

# THE BEAT GOES ONWARD: BROADWAY'S BEAT MUSEUM SEEKS TO EXPAND MINDS AND EXHIBITION SPACE, AND ADD A CAFÉ

by Romalyn Schmaltz  
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*Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there.* —Gary Snyder

Strolling up Broadway from the Embarcadero after the Women's March early this year, I was flushed with refreshed empowerment, purpose, and a sense of unity, having just tramped from City Hall to the Ferry Building with four of my favorite THD ladies—and almost 100,000 other shining and fearless San Franciscans. As I approached Columbus, I felt myself at a nexus of creativity and resistance: squinting, I could make out City Lights; one of the anti-Trump signs constantly emblazoned in happy-face yellow on Tony Serra Law Offices' building; and beyond it, The Beat Museum. All this coalesced in a single, gilded vista of how our heritage could also be The Future.

Wistfully, I recalled of one of my favorite opening lines in American literature, from Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*: "I am always drawn back to places where I have lived, the houses and their neighborhoods." I've only lived here twelve years, but I sometimes catch myself not really looking around anymore, often distracted by daily havoc. How easy it can be, in these days of socio-political inanity, to take for granted these landmarks we walk among in our beloved North Beach! When was the last time I'd been to, say, The Beat Museum? What's really happening there? I wondered.

As it turns out, a great deal indeed. I stopped in



Musician Jimmy Page is a card-carrying member and regular patron of The Beat Museum.

PHOTO © JERRY CIMINO

soon afterward to chat with founder and director Jerry Cimino and some of the fine folks behind the counter so stacked with books they might as well just build the counter out of books. Jerry began The Beat Museum in 2003 in Monterey, moving it to Broadway between the Peter Macchiarini Steps and Columbus Avenue in 2006 because, in his words, "It soon became apparent that the true home to any museum honoring and archiving the

Beat Generation would be here in North Beach."

Fifteen years later, The Beat Museum is scheduled for earthquake retrofitting, and Jerry sees this necessary construction as ideal timing to redesign and expand the Museum's physical vision. The plans include a mezzanine on all sides that would dramatically increase exhibition space, while keeping the overall layout open and light. He shows me renderings of a proposed front sidewalk café, an heir apparent of the café culture that was so emblematic of the Beats. I can't help but marvel at what an indoor-outdoor counterculture café would do to enhance the aforementioned vista of Broadway and Columbus. Imagine being able to buy a first edition or reissue, tuck in with a cappuccino or cabernet, and take in the breezy crossroads that, even before Haight-Ashbury, was the keystone of San Francisco Resistance. I leave wanting to see this project happen for the neighborhood's sake.

I decide to go back for an in-depth tour of the museum itself. A natural, affable docent, Jerry leads me into the exhibitions at the rear and upstairs, far behind what you can see from the entry's book and gift shops. As he presents Gary Snyder's original sketchbooks, he explains that the Museum frequently becomes the home to archives and curiosities such as clothing and motorcycles, as well as original papers, writing, letters, and art. Innumerable boxes are opened to confirm his claims: The Museum has been entrusted with relics so rare and valuable—and voluminous—that, as Jerry says, "If we had five times the space, we could fill it!" I leave wanting to see this project happen for the archives' sake.

The next time I visit The Beat Museum, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting has happened, and since there's no café to repair to yet, Jerry invites me upstairs into the museum, where we talk sotto-voce in overstuffed couches as visitors meander by. In spite of the tragedy, we're both clearly energized by the students' powerful responses (so much so that Emma Gonzales has been featured in the video on their Patreon page). "I was wondering when this generation was going to claim its power," he says. We trace them back to the protesters of the Gulf and Vietnam Wars, Feminism, the Hippies, and so forth. "But every generation, every revolution comes back to the Beats," Jerry says. I leave wanting to see this project happen for the kids—the Future's—sake.

The Museum's landlord, the Chinatown Community Development Center, will be footing the



This display of original memorabilia confirms The Beat Museum's reach goes beyond the Beat poets.

PHOTO © ROMALYN SCHMALTZ

bill for the retrofit, but the Museum itself is writing the checks for any tenant improvements, which is why they've launched a Patreon page to invite the participation of investors at all levels, especially what they call potential "Beat Angels." Jerry notes that, historically, museums need serious benefactors to survive, and so far they've been getting by on some individual donations, a rather modest museum admission (Jerry offers an "or-your-money-back" guarantee of satisfaction), and gift and book sales, but those barely keep the lights on as-is. He's hoping that folks who see the value—the necessary and timely message—of the Beat Generation will understand the even greater value it can bestow upon emerging generations.



Allen Ginsberg's long poem "Howl" was completed in 1955 in his North Beach apartment and published in 1956 by City Lights Books. Publisher and poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti and bookstore manager Shigeyosi "Shig" Murau were tried on obscenity charges, exonerated, and the book was declared protected under the First Amendment. At top, notice for a reading by Renaissance poets Kenneth Rexroth and Ferlinghetti. Though both were part of the Beat Generation, neither thought of himself as a Beat poet.

PHOTO © ROMALYN SCHMALTZ

As our beloved neighbor and Poet Laureate Lawrence Ferlinghetti put it, "Everything the Beats stood for was the opposite of the dominant culture today." And that's reason enough for me to open my eyes, look around, and remain resolutely up-Beat.

Located at 540 Broadway, The Beat Museum is host to a variety of free literary and musical events—often featuring THD community members—and is open for browsing, exhibits, and tours from 10 am to 7 pm daily. Please check out their full roster at <http://www.kerouac.com>, and by all means, head over to their Patreon page at <https://www.patreon.com/thebeatmuseum>.



Proposed Beat café patio and entrance.

RENDERING © BRANDON LOBERG, COURTESY OF THE BEAT MUSEUM



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Judy Irving  
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By the time you read this we will have had our annual THD Members' Meeting at the South End Rowing Club, where we welcomed new board members, thanked departing ones, and enjoyed an illustrated talk by C.J. Schake, an artist and photographer who works at Coit Tower. Every day C.J. interacts with tourists from around the world, and almost invariably they're astonished that Coit Tower was built for the "common people" – the working people depicted in the colorful murals – rather than for some corporate philanthropist or famous politician. When she takes people up in the tower's elevator they sometimes complain about how old it is, and she reminds them that elevators were built to last in those days, not sink into the mud like a SOMA highrise.

That grand, generous vision of the common good represented by Lillie Coit's donation to the City's working people is not a top priority for many in power these days. You'll read about Senate Bill 827 in other reports in this issue, but I want to alert you to its potentially dire impact on our neighborhood.

One of THD's missions is to "Stand Up for the Hill" when necessary. That time is now. Senator Scott Wiener's proposed legislation SB 827 eliminates ALL local control over height, bulk, and design guidelines for new housing within our neighborhoods.

Remember the Fontana Towers at the base of Russian Hill? Unlike Coit Tower, these monstrosities were built to maximize profit for developers, with no regard for preserving views or respecting the character of the neighborhood. The outrage caused by that high-rise became the impetus for a citizen-led ballot initiative, vigorously supported by THD and other community groups, which mandated our current 40-foot height limit. Under SB 827, the height limit would be abolished.

The bill would raise allowable building heights from 40 feet to 45-110 feet! Anyone who lives within a quarter mile of public transit or near "transit streets with specific widths" can expect new buildings, from 4-1/2 to 10 stories tall (per SF Planning Department's analysis). This would end the decades-long protection of the 40-foot height limit in residential areas and most commercial corridors. 96% of San Francisco's neighborhoods would fall under this new "up-zoning" law, which could be the single biggest threat to the City's



Newly planted olive trees on Lombard Street.

PHOTO © CJ VERBURG

# STAND UP FOR THE HILL!



Fontana Towers on North Point Street at Van Ness.

PHOTO © JUDY IRVING.

human-scale livability, not to mention its international reputation as a tourist destination. Can you imagine Coit Tower surrounded?

This kind of developer give-away isn't uncommon, sadly, but it's a new and, to my mind, a rather cynical twist to call it "transit-rich housing." The city of Los Angeles vehemently opposes the bill, and on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 8-3 in favor of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's resolution to oppose SB 827 as well, with only London Breed and two other Supervisors supporting Wiener. The Telegraph Hill Dwellers, along with dozens of other community organizations, weighed in strongly against this power grab, which would transform the entire City into a bland, generic sea of high-rises.



Who's that rival in the mirror?

PHOTO © JUDY IRVING.

By the time you read this, Wiener may have introduced amendments to soften the blow, but this could be a case of trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. No San Francisco Supervisors, no Planning Commission, no mayor can override this bill if it's enacted at the State level.

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Rather than watch 100-foot-tall buildings sprouting up along our streets, wouldn't you rather see new, healthy trees lining our sidewalks? Are you tired of walking past dead tree stumps or empty tree wells? Would you like to see small gardens planted in your neighborhood? The City is now providing *free* trees to residents!

Jeff Cheney, a freelance industrial designer who got tired of his own complaining and is now organizing tree-plantings on Russian Hill, has extended the invitation to North Beach and Telegraph Hill. Coordinating his efforts with Friends of the Urban Forest and the City, Jeff helps residents fill out the application form and choose a good tree species. As soon as he gets 50 applications for new trees, a community planting day will be scheduled.

Homeowners and/or renters can apply for new trees, replacement trees, and even small sidewalk gardens to be installed at no cost. If you'd like a free tree and would be willing to water it once a week (a water bag needs to be refilled), please let Jeff know: [jeff@cheneydd.com](mailto:jeff@cheneydd.com) Tree maintenance and tree-root-damaged sidewalk repair are now being provided by the SF DPW (Department of Public Works).

San Francisco has one of the sparsest tree canopies of any major US city. I participated in a community tree-planting project when I lived in Noe Valley; it's a

great way to meet neighbors, beautify our streets, fill out our tree canopy, and provide habitat for birds.

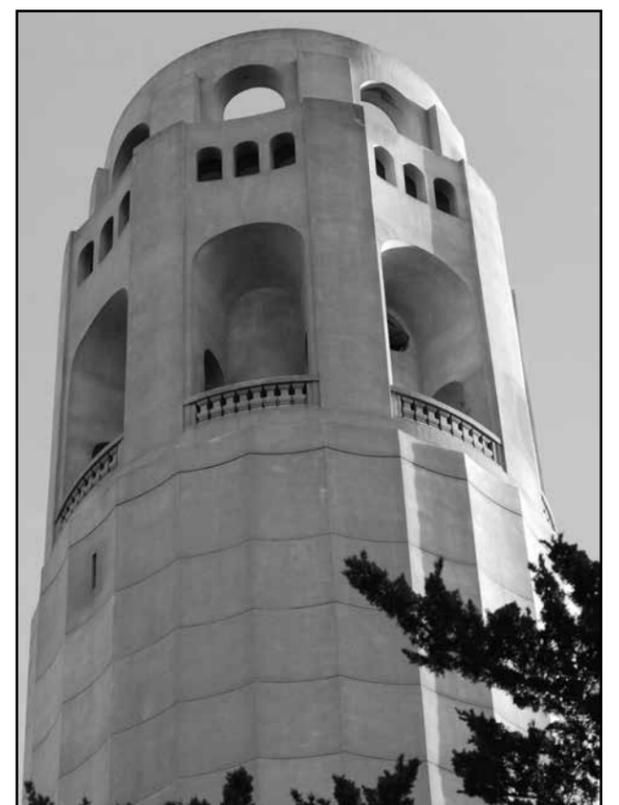
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Birds! You know I love birds. This story is a silly one, but funny/sad/endering too. An industrious male song sparrow has been fighting his "enemies" in car mirrors at Montgomery and Filbert for two years now. You may remember a photograph published in *The Semaphore* when he first started defending his territory. This year, in a new development – evolution?! – the intrepid little sparrow decided to use a weapon, not just his beak. He picked up a cigarette butt and jabbed it at his opponent in the mirror! Sometimes I think, "Poor bird, that's YOU!" and other times I realize he *does* have a sense of self: He is who he is, and that bird in the mirror is somebody else. Either way, this little sparrow is determined to protect his habitat. Let's take a cue from a wild bird and protect our habitat too.

