



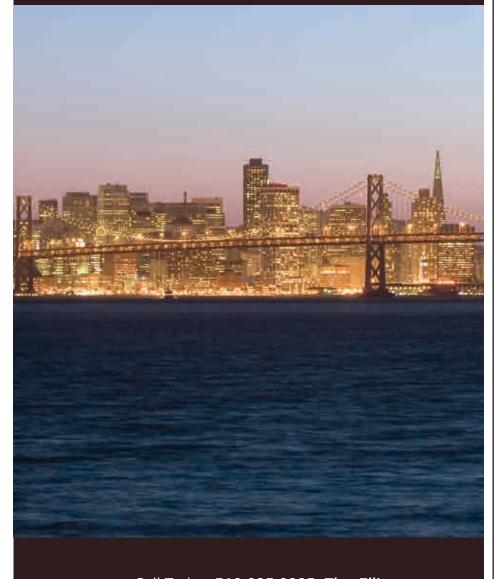


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Corrections & Letters

We appreciate the opportunity to publish our readers' comments, letters or requests for corrections, which can be sent to joel@baycrossings.com.



This issue begins a new series of stories from San Franciscobased travel website WeekendSherpa.com. This month, the feature profiles "Half-Tank Getaways," or outdoor adventures that are less than 130 miles round trip from San Francisco. Our cover photo, taken by Brad Day of WeekendSherpa.com, is of Dillon Beach, a hidden treasure north of Point Reyes. As WeekendSherpa.com explains, with one café, a surf shop, and—well, that's about it—you're left with little to do there but relax. Cell phones don't work, wireless is nonexistent, and many of the houses don't get TV reception. The mile-long stretch of beach is made for long walks, beautiful views, and play time for dogs. See page 8 for more Half-Tank Getaways.

Ed Roberts Campus Closing Funding Gap

BY DMITRI BELSER

ast Bay elected officials, transportation agencies and organizations serving people with disabilities have joined together in a coalition to close a \$10 million gap in funding for the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC), enabling construction to start in early 2008.

The Ed Roberts Campus will be an internationally recognized center for people with disabilities at the Ashby BART station in South Berkeley. The seven partner organizations located at the ERC will provide direct services to the disability community throughout the greater Bay Area and be a national center for advocacy and other efforts on their behalf.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) helped make the groundbreaking a reality when it awarded another \$4.5 million to the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC) at its November meeting. MTC is providing funds to the Campus because it is a major transit-oriented development that will result in greater utilization of public transit by the disabled and elderly.

Providing the one-to-one match for the MTC funds are the city of Berkeley, the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) and BART. Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who is also the MTC commissioner representing the cities of Alameda County, coordinated the effort to match MTC's contribution. Berkeley approved a total of \$2.5 million in matching funds in October and November. And BART has agreed to provide \$2 million to help close the gap.

This collaborative effort of MTC, the city of Berkeley, ACCMA and BART will provide \$9 million toward the Campus' \$45 million goal, bringing its campaign total to \$44 million. The final \$1 million is being provided by a "bridge loan" that the ERC will repay through a combination of pending federal appropriations bills, the New Freedom grant program and private sector philanthropy that will be raised



Artist's rendering of the Ed Roberts Campus

during construction.

"The Ed Roberts Campus will be a national and international model dedicated to disability rights and universal access. I am honored to be joining with Barbara Lee and my transportation colleagues in working to make the dream of the Ed Roberts Campus a reality," said Bates. "Berkeley is the birthplace of the disability civil rights movement and I can think of no better place in the world to house such an important facility to serve this important community." Mayor Bates has been a long-time champion of the disability rights movement, and as a State Assembly member authored the legislation that provided permanent funding for California's independent living centers and facilitated their expansion across the state.

"Today is a great day for everyone involved in making the Ed Roberts Campus happen," said Congresswoman Barbara Lee, D-Oakland. "Now seniors and people with disabilities will enjoy the benefits of a center that is fully accessible by public transportation. I want to commend the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for its commitment to promoting access to persons with disabilities, and extend my deepest appreciation to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency,

the city of Berkeley and BART for their generous matching funds."

Representative Lee has led the federal effort to raise funds for the Campus and has secured \$3,774,000 in federal transportation and economic development funds. Her request for \$500,000 in the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill" is now pending in Congress.

The Ed Roberts Campus is widely recognized as a model transit-oriented development that will make vital services and programs accessible via public transit to seniors and people with disabilities, who are among the most transportation-disadvantaged populations in the country.

The Ed Roberts Campus is a nonprofit corporation that has been formed by disability organizations that share a common history in the Independent Living Movement of People With Disabilities. The facility will house the offices of the collaborating organizations and other nonprofits as well as fully accessible meeting rooms, a computer/media resource center, a fitness center, a cafe and a child development center. LMS Architects designed the 86,000 square foot Campus.

The organizations developing the Campus are: Bay Area Outreach &

Recreation Program, Center for Accessible Technology, Center for Independent Living, Computer Technologies Program, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Through the Looking Glass, and World Institute on Disability. These organizations and other nonprofits will offer a wide range of programs from legal advocacy and job training to parenting support and wheelchair sports. Such programs help people move from poverty and dependency into employment and greater participation in society. The ERC expects to serve 30,000 people annually.

The Campus is a \$45 million publicprivate partnership with approximately 40 percent of its funds coming from the private sector and a mortgage paid by the partner organizations and other tenants, and 60 percent from government sources.

The Campus is named after Ed Roberts, a significantly disabled man who was a trailblazer of the Independent Living Movement that began in the 1970s. He was the first person with a disability to serve as Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation; he was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur fellowship in 1984. He was co-founder and president of the World Institute on Disability. Roberts died in 1995.

Oakland Nonprofit Serves **Urgent Needs of Ship Workers**

BY PAUL DUCLOS

hen the Cosco Busan struck the Bay Bridge last November, scores of community and environmental groups rushed to respond to the emergency. Local shippers, meanwhile, were checking on the condition of their cargo and contacting insurance companies. State and federal law enforcement agencies banded together to determine culpability and the parties that will be brought to justice. But scant attention was paid to the one "human factor" in this episode: the immediate fate of the ship's crew.

"It seems to take an extraordinary event to bring even the slightest attention on the ordinary seaman," said Dr. Jim Lindgren, executive director of the International Maritime Center (IMC), a charitable and religious nonprofit at the Port of Oakland. "Most people don't realize the incredible hardship these men face day in and day out."

The *Busan*, like so many other vessels coming through the Golden Gate, was sailing under a "flag of convenience," which permits the owners to hire nonunion crews from developing countries who are paid lower wages. Shipping industry analysts estimate that two-thirds of today's commercial fleets are manned by seamen coming from developing nations. According to Lindgren, what little money they manage to save is mostly sent home to help support their families.

"This means that the bulk of our work is taking care of the basic needs of seafarers," said Lindgren. "When they arrive at our center, they are free to use our phones and Internet to communicate with their loved ones. We also provide a nonthreatening place for them to socialize and relax between voyages." Given the fast pace of today's vessel deployments, that can mean only a day or less.

