

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Wags and Purrs Welcome New Care Site

Noe Animal Hospital Ready to Leap When Permits Approved

By Matthew S. Bajko

Noe Valley will soon have its own neighborhood veterinary clinic to care for residents' dogs and cats. The Noe Animal Hospital is aiming to welcome its first pet patients the second week of October.

Co-owners Nicole Goodrich and Viru Gopisetty, both doctors of veterinary medicine, had hoped to open their doors at 3818 24th St. in mid-September. They had hosted an open house early last month to introduce themselves to the neighborhood, and twice announced an opening date on a Monday.

"The concentration of pets in Noe Valley is huge," said Gopisetty. "The response we have gotten from the community has been great. During the open house, everyone said, 'You guys chose a great location!'"

But as too often is the case for locally owned businesses in San Francisco, the pet hospital had to postpone its official opening date due to delays in receiving the final inspections and permits from the city. Talking to the *Voice* in a joint interview Sept. 23, the business partners said they hoped they could have everything finalized within a week or two. Until their permits and inspections are complete, however, they



**So Glad to See You!** Potential clients and their caregivers pronounced the new Noe Animal Hospital a hit at the business's open house on Sept. 17. The full-featured clinic will be open for all canines and felines soon.

Photo by Art Bodner

will have to hold off on booking any patient appointments.

"The first week of October would be our dream to be open by then," said Goodrich, who graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign School of Veterinary Medicine in 2018.

"Nicole and me, we both want to get open as soon as possible," added Gopisetty, who graduated from the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine in Davis in 2015. "But again, we have to do all the per-

mitting and all that with the city. The first week of October would be our best-case scenario."

The partners first met three years ago at Avenues Pet Hospital in the city's Sunset District, where they both had worked until this August. Earlier this year, they began talking about opening their own pet hospital with Curo Pet Care, a family-owned business based in San Francisco that has helped veterinarians open their own clinics throughout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## A Conversation With Owen Dalby

Noe Music's Co-Director Gives High Notes of New Season

By Jeff Kaliss

Violinist Owen Dalby treasures the trust his audiences—live and online—have placed in Noe Music, the chamber music series he co-directs with his violist wife, Meena Bhasin.

"I think people saw during Covid that we were committed to the organization and were not going to let it just go under," says Dalby. "And I think we're going to do a lot more for them this year."

Founded in 1992 by Karen Heather and headed by Dalby and Bhasin since 2018, Noe Music began its current season on Sept. 11 with an in-person concert by the Merz Trio at the Noe Valley Ministry, the series' home base at 1021 Sanchez St.

"It was a phenomenal performance," Dalby reflects, "but less than phenomenal numbers-wise. There's still a lot of apprehension [about the virus]. But one of the best parts of the Ministry is that the chairs are totally configurable, so we're able to make groupings of two or three, with six feet of distancing, and [the concert hall space] goes way back in the building. We're able to keep the windows open. And it feels like an event, even if there are not that many people there."

Like all musicians in all genres,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## SF Merionettes Swim Strong

Team Surmounts Challenges to Find Pools and Win Medals

By Kit Cameron

Evening sun pours into Coffman Pool, just inside the border of San Francisco close to the Cow Palace. In the water, 11 young women, members of the San Francisco Merionettes, are putting on their game face as they practice their synchronized swimming routine.

On the pool deck, their coach smiles broadly, gesticulates wildly, and counts aloud. The girls, ages 13 to 15, mirror her movements in the pool. A gesture, cumbersome on land, becomes a graceful swan-like move in the water.

Swimming backwards, one leg held high, the Merionettes appear to be moving effortlessly up and down the pool, from deep to shallow and back again. In reality, they are paddling furiously under water with both arms and legs.

Team member Mari Flores, 14, who is temporarily on land, describes the work the girls are doing: "They're getting into patterns, which are the



**Making a Splash.** The award-winning San Francisco Merionettes, a synchronized swimming team, create beauty in the water with their athleticism and style. The team members, ages 13 to 15, are pictured here with their coach. Left to right: Eloise Krigbaum, Aurelia Duverge, Lola Pizzato-Smith, Anna Yesipova (coach), Mari Flores, Sena Werdegard, Alessia Rosso, and Sophia Montgomery.

Photo by Kit Cameron

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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- Paul & Hilary

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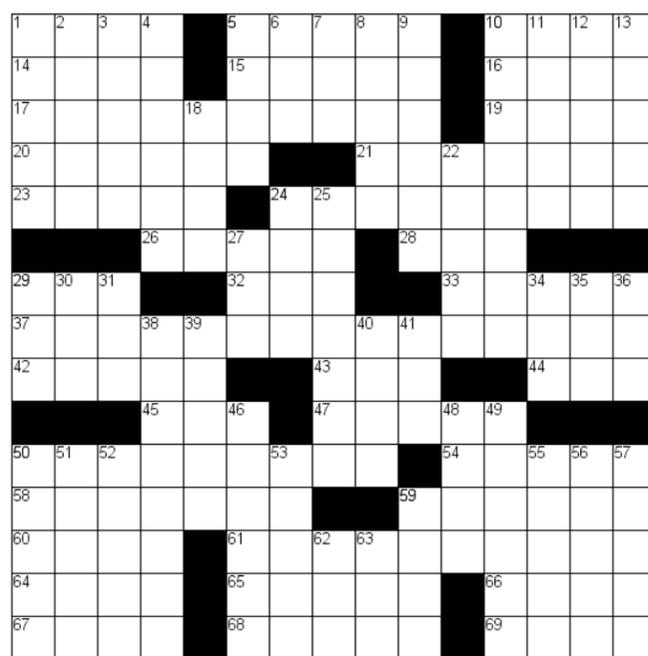
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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### All in a Lather

#### ACROSS

- Building next to a barn
- Like fresh chips
- Gussy (up)
- Scolded, old-style
- Insurance giant
- \_\_\_ Garden in GG Park
- \*Nice thing to see atop a beer at The Dubliner
- Smidgen
- Child evangelist-turned-actor \_\_\_ Gortner
- Makes a meal of
- Citizen Kane star Welles
- \*Frothing over with joy
- African language group that includes Swahili
- Broadcast
- San Francisco's \_\_\_ Hill
- Sterling Bank convenience
- Yearned (for)
- Coin-op place on Church... and \*this puzzle's inspiration
- Airline seat choice
- Keystone \_\_\_
- Attorney's charge
- Dubai's and Abu Dhabi's state: Abbr.
- Email collector
- \*What "spumante" means in Asti wine
- Half of the "Monday, Monday" singers
- Biden's Treasury Secretary
- Deteriorating from old age
- Avatar race
- \*Infused with CO2
- Lena or Ken of film
- Acquire, as debts



- Human boss of The Chipmunks
- Post-Mao Chinese leader
- Taunt
- Drug addict
- Joe \_\_\_ (rhyming name of an ordinary guy)
- "Rumor has it..."
- Prevaricators
- Goldfinger's henchman
- Chloe's \_\_\_ on Church
- Person in stripes
- Figure skater Midori \_\_\_
- Big screwup
- \_\_\_ Anderson of TV's Baywatch
- Football field
- Opposite of tight
- \_\_\_ Martin (James Bond car)
- "That's not what I \_\_\_!"
- Charlie Chaplin's spouse
- University founder Yale (and the reason a Yale is called an Eli)
- Caesar's accusation to Brutus
- "Country" yokel
- Dundee turndown
- Warriors' org.
- "Of course, Pierre!"
- Air gun pellets
- Adobe document suffix
- Before, before
- Episode salon job
- Saying suddenly, with "out"
- Plumbers' concerns
- New York's \_\_\_ Island
- "Calling all cars!"
- announcement, briefly
- Draw out
- Many a store's neon sign
- "Stately pleasure-dome" of verse
- Church assembly
- "Positive thinker" Norman Vincent \_\_\_
- Pal of Simon and Theodore
- Foolish
- Greek pocket breads
- Motrin alternative
- Passover celebration
- Achy
- "His Master's Voice" sloganeer
- 48-Quintara, e.g.

**Solution on Page 22**  
 Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)



## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO Community Outreach Public Notice



### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board Pursuant to Admin. Code 2.81

#### Community Outreach Public Notice

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Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. The Department of Child Support Services are available to assist you in person or by phone. Call today at (866) 901-3212 or visit online at [www.sfgov.org/dcsc](http://www.sfgov.org/dcsc) to learn how we can help you. Schedule an appointment to open your case at <https://sfgov.org/dcsc/opening-case>.

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##### Families Grow Healthy with WIC!

San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program provides healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, health care referrals and community information. You may qualify if you:

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- Have a child or care for a child under age 5; and
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- Receive Medi-Cal, CalWORKS (TANF), or CalFresh (SNAP) benefits; and
- Live in California

To learn about California WIC Program, visit [www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov](http://www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov) or call 1-888-942-9675

To enroll in SFDPH WIC Program visit [www.sfdph.org/wic](http://www.sfdph.org/wic) to start your application or call 628-217-6890 to make an appointment.

Newly pregnant individuals, working families, including military and migrant families are encouraged to apply! WIC welcomes dads, grandparents, foster parents, or guardians who care for eligible children.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

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The AAB resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board 1 - two; Board 2 - four; and Board 3 - five.

Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision.

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For a full list of current or upcoming Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, please visit <https://sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces>.

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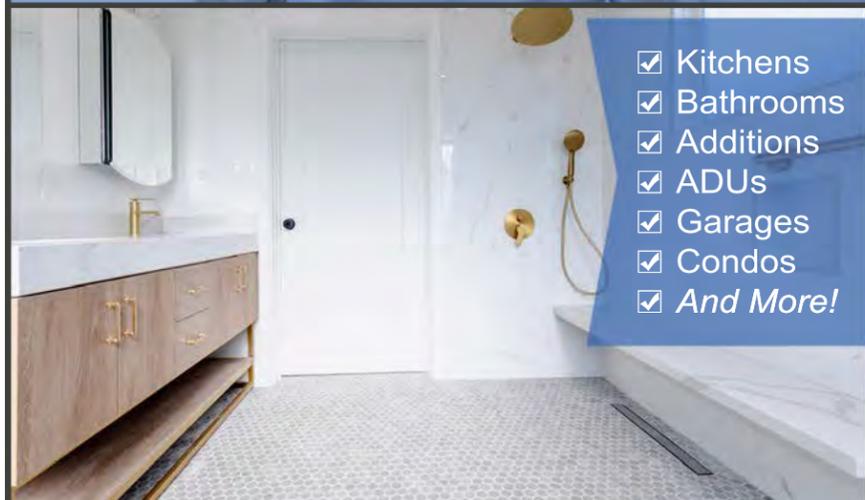
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# CRIME SNAPSHOT

Residential burglaries and car break-ins continued to vex local residents in Noe Valley in August, according to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports.

