine's Cruise Party

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.

Hornblower Landing (Pier 3)

Celebrate love, friendship, and future relationships on one of the most fun love cruises of the year. Includes refreshments at seven bars, four floors of music and dancing, and more on a classic river boat. \$70-\$90, 650-281-5391, [valentinescruiseparty.com](#)

5th Annual Goat My Valentine GOAT Fashion Show

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 4-6 p.m.

Union Square

Hosted by ABC7's Dan Ashley, see the Greatest of All Time (GOAT) San Franciscans walk the runway with actual goats in "fashion" designed and created by Britex. A silent auction supports City Grazing, a goat landscaping nonprofit. After party follows at Hawthorn (46 Geary St.). Free, RSVP requested, [valueculture.org/goat](#)

Adagio in Africa: A Valentine's Eve Cirque Show

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 5:30-11 p.m.

Berber restaurant (1516 Broadway St.)

Culinary art and acrobatics come together for a sensual feast for your eyes and palate in a romantic atmosphere where acrobats and aerialists are accompanied by a modern Moroccan multicourse menu, comprised of edible aphrodisiacs and exotic spices from North Africa. Includes champagne and roses; wine pairing available. \$165 & \$195, 415-800-7767, [berbersf.com](#), [eventbrite.com](#)



Valentine's Day Pillow Fight

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m.

Ferry Building

Come beat the love out of hundreds of strangers at this BYOP event preceded by a happy hour. \$19, 415-776-7455, [urbandiversion.com](#)

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/URBANDIVERSION

Candlelight: Valentine's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6:30 & 9 p.m.

St. Ignatius Church (650 Parker Ave.)

Enjoy a candlelit concert by Range Ensemble string quartet performing a program by various artists from Puccini to Mancini. \$50 & \$60, [feverup.com](#)

The Romantic Violin Experience

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m.

Medicine for Nightmares Bookstore & Gallery (3036 24th St.)

Enjoy a romantic evening sipping cocktails and listening to your favorite love songs and classic R&B ballads performed by professional violinist and S.F. Conservatory of Music graduate Rose Crelli. Includes two specialty cocktails, charcuterie, and chocolate. \$70, [eventbrite.com](#)

BATS Improv: Love San Francisco Style

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.

Bldg. B, Fort Mason Center

Love makes the world go round and it also makes for great improv, whether you're in love, looking for love, or trying to avoid it all at all

costs. Enjoy a night of short- and medium-length improvised love stories based on audience suggestions. \$20 & \$50 (sliding scale also available), 415-474-8935, [improv.org](#)

COMMUNITY CORNER

Russian Hill Neighbors Park Works Day

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sterling Park (2299 Hyde St.)

Meet: Greenwich Street off Hyde in the parking lot for the courts

Join the PUC crew for a park work day. Because this is work on a steep slope, sturdy shoes are recommended. All tools are provided. Free, register at [communications@rhn.org](#).

ARTS & CULTURE

Black History Festival: More Than a Month

Most days, ongoing

Various SFPL branches

S.F. Public Library celebrates Black history, culture, and heritage with film screenings, literary events, and recommended reading. Visit website for schedule. Free, 415-557-4560, [sfpl.org](#)

GALAS & BENEFITS

Mean Girls: An Evening of Music, Dance, & Comedy

Monday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Marines' Memorial Theater (609 Sutter St.)

This special one-night-only cabaret will raise funds for The Richmond /Ermet Aid Foundation and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Cast members will sing a variety of songs of their own choosing. Songs from Mean Girls (through Feb. 12 at the Golden Gate Theatre) will not be performed. \$45 & \$100, [reas-sf.org](#)

Cupid's Undie Run

Saturday, Feb. 18, noon-4 p.m.

Starts/Ends: Woodbury (685 Third St.)

This event benefits the Children's Tumor Foundation and its efforts to treat neurofibromatosis and kicks off with drinking and dancing, followed by a "mile(ish)" run (or stumble), and ends with an "epic dance party."

\$40, [mycupids.org](#)

Notte di Carnevale

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6-8 p.m.

Museo Ital Americano (Fort Mason Center)

Celebrate with a special cocktail, spuntino, a raffle, and viewing of the mueso's current exhibition, "ContemporArte," which highlights the works of Italian-born artists from the collection. \$35, 415-673-2200, [museoitaloamericano.org](#)



Carnivale 2023

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6-11 p.m.

Grace Cathedral (1100 California St.)

The cathedral's annual fundraiser includes cocktails, dinner, an auction, entertainment, and a late-night revelry after party. \$500 & up, 415-749-6311, [gracecathedral.org](#)

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/GRAECATHEDRALSF

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

de Young Museum | Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs

Tue.-Sun., 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. through Feb. 12

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., Golden Gate Park This state-of-the-art exhibition features the greatest collection of Ramses II objects and Egyptian jewelry ever to travel to the United States. Along with the pharaoh's colossal royal sculpture, the exhibition highlights recently discovered animal mummies and treasures from

CALENDAR, continued on next page

Calendar

continued from pg. 4

the royal tombs of Dahshur and Tanis. Don't miss the virtual reality experience. \$35, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

Kija Lucas at The Guardhouse

Daily through March 12, 24-hour viewing

The Guardhouse, Fort Mason Center

This debut of Lucas's first wallpaper pattern and 13 new photographic works depicts rare and endangered botanical specimens and invites viewers to consider their evolving relationships to plants over time. This is the inaugural installation of For-Site Foundation's The Guardhouse Program, which will present three artists annually, thereby displaying "art in place" year-round. Free, for-sight.org



SFMOMA | Joan Brown

Monday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 1–8 p.m.; Fri.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. through March 12

151 Third St.

Comprising 80 colorful paintings and sculptures, this exhibition spans the career of one of S.F.'s most important local artists. Deeply embedded in the Bay Area art scene, Brown drew inspiration from many sources to create works that merge autobiography, fantasy, and whimsy, with weightier metaphysical and spiritual themes. Free (first Thursdays) – \$25, 415-357-4000, sfmoma.org