June election coming soon! Don't forget to pick your mayoral favorite, bone up on all the ballot propositions, and VOTE! On p. 10 of this issue you'll find the mayoral candidates' answers to pivotal questions posed by *The League of Pissed Off Voters* (with a link to the full Q&A).

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If you'd like to contribute even more to the Hill, and you have writing/editing skills, consider becoming our next *Semaphore* Editor. Carol Verburg, our proactive, creative, and astute Editor for the past two and a half years, is writing a book and wants to step down, but she'll help you learn the ropes as will I and others on the *Semaphore* Committee. Think about it! Be part of local history! Contact: [president@thd.org](mailto:president@thd.org) ✦



Coit Tower.

PHOTO © JUDY IRVING.



## PARKS & TREES REPORT

by Don Raichle, Committee Chair  
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The north edge of Pioneer Park at the base of Coit Tower features one of the most iconic views of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate. This view, framed by the Monterey Cypress trees and the tower rising up at their center, is a defining image of Telegraph Hill. It reaches back to the days when ships were spotted from the hilltop and their arrival telegraphed back to the waterfront.

Unfortunately, time has not been kind to either the park or visual access to the Bay. As a result of deferred maintenance and short-term fixes, instead of sculptural branching supporting high open canopies with views below, the trees form more of a screening hedge, and their health has been impacted.

The good news is that, as a result of neighborhood efforts, San Francisco Recreation and Parks will be taking steps to improve maintenance practices. Specific details are still to be worked out, but the basic approach will be to prune the existing healthy Cypress trees so that they will regain their natural shape and provide views below their canopies. If these practices are actually implemented, visitors will regain the opportunity to see the waterfront again without climbing up on the curved seat wall and balancing on their toes.

In other developments, the playground at Washington Square is still on target to begin construction this spring with completion in the fall. Subsequently work will begin on replacing the irrigation and drainage systems for the rest of the park. That project will require closure of the park for six to nine months (a final schedule has not been determined); however, the playground and restrooms will continue to be open and accessible.

One unresolved issue is the repair and replacement of some of the park's paving. The existing asphalt pathways are decades old and are severely degraded. It is unavoidable that trenching and construction related to the irrigation and drainage work will damage them further. Logically this would be the time to replace the parks walkways and take care of all the park's improvements at one time. It would be cost effective to do the work all at once and result in a vastly improved open space for the neighborhood and city as a whole. It clearly makes no sense to spend significant funds and wind up with some components of the park's in worse shape than when the project was started. The Friends of Washington Square, working with Supervisor Peskin, are leading the effort to find a way to make this happen. Unsurprisingly the major roadblock is funding, but it would be a huge missed opportunity if the paving work isn't included in the project. Hopefully we can report some progress on this item in the next Semaphore issue.



Current view to the northwest.

PHOTO © DON RAICHLE



Simulation of opening of view with enhanced maintenance.

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## DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR REPORT

By Aaron Peskin  
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The Semaphore has asked me to dedicate this Supervisor's Report to my thoughts on the special June 5 election. For what it's worth, here they are – as always, please feel free to reach out if you have questions or debate any of these thoughts.

### The Mayor's Race

One thing we can all agree on: this will be a historic election, no matter what. Long before Mayor Ed Lee passed away, I had given my early and heartfelt mayoral endorsement to my former colleague and our former State Senator, Mark Leno, for what we all believed would be a November 2019 race. I continue to support Mark Leno, and I have since also dual-endorsed my current colleague, Supervisor Jane Kim.

I served on the Board of Supervisors with Mark Leno, and have always been impressed with his diplomacy, experience and knowledge of the issues. He is a thoughtful and engaged policymaker, who listens to a diversity of counsel before making a decision. He has earned a reputation in the Capitol for working across the aisle to pass impactful legislation, and has stood up to monied special interests like the Realtors Association and PG&E. Mark will be a Mayor who not only understands the value of every neighborhood's unique identity and contributions, but will fight for longtime San Franciscans who are rapidly being displaced by speculation. In 2016, when Governor Brown tried to ram through the horrible one-size-fits-all "Development By Right" bill, Mark calmly helped us to negotiate a process to vet and ultimately defeat the bill. As a fiscal conservative, I also welcome Mark's budget prowess in reining in our \$10 billion spending budget. Finally, Mark is a dear friend I've always admired for his integrity and decency. As my Chief of Staff says, "He's a class act." Mark would not only be our first openly gay Mayor, but he would be the first independent voice we've had in Room 200 in a quarter of a century.

I have truly enjoyed working with Jane Kim since being back on the Board. She has deep connections to the Chinatown community in my district, and was a key supporter during my 2015 race to take back the Board of Supervisors. She is an intelligent and analytical legislator, who has made a name for herself as the Board's de-facto affordable housing negotiator and "big idea" pusher. We have tag-teamed on a number of progressive issues, including 2016's Inclusionary Affordable Housing for All (which netted us the highest affordable

housing requirements for private development in the nation), as well as legislation to stop fraudulent OMI evictions and reform campaign finance laws. Jane shares many of my general policy positions, including voting against regressive taxation and for corporate accountability. She would not only be the first Asian American woman to be elected Mayor, but she would be a pragmatic progressive voice in Room 200.

I encourage you to rank these two fine individuals as your heart compels you.

## LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

### Prop A – Clean & Affordable Energy Bonding Authority: Yes

I introduced this charter amendment with my colleague and fellow environmentalist Supervisor Katy Tang. It would expand the SF Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) existing bonding authority to raise money for clean energy infrastructure (they can already do this for water and sewer infrastructure). SFPUC needs bonds to build transmission facilities to bring Hetch Hetchy's 100% clean power to new neighborhoods like Treasure Island, Hunters Point Shipyard, Pier 70, and Mission Rock. The facilities have to be built no matter what, but my charter amendment would help fund the build-out of this critical infrastructure. We currently own a significant amount of transmission facilities, including all the infrastructure on public property (SFUSD sites, SFO, our fire stations, etc.).

These are revenue bonds, which means the SFPUC will be borrowing this bond money against the future revenues they'll earn from all of that clean energy. (This, as opposed to general obligation bonds, which borrow money against future property taxes.) In other words, this will not come at an expense to taxpayers. The SFPUC has proven that they can manage ratepayer finances responsibly and they have a 100% safety track record when it comes to infrastructure maintenance. Please vote yes for clean and affordable energy delivery via sustainable infrastructure.

### Prop B – Commissioners Without Conflicts Charter Amendment: Yes

I introduced this good-government measure to create a bright line between our electoral and local governance processes. This charter amendment would require candidates for local elected office to step down from boards and commissions established by the City Charter

and to which members are appointed instead of elected. These bodies routinely make decisions where millions of dollars and individual livelihoods are at stake. At the core of every decision is an inherent duty to honor and advance the interests of all San Francisco residents.

Commissioners and Board Members appointed to these high-profile bodies should not be in a position to compromise their duty to the public by raising money or attempting to earn endorsements from the individuals and entities that appear before them for major entitlements, contracts, or other administrative approvals or enforcement actions.

That is why it has been the unspoken rule for decades for appointed members of Boards and Commissions to relinquish their positions of power when they decide to run for office. It's time to codify this ethical practice in our city charter. Vote yes!

### Prop C – Commercial Rent Tax For Child Care/Early Education for All

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### Prop D – Commercial Rent Tax for Housing and Homelessness

Some of you may remember that my office co-chaired the Transportation Task Force 2045 with the Mayor's Office for 6 months last year, which culminated in my December introduction of a thoroughly vetted proposal for a commercial rent gross receipts tax that would generate \$100 million annually for transportation operations and infrastructure.

Subsequently, I had two groups of colleagues who decided to use the same revenue source for their own expenditure ideas. In the interest of letting this policy debate play out at the Board of Supervisors and not having a passel of competing measures on the ballot, I withdrew my measure.

What remains are two "dueling" commercial rent increases:

Prop C institutes a 3.5% tax which would raise \$140 million annually to create quality affordable child-care for all families in San Francisco, with a little extra money intended to fund a minimum compensation wage increase for non-profit workers. Prop C was put onto the ballot via a voter signature drive, and based on a recent court ruling on voter initiatives that levy special taxes, it would merely require a 50+1 vote threshold to pass on June 5.

Prop D is a 1.7% tax and would raise \$64 million annually for shelter services, middle-income housing, and



Like her late self, Millie Fishman Gardner's Feb. 25 memorial roved cheerfully all over North Beach.

PHOTO © STEWART BLOOM

affordable rental subsidies. Frankly, spreading around that little amount of money into all of the big-issue buckets listed is barely scratching the surface. Prop D was put directly onto the ballot with no community or legislative process, via four Supervisors. As such, it will require a 2/3 vote of the electorate. As a general rule, I believe that if you're going to levy a special tax to address two fairly intractable policy issues, you should probably go through a real vetting process. 2016's Inclusionary Affordable Housing For All measure was informed by months of input from affordable *and* market rate developers, as well as tenant and home-ownership organizations. When it won at the ballot, the Board of Supervisors was able to pass the highest affordable-housing requirements in the country. Unfortunately, Prop D skipped this critical collaborative step.

I'm also frankly disturbed that Prop D employs a "poison pill" that ensures that Prop C dies if both measures pass but Prop D gets more votes. You won't read that in their promotional materials, but that's a fact.

Finally, I'm still very concerned about how we're going to pay for the transportation infrastructure that we so desperately need to keep pace with our growing city, and I reserve the right to try my commercial tax again in November should both C and D fail. That being said, as the son of a social worker, I'm more inclined to support Proposition C's big idea to provide affordable childcare to low- and middle-income families and pay our childcare workers a living wage.

With that information, vote as you will.