Among the 20 burglaries reported to police, there were 14 occurring in residential buildings, five in nonresidential properties, and one theft in a store.

The 43 incidents classified as larceny-thefts included 23 smash-and-grabs from cars, 13 thefts from buildings, five vehicles stripped for parts, a purse-snatching, and a stolen check. In addition, 13 motor vehicles were stolen during the month, with three listed as recovered by mid-September.

All in all, there were 93 incidents reported in August in the 10 crime categories the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly. We collected the August data

## Noe Valley Incident Reports January to August 2022

Incident Type	Jan22	Feb22	Mar22	Apr22	May22	Jun22	Jul22	Aug22
Larceny/Theft	38	28	24	22	41	45	37	43
Burglary	18	9	21	25	17	28	18	20
Malicious Mischief	16	3	8	12	10	4	0	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	16	7	6	7	11	14	13
Assault	0	3	2	0	5	0	0	3
Robbery	0	3	1	0	0	1	3	0
Other Misc.	7	0	0	9	2	3	5	4
Fraud	8	4	3	4	2	2	5	1
Family D.Violence	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	2
Vandalism	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>93</b>

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](https://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.

on Sept. 16, 2022.

To see approximate incident locations, go to "A Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present," found under Public Safety at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org).

"Noe Valley" on the SFPD map is an area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose

Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard, so may include incidents in Diamond Heights.

If you witness a crime in progress, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 311 or 415-553-0123.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

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

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## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN

Well, first I was chased down Sanchez Street hill by a giant bowling ball!

Then I had to take out a couple of left turning cars leaving Whole Foods!

I was running late, so I gave Sutro Tower a few turns back and arrived before I left.

Look, I know for a fact he got that Bagel Twist at Holey Bagel on 24th Street, but he likes it when I play along!



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# Pet Hospital Eager To Open on 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the West Coast since 2015. As the *Voice* first noted in 2021, the ground-floor commercial space in the new mixed-use housing development near the corner of 24th and Church streets had seemed a logical spot for a veterinary clinic. For decades the nearest such business for residents of Noe Valley had been either Seven Hills Veterinary Hospital in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center or Mission Pet Hospital on Valencia Street.

After Goodrich and Gopisetty reached a deal with Curo Pet Care to assist them with their startup costs as a silent business partner, they started construction on the location. It has a lobby area to greet their canine and feline patients plus their guardians, and five exam rooms so pets and their owners aren't waiting too long once they're checked in.

"We want to make it as smooth and streamlined as possible for both clients and pets," said Gopisetty.

### Sensitive to Scents and Sounds

There is a separate surgery room and dedicated areas for dentistry services, ultrasounds, and x-rays. One of the exam rooms is set aside solely for cat clients, and has a special pheromone diffuser to help calm them down.

"It will help them with stress levels from being in the clinic," said Goodrich.

Their lobby area will be phone free, as they built a separate room off it to

house their telephone system. It also doubles as a workspace for the front desk staff and clinic manager.

"Usually, a vet clinic has a busy phone ringing at the front desk. We have a separate room for our phone so it is quieter for people when they come in," explained Goodrich.

### Six Days But No Nights

Routine exams will cost \$90, while their other services will vary in price. They will work with clients who have pet insurance to ensure their insurance providers receive the necessary paperwork and records for reimbursement claims.

The women plan to each work four days a week, overlapping on two days and working alone the other days. According to their website, the hospital will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The clinic will be closed on Sundays. They will not be offering overnight care to their patients, so any cats or dogs under their care will need to vacate the premises when they shut the doors each day.

They chose to use 'hospital' as part of their name because of the expanded services they will offer, including surgeries to remove bladder stones or tumors and special techniques to repair lacerations.

"Our philosophy was we want to encompass all of that in our name," explained Goodrich.

### More Vets Likely in Future

When they open, the only pets they will take on as clients are solely of the feline and canine variety, though in the future they may look at hiring a vet who has a passion for also treating



Viru Gopisetty, left, introduces herself to three potential customers before giving them a tour last month of the veterinary practice she and fellow vet and co-owner Nicole Goodrich plan to open soon at 3818 24th St. Photo by Art Bodner

birds. Gopisetty specializes in caring for senior cats and dogs.

"I love taking care of older senior pets," she said. "Pets are living longer and their needs change when they get older."

They do plan to bring on additional vets to their practice, as they expect demand for their services to be high, owing to a thriving pet population in Noe Valley and long wait times at existing clinics in San Francisco, due to

staff shortages and an increase in pet ownership brought on by the Covid pandemic.

"As we grow and kind of test the waters with our client base, we do plan to hire more vets. We feel strongly we will grow quickly," said Goodrich, who lives in the city's Forest Hill neighborhood with her husband. "Noe Valley has a great need. There are a lot of pets there."

Goodrich said her husband, Clifton Machado, who is also a vet, would not be joining the staff at the Noe Animal Hospital. He is the chief executive officer and associate veterinarian at the Belmont Pet Hospital and the Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital in the Lake Tahoe region.

### Looking Forward to Community

Gopisetty lives in San Bruno with her husband. She spent 12 months living in Noe Valley near 23rd and Dolores streets from June 2015 through June 2016.

"The sense of community is so strong in Noe Valley," she said.

The one advantage to the delay in their being able to open, noted Gopisetty, is that they have had time to introduce themselves to other business owners in Noe Valley and have lunch at the neighborhood's restaurants. Once they do open, they won't have much time to grab lunch, she said.

"During this kind of little bit of an interlude while we are getting ready to open, we have had time to go to lunch and explore the neighborhood. It is such a unique little area," Gopisetty said.

For more information about the clinic and its services, visit its website at <https://www.noeanimalhospital.com/>.



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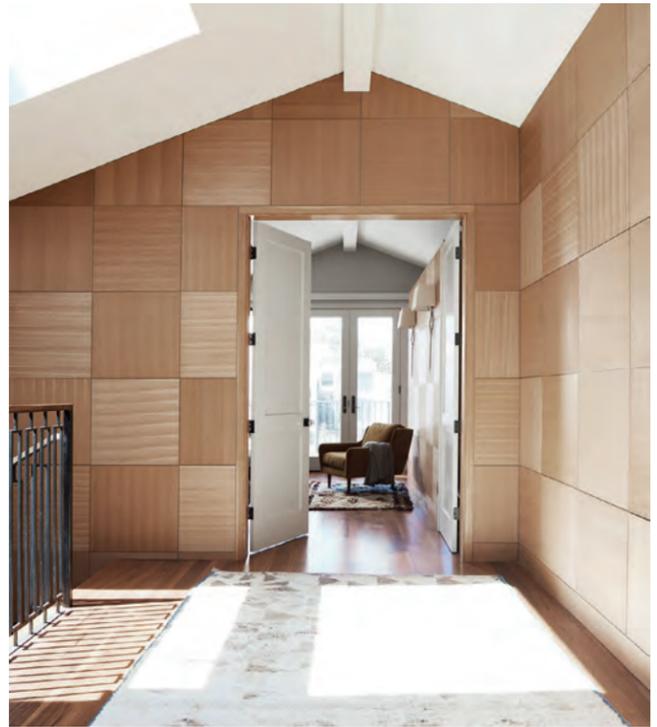
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## Dramatic Season at Noe Music—From Ludwig to Lullaby

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dalby saw the early pandemic constricting his activity and revenue.

“My bread and butter is with the St. Lawrence Quartet,” which he joined in 2015, “and all of our concerts were shut down.” Stanford, where he’s a teaching artist-in-residence, also shut down. “So I took all of my students online. Then I taught myself how to do multi-camera video editing and put that to use.”

The St. Lawrence ensemble filmed some concerts from Dalby’s violinist colleague Geoff Nutall’s basement, as well as from the Bing Concert Hall at Stanford and the Noe Valley Ministry, and Dalby edited them together.

“This carried over to the Noe Music side of things,” Dalby says. He took the group’s Listening Club, begun pre-pandemic for small audiences in Noe Valley homes, to Zoom.

“I learned how to pipe the music through with decent fidelity, as well as our conversations. We also paid artists to give us either exclusive or recently recorded concert footage, and I filmed and directed concerts by the Delphi Trio and the Telegraph Quartet. I’d always wanted an excuse to get into tech stuff. You could say I got a degree from the School of YouTube.”

### Bhasin a Key Player

During much of the pandemic, Bhasin, long in demand as a soloist and ensemble member, “found it pretty clear that motherhood is more than a full-time job,” Dalby says.

“She had her hands full with our new guy [Knight, now 2] and with Leila [4]. And she thought I was crazy, staying up late to learn tech things when I should have been getting more sleep. But she was helping in tons of ways on the back end. And helping Noe Music stay afloat with audience relations, fundraising, and grant-writing,” from their home in Glen Park.

In-person concerts resumed at the Ministry in September 2021, but “we had to throw everything we’d learned to assume about our audience’s behavior out the window. It was really touch and go,” in terms of attendance. Those who “wanted to come with a passion and were extra committed” enjoyed an eclectic season, which included a collaboration between harpist Bridget Kibbey and Iranian singer Mahsa Vahdat.

“The bullseye of our programming is and always will be the string quartet, my life’s calling,” says Dalby. “But one of the things I’ve talked about since the beginning of Noe Music is opening up the definition of chamber music.”

### October Means Beethoven

Accordingly, this month’s program, on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., will initiate a cycle of 10 Beethoven sonatas, pairing Dalby with pianist Stephen Prutsman. The cycle will resume in January and April of 2023. “It’ll be an interesting full-picture look at a composer who I still think we don’t fully know,” said Dalby.

Beethoven will also figure in the Nov. 13 concert by the legendary Juilliard String Quartet, whose two current youngest members “are exact contemporaries of Meena and me,” Dalby points out.

“Areta Zhulla and Molly Carr and we did summer festivals together as students. They’re doing a cavatina pro-



When not orchestrating the classical series Noe Music or performing around the country, musicians Owen Dalby and Meena Bhasin are busy being the Glen Park parents of Leila, 4, and Knight, 2.  
2021 Photo by Alexandra Mello, Mellophoto.com

gram, which pairs the [Beethoven String Quartet] 130 with two world premieres by Jörg Widmann, based on the 130, and they’ll end with Beethoven’s Grosse Fuge. It’ll be totally quartet geek heaven.”

