

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Darin Robinson's Nightmare Walk Home

Local Man Recovering From Gunshot Wounds

By Matthew S. Bajko

Darin Robinson had set out on foot for the Walgreens in the Castro District late Sunday, Dec. 6, to run an errand and get in some exercise. He had nearly returned to his Noe Valley home around 10:45 p.m. when two men jumped out of a car and rushed over to him.

He noticed they were armed with guns and heard them demand that he hand over his cell phone. He had been talking to a close friend from out of state as he walked.

"I think I did what was an automatic response of, 'No.' Then one of them pistol-whipped me on the side of my head, that caused me to run," recalled Robinson, 42, in an interview with the *Voice* last month. "They shot four times, I think, but hit me twice, was my understanding."

Residents near the intersection of Castro and Elizabeth streets came to his assistance as Robinson lay bleeding on the ground. They waited with him for the paramedics to arrive and rush him to the trauma center at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital for surgery.

"I want to give a large shout-out to the people who helped me that night. A number of people all came running out of their homes, and some held me until the paramedics came," said Robinson, who also praised the safety personnel who attended to him that night. "They are part of why I am still here. That is my biggest thing. I want them to know what they have done is appreciated."

One bullet struck him above his right thigh and cleanly exited the leg. The second entered his body just above his butt.

"It hit my pelvis and took a chip out



Counting Himself Lucky. Darin Robinson paid for his decision to run from two gun-wielding attackers, but the outcome could've been much worse.

Photo by Art Bodner

and hit my intestines. They had to remove part of my small intestines and a little bit of my large intestine and connect them back up," said Robinson, who was released from the hospital Dec. 20. "Christmas was pretty good. It was nice going home to be with family."

By mid-January, Robinson said, his recovery was "going well." He was back on

his feet walking again, though he is avoiding walking up and over the hill to go to the Castro for the time being. The avid runner has yet to heal enough to go for a jog.

"It should be pretty close to a full recovery at some point," said Robinson.

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Does Your Sex Sizzle?

Michael Castleman Has Recipes For Renewing Ardor

By Corrie M. Anders

A Noe Valley author has written a new self-help book that may be the ideal complement to that box of chocolates or bouquet of roses this Valentine's Day.

The book, *Sizzling Sex for Life: Everything You Need to Know to Maximize Erotic Pleasure at Any Age*, is the work of health and sex journalist Michael Castleman.

"There are people who are actively trying to enhance their sexual relationships," says Castleman, 70. "Valentine's Day is the time of year when more people are open to sexual enhancements."

In addition, Covid-19 is compelling many couples to spend more time at home, so who couldn't use a few tips on love and affection?

The 456-page book, published last month by Skyhorse, is a comprehensive guide to enhancing one's lovemaking skills and re-kindling passion when desire may have ebbed. Chapters run the gamut from erotic massage and oral sex technique to elder hook-ups and consensual non-monogamy.

The writing is down to earth and at times frank enough to make Cupid blush. But it is based on 2,500 sexology studies and the author's 46 years of dispensing practical information on sex.

Castleman, who works from the Alvarado Street house he has shared with wife Anne Castleman, a retired physician, since 1987, wrote his first sex guide, *Sexual Solutions*, while in his 20s. He also has penned numerous works on general health, including the best-selling *Nature's Cures* (1996). He was the *Playboy* Advisor for several years in the 1990s, and

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Goodbye to 2020. Christmas trees and holiday wreaths were unceremoniously dumped at curbs all over Noe Valley in December. While struggles with Covid-19 and racism still exist, this new year contains kernels of hope. With the work and involvement of all of us, that hope may grow into new realities.

Photo by Jack Tipple

Writing Baby's First Song

Mothers and Musicians Meet To Create and Celebrate

By Richard May

Baby news flash! Noe Music is partnering with the Homeless Prenatal Program of San Francisco (HPP) on a mother-baby wellness project called Lullaby. In the program, local musicians are paired with new mothers or mothers-to-be to create a special song for mother and child. The women participating from HPP may be living on the street, in transitional housing, or staying in other people's homes.

Noe Music is working under the auspices of the Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute, which launched the Lullaby Project over a decade ago. It has since spread across the nation and around the world. Noe Music is the first music arts

group to pilot the project in California.

This is how it works. Mother and musician meet three times over a week, for the moment via Zoom. The mother starts by writing a letter to her baby. Then the musician and mother use that as a basis for writing the lyrics of the lullaby. The musician and mother decide on a melody and on details such as, will there be a chorus or will the lullaby be sung solo?

By the end of the second session, the team has a working lullaby. The musician will record and play the song at the third session, which is also a community share among all 10 musician-mother teams participating that week. Each mother decides how much to participate. They all leave with an MP3 recording of their lullaby to their baby.

The community share for the pilot week was Feb. 1 over Zoom. Co-Artistic Director Meena Bhasin of Noe Music says she hopes to continue the Lullaby Project week after week, depending on

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OPENSFHISTORY

Thanks for Your Service. Here's a view east where Castro Cable Car #133 is being towed away for scrapping. Car #133 was an original Castro cable car in service up until the 1906 earthquake. It was stored in the barn at Castro and Jersey from 1906 until May 1941. Efforts were made to save the historic car, but no organization would accept it. It was scrapped at Elkton Yard by the Market Street Railway on May 8, 1941.
 Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher

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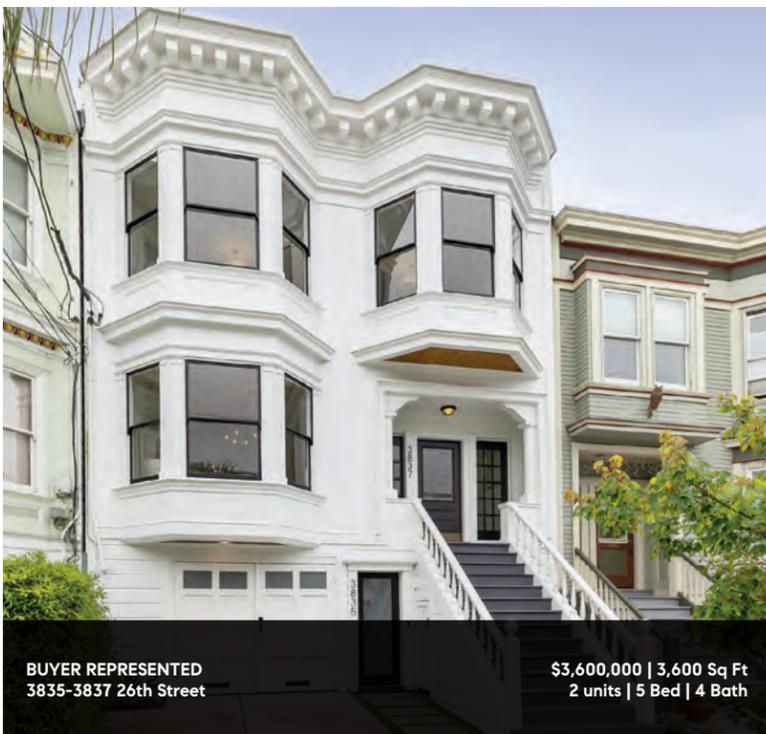


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Yeah, we got some moisture. The rain came to Noe Valley in January causing exotic flora to appear.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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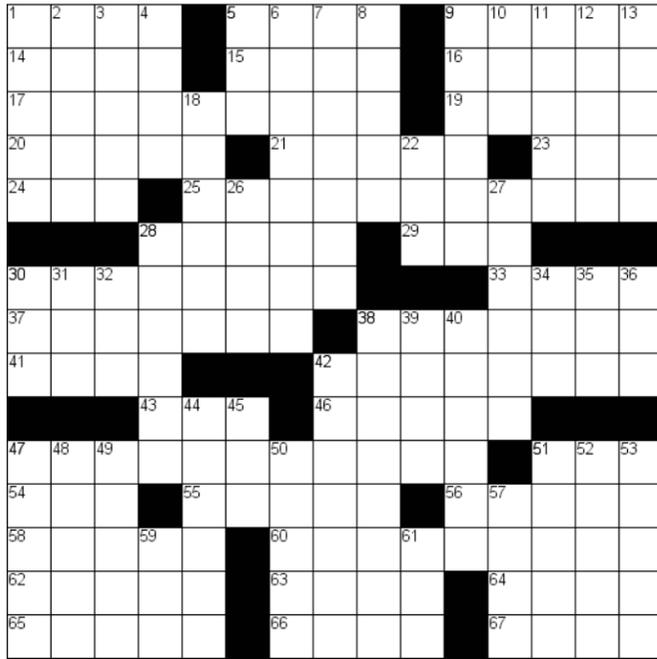
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

When the Bars Reopened

ACROSS

- 1. "What ___ state of affairs"
- 5. "Don't watch this video at the office!": Abbr.
- 9. Order at Martha & Bros.
- 14. Nothing, in Nogales
- 15. Prefix with lateral and distant
- 16. Leader at Sha'ar Zahav
- 17. **The clerk from Doggy Style went to Valley Tavern for a...**
- 19. ___ Islam (Cat Stevens, now)
- 20. Topping at Casa Mexicana
- 21. Positive pole
- 23. Philosopher Lao-___
- 24. Definite article
- 25. **The visitor from Cole Hardware went to the Dubliner for a...**
- 28. Midwest Indians
- 29. 457-55-5462, for LifeLock CEO Todd Davis
- 30. Totally forget where one is
- 33. Lose, as pounds
- 37. Feature of the word "psalm" or "psychology"
- 38. Octets minus one
- 41. Air filter type
- 42. Most insistent
- 43. Macadamia, e.g.
- 46. Academy Award
- 47. **The kung fu instructor from Jaime's Martial Arts went to Noe's Cantina for a...**
- 51. ___ Wednesday
- 54. Prevaricate
- 55. Nick name?
- 56. Order at Martha & Bros.