### **Prop E — Prohibiting Tobacco Retailers from Selling Flavored Tobacco Products: Yes**

The Board of Supervisors already voted unanimously to ban flavored tobacco products last year after a robust policy debate, and now tobacco companies have spent almost \$1 million to overturn our decision. While I've never been into sin taxes or punitive bans, ultimately the legislative branch made the call to protect minors from the well-financed marketing efforts of tobacco corporations, and Big Tobacco is hell-bent on getting their captive consumer audience back. Prop E would uphold the City's policy to ban the most lethal and addictive substances, regardless of the efforts of corporate interests. Vote yes.

### **Prop F — City-Funded Legal Representation for Residential Tenants in Eviction Lawsuits: Yes**

This would guarantee any city resident facing eviction the right to an attorney. Having fielded many tenant requests for legal representation, I know what my constituents are facing on a daily basis as more and more longtime tenants struggle to stay in their homes. The reality is they are more likely to win fraudulent eviction cases with legal representation, but 80-90% of tenants end up going to court without counsel. While it is true that there's no funding mechanism tied to this ballot initiative or details on how the Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development would implement it, I've signed on as an endorser because I believe that we have to take serious steps to address our eviction crisis — before our neighbors are lost to displacement forever.

### **Prop G — Parcel Tax for Public School Teachers: Yes**

As we continue to wait for Prop 13 reform, our California public schools have remained underfunded and deprioritized. Nationally, public school teachers struggle to survive, and here in San Francisco we have teachers who are literally homeless. Again, as the son of an educator, this hurts my heart.

Our public school union, United Educators of San Francisco (UESF), came within days of a strike last fall before negotiating a new contract with SFUSD. That new contract resulted in an 11% raise over 3 years for SFUSD educators and staff. This raise will bring SFUSD from the 10th lowest-paid district in the Bay Area to the 2nd highest, in the hope that our hard-working teachers can actually live here, too. Part of that raise was covered by the district's budget, but in order to fund the rest, voters must approve this parcel tax increase.

Prop G would levy a \$298 tax on each parcel, adjusting for inflation each year and expiring in 2038. (Keep in mind that the existing property tax exemp-



A dramatic change in our Columbus Ave. landscape came at the end of February when Caffè Roma closed its doors after 29 years, unable to reach an agreement with the landlord. They don't plan to reopen in North Beach, but their coffee can be found at their other two locations and online. Email [coffee@cafferoma.com](mailto:coffee@cafferoma.com); 415-296-7662.

PHOTO © RICHARD SLOTA

tions apply, so elderly property owners, for example, would not be impacted by this tax.)

This was a signature initiative led by UESF and has my support, as well as that of other Supervisors and the Board of Education. Please vote yes.

### **Prop H — Allow POA To Set Taser Policies For SFPD: No**

This is just wrong. After a year-long series of community meetings over the course of 2017, the Police Commission voted to arm the SFPD with Tasers, with the caveat that the Commission would craft a Taser oversight and use policy using the Obama Department of Justice's (DOJ) police reform recommendations. The Police Officers Association (POA) put Prop H on the ballot to make a scene and provide a distraction from their horrible behavior over the last two years of federal investigations, racist scandals, and top brass turnover.

Prop H strips the ability of the community, Police Commission, and Chief of Police to set common-sense Taser policy and amend those policies in the future. For example, it undercuts the Commission's ability to require officers to deploy life-saving de-escalation techniques before using potentially lethal Tasers, or limit the use of Tasers to actual physical resistance.

In a letter to the Department of Elections, Police Chief Bill Scott called Prop H the "antithesis" of the collaborative DOJ recommendations he was hired to pursue in partnership with the community. I rather agree with him. The Police Commission is a bipartisan body

appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors whose sole purpose is to provide independent oversight over the functions of our police force. The day that we start allowing a special interest group like the POA to undercut our Police Chief, Police Commission, and hardworking peace officers is the day we lose any real shot at building a community dialogue around meaningful police reform efforts. Absolutely vote no.

### **SB 827 — San Francisco Says "NO One-Size-Fits-All Planning. NO Developer Giveaways."**

I think everything there is to say about SB 827 has been covered by this publication, and I wrote about my position on Senate Bill 827 in the *Marina Times* April edition. Since that time, the Board of Supervisors has taken an official opposition position to Senator Wiener and Assemblyman Ting's bill that would upzone 96% of San Francisco with no anti-displacement guarantees, no additional SF affordability requirements or community benefits, no development mandates for jurisdictions contributing to our housing crisis, no land value recapture, and no funding for transit infrastructure.

We continue to entreat our State Legislative Delegation to work with local representatives to scrap SB 827 and start over with a community-led measure with funding and real tenant protections attached.

With that, I hope to see you around the neighborhood — and at the polls!



Lovers of the Italian French Bakery on the corner of Union and Grant breathed a sigh of relief when Sylvia's Bakeshop opened in that long-closed spot. Alas, within months the business was sold, the doors locked, and the windows papered over again.

PHOTO © CJ VERBURG



# PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

by Stan Hayes, Committee Co-Chair  
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Welcome to our Spring Planning & Zoning report. With the

budding, flowering, and new growth on trees, there inevitably comes the budding, flowering, and new growth of planning and zoning issues, it seems. Not surprisingly, we've been busy. Here's a sampling:

**Urban Design Guidelines.** THD successfully advocated for the development of stand-alone neighborhood-specific design guidelines for North Beach. Here's late-breaking news (at the time of this writing) of an important success (thanks, Supervisor Peskin!). The Planning Department has proposed Urban Design Guidelines (UDG) that would govern design review in commercial areas throughout the City. Instead of a set of one-size-fits-all guidelines applied uniformly throughout the City, THD has long advocated for more individualized design guidelines that could be tailored to the unique facts-on-the-ground character of each neighborhood, to better recognize, preserve, and enhance their distinctive qualities. Consistent with THD's request, the Planning Commission has now formally endorsed the concept of neighborhood-specific Special Area Guidelines and authorized the adoption of separate stand-alone guidelines for North Beach that would be exempt from the UDG. Also, consistent with THD's request, the Planning Commission exempted historic districts from the UDG, including the Northeast Waterfront and Jackson Square Historic Districts in our own area. Late last year, we submitted over one hundred individual comments on Planning's initial draft of the North Beach guidelines. As of this date, we are continuing to work with Planning staff to further develop these guidelines.

**Planning & Zoning Committee.** The Planning & Zoning Committee met in January. (Note that any THD member is invited to these meetings – just let us know of your interest at [hello.thd.org](mailto:hello.thd.org).) First, we heard a presentation on the latest plans for the 88 Broadway affordable housing project by developer John Stewart of the John Stewart Company, accompanied by architect Bill Leddy and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development Kate Hartley. Then, we heard a presentation by Dominic LiMandri, District Manager of the Top of Broadway Community Benefit District (ToBCBD) on a proposed new lighting installation to be suspended over the Peter Macchiarini Steps (Kearny Street, between Naked Lunch and the Green Tortoise Hotel). After discussion, the consensus was as follows:

- **88 Broadway.** The Committee recommended additional modifications to the project, while reaffirming THD's strong support of affordable housing for all those in need, and our commitment to welcoming as neighbors whoever lives in the new 88 Broadway. The Committee reiterated that we just want the 88 Broadway buildings to fit in with the prevailing scale and character of the Northeast Waterfront Historic District within which it is located. We also reaffirmed our support for:
  - a) Smaller buildings, with sizes more in scale with adjacent historic and other buildings. If the City will not agree to reductions in size, we support rearranging the building segments to reduce their apparent, if not actual, mass.
  - b) Additional modifications to window placement to better match prevailing window patterns in the District. Stacked windows in a regular, rhythmic pattern are the dominant window design.
  - c) Exterior materials that provide a less artificial appearance which better

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blends in with historic buildings. We strongly support the City's decision to authorize the use of a realistic brick veneer on brick-style building segments as a significant improvement to the original design.

- **Kearny Steps Lighting Project.** The Committee recommended that THD support moving the proposed lighting project forward to installation, provided that: protection of the historic character of the area is assured, residents and businesses along both sides of the Steps have been consulted and their concerns addressed, and provisions acceptable to the community are adopted governing the lights and their usage (e.g., brightness, timing, displays). The Committee also recommended that the ToBCBD develop further information regarding mechanisms to assure that long-term funding will be available, that demands placed on ToBCBD staff now and in the future will be manageable, how and by whom lighting displays will be developed, and how decisions will be made about what will be displayed by the lights and how public input will be assured.

**Senate Bill 827.** THD opposes SB 827 (Wiener). Senate Bill 827, introduced by San Francisco's Senator Wiener, would award a bonus for building higher and denser housing near "transit-rich" locations (within 1/2 mile of a major transit stop or 1/4 mile of such a stop or a stop on a "high-quality transit corridor"). THD has joined many other organizations and cities throughout California in opposing SB 827 because it would:

- Strip San Francisco of much of its power to regulate land use
- Maximize development by limiting or eliminating many local zoning controls
- Up-zone as much as 96% of San Francisco, including North Beach and Telegraph Hill
- Override current height limits to allow buildings up to 8 stories (10 stories if, as the bill permits, combined with another state law)
- Not really protect rent controlled tenants
- Not provide any affordable housing beyond what the City provides already.

Remember! This is just a sampling. YOU CAN BE A PART OF THIS!! If you'd like to join, or at least get information from, the THD Planning & Zoning Committee, just send me an email at [hello@thd.org](mailto:hello@thd.org) or [Stan.Hayes@thd.org](mailto:Stan.Hayes@thd.org) to get onto our email list.



On March 17, a horrific fire destroyed the building at Union and Columbus that housed Coit Liquors, Ferry Plaza Seafood, Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe, Rogue Ales, The Salzburg, and two stories of vacant apartments.

PHOTO © DENNIS HEARNE

# SEMAPHORE BULLETIN BOARD

## NORTH BEACH FIRST FRIDAYS

Stroll around Columbus and Grant avenues on the first Friday evening of each month to see what's new in the neighborhood. You'll find an open-house welcome at art galleries, boutiques, and local watering holes, as well as pop-ups and cultural events.

Canessa Gallery, 708 Montgomery St. at Columbus [www.canessa.org](http://www.canessa.org)  
 Gallery 1317, 1317 Grant Ave.  
 Grey City Gallery, 250 Columbus Ave. at Broadway/Pacific/Saroyan Alley [greycitygallery.com](http://greycitygallery.com)  
 Live Worms Gallery, 1345 Grant Ave. [www.sflivewormsgallery.com](http://www.sflivewormsgallery.com)  
 Macchiarini Creative Design, 1544 Grant Ave. [www.maccreativedesign.com](http://www.maccreativedesign.com)  
 Modern Eden Gallery, 801 Greenwich St. [www.moderneden.com](http://www.moderneden.com)  
 Mule Gallery, 80 Fresno St. [mulegallery.com](http://mulegallery.com)  
 North Beach Bauhaus, 703 Columbus Ave. [www.nbbauhaus.com](http://www.nbbauhaus.com)  
 Telegraph Hill Gallery, 491 Greenwich St. [telegraphhillgallery.com](http://telegraphhillgallery.com)  
 Remind yourself how much fun it is to live in such a vibrant corner of the world by rediscovering the thriving local art scene while you support the creative community behind it.



