



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Radio Station Eyes Rec Center For Antenna

Transmitter Would Be on Roof of Day Street Building

By Matthew S. Bajko

A new public radio station is eyeing the Upper Noe Recreation Center as the home for its antenna, which it hopes would enable it to broadcast throughout much of the city.

The San Francisco Public Press, a nine-year-old nonprofit investigative news organization, won a license from the Federal Communications Commission for the partial broadcasting rights to radio station 102.5 FM. It hopes to launch its low-power FM radio station, called KSFP, by the end of June.

“We feel it is a natural extension of what we do,” said Michael Stoll, the news organization’s executive director and co-founder. “It is nonprofit, non-commercial, and about public affairs.”

But first it must find a place to install its broadcasting equipment, consisting of a low-power FM radio transmitter and antenna. Volunteer radio engineers working on the station have proposed placing the equipment on the roof of the city-owned recreation building at 295 Day St., between Church and Sanchez.

It would produce 100 watts for the terrestrial FM radio transmission. The signal should be able to reach most of the city, the engineers believe, apart from the neighborhoods closest to Ocean Beach and the Presidio.

The Public Press is petitioning the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to allow it to test out placing an antenna on the rooftop of the Noe facility for one day in December to see if it will work. If successful, then they will pursue a formal agreement with the city agency

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**The Kids Are All Right.** Eleven-year-old Ryker Fionn Rush shows off a school engineering award. For more photos and the story on what makes this youngster special, see Katie Burke’s Noe Kids column on page 15. Photo by Art Bodner



**Walking in a Noe Wonderland.** A sunny stroll on 24th Street can yield an armful of great gift ideas. Photo by Art Bodner

## Gift Buying for Kids—on a Budget

Noe Valley Flush With Toys and Books

By Olivia S. Boler

For many, the arrival of December brings the joy and stresses of holiday gift buying. Finding the perfect item to match your niece or nephew’s latest obsession can be daunting, especially when trying to stay within a budget and shop local. To help head off some of that stress—and establish more of the joy—the *Voice* asked a few Noe Valley merchants to recommend their favorite gift ideas for babies through tweens. The parameters: the

gift should be \$25 or under, and something that will last beyond the holidays—no Grinch socks, please.

**Charlie’s Corner**  
4102 24th Street  
415-641-1104

This bookstore caters to young folk, from babies to teenagers. While they do carry some stuffed animals, such as monkey finger puppets (\$14), really, it’s all about the written word here. Bookseller Elise Filka recommends several titles with the aim of lifting up girls.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Awash in Blue: Election Results Lift Democrats’ Gloomy Spirits

By Matthew S. Bajko

It has been two years of despair for many Democrats in Noe Valley since Donald Trump upended the political world with his election as president in 2016. Many channeled their disappointment, outrage, and fears into marching for a number of causes during the first year of the Trump era.

They also organized and laid out plans for how residents of deep blue San Francisco—a Republican has not held any elected office in the city for four years—could exert influence in flipping control of Congress to Democrats in this year’s midterm elections. As the *Voice* reported earlier this year, various neighborhood groups emerged to assist in the effort, such as Democracy Action and Action SF.

Members of the groups penned letters, sent texts, or made calls to voters in districts around the state and country where Democratic candidates were seen as having the best chance of defeating their GOP opponents. Some traveled out to House

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## Where Your Hopes Can Grow

The Wishing Tree Takes Root On 23rd Street

By Katie Burke

When Vanessa Sabarese created her first holiday Wishing Tree in 2011, loneliness was her muse.

“I started the tree out of desperation,” Sabarese said. “Instead of [the holidays being] the most wonderful time of year, I was feeling disconnected.”

At the time, Sabarese viewed the holiday season as purely materialistic. As a single person, she felt more alone in the winter months. The tree, initially outside the Eureka Street apartment Sabarese rented then, was her attempt to change her perception, to lift her mood.

Sabarese also wanted to give the surrounding community a place to reveal their secret hopes, “to stop and be real with ourselves,” recognizing that need in herself.

A Victorian box tree stood outside Sabarese’s apartment. Her landlords adorned it with a string of white lights, and she added sequined ribbons for hanging the tags on which people would write their wishes. Then she set out jars holding blank tags and pens, with a sign that read: “Make a wish, any wish. Or leave words of gratitude.” She also set out a seasonal bench on the sidewalk, in front of the tree.

Seven years later, the Wishing Tree is an annual Noe Valley tradition.

Every night of Wishing Tree season, Sabarese laminates and punches a hole in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Voice to Publish Again in January

Many *Voice* readers are familiar with the vacation schedule your favorite editors have been indulging in for the past 40 years or so: the July and August editions and the December and January papers are combined giving the *Voice* a summer and winter break.

We changed this up in the winter of 2018, and owing to the positive response, will do it again.

In 2019, a special January edition will hit the streets and the internet. It will feature many of our regular columns, and a look back at the highlights of 2018 as reported in these pages.

To participate, get us your news and notices by Dec. 15. For display ads, contact Pat Rose (415-608-7634), by Dec. 20.

See you in the new year!

Jack Tipple and Sally Smith  
Editors and Co-Publishers

OPENSFHISTORY



**Transit First:** The Market Street Railway's streetcar No. 987 passes under a Southern Pacific Railroad trestle as it travels east on 29th Street between Church and Dolores streets. (The line's terminus was up the hill at 29th and Noe.) The spires of St. Paul's on Church Street can be seen in the background.

*Circa 1940 photo courtesy OpensFHHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

# Happy Holidays!

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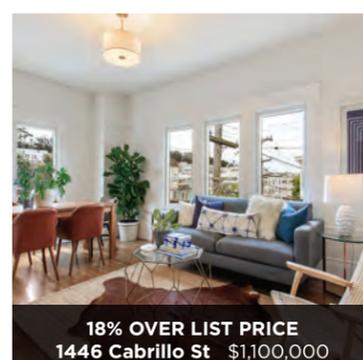
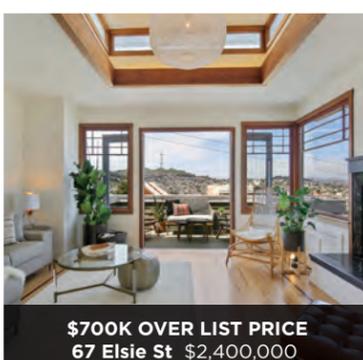
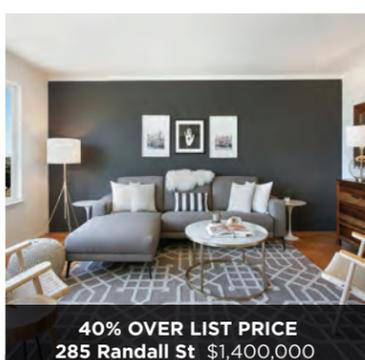
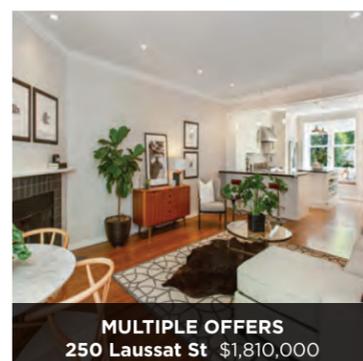
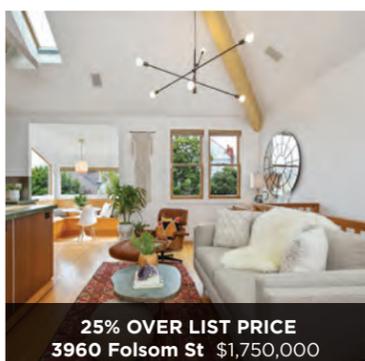
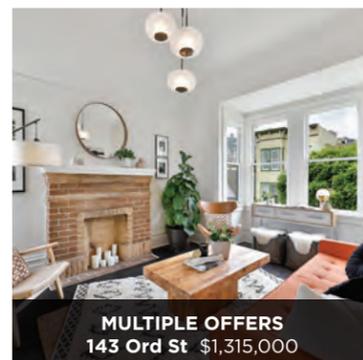
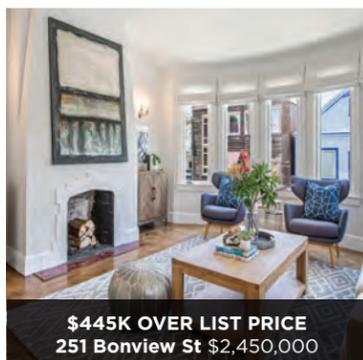
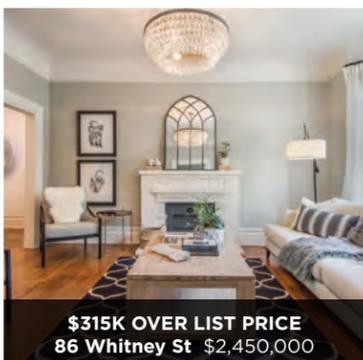
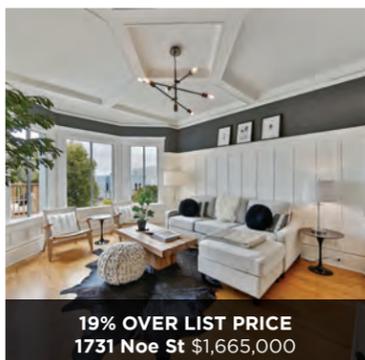
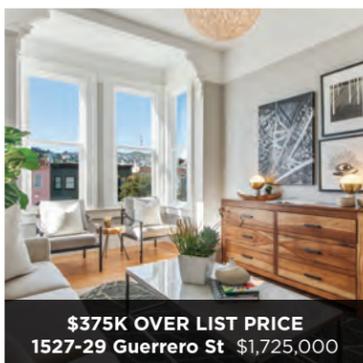
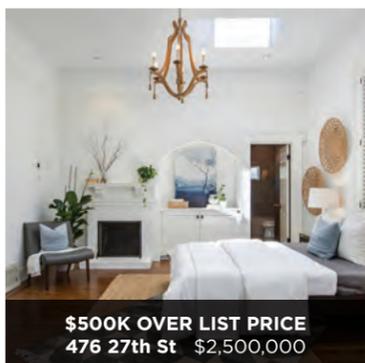
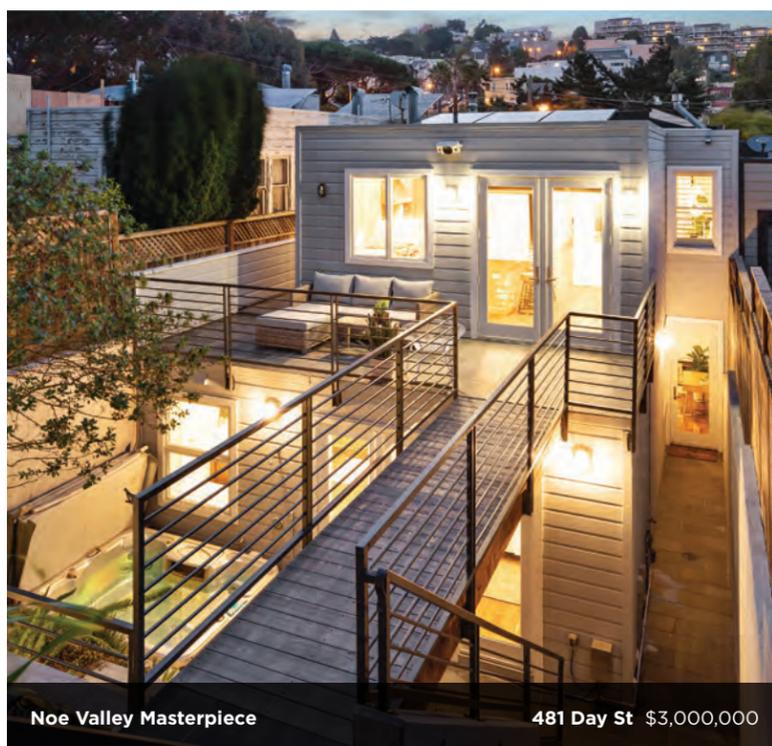
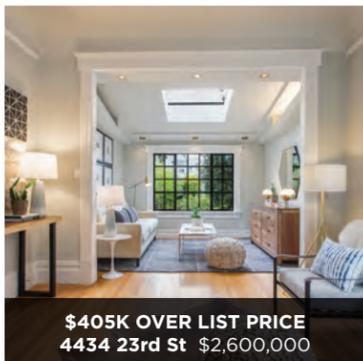
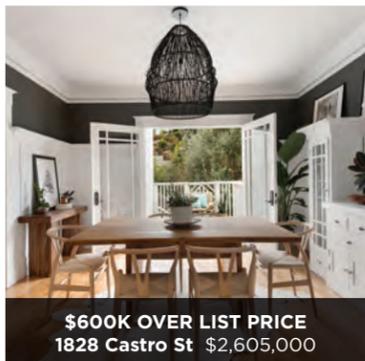
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Here are some of Jessica's **FABULOUS 2018 listings and sales:**



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\*Stats based on 2018 Single Family Home MLS data at the time of print



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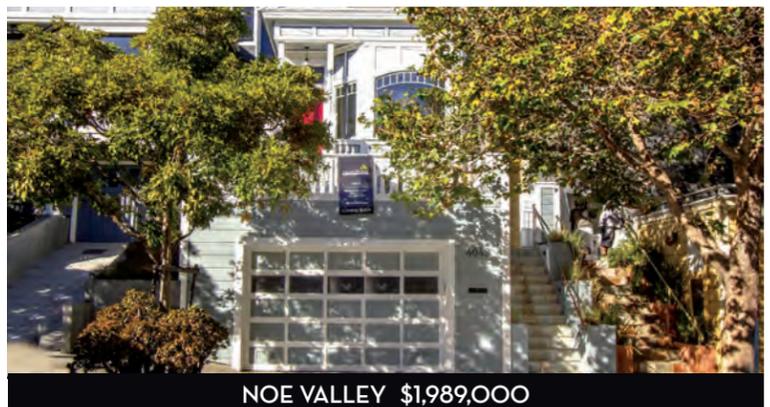
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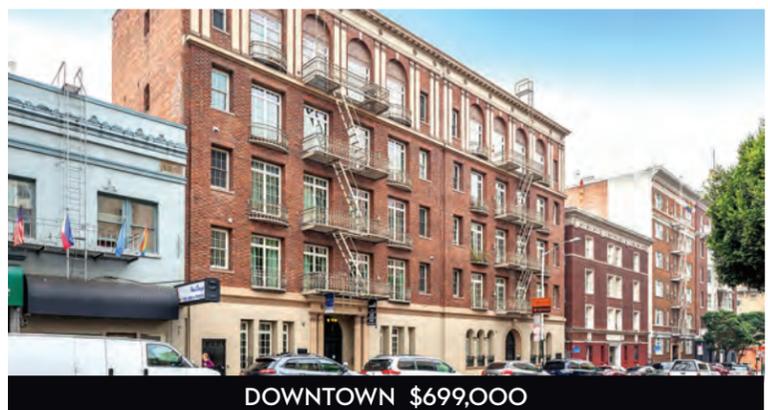
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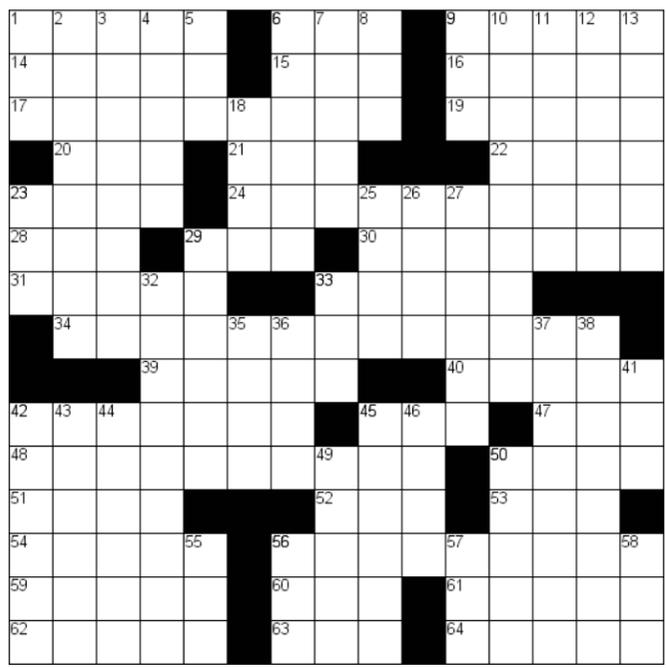
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### THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Tom Swift in Noe Valley

- ACROSS**
- Creator of praiseful poems
  - Quit, with "out"
  - Ski-slope transportation
  - Peruvian city
  - Pep rally cry
  - Correo \_\_\_ (air mail, amigos)
  - "The Noe Valley Ministry closed before I could cast my ballot there," Tom said \_\_\_.
  - "You are not!" rebuttal
  - Earn after taxes
  - Anti-trafficking org.
  - \_\_\_ Bator
  - Not all, but nearly
  - I'm 2 inches taller since I started taking supplements I bought at Whole Foods!" Tom said \_\_\_.
  - Bulky TV screen of old
  - D.D.E.'s political rival
  - Amahl and the Night Visitors composer
  - Swabs you're not supposed to stick in your ear
  - Get sweet, as fruit
  - At St. Luke's, they took out my right ventricle, Tom said \_\_\_.
  - Wanted-poster word
  - Wheel of Fortune buys
  - Folgers rival
  - PC text-scanning initials
  - "Bad" cholesterol
  - I love that week when the Blue Angels come to San Francisco, Tom said \_\_\_.
  - Word Week VIP
  - Actor Neeson
  - Pop-up annoyances
  - Photo option at



- DOWN**
- Disorder that some want to call CDO, so the letters would be in order
  - East Palo Alto's direction from Palo Alto, ironically
  - Russian newspaper whose name means "newspaper"
  - Sen. Wiener
  - Stroller denizen
  - What wait staffers at Novy take
  - 2005 Survivor island nation
  - Lord's Prayer possessive
  - Word after Mai or before chi
  - High fashion, from French for "lovely world"
  - Sleeve band worn by a mourner
  - Treat an icy street again
  - Woody's stepdaughter, then wife
  - Competitive advantage
  - 1974 John Wayne title role
  - Muslim ruler
  - Aug follower
  - "In \_\_\_ and out..."
  - Comparable to a pancake?
  - Kind of test that may allow you to skip a class
  - Actress Charlotte
  - Yesteryear's stereo
  - Not odd
  - Malawi's capital
  - Musical alpinist
  - Absolute (Abbr.)
  - Niners and Raiders, e.g.
  - Actress Cuthbert of 24
  - Add cumin, say
  - Senescence
  - Target of some surgery
  - Trudeau or Kasparov
  - "Primo" order at Bacco
  - Ocean
  - Part of OMG
  - Contraceptive choice
  - QB stat metric

**Solution on Page 28**  
Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)



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**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
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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.