- 58. Kerouac's "___ Road"
 - 60. **The pedicurist from New York Nails went to Clooney's for a...**
 - 62. Nixon's VP
 - 63. "In that range"
 - 64. Related
 - 65. Some amphibians
 - 66. Dance move
 - 67. Paris airport
- DOWN**
- 1. Feeling of dread
 - 2. Real name of Fergie
 - 3. One-named singer of "Skyfall"
 - 4. What February has the fewest of
 - 5. "The Matrix" protagonist
 - 6. Website for an SF-based payments system
 - 7. Most enjoyable, ungrammatically
 - 8. Black ___ spider
 - 9. Machines at Bubble Up
 - 10. Water, in Waterloo
 - 11. "Dr. Phil" broadcaster
 - 12. Treat roughly
 - 13. Drummer's partner
 - 18. Accelerate
 - 22. Letters after "Dr. Barry Kinney"
 - 26. Diving bird
 - 27. Behind bars
 - 28. Atlantic and Pacific, e.g.
 - 30. Command at Sally Brunn Library
 - 31. "Peasant" offering at 24th and Castro
 - 32. Matterhorn or Mont Blanc
 - 34. Half a laugh
 - 35. Aliens, for short
 - 36. What begins on Pi Day 2021: Abbr.
 - 38. Hitchcock's genre
 - 39. Ending for "coal" or "opal"
 - 40. With "Big," major drug companies
 - 42. Toaster pastry
 - 44. "___ & World Report"
 - 45. Yet, to Yeats
 - 47. Act smug
 - 48. A Beetle
 - 49. Humana competitor
 - 50. "Battlestar Galactica" actor Edward James ___
 - 51. Broadway performer
 - 52. "I ___ return": MacArthur
 - 53. Conveniently available
 - 57. SF-based self-driving truck company, once
 - 59. "I knew a man Bojangles and ___ dance for you..."
 - 61. Dr. Seuss's "___ on Pop"

Solution on Page 19
Find more Crosswords at noevalleyvoice.com

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Rash of Burglaries in December

There is no sugarcoating it: Noe Valley saw a marked increase in crime during the December holiday season.

According to data collected by the San Francisco Police Department, there were 130 incidents reported during the month, in the 10 categories of crime the *Noe Valley Voice* is monitoring in Noe Valley (see table below). That number was 25 percent higher than in April, the month with the second highest total of incidents in 2020.

With people buying and receiving more items during the holiday season, it may not be surprising that the category with the most number of incidents (45) was larceny/theft, which includes such things as package thefts and thefts from vehicles.

But most disturbing was the number of burglaries of homes and businesses. There were 30, including one the day before Christmas. Several involved "hot prowls," in which burglars entered homes while people were inside. According to the data, most of the burglary incidents (24) occurred south of 24th Street.

Car thieves also were busy in December. They drove off with 25 cars, trucks, and motorcycles, the most for any month last year.

If you want to see the approximate locations of incidents, go to Public Safety at Data.sfgov.org and find the Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports From 2018 to the Present.

Note, "Noe Valley" in the Digital Map is defined as an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. The *Voice* collected the December 2020 data on Jan. 17, 2021. Incidents are reported as they come in, so the data may have changed.

To report incidents in your neighborhood, call the SFPD's non-emergency number, 415-553-0123, or file a police report online at sanfranciscopolice.org. To contact Mission Station Captain Gaetano Caltagirone, call 415-558-5400 or email Gaetano.Caltagirone@sfgov.org. Ingleside Station Captain Christopher Woon can be reached at 415-404-4000, or by emailing Chris.Woon@sfgov.org. In an emergency, call 911.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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

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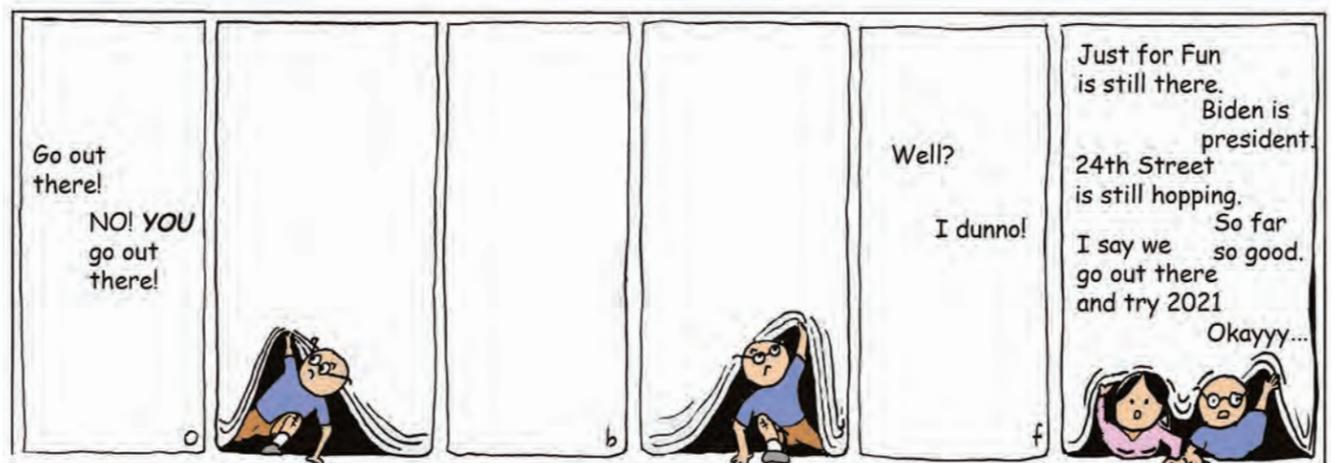
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Noe Valley Incidents Reported to SFPD January–December 2020

Incident Reports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Larceny/Theft	37	31	29	48	41	49	26	21	25	34	38	45	424
Burglary	15	15	8	11	20	20	17	9	14	20	20	30	199
Malicious Mischief	9	13	8	9	2	6	10	10	5	7	4	8	91
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	8	9	16	9	14	15	11	2	18	18	25	154
Assault	3	2	1	1	2	1	5	1	0	3	4	4	26
Robbery	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	3	0	0	7	22
Other Miscellaneous	5	6	3	6	7	4	4	4	5	9	8	6	67
Fraud	4	6	0	4	3	4	2	3	4	1	2	4	37
Family Domestic Violence	1	0	0	5	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	1	19
Vandalism	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
TOTALS	86	82	58	104	89	101	83	63	58	95	96	130	1045

Source: Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports From 2018 to the Present, at Data.sfgov.org (see Public Safety).
Data collection by *Noe Valley Voice*.

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN





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Local Man Recovering From Shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Running is still a ways off.”

A National Guard member in Washington State, where he had been living up until five years ago, Robinson remarked to the *Voice* that the more shocking aspect to his being shot in the neighborhood where he grew up is that he was never hit by gunfire during his three deployments overseas while serving in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Kosovo, then Kuwait, followed by Iraq, where he took part in the 2003 invasion of the Middle Eastern country.

“I chuckle at my being able to get through all of that without getting shot,” said Robinson, who enlisted at the age of 20.

Had his attackers waited a few seconds for him to respond when they first approached him and asked for his phone, Robinson suspects things would have gone differently.

“I would have given them my phone if they had waited another moment or two instead of hitting me on the side of the head with their pistol. That triggered a fight-or-flight response. There was no pause for me to give it to them,” said Robinson. “I was not going to fight two people with pistols, so it was run. And I didn’t make it too far.”

While the ordeal wasn’t easy, Robinson said he isn’t suffering from any PTSD. While talking with the *Voice* about the incident and injuries, he was upbeat and cracking jokes.

“Some of that may be my Army training or my personality,” said Robinson, who acknowledged, “To be fair, I was lucky.”

He praised the police officers who responded the night he was attacked and who have since contacted him about their investigation into the shooting. He had his phone returned to him while in the hospital, as someone found it thrown away about a block from where Robinson was shot.

“On the upside, I got my phone back. I am using it to talk to you right now,” he said. “It still works and the screen was fine. The case I had for it was a little messed up.”

Police Say Patrols Increased

Robinson’s being shot and reports of another person being held up at gunpoint in Noe Valley around the same time prompted District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman to host a virtual meeting about safety issues in the neighborhood



Carol Robinson hugs son Darin Robinson, who was shot Dec. 6 in a robbery attempt. Darin says he appreciates all the help he’s received from neighbors and police. Photo by Art Bodner

with police officials and District Attorney Chesa Boudin in early January.

Police Lt. Gerald Newbeck with Mission Station said during the town hall that investigators obtained multiple videos of Robinson’s shooting incident and a vehicle description but not a license plate. Officers working night shifts have been instructed, he said, to patrol more often in Noe Valley.

He stressed that if someone is held up at gunpoint they should comply with the demands of their attacker.

“A cell phone and wallet is nothing compared to getting shot in the back. You can lose your life,” said Newbeck.

Boudin said his office was doing what it could to support the police’s investigation into the recent incidents in the neighborhood. He acknowledged the “fear and concern” they had caused in the community.

“I know the police are working overtime to try to solve those cases,” said Boudin. “If they do and give us enough evidence, we will file a case and prosecute it.”

As for the police apprehending his assailants, Robinson is doubtful. They were

matches the bullets one day in the future,” said Robinson.

Grateful to Neighbors

One of the most difficult aspects of his recovery, Robinson told the *Voice*, was his mother being allowed to visit him the two days he spent in the ICU and then barred from returning for the rest of his time at SF General due to the Covid pandemic.

“The two weeks in the hospital were a challenge. My nurses were great,” Robinson said. “In the hospital, I didn’t want to sit around and mope, so I got up and walked when I could. I used a cane for a little while, but now I am not if I can help it.”

Robinson’s mother, Carol Robinson, owns The Tax Managers on Vicksburg Street, where he would play computer games as a child and get assistance with typing up homework assignments. He now manages the office and plans to take over the 32-year-old business when his mom retires.

While he knows his being shot has shaken the neighborhood, Robinson stressed that he just happened to be at the “wrong place at the right time” for his attackers.

He pointed to the actions of his neighbors that night as to why he continues to be happy to call Noe Valley home, and looks forward to when the health crisis will ebb and life can get back to some form of normalcy.

“I hope we turn the corner on this stuff and are able to sit down and have a beer at a bar one day,” he said.

