

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

The Kids (at James Lick) Are All Right

Student Artists Put the Pandemic In Perspective

By Heidi Anderson

The pandemic shutdown was hard on kids, with remote classes, loss of social interaction, and increased anxiety over masks, Omicron, vaccines...well, everything.

At James Lick Middle School, in the middle of Noe Valley at 25th and Noe streets, the return to in-person learning last fall included, among other cut-backs, a diminished theater program.

“We were coming out of the first pandemic year, and in the middle of another pandemic year,” said Keith Carames, theater arts instructor and arts coordinator for the school, which enrolls about 600 students in sixth through eighth grades.

“Student attendance was still spotty due to outbreaks, we didn’t have the resources to mount a full spring musical, and our theater happened to be structurally uninhabitable.”

As Carames assessed his resources, the prospects looked grim for a spring 2022 show.

But then he had an idea.

With the help of local playwright and actor Sedrick Cabrera, Carames could hold a weekly after-school Zoom play-writing workshop as an alternative to the typical preparation for the show. The class could focus on the students' experiences during the pandemic.

The workshop was a hit, eventually

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Art Immersion: One half of the artist duo behind the moniker BLECHMEKI is Max Blechman, pictured above. Blechman and husband Kazu Umeki have amassed a collection of ceramic figurines that fills their Castro Street home. See the story behind their passion on page 7.

Photo by Art Bodner

Slow Sanchez Eases on Down the Road

Meanwhile, Group Suggests Guidelines for Shared Space

By Kit Cameron

The pace is picking up on Slow Sanchez, with events, projects, and hopes for city improvements. There is even the start of an open-air art gallery.

Back in the day, which in fact was just about two years ago (April 2020), the citizens of San Francisco came up

with the bold experiment of opening up spaces previously used to get from one place to another to a variety of uses and activities.

As we saw on Sanchez Street, the response was immediate. Bikes, strollers, dogs, and people all began to enjoy a shared open space and learned to get along with delivery trucks, parking cars, and slowly moving Uber

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Neighborhood Has an Advocate At City Hall

Noe’s Jackie Prager Working to Address Local Concerns

By Matthew S. Bajko

Described as a “superstar” by her hometown newspaper a decade ago in a profile about her heading to the University of San Francisco, Jackie Prager had told the *San Mateo Daily Journal* that she wanted to attend law school after graduating from the Jesuit college. Her goal was to become a prosecutor working on cases concerning women’s and children’s rights, she had told the reporter.

Yet Prager ended up taking a different path, one that led her into the middle of the city’s rough-and-tumble political scene. She took on leadership roles in local Democratic clubs and the California Democratic Party while working for several nonprofits serving predominantly minority women and youth.

Prager also helped to elect District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman in 2018 and District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston a year later. Last summer, the San Francisco Democratic Party hired her as its new executive director.

Within months, Mandelman had hired Prager to work for him as one of his legislative aides at City Hall. She was assigned to be the main point of contact for Noe Valley residents who called the office with any issues or concerns.

“I like that I get to hear from my

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Azia Yenne manages her family’s Small Frys at 3985 24th St., where for close to four decades Noe Valleyans and shoppers from all over the Bay Area have found toys and gifts for their favorite youngsters.

Photo by Art Bodner

Big Honor for Small Frys

Children’s Store Named a San Francisco Legacy

By Julie Zigoris

Small Frys children's store at 3985 24th St., which has been outfitting Noe Valley kids for 38 years, became an official San Francisco Legacy Business, after winning final approval from the city's Small Business Commission on April 25.

The store was formally placed on the Legacy Business Registry, which recognizes longstanding, community-serving businesses that are cultural assets to the city.

“If there were any business that deserved to be a legacy business, Small Frys is definitely one,” said District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who nominated the shop for the registry.

“It’s an important community institution in Noe Valley, as are the Yennes. They have made incredible contribu-

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Estate Planning Fundamentals: June 15th at 6:30 PM
Estate Planning Fundamentals: July 12th at 9 AM
Estate Planning Fundamentals: July 20th at 6:30 PM



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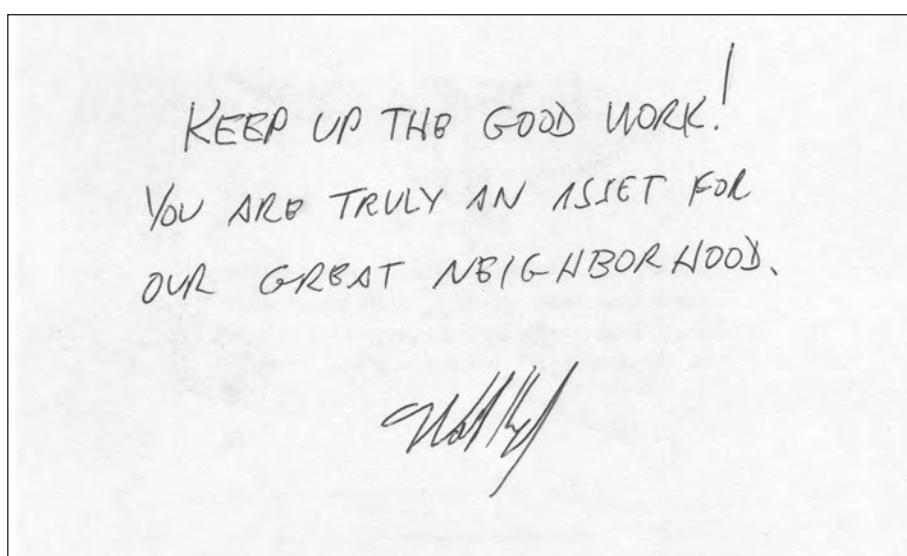
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CRIME SNAPSHOT

According to the city's digital map of San Francisco Police Department incident reports, there were 25 reported burglaries in Noe Valley in April. Unfortunately, 20 were break-ins of private homes or apartments, including four "hot prowler" incidents, in which residents were home at the time.

The burglary tally was the highest since December and surpassed the number of reported larceny/thefts. However, the latter category—of the 10 the *Voice* tracks monthly—was no picnic. Victims reported 22 such property thefts, including 11 smash-and-grabs from vehicles.

Also, the "malicious mischief" reports—of minor vandalism or harassment—and "other" incidents, which included driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, and trespassing, clocked in at 12 and nine, respectively. The data also recorded one motorcycle, one truck, and four cars stolen.

But it wasn't all bad news. There were no reported assaults, robberies, or domestic violence incidents in April.

And one stolen vehicle was recovered in early May. The Ingleside Police District reported in its May 6 newsletter that the owner of a car stolen April 27, on the 5200 block of Diamond Heights Boulevard, spotted the suspect several days later and called law enforcement. Police located the person, "reviewed security camera footage of the initial vehicle theft, and [were] able to identify the detained subject as the same individual seen in the video footage stealing the victim's vehicle," according to the newsletter. The suspect was placed under arrest, and the stolen vehicle was returned to the owner, police said.

The *Voice* collected this month's data May 17, 2022, from the Digital Map of SFPD Incident Reports: 2018 to Present found in the portal Data.sfgov.org. "Noe Valley" on the map is an area bounded by 21st Street, Guerrero/San Jose Avenue, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports to April 2022							
Incident Type	Oct2021	Nov2021	Dec2021	Jan2022	Feb2022	Mar2022	Apr2022
Larceny/Theft	38	39	23	38	28	24	22
Burglary	14	12	26	18	9	21	25
Malicious Mischief	12	7	9	16	3	8	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	13	17	18	16	7	6
Assault	2	2	2	0	3	2	0
Robbery	2	2	1	0	3	1	0
Other Misc.	9	7	7	7	0	0	9
Fraud	3	7	4	8	4	3	4
Family D.Violence	0	7	5	0	0	1	0
Vandalism	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Totals	93	96	94	106	67	68	78

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed.

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Rhyme Salon

ACROSS

1. "I say, old ____"
5. Umps
9. ____ Hibachi: former eatery on Castro
14. Pixie ____ Studios on Diamond Street
15. ____ May Clampett
16. "Have a Seat—Read ____": sign near chairs at City Lights
17. Eric of Monty Python
18. Animated character, for short
19. Disposed to henpecking
20. Easy-peasy thing (with a "Clue" weapon involved?)
23. "Sort of" suffix
24. Highways: Abbr.
25. Garner through sales
28. "You've got mail!" co.
29. "____ bin ein Berliner": JFK
30. Pierre's pal
31. One-foot
36. Dear ____ Hansen
37. Partner of whorl in fingerprinting
38. Popular neckwear in the Castro?
39. Took a nap
40. '98 Sarah McLachlan hit that's an opera spelled backward
41. Hesitate to spend even a little
43. Bit of real estate
44. Academy of ____ University
45. Dawn goddess
46. For a short time
48. Japanese soup base
50. Lovey-dovey sound
53. Church Street salon
56. "Rawhide" singer Frankie

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
23				24					25				26	27
			28					29				30		
31	32	33					34	35			36			
37						38				39				
40					41				42					
43					44				45					
46			47					48	49			50	51	52
			53					54				55		
56	57						58				59			
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

58. Last word of a threat
59. Glam rock band ____ the Hoople
60. Set of steps
61. ____ fire under (motivated)
62. Beehive State
63. Make lean, as meat
64. Old TV host Jack
65. Brazilian soccer star

DOWN

1. Hot dog topping
2. Underworld of Greek myth
3. God, to a Muslim
4. Answered a charge in court
5. Give a new name to
6. Wed in secret
7. Chunks of Arctic ice
8. In ____ (coordinated)

9. ____ and Her Sisters
10. Taken ____ (surprised)
11. Porcine paradise
12. Eggy Christmas drink
13. ____-high
21. Show to be true
22. Desire
26. Nebbishy comment in an old Apple ad
27. Beethoven's last
28. Piece of pond scum
29. Ability claim
31. Bit of a merry refrain
32. Black ____ (dangerous insect)
33. "La Vie en Rose" singer
34. "Yeah, sure"
35. Negative in Normandy
36. Yalies
39. Parody
41. HIV preventive drug

42. Spouse's assent
44. Herb with the Tijuana Brass
47. Ancient Greek region with a column style named after it
48. One of the Obama girls
49. Commercial lead-in to -gram or -matic
50. \$100 bill, in slang
51. Half of hexadecimal
52. ____ Places You'll Go (Dr. Seuss book)
54. Commercial ratings app
55. "It's my turn!"
56. Drug some people take in microdoses
57. Had a meal

Solution on Page 22
Find more Crosswords at
noevalleyvoice.com

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2022



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LETTERS

Get Educated on Climate

Editor:

Are you really educated about climate change? For the longest time, I thought I was too, until I actually stopped and did my part by researching the consequences and solutions to climate change. I am reaching out to you now because I want to prompt you to do the same, to sit down and become informed of what we’re doing to our planet, because if this letter makes you read at least one article or study or a book, I will have succeeded in my mission. In my own research, I found companies that capture carbon directly from the air, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, to companies that take carbon being produced by factories, and turn it into rock. But one of the most interesting alternatives that I found during my research was a method called regenerative agriculture. A Brazilian company called Rizoma Agro has embraced this new movement, having already reduced 45.8 tons of carbon per hectare per year, in which they currently have 2,000 hectares. They achieve this by cultivating healthier soil, nurturing organic matter, and increasing biodiversity. The craziest thing is that if all of our agricultural practices were converted to regenerative agriculture, we would be able to compensate for all of the CO2 being produced by cars, buses, and trucks. The technologies to mitigate the consequences of climate change are out there. All that’s left is to implement these practices on a large enough scale to reduce the world’s carbon footprint. I ask you today to become educated

about the signs that our world is burning. Increased temperatures, forest fires, floods, ocean acidification; these are all signs that the amount of CO2 we are producing will irreparably damage our world until it is uninhabitable. We are running out of time until a burning future is a certainty. The solutions to climate change are here. All we have to do is take action.