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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



And that's how he does it all in one night! The Dasher App! Now available on iTunes, Google Play, and Just For Fun in Noe Valley!

LETTERS

**A Victory for Tenants**

Editors:

We wanted to update the community with some good news on the continuing quest of longtime senior tenants Michael and Connie Juarez to remain in their home at 79 28th St.

As reported in the *Voice* last April, developer Gene Kristul withdrew his building permit after facing fierce opposition at the Planning Commission, including a petition signed by over 200 neighbors and community businesses. But the owner proceeded to try to evict them under the Ellis Act, which in theory allows a legitimate landlord to exit the rental business but has become an unscrupulous legal

dodge used by some to kick out longtime tenants and demolish and develop property for speculative profits under the guise of “remodeling.”

On Nov. 2, Michael and Connie won their challenge to that Ellis Act eviction, with Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay ruling the eviction had not been done in conformance with the city’s rent ordinance.

While this victory will ensure at least another year of continued tenancy, it remains unclear whether the developer will refile the Ellis Act eviction and try to force them out again. But for the moment, the Grinch has been thwarted and the Juarez family can enjoy the upcoming holidays without the anxiety of having nowhere to put up their Christmas tree.

A heartfelt thanks to all who have supported and continue to support Michael and Connie in their efforts to remain Noe Valley residents and preserve affordable housing.

Tom Ruiz  
 28th Street

**Class Ads Found Wanting**

Editors:

I’m just wondering what happened to your classified ads. There used to be two or more pages of them, but when I picked up the latest issue, there were less than 10 ads total.

Your paper used to be the first place I turned when I was looking for a B&B, pet sitter, or local household maintenance help. Did you raise your rates or something?

Many thanks from a former fan.  
 David Lewis

*Editors’ Reply: Our rate (40¢ a word) hasn’t increased for over a decade, and your memory of two pages full of Class Ads goes back quite a number of years!*

*We’re not sure of the reason for the decline except that the ever-expanding world of the internet offers a number of other options for advertisers, some of them free. We hope you’ll still find value in our editorial offerings, however, and that we can win you back as a fan.*

Reply to Editors’ Reply: Thank you, dear editors, for your kind reply. I guess I had

**BOOKS FOR DOG LOVERS**

Paula Benton, who was one of the Noe Valley dog trainers featured in “Winning at Both Ends of the Leash,” a story by Olivia Boler in the October 2018 issue of the *Voice*, sent us a list of books she recommends to her clients. We lapped it up!

**Dog Training**

*Oh Behave! From Pavlov to Premack to Pinker* by Jean Donaldson  
*The Puppy Primer* by Patricia McConnell & Brenda Scidmore  
*Train Your Dog Positively* by Victoria Stilwell  
*Ruff Love* by Susan Garrett  
*Parenting Your Dog* by Trish King  
*Before Getting Your New Puppy* by Ian Dunbar (free online)

**Rescue Dog Adoption**

*Love Has No Age Limit* by Patricia McConnell  
*Successful Dog Adoption* by Sue Sternberg

**Children and Dogs**

*Living With Kids and Dogs Without Losing Your Mind* by Colleen Pelar  
*Raising Puppies and Kids Together* by Pia Slivani and Lynn Eckhardt

**Dog Fostering**

*How to Foster Dogs* by Pat Miller

**Nerdy Science-Based Training**

*Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson  
*Don’t Shoot the Dog!* by Karen Pryor  
*Excel-Erated Learning* by Pamela Reid  
*Dogs* by Ray Coppinger and Lorna Coppinger  
*Living and Learning with Animals* by Susan Freedman

**Young Readers**

*A Kids’ Comprehensive Guide to Speaking Dog!* By Niki Tudge

**Monthly Training Publication**

*The Whole Dog Journal*

another one of those “senior moments,” where I recall something from 10 years ago as if it were last month. How could that bottle of pickles have expired two years ago? Where does the time go?

I love our local paper, and you are doing a wonderful job serving our community. Keep up the good work.

David Lewis

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# Where to Find the Wishing Tree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

every tag—a task that takes over a minute per tag—and strings it up on the tree with a ribbon. The first year, that meant at least five hours of work for the 300 completed wishes that season. In 2014, the Wishing Tree received national press, and the tag total grew to 1,000. The following year, it was 600; last year, 500.

Sabarese says many wishes are touching. A good example is the one that read: “Thank you, Wishing Tree. Each year, you bring us together, and I’m grateful. This year helped me be the man I desire to the ones I love. Keep me pointed in the right direction. Thank you for blessing me with my love this year. Please continue to foster our love.”

Asked whether she’d ever received anything bad, Sabarese replied, “I’ve had a couple of... I think they might be drunk wishes, like dirty ones,” which she never hung on the tree, but keeps in a box.

“They’re funny,” she explained, “but it’s not the nature of the tree.”

Sabarese tries to avoid tree censorship. She recalled seeing a conservative political wish once—and though it disagreed with her progressive politics, it passed her personal free speech test, and she let the tag fly. Another time, a racist or otherwise hateful wish showed up, and it did not make the cut.

Victorian box trees attract rats, which live in the branches. Sabarese learned this when a tag one year read, “I wish the Wishing Tree weren’t full of rats. Seriously, look up.” She did, and she saw six pairs of eyes looking down at her. She laughed and hung the wish.

Sabarese has kept all of the tree’s



At the Wishing Tree—now illuminating 23rd Street between Noe and Castro streets—you can write your wish on a tag or on a stone. But remember to do so by Jan. 2, when the tree sheds its “leaves” each year.

Photo by Art Bodner

wishes since 2011, which she estimates as 4,000 to 5,000. Even laminated, they get moldy in rainy years—so she intends to create a full record, and then discard the originals.

Sabarese makes her own wishes, usually whenever a friend visits the tree and she is out there with them.

“I’m still looking for my guy,” she shared, “so I usually make a wish about that. I’m looking for a soul mate.”

When she started the tree, Sabarese was sad to be single, and she says she felt bitter. But now, “I’m getting more fun-

loving guys, not maybe as uptight as they were before—but still, I haven’t met someone because for whatever reason, I think I’m still holding back.”

She credits the tree for her current objectivity. “Life is not fair,” she said, “and it doesn’t happen exactly how we all want it to.”

About half of the Wishing Tree seasons have begun with a kickoff ceremony, which usually happens around the 13th of November. Before the ceremony, Sabarese lights the tree and puts a couple of her own wishes up to get things rolling.

She got a late start this year, holding the ceremony on Nov. 25.

At the event, Sabarese introduced a new element: wishing rocks. These are black pebbles in a wicker basket. Wishing Tree guests were invited to write a one-word wish on a rock, then either take the rock with them or leave it under the tree. Visitors can also take a rock someone else left behind, “for when you need something to hold onto,” Sabarese explained. The tags are still there, too.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BRANNIGAN GROUP



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COMPASS



Vanessa Sabarese is now in her eighth season of creating the Wishing Tree. She plans to make a record of all the hopes and dreams people hang from its branches. Photo by Art Bodner

## A Tree of Hope and Gratitude

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Every year, Sabarese stops accepting wishes on Jan. 2, but she keeps the lights and preexisting wishes up until Valentine's Day. The wish cutoff manages the volume, she said, and the extended display shines a light on the block in the dark winter months.

Most people get that when the tags and pens are gone, the statute of limitations on that year's wishes has run. But Sabarese occasionally finds a makeshift wish tag hanging from the tree, typically written on a strip of paper grocery bag.

Though Sabarese does not view herself as lucky in love (yet), she has seen the Wishing Tree play Cupid for a handful of others. The tree has hosted at least two marriage proposals; and one couple, who Sabarese said had felt "eh" about each other by their third date, sat on the bench for that date, talking for hours by tree-light about their wishes. They fell in love, and now they are engaged.

One year, Sabarese was out at the tree when someone double-parked to jot down her wish. "Last year's wish is in the car!" the woman beamed, pointing at her newborn baby.

The Wishing Tree has its own website and social media pages. People and fellow trees can find it at The-Wishing-Tree.com; the Wishing Tree San Francisco on Facebook; and @thewishingtreesf on Instagram. Through social media, copycat trees have popped up in Wisconsin and Seattle. Sabarese is delighted, and calls them "tree guardians."

Sabarese has never experienced any tree-related vandalism or serious theft. One year, someone stole the jars of blank tags and pens. Before Sabarese's Seattle friend launched a Wishing Tree there, people had broken into her car a couple of times. Since the friend started her year-round Wishing Tree, her car has remained untouched.

Last year, the Wishing Tree moved to

23rd Street between Castro and Noe, when Sabarese bought a house there. She no longer lives directly behind a tree, so the new Wishing Tree is in front of her next-door neighbors' home. It is a large magnolia tree on the odd-numbered side of the street, and the bench is behind and just off to the side of the tree.

One couple, Sabarese's former neighbors, told her they were relieved to see the Wishing Tree go away, since they didn't like having a lot of people around. Aware that out-of-towners and international visitors come to the tree when they're in San Francisco, Sabarese wanted to leave the bench there when she moved, but those neighbors said no.

Other former neighbors report that people still sit around the old tree, even without the bench. There is a note on the old tree, directing visitors to the new one.

Visiting the Wishing Tree has become a ritual for some. St. Philip Preschool brings children to the tree every year. As the school's 3- and 4-year-olds march down the street toward the tree, Sabarese beats a little drum.

When they arrive at the tree, Sabarese talks about the drumming. "Do you know what that sound is? That's your heartbeat."

She instructs them to rub their hands together and press them on their hearts, and listen to what their hearts say. Some children have answered, "I want my mommy."

One preschool student, Leah, asked how a wish comes true. Sabarese does not believe every wish we make will come true. Rather, she says, "If we keep coming back to our heart and listening to that, that's what's going to give us the answers. Whether that's being more assertive or saying no more, the answers are within us, and we keep growing. So if we can teach our kids to listen to their hearts and listen to the mystery, it's kind of a sacred and simple thing we can do to live in our truth."

So she answered Leah's question by explaining the heart-pressing ritual, then said, "Your heart always knows what it wants." ■

## Public Radio Station Wants Its Antenna in Noe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

for use of the roof. If the test is a failure, then they will need to scout out a different location.

### Sharing Sutro an Alternative

One option would be to co-locate its antenna with the one used by culture and music oriented station KXSF, which is sharing the location on the local radio dial with KSFP. KXSF started broadcasting in September via an antenna on Sutro Tower.

The plan is for KXSF to broadcast six hours each day of the week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. During the other blocks of time, which largely coincide with the morning and evening commutes, KSFP would broadcast its news-based and community-focused programming.

Having the two stations share antenna space on the iconic transmission tower atop Twin Peaks would not be as optimal, said Stoll, as placing an antenna at the Noe Valley rec center. He called that site "a sweet spot" because the transmission wattage allowed there is vastly greater than the two watts federal regulations allow at Sutro Tower.

"It is low enough for 100 watts but high enough to reach two-thirds of the city," said Stoll of the rec center location at a meeting Nov. 26 sponsored by the Noe Neighborhood Council.

### Like a Light Bulb

As for concerns about the health impact, it should be minimal, said George Koster, director of development for the Public Press, who has a background in radio. The transmission is not using microwaves but radio waves to broadcast.

"It is the same as that of a 100-watt light bulb," Koster said.

At the advice of District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Stoll and Koster have been reaching out to community groups to gauge whether there is support from area residents for placing the antenna in Noe Valley. They have also made entreaties to rec and park staff and hope to meet with the agency's leaders in early December.

Rec and Park spokeswoman Tamara Barak Aparton told the *Voice* the day after the council's meeting that no decision had yet been made about allowing the radio station to test its antenna.

"We very recently received their request and are currently evaluating it," she said.

### Early Support

Ozzie Rohm, a co-founder and co-leader of the council group, told the *Voice* that she and her fellow members are "quite excited" about the radio station and hope that the community will support it broadcasting from Noe Valley.

"We support KSFP because as a non-profit community radio, it has the unique ability to cover diverse issues that may not get coverage by mainstream or ad-driven media," said Rohm. "It offers us an interactive platform to hear what Noe Valley in particular and San Francisco in general has to say."

She also noted that it could provide valuable information during an emergency, such as an earthquake or other natural disaster.

"Above all, it is a public safety asset for Noe Valley and the rest of the city because it can play a major role as part of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) network," said Rohm.

### Wi-Fi Tower Already There

Chris Faust, of the group Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, also expressed support for the radio station's proposal.

"I think it sounds attractive," said Faust at the council's meeting. He added that having the station broadcasting from Noe Valley would bring "good gravitas" to the neighborhood.

But he stressed that there were several factors to consider, from aesthetics to winning permission from city officials.

"Already, there is a Wi-Fi tower that drives people crazy," he pointed out. "There are concerns of aesthetics already, so we don't want to be adding more junk to the roof of the building."

Yet the Wi-Fi tower there, which is part of the city's free internet access program, is advantageous, said Stoll. The radio station would be able to plug into it in order to connect its online broadcast to its antenna.

### Station Based Near City Hall

The Public Press has set aside a small space in its offices near City Hall for its broadcasting booth and radio production equipment. It already has received a \$150,000 two-year grant from the James Irvine Foundation to help cover the startup and equipment costs for the radio station and is looking to raise another \$150,000 over the next two years from other donors.

The plan is for KSFP to not only produce live radio broadcasts but also offer podcasts, a news website, live streaming, and community events. The station envisions being a platform for local community groups, nonprofits, and arts organizations to promote their own work and offerings.

It is already producing its first original program, called "The Cutaway," a local news show it is collaborating on with the local radio show SonicSF. It plans to debut the program first as a podcast when the radio station's website, KSFP.fm, goes live early next year.

"We do anticipate doing national programming to fill out the time. We have 84 hours a week of airtime," said Stoll. "The more money we raise, though, the more local programming we can do."

Other ideas KSFP is looking into include partnering with City College of San Francisco and the University of San Francisco to offer students chances to create and broadcast their own radio programs, working with local producers of radio content, and offering classes to teach residents how to produce their own shows.

"Our motivation for creating a new, truly local outlet for community expression is to showcase the talented, inspired local voices struggling to be heard. KSFP will serve the beating heart of San Francisco," wrote Stoll and Public Press publisher Lila LaHood in a summary of their plans.

To learn more about San Francisco Public Press, visit its website at <https://sf-publicpress.org/>. ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your correspondence. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com)

or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, or other contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Please note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Holiday Gifts From ‘Downtown’ Noe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“*Girl Power Five-Minute Stories* is like 10 books in one,” she says. It’s good for ages 3 to 8 and “looks super girly, but has really empowering stories in it.” Authors in the anthology include Marilyn Singer and Jeanne Birdsall.

*Louisiana’s Way Home* is by award-winning author Kate DiCamillo. “Her writing is family-centered, and it’s historical fiction,” Filka says. This is a good choice for readers ages 8 to 14.

*The Girl Who Drank the Moon* is a Newberry Medal winner by Kelly Barnhill. “It’s a good book for girls and boys who like Harry Potter—the magical, fantasy elements—but it’s different.”

Filka’s co-worker, Lena Alvino, recommends a picture book, *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackhall. “This is a Caldecott Medalist with gorgeous illustrations. It’s set in a lighthouse and follows a newly married couple who are having a child.”

Charlie’s Corner bookseller Loreny DeLeon recommends *Animalphabet* by Julia Donaldson. “It’s super cute, with all the letters of the alphabet highlighted in cutouts. For example, the letter A has a cutout of an ant, and the illustrations are gorgeous.”

“It’s a good gift for all ages,” Filka says.

**Folio Books**  
3957 24th Street  
415-821-3477

Folio Books boasts a robust children’s book section, and also carries an assortment of hand puppets, as well as activity and sticker books. Pair them with a book

recommended by Want Chyi, Folio’s children’s book buyer.

For tots ages 2 to 5, she likes *Why the Face?* by Jean Jullien. “This durable board book with foldout pages is a fun, interactive read that encourages kids to guess the meaning behind common facial expressions and discuss moods—and even rules!—with their parents,” says Chyi. “It’s also a great choice to read aloud.”

For children ages 5 and up, Chyi recommends *Ayobami and the Names of the Animals* by Pilar Lopez Avila; illustrated by Mar Azabal. “There are so many amazing books on this year’s *New York Times* and New York Public Library’s Best Illustrated Picture Books, but this is the one that left me breathless,” she says. “It’s a beautiful fable about the courage it takes to cross any jungle in order to grow, and how such journeys cannot be made without generosity, faith, and help.”

For those looking for educational reads for kids ages 7 to 10, *The Sun Is Kind of a Big Deal* by Nick Seluk is an excellent choice. “There is an incredible wealth of fun, fascinating nonfiction picture books,” says Chyi. “The book is chock full of facts about this life-giving star and its relationship to Earth and the rest of the cosmos.”

Middle-grade readers—the 8 to 12 set—will like *Flying Lessons & Other Stories* edited by Ellen Oh. “It’s a perfect ‘playlist’ of stories by 10 award-winning and bestselling authors, from Grace Lin to Jacqueline Woodson.” Chyi adds that this book is ideal for “reluctant readers and those looking to be transported, entertained, and moved by some of the best writers around.”

