

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Plans Call for Retail, High-End Apartments in Real Food Space

Residents Worry About Parking, Prices, and Lack of Charm

By Liz Highleyman

Parking, affordability, and the plain design of the building were among the top concerns of residents at a city-sponsored meeting to discuss plans to redevelop the former Real Food Co. store at 3935 24th St.

As reported in the December/January *Voice*, plans are finally under way to replace the store, which has been empty for more than 10 years. Owner Nutraceutical Corp. intends to demolish the existing building and construct a mixed-use building with retail on the ground floor and housing above.

The “pre-application” meeting, held Jan. 22, was the first step in a long process that could lead to a new building ready for use as early as the fall of 2016.

“This has been a significant source of frustration in the neighborhood—barely

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



A Universal Symbol. Painter Henry Sultan has published a book titled *The Art of the Mandala*, containing reproductions of his work done over the course of 48 years. The 28-inch acrylic circle pictured above is called *Mandala of the Changes*; it was created in 1969. For more about the art and the artist, see page 21.

City on Path to Improve Beacon Street Trail

Steps Will Tie Billy Goat Hill To Walter Haas Park

By Corrie M. Anders

The narrow trail isn’t very long—just 470 feet. It meanders through a patch of woods that is home to raccoons, squirrels, skunks, foraging hawks, and a family of coyotes, not to mention tall eucalyptus trees, clusters of wildflowers, and a thick undergrowth of ivy and brush.

It’s an animal—and sometimes human—path on a hilly terrain that runs from behind Walter Haas Park in Diamond Heights down to Beacon Street, where it meets the crest of Billy Goat Hill in Upper Noe Valley.

“It is pretty magical. You’re in the middle of San Francisco, but you are in another place,” said Chris Faust, 55, who often hikes the trail with his terrier, Grover.

“So we want to preserve it,” said Faust, a 30th Street resident and current chair of Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center. “Where else can you take children and let their imaginations roam about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

How Edward Smith Got Linked In

With a Hand Up From Neighbor Daniel Polk

By Gary Kauf

The Internet has come to Edward Smith. To get him new glasses.

You’ve probably seen Smith. He’s the guy sitting on a couple of milk crates out in front of the Noe Valley Walgreens most days, holding a paper cup and a copy of the *Street Sheet*.

Several months ago, 25th Street resident Daniel Polk was walking by with his 8-year-old daughter. She asked her dad, “Why is that man sitting there?”

Polk, 42, who teaches global citizenship at The Hamlin School on Broadway, responded that Smith was “just like

everyone else, but he may not have a home like ours.”

Polk knew that was an understatement. Next time he saw Smith, he stopped and talked. Before long, they were on a first-name basis. He and his daughter regularly gave Smith their weekly pockets of change.

Then one day, Polk had an idea: maybe he could help Smith more by introducing him to friends online.

He took some photos of Smith, and posted them on his LinkedIn page, offering to donate a dollar to Smith for every comment or “like” the post received. Twenty-two came in, mostly likes.

Polk posted the challenge a couple

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Creature Comforts. Second-grader Van Lear Bolton reads to Rebecca Barker Bridges and her friendly dog Stanley, who often volunteers at the Noe Valley Library. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Stanley the Reading Dog Now in Print

Book Shares His Secret: Always Paws to Listen

By Richard May

It’s been an eventful few months for educational therapist Rebecca Barker Bridges. She and her husband, Iain, welcomed their first child, Declan, who was born at the end of September. Just over a week later, her first picture book, *Meet Stanley: The Reading Dog*, was published by Golden Gate Publishing.

Stanley is Rebecca Bridges’ 5-year-old golden retriever. He’s also her co-worker. Stanley is a therapy dog. Children who have difficulties reading, or who read in a different way, work with Bridges to overcome their challenges, in part by

reading to Stanley. The book features photographs, taken by Laura Rogers, of Stanley at work with some of Bridges’ students.

Bridges, 31, wrestled with how to approach her subject matter for the book. She worked hard to make the idea of reading to a therapy dog appeal to the mainstream while also being sensitive to families with children who have learning challenges. “Because those are my students in the book, I didn’t want them to feel self-conscious,” she says.

That’s why she wrote in the book, “Stanley doesn’t care if a child reads fast or slow. He likes it just the same and never judges or criticizes. He makes the children

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Daniel Polk (left) shows *Street Sheet* seller Edward Smith how he can fund-raise on the Internet site HandUp. Photo by Art Bodner

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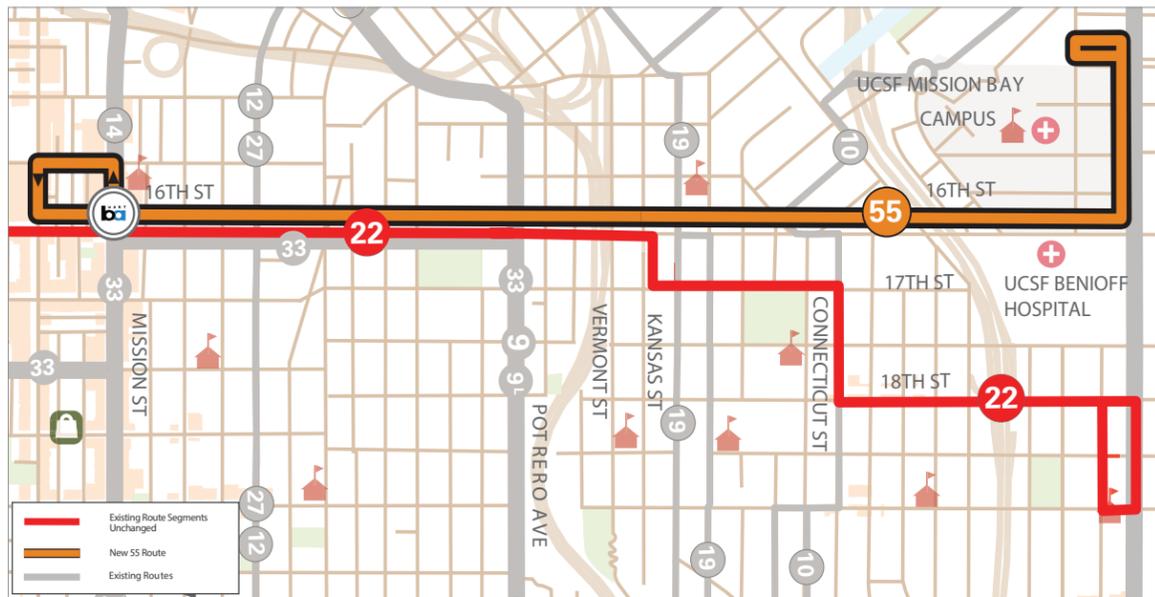
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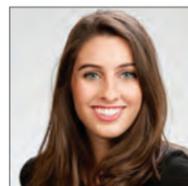
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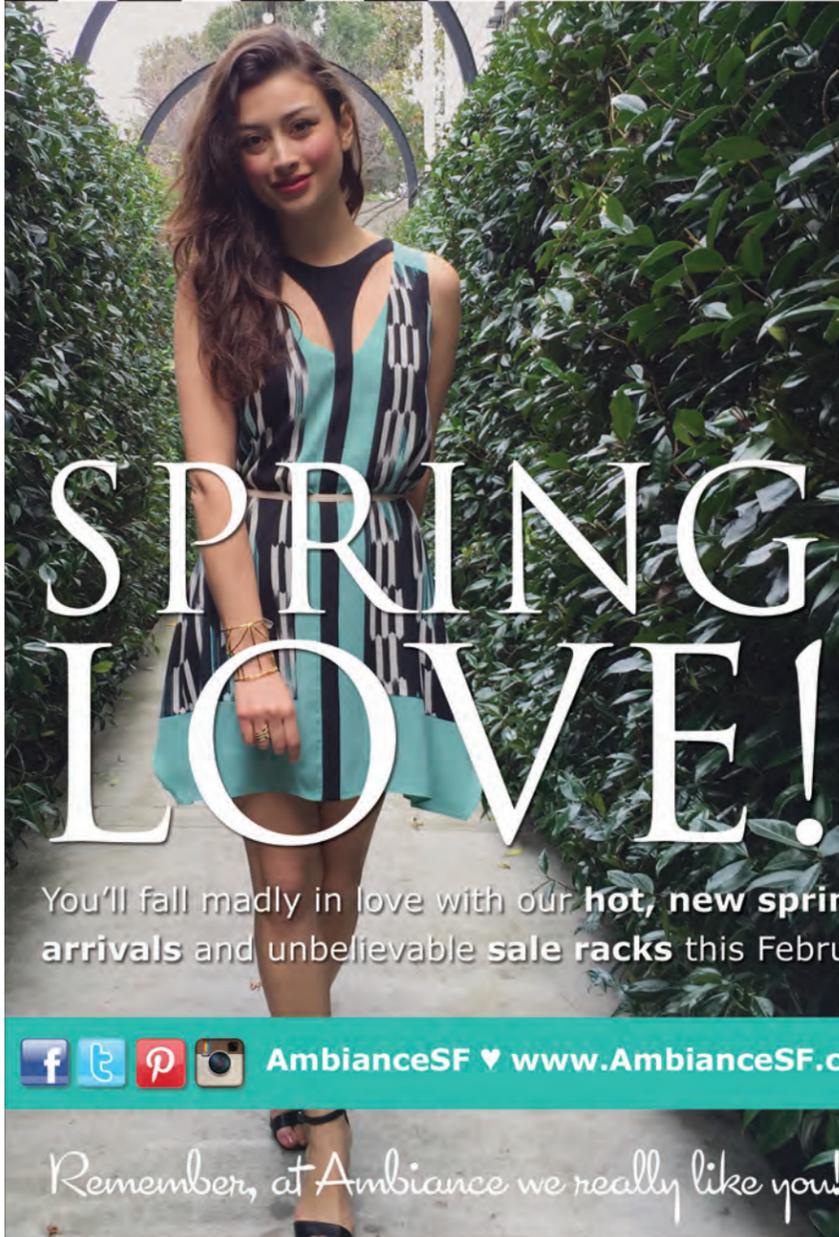
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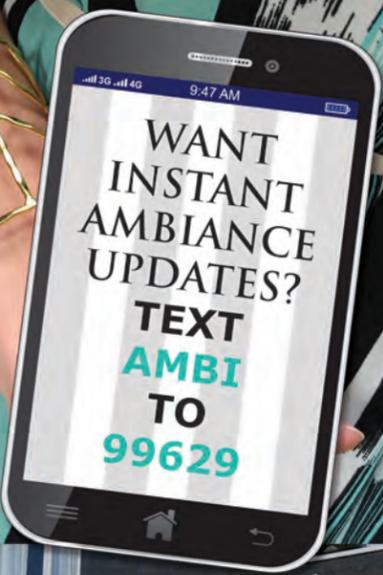
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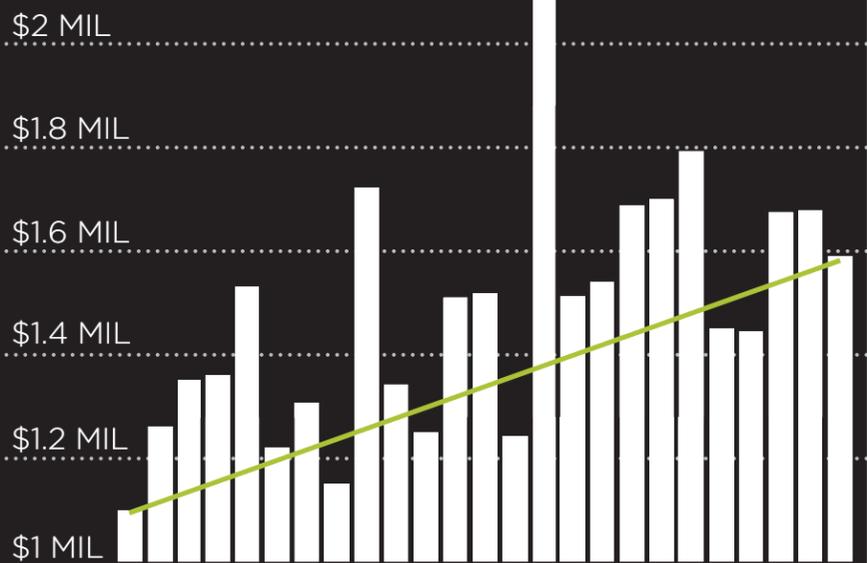


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LETTERS

Feel Free to Give to Panhandlers

Editor:
 In a recent letter to the *Noe Valley Voice* [Letters, December/January 2014], Jessica Hernandez wrote about how she got conned by a panhandler. In conclusion, she urges us not to give anything to panhandlers. By that logic, I could urge you not to do business with financial planners (one of whom conned me), and my friend could discourage you from dealing with vendors of solar power (one of whom—well, you see where this is going).
 Hernandez says the proof that panhandlers are not downtrodden is how they demonstrate “their ability to survive by returning day after day, year after year.”

Things that have happened while we waited for Castro Street to be finished! (Scheduled completion: May 2014)



Really! How dare they! If they were truly downtrodden, they'd be dead by now. Well, actually, if you pay close attention, you may notice that some of them have stopped returning.

If you are looking for more than anecdotal information about the street people with whom we share our city, check out the book *Silent Voices* by Dr. Robert Okin, a psychiatrist who spent two years interviewing San Francisco's homeless.

Sara Jacobson
 Noe Street

Not Very Street Smart

Editor:
 The Clipper Street resident writing in the Letters section of your December/January issue takes some leaps of logic on her way to calling the local panhandlers “confidence men and women.” One can get admitted to a shelter four years ago (or a month ago) and truthfully say that she “just” got admitted the day before. That's how it works with shelters.

The writer uses her leapt-to conclusion as a springboard to smear the rest of the panhandlers. Does she really think that the guy who waves a coffee cup around the Walgreens has some kind of “con” going? Panhandlers make her uncomfortable, and her response is to demonize them.

Marc Gardner
 Elizabeth Street

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. You can send it via email: editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, street, and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
 P.O. Box 460249
 San Francisco, CA 94146
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The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Email: editor@noevalleyvoice.com
 Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com
 Distribution: Call Misha, 415-752-1726

Display Advertising: Call Pat, 415-608-7634, or email PatRose@noevalleyvoice.com
 Class Ads: See Page 26

Display Advertising Deadline for the March Issue: Feb. 20, 2015
 Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Feb. 15, 2015

CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
 Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
 Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor
 Olivia Boler, Other Voices Editor

Heidi Anderson, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Helen Colgan, Jan Goben, Liz Highleyman, Laura McHale Holland, Suzanne Herel, Kate Haug, Florence Holub, Tim Innes, Jeff Kaliss, Gary Kauf, Doug Konecky, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Shayna Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Steve Steinberg, Karen Topakian, Heather World

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
 Pamela Gerard, Photo Editor
 Beverly Tharp, Senior Photographer
 Najib Joe Hakim, Senior Photographer

ACCOUNTING
 Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION
 Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION
 Jack Tipple, Misha Yagudin

WEB DESIGN
 Jon Elkin, Elliot Pogor

ADVERTISING SALES
 Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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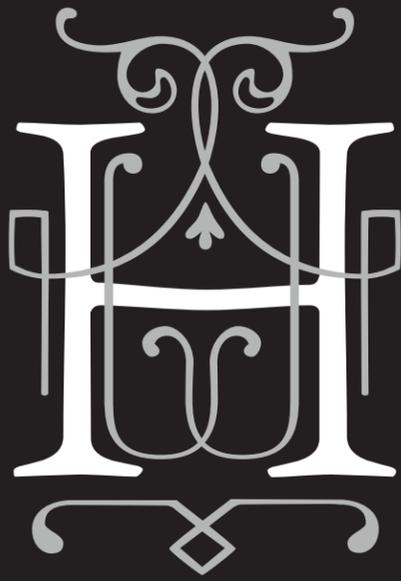
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Name Those Categories

Editor's Note: The four two-word entries marked with * are nonsense phrases. Each of the first words are in one category and the second words in another. Can you discover the categories? They are given in the answer to 36-Across.

ACROSS

- 1. Cantaloupe, e.g.
- 6. Speaker's platform
- 10. Record for later
- 14. Old Olds
- 15. Mail carrier's grp.
- 16. Command to Fido
- 17. *"Star Wars Meets the Pod People" killer weapon?
- 19. *The Devil in the White City* author Larson

- 20. Actress Bancroft
- 21. Prince called "the Impaler"
- 22. See 22-Down
- 23. Nicaragua's capital
- 25. Skimpy
- 28. *What kept the princess awake all night?
- 31. Lab thickener
- 34. Jaguar series that replaced the XKE
- 35. Absorbed, enthralled
- 36. Church Street store
- 40. Heart of the matter
- 41. Narcs' org.
- 42. Drug addict
- 43. *Winemakers' profits?
- 47. Like the sidewalks on Guerrero
- 48. Featured member of the SF Symphony
- 53. Carried out
- 54. Competed (for)

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| 57 | 58 | | | | | 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | |
| 61 | | | | | | 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | |
| 64 | | | | | | 65 | | | | | 66 | | | | |

- 56. *The Lion King* lion
- 57. Melodramatic cry
- 59. *Concealed New Zealander?
- 61. Pinball error
- 62. Civil rights gp.
- 63. Domingo start
- 64. City in Arizona
- 65. Profound
- 66. Long-time rival of Sparta

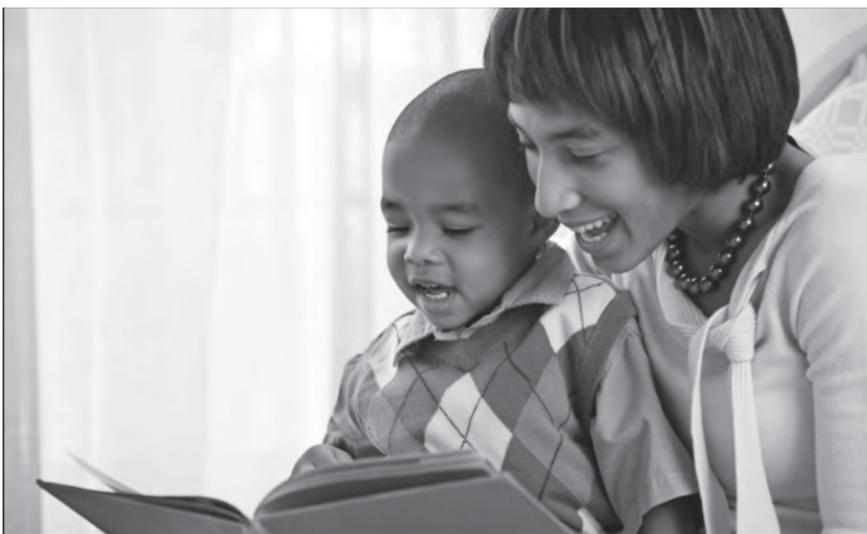
DOWN

- 1. Address for a gentlewoman
- 2. Justice Kagan
- 3. Singer Rimes
- 4. "Coffee ___?" (waiter's offering)
- 5. Yokohama drama
- 6. Grosset's partner in publishing
- 7. Bhutan's continent
- 8. Apple Store purchase
- 9. 123-45-6789, for one: Abbr.