Matteo Aron

Day Street resident and a sophomore at Bay School of San Francisco

Garden Tour a Wild Success

Editor:

Wow! The Noe Valley Garden Tour—We’re Back! on May 7 was a monumental success. The weather was good, the gardens were lovely, and attendees were happy to be out and about. There were over 250 tickets sold as well as lots of raffle tickets.

The Friends of Noe Valley would like to thank all those who made the tour such a success. We really could not have done it without support from our wonderful neighbors and friends!

Thank you to the amazing Garden Tour Committee: Arete Nicholas, Linda Erdos, Jana King, Michelle Echenique, Karin Levenberg, Mary Donovan, Frank Schlier, and Adrien Bonifacio.

Thank you to the gracious garden hosts: Wendy Bertrand, Barbara Howald, Cathleen Edwards, Robert Harrison, Mary Donovan, Gary and Karin Levenberg, Cece Cronin, Dorothee Noyon, Emilie Hayward-Allen, Markos Major, and Chris and Yvonne Keene.

Thank you to the awesome artists: Johnny Botts, Michelle Echenique, Rachel Perls, Debra Reabock, Jonah Roll, Brennan Wenk-Reilly, and Liberty Street Band.

Thank you to the big-hearted GOLD sponsors: Dennis Otto—Compass RE, Pete Brannigan—Compass RE, Sloat Garden Center, and Umpqua Bank.

Thank you to the always generous sponsors: BJ Droubi—Generation RE, Claudia Siegel—Compass RE, Corcoran Global Living, and David Pennebaker—Compass RE, Dirty Hoe Landscaping, First Republic Bank, Flora Grubb Gardens, Flowercraft Garden Center, Flowers of the Valley, Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, NOVY, SkinSpirit, and Urban Farmer Store.

Lastly, a special thank you to the Garden Club students from James Lick Middle School who led such enthusiastic, lively, and informative tours. They were amazing: Milo Burns, Maxine Olivia Burns, Thistle Schleifer, Viggo Anderfors, Nayely Cauich, Nathaniel Lopez, Oliver Provenzano, Mila Garrone, Maya Barajas Salum, and Darlin Alberto Ramos.

Linda Lockyer

Peggy Cling

Confessions of a Garden Tour Participant

And Other Comments About Nature, Health, and Place

By Wendy Bertrand

The first time I opened my garden to the Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour was on Saturday, May 7. There were so many satisfying aspects to the experience that I wanted to keep the community momentum going by quickly noting them.

As an architectural colleague pointed out to me, it was a rare occasion for the public to see spaces that are usually private. The network of well-organized garden locations offered a day for viewing, valuing, and paying attention to the abundance of greenness and care that goes into private gardens. Walking between gardens was an extra plus, allowing tour goers to get to know the streetscapes, some of which were uphill, like mine.

Over 220 adults and children respectfully visited my garden, staying on paths and enjoying the benches. They were curious, friendly, and appreciative of the neighborliness.

“I walk by here often and wondered what this garden was like—this is so magical!” was a common remark, as I personally welcomed as many visitors as I could and shared my philosophies about the need for more of our city to be devoted to garden and nature—private, semi-public, and public—rather than covered with housing, pavement, and parking, and my concern that rear yards are shrinking while mega-houses are expanding their footprint.

“Sitting in a quiet garden feels so good” also was expressed, and that is why built-in seating adds to a garden, to a street corner, or to spots in parks. “Good neighbors make good fences” is why I touted my recently replaced fence, which is designed to respect a redwood tree by leaving space for it to grow.

“Thank you for opening up your garden” was another refrain. I had a chance to chat with builders, Google workers, artists, a toy idea consultant, sister knitters, a physician, and a psychiatrist passionate about linking mental health and nature, and the planet’s need for us all to find ways to curb behaviors that contribute to the climate crisis.



Photo courtesy Wendy Bertrand

I pitched the skills of my carpenter, and the next day he told me he had a call. The following Friday, I met up with one of the other garden owners in the Noe Town Square to chat about a mosaic of topics around public health, nature, the rules for how we plan and build, and the impacts of global warming on our personal health.

Most of the visitors were from Noe Valley, which connected us as neighbors, but people came from other places too. One brought her friend visiting from Ohio, and a master gardener and a well-known textile artist came from Pacifica. An active member of the Pacifica Gardens—billed as a community garden to educate, cultivate, and inspire—hung out for a while from El Granada.

The tour included the Noe Valley Library garden, a kitchen garden, a soft carpet of plants garden, and gardens with seating and city views.

Of course, no two gardens were the same, since each reflected the priorities, the means, the site, and the personality of the gardener.

All complemented nature, healing the exposed soil left over from the homes’ footprint, softening the hardscape, absorbing the water, improving the air, bringing joy, calm, and relaxation.

The proceeds from this year’s tour will go to one of the garden sites: James Lick Middle School, to support the students’ vegetable garden in their schoolyard at 25th and Castro streets.

All in all, the tour was a celebration and appreciation of gardeners—how gardeners treasure plants, create corners of simple and fancier ways of bringing nature to the city, and contribute to health and earthly beauty.

It had nothing to do with money markets, one’s personal status, or politics, and everything to do with valuing nature, paying attention to the climate, and building community awareness of the power of place, cultivated plant by plant.

I confess that this was an inspiring neighborhood experience on many levels.

Wendy Bertrand is the author of *Enamored With Place: As Woman + As Architect*. She has lived on 27th Street for 47 years.


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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor
Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Olivia Boler, Kit Cameron, Gabe Castro-Root, Suzanne Herel, Liz Highleyman, Kala Hunter, Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Tim Simmers, Astrid Utting, Megan Wetherall, Julie Zigoris

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING
Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION
Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION
Jack Tipple

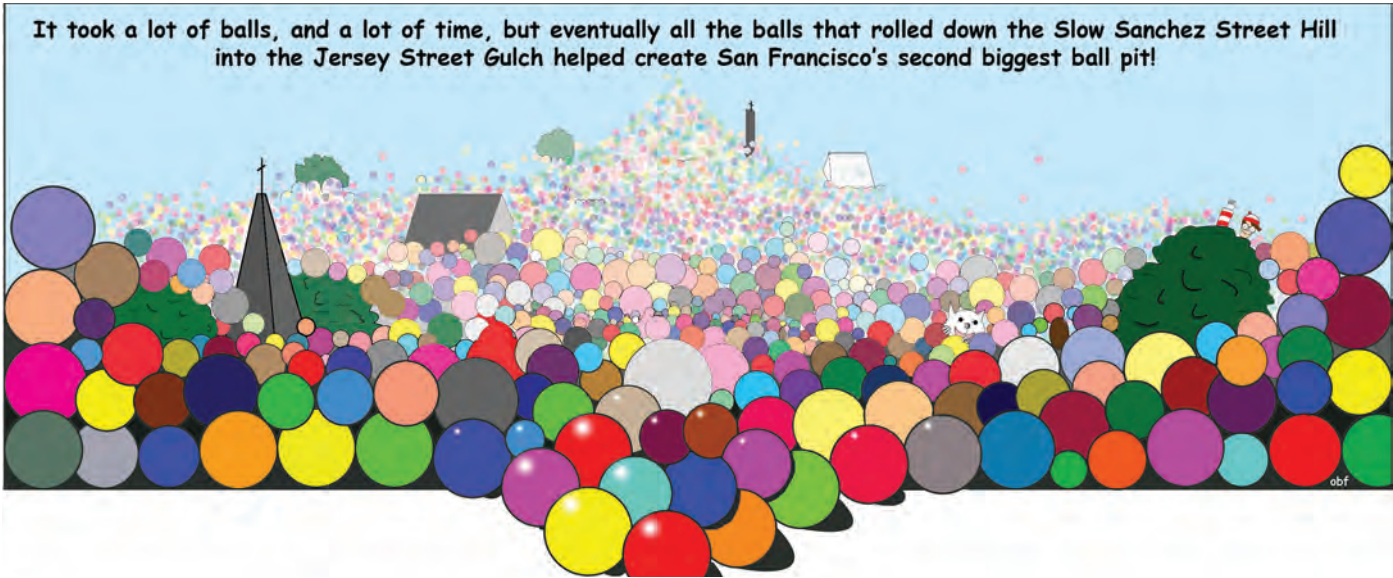
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Jon Elkin

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415.987.7833 | SellingSF.com
sdezerega@corcorangl.com

Hugh Grocock
Broker Associate | LIC# 01209589
415.971.4414 | HughGrocock.com
hugh@hughgrocock.com

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JUNE 2022

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Visit https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/Sunshine_Ordinance_Task_Force_2.pdf for upcoming term expirations or vacancies.

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Greater Than The Sum of Their Parts

Artist Duo Turn Ceramic Figurines Into ‘Photo Tableaux’

By Art Bodner

Passersby of a certain Castro Street home in Upper Noe Valley might never guess it houses a world-class collection of vintage American pottery.

Inside, homeowners Max Blechman and Kazu Umeki—also known by their business moniker BLECHMEKI—live their lives surrounded by colorful ceramics, and use the pieces to create geometric photo art that can appear as optical illusions.

“When a person looks at our photo tableaux, I want them to be thinking, What is that?” Blechman said.

This month and next, you can marvel at both the images and the objects at an exhibit at Art House SF gallery at 2324 Market St. (arthousesf.com).

Blechman has been collecting the largely pastel figures since the early 1980s, when he moved from New York to San Francisco. Frequenting Bay Area flea markets, he bought the pieces that



Max Blechman relaxes in the home he shares with husband and artist Kazu Umeki and the decorative objects he began collecting in the 1980s.

had first caught his eye in a curio shop in Greenwich Village.

Not only was he drawn to their look, he liked the way they felt—smooth and silky. Of course, it helped that they were relatively inexpensive.

Little by little, piece by piece, the collection grew, and Blechman started to organize his finds by form and color. He appreciated the fact that if one piece was pleasing, the aesthetic could be even more enhanced if like figures were organized into patterns.

“If three similar pieces looked good together, then 10 together looked even better,” he said.

His mother may have held a different view, he said, recalling her telling him on one visit, “Max, I think you have collected enough.”

Clearly he had not. The collection now stands at over 10,000 pieces, representing more than 20 American manufacturers, among them Bauer, Metlox, Shawnee, West Coast, Catalina, Camark, Pacific, Royal Haeger, and Weller. Mostly figurines—birds, deer, fish, bears, frogs, elephants, horses, seashells, and sailboats—the pieces date from the 1930s through the ’80s, with the lion’s share from the 1950s and ’60s.

Sometime back, Blechman and Umeki, who met in 2008 (and married when it became legal in 2013), grouped the pieces to spell out the words “Happy Birthday.” They then snapped a photo and made the result into a card for a friend. The next stage of the collection was born.



