



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Did You Hear the One About a Comedy Night at The Dubliner?

Noe Valley Shines After Dark at A First-Friday Showcase

By Heidi Anderson

The old joke about Noe Valley is that it shuts down after dark. Unless, of course, you need a donut. But now a local comedian is hoping to correct that situation. At least for one night a month.

On a chilly Friday night in January, customers who walked into the Dubliner bar at 3838 24th St. (near Vicksburg) were treated to a live stand-up show.

For a little over an hour, professional comedians took turns at the microphone, each doing a short monologue to try to get the crowd laughing.

Doug Cordell, a storyteller heard on National Public Radio, quipped, "I was at a poetry reading in the Mission. Five dollars to get in, and \$10 to get out."

His colleague Art Galustyan, who



**Cross Your Heart.** Love reigns in Noe Valley, and if you need to travel outside our fair neighborhood, take your good vibes with you.

Photo by Jack Tipple

speaks English, Russian, Armenian, and Spanish, talked about life in Los Angeles. "They've got 60,000 homeless down there, but what are they doing? Sending actors' ashes into outer space!"

Fellow comedian Karen Braswell, who has appeared at Cobb's Comedy Club and the Punch Line, shared an

observation about the tech industry: "I interviewed with some tech companies recently. These guys looked like their moms still did their laundry."

Others took jabs at the "\$1.7 million toilet" once slated for the Noe Valley

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## Parking and the J—They're Always on Our Minds

Upper Noe Neighbors Tackle Church Street Challenges

By Kit Cameron

Parking and potential changes to the J-Church line were front and center among the score of highly energized Upper Noe Neighbors at the group's bimonthly meeting Jan. 17 at the Upper Noe Recreation Center.

Kathy Setian and Karen Kennard, of the Restore the J Workgroup, reported on their work monitoring the city's J-Church Safety and Accessibility Project, which they cast as a thinly veiled attempt to curtail direct service from the end of the line to downtown by terminating the streetcar at Market Street, forcing riders to transfer to trains running in the tunnel.

Setian pointed out that it was the Restore the J group that pushed Muni

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## Carrie Barnes and the Politics of Local

Democratic Club Leader Seeks Central Committee Seat

By Matthew S. Bajko

Noe Valley Democratic Club President Carrie Barnes, having helped revive the neighborhood political group amid the Covid pandemic, now has her sights set on rejuvenating the San Francisco Democratic Party. She is running in the March 5 primary for a seat on the party's Democratic County Central Committee, known as the "D-triple-C" for short.

DCCC members determine the party's endorsements for ballot measures and races in the city. By sending mailers out to voters ahead of contests, they wield a powerful tool in influencing the outcome of elections.

Barnes wants to pick candidates who will find practical solutions to the city's problems. She also wants to persuade Democratic leaders to put aside partisanship.

"We have different challenges now in the city to address. It requires more common sense, if you will. For some reason, common sense itself has become charged," said Barnes, who is a member of the Class of 2024 of Emerge California, which trains and recruits women to run for elected office.

Listed on the March ballot as a "Community Organizer/Mom," Barnes is among 30 people seeking to fill one of the DCCC's 14 seats in the city's 17th Assembly District, covering east-side neighborhoods such as Noe Valley, Glen Park, and Diamond Heights. Another 10 DCCC seats are set aside for residents of the city's 19th

Assembly District, covering westside neighborhoods. The winners of both races will serve four-year terms and will be sworn in this spring.

Barnes kicked off her candidacy Nov. 15 at the Valley Tavern on 24th Street. She is part of the San Francisco "Democrats for Change" slate of moderate DCCC candidates, a group that includes fellow Noe Valley parent Laurance Lem Lee, a small business owner who lives on Vicksburg Street.

Barnes told the *Voice* in December that she sees serving on the DCCC as the logical next step in her political pursuits. She had already been elected as a delegate to the California Democratic Party for the 17th District, enabling her to cast votes on the state party's endorsement of candidates and statewide ballot measures.

"This too has inspired me to run for the DCCC, as I would love to be able to have more direct say and influence over the candidates and policies that impact San Francisco," said Barnes. "That, plus continue the community work I already started with the Noe Valley Democratic Club, which is sometimes controversial in nature but collaborative in scope."

### Pro Affordable Housing

Among her priorities are building more housing, specifically affordable homes, in the city and "leveling the playing field for women," especially in the political realm.

Public safety is also a top concern, with Barnes pointing to the neighborhood's problems with car break-ins and

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Carrie Barnes relaxes at her home on Homestead before going back out on the hustings to win support for a more collaborative style of politics in San Francisco. Photo by Art Bodner



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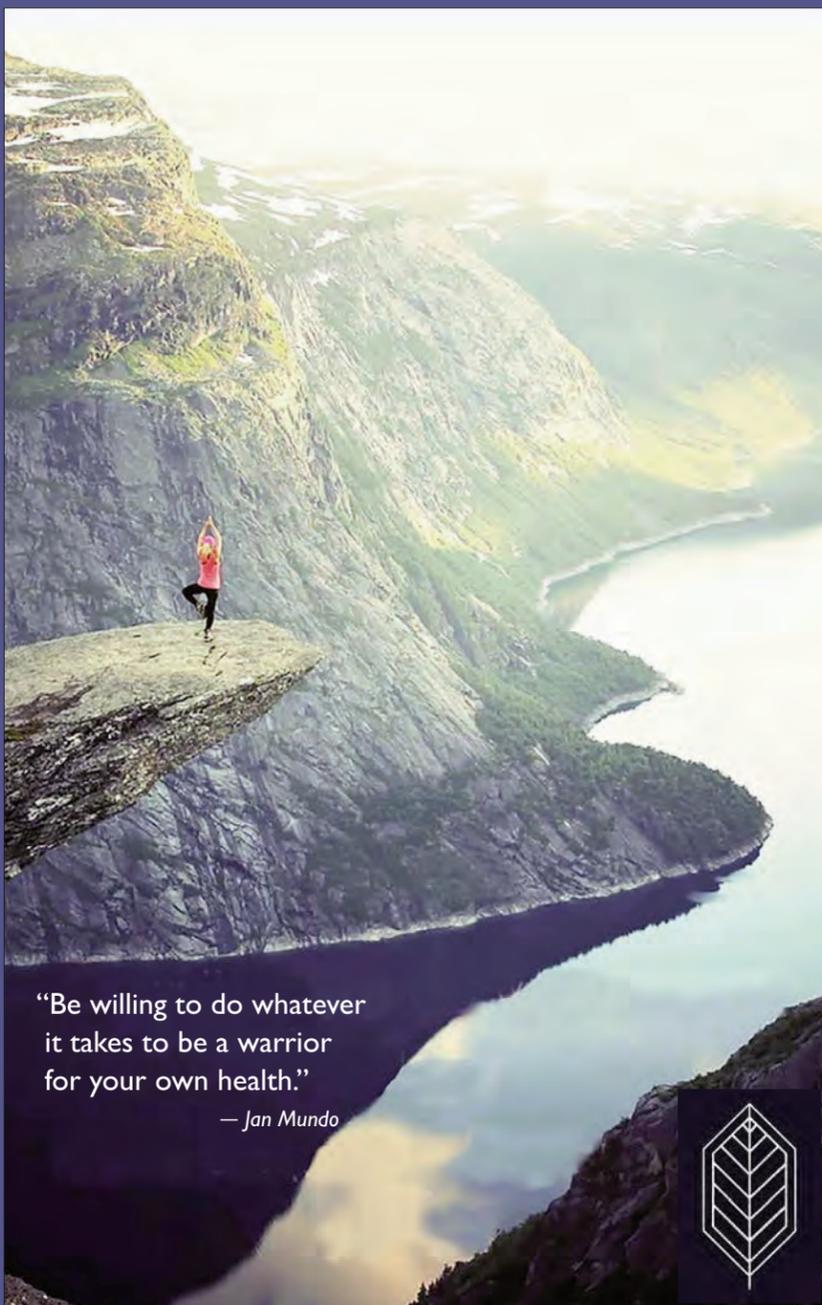
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**Editor's Note:** The Noe Valley Voice received several responses to a paid advertisement "Let's Make Peace Start Here" on page 3 of the December 2023 issue (signed by "Some of your Jewish neighbors"). They also may have been responding to a letter to the editor on page 4 of the January 2024 issue, titled "From Another Jewish Neighbor." What follows is a selection of those responses.

**Another Open Letter to Our Noe Valley Neighbors**

**Editor:**  
We are also Jews who live right here, in this city and in this community, and we want to tell you how your letter, which claims to speak for Jews, makes us feel. We want you and the community to know that *you do not speak for all Jews*. Much of the world's people (although not the world's political leaders) look at what Israel is doing in Gaza and immediately recognize it as genocide, as ethnic cleansing. We Jews have experienced both ethnic cleansing and genocide at times in our history when our neighbors looked on and did nothing. This is why we say: Never Again! We cannot allow another genocide anywhere in the world, but particularly in the case of Israel, the putative 'Homeland of the Jewish People.' It is done in our name as Jews and as Americans, it is done with our tax dollars. The Holocaust was a stain on humanity, but we do not own the term *genocide* and we do not have the right to use our history as a yardstick to measure another people's suffering.

You claim that you want the Palestinian people to thrive, yet you say nothing about the 75 years of dispossession and occupation of Palestine by the state of Israel, the more than 16 years of Israel's punishing blockade of Gaza, or the ongoing assaults on Palestinian people by Israeli Jewish settlers who are aided and abetted by the Israeli police and military. Don't tell us you want the Palestinian people to thrive. Demand that the U.S. and Israeli governments *let Gaza live*. You

**LETTERS 66¢**

say you want the Palestinian people to thrive while simultaneously saying that a ceasefire makes you feel unsafe.

Just this past January 6, about 250 Noe Valley neighbors, including many Jews, along with people of other faiths and people of no particular faith, a true "moved multitude" of San Franciscans, came together for a loving vigil at the Noe Valley Town Square to collectively mourn the tremendous loss of life in Israel and in Gaza and call for a ceasefire. This show of solidarity across cultures reflects the world we want to build: one in which we face hard truths, grieve together, and commit to honoring all life as precious (which we learn from our Jewish value of *Pikuach Nefesh*). We truly believe that this is how we can all be safe—in community and in solidarity.

You ask for peace and for love, but you ask for it on your terms: Remove the mural! Denounce the message! Embrace *your* truth! We cannot demand peace or love. We must first show it.

We want to remind you of another core value of Judaism. In our daily prayer, the *Shema*, the Jewish affirmation of faith, the first instruction to our people is to *listen*. We suggest that instead of boldly demanding an apology or a retraction that you begin with *Shema*. *Listen* to the hurt, the pain, the reality that Palestinians feel.

Our safety and our futures are intertwined. Jews will not be safe until Palestinians are safe. And we cannot dictate the conditions of their safety. We must listen to what they need. That is where we must begin to create the peace that we all desire.

Some of your other Jewish neighbors (Names withheld by request)

**Where Is the Call for a Ceasefire?**

**Editor:**  
The neighbors who placed the "Let's Make Peace Start Here" ad probably drafted it when Israel had "only" killed a few thousand civilians and "only" destroyed a few hospitals, mosques, and schools. Now [as of Jan. 10, 2024], over 23,000 are confirmed dead and thousands more buried under the rubble of their homes.

At least 60 percent of the dead are [women and] children, their lives stolen from them. Starvation and infectious diseases are now reaching catastrophic levels. According to UNICEF, more than 1,000 children have had one or more limbs amputated, many without anesthesia. I find this shocking, and I hope my neighbors do too.

At this point, it's clear that Israel's intention is to make Gaza an uninhabitable place, which none of the survivors will even want to return to. Proposals are now surfacing to encourage "voluntary migration" to Sinai and even Congo. To claim that this is all just self-defense requires a willful disregard of information that is abundantly available. Raz Segal, an authority on genocide, has written in *Jewish Currents* that Israel's actions are a "textbook case of genocide."

Hamas committed war crimes on

October 7, and its continued holding of civilian hostages is also a crime and must end. Your neighbors denounce Hamas for their crimes, and we also denounce the decades of Israeli occupation and oppression that preceded October 7.

Given such extreme violence and loss of life, making peace start here would look like a strong call for a ceasefire, which the ad did not include.

The fact that Jews suffered one of the worst genocides in history does not give them the exclusive right to decide when any state, including Israel, is engaging in genocide. At this moment, it is imperative for people to speak out strongly against the bombing and starvation campaign. This is even more important than freeing the hostages and finding a long-term solution to the security of both Jews and Palestinians there.