- 10. Beatles title animal said before "goo goo g'joob"
- 11. Big industry in the South Bay
- 12. Architect I.M.
- 13. Bugler with antlers
- 18. Egg cell
- 22. With "for" and 22-Across, song from *No, No, Nanette*
- 24. Young woman
- 25. Soup at Hamano Sushi
- 26. One suffering from Hansen's disease
- 27. China's Sun ___-sen
- 29. National who lives overseas, informally
- 30. Tobacco co. that split from Nabisco in 1999
- 31. Of the birds
- 32. Accelerators
- 33. Ask Jeeves or

- Lycos alternative
- 37. Idyllic spot
- 38. Still
- 39. Combat for two
- 40. Bearded beast of Africa
- 44. Conducted
- 45. Depleted completely
- 46. Software instruction
- 49. Heroic Schindler
- 50. Frosting
- 51. Looked after
- 52. Stooges and Little Pigs, e.g.
- 54. Type of police squad
- 55. Sit in Neutral
- 57. Sterling Bank offering
- 58. Fib
- 59. Fooled, in a way
- 60. Abbr. in Condi's bio

Solution on Page 29



{Trust Building Tip #7}

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Parking, Charm, Affordability Top Residents' Concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a week goes by that we don't get an email from someone saying please make something happen," said District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, who moderated the meeting at St. Philip Church. "While there are a lot of opinions about what happened more than a decade ago, it's important to look to the future. We finally have the opportunity for it to not be a vacant, dilapidated building."

On the Drawing Board

Local project architects Brian Liles and Julie Jackson of Jackson Liles Architecture presented an overview of the proposed project to nearly 100 people, a majority of whom identified themselves as long-term Noe Valley residents.

The building would include nearly 10,000 total square feet of floor area with a height topping out at 39 feet. Plan drawings showed that the proposed height is consistent with nearby buildings. The envisioned structure has a modern, angular look with a mix of wood siding and stone masonry.

"It's hideous and looks like a shopping mall," one resident complained. Others said the design "lacks charm," is "not bad but nothing special," and "does not look like it belongs on 24th Street." But some attendees praised the plan, with one saying she "did not have a single negative thing to say."

The lower story will offer retail space with room for one large 3,345-square-foot store or two smaller stores measuring 1,470 and 1,875 square feet. The total storefront would span 25 feet. If used by a single tenant, the space would exceed the 2,500-foot threshold that triggers the city's lengthy conditional use process.

The proposal includes four two-level, two-bedroom market-rate residential units on the upper floor. Each would have a loft-style master bedroom and either a front terrace or a back deck. While the units will be mapped as condos, it is not yet decided whether they will be sold or rented.

"These seem to be luxury apartments," one resident lamented. "They look hipster-like, and I would like for them [hipsters] to stay away from Noe Valley."

No Allowance for Parking

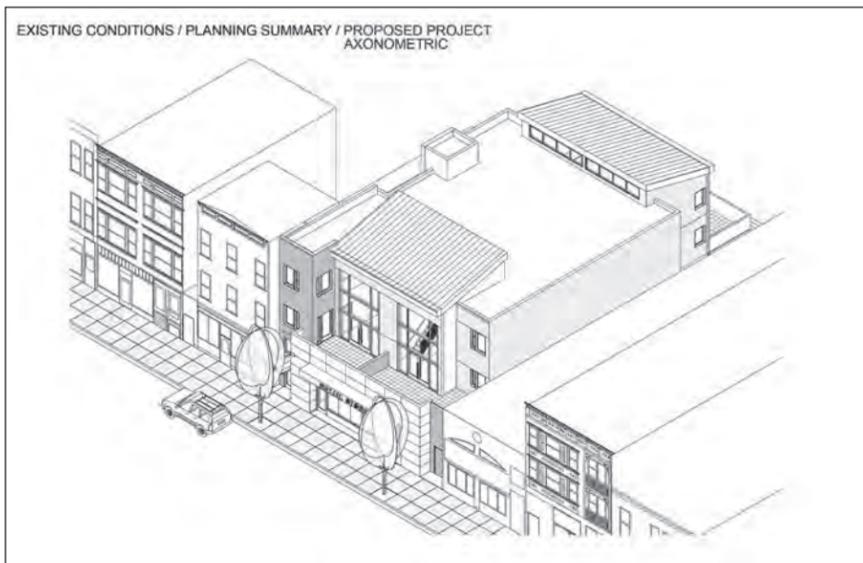
The project plans do not include parking. Liles explained that the goal is to maximize retail space along 24th Street rather than eat it up with a garage entrance.

While the size of the building would allow for up to nine units (the city's affordable-housing requirement kicks in at 10 units), the plan was designed to "keep the number of residents down"—as well as the number of vehicles they might introduce into the neighborhood, Liles added.

Several speakers worried that the new tenants would increase traffic and compete for street parking spaces. The large luxury units, some suggested, would attract wealthier residents—possibly families—who would be unlikely to live without cars.

Several attendees argued in favor of six or eight smaller, single-story units rather than four large ones. Such units might attract younger residents or empty-nesters more likely to forgo having cars, and would also be more affordable, they suggested.

"I would love to give up my family home and live in a one-bedroom without a car on 24th Street," said a 30-year resident. "I'd rather walk my grandchildren peacefully down the street without



Architects Brian Liles and Julie Jackson of Jackson Liles Architecture have developed this proposal for owner Nutraceutical Corp. to remake the old Real Food store at 3935 24th St. into a complex of retail shops and two-story apartments. Redevelopment of the site, which has been vacant more than a decade, was the topic of a packed community meeting Jan. 22, where neighbors voiced concern over everything from the look of the structure to the kinds of people—and their cars—that such residential dwellings would attract.

[garage] curb cuts."

Wiener, however, reminded the audience that when smaller units are proposed, people complain that housing is not suitable for families with children. And while the total price may be lower, the cost per square foot is typically higher for smaller units.

A few attendees asked whether the building could be all residential or all commercial. Wiener noted that current neighborhood regulations prohibit office use on upper floors of new buildings. One speaker wryly proposed, "Why not just make it a multi-level parking garage?"

Owner's Controversial History

As longtime readers will recall, Real Food's parent company, the Utah-based health food and vitamin conglomerate Nutraceutical, abruptly shuttered the store and terminated 30 workers over Labor Day weekend in 2003. Management said it was a temporary closure to allow renovations, but some of the former employees accused the company of trying to thwart a union-organizing effort.

Over the ensuing years, Nutraceutical took ownership of the property as part of a legal settlement with former owners Jane and Kimball Allen. The National Labor Relations Board ruled in favor of the workers in an unfair labor practices lawsuit, and in 2009 Nutraceutical agreed to a settlement awarding the workers nearly \$400,000 in back pay.

During the long vacancy, as the building fell more deeply into disrepair, neighborhood activists attempted to negotiate with Nutraceutical to gain some community influence over the future of the space.

In October of 2013, Wiener led a small delegation to Nutraceutical's corporate headquarters in Park City to increase the pressure, securing a commitment from the company to move forward with a mixed-use development.

Two Stores Better Than One

Specific tenants for the retail space have not been determined. Sergio Diaz, director of retail operations for Nutraceutical—who attended the meeting but said little—confirmed that the company will not operate its own store in the new building but will instead lease the space.

Neighborhood residents were adamant that they did not want another title company, bank, or nail salon. In fact, Wiener has introduced legislation that would require the conditional use process for ground-floor offices within the 24th Street–Noe Valley Neighborhood Commercial District, extending rules already in place on upper Market Street.

While opinions about the best use of the Real Food space varied, a majority seemed to prefer two smaller retailers over a single large one.

"For 10 years we've been living with a pretty blighted situation, and I hope the urgency to see something happen doesn't allow the lowest common denominator," said resident Don Neuwirth. "There are much better options than a brewery or Whole Foods takeout using the entire space. Two neighborhood-oriented small businesses might be better, or maybe a single large space with stalls and food carts."

Several speakers addressed the harm they said Nutraceutical had caused the neighborhood by leaving the building vacant for so long, and how the new development might serve the community. Suggestions included adding affordable units even if not required to do so by the city, subsidized cooperative housing, a community center, and rent concessions to

bring in the type of retail tenants the neighborhood wants.

"Seven years ago we apologized for what happened, and we're really focusing on the future," Diaz said. Asked why Nutraceutical would not sell the building, he replied, "We got a lot of offers to purchase the building, mostly from banks. The easiest would have been to sell it, but we want to finish what we started."

Long Permit Process

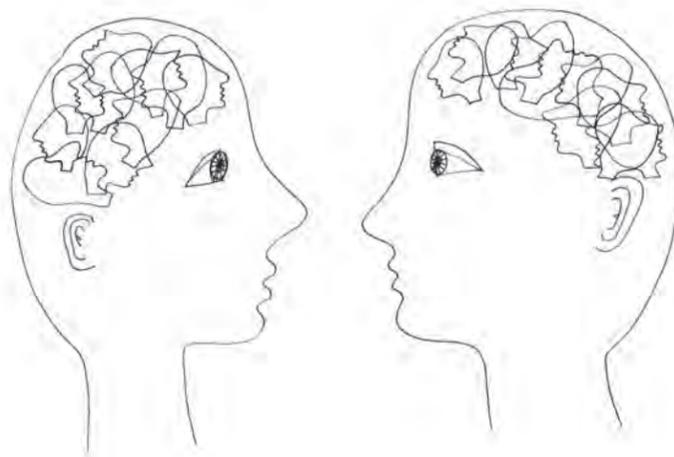
Regarding the timetable for finishing the project, Liles said they would sift through the neighborhood feedback and incorporate it into the formal proposal they'd make to the city. He said the Planning Department also likely would suggest changes, and it would be a "back and forth" process, with more public hearings.

"The conditional use process is not a fast one," Wiener explained. A typical time frame would be six to eight months, followed by a couple of months to pull the necessary permits, then about a year for construction.

"This is a great opportunity to have a redemptive resolution with something like an affordable-housing dimension and a community use that brings people to the neighborhood rather than just the highest bidder getting the retail and the fanciest people moving in upstairs," said Peter Gabel, who helped start the Noe Valley Farmers Market after the closure of Real Food.

"For months we collected signatures to send to Utah and were never answered," added Leslie Crawford, another Farmers Market co-founder. "We would love for this to be a transparent process where the community is really brought in and [everyone] is really thoughtful about the retail, so a positive thing could come out of all this." ■

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Dr. Jonathan Lichtenstein

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I located my practice in Noe Valley ("Stroller Valley") because of an interest in working with individuals and couples of Generation X & Y (21-55 year olds). I have provided psychotherapy to Bay Area residents who are struggling with life transitions related to their work and family for over 10 years. Relationship issues, anxiety & emotional problems, as well as the quarter & mid-life crises commonly come through my office door. Prior to pursuing my doctoral degree in Psychology, I received a Masters of Fine Arts degree. It was as an artist that I became fascinated by how human connection and creative expression can lead to individual growth.

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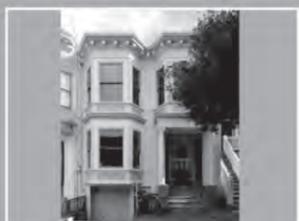
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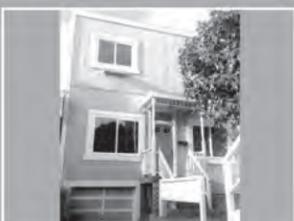
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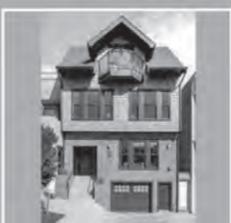
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Steps Planned for Beacon Street Trail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what real woods are like?”

Several features, however, may inhibit people from taking the nearly hidden passage through the small forest. The trail descends a slope that is steep and slippery. In places, the path is so narrow you have to walk single-file.

Which is why the city’s Recreation and Park Department is preparing to make it safer and more accessible. At the same time, it wants to link the path to an already-upgraded trail on Billy Goat Hill—providing an alternative path for hikers, who now walk a circuitous route on surface streets to travel between the two parks.

Lisa Wayne, the department’s open space manager, said the plans include constructing boxed steps along the most perilous sections of the earthen path, which the agency has formally designated the Beacon Street Trail.

The steps would be “not unlike what is at Billy Goat Hill across the way”—a “low-key” solution that she says would not have a major impact on the environment or neighbors.

Boxed Walkway Preferred

The boxed-step proposal was the consensus reached during a Dec. 10 community meeting at the Upper Noe Recreation Center. The 30 participants rejected several other options: eliminating the existing trail, building a staircase along the route, and fully developing the hillside.

But enough issues remained that Wayne said in a Jan. 20 email that department staff “plans to meet with neighbors in the next few weeks” to resolve conflicts. The Recreation and Park Commission will also hold a public hearing, at an unspecified date this spring, before giving final consideration to the proposed improvements.

“We have a lot of work to do till then. Even though there was pretty good support, we still need to do some detailed planning,” Wayne said.

Billy Goat’s Appeal

The approximately six-acre woodland is part of an escarpment that extends all the way from Billy Goat Hill to Walter Haas Park. Beacon Street, a residential road, is the dividing line. The area was a former rock quarry that the Gray Brothers operated until the early 1900s.

The lower trail winding over Billy Goat Hill, from Beacon to 30th Street, was enhanced in 2011 with \$50,000 in city bond funds. Since then, the park has become a destination for hikers, bird-



Boxed stairs similar to these on Billy Goat Hill near Laidley and 30th streets may replace parts of an overgrown trail in a wooded area just below Walter Haas Park in Diamond Heights.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

watchers, dog walkers, even tourists. It’s generated rave reviews on Yelp, as well as smartphone apps noting choice paths.

The hill has a dedicated lookout point and a tree-rope swing, which has become a favorite prop for photographers. A picture of an actor soaring high on the swing was featured on the January cover of *San Francisco Magazine* to illustrate an article about *Looking*, the San Francisco-based HBO series.

Tourists Have Found It

On an overcast day in mid-January, Billy Goat Hill was crowded with teens, dog walkers, mothers with kids, and sightseers.

Two tourists from Middlesex, N.J.—Nicole Cosma, 24, and Erika Blasak, 27—said they visited the hill specifically to photograph the swing after seeing pictures on Instagram.

“It was the first thing we did this morning,” said Cosma.

Local resident Gayle Laird, carrying her 1-year-old son Owen in a front pack and walking with her leashed white poodle JoJo, said she would welcome the chance to keep walking from Billy Goat Hill up past Beacon to an improved upper trail.

“I go to Walter Haas Park a lot, but I

don’t use the cut-through [trail]. It’s too treacherous,” she said. “If I were on my own, I’d do it.”

Hiking the Upper Trail

Across Beacon Street, the upper trail gets far fewer explorers and is hard to locate without a diligent search. It is little more than an opening in the underbrush. There is a winding footpath—as well as a straighter side trail—leading up to the flat land of Walter Haas Park, known for its children’s playground and dog run.

A thicket of trees keeps the trail in shadow, while red-tailed and sparrow hawks circle above, hunting for voles and snakes. The flora includes the *Saxifrage californica*, a dainty flower with five white petals and a green center, that is found in only one other place in San Francisco—Palou Phelps Park in the Bayview District. The rare plant is in bloom from January through early spring.

“This is the last of the real wildlife areas where it’s really wildlife,” said Valley Street resident Richard Peterson, who has scaled the hill for 40 years.

Some Residents Wary

The impetus for improving the upper trail came from the neighborhood group Friends of Billy Goat Hill, with support from members of Friends of Walter Haas Jr. Park. At the community meeting in December, however, several longtime residents expressed strong reservations.

They were concerned that an increase in new visitors could disrupt their peace and quiet, potentially attract rowdy or criminal behavior, and create traffic safety problems as more pedestrians crossed Beacon Street.

“Us old-timers are up in arms,” said Emile Lacampagne, who has lived on Beacon Street for 45 years. He favored letting the trail revert to its natural state.

Lacampagne helped lead a winning fight four decades ago to prevent construction of an apartment complex on Billy Goat Hill, and proudly calls the small park “a little gem.”

The flip side of the hill’s popularity, though, is that “we pay a price as neighbors,” Lacampagne said. “We have inherited the street-cleaning. We pick up condoms and beer cans, and we do it happily.”

Still, he added, “we don’t need an ad-



The city’s Recreation and Park Department plans to make this steep and sometimes treacherous footpath more inviting, but without destroying its natural charm.

ditional nation of people coming here. Imagine what it is going to be like when it is promoted as a wonderful hiking area.”

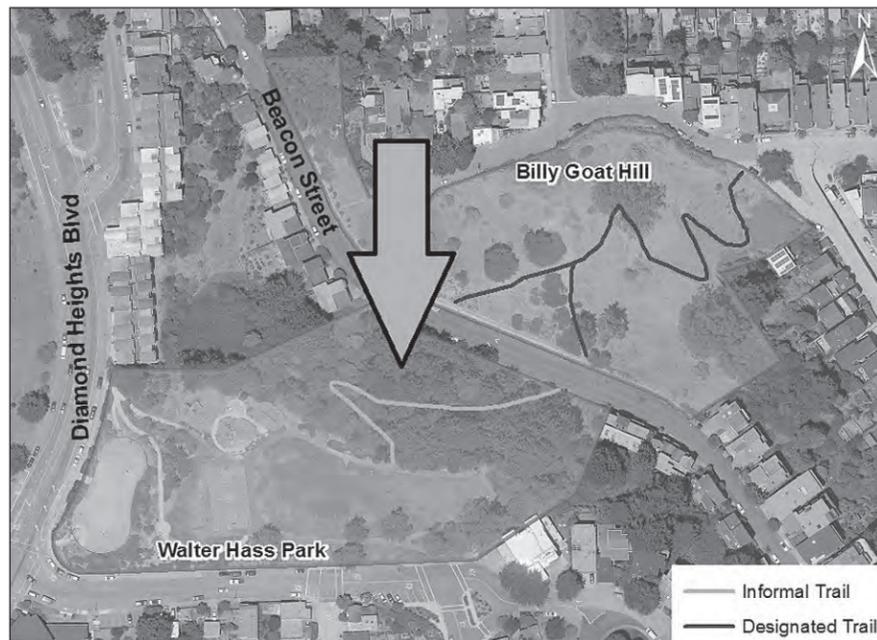
A ‘Forest Getaway’

Lisa Ghotbi, a retired pharmacist who is coordinator for the Billy Goat Hill friends group, said she believed the trail project could be “done in a way that is safe” and a “win-win” for everyone.

