

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Home Telehealth Workers Find a Way to Connect

Join Them at Live Meetups Of the NoeHealthTech Hub

By Matthew S. Bajko

For years, Rebecca Messing Haigler and Dr. Kathleen Jordan have lived a block away from each other near 24th and Castro streets. They also work in the health-tech sector and are part of the revolution in healthcare delivery known as telehealth.

Yet their paths didn't cross until they attended the HLTH 2023 conference in Las Vegas last October for professionals in their field.

"When Rebecca and I met in Vegas, it made me laugh as it seemed ridiculous that we flew there to meet and connect, when we could have done so in our own neighborhood," recalled Jordan, who has worked from home since 2021 as the chief medical officer at Midi Health.

Specialists in menopause and perimenopause launched Midi Health to provide virtual care to patients from across the country. As such, Jordan's work environment had become vastly different from when she worked at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, first as its medical director of infection control and eventually as its vice president and chief medical officer.

She was looking for an outlet to have the kind of personal interactions she had been missing because she no longer worked at a bustling hospital.

So was Haigler, who, also from a



Over the Rainbow with joy is Polly Amber Ross, one of a bevy of queens, kings, and quings who performed at the 2023 Drag Show at Bethany Church. To find out about this year's fundraiser, as well as several other Pride events in Noe Valley in June, dance over to page 13. Photo by Art Bodner

home office, operates her Noe Strategic Advisors healthcare consulting firm, which she launched two years ago.

"With our former companies, we used to do happy hours with people at the office. Now, we are all working at home," said Haigler.

Jordan joked, "I needed to get out of

my house."

They wanted to offer an opportunity for people in the field to network and share ideas. Thus, they created the NoeHealthTech Hub. In naming the group, they were somewhat inspired by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

New Chapter for Store That Once Was Folio

Former Co-Owner to Open a Bookshop in Same Spot

By Kit Cameron

Noe Valley is about to have a bookstore once again. At least that is the plan of Katerina Argyres, longtime bookseller and former co-owner of Folio Books, which closed earlier this year.

Argyres intends to get the new book emporium up and running at 3957 24th St., in the same yellow-fronted shop where Folio Books lived.

The store, with a soft-opening date projected for late summer, has yet to be named, but it already has a robust staff in the form of many of the old Folio workers.

Andrew McIntyre, Isaiah Scandrette, and Kit Fitzgerald are all on board, "volunteering their time [for now] and helping me out," said Argyres. "I am surrounded by amazing staff who asked me to continue: 'Hey, Katerina, if you do it, we'll all come back.'"

In May, Argyres was focused on raising money to get the new business in operation. She and her fellow book lovers launched a GoFundMe campaign, appealing to the community to help support "a sustainable and functional neighborhood bookstore," said Argyres. "I hope it feels like people are coming back home. It was our home for many years. We are excited to bring

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Bench at Noe Courts Honors Local Dogs

Peppertree Founder Buys a Plaque for Riva and Friends

By Matthew S. Bajko

Returning in mid-May to her nearby home for the summer, Ann Scalf finally got to see the bronze plaque the city installed in January on a bench at Noe Courts Park, the green oasis along Douglass Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets.

Joining her to check out the site was 14-year-old Riva, a white-furred mutt found at a truck stop in Modesto, whom Scalf adopted 11 years ago.

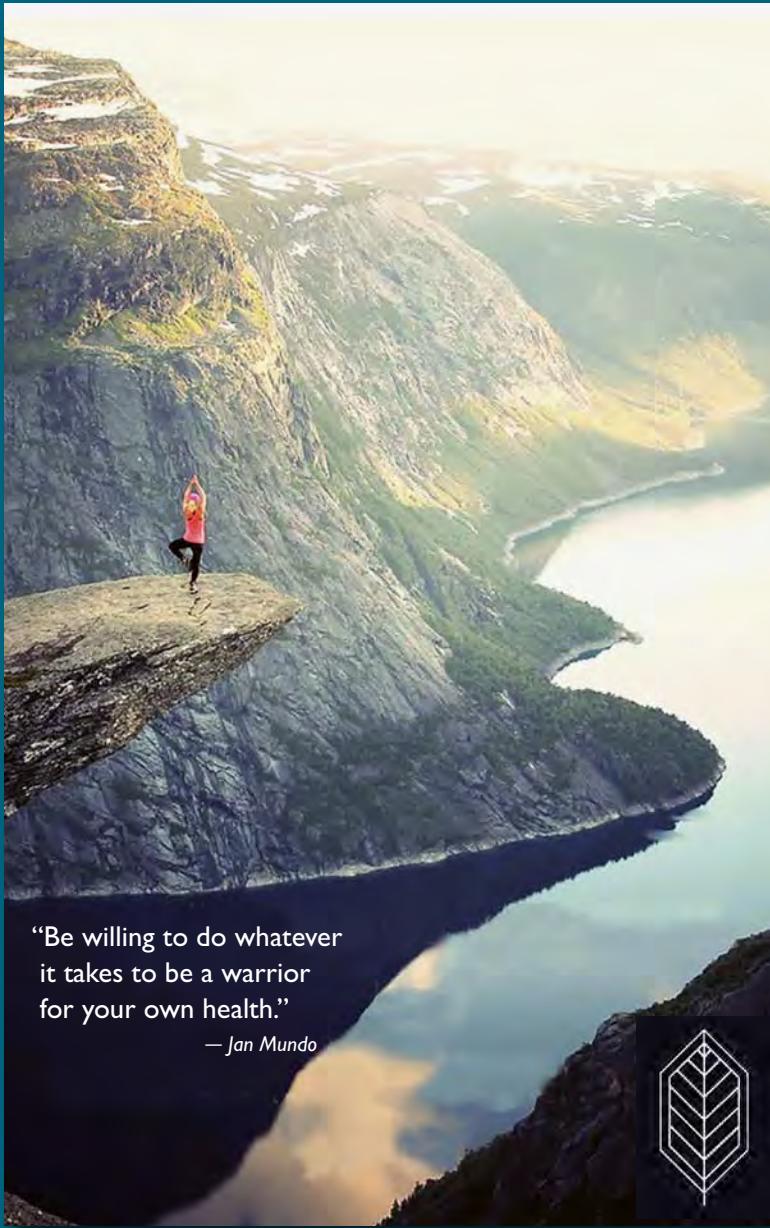
The plaque, on wood seating next to the entrance of the tennis court, honors the dogs Scalf has cared for over the years, as well as other canines in the neighborhood. It reads, "In Cherished Memory of Mitsouko, Sydney, Pockets, Riva & Echo and All Noe Valley Dogs Who Have Played Here."

"I just wanted to leave my mark in



Self-Identified Mutt Riva, 14, contemplates her long happy life while sitting near a plaque that her guardian, Ann Scalf, kindly bestowed upon a bench at Noe Courts. The memorial, says Scalf, honors both her own and all the dogs who've played in the park. Photo by Art Bodner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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— Jan Mundo



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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



LETTERS

Sympathetic to a Fault
Editor:

What a shame that crime is down in San Francisco but up in Noe Valley. Why not? Noe Valley has two things going for it, one being lucrative businesses ripe for theft. The other is the inherent sympathy of residents towards criminals.

By their very own virtue, Noe Valley residents don't want criminals to get into any trouble, so in the event of a crime, instead of calling 911 immediately, they finger their phones and pass the information on to each other.

Noe Valley residents are sympathetic to criminals in general. They truly believe that crimes against them would not exist if it were not for adequate housing, income equality, diversity,

equity, and being woke. You deserve what you get for having this attitude. Res ipso loquitur. Andrew J. Betancourt San Francisco

A Beautiful Arrangement
Editor:

The 2024 Noe Valley Garden Tour was another fabulous success! We had wonderful weather, many happy attendees, gracious garden hosts and dedicated garden greeters. We sold lots of raffle tickets, too. A donation will be made from the proceeds to the James Lick Middle School and to the Slow Sanchez Gardens.

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

Thank you to our tireless Garden

Tour Committee: Arete Nicholas, Linda Erdos, Jana King, Michelle Echenique, Karin Levenberg, Frank Schlier, Susan Roudebush, Rose Griffin, Adrien Bonifacio, and Chris Keene.

Thank you to the gracious Garden Hosts: Ben and Sonia Bell, Jeff Parker, Jerry Kuns, Duncan Cameron, Barbara Howland, Melanie Ranen, Howard Fallon, Gina Cockburn, Jessica Farb, and Christopher Roblee.

Thank you to the Creative Artists in the gardens: Brian Madden, Sophia Lee, Nathalie Fabri, Elisabeth Dekker, and Liberty Street Band.

Thank you to our superb Garden Greeters: Madeline McKay, Jan Proudfoot, Amy Meyer, Marianne Hampton, Simon Glinsky, Caroline Ayres, Beth Mooney, Richard Mullen, Leslie Tick, Carol Robinson, Debra Reabock, Anne and Richard Douglas, Lauren Hall, Kathryn Hall, Pam Boucher, Jill Daly, Gloria Miyashiro,

Sharon McDonnell, Kate Podolny, Jonathan Simcosky, Arete Nicholas, Susan Olney, Sal & Jessi Pipert, Liz Johnson, Cheryl Gay, Shadya Takla, Jeanne Jacobs-Gaffney, Deanna Alcorn, and Ellen Harris.

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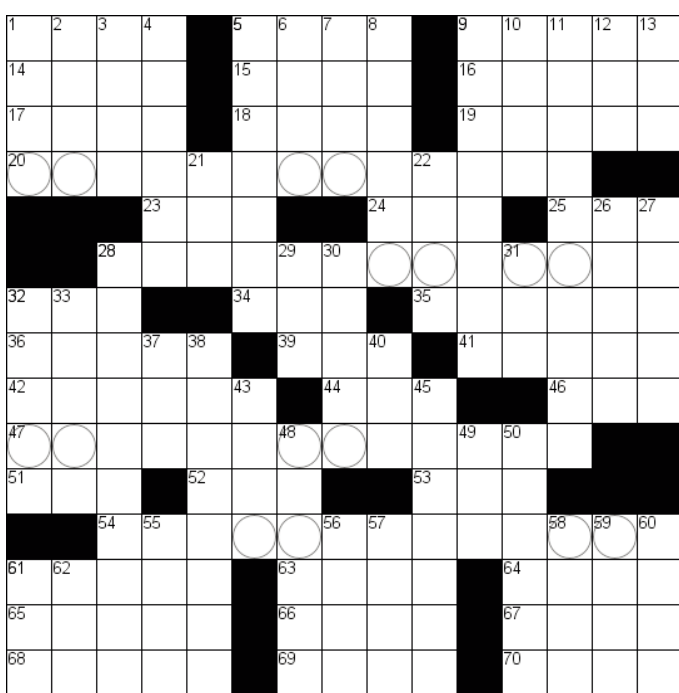
Linda Lockyer and Peggy Cling Friends of Noe Valley

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Whose Mom?

