

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Bright Lights, Big Presents

What Would the Holidays Be Without Tom and Jerry's Tree?

By Richard May

Every year, for the past 25 years, a miracle has occurred on 21st Street in Noe Valley, between Church and Sanchez streets. This year, it will happen again. Outside a big white house in the middle of the block, a tall tree will be decorated, immense gifts will appear under the tree, gigantic stockings will be hung, and Santa and an elf will hand out candy canes.

This miracle is the Tom and Jerry Holiday Tree. Tom Taylor, 71, and Dr. Jerome Goldstein, 73, owners of the house at 3650 21st St., perform this miracle every year. It all began when they moved in 41 years ago, bought a potted plant—a Norfolk Island pine, the kind you see advertised as a “living Christmas tree”—stuck it in the ground, and watched it grow.

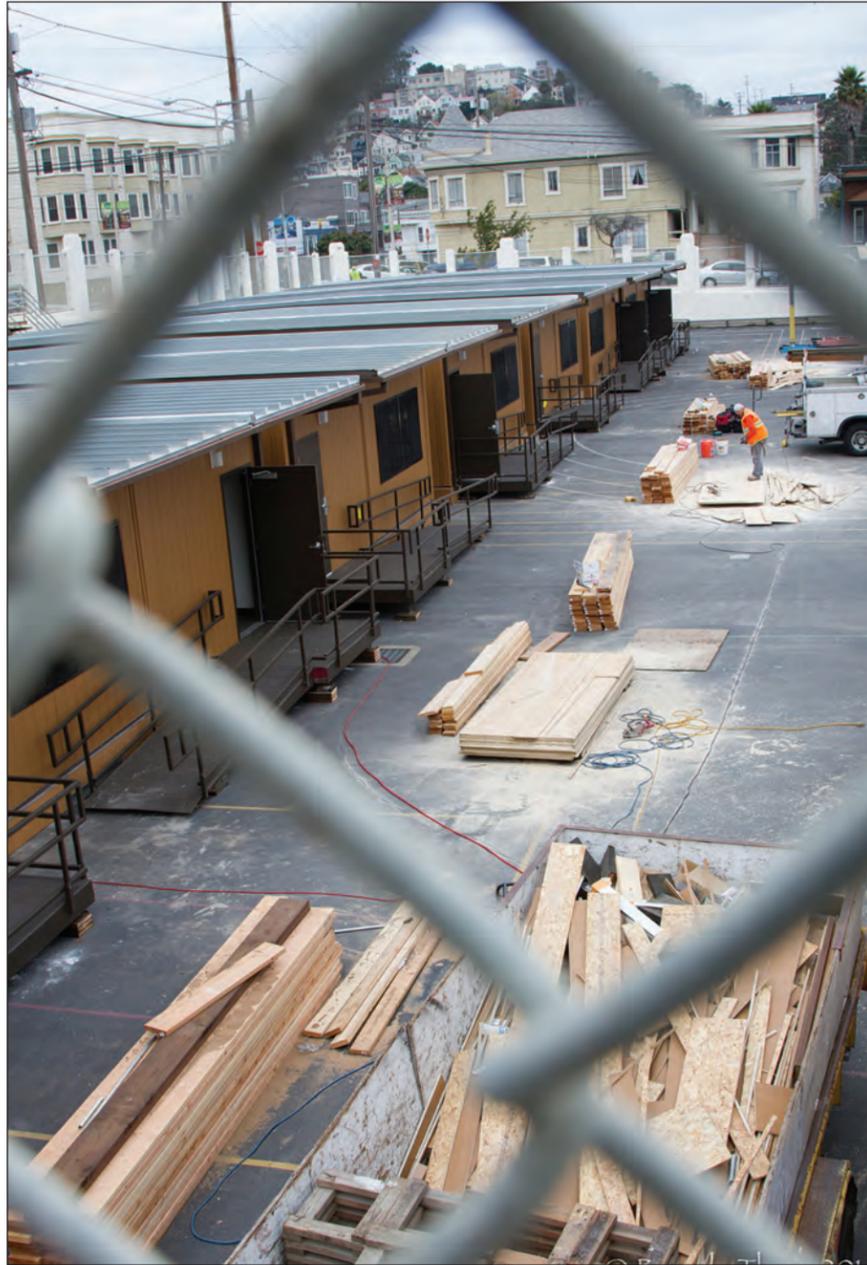
In 1988, the tree was big enough to give them an idea. Why not decorate the tree and make a holiday display parents could bring their kids to for free? And year after year, they have.

In the Beginning

The process starts around Nov. 1. Everything is brought out of storage, repairs are made, and decorations bought. Something new is added every year. Last year, it was moving teddy bears. This year? “It’s a secret,” Jerry Goldstein says. “They’ll have to come see to find out.”

But the more things change, the more they have to remain the same because, Goldstein explains, people do have expectations. They notice if an ornament is new or changed or missing. Some visitors have been viewing the display since they were kids, and now they’re bringing their children to see it. They remember.

Some things have changed over the years, though, and it’s partly the tree’s fault. It grew. After 25 years, it’s now over 40 feet tall (or 65, depending on whom you’re speaking with). As the tree has



Mobile Units Arrive. Temporary classrooms are filling the expansive playground of James Lick School in preparation for a major remodel of the 1930s-era building. Photo by Beverly Tharp

grown, so have the decorations, to keep everything in proportion. “It’s supposed to look like the average Christmas tree,” Taylor says. Maybe it does—from space. You can decide for yourself. Take a drone’s eye view at <http://diversitysf.org/christmas-lights-san-francisco-style/>.

