



EDIA

Author Visits in Person for A Timely Treat of Erie Witty Journalism

The Excelsior Book Club will meet October 17 at 7pm at Mama's Art Café, for a spirited discussion and a meeting with the author.



Guest Author Mary Roach
Photo by Phoebe Rachles

Our next reading is *Stiff*, by San Francisco author Mary Roach (2003, 292 pages). In this fascinating account, Mary visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries and tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them.

Stiff is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers – some willingly, some unwittingly – have been involved in science's boldest

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT NEWS

The Voice of the Residents

A publication of the

Excelsior District Improvement Association

Founded in 1942 – Incorporated in 1962

strides and weirdest undertakings. They've tested France's first guillotines, ridden the NASA Space Shuttle, been crucified in a Parisian laboratory to test the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, and helped solve the mystery of TWA Flight 800. For every new surgical procedure, from heart transplants to gender reassignment surgery, cadavers have been there alongside surgeons, making history in their quiet way. This is not the book you want to read over lunch. Fortunately, Roach has a breezy style of writing and an ear for a well-turned comic phrase, and, as a result, *Stiff* is less gruelling than darkly funny.

There are several copies of *Stiff* at various SF Library branches (also in sound recording at the Main and Bernal Heights). The book is available at many bookstores, and is available in paperback at Amazon.com for \$11.16.



To accommodate the Author's schedule, our next meeting of the Excelsior Book Club will meet on **W E D N E S D A Y, OCTOBER 17, 7:00 PM**, at Mama's Art Café, 4754 Mission Street, just north of Onondaga.

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Mosaic Tile Bench Project Looks Good Already

Children and adults are invited to help place tiles and grout this Beautiful Crocker Amazon Playground bench design created by the children, youth and families at Precita Eyes workshops.

This should be a fun weekend adventure for the whole family. For years afterwards your kids will point to the benches and say "I made that.". Do bring the kids on Saturdays. Sundays should ideally be Adults Only because we are doing grouting on Sundays. Grace D'Anca supplied this picture of the design for the tile benches. The complete schedule is given just below this picture. For more info call (415)748-1516 or email:

info@facesf.com.



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Dates in October

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28

and November 3 & 4

10am-4pm.

we skip a weekend on the 20th

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Local Events:

Glen Park Celebrates New Library

At 1pm on Oct. 13 the Glen Park Branch Library will be holding an opening celebration. Assorted politicians will speak. There will be live music, children's entertainment and a street fair. The new library location is now 2825 Diamond St. Opening day festivities will be held in front of the building on Diamond, between Bosworth and Chenery.

Bernal Heights Festival



Sunday, October 21st, on Cortland Avenue. Every year 15,000 people from Bernal Heights, the Mission, the Excelsior and from all over the Bay Area come to enjoy this **Fiesta On The Hill**, a family-friendly, alcohol-free festival. Featured activities include live music, and entertainment for

all ages including a pumpkin patch, pony rides, petting zoo and the ever-popular dunk tank.

Homecoming at Balboa High School

Saturday November 3rd, from 12:30 to ?? It'll be Balboa v. Burton at Carl Mitchell Field. We'll eat, see the game, enjoy a half time show, and celebrate past seasons. We are getting close to Balboa's 80th Anniversary, as they were began around 1928. This should be a fun one! This Game is dedicated to our 1967 Championship Football Team. We will also honor Hall of Famer and Excelsior icon John Consiglieri, Fall 1937.



Balboa High School is on 1000 Cayuga Avenue, just past Ocean and San Jose. Gate Opens at 12:30 P.M.; Pre-game Ceremonies at 1:00 PM; Game starts at 2:00 PM. Call 469-4090 for more info, ask for Susan Ritter.

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Greening of School Lunches

Our local schools will soon be getting a real live salad bar in the lunchroom. The salad bar offers a mix of fresh greens and several different fresh raw vegetables, in addition to a variety of fresh fruit and whole grain breads and muffins.



The fresh foods will be offered right along with the usual hot lunches.

Unless s/he is getting a free lunch, a child usually needs to choose one or the other, or pay an extra 2\$ to get both the hot lunch and the fresh food options.

Local schools in this program include James Lick Middle, Balboa High School, Visitation Valley Middle, as well as Excelsior Middle and June Jordan School for Equity - these last two schools are recent additions to our neighborhood - jointly occupying the school building at the top of Brazil Avenue, just by McLaren Park.

This fresh food program has been funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Mayor's Office and The City's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. Half of the funding is a once-only payment, meant for setting up the equipment and infrastructure; the other half is going to be an annual contribution to pay for the vegetables.