Events vary from month to month, so check the **North Beach First Fridays website** (<http://northbeachfirstfridays.com/>), **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/northbeachfirstfridays/>), and **Twitter feed** (<https://twitter.com/NB1stFridays>) for the latest openings, closings, and events.



## NEXT Village SF

continues its mission of helping seniors in northeast SF to age-in-place, engaged, connected, and supported. We're always looking for interesting speakers for our Live & Learn series, volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, community members who'd enjoy serving on our board of directors, and (of course) individual donations and corporate partnerships. Did you know only 7% of US foundations support programs for seniors? We thank you for all you do for your neighborhood. Please join us, if you haven't already, and bring your friends! All are welcome at our social events, and as part of this friendly community. For more information, go to [www.nextvillagesf.org](http://www.nextvillagesf.org), [info@nextvillagesf.org](mailto:info@nextvillagesf.org), or call 415-888-2868.



## FREE JOB SEARCH MEETINGS

that can jumpstart your job search or get you out of the career doldrums  
**The Job Forum**  
 235 Montgomery St., Mezzanine conference room  
 Every Wednesday evening, 6:30-8:30  
 Sponsored by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, The Job Forum provides job search networking and career support to professional job seekers in the San Francisco Bay Area.  
[thejobforum.org](http://thejobforum.org)  
 Free for job seekers — See story in the Winter 2018 Semaphore

## THAT MAGICAL PLACE CALLED "AWAY"

In its quest to eliminate waste in San Francisco, Recology has expanded its guidelines for recycling (blue bin), compost (green bin), and trash (black bin). Find out where to put everything at <https://sfrecycles.org/>



## POETRY AT THE NORTH BEACH LIBRARY

Held every Tuesday evening in the historic literary epicenter of San Francisco, **Tuesdays at North Beach** is a free poetry series celebrating internationally acclaimed poets and showcasing local talent. Guests have included Jonathan Richman, David Meltzer, Diane di Prima, California Poet Laureate Al Young and freshly-discovered poets from Friends' sister program, Poets 11. The series is curated by Friends' Poet-in-Residence, Jack Hirschman. Presented by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. For more information, call Byron Spooner at 415-626-7500.



## NORTH BEACH CITIZENS WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS!

We are a community based non-profit organization that utilizes the strength of the neighborhood to effectively address the needs of homeless and low-income citizens through an innovative collaboration of residents, merchants, police, and service providers. If you haven't stopped by lately, come visit our new headquarters at 1034 Kearny. For hours, directions, and all other information: <http://www.northbeachcitizens.org/> (415) 772-0918



## NOONTIME CONCERTS

"San Francisco's Musical Lunch Break"  
 FREE classical performances by outstanding local and international artists  
 Every Tuesday, 12:30-1:15 PM (approximately)  
 Old St. Mary's Cathedral, corner of California and Grant  
 Admission is free; please make a \$5 donation if you can.  
<http://noontimeconcerts.org/>



## LOOKING OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN

The San Francisco Department of Child Support Services strives to ensure that all children receive the financial and medical support they need from their parents to be healthy and successful. Our resources include legal assistance; location of parents; establishment of paternity and support obligations; and enforcement of support orders. Walk-in services are available at our main office, 617 Mission Street, 8 AM-5 PM Monday-Friday. Call (866) 901-3212 for more locations and information, or call (415) 356-2950 for a consultation.

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## LIDIA BASTIANICH AND I

by Tania Romanov Amochaev

Oh what a tangled web history weaves. I always knew I had grown up in a refugee camp called San Sabba in Trieste, Italy. I didn't know until a few years ago that Lidia Bastianich, a world famous chef and restaurateur, also lived in that same refugee camp, just a few years after I did.

Nor did I know that she came from Pula, in Istria, a small peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, less than five miles from the village of Medulin, where my own mother was born. I didn't know that her grandmother's name was Rosa, the Italian version of my grandmother's name, a Slavic Roža.

That is the beginning clue to the tangle. Both our families believed they were evicted by the bad guys, a government that unfairly took over their homes. Homes they had lived in for generations.

But her bad guys were my ancestors, and my bad

guys were her ancestors.

Just a few miles apart, they were the victims of history and of world politics that made enemies of their people.

It was in the 1600s that my mother's Slavic family moved from Montenegro to Istria. Istria was then part of the Venetian Empire, which was inviting immigrants to help populate a land decimated by the plagues of earlier centuries. Venetian rule was briefly replaced by Napoleon, who subsequently traded that land to Austria in return for Holland.

The Italian and Slavic cultures coexisted there — both subjected to the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire — for many years. A census from 1900 shows the western cities — those facing Venice — as heavily Italian, while the eastern coast and the center was Croatian.

In another political realignment, at the end of World War I Italy was given Istria, while Yugoslavia incorporated the rest of Croatia.

Unfortunately for my family, Mussolini subsequently rose to power on rabid nationalism. He hated

Slavs, banned their language, and forced my family to flee, turning them into homeless refugees in Yugoslavia.

Italy joined World War II on the losing side. When the dust settled, in 1947, the year that both Lydia and my brother were born, Istria was taken from the Italians and given to Yugoslavia as part of Croatia.

Now it was Tito's turn. Italians were forced out, and Lidia's Italian family was forced into exile.

In a complex story laid out in my book, *Mother Tongue: A Saga of Three Generations of Balkan Women*, I tell of the twists and turns that led to the final bizarre coincidence.

Lidia Bastianich and I spent part of our childhoods in the same refugee camp in Trieste. Today it is in Italy, but when I lived there it was still a neutral zone fought over by our two countries.

Interestingly, Lidia called her own daughter Tanya. So two women — my mother, Zora, and Lidia herself — both born near Pula, in either Croatia or Italy — gave their daughters a Russian name.

If I knew Lidia, I would ask her why.



La Risiera, the Campo at San Sabba where Lidia Bastianich and Tania Amochaev both spent several years of their childhood. During World War II it was a concentration camp.



Sasha, Tania, and their parents leaving the camp at San Sabba: glad to go, waving to those left behind.



Tania, Zora, and Sasha on the deck of the ship getting ready to leave Genoa, Dec. 1953.



Tania with her brother Sasha and her beloved friend Dyadya (Uncle) Zhenya when he was on duty at the guard station at the entrance to Campo San Sabba.

LINE NO.	Pass Name—Given Name	Type	Doc. No.	Height and Weight or Date of Birth	Ten Dollars Fee for U.S. Customs
1	AMOCHEV Anstoljo	Stateless	I-206799		150
2	AMOCHEV Zora	Stateless	I-206798		
3	AMOCHEV Alexander	Stateless	I-204797		
4	AMOCHEV Tatiana	Stateless	I-206796		
	AMOCHEV Babyl	Jordan	V-315548		

Ship manifest of SS Constitution sailing from Genoa to New York, Dec. 1953, with four stateless passengers who'd waited years for this trip.



Tania with her brother Sasha and their parents at their new home in San Francisco.



A book in which Lidia talks about her family history and spending time in Campo San Sabba.

Tania Romanov Amochaev was born in Belgrade, Serbia, the daughter of a displaced White Russian father and Croatian mother. After arriving in America on the SS Constitution, Tania attended San Francisco's public schools and earned a degree in mathematics from UC Berkeley. She then forged a successful business career, serving as the CEO of three technology companies. An award-winning photographer, her work has helped fund her diverse work for nonprofit groups. She has climbed Mount Whitney and Mount Kenya, circumnavigated Annapurna, trekked through Bhutan and Kashmir, sailed along remote rivers in Burma, and walked across Kenya, among many other travels. Tania's current home bases are Healdsburg and San Francisco.

# NORTH BEACH

## FROM TRIESTE TO NORTH BEACH

by Bruno Viscovi

Before migrating to America in 1951 from Trieste, Italy, my family and I began our exodus as Displaced Persons two years after the end of the Second World War. Prior to that time, generations of our extended family had lived in the provincial citadel of Albona (Labin in Croatian) in the northern Adriatic peninsula of Istria, where I was born in 1937. Two years after the war ended, my immediate family chose to abandon what very little was left of our once bountiful possessions rather than live under the severely oppressive communist regime that had brutally occupied our beautiful lands. Our exodus began when we fled to the former regional capital city of Trieste, still in Italy, in 1947. There were tens of thousands of other Displaced Persons like us who were temporarily housed, some for years, in the overcrowded camps of refugees. We had all come from many countries that were now on the other side of the infamous Iron Curtain.

After briefly living in one of those camps, we had the good fortune to be assigned to a newly built, affordable housing complex in a blue-collar neighborhood of Trieste. After the very lean years with severe scarcity of food in Albona, it was a joy to once again be able to eat the delicious and bountiful food of that city.

During the four years in our adoptive city of Trieste, practically every street of every neighborhood had olfactory landmarks that the local residents were accustomed to easily recognize. For example, if I were to walk within several blocks of my home, the dominant odor of the sea indicated that there was a fish store nearby, and its iced marble slabs were laden with many varieties of freshly-caught seafood giving evidence of its location. By the same token, everyone could easily find the delicatessens by following the distinctively pungent odors of a myriad of salami, prosciutto, salsiccie, and all sorts of cheeses, pickles, etc. that emanated from their crowded interiors. For generations, many of the residents did not bother to know the exact street numbers of those purveyors, to the point that, if anyone asked where one could buy certain edible provisions, the locals immediately knew that the enquirer had to be an outsider.

My family and I lived in the heart of North Beach when we first arrived in the summer of 1951 and, since school would not start until fall, I ventured out practically every day to explore every aspect of our new and, hopefully, permanent neighborhood. Considering that my Italian language and its many derivative dialects were spoken by a large percentage of the population in that lively and colorful Italian/American environment, I felt less of a foreigner than I surely would have in any other parts of the city due to my inability to speak English. Therefore, I very confidently followed my nose around many of the streets and immediately recognized some of the familiar scents that I still vividly missed from my faraway city of Trieste.

Our flat was located on Scotland Street, behind my family's small grocery store next to the Graffeo Coffee Co. on Columbus Avenue. Our whole area was blanketed several times a day by the essence of freshly roasted coffee beans produced by our good friend and neighbor Mr. Repetto. In 1952, he was the only merchant of premium arabica coffee in North Beach.

Because there were no espresso coffee bars in North Beach or anywhere else in the city yet, I truly missed the convenience of having a small cup at practically any corner, as I did in Trieste, or Italy for that matter. I must admit I was shocked the first time I had the experience of being served a mug, the standard vessel for the blue-collar coffee shops then, filled to the rim with a watery and barely brown beverage that was called coffee.

In 1906, San Francisco's Petri family created the cigarette-sized TOSCANELLI cigars which were very popular, until the early '60s, with the older generation of men who were heavy smokers in North Beach. This odor also wafted over the neighborhood.