Anyone with information about Robinson’s shooting can call the San Francisco Police Department’s anonymous tip line at 415-575-4444 or send a tip by text message to TIP411 with “SFPD” at the start of the message. ■

adorned in masks and hats, obscuring his ability to provide police with a good description of the two.

“I don’t think they will be caught unless they use the gun again and randomly the police do a ballistics test and [it]



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- Covid-19** Text “COVID19SF to 888-777, see sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19, or call . . . 311
- Burned-Out Streetlights**, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) 311
- District 8 Supervisor** Rafael Mandelman 415-554-6968
- District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention** Dave.Burke@sfgov.org
- Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)** 415-695-2017
- Hazardous Waste Disposal** / free pickup bulky items 415-330-1300
- Homeless Services** Street Outreach Services (SOS) 415-355-2250
- Lost or Injured Animals** Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
- Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services** sfmayor.org 415-554-7111
- NERT** (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) 415-970-2022
- Parking Enforcement** DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
- PG&E** Gas or electrical issues 1-800-743-5000
- Pothole Repairs** potholes@sfdpw.org 415-554-5810
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- Tree Planting** urbanforestry@sfdpw.org 415-554-6700
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“...[H]ope is like a stubborn ship gripping a dock, a truth: that you can’t stop a dreamer or knock down a dream.”
From the 2017 *In This Place (An American Lyric)* by Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate (1998–)



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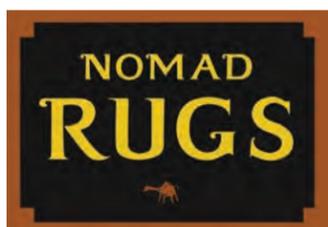
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New Guide to Great Sex From Local Expert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

since 2009 has written a twice-monthly digital blog, “All About Sex,” for *Psychology Today*. In his spare time, he’s written four mystery novels.

Castleman says the most pressing concern for people in long-term relationships is what he calls the “desire difference,” when one partner wants to engage in sexual activity more frequently than the other. It’s the number one reason a couple might consult a sex therapist.

“The fact of the matter is that when people fall in love, they can’t keep their hands off each other. [But] the hot and heavy period lasts six months to two years,” he says. “After that, ardor cools, and for different people it cools at different rates.”

Frustration can occur when “the person who has higher desires is always reaching and cuddling and hoping to get lucky” and the less receptive partner backs off, “cringing for fear of giving the wrong message,” Castleman says.

In a loving relationship, there are many potential solutions, but one of the simplest, he says, is to schedule a sex date.

“Sex therapists say, ‘Decide how often you want to make love, pull out your calendar, and schedule it.’ People have to get past the idea of spontaneous sex.”

Castleman says the rise in use of pornography has been the biggest change in sexual mores since he wrote his last advice book, *Great Sex*, in 2008. In *Sizzling Sex for Life*, he devotes more than 50 pages to the complicated subject, exploring its historical roots, male-female differences, the potential use by adolescents, and its connections (or not) to addiction, violence, or emotional betrayal.

Knowing their male partner watches porn can cause “tremendous anguish” in some women, says Castleman. “They think the guy is horrible. They think it’s mental infidelity, or that they can’t compete with those women [porn stars].”

However, Castleman argues, experimenting with porn, especially the feminist variety—his book lists half a dozen internet sources for femme porn—might provide the spark for a new level of intimacy.

And that might keep more than a few home fires burning from one Valentine’s Day to the next.

You can pre-order Sizzling Sex for Life (\$24.99) from Folio Books at foliosf.com, among other outlets in the city. For further information about the book and its author, see SizzlingSexforLife.com.



Health journalist, mystery novelist, and one-time *Playboy* Advisor Michael Castleman writes and blogs from his home on Alvarado Street.

Photo courtesy Anne Castleman

What Keeps Sex Exciting? Author Michael Castleman gives several tips in this excerpt from his new book *Sizzling Sex for Life: Everything You Need to Know to Maximize Erotic Pleasure at Any Age* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2021):

Surprise Dates, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Valentine’s Day

Romance experts Barbara and Michael Jonas, coauthors of *The Book of Love, Laughter, and Romance*, urge couples to make regular “surprise dates.” One plans an outing, but keeps it secret, telling the other only what to wear and what time to meet. Planners pledge not to arrange anything that might unnerve their partners. Followers agree to play along, even if surprise dates push their comfort zones.

Even without novelty that’s overtly sexual, surprise dates carry an erotic charge. You’re together anticipating something new and different. And demonstrating mutual trust. And you both know that next time, the tables turn.

During your first few surprise dates, don’t introduce anything sexual. Give your lover time to warm up to the notion of regular novelty—and to trusting you not to overdo any surprises. When you introduce sexual novelty, don’t venture very far out of the ordinary.

Say you’re the planner and you take your reluctant-to-experiment partner to an old familiar bar, then on to an old favorite restaurant, and from there to a stroll along an old familiar route. By the time you’ve walked 50 yards, your spouse is bound to ask: What’s the surprise? Your reply: Wait till we get home ...

From Embers to Flames

Many couples would like to pour kerosene on the embers of married love. [Helen] Fisher’s research points the way—boost dopamine. How? Novelty—doing new things or familiar things in new ways.

Psychologists surveyed long-term couples about relationship happiness. Then half of the couples completed a dull task, while the others engaged in a new, exhilarating activity. Afterward, everyone retook the survey. Those who participated in the exciting, dopamine-raising activity said they felt more deeply in love and happier with their relationships.

These findings reinforce couple therapists’ recommendations for keeping relationships fresh and exciting:

- **Have more fun together.** It’s no coincidence we call weekend trips “romantic get-aways” or that sex often feels more passionate away from home. You’re together enjoying yourselves in different settings. That’s exciting, romantic, and arousing.
- **Laugh.** Humor is funny because the punch line is unexpected. Like other novel activities, laughter raises dopamine. In relationships that endure, spouses enjoy each other’s senses of humor. When humor dies, relationships are often in trouble.
- **Keep ’em guessing.** Oscar Wilde said, “The essence of romance is uncertainty.” An age-old strategy for winning new love is to play hard to get, which spurs anticipation but delays reward. Guess what surprise, uncertainty, and delayed gratification trigger in the brain? Release of dopamine.
- **Make love.** Sex boosts testosterone, which raises dopamine. To make sex hotter, include something new: a different time or place, new moves, new lingerie, a new sex toy—anything.

—Michael Castleman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Noe Music Lends Its Talent to the Lullaby Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

funding. Meena and her co-director and husband, Owen Dalby, participated in the New York City Lullaby Project while in the Ensemble Connect graduate program at Carnegie Hall. The two also know a thing about babies, since they now have a toddler and an infant.

Bhasin hopes the public will get to hear some of the lullabies, with the permission of the mothers in the program. Noe Music would like to record new performances by the musicians and load videos on its website, www.noemusic.org.

Listening would be free, but the project is not.

Noe Music is seeking donors and applying for grants to keep the lullabies coming. The funds will go to pay the artists, many of whom depend on live performances and touring to make a living, neither of which they can do right now. So, donations are welcome by all.

A fun way to contribute is one for one. Sponsor a musician-mother Lullaby Project team for \$1,000 or more, and receive three sessions with a musician to create a lullaby keepsake for your own baby—or grandbaby—as well. However you would like to donate, you can reach Bhasin at meena@noemusic.org.

To find out more about the Lullaby Project, go to www.noemusic.org or www.carnegiehall.org/Education/Programs/Lullaby-Project. The local group is developing tracking to gauge the impact of the project here. Carnegie Hall has its own multi-year results study, which Bhasin can share with potential donors and contributors. ■



Nine-month-old Knight and sister Leila, 2½, may provide extra inspiration for mom and dad Meena Bhasin and Owen Dalby as they compose tunes and match musicians with pregnant women and new mothers in the Lullaby Project. Photo courtesy Bhasin-Dalby family



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New Ways to Word

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Kristin Anundsen, Noe Valley Resident

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Questions? Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Thank you! Jack Tipple and Sally Smith, Editors and Co-Publishers

We're Forever Grateful

The Cost of Living in Noe

Year Ends With Sales Almost Doubling

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley's residential real estate market began 2020 in its usual quiet fashion, but it ended the year with a flurry of home sales, despite or perhaps because of the fall surge in Covid-19 in California.

Homebuyers and sellers saw 24 single-family detached homes change hands during November and December, nearly double the number that closed escrow in the same period the year before (14).

The condominium market was busy too. Thirty-five condos sold during November and December, versus 28 a year earlier, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

"By the tail end of the year, the market was on fire, and it made up for lost ground," said Corcoran President Randall Kostick.

Low mortgage interest rates helped stoke buyer activity, Kostick said, as did a larger than usual inventory of homes for sale.

"I think there are a fair number of happy buyers out there," he said.

There were some notable changes in buyer behavior. In November and December 2020, buyers eschewed overbidding for properties and on average paid 100 percent, in other words about what the seller initially sought.

But not all buyers paid full price, ac-



A key feature of this Jersey Street home, which sold in November for \$4,950,000, was a fully retractable glass wall that opened from a custom kitchen to a south-facing garden.

Photo courtesy Isabelle Grotte, Compass Real Estate, Open Homes Photography

According to Kostick. In November, he said, five of the 14 single-family home buyers paid less than the sellers' asking price. In December, the proportion was higher: five of 10 homes traded below what the owners had wanted.

Of the 14 condo buyers in November, half paid less than the sticker price. But the next month, seven of 21 condo buyers got in the door for less.

For all that, the average sale price of a detached home in Noe Valley in November rose 11.1 percent year over year, to \$3,110,143. In December, the average price was \$3,151,500, a 16.6 percent increase over the prior year's home price. (Beware the small sample size in December 2019, however.)

The most expensive detached home sold in November 2020 was a four-bedroom, 3.5-bath house in the 400 block of Jersey Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. Originally built in 1900, the three-story, 3,600-square-foot home had undergone a modern transformation in 2016, blending living and dining areas and adding such features as skylights, custom kitchen appliances, a fully retractable glass wall leading to a garden, a master suite with a balcony, an outdoor spa, gas fire pit, and a two-car garage with an electric-charging station. Buyers paid \$4,950,000, 8.3 percent less than the home's asking price (\$5.4 million).