This is a result of the Wellness Policy that was adopted by the Board of Education in 2003. The motive is that good nutrition increases academic achievement and SFUSD has become a national leader in banishing junk food sales in schools.

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Announcing the Excelsior TEP workshop, a chance to influence Muni service in our area

Come and share your ideas with TEP Project Manager Julie Kirschbaum for how to improve our local Muni service.

Saturday, October 20, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Monroe School, 260 Madrid Street (between Excelsior and Avalon).



This city-wide map of SF transit (ABOVE) uses graphic “bubbles” to indicate the amount of activity for each transit stop. The Excelsior is the very active area on the lower center of the city map. While our paper newsletter is grey, you can also see these graphs in color on our website, where the darker green shows bus stops, and the lighter blue is Muni Rail. The lightest blue, over downtown, indicates street cars.

Transit Study Group Asks for Our Help In Planning Future

Study Proves We Are A Busy Area

Over the past year the Transit Effectiveness Project has been collecting rider boarding statistics for Muni transit throughout the city. Special sensors kept a log of passenger entrances and exits at each Muni stop. This data was logged in order to get an idea of which stations were put to most use. The results are shown graphically here (page 4) and on the opposing page on (page 5). It turns out the Excelsior has a very busy transit area. You knew that, right? Now there is proof.

Julie Kirschbaum came to our meeting and did a presentation about the TEP. She wrote down our suggestions and wanted us to tell our members and any locals that she really wants to hear from riders. Any plan that they make for this area will be informed by our comments. The Excelsior TEP meeting is from 10am to 12:30pm on October 20th at Monroe School. For those who like more detail, we provide the following info about TEP:

The Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) is a major MTA initiative to improve Muni system wide, comprehensively review Muni’s transit system, see public input, and use the results to improve service. The project goals are to improve Muni’s response to current travel needs, plan for future service, apply best practices to service delivery, and promote the system’s long-term financial stability. YOUR INPUT is an important part of the TEP process.

The TEP has also conducted market research to understand existing and potential ridership needs, and reviewed Muni’s operational practices, with a line-by-line assessment of Muni’s service performance. These findings will be shared at several public workshops this fall to help inform draft recommendations.

If you cannot attend this meeting, there are others in the city, (see their website or call

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“Transit Study Asks For Help” Continued from Page 4

for details www.sfstep.com) and, you may still provide input to the TEP are encouraged to do so through any of the following:

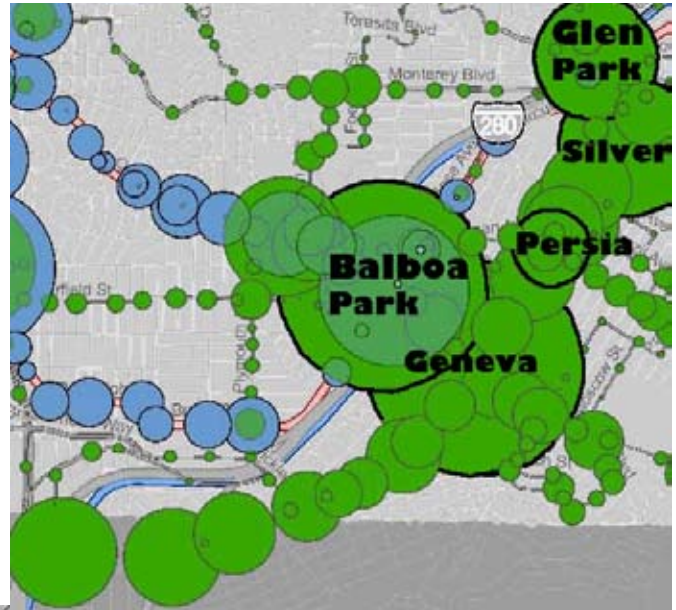
- Ongoing feedback via e-mail, phone or fax. Anyone can send questions or comments any time to info@sfstep.com or 415-701-4599 (Spanish and Chinese speakers call 415-226-1313).
- TEP Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 5-7pm. Meetings are open to the public (details at www.sfstep.com).
- Mail and/or email updates. Individuals may join the TEP mailing list to receive future notices by mail and/or email.