"If there's more time, we can provide transportation for them to reach local shopping areas," said Lindgren. "It's costly, but a very important part of what we do. Thanks to donations, we also have clothes here for them to take back on board when they leave."

These are the lucky ones, however. Owing to the heightened state of today's security, those seamen without visas are not even permitted to leave their vessels. That's when Lindgren and his team go out to the berths at the ports of Oakland and Richmond to bring seamen cell phones for calls to home.

Another part of the IMC's work is advocacy. It works together with other chaplains and the Center for Seafarers Rights to lobby for positive changes in the law that will affect seafarers. All of the four IMC agencies are members of the North American Maritime Ministry Association, which in turn is a member of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA). ICMA is an advisory organization to the United Nations International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organizations of the U.N.

"This grass roots intelligence is very helpful to the ILO and IMO in addressing human rights needs," says Lindgren. "We are not about the business of proselytizing but of providing hospitality and advocacy," says Lindgren.

The four agencies that make up the IMC each serve seamen of many nationalities and faiths: One has a full time Catholic chaplain who speaks Vietnamese and Tagalog. Another is connected with the Episcopal Church and manages the Center as well as provides volunteers. Yet another is connected to the Korean Presbyterian Church and headed by a retired Korean

Navy Officer and minister who speaks is connected to the American Baptist Korean, Chinese and Japanese. The last

Church.

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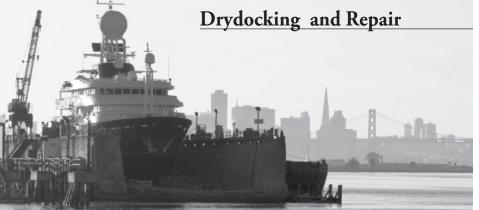
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- January 12 10AM 2PM Diesel Clinic, Club Nautique Sail & Powerboating School, 510-865-4700, www.clubnautique.net

This clinic will teach you tips and tricks to simple troubleshooting of your diesel engine. Perfect for those who want to better basic understand how Diesel engines work and what to do to keep them running. Cost \$57 for members/ \$75 non-members. Reservations required. Call for more information.

January 13 7AM – 12PM - Monterey Dive, Advanced Diving Technologies, 925-432-2111, www.adtscuba.com

Get the new year started right, let's do giving! The storms are gone, the sun is out and the water is great. Dive the majestic kelp forest, enjoy the colorful underwater sea life and catch a sighting of the humpbacks and dolphins. 2-tank dive, \$85 aboard the Escapade. So don't miss the boat!

January 16 7PM – 9PM - Ken Howards: South Africa, Indonesia and Bahamas, Marin Scuba Club, San Rafael, 415-453-9556, www.marinscuba.org

We invite divers of all skill levels to join us the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Seafood Peddler Restaurant in San Rafael for a featured presentation. We offer guest speakers discussing all aspects of diving using multi-media video presentations. Contact Alberta: marinscubaclubmembership@yahoo.com.

January 18 6PM - 10PM - Night Sailing Clinic, Club Nautique - Sail & Powerboating School, 510-865-4700, www.clubnautique.net

Join us for an evening out on the water and learn tips and tricks to keep you safe and warm and understand what to watch out for while sailing at night. Cost \$109 for members/ \$145 non-members. Reservations required. Call for more information.

January 19 4PM - 6 PM - OCSC's Free Monthly BBQ - all invited! OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 510-843-4200, www.ocscsailing.com

A free BBQ & drinks with a fun crowd. This is a great way to check out our Club and meet some of our sailors. Whether you are new to sailing or an old sea dog, come join us and enjoy the afternoon!

January 20 9AM - 2PM - Corte Madera Salt Marsh Kayak Tour, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222, www.outbackadventures.com

Explore the wetlands along Corte Madera Marsh while taking in the views of Mount Tamalpais and the San Francisco Bay. We paddle out in stable double sea kayaks while keeping our eyes open for the curious harbor seals that gather nearby. \$70 per person.

January 21 9AM - 4PM - Beginning Sea Kayaking Class, Oakland Estuary - California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com

Enjoy the MLK holiday on the Oakland Estuary learning how to paddle a sea kayak with our expert instructors! Graduates of this class are qualified to rent closed-deck sea kayaks and participate in more advanced classes and trips. Be prepared to get wet! Includes kayak, wet suit and paddling gear, and free coupon for a future rental. Cost \$89 Book online, or call for reservations.

January 21 4PM - 7PM - Moonlight Paddle, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222, www.outbackadventures.com

Navigating your kayak by moonlight is a mystical experience you won't soon forget. We will paddle leisurely while admiring the moon's silvery light reflecting off the water's surface. Bring your friends and family to this warm welcoming event. \$65 per person.

January 23 6PM - 8PM - Moonlight Sail, OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 510-843-4200, www.ocscsailing.com

Set sail aboard one of our larger yachts skippered by a professional OCSC skipper and enjoy a relaxing night out on the Bay. You can soak in the beauty of the twinkling city lights while not lifting a finger; or pitch in and take the helm. Following the sail we will serve chili, chips, salsa, and beverages. A great time to get to know other like-minded sailors. \$30 for members, \$40 retail. Call to make your reservation.

January 24 7PM - 9PM - Warm Water Sea Kayaking Class, Richmond Pool and Oakland Estuary, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com

This special two part cool-weather session takes place in a warm, friendly, indoor pool (Richmond) for Part 1; in Part 2 (Saturday, 1/26/08), we paddle on the sheltered waters of the Oakland Estuary. Graduates of this class are qualified to rent sea kayaks and participate in more advanced classes and trips. Class fee includes pool use, all kayak gear, wet suit, and free kayak rental coupon for future use! Cost \$119 Book online, or call for reservations.

January 26 7AM – 12PM - Deep Water Dive, Advanced Diving Technologies, 925-432-2111, www.adtscuba.com

Another technical dive aboard the DV Escapade. This is offering depths of 150' to one of the most prestine dive sites. Diver prerequisites: experience in twin cylinders on HE, mild deco, and sling bottles. Scotters welcome. The dive is \$100 and lunch is provided on the boat. Call today.

January 27 10AM - 2PM - Kayak Basics Class, Oakland Estuary - California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com

This half-day class (4 hours) allows you to paddle a few different types of kayaks, including Touring Kayaks (for open water), Recreational Kayaks, and Sit-on-Tops.

Learn the basic strokes and the difference between boat types. This class emphasizes basic water safety, but saves capsize recovery practice for our Beginning Sea Kayaking class. Includes coupon for future rental, good for 2 hours! Cost \$59 Book online, or call for reservations.

January 27 10AM - 3PM - Angel Island Kayak Tour, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222, www.outbackadventures.com

Let's pack our kayaks and take a real kayaking adventure to Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay. Specifically timed for optimal and safe paddling conditions, this trip is appropriate for beginner and intermediate paddlers in good physical condition. \$85 per person.