Each figure in the collection has its place on a shelf or in a custom-made cupboard or credenza. Some are used to make graphic art that can play tricks on the eye.



Tabi the cat knows where to find a perch without pottery.



Should they need a centerpiece for the table, there are nine shelves of ceramics in the dining room—with everything from horses and rabbits to pitchers and pyramids. Photos by Art Bodner

Blechman, a photographer in his own right, and Umeki, who has a background in design, started organizing pieces into interesting patterns, photographing them, and turning them into art prints of various sizes.

In 2012, they formed BLECHMEKI, offering their prints and stationery for sale. Today, their art can be found everywhere, from small galleries to downtown office buildings to the homes of private collectors.

“You look around, and so much of the world is in chaos, and in a small way—by bringing all of these pieces of pottery together—I’m fighting entropy, and hopefully fighting chaos,” Blechman said.

Just as impressive as the size of the ceramic collection is the way it is seamlessly integrated into the couple’s home, on shelves and mantels lining the

walls of almost every room in the house.

No, Blechman is not worried about earthquakes—although he gets that question a lot. Each display shelf has a lip, and the front-row pieces are secured with a dab of putty.

Neither is Tabi the cat a threat to the breakable collection. She seems to consider the pieces her pals and is protective of them, Blechman said. She’s never broken a single one. ■

From June 4 to July 31, Max Blechman and Kazu Umeki will show off their photo tableaux at Art House SF, 2324 Market St. The exhibit will include samples of their pottery, as well as individual prints and paintings by the artists. To find out more, go to BLECHMEKI.com.



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James Lick Kids Share Experiences During Shutdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bringing together 26 students who would create, perform, and record a collection of plays titled *Unmasked: Covid Chronicles, Stories from the Pandemic*.

Posters Piqued Interest

Seeing a few posters in the hallways and an announcement in first-period class, students started volunteering to be in the show.

Sixth-grader Arlo Raglin saw the project as a chance to try something new.

“I was going to a brand-new school with brand-new people,” he said. “After the whole online school thing, I didn’t know if people would recognize me, or if I would recognize them.

“The audition wasn’t what I expected,” he added. “It was really fun. I got to meet a lot of new people.”

Kara Gibbons, a seventh-grader, also decided to give it a try.

“At first it was slow,” she said of the workshop. “Then all of a sudden I was listening to the other kids’ work, and I was like, ‘Wow, these kids are awesome. Way better than I am.’ ”

But Kara stuck with it to write a play about an artist’s creative block during the lockdown. Other students created plays about boredom at home, the day the sky turned orange in San Francisco from wildfire smoke, and even about thoughts of suicide.

When Gloria Moran, a sixth-grader, saw the poster for auditions, she said, “All I could think was, I have to be in the show.”

She wrote “A Blooming Flower,” about two teens helping a florist save her business by building a website during the shutdown.

A Wealth of Riches

Taking a look at the students’ body of work, Carames found he had a new—but welcome—problem on his hands.

“What these kids turned out was fantastic,” he said. “I knew I had to try to make a show.”

With the assistance and mentorship



Posing before the premiere of *Unmasked: Covid Chronicles, Stories from the Pandemic* at the Brava Theater April 29 are student actors and playwrights (back row, left) Wallace Miner, Thistle Schliefer, Ruby Steinberg, Classic Shulman, Ella Gollitur, Gloria Moran, Maggie Berthiaume, (front row) Arlo Raglin, and Serafin Riley Hernandez. Not pictured: Noemi Noyola, Arabella Hunterson, Kara Gibbons, Gabriella Trujillo.

Photo by Heidi Anderson

of working artists, the young actors and playwrights met at the Brava Theater, on 24th Street in the Mission, to rehearse and perform the plays with the help of a few professional actors. The final performances were filmed by The Complex-SF.

The result was a witty and sometimes heartbreaking 90-minute collection of eight plays written and performed by students. The film was screened at the Brava Theater April 29.

Art Imitates Pandemic Life

“I loved playing in ‘Online School,’” Arlo said of one vignette. “I really identified with the kid who got to mess around with Zoom classes. Pretty much the character was me.”

Eighth-grader Thistle Schliefer, who wrote “Mind Traps,” struggled with a thornier subject. “My mind was in a dark place when I started the playwriting class, and I couldn’t really think of anything else to write.”

In her play, a student feels increasingly isolated from her friends, and her moods are misunderstood by her mom. Eventually, dark thoughts appear (reflected on stage by a Greek chorus) and try to convince her to end her life. After reaching out for professional help, the teen begins to feel better.

On the Red Carpet

After about three months of writing, rehearsals, filming, and production, the big night finally arrived at the Brava

Theater.

In what looked like prom night, dressed-up students spilled out of buses and cars, excited to see the show.

The theater was packed with families, friends, and classmates. Whoops of appreciation shot out from the audience throughout the film.

When the film ended and the crowd poured back into the lobby for a reception, some of the actors and playwrights gathered to share their feelings after seeing themselves on the big screen.

“Oh my God, I feel like I’m floating, almost crying,” said Ruby Steinberg, sixth grade, who played the lead in “Mind Traps.”

Arlo was happy with the results and excited about the reception. “It was good! I got a brownie too!”

For her part, Thistle was pleased she wrote a play about such a personal and difficult time.

“It felt really good to be able to do that play,” she said. “And it felt good to have the message on the screen at the end that if you need help, you can ask for it. Don’t try to deal with it alone.”

Take-Home Lessons

Gloria had some sage insight from being in the show. “If you don’t do something really scary, you’re a boring person. Also, you’re gonna think back and ask, ‘Why didn’t I do more?’”

Carames is proud of the entire effort during what continued to be a tough time for kids at the school.

“This experience provided students the opportunity to process their grief and distress,” he said. “And it gave them a chance to find silver linings and discover the power of storytelling.” ■

How to Give Them a Hand

The documentary *Unmasked: Covid Chronicles, Stories from the Pandemic* is expected to be viewable online after June 1 on the Brava webpage <https://www.brava.org/>.

The production was supported by many local groups, including the Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, the Pacific Singers and Actors Workshop, the San Francisco Opera Guild, media company The Complex-SF, and of course James Lick Middle School.

Donations to the James Lick Middle School theater program are welcome by check payable to JLMs Drama Club, sent to the school, c/o Keith Carames, 1220 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can email Keith Carames directly at caramesk@sfusd.edu for other ways to donate.



In a film made of the students’ performances, Kara Gibbons stars in her one-act play “Artist’s Block.” Photo courtesy Keith Carames

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



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Smooth Sailing for Slow Sanchez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drivers. And drivers appear to have been pretty sanguine about the limitations.

In an update last September, when the street was officially declared slow, the Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) noted only five emails and three comments in opposition.

In 2020, an unofficial “Halloween Stroll” managed to obey the mayor’s injunction of “no gatherings” because, after all, people were just walking along the street.

That set the tone for informal events, such as the Pride Stroll (on June 18 this year), a Fourth of July “parade”—half a dozen participants, including a dog and our District 8 supervisor, Rafael Mandelman—and an Easter Egg hunt last year.

“Our view is that...if kids want to get together and walk down the street, they don’t need to get a permit,” says Yuko Shah of Friends of Slow Sanchez (FOSS). “A stroll doesn’t block the street.”

Much of the street activity has been spearheaded by FOSS, a group of Noe Valley neighbors who early on helped define the community space. They started weekly litter patrols, which evolved into work projects such as weeding sidewalk gardens. They organized celebrations. And they hoped to inspire a 15-block-long “Gallery of Garages” to add color and art to the streetscape.

Street Dos and Don’ts

Meanwhile, in April 2021, another group highly invested in the neighborhood, Upper Noe Neighbors, was tapped by Supervisor Mandelman to form the Slow Sanchez Committee to explore solutions for quality-of-life issues on the new slow street.

Explains Chris Faust, the new president of Upper Noe Neighbors, “It became apparent...that no city agency or department, not even SFPD, was willing to take responsibility for governing the activity brought on by this ‘experiment.’ So the task fell upon the community.”

Starting in summer 2021, the committee, which included Upper Noe Neighbors members, leadership of Friends of Slow Sanchez, and Sanchez Street residents, began to thrash out what could be done about complaints raised over noise, activity, and litter.

With no existing state laws on slow streets, Bryan Klofas, who heads up the committee, says, “We are leading the charge” in establishing new norms.



Jennifer Wong and Wyatt Litty stop at 25th Street to help refill the sandbags holding down the traffic signs on Sanchez Street. The group Friends of Slow Sanchez does monthly work projects such as this to keep the street safe and spiffy. Photo by Yuko Shah

The Slow Sanchez Committee created eight guidelines, which they say mirror the concept of shared slow spaces on the SFMTA website (www.sfmta.com/reports/about-slow-streets-faqs).

The list is a working document and includes obvious tips like: deposit trash in city trash cans, keep noise to a minimum, and respect private property (“Do not congregate on neighbors’ stoops... without the homeowner’s consent”).

In addition to safety concerns (“Please exercise...awareness of swiftly moving but silent bicycles”), the guidelines remind users that the open space is a throughfare: “Please do not congregate or place furniture and other obstacles in the road,” and “Please remember that vehicles retain the right of way on Slow Streets.”

Some guidelines are specific: “Events...should occur on weekends between noon and 6 pm.” Others are more general: “Parents...are urged to provide supervision to ensure that children use Sanchez Street in a safe manner.”

Faust says, “Our priority is harmony through understanding and clarity.”

A suggestion at the UNN meeting in May was to laminate and post the guidelines at intervals along the street. Soon, says Faust, they can be seen on the group’s website (www.uppernoeneighbors.com).

Chipping In to Keep It Clean

Friends of Slow Sanchez has continued with a roster of events and work-days designed to mesh with a shared pedestrian and vehicle space.

In May, a “Chalk the Block” day encouraged participants to “draw as much art as you can between Clipper

and 26th Street,” according to Shah, both for fun and as a safety measure.

“When the street is full of art, it makes the cars slow down,” Shah says.

The group took back a trash-ridden corner at Sanchez and Cesar Chavez and applied a layer of rocks painted during Earth Day celebrations, as a way of making the sidewalk plot more attractive.

Two dog poop stations (between 26th and Clipper streets and at 29th Street) encourage the removal of pet waste, and FOSS is advocating for more trash receptacles in the area. Members are also reminding people to contact the city’s 311 operator if trash cans are full to overflowing. “We have close contact with the Department of Public Works,” says Shah. “They get right on it.”

Sprucing up the street helps reduce crime, agrees David Burke, the police department’s liaison for District 8. He notes that “a neighborhood that looks clean doesn’t attract people” looking to do mischief. And he adds, “When we look like people are paying attention, bad people go someplace else.”

Eight months ago, the city promised new sidewalk striping and “soft-hit post” signs on Sanchez to replace the temporary sandbagged barriers. But the street, along with much of Noe Valley, has been a scene of detour signs and dug-up paving, as work crews replaced old sewer lines.

“At this moment,” Shah says, “Sanchez Street is on the bottom of the list when it comes to replacing the signs.”

Art and Conversation

The Gallery of Garages could use a few more “paintings.” However, residents have been delighted with the one at 1467 Sanchez, which appeared last October.