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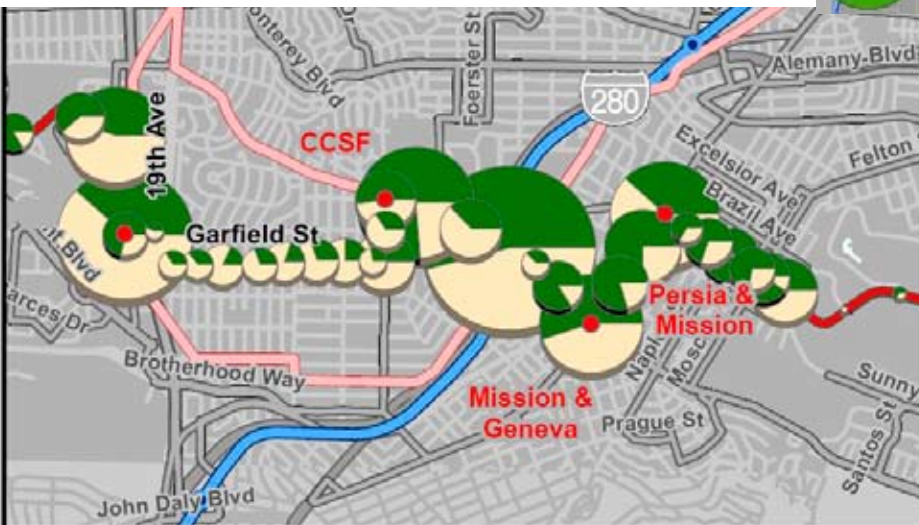
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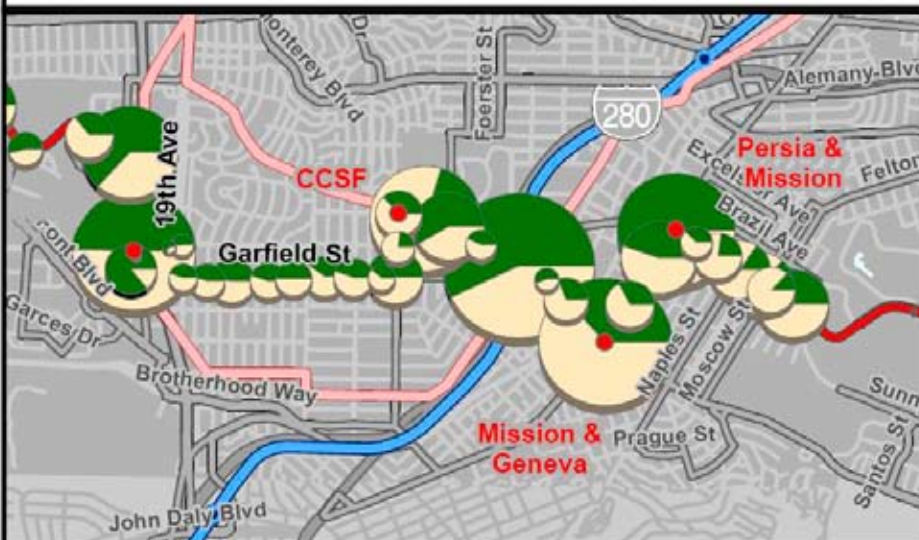
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This detail of the city-wide map (ABOVE) shows **just how intense the transit situation has become out here.** We’ve outlined the most active stations so you can get a sense of location. The largest “bubbles” indicate that the 3 most heavily patronized stops are, not surprisingly, at Mission/Persia, Mission Geneva, and Balboa Park BART. Looking carefully on the city-wide (opposite page) you can compare the size of our Balboa bubble to the bubble on 16th and Mission.



29 Line toward SF State



29 Line toward McLaren Park

(LOWER LEFT) “Pie Chart” bubbles show the most heavily used stops for the 29 bus line. The darker (green) area of a bubble shows people getting on, lighter (cream) means people get off. The Mission and Geneva stop is used more by people heading East (bottom) than West (top) These are the most active stops on the entire 29-line, one of Muni’s longest lines. The data indicates other neighborhood lines, such as the 44 and 54, show similar patterns of heavy use in the Excelsior.

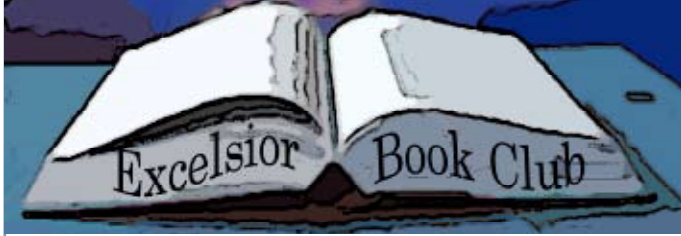
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A Project of the Excelsior District Improvement Association



Book Club Continued from Page 1

At the October meeting we'll also be choosing a pair of books to be read during November and December. Following the September reading theme of women fighting oppression in Iran, our book selection team (Samy & Lewis) turned for inspiration to these parallel examples close to home if not in time.

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
American Jezebel by Eve Laplante.

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow.

