



November, 2023

What's a Sitzprobe?

by Jerry Lerman (344)

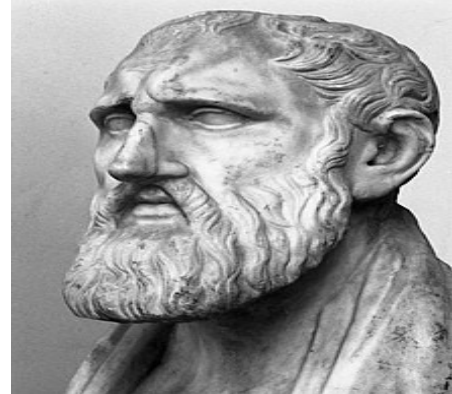
Eve and I received an invitation from Hillbarn Theatre to attend a special kind of event recently, a "sitzprobe" for the upcoming production of "The Sound of Music." We were glad that the invitation included an explanation of what that was, because we'd never heard the term before. We were told that it was a 'sitting rehearsal' (the term comes from German), and we couldn't help but be intrigued with the additional explication, a bit of which I'll quote here:

"During a sitzprobe (or "sitz"), the production cast and orchestra musicians run through the performance together as a single unit for the first time."

We found that there had been only a small number of invitees, so we luxuriated for the next 90 minutes or so in our favorite seats (center section, row C) and listened to the excellent voices of the children and adult actors running through songs like "The Lonely Goatherd," "Do Re Mi," and "Climb Every Mountain" – while the six members of the live orchestra created a full sound in accompaniment. The "teams" were remarkably in-synch, given this was their first time working together. We had a wonderful time watching!

Anyone coming to see the production, which will run from November 30th through December 17th, is most definitely in for a TREAT! See Hillbarn's website for details.

Aaron's Answers



Top: A statue of Marcus Aurelius in Rome

Bottom: A bust of Zeno, a renowned stoic (a belief to which Marcus Aurelius adhered)

Question: Can you share some background about Marcus Aurelius and what strikes you as remarkable about his having composed the work, *Meditations*?

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Marcus Aurelius was a Roman Emperor who ruled from 161 to 180 AD. He was born in 121 AD and is often considered one of the "Five Good Emperors" of Rome, and he is best known

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

Scrambled Streets

Solution provided by neighbor, Gaurav Keswani

The Oct 2023 issue quiz is all mapped out below.

I did not have to drive around, but I imagine it would have been so much more difficult to solve this same quiz in October 1993 or perhaps people were smarter back in the days:-)

-Gaurav.

1. Bowfin St
2. Bounty Dr
3. Surfperch St
4. Catamaran St
5. Galleon Ln
6. Barkentine St
7. Widgeon St
8. Polaris Ave
9. Beachpark Blvd
10. Edgewater blvd
11. Sandpiper Ct
12. Balclutha Dr

This Month's Quiz

Mark My Words!

Occasionally strange characters appear in words I'm reading, and I've often wondered what they're called and what effect they have on pronunciations. Following the lettered list of diacritical mark names are numbered examples of their use, but in a different order. See if you can pair them up. If you find more than two types of marks in an entry (e.g., #10.) focus only on the **BOLDED** one.

- A. Acute accent
- B. Grave accent
- C. Cedilla
- D. Circumflex
- E. Diaeresis
- F. Breve
- G. Haček (*this should be easy!*)
- H. Macron
- I. Tilde
- J. Tittle
- K. Angstrom/circle
- L. Ligature