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BY WEEKENDSHERPA.COM

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Hut, Hut, Hike!

the night in the woods. One of the Santa Cruz Mountains' most comfy overnight escapes isn't accessed by road, but rather by a moderate 1.5-mile hike through towering redwoods and shaded fern canyons. The Hiker's Hut is an A-frame inspiration built by the Sierra Club in 1977 and remains a hidden Bay Area treasure. To reach it, you walk the Towne Trail from Sam McDonald Park parking lot, admiring the loping green hills and counting banana slugs along the way. Before you know it, you're enjoying panoramic views from the top of Towne Ridge, with layers of mountains unfolding all the way to the ocean. The rustic yet comfortable cabin has a kitchen with a stove and microwave, and enough bed platforms to sleep 14—though you may prefer an intimate party of two. And yes, there are flush toilets. There's also a fireplace with plenty of wood to keep the place toasty on cooler evenings. And what hut would be complete without the obligatory guitar? The large wooden deck makes a great hangout for strummin' while the sun sets.

Distance: 46 miles from San Francisco.

For reservations, call 650-390-8411 ext. You don't have to rough it when you spend 393. Voicemails are answered by volunteers



Panoramic views with layers of mountains unfolding all the way to the ocean can be seen from deck of the Sierra Club Hiker's Hut.

on Mondays and Thursdays. The hut is \$25 per person, per night.

Dillon Downtime

When you need a weekend on the beach, far from city chaos, you should head north of Point Reyes to well-off-the-beaten-path Dillon Beach. With one café, a surf shop,

and—well, that's about it—you're left with little to do but relax. Cell phones don't work, wireless is nonexistent, and many of the houses don't get TV reception. The mile-long stretch of beach is made for long walks, beautiful views, and play time for dogs—Dillon is a very pet-friendly place. Where to stay? Caroline Moore is





The "Rancho Suite" at Rancho Caymus in Napa Valley come complete with an adobe beehive fireplace.

the person to call for beach-house rentals. She has about 40 options, with everything from the ocean-view, tiny two-bedroom known as "God's Pocket" to the spacious three-bedroom "Beauty on the Beach." (The houses all are named because the town historically didn't use addresses.) There's also the curiously named Dillon Beach Resort; it's not a resort, but it does have three brightly painted cottages to rent. While these cozy cabins could use a little sprucing up, the panoramic ocean views can't be beat. During the winter, when storms roll in and the sky is dark gray, Dillon Beach is the place to sit back and...watch the weather. That's coasting. Distance: 55 miles from San Francisco.

Moore Vacation Rentals of Dillon Beach, 707-878-2557. Two-bedroom houses start at \$137 a night (two-night minimum). Dillon Beach Resort, 707-878-2094. Winter rates: the cottages start at \$200 a night (two-night minimum).

Napa Now

Winter just might be the best time to visit our Tuscany of the West; everything scales down, including the prices. Smack in the center of Napa Valley sits the tiny town of Rutherford, where a hideaway haven awaits: the 26-room, Mission-style inn called Rancho Caymus. During the quieter winter months, the inn drops its rates by more than \$100, making it the one of the nicest values in Napa. Snag a comfy "Caymus Suite" with oak hardwood floors, redwood beam ceilings, and Southwestern décor in shades of brown, orange, and red. For an extra \$20, upgrade to a "Rancho Suite" (pictured) with an adobe beehive fireplace. To add tranquility, there's a beautiful courtyard with a fountain. Rancho Caymus's central location makes it an ideal launching pad for enjoying your favorite wineries, almost all of which remain open in the winter, and a few are within walking distance. During your visit, be sure to swing by Dutch Henry Winery, off the northern end of the Silverado Trail; this no-frills setup is a throwback to the Napa of 20 or 30 years ago. Sweet Valley dreams.

BURRITO BONUS: Across the street from Rancho Caymus is La Luna Market and Taqueria. For tasty Mexican take-out, this place can't be beat—but beware, their homemade sauce is hot). Distance: 61 miles from San Francisco.

Rancho Caymus, 1140 Rutherford Rd., Rutherford; 707-963-1777. Winter rates: rooms start at \$155 a night.

29-year-old WeekendSherpa.com founder

and managing editor

Brad Day grew up

in California and

has spent his entire

life adventuring in

Northern California's

great outdoors.



WeekendSherpa.com is a San Francisco based online publication that sends out a free weekly (Thursdays) email newsletter giving insiders' information on enjoyable and economical things to do in the Bay Area/Northern California outdoors, including hiking, biking, and just plain relaxing...as long as it gets you out there! www.weekendsherpa.com.



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Blue & Gold Fleet is the largest excursion and commuter ferry service provider in the Bay Area.



San Francisco Bay Cruise Adventure An hour long cruise along the City's historic waterfront, right past the PIER 39 sea lions, under the Golden Gate Bridge, by Sausalito, past Angel Island and around Alcatraz.

Sausalito & Tiburon A comfortable ride across the San Francisco Bay to the two Marin seaside villages of Sausalito and Tiburon to enjoy shopping, dining or an easy stroll around town.

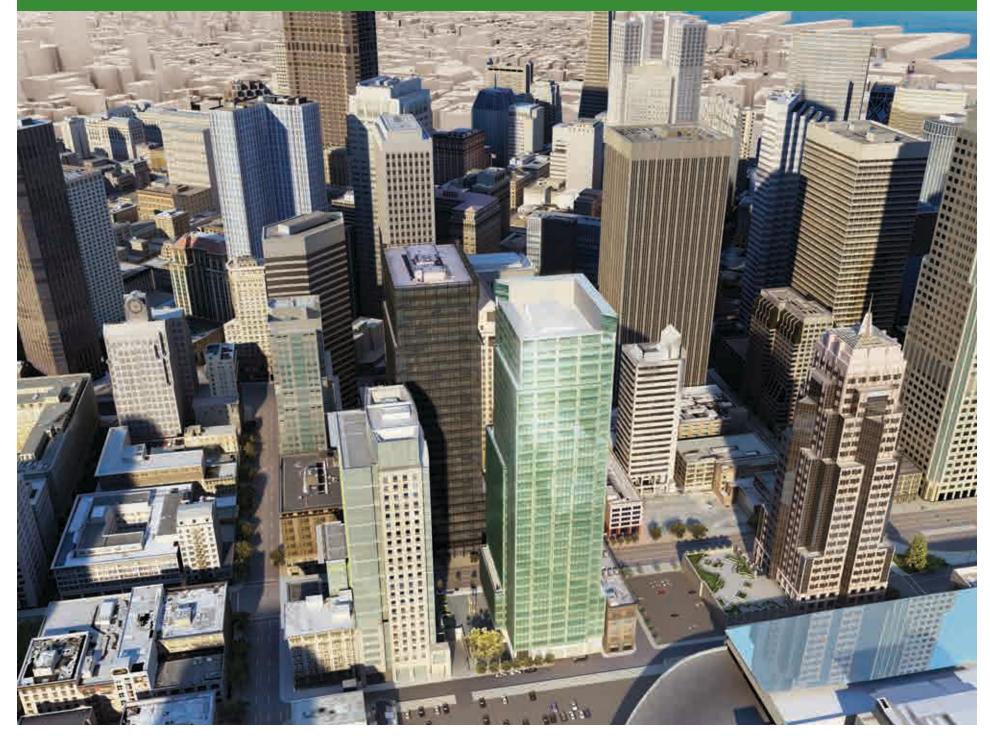
Angel Island A California State park and wildlife reserve. Angel Island is both a great picnic destination with hiking, kayak tours, an hour-long fully-narrated TramTour, as well as a historical site dating back to the U.S. Civil War.

