



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Eating Vegan in Noe Valley

It's Easier Than You Think

By Olivia Boler

We're already into the second month of 2019, and perhaps you've made promises to eat more healthy food. Maybe you've looked at the data about how much the beef, dairy, and poultry industries contribute to greenhouse gases. Or maybe you are a picky eater who thinks meat is "gross," like one of my children, who shall remain nameless. I will admit that I live with a vegan, my husband, Paul Marshall, so when the *Voice* asked me about our dining options in Noe Valley, I was game to review our favorites and check out some we hadn't yet tried.

South of the Border

A few neighborhood eateries have really gone out of their way to make vegans feel welcome with a few different menu choices. One of the toughest things about being vegan, Paul often says, is the lack of variety when it comes to textures and flavors.

Our favorite Noe Valley vegan bargain eats is **Casa Mexicana** on 24th Street. The bean veggie burrito is a vegan staple. Ask for rice, vegetables of your choice, and beans. They're all vegan. Tortilla chips and salsa, along with a beverage—complimentary water, agua fresca, soft drinks, tea, or beer—make it a meal that will fill you up.

If we want a vegan Latinx experience that's a little more hipster, we head up 24th Street to **The Little Chihuahua**. They boast a tasty salsa bar and warm, thin salty tortilla chips. Sometimes we double down on our meal with a bowl of guacamole, which complements the grilled veggies or chile verde tofu burrito fillings. They also offer vegetarian refried and black beans.

Try their fried plantain burrito—just hold the cheese and sour cream. The tostada salad is also delicious featuring pico de gallo, avocado, black beans, and a lime-cilantro dressing. Hold the queso fresco to make it vegan. My daughter really likes a basic order of beans and rice, which both Chihuahua and Casa offer.

Clean Food on the Go

I admit that we hadn't taken full advantage of **Urban Remedy's** "clean" plant-based meals, as well as the juice and soup cleanses. Their food offerings often look like colorful bowls of salad. We're glad to know it's there, but this was our chance to try it out.

Some bowls do come with animal proteins such as salmon or chicken, but there are plenty of choices without, such as the Chinese Noodle Salad, made with low-carb, gluten-free kelp noodles, almonds, coconut, and cabbage, and the Macro Bowl, a mix of kale, quinoa, sweet potatoes, pumpkin seeds, beets, and cumin chickpea croutons, also gluten free.

The Vegan Caesar is a nice salad for those craving a classic—without the



Veritable Vegan Delights. Urban Remedy store manager Ariana Olivares shows one of her personal favorite vegan meals, the Macro Bowl, which is also gluten free. Urban Remedy, at 3870 24th St., is one of several local spots now catering to vegan tastes. Photo by Jack Tipple

Pressman Documents With Insightful Films

Shining a Light on Untold Holocaust Stories

By Matthew S. Bajko

Shortly after Steven Pressman met his late wife, Liz Perle, in the summer of 2000, he learned that her grandmother had written about a secret chapter of her life. In it, Eleanor Kraus detailed how she and her husband, Gil, were able to secret out 50 children from Nazi-controlled Vienna in the spring of 1939.

"They had died years ago. I never met them. But Liz's grandmother, going back years ago, had written a private memoir that described the whole story, beginning to end. Liz had a copy of it and she showed me it not long after I met her," recalled Pressman, 63, who has a three-decade-long career as a print journalist. "For years I knew a little bit about what her grandparents had done. By the time I decided to try this new career as a filmmaker, I had this incredible story all to myself."

His documentary, *Fifty Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus*, would be picked up by cable channel HBO, which debuted it in April 2013.

"It doesn't really get any better than that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The Time of the Season. At Flowers of the Valley at 4077 24th St., 6-year-old Vitaly helps his mother Yuliya Labunsky show valentine hearts to customers. "They're made of pencil shavings," she says, "and they last for several seasons." As the famed day for flowers approaches, Yuliya advises pre-ordering your favorite flora. Photo by Beverly Tharp

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

OPENSFHISTORY



Exit Strategy: On Tuesday, June 3, 1952, a sensational car accident at 24th and Castro streets captured the attention of James Lick students on their way to school. A 16-year-old ran the stop sign and flipped the oncoming vehicle. The driver of that car climbed free of the wreck. No serious injuries resulted.

Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher

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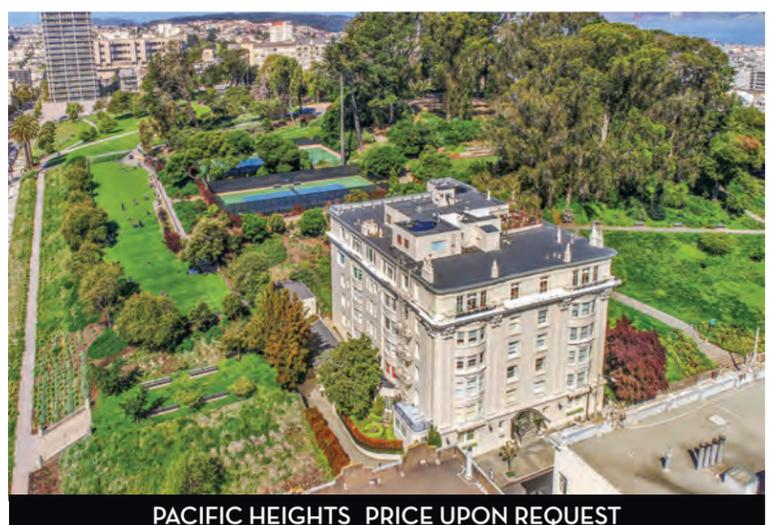
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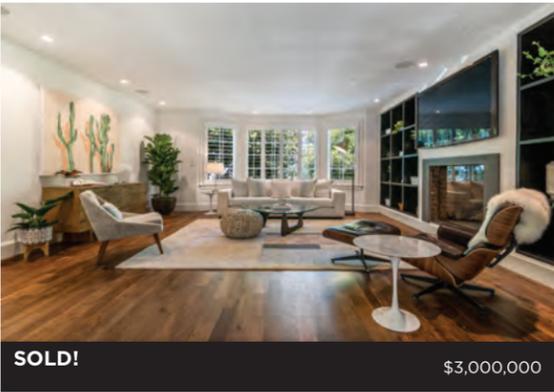
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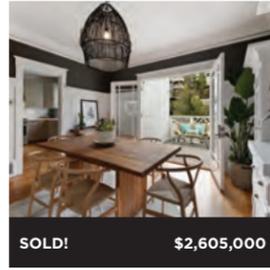
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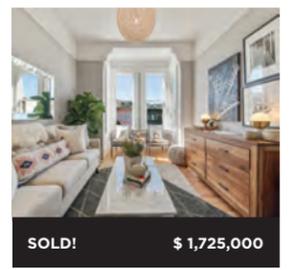
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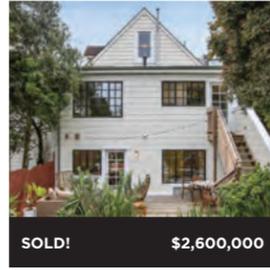
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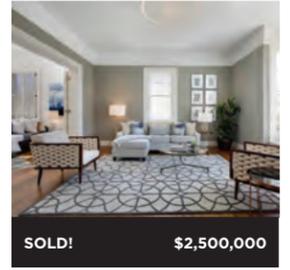
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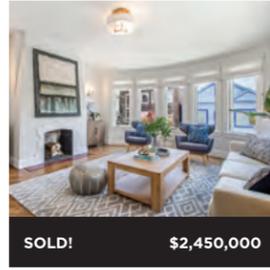
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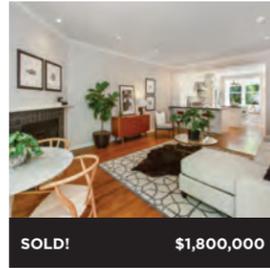
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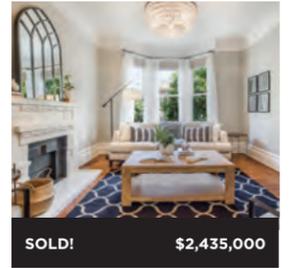
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



"And now, traffic on the two and a half with Al Tostratus!"

Traffic on the highways is flowing pretty well at this time in the Bay Area, but it's story time at Charlie's Corner and the strollers are backed up....

...as far as the eye can see!

LETTERS

Memories of 24th Street in the Seventies

Editors:

In my memory I am walking in 1975 down 24th Street seeing sights unknown to the eyes of today. Ambling past St. Clair's Liquor, I stop to peek in and wave to Bob St. Clair and Jimmy, the kid who worked there. I pass the Acme Metal Spinning Works, a hip restaurant where I would slurp a steaming bowl of soup.

Onward to 24th and Castro I once again visualize Bud's Ice Cream still dishing out delicious scoops. A few doors further down, I duck into the Meat Market Coffeehouse for a cup of coffee rather than a slice of meat. Amazing to think a former butcher shop could be converted into a meeting place for espresso-drink-

ing cultural rebels.

I moved up to Noe Valley from the Mission District wanting to paint holiday cartoons on 24th Street business windows. Bob St. Clair loved my caricature of him and Jimmy on his window.

Bank of America's window pictured an angel handing down a bag of money for Santa to buy all of the gifts he would drop down countless chimneys on Xmas Eve. My apartment on Jersey Street hosted parties for my friends until the landlord downstairs told us to quiet down. Ah, those were the days of my artistic youth.

Noe Valley was a hip community to live in. The bohemian atmosphere was perfect for me in those years. The *San Francisco Phoenix* underground newspaper hired me to draw social and political cartoons. Popular underground cartoonists would click their coffee cups at the Meat Market telling me to publish my own underground comic book. When I did publish my comic book, it sold well until the Supreme Court abolished the sales of all 'risque' underground comics.

My favorite girlfriend in those years was a stunning waitress at the Acme. I liked her because she had a down-to-earth self-image and didn't think she was stunning. When she broke up with me, all the artists and intellectuals at the Meat Market chased after her.



Former resident Carl Carlyle Spann shares one of the holiday cartoon murals he painted for Noe Valley businesses in the 1970s. This one was in the window at St. Clair's Liquor at 24th and Sanchez.

Even today, 41 years later, I honor her memory. Just as I honor the memory of Noe Valley in that era between the 1960s and the 1980s so long ago.

Carl Carlyle Spann

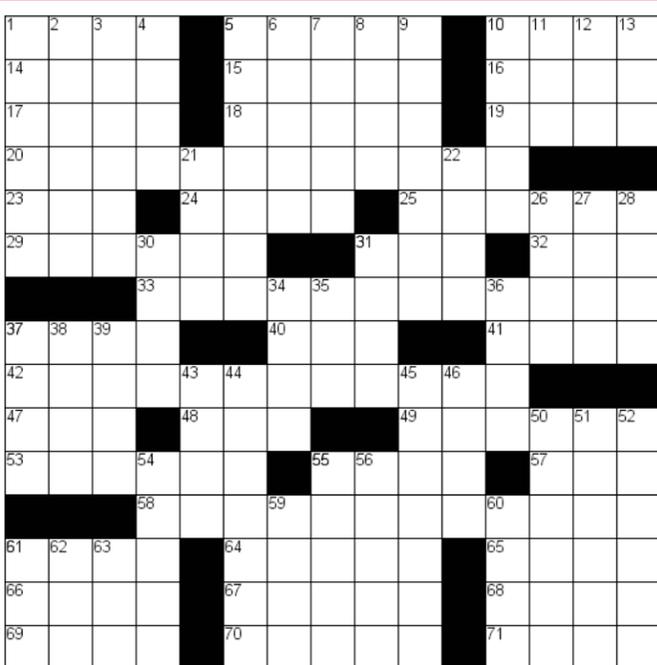
editor@noevalleyvoice.com

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Drop (or Hide) The Chalupa

ACROSS

- 1. Stay up all night studying
- 5. Ushered
- 10. Cal athlete
- 14. Cleanse, old style
- 15. ___ living (be employed)
- 16. ___ Park (closed cafe at Valencia and 18th)
- 17. Bradley or Sharif
- 18. Bagel-cooking process at Noah's
- 19. Bacchanal
- 20. Retractable storefront shade provider
- 23. Singer/artist Yoko
- 24. "Dang it!"
- 25. Primer material
- 29. "Stately pleasure-dome" of verse
- 31. Title for Elton
- 32. Funnywoman Margaret
- 33. "Come sit with us!"
- 37. *Othello* bad guy
- 40. Alias, for short
- 41. First word of a fairy tale
- 42. Deadly Asian, Hong Kong, and Spanish disease events
- 47. Brillo rival
- 48. Gesture of assent
- 49. Repulsive sort, slangily
- 53. Revealing (oneself) as gay
- 55. ___-cat (sandlot game)
- 57. Body ___; fitness studio with several SF locations
- 58. How we once connected to AOL, say
- 61. Baseball's Ruth
- 64. Lab glove material
- 65. This, in the Mission
- 66. L x W calculation
- 67. Wed in secret
- 68. "Blame ___ the Bossa Nova"



- 69. Breakfast, lunch or dinner
 - 70. Couches
 - 71. Trattoria on 24th whose name is hidden four times in this puzzle
- DOWN
- 1. Oakland-based bleach maker
 - 2. Street between 14th and 15th near Guerrero
 - 3. "Venus" singer Frankie
 - 4. Longtime *SF Examiner* crossword maker Reagle
 - 5. Electric guitar pioneer
 - 6. Bother persistently
 - 7. Barrymore and Carey
 - 8. ___ instant (at once)
 - 9. Windhoek's nation
 - 10. Internet diaries
 - 11. Continent above

- Afr. town
- 12. *Brokeback Mountain* director Lee
- 13. Jamie Foxx biopic about singer Charles
- 21. Official language of Pakistan
- 22. DEA agent
- 26. Words of confidence
- 27. Elegant
- 28. Peevish
- 30. Each
- 31. Email nuisance
- 34. Actors Alan or Cheryl
- 35. Hawaiian instrument, for short
- 36. Auto-radiator attachment
- 37. In that case
- 38. Former Giants manager Felipe
- 39. Anne ___ Brown, Jerry's wife
- 43. Years, in Latin
- 44. Arizona border
- 45. Gear for mountaineers
- 46. Colorful rubber shoe
- 50. 1973 hit that begins "Como una promesa"
- 51. Occurring after surgery, briefly
- 52. Figure skater Baiul
- 54. Perfect
- 55. Missing from, as inventory
- 56. Hip-hop's Salt-___
- 59. "Mission: Impossible" composer Schiffrin
- 60. Cover the upper surface (of a room)
- 61. Emeril interjection
- 62. *Diamonds* ___ Forever
- 63. Actress Arthur of Maude

Solution on Page 28
 Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

Carol Aust
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Filmmaker Explores *Holy Secrets of Holocaust*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for any filmmaker, let alone a guy like me making his own film,” said Pressman. “To say I was surprised is a real understatement.”