Homeowners Sarah and Gary Lerhaupt found out about the art project from the FOSS website (www.slow-sanchez.com). “I had been curious about having a garage mural,” said Sarah Lerhaupt, “but didn’t know how to get started.” Chris Keene directed them to Paint the Void (www.paint-thevoid.org/gallery), which lists mural artists in the Bay Area, and the Lerhauts reached out to muralist Felicia Gabaldon.

“It felt like kismet when we connected,” recalls Sarah Lerhaupt. “She had done a hummingbird in other artwork. We love the hummingbird. It was my grandmother’s favorite bird.”

Gabaldon painted the mural over four days. “We let her do what inspired her,” says Lerhaupt. “We just provided the canvas.”

It’s a Drag...or a Stroll...on Sanchez Street

Bethany Methodist Church, along with the Friends of Slow Sanchez, plans to shake out those rainbows and sprinkle those sequins with three community Pride events this month.

First up, co-sponsored with Friends of Slow Sanchez, is the **Pride Stroll**. Join your neighbors at Day and Sanchez streets at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, to sashay down Sanchez to Clipper for some family Pride fun, including chalk art and other kids’ and adult activities.

Says Pastor Sadie Stone of Bethany, “The Pride Stroll is really an opportunity for the Noe Valley community to participate in the Pride history and legacy that’s so important to San Francisco, in an accessible, family-friendly, neighborhood-oriented way.... We are thrilled to be able to participate—without fighting crowds and traffic.”

And on June 26, after the Pride worship service, the church invites the neighborhood to a **Pride Celebration Barbecue**, starting around noon. For details, check the church website (bethanysf.org) or their Facebook page.

Then, on Thursday, June 30, at 7 p.m., Bethany will present its fourth annual **Drag Show**, with Mistress of Ceremonies Morticia Mourningwood. The event has grown from a modest competition for first-time drag performers in 2019 to an all-out spectacle featuring drag queens from around the bay. Morticia (in her other persona, church member Zach Brown) finds drag queens “through Instagram, Facebook, live shows, mutual friends, whatever it takes!”

The event is free and open to all, with voluntary donations collected to support SEEDS, a non-profit providing outreach care to homeless Bay Area youth.

So get on your twinkle toes, says Morticia, and come see “what makes San Francisco such an amazing city, where folks can be exactly who they want to be!”

—Kit Cameron

Lerhaupt has noticed a lot of attention from passersby. “It’s nice to chat with people admiring the house.” She further adds, “Being on Slow Sanchez is amazing, like living on a park. We’ve gotten to know our neighbors better.”

A package was delivered to their doorstep while they were out of town, Lerhaupt notes, and it sat for three days undisturbed. “I feel like our street is safer now because there are more people around.”

A Promising Future

Upper Noe Neighbors is planning the first UNN Block Party in many years, to take place at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Sept. 24. They will have good music, pizza, and activities for kids and adults. Anyone who wants to help can email Faust at info@upper-noeneighbors.com.

On June 18, FOSS and Bethany Methodist Church will hold a neighborhood PRIDE celebration at Clipper and Sanchez (*see sidebar for details*), and there are rumors of another Phoenix Day Block Party in October.

As Slow Sanchez strides into the future, the Slow Sanchez Committee has the last word, reminding us they want “to make our Slow Street a safe and enjoyable shared space, and to elevate a sense of community/belonging in this neighborhood.” ■



Thanks to homeowners Sarah and Gary Lerhaupt, the 1400 block of Slow Sanchez has a garage mural designed and painted by Oakland artist Felicia Gabaldon. Photo by Art Bodner



Hearts in Stone. The colors may be subdued and worn, but love lives on.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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Jackie Prager Is Our Issues Analyst

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

neighbors and from people throughout the district,” Prager, 28, told the *Voice* in early May over coffee at the Martha & Bros. on Church Street near her apartment.

In addition to being the office’s lead for Noe Valley concerns, Prager works on environmental and climate change issues. She also handles neighborhood issues in Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Twin Peaks, and Corona Heights.

“I have a big chunk of the district,” noted Prager, adding that she is “very proud” to also work on labor issues that might arise.

Asked why he brought Prager onto his staff, Mandelman said, “Because she is great, she is committed, and has an insane work ethic.” From her first day in the job, he added, “she hit the ground running and has been working her tail off.”

After his de facto chief of staff, Tom Temprano, departed earlier this year for a job as political director of the statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization Equality California, Mandelman brought on Ross Green as his new legislative aide. He joins Prager and Mandelman’s two other legislative aides, Jackie Thornhill and Jacob Bintliff.

For now, though, none of the four is taking on the role of chief of staff. Instead, they are each assigned to cover specific neighborhoods and certain issues citywide. Bintliff, for example, handles zoning and development issues due to his being a former city planner.

“We all have our relationships and our own expertise,” said Prager.

Most Complaints About Muni

One of the issues that she spearheaded in the office was the demand by Noe Valley residents to see the J-Church subway line go back to providing service to Muni’s downtown stations so they didn’t have to switch trains during their commutes. During the pandemic, the city’s transit agency had decided to end the route at the Church and Duboce streets stop.

The route change was loudly rejected by J-Church riders in Noe Valley, who formed their own group to demand that the line be returned to full service. The board that oversees Muni sided with the riders and ordered transit officials to restore the J-Church, which they did earlier this year.

“I take it to work every day. I personally like not having to switch,” noted Prager. “It feels more crowded now than when it had the forced switch.”

She continues to field complaints about the J-Church and Muni service in general. A project that was in the works to speed up the subway line along its route on Church Street in Noe Valley was shelved during the pandemic and is being revisited by Muni.

“I think people are still frustrated,” said Prager. “I imagine we are going to continue to have conversations on how to make it more serviceable. I would like to continue to use public transit to get to work without all the drama of having to take it.”

Some Take It Slow, Some EV

No matter what the email arriving in Mandelman’s office, Prager likely has read it. She flags the emails from constituents and directs them to the right legislative aide.

Some issues haven’t been a concern



Noe Valley resident Jackie Prager, shown sitting outside Just for Fun, is Supervisor Rafael Mandelman’s point person on climate change and the environment, and the J-Church line. That should keep her busy. Photo by Art Bodner

of late, said Prager, such as parking problems in Noe Valley. She couldn’t recall reading a single one on the formerly hot-button topic.

Whereas her colleague Thornhill, who oversees the Castro for the office, routinely fields emails about homeless issues in the neighborhood, Prager told the *Voice* she rarely hears from Noe Valley residents on that issue.

Although not universally embraced, the Slow Street on Sanchez Street “gets a lot of love,” said Prager, based on the emails coming into the office. The people reaching out, she said, do so in order to say, “This is great, let’s keep it.”

One issue she is working on is how to assist people in Noe Valley in recharging their electric vehicles if they don’t have a garage. As the *Voice* reported in its November 2019 issue, owners of such cars had one option in the neighborhood to fill up their batteries. They could do so in the lot next to the Walgreen’s on Castro Street.

Some residents called for city officials to make it possible to park EVs on the street and recharge them curbside. It is an idea that Mandelman’s office is considering, said Prager.

“We want to explore curbside charging,” said Prager, who doesn’t own a car. “We are still in the conversation mode.”

A Taste for the Neighborhood

“I love this neighborhood,” said Prager, whose partner, Daniel Anderson, is a San Francisco native who manages political campaigns.

She has called Noe Valley home now for nearly two years but was no stranger to the neighborhood. During weekend trips to San Francisco as a kid, her parents would often end up at Alice’s Restaurant on Sanchez Street at 29th Street.

Her father recently explained to her that “they literally just drove past it and decided to stop there,” Prager said.

She had forgotten about the earlier profile of her when she was 18 and called “a butt-kicking gal.” The piece had made note of her being small in stature but the holder of two black belts in kung fu. Her parents had enrolled her in a class when she was 9, though she no longer practices the martial art.

“That makes me feel so old,” Prager

joked.

She has fond memories of growing up on the Peninsula with her younger brother, who is now in graduate school. Her mother is from the Philippines and her father, who is Jewish, was born in New York but attended high school in San Francisco. They run their own real estate business.

As a teen in San Mateo, Prager had friends who, like her, came from multi-ethnic families. But when she got to the USF campus, few of her classmates were also mixed-race. Some made biased comments about her family.

“There were very few students of color from mixed families,” recalled Prager. “I didn’t realize how people would react when they learned I had one parent who is an immigrant and one who is Jewish. The [negative] things people would say at school and the way people would look at my parents, you don’t really get that growing up in the bay.”

She also had been surprised in 2008 when California voters approved a ballot measure that banned same-sex marriage for the next five years (until the courts threw out the homophobic law). Attracted to both women and men, Prager had come out as queer in high school and had felt supported not only by her family but also by the community at large. So the vote was a shock.

“People I had assumed were on the same page as me politically I realized were not for gay marriage,” said Prager.

She had long been interested in politics, often debating her father at dinner

about the national issue of the night. Prager joked she became the stereotypical attendee at family gatherings who would verbally joust with her relatives about politics.

“Getting into fights at the Thanksgiving dinner table was my M.O.,” she recalled.

It was an early sign that her future likely wasn’t going to involve a law firm. On occasion, she will think about becoming an attorney but never seriously enough to want to enroll in law school.

“I have such a love for policy work that I don’t see myself in that universe,” she said.

Important Work to Do

With Mandelman expected to win reelection in November to a final four-year term, as he will be term-limited from running again, the *Voice* asked Prager where she sees herself in five years. “Where is he?” she immediately replied.

She isn’t interested in seeking public office herself. Should she not still be working for Mandelman, then Prager hopes to continue to be employed by the city in some capacity. Despite the long hours her job entails, Prager loves the work.

“I would like to stay in city government. There is a lot of really important city work we do,” she said.

“A lot of what city government does is important but the work is unseen. I suspect then I see myself doing that for sure.” ■

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Small Frys Gains Legacy Status

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions to the neighborhood.”

Owner Carol Yenne purchased the business in 1991 from Richard and Susan Gratton, who had launched the store seven years earlier at 4066 24th St. After thriving for nearly three decades at that location, Yenne moved the store to 3985 24th in 2018.

“It is a smaller space than 4066 was, but it has worked for us, and we have decided to stay there,” said Yenne.

Small Frys is truly a family affair, with daughter and co-owner Azia Yenne working in the store full-time and her son, Cash Bolos—Carol and Bill Yenne’s grandson—taking the helm occasionally as well.

Carol Yenne served as president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and helped found the Noe Valley Community Benefit District (CBD). Small Frys plays an active role in supporting local schools and nonprofits, and the Yennes were donors to both the Noe Valley Library renovation and the establishment of the Noe Valley Town Square.

The shop specializes in California and international clothing brands for babies and children from preemie to kids size 10, and also carries an assortment of toys and accessories.

“The legacy of survival all these years is a tribute to our neighborhood and to our customers, who have continued to support us,” Yenne said.

She noted that there were about a dozen children’s stores in San Francisco back when she took over the

shop, but of those, only two still exist today. “I think that’s the big takeaway. The neighborhood has always supported small businesses.”

“It’s always been a good store,” said customer Nora Robertson, who has been shopping at Small Frys for decades. She and her “baby,” Dermot Robertson, 50, were visiting the store in April, looking to buy a gift card.