There will be no mainstage event during December, when Dalby is touring with the St. Lawrence and celebrating the holidays with Bhasin and family.

### The 30th Anniversary Concert

“On Feb. 26, we’ll have a fantastic group called Sam Reider and the Human Hands, a combo of musicians who are folk-meets-jazz-meets-classical-meets-Hot Club-meets-Transylvanian Mountain Boys-meets-Punch Brothers kind of experience. It’s very outside what we typically present, and it’s going to be really, really fun. They’re also going to do a kids’ show for us, on the 25th.

“We’re calling March 26 the 30th Anniversary Concert, which will feature [cellist] Emil Miland, who’s been a hero of mine, with Angela Lee and Katie Kadarau from the San Francisco Symphony, who’ve been a part of Noe Music for a long time. Joining them will be Nancy Zhou, a relative newcomer but a supernova soloist. Meena and I will also play, and we’ll have the Ravel Sonata for violin and cello, with me and Emil, the incredible String Sextet by Korngold, and the Françaix String Trio, which Nancy, Katie, and Angela will do.”

### May Music Is for Mothers

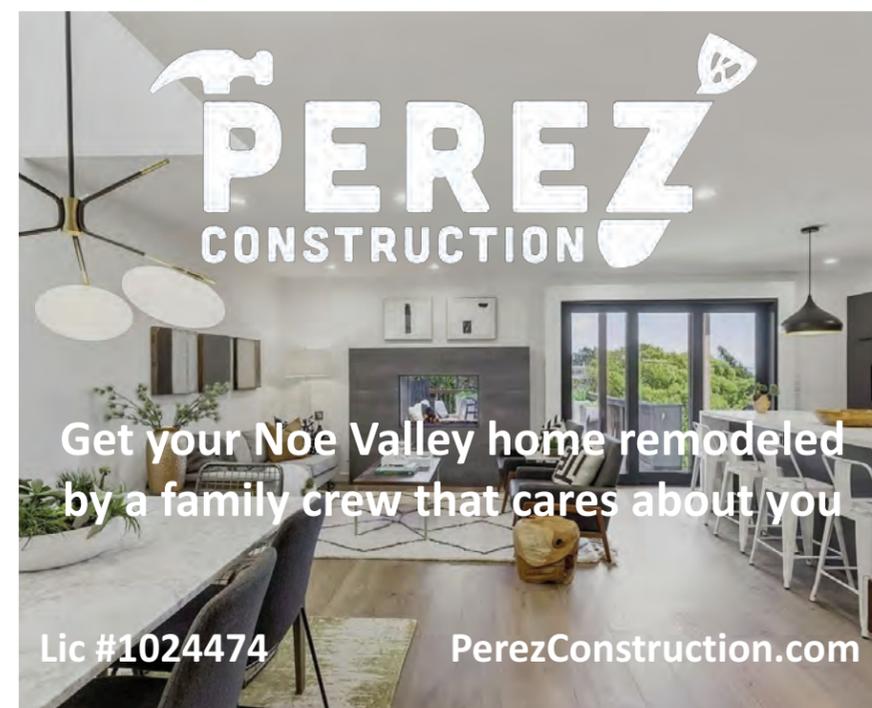
“In May we have a Mother’s Day concert, which is truly Meena’s brainchild,” Dalby says. Dubbed She Who Creates, “it will be an honorific event towards feminine creation, writ large. We’ll have a world premiere by Cava Menzies, who’s an incredible Oakland-based jazz pianist, composer, and singer, featuring the San Francisco Girls Chorus Premier Ensemble. And Jackie Gage and Diana Gameros, people who’ve been involved in our Lullaby Project, which pairs professional artists with new mothers who are experiencing homelessness and other life challenges, to compose and record

lullabies for their babies. This will be the first connection between the Lullaby Project and our mainstage series. This season feels like the first time we’ve fully expressed our vision.”

The season also incorporates two additional Noe Music Kids programs, on Nov. 5 with percussionist Aaron Kierbel and April 1 with teachers Barb

and Daniel Fabricant. “We were doing these kinds of programs before we were parents, but now it’s more meaningful to us,” Dalby says. “It reminds us of the big ‘why’ of all music, why we’re here, and what kind of meaning we can have.”

For more information and tickets, go to <https://www.noemusic.org/>.





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SAT OCT 8	<b>ROBERT SIMONSON • MODERN CLASSIC COCKTAILS. WITH MARCO DIONYSOS MIXING UP COCKTAILS! • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b> The latest from a New York Times cocktail and spirits writer.
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SAT OCT 15	<b>CHRIS SCOTT • HOMAGE: RECIPES AND STORIES FROM AN AMISH SOUL FOOD KITCHEN • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b> The remarkable story of over 7 generations via comforting dishes & vivid narratives.
SUN OCT 16	<b>MAREN ELLINGBOE KING • FRESH MIDWEST: MODERN RECIPES FROM THE HEARTLAND • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b> inspired by an archive of recipes from King's grandmother and great-grandmother.
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## SF Merionettes in The Swim for Next Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

formation you become [as a team]. [The pattern] changes in different spots. The judge watches you all maintain the pattern, so they can see the uniformity of movement.”

As the swimmers rise vertically, thrusting their arms in the air while, according to Flores, “doing egg-beater movements under water to keep upright,” they are grinning from ear to ear.

The smiles are part of the show. However, the team members have good reason to be happy. This summer, their age group competed and won awards in the Junior Olympics synchronized swimming trials for the first time in 20 years.

### Buoyed by Local Girls

Among the team of beaming Merionettes are five Noe Valley girls, and all of them say the same thing: they love the sport more than anything.

Lola Pizzato-Smith, who turned 13 this summer, says, “I saw Olympic level synchronized swimming in 2016 and said, ‘This is what I want to do!’ I’m so grateful for my teammates and parents.”

Noe Valley neighbor Sophia Montgomery concurs. At age 6, she watched the Olympics and wanted to be a diver. One of the divers she met in a class introduced her to synchronized swimming and she decided to try out. For the last seven years, Montgomery has spent up to 20 hours a week in the pool and is, according to her mother Ivy Montgomery, “completely self-motivated.”

Noe Valley Merionettes Alessia Rosso, 13, and Eloise Krigbaum, 14, have similar stories. Krigbaum says, “My grandma was a synchro swimmer at University of Arizona. I heard many stories from her and she encouraged me to do it.”

Rosso learned some of the moves from a friendly neighbor while on vacation in Italy and came back to the U.S. determined to try out. “I practiced in a friend’s pool for tryouts.”

### Coach Yesipova From Ukraine

The San Francisco Merionettes have been in the city since 1956, and from 1961 to 1967 were undefeated in the Senior National Team event. Then followed some years when their accomplishments were overshadowed by suburban teams such as Walnut Creek and Santa Clara, whose members regularly made the U.S. Olympic Team.

That started to change when new coach Anna Yesipova arrived from the Ukraine four years ago and began grooming the San Francisco girls to a high standard in the sport, which is both an athletic event and an aesthetic performance.

Yesipova, a former member of the Ukrainian National Synchronized Swimming Team and winner of multiple championships, brought a new level of professionalism to San Francisco. For her efforts she was recently awarded the title of USAA Development Coach of the Year.

“I’ve been coaching these girls since they were 10,” Yesipova says. “I love them all. We are really like a family.”

Before her arrival, no Merionettes team below the second-oldest group (ages 16 and 17) had made it to the national level “in decades,” says Ivy



Merionettes team members (left to right) Eloise Krigbaum, Aurelia Duverge, Lola Pizzato-Smith, Sena Werdegar, Alessia Rosso, Mari Flores, and Sophia Montgomery pose during one of their aquatic workouts at Coffman Pool. Photo by Kit Cameron

Montgomery. “But she inspired them to dream big, and they never lost sight of what they could accomplish if they put their minds to it.”

### No Water During Covid

Then Covid hit. And the pools closed in San Francisco—for 19 months. “If you don’t swim for a week, you have to get in shape for a month,” says Yesipova.

She did her best. She organized Zoom workouts to build muscle strength for when they got back in the water. After eight months, they were able to start practicing in San Mateo for seven hours a week. Finally, San Francisco pools reopened in November 2021.

The reward for all that wet and dry practice came in April, when the 13-to-15 age group achieved seventh place for their combo routine at the 2022 Artistic Swimming National Championship in Geneva, Ohio. Then in June, the Merionettes won a silver medal at the U.S. Junior Olympic Championship, held in Gainesville, Fla.

Though the girls are still basking in the glow, Yesipova says, they now must return to “getting really into shape.” That’s because next year’s competition season starts in January. “We are creating new choreography,” she says, “and the rules have changed, so we have new figures [to learn]. We are working on that right now.”

### Novices Include Boys

Synchronized swimming, formerly called water ballet, and in 2017 controversially relabeled “Artistic Swimming” by the sport’s International Olympic Committee, combines a series of leg movements (“figures”) with arm movements, lifts, and patterns in a choreographed routine that is set to music. The sport has traditionally been dominated by young women, but Yesipova is thrilled to have three boys in the Novice group. “The sport is really progressing,” she says. “There are some amazing male swimmers. It’s fun to watch a mixed team.”

According to parent-of-Alessia and board member Mike Rosso, it is Yesipova’s expertise in lifts that will make the team stand out in the upcoming season.

He explains that team performance in a competition counts for 50 percent of the score. Judges look at the individual performances of figures for the other 50 percent. As in gymnastics, minute details count, and a team will lose points if not perfectly synchronized. The competition season runs January to June, with practice from September to January.

would-be swimmers of all ages and abilities wait their turn to share pool facilities. To get the practice time they need, the Merionettes must roam far and wide.

At present, the team makes do with four hours at Coffman each week and eight hours at other pools, often driving as far as San Mateo.

Despite their challenges, the girls are hugely excited about the upcoming season. In addition to the qualifying meets, the young women will travel to friendly competitions hosted by Northern California clubs such as Sacramento and Monterey.

Ivy Montgomery describes these as “a way for the girls to work out the kinks. Unless you do a whole routine with people watching you, it’s hard to then do competitions.”

For the friendly meets as well as the qualifying ones, the team will wear their full Merionettes outfit, which is custom made each season, with a head-piece that attaches to the swimmer’s shellacked hair with bobby pins. They all wear makeup and nose clips, but are not allowed to wear goggles, “so by the end of the day their eyes sting,” says Ivy Montgomery.