Vallejo Sail to Vallejo, a waterfront community that includes the city's Heritage District, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and family-friendly Six Flags Discovery Kingdom theme park.

Alameda & Oakland There's dining in Jack London Square, the Farmer's market on Sundays and jazz nightly.

Blue & Gold Fleet at PIER 39
Beach Street & The Embarcadero
San Francisco

GREEN PAGES



What Goes Up Must Go Green: S.F. Takes the LEED in Environmentally Friendly Buildings

BY BILL PICTURE

an Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's announcement of a proposed amendment adding strict green building requirements to the City's existing building codes was barely audible above the din of construction equipment at a December 12 press conference held at 555 Mission Street, the site of a new office tower showcasing new standards in environmentally responsible design and construction.

"[The amendment] is ambitious, but I think it's consistent with the values of our city," Newsom explained. "If we want to meet our goal [of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in San Francisco by twenty percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012], we need to address all of the contributing factors. It's not just about car emissions. Half of San Francisco's carbon footprint comes from the construction and operation of

buildings. So it's time to get serious."

Drafted with the help of Newsom's ten-member Green Building Task Force, the new building requirements would apply to all newly constructed commercial projects over 5,000 square feet, all newly constructed residential projects over 75 feet in height, and renovations on any existing building over 25,000 square feet.

The inclusion of the City's existing building stock into the green fold is what makes Newsom's ordinance so unique.

Other cities have limited the scope of their green building initiatives to newly constructed buildings. So, if the ordinance passes, as it is expected to, San Francisco's green building requirements would be the most stringent in the nation.

"It's completely unprecedented," said San Francisco Department of the Environment director Jared Blumenfeld. "It'll put San Francisco way ahead of the curve. And, hopefully, the City can serve as a pace car for the rest of the country."

GREEN PAGES

The bar set by the proposed changes would indeed be a high one. And that bar would continue to be raised incrementally over the course of the ordinance's prescribed five-year implementation period. These changes will surely mean higher construction costs. But Newsom argues, and developers and construction professionals agree, that the benefits of green design and construction far outweigh those additional costs, which are expected to be nominal.

"There's no question that these buildings are better, safer, and have a longer life span," Newsom added.

When 555 Mission Street opens in fall of 2008, the 33-story building will be the first in San Francisco to fully comply with the revamped building codes. 555 Mission Street is also the first new office tower in San Francisco to register for green certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

"At minimum, 555 Mission Street will meet the requirements for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver," explained Carl Shannon of Tishman Speyer, developers of 555 Mission Street. Shannon is referring to the second of three tiers of green certification established under the USGBC's Green Building Rating System. Kohn Pederson & Fox and Heller Manus Architects, the team responsible for 555 Mission Street's design, are considering incorporating even more green elements in the finished design in the hopes of upping the building's certification to the highest tier, Gold.

When ground was broken at 555 Mission Street last fall, the Green Building Task Force was but a glimmer in the Mayor's hazel eyes—Newsom would establish the task force the following spring. But, according to Carl Shannon, even without a mandate from City Hall requiring that developers and construction firms think greener, Tishman Speyer, as a developer doing business in one of the greenest cities in the country, felt a responsibility to the City of San Francisco to set a good example here for the rest of the industry and the nation.

"Someone has to take the lead role," he said. "And I think it's important that the design community step up and take that lead."

Among the laundry list of sustainable elements that qualify 555 Mission Street for LEED certification are: energy systems that exceed California's energy code performance standard (at least 35 percent of the power

consumed will also be secured from a renewable source), the use of recycled construction materials, a design that allows in 30 percent more fresh air than required by law, further improved air quality achieved through the use of non-toxic adhesives, sealants, paints and carpeting, water-efficient fittings and fixtures, and a reflective roof to minimize the phenomenon known as "urban heat islands." The term refers to the heat trapped at ground level in urban areas by heat-radiating asphalt and concrete and sky-reaching metal buildings that impede natural cross-breezes.

In exchange for incorporating elements such as these into their designs, Newsom says that green-minded developers can expect the permitting process to be made simpler and faster for them. And the promise of shorter waits and fewer bureaucracy-induced headaches has proven reason enough for many developers to start thinking sustainable. 555 Mission Street is one of eight large buildings taking advantage of existing green incentives. There are a total of fourteen projects currently in the queue.

But Carl Shannon says that, besides being kinder to the environment and easier for developers to get approved by city hall, green buildings have another important advantage. They're also more occupant-friendly than traditionally constructed buildings.

For instance, 555 Mission Street's all-glass exterior will provide breathtaking views. And the interior layout was designed so that 90 percent of the building's occupants will be able to see outside from their offices. A "window seat" from anywhere in the building, plus plenty of natural light, fresh air and a glass-enclosed lobby that brings the outdoors inside should make for very happy occupants. "It creates a great working environment," Shannon added.

"When you build a building, you're building a legacy," said Steve Weindel of Gensler Architecture, a global architecture firm that has partnered with Mayor Newsom's office to promote sustainable city development. "These buildings are going to be around for 100 years or more probably. So it's our responsibility to build the best building we can. That's exactly what we're trying to do here."

For more information about 555 Mission Street, visit **www.555missionstreet.com**





On the Water and in the Courtroom, Baykeeper Patrols S.F. Bay Pollution

BY SEJAL CHOKSI

he San Francisco Bay is part of the largest estuary on the entire Pacific Coast of the Americas. One of the most biologically productive water bodies in the world, the Bay supports commercial and recreational fisheries, including Chinook salmon, Pacific herring, Bay mussel, and Dungeness crab. The Bay's open water habitats, as well as its rocky shorelines and salt marshes, provide critical areas for many species and millions of migratory shorebirds depend on the Bay as a resting spot along the Pacific Flyway.

Since the *Cosco Busan* oil spill, many people have realized the extent to which a thriving San Francisco Bay defines the character and community of the Bay Area. The burgeoning traffic on the San Francisco Bay, fueled in large part by imports from Asia, has highlighted the economic importance of the Bay as well; in fact, our waterway serves in many ways as an anchor of the State's \$1.3 trillion economy.

San Francisco Baykeeper has brought about many significant victories for the San Francisco Bay over the years.

Baykeeper was founded in 1989 as a pollution watchdog and Bay advocate working for tough regulations to protect the Bay from oil spills and other kinds of pollution. Baykeeper has an active on-thewater patrol program, and this enables our staff and team of volunteer skippers to be on the Bay patrolling for pollution and documenting and reporting impacts of events like the recent oil spill.

Over the last month, we've worked long hours on the spill, but our regular work is focused on keeping sewage, industrial chemicals and polluted urban runoff out of the Bay. These less visible sources cause a daily influx of pathogens, oil and other toxic chemicals that stress Bay Area wildlife and fisheries.