In the early 1950s, the Crismani family, who also were recent immigrants from Pola (Pula) in Istria, bought the Bohemian Cigar Store café/bar at the corner of Columbus and Union, where they sold, amongst the many brands of cigarettes, lots of small cigars that, besides being very dark and skinny, were very stinky. The clientele of this tavern mostly comprised regular groups of blue-collar gentlemen who constantly flicked their volatile Toscanelli ashes into the ashtrays as fast as they dealt a hand of

Briscola, a very popular Italian card game. The ordinary red and white table-wines from the nearby vineyards were poured out of gallon-size jugs, into short glass tumblers on well-worn and scorched round wooden tables. I still think that the labels of those non-vintages should have been printed as "Chateau Gallon." From that most beautiful corner of Washington Square, the incomparably pungent odors of those small



The city of Trieste in 1900.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAFFÈ TRIESTE

cigars, whether lighted or not, combined with the acidic smell of the wine, dominated any of the other scents within that vicinity.

Shortly after the Crismani family took over the café, the stalwart patriarch Mario and his wife and amiable hostess Liliana (now both deceased) established the first Italian wine and small-plates bar in North Beach. The chalkboard menu featured home-cooked Istrian specialties which they prepared daily. Mario's Bohemian Cigar



Albona Restaurant owes its uniqueness to the town of Albona's hilltop site in Istria, overlooking the gateway of the Adriatic Sea. Sharing cultural and political soils with Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy, Istria's culinary infusions come mostly from the Italians, but also from the Austrians, Hungarians, Slavs, Spaniards, French, Jews, Greeks, and Turks, with creative crossovers including almonds, cinnamon, cumin, pasta strudels, sauerkraut, and potato-based soups.

PHOTO © CJ VERBURG



Mario Crismani opened the now famous Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Café on Columbus Avenue in 1972. He was born 1913, in Pola, or Pula, Istria, where he met his wife Liliana; they lived in Trieste until coming to San Francisco. He often played bocce ball at the courts in Aquatic Park.

PHOTO © CJ VERBURG



Giovanni "Papa Gianni" Giotta, founder of Caffè Trieste and one of North Beach's great personalities, was born in Rovigno, or Rovinj, on the Istrian peninsula in 1920, two years before it was transferred from Croatia to Italy. He and his wife, Ida, immigrated to San Francisco and in 1956 opened Caffè Trieste, the first espresso bar in San Francisco.

PHOTO © JULIE JAYCOX

Store Café continues to succeed to this day.

Thousands of refugees from Istria and the nearby Dalmatian coast emigrated to many locations throughout the United States after World War II. The late Giovanni "Papa Gianni" Giotta, who founded Caffè Trieste, was another North Beach restaurant patriarch who came from Istria by way of Trieste. Before and after the previous world war, many more immigrants from those territories had settled here in the Bay Area, and most of them ended up working in restaurants. The venerable Tadich Grill was founded by Nikola Budrovich in 1849, and it is still owned by Dalmatians. Tony "Ante" Rodin, also from Dalmatia, founded the renowned Original Joe's in the Tenderloin in 1937. His daughter Marie Rodin married John Duggan, and they managed that establishment. Currently, both the iconic North Beach restaurant and the Original Joe's of Westlake are owned and managed by Ante's grandchildren.

Bruno Viscovi retired in 2008 from a North Beach restaurant career that started at New Joe's on Broadway in 1952 and culminated with Albona Ristorante Istriano, which he founded in 1988 on Francisco Street. In 2008 he retired; the new owner is long-time Albona chef Samuel Hernandez, who continues to offer the distinctive cuisine of Bruno's native Istria. <http://albonarestaurant.com/> This revised story comes from his 2013 blog post "Scents from the Old to the New Neighborhood." <http://www.bloggingbruno.com/>

# SO YOU WANT TO BE MAYOR? WHAT ABOUT...?

ALL CANDIDATE PHOTOS FROM CAMPAIGN WEBSITES AND MEDIA

The San Francisco League of Pissed Off Voters asked this year's mayoral candidates a long list of tough questions. Here are two of them, with the answers given by Angela Alioto, Michelle Bravo, London Breed, Jane Kim, Mark Leno, and Amy Farah Weiss. The Semaphore thanks the SF League for posing the questions, posting the answers, and giving us permission to share this information with you.

For the candidates' full answers to all the League's questions—which are diverse, challenging, and well worth a look—visit <http://www.theleaguesf.org/blog>

To read about candidates for other offices, ballot issues, and related topics, visit <http://www.theleaguesf.org/>

**1. What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?**

## ANGELA ALIOTO

1. Homelessness — The original reason I chose to run for mayor is the proliferation of tent cities all across our city. As the Chair of the Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, I brought together a diverse coalition including the Coalition on Homelessness and the Hotel Council, where we worked together and helped 4,850 San Franciscans off of the streets and into permanent supportive housing. I know what works, I know how to bring people to do it. I will as Mayor.



2. Clean streets. Our streets are absolutely filthy, littered with needles and worse. It's affecting families and businesses, and it's unacceptable in a city as special as San Francisco

3. Housing — We need to build more at all levels. It's driving long-time San Franciscans out of our city, it's pushing teachers out of our schools. While being conscious of the perils of displacement of disempowered communities, we have been digging ourselves into a hole for decades by not matching housing with employment. It has to stop.

## MICHELLE BRAVO

TASERS, HOUSING, TRANSIENTS. Solutions listed on my website under ISSUES tab: [www.michellebravo.org](http://www.michellebravo.org)

## LONDON BREED

Three of the most pressing issues to address as Mayor will be housing affordability, homelessness, and public safety.

My first priority in housing and homelessness is to create an affordable city for ALL of us. I'll protect and expand our affordable and rent-controlled stock, and honor Mayor Lee's commitment to build 5,000 units per year. I'll continue to work with unions to fund and build hundreds of modular homes for homeless people, and build on underutilized sites around the City like the McDonald's on Haight and Stanyan. Finally, we need to keep our communities in San Francisco, and that means securing the right to eviction counsel and building more middle-income units.

San Francisco needs a Mayor who will make our neighborhoods safer—and on issues of public safety, I don't back down. This means confronting the property crime wave, as I've done by working to add more police officers to keep up with our rising population. This means reducing emergency response times, as I did when I fought the ambulance crisis in 2014. And this means crafting smart policy that aligns with our values: Championing our Sanctuary status, implementing systemic reform, and reintegrating people coming out of jail. Just as I've always done.

## JANE KIM

I will build upon my successful track record in housing, transportation and street cleaning. I will prioritize funding near-term affordable transit options such as protected bike lanes, buses, and ferries while we

support important long-term capital projects such as DTX, a 2nd Transbay tube, and high speed rail which will take decades to build.

Waste on our streets isn't just an eyesore, it's an economic and environmental disaster and a public health crisis waiting to happen. As a Supervisor, I have pushed for additional funding to step up street cleaning this year, and as our next Mayor, I will implement an aggressive plan to clean our streets by 1) partnering with non-profit groups and community benefit districts to greatly expand deployment of Neighborhood Streets Teams, which employ homeless individuals to help clean the streets while providing them with job training skills and housing income, 2) double the number of "Pit Stops" in high problem areas to reduce public urination and defecation and cut the risk of disease, and 3) double the number of street cleaners.

For housing, see answer to question below.



## MARK LENO

**Affordable Housing:** Our city's economy is booming, but we have not done enough planning to meet our growing housing needs. We need to keep people in their homes and create more affordable, workforce, and permanent supportive housing.

**Decriminalizing Homelessness:** Our homelessness crisis is often the result of our mentally ill and addicted residents being left on the streets, untreated, then shuttled in and out of our criminal justice system. I support a new mental and behavioral health center to treat those with chronic mental health and substance abuse problems to stop the cycle.

**Transportation Sustainability:** As our population increases, so do the strains on the infrastructural demands and capacity of our transit systems. Our streets need to be accessible and safe for cars, public transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. We also must continue working with our regional partners in a much greater way to develop smart, sustainable regional solutions. Throughout my 18 years of public service, I have successfully undertaken some of the most impactful policymaking by uniting stakeholders, advocates, policymakers, and innovators. I am proud of my record as a coalition-builder and believe that this will be key to moving solutions forward.

## AMY FARAH WEISS

Ensure that NO ONE is living on our streets without a safe organized place to belong in a community that meets essential human needs. I have an actionable plan to transition 1,000 people off of the streets into community-integrated Transitional Villages in the least restrictive, most autonomous setting possible for each individual in a way that increases both individual and community well-being, health, and safety.

Develop a comprehensive program through MOHCD that supports the activation of units that are being kept empty, by 1) Creating a tenant pool lottery by expanding the DAHLIA system for SF workers who are currently paying more than 50% of their income towards rent or having to live outside of the City,

2) Working with small property owners with vacant units to support tenant screening/management, property management, and building maintenance, and providing mediation support when necessary if property owners rent to SF workers at a maximum of 30% of income, and 3) Developing a vacancy tax/impact fee to the extent possible by local law and working with our state legislators if necessary.

Increase public health/safety and neighborhood vitality by investing in 1) Community-integrated mental health and unarmed de-escalation programming (such as Concrn), 2) Music/arts programming with SF residents, and 3) Essential services programming (such as mobile bathroom services and sidewalk cleaning) that employs residents with high barriers to employment.

**2. San Francisco suffers a continued affordability and housing crisis. Please explain how you think this crisis should be addressed (in general), then list actionable concrete steps you would take, if elected, to move toward those solutions. Include an explanation of whose interests you will prioritize, and at least one example of a step you would support but which is not currently politically feasible.**

## ANGELA ALIOTO

We can make significant strides in alleviating the affordability crisis by building more housing at all levels. As mayor, I will implement Mayor Lee's commitment to build 5,000 new units per year. Particularly housing for low and middle income residents. Providing more middle income housing will enable our teachers, families, and first responders to live in the city where they work and remove an enormous source of stress from their daily lives. We also need to ensure we are building dense housing and expanding public transit with coordinated and intelligent strategy. We must expand transit access when building new housing. We must be open to building new housing by prioritizing density over raising height limits on new construction.

## MICHELLE BRAVO

Please see my response to Housing on my website: [michellebravo.org](http://michellebravo.org)



## LONDON BREED

My housing vision is to create an affordable city for every San Franciscan—and that means all of us. Housing insecurity isn't academic to me. I've lived it for my whole life, from growing up in Plaza East to continuing to live as a tenant as the President of the Board of Supervisors. Addressing the affordability crisis will be one of my top priorities as Mayor, and I'm proud to have been the first candidate in this race to release a housing policy platform. I've delivered good housing policy on the Board, and I'm running as the most pro-housing candidate because we need to be taking this crisis seriously.

Confronting the affordability crisis means protecting and expanding our affordable and rent-controlled housing stock. It means increasing funding for all types of housing. It means honoring Mayor Lee's commitment to build 5,000 units per year. It means funding and building hundreds of modular homes for homeless people. It means negotiating building on underutilized sites—just like I did with the McDonald's on Haight and Stanyan. It means working to keep our middle-income earners in San Francisco. And it means reforming our approval process for code-compliant new housing and greenlighting 100% affordable projects that are code-compliant.