Meanwhile, back on Earth, a six-

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Long-Awaited Renovation Begins At James Lick

Students to Use Portable Classrooms During Remodel

By Corrie M. Anders

James Lick Middle School, an aging but grand four-story structure built in the Art Deco style of a bygone era, is moving into the 21st century.

Starting in mid-December, the Noe Valley school will undergo a major renovation and seismic upgrade that will last through August 2016—disrupting but not closing classes.

School officials said the \$18 million modernization was long overdue at the building, which has no elevator, a cramped cafeteria, run-down classrooms, skimpy lavatories, and few accommodations for students with disabilities.

“Lick was built in 1930, and it’s never received a major modernization until now,” said Andrea Dawson, a senior project manager for the San Francisco Unified School District.

James Lick Principal Apolinar “Paul” Quesada welcomes the project and is especially pleased that the school will get two new elevators and have its drafty windows replaced.

“We are excited as we can be,” said Quesada, whom students call “Mr. Q.” “We are definitely looking forward to it.”

Also on board is Lynn Wenger, president of the school’s Parent Teacher Student Association. “[The renovation] is something that the school really needs,” she said.

Nearly 600 students, a third of whom are classified as English language learners, attend the L-shaped school with the distinctive roofline at 1220 Noe St. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Plans Move Forward—for Real—at Former Real Food Space

Come Meet the Architect at a Community Meeting Jan. 22

By Liz Highleyman

After more than 10 years of false starts, plans are finally under way to demolish and replace the former Real Food Company store at 3939 24th St. in the heart of Noe Valley’s commercial strip.

In its place, Nutraceutical Corporation plans to construct a mixed-use building with retail on the ground floor and two stories of housing above it. A community meeting to discuss the plans will take place on Jan. 22.

“Nutraceutical has signed off on the plan and is ready to move forward,” said District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, whose office has kept steady pressure on the company to do something with the long-empty space. “This is a significant step forward, as the vacancy has been a major source of frustration and concern for

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Voice Vacates. Save us a table at the colorful parklet in front of Just for Fun on 24th Street. We’ll be shedding our journalistic personas in favor of ones that suit slow-moving locals on vacation. Thanks to you, dear readers, and worthy advertisers, we’re able to take a winter break. Come January 2015, we’ll be back nosing around for news and readying the pages of our February edition. Be kind to one another and pray for rain.

Photo by Jack Tipple



During the Christmas Season, Santa visits 21st Street often, to hand out candy canes and see the lavish display created by Jerry Goldstein and Tom Taylor. Photo by Paretz Partensky

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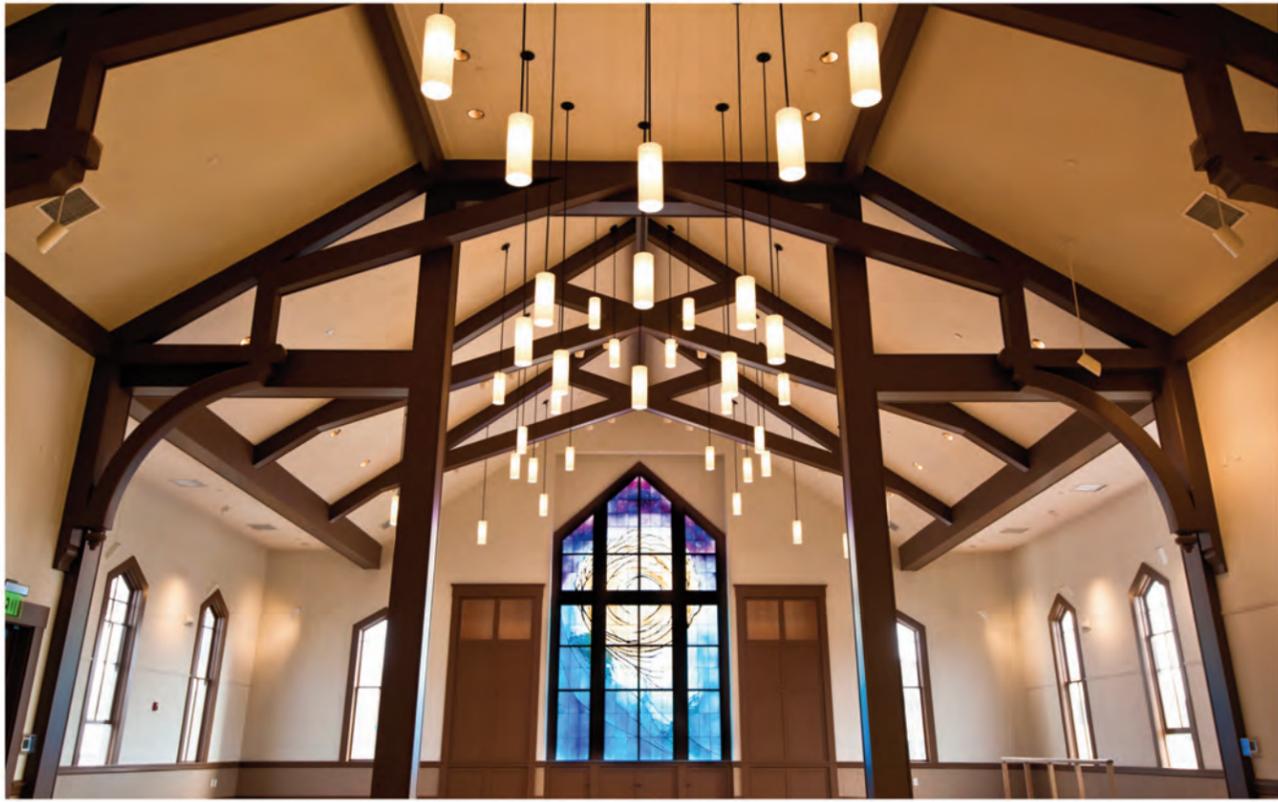
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LETTERS