Finally, also for middle-grade bookworms, Chyi recommends *Dactyl Hill Squad* by Daniel Jose Older, calling it “*Hamilton* meets *Jurassic Park*.” It’s 1863, and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York! Raptor-mounted armies clash

in the Civil War down South. When members of the Colored Orphan Asylum are kidnapped, the heroine Magdalys Roca and her friends discover a community and commitment they never knew they had.

**Just for Fun / Scribbledoodles**  
3952 24th Street  
415-285-4068

From games to art supplies to gag gifts, it’s nearly impossible to not find a gift at Just for Fun at \$25 and below. Since the closure of the Ark toy store, the gift shop has been the go-to spot in Noe Valley for quality “plushies” or stuffed animals, according to co-owner David Eiland. They carry several brands including Douglas, Jellycat, and Squishable.

Douglas is known for its realistic, cuddly dog breeds. Jellycat also has soft animals from bunnies to lions, but their limbs tend to be long and dangly—perfect for little ones to hug. A Squishable is an anthropomorphized cushion that may look like an avocado, sushi, or s’mores. “Tweens really like them,” says Eiland.

Other hot items for tweens are journals, pencil cases, and backpacks made of magic sequins, which run from \$13 to \$24. The sequins reverse, changing color when fingers are run over them. They’re fun for making patterns and words.

“We can’t keep them in stock,” Eiland says. “And they’re useful—it’s hard to find good quality journals and backpacks for kids that age.”

Another popular item in the shop is Crazy Aaron’s Thinking Putty, which comes in a high-quality tin, and might remind older shoppers of Silly Putty. These days, the putty is mixed with glow-in-the-dark or even magnetic properties. “It also comes in a mini size, which would make a great stocking stuffer,” Eiland points out.

A fluffy, colorful clay called Mad Matr doesn’t stick to anything—including car-

pet, folks will be happy to read—but is a lot of fun. “It has a cool texture, and it’s less grainy than the kinetic sand that was popular before,” Eiland says.

The shop also carries art kits for preschoolers up through tweens, some with themes like how to draw manga comics. The kits include a pencil case, eraser, pencils, and drawing pad. “If people want to be creative, come on in!”



**Mapamundi Kids**  
1306 Castro Street  
415-641-6192

Esteban Kerner, owner of Mapamundi Kids, which carries fashion and toys for tykes, assures that every item in his shop is strictly curated. “We only carry things with certain criteria, like it has to be educational or of great quality to pass on to siblings or cousins.”

Very few of the products in the store are made with plastic or require batteries. “We encourage play.” The shop also carries several gifts under \$25.

For newborns through 1-year-olds, Kerner recommends the Rainbow Bead Grasper Clutching Toy. “This sensory toy delights babies with its colors, smooth texture, and movement,” he says. It’s made in Germany using safe plant-based color dyes.

Babies one year and older will also be fascinated by the Modern Bunny Wooden Stacking Toy. It’s “a classic toy with a modern look. Little builders can stack these solid wood shapes in any order to form a unique rabbit.” It also promotes fine motor skills development.

A Llama Maraca is just the thing for budding musicians 2 and up. “Music instruments are an important part of our store’s assortment,” says Kerner. “This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## The North Pole in Noe Valley!



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## Gifts in the Hood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

gorgeously [made] maraca is painted with vibrant colors and comes with a felt flower at its base.”

For preschoolers 3 and older, the Story Time Flashlight Projector is one of the more tech-enhanced gifts on hand. “A completely different way of doing story time, this flashlight comes with three discs to project images that can be up to three feet wide,” Kerner says.

Magna-Tiles have been around for years. They’re great for preschoolers and popular with kids up to age 6—sometimes beyond. Mapamundi carries a car expansion set which allows children to use their Magna-Tiles to build “amazing vehicles.”

Kerner says bath bombs are all the rage too, with both kids and adults. “They’re a fun way to bring color and play to bath time.” The Crackle Purple is created with baking soda for a “natural, fun fizz” plus other all-natural, vegan ingredients.

### Rare Device 4071 24th Street 415-374-7412

Giselle Gyalzen, owner of Rare Device, a gift shop/gallery on 24th Street, recommends a picture book by local author Meenal Patel, *Neela Goes to San Francisco*. A little girl tours the city, riding a cable car and seeing the sites. “This is an awesome kids’ book, but I also think it’s important because it’s by a person of color, an Indian American, and I am a person of color.” Gyalzen tries to represent as many diverse artists and makers in her shop as possible. She thinks the book is good to read to babies up to age 4.

The store also carries toy animals by a company called Twoolies. “Each creation is handmade by Mayan weavers using

100 percent natural wool woven on manual looms in the highlands of southern Mexico,” she says. “Each piece is completely unique in texture, color, and fabric pattern.” The smaller Twoolies cost as low as \$17. “We love that they’re fair trade, so every person making them is paid a fair wage.”

For something to wear, Gyalzen recommends the baby onesie or kids’ T-shirt (ages 3 months to 6 years) with the bold statement “The Future Is Female” by Othervild. The shirts come in black or white and are unisex. They are a little outside the *Voice’s* price range—\$31.50—but as Gyalzen states, “The message is really important in this day and age. Having conversations with young kids about the basics of feminism is important.”

### Small Frys 3985 24th St. 415-648-3954

Known for its adorable layettes and children’s clothes, the venerable Small Frys also carries toys and books. Co-owner Azia Yenne points out the wide selection of Playmobil, a brand of colorful figures, buildings, and vehicles that’s been around since the 1970s.

“A lot of adults remember playing with them as kids,” she says. “We have new vehicles, animals, and pieces that kids can build on, and they all work together with older models.”

For older kids, the shop sells model kits, including airplanes and motorcycles, which could be assembled with the help of a parent—or on one’s own. The shop also carries a wide variety of Skip Hop lunch bags and utensils with cute, colorful animal themes.

For readers, check the curated picture books and activity books. *The Magic Painting Book* is an unusual coloring book—children paint the page with water, and colors appear. Small Frys also

carries sticker books by DK with topics like space and castles, and Usborne activity books with dry-erase markers and pages that can be wiped clean and enjoyed again.

### Terra Mia Decorative Art Studio 1314 Castro Street 415-642-9911

For a one-of-a-kind keepsake gift, head to Terra Mia and make a soft clay impression. Christine Simmons, the studio’s owner, says, “I think we’re the only one who does this in city.” For \$23, artists get an 8” by 11” slab of clay. This slab can be divided any way you like (or not), but ideally, three pieces are the maximum. Next, make an impression! Handprints and footprints—especially of newborns up to kids age 6—are popular choices.

The slab is then dried and kiln fired. A week later, customers come back to paint the slab, and the fee for studio time is \$9 for children (12 and under) and \$12 for adults. “Studio time is unlimited, and you can use as many [paint] colors as you want,” Simmons says. The piece is fired again. It can be picked up within two days. Slab impressions are popular as ornaments and plaques. Many make these for baby’s first Christmas, but they’re also popular for Valentine’s and Mother’s Day. The shop will offer extended hours in December, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily.



### Wink SF 4107 24th Street 415-401-8881

In the block between Diamond and Castro streets, Wink SF boutique appeals to adults and kids. Co-owner Marcy Israel offers several suggestions for the younger set such as the Japanese-inspired Italian “lifestyle brand” Tokidoki.

“Very popular are the Tokidoki blind boxes, which hold interesting little figurines, but you don’t know what you’re getting,” Israel says. Wink SF carries versions of the “unicorno”—a big-eyed, large-head unicorn with various body art. These collectibles run \$8.99 to \$10.99, are made of vinyl, and are recommended for teens, but younger kids who are careful with that pointy unicorn horn will also enjoy them. Tokidoki also offers a line of bags with whimsical designs, and some fall into the \$25 and under price point.

Keeping little kids occupied while dining can be a challenge, especially in a restaurant. Israel points out “wonderful placemats that you can color with dry-erase markers. They are silicon and food safe.” There are several patterns including the Golden Gate Bridge and ABCs. The placemat alone is \$19.99, and with markers, \$26.99.

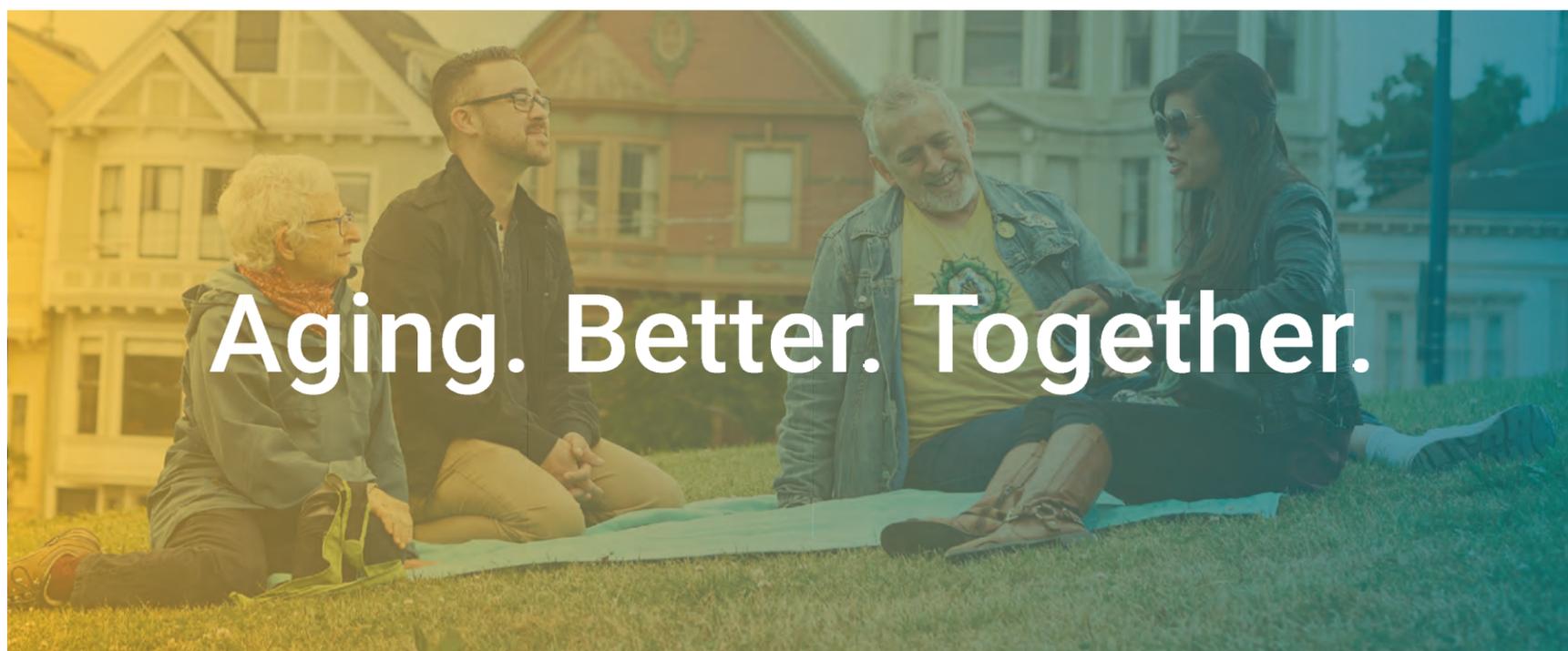
Rainbow Sticks, which are handmade in Japan, are made of a thin-cut vellum, “When you spin them, they look like a bubble,” says Israel. For Totoro fans, there are plush toys. A fun stocking stuffer are Nano Blocks, which are like “teeny tiny LEGO.”

A tongue-in-cheek take on the classic green army men figurines are Yoga Joes, soldiers in yoga poses like warrior one and tree pose. A set is \$25. “Kids and adults love them.”

Other goodies include science-based items such as Sunprint kits, which contain photosensitive paper. Put an object such as a flower on a sheet, leave it in the sun, and a white impression is left behind. “That’s a nice activity for families to do together,” Israel says. In addition, WinkSF carries puzzles and Magic Garden nontoxic crystal science projects.

You see? Shopping for kids in Noe Valley has never been easier! Now go forth and find those perfect gifts—and save a little money while you’re at it. ■

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## Calif. Democrats Rack Up Victories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

districts in Stanislaus and Fresno counties to knock on doors of registered Democratic voters and independents in an effort to oust incumbent Republican congressmen.

And as polling results and fundraising reports came in ahead of the Nov. 6 election showing a clear advantage for the Democrats in retaking control of the House of Representatives, their focus turned even to so-called “purple districts” considered more favorable to Republican candidates.

### House of Blues

The result was a crushing blue wave, especially in California, that wiped out the state Republican Party’s hold on power in southern California House districts and parts of the Central Valley. As of Thanksgiving week, six of the 14 Republicans in the state’s 53-member House delegation had been defeated and another was holding on to a slim lead as more ballots were left to count.

(County elections officials must report their final results to the California secretary of state by Dec. 7. Then the secretary of state will certify the results by Dec. 14.)

Across the country, Democrats won House seats in urban, suburban, and rural districts. As of Nov. 26, the party, led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, had gained 38 seats to bring its majority up to 233. Republicans had secured 200 seats, and two races were still undecided.

While Democrats fell short in their bid to retake the U.S. Senate—they lost two

seats to bring their membership down to 47, with the race for a Mississippi seat to be decided as the *Voice* went to press—their victory in the battle for the House washed away their frowns.

### Heartened by Wins

Knowing that Trump’s agenda might soon be checked also boosted local Democrats’ moods.

“I am feeling great! I feel like we are changing history,” said attorney Charles Spiegel, 60, who has lived in Noe Valley since 2006 and joined Action SF last year.

He spent seven days out in Modesto and Fresno campaigning on behalf of two Democratic challengers. He was elated to see that Josh Harder unseated four-term Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham in Congressional District 10, which includes all of Stanislaus County and part of San Joaquin County.

Spiegel was still holding out hope when the *Voice* reached him in New York while visiting family for Thanksgiving that TJ Cox would pull off an upset win against four-term U.S. Rep. David Valadao in the 21st Congressional District covering Kings County and parts of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties. Cox was trailing by 447 votes as of Nov. 26, four-tenths of a percentage point.

“It was one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done,” said Spiegel, a gay man who was spurred into political activism out of fear the Trump administration would roll back gains in LGBT rights made under President Barack Obama. “The effort in Noe Valley saved my entire sanity after the election in 2016.”

At a get-together in Noe Valley after the election, members of the local groups assessed the outcome and the strategies they deployed. Most felt they’d made a difference, said Spiegel.

“It wasn’t about one candidate,” he

stressed. “It was about making a commitment to change a district, to flip a district from Republican to Democratic.”

### A Red 15 Percent

Less bubbly was the post-election spirit among local Republicans.

“I’d say we got a shellacking,” said Noe Valley resident Barry Graynor, secretary of the San Francisco Republican Party since 2015. “We are not the most popular party in the state, are we?”

But Graynor said GOPers “are used to the doom and gloom” of failing to win elections in the city. This year even saw the lone Republican from the Bay Area serving in the state legislature ousted from her East Bay seat.

The single bright spot, Graynor pointed out, was that all of the Republican candidates on the San Francisco ballot received close to or more than 15 percent of the vote, even though registered Republican voters made up only about 7 percent of the city’s electorate.

“The local results are fairly positive in the sense our candidates did really well percentage-wise,” he said.

### Board Can Flex Muscles

Looking to tap into the energy of local residents, the San Francisco Democratic Party for the first time during a midterm election opened a volunteer center in the Castro, where people could contact voters in the numerous up-for-grabs House districts around the state and the country. On election night, local party chair David Campos credited San Francisco Democrats with helping to win back the House.

“All the districts we targeted at our San Francisco headquarters we took back,” proclaimed Campos.

The November elections also ushered in a new crop of leaders at City Hall. A strengthened progressive majority on the

Board of Supervisors will be able to override moderate Mayor London Breed’s veto of any ordinances the members send to Room 200.

All of the left-of-center supervisor candidates defeated their more moderate opponents for the governing body’s even-numbered seats. Incumbents District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani both won election to full four-year terms.

Mandelman, who faced a largely unknown opponent, represents Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, and Diamond Heights. He had decidedly won the District 8 seat in a special election June 5 to serve out the remaining term of former supervisor Scott Wiener, who had been elected to the state Senate.

Former District 2 supervisor Mark Farrell appointed Stefani to his seat covering the Marina and Pacific Heights after becoming interim mayor in January following Mayor Ed Lee’s sudden death. Stefani beat back a strong challenge from BART board director Nick Josefowitz.

All three of the other supervisorial contests were for open seats. School board member Matt Haney trounced former planning commissioner Christine Johnson and pro-development advocate Sonja Trauss in the District 6 supervisor race to represent the Tenderloin and South of Market. He will succeed termed-out Supervisor Jane Kim.

In the race to succeed District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang, who opted not to seek another term representing the Sunset, Gordon Mar after seven rounds of ranked-choice voting defeated Tang’s legislative aide, Jessica Ho, and six other candidates in the race.

In the District 10 race to represent the Bayview and Hunters Point, school board

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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## Election Results a Deeper Blue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

member Shamann Walton, executive director of the nonprofit Young Community Developers, bested after six rounds Tony Kelly, a Potrero Hill resident who had run before.

Walton will succeed Supervisor Malia Cohen, who is termed off the board and won election to a seat on the state Board of Equalization. Come January, Cohen will also be handing over the gavel as president of the board.

### Mandelman in the Middle

While District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen has been mentioned as the likely next board president, Mandelman may also vie for the position. Once the winners of the November races are sworn into office in early January, the supervisors will elect a new president.

Although progressives have a clear 8 to 3 majority on the board, several of those elected last month—Mandelman, Stefani, and Walton—hew to more of the middle in terms of the city's political divide, as does appointed District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown, who will seek election in November 2019 to serve out the remainder of Breed's term through 2020. It means that, depending on the issue, they could serve as swing votes working with Breed to pass legislation.

"I think the 'progressives versus moderate' talking point is going to be a little muddy," said Mandelman of the incoming board.

Noe Neighborhood Council co-founder Ozzie Rohm said her group was "extremely pleased" with the outcome of the supervisor races.