San Francisco Baykeeper has brought about many significant victories for the San Francisco Bay over the years. We have sued cities, including Richmond, Vallejo and Burlingame, for crumbling infrastructure resulting in hundreds of millions of gallons of raw sewage overflowing into streets, creeks and the Bay. We have sued government agencies for failing to regulate pesticides as a pollutant and to control pesticide pollution from farms and irrigation canals. Baykeeper has also won significant improvements for mercury cleanup plans in San Francisco Bay, which will make our Bay fish safe to eat again. In addition, our lawsuits against industrial polluters for illegally discharging heavy metals and toxic chemicals into the Bay have not only stopped polluted runoff but have also generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in funds to nonprofits working on restoration efforts around the Bay.

We hope you'll consider joining Baykeeper's efforts to improve the effectiveness of local governments and companies in performing their duties under the Clean Water Act.

How to Get Involved

Get involved in defending the San Francisco Bay from pollution. You can help by making a donation to Baykeeper, volunteering your time in the office or out in the field, or reporting pollution problems in your neighborhood.

Annual memberships start at \$15. Baykeeper is the most effective and efficient group out there defending the Bay. Your membership will keep our boat on patrol and our staff in the courtrooms and in front of officials. For every dollar we spend, we're proud to secure twice that amount in donated services from attorneys, scientists and experts. And every legal victory adds up to hundreds of thousands of dollars every year that go directly to nonprofits for Bay restoration and education efforts.

Become a Member: Call 415-856-0444 x 104, email lola@ baykeeper.org, send a check to Baykeeper, 785 Market. St. STE 850, San Francisco, CA 94103, or donate online at **www.baykeeper.org**.

Volunteer: Email volunteer@ baykeeper.org to let us know how you would like to help.

Report Pollution: Call 1-800-KEEP-BAY

Sejal Choksi, San Francisco Baykeeper and Program Director



Sejal first joined
San Francisco Baykeeper as an attorney
in September 2002, spearheading San
Francisco Baykeeper's efforts to secure
the nation's first regulations to control
agricultural pollution. As the San
Francisco Baykeeper, she now directs all
aspects of Baykeeper's advocacy programs,
pollution patrols, and legal docket.

Absinthe Madness Strikes in Bay Area

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

bsinthe has been around for centuries and was the drink of choice among artists and authors like Picasso, van Gogh and Hemingway. Artistic minded people often claimed that consuming absinthe gave them inspiration and opened their minds to new thoughts. The effects of absinthe have been described as creating the same cheery and uninhibited feelings of alcohol, while also allowing the drinker to remain strangely cogent with a certain creative energy.

These effects have been attributed to a naturally occurring chemical called thujone, found in wormwood, which is one of the ingredients used in producing absinthe. Thujone may cause neurons in the brain to fire more easily; however, modern studies have found that the very low amounts of thujone found in absinthe are not sufficient to have any significant effects on humans. Nonetheless, a worldwide prohibition movement against absinthe and its supposed psychoactive effects reached a fever pitch in 1905 when a Swiss man murdered his pregnant wife and two children in a drunken rage after consuming large amounts of wine and hard liquor, including a small amount of absinthe. Absinthe was banned in the United States and many European countries. In hindsight, many think that absinthe was targeted because of its association with the bohemian lifestyle, which left it on the fringes of society.

In the United States, the good news is that the almost century-old ban was lifted earlier this year. Lance Winters, a former brewer who is now the distiller at St. George Spirits in Alameda, has been experimenting for 11 years with absinthe recipes that he thought he would never be able to bring to market. That all changed with the lifting of the ban, and in December, St. George Spirits became the first U.S. manufacturer since 1912 to receive approval from the government to sell absinthe. St. George Spirits Absinthe Verte starts with fine brandy that is infused with star anise,

mint, wormwood, lemon balm, hyssop, meadowsweet, basil, fennel, tarragon and stinging nettles. It then undergoes another distillation which gives it its high 60 percent alcohol content (120 Proof).

Recently, I was invited to the distillery, which is located in a hangar at the old Naval Air Station, for a pre-release press tasting about a week before the product hit the market. First, I was asked if I wanted to try it straight, which of course I did, and I quickly learned why you probably won't see people lining up at bars to do absinthe shots. The distinctive licorice aroma that comes from the anise and the burn from the extremely high alcohol content caused the overall flavor to be quite unpleasant to me.

I wondered when they were going to whip out the fruity mixer that would make this concoction drinkable, but I noticed that the only other thing on the bar was a pitcher of ice water, which puzzled me. However, I soon discovered that with only about one part ice water to three parts absinthe, the infamous liquor takes on a completely new character. The liquid turned cloudy, and a separate layer formed on top.

I tried it again, thinking that a little bit of water surely couldn't change the flavor dramatically. As it turns out, I was dead wrong. The addition of water causes the essential oils from the herbal ingredients to come out of solution, which explained the layer that had formed on top. The new potion revealed the flavor of anise, this time complimented with some citrus and faint menthol notes that I felt more than tasted. For some reason, the high alcohol harshness just seemed to vanish, and after a few more sips I could feel a bit of a numbing sensation

And now for the question on everyone's mind: Did I have a cosmic experience or hallucinogenic epiphany after drinking it? In a word, no, but I will say that I did feel a little bit of a different "buzz" than you get with other alcoholic beverages. I felt more engaged with those around me, and possibly more attentive. I fully realize that this was probably psychosomatic, after listening to all of the folklore surrounding this legendary spirit, but that doesn't change what I felt. Bottom line, it was a very interesting experience and I look forward to sharing it with others. However, at \$75 for a 750 ml bottle, I will be choosing whom to share it with wisely!

For more information on where to find St. George Absinthe Verte, visit www.stgeorgespirits.com or stop by the distillery.

Joel Williams was a professional craft brewer for over seven years at several breweries. He earned a diploma in Brewing Sciences



in 1996 from the world-renowned Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago.

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Sailing the Bay in January

BY SCOTT ALUMBAUGH

hen was the last time you sailed in January? Most people never do. And it's too bad, because winter is a great time of year on the Bay. I remember one day in particular: A friend and I sailed from Berkeley over to Tiburon, docked at Sam's Anchor Cafe, had a great lunch, then enjoyed a pleasant reach back home. We had the Bay to ourselves all day. It rained most of the way over and back, of course. But that wasn't an issue; it was just part of the experience.

For some, sailing in rain sounds unpleasant. Most of us don't do anything in rain unless we have to. But sailing itself is not really a logical pursuit. Which isn't to say it's a bad activity to take up. It just doesn't make a lot of sense if you stop and think about it for too long.

For one thing, most sailboats are generally slow. A good cyclist could ride a bicycle from San Francisco to Los Angeles—stopping to eat and sleep—in the time it takes to sail a boat straight through. And when was the last time you were thrilled to move faster than eight miles per hour? Most sailors start whooping when the boat gets up to that speed.

And there is the pointlessness of sailing. Most sailboats don't really go anywhere. They leave the harbor, wander around for a while, then come back

So why do we do sail? Some people like being anachronistic. They revel in being a part of a long tradition of sailing. These are the people you know who can name all of the sails on a square rigger, and who can box a compass (name all thirty-two principal points of the compass in clockwise order). Others are drawn to the engineering of the boat, and others still see an idyll of white beaches and swaying palms.