The film earned rave reviews and was nominated for a News and Documentary Emmy in the category of Outstanding Historical Programming. Pressman, who wrote, produced, and directed the film, turned it into the book *Fifty Children: One Ordinary American Couple’s Extraordinary Rescue Mission into the Heart of Nazi Germany*, published by HarperCollins.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., signed on as a co-presenter of the film and has continued to screen it at Jewish film festivals and other events around the country. Later this month Pressman will be in Chicago for several programs associated with the film.

“One of the reasons why the Holocaust museum in D.C. got so involved in this film project,” recalled Pressman, “was they had never heard of who these people were and what they had done.”

Raised in a Jewish family in Los Angeles, Pressman said his relatives came to America from Russia and Ukraine during the 1880s and the early part of the 20th century, prior to the start of the Holocaust.

“Until I immersed myself in the film project, neither personally nor professionally, including growing up Jewish,

I had no direct connection to the Holocaust,” he said.

After the success of his first film, Pressman turned his attention toward finding another subject to focus on in a second documentary. He expected it would not touch upon the Holocaust.

“I spent three or four years on that project just mired in the Holocaust. I knew I wanted to make another documentary film,” he said. “I made a vow to myself that I was absolutely not going to make another Holocaust film. Enough with the Nazis.”

Same Tragedy, Different Angle

But life had other plans. When he heard about another not-so-well-known tale about how American Catholic officials had worked to pressure then Pope Pius XII to denounce Adolph Hitler, the newspaperman in him knew he had found another important story to tell.

“A friend with the D.C. museum had been trying to get access to the Vatican archives for years. The more I talked to him I began to sort of formulate this idea of a film focused on a somewhat different aspect of the Vatican and the Holocaust,” said Pressman.

The movie, titled *Holy Secrets: The Vatican, the Americans, and the Holocaust*, centers on the actions of several clergymen and other officials in the U.S. who tried to convince the Vatican to take a strong public stand against the Nazis in the years leading up to World War II.

“The focus is on American officials, some clerical but also some American diplomatic officials, working behind the scenes to lobby the Vatican and have it step up to do the right thing.

“Unfortunately, they didn’t succeed,”

said Pressman.

His heroes had been largely unsung. “I had a cast of interesting characters but not familiar names. People don’t know who these people are.”

Help From Jewish Film Institute

The San Francisco-based Jewish Film Institute selected him for its “Filmmaker-in-Residency” program this year to assist him with completing the film, as well as with its marketing. The organization, which presents the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, is providing Pressman with office space and access to its screening room at its home South of Market.

“Five months ago, I first learned about this residency program and I thought that it was interesting,” he said. “Much to my delight, I was chosen as one of four filmmakers for this year’s residency.”

Apart from having other filmmakers to consult with about his film, Pressman is particularly excited to take advantage of the institute’s 80-seat screening room.

“It is a terrific benefit because, for somebody like myself, it allows me to do some test screenings to show the film, even before it is completed, for great feedback,” he said. “The other nice thing for myself, working on my own out of my home office, if you are in a building with other filmmakers, there is just a lot of value in that and a great benefit to hang out, bounce ideas off other filmmakers, and I think, for that reason alone, it is going to be such a growth benefit.”

A Career in Print

Pressman brings to his film projects

an eye for detail and a reporter’s ability to ask probing questions. After earning a degree in political science at the University of California at Berkeley, Pressman returned to Los Angeles to work for a daily legal affairs newspaper.

He then moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1980s to work for *Congressional Quarterly*, a weekly magazine that covered Congress and national politics. By 1989, he had returned to the West Coast to work for *California Lawyer Magazine*, then based in San Francisco. After a stint there, he joined the legal *Recorder* newspaper as an editor.

“I was then [in 2010] ready to make a change after spending such a long time in print journalism,” he said. “I had this opportunity to make this first film of mine. That was my transition from journalism to documentary filmmaking.”

His aim remains the same: telling fair and accurate stories.

“Yeah, it is storytelling in a different media and format obviously. I had never done any work in film, but it is storytelling,” he said. “The other part that is very familiar to me is the research part, especially the reporting part. Particularly in documentary film, there obviously is a journalistic quality to documentary film. That part of it I always loved.”

He does not handle the camera himself, instead preferring to work with cinematographer Andy Black. Nor does he do the editing alone. Ken Schneider helped edit his first film, while Richard Levien is working with him on the current one.

Pressman never enrolled in a film class, opting to learn as he went.

“A lot of it has just been on-the-job training, but with tremendous help from just wonderful people here in the Bay

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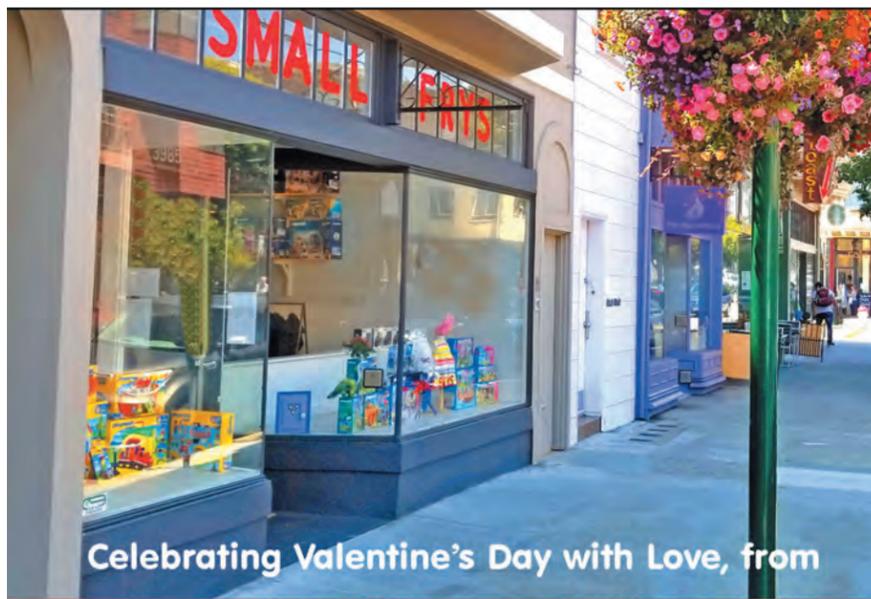
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Documentarian Finds a Home at HBO and JFI

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Area, who have been doing this a lot longer than I have,” he said.

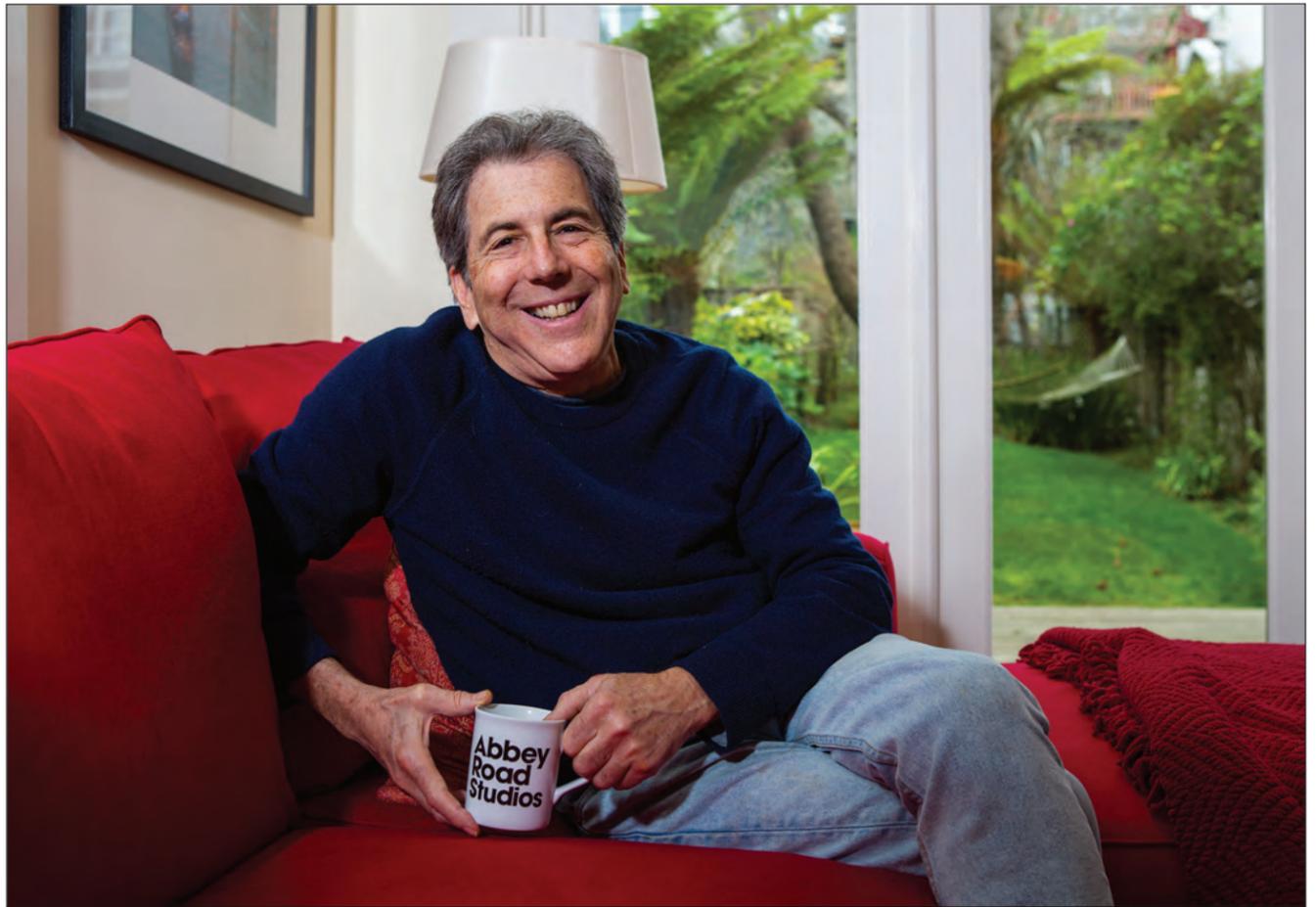
Longtime Neighborhood Resident

Apart from a five-year stint living in Potrero Hill following his divorce from his first wife, Pressman has lived in Noe Valley. It was meeting Perle in the summer of 2000 that brought him back to the neighborhood. “She was living in Noe Valley, so when we were about to marry, my daughter and I moved into the house Liz had on Homestead Street, where I still live,” said Pressman, who married Perle in 2001.

“My meeting Liz led me into the film project and just literally handed me this unbelievable story about her grandparents that no one outside of the family had ever heard of.”

Perle, a writer and former publishing executive, was a co-founder of the non-profit Common Sense Media, which helps children learn how to navigate through today’s multimedia world. She died at the age of 59 in August 2015 after a battle with breast cancer.

Since her passing, Pressman has a daily routine of walking to Martha’s Brothers in the morning with his dog Lulu, a Coton de Tulear that, “believe it or not,” he said, is the Royal Dog of Madagascar. He hangs out at the coffee-house with a group of regulars who have become “a cherished and important” part of his life.



When not walking his dog Lulu to Martha’s, Steve Pressman is working or relaxing at home on Homestead Street. He recently was chosen by the Jewish Film Institute to be one of four filmmakers in residency this year. Photo by Art Bodner

“To me, it is one of the true joys and delights of living where we live. To have that community of people who have become such dear friends of mine,” said Pressman, who has an adult daughter and stepson. “It dovetails with this fairly solitary pursuit of mine. Walking my dog and hanging out at Martha’s for an hour has just added so much to my life.”

Pressman is aiming to complete his second film this June and plans to contact HBO to see if it would like to part-

ner again on premiering it. “I am cautiously optimistic I will have at least a nearly completed version of the film by late spring,” he said. “Right now most of the production work is done. I still have to shoot a couple of interviews. But now I am in the stage of cutting the film and editing the film.”

As for his next film project, Pressman is determined to pivot away from the Holocaust.

“I will make another film after this,

but for my own mental health, it’s time to move on,” he said. “I am only half joking about that. There are still more good stories to tell about the Holocaust. I feel fortunate to be able to tell a couple of these stories. But for me, in terms of where I would like to go as a filmmaker, I think it is time to move on.”

To learn more about Pressman’s nine-year-old production company, Perle-Press Productions, visit <http://www.perlepressproductions.com>. ■



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The servers at Casa Mexicana, including (left to right) Alejandra Luna, Angela Montaluo, and Veronica Tolentino, are familiar faces to vegan diners in Noe. Their tasty bean and veggie burritos are increasingly popular these days. *Photo by Art Bodner*

It's Easy to Eat Vegan in the Valley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

parmesan, egg, and anchovies. This version is made with a cheese derived from cashews, sunflower seeds, and nutritional yeast. Don't forget dessert! We really liked the grasshopper pie (cacao, mint, and a flaxseed crust).