For five Noe Valley athletes, there is nothing better in this world. As Flores says, “It’s such a unique sport. It becomes part of your life.”

*For information on the San Francisco Merionettes, including how to schedule a tryout, contact [admin@sfmerionettes.org](mailto:admin@sfmerionettes.org) or call 415-625-9106. Fees start at \$250 a month for Novices and rise to \$500 a month for the more senior athletes. The Merionettes board of directors contributes each year, to make classes and travel affordable to all who wish to participate.*

There is a healthy rivalry among the girls for the eight spots on the competition team. But the other three team members travel with them, and the whole team feels pressure during meets against their main rivals, Santa Clara and Walnut Creek. If all goes well, the Merionettes will advance from state, regional and national competitions to the 2023 Junior Olympics, to be held in Hampton, Va.

### Swimming Upstream

But the problem is pool time.

Even before Covid, the San Francisco team was limited in the number of pool hours available to them in the city. According to Rosso, the Recreation and Park Department has been hampered for years by a paucity of qualified lifeguards. Meanwhile,



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# The Case of the Stolen Little Library

Theft Still a Mystery, But Story Has a Happy Ending

By Suzanne Herel

Like the Grinch who stole Christmas, the thief who absconded with the long-standing Little Free Library at 23rd and Eureka streets over Labor Day weekend pinched every single book in the three-tiered case.

But also like that holiday tale, the neighbors, friends, and users of the Little Free Library refused to let the dastardly deed stop them from celebrating their community tradition.

As soon as the vintage green metal-and-glass fixture at 4250 23rd St. went missing, a traditional wood bookcase appeared to take its place. Then another. Then came the books, said Rachel Garlin, who, with her family, stewards the free little library.

On the afternoon of Sept. 26 came another surprise: Garlin looked out her window to see neighbors moving in a tall yellow cabinet with Plexiglas doors and adjustable shelves. It seems a passerby who had been a longtime fan of Garlin's library had bought and donated the new replacement.

"The thing that has been lovely about the whole experience, despite how it started, is I've really met a lot more neighbors and just seen that the library circulation couldn't stop," said Garlin, who moved to the neighborhood in 2020. "As soon as the bookshelf was gone, circulation continued. The spirit of the thing absolutely carried itself forward without a physical repository."

The incident also reminded her of how closely tied to one another Noe Valley residents are and "how we take care of the things that we need and love, and share them—and why we continue to steward the Little Library."

### Who Took the Bookcase?

The story began when Garlin, a folk-rock singer, pulled up to the curb on Monday, Sept. 5, after spending the



Last May, when this photo was taken, folksinger Rachel Garlin was playing a happy tune, and her Little Free Library was standing innocently at the corner of 23rd and Eureka streets. But on Labor Day weekend, the green cabinet and its contents vanished. Photo by Pamela Gerard



After the theft, Rachel Garlin and family tacked up signs asking for clues as to the disappearance of their Little Free Library. Though the cabinet is still missing, neighbors have come to the rescue by offering books and new shelving.

Photo courtesy Rachel Garlin

weekend recording an album in Los Angeles.

"I was like, where is the Little Library?" she recalled. (The popular book stop, one of several in Noe Valley, is registered with the national Little Free Library nonprofit organization.)

Garlin looked and saw that the bike chain that had secured it to a fence had been snipped with bolt cutters. She was stunned.

"We couldn't have moved it, even if we'd wanted to," she said.

Wanting to make clear that she hadn't removed it herself, Garlin and her daughter made a "Missing" sign, "like you would for a lost cat," she said. They set out a "clue box" for people to offer tips as to the bookcase's whereabouts.

### Everyone Tries to Help

The response was overwhelming. "We received no fewer than three substantially denominated bills within the first week—and we weren't asking

for money. A lot of people wrote on the notes. People dropped off furniture."

A number of children who regularly passed by the Little Library on the way to Alvarado Elementary School shared their concerns.

In essence, the whole community got involved.

"Since it's been taken, there's been more caretaking of the area. Since the theft, I feel like there's been more people taking on stewardship of the corner, and it hasn't taken on the debris," Garlin said.

It's a welcome silver lining for the inexplicable act of ill will.

"What's cool is this constant exchange. I imagine these books changing hands, and that's the essence of what I want for our neighborhood, community, and city. We all have things to offer and give, we all have things that we need and want. The more we can recognize this interdependence, that's the gift of the Little Library and the particular journey that she's on," Garlin said. "She's an emblem of this interdependence." ■



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# CALENDAR OCTOBER

**Oct. 1 & 15:** CONCERTS in the Park hosts Kevin Radley (Oct. 1) and B Street Eklectik (Oct. 15). 10 am to noon. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day.

**Oct. 1-29:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**Oct. 1-29:** Join NOE WALKS on Saturday mornings 10 am. Meet at 24th and Sanchez.

**Oct. 2:** The Noe Valley ART FESTIVAL includes fine art and craft from 22 local artists. 10 am-4 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th.

**Oct. 3:** The Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a DEBATE between supervisor candidates Rafael Mandelman and Kate Stoia, and a discussion of housing measures D and E. 5-7 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th, noevalleydemocrats.org

**Oct. 3:** Authors Michael Alenyikoy, Wayne Goodman, and Richard May read from the Bay Area Queer Writers Association anthology *TWO* at ODD MONDAYS' benefit for the Lavender Library. 7 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez; facebook.com/OddMondays

**Oct. 4:** The Noe Valley Library staff offers "Drop-in TECH HELP" for basic computer tasks. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 4:** The NAVY BAND Southwest brass quintet plays the Town Square from 6 to 7 pm during Fleet Week. 3861 24th.

**Oct. 6:** District 8 supervisor candidates Rafael Mandelman and Kate Stoia discuss housing propositions in a Zoom FORUM. 6-7:30 pm. Find the link at www.uppernoeneighbors.com.

**Oct. 6-27:** AL-ANON meets at Bethany Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 845-3203; bethanysf.org

**Oct. 8, 15, 20 & 26:** Cookbook AUTHORS discuss their books: Robert Simonson (*Modern Classic Cocktails*) 3 pm, Oct. 8; Chris Scott (*Homage: Recipes and Stories From an Amish Soul Food Kitchen*) 3 pm, Oct. 15; Rosel Levy Beranbaum and Woody Wolston (*The Cookie Bible*) 6:30 pm, Oct. 20; and Dan Richer and Katie Paria (*The*

*Joy of Pizza*) 6:30 pm, Oct. 26. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Oct. 9:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAY features the El Guajiro quartet, performing boleros and Latin standards with a Cuban beat. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 9 & 23:** The Town Square hosts YOGA for all levels; bring a mat. 11 am to noon. 3861 24th; www.yogagardensf.com

**Oct. 14:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1981 musical drama *ZOOT SUIT*. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 14:** Chung 24 Gallery hosts a 6:30 pm talk between "Machine Learning" artist ADAM CHIN and Heather Snider of Photo Alliance. 4071 24th. chungnamont.com

**Oct. 15:** The Noe Valley Library hosts LEGO play for children and their families. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 15:** The Shadow BALINESE THEATER performs "On a Magical Island." 7:30-8:30 pm; bring a picnic. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 16:** A BLOCK PARTY on Sanchez between Clipper and 26th features a bouncy house, food, crafts, and a Howl-o-Ween Dog Party. Noon-3 pm. slowsanchezsf.com

**Oct. 16:** NOE MUSIC hosts Owen Dalby and Stephen Prutsman performing sonatas for piano and violin by Beethoven. 4-5:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

**Oct. 16:** Music on the Hill offers a CONCERT by the Sierra String Quartet. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine. musiconthehill.org

**Oct. 19:** Assemblymember Matt HANEY announces \$1.7 million earmarked for a public restroom at the Noe Valley Town Square. 12:30 pm. @MattHaneySF

**Oct. 22:** Rhythm & Motion offers a DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. Rhythmandmotion.com

**Oct. 31:** Look for TRICK or TREATING midday along 24th Street.

Email your listings for November 2022 to [Calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com](mailto:Calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com). Thank you.

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Before



# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Sales Rebound in August

By Corrie M. Anders

**R**esidential shoppers in Noe Valley purchased 12 single-family detached homes in August, including two that sold for more than \$5 million.

The activity was a bounce-back from the sparse sales the previous month (just five), when higher mortgage interest rates and stock market declines nipped buyer enthusiasm.

But with houses on the rise, condominium sales slowed to seven transactions in August from 13 in July, according to data supplied monthly to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

Corcoran President Randall Kostick said both the stock market and mortgage rates were extremely volatile this



Noe Valley's most expensive home in August was a four-bedroom newly renovated Queen Anne Victorian on Alvarado Street, which sold for \$5,750,000.

summer. In fact, rates dipped in early August to the lowest in four months (4.99%), enabling Noe Valley buyers and sellers a short window of opportunity. (The 30-year mortgage rate has since risen past 6 percent—to 6.29 percent on Sept. 22.)

"Buyers get encouraged when interest rates drop," said Corcoran President Randall Kostick, "and it was a great opportunity [for them] to jump in."

He also noted that reenergized buyers took only about two weeks to make offers and that, on average, competitive bidding helped push sales prices 5 percent above what sellers had originally sought.

The purchase price for nine of August's 12 detached homes came in at more than the sellers' asking price. Oddly, one of the three properties that garnered less than its list price was the most expensive home sold during the month.

That house, with four bedrooms and four baths, traded for \$5,750,000, or 4.2 percent below the sticker price (\$5,989,000). Buyers thought it was a fitting amount for a renovated John Anderson-style property in the 500 block of Alvarado Street between



This sleek modern condominium with rectangular bay windows on Chattanooga Street sold in August for \$2,599,000.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range September 2022	Average September 2022	Average July/August 2022	Average September 2021
Studio	1	\$1,695 / mo.	\$1,695 / mo.	\$2,086 / mo.	\$2,086 / mo.
1-bdrm	40	\$2,395 – \$5,000	\$3,178 / mo.	\$3,139 / mo.	\$2,588 / mo.
2-bdrm	56	\$2,500 – \$6,600	\$4,010 / mo.	\$4,338 / mo.	\$3,668 / mo.
3-bdrm	27	\$4,000 – \$12,000	\$7,025 / mo.	\$7,013 / mo.	\$5,689 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$5,895 – \$11,500	\$8,062 / mo.	\$10,226 / mo.	\$9,912 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 131 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Aug. 11 to Sept. 10, 2022. In September 2021, there were 116 listings. NVV10/2022

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
August 2022	12	\$2,100,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,614,583	15	105%
July 2022	5	\$1,670,000	\$5,400,000	\$2,799,600	22	97%
August 2021	14	\$1,845,000	\$4,150,000	\$2,756,000	26	113%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
August 2022	7	\$610,000	\$2,599,000	\$1,447,000	19	105%
July 2022	13	\$900,000	\$3,595,000	\$1,583,423	36	101%
August 2021	12	\$700,000	\$2,810,000	\$1,678,750	17	109%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
August 2022	1	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	11	93%
July 2022	2	\$1,800,000	\$2,415,000	\$2,107,500	48	111%
August 2021	4	\$1,585,750	\$2,150,000	\$1,940,188	56	97%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
August 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 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. NVV10/2022

Castro and Noe streets.