A renovated property that retained its Victorian façade was the most expensive detached home sold in December. The property sat on the market for nearly half a year before it closed escrow for \$4,450,000, 5.2 percent below the list price (\$4,695,000).

The multimillion-dollar expenditure rewarded the new owners with a five-bedroom, five-bath modern gem on the 300 block of Duncan Street, between

Sanchez and Church streets. Amenities in the three-level, 3,578-square-foot home included a chef's kitchen with name-brand finishes, an elevator, media room,

radiant heat, several balconies, a two-car garage, and a roof deck and a two-level back yard, each with built-in barbecue stations.

Noe Valley's condominium activity was a mixed bag during the last two months of the year. While more units sold during the period, prices were down across the board.

The average unit in November sold for \$1,335,643—down a half percent from November a year ago (\$1,343,235). December's price was \$1,350,687, about 8 percent lower than the average a year earlier (\$1,467,727).

The two most expensive condos sold at the end of the year were both located in a brand new building in the 4400 block of 24th Street between Hoffman and Grand View avenues.

A buyer paid \$1.8 million for the lower condo, a three-bedroom, three-bath unit with 2,157 square feet of living space. The three-bedroom, 2.5-bath upper unit, with less space at 1,756 square feet but with panoramic views, sold for \$2.2 million. An elevator serviced the building, and each unit enjoyed one-space garage parking. ■



Behind this Victorian façade on Duncan Street is a newly renovated three-story home for which a buyer paid \$4,450,000 in December. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

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 2020	10	\$1,700,000	\$4,450,000	\$3,151,500	55	100%
November 2020	14	\$1,775,000	\$4,950,000	\$3,110,143	43	100%
December 2019	3	\$1,695,000	\$4,450,000	\$2,703,333	51	106%
November 2019	11	\$1,050,000	\$7,200,000	\$2,798,818	37	103%
Condominiums/TICs						
December 2020	21	\$868,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,350,687	44	105%
November 2020	14	\$750,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,335,643	37	100%
December 2019	11	\$475,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,467,727	35	107%
November 2019	17	\$800,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,343,235	25	113%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
December 2020	4	\$1,125,000	\$2,940,000	\$1,785,000	73	95%
November 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2019	2	\$1,695,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,797,500	60	100%
November 2019	3	\$1,515,000	\$1,828,000	\$1,646,000	40	103%
5+-unit buildings						
December 2020	3	\$3,100,000	\$4,999,000	\$3,799,667	103	94%
November 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2019	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2019	0	—	—	—	—	—

*This 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 Noe Valley Voice thanks Corcoran Global Living San Francisco for providing sales data. NVV12/2021

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range January 2021	Average January 2021	Average November 2020	Average January 2020
Studio	21	\$1,450 - \$2,585	\$1,986 / mo.	\$1,968 / mo.	\$2,629 / mo.
1-bdrm	102	\$1,795 - \$4,000	\$2,683 / mo.	\$2,692 / mo.	\$3,154 / mo.
2-bdrm	91	\$2,375 - \$6,450	\$3,179 / mo.	\$3,526 / mo.	\$4,567 / mo.
3-bdrm	37	\$2,700 - \$12,500	\$5,287 / mo.	\$5,241 / mo.	\$5,557 / mo.
4+-bdrm	17	\$3,500 - \$22,500	\$8,187 / mo.	\$7,607 / mo.	\$9,194 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 268 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 4 to 11, 2021. In January a year ago, there were 99 listings. NVV12/2020

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J-Line Cars Start Moving Again

But Improvement Project Delayed Due to Covid

By Matthew S. Bajko

J-Church trains are once again running through Noe Valley, but a project aimed at improving service on the Muni route has been delayed. It now may be a year or two before San Francisco's transit agency makes additional changes aimed at speeding up trains on the line.

Part of the reason behind the postponement is that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency last year received a \$20 million state transit grant to make the improvements to the J-Church. It will require a new round of public meetings. But with Covid and vaccines commanding everyone's attention, those hearings will be hard to schedule, city leaders say.

"This will allow us to build a full Muni Forward project on the J-Church. Outreach will start in the next 1-2 years, once staff have greater availability to focus on this and members of the public are able to attend in-person meetings again," SFMTA spokesperson Erica Kato informed the *Voice* in early January.

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, elected last month as chair of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, said the delay was to be expected due of the health crisis.

"It is not totally surprising. They are just buried as an agency with projects they need to get a handle on and lines currently not running," said Mandelman.

He added, however, he was excited about what changes the grant funding could bring in the future.

"This is a much bigger project than [local planners] were contemplating; having more money to spend is usually better than less. I am curious to see what they want to do with it."

Stop Removal at 29th on Hold

The J-Church Improvement Project had already been in the works for several years. After hosting a series of community meetings in 2019 and conducting a survey with riders, transit planners released an updated proposal early in 2020.

Among the suggested changes were eliminating an inbound J-Church stop at 29th and Church streets and removing several parking spaces on or near Church Street in order to make passengers more visible to drivers. The plan also called for turning the four-way stop at Cesar Chavez and Church Street into a traffic light stop and timing the traffic signals along Church Street so they are more likely to be green when trains arrive.

The SFMTA board planned to vote on the project last spring. But then came the Covid-19 outbreak, which prompted a shutdown of the city's subway lines and a massive drop in Muni ridership.

With the transit agency faced with the dual crisis of trying to keep staff and passengers safe while managing a severe budget shortfall, the J-Church project was put on hold. The line was mothballed through much of the first half of 2020 and returned to service in late August with



Here's what the new faster line will look like once improvements win city approval. Just kidding! Or maybe not. This c. 1940 photo shows a pair of J-Church electric streetcars passing on Church Street near 23rd Street. Photo courtesy Bill Yenne and the Noe Valley Archives

buses running the route.

"The J-Church Improvement Project process was halted in the spring due to COVID, prior to hosting the public hearing. Some of the proposed changes, like the proposed stop removal at 29th, would need to go through the public hearing process," explained Kato. "Currently the transit team is focused on the most critical improvement for riders during the pandemic, like service improvements, the return of additional rail lines, and the temporary emergency transit lanes. The J-Church Improvement Project remains on hold during this time."

Prior to the pandemic, J-Church trains carried 17,000 riders on weekdays and arrived at the route's stops every nine to 10 minutes on weekdays and every 15 to 20 minutes on weeknights. On weekends, they were supposed to arrive every 12 minutes. But J trains were adhering to the schedule only 75 percent of the time.

Service on the J-Church has long been slow, as it runs on surface streets for much of its route. Because of the tracks' twists and turns near Mission Dolores Park, Muni can run only one-car trains on the line. Before the pandemic, packed cars were common during commute hours.

Trains Return to Truncated Route

J-Church trains began running along the line again in mid-December and have been impacted by one change that did come to fruition last year. The J-Church line's inbound trains now make their final stop at the intersection of Church and Market streets, before turning around to head back outbound to the terminus at the Balboa Park Station near City College.

To continue downtown, riders need to transfer to buses headed inbound. For the time being, the subway lines accessed at the Church Station—the K, L, and M—which normally run underground along Market Street, have been replaced with buses traveling surface streets.

"Our focus has been to return the J-

Church into rail service, and we will be evaluating the updated route and new accessible transfer point near Church and Market over the coming months," Kato told the *Voice*.

The terminus change "is a big deal," said Mandelman, which he hopes is "making it a lot more reliable" for riders, especially now that the cars are rolling again.

"Ending it at Church and Market solves the reliability problem on one side," he said. "It means we are not going to get trains stuck in the tunnel." Still, he is waiting to see the frequency data.

Muni rider Will Segen has been riding

the J-line since the trains returned. He said in mid-January he usually sees three to five other passengers each time he boards.

"The turnback at Market has definitely improved the outbound service," said Segen. "Would be nice to have at least a bench at the 30th/Church inbound stop. The XO coffee shop had two which were removed by the city a couple weeks ago," he said.

To follow the plans to streamline the J-Church, visit the project's website at <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project>. ■



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SHORT TAKES

Word Week Draws Big-Name Authors

Noe Valley Word Week will present its 15th literary festival via Zoom this year rather than on 24th Street. But not a problem. The virtual podium has attracted some major luminaries to the eight-event festival, running Monday, March 8, through Sunday, March 14.

Kicking off the week in honor of International Women's Day is feminist author Naomi Wolf, known for her recent *Outrages: Sex, Censorship, and the Criminalization of Love*. The next day, historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz explains why the United States is not in her view "a nation of immigrants."

On Wednesday, Julie Lythcott-Haims, Dr. Ayodele Nzinga, and Maurice Ruffin will read from their books and discuss Black literature and Black lives. The lineup continues with Colm Toibin, poet Paula Meehan, and debut novelist Michelle Gallen, sharing their works in contemporary Irish literature.

Poet Jeff Leong will present his translations of detainee Chinese poetry written on the walls of the Angel Island immigration center. Then columnist Leah Garchik and film critic Ruthe Stein will tell inside stories from their decades of writing for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Best-selling mystery novelist—and longtime Noe Valley celebrity—Cara Black will lead a panel called "Noir Not at the Bar," featuring three of her friends who are also mystery novelists, Rachel Howzell Hall, Naomi Hirohara, and Jasmine Aimaq. They will join Black in sharing excerpts from their novels and their favorite drink recipes.

The conclusion to the festival will be



Ayodele Nzinga, the "creative driving force" behind Oakland's Lower Bottom Playaz, will talk about Black lives and literature on March 10 as part of Noe Valley Word Week.



February is the final month to donate your dog's old coat and hat to Full Belly Bus, the city's mobile pet care team. Take them to Noe Valley Pet Company on Church Street, and they will be picked up and re-gifted to homeless dog owners.

six Noe Valley poets reading pandemic poems: Kristin Belshaw, Susan Dambroff, Jeff Dolman, Eveline Kanes, Marylee McNeal, and Kim Shuck.

For more details on Word Week 2021, see www.friendsofnoevalley.com. Sign up for the Zoom guest lists at www.facebook.com/wordweeknoevalley.

Pitch In at the UNN

With so much happening in January this year, the neighborhood association Upper Noe Neighbors decided to move its first meeting to Wednesday, Feb. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. on—you guessed it—Zoom.

