

By Phil Faroudja

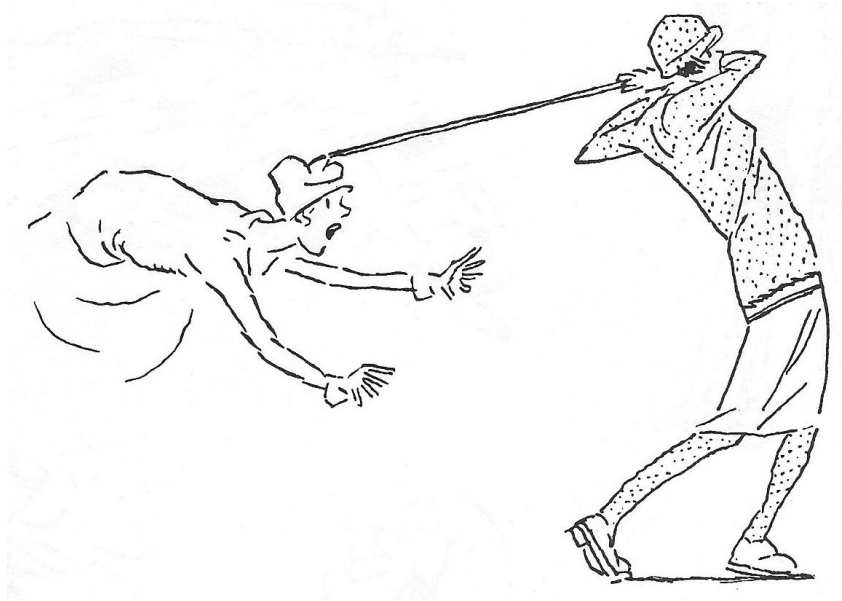
NEIGHBORHOOD WINS: Your GGVNA has been working on several local issues so we thought we'd update you. First, owners of a home adjacent to the Golden Gate Valley Library on Green street have proposed a roofdeck and extension. This would block light and darken the book room. At a recent hearing, we stated our objections, and the project is on hold ... The SFMTA sought to replace 3 parking spaces in front of the Shake Shack with an electric bike station. Those spots are badly needed, so we penned a letter against this. The SFMTA listened and now is looking at alternatives ... RescueSF has become effective. Members have met Mayor Breed and city managers, and gotten more funding for mental health and shelter programs. Incidentally, 70% of SF's homelessness budget comes from California or FEMA ... We've expanded our website www.goldengatevalley.org . Go to it for local information, to contact a member or make a generous donation(!) ... Here's a nice article about Luke's Grocery: <https://hoodline.com/2020/08/luke-s-local-to-open-second-grocery-store-in-cow-hollow> .

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SPORTS ROUNDUP: After a long break, the SF Giants are back and baseball is finally here. And so is basketball. And NFL football. And don't forget golf, NHL Hockey, and Major League Soccer also compete. We've never had so many sports, but that's what happens in a pandemic, apparently ... I was watching the Giants on TV and they had cardboard spectators. But that didn't fool me: those were not real fans ... You may have heard 22 NBA teams are sequestered at Walt Disney World in Orlando, all playing games on two courts. The Warriors are not among them, though, as a winning record is required ... Some football will be difficult to look at: the one-time badass Oakland Raiders are now the Las Vegas

Raiders. The league has constructed an immense air-conditioned coliseum in the gambling mecca next to the Strip. It is entirely closed, a necessity in the desert.

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Championship Golf Returns

STAFF RECOMMENDS: With sheltering time on my hands, I enjoyed the book "Silver Kings" by Oscar Lewis. The Gold Rush of 1849 forever changed California. It was followed ten years later by the Silver Rush, even more impactful ... Set against the colorful background of Virginia City and San Francisco of the 1860s, this is about the Nevada Comstock Lode's "Big Four" ... John Mackay, best known, built up the Postal Telegraph and Commercial Cable systems. His wife Marie Hungerford, the Kim Kardashian of her time, kept Paris and London society agog and tabloids humming. James Fair was a master mechanic who became a U.S. Senator; his daughters founded SF's Fairmont Hotel ... James Flood, whose mansion still sits atop Nob Hill, with his Irish immigrant partner William O'Brien, ran the Financial District's most popular saloon. They learned from stockbrokers the silver mine was the real deal, and bought a controlling stake ... Author Lewis places you vividly in the times ... And you can be placed into our next meeting, so join our call on Wednesday, September 19 at 7 pm.

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