



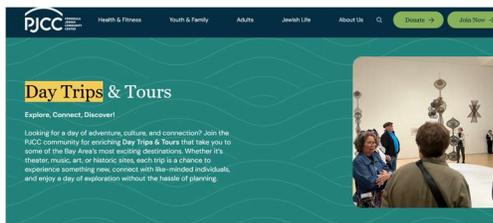
February 2026

Our Visit to the Legion of Honor Museum

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Last week Eve and I participated in a fun day trip organized by Kimberly Gordon of the Peninsula Jewish Community Center. Our destination was an art museum that neither of us had visited in over four decades. Back then it was called “The California Palace of the Legion of Honor,” but we learned that it has since changed its name to the simpler “Legion of Honor Museum.”

Also, back then it didn't have a website 😊 but **now** you can learn all about the venerable institution at <https://www.famsf.org/>



Upcoming Trips

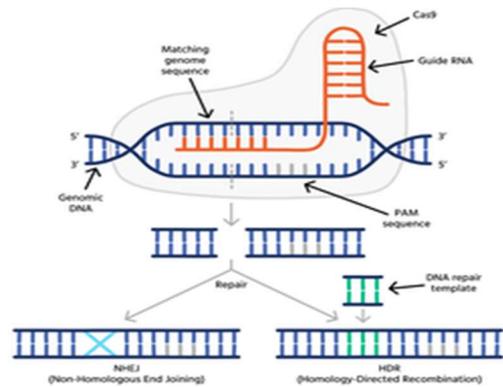
Day Trip: *Symphonie Fantastique* & Jean-Yves Thibaudet (San Francisco Symphony)
Thursday, March 26, 2026 • 12:30pm – 5:00pm
Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet will perform Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5, Egyptian. Thibaudet is well known and renowned for his interpretation of French classical music and some of his genre-ol.

Next PJCC Day Trip: SF Symphony, March 26th

A bus took 15 of us up to San Francisco's Lincoln Park, where we were treated to a docent tour of a wonderful exhibit featuring the works of early French impressionists Édouard Manet (1832–1883) and Berthe Morisot (1841–1895). Not only did the beauty of their works come through, but it also offered insights into the artists' lives.

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Aaron's Question Column



Top: A visual showing the approximate process of CRISPR

Bottom: A CRISPR machine

Question: I'm looking for information on CRISPR, a new genetic technology that I heard may allow us to cure (or treat) a wide variety of diseases by editing 'bad genes.' Has that already begun to happen?-- Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): CRISPR is a genome-editing technology that allows scientists to precisely alter DNA sequences within living cells. In nature, many (40-50%) bacteria contain a defense system wherein they store data about viruses and other common complications in special sections of their DNA known as their “immune memory”,

Continued on page 3

Solution to Last Month's Quiz

JAY Walking

Solution provided by Gary Colman, who wrote:

My solution:

worthless	jaNKy
a disc jockey	DEEjay
a decrepit car	jaLOPy
a bridge for emplaning	JETWay
a junior varsity player	jayVEE
self-confident and cheerful	jaUNTY
to a great extent	MajORLy
a way to steal a plane	SKYjaCK
persuasion by flattery	CajOLERy
a one-pot Louisiana rice dish	jaMBALAyA

and then transferred the letters, arriving at:

B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	E	R	S
10	10	8	1	3	10	9	8	2	7	8

This Month's Quiz

Got Any Botany?

We have some beautiful plant species growing in the yards of Bowfin St and Sailfish Isle. I've taken photos of some of them here. Then I used Google "Lens" to help me identify them. (I also did some additional searching to corroborate Lens' findings...but let me know if I botched something!)

Here are the names of the nine neighborhood plants that are pictured on page 4 of this issue. I'll "leaf" it to you to match each photo (A, B, ..., I) to its name!

1. **Aeonium**
2. **Agave americana**
3. **Blue daisy**
4. **Calla Lily**
5. **Mediterranean spurge**
6. **Persian buttercup**
7. **Sweet alyssum**
8. **White sage (salvia)**
9. **Zonal geranium**

Coming to Hillbarn Theatre



Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

March 15, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by

adding a NOTE on our website:

BOWFININQUIRER.COM

Our Visit continued from page 1

Because the artists chose to paint many of the same subjects and sites (e.g., the 1867 Universal Exposition in Paris) the museum displayed them side-by-side for easy comparison of styles and treatments.