Besides expansive southern views from two rear decks, the home featured a gourmet kitchen with a Calacatta Oro marble waterfall island, a living room with a floating fireplace, a media room, several skylights, radiant heat, and a unique interior staircase made of glass, metal, and wood. It also had parking for two cars.

A four-bedroom, 3.5-bath house on 23rd Street sold for almost as much as the Alvarado property. A buyer paid \$5.2 million—8.3 percent more than the asking price—for the modernized, 1901 home in the 4300 block between Douglass Street and Hoffman Avenue.

Noe Valley's most expensive condo-

minium in August was a three-bedroom, three-bath unit in the 100 block of Chattanooga Street between 22nd and 23rd streets.

Located in a two-unit building designed by Zack | de Vito Architecture and built in 2004, the residence sold for its \$2,599,000 asking price.

In 2,153 square feet of living space spread over four levels, the residence featured a living room with vaulted ceilings and a gas-burning fireplace, a chef's kitchen with a SubZero refrigerator and Wolf range, a Lucite staircase under a skylight, large rear windows, a guest bedroom with a terrace, and two-car tandem garage equipped with an EV-charging station. ■



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The tennis court at Upper Noe Rec Center can easily accommodate two pickleball games being played at once. Photo by Chris Faust

## Courting Pickleball at Upper Noe

### Remember to Stay Out of The ‘Kitchen’

By Chris Faust

Tennis anyone? No? How about pickleball, then? Charlie and Barbara met on a tennis court 45 years ago. “Barb has great court sense,” says Charlie. “She broke my strings the first time we played tennis.” Recently, Charlie injured his right arm. Tennis was out for him, so he learned to play pickleball with his left. Now they are back in the swing of it together. Doubles anyone?

Pickleball is a fun and easy paddle sport, a cross between tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, that has rapidly grown in popularity. Upper Noe Rec Center offers free court time for Drop-

In Adult Pickleball from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday. The volunteer-run Rec & Park program is not listed in the catalogs, but word of mouth has kept the courts busy, especially with the older crowd.

The sport came to Upper Noe in the spring of 2018, after Rick Casse noticed that our gym had lines for badminton courts. He and his wife, Liz, had been playing pickleball elsewhere for about six months and knew the courts to be the same size.

In the beginning, Casse acted as the designated volunteer for the program. His job was to help new people learn the game rules, proper play, and the ground rules for Upper Noe. He loosely organized the players to manage the sessions and promote the program. Last year, that job passed to Linda

## UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER

### Fall Roundup Fun to Watch

The fall schedule at Upper Noe Rec Center continues with a bundle of sports, classes, and activities at the park, at 295 Day St., at Sanchez Street. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the days to come cheer on the neighborhood’s flag football and pickleball competitors. Volleyball is the highlight on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Kevin Radley (Oct. 1)** and **B Street Eklektik (Oct. 15)** are the musical guests featured in October’s family-friendly music series **Concerts in the Park**. For information about all Upper Noe Rec Center events, call the office at **415-970-8061** or visit [www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com).

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

### Upper Noe Fall Session Sept. 6 to Nov. 17, 2022

Rec Center Hours: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. & Mon. closed; outside activities only. Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

#### Auditorium Free Play

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

#### 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)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Flag Football, Senior Division  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

#### Wednesday

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  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
5 to 6 p.m. Flag Football, Junior Division  
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Karate Kidz  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp  
7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning

#### Friday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)  
2 to 4 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)  
4 to 5 p.m. Volleyball League – Upper Noe Team  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
5 to 6 p.m. Volleyball League – Upper Noe Team  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning  
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Play Sport – Instructional Volleyball

#### Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Gym (All Ages)  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE

Hook, who scoffs at the title “organizer.” She began playing at Upper Noe four years ago. She was a tennis player but found pickleball to be more fun and easier. She says the group is not all that organized, but the same people play, and it has become kind of a pickleball family. Newcomers are always welcome, she says.

Though the activity was canceled during the rec center’s Covid shutdown, it quickly recovered as soon as the gym reopened in the fall of 2021. Part of its appeal was that players never needed to be very close to one another. Still, despite the wind, some Covid-cautious players prefer to play outdoors. So, while the gym is striped for four courts, the exterior tennis court was more recently striped for two more. If an official net isn’t available, some players don’t mind just using the tennis net and improvising play without an official court.

Pickleball is played on a court 20 feet by 44 feet, about half the size of a tennis court. A doubles court is the same size as singles. Any smooth surface will do, but it is often played in a gym or on a tennis court using a free-standing, portable net that is slightly lower than tennis nets.

The ball is essentially a wiffle ball, so it does not carry a lot of speed or

momentum. Wind is a factor, and the ball slows significantly after bouncing. This is one of the big adjustments from playing tennis. And, unlike in tennis, one cannot charge the net. The “kitchen” is an area 7 feet on either side of the net that is a “no-volley” zone. In other words, you can’t stand in the kitchen and volley the ball back and forth. The only way you can step in and hit a ball from the kitchen is if it has bounced in there first.

Pickleball is easy to learn. Ten-year-olds who were waiting for the courts to clear so they could play basketball decided to try it and picked it up in minutes. However, mastering it is something else. The small court and the kitchen mean that a player does not need to cover much ground. Good players do not move as much and it requires far less energy than tennis to be competitive.

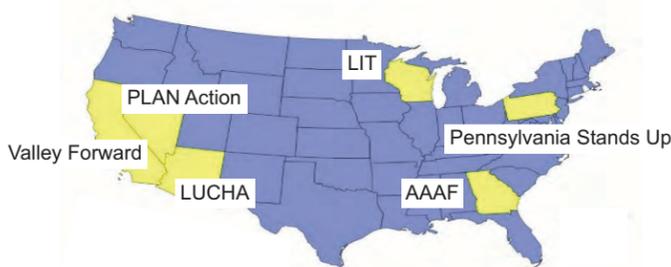
“The game is easier for older adults. We don’t have to run as far,” says Charlie. “There are 80-year-olds here who will kick your butt,” says Casse.

Jennifer, who is still working from home several days a week, occasionally sneaks an hour and a half break to play. She describes herself as an advanced beginner still feeling a challenge from the regular players. “I’m improving and getting a good workout.” ■

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## Sanchez Street Block Party Oct. 16

The second annual Sanchez Street Block Party, part of a citywide Phoenix Day celebration on Sunday, Oct. 16, is expanding activities this year, for both adults and children.

“Now that we’re in better shape with Covid, we’ll have a bouncy house for the kids, a Zumba instructor, and more,” said event captain Steve Wereb.

The free community-wide party will be held noon to 3 p.m. on Sanchez Street between Clipper and 26th streets.

There will be a succulent-planting bar, face painting, live music, a “Howl-o-Ween Dog Party” and parade, arts and crafts, food for purchase coordinated by Noe Café, and a special program from The Rabbit Hole Children’s Theater. Local firefighters also will be visiting, raising a ladder to the Bethany Church steeple and mingling with neighbors. “I am super excited to collaborate with Friends of Slow Sanchez, Noe Café, Bethany Church, and big groups of volunteers to pull together this neighborhood event,” said Wereb.

For more information or to volunteer, visit Slow Sanchez Street SF on Facebook or contact Wereb at [SteveWereb@gmail.com](mailto:SteveWereb@gmail.com).

For more on Phoenix Day events happening throughout the city, go to [sundaystreetssf.com/phoenixday](http://sundaystreetssf.com/phoenixday). ■



Last year’s block party on Slow Sanchez drew large crowds. This year, with the promise of a bouncy house and a “Howl-o-Ween Dog Party,” we may see even more visitors strolling the blocks between 26th and Clipper Street.

Photo courtesy Steve Wereb

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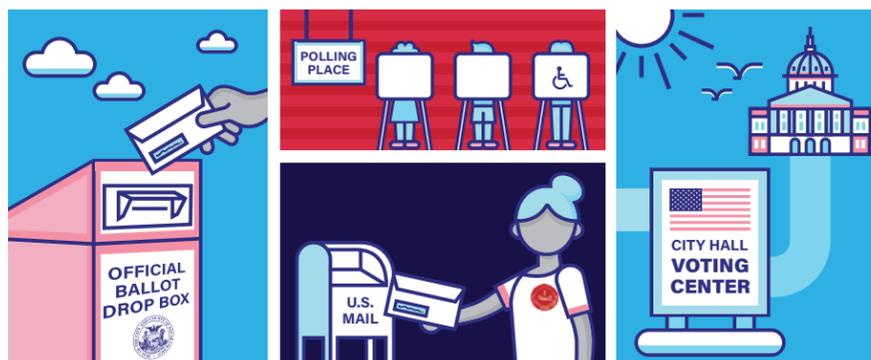


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## November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election



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Per local law, certain non-citizen San Franciscans can register to vote in the November 8 School Board election. Learn more at [sfelections.org/ncv](http://sfelections.org/ncv) or contact us.



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Patricia DeFonte braved a chill 32 degrees to demonstrate she'd been carefully reading her hometown newspaper while traveling to Argentina. The awesome scene behind her is the Perito Moreno Glacier near Calafate

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# OTHER VOICES

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The magic called outside my tenth-floor window at six a.m. that late spring Friday. The just-risen sun glistened against a baby blue sky, inspiring me to embark on a long-awaited adventure.

An hour later, I left my hotel near the Marina and traveled on foot to the community that unwittingly captivated me decades ago.

Noe Valley was my sister Janet's home from 1985 until the summer of 2003, when her husband, Tom, accepted a cross-country career opportunity. They and my twin nephews, Finn and Aidan, departed San Francisco and ventured to Brunswick, Maine, remaining there to this day.

In 2006, I sold my Bay Area home and returned to my hometown, Newport Beach. Though it took until this year for me to revisit this nostalgic neck of the woods, the memories prevailed.