PHOTO: COURTESY SFMOMA

Asian Art Museum | Delightful Luxury: The Art of Chinese Lacquer

Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thursday 1–8 p.m. through Sept. 18

200 Larkin St.

Explore highlights from the museum's superb collection of Chinese lacquer, including court accessories, scholars' objects, luxury items, and household furniture. \$20, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Contemporary Jewish Museum | Cara Levine: To Survive I Need You to Survive

Thu.–Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Feb. 16–July 30

736 Mission St.

This exhibition grapples with some of the most pressing issues of our time, including police brutality, climate change, and the pandemic. Through video, sculpture, and installation, the California-based artist uses her artistic process to explore and process grief around personal and collective traumas, highlighting how creative endeavors can facilitate healing and help mourners find meaning in community with one another. \$16, 415-655-7800, thecjcm.org

THEATER

S.F. Playhouse | Cashed Out

Tue.–Sun. through Feb. 25

Kensington Park Hotel (450 Post St.)

In this heartfelt and humorous world premiere, Rocky and her family face her struggle to balance between the traditional basket-making culture and the inroads on reservation life of the casino and her integration with nonnative culture. \$30–\$100, 415-677-9596, sfplayhouse.org

ACT | The Headlands

Sun.–Thu., Feb. 9–March 5

Toni Rembe Theater (415 Geary St.)

Obie Award-winning playwright Christopher Chen dives deep into his S.F. roots to tell the story of true crime fan Henry Wong in what *The New Yorker* calls "ingeniously constructed ... a novel blend of twisty whodunnit, family mystery, immigrant tale, and memory play." \$25–\$110, 415-749-2228, act-sf.org

Magic Theatre | The Travelers

Wed.–Sat. 8 p.m. & Sunday 3 p.m., Feb. 15–March 5

Magic Theatre (Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center)

Set inside a nearly abandoned Catholic

monastery, this play explores a disconnected community and a search of corazon with intimate honesty and inspired humor. \$30–\$70, 415-441-8822, magictheatre.org

Broadway S.F. | Six

Tue.–Sun., Feb. 21–March 19

Golden Gate Theatre (1 Taylor St.)

This critically acclaimed, award-winning smash-hit Broadway musical about the six wives of Henry VIII remixes 500 years of historical heartbreak into a celebration of 21st-century girl power. \$67–\$252, 888-746-1799, broadwaysf.com

DANCE

ODC | Path of Miracles

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 10–12, 8 p.m.

Grace Cathedral

Inspired by the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage route dating back to the Middle Ages through parts of Portugal, Spain, and France, this site-specific performance is an immersive, intimate journey told through music and dance. \$88, 415-549-8534, odc.dance

Smuin Ballet | Choreography Showcase

Wed.–Sun., Feb. 22–26, 7 p.m.

Smuin Center for Dance (1830 17th St.)

In this intimate, in-house performance, Smuin dancers premiere new works created on one another and collaborate on lighting, stagecraft, and costumes. \$35 & \$55, 415-912-1899, smuinballet.org

MUSIC

S.F. Symphony | Lunar New Year: Year of the Rabbit

Sunday, Feb. 5, 5 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall

Celebrate the lunar new year at this vibrant event that draws on Asian traditions. Conductor Earl Lee will lead the orchestra in works by An-lun Huang, Huang Tzu, Geung-su Lim, Huang Ruo, Tran Manh Hung, Du-nam Cho, Hong-ryeol Lee, and Zhou. Visit website for information on the post-concert banquet. \$35–\$110, 415-864-6000, sfsymphony.org

S.F. Jazz | Bria Skonberg

Thu.–Sun., Feb. 9–12

Joe Henderson Lab, S.F. Jazz (201 Franklin St.)

The award-winning trumpeter-vocalist, who plays in the New Orleans "hot jazz" tradition filtered through contemporary influences, began her musical career at 16, and is "poised to be one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (*Wall Street Journal*). \$35–\$40, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

30th Annual Noise Pop Music & Arts Festival

Daily, Feb. 20–26

Various S.F. & East Bay locations

S.F.'s favorite indie music, arts, and film festival returns with over 90 events. Visit website for schedule. \$125–\$399, 415-375-3370, noisepopfest.com



Lunasa

Sunday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave.)

Described as "the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet" by *The Irish Echo*, Ireland's all-star band, named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, returns for their second appearance in the Presidio. \$20–\$45, 415-960-3949, presidiotheatre.org

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/LUNASABAND

NIGHTLIFE

Tainted Love

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m.

Bimbo's 360 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.)

Groove along to the greatest hits of the '80s — this band has fans from every generation. \$28, bimbos360club.com



"America's Greatest City by the Bay" was created by Tony Bennett for Hearts in San Francisco 2004. The public art project supports Zuckerberg San Francisco General. See calendar listing on page 4 for details on this year's hearts and related events

PHOTO: SFGHF.ORG

NightLife of Tomorrow

Thursday, Feb. 23, 6–10 p.m.

California Academy of Sciences

Do androids dream of electric penguins? Expand your mind with a night of futuristic art and science. Ages 21 & up. \$20, 415-379-8000, calacademy.org

FILMS & LECTURES

Fran Lebowitz

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Sydney Goldstein Theater (275 Hayes St.)

Fans of Martin Scorsese's series *Pretend It's a City* won't want to miss humorist-social commentator-cultural satirist Lebowitz in conversation with Manny Yekutieli. \$65, 415-392-4400, cityarts.net



25th Annual S.F. Independent Film Festival

Daily, Feb. 2–12

Roxie Theater (3117 16th St.) & virtual

Feast on the best independent, alternative, and subversive cinema from around the world. This year's festival features 95 films. \$10–\$200, 415-662-3378, sfindie.com

PHOTO: THE AFFAIRS OF LIDIA; SFINDIE.COM

American Spying Trends After World War II: Transparency to Opacity to Total Secrecy

Thursday, Feb. 9, 3–4 p.m.