Computer Recycling Repeatable

Editor:

Our free recycling event on Saturday, Nov. 8, with all proceeds to benefit the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, was a *huge* success! To those of you that we had to turn away because the truck was full by 12:45 a.m., *we apologize!* As many of you know, we tried to take as much as we could into Castro Computer Services for a second pickup on Tuesday, Nov. 11 (which will also count toward the NVMPA proceeds).

We take your electronic items for recycling Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is always *free* (and we do *not* get paid for

your recycling). You are welcome to call with any questions, 826-6678.

Lastly, if there is enough need and support, we are open to holding another event after the holidays. Just let us know!

Thank you, everyone, for your support and participation!

Susan Walia, Raj Walia
Castro Computer Services
1500 Castro St.

Don't Give to Panhandlers

Editor:

Since moving to Noe Valley four years ago, I have seen the same five "homeless" people begging for money in front of Walgreens and on 24th Street. Four years ago, when one of these people shared her story of "just" being admitted to a women's shelter ("thank the Lord"), I was moved to donate. However, when the same woman "just" moved into that shelter last week, the con got old.

Fellow residents, please stop supporting these confidence men and women. They are *not* downtrodden victims. They are dishonest people who have demonstrated their ability to survive by returning day after day and year after year. Paying them is tantamount to employing them to disrupt our lives, clutter our streets, make tourists uncomfortable, and lower our property values.

If you want to teach your children compassion, explain to them that your taxes contribute to the \$167 million spent on homeless programs each year—more than the city spends on the depart-

ments of Children, Youth, and Family Services, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks—as you ignore the man in front of Whole Foods and walk on. Thanks.

Jessica Hernandez
Clipper Street

Next Wave of Video Wave

To the community:

Video Wave's lease is up in July, and...on top of the challenges we already face...we anticipate an additional challenge with our current space. To participate in discussions about the future of the movie collection and this social space in the neighborhood, watch our website, Facebook page, and storefront this next month for news of several meeting dates to be held after the holidays.

This is not a profitable venture for us. All that we do, we do only to keep the store open and the 20,000-piece collection here. We appreciate all of your support as we struggle to preserve your 30-plus-year investment in movies here in Noe Valley. We hope that the outcome of our efforts can be used toward the preservation of the citywide physical collection (which has already been bought and paid for by our larger San Francisco community).

Members are signing up to assist with putting on these events, and we hope that all who wish to can find a manageable way to participate. At our meetings, besides planning solutions, we will be discussing in part our ideas for enjoyable and useful movie browsing online. We hope

that members will come together to help develop this vision.

We are proud to be a part of the fabric of Noe Valley. Thank you for your support.

Gwen Sanderson, Colin Hutton
Video Wave
1431A Castro St.

Where's the Sequel?

Editor:

I was very disappointed in the November 2014 *Noe Valley Voice*. I was looking forward to Sara Baker-Flynn's follow-up article on how to tell the difference between a ventriloquist and a street performer. This is personal for me—as I believe that I am living with one or the other of the above.

Stanley Zompakos
Flushing, NY

Editor's Reply: Sara Baker-Flynn, who wrote our October piece "Spot the Street Performer: A How-to Guide," vanished soon after completing it. Her father, a known street performer with links to ventriloquism, claims she's in Europe. We would help, but our hands are tied.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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

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A DECEMBER ROWS GARDEN PUZZLE

By Michael Blake

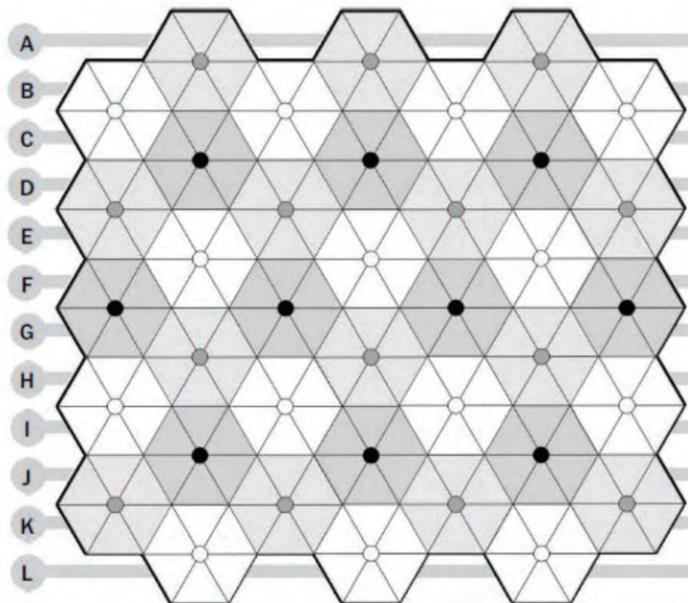
Editor's Note: In place of the usual crossword, Michael Blake is offering his new favorite kind of puzzle, called a Rows Garden. Just as in a normal crossword, every letter is used exactly twice, but there's a twist: each letter is part of a row (a normal Across entry) and a bloom. See the instructions at right to see how it works. The Rows Garden was invented by master crossword constructor Patrick Berry, who gave Michael permission to copy his idea. Michael says, "These puzzles are especially fun to solve because once you get a row, you've got half the letters in several blooms and can often guess them. Once you get the blooms, you can often guess the rows. Success feeds on success." In other words, he says, don't be intimidated!