Customers Emily and Paul Connaker made a requisite stop at Small Frys with their two children during a spring break visit to San Francisco. The family lived in Noe Valley for five years before moving to San Luis Obispo during the pandemic. They bought their children’s first pairs of shoes at the store as well as many baby gifts over the years. “It’s a sweet shop,” said Emily Connaker. “We’re so happy it survived Covid.”

Embracing Young Workers

Another legacy of Small Frys is the job training the business has done for young people over the years. The store has employed hundreds of youth by Yenne’s estimate, giving them invaluable experience in dealing with the public. “It’s a great opportunity for young people to build confidence in themselves and a skill that will be with them forever,” she said.

Yenne remains in touch with many of her former employees, who are now scattered across the world from Los Angeles to London. Some of them are in their 40s, yet they remain grateful for the job experience they had at Small Frys, according to Yenne.

“It’s our biggest legacy,” agreed Azia Yenne, noting the shop had been able to provide flexible schedules for students working in the store. “It’s often their first opportunity to work in retail.”

The idea for a Legacy Business Registry emerged in the 2010s in the non-profit San Francisco Heritage, which was running a similar program for the city’s bars and restaurants. “It’s businesses that are so key to the intangible heritage of the city,” said Woody LaBounty, the organization’s vice president for advocacy and programs. A formal process was put together for operations beyond bars and restaurants, and the list, now numbering 300, contains everything from locksmiths to boat clubs, delis to jewelers.

“It’s nice that they’re being recognized,” said Carol Yenne.

Candidates must have been in operation for 30 years or more, with no more than a two-year break, and contribute to San Francisco history or identity in some way.

Benefits once on the registry include the streamlining of some city processes, opportunities for grants, publicity and marketing, and the ability to sign long-term leases with landlords, according to LaBounty. But the registry has only been around for about five years, LaBounty said, and they’re still trying to figure out the best way to use it.

City Takes, City Gives

“Thank you for being involved in your community,” said Commissioner Diane Matsuda during an April meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, which ultimately voted yes on Small Frys and nine other legacy business applications. “It’s so tough to run a business, particularly a small business.”

Between the pandemic, online shopping, and high rents for commercial space, it’s more difficult than ever to maintain a small shop or boutique. City government has often added to the

challenges.

“The city has done a horrible job helping small retail,” Azia Yenne said. “The biggest hurdle is communication.” She cited the frustrating process of adapting to signage for the pandemic, and the seemingly endless stream of bureaucratic paperwork.

“The city has not been the best partner,” said Supervisor Mandelman. “We have local and state regulatory burdens that are challenging.” Further complicating the situation are the often lengthy permit processes, according to Mandelman.

“Most politicians have never owned a small business. They are former lawyers or career politicians,” said Mandelman. “They don’t see the unintended consequences of something that they do.”

“I hear too many of those stories,” Mandelman continued. “Sometimes our office is able to help, but it shouldn’t require an intervention by an elected official to get government to deliver basic services.”

Faith in Customers

Yet Small Frys is hopeful for what is to come. While weekday business remains slow, weekends are back to pre-pandemic levels of shopping, according to Azia Yenne. “Things are looking good for the future.”

She credits the store’s survival to friends, family, and old clients ordering from around the country. She also credits Noe Valley.

“People who live in the neighborhood are aware and make sure to shop in local establishments. We’ve supported the neighborhood, schools, other local businesses,” Azia Yenne said. “And the neighborhood has supported us back.” ■



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NEW LISTING **Stylish Residence with Exceptional Views**
145 Mansell Street **\$1,188,000 | 4 BD 2.5 BA**

This gorgeous four-bedroom home has a spacious open-concept floorplan and a tree house feel, making it ideal for entertaining while enjoying the sweeping panoramic views from every window. The house is detached and positioned on the corner, allowing for abundant natural light from the plethora of windows and multiple skylights, making this a sun-filled, delightful home.



NEW LISTING **Hip Inner Mission Loft**
3375 17th Street #205 **\$1,195,000 | 2 BD 2 BA**

This city-chic residence is located on two levels and has soaring ceilings with a wall of windows flooding the space with light and warmth. This home includes a loft area that would be the perfect home office or family room, a beautiful kitchen with designer hexagon tiles, a large living/dining area and an expansive quiet patio. The open-concept floor plan is ideal for entertaining.

The Cost of Living in Noe

No End to the Exuberance

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley’s high-flying real estate market continued to break records in April, as buyers purchased 14 single-family detached homes, including two for \$6 million plus.

Those who couldn’t fathom \$3.6 million on average for a house did their best to land a condominium at half the price. Ten condos changed hands for an average \$1.6 million, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

No matter whether they hunted houses or condos, buyers found themselves in bidding wars, which forced them to act with haste and pay sellers far above their asking price.

Corcoran President Randall Kostick said demand for property in the neighborhood was so strong only one condo and one detached home sold for below



The showstopper of this \$6.5 million home on 25th Street, Noe Valley’s most expensive sale in April, is a rooftop ziggurat affording views from Twin Peaks to the bay.

the seller’s asking price. “That meant there were multiple offers on every single one of them,” Kostick said.

Buyers on average paid 22 percent more than the sticker price on single-family homes—considerably more than the 3 percent premium of a year ago.

“Unless I’m mistaken, the average sales price of \$3.57 million for a single-family detached home may be an all-time high,” said Kostick, who has collected data and observed the local market for more two decades.

The most expensive purchase was a modern five-bedroom, six-bath house with 4,587 square feet of living space in the 4100 block of 25th Street, between Noe and Castro streets. The property sold in 11 days for \$6.5 million, or 10.2 percent over its asking price (\$5,898,000).

For that princely sum, the new owner obtained a renovated home with a great room flowing into a gourmet kitchen featuring dual ovens, a center island with seating, and a butler’s pantry; a master bedroom with a fireplace and a “spa bath” with a marble walk-in shower and separate tub; an optional au pair or guest room; and a two-car garage with EV-charging and a sauna. The pièce de résistance was a top-floor ziggurat with glass walls and two outdoor

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						
April 2022	14	\$1,850,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,571,071	14	122%
March 2022	15	\$1,958,400	\$9,500,000	\$3,440,360	9	126%
April 2021	16	\$1,880,000	\$6,625,000	\$3,406,938	27	103%
Condominiums/TICs						
April 2022	10	\$960,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,602,400	18	115%
March 2022	18	\$1,080,000	\$4,000,000	\$1,989,722	14	115%
April 2021	9	\$940,000	\$2,250,000	\$1,591,538	17	109%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2022	2	\$2,175,000	\$2,280,000	\$2,227,500	31	99%
March 2022	4	\$1,200,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,797,000	41	117%
April 2021	4	\$1,700,000	\$2,280,000	\$2,013,750	32	98%
5+unit buildings						
April 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—

*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley 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. NVV6/2022



A buyer paid \$6,250,000, \$1 million more than the asking price, for this Italian villa on Dolores Street designed in 1930 by L.M. Carusio. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

terraces offering panoramic views.

Not far away, a buyer paid \$6,250,000, 25.1 percent above the asking price (\$4,995,000), for a classic Mediterranean villa built in 1930 in the 1100 block of Dolores Street, between Jersey and 24th streets.

The “exquisitely updated” two-story house—with five bedrooms, five baths, and 3,610 square feet of living space—included a living room with vaulted ceilings, a formal dining room, a chef’s kitchen, a wine cellar, a garden, and views stretching from the Dolores palm trees to the East Bay. The home also had parking for two cars.

For condos, buyers typically paid 15 percent more than the list price. Kostick noted that homes sold in April were larger than the usual one- and two-bed-

room units. “Six of the 10 [condos] were three bedrooms,” he said. “So we’ve got some big condos selling.”

The most expensive one was a three-bedroom, three-bath residence in the former St. Paul’s School at Valley and Sanchez streets.

A buyer took only five days to submit the winning \$2.5 million bid, which offered 25.3 percent more than the seller’s price (\$1,995,000). Located atop a three-story building that had been converted to condominiums in 1999, the 2,090-square-foot space had been remodeled to showcase exposed brick, steel beams, and porthole windows.

The residence also sported a high-tech kitchen, a wood-burning fireplace, one-car parking, and the right to develop a rooftop terrace. ■

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Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2022	Average May 2022	Average April 2022	Average May 2021
Studio	10	\$1,795 – \$2,695	\$2,193 / mo.	\$2,131 / mo.	\$1,882 / mo.
1-bdrm	40	\$1,980 – \$4,500	\$2,939 / mo.	\$2,808 / mo.	\$2,714 / mo.
2-bdrm	63	\$2,695 – \$7,000	\$4,115 / mo.	\$3,888 / mo.	\$3,491 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$3,375 – \$8,700	\$5,428 / mo.	\$5,249 / mo.	\$5,183 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$4,950 – \$20,000	\$9,042 / mo.	\$8,991 / mo.	\$7,418 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 142 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from May 1 to 11, 2022. In May 2021, there were 198 listings. NVV6/2022

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Families have fun in the sand as singer-songwriter Steff Kayser performs for the Concerts in the Park music series.
Photo by Chris Faust

The Next Step at Upper Noe: Folk Dancing

Summer is here, so get out and play. Expanded summer hours through mid-August mean more time for open gym activities and the classes that you love at Upper Noe Rec Center (295 Day St.). New to the lineup is International Folk Dance. Learn the traditional dances of Greece, Israel, Ireland, and more. Note that the Park Department catalog listed this at Harvey Milk, but the classes are at Upper Noe. Register now. Call for drop-in availability.

Pack It In, Pack It Out. Please help prevent overflowing cans and keep the park neat and clean. Garbage bags should be standard equipment for parties, picnics, and baseball games. Please also obey the **No Dogs on Field** signs, so the grass remains safe for kids. Upper Noe has a lovely dog park for your pets, with an entrance on 30th near Church Street.

The **Concerts in the Park** music series continues in the Upper Noe playground every first and third Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon through October. The series provides free family-friendly live music for adults that will delight children, too. This month's lineup features **Theo McKinney (June 4)**, **Chance McCauley (June 18)**, and **Street Eklektik (July 2)**.

Check www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the Upper Noe office, 415-970-8061, for more information and updates.

—Chris Faust, Chair, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Summer Session June 6 to Aug. 13, 2022

Summer Hours: Mon., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Auditorium Free Play

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

Monday

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Open Gym (All ages)

Tuesday

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday

10:45 a.m. to noon Int'l Folk Dance
Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (All Ages)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Thursday

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz – Little Kickers
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Karate Kidz
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp

Friday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
1 to 4 p.m. Argentine Tango 55+ FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Gym
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE



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SHORT TAKES

Cookies, Pizza, and Juneteenth

Omnivore Books on Food at 3885 Cesar Chavez St. has returned to its busy schedule of in-store live events. This month and next, Noe foodies can learn about fermentation (June 3), “modern” cookies (June 4), pizza (June 5), meals from snacks (June 7), the secrets of Nigerian cuisine (June 15), and dishes to make for our newest national holiday, Juneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates the June 19, 1865, abolition of slavery in Texas—two months after the end of the Civil War and two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

If you buy or reserve the book *Watermelon and Red Birds: A Cookbook for Juneteenth and Black Celebrations*, by James Beard Award-nominated food writer and home cook Nicole A. Taylor, you’ll be ready for the holiday, as well as the author’s visit to Omnivore Books on Sunday, July 17, at 3 p.m. Among the book’s 75 recipes are cantaloupe and feta salad, molasses-glazed chicken thighs, and roasted nectarine sundaes!