Our docent was knowledgeable and excellent in sharing highlights of both their lives. They not only regularly exchanged thoughts about impressionistic techniques, their families intertwined in 1874 when Morisot married Manet's brother, Eugène.

We learned a lot about art during the visit, as well as a bit about economics: the museum's café has delicious food – but somewhat steep prices! But even feeling a bit gouged there didn't detract from our enjoying a fabulous excursion!



Two 'Woman at her vanity' pieces hung side-by-side: Manet (L) and Morisot (R)

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

and they use this data to identify and defend themselves.

This is very similar to the lymphatic system we know in humans, except they store the data in their genes instead of in cells designed for data storage (like we have). The small snippets of viral DNA stored are known as Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, or CRISPR. After identifying a mutation, viral infection, or other common issue, the bacteria uses the DNA to create RNA which guides a nuclease protein, often Cas9, to the viral DNA, where Cas9 then cuts the offending portion of the DNA which disables the virus. Scientists discovered how they could use that guiding RNA to convince the Cas9 protein to go anywhere they wanted, and cut any portion they wanted it to. The protein has no will of its own, no purpose, it can be imagined as a pair of scissors, and scientists have developed technology to guide this pair of scissors to cut whatever we want it to. After cutting, we could insert a replacement gene (which may be useful in a case where we desire a different trait in a specimen), or allow the DNA to reconnect without the removed portion, completely removing that section. This allows for turning off defective genes, correcting mutations, or inserting functional genes.

At the cellular level, CRISPR operates within the nucleus, targeting DNA, the molecule that encodes the instructions for protein synthesis. Proteins carry out nearly every function in the body, and mutations in DNA can result in defective proteins that cause disease. By editing the DNA, CRISPR addresses the root cause of genetic disorders rather than just treating symptoms. Unlike earlier gene therapy techniques, which often added genetic material randomly and unpredictably, CRISPR enables precise, targeted modifications, minimizing unintended effects. The reliability of CRISPR technology remains under intense scrutiny for safety.

The discovery of CRISPR dates back to the late 1980s and early 1990s when scientists observed unusual repeating sequences in bacterial DNA. Its function remained unclear until the 2000s, when it became evident that these sequences were part of a bacterial immune system. The system was adapted into a programmable gene-editing tool in 2012 by Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, turning CRISPR into a

reliable laboratory method for editing genes in a wide range of organisms. This timeline aligns with my own personal experiences of growing up in the 2010s, when CRISPR was frequently discussed in scientific circles but had not yet become a practical tool. Since then, we have made leaps and bounds in the safety and efficiency of CRISPR, however, due to the risk of using gene-editing technology, it has not been implemented on a larger scale as of yet.

Clinical applications of CRISPR are currently underway (and have been for a while), primarily in controlled experimental and very early-stage human trials. Researchers have used CRISPR to correct genetic mutations in diseases such as sickle cell anemia and beta-thalassemia by editing patient-derived stem cells and reintroducing them into the body. Additional trials are exploring treatments for inherited forms of blindness and some types of cancer. Delivery methods vary: ex vivo editing involves modifying cells outside the body before transplanting them back, while in vivo editing delivers CRISPR components directly into patients. Early results have shown significant improvements in some patients, including remission of disease symptoms, but long-term safety, off-target effects, and immune responses remain under investigation. CRISPR has begun transforming medicine, but it remains largely experimental rather than a standard treatment. Despite thousands of years of medicine, science, and history, we still discover new technology present in nature, formed billions (for scale, 200,000 times longer than human civilization has existed, by the most lenient definition of civilization and the most conservative estimate of CRISPR's age) of years before our existence results have shown significant improvements in some patients, including remission of disease symptoms, but long-term safety, off-target effects, and immune responses remain under investigation. CRISPR has begun transforming medicine, but it remains largely experimental rather than a standard treatment. Despite thousands of years of medicine, science, and history, we still discover new technology

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Plants found on Bowfin and Sailfish - See Quiz on page 2