President Olga Milan-Howells says the meeting will focus on setting work goals for 2021. Among the things being considered are repaving Church Street, community greening, park improvements, and Slow Street closures and safety measures. If you have other suggestions, Milan-Howells asks that you send them to her at president@uppernoeneighbors.com before the meeting.

Membership in Upper Noe Neighbors is open to anyone in the neighborhood. See www.uppernoeneighbors.com for details and how to sign up for meeting notices.

Brrr! It's Dog Gone Cold!

It's winter and cold—for San Francisco, at least. Dogs get chilly too, whether they're out for a brief walk or living on the streets with a homeless owner.

Full Belly Bus, a mobile team spearheaded in Noe Valley by Paula Benton, provides free care to homeless dogs, including a supply of coats for them. You can help dogs stay warm by donating your dog's old coat when you and Peanut no longer need it. February is the last month of the annual Full Belly Bus Dog Coat Drive. Drop-off is nearby, at Noe Valley Pet Company at 1451 Church St. The deadline is Feb. 28.

Full Belly Bus donates the coats it col-

lects twice a month (this month on Feb. 1 and 15 from 3 to 4 p.m.) to people at the curb during food distribution at St. Anthony's Dining Room, 121 Golden Gate Ave. If you know a homeless person with a dog, let them know.

For more information about Full Belly Bus, go to www.fullbellybus.org. FBB also provides free licensed veterinary care, animal behavior training, pet food, and supplies.

Exciting Lives in Literature

The Odd Mondays reading series welcomes back three of its favorite guests Monday, Feb. 15, 7 to 8 p.m.

Noe Valley resident Eveline Landau Kanes will read from her new poetry collection, *Traveling Through: Selected Poems* (Finishing Line Press, 2020). In the book, Kanes retraces her steps from pre-war Germany to England, France, and ultimately California.

Joe Sutton's *In the Time of My Life* is an anthology of his writing over 50 years. It contains stories from his three collections, chapter excerpts from three novels and a memoir, and snippets from his



Danny Clay is conducting video classes for kids in composing, at Noe Music starting in February. Check it out at noemusic.org.

chronicle of the Giants' baseball championships.

David Watts promises to present "a variety show," with haiku and readings from his newest western novel, *Carson Hawk: Retired Texas Ranger*, and his forthcoming poetry collection, *Moving Toward Light*.

If you'd like to attend the online reading, request the Zoom link from oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com or click on Going on the Facebook event page <https://bit.ly/2XMCafi>. It's free.

Tips for Young Composers

Think you have a budding Mozart, Philip Glass, or Clara Schumann? Are your kids looking for something more than violin or piano practice? Noe Music may have just the thing.

Composer's Playbook is a series of four video workshops on music creation, led by composer and teacher Danny Clay, targeted at the kindergarten to grade five crowd.

Workshop One is a scavenger hunt for sounds to organize into rhythmic patterns. Two is to develop a notebook of favorite sound combinations. Three is to learn a little music notation. Four is about collaborating with other musicians and artists.

Little or no musical experience is required, and as Noe Music co-director Meena Bhasin says, "Anyone can be a composer, with a little creativity, imagination, and curiosity!" Your kids have all that, right?

February through May a new video will drop monthly for use anytime online, at www.noemusic.org. Cost is a sliding scale from zero to \$10 a workshop per child.

To get the exact dates, sign up at www.noemusic.org. You'll also be notified about upcoming evenings in the other Noe Music series: Mainstage and Noe Listening Club.

Lyon-Martin House Landmark Hearing Set

The city's Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled to vote Feb. 17 on landmarking the home where lesbian pioneering couple Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin lived throughout most of their 54 years together. District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman is spearheading the effort to grant historic status for the 651 Duncan St. property.

The Board of Supervisors would need to approve the city landmark designation. A 2015 survey of San Francisco's LGBTQ cultural heritage called for the Lyon-Martin house to be landmarked.

It would be the fifth city landmark specifically tied to LGBTQ history, the first located in a residential neighborhood, and the first focused solely on lesbian history.

The 5,700-square-foot Noe Valley property sold for \$2.25 million last summer and sits atop a steep hill. The parcel includes the couple's two-story cottage, purchased in 1955, and an undeveloped area the women had tended as a garden.

Lyon and Martin, journalists who first met in Seattle in 1952, co-founded the influential Daughters of Bilitis, the first political and social organization for lesbians in the United States. Their home was a gathering place within the city's lesbian community and the site of various meetings and events.

Lyon died last April at the age of 95. Martin died in 2008 at the age of 87, weeks after the women became the first same-sex couple to legally marry in California (on June 16).

With its views of the city's skyline, the Lyon-Martin property is a prime location for a larger development. New owners Paul McKeown and his wife, Meredith Jones-McKeown, have told city officials they intend to construct a single-family residence on the garden plot, which has an address of 649 Duncan.

As for the Lyon-Martin house, their architect has told city officials the plan is to remodel it "only to the extent appropriate after much further study (potentially kitchen/bath, etc., or other non-impactful ideas)."

Should the home be landmarked, any development proposal for the site would need to be reviewed and approved by the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

—Matthew S. Bajko

Show Seniors Some Love

Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly is a nonprofit charity focused on connecting isolated seniors with younger people who care. It has operated in San Francisco since 1990.

On Valentine's Day, Sunday, Feb. 14, LBFE is inviting volunteers to call an older person to brighten their day, through FaceTime, Zoom, the phone, or other means. LBFE has a list of seniors waiting for a call. (The San Francisco Human Services Agency says 60,000 seniors currently live alone in the city.)

To volunteer, go to www.littlebrotherssf.org. You must be at least 18 years old and complete a brief background check before the event. Opportunities for service beyond Valentine's Day are available, too.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May.

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Visual Reminders

The signs of last summer's epiphany—yes Black lives *do* matter and yes racism has been brushed under the rug of our privilege decades too long—are beginning to fray, as the Capitol riot and Covid fears crowd out our guilty conscience. So, we thank those who continue to raise flags in Noe Valley and remind us we promised to donate time and money and serious reflection. —Sally Smith

Photos by Gabe Castro-Root



The 400 block of 28th Street



The 1600 block of Sanchez Street



The 1500 block of Sanchez Street



Sanchez and Elizabeth Streets



The 700 block of Diamond Street



The 600 block of Elizabeth Street



The 300 block of Day Street



Sanchez near Elizabeth Street



The 1200 block of Sanchez Street

STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature on new shops and restaurants in Noe Valley. This issue, we introduce a seafood market whose ship has almost come in.

BILLINGSGATE
Four Star Seafood & Provisions
 3859 24th St.
 415-590-3001
www.fourstarseafood.com/pages/billingsgate

A white-tiled temple to seafood is now serving up all manner of fish and mollusks to whet the appetites of Noe Valley residents. While the Covid pandemic has delayed the new fish market's plans for indoor dining, Billingsgate is selling pre-cooked shrimp, crab, and lobster orders to go, in addition to an array of pescatarian options people can cook at home.

The fishmonger opened Dec. 10 and pays homage to the historic London fish market of the same name. Chefs Ismael Macias, formerly of One Market, and Adrian Hoffman, who had worked at Lark Creek Steak, situated their café and seafood counter in a former dry cleaners space adjacent to the Noe Valley Town Square, at 24th and Vicksburg streets.

The partners had hoped to welcome their first customers in September, after spending months remodeling the storefront, complete with a stone mosaic of a John Dory fish in the entryway. But permit issues with the city pushed back the unveiling until just before the Christmas holiday.



Esteban Macias holds up the seafood catch that was in high demand at Billingsgate in January: live and freshly cooked (red-orange) Dungeness crab. Photos by Pamela Gerard

Their concept set aside 40 percent of the space to operate as a sit-down restaurant, offering such staples as oysters on the half shell and seafood salads and sandwiches, accompanied by a glass of wine. But by the time they were able to

open their doors, the city had banned indoor eating at restaurants because of the health crisis.

Nonetheless, the fish market has seen a steady stream of customers coming in for takeout or to buy raw seafood. The days leading up to New Year's were particularly busy.

"That holiday week was beyond how busy we thought that place would be in our dreams," said Hoffman, who spent six months cooking in London in the late 1990s and once frequented the Billingsgate across the pond.

The public response overall "has been beyond kind and just really wonderful," he added. "I honestly just feel so grateful to the neighborhood for coming in and already becoming regulars."

In June 2015 the co-owners launched Four Star Seafood & Provisions, which offers online sales via its website, fourstarseafood.com. A number of Noe Valley residents signed up for Four Star's home-delivery service, and it wasn't long before Hoffman and Macias set out to open a market in the neighborhood.

The white motif of the interior was chosen for the visual signal it sends.

"It looks clean, and I think seafood is all about clean, clean, clean," explained

Hoffman. "It should look that way and should communicate that."

The market stocks whatever seafood is fresh, with much of the local catch they carry dependent on the weather and if fishermen are able to take their boats out that day. A surprise hit has been locally harvested live sea urchin (\$10.95 each).

"As soon as we put it out, it has got bought, and people are bringing it home to cook. We thought that was really encouraging," said Hoffman. "I think it says something about our home-cooking population here. I would guess in other parts of the world or country, people would be like 'Eww.' We have seen the opposite effect."

Another item that's been popular is raw uncured steelhead roe (\$27 a pound).

"You buy it to make your own caviar basically," explained Hoffman. "That does really well."

They carry Óra King salmon (\$24.95 per pound) that is sustainably farm raised in New Zealand. Because of its fat content, noted Hoffman, it is a "very forgiving" fish to cook at home.

"It is a beautiful salmon to eat raw. You see it in every sushi restaurant," he said.

Although not often seen on the menus of local restaurants, monkfish (\$14.75 a pound) imported from the East Coast also has been selling well. Customers have been buying whole pieces of fish, bones and all, to the delight of the owners.

"People like to cook whole fish at home more so than I would have guessed," said Hoffman, adding that "people aren't so conservative when it comes to the fish they are looking for. They do get adventurous with it or want to recreate what they had in a restaurant or cook a family recipe with really impeccable fresh fish."