Outside in the crisp morning air, a surge of elation carried me down Polk Street to California Street. Then, lured by the beguiling bells of the cable car, I followed as it ascended through Nob Hill and took a roundabout path downtown.

Finally, on Market Street, the course was chillingly quiet and decidedly clean despite dismaying reports about the city's deterioration. Farther along, I veered onto Dolores and began an upward trek on the hilly palm-tree-lined road, pausing at Mission Dolores Park. From the grassy expanse, the sweeping view of the accrescent skyline dazzled.

Eventually, my feet met the pavement of 24th Street. Salivating for a strawberry smoothie, I trudged on until reaching Martha & Bros., where I promptly ordered one. A cool blast of euphoria hit me as I slurped the drink and settled at an outside table.

I had not patronized this legendary establishment since 2002, when two-year-old Aidan and I strolled in for a snack, leaving Finn with his parents. In these simpler times, folks less glued to their phones sometimes made random observations that blossomed into endearing moments.

Aidan sat in the double-stroller happily nibbling a blueberry muffin while surrounding customers were abuzz, wondering where "baby two" was. When someone declared, "Maybe her husband has the other one," the chatter quieted.

As an outsider in the mid-1990s, I was drawn to the neighborhood's camaraderie. After years of no trick-or-treaters where I resided in the Marina, I fled to Janet's one



Mouse Aidan (left) and Finn the monkey in their 2001 Noe Valley Halloween finery.

## Sunshine and Strawberry Smaltz

By Susan Braxon

Halloween to pass out candy. Submerged in a whirlwind of ghosts, princesses, and Spidermen, we emptied the brimming bowl of treats at breakneck speed. We filled it again in time for the next doorbell chime.

In 2001, the celebration advanced. At 11 months old, Aidan and Finn wore offbeat costumes (a mouse and a monkey, respectively) exquisitely designed by our other sister, Judy. Slightly overpowered by the get-ups, their young faces peeked dubiously out from the extravagant headpieces as they joined a spirited gathering of children on 24th Street.

Though I never claimed to be a resident of Noe Valley, some believed I was upon my impromptu unemployment in 2001. I became a fixture around town with the boys, and I was often mistaken for their mother and even identified as Tom's spouse.

During a chat, a Day Street recreation worker's questions about parenting became too pointed. I admitted to being "just the aunt," but it didn't register. The next day,

Tom encountered the same worker. He said to Tom, "I saw your wife yesterday."

And sometimes I experienced a mom's pride. One afternoon at the playground, when the boys were still under a year and walking, Finn formed what I knew to be his debut sentence. "C'mon, Aian, les go o'er her." And off they went.

Still basking in the soothing sun, I broke

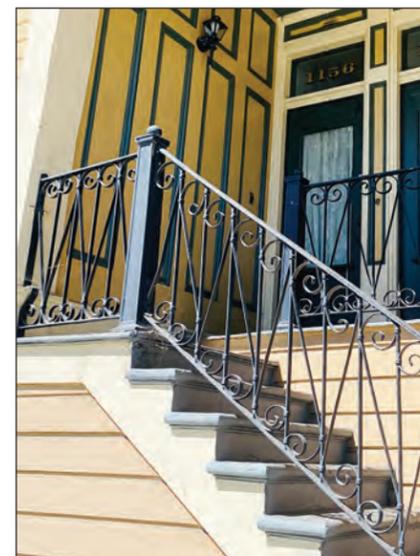
my time-warp reverie and meditated in the present, becoming one with the reminiscent soulful spirit.

Later, I discovered newfound vibrance in the Town Square as I passed cozy gatherings in the plaza and stumbled upon the playground, embracing what I dubbed the "little red rider slide." Positioning my tush on the slanted steel surface, I clumsily slid down.

Currently, Aidan and Finn are completing college in Maine. However, they plan to visit their former stomping grounds next year. Now, towering over six feet, they will surely stand out again, shooting hoops at Day Street gym and mixing it up in the square.

Before leaving, I stopped by the old apartment on Sanchez. Atop the stairway, the windowed door appeared eerily unchanged. My finger brushed the buzzer. Then, haunted by long-ago visions of two towheads peeking through the lace covering, I pulled it back and proceeded down the steps.

Until next time, Noe Valley.



Photos courtesy of Susan Braxon



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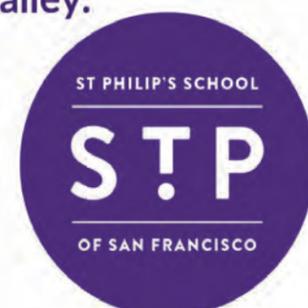
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Our climate crisis isn't going to solve itself. We all must take action - and now it's *your* turn. This Fall, Noe Valley families are joining together to kick fossil gas out of their homes - with *free* help from QuitCarbon. **QuitCarbon.com/NoeValley** (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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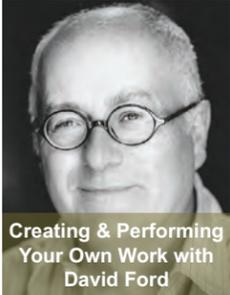

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Noe Regulars and Irregulars

By Mazook

**T**IS THE SEASON for rhyme and reason. Lots of politics to test our reasoning before the general election Nov. 8. Lots of planes will be flying over our Valley, including those producing sonic booms in the air and sonic dog barking down below. The October harvest moon will shine down on the Noe Valley Town Square (NVTS) with art and music. And it's a great month to enjoy the harvest at the Noe Valley Farmers Market.

The murals that adorn our town's square should give you pause for thought. Painted in 2008 by world-renowned muralist Mona Caron, the square's western mural needed extensive repair. Thanks to local guru Peter Gabel, this year began with a \$35,000 fundraising campaign for mural repairs. Restoration work started this spring, and Caron did her re-painting this summer. Now I can spend time just sitting in the Town Square and gazing upon the walls.



**GOTTA GO:** Great news for all you Town Square regulars and you irregulars, too. Our State Assemblyman Matt Haney will hold a press conference on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 12:30 p.m., to announce that he has secured \$1.7 million from the state budget for the long-awaited installation of a public bathroom at the Town Square. A space in the northeast corner, near the front of the square, has been reserved for a bathroom since the park first opened. Currently, a portable toilet has been installed for the Farmers Market staff and workers.

"We have been working with Recreation and Parks and the Noe Valley Association," says Haney, "who will determine [its] operating hours, cleaning, and maintenance." He says they "will be building a 150-square-foot, high-quality, free-standing, unisex single-stall structure."

Haney, who lives in the Tenderloin, says he is a regular visitor to the Town Square and the Saturday Farmers Market. "This will make the Town Square more inclusive for all, especially for all the families who bring their kids to the playground and won't have to take their kids home to go to the bathroom."



**PROPOSITIONING US:** Local politicians are trying to harvest as many votes as possible at their stands on 24th Street, in front of the Saturday Farmers Market at the Town Square. They'll tell you why you should vote for them or the local propositions they support.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club is sponsoring an early evening of debate in the NVTS on Monday, Oct. 3. (The original event in September was rained out.) From 5 to 6 p.m., Rafael Mandelman and Kate Stoia will wrangle over who should represent District

8 on the Board of Supervisors. And then from 6 to 7 p.m., the *Chronicle's* J.K. Dineen will host a conversation between the proponents of the dueling housing measures on the upcoming ballot. Todd David of the Housing Action Coalition will represent the Affordable Homes Now measure (Prop. D), and Rudy Gonzalez of the SF Building Trades Council will be speaking on behalf of Homes for Families & Workers (Prop. E).

On Sept. 24, a film crew showed up to get some B roll (extra footage) for an upcoming documentary being produced by local education advocate Jennifer Sey about the quest to retain Ann Hsu, Lainie Motamedi, and Lisa Weissman-Ward on the San Francisco Unified School Board. The three have been heavily endorsed by the SF Guardians, the group that led the successful Recall SF School Board campaign.

Of national interest has been Proposition N, which San Francisco voters passed in 2016. It created a voting program allowing non-citizen parents and guardians (of children 18 and under) to vote in local school board elections. Since then, San Francisco has conducted four elections under this non-citizen voting program. The most recent was the Feb. 15, 2022, recall election, which saw the highest participation yet of non-citizen voters.

The non-citizen voting program has been under attack since then, and at the end of August, the California Court of Appeals reversed a San Francisco Superior Court decision that had revoked the program the month before. The latest decision will allow non-citizen voting to go forward this Nov. 8, while litigation continues through the state courts.



**ANGELS IN THE VALLEY:** SF's Fleet Week headquarters, located in the large garage space at 1104 Sanchez St. near 24th Street (since 2015), has been bustling in preparation for the popular Oct. 3-11 annual event. The office schedules all the entertainment.

Executive Director Lewis Loeven, who lives in Diamond Heights, and Chief of Staff Diana Homsey, a Noe Valleon ("I was born and raised and still live here"), promise 45 events this year, including a parade of ships, ship tours on the Embarcadero, an air show featuring the Blue Angels, the "High School Band Challenge" at the Band Shell in Golden Gate Park, and neighborhood "pop-up" concerts around the city.

The 1st Marine Division Brass Band will appear at the Noe Valley Town Square at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4. Says Loeven, "The brass bands are a favorite of the young kids, especially when they hear the tuba and start to dance to the music."

All you Noe Valley dog lovers (and we know there are many) might want to attend the K9 tribute on Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Duboce Park. Regional and national K9 services will bring their stars to demonstrate their abilities, including search and rescue, therapy tasks, drug and food detection, law enforcement, and bomb detection.

"We are very happy that we receive overwhelming support from the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations," says Loeven, and that Fleet Week brings "tens of millions of dollars to our local economy."

San Francisco Fleet Week was first sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein in

1981.



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, WINNERS:** The seventh annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival was viewed by a packed audience on the afternoon of Sept. 10 at the Noe Valley Ministry.

The team of girls who produced the show sent their list of winners, from San Francisco and around the world:

Age 10 and under finalists were *Berry the Mouse*, Penelope Campbell; *Never Too Little*, Nayana Gupta; *Hope Overcomes Everything*, Anastasia Shinkarenko; *I Wasn't Afraid*, Jan Caspers; *Peter, Nept*, Оксана Юрьевна Готчиева, Анна Сергеевна Чекулаева (Oksana Yurievna Gotchieva, Anna Sergeevna Chekulaeva); and *The Lost Cat and Fake News*, Paula Sánchez.