Livestream

Professor and author Matthew Connolly analyzes a vast trove of state secrets to unearth not only what the government really does not want us to know, but why, and sheds light on the drivers of state secrecy — and how the relentless accumulation of secrets makes it impossible to protect truly vital information. \$10 & \$33, 415-597-6705, commonwealthclub.org

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Magnolia Curator Tours

Thursday & Saturday, Feb. 2–25, 10 a.m. & noon

S.F. Botanical Garden (1119 Ninth Ave.)

The garden is recognized as the world's fourth most significant collection of magnolia species for conservation purposes, and the most important outside China. Join a guided tour to see these magnificent magnolias in bloom. Low attendance and heavy rain cancel. Free (S.F. residents), 415-661-1316, sfbotanicalgarden.org

70th Pacific Orchid Exposition: Celebrating Diversity

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 24–26, 10 a.m.

S.F. County Fair Bldg. (1199 Ninth Ave.)

The largest orchid show on the West Coast features thousands of blooms, and offers a diverse variety of orchids for sale. \$12–\$15, 864-663-6035, pacorchidexpo.org,

POTABLES & EDIBLES

Science of Cocktails

Thursday, Feb. 9, 6–10 p.m.

Exploratorium (Pier 15)

Calling all craft cocktail lovers, kitchen chemists, and science fans! Enjoy open bars serving beer, wine, specialty cocktails, and snacks; boozy science demonstrations and experiments, and more. \$100, 415-528-4444, exploratorium.edu

SPORTS & HEALTH

39th San Francisco Half Marathon

Sunday, Feb. 5

Golden Gate Park

This popular scenic course through Golden Gate Park and along the ocean supports local charities. Choose the half marathon, 10K, or 5K. \$55–\$120, getfitkpsf.com

Saturday Unwind: Yin Yoga & Healing Sound Bath

Saturday, Feb. 25 & subsequent last

Saturdays, 2–3:30 p.m.

Meet: James Garfield monument, Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park

This nourishing and yielding practice creates mind/body space for calm and openness and ends with a guided relaxation and healing sound bath. Donation, racheljenninewellnessandyoga.com

FAMILY FUN

Year of the Rabbit Family Fun Day and Storytelling

Sunday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin St.)

This event includes a Year of the Rabbit screen printing with Haight Street Art Center. Free, 415-581-3500, asianart.org

Children's Theatre Assoc. | Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Saturday, Feb. 4, 11, & 25

Presidio Theatre (99 Moraga Ave.)

Share in the magic and mystery of chocolatier Willy Wonka and his Oompa Loompas as he challenges young chocolate lovers to find the five coveted golden tickets he has hidden inside millions of candy bars across the world. Ages 4–12. \$15–\$18, 415-960-3949, presidiotheatre.org

Family Matinee with Marcus Shelby New Orchestra

Saturday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m.

S.F. Jazz (201 Franklin St.)

The orchestra will perform excerpts from Blues in the City, a musical suite in reflection of life in San Francisco during the pandemic. Lockdowns, social unrest, the plight of the unhoused, and other experiences are captured in music, song, text, and images. \$5–\$23, 866-920-5299, sfjazz.org

E-mail: calendar@marinatimes.com

Snyder

continued from cover

Richard III, starring Oscar nominee and Golden Globe-winner Sally Hawkins (*The Shape of Water*, *Blue Jasmine*), wrapping up the festival with a 9:30 p.m. party at the Vogue.

In between, festivalgoers can enjoy highlights that include *Great Dames ... When They Were Young* — a three-film retrospective of early-career triumphs by Helen Mirren (*Age of Consent*), Maggie Smith (*Love and Pain and the Whole Damned Thing*), and Judi Dench (*Four in the Morning*); a 40th anniversary celebration of the Australian TV saga *The Thorn Birds*; and *If These Walls Could Sing*, documentarian Mary McCartney's informative, music-laden history of Abbey Road Studios in London, boasting interviews with such rock legends as Elton John, Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, and Mary's father — one Paul McCartney.

Here are some short takes on six notable MBFF offerings:

'CARMEN' (Feb. 10, 3 p.m.)

Natascha McElhone — no stranger to graceful, sophisticated roles — changes things up with her moving portrayal of the title character in *Carmen*, written and directed by Valerie Buhagiar. Set in the 1980s on the island of Malta and purportedly inspired by the personal odyssey of a real person, *Carmen* involves the travails of a 50-year-old woman whose life has been devoted to the local church and to caring for her older brother since he entered the priesthood. After he dies, Carmen is set adrift until members of the congregation mistake her for the new parish priest when she's hiding inside the church confessional. The act of taking confession encourages Carmen to finally start living for herself, despite lingering specters of the past.

'ROGUE AGENT' (Feb. 10, 8 p.m.)

Sometimes, a movie comes along that's rooted in actual events, and you almost can't believe what's depicted could have possibly happened. That's the case with the British crime drama *Rogue Agent*, which is

Bríd Ní Neachtain in *Róise & Frank*. PHOTO: COURTESY BREAK OUT PICTURES / JUNO FILMS

about a guy named Robert Freegard who, starting in the early 1990s, was ostensibly recruiting people for MI5 (the English equivalent of the FBI) or for Scotland Yard. But Freegard, purportedly working undercover for MI5, wasn't what he seemed in more ways than one. *Rogue Agent* follows Freegard, played in glib fashion by James Norton, from early recruiting missions to his romantic relationship with a London lawyer, played by Gemma Arterton, who might be more of a challenge to seduce than he expected. Although this isn't an earthshaking, ground-breaking film, Freegard's audacity is compelling, as is the cat-and-mouse that goes on between him and the lawyer.

'GOD'S CREATURES' (Feb. 11, 1 p.m.)