In mid-January, the takeout menu listed four seafood salads available on a griddled brioche or a bed of lettuce: Oregon bay shrimp, smoked salmon, Dungeness crab, or Maine lobster (\$14 to \$29). Also on the board were six "Starters," including a King Crab Thigh with a garnish of sour cream, chives, and bacon (\$29), a chocolate clam ceviche (\$12), Spanish tomato toasts with white anchovies (\$19), and New England clam chowder in three sizes, with an 8 oz. bowl going for \$6.

For now, Macias and Hoffman are using the dining room space, which they hope will eventually seat 26, for a seafood sundries market, carrying bottled and packaged items ranging from oils and vinegars to pastas and grains.

"It is a little area where you can buy some things to accompany your seafood meal," said Hoffman. "A lot of the things we are carrying we have used as chefs our whole lives."

Billingsgate is open Tuesday to Friday and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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NOE KIDS

Myla and Ever Cole-Baker on a Virtual Path

By Katie Burke

Myla and Ever Cole-Baker, ages 14 and 11 respectively, live on Elizabeth Street with mom Amy Cole, who is a psychotherapist and nutritional therapist, and dad Deren Baker, CEO of Edge by Ascential. The household also includes Sprout, a 7-year-old SPCA rescue dog who the family says is a mix of terrier, dachshund, shih tzu, and chihuahua.

When not walking Sprout, the girls are attending San Francisco Friends School—Myla in eighth grade and Ever in fifth—mostly by distance learning but with some days on campus.

“I’ve heard a lot of people don’t like [distance learning] very much. But I actually like it, and I think I’m learning a lot,” Ever says. “I just feel like the teachers are trying harder to get people to understand what they’re teaching because it’s even harder now that we’re not actually in the same room. But I’m definitely tired of living on computer screens, because it’s too much screen time.”

“I also agree with her,” Myla says. “It’s kind of bad for your eyes, staring into a screen the whole day.”

Opining on outdoor socializing during Covid, Myla says, “There are not as many people walking around and chatting. But there’s seating outdoors, and they made all those outdoor restaurants. I think it’s actually quite neat. I think they should keep [the outdoor booths] when it’s non-Covid.”

Being at home has its ups and downs, says Ever. “It’s fun, like when I have a question or if I need to talk to someone, I can talk to anyone. But it gets annoying because there’s a lot of people in the house, and sometimes I get sick of them.”

Katie Burke is a writer and family law attorney. Her book, *Urban Playground: What Kids Say About Living in San Francisco* (SparkPress: April 2020) is available in Noe Valley at Folio Books. To reach Katie Burke, write katie@noevalleyvoice.com.



Like their fellow San Franciscans, Ever and Myla Cole-Baker have had to endure a lot of home and screen time over the past 11 months. But the sisters are glad they have their trusty dog Sprout and the prospect of future visits to their favorite spots on 24th Street. Photo by Art Bodner

The kids miss hanging out at Just for Fun on 24th Street. “It’s a cool store, and it has lots of art supplies, and I like doing art, so that’s handy,” Myla says.

They also like burritos and fish tacos from Little Chihuahua, and fried chicken, salads, and cauliflower pizza from Firefly.

“Firefly is gluten-free, and our whole family is gluten-free, so it’s convenient,” Myla says. “I love how my mom bakes. During Covid, she’s been baking sourdough gluten-free bread, and I really love it.”

In the fall, Ever and her friends held a fundraiser at the Noe Valley Farmers Market and sold tie-dyed masks and hair ties they had made themselves. They donated the proceeds to Californians who had lost their homes in last year’s wildfires.

Ever plays club soccer and, through Little Mission Studio, she also takes piano lessons. Virtual piano lessons are not the same as the “live” ones she had last year. “It’s harder because my teacher can’t tell me where I put my hands or if I’m playing a chord wrong, or if I’m doing something wrong, she can’t help me fix it,” she says.

Myla has a soccer trainer, and she plays tennis and takes singing lessons through Little Mission Studio too. She wants to be a singer when she grows up.

“She sings a lot of Billie Eilish,” Ever says of her sister, “and I think her voice matches very well with Billie Eilish.”

The first thing Ever wants to do after the pandemic is to travel. “During the summers and winters, we always travel to Europe or Asia,” she says.

Myla, whom the family adopted from Vietnam when she was five months old,

adds, “I am from Vietnam, so my favorite places are Vietnam and Spain and Italy.”

Regarding lessons the pandemic has taught, Myla says, “You should be grateful for what you have. During the pandemic, we’re not traveling and seeing friends, so just be grateful that you can at least Zoom with your friends.” ■

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you give them the possibility
of a whole new world."*

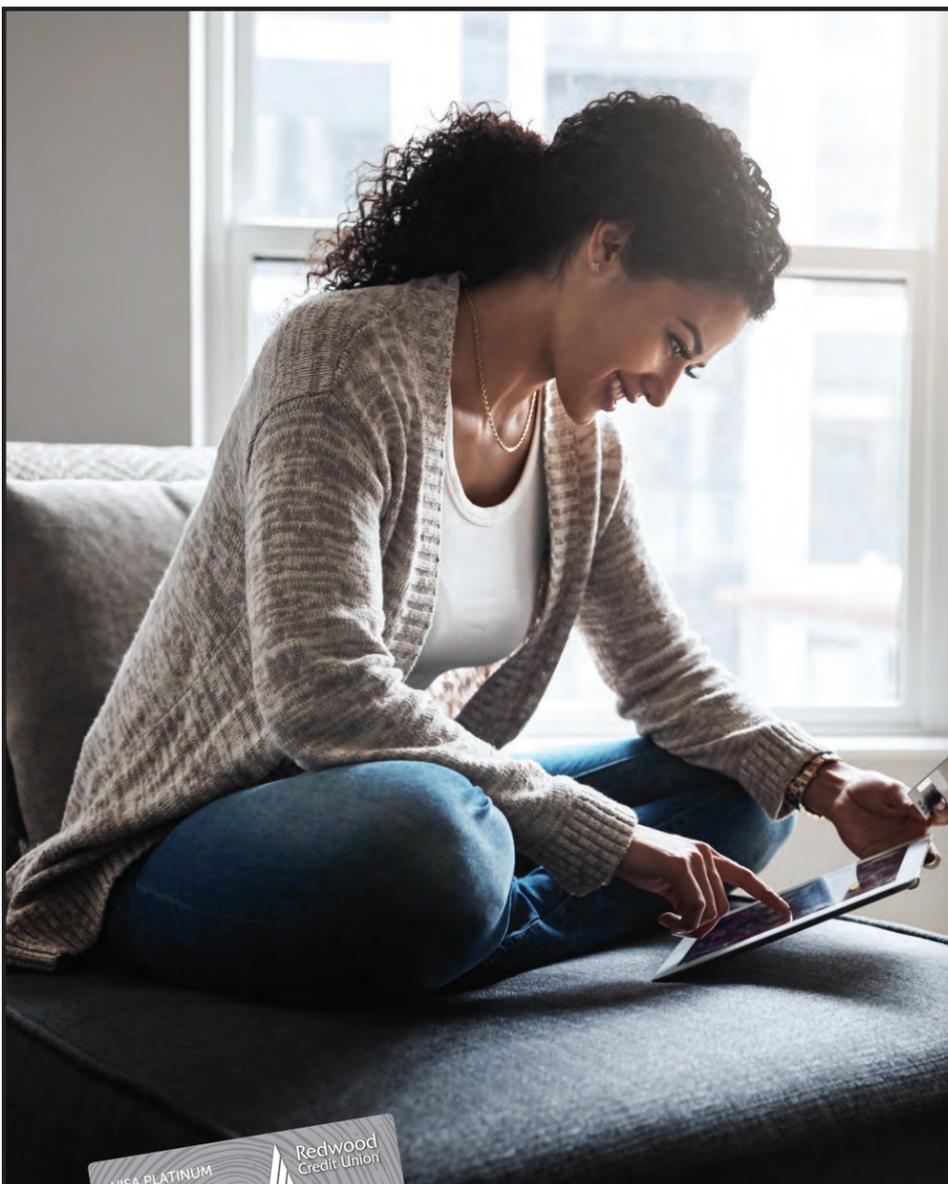
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Reading, Reading, Reading

Despite being without their brick-and-mortar building on Jersey Street, Children's Librarian Catherine Starr and Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona are marching onward, delivering a virtual list of the books and films that once might have sat on the shelves at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is grateful to receive their selections, which this month include such exciting entries as a sleepytime story from the bed's point of view (well, finally!), an expose on the rapid rise and precipitous fall of the WeWork shared-office space venture, and "a little book that will inspire artists, writers, and entrepreneurs to stretch and commit to putting their best work out into the world [*The Practice*]."

To place a hold on these or any other titles, go to sfpl.org. There, through **SFPL To Go**, you can arrange for a pickup at one of a dozen library branches, including the Eureka Valley Library (but alas, not the Noe Valley Branch). The library will let you know when the book or film is ready.

If you need assistance or have questions, call 415-557-4400, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email info@sfpl.org. While at the website, you also might want to explore the library's virtual Events calendar. There's an impressive array of free story times, book clubs, authors readings, language classes, and how-to workshops. Take advantage.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

A child's bed expresses its feelings in the picture book *Time for Bed's Story*, by Monica Arnaldo. Ages 3 to 7.

A very important tiger searches for his lost briefcase, in *Mr. Brown's Bad Day*, written by Lou Peacock, with illustrations by Alison Friend. Ages 3 to 8.

Max the dog disagrees with the narrator of *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*, by David LaRoche and illustrator Mike Wohnoutka. Ages 4 to 8.

In *Migrants*, by Issa Watanabe, a group of animals goes on a voyage to leave the forest. Ages 5 to 8.

Inspired by indigenous movements across North America, the picture book *We Are Water Protectors*, by Carole Lindstrom, with illustrations by Michaela Grade, urges care and respect for our most precious resource. Ages 5 to 11.

A father and son go on a winter adventure in *A Long Road on a Short Day*, written by Gary D. Schmidt and Eugene Yelchin, illustrated by Elizabeth Stickney. Ages 8 to 10.