Ages 11 to 15 finalists were *Power of Unity*, Diya-M; *2020, History Has Its Eyes On Us*, Kayla Sarah Ring; *A New Pandemic*, Kayla Sarah Ring; *Soy Chaplin*, I am Chaplin, Mara Armelles; *Skylines of Innovations*, Sophia Tabibian; *Mosquito Fish*, Bryn Wright; *Cardboard Man*, Mollie Weiss; and *Esme*, Alana Dunn.

The age 10 and under winners were: First Prize: *Hope Overcomes Everything* by Anastasia Shinkarenko; Second Prize: *The Lost Cat and Fake News* by Paula Sánchez; Third Prize: *Berry the Mouse* by Penelope Campbell; and Honorable Mention: *Never Too Little* by Nayana Gupta.

In the age 11 to 15 group: First Prize: *Cardboard Man* by Mollie Weiss; Second Prize: *Soy Chaplin* by Mara Armalles; Third Prize: *Power of Unity* by Diya-M; and Honorable Mention: *Mosquito Fish* by Bryn Wright.

The Audience Choice Award went to *Cardboard Man* by Mollie Weiss.

Pixar's Sabine O'Sullivan was the featured guest speaker and inspiration for those gathered. O'Sullivan, a Bay Area native, was a co-producer of Pixar's 2022 hit *Turning Red*, and also helped make other Pixar hits, including *Incredibles 2*, *Brave*, *Inside Out*, and *Monsters*.



**ALLES IST GUT:** It was "auf wiedersehen" last month when we heard that Lehr's German Specialties, a fixture in Noe Valley since 1963, had closed its doors at 1581 Church St., owing to owner Brigitte Lehr's decision to retire after 48 years of selling candies, rye bread, newspapers, beer steins, wooden toys, and other novelties.

Well, now it's "wilkommen," since a devoted customer of the shop, Hannah Seyfert, contacted Lehr in September and offered to buy the business.

After sealing the deal, Seyfert sent an email to the *Voice* to happily inform us she was reviving the store and would reopen Lehr's in November.

"I'm so excited to take over the business from Brigitte and to continue her legacy! The concept will remain largely the same—German favorites, and an added focus on small German-owned food businesses from the Bay Area and California," Seyfert said.

She also wrote a giant message on the shop's front window: "Can't wait to welcome you back!" To Lehr's many patrons in the Bay Area, the news was *wunderbar!*

There's also good news up at 1871 Church St., the former Ardiana space, where a sign was posted on the window telling us that the long-expected Damansara Malaysian restaurant will

be opening soon. It will be run by Tracy Goh, a star pop-up chef known for her laksa noodle dishes. Damansara Utama, by the way, is a suburb of Malaysia's capital city Kuala Lumpur and the place where Goh was born.

And there is further good news for fans of Fresca, the popular Peruvian restaurant at 3945 24th St., which closed with the advent of the Covid pandemic. The restaurant's parklet was dismantled last month, raising concerns among passersby that Fresca in Noe Valley would never reopen.

"We will reopen sometime early next year," says co-owner Ivan Calvo-Perez. He adds, "I have been happy to see many of our Noe Valley customers coming over to our restaurant in the Inner Sunset [737 Irving St.] for lunch and dinner, which we have managed to keep open." He said staffing and supply problems had been a big challenge during the pandemic.

Let's hope Fresca's seafood paella will return to Noe come January.

There was bad news for local real estate broker Victor Makras, whose office is located at 1193 Church St. On Aug. 26, he was "found guilty by a federal jury for his role in a scheme allegedly cooked up with former San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Director Harlan Kelly to defraud loan companies for personal gain," as reporter Jonah Owen Lamb put it in a story in the *San Francisco Standard*. Kelly has not yet gone to trial, but Makras now faces a maximum 30-year sentence.



**KUDOS** go out to Jack Epstein, owner of Chocolate Covered (4069 24th St.), whose store was picked as one of "335 Hidden Gems & Undiscovered Wonders" in *The Best of California* magazine's 2022 official visitor's guide.

"[Epstein] cultivates San Francisco's most diverse and delicious array of gourmet chocolate from around the world, including bean-to-bar companies both notable and obscure. [He] will help you find just the right cacao creation to fit your fancy."

Also, kudos to Folio Books, which celebrated "Banned Books Week" from Sept. 18 to 24.



**THIS IS HALLOWEEN:** The Downtown Noe Valley costume parade will start early and march into the dark on Oct. 31. Fair Oaks Street, between 21st and 26th streets, may also draw crowds, from 5 to 6 p.m., or thereabouts.

Mardie Vandervort, owner of the One Stop Party Shop (on the corner of Church and 28th), says that there is big demand this year for the Netflix movie *Squid Games* costumes, and for "queens and crowns." As the witching hour approaches, she says, the biggest demand is for wigs. But she says the shop is well stocked this year.

Curiously, she reports, she has had to ration her helium supplies to fill all those spooky balloons and send them up in the air. "I have been able to get deliveries of less than half of my orders," she laments.



**THAT'S ALL, Y'ALL:** See ya in costume at the Sanchez Street Block Party on Sunday, Oct. 16, noon to 3 p.m., between Clipper and 26th streets. Ciao for now. ■

**ADULT FICTION**

**Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence**, by R.F. Kuang, imagines a revolution at the Oxford University Royal Institute of Translation.

In one of the eight stories in **Bliss Montage**, author Ling Ma pictures a woman who lives in a house with all of her ex-boyfriends.

A 17-year-old boy inherits the keys to a parallel universe where good and evil are at war, in **Fairy Tale** by Stephen King.

The stories in **If I Survive You** by Jonathan Escoffery start with a Jamaican family's move to Miami in the 1970s.

In the early 1960s, a young pregnant woman leaves Chicago for a new life in Memphis, in **The Two Lives of Sara** by Catherine Adel West.

**ADULT FICTION EBOOKS**

Five teens go missing while on a hike in the mountains in **The Challenge** by bestselling author Danielle Steel.

Catherine Coulter weaves various plot threads in her FBI thriller **Reckoning**, including a character's escape from a kidnapping attempt in San Francisco's Davies Hall.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

In **Fen, Bog, and Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis**, Annie Proulx exposes the degradation of wetlands over centuries.

Astrophysicist and folklorist Moiya McTier covers the last 13 billion years in **The Milky Way: An Autobiography of Our Galaxy**.

**Modern Bistro: Home Cooking Inspired by French Classics** offers recipes compiled by America's Test Kitchen.

Climate activist Julian Aguon's latest manifesto, **No Country for Eight-Spot Butterflies**, defends indigenous rights and calls for environmental justice in poetry and prose.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*All in a Lather* by Michael Blake

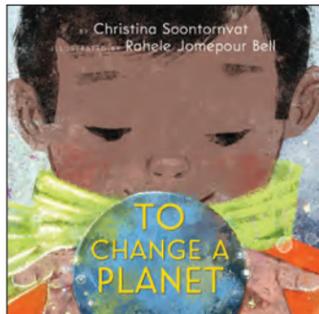


**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**Every Day Is Library Day**

On Saturday, Oct. 1, the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library will return to its pre-pandemic glory and open its doors seven days a week. According to Branch Manager Jack Tilney and Adult Services Librarian Julieanne Randolph, the new seven-day schedule will be Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

The librarians confirmed the good news while sending the *Voice* their monthly selection of new books, DVDs, and eBooks at the branch. The list of new arrivals—see below for titles and descriptions by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske—runs the gamut, from best-selling novels by Stephen King and Danielle Steel to non-fiction calls for climate action by Annie Proulx and Julian Aguon. There's even an autobiography by the well-known Milky Way Galaxy.



Children's books also emphasize saving the planet, and that includes our frogs, sharks, shellfish, and extraordinary variety of birds.

Put your books on hold at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org) and arrange for their pickup at the Noe Valley branch. If you need help, call the Noe Valley branch at 415-355-5707 or visit our local librarians at the beautiful Andrew Carnegie building at 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. Masks are recommended but not required.

In **Shy: The Alarming Outspoken Memoirs of Mary Rodgers**, the author describes growing up as the daughter of Richard Rodgers and eventually pursuing her own dreams of becoming a composer.

**ADULT NONFICTION EBOOKS**

**Bad Sex: Truth, Pleasure, and an Unfinished Revolution** is a frank assessment of today's sexual mores by Teen Vogue sex and love columnist Nona Willis Aronowitz.

In **Dangerous Rhythms: Jazz and the Underworld**, T.J. English examines the links between mobsters and musicians in early 20th century America.

**ADULT DVD/BLU-RAY**

Baz Luhrmann directed the 2022 biopic **Elvis**, starring Austin Butler as the pop star and Tom Hanks as Colonel Parker.

A tragic accident in Morocco has far-reaching impacts on both local residents and western visitors, in the 2021 drama **The Forgiven**, starring Ralph Fiennes and Jessica Chastain.

In the 2021 film **Introduction**, a young man travels from South Korea to Berlin to surprise his girlfriend.

A New York City podcaster journeys to West Texas to try to solve a murder, in the 2022 comic thriller **Vengeance**.

Season one of the 2021 HBO comedy/drama **White Lotus** follows the dysfunctional lives of guests and staff at a resort in Hawaii.

**CHILDREN'S FICTION**

The picture book **Rainy Days** is book four in a "Weather Days" series written by Deborah Kerbel and illustrated by Miki Sato. Ages 2-5.

Patience is the key to creativity in **To Make**, by Danielle Davis, with illustrations by Mags DeRoma. Ages 4-8.

A student on a class trip to the aquarium learns about managing anxiety, in **Brave Every Day**, written by Trudy Ludwig, illustrated by Patrice Barton. Ages 4-8.

Jane Kuo's novel-in-verse **In the Beautiful Country** is about a Taiwanese girl's move to America with her family. Ages 8-12.

A Chinese-American boy must embrace his heritage to unlock the mystery of his brother's death, in **Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit**, written by Jesse Q. Sutanto. Ages 8-12.

In **Chester Keene Cracks the Code** by Kekla Magoon, two middle-schoolers on a scavenger hunt find out things aren't always what they seem. Ages 8-12.

**Cat's Cradle: The Golden Twine**, by Jo Rioux, is a graphic fantasy about an orphan who loves monsters and hopes one day to tame them. Ages 8-12.

Three feuding sisters learn to trust one another after they get lost in the wilderness, in **Out of Range** by Heidi Lang. Ages 8-12.

**CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**

You can learn how to garden in **How to Say Hello to a Worm: A First Guide to Outside**, by Kari Percival. Ages 2 to 4.