ACROSS

- 1. Artist Salvador
- 5. Twosome
- 9. Beast with one hump or two
- 14. "I'm working ____"
- 15. Phil Burton's wife who served in Congress
- 16. ____ This, ____ That on Vicksburg
- 17. "... dedicated to the ____ love"
- 18. Betray sleepiness
- 19. Face parts
- 20. Boston's home
- 23. Adda Clevenger, for one: Abbr.
- 24. Neighbor of Calif.
- 25. Grafton's ____ for Malice
- 28. Dragnet for a prison escapee, perhaps
- 32. 151, in old Rome
- 34. What the DMV may issue you



- 35. Graf who won five U.S. Opens
- 36. Get-up-and-go
- 39. Do the wrong thing?
- 41. Newsmen Morley
- 42. Sunglasses
- 44. Condo grp.
- 46. Ambulance destinations
- 47. Station near 19th Street Oakland
- 51. Artist Yoko
- 52. Half a laugh
- 53. ____ v. Wade
- 54. Economist who had a gloomy view of population growth
- 61. Lucifer
- 63. Actress Remini of The King of Queens
- 64. German import
- 65. City that's an anagram of "Tokyo"

- 66. Austen heroine
- 67. Blue-roofed eatery
- 68. Bike tire's ____ tube
- 69. Circle bisector: Abbr.
- 70. Many Sister Act roles
- 12. Adam's spouse
- 13. ____ Miserables
- 21. Commonly injured knee ligament, for short
- 22. Taylor Swift's The ____ Tour
- 26. Deduce from clues
- 27. Uses a swizzle stick
- 28. Fine thread used in upscale bedding
- 29. Bank offerings, briefly
- 30. Yale who endowed Yale
- 31. "Isn't ____ bit like you and me?": "Nowhere Man" lyric
- 32. Seinfeld character ____ Kramer
- 33. Freaky Friday actress Lindsay
- 37. PalmPilot or BlackBerry: Abbr.
- 38. Title for Judge Judy
- 40. Neither's mate
- 43. Education acronym for four fields of study (4)
- 45. Isaac's father
- 48. Restored to health
- 49. Yahoo! rival
- 50. Keep
- 55. Detest
- 56. Truck stop sight
- 57. With 58-Down, 24th Street restaurant, and the theme of this puzzle
- 58. See 57-Down
- 59. Thick noodle at Hamano Sushi
- 60. Drinks slowly
- 61. Go downhill fast
- 62. Atlas Shrugged author Rand

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Solution on Page 21
Find more Crosswords at www.no valleyvoice.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



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

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CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA

Noe Valley Incident Reports April 2023 – April 2024

Incident Type	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	Jan-Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	Sep23	Oct23	Nov23	Dec23	YTD23	Jan24	Feb24	Mar24	Apr24	Jan-Apr24
Larceny/Theft	32	17	21	15	85	34	30	35	27	26	34	39	24	334	32	31	42	42	147
Burglary	11	10	13	13	47	7	19	25	20	23	21	20	5	187	19	19	16	14	68
Malicious Mischief	3	4	9	9	25	4	16	13	10	8	11	11	7	105	3	8	11	6	28
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	10	14	10	49	10	20	27	17	15	11	12	12	173	8	11	11	5	35
Assault	7	3	8	2	20	5	3	2	4	2	1	5	7	49	3	4	4	3	14
Robbery	1	0	3	0	4	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22	2	1	1	0	4
Other Misc.	5	5	6	5	21	0	3	1	4	3	3	7	11	53	3	5	5	6	19
Fraud	3	3	1	0	7	3	6	2	5	6	2	5	1	37	4	4	3	4	15
Family D.Violence	1	2	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	3	0	3	0	6
Vandalism	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	79	55	76	55	265	66	102	109	90	85	86	102	71	976	78	83	96	80	337

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-1jq29-s5wp](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-1jq29-s5wp). 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 the April 2024 data on May 10, 2024. “Noe Valley” on the SFPD’s digital map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. *Noe Valley Voice, June 2024*

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Stats Show Chronicle Was Right: Thefts Up in Noe

Many Voice readers may have noticed a May news story which reported that crime was down in the city—but not in Noe Valley (“SF Crime Is Plummeting, With the Exception of One Affluent Neighborhood,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 5, 2024).

“Noe Valley, a quiet, charming residential area in the center of the city, experiences less crime overall than the city on average,” wrote *Chronicle*

reporter Danielle Echeverria. “But from January through April of this year, crime rose 15 percent compared with the same time in 2023.”

The story caught our attention too, prompting us to see if our Crime Snapshot would confirm the trend. Unfortunately, it did.

Though the *Chronicle* story used data collected by the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program (we later were told by Echeverria), and the *Voice*, as we do each month, relied on the San Francisco Police Department’s digital map of incident reports, our numbers also showed a significant rise in crime (or crime reporting) the first third of 2024 in Noe Valley.

In the 10 categories of crime the *Voice* tracks, the SFPD data registered a total of 337 incidents in Noe Valley

from January through April 2024. During the same period in 2023, it recorded 265 incidents. That translates to a 27 percent increase.

The biggest increase came in property crimes, things such as package thefts, car break-ins, and retail theft incidents. According to the SFPD data, larceny/theft in Noe Valley rose from 85 incidents last year to 147 in the first four months of 2024—a 73 percent increase.

The increase would not have been so dramatic had there not been a spike in shoplifting. On the digital map, police plotted 13 shoplifting incidents at the corner of Castro and Jersey streets in April of this year.

Burglary numbers also were up during the first third of 2024—45 percent higher than in 2023. Residents and mer-

chants reported 68 incidents this year, compared to 47 a year ago.

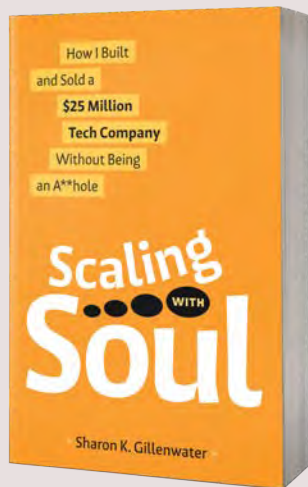
The good news? The number of stolen vehicle incidents declined 29 percent. The data showed 36 vehicle thefts this year, compared to 49 in 2023. Also, assaults were down 30 percent—with 14 reported from January to April 2024 versus 20 the same period last year.

The *Voice* culled the April 2024 data on May 10, 2024, from the “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org). The numbers for “Noe Valley” include reported crimes within an area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

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How I Built
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6pm reading
and meet the author!



DA Notes Arrest in Shoplifting Incident at Walgreens

The arrest last month of an Oakland man suspected of participating in a mass shoplifting at the Noe Valley Walgreens at the corner of Castro and Jersey streets caught the attention of San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins.

“Individuals and groups who come to our city to steal and wreak havoc in our neighborhoods should expect to be arrested and prosecuted by my office,” Jenkins warned in a statement released May 20. “My office takes these cases seriously and will continue to do everything we can to protect the safety of the public and our businesses. These brazen crimes are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”

Jenkins’ remarks came following the May 17 arrest of Malakhi Ricard, 20, in connection with an alleged group shoplifting incident on Wednesday, May 15, at the drug-store, at 1333 Castro St.

San Francisco police said Walgreens employees reported that “multiple suspects entered the store and stole merchandise” at about 8 a.m. that morning. According to police, the haul was valued in the “thousands of dollars.”

The suspects fled on foot before law enforcement officers arrived. Police said Ricard matched the description of one of the suspects and he was arrested a dozen blocks away at 24th and Mission streets.

Ricard was charged with second-degree commercial burglary, grand theft, and organized retail petty theft

with intent to sell merchandise. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Ricard was released on his own recognizance and ordered to stay away from the Noe Valley Walgreens.

At press time, police were continuing to search for other suspects.

Police asked anyone with information in the ongoing investigation to call the department’s Tip Line at 1-415-575-4444 or text a tip to TIP411 and begin the text message with SFPD.

In recent months, the Walgreens in Noe Valley has been a frequent target of shoplifters. According to the San Francisco Police Department’s digital map of incident reports, 13 incidents were reported in April alone.

‘No Merit’ to Kidnapping Claim

In another incident last month that left residents unnerved, several television stations as well as print and social media reported that a man forced an 11-year-old boy into a van on Noe Street between Clipper and 25th streets and that the youth had managed to escape later.

After an investigation into the May 15 reported event, a police department spokesman told the *Voice* that “there was no merit to a kidnapping incident.”

The department provided no further information.

—Corrie M. Anders

Painful Truths About Parking

SFMTA Explains Curbs in 'Daylighting' Law

By Kit Cameron

A California law called the "Daylighting Bill" was the top act at the May 15 meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors.

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency policy manager Hank Willson gave the audience of 25 or so a rundown on Assembly Bill 413, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom last October.

AB 413, which will start generating parking tickets in 2025, mandates that no vehicle may be parked within 20 feet of a corner. The intent of the law is to "daylight" intersections, so that pedestrians stepping off a curb are more visible to approaching drivers. Seventeen pedestrians died in San Francisco last year, and as part of Vision Zero, the city aims to bring that number down to zero.

A consequence of the law, however, will be a dramatic decrease in urban parking spots, already a scarce commodity along the outer reaches of Church Street.

Willson described successful efforts by the SFMTA to convince legislators to modify the bill to eliminate parking only at the approach side of an intersection. Now, instead of eight parking spaces per intersection, only four will be lost in the name of daylighting.

More Meters and Stripes?

Willson also addressed the current parking conditions in Upper Noe. Shoppers and merchants compete with commuters who drive in, park, and then hop on the J-Church.

An increase in short-term parking limits is one way to solve that problem, according to Willson, but he noted that parking meters were easier to enforce than parking limits. "If you require people to pay, they want to move along. It seems to work. Commuters won't want to pay meters."

Willson pointed out that parking meters on the south side of 29th Street, near St. Paul's church and school, would directly benefit the neighborhood by encouraging turnover in those spots for people coming to shop or eat or get a doggy shampoo. He envisioned that the 18 spots could be metered for up to four hours.

Willson also revealed suggested plans to change parking on Sanchez Street between 30th and Day from the present parallel-parking configuration, which provides nine spots, to either diagonal (an increase to 15 spots) or even 90-degree (an increase to 18 spots) parking.

As rumblings emerged from the highly engaged crowd, Willson stressed that these were only preliminary talking points and invited those interested to make their views known to the SFMTA.

"This is just the start of the conversation," he stressed. His email is hank.willson@sfmta.com.

Speed Cameras on the Way

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman gamely made his bi-monthly appearance at Upper Noe Neighbors and was greeted with appreciative applause by the crowd. In addition to reviewing the latest activities of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, he introduced his new "Noe Valley Guy," legislative aide Henry DeRuff.

"I am the all-purpose kvetch-ee," laughed Mandelman, as he encouraged residents to reach out to him through DeRuff at henry.deruff@sfgov.org. For issues about crime, he said, contact District 8's public safety liaison, Dave Burke, at dave.burke@sfgov.org.

A member of the budget committee, Mandelman lamented the current state of the city's business tax structure, which, he said, relied most heavily on our largest employers and provided a powerful incentive for them to leave the city. He is working with the mayor and the rest of the board to shift the business tax from being based on payroll numbers to something more equitable. A measure on the November ballot, he said, would help achieve some needed business tax reform.

Mandelman noted that scofflaw drivers seem to have increased throughout the city and remarked, "Don't you just feel that stop signs are treated like yield signs?"

Putting automated speed cameras at 33 locations in the city might change drivers' behavior. Speed cameras installed in other cities "do seem to have some impact," said Mandelman, along with increased enforcement of traffic laws by city police.

Noe Valley and the Mission are slated for speed cameras at San Jose Avenue between 29th and 30th streets, Guerrero between 19th and 20th streets, and Cesar Chavez between Folsom and Harrison, among other locations. 2025 is the soonest for their activation.

Mandelman said he hoped the devices would help us to "maybe get back to feeling we have rules on the road." And, referring to the much complained-about intersection at 28th and Church streets, he said, "If you want a stop sign...be a squeaky wheel!"

Block Party Needs Volunteers

UNN President Chris Faust quickly ran down some local news, including the welcome fact that Veterans Liquor at 1710 Church St. may soon be renovated, with the owners of the long vacant store ready to lease it by the end of the year. Speaking of renovation, he added, popular restaurant Pomelo is boarded up tight to prevent vandalism while the owners remodel the restaurant space.

A show-and-tell of the Upper Noe Neighborhood Block Party last year demonstrated what a resounding success it was. The festivities for 2024 will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

"Almost all of the merchants, three schools, not to mention On Lok and Mobu Dance Studio, were involved last year," said Faust, and he expects them to return.

This year, local artists will be invited to put up work inside the tennis court, "and we have a face painter lined up," added Faust.

He encouraged churches and schools, exercise clubs, and social groups to join Upper Noe businesses to "help us fill up the whole space and show off our neighborhood to everyone else."

Faust noted that the least successful aspect of last year's party was cleanup, which was performed by a dauntingly small team of already exhausted volunteers. He urged would-be participants to consider the joy of cleaning and to sign up for the task.

The UNN website will provide a link to contact the organization about the event (uppernoeneighbors.com). Also, all are welcome to attend the group's next meeting on Wednesday, July 17, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium at Upper Noe Recreation Center. ■



Greenway booster Mark Larvo stands with a newly planted tree and other plantings set to adorn the Comerford Alley side of his home on Sanchez Street.

Photo by Kit Cameron

Residents Grooming Alley to Be a Greenway

A blink-and-you-miss-it alley in Noe Valley is having its day in the spotlight, thanks to neighbors who live on both sides of the street. Comerford Street, a passage from Sanchez to Church streets, between 27th and Duncan streets, which affords access to a row of garages, has long been known as a quiet byway for dog walkers and strollers.

Now the residents on both sides of the thoroughfare have united to form the Comerford Greenway. Their goal is to turn the street into a block-long mini-park, with narrow beds of native plants along either side of the road.

"A number of us are very engaged," says organizer and Comerford enthusiast, Howard Fallon. They are meeting monthly to weed and plant shrubs along the alley-side border of their properties.

Fallon invites anyone who feels like hanging out and enjoying this little sliver of Noe Valley to join them for bagels from Holy Bagels and coffee from Martha's Coffee on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. And don't worry. You don't have to get dirt under your fingernails.

The next social workday is June 15. Look for the signs at each end of the alley.

Realizing they could get tax-deductible donations if they did so, the group became a member of the San Francisco Parks Alliance (sanfrancisco-parksalliance.org/partners/Comerford-greenway/). The non-profit advocates for and supports neighborhood groups improving public spaces.

"One issue of the alley is we don't know who owns it," says Fallon. "We are all dying to do something with the roadway, but we can't do anything until we know who owns it. Everyone's property line extends 18 inches out [into the alley]. We are planting native plants there because they can take a

beating."

When developer Joseph Comerford subdivided the city block, he left a strip of land 18 feet wide between the houses fronting on Duncan and those on 27th Street. Each house had a back gate onto the alley running through the block from Church to Sanchez. At the time, Comerford made no provisions for ownership of that strip, nor did it become an official city street.

The lane, whose ownership does not appear to ever have been definitively decided, was the subject of a lawsuit in 1907, as well as an attempted sale in 1989 to satisfy a tax lien by the city. Outraged residents put a stop to that idea, and now "it is just sitting in the assessor's office," says Fallon.

He adds that the roadway surface, which is nominally paved, used to get left over asphalt from other jobs whenever the Department of Public Works was in the neighborhood. But not now.

In addition to his role as greenway activist, Fallon is an admirer of the International Dark Sky Association, which calls for residents' outdoor lighting to project straight down rather than up and out into the darkness. Some Comerford owners have installed IDSA-compliant lights, and others are being encouraged to do so.

"There are designated dark parks around the world," says Fallon. He hopes the alley will be one of those special magical "dark sky" spaces where you can actually see stars.

Fallon also says he likes the fact that the alley is popular with dog walkers and other travelers. "The more eyes on the street, the safer it is," he notes. "We want it to be a public roadway."

For more information about the championing of Comerford Greenway, contact the group at comerfordgreenway@gmail.com.

—Kit Cameron

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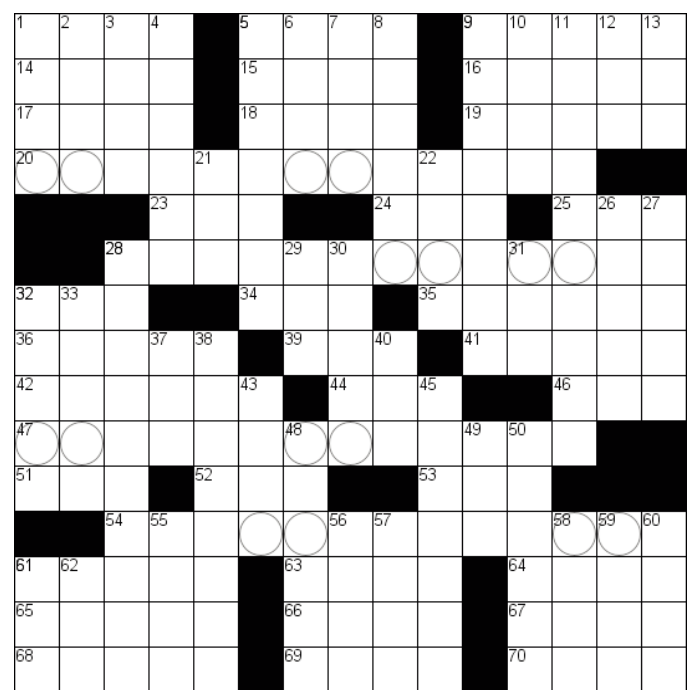
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Whose Mom?

ACROSS

1. Artist Salvador
5. Twosome
9. Beast with one hump or two
14. "I'm working ____"
15. Phil Burton's wife who served in Congress
16. ____ This, ____ That on Vicksburg
17. "... dedicated to the ____ love"
18. Betray sleepiness
19. Face parts
20. Boston's home
23. Adda Clevenger, for one: Abbr.
24. Neighbor of Calif.
25. Grafton's ____ for Malice
28. Dragnet for a prison escapee, perhaps
32. 151, in old Rome
34. What the DMV may issue you
35. Graf who won five U.S. Opens
36. Get-up-and-go
39. Do the wrong thing?
41. Newsmen Morley
42. Sunglasses
44. Condo grp.
46. Ambulance destinations
47. Station near 19th Street Oakland
51. Artist Yoko
52. Half a laugh
53. ____ v. Wade
54. Economist who had a gloomy view of population growth
61. Lucifer
63. Actress Remini of *The King of Queens*
64. German import
65. City that's an anagram of "Tokyo"



66. Austen heroine
67. Blue-roofed eatery
68. Bike tire's ____ tube
69. Circle bisector: Abbr.
70. Many *Sister Act* roles

DOWN

1. Seal the fate of
2. Frozen sister
3. Untruths
4. Reply to "That ain't true!"
5. Jessica Boyer on 24th Street, e.g.
6. Response to a dentist's request
7. Stevedore's grp.
8. Kidnapper's demand
9. Table of ____
10. Loads
11. Curds and whey eater

12. Adam's spouse
13. ____ *Miserables*
21. Commonly injured knee ligament, for short
22. Taylor Swift's The ____ Tour
26. Deduce from clues
27. Uses a swizzle stick
28. Fine thread used in upscale bedding
29. Bank offerings, briefly
30. Yale who endowed Yale
31. "Isn't ____ bit like you and me?": "Nowhere Man" lyric
32. *Seinfeld* character ____ Kramer
33. *Freaky Friday* actress Lindsay
37. PalmPilot or BlackBerry: Abbr.
38. Title for Judge Judy

40. Neither's mate
43. Education acronym for four fields of study (4)
45. Isaac's father
48. Restored to health
49. Yahoo! rival
50. Keep
55. Detest
56. Truck stop sight
57. With 58-Down, 24th Street restaurant, and the theme of this puzzle
58. See 57-Down
59. Thick noodle at Hamano Sushi
60. Drinks slowly
61. Go downhill fast
62. *Atlas Shrugged* author Rand

June 2024 Noe Valley Voice

Solution on Page 21
Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

Group Connects Noe Valley's Health Tech Professionals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

another neighborhood in San Francisco, one populated by people working in the artificial intelligence field.

"Getting Noe Valley to be known as a health-tech hub would be great ... much the way that Hayes Valley is getting dubbed 'AI Alley,'" Jordan noted to the *Voice*. "The coffee shops in Noe are filled with people in health tech. It cracks me up when I do a coffeeshop meeting at how many people are in the industry also doing meetings."

Last December, Jordan and Haigler invited people in the health-tech sector living in Noe Valley or nearby to join them for a meetup. More than a dozen did in December, gathering for drinks and dinner at Mr. Digby's restaurant on 24th Street.

"You can't walk around Noe Valley without running into someone who works in health tech," said Jordan. And not far behind them are the would-be investors in health-tech companies, added Haigler.

"A No-Pressure Opportunity"

The two friends invited the *Voice* to the second Hub gathering, held in early May in the back patio of the newly opened *Todo el Día* on 24th Street. More than half a dozen people stopped by over the several hours they were there.

Among them was Michelle Pampin, the chief executive officer of Welkin Health since 2020. She works out of her home near 25th and Dolores streets and years ago had met Haigler through mutual friends when they all met up for happy hour.

At the time, Haigler was working as a health economics lead at Verily Life Sciences, owned by Google's parent company Alphabet. Verily had signed up as a customer with Welkin Health, which provides software to healthcare providers for such purposes as electronic medical records and tracking appointments.

Pampin told the *Voice* she liked the laidback vibe of the health hub gatherings.

"It is a no-pressure opportunity to have conversations about the challenges we are facing and how to help each other," said Pampin. "We can connect the dots for people if they should need help in figuring them out."

More and more people are finding employment in alternative healthcare technologies, said Pampin, as people nowadays rarely need to visit traditional doctors' offices.

"I can tell you it is only just starting," she said. "We will have to leverage technology in the U.S. to scale up health care."

50 States of Health Care

While at Saint Francis Hospital, Jordan had introduced the first telehealth services it offered. For her new



After holding their second NoeHealthTech Hub meetup in the patio at *Todo el Día* in early May, telehealth experts (l. to r.) Michelle Pampin, Rebecca Messing Haigler, Jane Hatch, and Kathleen Jordan got together (at the request of the *Voice*) in another favorite outdoor spot, the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street.

Photo by Art Bodner

job with Midi Health, Jordan is now a licensed physician in 47 states and working to soon be able to practice medicine in all 50 states.

She told the *Voice* she "fell in love with online health care" and doesn't see herself returning to the traditional model of seeing patients onsite at a medical office.

"I can sit in Noe Valley and see patients in all 50 states," said Jordan.

With various reproductive and sexual wellness services coming under attack in conservative-led states, Jordan can provide her patients the health care they need, no matter where they reside. Even in states with progressive policies around health care, people residing in more rural areas may not have a doctor within driving distance, so they often turn to telehealth.

"Half of the women we see have nowhere else to go, or there is a nine-month wait where they live to see a doctor," said Jordan. "We can do it in two weeks."

And, noted Jordan while seated at the Mexican eatery, "all of that is going on in a basement up the street. It is pretty cool."

Women's Health in Demand

Having attended the first Noe Hub gathering last year, Dr. Rebecca Yee signed up with Midi Health as a provider. She is also an independent OB-GYN who maintains an affiliation with Sutter Health's California Pacific Medical Center.

"[Midi] opened the door for what is

out there instead of a typical practice," said Yee, who lives near 25th and Diamond streets. "It has been fascinating to deliver medicine in a different way."

She said many of her telehealth patients are women in Pennsylvania. Often the care Yee provides involves prescribing hormone therapy in areas where doctors may be reluctant to do so based on an assumption that those who take hormones automatically face a higher risk of breast cancer.

That is not the case, said Yee, who has prescribed hormones for years to her local patients. Thus, she said, her decision to work with Midi was an easy one.

"It allows you to expand your practice elsewhere and provide services not available elsewhere," said Yee.

All Are Welcome

Even those who do go to an office for work are welcome to participate in the Hub gatherings.

Vince Garmo commutes to his job as a health economist with Genentech, a

member of the Roche group, at an office in South San Francisco.

He dropped by the Hub meetup in May, as a decade ago he and Haigler were coworkers at Abbott Labs. He came to say hi, meet new people, and network.

"I came to hear what people are working on," he said.

The centrality of Noe Valley's location is why Garmo believes it attracts so many residents who work in the health field.

"I think a lot of us live here because it is easy to get to the freeways. It is close to where I work," said Garmo.

The group plans to meet quarterly at a neighborhood restaurant on a weeknight, starting at 6 p.m. Because of summer vacation plans, the next gathering will likely take place in early September.

Anyone interested in connecting with the NoeHealthTech Hub and attending its next meetup can email Haigler at rmessing@gmail.com and/or Jordan at kathleen@joinmidi.com. ■

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Check out a recap of Luck be a Lady



Get more info about St. Paul's School



Park Bench Plaque In Memory of Beloved Dogs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Noe Valley. I thought it was a great way to do it," said Scalf, 81. She notes that Echo is the name of what she expects will be the fifth and likely last dog she will adopt in her lifetime. "Echo doesn't exist yet. I have time for one more dog."

The plaque is emblematic of her sense of humor, Scalf told the *Voice*. A friend had gotten one to honor her deceased husband, prompting Scalf to inquire about installing one in memory of her dogs, since she had never married.

"OK, I thought, let's really give people a little chuckle over the years when they see this lady left her plaque to her dogs. I did it with a tongue-and-cheek sense of humor," she said.

With so many dogs living in the area, Scalf said, she thought it would be appropriate to include them on the plaque. She was very pleased at seeing it for the first time.

"I love it," said Scalf. "I took a picture of it and sent it to everybody I know, and wrote, 'Look what I found on my return to San Francisco!'"

The Cost of a Memorial

The nonprofit San Francisco Parks Alliance oversees the commemorative bench program on behalf of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. A tax-deductible donation of \$6,000 is asked for plaques installed at one of the city's neighborhood parks or open spaces.

The 8-by-4-inch plaques are normally installed within six months of the requestor's paying the amount in full and signing a contract with the Parks Alliance. The contract is good for a decade, at which time the donor can either renew it or have the plaque removed and returned.

The only stipulation about the wording of the plaque is that it is limited to five lines of text, with 25 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation. Park officials have final approval of the text.

Tamara Barak Aparton, deputy director of communications and public affairs for the city department, told the *Voice* it doesn't keep statistics on benches dedicated to humans vs. animals. She said she knew of ones dedicated to dogs at Duboce Park, Huntington Park, and Alamo Square. The Parks Alliance said there were at least 15 in city parks.

"Dogs are among our most enthusiastic park users, and we love to see



On a warm day in Noe Courts in 2007, a dog pulls his family along, to feel the breeze, smell the grass, and tumble with the Riva of his generation. Were you there? Did you bring a ball?

Photo from June 2007 *Voice* by an excellent soon-to-be-identified photographer

them honored! I think it brings a lot of joy to humans as well," said Aparton.

Two Decades of Daycare

Scalf was already the adoptive mom of Mitsouko, another rescue dog, when she moved from the city's Richmond District into the Noe Valley home she bought in 1972. A block away from the park, the home had been built in 1902.

"I fell in love with the house," recalled Scalf.

Locals may recall Scalf had operated Peppertree Daycare for 22 years out of her 23rd Street residence until retiring in 2005.

As she told the *Voice* in its July-August issue that year (<https://www.noevalleyvoice.com/2005/July-August/Rumo.html>), she was ready "to reclaim all of my house after all these years, and I just want to take it easy now and do other things."

One pursuit she focused on was travel, hopping across the globe. Scalf visited Romania, India, and Mongolia, and lived for a month in both Shanghai and Paris. The tenant of a unit she rents out would dog-sit when she was out of town.

"I have always had someone to watch over my dogs," said Scalf.

Born in Louisiana, Scalf attended the University of Dallas and was on campus when President John F. Kennedy was shot as his motorcade made its way through the city's downtown on Nov. 22, 1963. After graduating, and with just \$50 in her pocket, she took a bus to Oakland to stay with an aunt.

"When you are 22, you don't think you are brave. Somehow I survived," she said.

Patience and Bubbliness

From 1966 until 1977, she worked as a buyer for the now-defunct department store Emporium-Capwell in its downtown Oakland store. From her window she could see the construction of the BART station at 20th and Broadway.

"I got to ride on BART even before it was open to the public," recalled Scalf.

She left to open her own retail shop in Walnut Creek with a friend. After they closed the business in 1983, Scalf got licensed to be a preschool operator allowed to teach 14 children at a time from her home.

"I had a teaching degree to teach middle school, so I went to City College and took a couple of courses to sound a little bit intelligent," joked Scalf. "You need for [children] 5 and under patience and bubbliness. When I would interview for my assistants, I didn't care about degrees. I wanted

someone who could get down to the level of a little kid."

Single and with no children of her own, Scalf focused her nurturing tendencies on the 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds she taught over the years. She wasn't a strict teacher, noted Scalf, and enjoyed allowing her pupils to draw outside the lines. She would often take them on field trips to Half Moon Bay and other parts of the Bay Area.

"I would tell parents looking for a preschool that would be the first step for sending their kids to Harvard to go somewhere else. At Peppertree, we liked to get honey out of a honeysuckle," recalled Scalf.

The best part of her preschool career was the commute and casual dress code, noted Scalf.

"I had a nice commute down my stairway and could dress in sweats," she said.

She and Riva Will Travel

A Southerner at heart, Scalf now splits her time between the Bay Area and the Gulf Coast. In 2016, she bought a retirement home in Shreveport and spends eight months of the year there.

"I gave myself a 10-year weaning period from San Francisco. I am going to probably be selling in a couple of years," said Scalf. "I am very comfortable in Shreveport. It is going to be ideal for my old age."

Having Riva helps keep her active and exercising daily.

"At my age, Riva gets me out of the house. We walk a mile every day," said Scalf.

She has not only adopted most of her dogs from local rescue agency Muttvillage but also has fostered dogs for it over the years. It focuses on senior dogs who can be harder to place with a forever family than a puppy.

"Muttville dogs are older and have the hardest time being adopted. They need love too," said Scalf. ■

The commemorative plaque program supports the maintenance of benches with plaques throughout the city's parks. It also funds the refurbishment of benches without plaques. More information about the program can be found online at <https://sanfranciscoparksalliance.org/name-a-bench/>.



The team of book lovers behind the drive to save the bookstore: (l. to r.) Andrew McIntyre, Katerina Argyres, Isaiah Scandrette, and Kit Fitzgerald. Photo by Kit Cameron

Farewell Folio, Hello New Bookstore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our family back together."

The team has also invited patrons to become Bookstore Heroes. A donation of \$5,000 will give a Hero special recognition online, plus a 10 percent discount at the new business.

"The more money we raise, the more books we can buy," said Argyres. "It will be a slow build to get us back to what we were before."

In the future, Argyres hopes the shop can host events like the Where's Waldo scavenger hunt, which last summer had readers scampering into all the surrounding businesses, looking for clues.

"It was a wonderful community-based event," she said, adding, "A bookstore for the community is so important."

For now, though, the team is still in the design phase of rebuilding the store.

"We are probably not going to be able to do anything ambitious until next year. Once we get back on our feet, we can expand events," Argyres said.

By month's end, excitement was growing, however. Argyres announced on the GoFundMe page that contributions had climbed to \$30,000 the first week.

"We were hopeful that people would hear our call, but we are completely blown away by the immediacy of so much love and support," she wrote in a May 30 update.

To jump on the bandwagon, go to "Save an Independent Bookstore in Noe Valley, San Francisco" at GoFundMe.com.

And if you're interested in becoming a Hero, email noevalleybookstore@gmail.com with "Bookstore Hero" in the subject line. ■

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SHORT TAKES

Pride in the Valley

The fog is coming over the hills, and the Pink Triangle is in place on Twin Peaks. It must be Pride Month. And multiple events in Noe Valley will have you kicking up your heels, listening to music, or dining with friends.

Pleasure Principle, a Pride celebration and concert presented by the Queer Chorus of San Francisco, comes to the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on Friday, June 14, at 7 p.m.

“Queer joy is our superpower,” affirms the self-described “oldest queer mixed choir in the United States.” Led by Artistic Director Michael Reilly, the group will segue from Mozart and Handel to “beautiful arrangements” by Bjork and Indigo Girls, all in the vaulted space of the Ministry.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased on Eventbrite.com.

Meanwhile, Bethany Methodist Church, at 1270 Sanchez St., is bringing back its riotously funny Drag Show on Tuesday, June 26, from 7 p.m. on. There is no admission charge, but the donation basket will be passed and don't forget to tip the performers.

Bethany will devote the month of June to Pride with a sermon series, “Over the Rainbow,” with themes from the Wizard of Oz and special music and reflections each week. It all culminates in an interfaith labyrinth walk on Friday, June 28, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. Maybe put on your ruby slippers.

Down at the corner of Church and 24th streets, Mr. Digby's is holding its ever-so-popular Drag Brunch on Sunday, June 9, with tables available starting at 10:30 a.m. Hostess La Frida Mont, along with Saiyohmi Gray and Euphoria Mont, promise you a good time, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation, which supports homeless youth, seniors, and those with HIV/AIDS. Go to the restaurant's website, mrdigbys.com, for more details and to make a reservation.

And on Sunday, June 30, you're invited to join the Pride Celebration at the Noe Valley Library, starting at 2 p.m. (see “Library Celebrates,” above right).

Be There in the Square

Now that we have our new toilet at the Noe Valley Town Square, between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets on 24th Street, there is even more reason to come hang out and enjoy the regularly scheduled activities on tap for June.

You can align your body and spirit with Folk Yoga's Vinyasa flow classes on Sundays, June 2, 16, and 30, or with similarly relaxing Yoga Flow motion on Sundays, June 9 and 23. All classes are free and from 11 a.m. to noon. Be sure to bring a mat (those pavers are not pose-friendly) and water, if needed.

Or spice it up a bit with Rhythm and Motion on Saturday, June 15, from 4 to 5 p.m. This high-energy dance workout will have you making moves you never thought possible. And there's no judgment, so feel free to dance hard and dance silly. You may spot certain *Voice* staffers doing just that.

If sitting still and listening is more your thing, check out the acoustic set by Multi-Celli on Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. (Maybe hang around after yoga and pick up lunch at one of the excellent eateries nearby.) The local



Morticia Mourningwood belts out a song at last year's Drag Show at Bethany United Methodist Church. This year the popular show and fundraiser is June 26. Photo by Art Bodner

group of violincello players will give you a wild ride from Bach to the Beatles.

Or come listen to Hyesoo Chae and Hyeyun Chae on Sunday, June 16, also from 1 to 3 p.m. The violin-playing sister act has been devoted to the instrument since early childhood. They plan to play music by Shostakovich, De Beriot, Vivaldi, and more.

“The people of Noe have really helped me branch out of my traditional repertoire and arrangement of instruments as well,” says Hyesoo Chae, who lives in Menlo Park. “I think that speaks to their inclusiveness and the courage to tap into the unknown to create something more beautiful.” What could be more romantic than duets on a (hopefully) sunny afternoon?

For updates on events, check the noevalleytownsquare.com website, or settle down on a bench in the park, at 3861 24th St.



Sisters Hyesoo Chae and Hyeyun Chae (right) will play hits from their classical repertoire from 1 to 3 p.m. at Acoustic Sunday on June 16 at the Noe Valley Town Square. Photo courtesy the Chae

Volunteers Refuse Refuse

The once-a-month Noe Valley Cleanups are continuing this summer, on third Sundays June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, and so on.

Anyone is welcome to join the popular event, co-sponsored by SF Public Works, Refuse Refuse SF, Noe Valley Democrats, and Together SF. Just sign up for a work date at the website TogetherSF.org.

You'll meet with other volunteers and get your vest, bag, and grabber at 10 a.m. at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg.

Crews are done by noon and can skip down the spiffy sidewalks.

If you have questions, email hello@togethersf.org or

info@refuserefusesf.org with the subject line Noe Valley Cleanup.

The Jokes on Us

These days we have quite a few chances to hear comedy in Noe Valley. On the first Friday of the month, June 7, we can mosey down to the Dubliner bar at 3838 24th St. to check out some of the latest funny folk to visit the valley. It all starts at 8 p.m. and is free to attend. Just be sure to buy a drink and tip the comedians. Some bring their schtick from as far away as Sacramento.

The Bar on Dolores, at 1600 Dolores St., with its distinctive column right at the corner of 29th Street, offers free comedy sets every Thursday night starting at 8 p.m. The Yuck on Us features open mic comedians who show up to try out their stuff on an energized and appreciative crowd. (And, just saying, the Bar on Dolores offers free pancakes on the second Saturday of every month, so there's a chance to get your carbs and your giggles at the same place, just not at the same time.)

The newest of these comedy ventures, Best Medicine, offers live sets on the third Saturday of each month at Noe Valley Farm, a below-ground performance space at 1828 Castro St., between Cesar Chavez and 27th streets. The off-the-grid location began hosting concerts after Covid and has expanded into shows under the moniker SF Comedy Underground.

Best Medicine produces standup not only in Noe Valley but in North Beach, “small local shows featuring a mix of the best comics in the Bay Area and some traveling comedians from L.A.,” says comedian and co-producer Kelly Evans. There are also improvised sets where audiences can get involved.

Library Celebrates Juneteenth and Pride

This month, the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library will host two celebrations: a Juneteenth Celebration and a Pride Celebration. The events will be “a time to come together and have fun,” says librarian Mary Fobbs-Guillory, manager of the branch at 451 Jersey St.

Accompanying each party will be light snacks, activities, and displays. If you have celebrated with the library on Lunar New Year or Star Wars Day, you'll know what to expect—lots of happy kids.

As both events celebrate freedom and equality, the library will highlight books written by or about Black and LGBTQIA+ authors, for children as well as adults. There also may be giveaways, so be on the lookout for surprises.

The Juneteenth event, which commemorates the June 19, 1865, abolition of slavery in Texas (two months after the end of the Civil War and two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation) will take place on Monday, June 17, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The Pride Celebration, about freedom to be who you are, will be Sunday, June 30, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., the afternoon of the San Francisco Pride Parade.

Leading up to the party is a rainbow cookie decorating workshop at the library on Friday, June 21, 3 to 4 p.m.

Besides these events, the Noe Valley Library will host a full schedule of maker workshops in June. For the entire list, see the *Noe Valley Voice* “Library Events” column on page 21 of this issue. For more information about the Pride and Juneteenth parties, call the Noe Valley branch at 415-355-5707.

—Stella Mullin

The June 15 show in Noe Valley, emceed by Evans' two co-producers, Iain Langlands and Alfred Robinson, will spotlight comedians Jack Weiler, Xander Beltran, and Maryam Moosavi, plus headliner Frankie Marcos. “Frankie is actually an internationally touring comedian now, who just returned from the Fringe Comedy Special in Australia,” notes Evans.

Tickets for SF Comedy Underground start at \$10 at Eventbrite. And, Evans says, you can byob. “People enjoy it.”

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



Kelly Evans performs standup at SF Comedy Underground, the show he and two fellow comedians have been producing since December on third Saturdays at “Noe Valley Farm” at Castro and Cesar Chavez streets. Photo courtesy Tyler Peterson

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The Cost of Living in Noe

April Surprisingly Slow

By Corrie M. Anders

High mortgage rates were continuing to depress residential sales activity in April, as only five houses and four condominiums changed hands in Noe Valley, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

Those were the lowest numbers since April of 2020, when shoppers bought two single-family homes and four condos (in an environment influenced by fear and uncertainty over Covid-19).



A 2022 renovation retained the 1905 façade of this 25th Street home (right) while giving the interior and rear yard (left) a lavish makeover. With its \$6,375,000 price, the four-bedroom home was the most expensive sold in April in Noe Valley.

Photos courtesy Larisse Droubi—Generation Real Estate and Open Home Photography



Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick said he was “kind of surprised” by the lackluster sales in April, generally the start of the home-buying season.

“I thought Noe Valley would be more active than it was,” said Kostick, an observer of the local real estate scene for more than two decades. “For whatever reason, buyers were not buying

with as much vigor this year in April.”

Still, he had a theory. “One thing that has slowed the whole market is that people were expecting [the feds to] lower interest rates at the beginning of the year, and they didn’t get it,” said Kostick. Mortgage rates have hovered around 7 percent since last June.

In addition, there were relatively few properties for buyers to inspect when they were house-hunting in March.

Kostick said Noe Valley at that time had a 2.4 months’ supply of homes. That meant it would take two-and-a-half months for all the homes to be sold, assuming no new properties were added.

While the housing stock had been rising over the past two years—from one month’s supply in 2021—it still was below the six months’ inventory that is considered adequate for both buyers and sellers.

Faced with a relative shortage, buyers who found a place to their liking in April did not dilly-dally. They typically made an offer within two weeks of a property hitting the market.

The month’s most expensive house caught a buyer’s fancy in nine days. Located in the 3800 block of 25th Street between Dolores and Church streets, the home was an elegant four-bedroom, four-bath house, originally built in 1905. After an extensive renovation two years ago, it sold this spring for \$6,375,000—1.8 percent beneath the list price (\$6,495,000).

Among its many contemporary touches were a gourmet kitchen with Thermador appliances and a waterfall island, floor-to-ceiling glass, radiant

heat, air conditioning, electric blinds, and a media room with wet bar. There was also a garden with an outdoor kitchen, gas fireplace, and a two-person cedar sauna. The one-car garage had EV-charging and interior access to the home.

On the condo front, buyers appeared to take 66 days on average to make an offer. That number can’t be trusted, however. It was distorted by a property in the 3800 block of 24th Street that sat on the market for 213 days. The two-bedroom, two-bath unit finally sold for \$745,000—21.6 percent below its asking price (\$950,000).

The month’s priciest condominium sold for \$1,655,000—18.6 percent more than the seller had initially sought. The buyer took only 10 days to make an offer on the unit, located in the 4300 block of 25th Street between Diamond and Douglass streets.

The home commanded three bedrooms, two baths, and 1,161 square feet of living space on the top floor of a two-unit building constructed in 1989.

Features included an updated kitchen, solar panels, two parking spaces with interior access to the unit, exclusive use of a patio, and a deck with views of San Francisco Bay. ■



The top-floor condominium in this modern two-unit building on 25th Street sold in April for \$1,655,000. The home featured two bedrooms, a renovated kitchen, solar panels, and a deck with views of the bay.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
April 2024	5	\$2,200,000	\$6,375,000	\$3,224,000	12	104%
March 2024	8	\$1,330,000	\$4,950,000	\$2,983,750	44	108%
April 2023	8	\$1,700,000	\$4,995,000	\$3,151,870	22	102%
Condominium/TICs						
April 2024	4	\$745,500	\$1,655,000	\$1,167,625	66	107%
March 2024	9	\$700,000	\$1,760,000	\$1,198,333	29	106%
April 2023	7	\$1,115,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,795,714	40	106%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2024	3	\$1,825,000	\$4,100,000	\$2,908,333	18	109%
March 2024	4	\$2,325,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,512,500	18	106%
April 2023	1	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	12	107%
5+unit buildings						
April 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2023	1	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	53	95%

*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.

NVV6/2024

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2024	Average May 2024	Average April 2024	Average May 2023
Studio	7	\$1,500 – \$2,845	\$2,080 / mo.	\$2,163 / mo.	\$2,306 / mo.
1-bdrm	35	\$1,950 – \$6,550	\$3,209 / mo.	\$2,975 / mo.	\$2,977 / mo.
2-bdrm	28	\$2,150 – \$6,295	\$3,757 / mo.	\$3,977 / mo.	\$4,120 / mo.
3-bdrm	19	\$3,750 – \$16,500	\$6,667 / mo.	\$6,250 / mo.	\$5,574 / mo.
4+-bdrm	4	\$6,499 – \$13,990	\$7,072 / mo.	\$8,747 / mo.	\$11,105 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 93 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from April 15 to May 10, 2024. In May 2023, there were 105 listings.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Noe Valley Voice feature highlighting new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a fitness studio whose owners have a ton of experience building muscle in San Francisco.

MX3 FITNESS

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www.mx3fitness.com/noe-valley

In planning for their new gym in Noe Valley—their fourth location in the city—MX3 Fitness co-owners Glenn Shope and Dave Karraker expected it would take months to reach their goal of having 100 paid members. But three weeks prior to their May 3 opening, they already had 80 people signed up.

By mid-May, there were 110 people waiting to become members of the gym, located at 4045 24th St., between Noe and Castro streets.

“Yes, we have been overwhelmed, in the best possible way, with how quickly the membership ramped up,” said Shope.

Though anyone can add their name to the waitlist, or book an hour with one of the gym’s personal trainers, membership has been capped at 200. Also, MX3 limits the number of people working out at the same time to 16.

“We don’t want a crowded, big-box gym,” said Karraker. “We want you to have a very personalized, low-stress experience.”

Two Sides to Gym

The 2,500-square-foot storefront is divided in half. Four workout stations set up on the left side each have the equipment and weights needed to do a full workout. Each station accommodates one person or two workout partners. The sessions are available by reservation in hour-long blocks of time.

MX3 Fitness had gone with such a setup when they were able to reopen their gyms during the first year of the Covid pandemic in 2020. It proved popular with their clientele.

“People liked it so much, we kept it,” said Karraker.

The right side of the gym is what Shope and Karraker refer to as their open gym setup. There are various pieces of equipment and weights available for use by reservation, also in hour-long intervals. A person can work out alone or with a friend.

The personal trainers who work at MX3 also utilize the open gym area. Either side of the gym can accommodate up to eight people. “More often, it is four to eight people working out at the same time,” said Shope.

First Spot in Lower Haight

A former tech programmer who found little success with a startup company he launched in the early 2010s, Shope pivoted to the fitness industry and received certification as a personal trainer in order to make a living. He started out at gyms in the Castro and South of Market before opening his first MX3 Fitness in the Lower Haight in 2016.

Locations in the Mission and Castro neighborhoods followed a few years later. Having dated since July 2013, Shope and Karraker married in 2017 and became co-owners in the business.

Shope always wanted a gym located in Noe Valley and had begun lease



MX3 co-owners Glenn Shope and Dave Karraker pose with their pride and joy, gym mascot Liz Lemon Claiborne Taylor Colton Smith.

Photo by Art Bodner

negotiations for a storefront on 24th Street in 2020. Then came Covid, and the couple shelved those plans.

With the pandemic under control, and Old Republic Title closing its branch in 2023, they jumped at leasing the vacant storefront. It took nearly eight months for them to receive city signoff on permits to change the space to a gym.

They didn’t need to do much with the interior to remodel it to fit their business. They installed padded flooring and gave the walls a blue color scheme.

In the back is a locker area and shelving to house clean towels for gym members. There are no showers, though people can use the bathroom to change clothes if needed.

Monthly memberships begin at \$99 and are based on how much access a person wants to the gym. There are one, three, five, or seven days a week options capping out at \$219 a month.

Members can also add a workout partner to their membership for an extra \$20. It is a particularly good deal for couples or friends who want to hit the gym together.

The gym is dog-friendly, so members can bring their canine companions. Most days, the gym’s mascot, Liz Lemon Claiborne Taylor Colton Smith, is present. Karraker and Shope rescued the year-old pitbull and boxer mix from the SPCA. “Well-behaved dogs are allowed,” said Karraker.

A Warm Welcome

The couple, who live in Twin Peaks, said they have felt embraced by the neighborhood since they announced last fall they were moving in.

“Every day we were working on the space, people would stick their heads in and say they had been waiting so long for a gym like ours to open,” said Karraker. “Even people who had no intention of being members were welcoming us to the neighborhood.”

Karraker is taking over the office that overlooks their building’s roof for his public relations firm, Raptor Communications. Thus, he expects to

be onsite upwards of 30 hours a week, while Shope will largely be overseeing the other three MX3 Fitness locations.

Because they utilize a keyless entry system, they do not need to have staff onsite. Members are texted a code to enter the front door just prior to their

reservation time. The system allows MX3 Fitness to keep its locations open even on holidays. The Noe Valley gym is open seven days a week, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, email info@mx3fitness.com.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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June 1, 15 & 29: CONCERTS in the Park features music by Alex Wise on June 1, Adrian West on June 15, and Newman on June 29. 10 am-noon. 295 Day; uppernoerecreationcenter.com

June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The FARMERS MARKET has fresh produce, treats, and music Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytown-square.com

June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Wander the local hills with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

June 1 & July 6: "Map Your Neighborhood" at a Disaster-Preparedness WORKSHOP. 2-3:30 p.m. Sign up SFFDnert@sfgov.org. 451 Jersey; sfpl.org

June 1-July 31: See "Watercolors From NATURE" by artist Mary Harden at Lola Gallery, 1250 Sanchez. Reception **June 7**, 5-7 pm. 642-4875; lolasanfrancisco.com

June 2, 16 & 30: FOLK YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 5 & 12: The SPANISH Conversation Club meets at the Noe Valley Library. 4-5:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 5 & 12: Attend a series on MINDFULNESS. 5:30-6:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 6, 13, 20 & 27: Family STORYTIMES are on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and at 11 am. Space is limited to 20 children. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 6, 13, 20 & 27: Mutiny Radio hosts a free OPEN MIC for comedians at The BAR on Dolores on Thursdays, 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745

June 7: ALPHA BET ROCKERS perform at the Noe Valley Library. 4:30-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 7: First Friday COMEDY NIGHT at The Dubliner starts at 8 pm. Dubliner, 3838 24th. 826-2279; glecklerjoe@gmail.com

June 8: The Noe Valley Library hosts STEM free play, with Legos. 10-11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 8: A JUNETEENTH PARADE starts at 11 am at Market and Spear and ends with a

JUNE CALENDAR

noon to 8 pm celebration at Fulton Plaza. sfjuneteenth.org

June 8 & 23: City Guides offers WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley history June 8, 2-3:30 pm; June 23, 10-11:30 am. Starts at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 375-0468; reserve at sfcityguides.org

June 8, 10, 19 & 25: Omnivore Books welcomes CHEF authors Lori Rice (*The California Farm to Table Cookbook*) June 8, 3 pm; Sara Kramer and Sarah Hymanson (*Kismet: Bright, Fresh, Vegetable-Loving Recipes*) June 10, 6:30 pm; Sarah Johnson (*Fruitful*) June 19, 6:30 pm; and Michelle T. King (*Chop Fry Watch Learn: Fu Pei-Mei*) June 25, 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

June 9: Mr. Digby's offers a DRAG BRUNCH hosted by La Frida Mont. 1199 Church. Reservations: mrdigbys.com

June 9: Acoustic Sunday in the Town Square features MULTI-CELLI performing Bach to Beatles. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 9 & 23: YOGA FLOW offers free all-level classes; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 9, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 26: The Noe Library hosts WORKSHOPS: Kokedama on June 9, from 3-4 pm; Rainbow Cookie Decorating on June 21, from 3 to 4 pm; Embroidery on June 22, from 11 am to 1 pm; Sashiko Mending on June 23, from 2-3:30 pm; Bubble Tea Boba Making on June 24, from 4 to 5 pm; and Earring Making on June 26, from 4 to 5 pm; materials provided. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 10: Get drop-in TECH HELP from the library staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 10 & 24: The BAR on Dolores is flipping free FLAPJACKS from 1 to 4 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

June 11: SCRAP Creative Reuse Center hosts a free CLOTHING REPAIR work-

shop; bring one item to fix. 5-7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 12-Aug. 17: CHUNG 24 Gallery shows "After Image," photographs by Rachel Phillips and Andy Mattern. Reception June 15, 2-5 pm. Hours Wed.-Sat., 1:30 to 6 pm. 698 Pennsylvania chung24gallery.com

June 13: Try a meditative LABYRINTH WALK at the Noe Valley Ministry, 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

June 13: Zack Rogow, Ona Gritz, and Daniel Simpson read from their MEMOIRS AND POEMS. 7-9 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

June 14: The Noe Valley Library's FILM CLUB screens the 2019 Brazilian film *Alice Júnior*. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 14: The QUEER CHORUS of San Francisco performs a concert, "The Pleasure Principle." 7-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 779-5428; qcsf.org

June 15: SF Civic Music offers a free CONCERT, "An Afternoon of Chamber Music." 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; sfvivicmusic.org

June 15: Rhythm & Motion gives you a free DANCE workout, 4 to 5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 15: Help Sharon Gillenwater celebrate her book *Scaling With Soul: How I Built... a TECH Company Without Being an A**hole*. 5-7 pm. Just for Fun, 3982 24th. 285-4068

June 15: Best Medicine hosts the show SF COMEDY Underground at the Noe Valley Farm, every third Saturday. 7:30-9:30 pm. 1828 Castro. Eventbrite. Bestmedicinethebay@gmail.com

June 16: Noe Valley CLEANUP DAY volunteers pick up supplies at the Town Square. 10 am to noon. 3861 24th. togetherSF.org

June 16: Sister violin duo Hyesoo and Hyeyun Chae play at ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the Town Square. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 17: The 29th annual PINK TRIANGLE commemoration begins at 11 am at Twin Peaks. thepinktriangle.com

June 17: Celebrate JUNETEENTH at the Noe Valley Library with snacks and activities, 4 to 5:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

June 20: The Bernal Heights Summer Solstice Stroll and ART WALK features local artists and refreshments, from 5 to 8 pm along Cortland. bernalbusinessarts.com

June 23: STERN GROVE Festival begins its 2024 season with a free concert: Tegan and Sara, 2 pm. 19th Ave. & Sloat. sterngrove.org

June 25: PJ STORYTIME runs from 6:30 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 26: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and other performers raise funds at a DRAG SHOW at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez. 7 pm. bethanysf.org

June 28: The Stolorow/Schenker/Bowman Trio perform JAZZ from 8:30 to 10 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

June 29: Learn about pre-Columbian DANZA AZTEDA Xitlalli-Xolotl. 3 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 30: The SF PRIDE PARADE runs along Market, starting at Beale at 10:30 am, and ends at the Civic Center for a party featuring celebrity grand marshal Billy Porter, 11 am to 6 pm. Details: sfpride.org

June 30: The Golden Gate Park Band hosts a Pride Celebration with works by LGBTQ composers. 1-2:30 pm. 75 Hagiwara Tea Garden. 596-1741; goldengateparkband.org

June 30: The Noe Valley Library's PRIDE PARTY features activities and snacks, 2 to 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 4: The SF Mime Troupe premieres its new musical *AMERICAN DREAMS*, running July 4 to Sept. 8. 2 pm. Dolores Park, 19th & Dolores.

June to Do: The next Voice will be the July 2024 issue, distributed the first week of July. The deadline for calendar items is June 15. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com

CHILDREN'S FICTION

A little creature is helped during a storm by his friends Heron and Frog, in **Turtle-Turtle and the Wide, Wide River** by Jane and Will Hillenbrand. Ages 3-6.

Jam, Too? by JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara, has a text with the rhythm of a musical jam session. Ages 3-6.

Three creatures refuse to do what the narrator of the story tells them to do in **A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark Were Riding a Bicycle**, by Jonathan Fenske. Ages 4-8.

A Korean American girl strives to cheer up her grandmother whose best friend has moved away, in **Jina Jeong: Project Friendship**, by Carol Kim with illustrations by Ahya Kim. Ages 6-8.

In **The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry** by Anna Rose Johnson, a French-Ojibwe orphan is sent to Lake Superior to live with a family of lighthouse keepers. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Sandra Markle describes the daily routine of prehistoric beasts in **Could You Ever Dine With Dinosaurs?** (illustrated by Vanessa Morales). Ages 4-8.

Wolverine vs. Tasmanian Devil, by Jerry Pallotta with illustrations by Rob Bolster, lists the advantages in fighting that each creature would have. Ages 6-9.

More than 80 deities appear in **Amazing Immortals: A Guide to Gods and Goddesses Around the World**, written and illustrated by Dinah Dunn. Ages 8-12.

There are 16 biographies in **Kid Olympians, Summer: True Tales of Childhood from Champions and Game Changers**, by Robin Stevenson, illustrated by Allison Steinfeld. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Staceypants does not want a cat until the cat adopts her, in **Not My Cat** by Stacey Patton, with illustrations by Acamy Schleikorn. Ages 3-10.

Two sisters disagree about their Taiwanese culture in the graphic novel **Unhappy Camper** by Lily LaMotte, with illustrations by Ann Xu and Sunmi. Ages 8-12.

In **Tree. Table. Book.**, by two-time Newbery medalist Lois Lowry, a young girl helps her elderly best friend hold on to her memory. Ages 8-12.

A group of tweens ride out the zombie apocalypse on a cobbled-together train in **Zombie Train** by David Macinnis Gill. Ages 8-12.

A boy who lost his hearing investigates the government's secret test of wind turbines in **War of the Wind**, climate fiction by Victoria Williamson. Ages 8-12.

TEEN FICTION

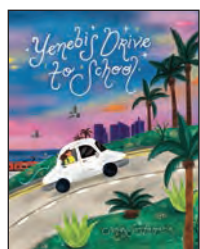
In Mindy McGinnis' psychological mystery **Under This Red Rock**, a girl dealing with the death of her brother starts a new job in the caverns of Ohio. Ages 14-17.

A teen tries to win a competition held to settle a war between vampires and witches in **The Revenant Games** by Margie Fuston.

Nhika, who can change human biology by the touch of her hand, is ordered to use her powers in dangerous ways in **The Last Bloodcarver** by Vanessa Le. Ages 15+.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Readers, Avid and Voracious



It's time to challenge yourself to read, learn, and win prizes in the San Francisco Public Library's **Summer Stride** sweepstakes. Kids, teens, adults—start keeping track of your reading (and listening and doing) from June through Aug. 31. Once you've racked up 20 hours, you'll earn a collectible: the 2024 Summer Stride tote bag featuring art by Sedy Santamaria, well-known muralist, illustrator, and author of the 2023 children's book *Yenebi's Drive to School*.

Summer Stride is about adventure too. When you take part in library field trips, author talks, workshops, STEM activities, you name it, you can add the hours to your list.

You also can win raffle prizes—just ask for a raffle ticket when you visit a library. The prizes have been donated by the SF Giants, the Zoo, Golden State Warriors, Chronicle Books, the Opera, numerous museums, bakeries, and even Bi-Rite Market.

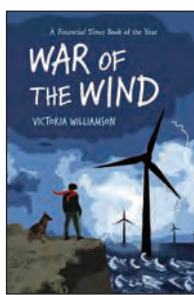
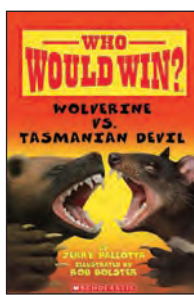
All SFUSD students should have received their Summer Stride Reading Lists in their home mailboxes. But the lists, of book choices for different age groups, appear online as well. There's even a digital Summer Stride bingo card.

The Library has a tip for teens in grades 8 to 12. If they can volunteer at least 10 hours of "helpful, kind service" to Summer Stride this summer, they will have even more fun, plus gain valuable job experience. Find all the links at SFPL.org/summerstride-2024/ or search #SummerStride on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter.

If you look around on this page in the *Noe Valley Voice*, you can find lots of ideas for books to read. That's because Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Children's Librarian Madeleine Felder of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library regularly share dozens of titles among their new arrivals at the branch. (Voice bookworm *Karol Barske* does the annotations.)

To put the books or DVDs on hold, check them out on SFPL.org. Then stroll over to the Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St. If you need to speak with Lewis or Felder, or with our library's manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory, call 415-355-5707.

Now take out your stopwatch, I mean your smartphone, and start reading. It's summer!
—Sally Smith, editor/co-publisher, Noe Valley Voice



TEEN EBOOKS

In **Finally Fitz** by Marisa Kanter, a bisexual teen girl fakes an Instagram romance to make her ex jealous. Ages 12+.

A young musician meets the Duke of Dreams in Judy I. Lin's gothic romance **Song of the Six Realms**. Ages 13-18.

When the adults of Brockton, Conn., morph into bloodthirsty monsters, the town's students barricade themselves in their school in **The Merciless King of Moore High** by Lily Sparks. Ages 14-18.

In the YA fantasy **King of Dead Things** by Nevin Holness, two Black teens living in London search for the fang of the leopard god Osebo. Ages 14+.

ADULT FICTION

The three dark interlocking stories in **American Spirits**, by Russell Banks, imagine the lives of cranky residents in a rural New York town.

Change, an autobiographical novel by Édouard Louis, explores the main character's desire to leave behind his impoverished past.

Two unemployed potters plan to put on a performance of *Medea* during the Peloponnesian War, in **Glorious Exploits** by Ferdia Lennon.

In **Say Hello to My Little Friend**, by Jennine Capó Crucet, a failed impersonator of the singer Pitbull tries to become a gangster in Miami.

Thai author Saneh Sangsuk shares the tall tales and reminiscences of an old monk in **The Understory**.

ADULT NONFICTION

James Kaplan spotlights three midcentury jazz icons in **Three Shades of Blue: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, and the Lost Empire of Cool**.

In **The Black Box: Writing the Race**, Henry Louis Gates considers the literary history of Black America.

Cooking in Real Life: Delicious and Doable Recipes for Every Day is by food writer Lidey Heuck, who once worked for *Barefoot Contessa* star Ina Garten in East Hampton.

David Toomey ponders animals who play sports in **Kingdom of Play: What Ball-Bouncing Octopuses, Belly-Flopping Monkeys, and Mud-Sliding Elephants Reveal About Life Itself**.

ADULT EBOOKS

A young Black man's life changes when he works on a presidential campaign, in **Great Expectations** by Vinson Cunningham.

Headshot, a novel by Rita Bullwinkel, follows the careers of eight female boxers.

"Queen of crosswords" puzzle creator Anna Shechtman analyzes the game in her memoir **The Riddles of the Sphinx: Inheriting the Feminist History of the Crossword Puzzle**.

In **Who's Afraid of Gender?** Judith Butler describes the effects of transphobia, spread by authoritarian regimes and far-right extremism.

BLU-RAY/DVDS

Double Blind, a horror thriller directed by Ian Hunt-Duffy, features Millie Brady and Pollyanna McIntosh (2023).

Ordinary Angels, a film based on a true story about a Kentucky hairdresser, stars Hilary Swank and Alan Ritchson (2024).

The Promised Land (Bastarden) is a biopic on the life of Ludvig Kahlen, who in 1755 fought a landowner on the Jutland heath; directed by Nikolaj Arcel (2023).

Skin Deep (Aus Meiner Haut), a romance fantasy directed by Alex Schaad, features Mala Emde and Jonas Dassler (2022).

The Taste of Things (La Paddion de Dodin Bouffant) stars Juliette Binoche and Benoit Magimel in a historical romance directed by Anh Hung Tran (2023).

Annotations by Voice Bookworm Karol Barske

LIBRARY EVENTS

Whether you knit or crochet, you're welcome to attend the Noe Valley **Knitting Circle**, meeting first Saturdays (June 1, July 6), 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A two-part "Map Your Neighborhood" workshop shares tips on dealing with major disasters, Saturday, June 1, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The second class is July 6.

The **Spanish Conversation Club** welcomes all skill levels, on Wednesdays, June 5 and 12, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The final two meetings of "Introduction to **Mindfulness**" are on Wednesdays, June 5 and 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Storytimes are Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., June 6, 13, 20, and 27. Limited to 20 children. Sign up 10 a.m.

Alphabet Rockers perform Friday, June 7, from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

STEM Free Play includes LEGOs and Magna Tiles for children and their families on Saturday, May 8, 10 to 11:45 a.m.

Meet at the library for a **City Guides Walking Tour** exploring historic sites in Noe Valley, on Saturday, June 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and on Sunday, June 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; register at sfcityguides.org.

Create a **Kokedama**, a plant in a moss-covered ball of soil wrapped with string, with supplies provided by the library, on Sunday, June 9, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Library staff are on hand to give one-on-one **Tech Help** Monday, June 10, 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own device or practice on a library computer.

SCRAP Creative Reuse Center offers a **Clothing Repair** workshop; bring one item to fix Tuesday, June 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. ResZeroWaste@sfgov.org

The Noe Library's **Film Club** screens the 2019 Brazilian film *Alice Júnior*, about a transgender teen, on Friday, June 14, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Celebrate **Juneteenth**—the date in 1865 that Lincoln's emancipation proclamation finally reached enslaved people in Texas—at a neighborhood gathering, including a history display and snacks, on Monday, June 17, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Tertulia Literaria Book Club en Español discusses *Muerte Súbita* by Alvaro Enrigue, on Tuesday, June 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Copies are held for checkout at 1234 Valencia St.

Rainbow Cookie Decorating is set for Friday, June 21, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Beginners can practice "Artful Stitches" at an **Embroidery** workshop Saturday, June 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

Bring an item to mend to a **Sashiko Mending** workshop led by artist Lisa Solomon on Sunday, June 23, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

A class to make **Boba** for bubble tea is on Monday, June 24, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Everybody is invited to **Pajama Storytime**, on Tuesday, June 25, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Space is limited to 20 children; reservations required: 355-5707.

Create **Earrings** with beads and stones from the library's jewelry-making kit, on Wednesday, June 26, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The **Noe Valley Book Club** discusses Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, on Friday, June 28, 3 to 4 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

Attend a performance of **Danza Azteca Xitlalli-Xolotl**, a group devoted to preserving Méxica and pre-Columbian dance, Saturday, June 29, from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

Celebrate LGBTQ+ pride at the Noe Valley Library's **Pride Party**, featuring snacks and activities, on Sunday, June 30, from 2 to 3:30 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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Whose Mom? by Michael Blake

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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, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
 Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
 Meetings: usually first Sundays, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, 2:30 p.m. 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 (FUNDOG)

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, M17-6290
 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.; 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: Usually last Thursdays, Doggy

Style, 3927 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
 noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks

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

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: ProgressNoeValley
 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.

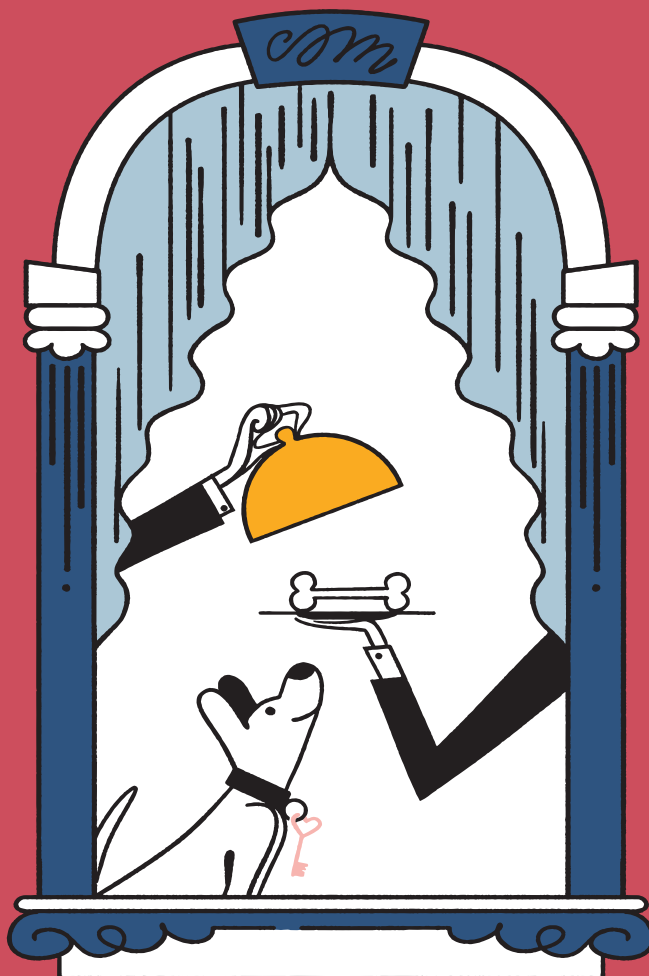
Upper Noe Merchants

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.



“good bones”

Real estate has a language all its own.

corcoran

ICON PROPERTIES

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Back on Top in June

By Mazook

NO JUNE SWOON HERE: The stock market has inspired many catchy memes over the years. Among them: “Sell in May and go away,” followed by “June swoon,” the idea being that the stock market goes into a bit of a slump after Memorial Day and picks up again after Labor Day.

However, there will be no swoon on Noe Valley’s commercial strip this summer, on 24th from Church up to Diamond Street. Quite the contrary. You will see lots of activity on our Main Street.

Look for the June opening of Banán at 3862 24th St. (next to Martha & Bros. Coffee), an enterprise that friends Matt Hong and Zak Barry launched in Hawaii a few years back. Fresh fruit and bananas are the base of the store’s desserts. When blended, frozen bananas become thick, creamy, and sweet, much like soft serve ice cream.

As Banán is peeled, Martha’s will be moving its coffee store and cafe a few doors down to the corner of 24th and Vicksburg. It has been waiting for PG&E to hook up the power there. Martha’s present location (3868 24th) will then undergo a seismic retrofit.

Also opening in June will be the Crayon Box Preschool, at 3810 24th, where Shoe Biz once was. Founded in 2003 by Latina early childhood educator Adriana Razo, it will focus on teaching in Spanish. For the past 10 years, the preschool has operated out of St. Anthony of Padua Church at 3215 Cesar Chavez (near Folsom). Maria Murillo is the program director, and their website is Thecrayonboxpreschool.com.

Moving into the former Animal Company storefront at 1307 Castro are Steven Trimble and Alberto Rojas, owners of a seasonal gift store called Terrasol. Their last location was on California Street (in Polk Gulch). Said Trimble on their website: “We have been in business in San Francisco for two decades, first in our shop on Larkin Street, for 11 years at 1742 Polk Street, and [most recently] in our present location at 1526 California Street. We closed there after Christmas of 2023.” Their past focus has been on selling items like candles, jewelry, Latin American folk art, and Halloween, Christmas, and Gay Pride memorabilia.

Oh and by the way, Just for Fun (3982 24th) is opening a second location, on Union Street near Cow Hollow this summer.

The big story, of course, in Downtown Noe Valley, on page 1 of this issue, is that the workers from Folio Books are raising money to open a new bookstore at 3957 24th St. Soon I hope. Hooray!



ANOTHER LITTLE PIZZA, MY HEART: When the building at 3881 24th St., which had been for sale since late last year, looked as if it had been sold—the



Are We in Italy Yet? Owner Sandra Pisor (left) serves a first taste to customer Rob Spivack at the new La Copa Loca at 1504 Church St. The gelateria opened May 11. *Photos by Kit Cameron*



rumor was a buyer had made an offer—the neighborhood feared that the popular Haystack Pizza, opened in 1972, would vanish, along with the bull named “Trump” which stands on its roof.

But as former Noe Valleon Bobby McFerrin once sang, “Don’t worry, be happy.” The building is no longer for sale, and Haystack founding father George Kouloulis, who lives upstairs, is taking charge of the eatery with the help of his children. Together, they promise to improve the quality of the restaurant’s food and service, to bring it back up to the standard that has kept them in business for so long.

“Our family is getting back together and instilling family values again,” says George’s daughter Tina Kouloulis, “with daily specials which can be found online [haystackpizzasf.com], and we’re adding a mini-pizza and many new changes to come.”

Joining Tina and her dad in taking a more active role in management are her brother Jason Mills and sister Janice Gallonakis. Also, sister Lavendar Krastas will serve as a consultant, says Tina, “popping in and out” of the restaurant.

“For the month of June,” she adds, “we will offer our customers a ‘welcome back’ special of our great garlic bread and a house salad for \$10, which is a 33 percent discount off the regular price.”

Haystack’s hours are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. “Soon we will be open on Sundays again,” she promised.



TWO CRAZY CUPS: It was a successful soft opening in May for La Copa Loca Gelato, at 1504 Church near the corner of 27th. Co-owner (with her husband Mauro) Sandra Pisor says, “We had a very soft opening here on Saturday, May 11, by just filling up our gelato display with two dozen flavors, turning on the lights, and opening the front door. It was really great to see the many people walking on Church that day, looking through the front window. They stopped and came in after they realized we were actually open for business.”

The original Copa Loca has been located in the Mission at 3150 22nd St. for the past 19 years.

“This is a family business, and we live in the neighborhood at 30th Street and San Jose, so it is a very short walk or ride to the Church Street store,” says Sandra. “We have a production facility on Treasure Island [from] which we deliver to many restaurants in the Bay Area.”

She elaborates that Mauro grew up helping in the kitchen of his father’s restaurant in northern Italy. After

refining his skills at a local culinary school and working at a renowned 4-star restaurant in London, he relocated to San Francisco in the early ’90s. “We use old country flavors and only the freshest of ingredients and seasonal fruits.”

Sandra says they did some research about the building on Church (next to Eric’s restaurant) and found that it was originally an ice cream store that opened in 1900, with the family living in the residential unit above the store. “We have a picture of that family in front of the store that we will hang on the wall soon.” She promises to share that with the Noe Valley Voice next month.

The store hours are noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays and Mondays, noon to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays, and noon to 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The menu is filled with gelato scoops and sundae cups, as well as smoothies and milkshakes, all made with fresh fruits (strawberry, kiwi, mango, papaya, berries, to name a few), and yogurts and nuts. You can mix and match with toppings like chocolate bits, marshmallow, Oreo cookies, M&Ms, caramel crunch, and more.

What caught my eye on the menu was the caffettone, described as “a simmering shot of espresso, cooled with a delicious swirl of mascarpone soft gelato.” And yes, they have “tasting spoons” to help you make your choice(s) at the counter. Yum.



BUSTING OUT ALL OVER: The Noe Valley Town Square’s Saturday Farmers Market promises to have some great fruits and vegetables this month.

“June is going to be delicious for us,” says Kou Herr of the Herr Family Farm, located near Fresno. “We will have lots of varieties of tomatoes, including Early Girls, pink and purple Sun Gold, and Bumble Bee cherry tomatoes, and Chef’s Choice seedless red tomatoes,” he says, “and the sweetest white corn you will ever have.” Herr says Herr also will be harvesting some very tasty red and yellow seedless watermelons. And watermelons with seeds, too.

Jimmy Egoian from Twin Girls Farm, also located in the Central Valley near Fresno, says June will see lots of great yellow and white peaches and nectarines, and red and green plums and pluots. Egoian points out that pluots and apriums are first-generation hybrids between a plum parent and an apricot. Pluots and apriums are later generations. Put another way, when plums and apricots fall in love, they get married, have babies, and that’s where pluots, apriums, and pluots come from. Ask Egoian for a taste of each so

you make your choice.

Also, a new vendor joined the Farmers Market last month. That would be Triple Delight Blueberries, a very large farm in Caruthers, which is south of Fresno. According to Triple Delight’s representative, Rebecca Amaya, the farm will have fresh blueberries at the market until mid-July. “After that,” she says, “the weather becomes too hot to grow them.”

Mark and Kimberly Sorensen’s three daughters—Johannah, Elizabeth, and Olivia—are the “Triple Delights” for whom the farm is named. The entire family works to tend the vines, along with two part-time and 20 or so seasonal employees.

Besides 15 acres of blueberries, Triple Delight has 350 acres devoted to growing raisins, which they supply to national food producers to use in their products.



THE CHRON, THE JOHN, AND AMAZON: There was a slight panic for those who like to read the *Chronicle* (the day before yesterday’s news), when copies of the daily paper were missing from Shufat Market (3807 24th).

Owner James Omar said the lack of a stack was due to a dispute between him and the Chron’s delivery folks.

At Voice press time, though, Omar said he had worked things out and the *Chron* should be back in the rack in his market by the time you read this.

There also was a major defect in our Town Square’s prefabricated john. Many users complained about it to the SF Rec and Park Department.

Noe Valleon Bill Woolf, a Town Square regular, wrote: “Since the installation of the Town Square’s toilet, there has been great concern about the absence of a handle on the inside of the toilet door. Once inside, it has been difficult to close the door—sometimes requiring a friend to push the door closed from the outside.”

This situation was pretty scary for many old and young people entering the loo. It reminded me of a line from Bob Dylan’s “Subterranean Homesick Blues” (1966): “The vandals took the handles.”

Well, the complaints reached the higher-ups. The morning of April 22, according to Woolf, Rec and Park workers came out and installed a handle on the door.

Now the potty has gone back to being a tourist attraction, with many visitors taking selfies and pictures of friends and family in front of the bathroom.

Lastly, at Amazon-owned Whole Foods in Noe Valley, June will bring lots of workers who will devote lots of time to refreshing the interior of the store. (WF opened, after Bell Market closed, in 2009.)

According to the store’s team leader, Jack Douglas, the work “will tidy up the customer service desk and the sandwich counter, which will create much more space, and we’ll paint a new mural above the meat department.” He says they also will be working to make the wine section more shopper-friendly.



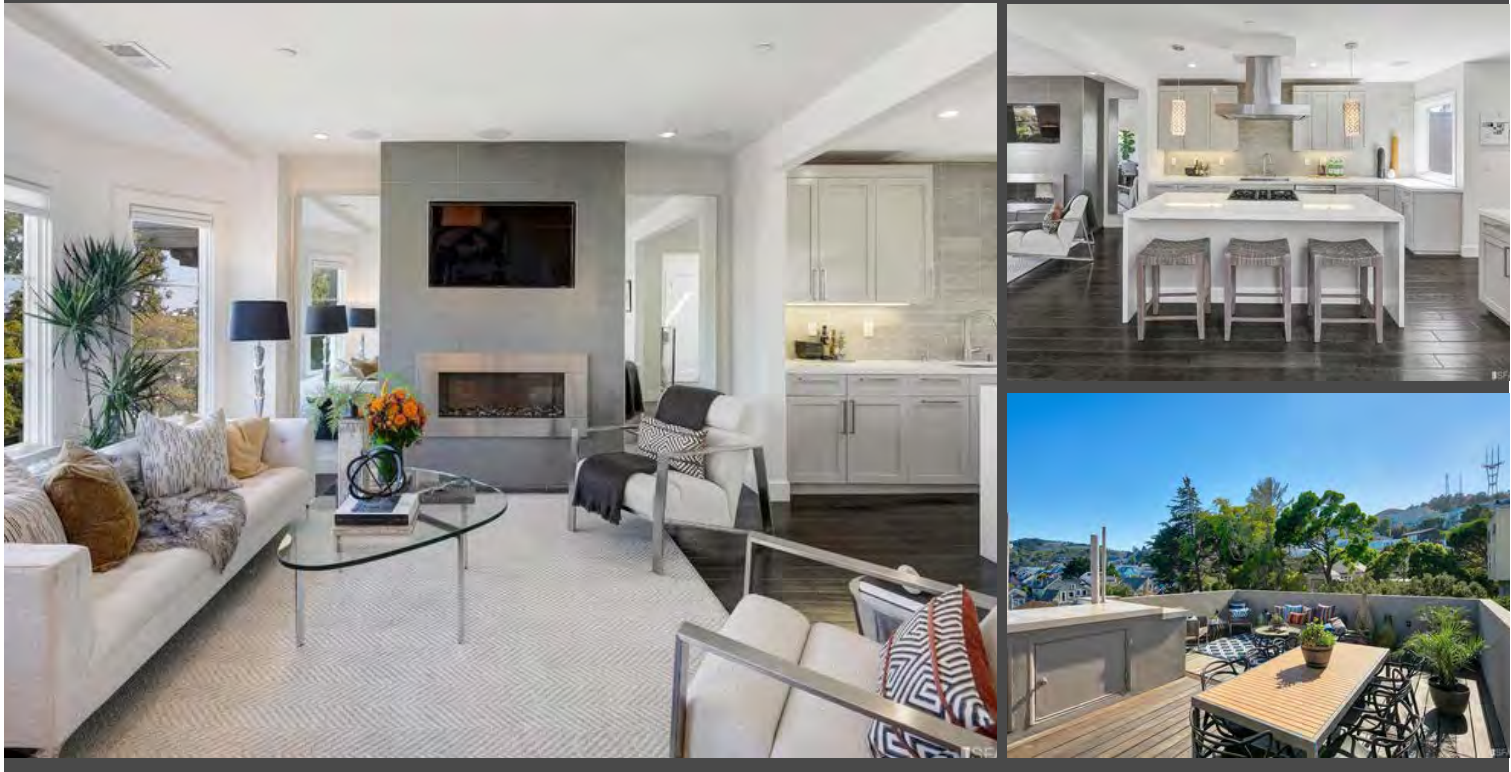
THAT’S ALL, YOU ALL: Swoon in June no more. The rains are gone but the fog will hover over Twin Peaks, keeping our valley cool as the heat rises inland. Don’t worry, be happy. I look forward to seeing you in July. Ciao for now. ■



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3 BED | 2 BATH



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