Set in a contemporary Irish fishing village with dysfunction behind more than a few doors, *God's Creatures* — directed by Saela Davis and Anna Rose Holmer — is emotionally potent and even troubling as it plays out. The versatile Emily Watson plays Aileen O'Hara, a well-regarded woman who works at the local fishery. It's the usual daily grind until Aileen's wayward son, Brian, played by Paul Mescal, returns home after a long time away, determined to again take part in the family business, even if he commits certain transgressions to achieve his ends. Brian also seems to have a yen for Sarah, a local girl touchingly

played by Aisling Franciosi. Sarah may not be so receptive to Brian's advances for reasons that come to light in this dark drama about the limits of maternal love. Watson, Mescal, and Franciosi each deliver rich turns that are well worth experiencing, particularly as their characters interact and unsettling truths are revealed.

'AFTERSUN' (Feb. 11, 3 p.m.)

Although low-key in tone, *Aftersun* is a poignant and resonant drama about a rare vacation getaway for Callum and his 11-year-old daughter, Sophie. The relationship is clearly a loving one but adversely affected by Dad's strained relationship with the girl's mother. It's told from the standpoint of the adult version of the daughter as a collection of memories, and the result is subtle and affecting. We watch parent and child on one of those midlevel package tours to a slightly tacky tropical resort. As the father tries to cope with the various grown-up issues dogging him, the daughter's oncoming pubescence begins to stir her hormones. Paul Mescal is expectedly terrific as Callum, and Frankie Corio as Sophie is a serious find. Whether director and screenwriter Charlotte Wells was channeling memories from her own childhood when she made *Aftersun* is immaterial. It's showing up on numerous "Best Movies of 2022" lists for good reason.

'RÓISE & FRANK' (Feb. 12, 3 p.m.)

A bit of Irish whimsy performed in true Gaelic Irish rather than English (but with subtitles), *Róise & Frank* is designed to be a feel-good crowd-pleaser. And it succeeds as light, albeit predictable, entertainment. Róise, a depressed middle-aged woman in a small rural town where everyone knows everyone, believes that her late husband Frank — dead two years — has returned to her in the form of a buoyant dog. The mutt, which Róise names Frank (of course), seems to instinctively know about all sorts of things and places that Róise and Frank shared in their marriage, lifting the widow's spirits for the first time since her husband died. The dog even displays an understanding of hurling — a sport that Frank loved. When the dog helps a timid young schoolboy join the local junior hurling team, you may roll your eyes. You may also be charmed.

'THE LOST KING' (Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.)

With the ever-appealing Sally Hawkins well-cast as the movie's heart and soul, *The Lost King* is a pleasantly quirky, modern-day treasure hunt spiced with a dash of magical realism. The script by Hawkins' costar Steve Coogan is based on the true story of a Scottish office worker who is determined to uncover the bona fide location of King Richard III's remains and rehabilitate his villainous image. Directed by Stephen Frears, *The Lost King* seems like a trifle next to his more impactful and acclaimed movies (for instance, *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Queen*), but its authentic, fascinating quest and plucky against-the-odds-and-establishment heroine are engaging enough to invite a recommendation.

Mostly British Film Festival: Daily, Feb. 9-16, \$20 (individual)-\$250 (pass), Vogue Theatre, 3290 Sacramento St. Visit mostlybritish.org for complete festival information.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on The Mark Thompson Show, via YouTube, and on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via GABNet.net, Roku, and iTunes. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.

The Best of Books :: What's flying off the shelves

The Marina Books Inc. best sellers

COMPILED BY CHRIS HSIANG

Here are the most popular books sold last month as well as some new releases.

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, & Tomorrow: A Novel*, by Gabrielle Zevin
2. *Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel*, by Bonnie Garmus
3. *Trust*, by Hernan Diaz

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. *Spare*, by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex
2. *How to Tell a Story: The Essential Guide to Memorable Telling from The Moth*, by The Moth
3. *Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities*, by Emily Tamkin

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *It Starts With Us: A Novel*, by Colleen Hoover
2. *It Ends With Us: A Novel*, by Colleen Hoover

3. *Verity*, by Colleen Hoover

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. *All About Love: New Visions*, by Bell Hooks
2. *Everything I Know About Love: A Memoir*, by Dolly Alderton
3. *My Body*, by Emily Ratajkowski

YOUNG READER'S BOOKS

1. *Inheritance Games*, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
2. *The Golden Gate Twins*, by Tomoko Maruyama
3. *Mary Anne's Bad Luck Mystery: A Graphic Novel (The Baby-Sitters Club No. 13)*, by Ann M. Martin and Cynthia Yuan Cheng

NEW AND NOTABLE RELEASES

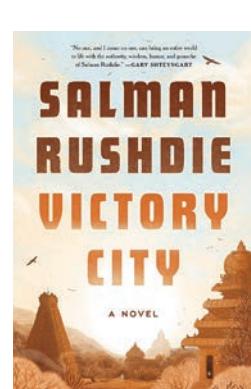
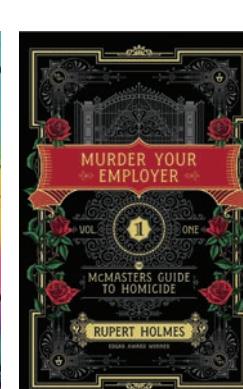
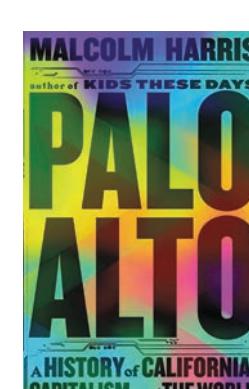
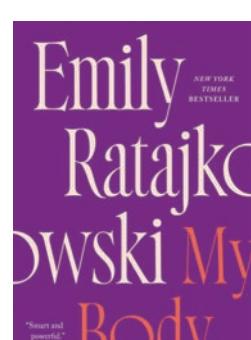
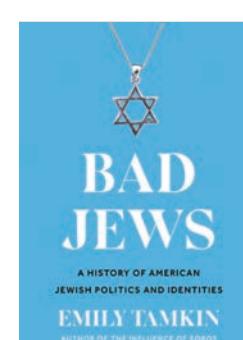
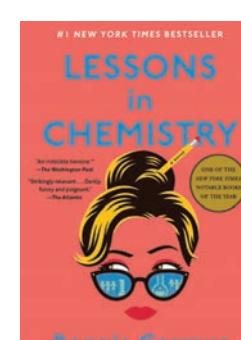
Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World by Malcolm Harris