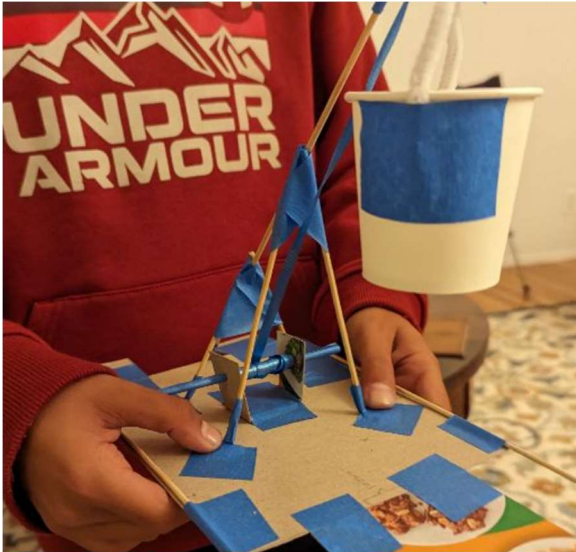
- 1 Äpfel ("apples" in German)
- 2 **j**elly
- 3 façade
- 4 purée
- 5 skrēn (Possible pronunciation guide of screen)
- 6 coup de grâce
- 7 encyclopædia
- 8 mañana
- 9 crème de la crème
- 10 cái chǎn ("blanket" in Vietnamese)
- 11 četvrtak ("Thursday" in Croatian)
- 12 åbēn ("open" in Danish)

Prepare to meet your Dumas!

The Three Muskrat Tiers



Keswani Children Share Their Artwork and Projects



Bucket-in-a-well mechanism constructed by Ronav Keswani



Thanksgiving turkey – by Meera Keswani



Colorful construction paper turkey –by Meera



Woman with Earrings – by Ronav

Thank you, kids, and parents! Beautiful work!

Aaron's Answers continued

for his philosophical reflections and writings, particularly the work titled "Meditations." *Meditations* is a series of personal writings by Marcus Aurelius, and it is essentially a collection of his thoughts, reflections, and philosophical musings. He wrote these meditations as a form of self-examination and guidance, intended for his own use rather than publication.

Meditations is a prominent example of Stoic philosophy. Stoicism is a school of philosophy that originated in ancient Greece and later flourished in Rome, teaches that the path to virtue is through cultivating a rational and virtuous mindset, regardless of external circumstances. Stoics advocate for self-control, acceptance of what cannot be changed, and a focus on one's own actions and character.

The most remarkable thing about Marcus Aurelius writing *Meditations* is the position he was in when he wrote it. He was able to maintain a calm demeanor throughout his rule, and his writing was written similarly to how he was in real life. It's truly amazing how well he composed himself and how *stoic* he acted even under the immense pressures of being the Roman Emperor of the time.

His work has been described by many as a timeless classic, an essential pillar of stoicism and a great "practical handbook for life." I would definitely recommend reading it!

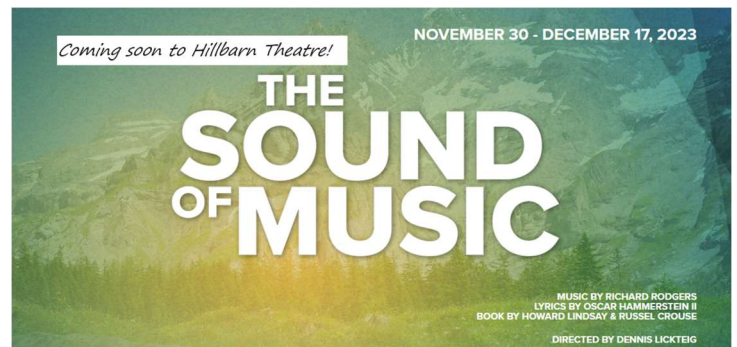
TARGET DATE FOR Next Month's Contributions

December 18, 2023

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by
adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page

or our website: BOWFININQUIRER.COM



PG&E Pays Another Visit

A Call for Information

by Jerry Lerman (344)

One could not help but notice the disruption of our block over the past several weeks, as numerous PG&E vehicles and workfolk paid us an extended visit. Since the BI doesn't have any paid reporters, I have no "news" to offer regarding the work, although I've heard some rumors regarding what they were/are here to accomplish.

Please, neighbors, if any of you happen to know anything for certain about the work project, especially what it was for and how long it will continue (I have heard it may be over very soon, which I'll applaud if it is indeed true!), feel free to share and let us know if you'd like that info published in the BI or on its website.

Thank you!