She also pointed out today’s passion for outdoor recreation and nature walks, noting that nearby neighborhoods like Noe Valley have more children and more adults “embracing the outdoors.”

“This trail could really serve as that forest nature getaway for our kids,” she said. “When you are walking that trail, you are surrounded by this little forest—even though it’s a small part of the land.”

Wayne, the rec and park manager, said her department would address the traffic and behavioral concerns in the final plans. The city also would require a 75-foot buffer zone between the reconditioned trail and Beacon Street property owners. The improvements would cost up to \$150,000 in funds from the park department budget.



The arrow shows the informal trail behind Walter Haas Park that has been targeted for improvements which will make it safer and more accessible to pedestrians.

Photo courtesy San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

Where In Noe Valley?

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Bernadette the French Bulldog, occasionally sits in a Noe Valley shop window where she has a warm view of the world outside. What is the name and location of the store? Be the first to correctly identify and email editor@noevalleyvoice.com and we'll start a free one year subscription to the Voice for you. Don't forget to include your snail mail address. Good luck!

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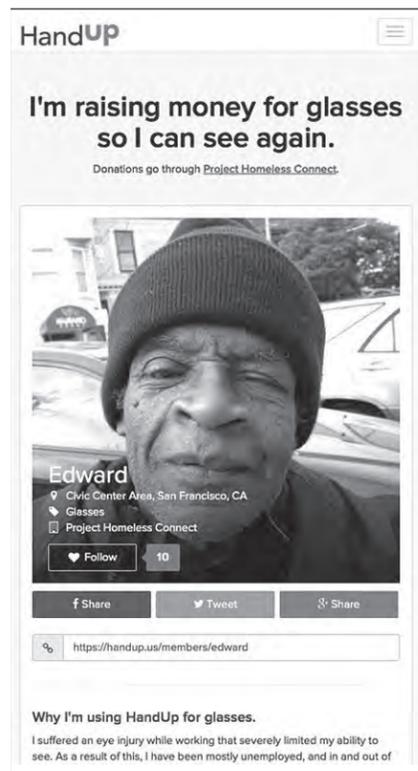
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Street Sheet Seller Better Connected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of more times, the last one just before Thanksgiving. Pow! That brought in more than 500 responses. Polk took \$522 out of his savings to give to Smith, and that got him thinking again: There must



Edward Smith's Jan. 13 post on HandUp took less than 24 hours to generate the funds he needed for glasses.

be a better way to do this. \$522 is a lot of money for a high school teacher.

That's when HandUp got involved. It's a San Francisco startup that does crowd-funding from a charitable-giving platform—Internet-speak for a website where you can donate money. It posts pictures and a couple of paragraphs about each person needing help, and how much in donations they need to reach their goal.

HandUp heard about Polk's LinkedIn experience and asked him if he'd like to sponsor Smith on its site. Polk met with Smith at the bench outside Walgreens, and together they wrote his profile, shot a photo, and sent them to HandUp via iPhone. Smith set a fundraising goal of \$400, for a special pair of prescription glasses.

When the profile and picture were posted on HandUp on Jan. 13, Polk emailed and tweeted it to everyone he could think of. *Edward* was an almost instant hit. In less than 24 hours, Smith reached his goal.

"It didn't hurt that Bevan Dufty retweeted one of my tweets about Edward," Polk said. (Dufty directs the city's programs to address homelessness. He also has a lot of friends.)

Smith's Back Story

Smith, who is 72, used to be a cook until, he says, he was beaten up and robbed about 20 years ago. A kick to the head left his retina detached in a way laser surgery wasn't able to repair. When he went back to work, he couldn't read the waitresses' orders anymore and was let go.

Lighthouse for the Blind taught him to walk with a cane. He says he also learned

"to keep the sun at my back so I can see my shadow, and to keep my ears open and be aware of my surroundings."

Smith started selling the *Street Sheet* not long after he lost his job. He and his wife Michelle, who is also disabled, moved into a low-rent hotel on Sixth Street. Low rent in San Francisco is \$1,000 a month.

Smith pays his way with some help from the city and Social Security. He says the \$60 a day he averages in donations "standing at his post," as he calls it, near Castro and Jersey streets, buys food and clothing. "I've been here long enough so people know me."

Some people. Most just walk past. A few veer to the other edge of the sidewalk. And at least one man, Smith says, always tells him to go get a job. "I say, if I could I would."

New Coats, Shoes

Smith used the \$522 he got from Polk for shoes and new winter coats for him and his wife. "When it's cold, you put on as many coats as you can."

He says his big problem is finding his way back and forth from Sixth Street every day. "I only have 10 to 20 percent of my eyesight so I'm mostly blind. But I like the dark."

The glasses should help.

Smith should get them in a few months. HandUp has turned over the \$410 that Smith's profile received to its partner Project Homeless Connect. PHC, within the city's Health Department, will set up the glasses appointments and pay the bill.

Meanwhile, HandUp has told Smith that he can list new goals and try to raise



Daniel Polk and Edward Smith pose near where Smith sells the *Street Sheet* outside Walgreens. Photo by Art Bodner

money for other things. Smith says what he'd like is for him and his wife to have their own apartment. But he doesn't expect that to happen.

He says his daughter and seven grandchildren come to visit at Christmas every year. He's hoping this year he'll be able to tell the color of their hair, and remember their faces after they've gone. ■

As the Voice went to press, we learned that Edward Smith, with Daniel Polk's help, had sent HandUp a second goal: \$425, for a month's worth of food. You can find the profile at handup.us.

This Just In: Noe Shoppers Go With Hearts, Flowers for Valentine's Day

Weekend Survey Reveals Sweetheart Data

By Heidi Anderson

The email came in early January, as expected: My editor Sally needed me to write about Valentine's Day. Again.

Fourteen years ago, I'd gamely taken on the subject. I went all over Noe Valley asking everybody I could to spill the beans: "What makes a good relationship?"

It turned out people had flowery, complicated, and self-help-type responses (my favorite: "patience"). So this time around, I veered off the street and into the stores to pop a simpler question: How's your business on Valentine's Day?

I grabbed my boyfriend Paul to help me with the clipboard, bought him coffee at Martha's as a bribe, and headed up Church Street to Downtown Noe.

It was one of those bright, warm weekends we get in January sometimes. I took a sip of my loved one's cappuccino, thought about the reviving economy, and started feeling pretty damned good about the world. And Noe Valley shopping.

What I learned was surprising.

Voice Valentine's Day Survey 2015

Q. Is Valentine's Day (check one):

- Good for your business
- Bad for your business
- Meh

The results:

Good, 8
Bad, 0
Meh, 13



A Valentine's Tour of 24th Street

Memorable items from a trip to 24th (clockwise from upper left): self-help book on display at Folio Books; chocolate hearts at Buttons Candy Bar; cards at Just for Fun; boyfriend Paul with candy secretly bought for himself at Buttons; teacup candles and a risqué vintage candy ad, also in the window of Buttons.

Photos by Heidi Anderson

Where the Valentines Go to Shop

So here's where the sales go up for the big day: Buttons Candy Bar, Just for Fun, Rabat (for the Italian lingerie and, for some reason, wallets), Gallery of Jewels, and the Loft (for the jewelry), Chocolate Covered (for the jewelry. Just kidding.), Olive This, Olive That (they have oil tastings, so it's a fancy purchase), and the French Tulip (the clerk stared at me silently, like *You don't know people buy a lot of flowers on Valentine's Day?* Paul dashed over with the clipboard, checked off a "yes").

By the time I reached Folio Books, me chatting amiably with the clerk, I noticed Paul drifting away. I know men don't al-

ways care for shopping, so I began to think bringing him along was, in fact, a bad idea. Perhaps we'd run across the street to Bernie's for positive reinforcement: caffeine.

Business Down?

Up and down the street we went. Not one person said the day was bad for their business. Nope, not even Noe Valley Auto Works.

Now, this was not exactly a *thorough* survey, and at no time did I demand profit-and-loss statements. But when a clerk listened to my question, looked up and into the distance, at his co-worker, then back at me, and shrugged, I took that as a "meh" and noted it dutifully on the

clipboard. Especially if the person I was talking to was the store owner.

Big Data

So, late-night calculations (okay, I asked Siri) put us at 38 percent of businesses do a bit better around Valentine's Day, and 62 percent don't feel the earth move at all or their cash registers don't ring enough to notice.

Where's Paul?

Back to the problem of the disappearing boyfriend. When the survey was done, we swung by Whole Foods to pick up something to make for dinner, him chatting at me while I chose a fish and astounding me when he revealed he doesn't make potatoes at home. Next thing you know, we were divvying items for our cloth bags after checkout, and out popped a Charleston Chew and a Zero candy bar. Then something suspiciously Valentine's-card-looking that he swept under his coat.

"For later."

"Okay, but a Charleston Chew?"

He got animated. "Oh, I found it at that Buttons Bar place! I haven't had one since I was like 9!"

Aww. Sweet. The boyfriend was actually having fun on my Saturday afternoon chore.

He grabbed my hand. "One more stop."

Maybe he needed a stiff drink at Valley Tavern. "Sure." I said, "Where to?"

"Back to that place where you were talking with the salesgirl about lingerie and wallets. I saw you eyeing something I want you to have."

In a Nutshell

So there you have it, Noe. Here we sit in the dawn of a new century, where people are game changing and innovators are disrupting.

But on the bustling weekend streets of Downtown Noe Valley, all is kinda, well, how it's always been. And that's sweet. ■

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Stanley Likes Puppy Dog Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

feel comfortable and confident when they read. As long as Stanley gets to hear a good story and gets some pats on the head, he is a happy camper.”

Both Well Trained

Bridges holds an M.Ed in educational therapy from Holy Names University, and an undergraduate degree from Brown University. She taught and worked as a learning specialist in Bay Area independent schools for eight years. In 2013, she opened her private practice, Bridges to Learning. She works with children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

“Some have diagnosed disabilities, some just have problems with reading,” she says. Primarily, she works with kids with dyslexia. She’s trained in several methods of instruction, including the Slingerland Approach and Lindamood-Bell, which focus on improving fluency in reading and writing, as well as some math and spelling.

Stanley has also had extensive schooling. He completed the San Francisco SPCA’s advanced Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) training program. That means he can—and does—work as a therapy dog in places like convalescent centers, psychiatric units, and hospices.

After completing that program, Bridges had the SPCA determine if Stanley had the right temperament to work with children. Fortunately he did, and Stanley went on to be certified in the SPCA’s Puppy Dog Tales Reading Program (PDT). PDT dogs and owners are volunteers who go to San Francisco’s public libraries where children can sign

up for a 10-minute session to read to a dog.

Puppy Dog Tales started in 2007, at the Chinatown Branch Library, and has since grown by leaps and bounds. Stanley and Bridges volunteer at the Noe Valley Branch, which is convenient for them since they live on Jersey Street. The idea behind the program is that a child who is struggling with reading—whether because they are English-language learners, are dyslexic, or are simply a little behind in school—will feel comfortable and safe reading to a calm, patient dog.

Stanley’s Library Fans

Catherine Starr, the Noe Valley Library’s children’s librarian, says neighborhood residents are very lucky to have Stanley and Bridges in the community. “Their extensive training and experience and very likeable natures are simply cherished.”

Both Bridges and Stanley bond with the children and vice versa, Starr has observed. She’s also noted the way children relax and focus while reading to Stanley, who will curl up next to a child, sometimes even closing his eyes. “Their fluidity in reading increases. It’s magical. Most of our child readers beg to come back!”

The program is geared for children ages 4 to 7, but older children are welcome to sign up. Starr picks out a variety of books for children to choose from to read to Stanley. These include picture books and easy readers, especially ones about dogs like the *Biscuit* series by Alyssa Satin Capucilli. Some children bring their own books. “On occasion, they bring books they’ve made especially for Stanley,” Starr says with a smile.

It’s a Dog’s Life

Stanley is often the recipient of gifts from his fans. Treats he’s received in-



Meet Stanley: The Reading Dog, by Rebecca Barker Bridges, with photos by Laura Rogers, has become a best-seller in Noe Valley. It seems many neighborhood kids are friends of the canine on the cover. The book’s jacket was designed by Ramon Abad.

clude flowers, hand-drawn pictures, and—perhaps his favorite—bones.

“He has a little fan club,” Bridges says. Even when he’s just strolling down 24th Street “off duty” without the special vest he wears while volunteering at the library, he gets recognized.

Stanley probably will gain even more recognition now that he’s in his very own book. At the back of the book, readers are encouraged to write him a letter or email (StanleyTheReadingDog@gmail.com). Bridges says he will write back. In addition, children can draw a picture of Stanley, and make a list of favorite books they would read to him. Stanley also has Twitter and Instagram accounts (both @ReadToStanley), and a Facebook page (Stanley the Reading Dog).

Bridges and Stanley went back to work in January, after a maternity leave. They have some Noe Valley book promotion events lined up, including a reading at Folio Books on Saturday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. They will also be at the St. Philip’s School Book Fair on May 17.

They’ll pick up their Puppy Dog Tales volunteer gig again at the Noe Valley Library beginning in May. For details, see

www.sfpl.org or call the library at 415-355-5707.

Long Lineage as a Learner

Bridges always had a feeling that Stanley would make a good companion. In fact, he is from the same bloodline as a golden retriever she had as a child growing up in Marin County. Bridges tracked down the breeder, Jennifer Masterson of Masters Golden Retrievers in Petaluma, and adopted Stanley from one of the breeder’s litters. As a puppy, Stanley had his training with Smarty Pup! at Fort Mason.

Using Stanley in her work didn’t occur to Bridges when she first got him. After he got older, though, “because I knew he was well behaved, I decided to do the SPCA [AAT] training. He’s a mellow dog for his age—although when he has a tennis ball at the park, he goes crazy.” But he’s gentle with children, she adds, saying they can come up to him, pull his tail, and he doesn’t care. “He’s great with kids. He’s an old soul.”

The book Meet Stanley: The Reading Dog is available on 24th Street at Folio, Rare Device, Small Frys, and When Modern Was.

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“Claudia has extensive experience in the San Francisco market and an obvious understanding of its many neighborhoods and unique architectural styles. I cannot understate the importance of this when you are new to buying real estate in the city. She is a true professional in her field. Even though my husband I were very discerning in our preferences, and possibly came in with expectations that were too high for this market, Claudia was absolutely supportive of our aggressive approach to the bidding process. It certainly paid off for us in the end.” **DIANE AND JOHN, 10-14**

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Victorian Beauty. This Elizabeth Street dwelling shows itself as being one of the jewels of Noe Valley. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*



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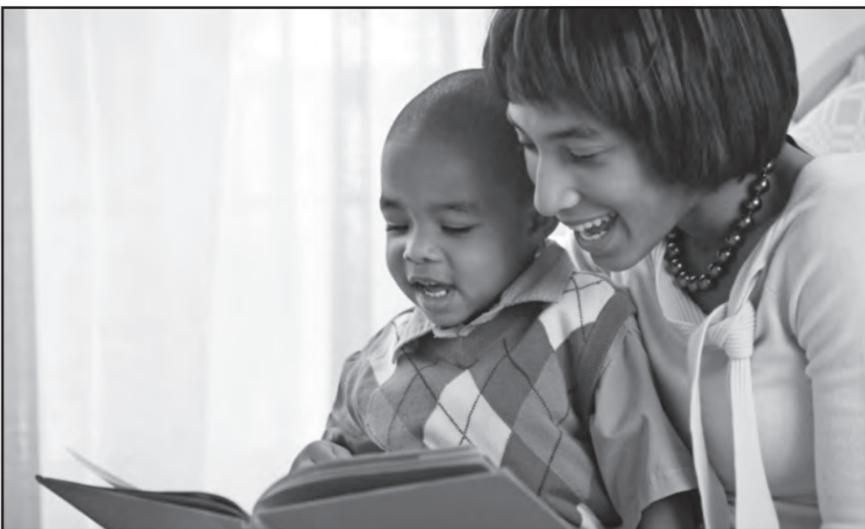
www.26thandGuerreroMarket.com

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

NVV 2/2015

| | |
|--|----------------|
| San Francisco Information Line <i>www.sf311.org</i> | 311 |
| Burned-Out Streetlights , city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) | 311 |
| District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener <i>scott.wiener@sfgov.org</i> | 415-554-6968 |
| Graffiti Removal | 415-28-CLEAN |
| Hazardous Waste Disposal /Free pickup mattresses, appliances | 415-330-1300 |
| Homeless Services Urgent care clinic | 415-355-7400 |
| Lost or Injured Animals Animal Care and Control | 415-554-6364 |
| Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services <i>www.sfgov.org/mons</i> | 415-554-7111 |
| NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) | 415-970-2022 |
| Parking Enforcement DPT Dispatch | 415-553-1200 |
| PG&E Gas or electrical issues | 1-800-743-5000 |
| Potholes <i>potholes@sfdpw.org</i> | 415-695-2100 |
| Recycling | 415-554-4333 |
| Sewer Problems, Overflows | 415-695-2096 |
| Street Signs, Damaged or Missing | 415-554-9780 |
| Street-sweeping | 415-554-6926 |
| Tree Planting | 415-554-6700 |
| 24th Street Community Benefit District (CBD) | 415-519-0093 |
| Utility Undergrounding (DPW) <i>undergrounding@sfgov.org</i> | 415-554-6167 |
| Water Leaks, Water Pressure | 415-554-3289 |

"There is no moral precept that does not have something inconvenient about it."
 —French author, philosopher, and encyclopedist Denis Diderot, 1713–1784