For details on all of the live events in June (or July), go to <https://omnivore-books.myshopify.com>.



Nicole A. Taylor, author of *Watermelon and Red Birds: A Cookbook for Juneteenth and Black Celebrations*, will visit Omnivore Books on Sunday, July 17.

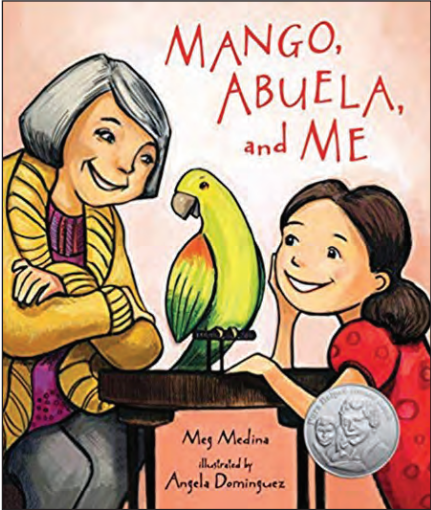
Music Free and for a Song

Free music in our neighborhood kicks off in June with Concerts in the Park on Saturday, June 4. Keyboardist, singer, songwriter, and DJ Theo McKinney (aka PlayJaySNAZZ) will perform from 10 a.m. to noon at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

“Free” continues on Sunday, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m., with the quartet AlTiPlaNo playing world music on Andean flute, flamenco guitars, and accordion at the Acoustic Sunday series at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. (The Altiplano is the Andean plateau in Bolivia, Chile, and Peru, which was the home of the Incas.)

Then you can return to Upper Noe Rec Center on Saturday morning, June 18, to hear Napa singer, songwriter, and guitarist Chance McCauley play and sing West Coast soul music, also 10 a.m. to noon.

Into chamber music? The San Francisco Civic Symphony presents an afternoon of it Saturday, June 18, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Pieces by stalwarts



This looks like a perfect book to donate to the Children’s Book Project. And there happens to be a convenient bin at Folio Books on 24th Street.

Mozart and Ravel are included, as well as works by Percy Grainger, Sherwin and Maschwitz, and moustachioed Ludwig Thuile. Suggested donation is \$20. Masks are required. More information at www.sfcivicmusic.org.

The next day, Sunday, June 19 (also Father’s Day and Juneteenth), vocal group Volti concludes its 43rd season with New Music songs from Eric Tuan, Aftab Darvishi, Jens Ibsen, Tania León, and Jerod Tate in a 4 p.m. performance at the Ministry. For tickets and additional information, see <http://voltsf.org>.

Give a Book to a Child

For 30 years, the Children’s Book Project (CBP) has distributed free books to children of low-income families in Central and Northern California. Nearly three million books donated by the public have been given to children.

A special need is for books in Spanish. Folio Books of Noe Valley and CBP have combined forces to help meet this need online and in the store at 3957 24th St.

Online at www.foliosf.com, click on the Children’s Book Project Wishlist banner. That takes you to a shopping list of books in Spanish curated by CBP. Some books on the list are also available in the store, as is a donation bin for new or used children’s books in English, Spanish, and other languages. CBP regularly collects donated books for distribution to young people new-born to 18 years of age.

For larger book donations, go to www.childrensbookproject.org to schedule a drop-off or to make a mone-

tary contribution. CBP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run by volunteers.

Juri Needs a Conductor

The group Juri Commoners is looking for a new leader. No, it’s not jury duty, although there are duties. The Juri Commoners are volunteers who take care of Juri Commons park, which cuts through the city block bounded by Guerrero Street, San Jose Avenue, and 25th and 26th streets.

Duties, according to Dave Schweisguth, who is stepping back after decades at the top post, are to coordinate with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, schedule volunteer workdays to keep the park spiffy, and recruit new members. Rec and Park provides tools and a supervising gardener on the monthly workdays.

If you’re interested, contact Dave Schweisguth at dave@schweisguth.org. He says, “Besides keeping the park in good shape and getting some fresh air and a little exercise, I found volunteering in the park to be an excellent way to meet my neighbors.”

Juri Commons follows part of an old train route ceded by 19th-century San Francisco farmer Louis Juri to the now defunct San Francisco–San Jose Railroad. A recent renovation preserved some of the historical features of the space, as well as upgraded the irrigation system, added adult exercise equipment, refurbished the children’s play area, and planted new greenery.



The Juri Commoners, those who tend the mini-park in the block bounded by Guerrero, 25th, 26th, and San Jose Avenue, are looking for someone to help organize workdays and confer with Rec and Park.

Elections R Us

The statewide primary election is Tuesday, June 7. You can vote in person that day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., or get your mail-in ballot postmarked by midnight.

California is holding primaries to select candidates for all statewide offices, U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and Assembly. San Francisco will add election of a city attorney and eight local propositions. Proposition H is the proposed recall of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.

There are two—count ’em, two—votes for U.S. Senator. The first is the primary for someone to fill the current term for the position formerly held by Kamala Harris. It ends Jan. 3, 2023. The second is for the NEXT term, which will end in 2029. Neither election involves Dianne Feinstein. She was re-elected in 2018. Her term ends in 2024.

You may be asking: why two? Didn’t Gov. Newsom appoint somebody? Yes he did—Alex Padilla—but, in May 2021, the California legislature passed a law saying there has to be a vote to fill the rest of a Senate term during the next regularly scheduled election, which is this November—when we are already

The Cameras Keep Rolling

In 1994, Judd Winick and Pam Ling were co-stars on *The Real World—San Francisco*, an MTV series that in its third season brought together a group of strangers in a house at 949-53 Lombard St., on Russian Hill.

Pedro Zamora was another co-star. He was an AIDs activist and the first HIV-positive person to appear on a reality TV show.

Winick and Ling, who later got married (and moved to Noe Valley), are featured in a new documentary about Zamora, who died of complications from AIDS in November 1994, at the age of 22.

The film, *Keep the Cameras Rolling: The Pedro Zamora Way*, screens this month as part of the 21st San Francisco Documentary Film Festival. Thirty-six features and 58 short productions will be shown in person and online during the June 1-12 event.

The Zamora film, directed by William T. Horner and Stacey Woelfel, shows how Zamora fought to stay alive and demanded throughout his hospitalization that MTV keep filming.

The scenes involving Winick, Ling, and Zamora—who became friends on the set—are revealing of the politics and prejudices surrounding AIDS both then and now.

Winick, now 52, a cartoonist and screenwriter, and Ling, 54, a professor of medicine at UCSF, will participate in a Q & A following the 98-minute film, which airs Saturday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St.

Speaking of the Roxie, the theater happens to be the subject of another film in the festival with local ties. Noe Valley resident Daniel Parris is the director of *Reopening Roxie*, a 10-minute documentary that will be screened at noon on June 4 (at the Roxie, of course). The film follows the theater’s journey from its shutdown in the early days of Covid to its reopening 434 days later, in May 2021.

The Roxie will also be the venue for *What’s a Winner?*, a three-minute film by Diamond Heights psychiatrist Ravi Chandra, showing on Tuesday, June 7, 8:45 p.m.

The film pits “Trumpian ego vs. public service,” as it observes the work of “Dr. Amy,” an immigrant, medical school graduate, and the first in her family to go to college.

Ticket prices are \$18 general, \$10 for children under 12. For more information, go to sfindie.com.

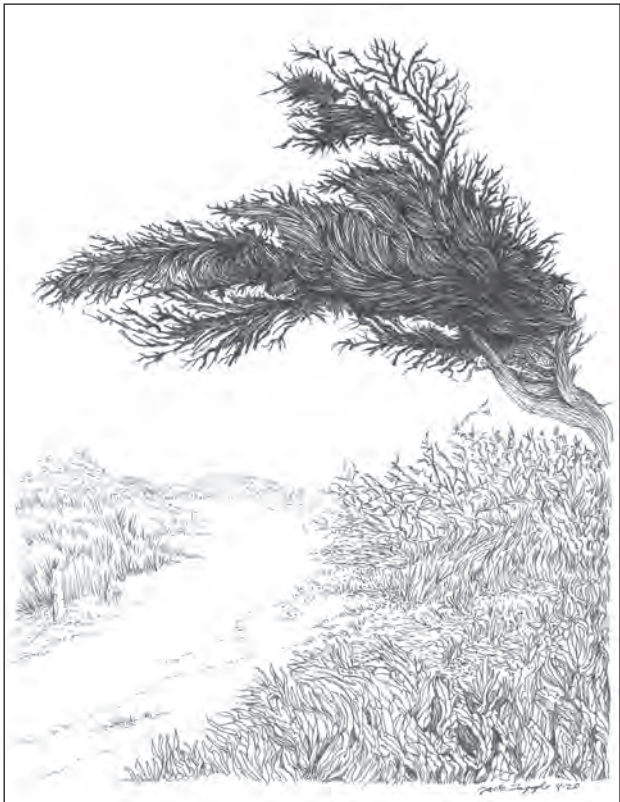
—Corrie M. Anders

scheduled to elect someone for junior senator anyway. So: same office, different terms. Please don’t let any of this dissuade you from voting. Think of it as just making the whole thing more interesting.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May

Jack-draws.com

Pen & Ink Drawings



Great Highway Path Cypress — 9x12 in. Micron Pens on Bristol

Come visit Jack-draws.com to view a sampling of recent work. I favor scenes of trees, rocks and hills and try to capture the essence of their shapes.

Most images are available for purchase. Use the contact form to get more information.
Thank you!

Writers!

You're invited to submit your work of fiction, non-fiction, poetry or essay for inclusion in the August 2022 edition of *The Noe Valley Voice*.

Email your work to editor@noevalleyvoice.com
750 words max. And include information about you and your work for a brief (approx. 30 words) bio.

No payment, but your work will be exposed to thousands of new readers.

Deadline is Monday, July 18th
Thank you!

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San Francisco Information Line www.sf311.org **311** or 415-701-2311
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, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org 415-554-6968
District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention Dave.Burke@sfgov.org
Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)..... 415-695-2017
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
Recycling Recology San Francisco (free pickup bulky items) 415-330-1300
Rent Board San Francisco phone counseling 415-252-4600
Sewer Problems, Overflows 415-695-2096
SFMTA or Muni Call 311 or email MTABoard@sfmta.com 415-701-2311
Tree Planting urbanforestry@sfdpw.org 415-554-6700
24th Street Community Benefit District (Noe Valley Association) .. 415-519-0093
Water Leaks, Water Pressure 415-554-3289

"I finally reached the point where I knew I had to become involved, or shut up."
—Harvey Milk (1930–1978), San Francisco Supervisor and LGBTQ Rights Activist

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Action SF
Websites: <http://www.action-sf.com/> or <https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/>
Email: ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com
Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m.
Virtual meeting. All 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

Castro Merchants
Contacts: Masood Samereie, President; Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245
Email: Dave@mx3fitness.com
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114
Meetings: Email info@CastroMerchants.com

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.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

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 (FUND OG)
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, MI7-6290
Email: dave@schweisguth.org
Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president
Email: efomer3@gmail.com
Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

Noe Neighborhood Council
Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
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 Democratic Club
Contact: Carrie Barnes, President
E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on 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
noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks
Contact: Chris Nanda
Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com
Website: NoeWalks.com
Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley
Facebook: [ProgressNoeValley](https://www.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: <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 classes will be commencing soon. Visit the SF NERT website for more information.