There are a few places to sit in the café, but this is truly an opportunity to grab-and-go with your meal. Head home after a long day, or if you're out and about and the weather is cooperating, dine al fresco in one of the neighborhood parklets.

Burgers and Fries—Really

We tried **Hi-Way Burger & Fry** for the first time, another dining destination that has something for the omnivore members of your family—hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, and Straus



Voice investigative reporter Olivia Boler tries the vegan burger at Hi-Way Burger & Fry while scouting out plant-based food in the neighborhood. *Photo by Paul Marshall*

Family Creamery ice cream. Vegans can order the Beyond Burger, which, the menu states “is without soy, GMOs, cholesterol, and is gluten free!”

When you order, make sure to tell them to hold the Secret Sauce, which is mayonnaise based. Also opt for the raw onions (or none) as opposed to the grilled onions—they're cooked in butter. Add a side of hand-cut french fries—they're completely vegan. You can also try the market salad. Bypass the buttermilk ranch dressing and opt for oil and vinegar at the condiments counter. There you'll also find pickles and spicy peppers to add to your meal—and they're complimentary.

The Foods of Asia

Holy Kitchen is a favorite among my family members, but a bit of a splurge. My daughter really likes the samosas. We usually need two orders, but she could make a meal of these dairy-free delights. There are other options—rice, of course, and naan. Paul likes the chana masala—spicy garbanzo beans that pair well with rice. The tender potatoes in the aloo gobi contrast with the crispy cauliflower. Before becoming vegan, Paul liked saag paneer—a spinach curry with cheese. Ask for it without the cheese, and it's just as delicious for dipping that naan. In fact, just about any vegetarian dish at Holy Kitchen can be made vegan if you just ask your server.

The perfect dish on a cold winter's day, in my humble opinion, is a bowl of soup. This isn't a new concept, but add noodles and veggies to the mix, and you have something truly special. **Kama Sushi** on Church Street actually serves up some tasty ramen, and it's totally doable to get

a vegan option with soy-flavored broth, seaweed, corn, carrots, scallions, and vegetarian gyoza. My kids—and husband—also like a few orders of avocado sushi—very simple and delicious. There are a lot of other more elaborate vegetarian sushi and plates we can't wait to try, like the spicy asparagus entrée and veggie dragon roll.

Mediterranean Bounty

Sultan's Kebab is another reliable source of vegan meals. This purveyor of Mediterranean cuisine makes a delicious falafel pita wrap, which you can order with lettuce and tomato, or with eggplant. If you're feeling really hungry, try the plentiful falafel plate, which includes heaping portions of rice, salad, hummus,

and pita slices. They also make tasty fries. (For more details, check out this month's Store Trek, on page 23.)

Finally, a place we like to go with friends from out of town or grandparents is **Novy**. It's just so pretty inside! As for the food, Paul can make a meal out of the hummus and pita bread, and he partakes of the Novy Burger by substituting a Portobello mushroom for the beef patty and holding the cheese. The Athenian pasta is another favorite—penne with vegetables like eggplant, Kalamata olives, tomatoes, and onions. Just pass on the feta.

We know there are lots of vegan options out there in the nabe. We also know there are many more just waiting for us to show up with an appetite for plant-based goodness. ■

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A Death in Noe. Once the star of a famous season, this floral decoration is bound for the mulch fields.

Photo by Jack Tipple

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City Okays Permit For The Agency

Real Estate Firm Can Stay in Former Cradle of the Sun

By Matthew S. Bajko

A real estate firm that has fought a two-year battle to keep its office space on 24th Street has won the support of the San Francisco Planning Commission despite charges the firm had tried to skirt the city's zoning rules.

The oversight body voted 5-0 at its Jan. 10 meeting to grant a conditional use permit to The Agency, allowing it to continue to occupy the storefront at 3848 24th St. The 903-square-foot space had been home to the stained-glass store Cradle of the Sun until it relocated in 2016.

That year, local real estate agent Rachel Swann signed a lease to take over the retail space, on the northeast corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets. Not only did she move her real estate office into it, she shared the space with her friend and local designer Ian Stallings, who opened a home furnishings store called IS: Fine Art and Design.

That arrangement came about after the owner of Olive This Olive That dropped her plan to move her olive oil business on Vicksburg Street into the 24th Street space. Stallings, who was working on the redesign of the Cradle of the Sun storefront at the time, agreed to team up with Swann to open his business there.

The combined real estate firm and home furnishings shop soft-opened in the space in December 2016. Two months later, someone filed a complaint with the city's planning department, claiming the two businesses had occupied the storefront without obtaining the proper permit. A city inspector then determined that not enough of the store space was devoted to a retail business and therefore Swann did need to apply for a conditional use permit.

As the *Voice* detailed in several stories in the September 2017 issue, Swann and Stallings both argued that the majority of the space was being used for the home décor business. When a separate garage space accessed from Vicksburg Street was included in the equation, the real estate firm was using only 13 percent of the total square footage, Swann said.

Nonetheless, city planners insisted the two businesses get official approval. In October 2017, however, Stallings decided to move his business out of the space. That left as the sole occupant Swann's firm, which had merged the summer before with The Agency, a real estate brokerage based out of Los Angeles.

After two years of back and forth between Swann and planners over the adequacy of her application, a hearing was finally scheduled for last November. Be-

cause the planning commission wanted more information from Swann before voting on her permit, it postponed making a final determination until last month.

"I don't think it [denying Swann] warrants creating another vacancy. I don't think she is taking this spot away from another person," said planning commissioner Joel Koppel in explaining why he supported granting the permit.

Planning commissioner Rodney Fong agreed, saying, "Services like this, I think, are bringing people out" to the neighborhood's commercial corridor.

After the vote, Swann, who also is the president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, told the *Voice* she was thankful for the commission's "thorough investigation and subsequent decision. We also thank all of the supportive board members, merchants, and community members. We look forward to many continued years in the neighborhood we live in and love, Noe Valley."

One of those who spoke out in support of Swann was Debra Niemann, director of the Noe Valley Association, the neighborhood's community benefit district. She noted how Swann had worked with her to promote the neighborhood and activate the Noe Valley Town Square public park.

"If you deny the CU [permit], you not only hurt The Agency, but also you hurt us," said Niemann. "It would be a shame to have her leave the neighborhood."

Ozzie Rohm, with the Noe Neighborhood Council, also asked that the permit be granted, as there are already too many vacant retail spaces on 24th Street.

"If you don't approve this, then there will be another empty storefront. That is what I have an issue with," she said.

But others argued that Swann had purposefully evaded the city's zoning rules when opening in the former retail space and should not be retroactively granted the permit.

"Denying the CU will not adversely affect the merchant community," argued David Emanuel, noting that Noe Valley's commercial corridor has "one of the lowest vacancy rates in the city."

He pointed out that after the planning commission last year denied the request of Los Angeles-based pet food chain Healthy Spot to occupy the former Radio Shack space on 24th Street, the storefront was quickly leased to a yoga fitness studio. He suggested a similar situation would play out with The Agency's location.

"They knew when they moved in it was zoned for retail, and other businesses have been denied that opportunity while they were there," said Emanuel.

Swann had supported seeing Healthy Spot open in the neighborhood over the objections of several existing pet businesses. Two of those owners had asked the planning commission to deny grant-

Public Radio Station Project Hits Static

By Matthew S. Bajko

With city officials yet to grant it permission to test out placing a low-power FM radio transmitter and antenna on the roof of the Upper Noe Recreation Center, a new public radio station is looking into alternative sites as it scrambles to go live this summer.

As the *Voice* reported in December, the San Francisco Public Press was granted permission by the Federal Communications Commission to share the broadcasting rights to radio station 102.5 FM. It hopes to launch its KSFP low-power FM radio station by the end of June. The nine-year-old nonprofit investigative news organization has been scouting out an ideal location for its broadcasting equipment. Late last year, it had approached the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department about possibly using the roof of the neighborhood's recreation center at 295 Day St., between Church and Sanchez.

The radio station's engineers believe the signal from there would be able to reach most of the city, apart from the neighborhoods closest to Ocean Beach and the Presidio. Public Press co-founder and executive director Michael Stoll had hoped to run a test of the signal power from the rec center's roof by the end of 2018. But due to concerns from nearby residents and park officials, it has been unable to win approval for the trial run.

"We're running into more roadblocks than initially expected on our proposal. Some of it is technical, with questions from the community about whether the roof of the recreation center will produce the optimal signal for our low-power FM equipment," Stoll told the *Voice* in late January. "Other questions have been raised on two other issues: the level of electromagnetic radiation from a radio transmitter generating up to 100 watts and the potential to affect the view shed above the roofline of the building."

George Koster, director of development and partnership for the Public Press, who has a background in radio, told members of the Noe Neighborhood Council at a special meeting in November that the health impacts should be minimal. He noted the transmission would not use microwaves but radio waves to broadcast, "the same as that of a 100-watt light bulb."

Rec and Park spokeswoman Tamara Barak Aparton did not respond to a request for comment by the *Voice*'s deadline.

As the radio station holds out hope it will be granted permission for the equipment test at the rec center, it also is looking at other possible locations. One option would be to co-locate its antenna on Sutro Tower with the one used by culture- and music-oriented station KXSF, which is sharing the home on the local radio dial with KSFP. It started broadcasting in September.

"Meanwhile, we are exploring other options both in Noe Valley and elsewhere, as we ramp up to schedule an on-air debut by this June," said Stoll. "We're grateful to neighborhood leaders for the chance to make the proposal, and hope that the process results in opportunities to expand the reach of new voices, in collaboration with underserved communities, to expand and enrich public-service media offerings in the city."

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. To learn more about the San Francisco Public Press, visit its website at <https://sfpublicpress.org/>.

ing Swann's permit request.

"No one wants a real estate agency on this corner. It should be available for retail," said Sage Cotton, the co-owner of VIP Scrub Club on Church Street, whose partner owns VIP Grooming on 24th Street.

Bill French, who owns the Animal Company on Castro Street with his wife Ellen, also argued that the permit should not be granted, because "the rules are for all of us to follow."

Several speakers opposed to the permit request noted The Agency is currently seeking permission to move into the former Volvo Centrum garage at 3512 16th

St., near Market in the Castro. The firm has announced plans to house up to 60 agents in the historic brick building near Sanchez Street. With a five-year lease and an option to renew for another five years, The Agency is seeking a conditional use permit in order to rezone the 8,700-square-foot space for use as a professional office.

Yet, should it move into the building, the real estate firm would maintain its 24th Street location as a satellite office.

"Yes, we absolutely plan to keep that office," said Swann. "We have a lot of agents who live in Noe and will work there." ■

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Star Voice Reader Reports



Raymond Solis keeps the digital mailbox of the *Noe Valley Voice* busy with a record of his frequent travels. Here he is in front of The Cathedral of Our Lady in Antwerp, Belgium.



Solis found it to be a bit too warm in Belgium, so he trekked further north to Rovaniemi, Finland where the famed Santa Claus Village is located.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Mixed Signals at End of 2018

By Corrie M. Anders

A brand new \$6.6 million home was one of 22 residential dwellings that closed escrow in Noe Valley during the final two months of last year.

So was it a sign of a sizzling real estate market? Far from it.

For one thing, the number of single-family homes sold in November and December of 2018 was nearly a third fewer than the tally for the same two months in 2017, according to sales data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Also, the data showed that the value of the 10 homes sold in December 2018 was an average \$2.2 million, almost 20 percent less than the value of the 10 homes sold in December the previous year.

What's more, only 19 new homes hit the market that month, the lowest total for a December in four years, according to



Buyers in November paid \$6.6 million for this high-tech 5,165-square-foot home on Duncan Street with four bedrooms and 4.5 baths. The newly built showplace came equipped with a gourmet kitchen, elevator, three-car garage, wine cellar, garden, view decks, and the pièce de resistance: a rooftop "pent room." Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Zephyr president Randall Kostick. The number of new condo listings (10) also was low, he said.

However, Kostick was still seeing strong interest from people who wanted to live in the neighborhood.

"There are a lot of buyers out there,"

he said. But "people are holding on to their property" and not listing them for sale.

The fewer choices, however, did make buyers offer more than sellers were asking, to nail down their desired property. In December of 2018, they paid an average 9 percent more than the asking price, compared to 1 percent more in the same month in 2017. They also closed their deals in nine fewer days.

Top Seller of the Year

The \$6.6 million home, located in the 600 block of Duncan Street between Castro and Diamond streets, sold in the busier month of November. Its final price was 5.6 percent less than the seller's original asking price (\$6,995,000).

Still, it was the most expensive home sold in Noe Valley last year and the third costliest since *Zephyr* and the *Voice* began tracking prices in October 1999. (A home in the 500 block of Duncan Street sold in May 2017 for \$12 million; another, in the 600 block of Duncan, sold in March 2014 for \$7 million.)

Built in 2017, the luxury home boasted four bedrooms and 4.5 baths and 5,165 square feet of living space. Among the bells and whistles were an elevator, an open living and kitchen area designed for the gourmet chef, a penthouse with wet bar, a wine cellar, a three-car garage, an in-law apartment, and decks and patios featuring panoramic views from Twin Peaks to the East Bay.

The price leader in December was a four-bedroom, 3.5-bath home located in the 400 block of 27th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. The renovated property sold for \$3.4 million, 13.5 percent more than the asking price (\$2,995,000). Architects kept the Victorian facade but gave the interior a contemporary makeover that featured a chef's kitchen with a Caesarstone island, an open floor plan, radiant heat, a private deck, and two-car parking.

Condo Traffic Steady

Buyers purchased 13 condominiums during the last two months of 2018, matching the number of transactions

recorded in the same period the prior year. The average sale price in November, when 12 of the 13 condos were sold, was \$1.5 million.

The most expensive condo sold in November was a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath gem in the 300 block of Duncan Street between Church and Sanchez streets. Buyers paid the \$2,349,000 asking price for the property, originally built in 2001. Features of the 2,040-square-foot home included a living room with floor-to-ceiling windows, a fireplace, designer kitchen, private deck, one-car parking, and a landscaped yard.