The housing crisis is a long-term problem that demands creative and bold solutions. As Mayor, I'll commit to stop pitting San Franciscans against each other when it comes to development, because this crisis affects us all. After all, this is San Francisco—there's no problem we can't solve when we work together.



## JANE KIM

Building high-end luxury housing alone in San Francisco will not solve our affordability crisis. Building as much affordable housing as possible, both new construction and preservation of rent controlled housing stock, will help address our affordability crisis. We also need cities and counties in the Bay Area to build more housing as well if we truly intend to address the housing crisis.

Forty years of federal divestment of public housing construction, coupled with the recent dissolution of redevelopment at the state level, has led to loss of public funds San Francisco has depended on to build 100% affordable housing.

As Mayor, I will develop new local sources of funds for affordable housing, including a \$1 billion Housing

# TURN, TURN, TURN: NORTH BEACH GOODBYES

## JEAN CARLISLE

Jean Carlisle lived in North Beach from the '40s. She photographed and lived the Beat era and the other scenes that followed until she died on New Year's Day 2018. I often talked to her in the Trieste. She told me how Bobby Kaufman stayed with her at different times. What a strong woman. The memorial for her at Specs in April was filled with friends and plenty of food her neighbors brought to share. — Ann Cohen

Aside from her other many talents — she was a photographer and she painted as well — Jean was a stellar pet sitter. She loved animals and had a way with them. For over a decade, whenever we went away she watched our cat Dooley. We think he preferred her to us and told her so. She would always joke that she didn't want us suing her for alienation of affection. She continued to help us out when we got our two new ones. No matter what was going on in her life, even when she became too frail to leave the hospital, she made a point of asking about them and seemed to enjoy hearing about what they were getting into. We'll never forget her kindnesses towards us and our critters. — Jean Forsman

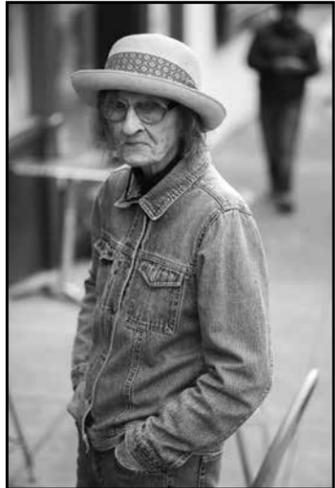


PHOTO © DENNIS HEARNE

## JONEE LEVY HACKER

Jonee Levy died at home of lung cancer on February 18. Since moving from San Rafael in the mid-1980s, first to the Vallejo Street block of the Keystone Korner, later to the Russian Hill grade of Lombard Street, she was active in all the neighborhood organizations—Telegraph Hill Dwellers, North Beach Neighbors, Russian Hill Neighbors, Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, and finally NEXT Village SF, which she co-founded with Janet Crane and helped nurture into a mature, effective organization. An outspoken gadfly in City politics, once President of District 3 Democratic Club, hardworking supporter of both successful and failed candidates for office, and a forcefully articulate witness at countless public hearings, she provided a model of active citizenry. She was also a pretty good piano player and a very good dancer. — Harvey Hacker



PHOTO: HARVEY HACKER.

Jonee always made me feel as if we were in on some marvelous joke together. North Beach will miss her fierce but joyful energy, which truly helped make this a better place to live. — Carol Verburg

## LEO REIGLER

When Leo Reigler arrived in Oakland in 1948 on a Norwegian freighter from the Orient, and on to San Francisco in a laundry truck, he had already fled Vienna for England on a kindertransport ahead of World War II. Emigrating to an agricultural settlement in the Dominican Republic, he spent 6-1/2 years working with livestock, herding cattle, and breaking horses, among many other jobs. North Beach became his longtime home, where he died on Nov. 26, 2017.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLI LARRIEU

I met Leo my first day in San Francisco, August 14th, 1961. I was looking for North Beach, and I went to the gas station at Broadway and Montgomery, and ... landed in Vesuvio. ... Leo poured me my very first drink in SF. And a week later he poured me my second drink, in the Coffee Gallery on Upper Grant, which I later learned was his bar. Several months later, we were looking for space to put on a play, Oscar Wilde's *Salome*. [Leo asked a friend], but that didn't work out, and we ended up putting on the play in The Coffee Gallery. Had a good time. — Felix Justice

Leo recommended me for a job at Vesuvio in 1979 after seeing me day after day opening the Coffee Gallery as he passed by on his way to work. I miss his wit and his charm and will always be inspired by his love of travel and meeting new people. He leaves a great legacy in North Beach and among the many people he loved and helped through the years. — Janet Clyde

## So You Want to Be Mayor? continued from previous page

GO Bond to fund acquisition of existing apartment buildings or buy-down of new market-rate units to be permanently dedicated as affordable. Creating a new source of local tax increment funding for infrastructure, seismic, and remediation costs for development of new affordable and market-rate housing on public lands, including Treasure Island and the Shipyard/Candlestick projects, could cut the time needed to build major projects and 20,000 total units — 6,000 affordable and 14,000 market-rate — in half, from 20+ years to just 10+ years. The bank loan funds for market-rate and commercial parts of the projects will be repaid and re-used in the future at other locations, so all funds will eventually go to affordable housing.

In my time serving as Supervisor, it has become increasingly clear that public land should not be privately owned, and the construction of housing on public land should be part of the government's business (as it used to be between 1940-1980 in our country). Land and housing are valuable goods that ensure people's health and security, and we can't afford to just give them away.

## MARK LENO

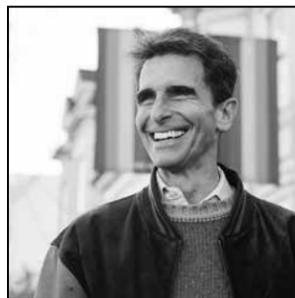
San Francisco is facing an unprecedented affordability crisis, record numbers of evictions, and the mass displacement of entire communities. This is in part due to the fact that our city has prioritized job creation, bringing tens of thousands of new workers to SF, without a comprehensive and strategic plan to support the workforce growth. As our City undergoes immense change, we need to think holistically and comprehensively about how to balance the need for housing — for all income levels — with job growth and its impact on our infrastructure. I believe in creating affordability of housing across all income levels, not just a lot of housing regardless of its affordability.

Only about 10% of San Franciscans can afford to purchase market-rate housing, and only about 15% of San Franciscans can afford to rent market-rate housing. ... Given these alarming statistics, we must continue to have deeply affordable housing options that allow working people and families to stay in San Francisco. We also

need to keep those in housing in housing by preventing unjust evictions, providing rental assistance and support to tenants. ... As Mayor, I would sue speculators who are illegally using the Ellis Act — it was written for landlords, not speculators. ... Prop K outlined housing benchmarks for a minimum of 50% of affordable housing for middle-class households and more than 33% affordable for low and moderate income households. It is astounding to me that our city has not even come close to meeting the voter mandate. In 2016, only 16% of housing was for low-income and middle-income households. We can and must do better.

If elected Mayor, a top priority will be to conduct thorough performance reviews and evaluations of all department heads and their operations. I believe that while our city agencies are key to helping our city run smoothly, they are also tasked with the opportunity to create a vision for our city — to balance stability in our neighborhoods, maintain economic, racial, and social diversity, and lead the way for smart growth and planning with our regional partners. Clearly, there are policies that are not working, goals that are not being met, and a lack of comprehensive vision and planning that is preventing our city from even meeting the voter-mandated goals set out by voters.

Lastly, I absolutely believe that Prop 13 needs to be reformed and I support a split roll to allow commercial properties to be taxed based on their current market value. ... In 2013, I authored a constitutional amendment to change Proposition 13 and allow local parcel taxes for schools to pass with 55% of the vote, instead of the two-thirds currently required. As Mayor, I intend to continue championing legislation, utilize my experience in the state legislature as the California State Senate Budget Chair to seek creative funding sources, and work with stakeholders across the spectrum. ...



## AMY FARAH WEISS

As Mayor, my housing priorities will be [as laid out in Question 1 above, with the following additions:]

Re-introduce and promote David Chiu's Right of First Refusal legislation — which CCHO/ACCE were recently working on under the name of "Community Opportunity to Purchase Act" — to enable nonprofit housing providers to partner with the City's Small Sites Program and Housing Accelerator Fund and acquire 5-25 unit properties before they can be put on the market. This will help prevent Ellis Act evictions.

Develop local and state financing mechanisms that ensure that height/density bonus give-aways require 50% affordable housing (stratified for 15% to 120%). We need to use all the tools available to us, and develop new ones, in order to ensure that we build inclusively and sustainably. Developers who sit on vacant land and entitlements for years because they have over-saturated the market with luxury housing must be trained to behave differently.

Support the expansion of rent control to all properties in the event that Costa Hawkins is repealed at the State level.

Develop a program through MOHCD to support the financing and construction of hundreds to thousands of ADU's (additional dwelling units within the existing building envelope) specifically for SF's workforce and families with SFUSD students at no more than 30% of income while simultaneously supporting small property owners and the building trades.

Work with affordable housing developers, department heads, and interdepartmental staff to implement the MOHCD-facilitated working group recommendations for streamlining the permitting process in order to build the tens of thousands of projects that have already been entitled by the City.



# STILL HERE

by Janice Wood

Walking home from Washington Square in a gentle rain, after a day in the Delta looking at cranes and swans and baby salmon, I thought about how many versions of me had walked along that same stretch of Stockton Street: barefoot wannabe hippie, working girl looking for love, single mother, and happily retired teacher.

In my almost 50 years in San Francisco, I've had 8 different apartments within 3 blocks of Washington Square. I left a few times, but always returned, in the sadly bygone days when it was easy to find an affordable apartment. I've been in the same place now for 23 years, 3 blocks from where I lived in 1970.

When I first arrived from back East, after a short stay in Berkeley, I was just thrilled to be living in a city. I loved the cable cars and the North Beach cafés, but I also loved the Top of the Mark and the Greek restaurants where they danced and broke dishes, the downtown department stores, and the old dry goods store on Grant Avenue. I loved learning how to go to a real butcher store and about cappuccino and focaccia.

I loved walking downtown to temp jobs and eating my lunch on a bench in Union Square. I loved feeling like I belonged even though I knew hardly anyone. Everyone I did know was in strong Woodstock Nation mode and we tried to believe that everything we did was contributing to the Revolution.

A lot has changed, including me, but those blocks



Matthew Wood playing at Coit Tower.

PHOTO © JANICE WOOD

of Stockton between Union and Greenwich seem the same: Napoli Market, where I used to buy groceries from Helen and Lloyd, and where my son Matthew learned how to make change from Bob and Henry; Washington Square, where I used to smoke dope and play Frisbee, and where he climbed trees with his buddies from Salesians; Tower Laundromat, where I used to have my lab coats pressed, and where the current owner still asks about him; the firehouse, where I once slid down the pole and where Matthew learned the difference between a truck and an engine; North Beach playground, where I used to try to play tennis and he learned to ride a bicycle and lost his fear of water in the pool, while I stood outside with the other mothers, our noses pressed against the glass.