Kereen Getten's *When Life Gives You Mangos* is a story about a girl living in a small Jamaican village who can't remember what happened last summer. Ages 8 to 12.

The Last Mirror on the Left is volume two of Lamar Giles' legendary Alston Boys adventure series, with illustrations by Dapo Adeola. Ages 8 to 12.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Frozen frogs, King Tut's beds, and the phases of the moon are among the subjects in *Five-Minute Really True Stories for Bedtime* by Britannica Books. Ages 4 to 8.

The Pig War: How a Porcine Tragedy Taught England and America to Share, by Emma Bland Smith with illustrations by Alison Jay, is about an innocent hog who got involved in an "international" incident on the island of San Juan in 1859. Ages 7 to 9.

Romana Romanyshn and Andriy Lesiv offer a visual tour of the world we hear, in *Sound: Shhh... Bang... POP... BOOM!* translated from the Ukrainian by Vitaly Chernetsky. Ages 8 to 12.

Exploring the Elements: A Complete Guide to the Periodic Table, written by Isabel Thomas and illustrated by Sara Gillingham, explains the unique properties of each of the 118 elements. Ages 9 to 14.

CHILDREN'S NEW EBOOKS

The diverse ecosystem of the Central

American rainforest is the focus of *Over and Under the Rainforest*, a picture book by Kate Messner, with illustrations by Christopher Silas Neal. Ages 4 to 9.

There Must Be More Than That! is a picture book about looking on the bright side of things, by Shinsuke Yoshitake, author of *The Boring Book*. Ages 6 to 10.

Gobbledy, about two brothers who find a rock that hatches into an alien, is the first volume in a series by Lis Anna-Langston, illustrated by Rich Powell. Ages 8 to 11.

Two girls examine their beliefs and the meaning of friendship in *Flying Over Water*, by Shannon Hitchcock and N.H. Senzai; read by Cassandra Morris and Christine Tawfik. Ages 9 and up.

ADULT FICTION

In *The Arrest* by Jonathan Lethem, siblings fight for power after all machines and devices in America stop working.

A woman's therapist husband goes missing in the psychological thriller *Goodnight Beautiful* by Aimee Molloy.

A wise old man teaches a boy the Way of the Bow and how to have a meaningful life, in *The Archer* by Paolo Coelho.

In Lisa Jewell's thriller *Invisible Girl*, a man accused of sexual misconduct becomes involved in the search for a missing girl.

ADULT EBOOK FICTION

Mary Gaitskill, T.C. Boyle, and Emma Cline are among the writers featured in *The Best American Short Stories 2020*, edited by Curtis Sittenfeld.

Cory Doctorow's *Attack Surface*, the next in a series of novels begun with *Little Brother* and *Homeland*, follows a counterterrorism wizard who hacks repressive regimes to spy on dissidents.

ADULT NONFICTION

Reeves Wiedeman describes a company that "tried to make the American workplace cool," in *Billion Dollar Loser: The Epic Rise and Spectacular Fall of Adam Neumann and WeWork*.

Best of Me is a collection of stories and essays from the past 25 years, selected by humorist-author David Sedaris.

Based on the principles of the Akimbo Workshop, *The Practice: Shipping Creative Work*, by Seth Godin, inspires creative people to share their work.

In *We Keep the Dead Close: A Murder at Harvard and a Half Century of Silence*, Becky Cooper examines the 1969 killing of graduate student Jane Britton.

ADULT EBOOK NONFICTION

Kermit Pattison tells a story of scientific discovery, in *Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind*.

Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind's Greatest Invention, by Ben Wilson, describes urban living in 26 cities, over the past 7,000 years.

ADULT DVDS

Released in 2020, *Summerland* traces the story of an Englishwoman and an evacuee during World War II.

A seriously ill teenager falls in love with a drug dealer in the 2019 film *Babyteeth*.

Two women try to rebuild their lives in the ruins of 1945 Leningrad, in *Beanpole*, filmed in 2019.

The documentary *The Booksellers* examines the rare book shops in New York City, with commentary by Fran Lebowitz, Parker Posey, and Gay Talese.

Annotations are by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

When the Bars Reopened by Michael Blake

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'More Than a Month' of Black History

The San Francisco Public Library is holding "More Than a Month" of free Black history events this year, online or through Zoom or YouTube. Here are just a few of the many happenings lined up for February:

- A book club discussion of *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison's first novel, Feb. 4, 6 to 7 p.m.

- A workshop called The Hatchery: Nurturing Creative Writers of Color, Feb. 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

- Park Service rangers hosting Faces of Resistance, a live YouTube show on the city's legacy of resistance to discrimination, Feb. 10, noon to 1 p.m.

- Glass artist Cheryl Derricotte in conversation with textile/ceramic sculptor Ramekon O'Arwisters, Feb. 16, 7 to 8:15 p.m.

- Jan Batiste Adkins, talking about her book *African Americans of San Francisco* (Arcadia Publishing, 2012), Feb. 20, 11 a.m. to noon.

- Voice contributor and Glen Park historian Evelyn Rose telling what she knows about Mrs. Abby Fisher (and husband Alexander), a former slave who arrived in San Francisco in the 1870s, became a caterer, and eventually authored a cookbook, *What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking*. The Fisher family lived in Noe Valley, on 27th Street.

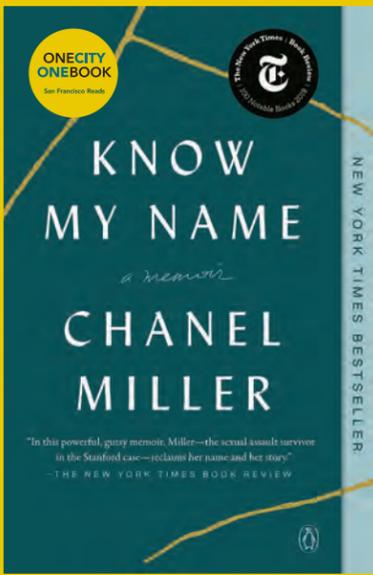
For a complete schedule of Black history events, go to sfpl.org and click on Events and Exhibits.

—Sally Smith

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Chanel Miller, photo: Mariah Tiffany

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Biden Our Time

By Mazook

HAPPY DAYS, HERE AGAIN: A huge sigh of relief was heaved in Noe Valley after the presidential election last November. As you may recall, the Democrats' ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris garnered 14,511 of our Noe votes (93.3 percent), while the Donald Trump/Mike Pence slate got 779 votes (5.01 percent).

Biden/Harris won the national vote. Our country then faced an insurrection, led by Trumpsters incited by Trump on Jan. 6. They took over the Capitol in Washington, clearly wanting to lynch Pence, harm Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic representatives, overturn the election, and stop the certification of the vote for Biden. All that failed. Trump has been impeached (though he still may threaten our happy new year).

To celebrate the Jan. 20 swearing-in ceremony, Charlie Spiegel and other members of Action SF filled the Noe Valley Town Square with "BYE-DON" posters. "I put up 17 posters in the planters around the Town Square at 10 p.m. the night before" Inauguration Day, said Spiegel. All had been removed, along with Trump, by day's end.



SQUARE HIP SOUNDS: As for Covid, there was little relief for Noe Valley last month. The pandemic kept us all indoors or locked down or out. Many "non-essential" businesses in Downtown Noe Valley were in severe restraints, primarily our cafes, bars, and hair/nail salons. Finally, on Jan. 28, Mayor London Breed lifted restrictions and allowed our restaurants and taverns to reopen for outdoor dining/drinking in parklets, and our salons and barbers to do indoor haircuts and manicures, albeit in masks.

During the pandemic, the Town Square has been the stage for music relief, attracting scores of people to listen and dance with proper social distancing. Toddlers could be seen coming from the playground to dance to the music.

Regular performers on Monday afternoons are the duo of Nicco Tyson and Noe Valleon Zori Marinova. Tyson plays a mean guitar and harmonica, with Marinova doing percussions. "We have been doing it for a couple of months, and have had a good response from the neighborhood, and getting enough tips to get us through the pandemic," Tyson said.

Also appearing regularly on Thursdays is a versatile four-piece group called Hipsteria, doing great jazz, swing, and blues, and for people like me, "oldies."

Group leader is Tim Shea, a (laid-off) music teacher living in the Castro, who does percussion, guitar, and vocals. Joining him on keyboard is Noe Valleon Dana Geller, Joe Belson from the East Bay on upright bass, and Chris Mills, who lives in the Mission, playing either saxophone or cello.

Tim says the group has been playing outdoors since "the beginning of the pandemic, seven days a week, usually from noon to five." He says they play in the Castro, in front of the theater, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and on Valencia near 19th on Sundays, among other places.

Hipsteria plays for tips, which garner some change during these hard times for musicians. Also, says Shea, "I play music



Exuberant members of Action SF, who had campaigned for years to defeat Donald Trump, decorated the Noe Valley Town Square on Inauguration Day.

Photo courtesy Charlie Spiegel

for the enjoyment of playing and bringing happiness to others. It's that simple."



SLOW IT GOES: The pandemic has created a silver lining for Sanchez Street from 23rd to 30th. Since May, as part of the SF Municipal Transportation Agency's Slow Streets program, Sanchez has been "slow," i.e., closed to all but "local" traffic, and a promenade for runners, walkers, and strollers. It's also a place for Sunday concerts (at Duncan Street) and socially distanced gatherings of people with smiling eyes above their masks, especially near Noe Café at 26th Street.

A Sanchez Street kindergartner spends her free time drawing cartoons all week, according to her mom. Then on Friday afternoons, she sets up a table and displays and sells her works of art. Mom says, "She earned about \$14 last week."

Neighbors on Sanchez and on streets surrounding it are evidently so happy with the street's new look, a group has formed to Keep Sanchez Slow.

There is currently a steering committee, made up of Rafael Burde, Chris Keene, Todd David, Yuko Shah, and Maricar Lagura, and more than 30 volunteers active in the group.

According to committee project manager Rafael Burde, they have weekly meetings, and a survey is being conducted via a website, slowsanchez.com.

"We have over 200 people supporting the project, which is about 80 percent of those responding, with 13 percent maybe, and 5 percent saying no," says Burde. "We have also been working with the



The Noe Valley Association installed four new trash bins along 24th Street last month, including this one depicting apples and lettuce near the Town Square. Designed by artist Sylvia Vientulis, the bins were made possible through a grant from the Mayor's Office.