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez
Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
Website: SlowSanchez.com

Upper Noe Merchants
Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Chris Faust, President
Email: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Mail: 235 30th St., SF CA 94131
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm Zoom link by email.



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Noe Valley Neighbors are Quitting Carbon this Fall
Our climate crisis isn't going to solve itself. We *all* must take action - and now it's *your* turn. This Fall, Noe Valley families are joining together to kick fossil gas out of their homes - with *free* help from QuitCarbon. **QuitCarbon.com/NoeValley** (You are going to need a new water heater / stove / furnace / car soon anyways - why not make it clean, efficient, and electric?)

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CALENDAR JUNE 2022

June 1-July 9: PHOTOGRAPHY by Arielle Rebek and Ron Moultrie Saunders is on view at Chung|Namont Gallery. 4071 24th. chungnamont.com

June 2-30: AL-ANON meets at Bethany Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez (use Clipper side door). 845-3203.

June 4: Olive This OLIVE THAT celebrates its 10th anniversary with refreshments, activities, and music by Blind Lemon Pledge (1-3 pm). Noon-4 pm. 304 Vicksburg. 251-7520; olivethisolivethat.com

June 4 & 18, July 2: CONCERTS in the Park hosts Theo McKinney (June 4), Chance McCauley (June 18), and B Street Eklectik (July 2). 10 am to noon. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day.

June 4-July 31: Art House SF gallery exhibits "Perfect Imperfections," photo tableaux by BLECHMEKI. 4-8 pm. 2324B Market. arthousesf.com

June 4-25: Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

June 4-25: NOE WALKS takes a Saturday stroll around the neighborhood, starting at 10 am at 24th and Sanchez.

June 5: ACTION SF hosts a virtual meeting from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

June 5, 7 & 15: Cookbook AUTHORS Peter Reinhart (*Pizza Quest*), Lukas Volger (*Snacks for Dinner*), and Similéolúwa Adebajo (*From Ékó with Love: A Modern Nigerian Cookbook*) give talks at Omnivore Books. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

June 5 & 26: ACOUSTIC SUNDAY features Altiplano (June 5) performing World Music fusion (2-4 pm), and Proceed to the Route (June 26) playing country, bluegrass, and folk (2-3 pm), and The Out of Town Couple (3-4 pm). Moxie YOGA 11 a.m. to noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 7: The statewide PRIMARY ELECTION is today. Vote 7 am to 8 pm.

June 11: Learn to knit at the Noe Valley KNITTING Circle. 10 am-12:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 12: Haight-Ashbury Street Fair.

June 17: The Noe Valley Library screens the FILM *Kinky Boots*. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 18: Join the PRIDE STROLL on Slow Sanchez from Day to Clipper. 11 am. Friends of Slow Sanchez, Bethany Church.

June 18: The SF Civic Symphony presents CHAMBER MUSIC. 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. sfcivicmusic.org

June 18: The Community DINNER PARTY at the Town Square features music by the 29th Street Swingtet; bring your own dinner. 5-8 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytown-square.com

June 19: Vocal group Volti performs a CONCERT of New Music songs. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. voltisf.org

June 20: Deadline to submit ART works to Gallery Sanchez for display in July and August at Noe Valley Ministry. GalleriesanchezNoeValley@gmail.com

June 25: Rhythm & Motion offers a DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 25-26: San Francisco PRIDE Celebration and Parade. Parade on Sunday starts 10:30 am at Beale and Market. Celebration 11 am-6 pm Civic Center Plaza. SFpride.org/community

June 26: Bethany UMC holds an outdoor Pride BARBECUE, starting about noon. 1270 Sanchez. Bethanysf.org

June 26: A LIEDER Alive! concert features tenor Thomas Glenn and pianists Amy Glenn and John Parr performing Brahms and Liszt. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org

June 30: Bethany Church hosts the fourth annual Pride DRAG SHOW, to benefit the non-profit SEEDS. 7 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

July 4: For its 63rd season, the SF MIME Troupe performs the new musical *Back to the Way Things Were*. 2 pm. Dolores Park, Dolores between 18th and 20th. sfmt.org

Email your listings for July 2022 to calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com. Noe Valley events take priority. Thank you.

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and now for the

RUMORS

behind the news

Our So-Called Summer

By Mazook

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, and summer will arrive in Noe Valley on June 21, the summer solstice. This means it's time to bring out our sweatshirts and fleecy coats, as blankets of fog from the Pacific Ocean will be pouring over Twin Peaks and Sutro Tower into our quaint urban village.

Brrrr! Meanwhile, the East Bay and the Peninsula, and most of the rest of the country heats up. As you know, real summer comes to Noe Valley at or around the autumnal equinox on Sept. 21, and departs sometime around Halloween.

It's lucky the weather was imitating summer—the sunny kind—for this year's Noe Valley Garden Tour, hosted by Friends of Noe Valley. It happened on Saturday, May 7, after a two-year Covid hiatus. The popular event was inaugurated by FNV in the spring of 2005.

This year, 11 gardens were on display, including two that were side-by-side neighbors. According to Peggy Cling, co-organizer (with Linda Lockyer) of the tour, about 325 people attended this year, one of the largest turnouts ever.

"Most of the tickets, about 150, were bought online prior to the event. Over a hundred others were bought from Noe Valley merchants (Where Modern Was, Just for Fun, Folio Books, Olive This Olive That, and Ominivore Books). And about 50 [were sold] at the Noe Valley Town Square's Farmers Market," Cling said.

"We had a great year, and the [FNV] Board felt that we would help James Lick Middle School with funding. They are seeking to reestablish their garden program to bring a garden educator back to work with their science classes, since there was no money allocated by the SFUSD," said Cling. With the Friends' gift, she noted, "the school has received a very nice donation to seed their GoFundMe campaign."

So, Peggy, which garden was your favorite? "All of them. Each and every one of them had its own unique beauty, proudly presented to the neighborhood by the owners."

Thanks go out to those who sponsored the event, including the "big-hearted GOLD sponsors" Dennis Otto from Compass Real Estate, Pete Brannigan (also Compass), Sloat Garden Center, and Umpqua Bank. There were also 13 local businesses in Downtown Noe Valley sponsoring the event. "And a special thank you to the 10 Garden Club students from James Lick who led such enthusiastic, lively, and informative tours. They were amazing," said Cling.

I say Cling and Lockyer are amazing too.



BENCH PRESS: It is a pleasure for many Noe Valleons to hang out on the many benches that line 24th Street, from Diamond down to Church.

Of the almost 40 benches on the sidewalks, 27 of them have been put on the street by city grants applied for and given to the Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District. "I think we have more benches than any of the other CBDs in San Francisco," said NVA's president, Deb Niemann.

Two of the benches have memory dedications. The one in front of the Harry Aleo public parking lot, which reopened at the beginning of May after a resurfacing project, is dedicated to Janet Panzer, the wife of longtime Noe Valley resident Joel Panzer (founder of Real Management Company). Janet passed away eight years ago.

"We lived together at our house directly behind the parking lot, and so it has a special meaning for me," says Joel.

Another dedication is on the bench on the corner bus stop at 24th and Noe. It is dedicated to Dr. Carol Sarner, and was placed there by her partner, Alfred Goodwin, the owner of the building at 4003-09 24th.

There are 10 much-used benches in the Noe Valley Town Square. There is also ample portable seating, including 42 chairs and 12 tables, which can be set out daily.

At least nine Noe Valley merchants have placed benches in front of their businesses. Ironically, two benches that were among the earliest on our Main Street are no longer there. That would be "the Bench," as a pair of benches were called, after they were placed in front of Martha & Bros. Coffee, on 24th between Vicksburg and Sanchez. (The coffeehouse opened in 1987.) The Bench became a meeting place for locals and remained such for many years.

Martha's removed them at the beginning of the social-distancing and Covid lockdown, which began in March of 2020.

"The Bench" people have been immortalized in a 2007 mural located inside Martha's, created by a benchner himself, John Milestone. The last frame of the mural, located on the west wall closest to 24th Street, shows the group in a confab surrounding the bench. Several benchers still reside in the neighborhood and meet for conversation on Saturday and Sunday mornings in the parklet in front of Martha's.

The benches will be gone forever, according to co-owner [with sister Martha] and store manager Patricia Larizadeh. "We remodeled the front with big sliding windows last year to open up the view on to 24th Street, which makes the interior much brighter for all of us working behind the counter."

It will also provide an outlet by which customers can order their coffee later this year, when the building undergoes a seismic retrofit that will bar public access to the inside counters and seating, according to Larizadeh. She says Martha's serves "on average, over 300 customers a day."

The fate of one of those benches—which had been installed by the NVA many moons ago—is currently unknown. But Martha's is returning the other to the NVA. According to Niemann, "We are going to try to put it on the southeast corner of 24th and Church."



COMINGS AND GOINGS: Last month, the "For Lease" sign was removed at the Echo furniture store, located for many years at

May 13769 24th, just east of Church. "I have decided to retire after 26 years," said owner Clifford Williamson. "It has been a great run."

The 2,000-square-foot space has become Iron + Mettle (opening on June 1), which "is a strength and training studio made for women," says owner Danielle Repetti. She has been a coach and trainer for the past nine years, and opened her own studio three years ago on Valencia near 24th.

"It was great to be able to move our studio up into Noe from the Mission, where we only had 900 square feet," says Repetti. "Our mission is, help our clients prioritize their strength, develop the lasting results they desire, and love the way they move, and use proven strength and conditioning programs that incorporate both weight training and aerobic conditioning in a fun and sustainable way." She notes, "We have over 100 members and employ six strength coaches."

Repetti is a National Academy for Sports Medicine certified personal trainer and a certified pre- and post-natal coach, who specializes in "strength training, power lifting, injury rehab, and sports-specific athletic training."

At the studio/gym, you might want to check out the fantastic mural of a pink rose on the back wall. It was created by local artist Britt Henze, aka Lady Henze.

And finally, after five months of interior restoration and renovation, Urban Scout has opened its doors at 3845 24th St., at Vicksburg. This is a home décor and plant store featuring, according to spokesperson Chyna Jache, "indoor plants, pictures, and art for the walls, tables, chairs, shelving units, side tables, lighting, bar accessories, and also sweaters and tee shirts."

She says the store hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.



MURAL REHAB: The Noe Valley Town Square murals are currently being attended to by artist Mona Caron. The heavily damaged west wall is being restored by Site and Studio's conservator Kiernan Graves, design consultant Robin Milliken, and technician Brandon Phuong.

According to Phuong, the restoration involves applying a "high modulus sealant to expand the cracking lumber. [It] should be completed by the end of June."

After that, Caron will go to work to restore the images depicting 24th Street from the Mission up to Noe Valley.

"People are coming up to us every day and tell us how happy they are with the restoration," says Milliken, "and some tell us they are in the mural. One elderly gentleman proudly pointed out to us where he appears in the mural and thanked us, with tears in his eyes, for all our work." She continues, "That brought tears to my eyes."

Mine too.