December's single sale was a two-bedroom, two-bath condo in the 400 block of Clipper Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. The two-level unit went for \$1.3 million—\$5,000 more than its asking price. Located in a two-unit building constructed in 1973 with a Dutch Colonial roofline, it had 2,375 square feet of living space and offered a spacious living room, modern kitchen, private deck, shared garden, and one-car parking. ■



The exterior of this two-story home on 27th Street, which sold for \$3.4 million in December, reflects the craftsmanship of the Victorian era. But the inside is a toast to the modern. The renovated four-bedroom, 3.5-bath residence has smart technology, living and dining areas that open onto a deck and yard, and parking for two cars.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
December 2018	10	\$1,625,000	\$3,400,000	\$2,196,900	29	109%
November 2018	12	\$1,365,000	\$6,600,000	\$2,663,125	27	104%
December 2017	10	\$1,299,000	\$4,937,000	\$2,735,100	38	101%
November 2017	21	\$1,427,500	\$4,995,000	\$2,722,762	30	105%
Condominiums/TIC						
December 2018	1	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	47	100%
November 2018	12	\$865,000	\$2,349,000	\$1,548,917	26	104%
December 2017	5	\$710,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,247,000	34	112%
November 2017	8	\$1,325,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,863,125	23	109%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
December 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2018	1	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	46	93%
December 2017	1	\$1,675,000	\$1,675,000	\$1,675,000	49	105%
November 2017	4	\$1,463,500	\$2,700,000	\$2,012,125	17	103%
5+-unit buildings						
December 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2017	2	\$1,590,000	\$3,900,000	\$2,745,000	51	95%
November 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. NVV2/2019

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range January 2018	Average January 2018	Average November 2018	Average January 2018
Studio	3	\$2,375 - \$2,800	\$2,542 / mo.	\$2,482 / mo.	\$2,299 / mo.
1-bdrm	38	\$2,295 - \$4,995	\$3,330 / mo.	\$3,398 / mo.	\$3,108 / mo.
2-bdrm	33	\$3,125 - \$6,150	\$4,368 / mo.	\$4,104 / mo.	\$4,641 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$4,185 - \$11,995	\$6,092 / mo.	\$5,903 / mo.	\$5,788 / mo.
4+-bdrm	3	\$10,750 - \$34,000	\$21,417 / mo.	\$8,736 / mo.	\$12,906 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 92 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 4-11, 2019. NVV2/2019








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Dead Owl Prompts Alert to Neighbors

By Beverly Tharp

Last November, John Knox walked out into his back yard on Cesar Chavez Street and was puzzled by something he saw on the roof of a shed. When he got closer, he saw it was a dead barn owl.

Knox was sad and surprised to see the beautiful bird. After 40 years in Noe Valley, “I didn’t know we even had barn owls. I had never seen any owls in San Francisco before this.”

Because of his ties to Earth Island Institute, the non-profit he directed for more than 30 years (he now bears the title Executive Director Emeritus), Knox contacted Lisa Owens-Viani, who heads the Earth Island project called Raptors Are The Solution (RATS).

Owens-Viani told Knox to contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. When he did, “They said oh yes, we want to see the owl. We’ll send you a cooler,” Knox said. He froze the bird and later shipped it to Sacramento.

“It was serendipitous that I was in a professional relationship with people who thought we should check on this to learn what happened,” said Knox.

Test results showed the owl was killed by rat poison, likely being used to kill rodents in the neighborhood.

“[The owl] was an adult female in good nutritional condition,” Stella McMillin wrote in her emailed response from the state agency. “Anticoagulant rodenticide intoxication is identified as the cause of death.”

The chemical analysis further showed that the owl’s liver contained three second-generation rodenticides. That means the owl must have consumed mice or rats



After he found a dead barn owl on his backyard shed, Cesar Chavez Street resident John Knox photographed the bird (see below) and sent it to the state fish and wildlife department for testing. Results showed the owl was killed by rat poison. Photo by Beverly Tharp

with poison in their system.

McMillin said incidents such as this were very important to document and thanked Knox for preserving the owl.

Meanwhile, Knox, 73, sent an email to his Noe Valley neighbors. He told them about the owl and said, “Please pass the word to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides in our neighborhood. This is something that we all can do. I’d like to think of our neighborhood as being owl- and raptor-friendly.”

Knox also suggested people go to the

RATS website, raptorsarethesolution.org, for information on ways to protect owls and other wildlife while at the same time controlling the rat population. (See *Tips and Alternatives* below.)

His message spread quickly. In the weeks after the incident, neighbors whom he’d see on the street expressed condolences about the owl and said they would never use rat poison. “That was reassuring,” said Knox.

Now, two months later, he is still moved by the experience.

“I was astonished and sad and honored all at once. Picking up this bird was a deeply spiritual, moving moment. All the more so if I could do something to prevent needless deaths in the future.” ■

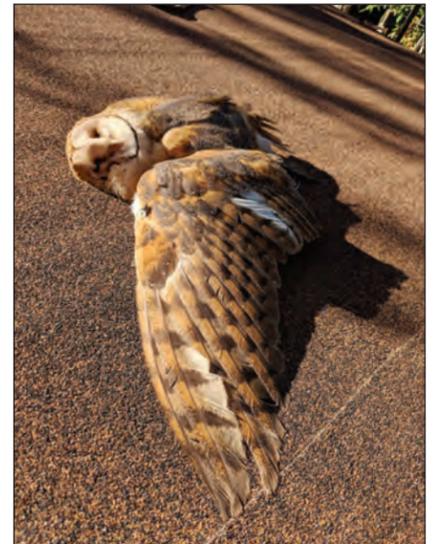


photo: Amanda Brauning

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Tips and Alternatives

What can residents do to protect wildlife in Noe Valley?

The first step recommended by the Berkeley-based group Raptors Are the Solution (RATS) is to stop using rat poisons. They can be as harmful for birds and pets as they are for mice and rats.

In its latest publication on poisons, RATS says people should avoid these anticoagulant rodenticides like the plague: d-Con, Ratak, Talon, Maki Mini Block, Contrac, Di-Kill Rat Bait Blocks, First Strike, and Hombre. They are banned for consumer use. Also on RATS’ no list are these slower-acting rat poisons: Ratol, Ground Force, Wilco Ground Squirrel Bait, Ramik, and TomCat.

Instead, if needed, use these pest control products: Fresh Cab, a botanical repellent; Rataway; DeTour Roadblock with bio-repellent; Dr. Coffman’s Ultimate Mouse Bait; Raticator, an electronic trap that can also be used inside a bait box; Evictor 10K, a strobe light that drives out problem wildlife; Pro-Pell, essential oil mix applied to foundations; or Lightsout Pro.

RATS also recommends these Bay Area companies, which use non-toxic solutions and integrated pest management: The Hitmen, Pestec, Biopest, Rat Patrol, and Sieg’s Abatement Service.

Also approved is a company that employs dogs to do pest control: Jreed and His Mongrol Hoard of Rascally Rat Wranglers (sic).

Finally, here are the things you can do to discourage rodents around your home:

- Keep trash bins tightly closed, and clean up any refuse.
- Clean up bird seed below feeders.
- Trim foliage to two feet away from the building.
- Store pet food in tightly closed containers.
- Seal cracks or openings with ¼-inch metal mesh, not chicken wire.
- Do not use glue or sticky traps. They kill songbirds and other non-target wildlife.
- Attract barn owls with a nest box—a single barn owl can catch 1,400+ rodents a year!

Source: “Are You Poisoning Your Pets and Wildlife?” 2018 brochure published by Raptors Are The Solution, raptorsarethesolution.org



Planting at the Square and a Garden Tour Invitation

Five moveable planters filled with drought-tolerant bee, bird, and butterfly friendly plants have been installed in the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. Volunteers, including Pierre Hurter, Karin Levenberg, and Pete and Peggy Cling, shoveled the dirt and planted the shoots on the day after Thanksgiving. The planters were funded by the Paul Kantus Community Fund and the Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour, with additional support from the Noe Valley Community Benefit District and the Town Square Farmers Market. They look great and are getting lots of compliments. Stop by and see them!

Photos courtesy Peggy Cling

Greeters Needed

In other botanical news, the annual **Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour** will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour is earlier this year to showcase spring flowers and foliage in neighborhood gardens. The Friends' garden committee is currently previewing 8 to 10 gardens. That means 8 to 10 gardens could be shown and 24 to 30 Garden Greeters would be needed!

A Garden Greeter works a two-hour shift, greeting visitors at one of the gardens. In return for volunteering, greeters will receive a free ticket to the Garden Tour and to a reception on Wednesday, May 1. If you would like to volunteer for a shift, contact Friends member Linda Lockyer at lindalockyer3@gmail.com.

Each year, proceeds from the Garden Tour are donated to a neighborhood beautification project. The 2018 proceeds helped fund the planters that are now flowering in the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street.

—Peggy Cling, Friends of Noe Valley



The Noe Valley Voice READER SURVEY

When we're out among you in downtown Noe Valley, we have our eyes and ears open, hoping to cover and report things of interest and what matters to you. We also encourage you to communicate with us by writing—either with pen and paper or via email. See the Letters to the Editor box below.

1 - How do you read the *Voice*?
Online _____
Print Edition _____

2 - Where do you pick up the print edition?

3 - How long have you been reading the *Voice*?

4 - What are your favorite regular columns or departments?
History photo _____
Cartoon _____
Crossword _____
Cost of Living _____
Short Takes _____
Store Trek _____
Calendar _____
Noe Kids _____
Reader Photos _____

Upper Noe Rec Center _____
More Books to Read _____
More Groups to Join _____
Rumors (Behind the News) _____

5 - Do you have any favorite writers? (Please list)

6 - Do you have any favorite photographers?

7 - What other sources of neighborhood information do you use regularly?

8 - Do you subscribe to the print edition? _____

But if you haven't gotten around to that, please consider filling out this form and let us know your opinions and suggestions.

Cut out and mail to us at:

The Noe Valley Voice Reader Survey
P.O. Box 460249
San Francisco, CA 94146

Thank you for your support!

9 - Do you live in or near Noe Valley? _____

10 - What new department or column would you like to see in the *Voice*?

11 - What should we cover that we're not doing currently?

12 - Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

13 - Please list your name, phone number or email address. (OPTIONAL).

LETTERS to the EDITOR

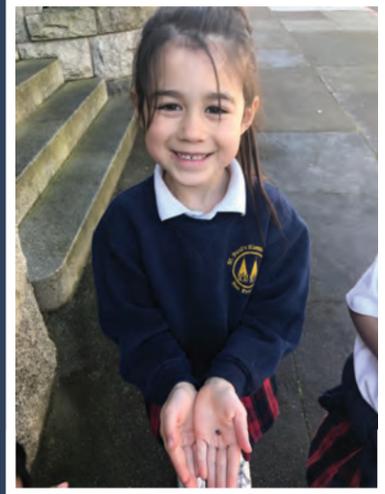
THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.



Where Lovers Meet. The Noe Valley Pet Company was the first in Noe Valley to declare the sentiment that most motivates us all. Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

Photo by Jack Tipple



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SHORT TAKES

Dog Park Closed—Sniff, Sniff

Dog walkers, heads up. The Upper Douglass Dog Park at 27th and Douglass streets will remain closed through February. The doggy play area, which closed in early December, is not scheduled to reopen until March 9.

According to park staffer Ryan Kelly, the city's Recreation and Park Department must close the park for several months each winter to re-seed the grass, let it grow, and improve irrigation at the park. The advocacy group Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park (FUDDP) says safety is another reason, since the hillside along 27th Street is eroding and trees there are more likely to fall when the ground is soggy.

In the meantime, the FUDDP steering committee is looking for new members. The non-profit group hopes to find regular park users who can attend about four meetings a year, and "have an understanding of dog (and human) behavior." Describe your skills and interest in an email to ghmutch@yahoo.com.

For news of upcoming meetings, go to the FUDDP Facebook page. For an alternative park for your pooch, try Joby's Dog Run at Upper Noe Recreation Center or the dog play areas in Dolores Park.

Derby Day at Pack 88

Every year, thousands of Cub Scouts around the U.S. build, decorate, and race cars made of wood, down incline tracks for fun and prizes. Noe Valley's Pack 88 is no exception. It will join the fun on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the St. Philip Church parish hall at 725 Diamond St.

Cubmaster David Thompson says prospective cub scouts and their parents, as well as former Pack 88 scouts, are also invited to attend. The event is free. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest and best designed cars.

Fun facts: Cub Scouting is open to girls and boys now. The official wood for Pinewood Derby cars is ponderosa pine. The first derby was held in Manhattan Beach, Calif., by Pack 280C. One to two million cubs will race their cars this year.

For information on Pack 88, go to www.pack88sf.us online. If your child is interested in being a cub scout, contact Thompson at pack88sfbac@gmail.com and arrange to attend a meeting. Meetings happen every second Wednesday evening during the school year.

Classical February Features St. Lawrence

For your listening pleasure, there are six February classical concerts at our neighborhood venues, beginning with the Chamber Music Society of San Francisco concert Saturday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. CMS will be playing Shostakovich and Schumann in a program called "Endings and Beginnings." Buy tickets at www.chambermusicsocietysf.org.

The chamber music big-time comes to town Sunday, Feb. 10, 4 p.m., when the St. Lawrence String Quartet plays at Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. The famed group's program will include classical works by Haydn and Beethoven and contemporary pieces by Jonathan Berger and Osvaldo Golijov. A meet-the-artists reception follows the concert at La Boulangerie de Noe on 24th Street.

The quartet is brought to you through

the efforts of the Bay Area Music Consortium, which includes NVCM, Berkeley Chamber Performances, Mill Valley Chamber Music Society, and the Gold Coast Chamber Players from Lafayette, Calif.