I, as a 24th Street neighbor, appreciate very much the Stop Gaza Genocide mural.  
Jeff Pekrul  
Church Street

**More Sensitivity Needed**

**Editor:**  
My partner and I live in Noe Valley. We have been picking up the *Noe Valley Voice* paper for many years. I'm responding to the advertisement in the December issue entitled "Let's Make Peace Start Here."

First I want to state that any form of anti-semitism or Islamophobia, or any form of racial harassment or discrimination against any group is uncalled for. Second, the Hamas attack on October 7 was horrific and heartbreaking for all who were killed or kidnapped, and now suffer from the trauma from that dark day.

That said, we feel that some of the statements made in the advertisement were not sensitive enough to what is happening in Gaza at this time. The letter was written on Nov. 4, 2023, and a lot has happened since then. The writers of the letter stated that the war was not genocide but Israel defending itself. With close to 22,000 people in Gaza killed since the war began, most of them women and children, and whole families wiped out and many people maimed, including children that have lost arms and legs, this is looking more and more like genocide.

The heartache for Gaza has continued, as civilians are suffering from hunger, lack of clean water, unsanitary conditions, lack of medical help, and the rapid spread of disease. The Gaza strip is in ruins, and with the war continuing, more deaths of civilians will unfortunately follow. How can this still be called self-defense?

Writers of the letter are sincerely asking for peace, but they need to look more deeply at what is happening to the Palestinians. Without getting into the politics of the past 70+ years between Palestine and Israel and the fact that there has been damage and hurt on both sides, I think that it would be wise for the *Noe Valley Voice* to stay out of politics and not publish letters from any political group regarding this very sensitive topic. This paper should be for creating a positive environment within Noe Valley and not

one that is going to create more division and upset.

Jon Ramirez-Monaco

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**A Voice for the Printed Page**

**Editor,**  
Enclosed is my donation to the *Noe Valley Voice*.

My family and I love reading the *Voice* every month. We always look forward to picking up the newest publication, looking for the stack on 24th Street. We usually see it in front of PlumpJack or in the free library by the Town Square, or inside Martha's across from the square.

You do such a great job with this paper. Your articles are informative and often fun to read. I look at the ads too!

Lastly, I want you to know how special it is to actually read a printed newspaper. Not just any printed newspaper, but your printed newspaper. A paper filled with relevance to my life as a resident of Noe Valley.

Nowhere else can I get the information you provide, all in one place in front of me without having to peruse a lighted screen and scroll endlessly.

Thank you!  
Christina Sauvageau  
Vicksburg Street

P.S. I loved reading the January 2024 edition. So many talented writers! I especially enjoyed Daniel Murphy's piece on life here in the 1940s and Pinky's Cushion Rentals.

**Los Jefes Was the Salsa Band**

**Editor:**  
I know the purpose of L. Laila Kramer's piece called "Last Dance?" (on page 11 of the January *Noe Valley Voice*) was to offer her reflections on her evidently wonderful experience dancing with dance instructor Denmis Savigne at the Town Square's Salsa Dance Party last May.

As the organizer of the event, I am thrilled that many residents (and visitors) walked and (danced?) away from the concert feeling vibrant and happy. Something "magical" happened to Laila that she will remember from here on out. It doesn't get much better than that.

Laila made an assumption, however, that turned out to be a mistake. The band that the Noe Valley Association hired for the event was not violinist Anthony Blea's orchestra. The band was San Francisco's up-and-coming group called Los Jefes. They are current and recent high-school graduates, mostly from the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.

Los Jefes is a self-formed, self-directed band, mostly under the leadership of now-Berklee College of Music first-year student Ceferino Tucker-Vergara. Anthony Blea was hired, along with flute and sax player Mario Vega, as a special guest artist. This is, admittedly, immaterial to Laila's article. But I am motivated to clarify the mistake out of an interest in giving these young musicians their due credit.

Please support Los Jefes. Thank you!  
Gil Guillermo  
Booking Coordinator, Noe Valley Association

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"Waiting for To Go" featuring the 24th Street Players

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**FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS**

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Hope you agree with me on the importance of these issues...and, that you will seriously consider voting for me for CA State Senate, District 11 on March 5th!

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# CRIME SNAPSHOT

## Crime Dips Slightly But Data Mixed in 2023

By Corrie M. Anders and Sally Smith

Never mind the national perception that San Francisco is a hotbed of lawlessness. In Noe Valley, criminal activity declined during 2023.

The San Francisco Police Department's digital crime map shows there were 976 incidents reported last year in the neighborhood—in the 10 categories that the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly. According to the data, that is a decrease of 6 percent since 2022, when 1,038 incidents were recorded. And if you compare 2023 with 2021 (1,185 incidents), it was a drop of 17 percent.

Noe Valley remained one of the safest neighborhoods in San Francisco. Year over year, there were decreases in larceny/thefts and burglaries (19.3% and 16.5%, respectively). Local residents and merchants reported only five burglaries in December 2023, compared to 17 the same month a year ago.

Still, assaults, robberies, and vehicle thefts all went up year over year. Car thefts increased from 156 to 173 in 2023, an 11 percent increase, according to the data.

### Two Police Pursuits

The SFPD reported two arrests made on or near streets in Noe Valley in December.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 4:31 p.m., police responded to the area of

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA 2023														
Noe Valley Incident Reports January – December 2023														
Incident Type	2022 Totals	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	Sep23	Oct23	Nov23	Dec23	2023
Larceny/Theft	414	32	17	21	15	34	30	35	27	26	34	39	24	334
Burglary	224	11	10	13	13	7	19	25	20	23	21	20	5	187
Malicious Mischief	88	3	4	9	9	4	16	13	10	8	11	11	7	105
Motor Vehicle Theft	156	15	10	14	10	10	20	27	17	15	11	12	12	173
Assault	29	7	3	8	2	5	3	2	4	2	1	5	7	49
Robbery	15	1	0	3	0	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22
Other Misc.	52	5	5	6	5	0	3	1	4	3	3	7	11	53
Fraud	39	3	3	1	0	3	6	2	5	6	2	5	1	37
Family D.Violence	12	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
Vandalism	9	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>976</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. The *Noe Valley Voice* gathered its **October to December 2023 data on Jan. 10, 2024**. "Noe Valley" on the SFPD digital map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Jersey and Diamond streets "regarding a suspicious vehicle," the SFPD incident report said.

When officers attempted to make a traffic stop, the vehicle took off, the report continued.

"As the vehicle fled from the officers, it rammed into a marked police vehicle, and a vehicle pursuit ensued," according to the incident report.

The suspect's car crashed again several blocks away, at 24th and Harrison. The driver was arrested and charged with five counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one of resisting arrest.

Two days later, according to the Dec. 29 Ingleside Police District newsletter, police responded at 9:53 p.m. to a

citizen's report of a person "slouched" over the driver's seat of a pickup truck at Sanchez and 29th streets.

"As officers got closer to the vehicle, it sped off at a high rate of speed. With prior knowledge that this area of the Ingleside District has seen an uptick in crimes such as auto burglaries, residential and commercial burglaries, and robberies, the officers decided to follow and attempt a traffic stop on the pickup truck," according to the newsletter. During the chase, the driver made a U-turn, and the officers narrowly avoided a head-on collision, police said.

The driver was apprehended inside the Daly City line and charged with aggravated assault. Police said they discovered burglary tools and hot goods

inside the truck, which reportedly had been stolen.

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The *Noe Valley Voice* collected this issue's data, which includes October, November, and December 2023, on Jan. 10, 2024, from the digital map of incident reports at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org). The dataset includes police incident reports filed by both officers and individuals through self-service online reporting.

If you wish to report a crime (in a non-emergency situation), call or file online via 3-1-1 or go to a nearby police station, such as Mission Station, 630 Valencia St., or Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane. Both cover Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, and the Mission. Call 9-1-1 if a crime is in progress. ■

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(vē'vr) v. [Fr.] to live; to experience.

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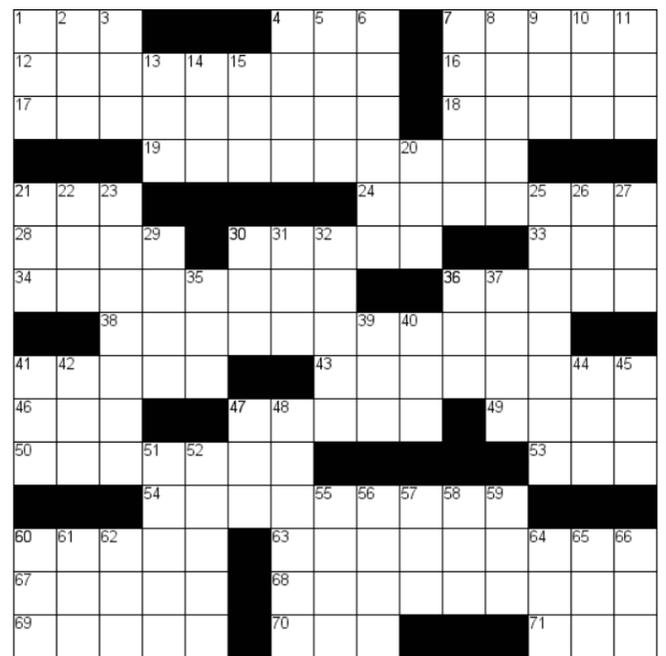
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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Top and Bottom

#### ACROSS

- Loan-interest amt.
- Leg, slangily
- Get naked
- Former Vegas casino and Rat Pack haunt
- Partner of go
- Small sofas
- Possessed entirely
- Kid's crush
- Drivers' group: Abbr.
- 1970s Bob Marley hit
- Advertising award
- "\_\_\_ are alike" (fingerprint phrase)
- Broadcast
- XXX-rated
- Subsequently
- Church Street florist that inspires the top and bottom halves of this puzzle
- Duos
- Immortal
- Cape \_\_\_, Massachusetts
- The Presidio and Fort Mason, once
- Merced or Merritt
- Arose (from)
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- Addams Family dad
- Research focus of California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- Japanese therapeutic touch technique
- What Bing sings "Love is just around"
- Decompress, as a computer file
- Leaky radiator sound
- "There but for the grace of God \_\_\_"



#### DOWN

- World's busiest airport initials
- Noodle soup place at 30th & Guerrero, \_\_\_ Day
- Boost, with "up"
- Auditor's "this meets standards" abbreviation
- Ostentatious, in a way
- Psychologist Abraham known for his "hierarchy of needs"
- Range top
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- Seek office
- Hotel freebie
- Advanced deg.
- Fall month: Abbr.
- Sun Devils' sch.
- Up on the latest
- "Dear Yoko" dedicatee
- "\_\_\_ du lieber!"
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Alaska or United
- Sometimes-lumpy breakfast
- Contest
- Botch
- Aroma
- Really nice Valley in SF
- "Are you a man \_\_\_ mouse?"
- Encampment sights
- Walgreens rival
- Dined on
- One-way SF street that "goes to the fog"
- Bit of Morse code
- Text format letters
- Faux \_\_\_ (blunder)
- Bug in a colony
- Glide down snow
- All \_\_\_: ready
- Kind of soup at Andersen's on I-5
- Shelley and Sappho, for two
- South African leader Thabo \_\_\_
- Toon that introduced 5-digit postal codes in 1962
- Unspecified degrees
- Beholds
- HBO alternative
- Foucault's *Pendulum* author Umberto
- Sea, to Sartre
- Despicable Me bad guy
- Wine: prefix
- "Les \_\_\_" (Broadway show, for short)
- Liq. methane for shipment
- August birth sign
- \_\_\_ Lanka

2024 February Noe Valley Voice

**Solution on Page 21**  
Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](https://www.noevalleyvoice.com)



Peace Vigil, Noe Valley Town Square, January 6, 2024

# Stop the Genocide, Let Gaza Live

To our neighbors in Noe Valley,

We are Palestinians, Jews, and others who live, play and pray here in Noe Valley, a neighborhood we love.

In response to the December full page Noe Valley Voice ad “Let’s make peace start here”, and its authors saying “We want to lead with love,” we say leading with love means leading with the truth, no matter how difficult.

The truth is we have been heartbroken over the unbelievable loss of innocent life in both Gaza and Israel. We are horrified at the unprecedented violence that the Netanyahu regime has unleashed on the people of Gaza. In the last three months, over 30,000 Palestinians, 10,000 of them children, have been killed in an intentional and continuous campaign of genocide. These numbers are more than the total population of Noe Valley.

The truth is Israel is a 75 year apartheid state. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank have been living under a settler colonial Israeli occupation all these years, enduring terror and dehumanization every day in the form of military checkpoints, raids, illegal settlements, massacres, and mass detentions and executions without due process.

Since October 7, Israel has inflicted a massive loss of life and has largely wiped out Gaza’s entire infrastructure, destroying all of Gaza’s schools, mosques, churches and healthcare facilities. As Gaza now has no remaining functional hospitals, the UN estimates that 50,000 pregnant women there are giving birth without anesthesia or sterile equipment. Miscarriages have increased 300% in Gaza. Without this infrastructure and sufficient humanitarian aid hundreds of thousands of Gazans could die of disease and starvation within the next 12 months.

Over the past several months, we have had to endure the emotional trauma of watching on social media our relatives in Gaza getting killed and pulled out of the rubble on a daily basis. Some of us have lost over 100 family members and counting. Meanwhile right here in Noe Valley, Palestinian-American residents and small businesses have been confronted with alarming apathy and hate from some of our neighbors. A mural on private property daring to speak the truth and calling for the end to the genocide has been defaced several times, an act the SFPD is investigating as a hate crime. These unlawful actions are supported in letters posted along 24th Street that deny the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

In response, on January 6, hundreds of neighbors and friends joined together in the Noe Town Square in a solemn vigil of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We gathered – Palestinian, Muslims, Jews, and allies alike to express our grief and heartbreak, and to demand that the State of Israel end its ongoing genocide in Gaza. We are part of the thousands who mobilized in San Francisco these past few months. We demanded that our elected leaders join us to call for a permanent ceasefire, humanitarian aid, and the release of all hostages. We are hurt that our own elected leaders have disregarded the pain and suffering of many of their constituents in opposing and protesting the Board of Supervisors ceasefire resolution. Not only did they deny our hope for lasting peace; they denied our very humanity.



**Dr. Manal Elkarra, MD attended the vigil with her children and expressed how the war has impacted her family here in Noe Valley and in Gaza—where they have lost over 100 family members from Israel’s bombardment.**

We long for peace and we know that peace cannot be separated from freedom. Palestinians have a right to live in both peace and freedom, absent of occupation, oppression, and violence. We call on our friends and neighbors to join us in demanding that our government stop funding weapons, bombs, and diplomatic cover to Israel’s brutal occupation and insist on an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Every day, and every hour counts.

Noe Valley for Peace

Sign up for updates and to connect for future events at:  
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# A Comedian Walks Into a Bar. Asks Are You the Dubliner...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Town Square or reminisced about Catholic school discipline.

The show was organized and produced by Diamond Heights resident and longtime stand-up comedian Joe Gleckler. After the January show—the first was in December—Gleckler was eager to talk about “Comedy at the Dubliner.” “This was great! The place has potential!”

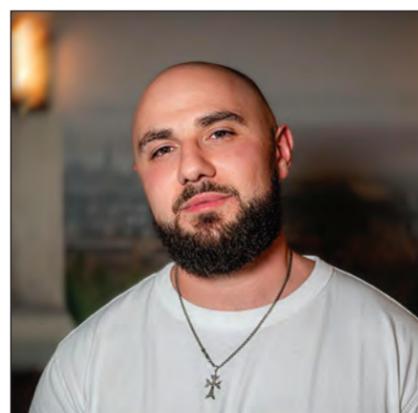
## Years in the Business

His opinion was based on years of experience. Gleckler has been doing stand-up since 1991. He’s also produced, performed in, and run multiple shows in the Bay Area since 2003.

Gleckler, 55, grew up in Baltimore, Md., and as a young adult lived in Japan for a few years, where he met his wife, Akiko Nojiri. When the couple moved to San Francisco 18 years ago,



Producer Joe Gleckler (left) and Dubliner owner Ken Yeung stand outside the bar with high expectations that Noe Valley will come out to see “Comedy at the Dubliner” on first Fridays. Photo by Art Bodner



Among the five seasoned comedians who performed in the January showcase at the Dubliner were, starting at top, Karen Braswell, Doug Cordell, and Art Galustyan.

Gleckler started a small comedy show at a coffeehouse near City College called Java on Ocean.

“I booked some unknowns who are names some of us know now, including comedian [and Emmy and Golden Globe award winner] Ali Wong.”

“It was a start,” said Gleckler. “But there were a lot of older men [in the coffeehouse] who just wanted to read the paper.”

He moved his show to another coffee spot, this time on Divisadero. “And then a fellow comedian asked me to collaborate.” Together they produced a show in Jack London Square called “Comedy Off Broadway Oakland.”

“We charged admission, and it ran for three years,” he added. By 2010, they were putting the show on at Miss Pearl’s Jam House in Oakland.

“Things were going gangbusters for us. But when a new owner came in, they wanted to do something different,” said Gleckler.

He was disappointed about having to end the show. But he decided to put energy into his main career—teaching English as a second language—and to satisfy his comedy urges with the occasional stand-up or open-mic night.

Fast forward to 2023. With Covid on the wane and people now on the lookout for more live entertainment, Gleckler’s thoughts turned to Noe Valley as a venue to produce a new show.

Recalling events at the former Bliss Bar and a comedy night at the Valley

Tavern several years ago, he said, “I just had a feeling there could be comedy on 24th Street again.”

## Nightlife Returning

Late last fall, Gleckler reached out to Dubliner owner Ken Yeung to ask if

he’d support a comedy showcase if it were produced by Gleckler with other professional comedians.

“Ken was enthusiastic and wanted to give it a shot,” said Gleckler. “I was thrilled.”

When asked about the idea, Yeung said that it fit his plan to build up the nightlife in downtown Noe. “I’m always up to try something new,” said Yeung.

Yeung knows that a good event can bring people into his bar.

“Back when we started [Tuesday] Trivia Night, it took about three months, and all of a sudden we had a good crowd.”

Gleckler put that goal in a more comedic way. “We want to put 49 peeps in the seats at the Dubliner!” (The Dubliner seats 49 people.)

He notes that the show is not an open mic night. All the performers are experienced. “There’ll be quality comics and no limit to the range of topics,” said Gleckler.

## Catch the Next Show

The comedy night is scheduled for the first Friday of the month, beginning at approximately 9 p.m. It lasts about 90 minutes. (This month it’s Feb. 2.) There’s no charge for admission, but a tip jar will be passed around.

“We do hope everyone tips the comics, some of whom are coming from quite far away to perform,” said Gleckler. The bartender on duty gets a share as well.

“But really,” he added, “we’re just excited to bring great comedy to Noe Valley.”

Like a true comedian, Gleckler added, “We’d like Noe Valley to be known for more than strollers and a \$1.7 million toilet!” ■

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# Neighbors Prepare To Defend J and Parking Spots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to put the J back underground, instead of the shuttle system used during the Covid shutdown. “We need to stay attentive,” she said, pointing out that SFMTA’s current “service restructuring” plan was “intentionally vague” but included possibly removing at least one of the J, K, or L lines from the subway.

Kennard and Setian urged community members to review the Muni Metro Capacity Study on the SFMTA website (sfmta.com) and to “ride the J to keep [ridership] numbers up.”

If you would like to be involved in the Restore the J group, contact them at restorej@sbcglobal.net.

UNN President Chris Faust then laid out some of the parking problems that might arise when Assembly Bill 413 goes into effect next year. As a result of the required 20-foot pedestrian safety zones at each intersection, plus the installation of already mandated bulb-outs at transit stops, Church Street from 30th to Cesar Chavez Street could lose up to 22 parking spots.

Faust also pointed out that the Neighbors had addressed pedestrians’ concerns by submitting a petition with 362 names to request a stop sign at 28th Street and Church. A hundred calls to 311 also were made. District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman has given his approval, Faust said.

Adjacent to, and complicated by the SFMTA proposal to eliminate parking spots, is the fact that Church Street has only a small number of short-term spots



City booster club signs started appearing on windows along Church Street in October. Love & Stem and other local merchants will need some extra boosting this year, if the street loses a projected 22 parking spaces.

Photo by Kit Cameron

for people wanting to make quick stops at businesses in Upper Noe. The solution, supported by St. Paul’s Church and area merchants, is to add metered parking spaces or daytime parking limits between Valley and 29th streets.

This, said Faust, would require community input. An audience member suggested installing parking meters on the south side of Day Street along the park, between Sanchez and Church.

### March 5 Primary Matters

It wasn’t all about parking at the meeting. Adam Thongsavat, legislative aide to Supervisor Mandelman, reported on the city’s ongoing plans to address the needs of unhoused people

on San Francisco streets.

Mandelman, he said, supports California Proposition 1 on the March ballot, which would authorize \$6.4 billion in bonds to build more treatment facilities and housing for those with mental health or drug or alcohol problems. The money is needed, Thongsavat said, because “we don’t have enough of the right type of beds,” for people needing shelter or facing conservatorship. (SB 43, which allows people who meet certain criteria to be deemed “gravely disabled” and placed in treatment centers with or without their consent, went into effect Jan. 1.)

On Monday, Feb. 5, at 5 p.m., Mandelman was set to conduct a town hall meeting, along with representatives of the District Attorney’s Office, the San Francisco Police Department, and the California Realtors Association.

The primary focus of the meeting, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., was to respond to recent “smash and grab” robberies at Walgreens pharmacies, and other safety concerns.

Noe Valley Democratic Club President Carrie Barnes rounded out the evening with a pitch for registered voters to vote in “the most important election you’ve never heard of,” the primary on March 5, and to support her candidacy for the Democratic County Central Committee (see story, page 1). She said a voter guide from the NVDC would soon be available online at noevalleydemocrats.org.

At the end of the evening, the snacks were finished, the chairs were put back, and the visiting dogs got to go on their walkies. It was another successful example of neighborhood concern and commitment. ■



## Let's Help Nick Demopoulos

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## Carrie Barnes' Quest For the 'D-Triple-C'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a recent rash of burglaries at local businesses, such as at Happy Donuts on 24th Street.

"I support keeping the city safe and vibrant and giving the police the tools they need. If that sounds moderate, you can label it as such," said Barnes. "To me, it sounds like what is needed now to have an efficiently run city that we can be proud of."

She believes Mayor London Breed deserves to be elected later this year to another four-year term as mayor. While the mayor has received the brunt of the world's criticism for what ails the city, from business closures to homeless encampments to drug-dealing on city streets, Barnes thinks the city supervisors share in the blame.

"[Mayor Breed] has had challenges with the board of supervisors in terms of support," she said. "I think in theory we have a strong mayor city."

As a native San Franciscan, Breed has a good grasp of the city and best knows what needs to be done as mayor, argues Barnes.

"She has lived experience. She knows the city," said Barnes. "She is not just teleprompting in and saying she has the answers."

As for dealing with the friction between the DCCC's moderate and progressive factions, Barnes said she supports candidates of all political stripes.

"I think my endorsements are varied and diverse. I think I can appeal to people," she said. "I am willing to bridge that divide and have conversations with both sides."

### A Lifetime in Politics

Politics has been a central feature of Barnes' life, from her upbringing in Massachusetts to her time as a San Francisco resident. Her parents met at Boston City Hall, where her mom worked in the mayor's office and her father in the city's housing authority.

In high school, Barnes worked for former Democratic U.S. Senator John Kerry, now a top aide to President Joe Biden assisting with his reelection bid this year. She went on to graduate from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, where she received a B.A. in history in 1997.

That was where she met her husband, Phin Barnes, who grew up in Northampton, Mass. Post college, they had a long-distance relationship for five years, as he remained in Philadelphia while she taught English overseas for a year at the American School in Madrid, Spain, then returned stateside to work at MIT in Boston.

They moved together to Portland, Ore., for five years before returning to the East Coast, where he enrolled in business school. While in the Beaver State, Carrie Barnes launched her own marketing and communications company, which she was able to maintain when they relocated.

In early 2007, the couple had moved again, this time to the Bay Area, with Barnes relaunching her company as Elise Communications.

### Consulting for Clinton

In the summer of 2014, they moved to San Francisco and found a place on Homestead Street near Douglass Park. The park is a spot they often frequent with their 8-year-old bulldog, Rosie, and 12-year-old daughter, Margaret.

Barnes, who along with her twin sister turns 49 this month, has been a policy and communications consultant for mission-driven organizations and companies



Noe Democratic Club President Carrie Barnes (left) spars with Mayor London Breed at a forum on city revitalization at the Noe Valley Town Square June 28, 2023. Photo by Sally Smith

involved in social entrepreneurship. Her clients have included the Aspen Institute, a nonprofit focused on public policy, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a philanthropic organization that works on health issues.

She brought her professional skills to the 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary her campaign office on Van Ness Avenue. "We built [digital] get-out-the vote tools," said Barnes, applying her tech expertise to do so.

Watching Clinton lose that November to Donald Trump left her "crestfallen," recalled Barnes. "I gave myself 48 hours to be depressed, then decided to do something about this," she said.

She landed on earning a master's degree in public affairs from the University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. After graduating in 2018, she gave herself another year to wind down her communications firm before fully pivoting to a career in politics.

"I was an unknown person in San Francisco who was working with global-driven organizations. I needed to get more involved," said Barnes.

### Noe Valley Club's Rebirth

It was in late 2019 that she decided to join her neighborhood's Democratic club.

Unsure where to drop off her check to pay the membership dues, Barnes emailed Todd David, the club's president at the time.

"The club had gone kind of quiet after the last mayoral election," she recalled. "The website didn't look updated."

David replied with an offer to meet up at the Valley Tavern to discuss the status of the club over drinks. After conferring with her husband about meeting with a stranger, Barnes accepted the invite.

"I met with Todd and told him I was interested in getting more involved in the club," said Barnes.

He connected her with three other residents who had expressed the same desire, Stephen Dodson, David Katz, and Colin Davitian. Due to Covid, the club remained dormant throughout 2020. It wasn't until 2021 that the group of four was able to begin revitalizing it.

Barnes, elected as its new president, helped oversee the reboot by signing up enough members to secure the club's being re-chartered by the Democratic County Central Committee, which oversees the San Francisco Democratic Party. Annual dues cost \$15 for students and seniors, half off the \$30 basic membership.

With Dodson as secretary and Davitian the club's treasurer—roles they continue

to hold—they also co-drafted new bylaws and refreshed the club's website at <https://www.noevalleydemocrats.org/>. (Katz is no longer involved, as he moved away.)

"We built it up to one of the top five neighborhood Democratic clubs in the city. We have 100 dues-paying members," said Barnes. "Our focus is on public discourse and civic engagement. We have highly engaged members who are really inquisitive."

To explore ways to rejuvenate downtown San Francisco, the group hosted a panel discussion in the Noe Valley Town Square last June. It was attended by a large crowd, as well as by the mayor.

### Friends in High Places

Among those who have endorsed Barnes' candidacy for the DCCC are Assemblymember Matt Haney (who represents the 17th Assembly District), Mayor London Breed, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. Also lending her support is Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association.

State Senator Scott Wiener, a former elected member of the DCCC and chair of the local Democratic Party, who now has a de facto seat on it due to holding his legislative seat, complimented Barnes on her leadership skills when asked by the *Voice* about her DCCC run.

"Carrie is, she is just a fantastic organizer, super committed, and exactly the kind of big-hearted, hard-working, good-values person that we need on the Central Committee," said Wiener, who spoke at Barnes' campaign launch.

David, who served as the Noe Valley club's president for four years, told the *Voice* Barnes has done "a fantastic job" leading it.

"She activated a new group of Noe Valley residents in the club," said David. "So my hat is off to her on that."

### Not All Smooth Sailing

Barnes acknowledges that navigating the two recall elections in 2022—of three school board members and of former district attorney Chesa Boudin, who had taken part in a public safety forum in the Town Square that Barnes had helped organize—"was pretty bumpy. It was a ride."

Even though club members weren't always in agreement, she said, the Noe Valley Dems succeeded in having a civil discourse.

"The intention of the club, for me at least, is to have substantive conversations and foster a dialogue [even though] we knew we wouldn't [all] agree," said Barnes. She ended up backing both recall campaigns.

That same year, Barnes worked as campaign manager for the affordable housing ballot measure Proposition D. It fell just shy of the 50 percent plus one of the votes needed to pass.

Still, Barnes is not looking back.

Her focus is on campaigning for the DCCC seat and leading the Noe club, during a crucial election year that will decide whether Breed remains San Francisco's mayor and whether the Democratic Party can maintain control of the White House.

Asked whether she plans to run for a city or state office—maybe fill Supervisor Mandelman's shoes when he is termed out in 2026—Barnes took a diplomatic approach.

"I am wanting to do the work to understand the policy issues and be a practitioner for and of public service, so I can understand how to be effective," she said.

"Yes, I do want to run for office in the future," Barnes said. "I don't know what that will look like. I don't think it will be a run for the supervisor seat." ■

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## Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas on Brilliant Display

Art Haus Exhibits Prize Collection, Including a Warhol

By Kit Cameron

Artist and gallerist Elizabeth Dekker thought she was just making a sale when Hans Gallas strolled into Art Haus Gallery last year.

“I had done a project with 7- to 10-year-olds of 3D structures, where each wall was a unique artwork. He bought my [sample] little Art House.”

Then Gallas revealed that he was a serious collector of memorabilia related to Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

“We started talking about his collection and he mentioned Andy Warhol, who was my main inspiration my senior year in college,” said Dekker. “Lo and behold, he [Gallas] sent me a pic-



Chairman Ma, a 1993 work by artist Deborah Kass, will be at Gertrude Stein’s 150th birthday party, held Feb. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Art Haus Gallery, 3927 24th St.

Images courtesy Hans Gallas



Hans Gallas will show gems from his Stein and Toklas memorabilia collection, including Marc Snyder’s *Gertrude and Alice* (2002), above, in February at Art Haus Gallery on 24th Street.

ture of an original Andy Warhol, a portrait of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.”

Both Stein and Toklas have Bay Area ties, but in the early 1900s the pair met in Paris, where they achieved renown as the hosts of a salon of artists and writers, including such luminaries as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Ernest Hemingway.

Dekker immediately offered Gallas a show at her gallery at 3927 24th St. The exhibit will run the entire month of February, with a reception on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Until she’d met Gallas, Dekker had not known Warhol made portraits of Toklas and Stein, who were partners in life and love for 40 years. (Stein died in 1946, Toklas in 1967.)

“I’m going to have a Warhol in my gallery,” Dekker said. “That’s on my bucket list!”

Gallas, a resident of Forest Hill, is

pleased too. Now he has a perfect way to celebrate Stein’s 150th birthday—she was born Feb. 3, 1874. He said he would title the Art Haus show “Birthdays Are Very Favorable: Gertrude Stein at 150,” after a quote in a children’s book by Stein.

### Collecting for Three Decades

Gallas first learned about Stein and Toklas when he read the book *Charmed Circle: Gertrude Stein and Company* by James R. Mellow (Houghton Mifflin, 1974).

His collection started with first editions of their books, then quickly grew to include photographs, drawings, letters, and homage art “from artists all over the world,” he said. He used eBay to track down artifacts such as a replica of the Smith Premier typewriter used by Toklas.

In 1998 he curated his first exhibit of the collection at the San Francisco

Public Library. That was followed, in short order, by a show in Paris at the American Library, as well as individual pieces included in major Stein exhibitions at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the National Portrait Gallery.

Work has traveled far and wide, to such places as Stockholm and Copenhagen and, in 2016, to Fremont, Calif., for a show celebrating the anniversary of Toklas’ giving Stein a “Julius Caesar pixie haircut.”

### Barbies on the Guest List

“The showcase [in Noe Valley] will be mostly portraits along with some photographs,” Gallas said. He plans to fill the Art Haus gallery with “as many pieces as I can fit into the space.”

At the birthday party and reception Feb. 3, he will have a cake “with roses on it,” Gallas said, along with spirited beverages. He also promises to do a Q and A at 6:30 or so and unveil two Barbie dolls.

Oh, did we not mention the Barbies? Gallas sourced two of America’s plastic sweethearts on eBay to create “Gertrude and Alice” Barbie dolls. One, a former Susan B. Anthony, has gray hair for Gertrude. The other has Alice’s hair, which remained black until the end of her life.

“Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas were as iconic as Barbie,” said Gallas. “When they came to the U.S. in 1934 and 1935, every day had a news story [about them].”

The exhibit’s last day is February 29. Art Haus is open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can reach Dekker for more information at [info@arthausSF.com](mailto:info@arthausSF.com) or 415-590-2315. ■

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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Prices More 'Reasonable'

By Corrie M. Anders

Home shoppers in Noe Valley this spring can expect to see lower mortgage rates and a larger supply of homes on the market. An uptick in sales activity may soon follow.

But a change in the wind was hard to perceive in the last quarter of 2023. A year of interest rate hikes had caused most buyers and sellers to stand on the sidelines from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

According to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties, only 16 detached houses and 3 condominiums changed hands in November and December of 2023. The numbers were 18 and 8 the same two months a year ago.

The price of a Noe Valley house slipped lower, and buyers, if any, faced little competition.



Buyers in December paid \$3.7 million for this renovated four-bedroom home on 23rd Street, first built in 1911.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Still, in reviewing the data last month, Icon Properties CEO Randall Kostick said he could see signs of a mood shift. Bolstering his optimism was the fact that interest rates—which had hit 7.8 percent in October—had fallen, dropping to 6.7 percent in mid-January.

More shoppers were applying for loan pre-approvals, he said. And more homeowners, who had been reluctant to trade an existing home—and a pre-pandemic mortgage—for a home loan with a higher interest rate, were offering their properties for sale.

“Prices have gotten more reasonable,” Kostick said. “And sellers have gotten more reasonable in their expectations.”

The average sales price in November 2023 for a detached home was \$2.4 million—down 6.1 percent from a year earlier. The decline was even more pronounced in December, as the month’s \$2.2 million average was 11.9 percent lower than in December 2022 (\$2.5 million).

Not that property in Noe Valley is now in the “affordable” category.

November’s most expensive home sold for \$5.5 million, 3.5 percent beneath its list price (\$5,750,000).

Located in the 4300 block of Cesar Chavez Street between Diamond and Douglass streets, the house, built in 2014, featured five bedrooms and six baths in 4,187 square feet of living space. Among its many assets were floor-to-ceiling glass walls, skylights, radiant heat, air conditioning, a gourmet kitchen, and a master suite that spanned the top level. The new owners could also luxuriate in panoramic views, a state-of-the-art gym, and a one-car garage with a Tesla charger.

December’s costliest residence was a four-bedroom, three-bath beauty in the 4100 block of 23rd Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. The home’s \$3.7 million price was 5.7 percent more than what the seller was asking (\$3.5 million). The renovated home, originally built in 1911, had 2,484 square feet of living space in which to enjoy a kitchen with a Wolf range and Sub-Zero refrigerator, a fireplace, a

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
December 2023	7	\$780,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,197,000	55	99%
November 2023	9	\$1,365,000	\$5,500,000	\$2,384,667	18	103%
December 2022	9	\$1,625,000	\$3,350,000	\$2,492,778	40	107%
November 2022	9	\$1,800,000	\$4,200,000	\$2,502,222	22	106%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
December 2023	1	\$1,830,000	\$1,830,000	\$1,830,000	38	92%
November 2023	2	\$1,725,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,830,000	28	102%
December 2022	1	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	56	97%
November 2022	7	\$760,000	\$1,950,000	\$1,470,429	21	103%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
December 2023	1	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	47	92%
November 2023	6	\$1,355,000	\$4,600,000	\$2,547,833	26	98%
December 2022	4	\$1,130,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,582,500	105	85%
November 2022	2	\$1,620,000	\$1,675,000	\$1,647,500	53	98%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
December 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2023	2	\$1,225,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,612,500	153	86%
December 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2022	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 Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV2/2024

media room, and one-car parking.

Buyers paid \$1,935,000 for the priciest condominium in November, 10 percent below its initial asking price (\$2,150,000). Occupying the top two floors of a turn-of-the-century Victorian in the 1100 block of Castro Street between 23rd and Elizabeth streets, the home had three bedrooms and three baths in 1,856 square feet of living space, plus an eat-in chef’s kitchen, a gas fireplace, solar, air conditioning, and two-car parking.

There was only one condominium

sold in December. The new owner paid \$1,830,000—8.3 percent below the original list price (\$1,995,000) for their acquisition, located within a brand new, six-unit building in the 3800 block of 24th Street, between Church and Vicksburg streets. The three-bedroom, 2.5-bath luxury residence boasts 1,677 square feet of living space, an open floor plan, counter seating at a large island, and a roof deck with sweeping views. The unit does not include parking, but there’s a bicycle room that will come in handy. ■

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Dec-Jan 2024	Average Dec-Jan 2024	Average Nov 2023	Average Oct 2023	Average Dec-Jan 2023
Studio	10	\$1,800–\$2,400	\$2,178 /mo.	\$2,269 /mo.	\$2,384 /mo.	\$2,246 /mo.
1-bdrm	43	\$1,700–\$4,500	\$2,562 /mo.	\$3,025 /mo.	\$3,117 /mo.	\$3,100 /mo.
2-bdrm	43	\$2,375–\$7,500	\$4,190 /mo.	\$4,055 /mo.	\$4,534 /mo.	\$4,174 /mo.
3-bdrm	10	\$4,295–\$7,955	\$5,948 /mo.	\$5,855 /mo.	\$6,196 /mo.	\$5,667 /mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,895–\$13,750	\$6,623 /mo.	\$7,431 /mo.	\$9,797 /mo.	\$8,476 /mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 112 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Dec. 19, 2023, to Jan. 11, 2024. In January 2023, there were a total of 142 listings. NVV2/2024

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# SHORT TAKES

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

The winter rains have greened over vacant lots and home gardens alike. Your back yard may be a fluffy oasis of oxalis. Or your native sword ferns might be unfurling fiddleheads. Are you plotting a new vegetable patch to put in as soon as the rain lets up? Maybe you have created some new elements in the form of plantings or structures.

How about sharing your special garden with the neighborhood on the 2024 Noe Valley Garden Tour? The annual event, sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley is actively seeking neighborhood gardens. Whether you are a professional or a newbie, they would love to check out your patch.

The Noe Valley Garden Tour typically takes place on a Saturday in early to mid May. One of the most fun jobs is to be a garden greeter. Not only will you hang out with a gardener in their space, you will get a free ticket to the tour. The spirited conversations with incoming visitors make your two-hour stint fly by!

Increasing numbers of visitors year over year has meant that Friends can sponsor significant Noe Valley beautification projects.

Contact Linda Lockyer at lindalockyer3@gmail.com if you would like to share your garden or if you would like to volunteer.

## Black History in Music at the Ministry

A special Sunday service at the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church in



At the 2023 Noe Valley Garden Tour, gardener Carey Craddock (right) shared secrets about the luscious vegetable garden she helped design at the Alvarado Street home of Marie Contreras and Rosemary French. This year's tour is ripe for new sites. *Photo by Sally Smith*

observance of Black History Month will feature author Dr. Terence Elliott and the jazz-soul-r&b ensemble Nymani Music.

Together they will take you on a journey through the African American experience in music. In his book *Spirit, Rhythm, and Story: Community Building and Healing Through Song* (Covenant Books, 2019), Elliott explores the roots of Black music and argues that songs have the power to heal and unite a community toward change. "It's a vital American story," he says.

The event takes place on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 10:30 a.m., at 1021 Sanchez St. For more information, contact the Noe Valley Ministry by email at [office@noevalleyministry.org](mailto:office@noevalleyministry.org).

## City to Review Quake Shack Project

By Matthew S. Bajko

After a nearly yearlong delay, a hearing has been scheduled this month on the controversial redevelopment plans for a Noe Valley parcel that includes a historic earthquake shack structure. But it will no longer solely be presided over by the city's zoning czar.

Instead, the San Francisco Planning Commission is set to take up the matter at its Feb. 22 meeting, during a joint hearing with Zoning Administrator Corey Teague.

Twenty-ninth Street resident Marc Norton requested the discretionary review hearing in late December, on the most recent proposed renovation for 369 Valley St., where the earthquake cottage is located.

Debate over the redevelopment of the property has been ongoing for more than a decade. Property owner John Schrader, of Nova Designs + Builds, initially wanted to tear down the small L-shaped building formed out of two shacks that housed refugees from the 1906 earthquake.

Just a handful of the 5,610 earthquake shacks remain standing, with only two found in Noe Valley, according to city planners. In 2015, the San Francisco Planning Department concluded that the Valley Street shacks were of historical value and eligible for listing on a statewide register of historic properties in California.

Schrader then changed course, submitting various proposals for incorporating the shack structure into a larger residential home.

As the *Voice* reported last year, Schrader had been seeking a variance to move the shack cottage closer to the street and raise it above ground in order to construct a two-story single-family home with four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

But neighbors and historic preservationists argued against relocating the historic structure. Several hearings on the matter last March and June were postponed as Schrader and his architects looked at ways to mitigate the concerns raised by the public.

Schrader had told the *Voice* he hoped to find a solution that would avoid discretionary review of the project. The Planning Department staff is supposed to hold a mediation meeting between the developer and Norton ahead of the hearing, which could result in a compromise negating the need for the oversight body to vote on the project.

As of late January, Norton said, no mediation date had been scheduled.

Downloadable copies of his discretionary review filing are at the Save the Shack website, [www.savetheshack.net](http://www.savetheshack.net). ■



The fate of the 1906 earthquake cottage at 369 Valley St. may be decided this month, if the Planning Commission decides to rule on the homeowner's plans. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

## Have a Beautiful Day

Itching to get out and get your hands dirty, after being cooped up inside by the rain? San Francisco Public Works, in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, invites you to a District 8 Beautification Day on Saturday, Feb. 10, lasting about three hours.

The cleanup will kick off at 8:30 a.m. at James Lick Middle School, 4161 25th St., and last a little more than three hours. (They promise you'll be home by noon.)

After a short orientation, volunteers will load into vans and travel to seven to 10 work sites in Noe Valley, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, and the Bernal Cut. There they will "garden, mulch, pick up litter, or abate graffiti" with tools supplied by Public Works staff.

Closed-toe shoes, a water bottle, and layers of sturdy clothes are recommended. Pre-registration is required at [sfpbpublicworks.org/loveourcity](https://www.sfpbpublicworks.org/loveourcity). See <https://www.mobilize.us/sanfrancisco/> for other volunteer opportunities around the city.

## Jurist Ruth Borenstein on Guns

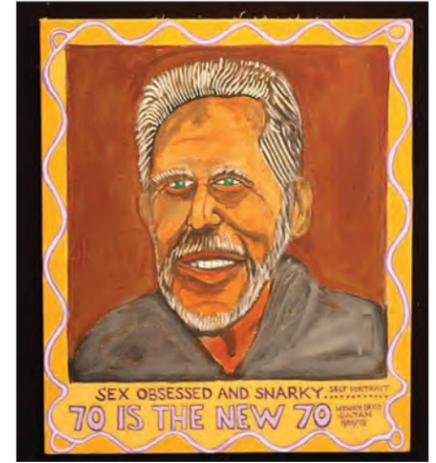
"Don't agonize. Organize!" That's the motto of Action SF, a volunteer citizens action group based in Noe Valley. It also may be the theme for guest speaker Ruth Borenstein, who will address the Action SF meeting on March 3 from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Gun violence is the topic, and Borenstein has unfortunate credibility in that area. She witnessed a workplace shooting firsthand. As a lawyer, she has worked on several pro bono amicus briefs in support of gun violence prevention laws and, as a prominent advocate in the field, has attended too many rallies, vigils, and marches over the years to count. She has been a volunteer with Brady California since 2018, ultimately becoming the legislation and policy chair of the organization.

Action SF members can often be seen at the Saturday Farmers Market on 24th Street. Since 2017, they've been writing letters, knocking on doors, and traveling to battleground states in an effort "to turn non-voters into voters" in the local and national elections.

Their meetings, usually on first Sundays, are open to the public and on zoom; however, new participants will need to email [actionsfteam@gmail.com](mailto:actionsfteam@gmail.com) for the location or zoom link this month. See the [action-sf.com](http://action-sf.com) website for more information.

*This month's Short Takes were written by Kit Cameron.*



© 2023 by Henry Sultan

## Film Shows How Henry Sultan Saw Himself Year After Year

A film featuring a prominent Noe Valley artist will have its world premiere this month during the 26th San Francisco Independent Film Festival. Henry "Hank" Sultan, a longtime Sanchez Street resident, stars as himself in the documentary short, titled *I Never Was a Hippie—I Just Looked Like One*.

The film is among 55 short films and 35 full-length features—from 15 countries—to be screened Feb. 8 to 18 at the Roxie and Four-Star Theaters.

Sultan, 85, is an eclectic artist whose works include paintings, masks, and murals. He has also published 50 works in *The Art of the Mandala* (Last Gasp, 2014), his musings on the Sanskrit "circle within a square" art form.

The film focuses on Sultan's life in self-portraits, "revealing an offbeat artistic journey mixed with humor and social commentary," says Adriana Marchione, who co-directed the short with editor Kirk Goldberg and the "animation wizard that is Toshi Onuki."

Marchione, who lives a block away from Sultan, and Goldberg, a nearby Mission District resident and broadcast media professional, launched the project while Sultan was still grieving over the passing of his wife of nearly five decades, Jennifer Badger Sultan, also a celebrated artist. She died of lymphoma in 2021.

Sultan narrates the 17-minute production, much of it filmed in his home studio.

He says he began doing self-portraits in the early 1970s as a form of therapy. He liked painting them, he said, so he could "express my joker side and my snarky attitude."

In the film, he said he had acne as an adolescent, and "the mirror was not my friend." So the paintings "helped me to see my real persona."

He tried to paint at least one new portrait every year. In 2005, Sultan finished a series he called the "persecution complex."

For his 73rd year, he painted himself as "a Luddite in an electronic wonderland."

In the 2016 self-portrait, Sultan is looking over the pages of an art book while sitting in a chair, prompting him to reflect: "I am 78, and it's great to tell jokes about a grumpy old Jewish man and realize that is who I am."

The last of the film's portraits, painted in 2022, echoes a painting from 30 years earlier. Sultan says, "It was telling me I could move on, and I'm doing just that...but very slowly."

The film will air Saturday, Feb. 10, at 2:15 p.m., at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St. Marchione, Goldberg, and Sultan all plan to attend.

For information about the rest of the festival lineup, go to [sfindie.com](http://sfindie.com). The films can be seen virtually as well, at [sfindie2024.eventive.org](http://sfindie2024.eventive.org).

—Corrie M. Anders



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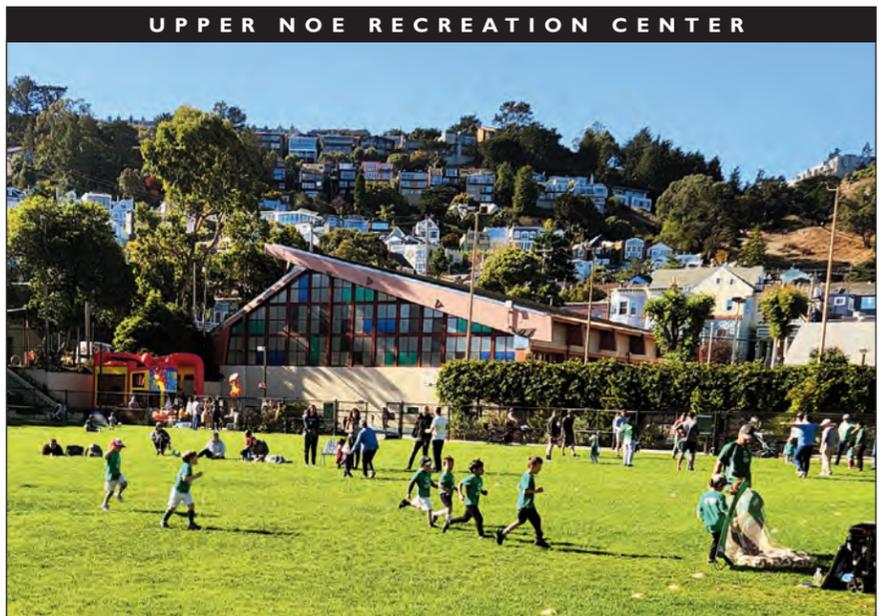
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**We Follow the Sun:** Tots practice soccer skills while a birthday party ensues in the background on an unseasonably warm day in November. *Photo by Chris Faust*

### The Grass Is Greener

Winter Session classes are continuing through March 7 both inside and out—and in between raindrops—at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day Street between Sanchez and Church streets.

Join the fun with free activities like Open Gym, A Place to Play, pickleball, Zumba, volleyball, and Feldenkrais. Note that Open Gym is not available on Saturdays in winter as the gym is scheduled for Junior Warriors basketball games. Come cheer on the teams. Weekday drop-in activities continue unabated.

You can also get involved by keeping the park spiffy. If you see something that needs maintenance or other attention, contact San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1) by phone, web, or easy-to-use phone app. Park personnel rely on your 3-1-1 reports to support service requests.

For more information, call the office at 415-970-8061. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org).

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

### Upper Noe Winter Session (January 9 to March 7, 2024)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day Street: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday and Monday closed, outside activities only.  
Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

#### A Place to Play (free play)

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays  
1 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday  
Hours are subject to change.

#### Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 18+)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

#### Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+) FREE  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 10-12)

#### Thursday

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 18+)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

#### Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE  
10 to 1:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 8-10)  
5 to 8 p.m. Jr. Warriors games  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis – Beginning (ages 10-12)

#### Saturday

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jr. Warriors games  
No Open Gym during Winter Session

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# BIG DATA

BY KATE ATTWELL  
DIRECTED BY PAM MACKINNON  
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# STORE TREK

*Store Trek is a regular Voice feature, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we spotlight a gym that stresses workouts for women.*

## IRON + METTLE

3769 24th Street  
415-508-7731  
www.ironandmettlefitness.com

Driving to her home in the Outer Sunset one day last year, Danielle Repetti happened to notice a “for lease” sign in the window of the storefront at 3769 24th St., once home to Echo Furniture. Having spent nearly 12 months looking for a larger space for her gym Iron + Mettle, Repetti jotted down the phone number for the real estate agent handling the lease for the 1,700-square-foot storefront.

“I was looking for a big empty box,” Repetti recalled.

By the end of March, she had secured the lease and set to work soundproofing and repainting the spacious gym, located between Church and Chattanooga streets. She painted the walls with her signature pink, peach, and red roses, and created an atmosphere that was quiet and stress-free.

“Most gyms are echoing with rock-and-roll music,” noted Repetti. “Even when people are putting weights away here, the noise absorbs into our sound panels. [Iron + Mettle] is not as jarring or intimidating” as sounds in a traditional body-building club.

Having soft-opened last May, Repetti officially reopened the gym on June 1. As word got out, neighborhood residents began lining up for private training or group sessions. Some had already taken classes at Repetti’s first studio, which she’d opened in 2019 at 1360 Valencia St., near 24th Street.

“We have a lot of clients from [Noe Valley], so it made sense to move here,” said Repetti, 37, the founder, sole owner, and head coach of the gym.

Iron + Mettle is for people of all ages and fitness levels, but its main purpose is to provide a safe haven for women, especially those who are new to training with weights. “We love teaching people how to lift,” Repetti enthuses on her website, and how to be “more comfortable and acquainted with the barbell bench press, deadlift, and squat.”

To make the experience even more appealing, Repetti equipped her gym with pink weights and barbells that are thin in diameter for easier grasping.

“Women’s hands tend to be smaller,”



Danielle Repetti stands before some of the Iron + Mettle in her popular fitness studio, which specializes in small-group classes offering strength training for women. Photos by Art Bodner

she explained. Her goal, she said, is “to get barbells into the hands of every woman in San Francisco.”

All genders, men included, are welcome to work with the gym’s personal trainers, individually or as a couple, but the classes that are labeled semi-private are tailored for women.

Iron + Mettle has 230 members, with the capacity to handle upwards of 275. Members sign up for their sessions in advance via the gym’s digital calendar.

“Here, you either have to work with a personal trainer or join a class to come inside,” said Repetti. There is no open-gym drop-in at this time.

The gym offers packages for the personal or small-group training sessions. Personal sessions cost \$125 for a 50-minute training, up to \$1,404 for 12 sessions good for three months. Couples can buy a single session for \$165 or five for \$800, also to be used over three months.

The semi-private classes, which focus on strength building, are limited to five women per session. Pricing varies from \$65 for one class to \$619 for 12 classes to be used within four weeks.

Clients can add extra classes within that timeframe at a cost of \$55 for one more, or \$110 for two. They can also bring a friend for an open-gym session at a cost of \$20.

“I didn’t raise prices,” said Repetti, following the move to the larger location.

She now employs 12 trainers, all female identifying, she said, as no men have yet applied to work at her gym.

Repetti notes clients may encounter her two dogs: Kisses, the chief happiness officer and head of security, and Luna, chief of recovery. “They are our mascots,” she said.

The gym has a gender-neutral bat

room, but no shower or changing room.

“I wish I had a shower. It is the one drawback of this space,” said Repetti.

Repetti grew up in Belmont and received a B.S. in business from California State University, Sacramento, in 2007. Her first job, after moving to San Francisco 12 years ago, was as an executive assistant at a tech firm. But she was more interested in pursuing a career in fitness. Repetti went back to school and enrolled at Bauman College in Emeryville, where she was certified as a nutrition consultant. She also became a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer, and a certified pre- and post-natal coach.

“Strength training and lifting a barbell really changed my life,” said Repetti, who found relief from episodes of depression and other hardships by

working out. “It also changed my opinion of how I saw my body. I thought, other women need to do this.”

She met resistance when she first pitched her business plan, she said, since it was for a woman-centered weight training gym and not a yoga studio.

“A lot of people had told me women only want to do yoga or cardio,” said Repetti, who knew such contentions were a fallacy. “The media now is talking about the importance of strength training for women. That wasn’t the case 10 years ago.”

She purposely has no mirrors or scales in her gym, nor does she monitor clients’ weight. The focus is on helping women get fit physically and mentally.

“People like the idea of doing something fitness oriented and not about changing the size, or type, of their body. The focus here is about feeling better in their body,” said Repetti.

The gym’s name reflects its dual emphasis on body and mind. Iron refers to the weight-lifting equipment used to build muscle, while mettle is about strengthening a person’s resilience.

After Covid shut down the city four years ago, “we were in survival mode,” said Repetti. For months, she offered outdoor training sessions in front of her Valencia Street studio.

But by 2022, her business had rebounded.

Now, Repetti said, she couldn’t be happier. “This neighborhood has been amazing. The best decision we made was moving to Noe Valley.”

Iron + Mettle is open seven days a week, though its schedule varies by the day. A calendar of classes can be found on its website under “Schedule.”

—Matthew S. Bajko



Because women’s hands generally are smaller, Iron + Mettle has barbells that are thinner in diameter than those found in traditional weight-training gyms.

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# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** The Noe Valley Library family STORYTIMES are on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am. Space is limited to 20 children; tickets available at 10 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** The BAR on Dolores hosts open-mike COMEDY on Thursdays, presented by Mutiny Radio. 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

**Feb. 2:** First Friday COMEDY NIGHT at the Dubliner is hosted by Joe Gleckler. 8-9:30 pm. Dubliner, 3838 24th. 826-2279; gleckler.joe@gmail.com

**Feb. 3:** The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets from 10 am to 12:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 3:** Master gardener Lisa Erdos discusses growing ORCHIDS. 1-2:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 3:** Miss Cheesemonger offers “A Cheese-Pairing RECITAL.” 6-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** Meander through the hood with NOEWALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

**Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** MUSIC at the Farmers Market features on Feb. 3: Dennis Cabral at 9 am, and Out-of-Town Couple at 11 am; Feb. 10: Sunset Hill at 9 am, and Max Williams at 11 am; Feb. 17: Broken Couches at 9 am, and Proceed to the Route at 11 am; Feb. 24: Gil Guillermo at 9 am, Mibo and Mila at 10:15 am, and Furey Brothers at 11:30 am. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Feb. 3-29:** ArtHaus exhibits Hans Gallas’ collection of STEIN and TOKLAS memorabilia. Opening Feb. 3, 5-8 pm; Tues.-Fri. 11 am-6 pm; Sat. & Sun. 10 am-5 pm. 3977 24th. 590-2315; info@arthaus.com

**Feb. 4:** ACTION SF hosts a monthly meeting, open to all, 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Action-sf.com

**Feb. 4:** Soprano Julia Bae and pianist Paul Schrage, with guest violinist Joel Pattinson perform music by Schumann, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninoff at LIEDER ALIVE! 5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own

mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Feb. 4, 8, 13 & 20:** Omnivore Books welcomes Emma Bland Smith (*The Fabulous Fanny Farmer*), Feb. 4, 3 pm; Althea Brown (*Caribbean Paleo*) Feb. 8, 6:30 pm; Kitty Morse (*Bitter Sweet*) Feb. 13, 6:30 pm; and Crystal Wilkinson (*Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts*) Feb. 20, 6:30 pm; among many other CHEF/AUTHORS. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.myshopify.com

**Feb. 8:** The Noe Valley Ministry holds a LABYRINTH WALK, on second Thursdays, 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez.

**Feb. 8-18:** The 26th SF Independent FILM FESTIVAL premieres a documentary about Noe artist Henry Sultan (Feb. 10, 2:15 pm) and dozens of other shorts and feature at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th. sfindie.com

**Feb. 9-March 15:** A six-week Chronic PAIN management workshop meets Fridays, 2 to 4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 10:** SF’s Neighborhood BEAUTIFICATION Day in District 8 begins at 8:30 am at James Lick Middle School. 4161 25th. 641-2600; sfpublicworks.org/LoveOurCity

**Feb. 10:** NOE MUSIC KIDS features a performance by Grupo Falso Baiano. 10:30-11:15 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Feb. 10:** SF Civic Music performs a free CONCERT, “An Afternoon of Chamber Music.” 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Feb. 10:** Pocket BRASS BAND Purple Gums performs from 7:30 to 9:30 at Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

**Feb. 10:** Aireene & the Itch perform a CONCERT at 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian’s, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Feb. 11:** The 49ers meet the Chiefs in the SUPER BOWL at 3:30 pm Pacific time. Yay.

**Feb. 11:** Enjoy a Lunar New Year LION DANCE at the Noe Valley Town Square, followed by a kung fu demonstration; family red envelope crafts too. 2-3:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Feb. 11:** Celebrate the LUNAR New Year at the Noe Valley Library, 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. Reservations: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 11:** A benefit for MUSIC on the Hill features wine, hors d’oeuvres, and a performance, “Faces of Love,” by Andy Berry and Cortez Mitchell from the Chanticleer ensemble. 7 pm. St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org

**Feb. 12:** Get drop-in TECH HELP from the staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 13:** Attend FAMILY LEGO and Board Games Night. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 14:** The Noe Valley Library hosts “To Self, With Love,” with a flower bar, snacks, and gifts. 5-6 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 15:** The Main Library hosts a WORKSHOP, “Floppy Copy and Old Files Rescue.” 10 am-noon. 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

**Feb. 17:** City Guides leads a WALKING TOUR of the neighborhood, “Village Within a City.” 2-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 17:** Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Feb. 18:** NOE MUSIC hosts a performance by the Brentano String Quartet. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Feb. 20:** Mission Library’s BOOK CLUB en Español discusses *La Invención de Morel*, by Adolfo Bioy Casares. 6 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 21:** Noe Valley Library’s BOOK CLUB discusses *Salvage the Bones*, by Jesmyn West. 6:30-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 22:** A City Hall hearing that may include the 1906 Earthquake SHACK at 369 Valley St. begins at noon. savetheshack.net; sfplanning.org/hearings-cpc-grid

**Feb. 24:** A CHINESE NEW YEAR performance by students at the SF High School of the Arts runs from 1 to 4 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

**Feb. 24:** The Noe Valley Library shows the award-winning FILM *Hidden Figures*. 2 to 5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 24:** Volti premieres a new work by Jens Ibsen at a CONCERT at Noe Valley Ministry. 8 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Feb. 25:** The Noe Valley Ministry celebrates BLACK History Month with a Sunday service featuring Dr. Terence Elliott and the Nymaani Music ensemble. 10:30 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org

**Feb. 25:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the Town Square features Johnny Escobedo performing acoustic music from Cuba. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Feb. 25:** See JAMES BALDWIN in the film *Take This Hammer* at the Noe Valley Library. 2 to 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 27:** PJ STORYTIME for children and their families runs from 6:30 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 27-March 2:** Exhibits from the 2024 SF Middle School SCIENCE FAIR are on display at the Randall Museum. 10 am-5 pm. 199 Museum. 554-9600; randallmuseum.org

**Feb. 28:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a jewelry-making WORKSHOP. 5-6 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Feb. 28:** MUSICIANS Kahil El’Zabar & the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble perform a 50th anniversary tour. 7:30-9:30 pm. BirdBeckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**March 3:** ACTION SF’s monthly meeting features Noe activist on gun regulation Ruth Borenstein. 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. action-sf.com

The next Noe Valley Voice will be the March 2024 issue, distributed the first week of March. The deadline for calendar items: Feb. 15. Email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com).

**CHILDREN'S FICTION**

In *Boys Don't Fry*, by Kimberly Lee with illustrations by Charlene Chua, a Malaysian child wants to help prepare a Lunar New Year feast. Ages 4-6.

*Eleven Words for Love: A Journey Through Arabic Expressions of Love*, by Randa Abdel-Fattah, illustrated by Maxine Beneba Clarke, tells the story of a Palestinian family in exile. Ages 4-8.

Atticus is confused when he discovers that his goldfish is missing and "in a better place," in *Chip* by Frederico Gastaldi. Ages 4-8.

Tehezeb wonders why his uncle doesn't seem to like his artwork, in *Mehndi Boy* by Zain Bandali, illustrated by Jani Balakumar. Ages 6-11.

Ten-year-old Kara follows footprints in the Stockholm snow that lead her to Jewish refugees caught in a time warp, in *The Sky Over Rebecca* by Matthew Fox. Ages 8-12.

**CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**

Viruses and bacteria can be very good or very bad, explains Bethany Barton in *I'm Trying to Love Germs*. Ages 4-8.

In *Why Do Elephants Have Big Ears: Questions—and Surprising Answers—About Animals*, Steve Jenkins and Robin Page impart all sorts of facts about unique creatures. Ages 4-8.

Photos conceal hidden objects in *Sports: A Can-You-Find-It Book* by Lauren Kukla and Aruna Rangarajan. Ages 5-8.

*Growing Up Powerful: A Guide to Keeping Confident When Your Body Is Changing, Your Mind Is Racing, and the World Is...Complicated* is written by Nona Willis Aronowitz and illustrated by Caribay Marquina. Ages 8-12.

National Geographic Kids' latest offering in the series *Weird But True! World 2024* includes oddities from around the globe. Ages 8-12.

**TEEN FICTION**

In Angela Montoya's romantic fantasy *Sinner's Isle*, a witch blackmails a swash-buckling pirate to escape the island where she's held captive. Ages 14+

The student council president abolishes the school's Valentine's Day dance in *Wren Martin Ruins It All* by Amanda Dewitt. Ages 14-17.

A girl who starred in her sister's horror film searches for her missing sibling in *When Ghosts Call Us Home* by Katya de Becerra. Ages 14-17.

The Snow Queen and OzCorp have infiltrated Maidenkeep in *The World's End*, book three in the "A Hundred Names for Magic" series by Rin Chupeco. Ages 14-18.

**TEEN NONFICTION**

The bravery of two Jewish teenagers is heart-stopping in Steve Sheinkin's *Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe*. Ages 12-18

*The Teen Anxiety Guidebook*, by Jon Patrick Hatcher and Dr. Thomas McDonagh, gives solid and often humorous advice on how to improve confidence and manage anxiety.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*Top and Bottom* by Michael Blake

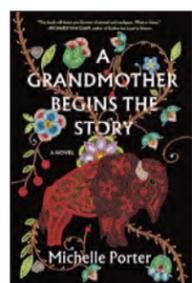
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**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**Curl Up With a Book**

Wrapped in a blanket, in front of a crackling fire, a hot mug of cocoa, and outside the window snow is falling... No, that doesn't work. But you can have the book, and the cocoa.

This month, we must thank Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Children's Librarian Madeleine Felder for sharing many intriguing titles among the new arrivals at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. (see lists below).

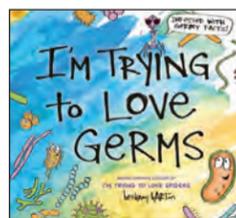


To borrow the books—or DVDs, ebooks, or myriad other items at the branch—click your heels (or phone) three times and you'll be at the library's website at SFPL.org. There you can put your favorites on hold. Or you can saunter over to the Noe Valley branch and browse for books the old-fashioned way.

If you need to consult with Lewis or Felder, or with our library's manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory, call 415-355-5707.

Fobbs-Guillory asks readers to note: the Noe Valley Library is open Monday, 11 a.m. 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.

Please also note that the city's libraries will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day. Have a good one.



**ADULT FICTION**

Radicalized by the philosophy of Ayn Rand, a writer runs away to a commune on the island of Lesbos in *The Book of Ayn* by Lexi Freiman.

*A Grandmother Begins the Story*, by Michelle Porter, follows five generations of Canadian Aboriginal Métis women.

In Katherine Howe's novel *A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pirates, Written by Herself*, a professor researches the inspiring tale of a girl who disguises herself as a

cabin boy to flee her life in the 1700s.

The resident babaláwo (Yoruba high priest) in a Miami botanica tries to settle a debt by cleansing the debt collector's home, in Raul Palma's *A Haunting in Hialeah Gardens*.

In *The List* by Yomi Adegoke, a journalist at *Womxxxn* magazine finds her fiancé's name on a roster of sexual offenders.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Those who are experts in the art of preserving old documents are in *The*



## OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

• • •

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

SAT FEB 3	AKI BERRY & MEG CHANO • THE UNOFFICIAL TED LASSO COOKBOOK: FROM BISCUITS TO BBQ, 50 RECIPES INSPIRED BY TV'S MOST LOVABLE FOOTBALL TEAM • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Football is life!
SUN FEB 4	EMMA BLAND SMITH • THE FABULOUS FANNIE FARMER: KITCHEN SCIENTIST AND AMERICA'S COOK • 3:00 P.M. FREE! For our younger readers! The story of the great American cookbook writer, told with humor & charming illustrations.
THURS FEB 8	ALTHEA BROWN • CARIBBEAN PALEO: 75 WHOLESOME DISHES CELEBRATING TROPICAL CUISINE AND CULTURE • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Savor traditional tropical cuisine the paleo way - without gluten, dairy & refined sugar!
SAT FEB 10	DINNA VILLACORTA EISENHART • IN MY KUSINA • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Learn how to cook authentic Filipino cuisine with three dozen of Dinna's traditional family recipes that showcase favorite beautiful dishes from this warm and inviting culture.
TUES FEB 13	KITTY MORSE • BITTER SWEET: A WARTIME JOURNAL AND HEIRLOOM RECIPES FROM OCCUPIED FRANCE • 6:30 P.M. FREE! An account of daily life during French occupation during WWII via Kitty's Jewish great-grandparents' journals & recipes.
TUES FEB 20	CRYSTAL WILKINSON • PRAISESONG FOR THE KITCHEN GHOSTS: STORIES AND RECIPES FROM FIVE GENERATIONS OF BLACK COUNTRY COOKS • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Honoring the mothers who came before, the land that provided for generations, and the untold heritage of Black Appalachia.

### OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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**LIBRARY EVENTS**

Storytimes are on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Limited to 20 children. Tickets available at the branch beginning at 10 a.m.

Crafters meet at the **Knitting Circle**, Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The library has limited supplies to practice on, but bring your own if you have a special project in mind.

Master gardener Lisa Erdos gives a presentation on **Growing Orchids** on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Attend a six-week workshop in **Chronic Pain Management**, developed by Stanford University, on Fridays, Feb. 9 to March 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited; registration is required.

A **Lunar New Year** celebration features refreshments and crafts on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Get one-on-one **Tech Help** from the library staff. Learn how to download eBooks, use library eResources, or set up an email account. Monday, Feb. 12, 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own device, or practice using a library computer.

Family **Board Game and Lego Night** welcomes all ages on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

One can celebrate one's self at **"To Self, With Love"** by making a bouquet at the flower bar while enjoying snacks and gifts. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 5 to 6 p.m.

Meet at the library for a **City Guides Walking Tour**, "Village Within a City," exploring historic sites in Noe Valley, on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Space is limited; registration required.

A librarian from the Mission Branch leads **Tertulia Literaria Book Club en Español**, featuring *La Invención de Morel* by Adolfo Bioy Casares, on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 7 p.m. Copies are held for checkout at Mission Library.

The **Noe Valley Book Club** reads *Salvage the Bones* (2011), by Jesmyn Ward, on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

The **Noe Valley Film Club** screens the 2016 drama *Hidden Figures*, about the African American women who worked for NASA in its early days, on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 to 5 p.m.

The Noe Valley Library shows the KQED documentary *Take This Hammer*, featuring James Baldwin's 1964 visit to SF, on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Kids can wear pajamas to a **PJ Storytime** for families, on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Space is limited; reservations required: 355-5707.

Create earrings with wire, beads, and stones at a **Jewelry-Making** workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 5 to 6 p.m.

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

**Manuscripts Club: The People Behind a Thousand Years of Medieval Manuscripts**, by Christopher de Hamel.

In **Eyeliner: A Cultural History**, Zahra Hankir explores the world's affection for cosmetics, from Nefertiti to Amy Winehouse.

**Mother, Nature: A 5,000-Mile Journey to Discover If a Mother and Son Can Survive Their Differences**, by Jedidiah Jenkins, is about rekindling bonds on a walk across America.

The founder of the Algorithmic Justice League, Joy Buolamwini, is **Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines**.

**Bob Dylan: Mixing Up the Medicine**, edited by Mark A. Davidson and Parker Fishel, includes the singer's manuscripts, notebooks, photos, and draft lyrics.



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	11-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Action SF**

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/  
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/  
 Email or link: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com  
 Usually first Sundays; Noe Valley Library, 451  
 Jersey St. Feb. 4, 2:30 pm. All welcome.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley**

Contact: 834-9940  
 Website: al-anonsf.org  
 Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.  
 St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on  
 Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street)

**Castro Merchants**

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

**Comerford Greenway**

Contact: Howard Fallon  
 Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com  
 Website:  
 www.sanfranciscoparksalliance.org/partners/  
 comerford-greenway/  
 Monthly workdays in Comerford Alley.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

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

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

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

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;  
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Lili Wu,  
 647-0235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA  
 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

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

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

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

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

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

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

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

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576  
 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131  
 Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday  
 mornings and third Saturday of the month.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
 Email: noecourts@gmail.com  
 Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146  
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625  
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com  
 Website: friendsofnoevalley.com  
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew  
 Casteel  
 Email: info@SlowSanchez.com  
 Website: SlowSanchez.com

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

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

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

Contact: David Emanuel  
 Email: info@fundogsf.org  
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

**Glen Park Association**

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

**Juri Commoners**

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

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

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

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe  
 Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library,  
 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on  
 website and Nextdoor.com.

**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th  
 Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.  
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org.  
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org  
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President  
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com  
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org  
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054  
 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

**Noe Valley Farmers Market**

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and  
 Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between  
 Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

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

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic,

4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.  
 Website: www.No ValleyMerchants.com

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

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

**Noe Walks**

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

**Progress Noe Valley**

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

**Resilient Noe Valley**

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

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

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood  
 Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis,  
 mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts,  
 carole\_roberts@faludi.com  
 Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert  
 Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com  
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday.  
 Confirm by email or check website.

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com

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



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We offer a combined 40+ years of experience  
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 successfully navigated every kind of  
 market in Noe Valley and beyond,  
 and would be delighted to share  
 our expertise with you!

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Oodles of Items

By Mazook

**A**NATOMY OF NOEVALLEY: As I walk the streets and alleys of Noe Valley and talk to many friends and strangers, I meet a cross section of people who have inspired me to write this column (for the past 40 years). They give me the energy to keep up with all the rumors. Wow. What a collection of different folks, who keep the character of Noe Valley so vibrant.

There are lots of people walking their dogs from dawn to dusk. There are lots of moms and dads pushing strollers with one or two seats. The baby strollers are parked outside our library in the mornings, rain or shine. We have a wonderful town square, which has a Saturday farmers market with live music and is a venue for celebrations and theatrical events.

Our several neighborhood groups enrich our lives—Friends of Noe Valley, Upper Noe Neighbors, Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the Noe Valley Association, and Slow Sanchez, which is a community group focused on improving the slow street experience, hopefully permanently.

Over the years of covering the Noe Valley elections—we have one coming up next month—I have learned that 90 percent of us Noe voters are registered Democrats, and we are always in the top five of neighborhoods with the largest voter turnout, according to the San Francisco Department of Elections. Our electorate is either progressive or moderate. Very few of us are conservatives.

One thing that all Noe Valleons are interested in is FOOD. Whole Foods is very busy and has a sales-to-square-foot ratio that is in the top tier of the chain's stores nationwide.

The Noe Valley Farmers Market is visited by many, with the spring and summer months bringing about 2,000 patrons on Saturday morning. Our two commercial districts, 24th Street and Church Street, abound with kitchens serving meals to their many patrons, either inside or outside, or for pickup or delivery.

☎ ☎ ☎

**CALLING ALL NOEVORES:** The first of many food items this month relates to a Dec. 5 story on SFgate.com by Nico Madrigal-Yankowski.

Its headline, "This San Francisco neighborhood restaurant is begging you to keep it alive," alarmed many in Noe Valley, since the story was about the popular Firefly at 4288 24th St.

Madrigal-Yankowski wrote, "Firefly's warmly lit, cozy interior makes you feel like you're going to a friend's house for dinner—except the food is way better. And somehow, in this current state of restaurants closing left and right, this gem has survived 30 years. But will it hang on for 30 more?" This seemed to imply the restaurant was in dire straits and about to close.

Not the case, says Firefly co-owner and founder Brad Levy. "No, we have no plans to close the restaurant!"

The issue is: "We have received notice from the city that we have to bring our parklet [on Douglass Street at



The Haystack building at 3881 24th St. is on the verge of being sold. The neighborhood was a-buzz: What will happen to the pizza? More importantly, who gets the bull on the top of the building? Photo by Jack Tipple

the corner of 24th] up to the new regulations for parklets, which will cost us over \$50,000 to construct, which for us is huge, so we are asking the neighborhood and our patrons to help us fund the costs."

On the GoFundMe page called "Firefly Parklet Revival," Levy explains: "The first step is to break down the partitions in between the tables, creating ample space for wheelchair seating and turning areas.... Then we need to add 3-foot-wide gaps every 20 feet for emergency response crews, while removing parts of the roof that might hinder their efforts..."

"We need to set the parklet further back from the intersection to increase visibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers, making our neighborhood safer for everyone. Lastly (and most expensively), we're exploring electric heating solutions to keep you warm while dining on Douglass....," he wrote.

As of late January, Levy and his business partner, Haley Sausner (she became co-owner in 2023, after nine years as the restaurant's chef), had raised \$16,500, almost a third of their goal, through more than 170 donations.

☎ ☎ ☎

**SECONDS, PLEASE:** A *Chronicle* headline on Jan. 19, 2024, read: "Classic S.F. pasta restaurant [is] closing after 31 years." This is true.

Mario Cortez reported that Bacco, at 3913 24th St., would close Jan. 31, "putting an end to its run of serving fresh pasta, beet salads, and grilled calamari." The story went on to say that owner Shari Dominici was closing Bacco to open a new restaurant in the same location with a new business partner: "The new restaurant won't be Italian and is planned to open mid-March...." According to Cortez, the new restaurant will serve both lunch and dinner. Shari and her late husband Paolo launched Bacco with Vincenzo Cucco in 1993 at 737 Diamond Street. The pasta and seafood will be missed.

I am told by people remodeling the Peruvian restaurant Fresca, closed since the beginning of the pandemic, that the doors (at 3945 24th St.) should open in March. But more likely it will be April.

The eatery on the west side of the Harry Aleo public parking lot, 4063 24th St., which is being created by Tacolicious owners Joe Hargrave and Sara Deseran, also is supposed to open in late March, but more likely April, say the workers.

It appears that Haystack Pizza, opened in 1971, and the residential space above the restaurant have been sold, although the contract had not been finalized at press time. The building had been listed for sale for \$2.65 million. Escrow should close in March.

The fate of Haystack the eatery is unknown. A question I am constantly asked by friends and neighbors is, "What's going to happen to the bull on the roof?" We will soon find out.

Plans are being drawn for the renovation and soft-story retrofit for the building that houses Martha & Bros. Coffee, at 3868 24th. It will take "over a year to complete," says co-owner Patricia Larizadeh (who is Martha's sister). During the closure, according to Larizadeh, the coffee and pastry shop will be moving to the corner of 24th and Vicksburg, to a spot last occupied by the people at Compass Real Estate. "Right now we are waiting for when PG&E will schedule us for an electrical upgrade, which we need to operate," she said. "I am hearing [that] could be several months."

☎ ☎ ☎

**CASTING SCONES:** All you foodies will appreciate a new vendor at the Noe Valley Farmers Market who is offering homemade scones and granola mixes. That would be Bob Grand, a longtime Noe Valleon who lives on 26th Street with his wife and teenage daughter. He takes over his kitchen on Fridays, starts baking up a storm, and arrives early at the Town Square to set up for the Saturday market.

"Baking is my hobby, and I am doing more of it since I recently retired [from the tech industry] and started to really get into baking scones," he says, "and I got great feedback from my friends, who gave me very positive nods on my scone creations and encouraged me to open a small stand in the Farmers Market."

Grand says he has created over 20 different types of scones using berries and other fruits and spices. After he got approval from the Farmers Market board, "then I got approval from the San Francisco Health Department for a license to sell the products (that was truly a challenge) to the public." Saturday, Jan. 13, was his first day at the market. "I sold out of scones by noon!" He says he bakes five different kinds of scones each Saturday. The three most popular have been currant ginger, cheddar jalapeño, and lemon blueberry.

Before launching, Grand asked his friends what he should call his new business. They gave him some good names, and he settled on Grand Scones. But one funny suggestion was "Everybody Must Get Sconed"—a takeoff on the Bob Dylan song.

☎ ☎ ☎

**RESTING IN THE RESTROOM:** In January, the *New York Times* published another story about the progress or lack thereof of the "million-dollar" bathroom to be installed in the northeast corner of the Noe Valley Town Square.

The latest update by Rec and Park project manager Eoanna Harrison Goodwin reports, "We're pleased to share that our donor, Volumetric Building Companies, has sent a letter of intent to the contractor, Roebuck Construction, to install the new restroom building at Noe Valley Town Square. Construction work is slated to begin in mid-February. The new restroom facility built by the project's other generous donor, Public Restroom Company, will be delivered to the site in March. We expect the new restroom will be fully ready and open to the public by the beginning of April."

Reach out to her at 628-652-6645, if you have any questions. Or email - eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org.

Also in the Town Square, the

Farmers Market Music Series for February has booked the following artists to entertain us while we pick our peppers: Feb. 3: Dennis Cabral (9 a.m.) and Out-of-Town Couple (11 a.m.); Feb. 10: Sunset Hill (9 a.m.) and Max Williams (11 a.m.); Feb. 17: Broken Couches (9 a.m.) and Proceed to the Route (11 a.m.); and on Feb. 24: Gil Guillermo (9 a.m.), Mibo and Mila (10:15 a.m.), and Furey Brothers (11:30 a.m.).

And don't miss the Lunar New Year celebration at the Town Square on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. There will be a Lion Dance, arts activities, and a Kung Fu demonstration.

☎ ☎ ☎

**RETURN FLIGHT:** Congrats to filmmaker Judy Irving. In January, she celebrated the premiere of her re-mastered film, *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, at the Roxie Theater (Jan. 16-25). When announcing the film's schedule, she reminded us that the *Noe Valley Voice* helped the original *Wild Parrots* film (2003) take wing.

Irving tells us, "I lived in Noe Valley from 1977 to 2001." (She now lives on Telegraph Hill.) And in November 1998, when the parrots were nesting not only in North Beach but in the palms of Dolores Street, and the documentary was but a gleam in Irving's eye, the *Voice* published an interview with her by writer Suzanne Herel, titled "Filmmaker Hears Call of the Wild (Parrots)."

"Because of this 1998 article," Irving explains, "Philippe Roubinet, a French producer, loaned us the funds to shoot most of what we needed in 1999. He was living in Noe Valley at the time and read about *Wild Parrots* in the *Noe Valley Voice*. So, thank you!!"

The film went on to win a 2005 Satellite Award for Outstanding Documentary DVD and a 2006 Humane Society Genesis Award.

Last month, Irving and the film's star, Mark Bittner, who also lives on Telegraph Hill, were interviewed by ABC Channel 7 News. They brought a "rescue parrot" to appear on TV with them and talk about the re-mastered release.

The last showing in the Bay Area, before the film goes on a national tour, was Feb. 3 in Bolinas. Irving says her distribution agent is trying to schedule another screening in San Francisco, hopefully sometime next month. She says the new release has a "surprise ending" that you all will want to see.

Congrats also to Bill Yenne, our most prolific author. He has a new book, *The Ones Who Got Away: Mighty Eighth Airmen on the Run in Occupied Europe*, published by Osprey Publishing. He describes *The Ones* as "true adventure stories, drawn from the words of the [WWII] airmen themselves.... They dodged countless perils, from Nazi dragnets to sinister double agents to freezing mountain blizzards."

☎ ☎ ☎

**WE REMEMBER:** I was sorry to learn last month that Terrance Lee (born Feb. 1, 1948), who was known by all as "Terry," passed away on Dec. 11, 2023. Lee was well known in Noe Valley. He managed a thriving real estate company with his then-wife B.J. Droubi in their home office on 24th Street, just west of Castro.

Condolences go out to his family and friends. Droubi still lives in Noe Valley part-time, and has a house in Sonoma where she lives with her current husband.

That's all, you all. See you next month. Ciao for now. ■



GET AHEAD OF SPRING AND ASK US ABOUT OUR LIST OF RESIDENCES THAT ARE COMING SOON!



### 4258 26th St. | Noe Valley

**5 BED | 4.5 BATH | \$5,495,000 | COMING SOON**

This entertainer's oasis boasts modern architecture, panoramic views, incredible ceiling height and luxury indoor/outdoor living. The generous glass-lined great room has a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access. Sunrises and sunsets are truly incredible from this vantage point! The kitchen is the heart of it all and flows seamlessly to the living and dining areas, and features built-in luxury appliances. The den has pocket doors that convert the room to a guest bedroom for extra guests. A full bath completes this amazing living level. The bedroom level boasts three bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, and private exterior entrance. The opulent primary suite extends over the full width of the residence and features a relaxing ensuite bathroom and a generous deck. The lower level has a spacious media lounge, glass wine vault, two additional bedrooms and baths, and direct access to the backyard. Located a few blocks to coveted Noe Valley's bustling 24th Street, parks and shops!

### 53 Spindrift Psg | Corte Madera

**5 BED | 3 BATH | \$2,895,000 | COMING SOON**

Nestled in a coveted neighborhood in Marin, this exquisite home has it all: close to trails, The Village, Town Center, Trader Joe's, and HWY 101. The chef's kitchen dazzles with modern countertops, modern lighting, and Viking appliances. The living room with a gas fireplace opens to the backyard. Three bedrooms and two full baths complete the lower level, with an updated ensuite. Venturing upstairs, there are newly carpeted floors, and you'll encounter a sophisticated primary suite with a private deck, chandelier, a sprawling walk-in closet, and ample space for a king-sized bed. The bathroom is a masterpiece with intricate tile flooring, a double vanity, a luxurious soaking tub, and a stand-up shower complete with a rainfall shower head. An additional fifth bedroom upstairs is well-appointed with spacious closet space and its own deck access. The fenced backyard features decorative lighting and artificial grass. This residence comes with a 2-car garage, a Tesla charger, and an extra-large washer and dryer.



### 3912 Folsom St. | Bernal Heights

**4 BED | 4.5 BATH | CALL FOR PRICING**

This opulent Bernal beauty is quite possibly the perfect residence, with a floor plan that will please even the most discerning clients! It boasts 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths (including the ever coveted 3 1/2 on the top level!!). A masterful mix of gorgeous architectural details blend w/ contemporary design and high end finishes - think Bertazzoni, Gaggenau, Bosch, Miele, Cle, Ann Sacks, Heath. The main floor living level has it all, including a designer kitchen with waterfall marble island (seating for 4) and spacious dining room, living room, half bath and an adjacent outdoor deck - perfect for dining al fresco and entertaining. The lower level features gracious flex/media room (w/ wet bar) that opens to backyard + 2 full baths, office/zoom room/workout room & en suite bedroom perfect for multiple uses. All new systems, electrical, structural upgrades, radiant heat and air conditioning. 1 car garage. Located just moments (and flat blocks!!) from Cortland boutique shops, grocers, cafes, parks and services. Close to transit & 101/280 FWY. This residence has it all, in the heart of it all!

### 300 Berry St #618 | Mission Bay

**1 BED | 1 BATH | \$727,000**

This stylish one bedroom at Arterra makes the perfect new residence or commuter home - offering amenities and location, location, location. The home boasts a generous, light filled living area with open kitchen and dining. A spacious bedroom has an ensuite bath that also is accessible from the main living area. In residence laundry, plenty of closet space and dedicated parking complete this great opportunity to have it all, in the heart of it all. With the option to buy it with all the luxury furnishings, you really can just move right in! Arterra is San Francisco's first LEED-Silver residential green high-rise. Onsite luxuries include a sunny, view roof deck & BBQ, fitness center, community room, bike racks, private guest suite, parking garage & 24/7 attended lobby. Adventures abound right outside your front door - immediate access to Mission Park and Mission Creek offer kayaking, basketball, tennis, volleyball and waterfront walking paths. Grab a cup of coffee at Philz, shop at numerous boutiques, catch a game at the ballpark or Chase Center, shop local grocers and the farmer's market. This neighborhood is home to amazing cafes and numerous award winning restaurants, nightlife and craft cocktail bars. Caltrain, Muni, and easy freeway access - all within a block!



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