{Trust Building Tip #7}

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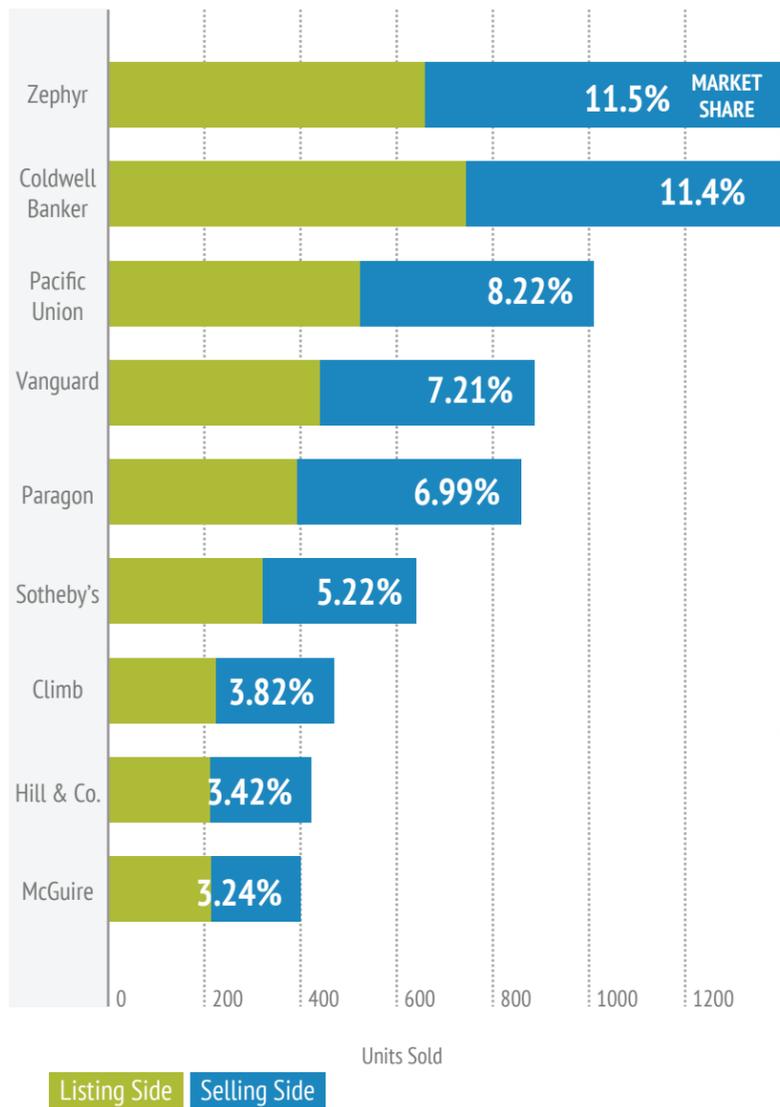
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2014 San Francisco Home Sales



Data Source: San Francisco Association of REALTORS Multiple Listing Service (SFAR MLS), number of Single Family Home and Condo/Co-op/TIC/Loft sales citywide, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014

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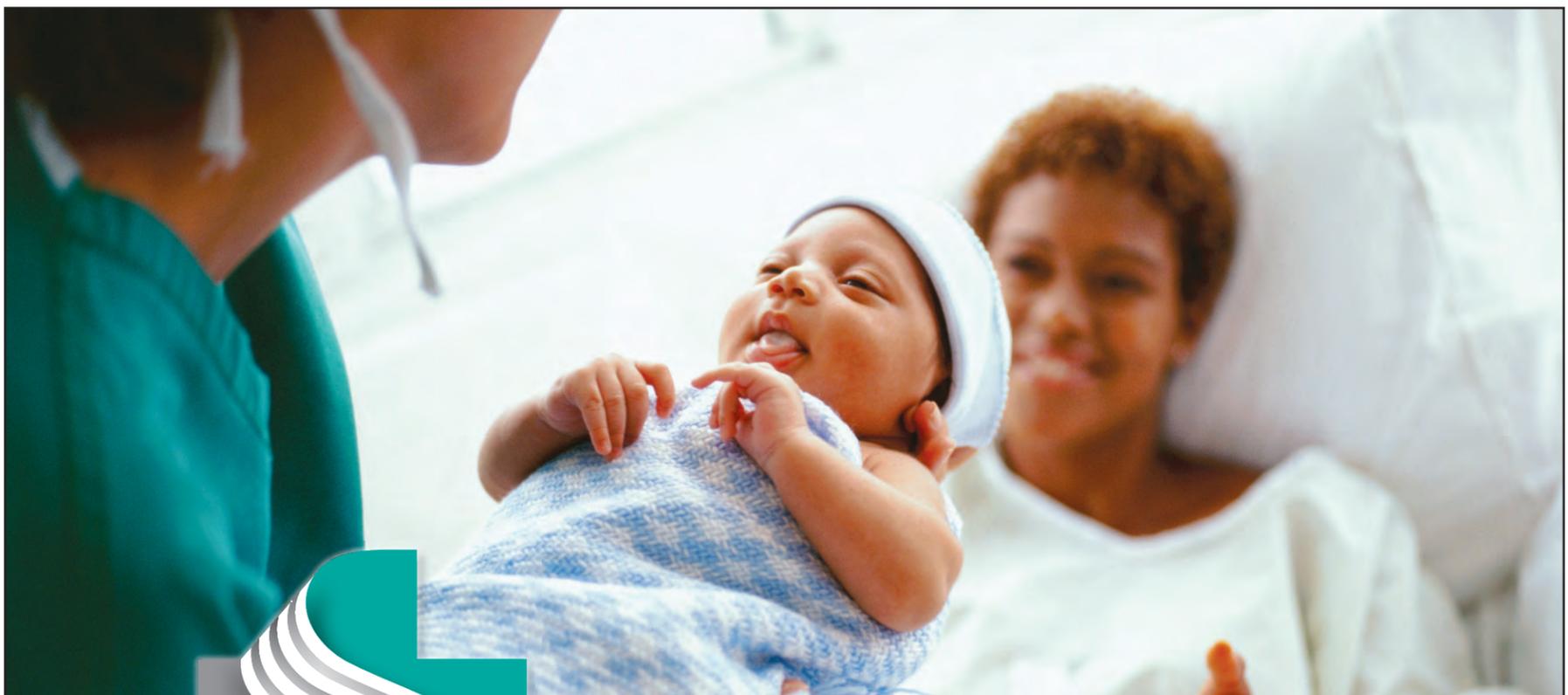
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- 1. Build community**
- 2. Provide healthy food**
- 3. Support a vibrant, local small-farm economy**

We are looking to expand our board. Do you live in Noe Valley, shop at the market, and care deeply about our community? Then consider applying! Please email volunteer@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com for information.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Multiple Offers Stop Multiplying

By Corrie M. Anders

Buyers purchased 22 “single-family” (detached) homes in Noe Valley during the last two months of 2014, at an average cost of \$2.1 million.

The number of new move-ins was two fewer than the number recorded during the previous November and December, according to sales data collected by Zephyr Real Estate for the *Noe Valley Voice*. Back then, the average sales price was \$1.9 million.

As for the condominium market, 12 apartments changed hands during November–December 2014. That also was two less than the same period the year before.

So, could the desire to live—or rather, buy—in our fair neighborhood be ebbing slightly?



Buyers found this two-story shingled home on Valley Street hard to resist, taking only 16 days in December to close escrow on the \$3,575,000 dwelling. The house had been remodeled to show off four bedrooms (including a master suite with spa), 4.5 baths, a gourmet kitchen, an elevator, and two decks.

“If there’s one thing you can say, it’s not that prices have plateaued or dipped, but that the craziness has plateaued or dipped,” said Zephyr president Randall Kostick.

He said buyers were no longer stampeding to own a piece of Noe Valley, as they were doing last summer.

Now, “when we have multiple offers, it’s not the craziness of 20 multiple offers” for a particular property, he said. “It’s more like three multiple offers.”

Still, certain homes, especially those in scenic locations, will always draw crowds.

The most expensive property that sold in December was a large house (4,400 square feet) on the quiet 500 block of Valley Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. Built in 1910, the home had been renovated to afford its occupants four bedrooms (including a master suite with spa), 4.5 baths, a gourmet kitchen, an elevator, and two decks with southern views. It sold in a mere 16 days, for \$3,575,000—\$125,000 more than the list price.

The most expensive sale in November was a newly built, modern home with four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, radiant heating,



An ultramodern home, built last year on Diamond Street, sold in November for \$3,785,000. Along with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths, the residence featured a chef’s kitchen, high ceilings, radiant heat, and panoramic views. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

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Noe Valley Home Sales*

| Total Sales | No. | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Avg. Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Single-family homes | | | | | | |
| October 2014 | 18 | \$1,125,000 | \$4,895,000 | \$2,146,222 | 19 | 112% |
| September 2014 | 8 | \$1,420,000 | \$3,700,000 | \$2,112,500 | 27 | 109% |
| October 2013 | 13 | \$1,123,000 | \$5,550,000 | \$2,002,769 | 32 | 108% |
| Condominiums | | | | | | |
| October 2014 | 15 | \$610,000 | \$1,705,000 | \$1,178,367 | 26 | 118% |
| September 2014 | 7 | \$602,000 | \$1,589,000 | \$1,113,679 | 37 | 107% |
| October 2013 | 14 | \$625,000 | \$1,275,000 | \$986,929 | 30 | 115% |
| 2- to 4-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| October 2014 | 6 | \$1,375,000 | \$2,700,000 | \$2,057,500 | 34 | 109% |
| September 2014 | 2 | \$1,300,000 | \$2,450,000 | \$1,875,000 | 25 | 132% |
| October 2013 | 5 | \$735,000 | \$1,995,000 | \$1,920,000 | 49 | 97% |
| 5+-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| October 2014 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| September 2014 | 1 | \$5,250,000 | \$5,250,000 | \$5,250,000 | 58 | 95% |
| October 2013 | 1 | \$1,575,000 | \$1,575,000 | \$1,575,000 | 194 | 95% |

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for providing sales data. NVV 12/2014

bay views, and 3,699 square feet of living space. Located in the 1700 block of Diamond Street near the top of 29th Street, the house sold for the seller’s list price of \$3,785,000—after 56 days on the market.

The priciest condo sold in December was a three-bedroom, two-bath unit, with 1,510 square feet of space, located in the 3700 block of Cesar Chavez Street be-

tween Dolores and Guerrero streets. The accepted offer was \$1,610,000, slightly more than the \$1,595,000 asking price.

Condo buyers in November paid \$2,010,000 for a three-bedroom, three-bath unit in the 100 block of Chattanooga Street, between 22nd and 23rd streets. That was \$85,000 less than the listed price for the 10-year-old, ultramodern home. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

| Unit | No. in Sample | Range January 2015 | Average January 2015 | Average November 2014 | Average January 2014 |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Studio | 3 | \$1,950 – \$2,150 | \$2,017 / mo. | \$2,379 / mo. | \$1,955 / mo. |
| 1-bdrm | 43 | \$2,000 – \$4,100 | \$3,250 / mo. | \$2,993 / mo. | \$2,945 / mo. |
| 2-bdrm | 46 | \$3,250 – \$8,995 | \$4,435 / mo. | \$4,435 / mo. | \$4,253 / mo. |
| 3-bdrm | 20 | \$4,650 – \$12,500 | \$6,708 / mo. | \$6,449 / mo. | \$5,483 / mo. |
| 4+-bdrm | 4 | \$6,400 – \$10,000 | \$8,211 / mo. | \$7,048 / mo. | \$7,661 / mo. |

** This survey is based on a sample of 116 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from Jan. 6 to 20, 2015. NVV 12/2015



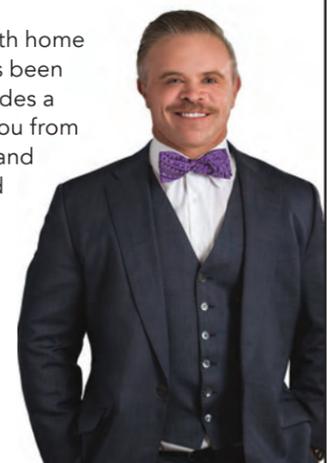
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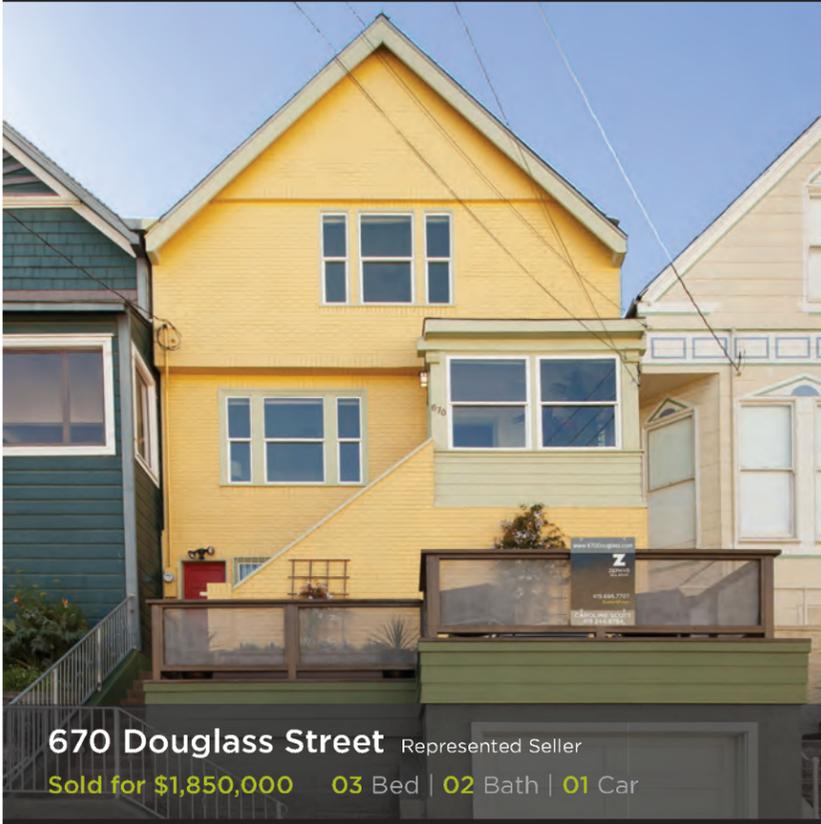
Corona Heights four bedroom, four and a half bath home with five decks and stunning panoramic views has been renovated with modern custom finishes and includes a separate pristine loft studio. An elevator brings you from the two-car garage to the expansive great room and into the open kitchen plan featuring carved wood cabinetry and stainless steel counters. Two of the bedrooms have his and hers bathrooms en suite. This stunning modern home is a one-of-a-kind.

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1411 Diamond Represented Seller
 Sold for \$1,835,000
 03 Bed | 02 Bath | 01 Car



4322 24th Street Represented Buyer
 Sold for \$2,450,000
 03 Bed | 03 Bath | 02 Car

2014 was an incredible year for me and my many clients in our perennially popular neighborhood.

Whether moving in or moving up, it was a privilege to represent so many of my neighbors as they achieved personal and financial goals through home ownership. I'm looking forward to doing more of the same in 2015.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home here in Noe Valley, or throughout San Francisco, I'd love to hear from you. It would be my privilege to **donate \$1,000 to your favorite charity** at close of escrow when you use my services. Give me a call or send an e-mail any time!



229 Chenery Represented Buyer
 Sold for \$1,525,000
 04 Bed | 2.5 Bath



730 Grand View Represented Seller
 Sold for \$1,153,000
 02 Bed | 01 Bath | 01 Car



340 Eureka Represented Buyer
 Sold for \$1,880,000
 03 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 01 Car

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The final open house of the Mission Street Public Life Plan will highlight the outcome of an 18-month community planning process that promotes Mission Street as a vital transit corridor with art, local commerce, and public spaces for everyone to enjoy. Please join us to celebrate the community work and to discuss next steps to make it happen!

Also at the open house, Muni will share proposed improvements for the 14/14L Mission that will enhance pedestrian safety and Muni reliability along Mission Street. This effort is part of Muni Forward's initiative to create a Rapid Network that prioritizes frequency and reliability on our most heavily used lines.

Proposed improvements will:

- Enhance pedestrian safety by removing turn conflicts at busy intersections
- Improve route reliability by optimizing transit stop locations
- Make boarding the bus quicker and more comfortable by adding transit sidewalk extensions
- Establish transit-only lanes to reduce Muni delays

February 18, 2015 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

**The Women's Building (Auditorium)
 3543 18th Street, #8 | San Francisco, CA**

Join staff at any time during the open house to ask questions and discuss these improvements.

If you are unable to attend or would like to provide comments online, please take our online survey at www.muniforward.com/14survey.



SHORT TAKES

Eating for Your Mind

Healthy cooking expert Rebecca Katz will appear at Omnivore Books on Food Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. She'll discuss her new book, *The Healthy Mind Cookbook: Big-Flavor Recipes to Enhance Brain Function, Mood, Memory, and Mental Clarity*, written with Mat Edelson.

That's quite a mouthful, but Katz knows whereof she speaks. She is the author of four healthy cooking cookbooks—two written while she was recovering from cancer. She is also senior chef at the Healing Kitchens Institute at Commonwealth in Marin, one of the nation's leading cancer wellness centers, and a frequent lecturer at academic medical centers across the U.S.

Her latest book offers brain-healthy recipes for every meal, the benefits of key ingredients, and nutritional details for each dish. Katz says she based the recipes on research that has identified specific foods which can improve cognition, emotional health, and physical function—for example, chiles, Swiss chard, black beans, lentils, and kombu (Japanese seaweed). You can preview recipes on her website, www.rebeccakatz.com.

Better yet, attend the Omnivore Books event Feb. 11. Katz will be there, as will a taste of one of her dishes. Omnivore is located at 3885A Cesar Chavez St., just east of Church Street.

Alvarado Needs Tutors

Alvarado Elementary School on Douglas Street is looking for volunteers to tutor students in reading. Tutors work with students twice a week, for 45 minutes, using a curriculum developed by Reading Partners, an educational nonprofit. The curriculum is self-guided and does not require lesson preparation. However, Reading Partners staff are on hand to answer questions and offer coaching if needed.

Each lesson begins with the tutor reading aloud to their student. Students select the book to be read. The tutor discusses the book's content and vocabulary, then introduces a new reading skill or concept. The student completes an introductory task and reads, applying the new skill or concept. The tutor offers support and encouragement.

You can learn more about Reading Partners and how to volunteer at www.readingpartners.org. There's a simple form to fill out, including a line where you designate at which school you'd like

to volunteer. Alvarado is just one of many schools on the Reading Partners list. To contact school, call 415-695-5695.

Reading Partners is funded by AmeriCorps, which is a federal volunteer program akin to Vista or the Peace Corps.

Sisterhood and Whimsy at Odd Mondays

Odd Mondays is the long-running speaker series curated by Noe Valley residents (and writers) Judith Levy-Sender and Ramon Sender. This month, the pair have organized two very different Odd Mondays. One is all about sisters. The other is totally random. It could be brothers, sisters, anything.