A Dangerous Woman: The Graphic Biography of Emma Goldman By Sharon Rudahl

Votes for the next reading will be taken at the October 17 meeting, and we will finalize the selection(s) at that time.

Congrats to Pissed Off Pete's

Residents showed up to our August meeting to testify to Pete's excellence at running the former "Alex's Place" and to ask our support for an Entertainment License. Members voted to approve a letter of support, which was written but not submitted in time for the hearing. However, before the hearing date we did call to ask Officer Kathy Pubill to communicate our support to the Entertainment Commission, and Pete did get his license, so we hope our words had some effect on the proceedings. We congratulate Pete on his license, we hope our verbal recommendation helped and we apologize for our slipup with the paper version. Thanks also to EDIA member Jean Carroll for submitting her support letter to the Commission. I am sure her testimony was valuable in making the decision. *by Jackie Wipf*

Whatever it is...you can get it on **ebay**

Jerry Garcia's
Kitchen Sink

MAKE YOUR HOME GRATEFUL



Jerry Garcia's Kitchen Sink was Auctioned on eBay for 16,000\$.

The proceeds of this unusual sale go to the Sophia Foundation, a Bay Area nonprofit that aids children and families during marital separations and divorces. It was a plain stainless steel sink. A toilet went for 2,500 last year. These items are from Jerry's house in Marin, and they were removed during remodeling by the new owners.

What and Where is EDIA?

We are a non-profit neighborhood organization working for civic improvement and the general welfare of our district and the city of San Francisco.

We welcome your comments and submissions for the newsletter and the website. If you have articles, photos or other art work you would like to submit, or comments or suggestions please call R. Katz at (415) 586-6014 or e-mail:

ediasf-info@yahoo.com

Meetings are scheduled for: October 23 and November 27 check the EDIA website for the latest information:

<http://excelsiorsf.org>

EDIA Meeting & Location Information below



Photo by Thomas Hawk



Who's Walking the Beat ?-

SFPD is trying to discover whether you think your district is being well served. It's an easy survey with check boxes, but it's also open to remarks, with plenty of space for comments. Every entry is read by the SFPD, and it's anonymous

www.sfpolicereview.com

The survey asks about what we think about having more police resources or less serving our district, whether we'd like to have a smaller district boundary, whether we should have more patrol cars, what we think about foot patrols, would we like more patrol cars. What crimes we've had to deal with. What the response time was like. There's a business survey version for merchants. The surveys were going stop October 8th but they say they might go on longer. Surveys are available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. If you don't have Internet, you can call them at (415) 734-3067

We Are Almost Out of Lovely Leafy Trees!



We are close to having enough people to schedule the next Excelsior tree planting. There are just a few trees left to at the reduced price. The SF Garden Club has given the neighborhood funding, which allows homeowners to plant trees with Friends of the Urban Forest for only \$50 per tree. The first 36 people to sign up get one tree for \$50 and additional trees are \$150 (actual cost is \$335 per tree). FUF needs all forms in one month prior to planting day, this means we have just a few weeks to collect all the applications. We've already got more than 24 forms and only have funding to plant 36 trees, so speak up now if you want one, they are going fast. All forms are at www.fuf.net or call FUF 415-561-6890 Ext. 101

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It is easy to join or renew your EDIA membership. Just fill out and clip this coupon; then enclose it with a check or money order for \$15.00 made out to EDIA

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Member Letter to the Editor Describing Mr. Green *from Jean Carroll*

In no way is this piece meant to rebuke "Looking For Mr. Green" in the August issue. All in all it had some rudely awakening facts. However, for those paid-up members a newsletter is an expected, however trivial, benefit of their remitted dues. The downside of not distributing hard copies to neighborhood businesses (and perhaps a limited number of nonmembers) is that it risks eliminating that prospect of advertising or new member acquisition. Okay, so are all you readers of this informative, visually appealing (Thanks to Robert and Sonja by the way) publication ready for some COLD figures? Your annual \$15 dues break down to 1.25 a month. Four cents a day. Pretty cheap to be a Full member with newsletter delivery, voting privileges at meetings and ability to hold an office. Let's get even grittier at the very least, if the five dollar contribution option is chosen. That's only 41 cents a month (ironically, the cost of the stamp to mail it to you) or a tad over a penny a day, for the year. Would you not prefer the knowledge and info provided about by and for our neighborhood? Advertising would greatly diffuse our expenses and expand our income. It costs only \$100 for an ad to appear in 6 issues of the newsletter It boils down to \$16.67 an issue or just \$.55 a day. Let's keep "it" in the Excelsior. Contribute articles, pay your dues, and don't leave the newsletter all up to Robert Sonja and Julian.
– *slightly edited for space*

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HERE