The solution is on Page 29.

A Rows Garden puzzle has two answers on Rows B to K and one on Rows A and L. Lengths of answers are in parentheses; multi-word lengths are given with commas, or hyphens if hyphenated.

There are also 38 White, Medium, and Dark Blooms (defined by the dot in each bloom's center) consisting of six-letter words or phrases that can start at any point and can read clockwise, marked with {+}, or counter-clockwise, marked with {-}.

Clues in the Blooms lists are in order from left to right, top to bottom. As in a conventional crossword, each letter in the grid is used in two words.



ROWS

- A** Noe Valley sidewalk barriers, stereotypically (9)
- B** Without peer (9)
One who dates a much younger person, slangily (6,6)
- C** Evita's hubby (4,5)
Document that more than one MH370 passenger was traveling on (4,8)
- D** Tim Lincecum's NL-leading stat for 3 straight years (10)
Did a moonshiner's trick to increase alcohol content (11)
- E** Expresses great loathing for (9)
Player likely to catch a sideline pass (4,8)
- F** Altman movie in which Philip Baker Hall played Nixon (6,5)
Lumbermen's way of moving trees downriver (3,7)

- G** Slanted font (6,4)
Some Comcast equipment crowning TVs (3-3, 5)
- H** Perilous bus trip in the Civil Rights battle (7,4)
Items waitresses greet guests with at Toast (6,4)
- I** Some Pentagon employees (4,8)
Student submissions at the end of the last class (4,5)
- J** Having been accomplished (5,4,4)
Flustered (8)
- K** Repeated verbatim, slangily (12)
Aussie aboriginal's pedestrian rite of passage (9)
- L** What the French-speaking Jackie called her mother-in-law Rose (5-4)

BLOOMS

White Blooms

- Northernmost state capital {+}
- Short poem on two rhymes {-}
- Vaulted {+}
- Poet Frost {+}
- Moon feature {+}
- Big annual Apple event at Moscone {-}
- "Look at the facts!": 2 wds. {+}
- Saturday vendor on 24th {-}
- "... solemnly swear or ___" {-}
- Type of printing {+}
- Hard drinkers {-}
- Break and enter {+}
- Like some cheese at Subs, Inc. {+}
- Return to the oven {-}

Medium Blooms

- Most milk purchases at Shufat Market {-}
- Nab, as a bad guy {+}
- Tunneling machines or termites {+}

- Wields, as force {-}
- Beginning {+}
- Live (at) {-}
- One who examines closely {-}
- Tractable {-}
- Leave, as the Union {+}
- She lost her sheep: 2 wds. {+}
- "ing" word {+}
- Nicole Kidman's "Moulin Rouge" role {+}
- Waffle topper at Griddle Fresh {-}
- Reverent {-}

Dark Blooms

- Look through the shutters: 2 wds. {+}
- Malingers {+}
- Cheerleaders' moves {+}
- Nails, as an exam: 2 wds. {-}
- Slithering squeezer {+}
- Capri's Blue ___ {+}
- Determining if a chick is male or female {+}
- Building level, to a Brit {+}
- Refuses to cooperate {-}
- Mom or dad {+}

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Miracle on 21st Street—A Gift from Tom and Jerry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

person crew and a small crane help Taylor and Goldstein decorate the tree, assemble the humongous gift boxes, and put the hundreds of decorations into place. When asked how many lights are on the tree, Goldstein laughs and says, “Countless.” In the background, Taylor is more specific. “10,000,” he says. Whatever the number, it’s a whole lot of electricity. PG&E had to put in a super-duper transformer to handle the wattage.

7,000 Candy Canes

When everything is ready, Santa appears with an elf. Neither Taylor nor Goldstein is Santa—or the elf. Their friend Paul is the current Mr. Claus and jolly happy to do it. He stands out on the sidewalk in front of the holiday tree every night during the season to hand out up to 7,000 candy canes, listen to what kids want for Christmas, and pose for photos. On Christmas Eve, he reads *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Moore. Everything is free: the candy canes, the photos, and the ho-ho-ho’s.

The elf is the same one who originated the role. He’s a neighbor kid who, when he was 5 years old, asked if he could help, so they handed him an elf suit. Now, he’s a teenager and is too cool to wear the elf outfit, although he does still rock the hat. Sort of a hipster elf.

Goldstein says their neighbors are very forbearing, if not as participatory as the elf. With his neighbors’ nerves in mind, he asks visitors to please limit the traffic noise by (1) not honking as they drive by, and (2) by parking either at the top or the bottom of the hill and walking down (or up). Honking at Santa will definitely put you on the Naughty list, and walking hills in San Francisco is good cardio.

Tree Needs an ‘Angel’

The lights go off at 11 p.m. every night the display is up, in deference to the neighbors. They go on at sunset. All that electricity, not to mention all the other expenses, must cost a bundle. Goldstein won’t say how much exactly but confides it isn’t cheap and they pay for everything. They receive no funding, no grants, no checks with four or five zeros. They don’t accept money from the folks who come to see the tree. They wouldn’t, however, be averse to some major funder helping out, Goldstein says.

The Tom and Jerry Holiday Tree is famous worldwide. It’s been reported on far and wide. *The Wall Street Journal*, of all publications, opined that “next to the tree in Rockefeller Center, there’s the Tom



Jerry Goldstein stands beneath the Norfolk Island pine that he and husband Tom Taylor (and Santa and an elf) transform each year into a dazzling holiday display. Photo by Pamela Gerard

and Jerry Christmas Tree in San Francisco.” (No word if there was a correction in the next issue, calling it by its proper name.) There’s even a movie out about the tree, called *Making Christmas: The View From the Tom and Jerry Christmas Tree*. (Does anybody get the name right?) The 35-minute documentary, directed by Richard Gutierrez, premiered at the 2011 Frameline LGBT film festival in San Francisco.

What goes up, of course, must come down. It takes several weeks to put up the Tom and Jerry Holiday Tree display and one week in January to take down. Asked where it all goes, Goldstein says, with a twinkle, “the North Pole.” Investigative reporting, however, pinpoints this particular magnetic north in a warehouse south of Market.

Other Good Deeds

Goldstein and Taylor’s philanthropy doesn’t stop with a holiday tree and 10,000 light bulbs. Over the 41 years they have lived in the big white house on 21st Street, they have hosted approximately

400 fundraisers for as many or more good causes. Most recently they provided a venue to raise money for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, hosted the holiday party for the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and let BALIF, the Bay Area LGBT bar association, hold a fundraiser at their abode. Notably, the first fundraising event for Ruth Brinker’s beloved Project Open Hand was at their house.

At the end of the day, Taylor and Goldstein would like folks to remember two things. First, the tree is one way they give back. It’s “our gift to San Francisco and the world for giving us our precious lives.” And second, it’s a *holiday* tree, not a Christmas tree. “The tree is for everyone,” Goldstein says firmly.

This year, the Tom and Jerry Holiday Tree will be ready to see by Dec. 10. It will stay up until New Year’s Day. The lights go on at sunset and off at 11. Santa is there every night, rain or dark. Please park at the top of the hill or at the bottom. And please, please, please DO NOT HONK AT SANTA CLAUS!

Happy Holidays in Noe Valley

By Richard May

December holidays ring out the old year and ring in the new. In Noe Valley, you’ll find plenty to do, whether you want to see Santa, eat latkes, or toast 2015.

Chabad of Noe Valley is organizing Chanukah Wonderland, Noe’s celebration of the Festival of Lights, Sunday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street, with help from the Noe Valley Association and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Rabbi Gedalia Potash has an action-packed schedule of events, mostly for children, although adults can partake of the latke bar and hot chocolate too.

The magic show is at 4 p.m. At 4:30 p.m., Jonathan Bayer will play his guitar and sing in Hebrew, Spanish, and English. At 5 p.m., the 6-foot menorah will be lit. Before and after, free dreidels and gelt will be distributed, a scavenger hunt for prizes will be held, and Judas Maccabee will be on hand to remind you how the holiday got started. Kids can also make their own menorah, sand art, and other fun stuff at the arts and crafts table. Everyone is welcome.

Baltic Christmas Fair

For a different take on Christmas, attend the Baltic Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Latvian Hall, 425 Hoffman Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will offer Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian holiday and gift items for sale, including jewelry, art, candies, bread, and other food items. A Baltic lunch will be served all day. For \$8 to \$10 a plate, you can dine on pierogis, borscht, rye bread, and Baltic desserts. There will be children’s art activities and a pub-style trivia quiz for the adults.

Reindeer on 24th Street

Christmas is also in full swing along 24th Street during December, with the NVMPA’s 24 HoliDAYS on 24th Street. Check the website www.24on24th.com for full details. Here are some of the highlights:

Santa, with or without elves and reindeer, has a busy appearance schedule in Noe Valley, showing up at local businesses on Dec. 6, 11, 13, 18, and 20. On Dec. 13 he’s in the parklet outside Just for Fun with an elf and hula dancers. The dancers are the Mele Kalikimaka troupe, which means Merry Christmas in Hawaiian. Santa will be listening to Christmas wishes and handing out toys, depending on which side of the ledger you’re on in his Big Black Book.

Dec. 18 Santa brings the elf and a couple of reindeer to Just for Fun. The reindeer are outside, ready for petting. Santa will be inside with the elf, book, ears, toys, and hot chocolate.

Santa won’t be at Russo Music Dec. 13 at 4 p.m., since he’s busy at Just for Fun, but there will be violin caroling! Students ages 4 and up from Suzanne’s Violin Studio will play Christmas songs and carols they’ve been practicing. Come all ye faithful.

Sleighbells Ring

Holiday hayrides will happen Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Dec. 13 from noon to 3 p.m. Pickup and drop-off is outside Walgreens on Castro Street, between 24th Street and Jersey. There will not be an evening hayride.

Merchants are also offering discounts, specials, and treats throughout the 24 days.

And let’s not forget New Year’s Eve. No neighborhood celebrations appear to have been planned, but our friendly and convenient taverns will offer a place to ring—or wring—out the old year. ■

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

4:30 pm — Family Mass with Children's Choir and Pageant
8:00 pm — Mass in English with Adult Choir
12:00 Midnight — Bilingual Mass with Adult Choir

Christmas Day Masses

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 10:45 am (English)
There will be no 12:15 or 5:00 pm Mass on December 25

New Year's Day Mass

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 2014

9:15 am (English)

There will be No Services on Wed., Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve).

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2-Year Renovation Starts at James Lick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school campus sits on a square city block bounded by Noe, Clipper, Castro, and 25th streets.

Expect Traffic and Noise

Over the next two years, nearby residents can expect to see heavier traffic than usual and find fewer parking spaces. School officials say contractors will have to park their rigs and vehicles on residential streets because school grounds are off limits (when in session).

Construction deliveries, however, will be allowed through a single entry gate off 25th Street. Dawson said she plans to personally “blanket the immediate blocks” around the school in December and hand-deliver letters telling neighbors about the project.

“While we know there will be some inconveniences to the neighborhood during this comprehensive modernization, the school community welcomes the upgrades and the students will benefit for years to come,” Dawson said.

The school’s sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students and its 42 teachers will face other challenges during the makeover. Quesada said students will lose at least a week of instruction in December, as teachers pack up their classrooms and sort out logistical problems. Once construction starts, increased noise is likely to be the issue.

“In the short term, it won’t be an easy transition,” said Wenger, whose daughter is a seventh-grader at Lick. She said PE “is going to be difficult” because students won’t be able to use the gym for about two months while the facility is being refurbished.

“In the long term, it’s a well-needed and long-time-coming modernization,” she said. “It’s a mixed bag.”

Portables in Upper Yard

The school is named after Gold Rush real estate baron and amateur astronomer James Lick, who left most of his fortune to charity and civic causes after he died in 1876.

Funds for the latest renovation came from a \$531 million bond that San Francisco voters approved in 2011. The San Francisco architecture firm of Hamilton and Aitken designed the remodeling project, which will be carried out by BHM Construction, a Vallejo-based firm that specializes in historical and municipal renovations.

The first phase of the project got under way in early November when 11 brown portable structures were hauled in and set up in the upper schoolyard off Castro Street. They will serve as temporary classrooms, and students will rotate into them while their regular rooms are redone.

ADA Elevators and Ramps

Students will be on their winter break—from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2—when construction starts in earnest. Workers will begin by tearing out a temporary wheelchair ramp at the Noe Street entrance and installing a new concrete access to the school’s lobby.

A major focus of the modernization is to make the building accessible to all—a federal requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

So, installing the elevators—one indoors near the lobby, and the other an exterior elevator tower near the gym—is a top priority. Both of the new elevators will be large enough to hold hospital-size gurneys.

“It’s very difficult to carry things” like



Principal Apolinar Quesada asked students Annette Vergara (left) and Solange Baker to take a moment to pose with him on the tiled steps that will be preserved in an \$18 million modernization at James Lick Middle School starting in December. After the photo shoot, Vergara and Baker returned to class and to rehearsals for *The Wizard of Oz*, which the school will perform Jan. 21-24.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

heavy mobile labs between floors, Quesada said about the current setup at the school, originally built with only a dumbwaiter to convey racks of books to an upper-level library.

The school also will get new ramps, upgraded handrails for interior stairs, and lifts to reach the auditorium and other areas not accessible by ramp or elevator.

Inside the auditorium, 30 of the 664 seats will be reconfigured to accommodate wheelchairs, as will 12 of the 130 spaces in the performance hall’s balcony.

A Cafeteria With a View

Over the years, the school’s once spacious cafeteria has shrunk, as small rooms have been carved out for other programs. That left students having lunch in an “undersized” and windowless environment. The overhaul will remove the partitions and install new lighting.

“It’s going back to its original form, so you can look out the window onto 25th Street,” said Dawson. The recaptured space in the cafeteria also will make it a “more friendly and enjoyable space for eating and hanging out and doing homework.”

In addition, a new fire alarm and sprinkler system will be installed; new and expanded bathrooms will replace outdated lavatories; and all of the school’s windows—many of them with rotted frames and single-paned glass—will be replaced.

“They’re so inefficient, we feel every breeze that comes through those cracks,” Quesada said.

It’s also the end of the line for the old-fashioned, dust-producing chalkboards and eraser rails. Those classroom relics will be replaced with whiteboards that use dry-erase marking pens and tackboards on the side.

School Colors

Renovations inside the classrooms—new paint, new ADA-compliant doors, and rerouting of electrical, phone, and data lines, among them—will be carried out in stages. Students will be moved outside to portable classrooms and then returned to their former rooms as the work in their area is completed.

Even the little things will be part of the remodeling, school officials say. New drinking fountains will be installed throughout the facility, including 10 with old-school high and low spouts.

Near the end of the project, the build-

ing will get a fresh coat of paint inside and out. The architects have chosen off-white, with blue-green and terra-cotta accent colors, as a complement to the existing tiled walls in the entry corridor. The architects plan as-yet unspecified colors that they say will enhance the exterior architectural details—a style of Art Deco that flourished in the 1920s and ’30s.

Historic Preservation

Seismic strengthening will be done to better help the school withstand a large-magnitude earthquake. Structural work includes putting in new foundations in some areas and reinforcing vertical shear walls with concrete in three locations in the building.

The earthquake retrofitting and construction of the interior elevator, however, may pose a challenge to maintaining the physical integrity of the school’s lobby and infrastructure.

Architect Chad Hamilton said the entryway now includes several shade-style chandeliers, decorative tile walls, and a “gorgeous” cast-iron balustrade in a staircase inlaid with tiles, whose design is a blend of Art Deco and Spanish Revival.

Hamilton said those unique features would be preserved, noting for example, that the metal handrail is “so beautiful and original that we could never afford to build it today.”

But he said it would “be a challenge” to save other details, such as the ornate, plaster ceiling in the lobby.

For all you Carlos Santana fans, don’t worry. The famed rock musician, a Lick student in the early 1960s, was honored in 2007 by the creation of a Santana Peace Garden at the school.

Quesada said the Santana installation, including a colorful mosaic at the front of the school, will be spared and live on as part of Santana’s legacy. ■

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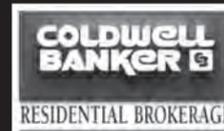
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Real Food on the Table: Plans for Space Materialize

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than a decade.”

Project architect Brian Liles of San Francisco's Jackson Liles Architecture provided more details about the planned construction.

The lower story will be built out as a “shell” that can be configured for either one large or two smaller retail outlets. The upper stories will contain four two-level, two-bedroom market-rate units. The project will not include parking. “The goal is to provide as much active retail square footage along 24th Street as we can, and we don't want a parking entry eating up that space,” Liles said.

Specific tenants for the retail space have not yet been determined.

“[Nutraceutical] has indicated they have no interest in occupying any of the retail spaces, but will be looking for tenants that will be compatible with the neighborhood,” said Carol Yenne, past president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, who corresponded with company executives in November.

Sergio Diaz, director of retail operations for Nutraceutical, did not return phone calls from the *Voice* seeking confirmation of the plans.

Before filing for a city permit, the company will hold a pre-application community meeting, Wiener said. The size of the lot requires the owner to obtain a conditional use permit, which will trigger a Planning Commission hearing. Once the conditional use request is filed, the process typically takes at least four to six months.

“The hope is if they file in January, a conditional use hearing will be held by the summer,” Wiener projected.

Tina Chang of the Planning Department said that an informational project review meeting regarding the building took place in May—intended to help applicants understand the steps of the planning process—but a permit has not yet been requested. “The applicant has not yet submitted their application for this project, so there's nothing yet to review or decide upon,” she said.

A Bit of History

As longtime *Voice* readers will recall, Nutraceutical Corp., a worldwide distributor of health products and nutritional supplements, abruptly closed the 24th Street Real Food Company and terminated 30 workers over Labor Day weekend in 2003. Management said it was a temporary closure to allow long-needed renovations, but some of the former em-

ployees accused the company of closing the store to thwart a union-organizing effort.

Over the ensuing years, as work on the building started and stopped several times, Nutraceutical took ownership of the property as part of a legal settlement with former owners Jane and Kimball Allen. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled in favor of the workers in an unfair labor practices lawsuit, and in 2009 Nutraceutical agreed to a settlement awarding the workers nearly \$400,000 in back pay.

During the long vacancy, Whole Foods replaced the Bell Market grocery across the street and Nutraceutical decided not to reopen its organic foods store on 24th Street. As the existing building fell more deeply into disrepair, neighborhood activists and then-supervisor Bevan Dufty attempted to negotiate with Nutraceutical to gain some community influence over the future of the space, an effort continued by Wiener.

In October 2013, Wiener led a small delegation to Nutraceutical corporate headquarters in Park City, Utah, to up the pressure. “We did so to convey to senior management that the neighborhood very much wants a project to move forward,” Wiener told the *Voice*.

‘Time to Move On’

While there is some lingering discontent among local residents and merchants, most agree that it is time to move forward with a plan that will benefit the neighborhood.

“It's difficult after 11 years of a closed storefront to not feel angry at all the harm that has been done to our neighborhood by a seemingly indifferent owner,” said Peter Gabel, who helped spearhead an effort to hold Nutraceutical accountable to its former employees and the community. “But I'm in favor of healing this historical conflict and moving forward. If Nutraceutical uses the proposed January meeting to consult with us about the best use of the space and comes back in a spirit of collaboration and respect for our views, it could be an opportunity to start out on a new footing.”

“It's time to move on,” agreed Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association community benefit district. “The NLRB ruled against Nutraceutical, and as far as I know, Nutraceutical paid the penalty. Keeping the storefront vacant helps no one. The proposed design provides badly needed housing, and the retail space will bring new vitality to 24th Street.”

The community meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the community room at St. Philip Church on 24th Street near Diamond. Architect Brian Liles said he would attend the meeting to present the plans and get community feedback. ■

Wiener Hears Crime Woes

Police Cited for Failure to Appear

By Corrie M. Anders

Approximately 75 people showed up at a town hall meeting Nov. 12 to vent their frustrations over rising crime and to ask for a greater police presence in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods.

The crowd of local residents peppered District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener with complaints that ranged from stolen cars and sidewalk catcalls to muggings and hot-prowl burglaries.

Residents organized the meeting, held at Adda Clevenger School at Fair Oaks and 23rd streets, in the wake of two nearby shooting incidents, the pistol-whipping of a motorist, and a bank robbery on 24th Street—all occurring within the previous two months.

Noah Salzman said his wife has been the target of almost daily taunts as she walks between their Fair Oaks home and the 24th Street BART Station. The latest incident, in which someone threw a bottle at her, occurred only a few days before the meeting.

“Every day she's harassed,” Salzman said. “We can't even get to work and get home.”

Another Fair Oaks Street resident, Ernie Lafky, said he was mugged four years ago—two days after he moved to Noe Valley from Oakland.

“Even now, I don't feel Fair Oaks is a nice, safe, and cheery place,” Lafky said. “I don't go out at night.”