The first event, on Feb. 9, is a reading and reception for the new anthology *Sisters Born, Sisters Found*, edited by former Sanchez Street resident Laura McHale Holland.

Holland, whose previous books include *Reversible Skirt* and *The Ice Cream Vendor's Song*, will be on hand to introduce and read from *Sisters Born*, as will five other of the book's 76 contributors: Olivia Boler, a published author in her own right; memoirist and activist Patricia Jackson; playwright Mercilee M. Jenkins; Pushcart Prize nominee Karen Levy; and Nellie Wong, author of four books of poetry. The anthology, published in December, presents the experiences of sisters around the world, told in memoirs, essays, poems, and short stories.

The second Odd Monday takes place on Feb. 23. Readers are invited to buy a book they want to read off the shelves of Folio Books on 24th Street, sign up to read at Odd Mondays, and on the 23rd turn to page 23 in the book and read two to three minutes to the audience. Who knows what words will be spoken? To sign up, email jlsender@webtv.net or call 415-821-2090.

Both events start at 7 p.m. at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. Everyone is also welcome at a 5:30 p.m. no-host supper at Haystack Pizza, at 3881 24th St.

Tech Search Party Ping!

For the sixth year, Tech Search Party will send teams into the wilds of Noe Valley with clues, phones, and flashlights. What's at stake? Prizes for the teams and money for local schools. The beneficiaries this year are Alvarado Elementary and James Lick Middle School in Noe Valley and Marshall Elementary on 15th Street.

Money is raised two ways, through team registration fees—\$50 for four people, \$75 for six—and sponsorships by businesses. Most of the money comes from sponsors. The gold sponsor this year is Google. One of the silver sponsors is

SHORT TAKES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Henry Sultan stands before one of the many brightly hued geometric mandalas he has created over the years. You can meet the author and see images from his latest book, *The Art of the Mandala*, at a Feb. 19 reception at Folio Books. Photo by Jenny Badger Sultan

Henry Sultan's Panoramic Imagination: From Mandalas to Murals

Henry Sultan has been painting mandalas since 1967 and murals since 1976, a symmetry in years like the symmetry of his work. He says mandalas—"circles" in Sanskrit—are a "way of centering myself" and murals are interesting "because they're big and collaborative."

Born and educated in San Francisco and a resident of Noe Valley for over 28 years, Sultan has recently published *The Art of the Mandala*, a 110-page book filled with images of his work (Last Gasp Publishing, 2014). The neighborhood is invited to a reception for the artist-author at Folio Books on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Art of the Mandala contains more than 50 mandalas in full color in three styles: geometric, figurative, and "landscape of the mind." The last style, Sultan explains, is "from my imagination, using all the elements of landscape, figurative, and geometric."

At 76 years of age, Sultan believes the book represents a "lifetime of work," an apt description since it covers nearly five decades of his art of the sacred and the psychological.

Sultan's life in murals began in the Sunset. The nursery school his daughter attended had a mural, but its artwork was fading. Some of Sultan's friends were starting to paint murals in the Mission at the time. They helped him restore the one at his daughter's school. Then Sultan began working with them on other murals, mainly in the Mission.

Sultan says he has retired from painting murals but is still involved as a board member and tour guide for the Precita Eyes Muralists Association, based at 2981 24th St. at Harrison. He has also served as president of the board for several years.

Sultan has worked on four murals in Noe Valley. In 1993, he painted one at 29th and Sanchez, on the side of what was then a health food store. The store is now Alice's Restaurant but the mural is still there, thanks to Alice and to Hank, who restored it in 2013. The second Sultan mural is on a fence at 30th Street and Sanchez. It was a family project, with Sultan's wife Jenny Badger Sultan and their children Naomi and Leon helping. Sultan also lent a brush with the two murals that face the east and west sides of the soon-to-be Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. He helped prepare the building walls for Mona Caron's art.

Meanwhile, he has been painting mandalas and collecting his favorites, which now spread the pages of *The Art of the Mandala*, published in October. At the reception at Folio Books, located at 3957 24th St., Sultan will both read and present images from the book. He'll also be happy to sign copies. The event is free.

—Richard May

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Umpqua Bank, with a branch in Noe Valley. All money raised goes to the schools.

Tech Search Party happens this year on Saturday, Feb. 7. Teams gather at 5:15 p.m. at Alvarado Elementary, on the corner of 22nd Street and Douglass. At 6 p.m., they will receive their list of clues.

When a team finds a location indicated by the clues, they email a shot of the spot back to Tech Search central. The first three teams to find and confirm all locations will win prizes donated by Ambiance, Neiman Marcus, Zazzle, and other fine folks. The best team name also wins.

Tech Search Party was founded by former Noe Valley resident Tim Smith. You can find out more information at www.techsearchparty.com or follow on Twitter @TechSearchParty.

Take a Book, Leave a Book

Books are, we are told over and over, a dying species, bound to go the way of the dinosaur, dodo, and diploporus. Yet, facts deny this. More books are published

every year. Bookstores persist. Public and private libraries abound, including the Little Free Libraries.

Little Free Libraries began as one man's idea in 2009. Todd Bol of Hudson, Wis., built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother, a former teacher who loved reading. There was room in the model for 10 to 15 books. He filled it with some he wanted to give away, stuck the schoolhouse on a post in his front yard, and put up a sign, "Free Books." People liked the idea. It soon evolved into: Take a book, leave a book. The little free libraries spread from town to town, and became a movement. Now, there are over 15,000 around the world, including one in Noe Valley.

Ours is called the Noe Valley Book Exchange. It lives in one of the green newspaper boxes on the sidewalk outside Whole Foods on 24th Street. You can browse books your neighbors have left and deposit one you're done with.

Beatrice Von Schulthess, Noe Valley resident and seller of books at Folio Books across the street, is the volunteer librarian for the Noe Valley Book Exchange. She says, "I see the book exchange as another way to create community and share resources. I know I have quite a few books at home that I want to share."

If you do too, check out the Noe Valley Book Exchange on 24th Street in the little green news boxes. Remember to



Music to Our Ears: Returning the Noe Valley Chamber Music series to its original home at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, Jan. 25, were Emil Miland (with cello, far right) and Friends (from left) composer and pianist Jake Heggie, composer David Conte, composer Liam Wade, pianist Allison Lovejoy, pianist Steven Bailey, vocalist Ann Moss, composer Candace Forest, and pianist Joan Nagano. The long-awaited concert drew a sold-out crowd. Photo by Sally Smith

take a book with you.

Camp Mather Registration Ends Feb. 6

San Francisco's summer camp is Camp Mather in the Sierra near Groveland, Calif. Reservations are by lottery draw, and registration for the lottery ends Feb. 6. Registration costs \$100, which is refundable if you don't win.

Cabin costs for a week away range from \$465 for two people to \$1,021 for six. A tent site is just \$241, but it's BYOT. Meals for the week are \$233 for people 13 and older, \$135 if you're 2 to 12, and free for those under 2. Weekly dates run from May 30 to Aug. 15. Groups can also register for the lottery. (All prices cited are for San Francisco residents. Proof of residency is required.)

May 30 to June 6 is inclusion week, during which trained staff will be on hand to work with other-abled children. However, families with other-abled children are welcome any week of the summer.

Plenty of outdoor summer activities are available at Camp Mather, including swimming, fishing, horseback-riding, crafts classes, talent shows, hikes, and campfire programs.

Registration forms and all kinds of information can be found at the city's Recreation and Park Department site, www.sfrecpark.org/camp-mather.

Help Save Diamond Heights

Conventional wisdom is that, in a major disaster—like, say, The Big One—you may be on your own for the first 72 hours. The police, fire department, EMT staff, and other first responders will be so busy that it may take them a while to get to you. With that in mind, in 1990, after the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the San Francisco Fire Department founded NERT, neighborhood emergency response teams. NERT teams are neighbors trained to help neighbors survive catastrophes. Team members receive over 20 hours of training.

The Fire Department has a second level of training, two hours on personal readiness in a disaster, large or small. Trainings are scheduled throughout the year in all city neighborhoods.

The Diamond Heights personal readiness session is Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Aidan's Church, Gold Mine at Diamond Heights Boulevard. Parking is permitted across the street in the Safeway lot. You do not have to

had the 20-hour NERT training to attend.

Firefighters will teach participants how to prepare for a disaster, what supplies to have on hand, and how to increase their risk awareness. They also will give an overview of the larger NERT program, to train neighborhood teams how to plan ahead as a neighborhood. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/1B6O8Pz>.

Both the NERT personal readiness evening and NERT volunteer training are free. For more information, call 415-970-2022 or go to www.sfgov.org/sfnert.

Short Takes were written by Richard May.

New Democratic Club Leaders

Neighborhood activist Todd David is taking the helm of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. David, 45, was the sole nominee for the office of club president at the political group's Jan. 21 meeting at St. Philip's Church. He will be sworn in for a one-year term at the club's next formal meeting on March 18. (The group's annual membership party is Feb. 26.)

David and all but one of the other candidates for the club's executive board were nominated from the floor without opposition. The new officers will take the place of several longtime board members.

"An overwhelming majority of the board is changing over," said David, a Eureka Street resident, public school advocate, and most recently the campaign manager for Prop. E, the San Francisco Soda Tax (which lost last November but won the support of 55 percent of city voters).

David made a point of praising past years' club leaders. "They have done an amazing job of keeping the club going and growing the club," he said. "Our job is to keep the club moving in the right directions and continuing the job they've done."

He will succeed Hunter Stern, who has been president for five years. Stern will now fill the post of club treasurer.

There were two nominations for club vice president: incumbent Molly Fleischman and former Alvarado School PTA president Jessica Closson.

Fleischman, who was out of town the night she was nominated, said she was "trying to gather information about what happened" at the January meeting. "I will comment later," said Fleischman, who has been a mainstay of the two-decades-old club.

David said he would stay on as president of Residents for Noe Valley Town Square, a group that is working to develop the Saturday farmers market site on 24th Street. He also is president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley. David said he would consult with the Friends' board on his role with that organization.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club generally meets on third Wednesdays at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. To check the schedule, see <http://noedem.org.blogspot.com/>.

—Corrie M. Anders

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Applause for Chamber Music Series

After four seasons elsewhere, the Noe Valley Chamber Music series came back to its birthplace at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street last month, its return celebrated by an audience that more than filled the enlarged sanctuary on the building's second floor.

The concert, showcasing cellist Emil Miland and several of his performer and composer friends, will be followed this month by a recital on the Ministry's magnificent Steinway by pianist Jeffrey LaDeur. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory and a faculty member at the esteemed Crowden School in Berkeley, LaDeur has performed internationally with orchestras and chamber music ensembles. His program will include masques and lullabies by Debussy, Chopin, and Szymanowski.

Following the Jan. 25 concert, Tiffany Loewenberg, the series' executive director, shared with the *Voice* her satisfaction with both the acoustics of the refurbished Ministry and the enthusiastic crowd response to the Miland and Friends performance. She said the series, though placing part of this season's offerings at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Cathedral Hill, had decided to stage most of its 2015-16 season at the Ministry.

Jeffrey LeDeur performs Sunday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. at 23rd Street. A pre-concert talk will be held at 3:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 for students. For tickets and information, call 415-648-5236 or go to www.nvcm.org.

—Jeff Kaliss

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OTHER VOICES

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Poems and Prose

By Dan Richman

AFTER WATCHING THE NEWS

Couldn't we just
live like trees
and stand out in the rain all night
with our hands open
and our lips parted
and our bodies
glistening
with slickness

and have the wind stroke us
into flowing rivers

and watch without a word, without a word
the sun
lamp up its first
signal in the darkness

and stand still on one leg
as the birds
stir in our heads,
then explode, singing?

LUCILLE'S LUNCH BREAK for Q.R. Hand

Escaping the nail-parlor and
cash-register and tedium
to the Golden Fountain,
chop-sticking through pork chow fun,
slipping her shoes off
under the table, the
only non-Chinese in the place,
Cantonese
kissing her ears,
understanding not a word of it, but softly
aware of the gossip, jokiness,
hard-nosed business,
the kid talk, car talk, boy-
meets-girl talk, the significance
without the distraction
of actual meaning, waves
reaching a beach from an ocean,
she finds peace
from twelve to one.

STATUE OF MARY BEFORE ST. PHILIP'S

By Dan Richman

They made her look about 14. As if she had never been called upon by angels. Never visited by their King. Never delivered a child who two thousand years later still haunts the souls of millions.

That's all right with me. It's just nice to look at an innocent young thing in this age of premature sexuality, though this one's made of stone.

She's about three-quarters the size of a living teen. She wears a hood, but



her flowing tresses spill out on either side of her sweet face. Below the hood there's a modest gown that barely shows a hint of female hills and dales. And her hands are spread, palms out, at the ends of her straight arms in a gesture that could mean, "What more do you want from me? I gave up a normal life for you. I gave you my son. To this day I plead mercy for you in the cold winds of eternity. Yet you call upon me and call upon me, and because I am superhumanly compassionate, I am

wrenched by every cry."

Maybe.

After all these years of gazing at her, I'm still not absolutely sure of what the hands mean. Some days I think this, and some days something else. But that too is all right. Ambiguity and I are becoming closer friends as time passes, and I trust certainty less and less.

But now here's something else. Beneath the two dainty feet peeping out from beneath Mary's gown, a snake is being crushed! So this gentle, sacred girl is killing one of God's creatures! Or is the snake The Evil One in disguise, since it has an apple in its mouth still attached to a branch with several leaves on it? If so, I'd guess this fruit represents the very one plucked by our naked great-grandparents in the Garden of Eden against God's stern warning, thus causing the mess we're in today.

Or is the mess we're in today actually created by the crushing of the snake? Of course, this lovely little sculpture portrays the blessed feminine component in Christian Heaven. But at the same time it does seem to demonstrate how far our species has drawn away from almost every other living thing outside it. How in fact our race has dominated the rest of nature to near-death with murderous, suicidal efficiency. I mean, if the Immaculate Mary can kill a snake, how much easier it must be for the rest of us soiled mortals to kill everything else.

In any case, it's sad to see the Virgin Mother having to do such an unpleasant job.

And one more thing. Though Mary's eyes are modestly downcast, the snake glares straight at the beholder with an expression that says—to me anyhow—"Never mind her and her feet. I'm getting out of this somehow, and then I'm coming for you, fella, and everybody else!"

Even on the sunniest day, those stone sinister eyes can bring on a chill. It's a blessing to look up from Mary's feet to her young, pained, ever-loving face.



Dan Richman, Writer, Walker

Author and poet **Dan Richman**, 75, has lived in Noe Valley for 38 years. He made his living as a carpenter before retiring and turning fully to his writing. He's published two novels, a book of poems, and, most recently, a collection of stories, poems, and one-act plays about fables and fairy tales, titled *Mything You* (2014).

One of his novels, *Tristan, Isolt, and the Sea* (2013), is a playful take on the oft-told Medieval tale of forbidden love. The other, *African Yamassee: An American Story* (2012), is a historical novel that takes place in early South Carolina. "It's about the beginning of U.S. racial mixing," Richman says.

Farming in San Francisco is his poetry collection, published by Fithian Press in 2004. Three of the poems reproduced on this page are from the book.

Richman's early influences include Robert Louis Stevenson, Classic Comics, and Carl Sandburg. Many of his current writings stem from walks around Noe Valley. "Somehow, Noe Valley has been the place I've been most creative in my adult life," he says. "Who can explain these things? Maybe it's Martha's coffee." A resident of 21st Street, he also spends time hiking Kite Hill in the Castro.

The small statue of Mary in the greenery outside St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street was the inspiration for a prose piece (see below left). "I have stopped and gazed at that sweet little statue for years," Richman says. "It seems to me the world very much needs a female deity."

Richman's books are available at Folio Books on 24th Street, Bird & Beckett in Glen Park, or via his website, www.cunningcrowbooks.com. There you'll also find "SF Sketches," his observations on life and nature in the city.

—Olivia Boler

MOO THE CAT

I only had him for three months, but we were friends.

He delighted me with his courage and his funny walk.
He greeted all my people at the door, and their dogs.
My neighbor told me he found his hound asleep
in his living room by Moo, the cat-burglar.
I belled him to warn the birds and when I called
he bounced across the backyard like sleigh bells.
He loved me back and stretched his paw to my cheek.
They called him Moo at the shelter for his black
and white spots like a Holstein, and we kept that name.
He died of a rare disease.

I'm walking in a soft rain in Glen Park Canyon
where everything is bursting and yearning
and all I can think is that the earth is fresh
and I wish Moo could see it,
the orange poppies flung up the side of the hill
by the same hand that plucks them.

PALM TREES OF DOLORES STREET

They crown the boulevard,
up and down the hills, tropical birds on the legs of elephants.
And always they cheer us,
seeming to lead toward something sexy, like a corny calendar—
a smoldering sun in the waves, ivory beach, nude moon,
paradise even, since there's a hint of those we dream of
no matter with whom we sleep,
those others, made of bits & pieces of dream desire—
they wait for us at the end of the trees with their arms wide
and their eyes an invitation,
though each time we dead-end on Market Street and the job
downtown. No matter.
The next time we steer our cars under the palms
our hearts swell anyway.
Hope is necessary.

ODE TO NIGHT

Oh night,
goddess of dark olives
and windy spangled hair,
the city glows on your cheek.
You show us the infinite
and we give you the blush of ripe peaches.
You give us the cupped hand
of the sleeping baby
and we raise the growling jet.
You give us the dream
and our second chance
on that stage. And the mockingbird.
And your floating dress.
And the hour to die, and the hour to carve
new life from flesh.
Step slowly secret one,
ancient one,
perfumed one.
Move like a noblewoman
from blinking street to street
toward the impatient dawn.

Noe Valley History



The Wind can barely keep up with these energetic youngsters on break at the upper playground of Alvarado School in this 1969 photo.

Photo by Ed Bury

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The next *Voice* will be the **March 2015** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of December. **The deadline for Class Ads is February 15.**

The Class Ads also will be displayed at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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KINDNESS



Always in Fashion

STORE TREK

By Pat Rose

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a shop near the corner of 24th and Castro that offers uniquely restored furniture, handmade jewelry and accessories, and women's wear with all the frills.

L'ATELIER
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L'Atelier, an eclectic mix of handmade women's apparel, accessories, and home décor, is the latest boutique to open in Noe Valley, in the space formerly occupied by Mail Boxes, Etc. on 24th Street near Castro. Owners Cynthia and Anthony Webb had a soft opening for the store in November and an official opening in January.