Whatever one's motivation might be, the thing in common to all is a desire to be somewhere different for a while. And the great thing about sailing is that you don't have to go anywhere to get away. It happens the moment the boat starts moving forward under sail. No matter how experienced the crew—from racers to first-timers—I notice a palpable change on the boat when the sails fill and the boat heels. It is a defining moment. Whether you're out for a daysail, a race, a coastal passage, or a blue water cruise, it is the point at which you have left the land and your day-to-day life behind. There's something very significant and gratifying about the clarity of that break.

It is also a deciding moment, because in order to have a great sail, you really have to make that break. You have to be willing to forget about your day-to-day routine and problems that await your return. And that is a good thing. Sailing would not be worth pursing unless it was completely different from being ashore. It is also rewarding, because the more you give yourself over to sailing, the better your experience will be. That's why it can even be fun to sail in rain.

On that January day, I looked at my friend at one point and had to laugh. He was sailing the boat on a nice reach, so there was not much to do but relax and talk. And that's exactly what we were doing: talking and relaxing out in the pouring rain in the middle of the Bay. I told him why I was laughing. He just grinned back and shrugged, then continued on whatever he was talking about. And that pretty much summed it all up.

This will be Scott Alumbaugh's final article for Bay Crossings. We would like to thank Scott for all of his wonderful contributions to Bay Crossings over the last year. If you have enjoyed Scott's sailing stories, you will be happy to know that he has hand-picked his replacement, who will be Ray Wickmann, the Master Instructor at OCSC Sailing. Captain Ray's column will begin next month, and we all look forward to hearing his nautical tales.

Even small spills can cause BAYKEEPER skippers remind you to fuel carefully: always use absorbent pads and never leave the nozzle unattended Contact us at 1-800-KEEPBAY for your free boater kit with absorbent pads. To learn more about how BAYKEEPER protects our waterways visit us at: BAYKEEPER efending Our Waters-from the

Scott Alumbaugh is a US SAILING certified, Coastal Passagemaking instructor. He holds a 100-Ton Masters



license, has worked as a delivery and charter skipper in the United States, Mexico and in the Caribbean, and is a sailing instructor at OCSC Sailing in Berkeley Marina.

JACK LONDON SQUARE



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

The Ellington – Jack London Square's Celebrated Condominium Tower Now Open

ack London Square, one of the Bay Area's most beloved destinations, and home to Jack London's original cabin and Gertrude Stein's own personal muse, will welcome yet another beautiful creation – The Ellington. Inspired by the finer things in life, this residential high-rise community will feature 134 condominium homes and is situated at 2nd and Broadway. From its dramatic San Francisco views to its visionary design, every inch of The Ellington is composed with an irresistible combination of style and sophistication.

It's no surprise that Molasky Pacific selected Jack London Square in Oakland as the location to build this gorgeous new high-rise community. Jack London Square's bayside setting and central location have been attracting artists and entertainers for literally centuries. According to Chris Davidson, Vice President of Development with Molasky Pacific, "It's no secret that Jack London Square has some of the best restaurants and Jazz Clubs on the planet; why not bring high-rise living to the heart of where it's all happening? Jack London Square is an idyllic spot to experience the West Coast's waterfront living. The added bonus: it sits right in the middle of the best jazz, art, waterfront dining, and shopping in the area."

Soaring 16-stories and making its mark on Oakland's skyline, The Ellington features one- and two-bedroom condominium homes and two-story penthouse suites. Each home—thoughtfully constructed with no element spared—offers clean lines with warm, richly textured finishes, and the soft touch of wood to soothe sharp-edged glass and steel. Designed to offer full access to natural light, the homes feature elevated ceilings and open kitchens while sprawling balconies and broad window walls beautifully frame the impressive

bay views. Additional amenities include generous entry foyers, hardwood and tile flooring, walk-in closets, Bosch stainless steel appliances, designer cabinetry, granite counter and vanity tops, and Hansgrohe and Moen fixtures.

The Ellington knows what a difference quality makes with luxuries including 24-hour attended lobby and concierge services, in addition to Wi-Fi connections throughout the building. Accompanied by a secure five-story controlled-access parking garage and 9,500 square feet of ground floor retail space, this high-style residence presents its owners with true world-class opulence. The Ellington's state-of-the-art exercise facilities feature

a 50-foot outdoor heated pool and spa, and a fitness center for cardio and strength training. At The Ellington, excellence is standard.

So, come satisfy the inner Connoisseur at The Ellington. Visit our Sales Center, and see what true sophistication feels like. The Ellington: contemporary luxury on the waterfront at Jack London Square.

The Ellington Sales Center is located at 130 Webster in Jack London Square, and is open daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and by appointment. For more information call 510.835.8885 or visit *the-ellington.com*.

ALAMEDA | OAKLAND FERRY

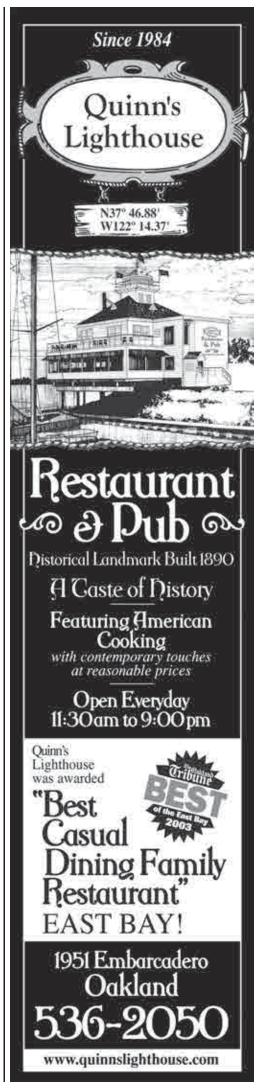


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Weekd	ays (excludir	ng Holidays)			Weekends	and Holidays	S		
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*On weekdays, with the exception of the 5:20 pm San Francisco departure which is operated by a 715 passenger Spaulding vessel, all other trips are operated by high-speed catamarans. Weekend service is provided by a 715 passenger Spaulding. Also, direct ferry service is provided to most Giants games at ATT&T Park.

SAUSALITO							
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INFORMATION CONTACTS 511 (toll-free) or 711 (TDD)

E-mail/Comments to ferrycomments.goldengate.org For Larkspur and Sausalito website:www.goldengate.org

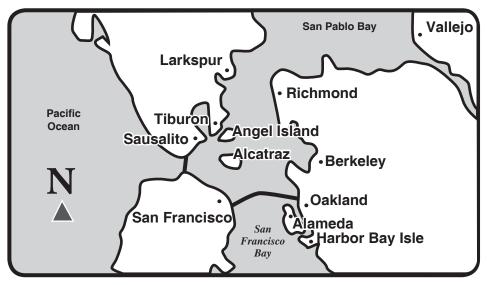
Christmas Day.

HOLIDAY SERVICE: Larkspur & Sausalito

In effect on Martin Luther King, Presidents', Memorial, 4th of July, Labor Day, modified Holiday service is operated on the Day after Thanksgiving.

