

By Phil Faroudja

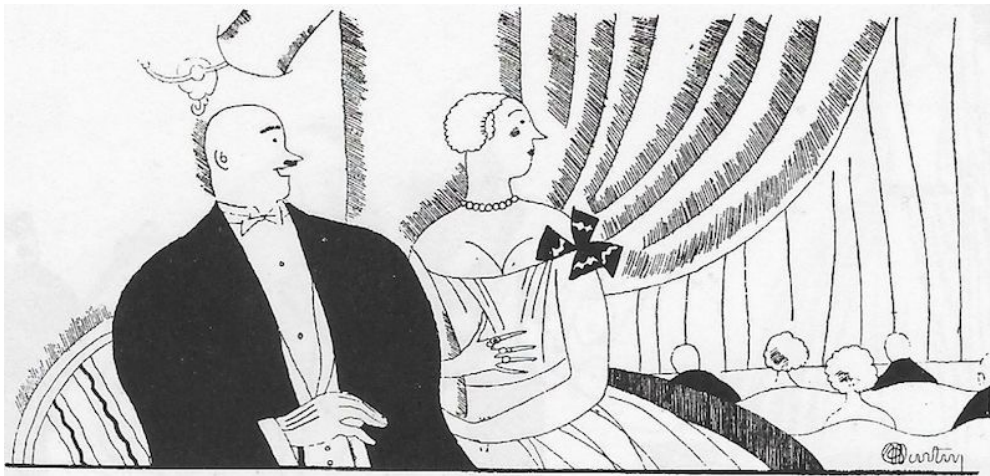
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: New businesses continue to move into our neighborhood, and that's good to see. In a way, we are lucky; other areas don't necessarily find themselves in the same situation. Some streets have a series of shuttered stores and restaurants. That is not the case here ... So we are glad to welcome Palmetto Superfoods to 2150 Union Street. The eatery features healthy, plant based food and acai, and owners Charles and Amanda focus on Brazilian acai; they believe it is the best ... And replacing the golf shop at 3108 Fillmore is boutique Current Clothing, specializing in fine female fashions. It carries a bit of everything, from cut-off shorts to party dresses ... We were sorry to see beloved Pane E Vino restaurant close. It has been succeeded by Camino Alto, a nice bistro with a Mexican bent ... Incidentally, Jaxson on Fillmore has live comedy Wednesday nights, so you may want to stop by if you're looking for some entertainment. The place is always packed.

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THANK THE ACADEMY: For the last few months, Supervisor Stefani has been concentrating on securing money for the police academy. This is important as it trains new officers and replaces retiring ones, which ultimately results in more cops on the streets. On a related subject, when I have been to the Palace of Fine Arts recently, I have noticed either a police car or foot patrol. We have had problems with theft for a while there, particularly aimed at tourists, so this should be a good deterrent. Let's hope these patrols will continue ... It was upsetting to see thieves break into stores in Union Square. This is not new, though; groups have been concentrating on the area for 4 or 5 years. In 2019 ten burglars burst into

Nieman Marcus and stole a selection of purses. One hopes city officials finally establish an ongoing law enforcement presence at the shopping mecca... This appears to be a large crime ring, as shops in Walnut Creek, San Jose and Palo Alto were also hit. We need someone, possibly the FBI, to "fight for righteousness and apprehend the wrong doer." Even Los Angeles was affected.

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"I thought we were going to see the opera about Steve Jobs. Everybody is singing in Italian."

WHAT'S OPERA, DOC?: Live performances have returned to San Francisco Opera. They began with Puccini's "Tosca" in August, and next up are "Fidelio" with music by Beethoven and "Cosi Fan Tutte" composed by Mozart. Of course, you have to be fully vaccinated to attend. The motto on all the opera programs is "Dare to sing. Dare to love. Dare to defy." Sounds good ... And it is nice to see movie theaters open again. Last week I took in Russian comedy hit "Cursed Official" at the Marina theater on Chestnut street. It's a funny movie, but I was struck by the heavy American influence: the main character uses Microsoft Office programs; everybody owns an iPhone; and one character displays a picture of Ernest Hemingway on her wall ... Meanwhile the Vogue cinema on Sacramento is showcasing 1980s flicks "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "The Blues Brothers" and "Purple Rain." More info: www.cinemasf.com/vogue ... And that's a wrap for this issue. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 15 at 7pm. See you!

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