The boutique features Bay Area designers and artists who make one-of-a-kind pieces: jewelry by Liz Po'oi of San Mateo, necklaces that mix old costume jewelry and collectible buttons; bags by Jen Jory of Burlingame that combine leather and upcycled upholstery fabrics; and furniture from Livermore craftsman and artist Larry Berger such as a Jackson Pollock-inspired ladder bookcase and a tripod floor lamp incorporating an antique telescope.

Owner and designer Cynthia Webb, originally from Connecticut, moved to the Bay Area in 1981 and waited tables to support her 5-year-old son while she made hand-painted clothing in her spare



Designer Cynthia Webb says visitors to her new L'Atelier on 24th Street will find an array of "fun and whimsical" pieces, most of which are one of a kind. Photo by Pamela Gerard

time. Webb scoured flea markets and estate sales for lace, doilies, and lingerie, to create a unique women's apparel line. She began taking her designs to festivals and was eventually picked up by renowned designer Jessica McClintock, who manufactured and sold her "Romantic Cynthia" line of dresses, lingerie, tops, and skirts.

Webb married, settled on the Peninsula, and later opened a series of boutiques in San Mateo, San Carlos, and Menlo Park—stores that offered her own designs along with those of other clothing manufacturers. But she always had her eye on finding a space in San Francisco. When the Mail Boxes, Etc. space became available last fall, she jumped on it.

"My passion is restoring the old into the new," says Webb. "I feel like Noe Valley is a like-minded community. Every-

one has been very supportive."

Webb's line of handmade women's wear is the centerpiece of L'Atelier (French for artist's studio or workshop). There are cashmere sweater dresses made from re-purposed sweaters (\$169); tops and skirts embellished with lace and vintage doilies (\$60-\$400); hand-dyed antique slip dresses with applied lace and silk flowers (\$49-\$169); and lacy long dresses that are "perfect for the creative bride-to-be," she says.

"I'm big on vintage lace," says Webb. "I love to create fun and whimsical pieces from repurposed clothing and collectibles. Items that are ready to be tossed I take under my wing and give them another chance at life."

Store manager and designer Jody Deslaurier's creations are also on display: rings made from cigar wrappers, and iPad sleeves, wallets, and clutches made from

'40s and '50s sheet music she's collected and laminated.

A corner of the store features children's clothing and accessories—a "Tooth Beary" teddy made from cashmere with a special pocket for a child's tooth (\$52)—along with tiny cashmere jackets for newborns and pink tutus (\$28-\$58).

When not at the shop, Webb and Deslaurier are combing the local thrift stores, on the lookout for furniture, fabrics, and other materials they can recycle and use in their designs.

"We're constantly stripping and painting," says Webb. She points to a beautiful round wood display table with large claw feet in the center of the store. "We rescued this table from the dump, stripped and painted it."

Their latest project is acquiring old bedroom night stands and television cabinets to turn into children's play kitchens. "We'll paint burners on the tops, add stainless-steel mixing bowls for the sinks, and old door knobs for stove controls," says Deslaurier.

L'Atelier is currently open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Starting in March, the boutique will stay open until 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.



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LIBRARY EVENTS

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** is for both beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters. Bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you're working on a special project. Saturday, Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Opera for the People: View excerpts from George Frideric Handel's *Rodelinda*, starring Italian soprano Anna Caterina Antonacci as a queen who mourns the presumed loss of her husband while fighting off advances from the usurper to the throne. Sunday, Feb. 8, 2 to 3 p.m.

Great Books: Herman Melville's short story *Billy Budd, Sailor* is this month's choice for the Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. Contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net for more information. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee at the Library features the 2006 Will Smith film based on the book *The Pursuit of Happyness*, about a salesman who struggles with homelessness while going after his dream of becoming a stockbroker. Friday, Feb. 13, 2 to 4 p.m.

Hoopla! Attend a workshop on how to use **hoopla!**, eLibrary access to music, TV shows, films, and audiobooks on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets on third Wednesdays to discuss current fiction and nonfiction. The February book is *Old Filth*, the first book of a trilogy about the life of a retired barrister, by Jane Gardam. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/ Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

BRANCH HOURS

| Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707 | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| 1-5 | 12-6 | 10-9 | 1-9 | 10-6 | 1-6 | 10-6 |
| Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800 | | | | | | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| 1-5 | 1-6 | 10-9 | 10-9 | 10-9 | 1-6 | 10-6 |
| Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858 | | | | | | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| 1-5 | 10-6 | 10-6 | 12-8 | 12-7 | 1-6 | 1-6 |
| Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 | | | | | | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | 12-6 | 10-9 | 12-9 | 10-6 | 1-6 | 12-6 |

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Take a Ride on the Reading

The February selection of books, films, and eBooks, offered by Adult Services Librarian Susan Higgins and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, with contributions from avid reader Karol Barske, features the humor of Ancient Rome, the Japanese art of organizing and decluttering, and a book for kids with facts about fractals in nature. To discover what else is on the shelves, call or drop by the branch at 451 Jersey St. (415-355-5707), or visit the San Francisco Library online at www.sfpl.org.

Books: Adult Fiction

A Madrid professor whose husband left her for another woman heads to California to research an exiled writer in *The Heart Has Its Reasons* by María Dueñas; translated by Elie Kerrigan.

Builders find human bones at a work site in the historic center of Edinburgh, in the mystery *The Skeleton Road* by Val McDermid.

The David Foster Wallace Reader contains a selection of stories, essays, and other works selected by writers, critics, and associates of the late writer.

The Best American Mystery Stories of the 19th Century, edited by Otto Penzler, contains 33 works by Poe, Hawthorne, Alcott, and Twain, and also tales by forgotten pioneers of the suspense and mystery genre.

Books: Adult Nonfiction

Classics professor Mary Beard explores humor from another era in *Laughter in Ancient Rome: On Joking, Tickling, and Cracking Up*.

Find advice for choosing water-wise plants that thrive in our area in *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*, from principal author and editor Nora Harlow.

Explore sculptures, paintings, video installations, and performance art from around the world in *The 21st-Century Art Book* by Phaidron Press editors Jonathan Griffin, Paul Harper, David Trigg, and Eliza Williams.

For those who aspire to live in a home without clutter, consultant Marie Kondo presents a new approach to purging your belongings in her international bestseller *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*.

Films on DVD

In the 2013 documentary *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars*, director Robert Greenwald investigates the impact of drone strikes on innocent people.

Director Louis Malle's 1985 film *Alamo Bay* tells the story of a Vietnam war veteran whose livelihood as a shrimp fisherman is threatened by an influx of Vietnamese immigrants in his Texas bay community.

New! Blu-Ray and hoopla! The library now offers movies on **Blu-Ray**, shelved along with the DVDs. You can search for titles in the library catalog by going to "advanced search" and choosing material type "Blu-Ray". You can also watch films online with **hoopla!** You can borrow up to 15

movies per month. Go to www.sfpl.org, click on eLibrary, then scroll down and click on Videos and look for hoopla! Or come to a library workshop on Tuesday Feb. 17, March 17, or April 21 at 10:30 a.m.

New eBooks

Learn how to make your favorite dishes at home with *Bar Tartine: Techniques and Recipes* by Nick Balla and Cortney Burns, co-chefs of the San Francisco restaurant.

Appearing on several "best of 2014" lists, *Penelope Fitzgerald: A Life* by Hermione Lee tells the story of the award-winning English novelist and biographer.

A Royal Experiment: The Private Life of King George III is a new historical biography by Janice Hadlow.

New: Magazines with Zinio for Libraries

Read a large selection of popular magazines including the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Architectural Digest*, *Bon Appetit*, and many more on your computer or mobile device. From the library home page, go to eLibrary and click on eMagazines and eNews.

Books: Children's Fiction

A befuddled snake wanders into *The Orchestra Pit* and interacts with the musicians and conductor in a tale written and illustrated by Johanna Wright. Ages 2-6.

Having mastered ballet in *Flora and the Flamingo*, Flora takes on ice dancing in *Flora and the Penguin*, written and illustrated by Molly Idle. Ages 3-5.

A farming family experiences a seaside thunderstorm in *Blue on Blue*, written in rhyming text by Dianne White, with illustrations by Caldecott Medal winner Beth Krommes. Ages 5-8.

Crabby alligator Andy and coyote pup Preston continue the zany adventures started in *Okay, Andy!* in *Andy Also*, written and illustrated by Maxwell Eaton. Ages 5-8.

Princess Magnolia transforms into *The Princess in Black* when danger threatens, in the first of an action-packed series written by Shannon and Dean Hale and illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Ages 5-8.

Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Brian Biggs, continues the story of a boy genius and inventor, his robots Klink and Klank, and his arch-nemesis T. Edison. Ages 8-12.

Rupert Campbell applies to become a witch's apprentice in *The Only Thing Worse Than Witches*, by Lauren Magaziner. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

At a **We Are All Poets** workshop, experienced teacher-poets will lead students in grades 4-12 in a poetry-writing session. Young poets will be invited to compose poems on this year's theme, "The Power of Peace." Participants may enter poems to be considered for a public reading at an April 18 Grand Finale in the Main Library's Koret Auditorium. For details, call 415-557-4554 or visit the We Are All Poets Facebook page. Thursday, Feb. 12, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Hambone Workshop. Come learn the techniques of Hambone, or PATTIN' JUBA, from Joseph ("Gye Nyame") and his grandmother Audrey ("Gram"). Hambone is body music invented by African Americans during slavery, when drums were outlawed. Get ready to stomp your feet, clap your hands, and slap your thighs! Saturday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Tales: Join Children's Librarian Miss Catherine for stories, songs, rhymes, and movement. The half-hour story time is geared to children ages 16-36 months, with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, and 19; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel Preschool Films: Children ages 3 to 5 years with parent or caregiver can enjoy short films on Thursday, Feb. 26, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

The AAC Conversation Club, for kids or adults using communication devices like Dynavox, QuickTalker, smartphones and tablets, continues on Mondays, Feb. 2, 9, and 23, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/ Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

Thirteen-year-old Nina plans to do one anonymous good deed every day in *The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days* by Michele Weber Hurwitz. Ages 10-14.

Books: Children's Nonfiction

Alan has a problem with stuttering except when he talks to animals, and he uses his ability to advocate on behalf of animals in *A Boy and a Jaguar*, written by Alan Rabinowitz and illustrated by Catia Chien. Ages 4-8.

Jason Chin's *Gravity* clearly explains and illustrates the natural force that stops everything on earth from floating away into space. Ages 5-8.

The intricate repeating shapes found in the natural world are explored in *Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature*, written by Sarah C. Campbell, with photography by Richard P. Campbell. Ages 7-10.

National Wildlife Federation's World of Birds: A Beginner's Guide by Kim Kurki introduces more than 120 species of birds with detailed illustrations and descriptions of habitats, calls, and behavior. Ages 7-12.

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| | IMPERIAL | PEA | | | |
| AGAR | XJS | RAPT | | | |
| VALLEY | PRODUCE | | | | |
| GIST | DEA | USER | | | |
| NAPA | LETTUCE | | | | |
| UNEVEN | | SOLOIST | | | |
| | DID | VIED | SCAR | | |
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| MESA | | DEEP | ARGOS | | |

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See page 12 of this edition for our new contest:

Where in Noe Valley?

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Feb. 1: A BENEFIT for Music on the Hill features a concert with cellist Angela lee and pianist Ava Soifer. 7 pm. Located in a private home; call 820-1429 for information. musiconthehill.org.

Feb. 1 & 6-8: Young People's Musical Theatre Company performs the MUSICAL Fiddler on the Roof. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun. 2 pm. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way. 554-9523; ypmtc.org.Stanley

Feb. 1 & 15: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 1-22: The Glen Park Village FARMERS' MARKET is open Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm, in the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington. pcfma.com.

Feb. 1-22: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the MISSION DOLORES area. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 1-22: The SF Museum and Historical Society gives Sunday tours of the OLD MINT at 1:30 and 3 pm. 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Feb. 1-28: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

Feb. 1-28: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon and 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

Feb. 1-28: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 1-March 4: Creativity Explored hosts a solo ART show by Daniel Green, "Days of Our Lives."; Mon & Tues., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

Feb. 2, 9 & 23: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 3 & March 3: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

1734 Church. Register: k9scrubclub.com.

Feb. 3 & 28: The JURI COMMONERS plan for a Community Opportunity Fund grant at 6:30 pm Feb. 3, at

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and Playtime on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.



Feb. 3 & March 3: "Write Now! @ Folio Books" is a monthly WORD JAM led by writer/editor Kathy Dalle-Molle; all levels welcome. 7-8:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; sign up at foliosf.com/events.

Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Eureka Valley Library offers its TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 3-24: Larkin Street Youth Services gives free HIV TESTING for youth 24 and under. Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. 1800 Market. 673-0911; sfcenter.org.

Feb. 3-24: Dogs 6 months and older are invited to the Tuesday PUPPY SOCIAL at K9 Scrub Club. 7-8 pm.

Mission Playground clubhouse, 19th near Guerrero, and at 9 am Feb. 28, followed by a 10 am work day at Juri Commons Park, near 26th and Guerrero. RSVP to meetup.com/Juri-Commoners.

Feb. 4: Neighbors hold a community meeting on the pros and cons of expanding the residential PERMIT PARKING Zone D into the northern edge of Glen Park and the business district of Upper Noe. 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. 205-5855.

Feb. 4: Ashley Rodriguez introduces DATE NIGHT In: More than 120 Recipes to Nourish Your Relationship. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 4-25: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for little ones, Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Feb. 4-25: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Glen Park Rec Center, 70 Elk. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

Feb. 4-25: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Feb. 4-25: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

Feb. 4 & March 4: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBTHistory.org.

Feb. 5: Local author Rita Graham reads from her books, including Big Brother Little Brother, at a Pajama Party Valentine's Day STORYTIME at Folio Books. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Feb. 5, 12 & 19: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 5-26: Attend PUB QUIZ NIGHTS on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

Feb. 6-27: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett with artists Don Prell, Jimmy Ryan, and the Third Quartet. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 6-27: Shout "BINGO!" at St. Paul's on Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). St. Paul's Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Feb. 6-27: Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday-night MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com.

Feb. 7: The sixth Noe Valley TECH SEARCH PARTY benefits Alvarado and Marshall elementary schools, and James Lick Middle School. Teams leave from Alvarado School, 22nd and Douglass, at 5:15 pm. Register at techsearchparty.com or @TechSearchParty on Twitter.

Feb. 7: David Jacobs-Strain and Bob Beach record their new CD live, with Chris Ayer, at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 7-28: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live musicians from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

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| WED FEB 4 | ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ • DATE NIGHT IN: MORE THAN 120 RECIPES TO NOURISH YOUR RELATIONSHIP • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Determined not to let their relationship deteriorate into that of "roommates with children," Ashley and Gabe Rodriguez institute a weekly date night: they sauté, roast, mix and dice and spend time reconnecting over simple but thoughtful dishes. |
| MON FEB 9 | OFF-SITE EVENT! EVAN GOLDSTEIN • WINES OF SOUTH AMERICA • AT THE JCC SF • 7:00 P.M. • South America is home to some of the world's most fascinating up-and-coming winegrowing areas — from the hot high desert, to the foothills of the Andes, to the cool and foggy Pacific coast. Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, who has written the most comprehensive guide to the continent's wines yet, presents a talk and tasting of some of the best wines South America has to offer. Prepare to dazzle your taste buds with wines from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. For Tickets: www.jccsf.org/arts-ideas |
| WED FEB 11 | REBECCA KATZ • THE HEALTHY MIND COOKBOOK: BIG-FLAVOR RECIPES TO ENHANCE BRAIN FUNCTION, MOOD, MEMORY, AND MENTAL CLARITY • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE In <i>The Healthy Mind Cookbook</i> , Rebecca Katz has harnessed the latest research on the brain to identify the foods that can improve the brain's ability to control cognition, emotion, and physical function—all of which dictate memory and mood. She then translates the very best of brain science into the kitchen. |
| SUN FEB 15 | KRISTY TURNER • BUT I COULD NEVER GO VEGAN!: 125 RECIPES THAT PROVE YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT CHEESE, IT'S NOT ALL RABBIT FOOD, AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL STILL COME OVER FOR DINNER • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE If you're a waffling vegan newbie, on-the-fence vegetarian, or veg-curious omnivore, this book will banish your doubts. You'll find you can get enough protein, fit in at a potluck, learn to love cauliflower, and enjoy pizza, nachos, brownies, and more—without any animal products at all. (Even vegan pros will discover some new tricks!). |
| SAT FEB 21 | PASCALE BEALE • SALADE: RECIPES FROM THE MARKET TABLE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • 216 pages filled with new recipes of delicious salads fresh from the market table, all beautifully photographed. From delicate greens and hearty grains to luscious vegetables and fruit, these bold and innovative combinations of fresh, seasonal ingredients are a mouth-watering celebration of salads. |

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Upcoming Events at Folio Books

2-5
THURSDAY
6PM

Pajama Party Valentine's Day Storytime with Rita Graham
With her books, Rita wants to give children positive stories that showcase the greatest of all virtues: LOVE.

2-9
MONDAY
7PM

Odd Monday: Sisters Born, Sisters Found
Featuring readings from: Laura McHale Holland, Olivia Boler, Lee Jenkins, Susan Ford, Nellie Wong, Patricia Jackson and Erika Lann-Clark.

2-12
THURSDAY
7PM

Scrabble Night
Join us for an evening of Scrabble fun!
RSVP by emailing media@foliosf.com

2-19
THURSDAY
7PM

The Art of the Mandala Launch Party
Join us for an evening to celebrate the work of Henry Sultan, who has been creating mandalas for over 40 years. Henry will discuss his work and sign books.

2-23
MONDAY
7PM

Odd Monday Pop-up Reading Night
A night of short readings from favorite books hosted by the Senders, Kathy Dalle-Molle and Andrew McIntyre.
To read please RSVP to jlsender@webtv.net before 2/15

2-28
SATURDAY
7PM

An Evening of Monologues and Scenes
Fundraiser for production of *The Name of The Monster* a play from Aren Haun, SF Playwright
There will be a reading of a scene from the play as well as monologues and dialogues from interested actors.
Interested in performing? Email media@foliosf.com for details

3-4
WEDNESDAY
6PM

World Read Aloud Day Pajama Party with Elizabeth Crane
Join us for hot chocolate, stories and fun!

WRITE NOW WORKSHOPS
at 7pm
2/3 & 3/3
For details email:
dallemolle.kathy@gmail.com

STORYTIME
at 10am
Every Wednesday

VALENTINE WEEKEND SALE!
All sale books will be an additional 50% off.
It is our way of saying
we love you Noe Valley.