NO SERVICE: Larkspur & Sausalito No ferry service on New Year's, Thanksgiving, and

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2007 Departure Schedule		BAY CRUI	SE	SUNSET CRUISE	
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Sunset cruise includes hors d'oeurves and two drinks for \$45.	Bay Cruise Rates: Adults: \$25 / Children 6-12: \$15 / Kids 5 and under: Free				
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Α	LAMEDA/C	DAKLAND		Α	LAMEDA/0	DAKLAND	
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	Veekdays from	San Francisco		9:15 am	9:25	10:10	9:55
Depart Pier 41	Depart Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Alameda	Arrive Oakland	10:50 1:00pm	9:25 1:10	11:20 1:30	10:30 1:45
 10:15 12:00pm 1:45 3:45	6:30am# 7:35# 8:40# 10:30 12:15pm 2:00 4:10	7:15am 8:20 9:25 10:50# 12:35pm# 2:20# 4:30 #	7:05am 8:10 9:15 11:00# 12:45pm# 2:30# 4:40#	3:30 5:00 6:30	3:45 5:15 6:40	4:05 5:35 7:00	4:15 5:45 7:10
	5:20	5:40	5:50	ALAN	/IEDA/OAK	LAND FAR	ES:
5:20 	5:45 6:25 7:25	6:10 6:45 7:45	6:20 6:55 7:55	7 (2) (1)		10Ticket 20Ticke Book* Book*	
	8:25	8:45	8:55	Adult (13+)	\$5.50 \$11.00	\$45.00 \$80.00	\$150.00
	a Oakland # T mmediately afte	o Alameda via er loading	Oakland	Child (5-12) Child under 5** Senior (65+) Disabled Persons* Active Military	\$2.75 \$5.50 FREE FREE \$3.25 \$6.50 \$3.25 \$6.50 \$4.25 \$8.50	PURCHASE TO ONBOARD THE or at the Region Connection (RTC) a	E FERRY nal Transit at participating
Schedule information harvested online. Schedules are subject to change. January, 2008			Seniors must show va	lid I.D., Regional Transit are Card. Military personnel).	Bay Area businesse the 24-hour Ferry 522-3300 to cor	Fone at (510)	

Blue & Gold Ferry BAY CRUISE SAUSALITO Leave PIER 39 FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41 Weekdays Weekends and Holidays Weekdays 10:45am 10:00am 2:30 Depart Sausalito 12:00pm 4:00 10:45 3:15 Pier 41 Sausalito Pier 41 12:15pm 1:15 4:00 11:00 am 11:40 am 11:50 am 12:10 pm 1:15 4:30 12:15 pm 12:55 pm 1:05 pm 1:25 2:00pm 1:35 2:10 2:20 2:35 3:40 3:35 Bay Cruise does not operate during inclement weather, Additional oruises may be added on demand. Check with ticket booth on day of sailing for schedule. No reserved seating available. 8:00 8:20 FARES: All prices include audio tour. \$21.00 Junior (12-18) \$17.00 * Friday ONLY ^ Via Angel Island Senior (62+).....\$17.00 Child (5-11).....\$13.00 Special Rates On Line Weekend and Holidays **ANGEL ISLAND** Arrive Depart Depart Arrive Pier 41 Pier 41 Sausalito Sausalito 0:35am 11:50 11:55 12:20pm Depart Arrive Depart Arrive 1:20pm 1:25 12:30pm Angel Angel Pier 41 2:00 2:45 2:50 3:15 Island Island 4:25 4:30 3:20 10:00am 10:20am 3:20pm 4:00pm Weekend Schedule on Memorial Day (May 28), Weekends Independence Day (July 4), and Labor Day (Sept 3) Arrive Depart One-Way Pier 41 Angel Angel Pier 41 Adult. ..\$9.00 Child (5-11)..... .\$5.00 20 Ticket Commute Book\$140.00 10:35am 11:00am 11:05am 12:20am 3:50pm 4:55pm **TIBURON** FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41 Stops at Pier 41 prior to Ferry Building Weekday > Stops at Pier 41 for 20 minutes prior to Ferry Building Depart Arrive Depart Arrive Pier 41 Pier 41 Tiburon **Tiburon** Angel Island Round Trip via SF \$14.50

Child (6 - 1 Child (5 - u *All prices i		\$8.50 FREE k Fees)	11:00am 12:15pm 1:35	11:20am 12:35pm 1:50	11:25am 12:40pm 1:55	12:10pm 1:25 2:35
ANC	GEL ISLAND	- OAKLA	ND	2:45 4:05	3:05 4:45	3:10	4:00
	Weekend	ls ONLY				7:45	8:20
Depart Oakland	Depart Alameda	Arrive Ange	el				
9:00am*	9:10am*	10:10am			Weekends a	and Holidays	
Depart An	Alameda	Arrive Oakland		Depart Pier 41	Arrive Tiburon	Depart Tiburon	Arrive Pier 41
3:10pm * Requires tra	3:45pm ansfer at PIER 41 or	•	Island Ferry	10:35am 12:30pm	11:10am 12:55pm	11:35am 1:05pm	12:20pm 1:50
	TIBUR	ON		2:00	2:25	2:30	3:15
D	OWNTOWN S.F	., FERRY BLD	G.	3:20	4:05	4:10	4:55
	Week	days]			
Depart Tiburon	Arrive Ferry Bldg.	Depart Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Tiburon	FARES:			One-Way
6:25am 7:40 8:50	6:55am 8:10	7:00am 8:15	7:30am 8:45				
5:05pm 6:20	9:20 5:35pm 6:50	4:30pm 5:45 7:00	5:00pm 6:15 7:30	* Friday ONLY # Recommended to Ferry Building Farmer's Market & To Ferry Building via PIER 41 ^ Via Angel Island > Via Sausalito All Weekend departures make additional stops before			
FARES: One-Way Round Trip				reaching dest	ination.		

.\$17.00

Vallejo Baylink Ferry

VALLEJO/SAN FRANCISCO FERRY BLDG./ FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Weekdays						
Depart Vallejo	Depart Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Pier 41	Depart Pier 41			
5:30am	6:35am					
6:30	7:35					
7:00	8:10					
7:45	8:55					
8:45	9:55					
10:00	11:10	11:20am	11:30am			
11:30	12:40pm					
2:00	3:30	3:00pm	3:10pm			
3:20	4:30					
4:05	5:15					
4:45	6:00					
5:35	7:05	6:35	6:45			

Missed the last ferry from San Francisco? Take the bus to Vallejo, weekdays and weekends at 10:30pm from in front of the Pier 1 Deli.

CROSSING TIME & BOARDING: Crossing time between Vallejo and San Francisco is about 1 hour. Ferries depart on time. Passengers should allow 15-20 minutes to park and purchase tickets at ferry terminals before boarding.