Written by an editor at non-profit news site The New Inquirer, this book explores the com-

plicated history of Palo Alto, with a population of 68,000 and the home of Stanford University. Drawing on numerous sources, and occasionally from his own experiences, Harris painstakingly connects literature, geography, and economics to understand Palo Alto's history and its relationship to capitalism. Readers interested in U.S. history, particularly pertaining to capitalism and technology, will find an engaging and clear-eyed Silicon Valley tale of a small city with global importance.

Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide To Homicide, by Rupert Holmes

Ever heard of the McMasters Conservatory? At this specialized school, its location unknown even to those who study there, students learn how to kill for what they consider ethical reasons: they want to get rid of someone they consider a blight on the universe. From the two-time Edgar-winning novelist, a multiple Tony and Drama



Desk Awards winner for mystery musicals that include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Victory City, by Salman Rushdie

In 1300s India, yet another battle has subsided when the goddess Pampa creates a glittering city called Bisnaga — that is, Victory City — by speaking through a 9-year-old named

Pampa Kampana. For the next 250 years, Pampa Kampana is involved in the city and its mission to make women equal in a world of men, but will the city survive those key human vices of pride and avarice? From the Booker Prize winner.

Chris Hsiang can help you find your next book at Books Inc., 2251 Chestnut St., 415-931-3633, booksinc.net.

Art World

continued from cover

VELÁZQUEZ AND THE SPANISH MASTERS

Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco represent just a few of the artists that became the focal point of academic study by up-and-coming painters during the Impressionist era, and Sargent was no exception. This gallery features Sargent's powerful early oils dating from his first trip to Spain. Inspired by visits to the Museo del Prado in Madrid, Sargent learned through the tradition of imitation. The artist copied famous works by the masters, and learned to adapt the palette and brushwork of these paintings, especially those of his aesthetic hero, Diego Velázquez. Contrasting these copied studies, the gallery will include paintings by the Old Masters whom Sargent admired.

DANCE AND MUSIC

This gallery is dedicated to Sargent's admiration and enthusiasm for performing arts, specifically Spanish Roma peoples' flamenco dance, dress, and music. Paintings include his full-length oil portraits of the acclaimed Spanish dancer Carmen Daucet Moreno, known as La Carmencita. A series of spectacular studies include *Study for the Spanish Dancer*, an 1880–81 watercolor. Fabric and its movement, one of Sargent's signature

themes, becomes lively motion in the jagged, swirling lines of dress — a figure emerging from muted earth tones into the light of the foreground.

ARCHITECTURE AND GARDENS

The next three sections highlight travels throughout Spain and the countryside Sargent brought to life in brilliant oils and watercolors. Both rural and urban locales were a fascination, and views of Spanish architecture, royal palaces, and environs such as the Alhambra and Generalife, located in Granada, are captured by Sargent. *Majorcan Fisherman*, a 1908 oil on canvas, is an homage to light; refracted through a makeshift roof, the brilliant light as bright cross hatchings amongst shadows rendered in rapid, painterly strokes of browns, blues, and oranges. The fisherman in the foreground looks at the viewer with a friendly, informal stance, leaning on a fence in front of the brilliant blue of the ocean. The artist had an intense fascination with the dazzling and varied terrain, lush fruits, and foliage of Mediterranean islands, which he explored during his two visits there.

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

The exhibition concludes with a gallery dedicated to Sargent's interest in religion and spirituality.



John Singer Sargent's Study for The Spanish Dancer and La Carmencita Dancing. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Spanish Catholic religious imagery, soaring cathedrals, crucifixions, and Madonnas reflect the artist's appreciation for local iconography. Some of the studies were preparatory works made in advance for Sargent's ambitious mural cycle at the Boston Public Library, the *Triumph of Religion* (1890–1919). Sargent's personal collection of Spanish devotional sculptures represented in photographs will be on display as

additional source materials for the library project.

Organized by the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Palace of the Legion of Honor will be the exclusive West Coast venue for this exhibition. This never-before-seen slice of the famed artist's life reevaluates his era and work, in the process exposing the bold, diverse accomplishments of a charismat-

ic talent who was much more than a society portrait painter.

Sargent and Spain: Tue.–Sun. 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m., Feb. 11–May 14, \$25–\$28, Palace of the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., Lincoln Park, 415-750-3600, famsf.org

Sharon Anderson is an artist and writer in Southern California. She can be reached at mindtheimage.com.

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Head up north to experience the best of Tacoma

BY PATTY BURNES

PORTLAND AND SEATTLE ARE THE usual cities people think of when the Pacific Northwest is mentioned; often overlooked is neighboring **Tacoma**. Situated along Puget Sound, Tacoma is less than 30 minutes from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. It is a walkable city — and if you enjoy San Francisco hills, Tacoma won't disappoint. No urban traffic is a big plus.

Tacoma has an active port scene with its harbor on Commencement Bay. It was because of this that in the 19th century, Tacoma was chosen as the end of the Northern Pacific Railroad line whose motto became when "rails meet sails." It is also known for its abundance of glass art.

Recently, my husband and I found interesting museums, locally grown food, neighborhood coffee, views, and great golf.

STAY

We stayed at the downtown **Hotel Murano**, named after the Venetian island known for its exotic glass. The hotel is replete with glass chandeliers, glass exhibits, a soaring atrium, and works of international glass artists on each floor.

Our corner room had views from one window of the Thea Foss Waterway (flowing from Commencement Bay) and Mt. Rainier from the other. The room offered plenty of space to relax as well as to store golf clubs overnight.