NVCM also sponsors the next two February concerts. The Omer Quartet appears at Snapshots—a "happy hour" concert, Monday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m., at the Red Poppy Art House, 2698 Folsom St.—and at Classical Kids, Saturday, Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry. For ticket information on all three NVCM events, go to www.nvcm.org.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, also at the Ministry, the San Francisco Civic Symphony will present another of its popular Afternoons of Chamber Music. The Civic will play the Dvorak Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Bach Inventions No. 3, Albrechtsberger's Duet No. 4 for Violin and Cello, and the Dubois Saxophone Quartet—all for a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Finally, on Sunday, Feb. 17, three singers and two musicians from the top-ranked Philadelphia music school, the Curtis Institute, will visit Noe Valley at Lieder Alive! They will sing and play selected lieder and duets, including Brahms' Liebeslieder waltzes. The concert starts at 5 p.m. at—where else?—the Noe Valley Ministry. Tickets and more details at www.liederalive.org.

Authors, Sign Up for Word Week

Word Week is Noe Valley's annual literary festival. Nine events are scheduled this year from Friday, March 8, through Saturday, March 16, including a celebration of International Women's Day, performances by San Francisco Shakespeare and Word for Word, and the Noe Valley Authors Festival.



In *Mermaids & Manatees*, showing Feb. 9 and 13 at the Roxie Theater, new father Rich (Tyler MacNiven, right) makes the mistake of asking his friend Benji (Bj Averell) to watch his infant daughter for a few hours. Photo courtesy SF IndieFest

The Authors Festival will be held Saturday, Feb. 9, 3 to 5 p.m., at the Umpqua Bank branch on 24th Street. Local authors and illustrators who live or work in Noe Valley or nearby neighborhoods are invited to exhibit and sell their books. A shared six-foot table is \$15 per author. Proceeds will go toward paying Word Week costs. Request an application at wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com.

For a full listing of Word Week events, go to the Word Week Facebook page or www.friendsofnoevalley.com. Word Week is a production of the neighborhood association Friends of Noe Valley.

Free Radios at Fire-Safety Fair

Free smoke detectors, hand-crank radio/flashlights, and fire prevention information will be distributed to San Francisco residents at the Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness Fair Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive.

In addition, the San Francisco Police Department, EMS crews, and the Department of Emergency Management will demonstrate and teach CPR, fire safety, and disaster preparedness. Admission is free.

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Film Fests With Local Links

An award-winning filmmaker and resident of Bernal Heights, who has written, produced, or directed more than a dozen films, will premiere his latest at this month's 21st San Francisco Independent Film Festival.

Daniel Kremer's film *Overwhelm the Sky* is among 45 feature films and eight short programs that will be shown during the event, which runs Jan. 31 through Feb. 14.

Kremer, 34, who is also a film historian and author, once studied to become an orthodox rabbi but gave it up to pursue film. He has won four best documentary prizes and three best feature film awards.

Overwhelm the Sky is about a radio talk show host who tries to solve a murder that took place in Golden Gate Park. The 100-minute film will screen twice: Feb. 10 at 2:45 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 9:15 p.m., at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St.

Another film, *Mermaids & Manatees*, stars Mission District resident Tyler MacNiven (whom you may know as the winner of season nine of the TV series *The Amazing Race*). MacNiven plays a Silicon Valley entrepreneur who makes the mistake of leaving his seven-month-old daughter in the care of a less than reliable friend. The film screens Feb. 9, 2:45 p.m., and again Feb. 13, 7 p.m., also at the Roxie.

Other notable SF Indie screenings include *Little Woods*, which explores fracking and poor rural women in North Dakota, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St.; and *Waterlily Jaguar*, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., at the Roxie, about a writer of popular fiction who upsets his personal relationships when he attempts to pen more serious fare.

Tickets are \$13, or \$250 for all film and party events. To find out more, go to www.sfindie.com or call 415-662-3378.

Coven Film Festival

The inaugural Coven Film Festival, featuring short films made by women, will premiere Feb. 9 at New People Cinema, 1746 Post St.

Cameo Wood, Coven co-founder and an award-winning Noe Valley filmmaker, says the festival is "dedicated to showcasing short films by underrepresented emerging women filmmakers, with a lineup that includes work from creators of all ages and genres." Screenings include 25 films chosen from more than 200 entries submitted from 19 countries. Five are Bay Area productions.

Prices are \$10 for a single film or \$150 for two days of films and festival parties. For more information, visit www.covenfilmfest.com.

Winter Jewish Film Festival

The San Francisco Jewish Film Institute's sixth annual WinterFest takes place Feb. 16-17 at both the Roxie and Alamo Drafthouse New Mission Theater, 2550 Mission St.

The festival will show a dozen films, both foreign and Hollywood productions, that were not available for screening at the Institute's two-week summer event.

Tickets are \$12 per film or \$90 for a festival pass. For information, visit www.jfi.org/winterfest or contact the box office at boxoffice@jfi.org or 415-621-0523.

—Corrie M. Anders

SHORT TAKES

Valentines and Food for Thought

Folio Books is holding a Valentine's party, "Books, Bitters & Chocolate," at the Odd Mondays series on Feb. 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. Authors Jennifer Barone, Rebekah Eppley, and Peg Alford Pursell will read about love while illustrator Carmen Cortez prepares love potions (biters) and Michael's Chocolates hands out samples of its Valentine candy. The love potions and red wine are free. Books and full-size chocolate will be for sale.

The bookstore, at 3957 24th St., will also host two events in February spotlighting anthologies about women: an author-reading for *You're Doing What? Older Women's Tales of Achievement and Adventure*, edited by Marjorie Penn Lasky (Feb. 7, 7 p.m.), and a book launch for *She's Got This! Essays on Standing Strong and Moving On*, featuring members of the group Write on Mamas (Feb. 28, 7 p.m.). Each will have several contributors reading from their work. For Folio's full lineup, go to www.foliosf.com.

Meanwhile, Omnivore Books on Food at 3885A Cesar Chavez St. invites us to feast on nine free author talks in February. Of special interest are visits by Andrea Nguyen, author of *Vietnamese Food Any Day* (Feb. 9, 3 p.m.); Yasmin Khan, creator of *Zaitoun: Recipes from the Palestinian Kitchen* (Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.); and Monika Trobits, an expert on *Bay Area Coffee* (Feb. 24, 3 p.m.). And no one should miss Claudia Lucero on Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. Her book, *One-Hour Dairy-Free Cheese*, reveals how to make cheese



Taste a free sample of Michael's Chocolates at a Valentine's party and reading on Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., at Folio Books.

out of nuts, seeds, and vegetables.

For a complete schedule of events at Omnivore, check out the store's website, www.omnivorebooks.com.

Tour de Fairmount Heights

The south slope of the valley we find ourselves in is sometimes thought of as part of Noe Valley and sometimes part of Glen Park, but it is its own neighborhood, Fairmount Heights. Today, its architecturally adventurous streets, like Laidley and Harry, provide the main attraction, but in the 1860s the hill was dotted with dairy farms.

You can learn more about Fairmount Heights on the "Cowbells in the Spring" walking tour led by Evelyn Rose of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project on Sunday, Feb. 10. The tour starts at 9 a.m. at Fire Station 26, at 80 Digby St. (near Walter Haas Playground.)

Rose says the two-mile walk and talk will last two and a half hours and is mostly downhill and only "moderately strenuous."

Reserve your place by emailing GlenParkHistory@gmail.com. A \$10 donation is suggested to support the work of GPNHP.

Rafael O'Mandelman at the Irish Dems

If you're Irish and a Democrat, or even if you're not, you might be interested in the next meeting of the city's Irish American Democratic Club (IADC).

It takes place on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2:30 p.m., in the banquet room at Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th St. District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman—who is not Irish but is a Democrat—will be the guest speaker.

Speaking of the Irish, you might not know that one of Noe Valley's most colorful Irish-American residents was Daniel J. Maloney, an aviation pioneer. His descendants and relatives still live in the neighborhood. Local historian Evelyn Rose will speak about the test pilot's exploits and about John J. Montgomery, who built the planes Maloney flew in 1905, at the IADC's general meeting Sunday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m., at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave.

The talk is free to members and only costs \$5 for non-members.

For information on either event, email sharonpearl1942@gmail.com.

Be a Sport, Eat Crab

Enjoy Dungeness crab in the neighborhood and help St. Paul's School fund its sports programs at the annual Crab Feed and Auction, Saturday, Feb. 23. Doors open at the Parish Center, 1690 Church St., at 5:30 p.m. Dinner—comprised of cracked crab, Caesar salad, pasta, bread, and cake—is served at 6:30 p.m. There's a full, no-host bar. Stick around for the raffle and silent auction.

Tickets are available online at www.stpaulsf.org or www.stpaulschools.org. No tickets will be sold at the door. The fundraising meal costs \$60 for adults and \$15 for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade. Kids under 5 are free.

Co-organizer Stephen Beddoes says



St. Paul's annual Crab Feed and Auction is the place to be in Noe Valley on Saturday, Feb. 23. Doors open at 1690 Church St. at 5:30 p.m.

proceeds will go "to provide equipment, uniforms, and scholarships and reduce the cost of sign-up for the baseball, soccer, basketball, and volleyball programs" at the school.

What's on Your Park Wish List?

Here's your chance to influence future spending by the SF Recreation and Park Department. One of the two discussions of preliminary budget plans for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 will be held in Noe Valley, Monday, Feb. 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets.

You are invited to tell Rec and Park what you'd like in the city parks, and representatives will be glad to share the department's strategic plan with you. No reservation needed.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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NOE KIDS

Sara Ortegon, Animal Whisperer

By Katie Burke

Sara Ortegon, a 9-year-old Noe Valley resident, is a pescatarian. But, she clarifies, “You can’t live without bacon, so I eat bacon.” She also eats meat on holidays, but not at any other time of year. She loves animals too much for that.

Sara lives on 29th Street with her 5-year-old brother, Sebastian, and their mom and dad, Luly Martinez and Enrique Ortegon. Sara is in fourth grade at Stratford School on De Montfort Avenue..

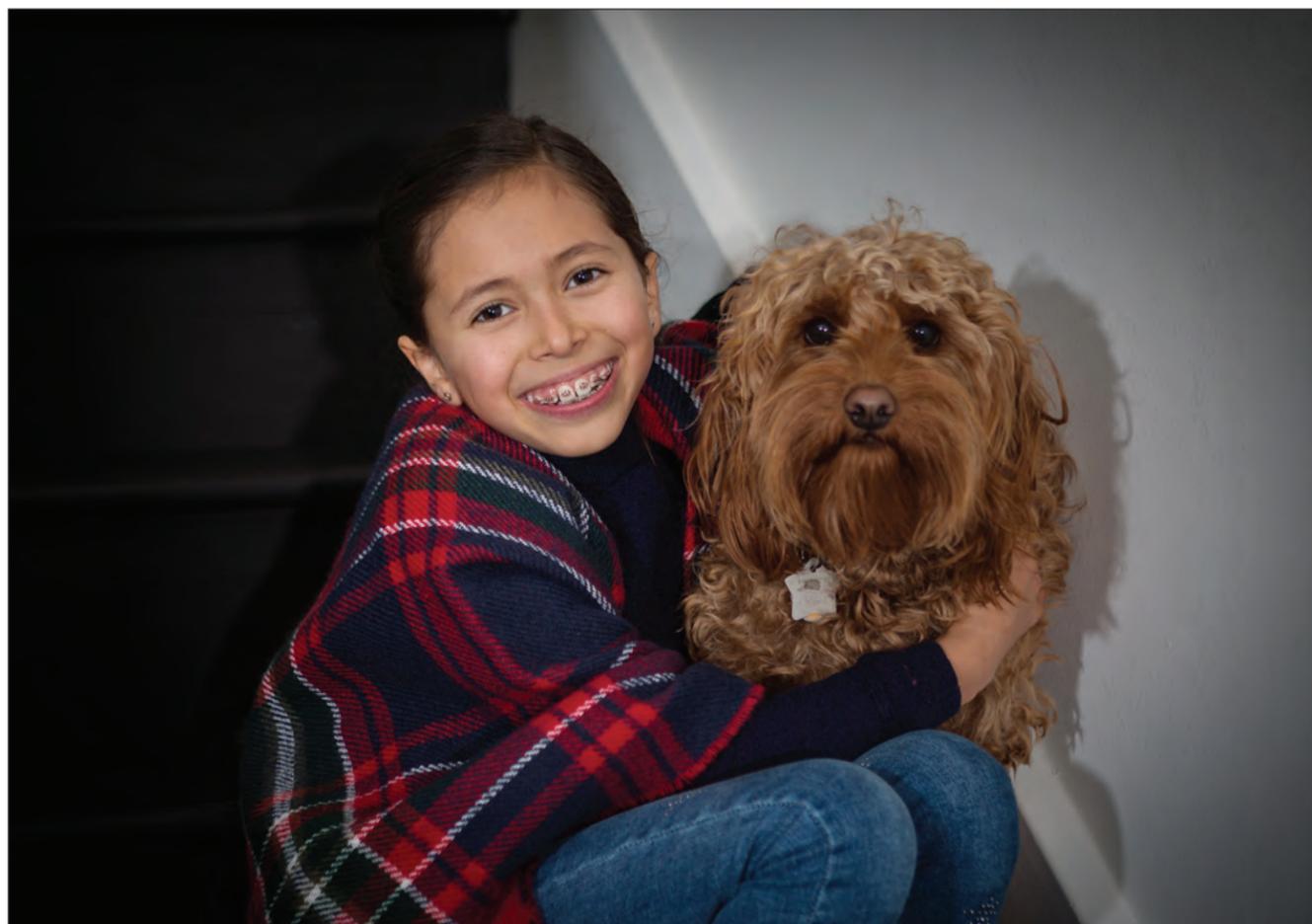
Sierra, the family’s dog, is as much a family member as anyone else, Sara says. Sara often hugs and kisses Sierra, describing the dog as loving, kind, sweet, and funny. Sara also has a guinea pig named Ella and a cat named Clara. When she is an adult, Sara will have “a million” pets, including horses, dogs, parrots, hamsters, and fish.

