



Finally, a writer with years of experience fishing in Alaska addresses the matter of why, even though we live right by the Pacific Ocean and the largest estuary on the West Coast, we still find imported, farmed fish here. Maria Finn (yes really, Finn) offers tips for finding local, sustainable choices — it's better for the environment and the flavor can't be beat.

Up front we've got stories on what you can find on your local ballot this November, how some locals are saving the newts, and fall fashion advice. We talk to former Novato mayor Josh Fryday, recently appointed California's Chief Service Officer by Gov. Gavin Newsom, about goals for making public service more a part of our lives, and to Tiburon's James Demmert, whose recent book explores how nonprofits, foundations and individuals can mitigate risk in a volatile economy. And for tantalizing winter escapes, Destinations dishes details on five exotic places far, far away from the cold. Bora Bora, anybody?

It's a big issue covering a range of topics. We hope you enjoy it and all the year-end activities ahead — whether close to home or off in a tropical paradise.

*Daniel Jewett, Managing Editor*

**W**E KICK OFF features this month with a compelling look at California's prisons and incarceration rates. Writer Joe Eskenazi asks why it is that with more than 125,000 men and women currently jailed here, this deep-blue state can't seem to stop locking people up. He also points out that the amount paid to guards is larger than any other category of state salary spending.

We continue with a story that isn't always people's first choice of topic: death and dying. But maybe it should be. Writers and Attitudinal Healing founders Jerry Jampolsky and Diane Cirincione discuss how we can move beyond end-of-life fear and anxiety to focus on gratitude for all that life offers.



**SET IT UP** For this month's cover photo celebrating the bounty of local seafood, art director Rachel Griffiths called on photographer Joy Coakley and stylist Stella Kim. They all went to Rule & Level Studio to create the beautiful images you see on the cover and in the table of contents. Our staff loved how the main image looks like a painting. Here is the crew working behind the scenes.