SHOP AND PLAY

The **Thea Foss Waterway Public Esplanade** is a scenic three-mile trail — great for bird watching, biking, jogging, and the people scene. The trail also passes in front of the **Museum of Glass**. Home to many of Dale Chihuly's pieces and other glass artists, the museum is an ode to the possibilities of glass blowing and has a working glass-blowing studio. Watch the artisans up close in the "Hot Shop" as they employ diverse techniques on all things glass.

From here, cross over the **Chihuly Bridge of Glass** to the **Tacoma Art Museum**. The 500-foot pedestrian bridge is always open and incorporates three large Chihuly glass works. The museum is best known for the works of Pilchuck Glass School, the birthplace of glass arts education founded in 1971 by Chihuly and other artists. The museum is also known for its collection of Northwest American artists, including beautiful jewelry.

Other sights include:

Ruston Way Park is a two-mile waterfront area featuring views of Commencement Bay with space for walking, biking, jogging, and more.

The **Chinese Reconciliation Park** is dedicated to the Chinese people forced from Tacoma in 1885. It's a serene place to reflect on the city's history and the present as well.

On a clear day, Fireman's Park is the best location to see **Mount Rainier** and the vertical-lift **Murray Morgan Bridge**.

There are several public golf courses in Tacoma, including **Chambers Bay**, host of the 2015 U.S. Open. The rambling links-style course on the shores of Puget Sound has views as spectacular as the golf. **The Home Course**, owned and operated by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and Washington Golf, has hosted national events and northwest amateur championships.

EAT

Here's what we tried around town: **Anthem Coffee** is right across from the Chihuly Bridge of Glass. With an outside patio, it is the spot for people watching and admiring the Chihuly installations. Get delicious coffee and creative breakfasts and flatbreads.

Stink and El Tufo Wine Bar bring international flair to Tacoma. The wine list changes frequently and reflects the owners' passion for travel. We tried the 2017 Duorum Coheita from Portugal and the Italian 2018 Bricco Carlina Barbera d'Asti Fontanavi. Savor housemade soups, salads, sandwiches, and charcuterie boards. And don't miss the sandwich called The Stinker — peanut butter, blackberry preserves, bacon, and blue cheese. Also enjoy live music some evenings and a monthly focus on an international wine region.

The Fish Peddler, on the waterway, offers a spacious patio and lots of seafood options. We devoured steamed

clams and mussels, coconut prawns, crab cake sliders, and razor clam chowder. From the bar, we had unobstructed views of the active waterway and great people watching in the packed dining room.

En Rama has intimate seating inside and an outdoor patio. They mix interesting cocktails and have a frequently changing wine menu. Try their housemade pasta dishes like brown butter gnocchi and Spanish patatas bravas. For dessert, try the Basque cheesecake made with a sherry and berry reduction.

Sit inside or out at the popular **Wooden City**. Try their blistered Hungarian peppers, spicy jerk cauliflower, or wood-fired pizza. A specialty when we visited was beet ravioli with goat cheese and pistachio butter. Cocktails and wine abound as do nonalcoholic drinks like lavender lemonade or soda made with hibiscus agave and grapefruit and cranberry juices. For dessert, we savored the chocolate custard topped with espresso whipped cream and candied pecans.

OTHER ESSENTIALS

Visit traveltacoma.com and stateofwa tourism.com for additional information.

For an extended version of this column plus photos, visit marinatimes.com.

Email: patty@marinatimes.com; Instagram: [pburness](#)



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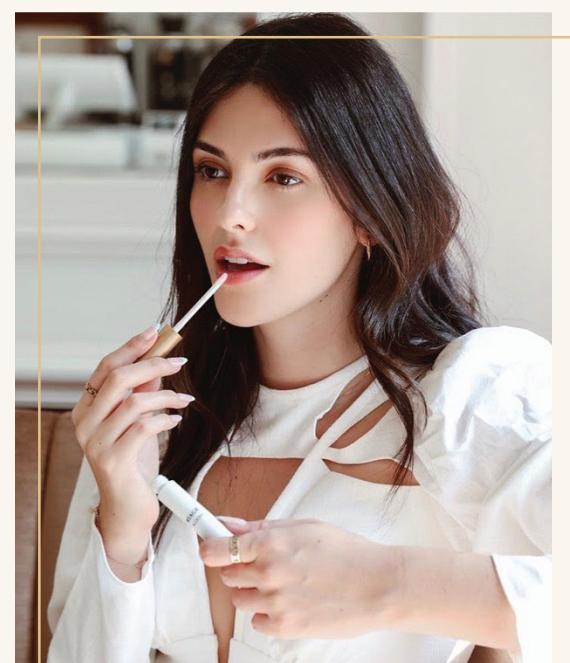
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Loving animals in their unnatural habitat

BY MICHAEL SNYDER

BY NOW, THE STORY OF P-22 — THE mountain lion also known as the Hollywood Cat — has spread far and wide, especially since his demise in mid-December. This cool cougar's fame, enflamed by years of Los Angeles media coverage, has resulted in a sure-to-be-crowded memorial service this month on Feb. 4 at Los Angeles' Greek Theater in Griffith Park, where he prowled for roughly a decade. In fact, P-22 is just the latest emissary from nature to be informally adopted by a city or town, including a certain humpback whale that first captured the imagination of the Bay Area in the mid-1980s.

In case you don't know the details of P-22's life and times, he was part of the lion population in Southern California's Santa Monica Mountains, somehow made his way across two major freeways (the 405 and the 101), and about 10 years ago he became a most unlikely resident of Griffith Park, roaming a small plot of nature amid one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the country.

P-22's journey was tracked by the National Park Service, and, as word got out about his urban residence, he won over many L.A. locals now mourning his death. It's been an outpouring of love for a creature from the wild that is comparable to the affection showered upon Humphrey the humpback whale

who became lost in San Francisco Bay during his annual migration from Mexico to Alaska in 1985 and 1990. On both occasions, Humphrey required rescue by Marin County's Marine Mammal Center, the Coast Guard, and scores of volunteers to get him back on track.