“I love horses,” Sara says. “They should be my spirit animal. Maybe they are. I haven’t done the quiz yet.” Referring to a camp where she rides horses, Sara adds, “Every time I get on a horse, I feel a bond. Every horse is my friend. It’s like I’m a horse whisperer.”

Sara believes the things her parents like best about her are that she is happy and funny and likes to make jokes. Asked what she wishes her family knew about her, Sara says, “How much I miss Shadow,” the family dog who died three years ago. “Me and Shadow were inseparable.”

Sara’s favorite foods are sushi and Mexican food. Kama Sushi on Church Street is her favorite sushi restaurant. Her favorite Mexican restaurant is El Metate in the Mission. Her “dream restaurant” would feature sushi and burritos (with refried beans). Sara is also a big cheese fan.

Sara says the best part about getting older will be “Tech. Later bedtimes. Definitely not going out on dates.” She looks forward to having an iPhone X and having a later curfew, but does not see romance in her future.



Although she thinks horses may be her spirit animal, Sara loves all kinds of living creatures, including the family dog, Sierra, who is extra sweet and huggable. Photo by Art Bodner

“I’m one of those girls who really cares about shoes,” Sara says. She wants to be a “fashion celebrity” when she grows up, both modeling and making the clothes. When she grows up, she wants her office to be in “the busiest, most fashion-show city in the world, so probably New York.” But since she will own horses and doesn’t think she can stable them in New York, she says she’ll probably live and work in Virginia instead.

Sara says her favorite class in school is art, “not drawing, abstract art. I like to get creative.” She admires Frida Kahlo’s work, and Sara wishes she shared Kahlo’s talent for drawing people.

Sara also looks up to Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai. “She did something amazing for the women in her country, sacrificed her life for the freedom of lives of all women,” she says. Asked whether she is like Malala, Sara replies, “If it were a smaller occasion, like a friend fight, but I’m not sure I’ve done anything big yet. I help mediate friend fights.”

Does Sara plan to follow Malala’s example? “[Yes] if it ever happens here,” Sara says, referring to the denial of education for Pakistani girls that prompted Malala Yousafzai to speak out. “But I’m not sure I would want to sacrifice my life.” (In 2012, Malala was shot by a Taliban extremist. She has since recovered and established a fund to support female education.)

For vacation, Sara travels to Tahoe.

She also regularly visits Mexico—specifically, Mérida and Mexico City—to see extended family. Sara’s favorite thing in Mexico is KidZania, a Mexican chain of indoor family entertainment centers that replicates real cities, featuring buildings, shops, theaters, cars, and pedestrians. Children role-play adult jobs and earn kidZos, KidZania’s currency, which they can spend at the gift shop and on KidZania’s activities.

After speaking at length about Mexico,

Sara considered whether she would ever want to move there as an adult. “Leaving my friends here? I’m not so sure. I mean, Sierra can’t travel.”

Back in Noe Valley, other than Kama Sushi, Sara’s favorite haunts are all on 24th Street: La Boulange, “an old-fashioned French place with amazing sandwiches”; Whole Foods “because they have cheese”; and “the VIP pet salon,” meaning VIP Grooming, “where Sierra goes to get fluffy.”

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.



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Photo by Jack Tipple

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we take a look at a Mediterranean grill, which now has a new owner and a new emphasis on Turkish food.

SULTAN'S KEBAB
3915 24th Street at Sanchez
www.sultanskebab.net
415-923-8545

Bay Area restaurateur Fatih Ulas opened Sultan's Kebab—his third location, and first outside of the East Bay—last St. Patrick's Day. While it has a broad focus on Turkish dishes, the menu at Sultan's Kebab also features such staples of Mediterranean cuisine as falafel wraps, shawermas, and dolmas.

Ulas took over the eatery that had been known as Lazeez Mediterranean Grill. Zaid Fakhouri, the former owner of adjacent restaurant Savor, had remodeled the retail space long home to clothier Joshua Simon into a quick-serve eatery. Lazeez had opened in October 2015, two years after the closure of the Noe Valley Deli & Grill, which was known for its Mediterranean wraps.

Ulas' family hails from Turkey and his restaurant is named after his father, Sultan Ulas, who had owned the Cappadocia Turkish Restaurant in Redwood City. The elder Ulas later went to work as a chef at the Menlo Park restaurant opened by his daughter, Ayca, and her husband, Mehmet

Karacuban, which they named Sultana, or "Lady Queen."

Fatih Ulas was a waiter at Sultana while also running the Mr. Kebab restaurant in Union City as a part owner. He opened his first Sultan's Kebab in Pleasanton, in 2010, across the street from the Alameda County Fairgrounds; the second location is in Danville.

The décor at the Noe Valley location remains largely the same as when it first opened as Lazeez. There is a galley kitchen on the left-hand side with a small front counter and a case for Turkish desserts like baklava up front.

To the right, Ulas kept the floor-to-ceiling wall mural depicting a cobblestone city street with couples eating at a café's outdoor tables. Diners can help themselves to water from a cistern next to the mural, while an ADA-accessible bathroom is at the end of the hallway.

The one cosmetic change Ulas made to the indoor space is taking out the counter seating that had greeted Lazeez's customers. Now there are four tables with two seats each on both sides of the entry area.

Customers continue to order first at the cash register and staff will bring their food orders out to them at the tables. The red condiment bottles contain a spicy sauce, while bottles with tahini sauce are brought out with meals.

The menu is split between combo plates and wraps—don't call them gyros. The Falafel Wrap (\$8.99) can be upgraded to the House Falafel Wrap (\$9.99), which features eggplant in addition to the falafel, avocado, lettuce, tomato, and tahini sauce. In January, there was a special Super Falafel Wrap (\$11.99) made with four falafels, feta cheese, avocado, and french fries.



Serving Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine, Sultan's Kebab is doing a brisk business in the 24th Street spot once occupied by Lazeez.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

The Lamb Shawarma Wrap (\$10.99) is made with seasoned, roasted lamb, shaved thinly and served with lettuce, tomato, and tahini sauce. The Lamb Shish Wrap is similar but made with marinated charbroiled lamb.

The Kofte Wrap (\$8.99) is charbroiled ground lamb and beef wrapped in lavash bread with lettuce, tomato, and tahini sauce, plus hot sauce by request. The Adana Wrap (\$10.99) features charbroiled ground spicy lamb and beef.

There are also various platters that come with rice, salad, hummus, and pita bread. Options include skewers of chicken (\$12.99), salmon kebabs (\$15.99), or lamb (\$13.99). The plates also can be ordered with lamb shawarma (\$13.99) or chicken shawarma (\$12.99) or as salads (\$12.99-\$13.99) made with a generous

serving of sliced avocado.

Several items not normally seen on menus at Mediterranean fast-casual eateries in the city include the iconic Turkish eggplant dish Imam Bayildi and a chicken casserole (both \$13.99). The most expensive menu item is the Iskender Kebab (\$16.99), thinly sliced roast lamb served over sliced pita, covered in a tomato and butter sauce, and served with yogurt.

Side dishes include hummus (\$5.99), dolmas (\$5.99 for six), lentil soup (\$5.50), and french fries (\$4.50). Orders can be phoned in for pickup, or delivery is available through Grubhub.

Sultan's Kebab is open daily from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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· FEBRUARY 2019 ·

Feb. 1, 6 & 15: (Sub)Mission Cocktails & Comedy features local and national comedians performing in 7 pm and 8:30 pm shows. SF Armory Club basement, 1799 Mission. submissioncomedy.com.

Feb. 1-22: Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for Adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

Feb. 1-23: The Friday night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore, from 5:30 to 8 pm; Saturday night JAZZ is 7:30 to 10 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

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

Feb. 1-28: 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.

Feb. 1-28: 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.

Feb. 1-28: 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.

Feb. 1-28: Carol Aust exhibits ACRYLIC PAINTINGS in "Lost and Found." Reception Feb. 1, 5-7 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. Lola's Art Gallery, 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875; lolasanfrancisco.com.

Feb. 1-March 7: CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts a solo art exhibit by Marilyn Wong, "Catching Spirit." Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm (Thurs. until 7 pm), Sat., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

Feb. 1-March 25: Local sections of the WPA San Francisco Model will be on display at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 2: Learn to knit or crochet at the Noe Valley Library's KNITTING CIRCLE. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 2: Alison Pearlman introduces *May We Suggest: RESTAURANT MENUS and the Art of Persuasion*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 2: Build a LEGO city at the Noe Valley Library, from 3 to 4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 2-23: 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.

Feb. 2-23: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

Feb. 2-23: Charlie's Corner bookstore hosts "Stories Through ART with Noelle," Saturdays from 1:15 to 1:45 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Feb. 2-23: The Randall Museum's close-up of California wildlife, "Meet the ANIMAL KEEPER," happens Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

Feb. 2-26: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 2 & March 2: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts DRUMMING and dancing on first Saturdays. 4-5 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Feb. 3: Christine Hickman discusses *GNOCCHI Solo Gnocchi*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 3 & 17: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 3-24: A free T'AI CHI class at the Noe Valley Town Square is scheduled for Sundays, from 9 to 10 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Feb. 3-24: 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.

Feb. 3-24: 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.

Feb. 3 & March 3: The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

Feb. 4, 11 & 25: The ACC Conversation Club meets on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. For details, email krismoser@aol.com.

Feb. 5: Celebrate the Year of the Pig at CHINESE NEW YEAR at Charlie's Corner. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Feb. 5 & 19: Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING lessons with Ray Capral on first and third Tuesdays; free yarn, needles, and instruction. 7-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

Feb. 5-26: The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 5-26: 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.

Feb. 5-26: Charlie's Corner offers a YOGA + PEACE atory time Tuesdays at 5 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104;

Feb. 5-26: John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holynsf.org.

Feb. 5-March 2: SF WOMEN ARTISTS exhibit "What I Love," a juried all-media show. Reception Feb. 7, 5:30-8 pm; Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm. 647 Irving. 566-8550; sfwomenartists.org.

Feb. 5 & March 5: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

Feb. 6: The Randall Museum hosts a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss future plans and review the past year. 6 pm. 99 Museum Way. 554-9681; nrobinson@randallmuseum.org.

Feb. 6: Make a fabric origami heart at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 6-27: Folio Books offers STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Feb. 6-27: Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

Feb. 6-27: The Eureka Valley Library hosts BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 6-27: 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.

Feb. 6-27: 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.

Feb. 6-27: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anon.org.

Feb. 6 & March 6: The GLBT HISTORY Museum is free on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; glbthistory.org.

Feb. 7: The Noe Valley Library hosts story times that celebrate BLACK HISTORY, for children age 16 to 36 months. 10:15 & 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 7: Tweens and teens, ages 10 to 17, are invited to a CHOCOLATE tasting. 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 7: 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 artists: castroartwalk.com.

Feb. 7: Folio Books hosts a reading and BOOK SIGNING for *You're Doing What? Older Women's Tales of Achievement and Adventure*, edited by Marjorie Penn Lasky. 7 pm. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

Feb. 7-28: The Noe Valley Town Square offers group MEDITATION Thursdays, from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Feb. 7-28: Charlie's Corner Bookstore has a FRENCH STORYTIME Thursdays at 3 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Feb. 7-28: Newcomers welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

Feb. 7-28: Bring your vast storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

Feb. 8: The Noe Valley Library screens the 2018 FILM Black Panther. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

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

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— William Saroyan



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CALENDAR

Feb. 9: The first Coven short FILM FESTIVAL spotlights emerging women filmmakers from the Bay Area. 10:30 am-11 pm. New People Cinema, 1746 Post. covenfilmfest.com.

Feb. 9: Natural Resources offers an opportunity to meet DOULAS at 2 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; sign up at naturalresources-sf.com.

Feb. 9: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman speaks at the general membership meeting of the Irish American DEMOCRATIC CLUB. 2:30 pm. Haystack Pizza's back room, 3881 24th. sharolpearl1842@gmail.com.

Feb. 9: Andrea Nguyen introduces VIETNAMESE FOOD Any Day. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 10: Political group ACTION SF meets from 3 to 4:30 pm, on the second Sunday of the month. Location is the office at 4190 24th. actionsolidarity@gmail.com; resistry.net.

Feb. 10: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents a concert by the St. Lawrence String Quartet. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcn.org.

Feb. 11: Author ISADORA ALMAN discusses her 1984 through 2001 sex advice column. 7 pm. Institute on Aging, 3575 Geary. askisadora.com.

Feb. 11: ODD MONDAYS offers "Books, Bitters & Chocolate: A Valentine's Party," featuring authors Jennifer Barone, Rebekah Eppley, and Peg Alford Pursell, and illustrator Carmen Cortez. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper; 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. oddmondays.com.

Feb. 12: 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.

Feb. 12: PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsof.org.

Feb. 13: Charlie's Corner hosts a MARDI GRAS Masquerade with



The Omer Quartet performs at the Noe Valley Chamber Music's Classical Kids program Saturday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m. See them at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

stories about New Orleans. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Feb. 13: A free Fire Prevention and EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR includes demonstrations and activities for all ages, plus free flashlights, radios and smoke detectors for SF residents. 1-4 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. 636-1311; michaelw@cycsf.org.

Feb. 13: The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 13: Yasmin Khan discusses *Zaitoun: Recipes from the PALESTINE KITCHEN*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 14: The DIAMOND HEIGHTS Community Association meets on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 pm. Call 867-5774 for location; dhcasf.org.

Feb. 14, 21 & 28: 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.

Feb. 15: Nancy Wakeman, Kit Kennedy, Greg Pond, Dan Richman, and Alice Rogoff read from their

POETRY. 5-7 pm. Lola's Art Gallery. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875; lolasanfrancisco.com.