SHORT SHRIFTS: Around a hundred people showed up at the Town Square on May 1 for the kickoff of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's reelection campaign for District 8 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He'll be on November's ballot... Noe Valley-based Action SF is busy these days marching and letter-writing for women's reproductive rights... Cindy Cake, treasurer at the Noe Valley Ministry, told the Voice that the church has raised \$1,500 targeted for Ukraine relief from an appeal to church members, through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Bethany Methodist took up a similar collection at its Easter service in April...

It seems that, rain or shine, there's always a line waiting to get into Noe Valley Bakery for ordering birthday cakes (two days advance notice required). But my tip is to place your order for pickup at their close-by West Portal shop (28 West Portal Ave.)... Word from Whole Foods store leader Jack Douglas, is that come September they will be installing self-check-out stands to help move along those seemingly endless lines to pay for your groceries... The Noe Valley-based baby formula service at the corner of Castro and 25th (which supplies certified USDA organic formula with ingredients made without the use of GMOs, synthetic pesticides, or fertilizers) has posted a notice on their website, "We're temporarily at capacity for new customers"... In the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Susie Neilson reports that San Francisco, according to 2020 Census figures, is the most childless major city in the U.S. Noe Valley, in its share of kids under 18 within the neighborhood, is 12th out of 34 SF neighborhoods (15.4% of the Noe population is under 18). ... and so it goes.



THAT'S ALL, Y'ALL. See you next month for all the news that fits. And to quote Scoop Niskar, the legendary KSNB news reporter back in the day: "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own." Ciao for now. ■



Pep Rally in the Square: This is either a new Where's Waldo? game or someone named Rafael is running again to represent Noe Valley and the rest of District 8 on the Board of Supes. Fortunately, you have not missed the election. The contest will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. Photo by Art Bodner

Children’s Fiction

A young boy has a perfect day at the beach in *Noah’s Seal* by Layn Marlow. Ages 3 to 7.

In *John’s Turn*, written by Mac Barnett, and illustrated by Kate Berube, a boy dances for his classmates at a “sharing gifts” time. Ages 4 to 7.

A boy loves to tell stories, but struggles to write them down, in *Abdul’s Story*, written by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose. Ages 4 to 8.

The Hair Book, written in rhyme by LaTonya Yvette, with illustrations by Amanda Jane Jones, is a tribute to every kind of hair. Ages 4 to 8.

Shinsuke Yoshitake’s picture book *I Won’t Give Up My Rubberband* shows what one can do with an everyday object and a bit of imagination. Ages 5 to 7.

Norman Feuti’s cartoon novel *Beak & Ally: Unlikely Friends*, is about a happy alligator and a noisy bird. Ages 6 to 9.

An 11-year-old girl lives in a magic-infused town in *Unseen Magic* by Emily Lloyd-Jones. Ages 8 to 12.

In *New From Here* by Kelly Yang, members of an Asian family find they have to deal with racism during the early weeks of the coronavirus. Ages 8 to 12.

In the graphic novel *Salt Magic*, written by Hope Larson and illustrated by Rebecca Mock, an Oklahoma girl in the early 1900s has to combat witchcraft to save her family’s farm. Ages 10 to 14.

Children’s Nonfiction

Our World Is a Family: Our Community Can Change the World is an all-ages picture book by Miry Whitehill and Jennifer Jackson, with illustrations by Nomar Perez. Ages 3 to 8.

Wake, Sleepy One: California Poppies and the Super Bloom, written by Lisa Kerr and illustrated by Lisa Powell Braun, follows the plant’s journey from seed to flower. Ages 4 to 8.

The man who led the fight to protect the Amazon rainforest is the hero in *Forest*

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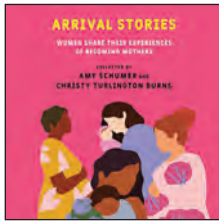
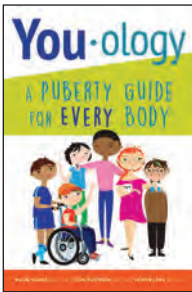
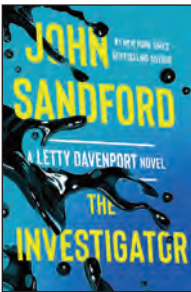
MORE BOOKS TO READ

Here Comes Summer

Summer Stride 2022, SFPL’s annual program for all ages, offers a chance to read, learn, listen, and explore from June 1 through Aug. 14. Twenty hours of participation will earn a 2022 Summer Stride Library tote bag featuring art by Oakland-based illustrator and cartoonist Minnie Phan. Programs include hands-on STEM activities, nature talks, music performances, and authors visits. Librarian-curated reading lists are available for all levels. Check out sfpl.org/summerstride for tons of additional info.

If you need to relax while Summer Striding, immerse yourself in the new titles that Adult Services Librarian Jack Tilney and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr offer *Voice* readers this month (see below). Tops among them is a collection of stories about becoming a mother (edited by Amy Schumer), John Sandford’s latest mystery *The Investigator*, memoirs from Viola Davis and Randy Rainbow, and a guide to puberty “for every body,” written by three doctors.

To borrow books or films, go to the San Francisco Public Library website, sfpl.org, and arrange for pickup at Noe Valley or other branches around the city. If you need assistance, call the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library directly Tuesday through Saturday at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org. Or take a walk over to the



branch, 451 Jersey St. (between Castro and Diamond streets). The staff can help you find what you’re after.

Masks are recommended but not required.

Fighter: The Story of Chico Mendes, by Anita Ganeri, with illustrations by Margaux Carpentier. Ages 7 to 12.

Nature and Me, published by the global organization The School of Life and illustrated by Tyla Mason, is subtitled “A Guide to the Joys and the Excitements of the Outdoors.” Ages 8 to 12.

The connection between environment and health is explored in *Fresh Air, Clean Water: Our Right to a Healthy Environment*, written by Megan Clendenan and illustrated by Julie McLaughlin. Ages 10 to 14.

Children’s eBooks, Fiction & Nonfiction

Tiny Dino by Deborah Freedman points out the modern-day descendants of prehistoric dinosaurs. Ages 4 to 8.

A girl and her grandma run errands in the city, in *Abuelita and Me*, written by Leonarda Carranza, illustrated by Rafael Mayani. Ages 5 to 8.

You-ology: A Puberty Guide for Every Body is the work of three doctors from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Trish Hutchison, Melisa Holmes, and Kathryn Lowe. Ages 8 to 12.

In Kelly Barnhill’s fantasy *The Ogress and the Orphans*, villagers mistakenly blame a kindly Ogress for kidnapping an orphan. Ages 9 and up.

Adult Books Fiction

A history student in Kiev winds up fighting the Nazis during World War II in *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn.

In *Dream Town* by David Baldacci, a private investigator searches for a murderer in 1953 Los Angeles.

John Sandford spins off his “Prey” series with *The Investigator*, a mystery featuring Lucas Davenport’s adopted daughter.

A Harvard student attempts to return art looted from Beijing centuries ago, in *Portrait of a Thief* by Grace D. Li.

Ocean Vuong’s second poetry collection, *Time Is a Mother*, examines the grief following personal loss.

Adult eBooks Fiction

In *The Memory Librarian and Other Stories From Dirty Computer*, singer Janelle Monáe envisions an Afrofuture.

The Sacred Bridge by Anne Hillerman is book seven of the Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito series, investigating the death of a Navajo man.

Adult Nonfiction

Amy Schumer and Christy Turlington Burns are the editors of *Arrival Stories: Women Share Their Experiences of Becoming Mothers*, featuring essays about giving birth.

Blood and Ruins: The Last Imperial War by historian Richard Overy details the origins, battles, and aftermath of World War II.

In *The Cook You Want to Be: Everyday Recipes to Impress*, Andy Baraghani encourages one’s own cooking style, with over 100 recipes.

In *Finding Me*, Viola Davis tells how she overcame a difficult childhood in Rhode Island and eventually achieved success as an actor and film producer.

In *The Women’s House of Detention: A Queer History of a Forgotten Prison*, Hugh Ryan describes the lockup that operated in Greenwich Village from 1929 to 1974.

Adult Nonfiction eBooks

Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas, by anthropologist Jennifer Raff, examines the paths of migration taken by the first settlers in the Western Hemisphere.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Summer is in full swing, and the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library is busy hosting events at 451 Jersey St. Below you’ll find a list of this month’s activities. Masks are recommended but not required, for those entering the building. You can also enjoy sunning in the back yard. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

Events for Children

Ages 4 and older are invited to in-person, hands-on **STEM Building** with Rigamajig building kits on Tuesday, June 14, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Space is limited; call 355-5707 to register.

At **Noe’s Garden Music Class**, on Tuesday, June 28, ages 5 and older can sing songs inspired by nature, led by indie singer/songwriter **Noe Venable**. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 355-5707 to register; space is limited.

Adult Events

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind.

The June selection for the **Noe Valley Book Club** is *News of the World* by Paulette Giles. The group meets Wednesday, June 15, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

On June 17, the Noe Valley Library’s **Friday Matinee** features the 2005 film *Kinky Boots*. Directed by Julian Jarrold, it features a female impersonator who saves a beleaguered shoe company. 2 to 4 p.m.

In *Playing With Myself*, musical comedian Randy Rainbow recalls humorous incidents from his youth.

Movies Streaming on Kanopy

A scientist participates in an experiment by living with a robot for three weeks in the 2021 German film *I’m Your Man*.

In the 2019 film *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom*, an aspiring singer in Bhutan dreams of moving to Australia.

The Savior for Sale: Da Vinci’s Lost Masterpiece tells the story of the world’s most expensive painting, sold at auction in 2017.

A young loner becomes the gestational surrogate for a single man in his 40s, in the 2021 comedy/drama *Together Together*.

The award-winning Japanese film *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy* (2021) offers three stories featuring men and women talking about and yearning for intimacy.



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS*

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library
451 Jersey St., 355-5707
Tues 10-6 Wed 10-6 Thurs 10-6 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6

Mission Branch Library
300 Bartlett St., 355-2800
Tues 10-5:30 Wed 10-5:30 Thurs 10-5:30 Fri 10-5:30 Sat 10-5:30

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond St., 355-2858
Tues 10-6 Wed 10-6 Thurs 10-6 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6

Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616
Sun 1-5 Mon 10-6 Tues 10-8 Wed 10-8 Thurs 10-6 Fri 1-6 Sat 10-6

For updates, go to sfpl.org.

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Divorce Options Workshops and June 2022 Deadlines
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Best Initial Contact: CharlesSpiegelLaw@gmail.com

CharlesSpiegelLaw.com • KidsTurn: SafeAndSound.org

5 Months Until Mid-Term Elections: Join Action-SF.com June 5, July 10.

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Happy Pride Month!



Ellenos Greek Yogurt
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2/\$5



Clover Organic Sour Cream
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\$3.49



HAPPY Father's DAY
Sunday June 19



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NOE VALLEY | 2 BED | 1 BATH | 2,213 SF

This stately home is a masterful mix of Victorian details and modern upgrades. It boasts beautiful panoramic city and hill views. The main level boasts views from the living room bay windows, built-in cabinets, a generous view bedroom, bath and kitchen. The eat-in kitchen has been recently updated and has a large pantry and overlooks and flows to the expansive, low maintenance manicured yard with custom built-in bench, turf, succulent gardens, and a fire pit.



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