So many restaurants are gone: Green Valley, Vanessi's, Russo's, others whose names I have forgotten. The US Restaurant, where the waitresses never wrote down our orders, has moved twice and now has white tablecloths instead of Formica. Matthew took me there for Mother's Day when he had his first job at Sabella's

crab stand at the Wharf. But the same two women are wrapping up the focaccia at Liguria bakery. I mailed some pizza slices to Matthew when he was temporarily living in Chicago. Mama's is still there, but now with long lines every day of the week, not just on Sunday.

The view from the corner of Grant and Greenwich is still one of the best in the world, especially when Coit Tower is lit up for the Giants or the Warriors or Emperor Norton. I feel grateful whenever I stop there, walking home from shopping on Grant Avenue, past my old bedroom window on the corner. Grateful to the Universe that so little has changed and that by so many miracles I'm still here to enjoy it.

*Except for 6 years in Europe, Janice Wood has lived in North Beach since 1970, working as a medical technologist in clinical labs and later teaching English as a Second Language. Since retiring from City College in 2016 she's been volunteering at Francisco Middle School and swimming at the Dolphin Club. Her son Matthew is currently studying economics at City College.*

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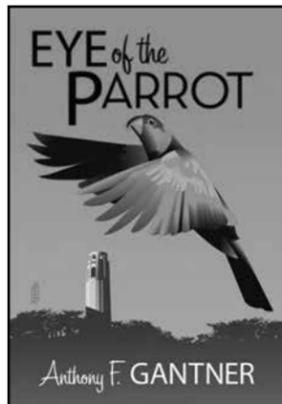


# ART & CULTURE REPORT

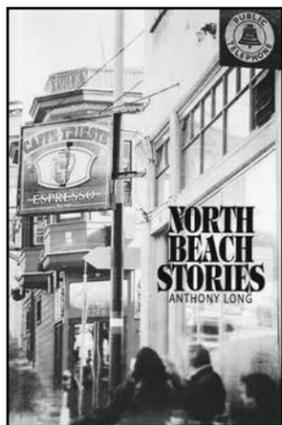
by Jessica Snow, outgoing Committee Chair

# WRITTEN ON THE HILL

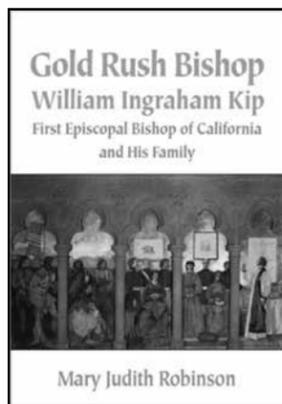
## A ROUND-UP OF RECENT BOOKS



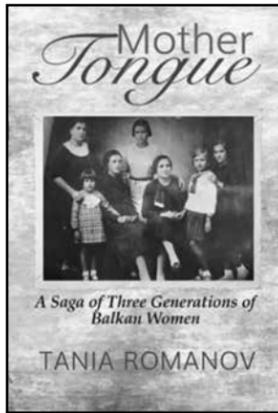
Anthony F. Gantner, *The Eye of the Parrot*, published by Norfolk Press, tells a tale inspired by Gantner's run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, with a protagonist who lives on Telegraph Hill and runs for mayor. A self-described 'cafe attorney,' Gantner's story evokes our colorful neighborhood, with the flock of wild parrots never far off.



Anthony Long, *North Beach Stories* is a compendium of short stories that brings North Beach and its denizens to life by degrees. With each sentence, the characters become a bit more fleshed out, to the point that they might be sitting right across at one of the little Caffé Trieste mosaic tables. Long is currently working on his next novel.



Mary Judith Robinson, *Gold Rush Bishop William Ingraham Kip —First Episcopal Bishop of California and His Family* is a biography of Robinson's ancestor, California's first Episcopal Bishop, William Ingraham Kip (1811-93, bishop 1853-93) She recounts the story of Kip and his family and the challenges of early California life. Robinson is the author of nine published histories and biographies. *Gold Rush Bishop* was published by Telegraph Hill Press.



Tania Amochaev Romanov, *Mother Tongue: A Saga of 3 Generations of Balkan Women*, published by Telegraph Hill Dweller Larry Habegger's Travelers Tales Press, recounts Romanov's journey to Serbia with her mother to uncover their family history. Coming to San Francisco as a girl, Romanov looks at the history of the war-torn Balkans, where she was born, through the lens of her family.



B. Alexandra Szerlip, *The Man Who Designed the Future —Norman Bel Geddes and the Invention of Twentieth-Century America*, a biography of the self-taught visionary designer, was listed as one of the Top Ten Arts Books 2017 by the American Library Association and a Notable Book of the Year by London's Spectator. Szerlip is a two-time National Endowment for the Arts Writing Fellow and Yaddo Fellow.



Terry Tarnoff, *The Reflectionist* is a sequel to Tarnoff's acclaimed *The Bone Man of Benares*, his vivid, wild, and often hilarious memoir of traveling the world during the sixties. Published by Avian Press, this is his fourth book. He is currently at work on a novel.

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# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, JAN.-FEB. 2018

by Mary Lipian, Recording Secretary  
mary.lipian@thd.org

## JANUARY 2018

### Fixed Pedestal News Racks in North Beach

The Board discussed the news racks in North Beach that had no newspapers whatsoever, but instead acted as “mini billboards.” The Board passed the following resolution urging the removal of fixed pedestal news racks in North Beach.

**MOTION:** Resolution of Telegraph Hill Dwellers urging removal of fixed pedestal newsracks in North Beach

WHEREAS, the Clear Channel Corporation’s fixed pedestal mount newsracks were originally intended to reduce the amount of sidewalk clutter associated with free standing newsracks; and

WHEREAS, most of the boxes in the pedestal mount newsracks in North Beach and Telegraph Hill are now empty, unused, and being stuffed with trash, creating unsightly blight; and

WHEREAS, the fixed pedestal newsracks are no longer serving their intended purpose and are only being used by Clear Channel Corporation for advertising purposes; and

WHEREAS, Clear Channel has recently installed, on its pedestal newsrack in front of the historic Bank of America building at 1455 Stockton St., a general advertising sign consisting of a digital, electronic, illuminated, rotating, “mini billboard,” which is in direct conflict with the sign controls for Neighborhood Commercial Districts, as set forth in Article 6 of the Planning Code, and negatively impacts the character of North Beach;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors

of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers strongly urges the office of the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Department of Public Works to require the removal of all unused fixed pedestal newsracks in North Beach, to consolidate remaining racks in one compact central location, and to immediately require the removal of all digital, electronic, illuminated, rotating “mini billboards” from the North Beach neighborhood.

### San Francisco Flower Mart

Kilroy Developers, which bought the site of the existing San Francisco Flower Mart, are forcing the existing tenants of the Flower Mart to move to Pier 23. Existing tenants do not want to move to Pier 23 because the site will hurt their business.

The Board passed the following motion.

**MOTION:** It has come to the attention of our organization that Kilroy Developers are proposing to temporarily relocate the San Francisco Flower Mart to Pier 23. The Telegraph Hill Dwellers enthusiastically supports the successful continuance of the historic Flower Mart which has contributed for almost 100 years to the vitality of San Francisco. We, however, do not support Pier 23 as a suitable location for the Flower Mart for the following reasons:

This location is already very busy with commercial uses, tourists and the passengers of the cruise ships in addition to heavy local traffic.

The addition of so many additional trucks and cars that need to access the Flower Mart on a daily basis will have an unacceptable impact on not only local neighborhood traffic, but also on larger-scale commercial and commuter uses.

For these reasons, we feel that this will have an extremely negative effect on both residents and Flower Mart tenants.

### Coit Tower Application for National Historic Landmark

A National Register Application for Coit Tower to achieve National Historic Landmark status is underway. The Board passed the following motion.

**MOTION:** THD authorizes President Judy Irving to sign letters to the Office of Historic Preservation and the State Historic Resources Commission.

## FEBRUARY 2018

### Presentation: “Seawall Resiliency Project”

The Port of San Francisco made a presentation about the proposed San Francisco Seawall Earthquake Safety and Disaster Prevention Program. They described the history of the evolution of the San Francisco Waterfront and the original construction of the Embarcadero Seawall. Their presentation included a description of the deterioration, settlement, and seismic issues currently facing the Waterfront including earthquake, flood, and sea level risks. They also talked about the various preliminary retrofit concepts to strengthen the seawall.

### Ballot Measure Opposing Flavored Tobacco

The Board adopted the following motion.

**MOTION:** The THD Board supports the ballot measure opposing flavored tobacco.

### Reappointment of Kathleen Dooley to the Small Business Commission

The following motion was passed unanimously by the THD Board of Directors.

**MOTION:** THD directed the President to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the reappointment of Kathleen Dooley to the Small Business Commission.

### SB 827 (Senator Wiener’s Bill)

The following motion was passed unanimously by the THD Board of Directors.

**MOTION:** The THD Board supports the Board of Supervisors’ resolution opposing SB 827.

The Board directed the preparation of a letter from THD communicating its support and additionally to take any actions deemed appropriate by the President and the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee to carry out the purposes of this motion.

### Transportation Forum Featuring the Mayoral Candidates

The Board expressed interest in having a transportation forum take place near or in North Beach. The Board passed the following motion.

**MOTION:** To co-sponsor a transportation mayoral candidate forum with the Transportation Alliance of San Francisco.



## NORTH BEACH CITIZENS

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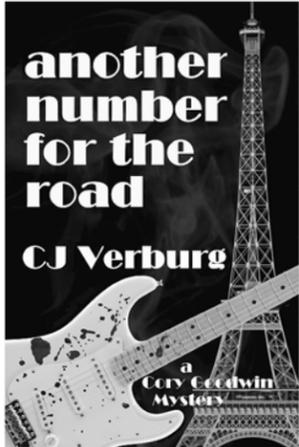
“They believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.”

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# ABOUT OUR COVER

## CAFFÈ PUCCINI

### BY NORMAN QUEBEDEAU

In September, Columbus Avenue landmark Caffè Puccini was gutted from its tiny kitchen to its opera jukebox by an overnight fire (see our Winter 2018 issue). Hopes of its reopening have since been dashed by a For Lease sign in the window.