Folio Books has a podcast:
Literary California
Subscribe at tiny.cc/foliopodcast

For a full description of all our upcoming events visit: foliosf.com/events

CALENDAR

Feb. 7-28: The Noe Valley Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day and Sanchez.205-5855; noevalleyreccenter.com.

Feb. 7-28: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 8 to 11 pm. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 7-March 14: 30th Street Senior Center/On Lok co-sponsors a free HEALTHIER LIVING workshop, Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon. Park Station Community room, 1899 Waller. 550-2257; cahelathierliving.org.

Feb. 8: OPERA for the People discusses Rodelinda by George Frideric Handel. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 9: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts readings from Laura McHale Holland's anthology, Sisters Born Sisters Found. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Feb. 9: Evan Goldstein discusses WINES of South America, sponsored by Omnivore Books. 7 pm., Jewish Community Center, 3200 California. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 9: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts readings from Laura McHale Holland's anthology, Sisters Born Sisters Found. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Feb. 9: Evan Goldstein discusses WINES of South America, sponsored by Omnivore Books. 7 pm., Jewish Community Center, 3200 California. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 10: NERT offers a personal EARTHQUAKE readiness training class from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Aidan's Church. Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. 970-2022; sfgov.org/sfnert.

Feb. 10: Laura Ackley discusses "Illuminating the Jewel City: Spectacular Lighting at the PANAMA-PACIFIC International Exposition. 7:30 pm. The Old Mint, 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Feb. 11: The Glen Park Library's monthly KNITTING CIRCLE continues from 4:30 to 6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 11: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group reads Herman Melville's short story Billy Budd, Sailor. 6:15-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

Feb. 11: Rebecca Katz discusses The HEALTHY MIND Cookbook: Big-Flavor Recipes to enhance Brain Function, Mood, Memory, and Mental



The Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company celebrates its 30th Anniversary season with Fiddler on the Roof through Feb. 8 at the Randall Museum Theater.

Photo by Quincy Stamper

Clarity. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 11 & 18: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to a calm canine; ages 4 to 7, but older welcome. 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 12: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

Feb. 12: Teacher/poets lead students in grades 4 through 12 in a free POETRY WRITING session, "We Are All Poets." 3:30-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 12: SCRABBLE Night at Folio Books begins at 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; RSVP to media@foliosf.com.

Feb. 13: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 2006 Will Smith FILM The Pursuit of Happyness, based on the book by Chris Gardner. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 13: TAIZE service at Holy Innocents Church is offered on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

Feb. 14: Learn HAMBONE body music from Joseph "Gye Nyame" and his grandmother Audrey "Gram." 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 14: Natural Resources invites you to meet doulas (2-4 pm) and home-birth MIDWIVES (4-6 pm). 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; naturalresources-sf.com.

Feb. 14: The Castro Theatre hosts a screening of Franco Zeffirelli's 1968 FILM Romeo & Juliet at 9:10 pm, following an interview with Leonard Whiting at 8 pm. 429 Castro. 863-0611; castrotheatre.com.

Feb. 15: PFLAG's support group meeting recaps the setbacks and triumphs for LGBT rights in 2014. 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflagssf@aol.com.

Feb. 15: Kristy Turner introduces But I Could Never Go VEGAN!: 125 Recipes That Prove You Can Live Without Cheese, It's Not All Rabbit Food, and Your Friends Will Still Come Over for Dinner. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 18: Matt Springer discusses "Home Preparedness in EARTHQUAKE Country." 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 18: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads Old Filth by Jane Gardam. 7 to 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 19: SF Rec and Parks and Supervisor Scott Wiener host a

COMMUNITY MEETING about the conditions at the Upper Douglass dog Park. 6:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez. scottwiener.com.

Feb. 19: Artist/author Henry Sultan introduces The Art of the Mandala at a 7 pm BOOK LAUNCH PARTY. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Feb. 20: Balinese ensemble Gamelan Sekar Jaya, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, and traditional Swedish dancers perform at the Rotunda Dance series at SF City Hall. Noon. dancersgroup.org.

Feb. 20: Folio Books hosts the BOOKWORMS CLUB for ages 8 to 12 on the third Friday of the month. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; RSVP at foliosf.com.

Feb. 21: Supervisor Scott Wiener's office is open to the public from 1 to 2 pm, at Church Street Café, 260 Church. 554-6968; scottwiener.com.

Feb. 21: Litquake hosts a master class mixer with CARA BLACK, "Paris As a Muse: Techniques for Bringing a Foreign Setting to Life." 1:30 pm. Litquake Office, Mechanics' Institute Library, 57 Post, Suite 604. Limited to 15 students, sign up at litquake.com.

Feb. 21: In honor of CHINESE NEW YEAR, Maria Fong leads a Lucky Fish craft workshop at the Glen Park Library. 2-3:30 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 21: Celebrate Black History Month at a screening of Julian Schnabel's 1996 FILM Basquiat, about the late New York City artist. 2-4 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 21: Pascale Beale discusses SALADE: Recipes from the Market Table. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 22: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents a concert by pianist Jeffrey LaDeur; "Masques and

Lullabies." 4 pm concert; 3:15 pm pre-concert talk. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

Feb. 23: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a Pop-Up Night of random short readings by readers including Kathy Dalle-Molle and Andrew McIntyre. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Feb. 24: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

Feb. 24: Hank Chapot discusses "Dolly Fine and the Fall of the House of McDonough: the 1937 POLICE GRAFT investigation" at a meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

Feb. 26: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 28: The Glen Park Library screens the 1943 Bette Davis FILM Old Acquaintance. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 28: Folio Books' Open Mike night is a FUNDRAISER for the production of SF playwright Aren Haun's The Name of the Monster. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477.



MARCH FORTH

The next Noe Valley Voice will be the **March 2015** issue, distributed the first week of March. The deadline for Calendar items is **Feb. 15**. Write Calendar, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146, or email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

What you need to know about YOUR

DIVORCE OPTIONS

Divorce Options is a 3 hour educational workshop offered monthly, equally appropriate if you are married or a state registered domestic partner, and with or without children.

Divorce Options is presented on the first Saturday of each month by a panel of collaboratively trained attorneys, financial professionals and mental health professionals, who are members of:

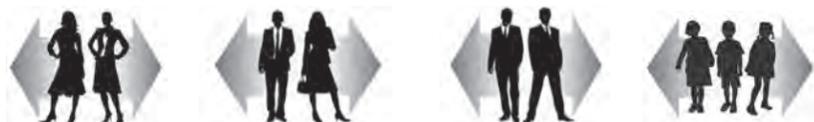
Collaborative Practice San Francisco.

Saturdays, February 7, and March 7
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7 – 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
& on the first Saturday morning most months.

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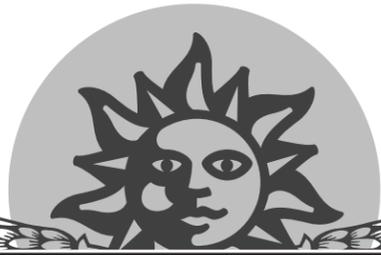
CITY ARTS & LECTURES 2015

ON ART & POLITICS

ALL PROGRAMS AT THE NOURSE, 7:30PM * UNLESS NOTED

- | | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| THURS FEB | 5 | ERIC SCHLOSSER <i>Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons and the Illusions of Safety</i> Fast Food Nation • Reeler Madness In conversation with PHIL BRONSTEIN |
| WED FEB | 11 | CO-PRESENTED WITH THE BELIEVER MAGAZINE NICK HORNBY Contributor to <i>The Believer</i> magazine • <i>High Fidelity</i> • <i>About a Boy</i> New Novel: <i>Funny Girl</i> Hosted by VENDELA VIDA |
| TUES MAR | 3 | CHUCK TODD NBC's <i>Meet the Press</i> New Book: <i>The Stranger: Barack Obama in the White House</i> In conversation with ROY EISENHARDT |
| FRI APR | 3 | SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK Philosopher • <i>The Sublime Object of Ideology</i> <i>God in Pain</i> • <i>Absolute Recoil</i> |
| THURS APR | 9 | JON RONSON <i>The Psychopath Test</i> • <i>The Men Who Stare at Goats</i> New Book: <i>So You've Been Publicly Shamed</i> In conversation with JON MOOALLEM |
| SUN APR | 19 | BARNEY FRANK Former Massachusetts Representative New Biography: <i>Frank</i> In conversation with Judson True * Program starts at 4pm |
| MON APR | 20 | CANDICE BERGEN Actress • <i>Murphy Brown</i> New Memoir: <i>A Fine Romance</i> In conversation with STEVEN WINN |
| TUES APR | 28 | DAVID BROOKS <i>New York Times</i> Op-Ed Columnist • <i>The Social Animal</i> <i>Bobos in Paradise</i> • New Book: <i>The Road to Depth</i> In conversation with ROBERT REICH |
| MON MAY | 4 | KARL OVE KNAUSGAARD Norwegian author • <i>My Struggle</i> Just Translated: <i>Volume 4</i> In conversation DANIEL HANDLER |
| THURS MAY | 14 | 85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GARY SNYDER <i>Turtle Island</i> • <i>Mountains and Rivers Without End</i> New Collection: <i>This Present Moment</i> Reading & conversation |
| THURS MAY | 21 | JOHN WATERS <i>Hairspray</i> • <i>Polyester</i> • <i>Pink Flamingos</i> Newest Book: <i>Carsick</i> In conversation with ADAM SAVAGE |
| WED MAY | 27 | SALLY MANN Photographer • <i>Immediate Family</i> • <i>What Remains</i> • <i>Deep South</i> New Book: <i>Hold Still</i> |

TICKETS & INFO: CITYARTS.NET or 415-392-4400



★ **NOE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET** ★

We're Seeking New Board Members!

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN DECEMBER 2003, the Noe Valley Farmers' Market has been a source of inspiration and hope in Noe Valley. This small neighborhood market meets the community's needs for fresh, local produce while helping to foster a community dedicated to caring and social justice. The market is governed by a local volunteer board that established and follows these three guiding principles:

1. Build community
2. Provide healthy food
3. Support a vibrant, local small-farm economy

We are looking to expand our board. Do you live in Noe Valley, shop at the market, and care deeply about our community? Then consider applying! Please email volunteer@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com for information.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1.

www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com



Free Yoga and Zumba Classes!

Yes, that's right: The Noe Valley Recreation Center, affectionately known as Upper Noe Rec (and to real oldtimers as Day Street Park), is offering free yoga and zumba dance classes through mid-March.

"Drop by and join in—no registration, no fees, no hassle," says Chris Faust, chair of the Community Recreation Council for the park, at 295 Day St. He adds that the rec center will provide all the equipment, including yoga mats.

The free yoga class is 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. on Saturdays. Free Zumba will be offered on Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Have more energy to burn? Check out the dozens of Rec and Park classes in the Winter Session, continuing through mid-March (see below). Some allow drop-ins or are free, like the Senior Argentine Tango on Thursday afternoons.

Meanwhile, if you want to help shape the programming at the park—a community theater, anyone?—attend the next meeting of the Council, on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. It's co-sponsored by the group Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center. To tend the earth or see the new garden on the Sanchez Street side of the park, join Ladybug Gardeners on Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. to noon. Don't forget gloves and a hat for sun protection.

The Noe Valley Recreation Center is generally open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **However, it will be closed from March 23 to April 4, for floor refinishing.** Faust says the extended closure is to allow fumes to dissipate completely.

The field and Joby's Dog Run at the Church Street end of the park will stay open. The dogs' hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. For the scoop on this and other details, visit www.noevalleyrecenter.com or call 415-970-8061.

—Sally Smith

UPPER NOE REC CENTER WINTER CLASSES – JAN. 6-MARCH 14, 2015

| | |
|--|---|
| MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.) | |
| Tennis (7-12 yrs) | Mon., 3:30-4:30 p.m. |
| TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) | |
| Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs) 1...2...3...Ready (10 mos-3 yrs) Soccer (3-5 yrs) Tots Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs) Open Gym Auditorium Free Play QuickStart Tennis (8-13 yrs) Combat Athletics, Int. (8-16 yrs) Soccer (5-8 yrs.) Soccer (9-12 yrs.) Tennis (adult intermediate) Yoga (adult) Boot Camp (14+) | Tues., 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tues., 10-11:30 a.m. Tues., 10-11 a.m. Tues., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tues., noon-3 p.m.; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tues., 1-3:30 p.m. Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tues., 4-5:30 p.m. Tues. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tues. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tues., 6-7 p.m. Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) | |
| Baby and Me (1-3 yrs) Pilates (adult) Open Gym Auditorium Free Play Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs) Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs) Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (5-6 yrs) Tennis (adult beginner/intermediate) Volleyball (adult; drop-in fee \$5) | Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wed., noon-2:30 p.m. Wed., 1-2:30 p.m. Wed., 3-4 p.m. Wed., 4:15-5:30 p.m. Wed., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wed., 6:30-8 p.m. Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| THURSDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) | |
| 1...2...3...Ready (10 mos-3 yrs) Tots Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs) Open Gym Argentine Tango, beginner (55+) Mini Players Acting (5-6 yrs) Zumba (family; free) Yoga (adult) Core Stability and Balance (adult) | Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m. Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thurs., noon-5 p.m., 6:15-8:30 p.m. Thurs., 1-4 p.m. Thurs., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thurs., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thurs., 7:45-8:45 p.m. |
| FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) | |
| Baby and Me (1-3 yrs) Pilates (adult) Open Gym Auditorium Free Play So You Think You Can Act (7-11 yrs) Combat Athletics (8-16 yrs) Skateboarding: Shred 'n' Butter (6-13 yrs) Women's Futsal (adult; drop-in fee \$5) Future Chefs (9-13 yrs) | Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fri., noon-6 p.m. Fri., 1-3 p.m. Fri., 3:30-4:30 p.m. Fri., 4:30-6 p.m. Fri., 4:30-6 p.m. Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30-8 p.m. |
| SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) | |
| Yoga (free) Soccer (3-4 yrs) Zumba (family; free) The Art of Baking Bread (adult) Auditorium Free Play QuickStart Tennis (5-8 yrs) | Sat., 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sat., 10-11 a.m. Sat., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sat., 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat., noon-4:30 p.m. (time varies) Sat., 1-2 p.m. |
| SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.) | |
| Tennis (8-11 yrs) | Sun., noon-1 p.m. |



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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

New Year, New Noe

By Mazook

CHANGING FACES: The proposed demolition of the Real Food store across from Whole Foods—and construction of a new building in its place—is again making front-page news (see page 1). Like the rest of the neighborhood, I went to the community meeting on the project held Thursday night, Jan. 22, at St. Philip's. An interesting point made by many of those who attended was that the design submitted for our review looked rather ordinary. Scott Wiener likened it to "Upper Market." Another critique was: "You guys have a great opportunity to build something special there, and this design is very unspecial."

This is just me talking, but I have to say I agree. I was reminded of that famous line in the movie *On the Waterfront*, when Marlon Brando said to Rod Steiger: "I could'a had class. I could'a been a contender..."

But the times, they are a changin'. Down 24th Street almost to Church, a new ground-floor commercial building with three residences upstairs (3820 24th) should be finished sometime in March, according to developer Brian Kendall. All the residential units will be offered for sale, and the commercial space, including basement, either rented or sold.

Each of the three condos has three bedrooms and three baths, swimming in 1,600 to 1,700 square feet of space. Two of the units have three levels and include a roof garden. The price per condo will be "around two million dollars each, with the upper two a little more and the lower a little less," says Kendall.

As for the commercial space, it has 2,100 square feet and the basement 1,400 square feet. Kendall says if the space is leased, he expects the rent, with base rent and common area expenses, to be "around \$18,000 per month."

"There have been several inquiries, but we are

dealing with a smaller pool of [prospective tenants or buyers], and there hasn't been that much interest since people are waiting until we can open it up," he says.

The commercial space has high ceilings (15 feet), "which were required by the city for a retail use," says Kendall, "because the city doesn't want short ceilings in retail." Hmm.

So if the building seems to look higher than the others around it, it is. It's five feet above the 40-foot limit for our commercial corridor, due to that higher-ceiling requirement. Also, "no restaurants are permitted for the premises [because of] power issues with PG&E."

Parking? "With the commercial space plan, the city said parking would not be permitted," Kendall says. That means no "curb cuts" for a garage, which means (or should mean) a public parking space out front. We'd all win, right?

See you at the open house. (Sorry, they don't know the date yet.) I will be "just looking."

The Real Food folks will be taking a look too. By the way, is there going to be another community meeting on the Real Food design?

If there is one, I would respectfully suggest that no one look back at what happened in the past. Without the events of 11 years ago, we would have neither a farmers market nor a town square. Let's look forward.



YOU THE BOM DIA: The changing demographics (and economics) of Noe Valley can be seen in the transformation of the classic old-time corner store at Sanchez and 29th from St. Paul's Market to Bom Dia (which is "good morning" in Portuguese). The change occurred in December. Those shelves of Wonder Bread, Fritos, and Milky Ways have been replaced by Sour Flower Bread and Kika's Treats. There's a bigger wine selection, and the prices have jumped accordingly. The old freezer case with sandwiches has been replaced by a deli counter that could make the store worthy of a 15-minute green zone.

Owner Shivani Ganguly says this is her first venture, but she's worked in the food industry for several years. "I lived in the Mission for many years [and just recently moved to Pacifica], and I shopped in Upper Noe Valley for many years."

"We have coffee and pastry, select grocery items and staples, flowers, some fresh vegetables and fruit, a wide selection of wines," says Ganguly, "and should soon have more shelves, which are being custom-made, allowing for more [items], and we will soon have a wider selection of beers." Also, she notes, "We have many cus-

tomers who come in before leaving the neighborhood or on their way home, and get a quick prepared lunch or dinner." The most popular requests, according to Ganguly, are Roast Chicken, Trout Salad, and Muhammara, a dip made with roasted red pepper, walnuts, and ancho chili peppers.



CATCH A WAVE: Patrons of our only video outlet (as opposed to inlets) Video Wave, which for 30 years has been on Castro near Jersey, had two meetings during the last week of January called by Video Wave's Gwen Sanderson and Colin Hutton to discuss the future of this wonderful neighborhood resource. Last month's *Voice* had their open letter to the editor.

"First of all," says Sanderson, "I want to make it clear that we are not closing and have no intention of closing, although our lease is up in July and we have this ADA legal action to deal with, as well as the need for space for our [very large] library—so this is a 'first round,' providing information to our customers about the challenges we have and proposing some solutions, which include customers' suggestion of a paid membership."

"In the second round," says Sanderson, "which will happen sometime in the end of February, we will meet to discuss action items." She says that emails went out to about a thousand of their currently active customers.