"It was a resounding repudiation of the YIMBY platform, as evidenced by the loss of all their supervisorial candidates by huge margins," she told the *Voice*, using the acronym for the Yes in My Back Yard philosophy that supports building higher-density housing.

### In Other Races

Meanwhile, the city's assessor-recorder, Carmen Chu, easily beat back her little-known opponent, Paul Bellar, to win another term, as did unopposed Public Defender Jeff Adachi. The three incumbents on the community college board—Brigitte Davila, Thea Selby, and John Rizzo—were all re-elected.

In the school board race, voters elected parents Alison Collins and Faauga Moliga, as well as educator Gabriela Lopez. Breed had named Moliga to a vacant seat weeks prior to the election.

And Noe Valley resident James M. Humes, the first openly gay justice to serve on the California Court of Appeal, won his retention race for his First District seat. Humes joined the appellate bench in 2012 when Governor Jerry Brown, his boss at the time, appointed him to a vacancy. This summer, Humes became the appeal court's administrative presiding justice.

### Only the Beginning

Despite their victories across the board, a major concern now for Democrats as they transition to work on the 2020 presidential election is that the voters who came out to the polls in record numbers this November will become complacent and ignore the congressional contests in two years.

"I don't want us to get distracted, because there are more congressional districts that need to be flipped in 2020," said Spiegel. ■

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# NOE KIDS

## Ryker Fionn Rush, Friend of Bees, Dogs, and Robots

By Katie Burke

Ryker Fionn Rush, an 11-year-old Noe Valley resident, has been taking Muni by himself since this past summer. He is rapidly learning to navigate San Francisco by bus, riding the 24-Divisadero to and from school.

Ryker lives on Dolores Street with his mom and dad, Sarah Heegaard Rush and Andrew Rush. In the summer, and sometimes at Christmas and Easter, Ryker also lives with his 14-year-old sister Keelin, who lives in Ireland with her mom the rest of the year. Ryker is in sixth grade at Willie L. Brown Jr. Middle School on Silver Avenue.

Ryker will soon be going into business for himself. He has invested the roughly \$1,000 he has earned dog-sitting over the past few years—at \$10 a day—in a \$680 beehive. The hive will attract local bees and will produce more honey than his family and neighbors can use, Ryker figures. He plans to create a label, selling his jars of honey at farmers markets and in local stores.

Ryker hasn't made any of his money through household chores, though he has regular duties at home, like folding laundry and taking out the trash.

"I don't get allowance for my chores," Ryker explains. "[Chores] are kind of expected of me because as you get older, it *should* be expected of you."

When he grows up, Ryker suspects



Ryker recently earned enough money through dog-sitting to invest in a beehive. He hopes to be making honey someday, which he could sell at local farmers markets. Photo by Art Bodner

he'll work as a financial advisor like his mom since, like her, he is "good at math and pretty chatty." But he also has caught the Bay Area's engineering bug. Having transferred to Willie Brown from St. Paul's School in Noe Valley this year, Ryker now takes robotics and loves it.

In sixth grade, Ryker says, students build the robot's structure. In seventh grade, they start over: they build the structure again, then they build the motor that makes the robot come alive. In eighth grade, they build the structure and motor again, then make the remote control they will use to direct the robot. All the students get to enter their robots in school competitions.

Ryker is also having fun with percussion, another class he takes at Willie Brown. In that class, he is not only becoming a better drummer but has played the triangle and the crash cymbals

in public venues around the city.

Ryker enjoys traveling with his family, especially to Tahoe.

Asked what country makes the best food, Ryker responds with a grin: "Canada." Though he lives a short walk from Mitchell's Ice Cream, where he loves to go with his family for dessert, Ryker has tasted the best dessert of his life in the mountains outside of Montreal: a beaver tail.

"It's not a real beaver's tail," Ryker clarifies. "Think of a waffle shaped like a beaver tail, smothered in sweets," like chocolate and bananas.

Ryker appreciates that his mom is "super neat about stuff," and that "with her help, it makes the chances less likely that I'll lose something."

When he rides the bus, Ryker says, he sometimes feels lonely. "When my mom sits next to me, I feel not alone," he says.

Ryker likes sharing outdoor activities with his dad, like changing car tires, and he admires his dad for working hard.

Ryker finds his sister creative with arts and crafts. She is smart and "really kind in general," he says.

He regards his family members as heroes, and defines a hero as someone who is kind, "stepping out of the crowd to help someone and avoiding any opinions. It doesn't take much," he says, "even that one thing you do on that day could make someone's day."

Asked whether he has ever been a hero to someone, Ryker says yes—when he has helped older people up the stairs and given them his seat on the bus, and when he helps his mom carry things inside the house.

How else could he be a hero? "In case someone dropped something, I would help them pick it up. Even if it would affect me being late," he says, "I would still help them."

On weekends, Ryker likes reading the *New York Times'* kids edition, eating breakfast at Toast on 24th Street, and hanging out with his St. Paul's friends in the park on Day Street (Upper Noe Rec Center).

In November, Ryker was reading Dan Gemeinhart's *The Honest Truth*. He quoted a line from the book: "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet." Ryker added, "That's how I think about it, too."

Katie Burke is a writer and family law attorney, who lives where Noe Valley meets the Mission. Her Noe Kids column features interviews with kids in Noe Valley ranging in age from 4 to 12. In fall 2019, Burke will publish a collection of profiles of children, titled *Urban Playground* (SparkPress). Know a great Noe Valley kid? Email [katie@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:katie@noevalleyvoice.com).



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### Christmas Morning

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Holy Communion with Hymns 10 am

Sunday School & Child Care 10 am

### Wednesday Services

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*Vigil of Christmas*

Children's/Family Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Carols: 7:30 p.m.

Solemn Mass: 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25, 2018

*Mass of the Lord's Nativity - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Regular Sunday Schedule—8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1, 2019

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



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**Christmas Vigil Masses** • MONDAY, DEC. 24, 2018

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**Christmas Day** • TUESDAY, DEC. 25, 2018

8:00 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am Masses in English

12:15 pm en Español • No 5:00 pm Mass

**New Year's Eve Day** • MONDAY, DEC. 31, 2018

Mass *in the Chapel* 8:30 am

**New Year's Day** • TUESDAY, JAN. 1, 2019

9:15 am

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December 16, 10:30 am

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## Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, December 19, 6 pm

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## Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24, 5 pm

Candle-lit Service of Lessons and Carols, With Noe Valley Ministry Choir & Guest Musicians

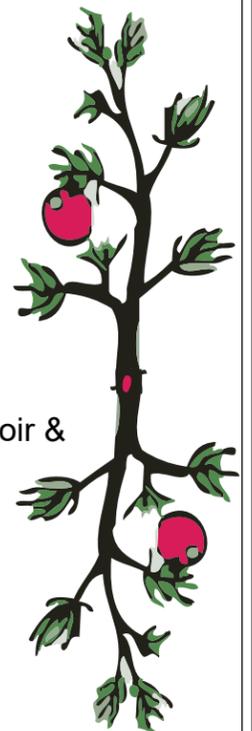
## New Year's Eve Service

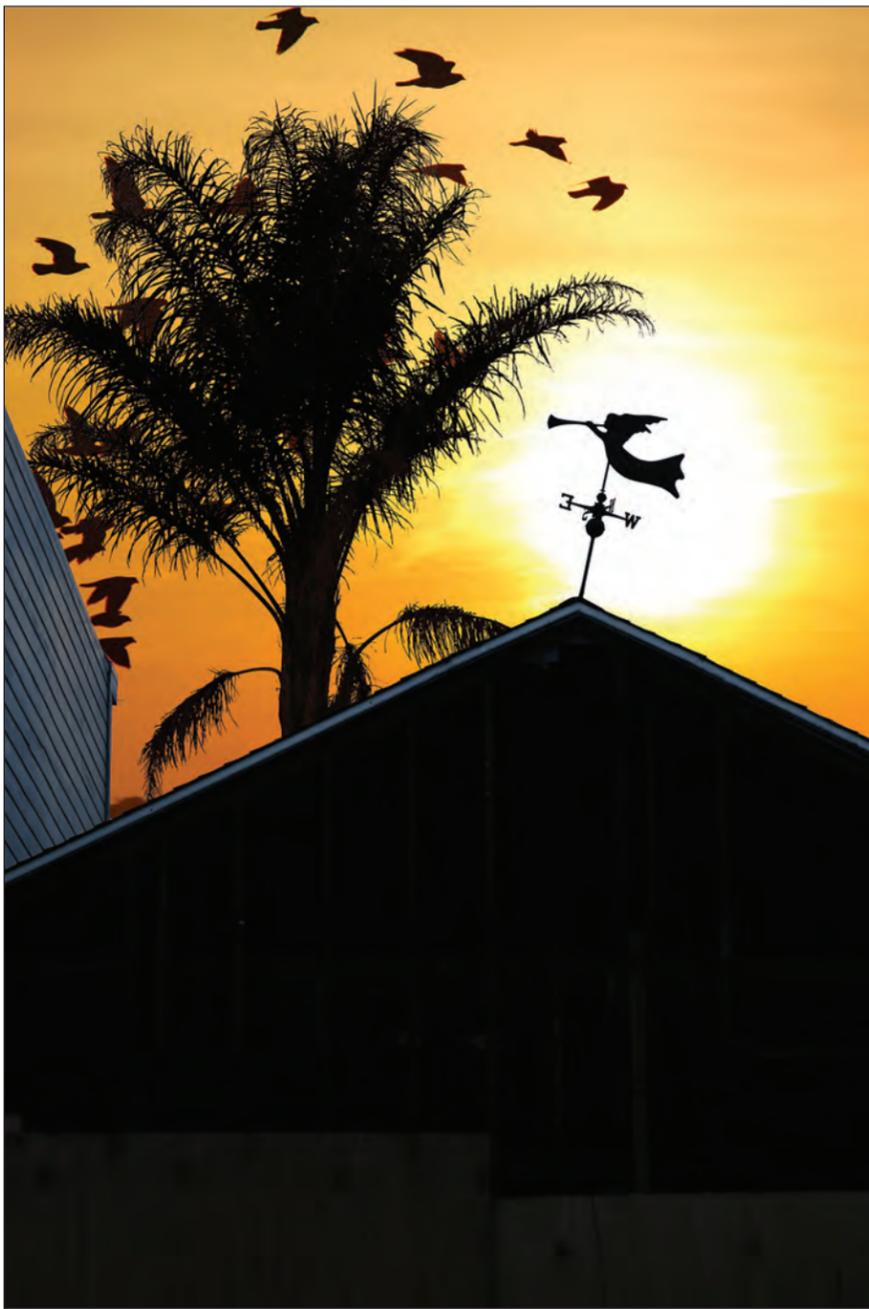
Monday, December 31, 6 pm

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The view in December from Comerford Alley.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## October Rebound

By Corrie M. Anders

Homebuyers dangling new keys to a Noe Valley address were in abundance in October, having purchased 17 single-family homes ranging in price from \$1.5 to \$5.5 million.

The brisk sales activity was in sharp contrast to the doldrums of September, when only two houses were sold in the neighborhood, according to data collected by Zephyr Real Estate.

Condominium sales also bounced back in October. Shoppers purchased 16 units, almost three times the number in September.

Zephyr executive Randall Kostick said he was not too surprised by the October spike in sales.

“This was not unexpected, because things were particularly slow in Septem-



This modern showpiece on Cesar Chavez Street offered all the luxury \$5.5 million could buy, including floor-to-ceiling glass walls, radiant heat, solar panels, and decks affording panoramic views. The home was originally built in 1921 but gutted to the studs for its contemporary renovation.

ber, and I expected some of that [sales activity] to roll over into October — and it did,” he said.

Kostick said the buying spree was spurred by a late-summer flood of homes on the market. The boost provided buyers with a good selection of available properties.

The number of sales was the highest for an October since 2014, when 18 detached homes closed escrow. Buyers in 2018 on average paid 8 percent more than the sellers’ asking price. Six of the 17 homes sold for \$3 million or more. Those purchases helped push the average sales price in October to \$2,756,000.

Kostick noted, however, that the current real estate climate in Noe Valley was almost calm when compared with the frenzy of a few years ago.

Despite a modest growth in home values, some sellers dropped prices to move their properties.

“We are seeing more price reductions. Three of the 17 properties sold below their asking price,” he said. “We didn’t have price reductions to speak of two years ago, but we’ve got them now.”

No price reduction was needed, however, for a four-bedroom, 4.5-bath house



Buyers paid \$2.1 million for a remodeled condominium in this two-unit building on 23rd Street. The three-bedroom residence came with a high-end kitchen, a private patio and garden, and Noe Valley views.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2018	Average November 2018	Average October 2018	Average November 2017
Studio	6	\$1,975 - 3,175	\$2,482 / mo.	\$2,479 / mo.	\$2,446 / mo.
1-bdrm	31	\$2,600 - \$5,250	\$3,398 / mo.	\$3,670 / mo.	\$3,186 / mo.
2-bdrm	25	\$3,300 - 5,900	\$4,104 / mo.	\$4,384 / mo.	\$4,521 / mo.
3-bdrm	22	\$4,300 - \$10,950	\$5,903 / mo.	\$6,110 / mo.	\$6,526 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,775 - \$12,500	\$8,736 / mo.	\$11,506 / mo.	\$11,822 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 72 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Oct. 3-10, 2018. NWV11/2018



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Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
October 2018	17	\$1,500,000	\$5,550,000	\$2,755,882	20	108%
September 2018	2	\$1,625,000	\$1,795,000	\$1,710,000	59	95%
October 2017	12	\$1,065,000	\$6,500,000	\$2,651,358	31	106%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
October 2018	16	\$750,250	\$2,100,000	\$1,387,516	21	115%
September 2018	6	\$955,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,469,167	8	112%
October 2017	13	\$621,000	\$1,895,000	\$1,314,647	18	113%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
October 2018	3	\$1,220,000	\$1,995,767	\$1,705,256	23	111%
September 2018	3	\$1,385,150	\$2,010,000	\$1,798,383	28	104%
October 2017	2	\$1,835,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,042,500	72	102%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
October 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
October 2017	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley for purposes of this survey is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (zephyrre.com) for providing sales data. NWV12/2018

in the 4000 block of Cesar Chavez Street between Sanchez and Noe streets—October’s top seller. The property sold in a mere 18 days for \$5.5 million—5.9 percent over the seller’s asking price.

The 1921 dwelling had been gutted down to the studs and renovated to enclose 3,800 square feet of space across three stories. The makeover featured a gourmet kitchen, floor-to-ceiling glass walls, smart-home technology, solar panels, radiant heat in five zones, an electric car charger, Sonos music system, two-car parking, a living roof, and decks with views of downtown and the bay.

The 16 condo sales was the highest October total since 2000, when Zephyr be-

gan providing monthly sales data to the Voice. Buyers this October paid an average 15 percent more than the asking price, with an average sales price of \$1,376,000.

The highest-priced condo, offering three bedrooms and 2.5 baths, sold for \$2.1 million, 5.2 percent more than what the seller initially sought. The buyer made an offer within nine days of the property’s appearance on the market.

Located in a two-unit building constructed in 2002 in the 4400 block of 23rd Street near Grand View Avenue, the 2,237-square-foot unit had been recently remodeled to feature an open floor plan, chef’s kitchen, private deck, views, and parking for one car. ■



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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Noe Valley Voice column profiling new businesses in the neighborhood. This month, we feature a pop-in pop-up store whose creator has long roots in Noe Valley.

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By opening up a home décor and gift shop for a limited time, Leslie Moxley aims to present Noe Valley with its own retail gift this holiday season. In light of the closures of various locally owned stores along the 24th Street commercial corridor, Moxley hopes those looking for unique presents for family and friends will find what they need among the numerous items she has on display.

Through her pop-up shop, she also hopes to inspire one of her shoppers to

take the plunge and open their own, more permanent, store.

"Without such shops, there is no personality to the city's neighborhoods," said Moxley, 71, who lives in Diamond Heights with her husband. "This is a blast of my creativity."

She took over the space where Sam Salamah had his Good News shop, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe. She opened Nov. 1, and her last day in business will be Dec. 31.

"For something that used to be a newspaper and magazine shop for 30 years, it has been really fun to come in here and enliven up the space," said Moxley, who once lived nearby on Elizabeth Street. "I have a lot of stuff in here, but I tried to organize it. It starts out with wood to Japanese to artificial flowers to plants."

Most of the items on sale have been sitting either in a storage unit or in her garage the last two years. Before the Showplace Square home décor store Dandelion closed right after Christmas in 2016, Moxley bought up much of the remaining merchandise.

She did so, she said, "with the idea of creating a pop-up. I have been thinking

about it for two years. My husband, family, and friends told me to stop talking about it already and just do it."

Items on sale run the gamut from porcelain decorative objects and ceramics (\$12-\$20) to holiday wreaths for hanging (\$40) or for use as a centerpiece with candle (\$18), and various vases, some with artificial bouquets (\$18.50-\$75). Everything is priced the same as what she paid for it at Dandelion.

"My prices are fabulous," Moxley said. "Come buy some fun gifts, and you won't be bankrupt at the end of the season."

She also has for sale a number of baskets she has collected over the past 50 years. They range in style from an old silverware basket (\$30) to a circular plant holder (\$14).

In the shop's wood section near the entrance are several handcrafted items made by her brother, Schuyler Ingle, who is based in Oakland. They include a pie box and a bench that can double as a table and be ordered in a range of colors.

Reaction to her pop-up has been overwhelmingly positive, said Moxley, and cuts across all ages and tastes.

"I put my aesthetic out there. It doesn't necessarily mean everyone is going to like it or everyone is going to hate it," she said. "But everyone has responded in a very positive way."

Moxley has worked in the home and garden sector her entire career, starting out as a sales associate for Williams Sonoma and then Smith & Hawken. She operated her own houseplants store, called Plants and the first of its kind in San Francisco, between 1968 and 1971 where Folio Books is now at 3957 24th St.

"I have been in retail forever. My grandfather had a dime store in Colville, Washington, near Spokane. I grew up in



Leslie Moxley's collection features decorative objects from the former Dandelion store, as well as items she's collected over decades.

Seattle and got to play store with my grandfather when we would visit," recalled Moxley, who moved to San Francisco in 1965 to attend the now-closed Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design.

Several people have encouraged her to keep the pop-up store open longer, but Moxley plans to travel in 2019 to see her grown sons, as one lives in Chicago and the other in Seattle. Instead, she is hopeful another merchant will lease the space once she departs.

"The people coming here are really hungry for it," she said. "They are looking for fun shops."

Moxley will be open every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the end of the year, except for Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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## Noe's Returns, With Good Spirits and Salsa

Rejuvenated Tavern Will Now  
Serve Mexican Fare

By Jeff Kaliss

Sitting in a window seat at Hi-Way Burger & Fry, Tommy Basso finds passersby stopping in to ask him about the reopening of Noe's, a block away on 24th Street at the corner of Church Street.

"That was Vera," Basso tells an interviewer after one such encounter. "She used to be in there at the bar all the time. She knew my grandfather."

Basso's grandfather, also named Tommy Basso, was the tall and welcoming presence who served drinks and jokes at Noe's Bar until he passed away in 2002.

His son Wayne Basso (father of the now 55-year-old Tommy) bought the tavern in 1980, when it used to be called the Connection. Wayne renamed it, first as Noe's Ark and then as just plain Noe's. (Richard Greenberg, Wayne's partner in Patch County and the owner of O'Greenberg's, was in on the purchase but left Wayne as sole owner a few months later.)

With its large windows and adjoining restaurant (first a Cybelle's Pizza outlet and later an in-house grill), Noe's became one of the only kid-friendly and dog-friendly watering holes in the neighborhood. Famous for its jukebox, pinball machines, and extroverted service, the bar was a destination for holidays and for televised games in the 49ers' and Giants' championship days, as well as for daily social drinking and dining.

The younger Tommy also tended bar there, as did his uncle Mark and Vince Hogan, later proprietor of the Dubliner and the Valley Tavern.

But toward the close of 2014, Tommy, who'd taken over the kitchen while Wayne ran the bar, "was having trouble with the people that worked for me. They'd be, 'I'm out of hamburger' at 5:30 in the afternoon, and I was, 'How would you not have known that at lunch?' So I had to go to Whole Foods to buy hamburger at eight dollars a pound. You don't make any money like that. I was over it, and I told my dad, I wanna sell. And he's like, 'If you're gonna sell, I'm gonna sell.' We closed after Super Bowl 2015."

The two entrepreneurs they sold to renamed the spot Horner's Corner and lasted only about a year and a half.

"What I think their mistake was," Tommy reflects, "was that they didn't embrace our old customers. They thought

they were going to bring in a whole new clientele."

The next buyer was John Dampeer, then owner of the Caskhouse pub at the current site of Hi-Way Burger. "He remodeled it [Horner's Corner] from head to toe, and changed the name to Hamlet."

But that venture also lasted less than two years.

Wayne, who'd taken over the Albion bar at 16th and Albion streets with his son Angelo and renamed it Delirium, offered the Noe's property for sale, but later relented.

Tommy formed his own corporation, sold his partnership in the Lister Bar at Parkmerced, made an offer to Wayne's realtor, "and now I pay my father rent" on Noe's.

He will open the new bar and restaurant, Noe's Cantina, he hopes by mid-December.

The image of a giant bull, painted last month on the outside southern wall by Mission District muralist Carlos "Kookie" Gonzalez, signals the culinary fare within. Tommy had thought about offering an American menu like his grandfather had served at the former Basso's on Geary Street, but he opted to serve upscale Mexican fare instead, "because it will be a little more festive."

The menu will feature specialties like seasoned hamburguesa, churros, and tres leches flan, as well as such familiar Mexican offerings as tacos, tostadas, enchiladas, fajitas, and chile relleno. There'll also be fried calamari, flat-iron and rib-eye steaks grilled with green onions and pepita lime butter, and separate selections for kids. As in past incarnations, Tommy expects the food service paired with the bar will attract more customers in general and families in particular.

The full bar will be restored, "with a Slushie machine and shelves for all the tequila and mezcal, because of the Mexican food. Even my well tequila will be pretty good. After all, the original owner of all this land, back in the day, was named [Jose de Jesus] Noe. So I might do up a wall for him, to explain the whole situation. And by the way, Noe sold his land to a guy named Horner."

Behind the bar, the wall will be decorated with historical and family photographs. The layout of the Cantina will somewhat resemble the old Noe's, featuring a large barroom and dining room with a refurbished wooden floor, a smaller "family room or kids' room" with spaces for strollers, and a room adjacent to the kitchen "with a big chef's table and maybe five or six bar stools, if anybody wants to have their own gig apart from everybody."

Furnishings will include a small banquette along the Church Street wall, al-



In November, a mural painted by Mission artist Carlos "Kookie" Gonzalez went up on the 24th Street side of what will be Noe's Cantina.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

lowing for ADA access at that end of the bar, and a longer banquette along the 24th Street side of the barroom, with tables and chairs along their inner sides.

Returning customers will find uniquely different bar stools, cushioned, with backs, "the same as Westlake Joe's has, but black." An electric jukebox with four speakers will be installed near the Church Street entrance, and eight large-screen TVs in the barroom.

The family room will have booths and chairs and a couple of additional TVs, "though we might leave those off and [only] put them on during the big games." Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, and/or a golf game may provide diversion for both parents and offspring.

Tommy says operating hours will run from 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., with earlier starts for weekend brunch. He refers visitors to the Noe's Cantina Facebook page to stay current on plans.

Now living near the western end of 24th Street on Grand View Avenue and raising a family (with a new Sagittarian

due soon), Tommy remembers growing up in Noe Valley among many bars, some of which were forced out of business by changing times.

"There was a lot more clientele back then, more working-class," he recalls. "Now it's all techied-out, and the techies don't go out [as much]. They get free food at work, and free beers on Fridays," he says.

But Tommy is confident the Cantina will prove attractive to younger Noe Valleyans seeking "a successful business that's going to be there for a while."

For older folk who've long awaited the second coming of Noe's, "we're going to try to be traditional and not too pricey, and cozy and comfortable. I don't know how many of them are still around, some of them might have 'stepped over to the next zone.' But for those who are still around: you take care of people, and they're going to come back." ■



Building owner Wayne Basso launched Noe's Ark—soon renamed Noe's—at the corner of 24th and Church streets in 1980. Its popularity as a gathering place spanned 35 years.



Tommy Basso hopes his newly remodeled bar and restaurant, set to open in December, will attract patrons of all ages.

# SHORT TAKES

## Santa Really Is Everywhere

Santa Claus has a full calendar in Noe Valley during the month of December. First off, on Saturday, Dec. 1, he's handing out dog treats and posing for complimentary photos with dogs and their humans at the Noe Valley Pet Company, 1451 Church St. Owner Paula Harris says "very chill cats" may also attend.

Santa is apparently very big on selfies, because the next Saturday, Dec. 8, he'll pose at The Agency, 3848 24th St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. An hour later, he'll fly down to Church Produce, at 1798 Church St., to take more pictures with kids from 3 to 5 p.m.

Then, on Sunday, Dec. 9, he'll be at Folio Books, 3957 24th St., from 2 to 4 p.m.; holiday treats provided. On Wednesday, Dec. 12, he'll show up with some of his reindeer from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. outside Just for Fun at 3982 24th St. Have a cup of cocoa with Santa Thursday, Dec. 13, at First Republic Bank, 1354 Castro St., 2 to 4 p.m.

Santa's final appearance (that we know of) in our hood will be at Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St., on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This time, he's only bringing along Rudolph but at least he has a red nose. (Rudolph, not Santa.) They'll be handing out some Christmas cheer.

Zephyr, by the way, is also sponsoring the holiday hayrides along 24th Street from and to the Walgreens parking lot, on two Saturdays, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will not be driving the horses.

## A Map of 1930s San Francisco

During the Great Depression, the WPA (Works Progress Administration) created jobs for tens of thousands of out of work people. Roads were paved, bridges were built, and art was created in a wide variety of projects.

One was the San Francisco Model project. Artists and artisans made an exact replica of San Francisco as it was in 1937, down to actual house colors at the time, at a scale of one inch equaling 100 feet. The wooden model was in 160 sections, encompassing 6,010 individual blocks. The complete model was last shown in 1941 at City Hall. Since then, it's been in storage.

This year, the San Francisco Public Library and Museum of Modern Art brought the city out of storage. Over the past summer, 50 volunteers cleaned the model, and it was prepared for display once again. From Jan. 25 to March 25, each branch library will display sections relevant to its neighborhood. The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. will have three model pieces.

Branch librarian Denise Sanderson invites everyone to "come by and see if you can locate your home!" Businesses are on



Sections of a model of San Francisco created during the Great Depression will be on display in the Noe Valley Library from Jan. 25 to March 25. Go see if you can find local landmarks.

the model, too. Where was the Noe Theater? You'll find the display upstairs near the main circulation desk.

## Tribute to the Queen of Soul at James Lick

Theater arts instructor Keith Carames, co-director Jorell Chavez, and the students and staff of James Lick Middle School are mounting a new original musical production: "A Royal Tribute," a celebration of the music of Aretha Franklin, Prince, Selena, and other nobility of soul, Latin, and pop music.

Students will perform the one-hour concert on Friday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at [jllms-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://jllms-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com) or on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for a suggested \$15 donation. They will also be available at the door, but online ticket holders will be seated early.

James Lick Middle School is located at 1220 Noe St. Parking will be available in the upper yard on 25th Street.

## 30th Street Holiday Meals

The On Lok 30th Street Senior Center at 225 30th St. wants neighborhood residents to know it not only holds two meal seatings a day for seniors, Monday through Saturday, at noon and 1 p.m., but it provides special meals on the holidays, including Christmas.

Meal tickets are available on the third floor of the center. (Don't worry, there is an elevator.) A donation of \$2 is encouraged. For more information, go to [30thstreetseniorcenter.org](http://30thstreetseniorcenter.org) or call 415-550-2210.

## A Miracle Happened There

Hanukkah comes but once a year, but it lasts eight nights! This year, the first night is Sunday, Dec. 2, and the eighth night is Sunday, Dec. 9. Each night, a new light on the nine-foot tall menorah in the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street will be lit, repeating the miracle that is at the center of the holiday.

But on the first night, there'll be latkes! Dreidels! Gelt! Not to mention a drum circle and a moon bounce. Chabad Noe Valley, Just for Fun, and Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals will sponsor all that at Chanukah Wonderland, plus hot

chocolate, songs, and crafts for kids from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The first "candle" will be lit at 4:45 p.m.

And you don't have to be Jewish. Everyone is welcome. Chag Sameach!

## December Concert in Park

Concerts in the Park provides free live music in the playground at Upper Noe Recreation Center on third Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. On Dec. 15, the featured performers will be Audio Blonde, comprised of Buffy and Ellie, a teen duo from Fremont. They write and perform original music, as well as create harmonies for their favorite songs. Visit their homepage at [audioblond.com](http://audioblond.com).

The group Friends of the Noe Valley Rec Center and singer/songwriter Suzanne Kramer host Concerts in the Park. The rec center is just down the street

## Bajko Earns Press Recognition

The San Francisco Press Club has honored journalist Matthew S. Bajko for a series of articles on the LGBT community published in the San Francisco Bay Area Reporter, where he is a staff writer and assistant editor.

Bajko, who also is a frequent contributor to the Noe Valley Voice, received a third-place award in the non-daily newspaper category for a series or continuing coverage.

Bajko's series of three articles, written last summer, explored the collection of data on sexual orientation and gender identity. The articles revealed city and state agencies' role in collecting SOGI data, as it's called, and the impact it could have on the LGBT community's inclusion in government programs. The articles also examined the challenges of collecting gender identity information because of the different ways people describe themselves.

The series was written as part of a California Health Journalism Fellowship project with the University of Southern California—Annenberg Center for Health Care Journalism.

The award was announced Nov. 16. Congratulations, Matthew!

—Corrie M. Anders

Park. The rec center is just down the street at Day and Sanchez.

—Richard May

## Butte County Fires Affect Noe Residents

On Nov. 8, the Camp Fire, the deadliest wildfire in California's history, ignited, ripping through Butte County to the northeast of San Francisco. The town of Paradise, about 179 miles from Noe Valley, was the hardest hit town. As of this writing, 85 people have died, 296 are missing, 153,336 acres burned, and 13,972 homes were destroyed according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Many in Noe Valley were affected by the fires including two local merchants.

Noe Valley native Christine Simmons owns Terra Mia Decorative Art Studio on Castro Street, and her parents were displaced from their Paradise home in the Camp Fire. In the end, they were lucky not to have lost their house.

Two days before Thanksgiving, Howard and Joyce Simmons were given the green light to return to their property. They were relieved to find it intact. "About half their friends weren't as fortunate," Simmons says. "The fire stopped about 4 miles from their property line."

The house had running water and electricity, but no landline or cell phone service when her parents returned. They plan to put in a water filtration system.

"There's still recovery work to be done," Simmons says. "They're choosing to stay up there. They have a secondary loft space, and they want to get someone in there [to live]. There's been a huge depletion of housing in the whole area."

Her parents were able to get away from the fires quickly because they took back dirt roads instead of the main arteries out of town, which became clogged with those trying to flee. They stayed with Simmons and her brother for about 10 days before returning to Paradise.

Simmons' parents raised her and her brother in Noe Valley from the 1960s to the '80s, then moved up to the Paradise ridge to retire. "They have vested so much in their community with volunteering on landscaping and sculpture projects in the area over the last 30 years. It's just heartbreaking to know that [much of] it's

gone," she says. "They are determined to be part of the re-planning and regrowth."

## Folio Friday Fundraiser

The day after Thanksgiving is known as Black Friday—the biggest shopping day of the year. At Folio Books on 24th Street, the independent bookstore turned the day into "Giving Friday" after employee Sheila Haun's mother lost her Paradise apartment in the Camp Fire.

"My mother, Cheryl Johnson, had lived there for four years," Haun says. The site of her apartment building "was completely destroyed, so she lost all of her possessions."

On Black Friday, Nov. 23, Folio donated 15 percent of the day's sales to Johnson, 65. There was also a donation jar for those wanting to make a direct cash donation.

"My mom is currently living with friends while she looks for a permanent residence," Haun says. There is also a fundraising campaign for Johnson online at [www.givinggrid.com/cheryl-johnson/](http://www.givinggrid.com/cheryl-johnson/).

## Smoke in the City

Smoke from the Camp Fire caused dangerous breathing conditions in the Bay Area, and many people who had to venture outdoors wore N95 masks, which can filter at least 95 percent of particulate matter and are used on construction sites. Sales of indoor air filters also went up. Many folks became well acquainted with the website [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov), checking the air quality index, which stayed in the red "very unhealthy" zone for two weeks. Finally, rainstorms and wind brought relief on Nov. 21. San Franciscans were again able to breathe the clean air we're accustomed to, which is usually in the green "good" zone of the AQI.

The rainstorms helped in Butte County as well, clearing the air, which had been in the "hazardous" zone. The Camp Fire was completely contained by Sunday, Nov. 25.

—Olivia Boler

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# SHORT TAKES

## Time to Sign Up for NERT

The San Francisco Fire Department will offer a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training in Noe Valley from Jan. 10 to Feb. 14, a six-session course for those who'd like to learn the basics of personal preparedness and prevention, some hands-on disaster skills, and best procedures to follow in an earthquake or fire.

Classes will be held at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St., 6 to 9:30 p.m. To sign up, go to <https://sf-fire.org/training-schedule-registration>.

## Brassy New Year

The Concerts at Holy Innocents series continues in the new year with a concert on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The Elevation Brass Ensemble will perform original compositions in a variety of styles. The group is composed of local jazz musicians Darren Johnston and Erik Jekabson on trumpet, Danny Lubin-Ladin on trombone, and Sophie Powers on bass trombone.

Tickets are \$20 at the door. Holy Innocents Church is located at 455 Fair Oaks St. For more information on the series, go to [holysf.org](http://holysf.org).

## How's Your Garden Growing?

The Noe Valley Garden Tour is looking for neighborhood residents who'd like to show off their green thumbs. Small gardens, big gardens, flower gardens, succulent gardens, native gardens, drought-resistant gardens — all submissions will be considered.

If you are interested in participating, contact Linda Lockyer at [Lindalockyer3@gmail.com](mailto:Lindalockyer3@gmail.com). The tour is set for Saturday, May 4, 2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will go to a beautification project in the neighborhood. The Garden Tour committee also welcomes suggestions for projects to receive funding.

## I'll Drink to That!

If you prefer your holiday cheer in liquid form, you'll have several special opportunities to celebrate in December.

Start the month with the Holiday Wine Walk, Saturday, Dec. 1, with stops at 16 local businesses hosting wine and food samples from 3 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 online at [noevalleywinewalk.com](http://noevalleywinewalk.com) or at the ticket booth at the Noe Valley Town Square.

Later in the month, take a stroll to Novy at 24th and Noe streets. The restaurant is sponsoring a "Wine Tasting for Fire Relief" on Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Suggested minimum donation is \$10. All proceeds will go to the North Valley Community Foundation, based in Chico. Novy will provide wine and Greek appetizers. Owners Kristen and Kathryn Gianaras say, "Eat, drink, and be merry for a great cause!"

Meanwhile, The Agency, at 3848 24th St., is hosting "Vodka & Latkes," a free event on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. Apple sauce or powdered sugar? Never mind. Drink up!

## Poetry in Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu

Kaavya Connections hosts a performance of poetry in Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Sanskrit, and Urdu—with translations into English—on Sunday, Dec. 16. The poems will be accompanied by songs and music from tenor Khatchadour Khatchadourian and the Murmurations Duo on



Noe Valley author Leslie Crawford and her chicken Alice B. Toklas will appear at Folio Books Dec. 11, 4 p.m., to cackle about their new book *Gwen the Rescue Hen*.

duduk, cello, chimes, Tibetan bowls, and other Western and Eastern instruments. A duduk is an Armenian double-reed woodwind.

The concert, called "Journey of the Soul," is from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Regular tickets are \$15. Up to 50 free tickets are available for certain groups.

See the event page for details: [facebook.com/events/312820605984496](https://facebook.com/events/312820605984496). Tickets can be purchased through the event page and Eventbrite.com.

The audience is invited to bring yoga mats, cushions, and pillows to sit on. Chairs will also be provided. Tea will be provided.

The host group is celebrating its fifth anniversary of promoting poetry and other literature and producing concerts in original languages and translations.

For more information, go to [kaavyaconnections.com](http://kaavyaconnections.com).

## Custer and Chickens at Local Bookstore

Two neighborhood authors are launching new books at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. in December. Bill Yenne appears Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., to discuss *The Other Custers* and Leslie Crawford is at the bookstore Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m., with *Gwen the Rescue Hen*.

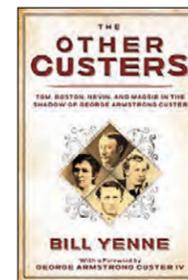
Yenne is the author of three dozen non-fiction books and 10 novels. His newest is the real-life story of the three Custer brothers who died at the Battle of Little Bighorn, the one who survived, the sister whose husband also was killed during the battle, and their descendants. The foreword to *The Other Custers* was written by none other than George Armstrong Custer IV!

*Gwen the Rescue Hen* is Crawford's second picture book in Stone Pier Press's Farm Animal Rescue Series. The first, *Spring the Rescue Pig*, was published earlier this year. Both books were illustrated by Austrian artist Sonja Stangl. Crawford raises urban chickens herself and is bringing one of them to the reading, a hen named Alice B. Toklas. There will also be chocolate eggs—not laid by Alice!

For more events at Folio Books, click on [foliosf.com](http://foliosf.com).

For more information on Bill Yenne, go to his website, [billyenne.com](http://billyenne.com). For more about Leslie Crawford's books, see [stonepierpress.org](http://stonepierpress.org).

—Richard May



Hear acclaimed local author-historian Bill Yenne talk about his latest work, *The Other Custers*, on Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

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# DECEMBER 2018

**Dec. 1:** 24 HOLIDAYS on 24th kicks off with a Hayride, 11 am to 2 pm; the Noe Valley Wine Walk, 3 to 8 pm; and caroling and treats in the Town Square before the Christmas Tree Lighting, 5 to 8 pm. Tickets for the Wine Walk are available at 3861 24th, or at noevalleywinewalk.com.

**Dec. 1:** SANTA RICK will appear at the Animal Company, 1307 Castro, from noon to 4 pm. 647-8755.

**Dec. 1:** Mahsa Vahdat and Atabak Elyasi perform a CONCERT at 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Dec. 1 & 2:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC's Classical Kids hosts a concert by Decoda at 10:30 am on Dec. 1, and a regular performance by the group at 4 pm on Dec. 2. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

**Dec. 1-24:** The Holiday Art Shop at CREATIVITY EXPLORED opens. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm (Thurs. until 7 pm), Sat., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

**Dec. 1 & Jan. 5:** Learn to knit or crochet at the Noe Valley Library's KNITTING CIRCLE. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 1 & Jan. 5:** The Noe Valley Town Square hosts DRUMMING and dancing on first Saturdays. 4-5 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 1 & Jan. 25:** Volunteer to weed and tidy up JURI COMMONS from 9 to 11 am; coffee and pastry provided. The park is between Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.

**Dec. 1-29 & Jan. 5-26:** Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live music from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

**Dec. 1-29 & Jan. 5-26:** Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Dec. 1-29 & Jan. 5-26:** The Randall Museum's close-up of California wildlife, "Meet the ANIMALS," is now

called "Meet the Keeper." Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

**Dec. 1-30 & Jan. 5-29:** 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.

**Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-31:** Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

**Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-31:** Charlie's Corner offers children's STORY TIMES every day. Mon.-Fri., 10 am, noon, 3 & 5 pm; Sat. & Sun., 10:30 am, 12:30 & 3:30 pm. 4102 24th; 641-1104.

**Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-31:** The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER's Mission Nutrition program serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays, including holidays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

**Dec. 2:** Chabad Noe Valley and Just For Fun sponsor CHANUKAH WONDERLAND, with 9-foot menorah lighting at 4:45 pm, plus latkes, gelt, and a drum circle. #30-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 2:** MUSIC ON THE HILL celebrates its 20th anniversary with "Christmas in Venice," a performance by Nash Baroque. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

**Dec. 2 & Jan. 6:** The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

**Dec. 2 & 16:** Charlie's Corner Bookstore offers ITALIAN STORY TIME. 10:30 am. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**Dec. 2 & 16; Jan. 6 & 20:** 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.

**Dec. 2-30 & Jan. 6-27:** A free T'Al CHI class at the Noe Valley Town Square is scheduled for Sundays, 9 to 9:45 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 2-30 & Jan. 6-27:** Taylor Pangman and Lauren Cohen from Yoga Mayu offer a free YOGA CLASS at the Noe Valley Town Square; bring your own mat. Sundays, 10-11 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 2-30 & Jan. 6-27:** Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the area around MISSION DOLORES. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

**Dec. 3-Jan. 6:** GALLERY SANCHEZ exhibits "In the Moment," work by Golden Gate Artists. Weekdays, 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org.

**Dec. 3-31 & Jan. 1-31:** BootCampSF conducts FITNESS training Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30 am. SF Rec Center Basketball Court, 30th and Whitney. 567-9009; sfbootcamp.com.

**Dec. 4 & Jan. 1:** The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

**Dec. 4 & Jan. 8:** The Noe Valley Library hosts an eReader and ONLINE RESOURCE "Drop In" from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 4 & 18; Jan. 1 & 15:** Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING lessons on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. 7-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Dec. 4-18 & Jan. 1-29:** John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8 pm.

455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

**Dec. 4-18 & Jan. 8-29:** The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 4-25 & Jan. 1-29:** Volunteer to make meals for the hungry at Civic Center Plaza at "Curry Without Worry." 1:30-5 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Dec. 5:** Artists' Television Access screens the 1972 documentary FILM Ingmar Bergman. 6:30-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 5:** Make a sugar scrub and a holiday card at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 5 & 19:** Children 4 and up can read to a dog named Oliver at PUPPY DOG TALES. 6:30-7:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** The Noe Valley Town Square hosts group MEDITATION Wednesdays, from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** Folio Books offers STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** The Eureka Valley Library hosts BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** Holy Innocents Episcopal Church holds Candlesong, a TAIZE-style service

followed by a potluck on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** History group Shaping San Francisco offers free PUBLIC TALKS on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Eric Quezada Center, 518 Valencia. shapingsf.org.

**Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30:** AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

**Dec. 5 & Jan. 2:** The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; glbthistory.org.

**Dec. 6:** The hands-on INSECT Discovery Lab for ages 5 to 11 at the Noe Valley Library runs from 4 to 5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 6:** The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses. 6-9 pm. For a map and list of participants: castroartwalk.com.

**Dec. 6:** BILL YENNE introduces his new book, *The Other Custers*. 7-8 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**Dec. 6 & 8:** The Bay Area Vocal Academy (BAVA) performs a CONCERT. Thurs., 6:30-9:30 pm & Sat., 7-9:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 723-2282; bayareavocalacademy.org.

**Dec. 6-27 & Jan. 3-31:** Shrawan Nepali leads Thursday Morning MEDITATION, from 8 to 9 am, in the Noe Valley Town Square; bring a pillow. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 6-27 & Jan. 3-31:** Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement on Thursdays. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 6-27 & Jan. 3-31:** Newcomers welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

Wishing You a Very Merry

*Christmas*

and the happiest of *New Years!*

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every hill a novel.*

— William Saroyan



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# . CALENDAR .

**Dec. 6-27 & Jan. 3-31:** Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

**Dec. 7:** Dancers' Group's free Rotunda DANCE performance features Cunamacué performing dances inspired by Afro-Peruvian street masquerade dances. Noon. SF City Hall. dancersgroup.org; 920-9181.

**Dec. 7:** Z FLUTE RECITAL at Bethany UMC runs from 4 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Dec. 7:** Paxton Gate celebrates its 26th anniversary with a HOLIDAY PARTY. 7-10 pm. 824 Valencia. paxtongate.com.

**Dec. 7:** SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) hosts the second annual "Chanukah concert like no other" with The Book of J and guests. 8 pm. St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Dec. 7 & 8:** Students from James Lick's Theater Arts department perform an ORIGINAL MUSICAL, *A Royal Tribute*, featuring the music of Aretha Franklin, Prince, and other soul, Latin, and pop nobility. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 pm. 1220 Noe.

**Dec. 7-28 & Jan. 4-25:** The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com. (Saturday-night JAZZ is 7:30 to 10 pm.)

**Dec. 7-28 & Jan. 4-25:** Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for Adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

**Dec. 8:** HAYRIDES, sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate, clip-clop around the neighborhood from 11 am to 2 pm. Pick up and drop off at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 8:** The Agency hosts PHOTOS WITH SANTA from 11 am to 2 pm. 3848 24th.

**Dec. 8:** SANTA can be found at Church Produce, on the corner of 30th and Church, from 3 to 5 pm. 282-1153.



Photo by Jack Tipple

**Dec. 8:** The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project hosts its HOLIDAY MEETING and Social. 3-6 pm. Meet at the Sunnyside Conservatory, 236 Monterey. Sign up at glenparkhistory.org/events.

**Dec. 8 & Jan. 12:** LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on second Saturdays. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. info@noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Dec. 8 & Jan. 12:** Natural Resources offers an opportunity to meet doulas at 2 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; sign up at naturalresources-sf.com.

**Dec. 9:** Come meet SANTA at Folio Books, from 2 to 4 pm. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**Dec. 11:** Leslie Crawford reads from *Gwen the Rescue Hen*, and brings her own chicken, Alice B. Toklas. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**Dec. 11 & Jan. 8:** PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

**Dec. 12:** Lena reads at a NUTCRACKER BALLET story time, with Tchaikovsky's music at Charlie's Corner Bookstore. 10 am & 5 pm.

4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**Dec. 12:** SANTA flies in to Just for Fun, 3982 24th, 4:30 to 7:30 pm. His REINDEER will land at the West Parklet, 24th between Sanchez and Noe, 3:30 to 7:30 pm.

**Dec. 12 & Jan. 19:** The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 13:** You'll find SANTA making balloon reindeer, cocoa, and baked goods, at the First Republic Bank, from 2 to 4 pm. 1354 Castro. RSVP to 628-208-8100 or noevalley@firstrepublic.com.

**Dec. 13 & Jan. 10:** The DIAMOND HEIGHTS Community Association meets on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 pm. Call 867-5774 for location; dhcasf.org.

**Dec. 14:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1940 FILM *The Shop Around the Corner*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullavan. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 15:** Zephyr Real Estate's HOLIDAY celebration includes photos with Santa and Rudolph from 11 am to 2 pm. 4040 24th.

**Dec. 15:** The free Diamond Heights HOLIDAY PARTY at St. Aidan's Church includes music, crafts, food, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. 3-5 pm; 101 Gold Mine. 285-9540, ext. 3, staidansf.org.

**Dec. 15:** SF Neon offers a NEON WALKING TOUR, "Market-Mission-Castro." 4:30-6:30 pm. neonbook.xyz.

**Dec. 15:** The Holiday Celebration at SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) features George Cole and Eurocana. 8 pm. St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Dec. 16:** Third Sunday CONCERTS in the Park at Upper Noe Rec Center features the all-girl teen band Audio Blonde. 10:30-noon. 295 Day. 970-8061.

**Dec. 16:** Celebrate Rumi, Hafez, and other SUFI POETS with healing music at "Journey of the Soul" at Noe Valley Ministry. 6-8 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 17:** Kathy Holly performs a HOLIDAY SHOW featuring traditional Christmas songs and a buffet dinner. 6:30 pm. Bistro SF Grill, 1305 Castro. kathyholly.com.

**Dec. 18:** Rachel Fleischman leads a class, "SELF-HEALING Through Creativity, Mindfulness & Motion." 6:30-7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Dec. 18 & Jan. 15:** Ingleside POLICE STATION holds its community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. Community room, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane. Confirm meeting location at 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

**Dec. 19:** Novy restaurant hosts a "WINE-TASTING for Fire Relief;" with all proceeds going to the North Valley Community Foundation. 5-7 pm. 4000 24th. 829-8383; novysf.com.

**Dec. 19 & Jan. 16:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a LABYRINTH WALK, on third Wednesdays, at 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 20:** The Agency hosts VODKA & LATKES from 4 to 6 pm. 3848 24th. 548-7777.

**Dec. 26:** The second annual BOXING DAY competition at the Noe Valley Town Square involves building a cardboard creation. 11 am-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 26 & Jan. 23:** The RESILIENT Diamond Heights work group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 867-5774.

**Dec. 27:** Learn to use online digital MAGAZINE platform Flipster at the Noe Valley Library. 3:30-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Jan. 2:** Make an embroidered felt hot beverage cozy, and drink tea, at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Jan. 5:** The Elevation BRASS ENSEMBLE performs a concert of original compositions. 7:30 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. Enroll at sf-fire.org/training-schedule-registration.

**Jan. 10-Feb. 14:** SF NERT offers a six-part free class to prepare you during an emergency. 6-9:30 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. Enroll at sf-fire.org/training-schedule-registration.



### Noe January New

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **January 2019** issue, distributed the first week of January. The deadline for items is December 15. Please email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com). Events in Noe Valley receive priority.



## BEHIND THE LENS

*Behind the Lens* is a digital video series about bold California indie filmmakers. Step behind the lens and follow a new generation of storytellers.

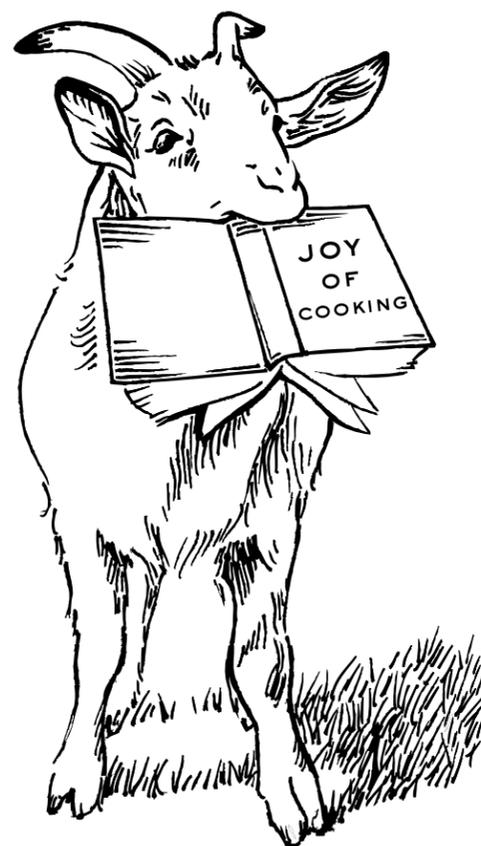
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**Michael of MB Electric:** Has retired October 31, 2018 after 32 years of serving the community. I would like to thank my past customers for their business. Best regards, Michael Ballingall.

**Live In:** Mature lady seeks live-in position in San Francisco as domestic helper, organizer, companion. Experienced, reliable, quiet, clean, non-smoker, uses public transportation. Local references. Call 415-561-9275.

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**Noe Valley Salon:** Station for rent. Bright and well located. Congenial and responsible stylist wanted. Call or text Jenny 415-661-1220.

**Responsible and Caring:** In-house, over night pet sitter available. Services offered: fresh food and water, medication, companionship, waste cleanup, daily text and photo, home security. References available by request. Mary 415-994-4853.

**Driver Available:** Doctor appointments, shopping, errands. Dependable and punctual. 10+ years experience. Great references. \$25 hour (2 hour minimum). Bill 415-826-3613.

**Over 15 Years Pet-Sit Experience:** Cats and small animals. 13 years shelter background assisting with medical and behavior support. Dependable, responsible and caring. Noe Valley resident. Kathleen Marie 415-374-0813.

**Submissions:** The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of short fiction, essays, or poetry, particularly those relating to Noe Valley. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include a phone number.



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Type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check for the total. (A phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. (Sorry, we don't accept Class Ads by phone or email.)

**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes Class Ads 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you get a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total due for 10 issues. The next *Voice* Class Ads will appear in the **February 2019** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of October. **The deadline for Class Ads is January 15.**

The Class Ads are also displayed at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Only the first few words of the ad will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets are provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error.

**UPPER  
NOE  
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**Smoky November:** Air-quality alerts caused classes to be cancelled at Upper Noe, but not even the thickest smog could stop these friends from gathering in Joby's Run dog park. Photo by Chris Faust

**Audio Blonde a Breath of Fresh Air**

As Thanksgiving and light rains arrived, Upper Noe Rec Center made plans to welcome back outdoor sports and its monthly concert series. The park had been forced to cancel a show and to limit its activities to indoors for two weeks in November, due to pervasive smoke from the Butte County fires.

Park users may be able to make up Fall classes or games in December or get refunds (check with the rec center). If you're ready to try a new course or two, sign up for Winter Activities, the session beginning in January. Registration starts Dec. 15, 10 a.m. View the winter catalog and register online at [www.sfreonline.org](http://www.sfreonline.org) or stop by the rec center office, 295 Day St., to do so in person. Many activities, like pickleball, zumba, and karaoke, are free and require no registration.

Next up in the free Concerts in the Park series is Audio Blonde, an all-girl teen band from Fremont, Calif. They'll perform from 10:30 to noon on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the rec center's outdoor venue.

Find out more about the rec center's stewardship committee, classes, and events by visiting [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com) or calling 415-970-8061. Volunteer for Ladybug Gardeners on second Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

**UPPER NOE REC CENTER FALL SESSION AUG. 20 – DEC. 21, 2018**

Check [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com) for updates.

**MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)**

**TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	6:30-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	2:30-5 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m. (begins Oct. 30)*
Rec-N-Tot Soccer	10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun for All	10-11:30 a.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE
Feldenkrais	1-2 p.m.
Soccer	4-5 p.m.
QuickStart Tennis (ages 8-13)	5-6 p.m.
Soccer	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis Intermediate/Advanced (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult Boot Camp	7:45-8:45 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	3-4 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Qi Gong for Seniors (55+)	1-3 p.m.
Coed Flag Football -- Pee-Wee Division (ages 8-10)	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Volleyball -- Girls Beg. (ages 7-9)	4-5:30 p.m.
Coed Flag Football - Senior Division (ages 11-13)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Little Kickers (ages 4-7)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Karate Kids (ages 6-12)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis beg/intermediate (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE

**THURSDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 4-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	9:30-11 a.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (ages 2-4)	11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE
Argentine Tango, advanced (55+)	1-4 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. FREE
Theater-Mini Players (ages 5-6)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Zumba (family)	5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE
Yoga-Gentle Hatha (18+)	6:45-7:45 p.m.

**FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	1-4 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 -12:30 a.m.
Shred-N-Butter (ages 6-13)	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Volleyball League -- Girls Intermed. (ages 10-14)	4-5:30 p.m.
Karaoke for Adults (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE

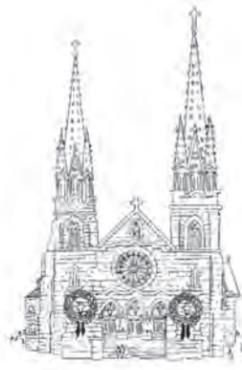
**SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)**

Open Gym	None
Auditorium Free Play	12-4:30 p.m.*
Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	9:15-10:15 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer (ages 2-3)	10-11 a.m.
Zumba (family) Drop-in only	10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE

**SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)**

\*Hours are subject to change.

**THANK YOU!**



We are grateful for the many wonderful supporters and benefactors of our fun- and fund-raising event, "St. Paul's Prom Night." Please help us say thanks to these companies and individuals for supporting this event that benefits both the Church and School of St. Paul's Parish. Patronize and support these companies, and tell them you saw their contribution recognized in the Noe Valley Voice. Say "well done!" to those individuals and organizations that donated, sponsored, reached out to others, and served on the event committee. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman graciously attended the event and presented to Fr. Mario Farana a Certificate of Honor signed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Our Generous Dinner-Dance Auction Donors**

- |                                    |   |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>COMPANIES:</b>                  | Smuin Contemporary American Ballet                            | Melinda Dunnihoo Maggie & Nick Fairbairn | Neil & Laura Olson Mary O'Rourke Norma Perez |
| AcroSports                         | Spa Week  | Fr. Mario Farana                         | Ana Pineda                                   |
| Amici's East Coast Pizzeria        | Spice Ace   | Vincent Fausone                          | Anna Raffo                                   |
| Barzotto Restaurant                | Terra Mia Ceramic Studio                                      | Larry & Terese Finn                      | Ronald Raffo                                 |
| Bay Area Discovery Museum          | The Cheesecake Factory  | Enedina Flores                           | Marco Razo                                   |
| Berkeley Rep Theater               | The Parent Diary  | Juana Flores                             | Eyra Reyes                                   |
| Bi Rite Market                     | Trader Joe's  | Michelle Gaggero-Chamorro                | Martha Rios Mercedes Robles                  |
| Bizzarro Auctions                  | Winchester Mystery House                                      | Yolanda Galdamez                         | Concepcion Rodriguez                         |
| Café La Taza                       |   | Mary Gamma                               | Maria Inez Rodriguez                         |
| Camp Galileo                       |   | Aimee Gaspar                             | Sarah & Andrew Rush                          |
| Castagnola's                       |   | Mila Go                                  | Christine Sacino & Joseph Heinen             |
| Celia's Mexican Restaurant         | <b>ORGANIZATIONS, SPONSORS, DONORS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b> | Ernestina Gonzalez                       | Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep HS               |
| Chabot Space & Science Center      | Ellen & Tom Abels   | Stephanie Gordon & Richard Rugg          | San Francisco Fire Department                |
| Chez Marius                        | Jill Alcantar   | Juanita Green                            | Carmen Santisteban                           |
| Children's Fairyland               | Lucy Alfaro   | Connie Gutierrez                         | Juan Santisteban                             |
| Copy Tec Legal Services            | Marina Alvarado   | Bill Hackel                              | Olga Scampini                                |
| Credo Restaurant                   | Archbishop Riordan High School                                | Jen Harrison                             | Kevin Scarpelli                              |
| Designer Sisters                   | Rodemiro Arguello   | Eloice & John Helms                      | Rosa Scartin                                 |
| diPietro Todd Salon                | Helen Ballard   | Martha Hernandez                         | Annette Schubert                             |
| Douglas Café                       | Stephen Beddoes & Elizabeth Brown                             | Rosargentina Herrera                     | Lou Segale                                   |
| Driscoll's Valencia                | Lilian Berrios  | Marilyn Highlander-Pool                  | Alfred Sekara                                |
| Street Mortuary                    | Ken & Janet Bollier   | Argentina Jimenez                        | Dan & Nancy Shea                             |
| Duggan's Serra Mortuary            | Amy Bruce   | Jose Jimenez                             | Deb Smith & Amy Barnett                      |
| Easy Breezy Frozen Yogurt          | Michele & Shawn Bulen   | Emily Kalanithi                          | Angel Solorzano                              |
| Eric's Restaurant                  | Meghan Caballeros   | Kipp Kennedy                             | Tierney Solorio                              |
| Falcon Associates                  | Odely Cabrera   | Robert King                              | St. Ignatius College Prep HS                 |
| Gialina Pizzeria                   | Evelyn Campos   | Katie Kiss                               | St. Paul's Athletic Board                    |
| Gilroy Gardens Theme Park          | Daniel Candray  | Cristina Lara                            | St. Paul's High School Alumnae Assn          |
| Habanas Cuban Cuisine              | Victoria Carradero  | Patti Lazzaretto                         | St. Paul's Parish                            |
| Hiller Aviation Museum             | Alba Castillo   | Beverly Liberale                         | St. Paul's Religious Education Program       |
| Infiniti SF                        | Amador Castillo   | Albert Liu & Penelope Yip                | St. Paul's School Stanford Athletics         |
| Joedei Siles/Factory 727           | Josue Castellanos   | Georgine Lonero                          | Michael Stanton                              |
| Lagunitas Brewing Co.              | Kristina Castro   | Reina Lopez                              | Deborah Stephens                             |
| Lovejoys Antiques & Tea Room       | Patricia Chaplin  | Jim Lynch                                | Ruth & Ron Tortorelli                        |
| Michael Merrill Design Studio      | Paty Chaplin  | Barbara Mallet                           | Jamie Tracy                                  |
| Mitchell's Ice Cream               | Stephen Chaplin   | Nancy & Gerry Mannion                    | Ana Trejo                                    |
| Navarrete's Black Belt Academy     | Catherine Chung   | Salina Marley                            | Estela Urrutia                               |
| NorCal DJs                         | Class of 2019   | Margaret McCarthy                        | Lucy Vaquerano                               |
| Nothing Bundt Cakes                | Class of 2020   | Kacey & Mike McCloskey                   | Elsa F. Vides                                |
| O'Kane and Tegay Insurance Brokers | Class of 2021   | Deacon Bill & Christine McLoughlin       | Betty & William Welch                        |
| One Martial Arts                   | Class of 2022   | Gloria Medina                            | Cynthia & Jonathan Wetmore                   |
| Original Joe's                     | Class of 2023   | Manuel Medina                            | Mary Wilkinson                               |
| Patio Espanol                      | Class of 2024   | Alba Mejia                               | Roberto Zaldana                              |
| Puerto Alegre Mexican Cuisine      | Class of 2025   | Men of St. Paul                          |  |
| Regent Thai                        | Class of 2026   | Mercy High School SF                     |  |
| Root Division                      | Class of 2027   | Meighan Merono                           |  |
| San Francisco 49ers                | Club Latino   | Moreno Montalvo                          |  |
| SF MOMA                            | Laura Collins & Brian Glander                                 | Leonardo Montenegro                      |  |
| Shamrock Moving & Storage, Inc.    | Diane Costa   | Julio Montes                             |  |
| Simply Uniforms                    | Anne & Joe Crawford   | Lucrecia Montes                          |  |
| Sloat Garden Center                | Monica & Thomas Curran  | Rosario Montes                           |  |
|                                    | The Demeter Family  | Mary Morley                              |  |
|                                    | Kate Depman & Jim Woods                                       | Carol Morgan                             |  |
|                                    | Jere & Sandy Driscoll   | Anita Murillo                            |  |
|                                    |   | Carlos Murillo                           |  |
|                                    |   | Mary Murphy                              |  |
|                                    |   | John Murray                              |  |
|                                    |   | Kayo Nakagome                            |  |
|                                    |   | Lois & Frank Noonan                      |  |
|                                    |   | Francisco Obregon                        |  |
|                                    |   | Martha Obregon                           |  |



**St. Paul's Church**  
221 Valley Street  
San Francisco, California 94131  
415-648-7538

**ADULT/TEEN EVENTS**

**Noe Valley Knitting Circle:** Meet to knit or crochet on the first Saturday of the month. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles if you're working on a special project. Saturdays, Dec. 1 and Jan. 5; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**AAC Conversation Club:** Practice the use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication devices, including Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, Talk Bar, and apps for smartphones and tablets. For more information, contact Kris Moser at [krismoser@aol.com](mailto:krismoser@aol.com). Mondays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17; Jan. 7, 14 and 28. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**eReader and Online Resource "Drop-In":** Bring your mobile device or laptop, library card and PIN (and passwords) to an informal workshop about the SFPL's digital resources, including the library databases, Kanopy for streaming films, Flipster and RBDigital for magazines, and OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks. Tuesdays, Dec. 4 and Jan. 8; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Adult Craft Night One:** Come make a luxurious sugar scrub and a holiday card; all materials provided. Sign up by calling 355-5707 or ask at the info desk. Wednesday, Dec. 5; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Artists' Television Access @ SFPL:** In honor of the Ingmar Bergman Centennial, ATA and the San Francisco Library will screen the 1972 documentary film *Ingmar Bergman*. Tuesday, Dec. 11; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Great Books Discussion Group:** Discuss and learn from outstanding works of writing at a monthly discussion group sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For more information contact Elena at [eschmid@sonic.net](mailto:eschmid@sonic.net). Wednesdays, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Friday Matinees:** The library presents the 1940 film *The Shop Around the Corner*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullavan as co-workers who feud and fall in love, on Friday, Dec. 14. Screening Jan. 11 is the 2017 film *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*, starring Charlie Hunnam in the title role. Both films are 2 to 4 p.m.

**Self-Healing Through Creativity, Mindfulness & Motion: Rachel Fleischman** leads a workshop designed to reduce stress, promote calm and balance, and "take you out of the ordinary and into the sublime." Tuesday, Dec. 18; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Learn to use Flipster:** Online digital magazine platform Flipster gives access to a variety of magazines. You can stream popular titles online from a computer or download them to a smartphone or tablet using the mobile app for offline reading. Laptop computers will be available for use, but feel free to bring your own devices. Thursday, Dec. 27; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Adult Craft Night Two:** Make a hot beverage cozy out of felt and decorate it with embroidery; all materials provided. The library will serve tea, so you can try your cozies in action. To sign up, call 355-5707 or ask at the info desk. Wednesday, Jan. 2; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group** reads a variety of contemporary fiction and nonfiction. Call for the current selection. Copies of the book are located at the Circulation Desk. Wednesday, Jan. 16; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Internet Safety Fundamentals:** Careful where you click! This class will teach tips and tricks for staying smart while navigating the digital world. Laptop computers will be available, but feel free to bring your own mobile devices. Thursday, Jan. 17; 3 to 4 p.m.

All 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 [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**Powerful Words**

A book on how poems get made, a cookbook with recipes for a literary tea party, and a collection of classic fairy tales retold with girl power are among the new arrivals at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, chosen by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr.

To check on their availability, call 415-355-5707, drop by the Noe Valley Branch at 451 Jersey St., or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

*Dates to Remember:* The library closes at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. It will be closed all day on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2019. It will also be closed on Jan. 21, 2019, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Adult Fiction**

- A woman uncovers the secret her family has been keeping since World War II in *The Lost Vintage* by Ann Mah.
- Preti Taneja's novel *We That Are Young* is a modern-day *King Lear*, set in India.
- In the psychological thriller *The Perfect Mother* by Aimee Molloy, a group of new moms becomes connected when one of their babies disappears.
- Matt Haig's rom-com with a twist, *How to Stop Time*, is going to be the basis of a Benedict Cumberbatch movie.

**Adult Nonfiction**

- Carlo Rovelli considers questions about the past, present, and future in *The Order of Time*.
- In *How Poems Get Made*, James Longenbach offers a guide to writing and reading poetry.
- Mike Brooks' *Tech Generation: Raising Balanced Kids in a Hyper-Connected World* considers the effects of modern technology on children.
- Tips and techniques are explored in *Gardening Under Lights: The Complete Guide for Indoor Growers* by Leslie F. Halleck.

**Adult eBooks**

- *The Book of Magic*, edited by Gardner Dozois, includes 17 stories about witches and sorcerers.
- A family seeks a new beginning in the Alaskan wilderness in *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah.
- Rachel Simmons examines contemporary girlhood in *Enough As She Is: How to Help Girls Move Beyond Impossible Standards of Success to Live Healthy, Happy, and Fulfilling Lives*.

• *A Literary Tea Party: Blends and Treats for Alice, Bilbo, Dorothy, Jo, and Book Lovers Everywhere*, by Alison Walsh, is a cookbook inspired by the classics.

**DVDS**

- The 2018 documentary film *Always at the Carlyle* includes commentary about the hotel from George Clooney, Jeff Goldblum, and Anthony Bourdain.
- *Love, Cecil* chronicles the life of photographer, set designer, writer, and painter Cecil Beaton.
- A girl travels to Singapore and meets her boyfriend's family in the 2018 comedy *Crazy Rich Asians*.
- In the 2018 comedy *Sorry to Bother You*, a telemarketer finds a key to success that propels him into a macabre universe.

**Children's Fiction**

- Little Bear hears three tales before falling asleep in *Stories of the Night*, written and illustrated by Kitty Crowther. Ages 3 to 7.
- In *The Lying King*, written and illustrated by Alex Beard, a warthog lies his way to the throne. Ages 4 to 8.
- *Breathe and Be: A Book of Mindfulness Poems* written by Kate Coombs, with illustrations by Anna Emilia Laitinen, encourages calm and awareness. Ages 5 to 8.
- A clumsy dinosaur has one disaster after another in *The T-Rex Who Lost His Specs* written by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Tony Ross. Ages 6 to 8.
- In *A Boy Called Bat*, written by Elana K. Arnold and illustrated by Charles Santoso, a boy on the autism spectrum acquires a pet skunk. Ages 6 to 10.
- Vita Weinstein Murrow revises the classics in *Power to the Princess: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Girl Power*; illustrations by Julia Bereciartu. Ages 6 to 13.
- A boy discovers a spectrum of color in *The Splintered Light* by Ginger Johnson. Ages 8 to 13.
- *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*, written by M.T. Anderson and Eugene Yelchin and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin, is a political saga about a war between the elf and goblin kingdoms. Ages 10 to 16.



**Children's Nonfiction**

- Author Chris Harris and illustrator Lane Smith's poetry collection *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* is recommended for ages 5 to 12.
- Fifteen species facing extinction are the heroes of *Red Alert! Endangered Animals Around the World*, written by Catherine Barr and illustrated by Anne Wilson. Ages 7 to 11.
- In *Dog Days of History: The Incredible Story of Our Best Friends*, Sarah Albee tells the story of our canine companions. Ages 9 to 12.
- The lives and words of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy are featured in *Martin and Bobby: A Journey Toward Justice* by Claire Rudolf Murphy. Ages 10 to 16.

Annotations by Voice bookworm  
Karol Barske

**CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

**The Insect Discovery Lab** will give children ages 5 to 11 the opportunity to handle live insects, like millipedes, walking sticks, and scorpions, and learn about their key roles in the web of life. Thursday, Dec. 6; 4 to 5 p.m. Call 355-5707 to pre-register; 25 children max.

At the **Big Playdate** at the library, kids can play with a variety of building materials, including Kodo marble tracks, Bildopolis Big Builders, Magnatiles, and Mega Bloks. For infants through 5 years, with parent or caregiver. Saturday, Jan. 19; 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Meadowlark Music Class:** Indie singer/songwriter **Noe Venable** celebrates the wonder of winter with movement, play-along instruments, a puppet show, and Noe's Celtic harp. For the whole family, and especially children 0 to 5 years. Saturday, Jan. 26; 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

**Toddler Tales:** Miss Catherine reads books and leads songs and chants with movement; ideal for ages 16 through 36 months with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

All 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](http://www.sfpl.org).

**WPA Model on Display**

In partnership with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Public Library will exhibit the *San Francisco Model*, a detailed wooden replica of the city, at library branches from Jan. 25 to March 25, 2019. The model, built at a scale of one inch to 100 feet, was constructed during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration and has not been on public display since 1941. The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey St. will exhibit sections that show parts of Noe Valley. Look for the display upstairs near the Circulation Desk. —Librarians Denise Sanderson and Catherine Small

**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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*Tom Swift in Noe Valley*  
By Michael Blake

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Hitting a High Vote

By Mazook

**POLL VAULT:** The San Francisco Department of Elections has tabulated our votes, and the results are in for the Nov. 6 midterm election.

Of the 16,964 of us who registered to vote in Noe Valley, 14,401 actually cast their ballots. This was an unprecedented 84.9 percent voter turnout in a midterm (or any) election in Noe Valley. We placed second in the city, with the voters over the Castro Street hill in Eureka Valley/Upper Market voting at 85.3 percent.

In the congressional vote, Noe Valley reaffirmed Democrat Nancy Pelosi as our representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, voting 12,743 for her and only 507 for the Republican candidate, Lisa Remmer. In the Senate race, with two Democrats running, Dianne Feinstein garnered over 9,000 votes, compared to about 4,900 for Kevin de Leon.

In the contest for California governor, former San Francisco mayor and Democrat Gavin Newsom scored 12,981 votes in Noe Valley, while Republican John H. Cox received 1,002 votes.