Photo by Jack Tipple

MTA and other city agencies on our plans, and are currently raising funds to create a mural on Sanchez (the paved street itself) between Elizabeth and 24th streets by local mural artist Amos Goldbaum, who has proposed two mural designs to choose from. He should start work sometime in February," Burde says.

According to committee member Shah, in addition to the mural, the group is working on safety issues like cross-street caution signs, traffic analysis, and street safety assessment; landscaping, including sidewalk greening and benches; seasonal art programs, fun activities on the sidewalks, and events like Costume Day; and lastly, communication and community engagement and outreach.

Regardless of how this whole thing turns out, the mural covering Sanchez Street will be there for years to come. By the way, two members of the committee, Todd David and Chris Keene, were among the movers and shakers who turned the parking lot that used to be a gas station into what is now the Noe Valley Town Square.



INS AND OUTS: You all know that Cotton Basics held its last day at 1301 Castro, at the corner of 24th Street, on Dec. 31. In the first days of January, work started on renovating the space, and a sign went up that told us Lace & Liberty was moving its bridal fashions from 973 Valencia, where it had opened six years ago. By the third week of January, the new bridal salon's doors were open and brides-to-be were coming and going.

"Yes, we have opened for private appointments for our clients," says owner Danielle Wen, "and have a team of five women working in the store, designing and customizing the gowns." She said she had been looking for available space on 24th Street "since I thought that it was the best neighborhood to move to, especially because I live here, and this wonderful space was available."

Wen will also carry bridal accessories—buttons, pins, zippers—"but no shoes!"

Moving down 24th Street, you will notice the "For Lease" signs have been removed from the windows of what used to be the French eatery Chez Marius (4063 24th) and from the breakfast/lunch diner Toast. Let us know who might be moving in.

And moving out of her old real estate office on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg and into her new office up the street at 3927 24th St. is merchants activist Rachel Swann. The new spot is where her dog

Sobering News

There is evidence that the virus Covid-19 and its variants spread rapidly in Noe Valley during the month of December.

According to the San Francisco Department of Health's Cumulative Cases Map, which is searchable at Data.sfgov.org, as of Jan. 7, 2021, there had been 388 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Noe Valley since testing began March 2, 2020. Fewer than 10 people died of Covid in Noe Valley during that 10-month period, according to the map.

However, the monthly New Cases Map showed there were 122 new confirmed Covid cases in the 30-day period Dec. 9, 2020, to Jan. 7, 2021. That translated to a case rate of 51.9 cases per 10,000 residents (based on Noe Valley's estimated population of 23,507).

Let's stay safe and wear our masks, and see if we can get the numbers to drop next month.

boutique, Doggy Style, was last year.

"It was a very good move for me and my group," says Swann, who is with Compass Real Estate. "We have a lot more space, and it is very comfortable with a nice back yard."

The space she left at 3848 24th is now for rent, and Rachel says that since it's a corner storefront, it would be ideal for retail again. For many years, it was Cradle of the Sun stained-glass shop.

Finally, to the relief of its regulars, Chloe's Café has reopened at 1399 Church St. with the same name and same menu, with just a few omissions, as its former incarnation. (This came after Steven Baker and Melania Kang retired and sold the restaurant in November after 33 successful years in Noe Valley.)

The new owners Sandy Siu, brother Bobby Siu, and their mother Anne Siu—not only have purchased the business, including all the recipes, but have rehired most of the staff.

"We had been looking for a space during the pandemic when we learned of this opportunity," said Sandy Siu. "The long-time chefs Marcos and Maria agreed to stay, and we are adding a few dishes to the menu."

New additions include a breakfast burrito with sausage and salsa verde and an oatmeal griddlecake, and they now serve Kahawa 1893 coffee. Gone from the menu are the egg and tuna salad sandwiches. But the pecan pancakes, scrambles and salads remain. For takeout, that is.



PICK OF THE LITTER: New trash bins were installed last month in Downtown Noe Valley, thanks to the Noe Valley Association, the self-taxing district along 24th. "We wrote a grant to the Mayor's Office for \$14,000 for the new trash receptacles," says NVA director Debra Niemann, "and they were placed on 24th Street at the corners of Castro, Noe, and Church streets, as well as in front of the Noe Valley Town Square."

The attractive pin art on the four bins—flowers at Castro, birds at Noe, dogs at Church, and, appropriately, fruits and vegetables in front of the Town Square—is by artist and designer Sylvia Vientulis.

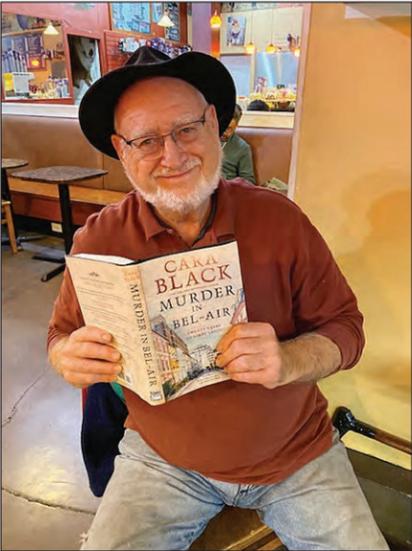


AN ABUNDANCE OF CORVIDS: A huge flock of crows seems to have invaded the neighborhood, report several Noe Valleons. "I have never seen so many crows flying around my house in many

RUMORS

years,” say Peggy Cling, who lives on the Sanchez Street hill. “Why?” she asks.

“First, crows [and ravens] do well in urban and suburban environments, and their numbers are likely growing in these habitats. Noe Valley is a great example, although this is occurring in cities and suburbs throughout their range, where there is plenty of trash and other food for them plus safe environments where they won’t be hassled,” explains John P. Dumbacher, curator of ornithology and mammalogy at the Institute of Biodiversity Science and Sustainability at the Califor-



Noe Valley will miss the smiling face of 30th Street resident Doug Martin, who lost his life to Covid in January. “Big Doug” was often seen strolling on Church Street, said friend Cara Black, who snapped this photo. “We’d have great outdoor chats trying to make ourselves heard with our masks. He was so supportive, and generous to me.”

nia Academy of Sciences.

“But secondly, it is a seasonal phenomenon. In winter, crows and ravens (and many other birds) tend to form flocks or gather in groups. This is probably partly for safety, partly for social reasons. But later in the year, they will break ranks with these flocks and pair up to nest and produce young, and they will most likely disperse into other habitats (many leaving the cities and suburbs to do this). When this happens, we won’t see their numbers as concentrated. Also, where exactly these winter flocks will go depends upon many factors, including weather, climate, available habitat, local conditions, etc. It may be that with the many fires this year, that crows from other areas are displaced, which has caused many of these flocks to relocate, at least temporarily, to where the conditions are better,” says Dumbacher.

He adds, “Whether or not they come back to Noe Valley in the same numbers next year might depend on how well they fared this year.”



SAYING SO LONG: Finally, Noe Valley said goodbye to Douglas Martin, who passed away last month in the hospital, having succumbed to a heart attack and other Covid complications.

Known for his big smile, he was a regular for many years at Bernie’s on 24th Street and at Martha’s Coffee on Church, and spent time as a volunteer at the On Lok 30th Street Senior Center.

Says local activist Peter Gabel, “Doug Martin was beloved to many of us in the neighborhood. He was a deacon many years ago at the Noe Valley Ministry. In recent years, he would sit at the bus stop at 30th and Church, near where he lived, and talk to passersby.... He was great with children and a lively, intelligent,



Ravens were flocking to Noe Valley in January, perhaps aware that most residents were going stir-crazy at home and looking for feathered companionship. 25th Street photo by Pamela Gerard

buoyant human being.”

Noe author Hal Savage, Doug’s friend and fellow St. Louis Cardinal fan, agrees. “He was full of love, and people got that. So did dogs. True, he carried kibble in his front pocket, which helped, but I think dogs know a kind person” when they see one.



BEFORE I GO: Three of our neighborhood’s public schools are part of the 44 public schools in San Francisco designated for a name change by SF’s Board

of Education, which I now prefer to call the Board of Lack of Education. Their myopic edict was posted Jan. 27, in the middle of a pandemic when all the schools were closed.

Do we really want to change the names of Mission High School, James Lick Middle School, and Alvarado Elementary School? Rather, the group should change the schools’ social studies and history curricula. Sounds like this should be put on the ballot. What do you think?

CAIO. See you next month as we March forth with all the news that fits. ■



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What is Love? The colors and shades are many and can appear in unlooked for places. One thing is certain, the courage to love oneself is key to letting the best of that state to flow to someone else. Photo by Jack Tipple



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(on the corner of 24th near Church Street)

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity,
http://www.action-sf.com/
Email: actionSFsolidarity@gmail.com
Meeting: To receive virtual meeting link,
email ActionSFTeam@gmail.com.
All are welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940
Website: 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)

Castro Community on Patrol

Website: castropatrol.org
Email: info@castropatrol.org

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.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

Website: https://evna.org
Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114
Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110
The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

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

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
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: friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Chris Faust
Email: info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Website: uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Meetings: Email or check website.

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: 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 & 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: 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 or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
Website: noevalleyassociation.org
Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and
Tuesdays, 3 to 7 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@yahoo.com. Subscribe:
noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoo.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

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

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley
Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

Resilient Noe Valley

Contact: Antoinette
Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com
Newsletter signup:
http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5
Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org
New training classes to be scheduled soon. Please check the NERT website for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

Stand Up San Francisco

Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman
Email: info@standupsf.net
Website: standupsf.net
Meetings: At offices of members of Congress, weekly.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Olga Milan-Howells, 756-4455
Email: President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. Call to confirm.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
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All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

"The most practical, authoritative, and comprehensive sexuality guide ever written."
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Sizzling SEX for Life

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Foreword by
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sexologist
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415.225.7743
DRE 01860456

Gregory Santos
415.410.1087
DRE 02041967

Rachel Hooper
415.420.4482
DRE 02081348

Marcus Grogans
415.572.0064
DRE 01993031

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