Feb. 15-March 31: Cary Friedman exhibits PHOTOGRAPHS in "Looking Back, Looking Forward." Reception Feb. 15, 4-6:30 pm. Edward Jones, 4190 24th. fotoartiste@icloud.com.

Feb. 16: The Omer Quartet performs at a Classical Kids CONCERT presented by Noe Valley Chamber Music. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcn.org.

Feb. 16: Jeff Cioletti introduces *SAKEPEDIA: A Non-Traditional Guide to Japan's Traditional Beverage*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 16: The Dubois Saxophone Quartet performs a CONCERT of music by Bach, Albrechtsberger, and Dvorak. 3-4:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; sfivcmusic.org.

Feb. 17: Author/illustrator J.R. Krause reads from his picture book *Dragon Night* at a special STORYTIME at Folio Books. 11:30 am. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

Feb. 17: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts "Ballroom Blitz," featuring BALLROOM DANCING for all. 4-7 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Feb. 17: LIEDER Alive! hosts a concert, "Curtis on Tour," featuring pianist Mikael Eliassen. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

Feb. 19: Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. Community Room, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane. Confirm meeting location at 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

Feb. 20: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 21: The Noe Valley Library offers a class in EMAIL BASICS. 3-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 22: Gennifer Choldenko discusses her novel *One-Third Nerd* at the BOOKWORMS Club (and pizza party) at Folio Books. 6 pm. 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, tiny.cc/followorms.

Feb. 23: Volunteer to weed and tidy up JURI COMMONS from 9 to 11 am; coffee and pastry provided. The park cuts through the block bounded by Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.

Feb. 24: The Glen Park Neighborhoods HISTORY PROJECT hosts a walk with Hannah Simonson, "Unbuilt Diamond Heights." 10 am-noon. Meet at George Christopher Playground, 5210 Diamond Heights. Sign up at glenparkhistory.org/events.

Feb. 24: Monika Trobits discusses Bay Area COFFEE: *A Stimulating History*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 25: ODD MONDAYS explores

"Antarctica in Fact & Fiction," featuring a climate change discussion by authors Erika Atkinson, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, and Kurt Cuffey. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper; 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. oddmondays.com.

Feb. 26: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400; missionpolicestation.org.

Feb. 27: 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.

Feb. 27: The Noe Valley Library offers a viewing and discussion of the 1938 SF SCALE MODEL, in "Reading the Model at Noe Valley." 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 28: Claudia Lucero introduces her book *One-Hour DAIRY-FREE CHEESE*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 28: Folio Books hosts a reading and BOOK SIGNING for *She's Got This! Essays on Standing Strong and Moving On*, by the Write On Mamas. 7 pm. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

March 2 & 3: SF HISTORY DAYS at the Old Mint features the Neighborhood Newspaper collection at the Department of Memory booth. 11 am-4 pm. 88 5th.

March Bravely Into

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **March 2019** issue, distributed the first week of March. The deadline for items is February 15. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.



FEBRUARY EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

SAT FEB 2	ALISON PEARLMAN • MAY WE SUGGEST: RESTAURANT MENUS AND THE ART OF PERSUASION • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • A captivating, thought-provoking study of one of the most often read but rarely analyzed narrative works around: the humble menu. Join Alison for a closer look at the design of physical restaurant menus and an exploration of how they influence our dining experiences and choices.
SUN FEB 3	CHRISTINE HICKMAN • GNOCCHI SOLO GNOCCHI: A COMPREHENSIVE TRIBUTE TO ITALY'S OTHER FAVORITE FIRST COURSE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Calling all gnocchi lovers! <i>Gnocchi Solo Gnocchi</i> explains the tricks of making Italian gnocchi, as well as introduces to gnocchi lovers everywhere the many variations of Italian gnocchi, including canederli, cheese, sweet, stuffed, vegetable, and semolina based.
SAT FEB 9	ANDREA NGUYEN • VIETNAMESE FOOD ANY DAY: SIMPLE RECIPES FOR TRUE, FRESH FLAVORS • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Drawing on decades of experience, as well as the cooking techniques her mom adopted after fleeing from Vietnam to America, award-winning author Andrea Nguyen shows you how to use easy-to-find ingredients to create true Vietnamese flavors at home.
WED FEB 13	YASMIN KHAN, IN CONVERSATION WITH NIK SHARMA • ZAITOUN: RECIPES FROM THE PALESTINIAN KITCHEN • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>Zaitoun</i> unlocks the flavors and fragrances of modern Palestine, from the sun-kissed pomegranate stalls of Akka, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, through evergreen oases of date plantations in the Jordan Valley, to the fading fish markets of Gaza City.
SAT FEB 16	JEFF CIOLETTI • SAKEPEDIA: A NON-TRADITIONAL GUIDE TO JAPAN'S TRADITIONAL BEVERAGE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Author Jeff Cioletti, a certified international Kikisake-shi—a fancy term for "sake sommelier"—presents a comprehensive guide to sake that both celebrates and demystifies the traditional Japanese drink.
SUN FEB 24	MONIKA TROBITS • BAY AREA COFFEE: A STIMULATING HISTORY • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Hear about the historic voyage of the humble coffee bean to the shores of San Francisco Bay including the stories of the original "big three" coffee roasters and the specialized Bay Area roasters that sprang up in their wake, and how places such as Tosca's, Caffè Trieste and the Blue Unicorn blazed the way for modern coffeehouses.
THURS FEB 28	CLAUDIA LUCERO • ONE-HOUR DAIRY-FREE CHEESE: MAKE MOZZARELLA, CHEDDAR, FETA, AND BRIE-STYLE CHEESES--USING NUTS, SEEDS, AND VEGETABLES • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • In ingenious, step-by-step recipes, traditional cheesemaker Claudia Lucero shows how to make 25 delicious plant-based cheeses using your choice of seeds, nuts, and vegetables to achieve rich flavor and creamy texture.

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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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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 **March 2019** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of March. **The deadline for Class Ads is February 15.**

The Class Ads are also displayed at 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
REC
CENTER



Build It Blue: Kids get creative with the Imagination Playground at last fall's Ten Together party at Upper Noe Rec Center. *Photo courtesy Chris Faust*

Winner of the Extraordinary Block Party Award

The September "Ten Together" celebration at Upper Noe Rec Center, and all those who helped put it together, will be honored at the city's 11th annual Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) Awards Feb. 6 in the City Hall Rotunda. The Noe Valley event won the Extraordinary Neighborhood Block Party Award, and will be among 13 events, organizations, or individuals lauded as neighborhood heroes. To check out the other winners, go to <http://www.empowersf.org/nen-awards-2019/>.

Many of our local heroes are members of the rec center's stewardship committee, the Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center. If you'd like to get involved, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or drop by the rec center office at 295 Day St.

Meantime, the beat goes on with classes in the Winter Session and free indoor activities like pickleball, tango, volleyball, and zumba. Remember the rec center motto: It's never too late to Get Out and Play.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER WINTER SESSION DEC. 22, 2018 – MARCH 16, 2019
Check 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.
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., 6-8:30 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
Volleyball -- Girls Beg. (ages 7-9)	4-5:30 p.m.
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.



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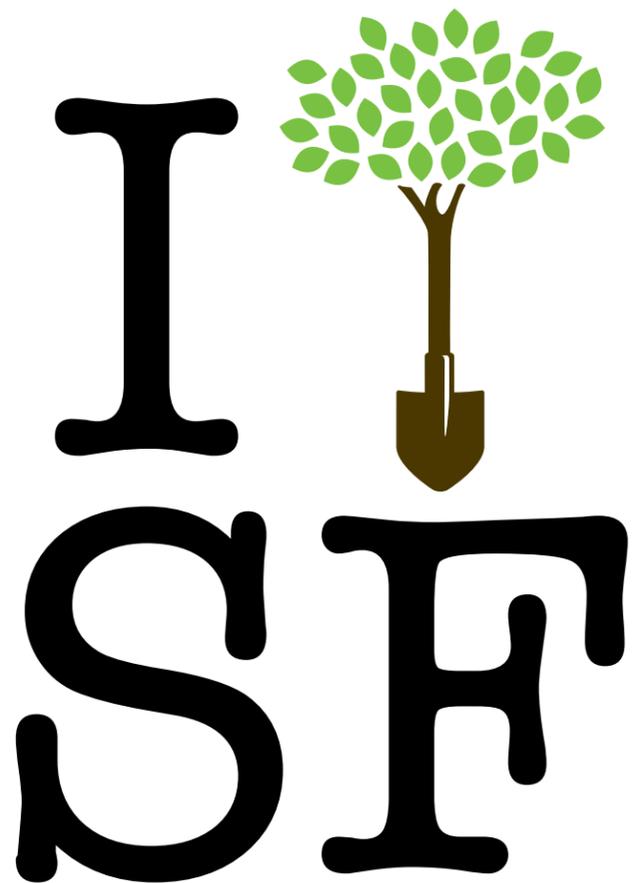


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ADULT/TEEN EVENTS

Adult Craft Night: Learn to make a fabric origami heart with Jeanie Low, fiber artist; all materials are provided. Sign up at 355-5707 or ask at the info desk. Wednesday, Feb. 6; 7-8:30 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens the 2018 film *Black Panther*, about a superhero who defends Wakanda, a technologically advanced country in Africa hidden from the outside world. Friday, Feb. 8; 2-4 p.m.

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Gather 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 project. Saturday, Feb. 2; 10:30 a.m.-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 applications for smartphones and tablets. For more information, contact Kris Moser at krismoser@aol.com. Mondays, Feb. 4, 11, and 25; 4:30-5:30 p.m.

eReader and Online Resource "Drop-In": Bring your mobile device or laptop, your library card and PIN (and any passwords you might need to download apps) to a workshop about the SFPL's digital resources, including the library catalog and databases, Kanopy for streaming films, Flipster and RBDigital for magazines, and OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks. Tuesday, Feb. 12; 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the non-profit Great Books Council of San Francisco, meets to discuss outstanding works of writing. For information contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, Feb. 13; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets to talk about *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin. Copies of the book are held at the circulation desk for checkout. Wednesday, Feb. 20; 7-8:30 p.m.

Learn Email Basics: In this class you will learn the basics of email, how to set up a gmail account, email etiquette, and safety. Laptop computers will be available for use, but feel free to bring your own device. Thursday, Feb. 21; 3-4 p.m.

Reading the Model at Noe Valley: Take a bird's-eye view with fellow residents and special guests, of early Noe Valley as depicted in the San Francisco Model and discuss the changes made since its 1938 creation. Wednesday, Feb. 27; 7-8:30 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.

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By Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Reading the Model at Noe Valley

The **San Francisco Urban Model**, a detailed wooden replica of the city made in 1938 (at a scale of 1 inch to 100 feet), will be on display at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library from now through March 25. The library will host a gathering on Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., where you can view the city landscape and discuss the changes that have happened over the years, with fellow residents and special guests.

When not reading the model, you might want to check out a book or a DVD at the branch. Below are some of this month's new titles, selected for the *Voice* by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr. There's a new translation of *Aladdin*, a biography of the San Francisco philanthropist Joe Koret, a book for children explaining racism and intolerance, and *The Kids Guide to Staying Awesome and In Control*. And that's just for starters.

If you come to the children's storytimes on Thursday morning, Feb. 7, the library will be **Celebrating Black History** with readings, songs, and movement by Black authors and artists. Come early for one of two sessions: 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. or 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Note the Noe Valley Library, at 451 Jersey St. between Castro and Diamond, is open Sunday through Saturday—that's every day. However, all San Francisco libraries will be closed on Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents Day.

Adult Fiction

◆ *PEN America Best Debut Short Stories 2018* is edited by Jodi Angel, Lesley Nneka Arimah, and Alexandra Kleeman.

◆ V.A. Shannon describes the 1846 ordeal of the pioneers in the Donner Party, in *When Winter Comes*.

◆ In *Hearts of the Missing*, a mystery by Carol Potenza, a Pueblo police sergeant investigates suspicious tribal deaths.

◆ Players of a viral online game begin playing it in real life, in *The Stranger Game* by Peter Gadol.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ The controversial World War II relocation of American citizens is the subject of *Displaced: Manzanar, 1942-1945, The Incarceration of Japanese Americans*, by Evan Backes and Nancy Matsumoto.

◆ Reed Bunzel's biography, *California Style: The Joe Koret Story*, tells the rags-to-riches story of the San Francisco philanthropist.

◆ Paulo Lemos Hotra and Yasmine Seale offer a new translation of *Aladdin*, the classic tale from *The Arabian Nights*.

◆ In *Flyover Country*, Austin Smith gives insights into the rural Midwest in his poetry.

Ebooks

◆ A newspaper reporter investigates the mysteries behind an air disaster in *Seventeen*, by Hideo Yokoyama.

◆ In *The Air You Breathe* by Frances de Pontes Peebles, two women from very different backgrounds find friendship in 1930s Brazil.

◆ Art historian Neil MacGregor examines the relationship between faith and society in *Living With the Gods: On Beliefs and Peoples*.

◆ In *Joyful: The Surprising Power of Ordinary Things to Create Extraordinary Happiness*, Ingrid Fetell Lee explains how small changes can make a big impact.

DVDs

◆ A teenager stands up for what's right after she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend, in the 2018 drama *The Hate U Give*.

◆ In the 2018 film *I Am Not a Witch*, an 8-year-old girl in rural Zambia is put on trial.

◆ In 1959 England, a widow opens a bookshop in a conservative coastal town, in *The Bookshop*, based on the Penelope Fitzgerald novel.

◆ Michael Moore's provocative and comedic *Fahrenheit 11/9* ponders the problems of the Trump era.

Children's Fiction

◆ A young girl compares her mother to others in *The Best Mother*, by C.M. Surrisi, with illustrations by Diane Goode. Ages 3 to 7.

◆ In *I Am Small*, written and illustrated by Qin Leng, a very short girl learns there are advantages to being her size. Ages 4 to 7.

◆ The value of unplugged family time is lauded in *The Manic Panic*, written by Richa Jha and illustrated by Mithila Ananth. Ages 4 to 7.