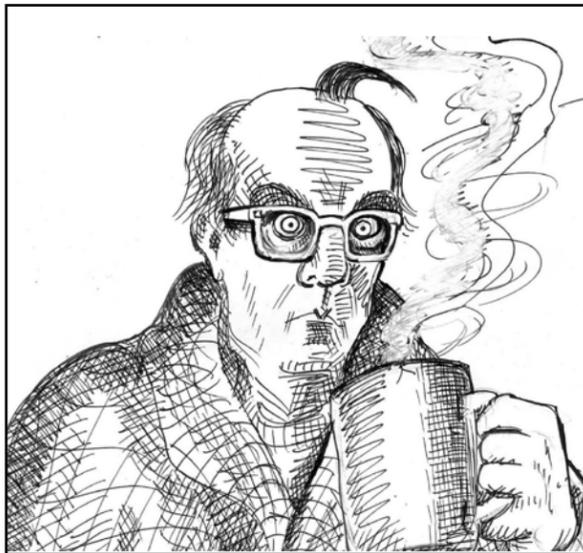
After a black-and-white drawing of Caffè Puccini in its heyday was spotted online, The Semaphore asked artist Norman Quebedeau if we could print it on our Spring cover. He responded:

*This is scanned from the b&w xerox that is my only copy of the cartoon. Are you in touch with the former owners of Caffè Puccini? I am eager to know the fate of the original art. I assume it was destroyed in the fire.*

*During the 1970s and 1980s I spent some of almost every day in North Beach. My regular routine back then was to bounce around Columbus Ave and Vallejo St. between Caffè Trieste and Caffè Puccini. My 1983 postcard "Life Among The Cappuccino People," published by Quantity Postcards on Grant Ave., depicts that time and place. Over many years (seventeen?), I filled sketchbooks in bars and cafés of the neighborhood while drinking in and consuming various sights and sensations.*

*In 1988 I learned to drive a car, moved to Southern California, and became a storyboard artist for animated tv shows. We returned to the Bay Area after ten years in Hollywood and L.A. and settled south of SF on the Peninsula.*

*One afternoon in 2004 an old friend from North Beach put me in touch with the owner of the Puccini who remembered my Trieste postcard and wanted some post-*



Norman Quebedeau: a self-portrait

*card designs for the café. I made a corner table of Puccini into my studio for a week. Of the watercolors that resulted, unfortunately I made and now have a color scan of only one.*

Luckily for fans of North Beach, cafés, and Quebedeau's cartoons, hand-colored prints on archival quality paper are available from the artist for a reasonable price. <http://normanquebedeau.com/>



## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Joe Luttrell  
treasurer@thd.org

The THD fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31, so this report is for THD's entire fiscal year, the months of April 2017 through March 2018.

This fiscal year, THD has a net income of \$12,365.07 thanks in large part to generous contributions of \$15,198.75. Putting it another way, however, but for these contributions, THD would at this point have a net loss for this fiscal year of about \$3,000, suggesting that THD has become dependent on some level of contributions in order to achieve a break-even budget. Nonetheless, the amount of this net income is very different from the break-even budget amount which was adopted in THD's budget back in May, 2017. In constructing THD's budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, I believe it may be advisable to project a much lower contributions amount. This year may well have been an exception.

With (for THD) such a substantial net income for this fiscal year, THD might consider how it can direct some of it during THD's upcoming fiscal year, given THD's basic financial objective of having a break-even year. This may be a matter for the incoming board to consider.

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### To all our friends on Telegraph Hill:

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 Historian: Nancy Shanahan — [nancy.shanahan@thd.org](mailto:nancy.shanahan@thd.org)  
 Immediate Past President: Stan Hayes — [stan.hayes@thd.org](mailto:stan.hayes@thd.org)  
 Editor of the Semaphore: Open Board Position

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Robert Woehrle  
Natalie Parker  
Don Raichle

#### Term: 2017-2019

Jessica Snow  
Andy Katz  
Katie Hopkins  
Kathleen Dooley

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 Budget: Joe Luttrell (Chair) Contact Joe at [joe.luttrell@thd.org](mailto:joe.luttrell@thd.org)  
 Membership: Al Fontes (Chair) Contact Al at [THDmembership@gmail.com](mailto:THDmembership@gmail.com)  
 Oral History Project: TBD  
 Parking/Transportation/Subway: Michael Pedroni and Howard Wong  
 Contact Michael at [michael.pedroni@thd.org](mailto:michael.pedroni@thd.org) or Howard at [howard.wong@thd.org](mailto:howard.wong@thd.org)  
 Parks & Trees: Don Raichle (Chair) Contact Don at [don.raichle@thd.org](mailto:don.raichle@thd.org)  
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 Semaphore: Carol Verburg Contact: [semaphore@thd.org](mailto:semaphore@thd.org)  
 Social & Program: Natalie Parker (Chair) Contact Natalie at [natalie.parker@thd.org](mailto:natalie.parker@thd.org)  
 Waterfront: Jon Golinger (Chair)  
 Communications: Robert Woehrle, Katie Hopkins, and Al Fontes

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE MEETS last Thursdays.  
Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, or 391-5652.

### LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Central Police District Community Advisory Board: Daryl Babbitt  
 Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: Paul Webber  
 Friends of Washington Square Liaison: Marilee Gaffney  
 Neighborhood Network Liaison: Gerry Crowley  
 Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger



## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!

**There's no better way to be connected to your neighborhood and be a voice of the hill than by joining Telegraph Hill Dwellers, today.**

Join at [THD.org](http://THD.org). If you'd prefer to have a brochure and sign-up form mailed to you, please send an email to [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org). Already a member? Give one as a gift!

### Membership includes:

- A one-year subscription to news & events via email and a quarterly paper, *The Semaphore*.
- Opportunities to be active in your community. Your passion likely aligns to one of many committees.
- Social and Art & Culture events throughout the year – attend and contribute!

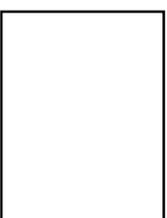
### Annual Dues:

Individuals..... \$35  
 Households..... \$50  
 Seniors (65 and older)..... \$25  
 Senior Households..... \$40

Join now or give the gift of membership at [THD.org](http://THD.org) or email [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org).



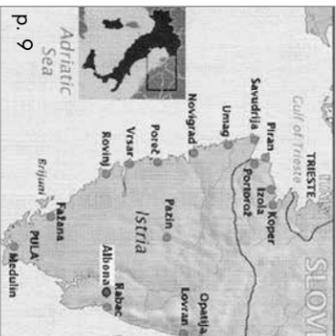
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p. 1



p. 8



p. 9



p. 15

# THE SEMAPHORE

#221 Spring 2018

## FEATURES and COLUMNS

The Beat Goes Onward by Romalyn Schmalz . . . . .	1	Lidia Bastianich & I by Tania Romanov Amochaev . . . . .	8
President's Report: Stand Up for the Hill by Judy Irving . . . . .	2	From Trieste to North Beach by Bruno Viscovi . . . . .	9
Parks & Trees Report by Don Raichle . . . . .	3	So You Want to Be Mayor? What About...? . . . . .	10
D3 Supervisor Report: Once-in-a-Lifetime Election by Aaron Peskin . . . . .	4	Turn, Turn, Turn; North Beach Goodbyes . . . . .	11
Planning & Zoning Report by Stan Hayes . . . . .	6	Still Here by Janice Wood. . . . .	12
Semaphore Bulletin Board . . . . .	7	Art & Culture Report by Jessica Snow . . . . .	13
		About Our Cover: Caffè Puccini by Norman Quebedeau . . . . .	15

## THD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights by Mary Lipton . . . . .	14	Board of Directors and Committees . . . . .	15
Treasurer's Report by Joe Luttrell . . . . .	15	Become a Member. . . . .	15

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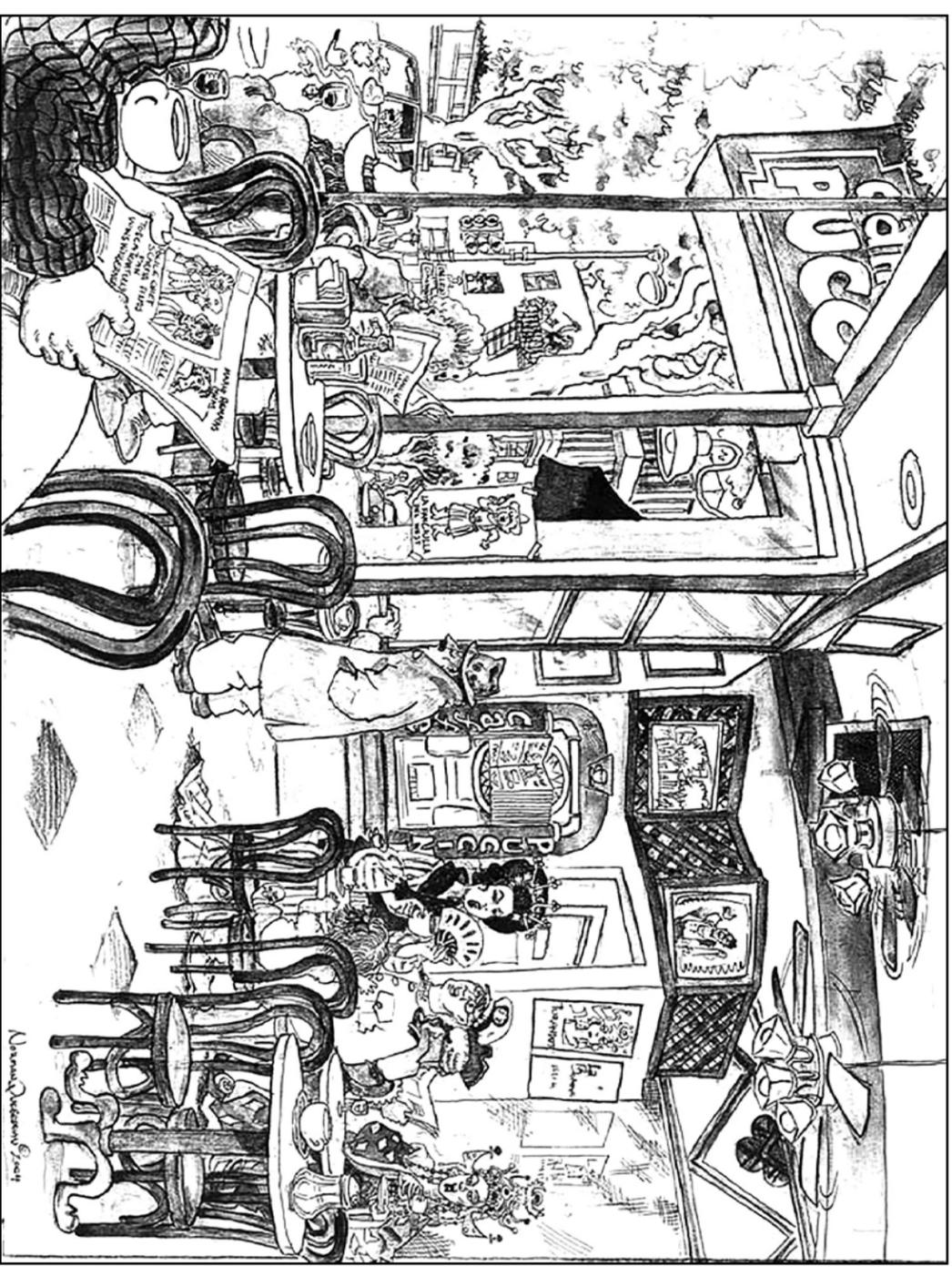
# The Semaphore

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Issue 221

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- Could a New Open-Air Café Transform Broadway?
- Does Your Street Need a Tree?
- Who's the Best SF Mayor for the Hill?
- What Brought Your Favorite Chef to North Beach?



THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE