



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Generations of Love at Martha's On Church

Abuelita Ivonne Introduces a New Server With Dimples

By Matthew S. Bajko

These days, there is a new member of the Guerrero clan to be found behind the counter at the Martha & Brothers Coffee Company on Church Street. And her name is Henley.

Just nine months old, baby Henley is not quite ready to serve up customers' caffeinated drinks. But she does like to snag their food orders and she's fascinated by the lights at the register, noted abuelita (grandmother) Ivonne Guerrero. At least three days a week, Guerrero babysits Henley, her son Jaime's first child with his wife Bri, while overseeing the coffeehouse in the afternoons.

"Oh, yeah, we put her to work," joked Guerrero, 59. "I will also sing to her when I am in the back of the counter. I just have been waiting for her my whole life."

Come the fall, Guerrero is set to welcome her second grandchild, as her daughter, also named Ivonne, is expecting her first child. The younger Ivonne's due date is Oct. 4, which also happens to be her birthday, and which is two days prior to her mother's 60th birthday (Oct. 6).

"You love your kids, but it is twice the love, I think, for your grandchildren," said Guerrero. In Henley's case, "it is like loving your son all over again."

Longtime friend Gil Guillermo, who plays guitar and is known in the neighborhood as the maestro for music at the Noe Valley Town Square, had just finished performing at the coffeehouse the morning of April 19, when he stopped by the table where Guerrero was sitting, talking with the *Voice*.

"What a gorgeous grandma," Guillermo said. "Ivonne has been a



**Toilet Bowl Makes a Big Splash:** Zach D'Angelo led a parade and served as Grand Poobah for the April 21 christening of the new public restroom at the Noe Valley Town Square. He and about 500 other people lined up to inspect the plumbing. Incredibly, the flusher worked! And the sink as well. And everyone finally washed their hands—of a year and a half of media frenzy. All except us. See our final wrap-up in Rumors, page 23.

Top photo by Suz Lipman; photo below by Art Bodner



blessing to our family," he said, noting he had brought his children to the Church Street Martha's as they were growing up in Noe Valley and that his son and daughter had both briefly worked there. "It is like family here."

Blanca Lewis, a professional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Visit a Green Glade Designed For a Blind Touch

Jerry Kuns' Garden Among 10 on View May 18

By Kit Cameron

To walk with Jerry Kuns in his garden high up on 23rd Street is to experience the external world in a completely different way. Visually impaired since birth and completely blind following a middle school basketball injury, Kuns has reframed the concept of blindness, living independently since his teenage years, all the while helping to invent and adapt technology to assist blind and vision-impaired people.

Kuns worked with John Steuernagel of Sculpt Gardens to create an oasis of fragrance, sound, and texture in his back yard. The garden will be among 10 on display in the Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour on Saturday, May 18. (See details in story below.)

Steuernagel came into Kuns' life in 1990, after the now 46-year Noe Valley resident had run through a half dozen other designers, who treated him like, well, a blind guy who didn't have anything meaningful to contribute. Steuernagel, by contrast, immediately asked Kuns to describe his hopes and dreams for the garden.

"John, you can't blow up my rock!" was Kuns' first command. To satisfy that desire, the designer buried an outcrop of granite that had been sticking up in a patch of weeds, and created

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Garden Tour a Perennial Favorite

Friends of Noe Valley Hosts 18th Tour of Our Bloomin' Dale

By Kit Cameron

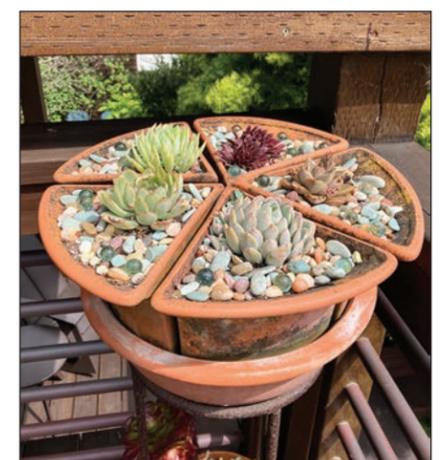
There is a spring in your step, sidewalk garden plots have burst into greenery, and the time has come for the 18th Noe Valley Garden Tour, on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The popular event, sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley, features 10 gardens, with owners on hand to talk about their horticultural vision.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors. Kids are free. You can get tickets on the FNV website, friendsofnoevalley.com, or at the Saturday Farmers Market and at some 24th Street businesses. And don't forget to buy raffle tickets, at \$1 each or 30 for \$20. Prizes include gift certificates from several florists, garden centers, and 24th Street businesses. As always, proceeds will go to a beautification project in the neighborhood.

Check out an English country garden with a view, a sanctuary of sculpture and bees, and a serene Zen space with a stream. Or talk to students, parents, and volunteers at James Lick Middle

School, who have transformed a hunk of concrete into two inviting spaces featuring fragrant and drought-tolerant plants. You can swap cuttings or seedlings with like-minded neighbors at the Noe Valley Plant Swap in front of Noe Café. Or learn how to create your very own sidewalk garden with help from Friends of the Urban Forest, also in front of Noe Café.

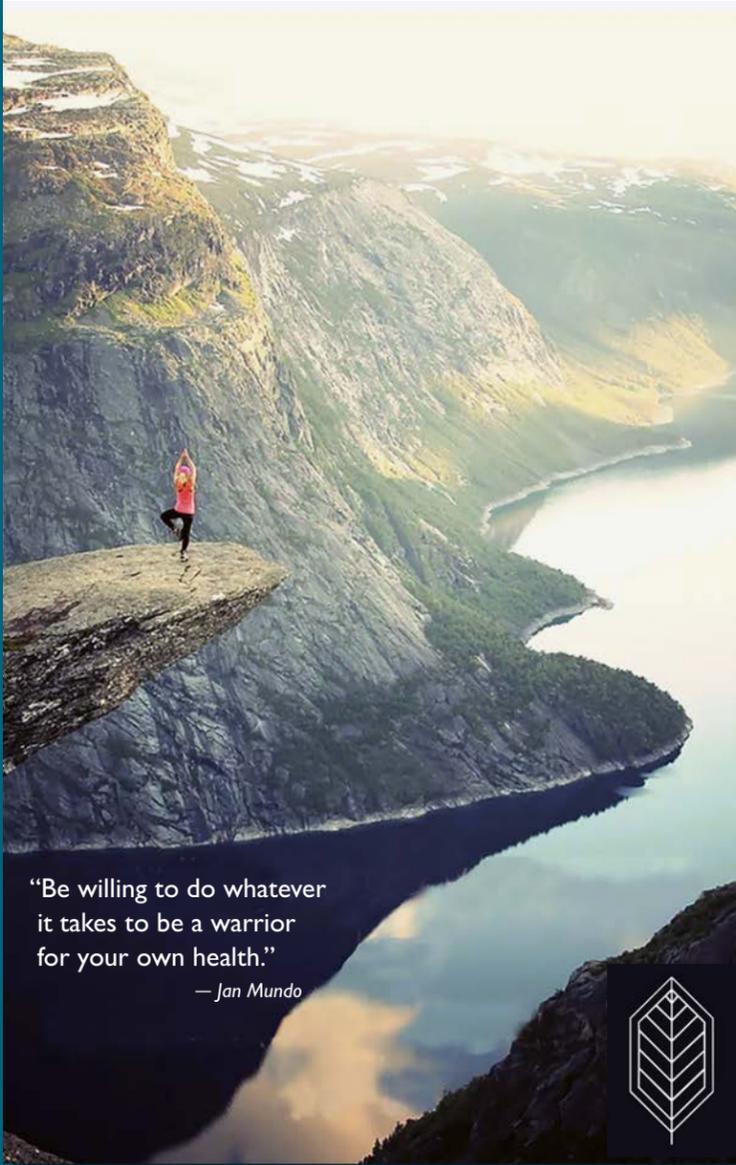
Contact FNV at [info@friendsofnoevalley.com](mailto:info@friendsofnoevalley.com) for more information. ■



Jerry Kuns' garden (see story above) is filled with touchable plants placed at a comfortable height. Photo by Kit Cameron



**Would You Like a Cookie With That?** Martha's matriarch Ivonne Guerrero shows nine-month-old Henley how to work the register in hopes that one day her grandchild will carry on the community traditions for which the shop has become famous. Photo by Art Bodner



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— Jan Mundo



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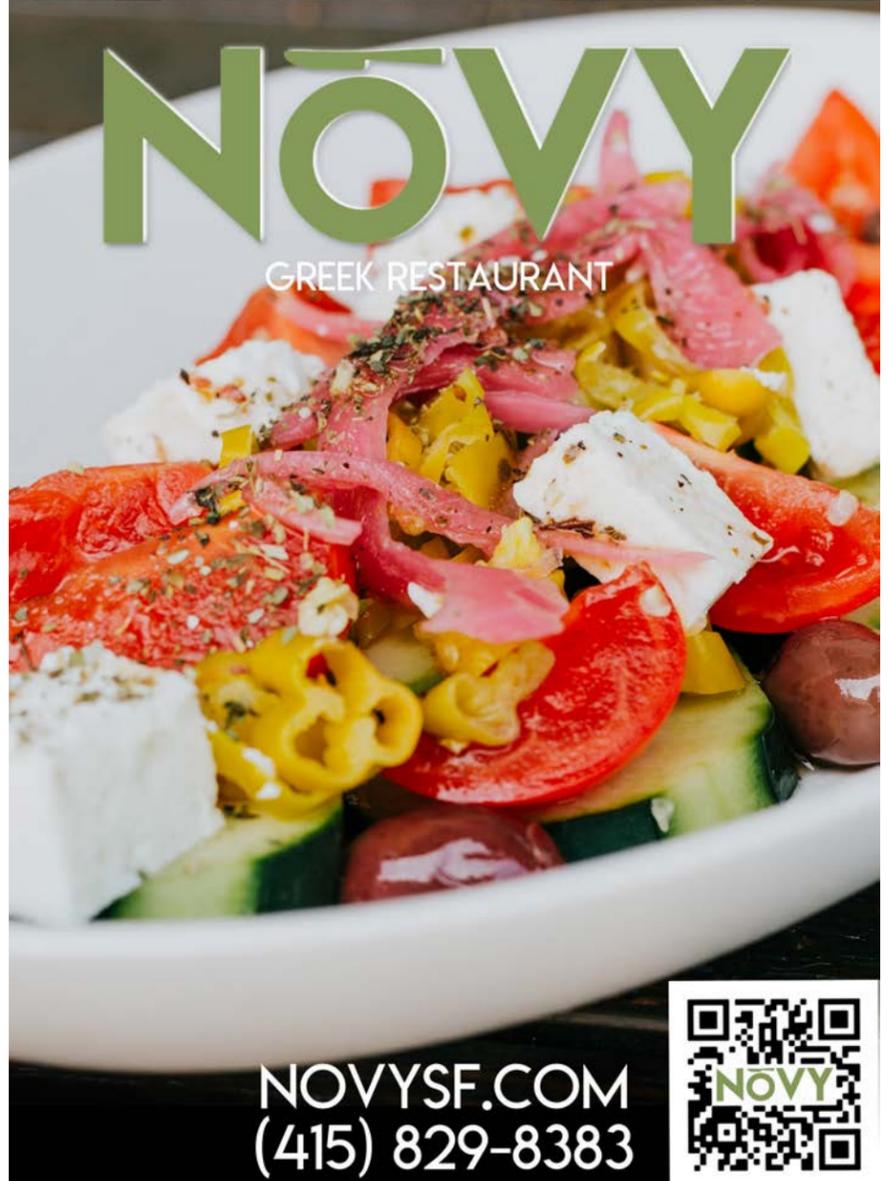
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# LETTERS 66 CENTS

## Of 'Genocide' and 'Antisemitism' Editor:

Two seemingly contradictory themes emerge from the April Letters to the Editor regarding Israel's genocide in Gaza. In one letter, Scott Kravitz irresponsibly denounces people he does not know as "antisemites," while the second letter, by Mik Moore, admonishes people for carelessly misusing another powerful word, "genocide."

Yet these letters are two sides of the same coin—apologists for the deaths of almost 35,000 people in Gaza.

Let's clarify the word "antisemitism."

This is an example of an antisemitic statement: "Jews use the blood of non-Jewish children for rituals."

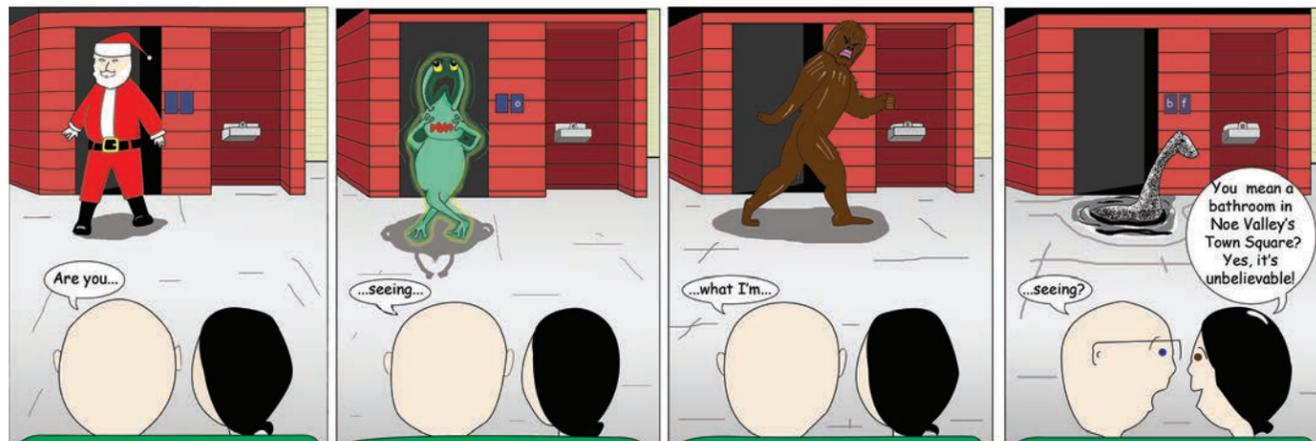
This is *not*: "Israel has killed 14,500 Gaza children in six months."

One statement falsely accused a religious group of an abhorrent practice and led to pogroms in Europe. The other was a fact reported April 5 by the Ministry of Health in Gaza about the actions of the state of Israel.

What does Scott Kravitz find "antisemitic"? The claim that Zionist organizations are using money to support pro-Israel politicians. Apparently, he missed the news that the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) plans to spend \$100 million this year to defeat the Squad and other pro-Palestinian voices in government, *because they are pro-Palestinian.*

In Mik Moore's words, those who use the "antisemitism" card recklessly risk "making the word... meaningless."

## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Israel and its political ideology of Zionism are not the Jewish people, despite misleading claims to the contrary. Since the beginnings of the modern Zionist movements in the 19th century, large segments of Jewish communities globally have not considered themselves Zionists. Further, not all supporters of Israel are Jews.

As for Moore's claim in the second letter that "war is hell, but it is not genocide," that is a disgusting justification for the wanton and purposeful killings the Israeli military has engaged in. Almost 35,000 people are dead following statements by Israel's top leaders, making crystal clear that genocide is their intent. Even the International Court of Justice is taking this accusation seriously.

Moore also makes several misleading and fallacious assertions. The most surprising one is his insinuation that since the Jews themselves were the victims of the "final solution," Israel is incapable of committing a genocide itself. That's a grand rhetorical leap! And it falls short. Israel's war strategy unambiguously speaks for itself.

He also states, "Israel is not a European colony." Perhaps. But it is as much a European settler-colonial project as the South Africa of the Boers and English, the Rhodesia of the British, the Algeria of the French, etc. These settler regimes practiced racist, violently repressive apartheid systems that protected the settlers over the aspirations, needs, and security of the indigenous people. *Is it really an accident that most countries now supporting Palestine are former colonies, while most that are supporting Israel are former or current colonial powers?*

Implicit in Moore's claims about indigenous Palestinian Jewry (about 10 percent of the country's population after World War I) is the discredited presumption that Palestine was devoid of people, culture, economy, and history and therefore Jewish "indigenous rights" need to be respected. No mention of the indigenous rights of the remaining 90 percent of the native (non-Jewish) population of Palestine.

Moore makes another leap by implying that these indigenous Jews were the people who made up Israel. They were not. The Israel that was created in 1948 was not populated and governed by indigenous Palestinian Jewry, but by European Jewish immigrants and refugees (who have no "indigenous rights" except in their own minds), who were still a minority of 31 percent until the new state expelled 750,000 native Christian and Muslim Palestinians (85% of the non-Jewish population).

Finally, claiming that the League of Nations (controlled by the colonial powers) mandated the various parts of the Fertile Crescent to Britain and France is literally true, but it ignores the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement in 1916 (four years *before* the end of WWI and the creation of the League of

Nations). In that pact, Britain and France had already agreed how to divvy up the region. The League of Nations simply put a questionable stamp of legitimacy on this colonial land grab.

Twisting history, manipulating facts only wins you the support of the ignorant and misinformed. I believe the people in Noe Valley and San Francisco generally are neither.

Najib Joe Hakim

### What If It Were You?

Editor:

Imagine that the entire civilian population of San Francisco is ordered to evacuate; with the caveat that anyone remaining behind will be regarded as an enemy combatant and treated accordingly. Include in that general evacuate order the entire population of Oakland, as well as neighboring communities.

Bombs deliberately fall along the escape route, "the safe corridor," outlined by enemy military authorities. Bombs also fall upon the designated gathering places. Tank artillery and machine guns target those gathering where food is distributed. Half of the buildings are leveled, or severely compromised, while every school and cultural institution is collapsed with deliberate controlled demolition. Maternity wards, pediatric clinics, dialysis centers, cancer hospitals, and all other medical centers are blown to pieces.

Ten thousand women and children are killed, while the foreign leaders, directing the combatants, talk about "wiping out terrorists' tunnels" and "wiping out [your] seed." The homes and families of journalists, doctors, educators, artists, and intellectuals are targeted for destruction, and multiple generations are subsequently murdered while they sleep.

Imagine that a foreign power has carried all of this out and that they expect you to retaliate out of desperation. Imagine they benefit from the harm they have done to you and they define the harm as a good. And the good you do they view as harm. So that anything you do to better organize your life in peace is seen as disruptive, subversive, and counterproductive.

The foreign power views the violent seizure of your land, your orchards, your fields, gardens, and homes as their inherent right. While dispossessing you, through threats, intimidation, and violence, they claim your rights, the rights of the dispossessed, as their own. Imagine someone shows up at your front door and tells you that x, y, or z has always lived there, for two thousand years, and it's past time for you to go, and no, they don't intend to compensate you. Wouldn't you find that incredibly surreal and infuriating, particularly in realizing that the government is actually supporting the activity and handing out assault rifles to the violent thieves?

Take it a step further. The person who is destroying your trees, crops, and

water wells, the person seeking to drive you off your land, you can only take them to a civil court, in Israel. But the Israeli military will come out to arrest and seize you over any related matter, denying you the right to defend your property and your family.

This they proudly call "democracy." It seemingly justifies, or legitimizes, their existence as a state. They can arrest you and bring you to an Israeli court. But you cannot arrest them and take them to a Palestinian court.

In some ways, our own local laws are beginning to reflect this same kind of surreal nonsense—when we're told that we must run the sale of our property by third parties; when the local government wants a say in how our property is allocated, to whom it is offered for sale; and when third parties have the right to sue property owners over matters that were previously none of their business or concern. Local citizens should be alert to the loss of their rights or the reallocation of their rights to third-party, non-governmental actors.

Most civil conflicts are rooted in such measures, encroachment by government into the economic affairs of citizens, not for the benefit of citizens, or for the benefit of the general public, but for the benefit of cronies, cliques, and coterie; which generally leads the general public to be increasingly impoverished over time.

Ken Richard

### Cease and Desist

Editor:

I know I am not an anti-Semite. I oppose Israel's Netanyahu government. The murderous, vengeful treatment of the people of Gaza and Palestine is immoral and inhumane. Cease fire and stop sending arms and money to Israel.

Robert Cromey

### Recalling David Hallstrom

Editor:

The poet David Hallstrom worked as a bartender and manager for the Valley Tavern on 24th Street in San Francisco for a long time. He used it as his mailing address for many years. I see mention of him in 2015 and 2008 in online publications involving memorial readings of his work at Bird & Beckett bookstore. Does anybody recall him? He was an old family friend. Yours,

Daniel

Daniel3608033@gmail.com

## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS  
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS  
Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor  
Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn,  
Karol Barske, Michael Blake,  
Kit Cameron, Chris Faust, Liz Highleyman,  
Jeff Kaliss, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz,

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING  
Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION  
Jack Tipple

DISTRIBUTION  
Jack Tipple

WEB GURU  
Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES  
Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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# CRIME SNAPSHOT

## Car Break-ins Burst Our Bubble

The number of crimes committed in Noe Valley increased in March, with the San Francisco Police Department recording 96 incidents in the 10 categories the *Voice* tracks monthly. It was the highest monthly total this year.

Data from the SFPD's digital map of incident reports showed that the largest increase was in the larceny/theft category. Citizens reported 42 incidents—11 more than in February and double the number in March of 2023.

Among the larceny/thefts were 17 thefts from vehicles, 11 strips or stolen license plates, three shoplifting incidents, two swipes of packages from buildings, and one stolen bicycle. Eight "other" thefts had no identification.

The only other increases from February to March were in "malicious mischief," defined as defacing or damaging someone's property, and in the "family domestic violence" category. In the latter, all three reports were for violations of stay-away orders.

Residential and business burglaries were down slightly in March. Burglars invaded 10 homes—including three in which people were home at the time—and hit five businesses. They also stole valuables from another site.

But car thieves were busy, making off with 11 vehicles, including eight cars and trucks, and at least one motorcycle.

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA														
Noe Valley Incident Reports March 2023 – March 2024														
Incident Type	Mar23	Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	Sep23	Oct23	Nov23	Dec23	YTD23	Jan24	Feb24	Mar24
Larceny/Theft	21	15	34	30	35	27	26	34	39	24	334	32	31	42
Burglary	13	13	7	19	25	20	23	21	20	5	187	19	19	16
Malicious Mischief	9	9	4	16	13	10	8	11	11	7	105	3	8	11
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	10	10	20	27	17	15	11	12	12	173	8	11	11
Assault	8	2	5	3	2	4	2	1	5	7	49	3	4	4
Robbery	3	0	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22	2	1	1
Other Misc.	6	5	0	3	1	4	3	3	7	11	53	3	5	5
Fraud	1	0	3	6	2	5	6	2	5	1	37	4	4	3
Family D.Violence	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	3	0	3
Vandalism	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>96</b>

**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-/jq29-s5wp](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-/jq29-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 **March 2024 data on April 12, 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, May 2024

Only one robbery was reported. Police said it involved three juveniles suspected of grand theft shoplifting at the Walgreens Pharmacy in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center.

The incident occurred March 6 around 2 p.m. According to the March 15 Ingleside Police District newsletter, "Officers met with a store employee who said that three juveniles walked into the store and stole over \$6,000 worth of cosmetics. The store employee said that the same juveniles have stolen from the store on numerous occasions. A second store employee attempted to take back some of the items, but one of the juvenile suspects 'shoulder-

checked' her and prevented her from taking the items back." The suspects ran from the store, according to the newsletter.

"Noe Valley" on the SFPD's digital map is an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The March 2024 data was scraped April 12, 2024, from [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org).

Our source was the "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present," at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-/jq29-s5wp](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-/jq29-s5wp). The data is derived from reports filed

by officers or self-reported by members of the public using SFPD's online reporting system. The SFPD notes that the "dataset may not capture other law enforcement agency incidents within San Francisco (BART PD, U.S. Park Police, for example), or reports not filed with the SFPD."

Go online to [sanfranciscopolice.org](https://sanfranciscopolice.org) to file incident reports for lost property, graffiti, harassing phone calls, vandalism, and property stolen from vehicles. To report burglaries and other crimes, go to your nearest police station. In emergencies, call 9-1-1.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

# vivre

REAL ESTATE

DANIELLE LAZIER

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

## Kind Words from Happy Noe Valley Home Sellers!

"Danielle sold our condominium located in Noe Valley. She is a complete professional, and I have absolutely no reservations about recommending her for any real estate transaction. Our condominium was located in a very desirable neighborhood and, in my view, it would not have taken much marketing to fetch a price that would have satisfied us. Other Realtors® may have taken this as an opportunity to go easy on the marketing. Not Danielle. She and her team produced incredible materials highlighting not only the desirable aspects of the home, but also the unique aspects of where it is located. She organized several open houses over a period of two weeks, including two on weekdays. Overall, her marketing efforts went above and beyond what we could have expected. Our home sold for far more than what we expected, and I attribute this to Danielle's marketing. She and her team are also incredibly organized. This helped in many respects, but especially with staging, painting, documents, reviewing offers and finalizing the transaction. Following execution, we received a full copy of all documents. Danielle and her team were always available to answer questions. On top of all of this, Danielle is a great person and, as you would expect, the people on her team are also very nice. I recommend Danielle for any real estate transaction in San Francisco. She is exceptional, and would be an asset to anyone buying or selling real estate."

Zak M.



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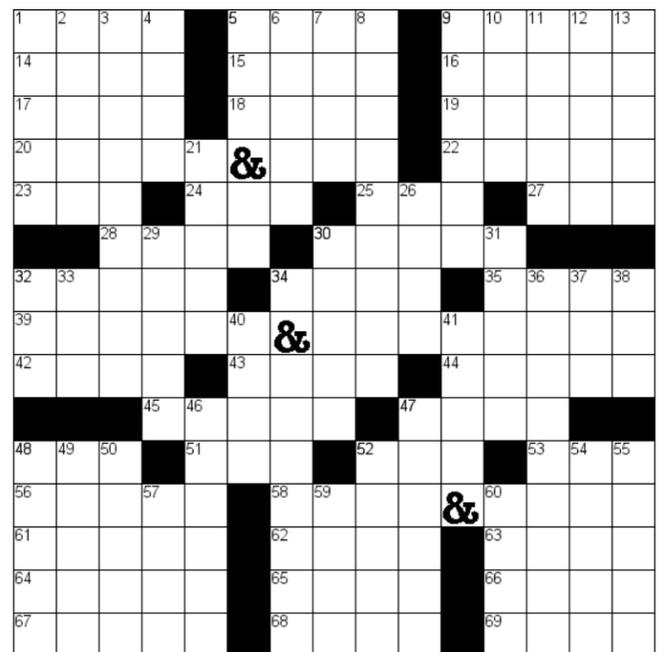
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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

&

ACROSS

- To \_\_\_ and to Hold
- Online film ref. website
- Pocket change
- Really bad
- Music genre
- Not shortened, as a film
- Judge's gown
- Humdinger
- Campfire goody
- Erstwhile successor to Contigo and Azalina on Castro
- All keyed up
- 48-Across, in Spain
- Hallow or velvet ending
- Order at Dumpling Kitchen
- Aug follower
- Russian despot
- 2014 film about civil rights marches
- Overstuff
- Do a laundry chore
- Do 24th Street
- Coffee place on 24th or Church
- Solomon-like
- Time for a party, in brief
- Cardiology concern
- Rose from a chair
- Look after
- Miniver or Doubtfire
- Animated Olive
- Eyeball or planet
- Preceder of "loves me" and "loves me not"
- Kind of bracelet
- Florist on Church near 28th
- Hyundai's home
- Simple rhyme scheme
- Mata \_\_\_ (World



War I spy)

- Modify to fit
- Rainbow or Tekka Maki at Saru Sushi
- Russia's \_\_\_ Mountains
- Google rival
- Dictator Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko
- \_\_\_-bitty

DOWN

- \_\_\_ Luncheonette: old 24th Street eatery
- 1-Across, in French
- "Good" sex toys in a store on Valencia
- Part of PG&E: Abbr.
- New York athlete
- Bemoan the loss of
- As is proper
- Pie flavor
- Like specialty cakes at Delights by Lisa
- "The drinks are \_\_\_!"
- Clickable images
- Grey's Anatomy role
- Precipitous
- Late actor Ledger
- Choir voice
- Fills (a tummy) to capacity
- "What's \_\_\_ about that?"
- Pallid
- "The ultimate driving machine" company
- China's Zhou En-\_\_\_
- Flat, roundish beach finds dollars
- Preschool program
- Bobby of the N.H.L.
- Noe Valley winter setting, for short
- \_\_\_ Named Charlie Brown
- "Up on Cripple Creek" rock group
- Hamburger topper
- Stereo knob
- The Big Short co-writer and director Adam
- Mary Tyler Moore Show spinoff
- Actress \_\_\_ Jessica Parker
- Racetrack shapes
- Afghanistan's third-largest city
- Bronte or Post
- \_\_\_ Man ('83 Estevez comedy)
- High-pitched wind
- Feng \_\_\_: Chinese aesthetic system

May 2024 Noe Valley Voice

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

## Martha's on Church a Growing Family Affair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

calligrapher who lives near Lake Merced, first came to the coffeehouse with a friend nearly five years ago. She quickly became a regular, and the day the *Voice* stopped by, Lewis was popping in for the second time to get a post-lunch smoothie, having first stopped by that morning for breakfast.

"This is my favorite Martha's. I have tried them all," said Lewis. "They are very friendly, warm, and welcoming here."

### Partnership 'Meant to Be'

Ivonne and her ex-husband, Jaime Guerrero, opened the coffeehouse at 1551 Church St. near Duncan in 1983. Jaime's older sisters, Martha Guerrero Monroy and Patricia Larizadeh, had opened their first coffeehouse, the Castro Bean, on Castro Street in 1986.

By December 1987, they had relocated their business to 3868 24th St. Initially called the San Francisco Coffee Company, the shop would later be renamed under the Martha's brand.

Monroy owns the naming rights, but Jaime Guerrero is the sole owner of the Church Street location. It is why gift cards bought there are not accepted at the other Martha's on 24th Street or at 745 Cortland Ave. in Bernal Heights or 401 Irving St. in the Inner Sunset.

Jaime and Ivonne divorced in 2002 and are now both remarried. Ivonne and her husband, Edwin Crouch, the owner of a plumbing company, reside in Pacifica. She says she hopes they can move to Noe Valley in the near future to be closer to their grandchildren.

Back in 2003, after taking a year off from working at the coffeehouse, Ivonne returned at the request of Jaime. She missed the work and seeing her regular customers, and Jaime needed her help running the business.

Despite the dissolution of their marriage, Jaime and Ivonne were able to put aside their differences and work side by side for hours on end. They now consider each other best friends.

"It wasn't easy at the beginning," admitted Ivonne. "It is a miracle we got along so well."

Jaime Guerrero chalked up their ability to remain friends to their families being so close when they were young. The youngest of eight kids, Jaime lived within a block of 25 relatives growing up in Managua, Nicaragua. He and Ivonne met there when she was 8 years old at the wedding of his sister to her uncle.

Ivonne pointed out that not only are her and her daughter's birthdays days apart, but her ex-husband and son were both born on June 27.

"All the numbers line up. Why we stick together is because it was meant to be," she said.

### Planting Roots in Noe Valley

Born in San Francisco, Ivonne at age one moved to Managua, where her family was from. Following the country's revolution in 1978, the newly empowered communists forced her father to sell his insurance business and his home. At age 12, Ivonne moved with her family to Mexico City, Mexico, and enrolled in a high school focused on fashion design and modeling. But after three years there, her parents sent her and her sister to live with their aunt Alicia Gonzales in San Francisco near 25th Street and Guerrero.



The sugar and spice at Martha's on Church Street is provided by the Guerrero family—Ivonne (junior), Ivonne (senior), baby Henley, and Jaime—and staff members like Lourdes and Karina, who've been with the popular coffeehouse for more than two decades. Photo by Art Bodner

"It was easier for us to live as citizens of the U.S. than in Mexico," said Ivonne, whose aunt is now 105 years old and residing in Oakland.

In the early years of running the Church Street Martha's, Ivonne and Jaime lived above the coffeehouse, but eventually they bought a home nearby. That house was sold when they divorced. Their daughter Ivonne now lives in the upstairs apartment over the business.

For the older Ivonne, staffing the coffeehouse has never felt like work. She loves getting to know both her regulars and tourists who pop in while visiting the city. One secret to the shop's success, she said, has been its loyal staff, several of whom have worked there more than 20 years.

She remains "very thankful" her sister-in-law gave them the opportunity to open the coffeehouse. "I have been so blessed," she said. "We don't take that for granted. Not a lot of people have what we have."

### Food Complements Coffee

Years ago, in response to customer demand, the couple added ready-made turkey and ham sandwiches to their refrigerated case. They were an immediate hit. "We needed to figure out what to do, because Noe Valley then was a little bit saturated with coffee shops," recalled Jaime Guerrero. "People were asking about food for lunch. There were not many places nearby to go to grab a hot lunch and quickly."

That led to Jaime deciding to make sandwiches to order. The selection grew, with several options made with the chicken he cooks on-site. People coming in for lunch is a big part of their business now. Customers also stream in just before closing at 6 p.m., to pick up a sandwich for dinner.

The B.L.T. and pastrami (\$11.95) are among the more popular choices. Another hit is the chicken cranberry (\$13.95), added to the menu at the request of a customer.

"We want to make sure the customer is happy," said Jaime. "We always ask our customers what will make you happy. We want to make you happy, so you come back."

In addition to the sandwiches, they are known for their empanadas and breakfast fare. One of the most popular

morning orders is the Super Bagel (\$13.95), which comes with jalapenos, avocado, egg, bacon, cheese, tomato, and onions.

With the Covid pandemic upending people's work schedules, and with many neighborhood residents now working from home, the business has also seen its traffic flow change since 2020. Thursdays and Fridays are now busier than Mondays through Wednesdays. "We are more busy during lunch," said Ivonne. "It has been like that the whole four years."

### Basking in the Warmth

A trio of regulars, none of whom wanted to have their last names published, who met and became friends by patronizing the coffeehouse, told the *Voice* they had kept coming back because of the consistency of the service. Mario, a regular for over a decade, has a standing order of a wet cappuccino, which is "a little bit stronger."

Jerry has been a patron the last seven years because he likes the "strong coffee." Wendy walked in the door when the coffeehouse first opened. She met Jerry one day when she struck up a conversation because of the shirt he was wearing. "They make good salads too," she said of the food menu.

All three pointed to Ivonne's friendliness as another reason why they continue to be devoted customers.

"She is the loveliest person," said Wendy.

Jerry noted how "welcoming" she had been to him since the very first time he stepped through the door.

"That is another reason I kept coming back. I felt welcomed," he said.

Asked what she had learned from her mom in running the business, the younger Ivonne said that taking the time to get to know the customers was key.

"We end up seeing the same people every day. She teaches us to really care, get to know their names, and where they are from," she said.

Her mother agrees the customers they have gotten to know over four decades have become like family. Those who have moved away come in to say hello when they are back in town for Christmas or summer vacation. It is partly why she has no plans to retire.

Jaime Guerrero, 60, also said he doesn't see retirement as an option.

"I will work until my body won't let me," he joked.

At some point, Ivonne Guerrero would love to see her children take over ownership of the business. Her daughter Ivonne told the *Voice* she may be interested in doing so one day.

Asked about the prospect of Henley or another grandchild one day doing the same, abuelita Ivonne responded, "That would be incredible." ■

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## A Sensual Garden Awaits on 23rd Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a pleasingly crunchy gravel path, which winds through the property.

Kuns then said, “I wish I had a stream!” Steuernagel created two, tinkling through intricately patterned stone channels. One stream is crossed by a pair of Connecticut bluestone slabs, which “rumble and squeak when you step on them,” Kuns says. “They warn me someone is coming,” when he is reading or meditating in a sunny spot, surrounded by clumping bamboo.

Finally, he said to Steuernagel, “I have enough straight lines on the street. I don’t need any more in the garden.”

Kuns’ bark-covered beds and gravel paths form an intricate knot of restful beauty, with individual plants, such as the back-fence rhododendrons or the star jasmine next to the hot tub, selected for their tactile qualities or fragrance.

Kuns is outside every day checking up on his plants. “I feel their leaves. I talk to them,” he says. “If they don’t feel right—sticky, powdery, slimy—I call John.” Lately, he has been spraying the delicate Baby’s Tears with peppermint oil to discourage squirrels.

### A Landscape of Feeling

When designing the garden, Steuernagel made use of a piece of technology Kuns had helped to devel-



Stone paths, tall ferns, and prominent furniture help visually impaired homeowner Jerry Kuns navigate smoothly through his garden on 23rd Street.

Photo by Kit Cameron

op. The designer inserted sketches into a tactile-imaging machine that created raised prints, allowing Kuns to feel the various plans for the plot.

At the back of the almost square space, camellias flourish in the shade

next to a Japanese maple. A huge, huggable Podocarpus—a fern pine tree—anchors the south fence, and a three-year-old African redbud will grow up to the level of the deck when it is mature.

A dogwood tree at the side of the

house recently housed a hummingbird family. And below the deck is an immaculately clean barbecue grill, used regularly by Kuns.

“I’ve been very independent since I was a 14-year-old,” says Kuns, 82. His father, a jack of all trades, encouraged him to push the boundaries of what he could do: “Don’t be afraid to try!”

His teenage explorations of amateur radio and bicycle repair led to his preoccupation with technology as a solution to problems. For 14 years, starting in 1988, he was a product development specialist with Humanware, a company devoted to technological aids for vision-impaired users.

“I learned how to talk to engineers in their language, telling them my needs. We understand and develop a solution together. [Working with Humanware] opened my ideas of how a computer could be used.” In 2002, he left the corporate world to teach California teachers how to use computers with blind students.

### Love and Mobility

In 1990, Kuns met his future wife, Theresa Postello, at San Francisco State University. She was a student in the Special Education Department, and he was a guest lecturer. He describes their meeting as first a long walk followed by “a beautiful love story,” lasting until she died in 2017 from pancreatic cancer.

Kuns was an important resource to Postello in her vocation as a mobility specialist for the San Mateo County Office of Education. He states, “We made some major contributions to the world of adaptive technology and teaching,” and adds mischievously, “I am a little bit famous, hanging out with Stevie Wonder and Jose Feliciano, because of my tech.”

These days, Kuns keeps a busy schedule. He walks to the Noe Valley Farmers Market every Saturday and cruises the vegetables with market manager Elizabeth Crane. He is creating work for a tactile art exhibit that will be held in July at Jettison Creative in SoMa. He also is getting ready to

### See Noe Valley’s Garden Gems

A walking map of the 10 gardens featured in the May 18 Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour will be provided on your ticket. Tickets—and raffle tickets—may be purchased at [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com), the Noe Valley Town Square on Saturdays or on the day of the tour, and at shops such as Just for Fun, Olive This Olive That, Omnivore Books, and When Modern Was. Below are some excerpts from the garden hosts’ descriptions of this year’s gardens. To volunteer as a garden greeter, email [LindaLockyer3@gmail.com](mailto:LindaLockyer3@gmail.com).

#### SERENE, ZEN SPACE

This tranquil space has a stream running through the garden which is surrounded by ferns, bamboo, vines, and trees. Flagstone pavers, micro gravel, and stones are used to create paths that follow the stream throughout the garden. Redwood benches provide peaceful seating areas. There is a private area where one can relax in a hot tub and listen to the running stream.

#### AN INSPIRED SANCTUARY

Three guardians greet you as you come up the front stairs to this magical garden. A pathway enhanced by carvings and sculpture leads you into an inspired oasis. An eclectic mix of found objects, carvings, handcrafted buildings, and beautiful stonework lead you into a garden that has been 40 years in the making. It is enhanced by a stately California oak and native plants ... and resident bees (who happily live in the back of the garden).

#### PANDEMIC GARDEN MAKEOVER

This large shade garden was redesigned by the owner during the past two years. A view of the garden is seen from multiple decks which provide a nice entertaining space. Stairs lead down to the lower garden, where you will find a pond surrounded by grasses and shade plants, and a new water feature [bordered by] hostas, Japanese maples, and espaliered apple trees. Azaleas and rhododendrons bring spring color, while large roses cascade from the upper deck in the summer.

#### ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN

Perched on a hill with dizzying city skyline and bay views, this urban oasis on a double-plus-sized lot is deeply rooted in the English country garden tradition but with sustainability designed into its heart. Blessed by rich soil and underground natural springs, 80-year-old boxwoods and camellias thrive on their own.... Native hawthorns, propagated from the original mother, now bloom plentifully throughout the garden in dense stands, as trees, and in bonsai forms.

#### INTIMATE FRONT AND BACK PATIOS

Walking up the stairs of this house you arrive at a lovely front patio surrounded by mature trees and plantings. Aeonium and grasses line the passage leading to the back of the home. Here you will find an intimate garden, perfect for entertaining. Deep red leucadendrons, a camellia, and a Chinese pittosporum can be found lining the patio and in pots scattered throughout.

#### JAMES LICK MIDDLE SCHOOL GARDEN

Our neighborhood middle school has undergone a remarkable transformation with the makeover of its two gardens. Led by PTSA garden beautification volunteers, the garden was pruned, weeded, and landscaped. There now are raised beds and wine barrels where scented and drought-tolerant plants, along with a variety of herbs and flowers, are planted. JLMS students will be on hand to guide you and share information about the plants.

#### LIBRARY GARDEN

This inviting space awaits exploration and allows patrons to enjoy a western shade garden filled with cyclamen, clivia, azaleas, and rhododendrons. As you move to the east side of the library, a path of ferns and camellias leads to a large espaliered plum tree and a second garden, filled with a riot of color enhanced by California natives and a large lemon tree. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your plant-related questions.

#### BACKYARD SANCTUARY

This lovely south-facing garden has both shade-loving plants and sun-loving flowers. It features a dwarf Japanese maple, camellias, red flowering maple, abutilon, and an abundant Meyer lemon tree. Stepping stones lead past lemon chiffon peonies, ivory prince hellebores, yellow clivia lilies, and ferns into a shaded sitting area. A bonus: the Liberty Street Band will perform on the deck from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### COMERFORD ALLEY VICTORY GARDEN

Take a stroll back in time to visit this verdant victory garden located on historic Comerford Alley, running from Church to Sanchez Street south of 27th Street. Look for signage that marks the spot of this fertile vegetable and herb garden, growing scarlet runner beans, dino kale, broccoli, Thai basil, swiss chard, scallions, and many other veggies and herbs.

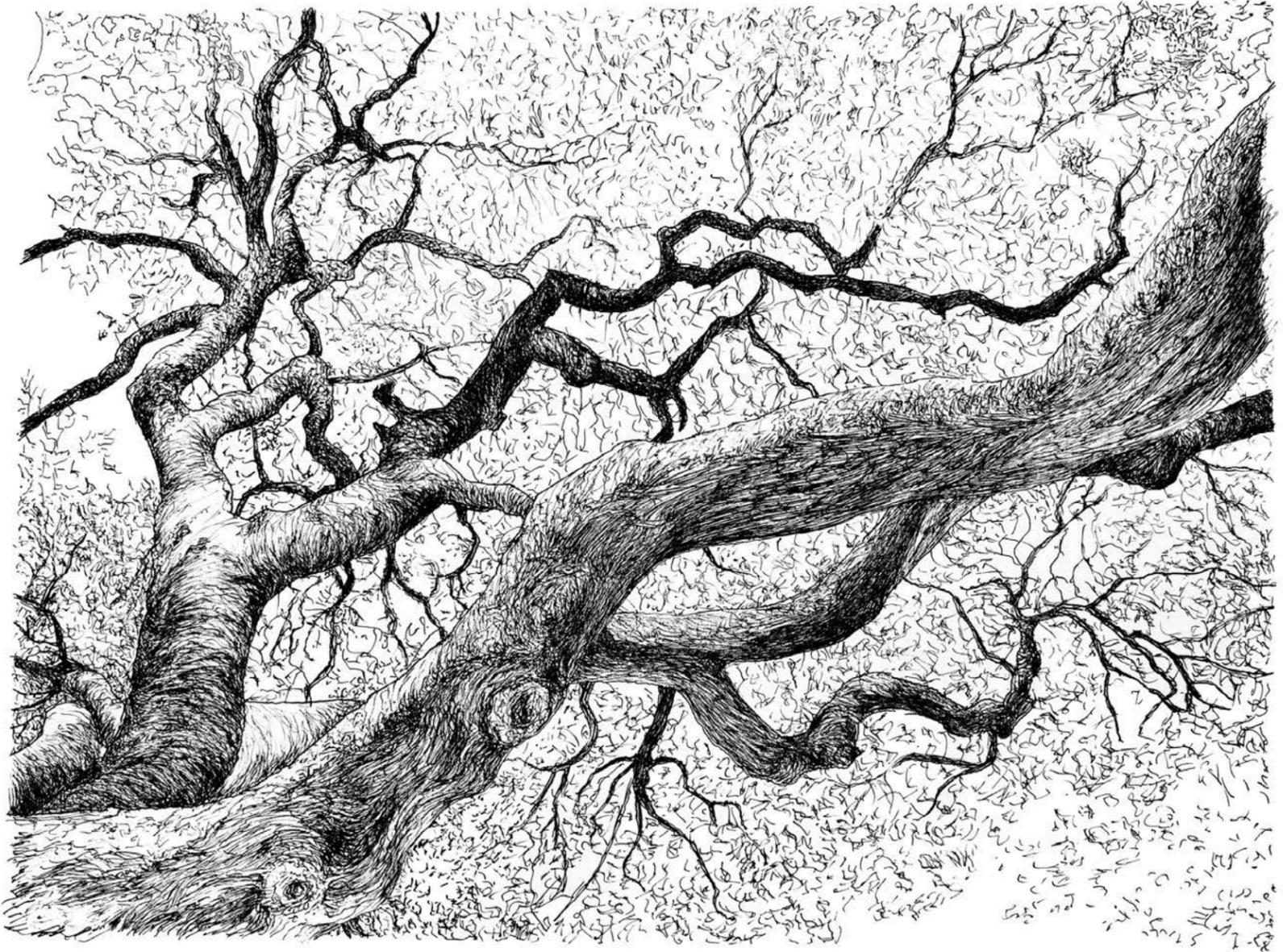
#### SLOW SANCHEZ STUNNER

Sanchez neighbors partnered with Friends of the Urban Forest on a project to transform a bleak intersection from a concrete jungle to an urban oasis. This garden features a series of sidewalk planters populated by low-water plants and street-friendly trees. Be sure to check out the kids garden planted and maintained by budding gardeners at Hola Kids preschool!

#### PLANT SWAP-A-PALOOZA

Join fellow neighbors and gardeners at Friends of Noe Valley’s first Noe Valley Plant Swap, on Saturday, May 18, at Noe Café on Sanchez near 26th Street. Bring your cuttings or seedlings and swap them with plants from your neighbors. Kids who bring plants (or plant drawings) get a free succulent, courtesy of 24th Street’s Urban Scout. On May 18, the main plant swap will go from 10 a.m. to noon, so come early for the best selection. Also, Friends of the Urban Forest will be on hand with information on installing a sidewalk garden. They also can provide a cost estimate for your project and answer any questions that you may have.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Old Mill Oak. Pen and Ink illustration by Jack Tipple.

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## Jerry Kuns' Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

host his garden in the Noe Valley tour on May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"I will have a table with tactile infor-

mation: a California map, a San Francisco map, and a street map [as well as] tactile pictures," says Kuns.

He plans to greet every visitor the same way, with a broad smile and a handshake of welcome to his garden of delights. ■



Jerry Kuns is a frequent shopper at the Saturday Farmers Market on 24th Street. Here, he and market manager Elizabeth Crane size up the fresh broccoli. *Photo by Kit Cameron*

## Beloved Manager of Angel's Market Passes Away

By Michael Feliciano

Jose A. Hernandez, the manager and clerk at Angel's Market at 26th and Castro streets, has passed away at the age of 67. He was found in his home above the grocery store on the morning of Monday, March 25.

"Jose was the face of the shop. He was a funny man and very easy to get along with," said John Sacca, the owner of Angel's Market, who knew him through his friendship with John's father. Sacca would always introduce Hernandez as his uncle.

"He was ultra reliable and never late," added Sacca, which is what prompted him to call the San Francisco Fire Department that morning to do a welfare check.

Originally from El Salvador, Hernandez moved to San Francisco in the early 1980s. He lived in the Mission District for many years and then in the East Bay, where he and his wife, Paula, raised their children. When Paula passed away 22 years ago after a battle with breast cancer, the family moved back to San Francisco. Jose Hernandez had been working at Angel's Market ever since.

Hernandez oversaw much of the work at the market including making takeout food back when the shop was a deli, submitting the orders, cleaning the store and working the cash register. Working at the market be-



came a family affair when he got his daughter, Maritza, her first job there. She would stack the fridge while he made sandwiches or casserole dishes, a skill that led to his catering parties. His lasagna was a family favorite.

"His grandkids loved his lasagna, and he'd bring them lunch from the market," said Maritza. "He was always happy and friendly, and everyone was thankful for him," she added, referring to the warmth he shared with the local community.

Treena, a longtime patron of Angel's Market, echoed that sentiment. "Jose was the friendliest person, and he touched so many people. We were all so upset to hear of his passing."

Another friend wrote on Nextdoor, "Thank you for being a wonderful neighbor to the folks in Noe Valley. Your bright smile and friendly soul are still with us."

Jose Hernandez is survived by his three children, Maritza, Oscar, and Ibeth, as well as by six grandchildren, Vanessa, Andy, Charlize, Yadira, Alexis, and Abigail. A service was held at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City, and he was buried in Colma next to his wife Paula. ■



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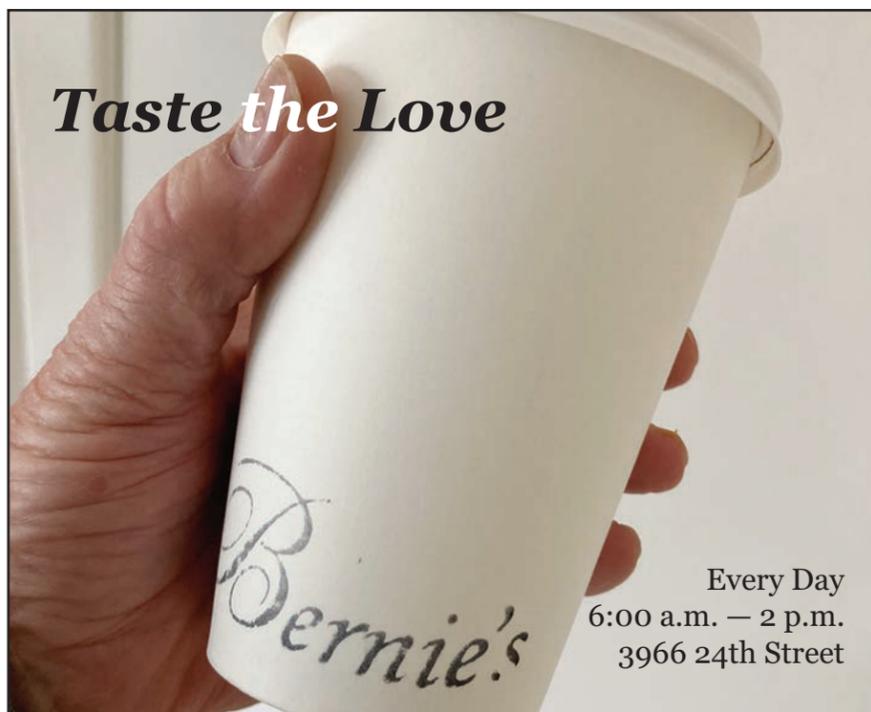
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3985 24th Street in Noe Valley

# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Market Plodding Along

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential sales in Noe Valley were steady in March, as buyers purchased eight single-family detached homes and nine condominiums.

The number of house sales matched that of February, while there were three more condo sales, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

However, home shoppers in the neighborhood remained cautious, their mood still tempered by 7 percent mortgage interest rates. Many continued to wait for better finance conditions and a larger inventory of homes from which



\$1,760,000 was the sale price for a single-floor, three-bedroom condominium in this new five-story building on 24th Street. Amenities included an elevator and a rooftop deck with panoramic views.

to choose.

Buyers and sellers who did make deals in March took an average 44 days to do so. One home sale, on 29th Street, took five and a half months.

Still, sellers appeared to pocket more than anticipated. Buyers on average paid 8 percent above the asking price.

Three of the properties in the March tally sold for more than \$4 million, according to Corcoran Icon CEO Randall Kostick. A house on Cesar Chavez Street sold for \$4.3 million, another on 22nd Street for \$4.8 million, and a third on Elizabeth for an impressive \$4,950,000. That house, in the 800 block of Elizabeth Street between Douglass Street and Hoffman Avenue, was a five-bedroom, four-bedroom residence originally built in 1904. Though its value was the month's highest, it sold for 4.7 percent below the seller's asking price (\$5,195,000).

While keeping the home's Victorian façade, designers had given the interior a thorough makeover and expanded the building to offer 3,210 square feet of living space. Among its luxury features



A buyer in March paid just shy of \$5 million for this luxury five-bedroom home on Elizabeth Street. The vintage exterior belies the extensively remodeled home, which featured a two-car garage with an EV-charging station. Photos 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
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
March 2024	8	\$1,330,000	\$4,950,000	\$2,983,750	44	108%
February 2024	8	\$1,530,000	\$7,200,000	\$3,260,750	22	108%
March 2023	6	\$1,500,000	\$4,100,000	\$2,242,083	29	105%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
March 2024	9	\$700,000	\$1,760,000	\$1,198,333	29	106%
February 2024	6	\$920,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,548,333	22	107%
March 2023	8	\$830,000	\$3,260,000	\$1,789,374	19	105%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
March 2024	4	\$2,325,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,512,500	18	106%
February 2024	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	11	114%
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
March 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—

\*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV5/2024

were high ceilings, an open floor plan, a gourmet kitchen with bespoke appliances, a new fireplace, radiant heat, a bedroom suite with a private deck, and a two-car garage with an EV station and an inside entrance to the home.

Buying a condo was the best bet for budget-conscious shoppers in Noe Valley in March. Kostick noted that the three least expensive units sold for \$700,000, \$780,000, and \$830,000. All three were under 1,000 square feet and had no parking.

On the other hand, the costliest condominium sold for \$1,760,000. Its buyer paid 11.7 percent beneath the original asking price (\$1,995,000), and

the home was on the market for a lengthy 140 days. The condo took up an entire floor of a new five-story building in the 3800 block of 24th Street between Church and Vicksburg streets. It contained 1,677 square feet of living space and an elevator affording direct access to the home's foyer.

The three-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit, with an open floor plan, featured glass walls, a chef's kitchen with Viking appliances, and giga-speed ethernet wiring and video intercom. The building's occupants can take advantage of its rooftop deck with a grill and refrigerator for outdoor entertaining. There is a bicycle room but no parking. ■

## Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range April 2024	Average April 2024	Average March 2024	Average April 2023
Studio	10	\$1,500 – \$2,600	\$2,163 / mo.	\$2,312 / mo.	\$2,254 / mo.
1-bdrm	39	\$2,195 – \$5,000	\$2,975 / mo.	\$2,885 / mo.	\$3,096 / mo.
2-bdrm	39	\$2,650 – \$7,500	\$3,977 / mo.	\$3,846 / mo.	\$4,054 / mo.
3-bdrm	12	\$4,000 – \$9,000	\$6,250 / mo.	\$6,159 / mo.	\$5,957 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,595 – \$13,990	\$8,747 / mo.	\$7,315 / mo.	\$9,851 / mo.

\*\*This survey is based on a sample of 106 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 12 to April 8, 2024. In April 2023, there were 116 listings. NVV5/2024

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Peggy and Pete Cling watched the recent eclipse (4+ minutes of totality) in Midlothian, Texas.



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# SHORT TAKES

American composer Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on This Shining Night" and a full repertoire of choral music for mixed voices at its annual spring concert series May 10, 11, and 13, at 7:30 p.m. You can hear Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and *Reincarnations* by Samuel Barber and at the other end of the spectrum *A Jubilant Song* by Norman Dello Joio and popular tunes from musicals such as Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park With George*. For tickets, at \$15 to \$35, go to [ResoundEnsemble.org](https://ResoundEnsemble.org).

Meanwhile, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, the San Francisco Civic Music Association offers "An Afternoon of Chamber Music," with nine classical musicians playing Johannes Brahms, Bedrich Smetana, and a trombone and tuba set featuring *Stardust* and *Buglers' Holiday*. Admission is free, but please RSVP and arrive early to get a spot. For details, see [SFCivicMusic.org](https://SFCivicMusic.org).

"A Season on the Wind: A Cinematic Concert Celebrating Migratory Birds" will echo its conservationist theme throughout Noe Valley on Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. The event features composer/vocalist Majel Connery and the Australia-based Bowerbird Collective in a performance of *Rivers Are Our Brothers*, a song cycle by Connery. Tickets are \$5 to \$35 at [Events.humanatix.com](https://Events.humanatix.com).

From countertenor to bass, the singers from Clerestory will bring what *SF Classical Voice* calls "distinctive voices blending in a gorgeous sound" to



Diane Chung of Chung 24 Gallery at 4071 24th St. reminds us the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Preston Gannaway is still on display May 8 to 18. Photo by Kit Cameron

the Ministry on Sunday, May 26, 7 p.m. "Notes and Letters: Music of Brahms and the Schumanns" promises themes of longing, love, loss, and redemption. Tickets (\$35 with discounts for seniors and students) are available through [Eventbrite.com](https://Eventbrite.com).

All events take place at Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, 1021 Sanchez St.

### Chung Gallery Moving Soon

Diane Chung, of Chung 24 Gallery, is sad to leave her perch between bread and chocolate, but she is excited about her move in June to the arts district along Third Street down by the bay. The gallery's new address, 698 Pennsylvania Ave., will put her art photography space squarely in the Dogpatch neighborhood of hip restaurants and even hipper art spots. "The

Minnesota Street Project [a collection of three warehouses hosting several art galleries] is just three blocks away," she notes.

Chung has nothing but praise for her original location, at 4071 24th St. "It has been lovely. You cannot ask for better neighbors than Mike [of Noe Valley Bakery] and Jack [of Chocolate Covered]. With the support of women-owned small businesses, Theresa Fitzgerald of Moonshot Studio and Josephine Tchang of Purple Maroon, I don't feel so alone. We all started about the same time, August 2021."

Chung says her studies in photography—"I cannot draw; therefore, I tried photography"—led her to teacher and mentor Emmanuelle Namont. Together they started what was then Chung Namont Gallery, inspired by Chung's vision of showcasing "photography-

based art. I wanted to have the power to show other artists who have not had an opportunity to show."

Namont left to pursue other projects after a year, and Chung has carried on, with monthly exhibits which include artist lectures, gallery walkthroughs, and receptions. "I am willing to put in this work because I am inspired by the artists," she says.

The current show in Noe Valley, of work by Pulitzer Prize-winning documentary photographer and artist Preston Gannaway, closes on May 18, and her new space with the same name opens on June 12.

Chung is keeping mum about the two artists she will feature in the first show, but invites Noe Valley neighbors and interested photo buffs to contact her at [info@chung24gallery.com](mailto:info@chung24gallery.com) or 415-795-1643 to keep up with latest news.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 6 p.m.

### A Fair to Remember

Don't forget to stroll down the hill to Fair Oaks Street on Saturday, May 11, for the street's annual Five Block Long Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can find anything from a pleather armchair to a pink barrette while you enjoy the sights on Victorian-filled Fair Oaks, a block east of Dolores Street between 21st and 26th streets. Look for baked goods, recycled clothing, and kids' games and toys.

Then you might want to thank the residents, who have been holding this free San Francisco block party for more than four decades. The first Fair Oaks Neighbors Street Fair and Garage Sale was in 1976.

*Short Takes were compiled and written by Kit Cameron and Sally Smith.*

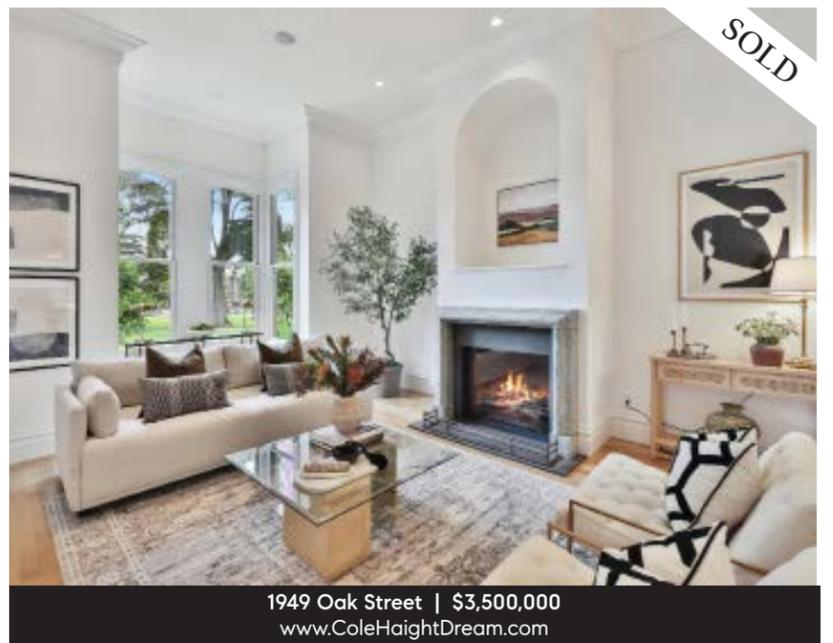


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## DUMPLING KITCHEN—NOE VALLEY

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The neighborhood now has a spot for residents to feed their Chinese dumpling cravings. The chefs at Dumpling Kitchen Noe Valley have been dishing up the Asian delicacies since the restaurant soft-opened March 25.

The menu is heavy on seafood, with steamed dumplings featuring fish (\$11.80 for eight pieces) or shrimp har gow (\$10.80 for four pieces). The giant crab version (\$18.80 for three) is served with small bowls and special spoons to slurp up the brothy insides.

Co-owner and chef Michael Shao features several items specific to each location of his local chain of eateries. The one at 3913 24th St. is his fifth Dumpling Kitchen and third one in San Francisco.

Unique to the Noe Valley menu and not available at the Castro location, for instance, are steamed soup pork dumplings (\$11.80 for six pieces) and scallop and shrimp har gow (\$10.80 for four pieces).

“Of course, we have special dumplings in Noe Valley. You can’t eat them at the other Dumpling Kitchens,” Shao told the *Voice* in mid-April. “We as well have special dishes with seafood. They are very, very great dishes you can’t eat at any other Chinese restaurant. It is very special.”

Among those menu items are a beef with cilantro soup (\$14.80), a Jiang-Nan style marinated duck appetizer (\$16.80), stirred noodles with crab roe (\$26.80), and a braised tofu with crab meat wok dish (\$32.80).

Two standout dessert choices are the deep-fried mini-sesame balls (\$6.95 for six pieces) and the salted egg custard baos (\$6.25 for three pieces).

Beverages range from teas, coffees, and juices to sake, wine, and beer. There is also a short cocktail menu of various sake-based drinks.

As the *Voice* reported in its March issue, Shari Dominici shuttered her eatery Bacco Ristorante Italiano in late January, four years after relocating it from its original location at 737 Diamond St. into the former Savor Open Kitchen space. Her late husband, Paolo Dominici, had opened Bacco in 1993 along with its original executive chef Vincenzo Cucco.

But with only dinner service it wasn’t financially feasible to continue operating Bacco in the larger venue, which has a heated outdoor patio in addition to its indoor seating. Rather than go out of business for good, Dominici pivoted to a new approach.

With no sit-down Chinese restaurant on 24th Street or another dumpling place nearby, and the doughy concoc-



Seated in the restaurant’s sunny rear patio, diners scan a menu uniquely designed for the new Dumpling Kitchen—Noe Valley. Photo by Art Bodner

tions a popular food choice for any meal of the day, she approached Shao about teaming up to bring his homemade Shanghai-style dumplings to the neighborhood. (Up the street, Noe Indian Cuisine does make several Himalayan-style dumplings called momos, which are steamed or deep-fried.)

“Shari needed me to help her,” said Shao.

The reception has been positive from the get-go, said Shao. “Since we soft-opened, I found customers very happy.”

Dominici misses her old recipes but told the *Voice* she knows she made the right decision.

“I loved Bacco. I miss my rigatoni with sausage and bell peppers and peas. It was my signature pasta,” she said. “But people say, ‘Shari, this is so smart because we don’t have a dumpling place in Noe Valley.’ I told them I had to do something for lunch and dinner.”

Her new menu favorites include the won tons in chili oil appetizer (\$10.80 for six pieces) and the steamed pork dumplings. She is also partial to the Shanghai-style pan-fried pork bun (\$10.80 for four pieces).

“Michael is from Shanghai. It is crispy on the bottom and soft on top,” she said.

She also found a new pepper dish to enjoy.

“The basil beef with red bell peppers is one of my favorites,” said Dominici. (The wok menu item is \$18.80.)

To the left of the entrance customers will find a new bar with seating for six. Dominici added it for people who want to pop in and have a drink and nosh on a few dumplings. It also serves as a waiting area for those picking up to-go orders.

The interior received a modern Asian design with a soft gray paint palette. Dominici’s daughter, Isabella, spent two weeks painting the dragon mural that fronts both sides of the fireplace in

the back dining room. Elaborate glass bulb chandeliers hang overhead.

Outside, the patio continues to welcome diners coming in with their canine companions. They are asked to access the outdoor seating area via the passageway to the adjacent Mediterranean restaurant Mesopotamia Kitchen.

“We have always been dog-friendly, even with Bacco,” noted Dominici.

For now, parties of four or more can reserve a table by calling the restaurant directly. It is not yet utilizing any online reservation platforms.

“It is very busy,” said Dominici, who lives in the city’s Golden Gate Heights neighborhood. “We didn’t even advertise yet.”

The restaurant is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m. but closed on Wednesdays. On weekends it is open from 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Customers should take note that the kitchen closes 15 minutes before the restaurant does. Thus, lunch orders must be in by 2:45 p.m. and at dinner by 8:45 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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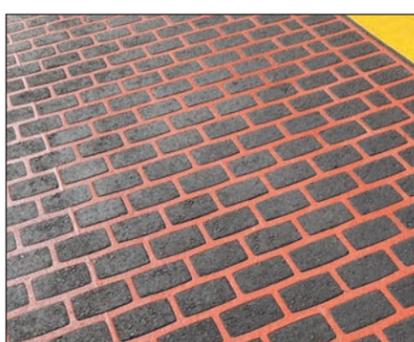
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**May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The Noe Valley Library hosts Family STORYTIMES on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and at 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The BAR on Dolores hosts open-mike COMEDY on Thursdays, presented by Mutiny Radio. 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

**May 3 & June 7:** First Friday COMEDY NIGHT at the Dubliner is hosted by Joe Gleckler. 8-9:30 pm. 3838 24th. 826-2279; gleckler.joe@gmail.com

**May 4:** The SF Contemporary Music Players perform "SOUND AND WINE." 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; sfcmp.org

**May 4, 11, 18 & 25:** The Randall Museum offers Saturday drop-in ART WORKSHOPS for families. 1-4 pm. 199 Museum. randall-museum.org

**May 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET features fresh produce, treats, and music, Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**May 4:** The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Traipse the 'hood with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

**May 4:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a STAR WARS party, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 5:** Noe Valley's Stroller Exchange hosts a BABY GEAR SWAP from 10 am to 6 pm. St. Mary's Cathedral. 1111 Gough. the-strollerexchange.com

**May 5:** ACTION SF's monthly meeting begins at 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. action-sf.com

**May 5:** Mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, cellist Jennifer Culp, and pianist Jeffrey LaDeur perform at LIEDER ALIVE! 5-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**M A Y C A L E N D A R**

**May 5 & 12:** Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**May 8:** Learn ORIGAMI at a workshop for teens. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 8-18:** CHUNG 24 Gallery continues "Remember Me," photographs by Preston Gannaway Wed.-Sat., 1:30 to 6 pm, or by appointment. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

**May 9:** Try a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on second Thursdays, 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**May 9-19:** The 42nd annual CAAMFEST features films at locations throughout the city and a May 14 dinner at Damansara on Church Street. See CAAMedia.org

**May 9, 21 & 29:** Omnivore Books welcomes CHEF authors Deuki Hong and Matt Rodbard (*Koreaworld*) May 9, 6:30 pm; Dina Begum (*Made in Bangladesh*) May 21, 6:30 pm; and Maria Finn (*Forage, Gather, Feast*) May 29, 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

**May 10, 11 & 13:** The Resound Ensemble performs its spring choral CONCERT. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; ResoundEnsemble.org

**May 11:** The annual Fair Oaks Street GARAGE SALE takes place over five blocks, between 21st and 26th, from 9 am to 4 pm.

**May 11:** Noe Valley Pet Company holds its 25th anniversary PARTY with free treats for all. 1-3 pm. 1451 Church. 282-7385.

**May 11 & 19:** City Guides lead WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley. May 11: 1 pm; May 19, 2 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 11:** Learn about CHINESE OPERA and design an opera mask at the Noe Valley Library. 3-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707

**May 11:** SF Civic Music offers a free CONCERT, "An Afternoon of Chamber Music." 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; sfcivicmusic.org

**May 11:** The Marina Crouse Trio performs JAZZ, blues, and boleros at Bird & Beckett. 7:30-9:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733;

**May 12:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a CALLIGRAPHY workshop from 2 to 3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 12:** The Luke Schwartz Duo plays ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the Town Square, 3861 24th. 2 pm. noevalleytownsquare.com

**May 13:** Get drop-in TECH HELP from the staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 14:** The Noe Valley Library hosts family LEGO and Board Games Night. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 14:** Chefs Tracy Goh of Damansara and Emily Lim of Dabao Singapore serve a five-course DINNER of Malaysian and Singaporean dishes as part of CAAMFest. 5 pm and 7:30 pm. Damansara, 1781 Church.

**May 15:** The Upper Noe Neighbors invite you to a community MEETING with refreshments, 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center. Day and Sanchez. uppernoeneighbors.com

**May 15:** Jonathan Richman and Davie Alvarez perform "A Night of Spanish POETRY." 7:30-9:15 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**May 17:** Join the "MUXES" for a procession from Castro Street to Mission, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, honoring International Anti-Homophobia Day. 415-796-6422; Velamuxe@missionculturalcenter.org

**May 18:** Historian Evelyn Rose leads a history walk exploring FAIRMOUNT Heights, 9 to 11:30 am. Reserve at SFHeritage.org

**May 18:** The Friends of Noe Valley's 18th Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR features 10 locations, 10 am to 4 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th St. Includes a plant swap at Noe Cafe on Sanchez. lindalockyer3@gmail.com

**May 18:** Shaping San Francisco hosts a WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, noon to 2:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 18:** Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**May 19:** Yuriko Urushibata performs a PIANO RECITAL, from 2 to 4 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. 285-9540; staidansf.org

**May 19:** Majel Connery and the Bowerbird Collective present "A Season on the Wind: A Cinematic Concert Celebrating MIGRATORY BIRDS." 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; humanatix.com

**May 21:** Mission Library's BOOK CLUB en Español discusses *La Revolución a Dedo*, by Cynthia Rimsky. 6 -7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 22 & 29, June 5 & 12:** "Introduction to MINDFULNESS" is a four-week series at the Noe Valley Library. 5:30-6:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 24:** Ages 6 and older can build a MARBLE MACHINE at the Noe Library, from 3 to 3 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 25:** Studio Ghibli SNACK TRIALS give ages 8 to 18 a taste of foods featured in the studio's movies. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 26:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1997 Studio Ghibli animated film *PRINCESS MONONOKE*. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 26:** Clerestory performs "Notes and Letters: MUSIC of Brahms and the Schumanns." 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; clerestory.org

**May 28:** PJ STORYTIME runs from 6:30 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**June 1 & July 6:** "Map Your Neighborhood" at a disaster-preparedness WORKSHOP two Saturdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sign up SFFDnert@sfgov.org

**May Day!** The next Voice will be the June 2024 issue, distributed the first week of May. The deadline for calendar items is May 15. But please email anytime: calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

**CHILDREN'S FICTION**

A boy tries to remember the name of his favorite treat in *Kadooboo! A Silly South Indian Folktale* by Shruthi Rao, illustrated by Darshika Varma. Ages 4-8.

*Eyes That Weave the World's Wonders* is a picture book about family bonds written by Joanna Ho and Liz Kleinrock, with illustrations by Dung Ho. Ages 4-8.

*The Hedgehog Who Said Who Cares?* by Neri Aluma and illustrated by Amit Trainin, stresses the importance of caring for one's neighbors. Ages 5-10.

A middle-school girl in a new house is haunted by yellow wallpaper, in *Not Quite a Ghost* by Anne Ursu. Ages 8-12.

*Across So Many Seas* by Ruth Behar follows the lives of four girls from different generations of a Jewish family. Ages 10-13.

**CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**

*Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr*, by Sarah Khan, with illustrations by Nadiyah Suyatna, explains the customs and foods of the Muslim holidays. Ages 5-10.

Bruce Betts explores the science in *Casting Shadows: Solar and Lunar Eclipses With the Planetary Society*. Ages 7-10 years.

In *The 30-Day Embroidery Challenge*, Jessica Anderson shows all the stitches and suggests daily projects.

**CHILDREN'S EBOOKS**

In the picture book *Sourgrass*, by Hope Lim, illustrated by Shahrzad Maydani, two girls learn how to have a long-distance friendship. Ages baby to 8 years.

When his owner tosses a stick, Milo the puppy travels around the world to fetch it, in the picture book *Lost Stick* by Anoocha Syed. Ages 3-7.

A boy escapes the Armenian genocide in *Lost Words: An Armenian Story of Survival and Hope*, by Leila Boukarim, with illustrations by Sona Avedikian. Ages 5-8.

Two tweens tell how they "survived" seventh grade in *Listen to This* by Jennifer Blecher. Ages 8-12.

*The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child*, a graphic novel by Francisco Jiménez, illustrated by Celia Jacobs, describes the hardships of crossing the U.S. southern border. Ages 10-13.

**TEEN FICTION**

In *For the Stolen Fates* by Gwendolyn Clare, two time travelers settle in the 19th century to save the world from a cataclysm that will render Earth uninhabitable.

For fans of Dungeons and Dragons, *Who We Are in Real Life* by Victoria Koops is a "coming-of-age story with geeky gamer vibes." Ages 8-12.

In *The Colliding Worlds of Mina Lee* by Ellen Oh, a young artist wakes up to find herself living in the web comic she has designed. Ages 12-17.

Deepa Josyula makes a wish for a boyfriend, and the next day he moves in next door. But is he the one? Read *The Boyfriend Wish*, by Swati Teerdhala. Ages 13-17.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

& by Michael Blake

HAVE	IMDB	COINS	
EVIL	SOUL	UNCUT	
ROBE	LULU	SMORE	
BIRCH	AND RYE	TENSE	
SRA	EEN	BAO	SEP
TSAR	SELMA		
BLOAT	SORT	SHOP	
MARTHA	AND BROTHERS		
WISE	BDAY	HEART	
	STOOD	TEND	
MRS	OYL	ORB	SHE
CHARM	LOVE	AND STEM	
KOREA	ABAB	HARI	
ADAPT	ROLL	URAL	
YAHOO	SESE	ITTY	

**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**Here Come the Books**

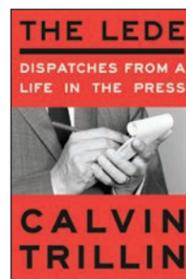
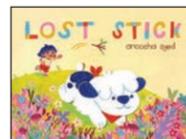
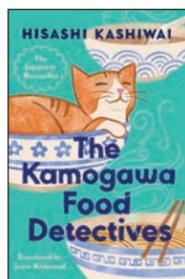
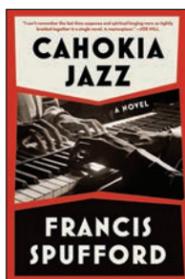
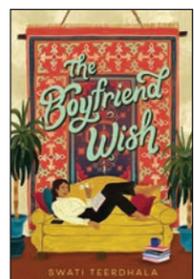


This month, we must thank Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Children's Librarian Madeleine Felder for sharing the new arrivals at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. (See lists below.)

To borrow the books—or download the ebooks or videos—put them on hold at the library's website at SFPL.org. Or amble over to the local branch and pick out something appealing. If you need to talk with Lewis or Felder, or with our library's manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory, call 415-355-5707.

Please note the Noe Valley Library is open Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Also remember the branch, and all city libraries, will be closed on Monday, May 27, to celebrate Memorial Day.



When her baby brother won't stop screaming, Leah wishes him away to the Lord of the Wood, in the horror tale *My Throat an Open Grave* by Tori Bovalino.

**TEEN EBOOKS**

A new girl at boarding school discovers dark secrets when her roommate disappears, in *Where Sleeping Girls Lie* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé.

In *Rules for Rule Breaking* by Talia Tucker, two Korean American teens realize they like each other when they go on a road trip to visit a college.

A.B. Poranek's fantasy *Where the Dark Stands Still* involves a girl who wants to be free of her magical powers.

A nerdy gay teenager signs up for the high school baseball team in Jonah Newman's semi-autobiographical graphic novel *Out of Left Field*.

In *Cancelled* by Farrah Penn, a girl is wrongly accused of appearing in a compromising video with her best friend's boyfriend.

**ADULT FICTION**

Set in the 1920s, *Cahokia Jazz* by Francis Spufford imagines a world where a city known for diversity and peace thrives.

In *Greta and Valdin*, by Rebecca K. Reilly, a brother and sister navigate queerness and multiracial identity (ebook).

Restaurant owners in Kyoto serve meals based on patrons' memories, in *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hisashi Kashiwai.

In *Leaving*, by Roxana Robinson, the rekindling of an old romance brings up new ethical questions (ebook).

Many of the characters in Diane Oliver's latest collection, *Neighbors and Other Stories*, reflect on Jim Crow racism in the 1960s.

In *Ours* by Phillip B. Williams, a conjurer in 1830s Arkansas creates a secluded

community for rescued former slaves.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Philip Geffer offers a behind-the-scenes look at Edward Albee's play in *Cocktails with George and Martha: Movies, Marriage, and the Making of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

In *Get the Picture: A Mind-Bending Journey Among the Inspired Artists and Obsessive Art Fiends Who Taught Me How to See*, Bianca Bosker crashes the A-list parties of the art world (ebook).

Sloane Crosley's memoir *Grief Is for People* explores her feelings after the loss of her closest friend.

*Latinoland: A Portrait of America's Largest and Least Understood Minority*, by Marie Arana, gives an overview of Hispanic America (ebook).

Calvin Trillin's memoir *The Lede: Dispatches From a Life in the Press* unspools a six-decade career.

In *A Map of Future Ruins: On Borders and Belonging*, Lauren Markham travels to Greece to search for her heritage.

**BLU-RAY/DVDS**

*The Crime Is Mine*, a crime comedy directed by François Ozon, stars Isabelle Huppert and Nadia Tereszkiewicz (2023).

*Eileen*, a thriller directed by William Oldroyd, features Thomasin McKenzie and Shea Whigham (2023).

*The Iron Claw*, the true story of wrestling's Von Erich brothers, is directed by Sean Durkin and stars Zac Efron and Jeremy Allen White (2023).

*Origin*, a drama written by Ava DuVernay and Isabel Wilkerson, features Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, Jon Bernthal, and Niecy Nash (2023).

*Poor Things*, an award-winning comedy/drama directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, features Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, and Willem Dafoe (2023).



**LIBRARY EVENTS**

Storytimes are on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30. Limited to 20 children. Sign-up begins at 10 a.m.

The Noe Valley Knitting Circle meets on Saturdays, May 4 and June 1, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Crocheters welcome.

May the Force be with you at a **Star Wars Party** with treats and crafts, on Saturday, May 4, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Teens and adults are invited to an **Origami** craft workshop, supplies provided, on Wednesday, May 8, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The library screens the 2002 documentary *Spellbound*, about the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee, on Friday, May 10, 2 p.m., in the Noe Valley Meeting Room.

Meet at the library for a **City Guides Walking Tour**, "Village Within a City," exploring Victorians and other sites in Noe Valley, on Saturday, May 11, 1 p.m. (or May 19, 2 p.m.). Space is limited: register at SFcityguides.org.

Children and families can learn about **Chinese Opera** and design an opera mask Saturday, May 11, from 3 to 4 p.m.

A **Calligraphy Workshop** for adults and teens is set for Sunday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Get one-on-one **Tech Help** from the library staff, including tips on downloading eBooks. Monday, May 13, 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own device or use a library computer.

Family Board Game and **Lego Night** welcomes all ages on Tuesday, May 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The **Noe Valley Book Club** discusses *The Death of Vivek Oji* by Akwaeke Emezi, on Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

The Noe Valley Library will be among the 10 gardens in the Friends of Noe Valley **Garden Tour** on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get tickets and a map at Friendsofnoevalley.com or at the Saturday farmers market, 3861 24th.

Shaping San Francisco offers a **Walking Tour** that will explore the settling of early Noe Valley, on Saturday, May 18, noon to 2:30 p.m.

The Tertulia Literaria **Book Club en Español** covers *La Revolución a Dedo* by Cynthia Rimsky, on Tuesday, May 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Copies are held for checkout at Mission Library, 1234 Valencia.

A four-week series, "Introduction to **Mindfulness**," explores a tool to connect mind, heart, and body, on Wednesdays, May 22 to June 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Ages 6 and older can design and build a **Marble Machine** on Friday, May 24, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Ages 8 to 18 are invited to try foods featured in Studio Ghibli movies, in **Studio Ghibli Snack Trials**, on Saturday, May 25, from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Noe Valley Library screens the 1997 Studio Ghibli animated film *Princess Mononoke* on Sunday, May 26, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Kids and their families are invited to **Pajama Storytime**, on Tuesday, May 28, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Space is limited to 20 children; reservations required: 415-355-5707.

Learn how to respond in a disaster in a two-part workshop, "**Map Your Neighborhood**," Saturdays, June 1 and July 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sign up at SFFDnert@sfgov.org.

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

Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

**BRANCH HOURS**

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library						
451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	11-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Action SF**

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/  
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/  
 Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com or  
 https://www.action-sf.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/part-  
 ners/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.

## In previous years, people felt homeownership was a goal easily in reach... but today, half of all people surveyed feel it's not possible.

### "I Have Home Equity - Now What?"

For those of you with equity, there's a way you can help your family build *generational wealth* with the purchase of a home.

- ✔ Talk with your spouse or partner so you're both on board with the plan.
- ✔ Talk to your child, grandchild, or family member to gauge their goals, interests, & needs.
- ✔ Meet with a qualified financial professional to make sure all legal & financial obligations are met. Possible option to research include gifts, loans, leases or trusts.

### "I'm Just Starting Out On The Journey"

For those of you not yet on the real estate ladder, these are steps you can take to begin building your *own* generational wealth.

- ✔ Improve your credit score by paying down debt as soon as you can.
- ✔ Don't take on any unnecessary major expenses such as a new vehicle, appliances, or vacation.
- ✔ Talk to a qualified mortgage professional to get pre-approved so you're ready when the time is right. I can put you in touch with a trusted source from my network.

*If you or someone you know is considering a move, feel free to contact me with any questions!*



### The Brannigan Zeng Team

Silvia Zeng | DRE 01986529 | 415-335-3975 | silvia@teambannigan.com  
 Visit Us at thebrannigan.team or Drop by the Office at 3899 24th Street  
**Call, Text, or Email with All Your Buying and Selling Needs/Questions**



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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Here Comes the Sun

By Mazook

**T**HE HAPPY DAYS OF MAY are here again in Noe Valley! Sunny days. The fog rolling into the city stalls up at Twin Peaks, so the sun keeps Noe Valley bright. The winds from the Pacific Ocean clean the air. Our neighborhood walkers, like me, smile and nod at one another.

Downtown Noe Valley merchants seem to be doing a brisk business. The sun shines over the Noe Valley Town Square, and the Farmers Market is bustling with shoppers as the spring harvest of fruits and vegetables arrives on 24th Street.



**CANNED LAUGHTER:** In April, Noe Valley news went around the world. Again. At 8 a.m., on April 15, workers from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department unceremoniously opened the door to our new Town Square bathroom.

One of the first to use the loo was Noe Valleon Gloria Saltzman with her granddaughter Juliette. They then headed to Martha's, where Saltzman is a morning "regular."

I got there about 8:10 a.m., and to my surprise saw the Rec and Park people double-checking the working parts they had set in motion. I walked across the street to Martha's, where everyone was buzzing about what had just happened. Saltzman came over to me smiling to tell me about the experience. "It was great to see the door was open and ready for entry."

Word quickly spread around the valley that the potty had opened to the public. I came back in the afternoon and saw many in the square admiring the bathroom, which was hosting a group of toddlers, to the relief of their moms, dads, or caretakers. I waited in the very short line to have a look inside. It was soon my turn. And there the toilet was, in stunning simplicity! Hooray.

As you all might remember, the story first went around the world in October of '22. It all started with an item in the October Rumors that read, "Our State Assemblyman Matt Haney will hold a press conference on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 12:30 p.m., to announce that he has secured \$1.7 million from the state budget for the long-awaited installation of a public bathroom at the Town Square." (It was "long-awaited" because almost seven years had passed since the Town Square had been opened as a park, and the bathroom in the original design had yet to be installed.)

But on that Wednesday, Oct. 19, a park commissioner came by and told me that the Haney press conference had been abruptly cancelled. Why?

Well, it seemed Heather Knight had written a column on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* that morning below the headline "S.F. Is Spending \$1.7 Million on One Public Toilet." San Francisco and Noe Valley became the butt of jokes worldwide.



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: In

the end, after a prefabricated bathroom was donated and installed by a Nevada manufacturer, and after additional grants of over \$100,000 came in, the price tag to the city for the toilet came to a total of \$200,000.

To welcome the facility, the Noe Valley Town Square threw a big party on Sunday, April 21, called "The Toilet Bowl: A Blowout Celebration of Our World-Renowned Toilet." Over the afternoon, it was attended by well over 500 people and featured activities including a crafts table sponsored by Just for Fun, live music by a band calling itself American Standard, a toilet paper costume contest with the winner getting a whoopee cushion, face painting, animal balloons for all, a toilet bowl toss, a digestive olive oil tasting by Olive This Olive That, a wonderful reading of the book *Everybody Poops* by our Noe Valley Library's manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory, and at the end there was a "Toilet Tree Ceremony."

Speakers included Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Assemblymember Matt Haney, Rec and Park Commissioner Kat Anderson, and local activist Todd David, who had been instrumental in getting the \$7 million needed to create the Town Square in the first place.

The news media was in attendance to record the event. ABC, KPIX, NBC, and KRON TV News all showed up, and the cameras were rolling.

Peter Hartlaub, in his inimitable fashion, wrote the front-page story in the *Chronicle*, which appeared the following Tuesday. "And if the bathroom is a punch line? Then Noe Valley residents are ready to join in the levity... At least no one will have to ask their toddler to go in the bushes anymore."

Hartlaub aptly summed up the event: "Toilet Bowl organizer Crawford said she wishes everyone who joked about Noe Valley's bathroom also comes to visit. Outsiders have long tried to portray San Francisco as out of sync with reality, but Noe Valley has a welcoming plaza, an eclectic shopping district, an epic street mural, and the city's model Slow Street." Let me second that emotion.

Lastly but not leastly, kudos to Town Square manager Leslie Crawford, who organized the event. "It was really wonderful...while the whole world was making fun of us, we were able to make fun of ourselves this afternoon," she said.



**A DIZZY DAY IN THE VALLEY:** On the afternoon of April 18, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA) held its Spring Wine Walk. Almost 25 merchants participated and provided wine to the crowds roaming downtown Noe Valley into the sunset. The NVMPA provided live music by bands that appeared at various spots along 24th Street to serenade the walkers and spark dancing on the sidewalks.

"We ended up with almost \$14,000 from the 540 tickets we sold for the event (25 percent more than last year). 350 were purchased online in advance," said NVMPA President Rachel Swann, who did a masterful job of organizing the event. "Advance purchases made things go very quickly at our sign-in desk in front of the Noe Valley Town Square," she said. The proceeds "will go to maintaining the lights strung along 24th Street for the year."

Merchants were very happy with the turnout. "Our sales during the wine walk were great," said Santiago Esparza, owner of Urban Scout, located on the

corner of 24th and Vicksburg. "About 250 visited our plant store, and we were handing out a 20 percent off gift card to those who purchased our plants and came to pick them up by the end of the walk or the following day."

There was much love in the vintage clothing store Loved Again (4068 24th). "People were having a lot of fun drinking wine and shopping in the store," said manager Gilbertina Guarini, "and we sold a lot of merchandise that day." She said the shop was giving out some of its "wonderful" homemade wine and that many people came back for more.

At Perfectly Seasoned, the herbs, spices, and teas merchant located at 4017 24th St., folks were dancing out the door. "We sold a ton of stuff, and it was a great night for us," said owner/manager Phuong Mai, "and we served lots of popcorn to the hundreds of people who came in to the store. All the wine was gone at the end."

He added, "The most popular spices were our blends of Moroccan rose, egg seasoning (which is great for eggs and potatoes), and our beer and cheese blend, which is wonderful on popcorn, potatoes, and mixed nuts."

People were lined up down the sidewalk to taste the wine at Mr. Digby's Bar and Restaurant on the corner of 24th and Church, which was filled to capacity that afternoon.

"We were very busy and saw many come back after the wine walk for dinner. We were giving all wine walkers a 10 percent discount on their meals," said owner/manager Mike McCaffery. "It was a good day for us."



**ALL DAY:** On the morning of Thursday, April 18, folks got an unexpected treat as they walked by Todo el Día, recently added to the culinary landscape of Noe Valley by the restaurateurs at Tacolicious. Due to the many months that the space at 4063 24th St. had appeared dormant, its fate had become somewhat of a neighborhood mystery.

As walkers and shoppers peered into Todo el Día on this morning, however, they were surprised to see the door was open and the store manager was informing the curious that they were welcome to come in. It was opening day. The menu was on the wall. The full menu would be there later in the week.

Those who entered were even more surprised when their host told them as they wrote down their orders that the meal would be free that day. That was an offer that no one could refuse. Word of the giveaway spread down 24th Street like fire on a rotisserie.

"We wanted to have a trial practice-run of our food operations and see all the glitches that came up in preparing and serving the food and drink," said Fernando Guzman, who is Tacolicious' Director of Food and Beverage, "and we didn't want the diners to have to pay for our practice session. We truly appreciated hearing all their questions and comments. And the following morning the back patio was filled with strollers, which was very heartening to me."

Guzman said he was "frankly quite surprised" that by noon they had already sold out of their main ingredients and had to close the shop and regroup. Later that afternoon, the front door was reopened for lunch and dinner and they closed at 8 p.m. "The next morning, we opened at 11 a.m. for lunch and dinner, and now we will

serve breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. with the all-day menu available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

"We are very happy that after the first week we were serving more than 240 meals a day and rising every day," he said with a big smile. "I think that a thousand meals a day is possible."

He continued, "We plan to update and change our menu on a regular basis with healthy ingredients of vegetables, grains, and dressings, to take advantage of the treasures that are fresh veggies, grains, and spices that are grown and harvested in this amazing northern California region."

He said the most popular items on the Todo el Día menu were the tortas. The El Emot torta is "guajillo-braised pork, avocado, queso fresco, and cumin crema." The favorite taco is the camarón frito, described as "crispy shrimp, pickled cabbage, and avocado mayonesa." The havalina salad has roasted chicken, farro, beets, avocado, asparagus, carrot, cheese, salsa, and morita chile-ginger vinaigrette. The specialty of the house is the "family pack," a whole or half chile-rubbed rotisserie chicken that comes with rice and beans and tortillas.

When I showed up at 10:30 that Thursday, after getting tipped off of the event, I had the El Emot and a lemonade. Yes, I was wowed.



**SHORT SHRIFTS:** It looks like a "for lease" sign may soon appear on the front window of the long-vacant store on the corner of Vicksburg and 24th streets. The space was last occupied almost six years ago by the women's clothing store The Mill.

Building owner Sharon Cassidy has a permit for a cannabis dispensary, but says she is having serious second thoughts, "given the downturn in the cannabis industry in California, the permitting process, the changes in the financial costs of that business, and the lack of product availability ... and starting with an upside-down store economy." She says she has "no timeline," but her decision may come soon.

Slow Sanchez leader Chris Keene says the group is now creating a plan with Friends of the Urban Forest to make the street a "greenway," which will mean more sidewalk gardens and trees. They will be seeking residents along Sanchez Street for their permission and willingness to participate in the project. "We have more volunteers who want to help than there are plants to water," Keene says.

Noe Valleon Sam Gabel (Peter Gabel's son) and his rapper band Sutro—along with rapper-rockers Afterthought and DJ Say—have just released their first album. To celebrate, Sutro is partnering with SF Rec and Park to play in a free festival at the Golden Gate Park Bandshell, 2 to 6 p.m., on May 11. The event is sponsored by Us4Us and SF Black Wallstreet, two organizations doing important work for San Francisco's black and brown communities.



**THAT'S 30,** you all. I will leave you with the words of Noe Valleon Rudy Stadlberger, who recently celebrated his 100th year.

I regularly meet him on my walks down Slow Sanchez Street and he greets me every time, saying simply, "Keep moving."

Ciao for now.

See you again in June. ■



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## 4258 26th St. | Noe Valley

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

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

## 765 Market St #32H. | SOMA

**2 BED | 2.5 BATH | \$3,498,000**

Step into a world of unparalleled luxury at The Four Seasons Residence. This exquisitely modern two bedroom residence is a rare gem in the heart of San Francisco offering an indulgent lifestyle synonymous with the prestige of The Four Seasons. Located on the 32nd floor, this flawless residence offers unparalleled vistas of San Francisco Bay, Yerba Buena Gardens, and the ever-changing skyline of Mission Bay presenting a rare chance to indulge in city life against a tranquil and scenic setting. This residence is a perfect blend of urban excitement and peaceful vistas. Thoughtfully designed, the modern interiors seamlessly combine a variety of bespoke textures and materials resulting in a look that is both sophisticated and timeless. Every detail has been meticulously chosen to strike the perfect balance between opulence and comfort transforming this property into a true sanctuary. Residents of The Four Seasons enjoy access to a suite of 24-hour services including concierge, doorman, security, and in-room dining. Additional luxuries include housekeeping, laundry services, and exclusive access to the MKT restaurant and lounge, along with the renowned Equinox facilities. Living at The Four Seasons Residence is the epitome of luxury living in a world-class city.



## 1163 Alabama St. | Inner Mission

**2 BED | 1 BATH | \$799,000**

This newly renovated home is stylish, generous in size, and offers an indoor/outdoor living experience fitting for one SF's hottest neighborhoods. Boasting two spacious bedrooms, one remodeled bathroom, eat-in kitchen, and laundry room, this TIC caters to creature comforts including air conditioning! Enjoy direct access to a landscaped shared backyard that's perfect for al-fresco dining and entertaining. Located in the heart of the Mission's Calle 24 Cultural District, one-half block from 24th Street shops, restaurants, and bars. Proximity to shuttles, transit, parks, and freeways. One year of leased parking is available in a private lot one block away. Sellers offering 1 year of paid parking \*Buyers to investigate to their satisfaction\*.

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Rachel Swann



Rachel Hooper



Bryant Covarrubias



Drew Rahe

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415.225.7743  
Team@SwannGroupSF.com  
CalRE# 01860456

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