◆ A little girl is forced to become a refugee in *The Day War Came*, written by Nicola Davies, with illustrations by Rebecca Cobb. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ *Not One Damsel in Distress: Heroic Girls From World Folklore*, collected and told by Jane Yolen, and illustrated by Susan Guevara, includes 15 tales with brave female heroes. Ages 7 to 10.

◆ In Kersten Hamilton's *Days of the Dead*, a girl struggles to keep a promise to her dead mother. Ages 8 to 12.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Build a LEGO City inspired by the San Francisco Urban Model of the 1940s. Create urban blocks and neighborhoods brick by LEGO brick, on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 3 to 4 p.m. (The SF Urban Model representing Noe Valley is on display at the library.)

Storytimes Celebrating Black History: Featured books will highlight Black authors and artists, songs and movement on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m. For children 16 months to 36 months with parent or caregiver.

Toddler Tales: Miss Catherine reads books and leads rhymes, music, and small movement on Thursdays, Feb. 14, 21, and 28; at 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m. For children 16 months to 36 months with parent or caregiver.

TEEN EVENT

Twens and teens ages 10 to 17 can hunt for their favorite confections at a **Chocolate Tasting** featuring the standard flavors and some quirky combinations. Thursday, Feb. 7; 4-5 pm.

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.

◆ An anxious boy and a girl who lives above her uncle's funeral home become friends in *In Your Shoes* by Donna Gephart. Ages 9 to 12.

◆ In *The Mona Lisa Key*, the first book in a trilogy by Liesl Shurtliff, three city kids board a subway that takes them to Paris in 1911. Ages 10 to 14.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Louise Spilsbury explains contemporary problems in *Racism and Intolerance*, with illustrations by Hanane Kai. Ages 5 to 9.

◆ *Bugs!* by Nick Forshaw, with illustrations by William Exley, is part of the What on Earth? Explorer series. Ages 7 to 11.

◆ *The Kids Guide to Staying Awesome and In Control: Simple Stuff to Help Children Regulate their Emotions and Senses*, by Lauren Brukner, illustrated by Apsley, suggests breathing exercises, fidgets, and headphones. Ages 7 to 14.

◆ Ilene Cooper writes a biography, *Eleanor Roosevelt, Fighter for Justice: Her Impact on the Civil Rights Movement, the White House, and the World*. Ages 10 to 14.

◆ *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems* is an illustrated tour of our planet, by Rachel Ignatofsky. Ages 10 and up.

Annotations by *Voice* bookworm
Karol Barske

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						
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	12-6	10-9	12-9	10-6	1-6	12-6

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

All That Noe Knows

By Mazook

PUPPY LOVE: The news in Noe went world-wide at the end of 2018 with a Dec. 31 story on SFGate headlined “Meet Doggy Style: An up to \$1,500-a-month members-only club for SF dog lovers,” by Michelle Robertson.

The *Voice* already had the scoop, so to speak. As we reported in the December Rumors Behind the News, the storefront at 3927 24th St., which once housed Artisana gifts, was and is being remodeled to become a high-end pet boutique and “day club.” And yes the name is Doggy Style.

Noe Valleons Rachel Swann and business partner Cameron Silva are the owners of the business. Swann promised in December, “It will be a locally owned dog experience including unique furnishings, clothing, accessories, and a concierge service tailored for your dog, where you can shop and socialize with other dog moms and dads while your pooch stays and plays in our private indoor/outdoor playground.”

The Doggy Style website then put out the word: “Opening February 2019 in the heart of San Francisco’s Noe Valley, Doggy Style, Inc. is equal parts social club, chic lounge, and the luxe ‘home away from home’ you’ve always wanted for you and your dog—a first-of-its-kind experience, with impeccable taste.”

Not to be outdone, the *San Francisco*

Bay Guardian ran a story by Vivian Ho on Jan. 8, under the headline “The Dog Wears Prada: \$1,500-a-month doggy daycare prompts growls in San Francisco.”

Then the story spread to other media. “Luxury doggy daycare in California? Some have a bone to pick” (Fox News). “Obscenely luxurious \$1,500-per-month DOG daycare” (Daily Mail).

By mid-January, Nextdoor and the local blog noevalleysf.blogspot.com had included all the foregoing as well as long strings of commentary, both pro and con.

Of course, Swann was not surprised. Nor was she disappointed. “We have had almost 300 inquiries on our website and a lot of interest by people who want to join our group,” she said.

She also said she has been contacted by a British documentary group who are attending the Academy Awards on Feb. 24 and want to fly up to Noe Valley to do a story about Doggy Style the next day. Another news group is planning to send a crew on another day. And, Swann said, “Last week *USA Today* came out to do a story about us.”

Swann points out that membership in the doggy spa will have five tiers, with the most basic one, “The Noe-sy Neighbor,” running \$250 per month (plus a \$250 initiation fee). It allows one dog daycare visit per week, one guest visit, and access to basic programs and events.

The next levels up—“The Social Climber,” “The Bougie B****,” and “The Top Dog”—rise in cost from \$500 to \$1,000 a month, and have more benefits.

The top tier, “The Dog Wears Prada,” offers—along with all of the other services—unlimited Doggy Dayclub access, concierge services seven days a week including pickup and dropoff, a mural of your dog on the store’s Wall of Fame, a

complimentary dog-grooming, store discounts, a one-year advisory board seat, and “a private doggy birthday party with 12 furry friends and their humans.” That membership has a \$7,500 initiation fee and costs \$1,500 a month.

“We will have a lounge for members with video cameras around [the perimeter], so members who are at work, for example, can view their dogs through an app on their device,” says Swann. “We will be serving Bernie’s Coffee and non-alcoholic beverages, and show doggy movies with the sound coming through headphones, including the pooches’.”

Check out the full description at doggystylesf.com/memberships.

Just so you know, Swann currently has four dogs and Silva has three. “We came up with this idea from our dogs,” says Silva.



CONSTRUCTION PAPER: Downtown Noe Valley has had a lot of construction projects filling its commercial spaces. The words heard most often on 24th Street these days: “square feet.”

The Real Food spot at 3939 24th is turning into three commercial spaces, rumored to cost a monthly rent of \$10,000 each. Many attempts to reach the owner have been in vain. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman’s office reports that they had a brief phone conversation with the owner and were following up to find out the current rent status, but as of press time had not heard back. It is hard to tell how the many square feet in that structure will be subdivided.

The “soft-story seismic retrofit” of the building on the corner of 24th and Church, housing Happy Donuts, Shufat Market, and the empty Cardio-Tone exercise studio, was completed at year’s end, and the Cardio spot is for rent once

again.

The owner’s real estate agent, Peter Gong, says the 1,500-square-foot commercial space is being offered at a monthly \$4.50 per square foot. That translates to \$6,750 a month. He points out that this is the “gross rent,” where the tenant does not have to pay a share of the property taxes, insurance, and common area expenses of the owner.

Gong says he has received very few inquiries from people who want to put in a retail store. “One person was interested in opening a gift shop,” says Gong, “but the numbers didn’t add up right for them.”

However, he said, “I have received eight calls from different people who want to open a cannabis dispensary at this location, but the building owner does not want to rent the space for that kind of use.”

Down 24th Street, the long-vacant store (it used to be a women’s boutique called Isso) at 3789 is also for rent, now that the seismic retrofit of that building has been finished.

According to the owner’s real estate agent, Crystal Wright, they are looking for a retail use. The space is 550 square feet, with a monthly rent of \$2,750 (\$5/sq.ft.). She says the interior has been remodeled and now has an ADA-compliant bathroom.

The space that used to house The Mill, on the corner of 24th and Chattanooga, which we reported had been rented, possibly to a cannabis shop, now has a For Lease sign on the window again.

And the new commercial space next to St. Clair’s Liquor at 3908 24th St. is for lease, although we reported at the end of last year that a pot dispensary had applied to open there.

According to the owner, they are still

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association



Photo by Art Bodner

and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

negotiating, although he also has received inquiries from someone who wants to open a mathematics learning center and from another person looking to open a cyclery shop.

The store has 1,500 square feet at ground level and another 800 in the basement. The base monthly rent being asked is \$11,000 (which is about \$4.75/sq.ft.).

It also appears that a For Rent sign will appear on the small store next to Just for Fun at 3980 24th. Recently, the space was Rafael Mandelman's campaign office before he won his seat on the Board of Supervisors, and then at the end of the summer it became a studio for a group creating exercise-training videos. Now it stands empty.



ON THE MENU: Vive La Tarte quietly opened its newest café, at 4026 24th St., at 7 a.m. on Jan. 25, as a DJ played music in the background.

The menu is all about breakfast (cereals and "Egg on Things") and lunch (toasted sandwiches and salads), with two desserts (SF Cheesecake and Chocolate & Sea Salt Cake). The cafe bakes its own bread in the back and offers three varieties to go: the Noe Valley Loaf, the Hinterland Loaf, and the Thousand Seeds. Beverage-wise, there's Sightglass coffee, mimosas, and wine.

Lines formed when the public was welcomed for free coffee and croissants the

next day, Saturday, Jan. 26. Vive La Tarte will be open on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on weekends from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

And next door at 4018 24th, where La PanotiQ once resided, a restaurant offering Mediterranean cuisine will be opened by Samir Salameh, who has lived upstairs for the past 10 years and whose family owns the building.

Salameh is an interior designer who operated a company called Room Service. In a recent interview, he said he was "so excited to be working on this project to create a 'family-style' Middle Eastern menu that is wholesome, healthy, and affordable."

On Jan. 24, the Planning Commission gave him the go-ahead to start remodeling the space. The restaurant will be called Wallflower.

We hope the beautiful stained-glass mosaics below the front windows, originally installed by long-gone Global Exchange, will be preserved.

Meanwhile, the new restaurant and bar called Noe's Cantina very quietly opened just after Christmas (Dec. 27) in the old Hamlet spot on the corner of 24th and Church. Things were so quiet, there were no "Open" or "Hours" signs on the doors, nor was there the posting of a menu.

The menu had been announced in a feature by Jeff Kaliss in the December *Voice*, titled "Noe's Returns, With Good Spirits and Salsa: Rejuvenated Tavern Will Now Serve Mexican Fare."

Since then, owner Tommy Basso has taken on a "minority partner," Liam Mayclem, a Bay Area media personality best known for his KCBS program *The Foodie Chap*. Mayclem's life partner, Rick Camargo, is also involved.

"It has been very busy since we opened," said Basso. The restaurant is serving dinner from 5 to 10 p.m.

On Jan. 28, the Cantina celebrated a new drink at the bar, "The Ronnie Lott," honoring one of San Francisco's most famous football Hall of Famers. Lott himself was at the Cantina for the inaugural toast.

"It was a charity event with the proceeds going to his choice," said Basso, who described The Ronnie Lott as a margarita with fresh jalapeños and jalapeño juice.

The menu spotlights "sizzling fajitas" with shrimp, pork, chicken, or either flat-iron or rib-eye steak, with sides of rice, beans, corn, or "Tommy's fries." You can also get your basic cheeseburger or chicken sandwich with fries, each of which is 12 bucks. The fajita dinners are \$18 (except chicken, \$16), and the sides clock in at six bucks, except the corn, which is a dollar more.

It looks like a new feature will be "Sunday Supper," where guest chefs will pop up and cook some special meals. Stay tuned.

And finally on the food front, the space abruptly vacated by Contigo at 1380 Castro will soon have a new occupant: Azalina's. Azalina Eusope is opening her first full-service restaurant, featuring Malaysian fare. You know her, perhaps, by her longtime stall with soups and noodles at 1355 Market (near 10th) or her dishes served in the hot bars of many Whole Foods stores, including Noe Valley's. You might want to try her Malaysian pineapple tea leaf salad or maybe "hokkien mee," a bowl of noodles with turmeric, onions, vegetables, and prawns.

Eusope has applied for a beer and wine license, and should be open in a month or two.



WE'VE GOT ISSUES: Back issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*, print edition, are

being kept by the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street, but now are available only by special request, according to Denise Sanderson, the branch manager.

"We are running out of space, and had to move them to storage space," she says. "However, we want to keep them available for people doing research."

Sanderson also points out that "another set is at the Main Library's History Center."

True, the Main has issues beginning with Vol. 1, No. 2 (June 1977), and going up to this one you are reading right now. Only one issue is missing: the first issue.

Aha! Vol.1, No. 1, can be found at 451 Jersey St., and online in the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/noe-valleyvoice01unse>.

By the way, you researchers may want to know that there is another among the many free services offered at our local branch (wifi, garden access, a community room for meetings): the library will scan anything you request, including the first issue of the *Voice*.

Wouldn't it be great if somewhere in that big library building they could find space to store not only the *Voice* but also a treasure trove of neighborhood artifacts? They could be curated, made secure, and displayed periodically at a Noe Valley History Day. I don't know how many times the *Voice* covered the annual Noe Valley Archives show at the branch. It was organized in the 1970s by Paul Kantus, our local memorabilia collector, who died in 2008.

Historians, unite! Save our neighborhood's archives!



THAT'S THIRTY, folks. See you next time, when we will March forth. Ciao for now. ■

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity
 Email: actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com
 http://www.resistrypac.org
 Meetings: Second Sunday, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940
 Website: 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
 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
 Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: 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
 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
 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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

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

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Jean Conner 584-8576
 Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: 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
 Website: 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
 Website: 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
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association

Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org
 Website: glenparkassociation.org
 Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

Juri Commoners

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

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president
 Email: efromer3@gmail.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Contact: 835-8720
 Email: 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
 Website: 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
 Website: www.noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com
 Website: noevalleydems.com
 Meetings: 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

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

Noe Valley Parent Network

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

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

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

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley
 Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
 Website: 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
 Website: 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; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
 Website: http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879
 Meetings: See website for trainings scheduled throughout the year.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See website.

Stand Up San Francisco

Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman
 Email: info@standupsf.net
 Website: 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
 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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