Weekends and Holidays

Depart Vallejo	Depart Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Pier 41	Depart Pier 41
10:00	11:10	11:20am	11:30
11:30	12:40pm		
1:00pm	2:10		
3:00	4:30	4:00pm	4:10pm
6:00	7:30	7:00	7:10

FARES:

Adult One-Way	\$12.50
Senior/Disabled/Medicare One-Way (65+/disabled)*	\$6.25
Youth One-Way (6-12 years)	\$6.25
Baylink DayPass	\$23.00
Monthly Pass	\$270.00
Monthly Pass with Muni	\$310.00
Call (707) 64-FERRY or visit www.baylinkferry.com for up information.	dated

Angel Island -Tiburon Ferry

ANGEL ISLAND/TIBURUN					
Monda	ay - Friday				
Tiburon to Angel Island	Angel Island to Tiburon				
10:00am, 11:00 1:00pm 3:00	10:20am 11:20 1:20pm 3:30				
Weekends					
10:00am, 5:00pm hourly	10:20am, 5:20pm hourly				
July	4, 2007				
10:00am, 5:00pm hourly	10:20am, 5:20pm hourly				
Schedule Subject to change w/o notice	Adults (12 and over) \$10.25 Seniors \$10.25 Children (5 - 11) \$8.00 Children (4 and under) Free* Bicycles \$1.00				
www.angelislandferry.com Call (415) 435-2131					

Harbor Bay Ferry

EAST END OF ALAMEDA/S.F.

Depart Harbor Bay Island	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Depart S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Harbor Bay Island
6:30am	6:55am	7:00am	7:25am
7:30	7:55	8:00	8:25
8:30	8:55	4:35pm	5:00pm
	4:30pm	5:35	6:00
5:05pm	5:30	6:35	7:00
6:05 7:05	6:30 7:30	7:35	8:00

No service on weekends

FARES:

Alameda Harbor Bay Ferry passengers can purchase Ferry tickets, passes and books on board our ferries. Alameda Harbor Bay Ferry accepts cash, checks, Visa, Mastercard and Commuter Checks as payment for ferry tickets.

i dic.	
One-Way Adult	\$6.00
One-Way Juniors (5-12)	\$3.00
Children (under 5)	Free
One-Way Seniors (62 & over)	
Disabled	
Active Military	\$4.75
One-Way Commute (book of 10)	\$50.00
One-Way Commute (book of 20)	\$90.00
Monthly Pass	\$165.00
Free MUNI and AC Transit Transfers Provided	



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\$8.50

Adult.

20 Ticket Commute Book

http://www.baycrossings.com/ferry_schedules.asp

BAY CRUISE SCHEDULE		
PIER 43 1/2		
Monday through Sunday		
10:45* 11:15 12:00pm	1:45 2:30 3:00 3:45 4:15pm*	Fare: Adult



Fun on Ferries, Shoreline Snacking and Shopping, Take the Kids, Bikes on Boats, Fun on Ferries...

AROUND THE BAY IN JANUARY

Oakland Celebrates the Dream **Opening Ceremony**

Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as Oakland marks Dr. King's 79th Birthday. The event will feature a keynote address by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., and live entertainment as well as a resource fair with information on volunteer opportunities, community events and celebrations commemorating Dr. King, his life and his vision. The free event takes place January 18th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Frank Ogawa Plaza, in front of Oakland's historic City Hall on



Art enthusiasts gather at the Arts Benicia Center Gallery for last year's Welcoming Party for The Art of a Community

14th Street and Broadway. In the event of inclement weather, the celebration will be moved to the Elihu M. Harris State Building at 1515 Clay Street. For additional information, call (510) 444-CITY or visit www.oaklandnet.com/ celebrations.

The Art of a Community at Arts Benicia

Arts Benicia is hosting "The Art of a Community" from January 19th through February 24th. "The Art of a Community" is Arts Benicia's annual open group show, featuring the work of Arts Benicia artist members. A few of the artists included in this exhibition are William Harsh, Hedi B. Desuyo, Gregg Renfrow, and Carol Dalton. A reception and welcoming party with live music will be held Saturday, January 26th at 7:30 p.m. Arts Benicia Center Gallery is located at 991 Tyler Street, Suite 114 in Benicia's Arsenal district. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., or by arrangement. Admission is free. For more information contact Erika Von Zoog at (707) 747-0131.

PIER 39 Celebrates Anniversary of Sea Lions' Arrival

PIER 39 commemorates the eighteenth anniversary of the sea lions' arrival. Through the years, these playful pinnipeds have taken up residence to the delight of thousands of spectators. Each January, their numbers soar as hundreds of marine mammals return for the plentiful herring supply in San Francisco Bay. In addition to enjoying hundreds of sea lions in close proximity, visitors can talk with knowledgeable Marine Mammal Center docents and stop by the Whale Bus for a thorough educational experience. PIER 39's K-Dock has been declared a "Watchable Wildlife" viewing area by the California Watchable Wildlife Project.



Marin Museum of Contemporary Art will present "The Van Gogh Award Exhibition" from January 5th through 27th. "The Van Gogh Award Exhibition" is produced by the Board of Directors of MarinMOCA. The Award is given to those Art league of Northern California members who



have consistently risen to the occasion when needed and have done more than the required volunteer hours. The show will be held at MarinMOCA, 500 Palm Avenue in Novato. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11a.m. to 4p.m. Reception: January 5th from 5 p.m. -7 p.m. Closed Mondays. For more information, visit www.marinmoca.org or call (415) 506-0137.

Become a Steward of the Bay! Below are several shoreline stewardship events scheduled for January. If you have the time, pitch in and help keep the Bay a beautiful place for generations to come.

Sat., Jan. 5, 10 a.m. - noon: New Year on the waterfront: Susan Schwartz, president of Friends of Five Creeks, leads a Berkeley Path Wanderers Assn. walk exploring the Bay's past, the waterfront's revitalization, and new opportunities for involvement. Walk is level but not suitable for wheelchairs, strollers, or dogs. Meet at Shorebird Nature Center, 160 University Ave., Berkeley (south side of University west of Adventure Playground; AC Transit

9). Free; all welcome. Information: www. berkeleypaths.org, (510) 848-9358.

Fri., Jan. 11: Help Save the Bay: Monitor native-oyster settlement on different surfaces to learn how to restore these native shellfish, important in clarifying water and establishing reefs where other creatures live. Information: (510) 452-9261 x119, bayevents@ savesfbay.org.

Thu. and Fri., Jan. 10-11, 9 a.m. noon. Bay Interpretive Training (Bay **IT):** Fun hands-on activities train volunteer docents who can commit to 14 hours per month learning and helping naturalists lead environmental-education programs for school-age children at Shorebird Nature Center, 160 University Ave., Berkeley. No experience necessary – just love of outdoors and ability to work with kids. January's focus is on birds. Information: www.ci.berkeley. ca.us/marina/marinaexp/volunteer.html, (510) 981-6720.

Sat., January 26, 3 p.m.: Celebrate the Bay: Join in a thank-you get-together for everyone who helped after the November oil spill. We will see pictures from the spill, celebrate wildlife that was rescued, chat and hear about what others did, remember and reflect on plans to make it better next time. Short bird program/walk follows. Shorebird Park Nature Center, 160 University Ave., Berkeley (south side of University west of Adventure Playground; AC Transit 9). Information: (510) 981-6720.

Great food to celebrate life in the City!

Enjoy a ten minute walk from the Ferry Building or short hop on the F-Line



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Fisherman's Wharf on Pier 47 Foot of Jones on Jefferson Street



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