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Although Humphrey found his way back to his migratory route with human assistance, his time navigating the Golden Gate so resonated with people that he became an unofficial mascot of San Francisco, inspiring books, songs, and even a documentary movie, *Humphrey the Lost Whale*. By contrast, P-22 had a tougher time of it. At one point during his city sojourn, he left the confines of Griffith Park and was cornered by authorities when he crawled under a house in the nearby Los Feliz neighborhood. And as detailed in news accounts, he was accused of killing a koala bear in the Los Angeles Zoo.

Recently, it was reported that P-22 had attacked pet dogs in the vicinity of the park, suggesting that the lion was in a bad way. In response, wildlife experts captured him. He was found to be suffering from various injuries and exceedingly anxious. Considering his troubling condition, it was decided to euthanize him on Dec. 17. Despite the groundswell of public affection for P-22, there are surely those who feel no great love for him. For instance, you might find

it difficult to be very sad at his passing if he happened to have snacked on your Chihuahua. Nonetheless, there will be eulogies, music, and dancing at the Greek to honor P-22.

As noted above, other municipalities besides Los Angeles and San Francisco have embraced beasts of their own as civic talismans. A little research revealed quite a number of intriguing examples — not including Philadelphia's Phillie Phanatic, whose strange countenance has yet to be found in any respectable zoological guide. Some of the animal mascots that have inspired specific locales are quite intriguing, some are charming, and some are downright wacky.

BLESS THE BEASTS

The international renown achieved by the late Berlin Zoo-based polar bear Knut was never accompanied by the sort of drama that attended P-22 and Humphrey. Still, Knutmania was a thing for some reason — perhaps the advocacy of actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who took a shine to the bear. A feral cat named Tama grew up wandering the alleys of Kinokawa, Japan, eventually settling at the Kishi train station and being blessed with the title of honorary station master. Fungie — a gregarious bottlenose dolphin living in the waters off the coast of Dingle, Ireland — became known for greeting boaters and frolicking with swimmers, becoming a genuine tourist attraction.

In the land down under, a New Zealand farming community had a certain recalcitrant sheep, and an Australia nature preserve nurtured a giant wombat, with each creature boasting a fan base of its own. Meanwhile, the Scottish town of St. Andrews erected a statue of its designated pet kitty, a fluffy fellow named Hamish McHamish, and maintained Facebook and Twitter accounts to beguile the feline's eager followers.

Even if those examples pale next to the triumph and tragedy of P-22 or the feel-good escapades of Humphrey, there is something special about any nurturing connection between human beings and their animal neighbors. When we lose such a relationship, it can sting. A few weeks ago, Blanche the swan — the most recent of her elegant breed to grace the lagoon at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts — passed away. Whether or not she's succeeded by another swan on the grounds, her loss leaves a palpable emptiness within those of us always cheered by her presence. Maybe a trip up Telegraph Hill to watch the omnipresent parrots flocking to and fro can ease the pain. Maybe not.

Michael Snyder is a print and broadcast journalist who covers pop culture on The Mark Thompson Show, via YouTube, and on Michael Snyder's Culture Blast, via GAB-Net.net, Roku, and iTunes. You can follow Michael on Twitter: @cultureblaster.

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Talking to your children about Internet pornography

How to have an age-appropriate talk and ensure their online safety

BY LIZ FARRELL

AS PARENTS WE TALK TO OUR children about their health, their media use, and making good choices. There are also those topics that many of us dread, particularly around sex, because it can be awkward to bring up or find the right words. One topic that many parents avoid altogether is pornography. This is usually a conversation that happens too late, after children have been exposed to it, and chances are if yours have access to the Internet, they have been exposed to it. This was confirmed by a new report released by Common Sense Media that found the majority of teens have watched pornography online — and some have seen it by age 10 or younger. For some it was accidental, something they stumbled upon; however, many teens said they were viewing online pornography intentionally on a regular basis. Yikes! This has an impact on how they view sex and relationships, so if you haven't already had that conversation, now is the time. Here are some tips to make it a little less awkward:

"The majority of teens have watched pornography online — and some have seen it by age 10 or younger."

AGE APPROPRIATE

Obviously how you talk to your teen about this topic will be different than how you talk to a younger child. For younger children, the goal is to let them know what it is and what to do if they see it.

It can be as simple as saying, "there are pictures and videos on the Internet of naked people that are meant only for adults." They should also know that if they see these pictures or videos that they should close or turn off the device and tell a parent or caregiver. If they do come to you, it is important to stay calm and not

freak out, which can be difficult. Ask them questions about how they found it, ask them if they have questions about what they saw, and most important, don't make them feel bad or punish them. It is important to build trust and open lines of communication around these topics, and you don't want them to be fearful coming to you in the future.

For teens, this is not a conversation they want to have with you, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't have it. They will be

awkward, anxious, and embarrassed, so keep it short and plan what to say. I have found a good time for these conversations is in the car, so they don't need to make eye contact. I also highly recommend Common Sense Media's scripts for mini conversations on this topic. The scripts address a concern and give you an idea of what to say and what to ask to address that concern. The concerns range from consent, sex education, addiction, and body image.

It is also important the conversation is respectful with open lines of communication. Likely this is a very different conversation than our parents had with us — if they even had it. The Internet has made access to information and sexually explicit photos and videos part of our everyday lives, which is a lot for us to manage let alone our kids.

ONLINE SAFETY

While it might feel like a forgone conclusion your child will be exposed to pornography, there are things we can do to try to keep our children as safe online as possible. Some of these include setting up parental controls about when they can be online, what sites they can access, and setting up content filters to block apps with inappropriate content. It is important to do this on all devices they have access to — game consoles,

phones, tablets, and laptops — including their school devices. I also recommend checking often to make sure these restrictions are still in place and don't need to be updated.