**To Change a Planet**, by Christina Soontornvat with illustrations by Rahele Jomepour Bell, has end notes with answers to questions vetted by a climate scientist. Ages 4 to 8.

**Gaudi: Architect of Imagination** is a biography of the Barcelona artist written by Susan B. Katz and illustrated by Linda Schwalbe. Ages 4-8.

Eve Nadel Catarevas tells how a young girl fought stereotypes to become a judo master, in **Rena Glickman, Queen of Judo**; illustrated by Martina Peluso. Ages 5-9.

Spend 24 hours with ocean predators in **Sharks: What Do Great Whites, Hammerheads, and Whale Sharks Get up to All Day?** written by Carlee Jackson, illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat. Ages 6-8.

Marine biologist Helen Scales shows

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

The **Noe Valley Library Open House** on Saturday, Oct. 1, features a workshop to make a wall hanging, from 1 to 2 p.m., and a performance by Bel Canto Flutes from 3 to 4 p.m.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, Oct. 1, 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.

At **Drop-In Tech Help**, library staff will offer help downloading eBooks, using library eResources, setting up an email account, and other basic computer-related tasks. Bring your own device, or practice using a library computer. Tuesday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to noon.

On Oct. 14, the Noe Library's **Friday Matinee** features the 1981 musical drama **Zoot Suit**, based on the 1943 **Zoot Suit Riots** in Los Angeles. 2 to 4 p.m.

This month's book selection for the **Noe Valley Book Club** is **Rather Be the Devil** by Ian Rankin. The group meets Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley Circulation Desk for checkout.

**LEGO Free Play**, for children and their families, runs from 11 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, Oct. 15.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**What a Shell Can Tell: Where They Live, What They Eat, How They Move, and More**, using illustrations by Sonia Pulido. Ages 6 to 9.

**CHILDREN'S EBOOKS, FICTION & NONFICTION**

Lizzy Rockwell traces the amphibian's life cycle from egg to tadpole to frog in **Am I a Frog?** part of the "I Like to Read" series. Ages 4-7.

Nina from San Francisco loves to visit her grandmas, one in Malaysia, the other in England, in **Nana, Nenek & Nina**, by Liza Ferneyhough. Ages 4 to 8.

The picture book **Kind Like Marsha: Learning from LGBTQ+ Leaders**, written by Sarah Prager and illustrated by Cheryl Tuesday, spotlights 14 people, including Harvey Milk. Ages 4-8.

**The Extraordinary World of Birds**, written by David Lindo and illustrated by Claire McElpatrick, is part of the "Magic and Mystery of Nature" series. Ages 7-9.

**Surely Surely Marisol Rainey**, the second book in Erin Entrada Kelly's "Maybe Marisol" series, is for kids who think they hate sports. Ages 8 to 12.

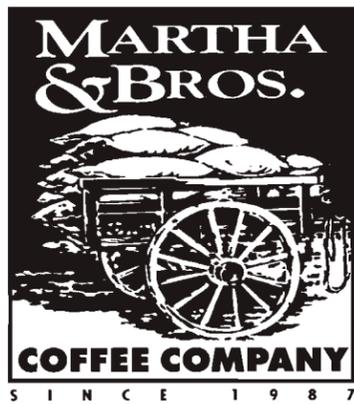


Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

**BRANCH HOURS**

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6
Mission Branch Library 1234 Valencia St., 355-2800						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-8	1-6	10-6
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	10-7	1-6	10-6
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

For updates, go to [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).



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 Email: [ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://castropatrol.org)  
 Email: [info@castropatrol.org](mailto:info@castropatrol.org)

**Castro Merchants**

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

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

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

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

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

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

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

**Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

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

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Email: [hello@fairoaksneighbors.org](mailto: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](http://www.billygoathill.net)

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772  
 Email: [friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com)  
 Website: [friendsofdolorespark.org](http://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](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
 Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146  
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625  
 Email: [info@friendsofnoevalley.com](mailto:info@friendsofnoevalley.com)  
 Website: [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com)  
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: [info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com](mailto:info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
 Website: [uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
 Meetings: Email or check website.

**Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)**

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel  
 Email: [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org)  
 Website: [www.fundogsf.org](http://www.fundogsf.org)

**Glen Park Association**

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

**Juri Commoners**

Contact: Dave Schweiguth, M17-6290  
 Email: [dave@schweiguth.org](mailto:dave@schweiguth.org)  
 Website: [meetup.com/Juri-Commoners](http://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: [efromer3@gmail.com](mailto:efromer3@gmail.com)  
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe  
 Email: [info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](mailto:info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com)  
 Website: [noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://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](mailto:info@noevalleyassociation.org)  
 Website: [noevalleyassociation.org](http://noevalleyassociation.org)  
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President  
 E-mail: [noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.noevalleydemocrats.org](http://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](mailto:info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com)

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.  
 Website: [www.NoeValleyMerchants.com](http://www.NoeValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents

Contact: Mina Kenvin  
 Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)  
[noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Noe Walks**

Contact: Chris Nanda  
 Email: [christopher.nanda@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.nanda@gmail.com)  
 Website: [NoeWalks.com](http://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](mailto:progressnoe@gmail.com)  
 Website: [progressnoe.com](http://progressnoe.com)  
 Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Resilient Noe Valley**

Contact: Antoinette  
 Email: [resilientnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:resilientnoevalley@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5>  
 Website: [www.resilientnoevalley.com](http://www.resilientnoevalley.com)

**San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)**

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com); Carole Roberts, [carole\\_roberts@faludi.com](mailto:carole_roberts@faludi.com)  
 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](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Website: [sanjoseguerrero.com](http://sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Meetings: See website.

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel  
 Email: [info@SlowSanchez.com](mailto:info@SlowSanchez.com)  
 Website: [SlowSanchez.com](http://SlowSanchez.com)

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: [Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com](mailto:Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com)  
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

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

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
[editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com)

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



be watcher  
 be keeper  
 be family  
 be home.

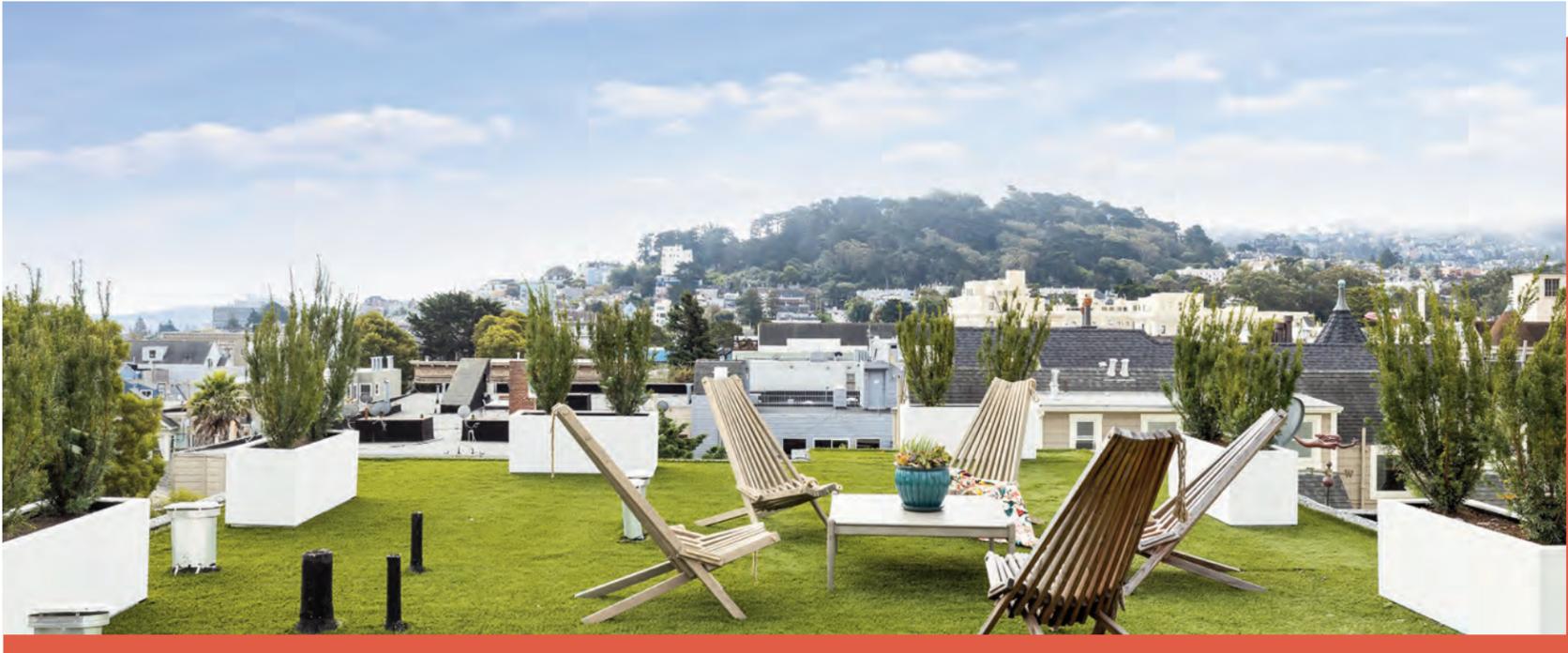
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# Gorgeous Gardens and Rooftop Residences



## A Posh Pad with A View Rooftop | NoPa

1787 McAllister Street | 4 Residence Building

Did someone say 3.8% Interest Only Loan offered on this home by Bank of San Francisco? Did someone say HUGE DEEDED VIEW ROOFTOP? Looking for a posh pad in a hip neighborhood that has it all? Look no further than this sweet, top floor residence with a private balcony & rooftop in the midst of all the action in NOPA! Live large in this spacious flat that features a great layout, living room flows to the balcony, dining area and renovated kitchen with gorgeous new countertops and high end appliances. This is your opportunity to own for less than the price of a studio rental!

- \* OFFERED AT \$999,000
- \* 2 BED | 1 BATH
- \* DEEDED VIEW ROOFTOP
- \* SPACIOUS FLATS
- \* SOPHISTICATED CITY OASIS
- \* A+ LOCATION



## Unparalleled Indoor-Outdoor Living | Noe Valley

2102 Castro Street

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.

- \* 2 BED | 1 BATH
- \* PANORAMIC VIEWS
- \* EXPANSIVE MANICURED LAWN
- \* BONUS | FLEX ROOM
- \* INCREDIBLE EXPANSION POTENTIAL, PREVIOUS PLANS INCLUDED



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