Looking at the state propositions, the Noe vote was almost 90 percent against Proposition 6, which would have eliminated taxes for certain road repairs and transportation funding. Noe Valleons voted in favor of dumping daylight savings time (Prop. 7) by a 7 to 3 margin. And in Prop. 10, the much publicized effort to expand local government's ability to enact rent control, Noe voted 55 percent yea to 45 percent nay (although, statewide, the measure was rejected). Prop. 12, to establish new limits on confining farm animals, passed in Noe by a 10 to 3 margin (and statewide as well).

In the District 8 supervisorial election, Rafael Mandelman was the overwhelming choice, with 11,272 Noe residents marking his name, versus 1,068 for his opponent, Lawrence "Stark" Dagesse.

☎☎☎

**PROPPED UP:** Looking at the San Francisco propositions, almost everyone was in favor of measure A, which approved bonds to rebuild the Embarcadero seawall. Noe Valley voted yes by an almost 9 to 1 ratio; city-wide, the vote was 82 to 18 percent.

Two-thirds of us in Noe (63 percent city-wide) were in favor of imposing business taxes to fund services for the homeless (Prop. C), as were 64 percent for Prop. D (more taxes on cannabis businesses), which was approved citywide by 62 percent. By a 5 to 1 margin, we voted in favor of Prop. E (2 to 1 citywide) to reallocate a portion of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund to "arts and cultural purposes."

☎☎☎

**UP IN SMOKE:** The big news in last month's Rumors was that an application had been filed with the city's Office of Cannabis for a cannabis dispensary in the vacant store on the corner of 24th and Chattanooga (the former Mill). That still goes.

I also reported that a second application had been filed by another dispensary, "Gold City Greenery," for a commercial space in the almost-completed building at 3910 24th, next door to St. Clair's Liquor. One of the building's owners, Mousa Khouri, said (last issue) he was a bit surprised. "They [Gold City Greenery] made us an offer which we have not accepted, so there is no lease right now!" But he also said he was still in negotiations with the dispensary.

When Khouri read the November column, things became even more confused. His new building has the address numbers 3906 and 3908. Not 3910. That is the address of the adjoining property, where See Jane Run once ran, and which is now being gutted and remodeled.

The director of the Office of Cannabis, Nicole Elliott, says her map, which says 3910, reflects only the street number provided on the application, so if there was any mistake, it would be by the applicant.

Attempts to reach the property owner at 3910 have been unsuccessful, although the contractor said the storefront's remodeling work could go well into next year.

In November, Khouri said he had contacted his real estate agent regarding the discrepancy. He is still negotiating with the dispensary, and with others interested in the commercial space. He also put up a For Lease sign on the 3906-08 building.

There also must have been some confusion about last month's item about the new occupants of the small store next to Just for Fun at 3980 24th, which most recently was Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's campaign office. I reported it was going to become "some kind of computer school." Not close. A glance through the window revealed an elaborate exercise contraption with a full set of weights. I am now told by reliable sources that the space is currently being occupied by a group of computer geeks who are using the space as a production studio for videos of physical trainers demonstrating their personal training regimens that will then be offered as an app for your mobile devices.

☎☎☎

**GOING TO THE DOGS:** As to the fate of the space formerly occupied by Artisana at 3927 24th, it is about to become Doggy Style, a high-end pet boutique and day club, which Noe Valley Merchants & Professional Association president Rachel Swann will open sometime in early 2019.

"It will be a first-of-its-kind, locally owned dog experience including unique furnishings, clothing, accessories, and a concierge service tailored for your dog," says Swann, "where you can shop and socialize with other dog moms and dads while your pooch stays and plays in our private indoor/outdoor playground."

"We will develop our new space and prepare our neighborhood collaborations with local nonprofits such as Muttville Senior

Dog Rescue [and offer] many community-enhancing experiences such as free animal therapy for U.S. veterans suffering from PTSD and community vaccination days, and we will collaborate with local groomers and dog walkers as well," she says.

Meanwhile, local cats might want to check out a vacancy two blocks away at 3789 24th St. (near Chattanooga). After three and a half years, the store that used to house Isso women's clothing boutique is available for rent. According to Crystal Wright, the real estate agent for the building owner, they are looking for a retail tenant for the approximately 550 square feet of space, at a monthly rent of \$2,700. If you're interested, give Wright a call at 699-4366.

☎☎☎

**MAY THE FUERZA BE CONTIGO:** It was closing time on Nov. 17 for patrons of the highly regarded Contigo Tapas Bar & Restaurant, at 1320 Castro St. The Spanish and Catalan cuisine of Brett and Elan Emerson made Contigo a very popular eatery in Downtown Noe Valley for the past 10 years.

On Nov. 15, Brett posted on Contigo's Facebook page, "It is with enormous hearts that @elanemerson and I announce the closing of Contigo. We have made a personal decision to focus our full attention on our family and our new restaurant, Barceloneta Restaurant, in downtown Santa Cruz. Contigo's final dinner service will be this Saturday, Nov. 17."

The fate of the Contigo space on Castro is not known. As you might know, the Emersons moved to Santa Cruz a few years back and started working on creating Barceloneta, which Brett reports, will be "open sometime early next year."

For those of you awaiting the opening of Downtown Noe Valley's newest bakery, Vive La Tarte (in the old Bliss Bar space at 4026 24th), it should be in "mid-January," according to Belgian bakers Julie Vandermeersch and Arnaud Goethals.

"We are putting the finishing touches on the bakery, where we will mill all our ingredients in-house and will have a mimosa bar made with different kinds of fresh fruits," says Goethals. He promises they will feature a "Noe Valley Loaf" of their sourdough bread, "made with house-milled barley and rye, with purple sweet potato. We are creating our new starter dough in Noe Valley, which should make it unique."

Besides the tarts and other sweets, Vive La Tarte will have breakfast and lunch bites, like a chicken-avocado "tacro," a cross between a croissant and a taco.

☎☎☎

**SHORT SHRIFTS:** The Pritikin mansion in Fairmount Heights, at 47 Chenery St., which has been for sale for many months for the tidy sum of \$15.5 million, has had its asking price reduced to \$5.5 million.... Ambiance women's clothing store is offering wardrobe consultations free, but by appointment only (call Julie Rhodes at 415-369-0865).... Noe Valley author Bill Yenne will talk about his new book, *The Other Custers*, at Folio Books (3957 24th) on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. It's about two of the brothers and the brother-in-law of George Armstrong Custer,

all of whom died at Little Bighorn in 1876.... Leslie Crawford will read her new kids' book, *Gwen the Rescue Hen*, at the bookstore on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. She will bring a pet chicken.... And local psychologist Bryna Siegel will give a talk about her newly released *The Politics of Autism* at Folio on Friday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. She is a world-class expert in this specialized field and was recently interviewed on National Public Radio.

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**CHAMPAGNE TASTES:** A crowd of around 250 people showed up in Noe Valley for the 24th annual Home Tour sponsored by the Junior League of San Francisco, which chooses a different "prestigious neighborhood" every year. The event took place on Saturday, Oct. 27, with the home tours enhanced by Champagne Stops.

The five homes on the itinerary were on Chattanooga, Valley, Day, Dolores, and 21st streets. The five champagne stops were at Stephen Moore Home (3845 24th), Azil Boutique (4010 24th), When Modern Was (4037 24th), and Michael's Chocolates and My Pearl by LeeAnn (pop-ups in Olive This Olive That at 304 Vicksburg).

☎☎☎

**FROM A LITTLE SEED:** Kudos go out to the Noe Valley Farmers Market, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this month. Do you know these facts about the market:

The NVFM is the only SF market that is run by volunteers, aside from one paid manager. Every other market in the city is run by a franchise or a group of paid employees, along with some volunteers.

They match, up to \$20, all state welfare EBT (electronic benefit transfer) transactions.

For almost five years, they've run a high school internship program, doing on-the-job training for local public high school students. They started the James Lick Middle School garden, which, thanks to Marko Marks, has grown tenfold.

They host Curry Without Worry to help CWW fund its feed-the-hungry program.

The market is now plastic free, and has a successful bag-exchange program.

Almost since the NVFM started, Food Runners has come and taken pounds of fruits and vegetables to homeless shelters.

The NVFM has hosted a few start-ups that have gone on to run successful businesses, including El Buen Comer and Dandelion Chocolate.

You can shop there on Saturday mornings year-round, rain or shine. The market only closes one or two Saturdays a year, if the Saturdays fall on Christmas or New Year's.

Thanks to all the founders, and to all who keep the market running: Elizabeth Crane, Steven Powell, Leslie Crawford, Patrick Monk, Paula Benton, Jonathan Alloy, John Friedman, Peter Gabel, Diane Koehler, Richard Hildreth, John Foley, Kim Rohrbach, Dave Campbell, and Erica Sweetman.

☎☎☎

**THAT'S 30.** Have merry holidays and a happy new year, and Rumors will be back at you in February. Ciao for now. ■

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# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Action SF—The National Movement in Your Neighborhood** Website: [www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity](http://www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity) Email: [actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com) <http://www.resistry.net> Meetings: Second Sunday, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. Note: NO meetings December 2018 and January 2019.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley** Contact: 834-9940 Website: [www.al-anonsf.org](http://www.al-anonsf.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/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association** Website: [www.evna.org](http://www.evna.org) Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114 Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association** Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131 Website: [www.dhcasf.org](http://www.dhcasf.org) Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club** Email: [info@doloresheights.org](mailto:info@doloresheights.org) Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org) Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)** Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235 Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors** Email: [hello@fairoaksneighbors.org](mailto:hello@fairoaksneighbors.org) Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110 Street fair is the day before Mother's Day.

**Fairmount Heights Association** Contact: Kathy Keller, 912-9365 Email: [Kathy.Keller44@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.Keller44@gmail.com) <http://fairmount-heights.org> Meetings: Monthly social mixer and discussion, 350 Amber Drive

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill** Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122 Website: [www.billygoathill.net](http://www.billygoathill.net)

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground** Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772 Email: [friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com) Website: [www.friendsofdolorespark.org](http://www.friendsofdolorespark.org) Meetings: See website.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park** Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862, or Jean Connor, 584-8576 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground** Contact: Laura Norman Email: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com) Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

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

**Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center (Upper Noe Rec Center)** Contact: Chris Faust Email: [info@noevalleyrecenter.com](mailto:info@noevalleyrecenter.com) Website: [www.noevalleyrecenter.com](http://www.noevalleyrecenter.com) Meetings: Email or check website.

**Friends of 30th Street Senior Center** Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845 Address: 225 30th St., SF, CA 94131 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDG)** Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel Email: [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org) Website: [www.fundogsf.org](http://www.fundogsf.org)

**Glen Park Association** Contact: [info@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:info@glenparkassociation.org) Website: [glenparkassociation.org](http://glenparkassociation.org) Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

**Juri Commoners** Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290 Email: [dave@schweisguth.org](mailto:dave@schweisguth.org) Website: [www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners](http://www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners) Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association** Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president Email: [efromer3@gmail.com](mailto:efromer3@gmail.com) Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Merchants of Upper Market and Castro** Contact: 835-8720 Email: [info@castromerchants.com](mailto:info@castromerchants.com) Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114 Meetings: Call for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council** Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders Email: [info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](mailto:info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com) Website: [www.noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://www.noeneighborhoodcouncil.com) Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

**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](mailto:info@noevalleyassociation.org) Website: [www.noevalleyassociation.org](http://www.noevalleyassociation.org) Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club** Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; [hls5@ibew1245.com](mailto:hls5@ibew1245.com) Website: [noevalleydems.com](http://noevalleydems.com) Meetings: Fourth Tuesdays, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 6:30 p.m.

**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](mailto:info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com)

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)** Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm. Website: [www.NoEvalleyMerchants.com](http://www.NoEvalleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network** An e-mail resource network for parents Contact: Mina Kenvin Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco** Listserv contact: [noevalleyparent-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:noevalleyparent-owner@yahoo.com). Subscribe: [noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoo.com)

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

**Progress Noe Valley** Facebook: [facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley](https://www.facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley) Email: [progressnoe@gmail.com](mailto:progressnoe@gmail.com) Website: [progressnoe.com](http://progressnoe.com) Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Residents for Noe Valley Town Square** Contact: Todd David, 401-0625 Email: [noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com](mailto:noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com) Website: [www.noevalleytownsquare.com](http://www.noevalleytownsquare.com) Meetings: Call for details.

**San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)** Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com); Carole Roberts, [carole\\_roberts@faludi.com](mailto:carole_roberts@faludi.com) Note: Sign up now for NERT training Jan. 10–Feb. 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks at <https://sf-fire.org/training-schedule-registration>.

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

**Stand Up San Francisco** Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman Email: [info@standupsf.net](mailto:info@standupsf.net) Website: [www.standupsf.net](http://www.standupsf.net) Meetings: At offices of members of Congress, weekly. All-group meetings at Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., once a month

**Upper Noe Neighbors** Contact: Olga Milan-Howells, 756-4455 Email: [President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com](mailto:President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com) Meetings: Bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. Call to confirm.

\*All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.



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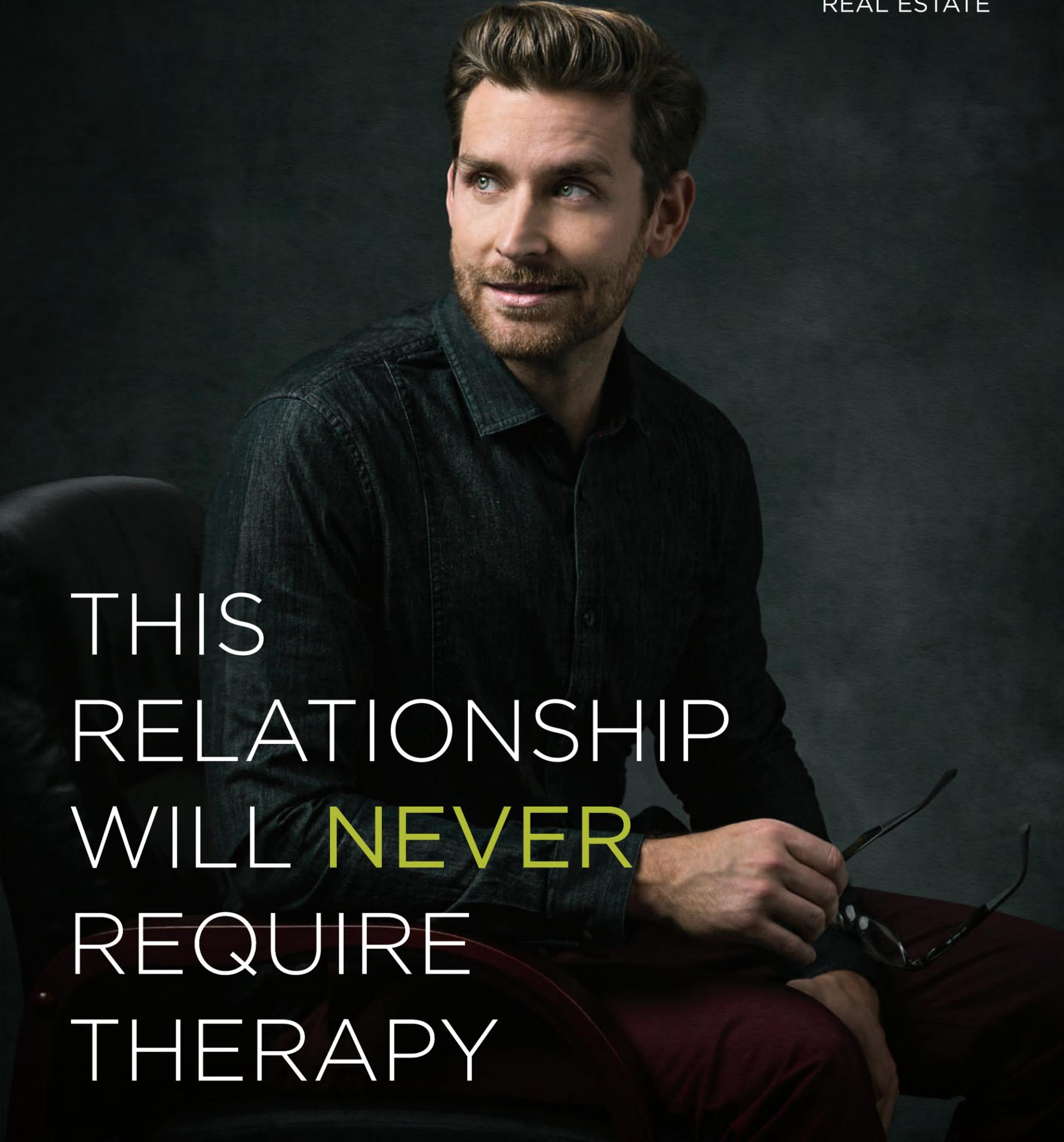
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**Holiday Celebration Tree Lighting**  
**Saturday, Dec. 1**  
**5 – 8 PM**  
 Tap Dancing XMAS Trees  
 Caroling  
 Hot chocolate  
 Holiday cookies

**Chanukah Wonderland**  
**Noe Valley Town Square**  
**December 2, 3:30– 5:30 PM**  
 Menorah, Latkes, Gelt, Dreidles,  
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 & Chabad of Noe Valley



**Menorah Lighting & Singing**  
**December 6, 6 – 6:30 PM**  
 with Congregation Emanu-El  
 West Parklet on 24th St. near Noe St.



**Holiday Hayrides**  
**Saturdays 12/1 & 12/8**  
**11 AM–2 PM**  
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12/6, 5-9 PM: Holiday Shopping Party! Ambiance SF  
 12/11, 4-5 PM: *Gwen the Hen* book reading by author  
 12/19, 5-7 PM: Wine Tasting Benefit for Fire Relief at NOVY  
 12/20, 4-6 PM: Vodka & Latkes, The Agency

**Live Reindeer!**  
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**Times, locations etc:**  
**[24on24th.com](http://24on24th.com)**  
 12/8: The Agency  
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 12/12: Just for Fun  
 12/13: First Republic Bank  
 12/15: Zephyr Real Estate



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