For teens it can be harder to put these same restrictions in place because as they get older it is natural that they want more freedom online. The research shows they don't need to go to the popular sites to find it, they are being exposed to pornography on Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat — three of the most popular social media platforms for teens. While these sites are trying to combat sexually suggestive content, most are user-generated, which is difficult to monitor.

As parents we can't count on the technology to protect our kids; we need to talk to them about what they are being exposed to online. These conversations can't be a "one and done," either. They are more effective as a series of short conversations that are revisited as they get older and have new questions or concerns.

Liz Farrell is the mother of three children and the founder of TechTalks, a consulting group to help schools and families have productive conversations around social media and technology. Email: liz@marinatimes.com



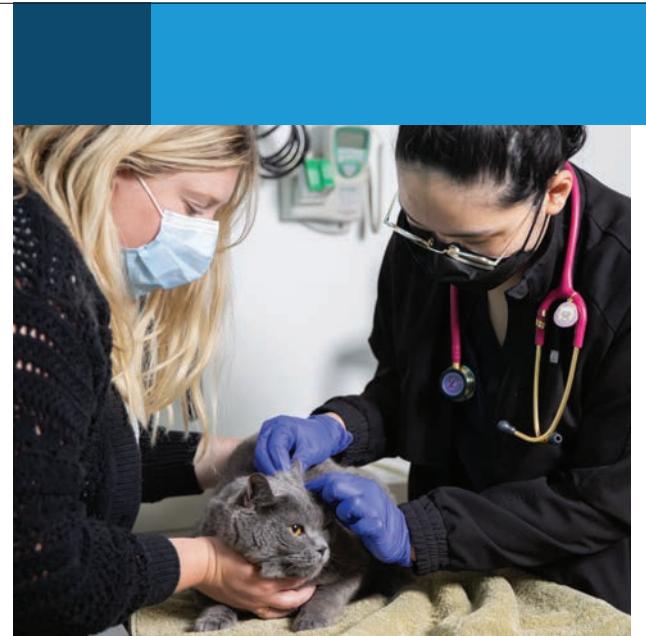
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A down market is the time to buy, but in the quiet of the new year, activity is slow while people take stock of prospects for themselves and for the wider economy.

PHOTO: ANDREW WHITMORE, UNSPLASH.COM/@ANDREWDAVID90

Real estate's dog days

BY GAREY DE MARTINI

TYPICALLY THE REAL ESTATE MARKET takes a breath in January and February. Very little takes place until after the Super Bowl. It might be because historically we've been a football-crazed society that finds watching playoff games on Sunday afternoons more enjoyable than attending open houses.

Or it might be because homes are less attractive in the dead of winter, when the weather can be gloomy, and on occasion, downright nasty.

In any event, it gives real estate agents a break before the spring selling season. It's a time to recharge, reorganize, and plan for what's ahead in the coming months. This year, they might need this brief respite more than ever.

MONEY TALKS

A recent Redfin report said that buyers need to earn \$402,821 a year to pay San Francisco's typical \$10,071 monthly mortgage payment, up 33.6 percent from a year ago. That's a big jump and a boatload of money.

The silver lining, if there is one, is that in contrast buyers in 40 of the 93 metros included in Redfin's analysis need to earn at least 50 percent more income to afford a home than they did a year ago. They need to earn at least 30 percent more in all 93 metros.

This is due to the fact that mortgage rates have more than doubled over the last 12 months. Even though home prices have fallen in many places, including San Francisco, home prices are still persistently high — and that's why more income is required.

As a matter of fact, in a second report, Redfin said that home sale prices fell year-over-year in 20 of the 50 most populous United States' metros. By comparison, 11 metros saw price declines a month earlier.

The typical United States' home sold for \$351,250 during the four weeks ending Jan. 8. That's up 0.8 percent from a year earlier, but down about 10 percent from the June peak.

Meanwhile, San Francisco's December numbers reveal dramatic changes in the market year-over-year.

According to the San Francisco Association of Realtors, the median price for a single family home in the city in December was \$1,625,000 — down 5.8 percent from December 2021. The median price for a condominium in December was \$989,000 — down 23.9 percent from the previous year.

Days on market increased to 30 days for single family homes, and to 63 days

for condos in December, up 114.3 percent and 85.3 percent respectively year-over-year.

Active listings for single-family homes were down 18.1 percent, and 30.6 percent for condos in December in comparison to the previous year. Sold listings for single-family homes were down 36.5 percent, and an astounding 59 percent for condos during the same period.

One last very revealing figure: According to the SFAR, the median percent of list price received for single-family homes reached an all-time high in April 2022, climbing to 123.3 percent. Just a few months later, in December, that number had dropped all the way back down to 100.1 percent — down 9.9 percent even from the previous year.

THE DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

That's a lot of numbers, but they all point to the same thing. The market has shifted dramatically in the past 12 months. If you can afford to buy a home, there are bargains out there, especially if you're looking for a condominium.

According to Redfin, there are signs that early-stage demand is up.

"We're entering 2023 with positive economic news: The latest consumer price index report confirms that the worst of inflation is behind us. That means the Fed is likely to continue easing its interest-rate increases, which should cause mortgage rates to continue gradually declining. This could bring back some homebuyers in the coming months," said Redfin Deputy Chief Economist Taylor Marr.

"We've already seen an uptick in people initiating home searches. Although those house hunters haven't yet turned into buyers, they may soon, given that monthly mortgage payments are notably down from their peak and the latest inflation and employment data lower the chances of a recession."

The real estate agents quoted in a recent *San Francisco Business Times* story were generally optimistic about the months ahead. They acknowledge that late 2022 was a grind, but seem to believe that after a sluggish start, there may be a more normalizing market in San Francisco by early spring.

The agents tend to believe that buyers with money are out there — it's just that they are not willing to make offers as of yet. Give them time, and a little more economic certainty, and they'll be back.

Keep in mind Realtors are by nature an optimistic bunch. Sometimes, there is no more important attribute than that.

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