If you want more information, you can contact Sanderson at Videowavesf@earthlink.net. It is the closest thing we have to a movie theater in this neighborhood—and the popcorn in always free.

TugTug, the stylish children's apparel boutique which was two doors west of St. Clair's, has moved down 24th Street to 1003 Guerrero. The 24th Street space, as well as the space occupied by Successories next door, are destined for demolition and replacement by a ground-floor commercial use and residential units above.

Successories owner Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau says she is hangin' in there and hoping to find a suitable location soon. The building owners say no, they have not gotten any permits yet. The TugTug space could be a good place for a pop-up.

And the trend in Downtown Noe Valley of space-sharing has come to Buttons Candy Bar. It now shares half of its space with Verbena Maison, which sells things like jellies and preserves, soap, candles, some chocolates, and pasta.

The UPS Store, relocating to 3813 24th St.,

between Church and Vicksburg, should reopen by the end of February, revamped. The mailboxes will be the first things installed.

Streetlight Records, a Noe Valley institution for 30 years until it closed eight years ago, is now closing its Eureka Valley store at 2350 Market near Castro, effective when a new tenant takes over the space.



NO ESCAPING: In other Downtown Noe Valley news, you might find it easier not to drive on 24th Street for the next many weeks, since the 24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Project is now officially under way.

The project includes installing two bus bulbs with "site furnishings" at Castro and 24th streets and one at 24th and Noe. Also, the regular crosswalks on 24th and Castro will be replaced with "decorative" ones, and new crosswalks will be installed down 24th at Noe, at Sanchez, and at Church streets.

In Douglass Park news, the Upper Douglass Dog Park will be the subject of a Recreation and Park Department community meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at the Upper Noe Rec Center at Day and Sanchez streets. The discussion will focus on operational plans and hopefully some improvements to the dog park, which has been closed because of drainage problems. This could be a long meeting.



ON PATROL: Capt. Dan Perea reports that starting the first week of February, there will be two police officers walking the 24th Street beat.

"I really appreciate the patience of the merchants up there," says Perea, referring to last year's spotty coverage of 24th Street, what with officers out with injuries and a staff shortage in general. "We were really stretched. But I'm happy I'm able to do it [dedicate two officers] now."

He says Officers Bill Ahern and Lou Barberini will cover 24th Street/Noe Valley every day, Sunday through Saturday. "They'll focus on the needs of merchants, residents, and visitors to Noe Valley. That will be their primary purpose," says Perea, who's headed the station since last March.

If you have an issue you need to talk about, email Officer Ahern or Barberini by writing theirFirstName.LastName@sfgov.org, he says. Or follow them on Twitter: @SFPDMission.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33



ON THE FORE! FRONT: Remember the days when Steve Fox and Leslie Crawford turned their house on 24th Street (above Douglass) into a miniature golf course and invited the neighborhood? The annual event grew to over 200 participants and then after several years was discontinued. But the idea remained in Fox's brain, as he worked as editor at P.C. World Publishing.

Three years ago, Fox quit his job and undertook building Urban Putt, a 14-hole miniature golf course in a big building in the Mission, at 22nd and South Van Ness. Cost overruns and delays moved the target date back several times but on May 5, 2014, the doors opened [see *Voice*, March 2014]. Well, dream come true or nightmare? Answer: Dream come true.

Fox says that "over 75,000 people have played miniature golf since we opened, our restaurant is very popular and busy, our events calendar is very busy with many company parties, especially in the tech companies, but mostly San Franciscans. We have three groups: families on Saturdays and Sundays, the 31 to 40 crowd in the evenings for our bar and restaurant, and thirdly, the special events groups."

Says Steve, "It has gotten so busy that Leslie quit her day job and is now working at Urban Putt as the full-time events director."



KUDOS GO OUT to Jersey Street resident Jeff Troiano, a single dad with a day job, who has recently released a new album of original songs. He says his *Fog and Stones* CD was produced by Dave Sampson, "a hot-shot guitarist from Petaluma," and it can be found at, among other places, Bernie's Coffee on 24th Street.

Troiano says his sound is "folk-rock heaven," a mix of Gram Parsons, Neil Young, the Eagles, Ray LaMontagne, and Jeff Beck. The release party for his record is set for Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Roaring Donkey in Petaluma.

Troiano is a regular performer at the Noe Valley Farmers Market, and he will celebrate his CD release there on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Cheers also go to longtime Noe Valley resi-

dent Robert Dawson, whose 2014 book, *The Public Library: A Photographic Essay*, has now gone into its second printing. The foreword is written by Bill Moyers, and it includes essays by Ann Patchett, Anne Lamott, Amy Tan, and Barbara Kingsolver.

It contains the photographs of hundreds of public libraries Dawson has visited over the past 18 years, ranging from the majestic reading room at the New York City Public Library to California's one-room public library, the Mary Dickerson Library, which opened on July 4, 1913.

In movieland, *Spare Parts* was released by Lionsgate on Jan. 19. The film was inspired by a magazine article (later a book) by Noe Valley author Joshua Davis. It tells the story of a group of Latino high school kids whose robotics design beat MIT's in a national contest.



REST IN PEACE: Downtown Noe Valley was in mourning Monday morning, Jan. 19. News spread up and down 24th Street around 9 a.m. that one of its denizens had collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack in front of Bernie's Coffee. Every one of you who's spent time on our main street must have run into Greg Gutknecht. Most who knew him knew him just as "Greg." As the news spread, so did a thousand stories and remembrances.

I thought I knew him, but I learned so much more talking to Greg's friends at a memorial held in the beer garden of the Valley Tavern the Sunday after he died. It was attended by more than 50 people. Many had tears in their eyes when they spoke about him.

To those who didn't know him well, he was just a homeless person. People walking down the street would avoid him, especially if he asked them for a cigarette.

While it is true that Gutknecht spent about 10 years living first in the parks and later the garages and alleys of Noe Valley, the past seven years had been great for him. He got Social Security and was able to rent a room on Grand View, at the top of 24th Street, with a wonderful view.

He became homeless because of a personal tragedy and then the loss of his job at Wells Fargo Bank, a job he'd had for almost 30 years. He moved here, he told people, because he felt it was safe.

Soon he was doing odd jobs for several merchants. He became an integral part of the cleanup crew at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. This fall, he was honored by the NVFM for his 10 years of service by two of its founders, Peter



Greg Gutknecht (center) was honored with a party last fall, for a decade of service to the Noe Valley Farmers Market on 24th Street. Gutknecht died on Jan. 19. Photo courtesy Regina Starr Ridley

Gabel and Leslie Crawford.

One of his regular odd jobs for several merchants was to take their money to the bank for deposit. One merchant told me that once the count on a deposit was five dollars long (over) and when Gutknecht came back to report the discrepancy, and the merchant thanked him, his reply was, "Oh, good. I thought you were just testing me."

What most did not know was that Gutknecht was not poor at all. Every morning he could be seen reading the newspaper outside of Martha's Coffee on his stoop, or if you went by the Noe Valley Tavern at 6:30 a.m. on weekdays, you would see him sitting at the bar and watching the stock market ticker on TV. He was also an expert in American coins, and many talked about his numismatic skills (study and collection of rare coins). He knew what a 1909-S VDB Lincoln head penny was all about, and that it was going for over \$500 on eBay. (The penny initially was minted in 1909; the S stands for San Francisco, and the VDB for the initials of the sculptor of Lincoln's head on the penny, Victor David Brenner.)

Gutknecht was born on April 4, 1946, at Stan-

ford Hospital. His father was a well-known veterinarian in Redwood City. Greg joined the army and went to Vietnam, came back and instead of following in his father's footsteps, moved to San Francisco. He wanted to be part of the Summer of Love, but this created a huge rift between him and his family. (They all had reconciled in the last few years). To his close friends Gutknecht bragged about his "going out" with Joan Baez.

I was told by several of his friends that his estate is "in the hundreds of thousands of dollars." Said one friend, "That was his stake in the stock and gold markets, and not something for him to spend.... Actually he was very frugal." However, if someone helped him, and he saw that person at his regular hangout—the Valley Tavern—he would buy that person a drink, and if the person was in need, slip them a \$20 bill.

Everyone I talked with remembered him as the nicest guy they'd ever met. Some said just knowing him was a humbling experience. And many said the lesson they learned from Gutknecht was never judge a book by its cover. Amen.

So long, Greg. I didn't know you that well over all these years, but I have met a lot of people who did. You will be truly missed. ■

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MUNI TRACKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Twin Peaks Tunnel Community Meeting

Please join us to discuss the Twin Peaks Tunnel Trackway Improvements project on Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Castro Community Meeting Room at 501 Castro Street (at 18th street, above Bank of America).

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will provide further information and address your questions and concerns at the meeting.

For more information and updates in the meantime, please visit www.sfmta.com/twinpeaks.

Summary:

SFMTA, which operates Muni, is replacing the light rail tracks along the entirety of the Twin Peaks Tunnel in an effort to keep the Muni system in a state of good repair, allowing trains to move faster through the tunnel and improve travel times. Additional work to the tunnel's infrastructure will take place at the same time as the track replacement.

The tunnel connects Castro Station to West Portal Station and carries a number of the light rail lines, including the K, L and M.

For Muni route, schedule, fare and accessible services information anytime: Visit www.sfmta.com or contact 311
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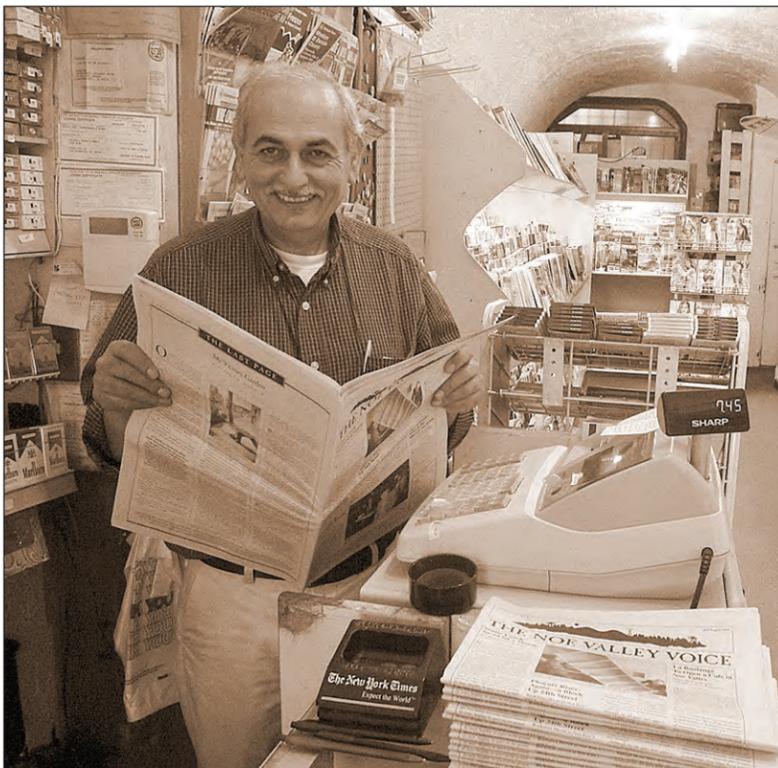


Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Jim Chappell (left) and Jim Jeong read about their hometown Muni transportation while waiting for the Victoria Peak Tram in Hong Kong.

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PUBLIC LIFE PLAN

MUNI FORWARD

THE SFMTA AND SF PLANNING ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO IMPROVE THE 14 MISSION CORRIDOR. JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE TO LEARN MORE!

The final open house of the Mission Street Public Life Plan will highlight the outcome of an 18-month community planning process that promotes Mission Street as a vital transit corridor with art, local commerce, and public spaces for everyone to enjoy. Please join us to celebrate the community work and to discuss next steps to make it happen!

Also at the open house, Muni will share proposed improvements for the 14/14L Mission that will enhance pedestrian safety and Muni reliability along Mission Street. This effort is part of Muni Forward's initiative to create a Rapid Network that prioritizes frequency and reliability on our most heavily used lines.

Proposed improvements will:

- Enhance pedestrian safety by removing turn conflicts at busy intersections
- Improve route reliability by optimizing transit stop locations
- Make boarding the bus quicker and more comfortable by adding transit sidewalk extensions
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If you are unable to attend or would like to provide comments online, please take our online survey at www.muniforward.com/14survey.



Reading All Around the World



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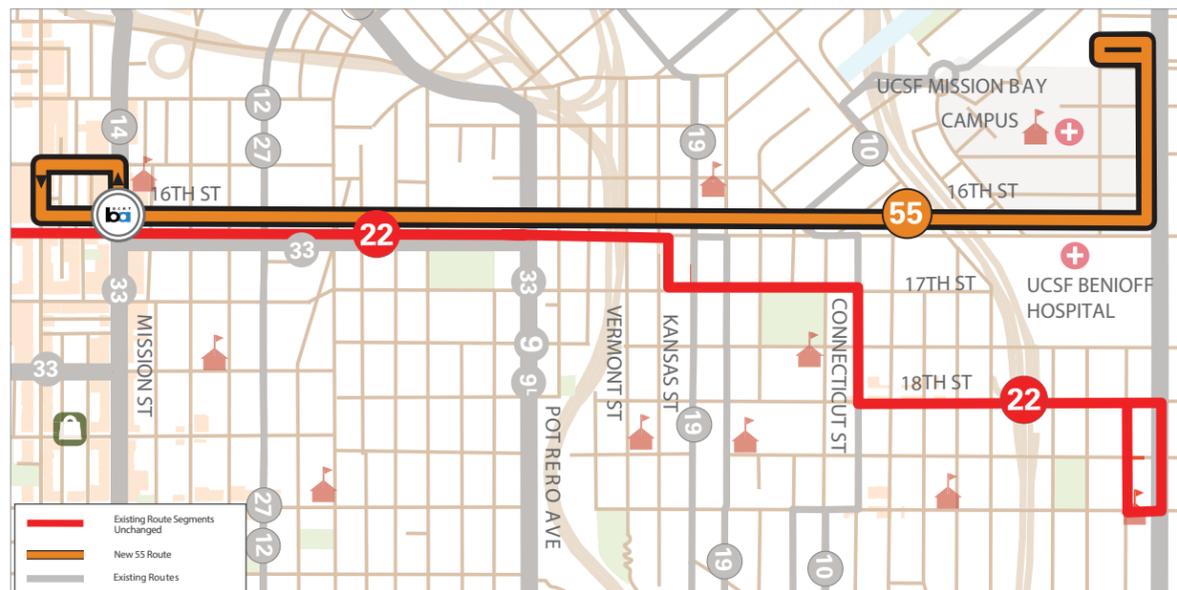
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 Website: www.al-anon.org
 Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.
 St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street through parking lot)

Castro Area Planning + Action
 Contact: 621-0120
 Email: info@capasf.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association
 Website: www.evna.org
 Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

Castro Farmers' Market
 Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m. (March through December), Noe Street at Market Street
 Contact: Steve Adams, 431-2359
 Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; www.CastroMerchants.com

Diamond Heights Community Association
 Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Website: www.dhcasf.org
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
 Email: info@doloresheights.org
 Website: www.doloresheights.org
 Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
 Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association
 Contact: Gregg Brooks
 Email: sflyric@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Email for details.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
 Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
 Mailing Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 The annual street fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill
 Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
 Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
 Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
 Website: www.friendsofdolorespark.org
 Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
 Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
 Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
 Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
 Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
 Meetings: Two or three annually; held at St. Philip's Church or James Lick School

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center
 Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park
 Contact: Alexandra Torre, Kate Haug, or Molly Sterkel
 Email: info@noevalleyrecenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyrecenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Juri Commoners
 Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon. Check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
 Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro
 Contact: 835-8720
 Email: info@castromerchants.com
 Mailing Address: 584 Castro St. #333, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Call for details.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District
 Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call Ron Vanini, 596-7089.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: www.noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
 Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com
 Website: noevalleydems.com
 Meetings: Third Wednesdays, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm meeting dates.

Noe Valley Farmers Market
 Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Library Campaign
 Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com
 Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 626-7500, info@friendssfpl.org

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
 Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687
 Meetings: Last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April, July, October, and November, at Bank of America, second floor, 9 a.m. Breakfast meetings May and September at Noe's Nest, 10 a.m.
 Website: www.No ValleyMerchants.com

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
 Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
 http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879
 Meetings: See website for training schedules.

Noe Valley Parent Network
 An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco
 Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Residents for Noe Valley Town Square
 Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleytownsquare.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets
 Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See website.

SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores
 Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480
 Email: safecleangreen@bigfoot.com
 Website: www.safecleangreen.com

Upper Noe Neighbors
 Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Email: president@uppernoeneighbors.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St., 7:30 p.m.

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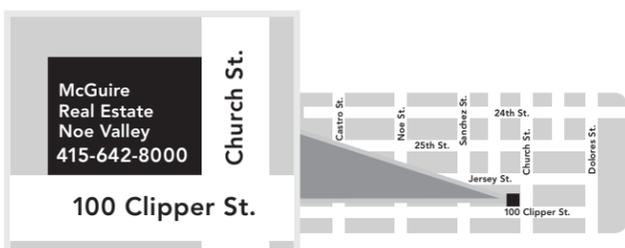
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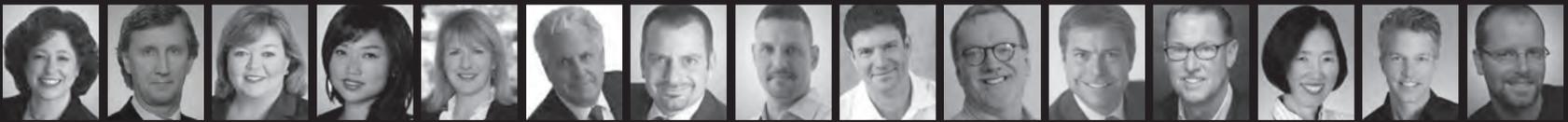
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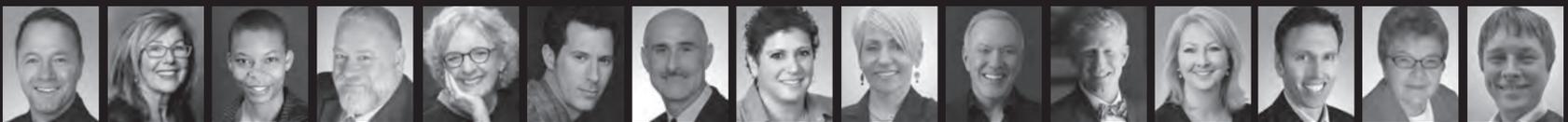
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