Hill Street resident Elizabeth Zitrin chastised city officials for not allocating

funds for a larger police force. “We gave Twitter all this money and we can't get police in the neighborhood. It's just wrong,” she said. “We need for the police to respond, to come in the neighborhood.”

Wiener replied that Twitter, which got a multimillion-dollar incentive to remain in San Francisco, was not to blame for an understaffed police force. He said reductions in the police force had occurred due to the 2007–08 recession years and that the Twitter deal wasn't cut until 2011.

Wiener said the city currently was spending between \$15 and \$20 million to fund new police academies—with one group of new police scheduled to graduate in December. That will put more officers on the street.

The supervisor added that Police Chief Gregory Suhr is considering bringing back the defunct police reserve force. That force would consist of fully trained, unpaid volunteers, who would work part-time but perform many of the same functions as regular police officers.

Wiener said citizens could also do their part. He suggested that residents on dark streets keep their porch lights on at night longer than they normally would. Motion-detection lighting also would help.

He said residents should report all crimes to the police department, no matter how small. Those calls can be used to spot crime hot spots where police can focus their attention. He also stressed that callers obtain case numbers for their reports for future follow-up. (To file a report following an incident, call Police Non-Emergency at 415-553-0123, or make a report online at sf-police.org. If a crime is in progress, call 911.)

The one thing the crowd didn't get was advice from San Francisco police brass. Police officials were scheduled to attend the event, but never showed up—a fact several in the crowd noted ■



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| Amador & Alba Castillo | Kaufer's Religious Supply | Quincey Stamper | Anita Vega |
| Centered Body Pilates | Jim & Nan Keeton | Photography | Elsa Vides |
| Chamorro Family | Justina Kebisek | Anna Marie Raffo | Dorothy Vigna |
| Marilyn Chavez | Kipp Kennedy | Ronald Raffo | Anita Villarreal |
| The Cheesecake Factory | James Koentopp | Douglas Ramirez | Juan & Haydee Villatoro |
| Cliché Noe Gift Store | Margaret Kotlanger | Raquel Raygoza | Walgreens -24th/Castro Street |
| Children's Discovery Museum SJ | La Traviatta Restaurant | Howard Reinstein/McGuire | Whitehall Winery - St. Helena |
| Chocolate Covered Club Latino | Lake Merced Golf Course | Regent Thai | Winchester Mystery House |
| Cole Hardware | Laura's Barber & Beauty Shop | Marisa Ricci | Whole Foods Market |
| Come Plum Photography | Bob & Patti Lazzaretto | Celia Robles | Women of St. Paul |
| Common Scents | Lagarza Basketball Camp | Mercedes Robles | Lorraine Woodruff Long |
| Esperanza Contreras | LaserQuest | Robles/Predamo Family | Jim Woods & Kate Depman |
| Julio Contreras | Elodia Leoucum | Mario & Maria Inez Rodriguez | Jimmy, Nacy and Frank Woods |
| Sonia Contreras | Rosargentina Lezcano Herrera | Jaime & Olga Romero | Yerba Buena Skating and Bowling |
| Eva Corral | LifeGate Acupuncture/Kara Romanko | Roxie's | Katherine Young |
| Coro Hispano | The Little Chihauaua | Richard & Stephanie Rugg | Roberto Zaldana |
| Diane Costa | Littlest Angels Preschool | Andrew & Sarah Rush | Cecilia Zarza |
| Costco - SSF | Thanh Long | Joan Russo | Obbilio Zavala |
| Joe & Anne Crawford | Esperanza Lopez | Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. HS | |
| Mary Helen Crawford | Miriam Lopez | Safeway | |
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Let There Be. A peaceful art installation graces the pavement near a tree on Chenery Street in neighboring Glen Park.

Photo by Jack Tipple

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SHORT TAKES

Noe Valley Gives Back

Are you looking for a chance to give, not just receive this holiday season? There are several opportunities in Noe Valley. Here are three of them:

Folio Books on 24th Street is holding a fundraiser for the Children's Book Project on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 9 p.m. The CBP donates books to economically disadvantaged children in shelters, daycare centers, schools, and medical centers.

Santa will be at the festive event with treats for all good children, which of course is every child in Noe Valley. Free holiday snacks and beverages will be served. CBP volunteers will be on hand to explain what their organization does and to answer questions.

The impetus for the fundraiser is a \$50,000 matching grant given to CBP for monies received by Dec. 31, 2014. Folio Books will donate 20 percent of net sales at the store during the party. You can also contribute toward the matching grant at www.childrensbookproject.org. All contributions are tax-deductible. Note that you can donate children's books to the CBP all year round at Folio Books—just put them in the blue Children's Book Project book bag.

Two other worthy ways to get your feel-good on are the annual toy collection by San Francisco firefighters and food barrels set up around the neighborhood for the San Francisco–Marin Food Bank.

San Francisco Fire Fighters Union, Local 798, has organized its annual toy drive since 1949. This year, you can contribute unwrapped toys at the two Noe Valley fire stations, Station 11 at 3880 26th St. and Station 24 at 100 Hoffman Ave. Toys can also be dropped off at two businesses on 24th Street, Zephyr Real Estate and Cliché Noe Gifts + Home.

Toys for infants through children up to age 12 are needed, especially for girls 8 to 12. The deadline to donate toys is Friday, Dec. 19.

Zephyr Real Estate is also a Noe Valley collection point for the Food Bank, along with Hill & Co. Real Estate, Whole Foods, and Adda Clevenger School at Fair Oaks and 23rd streets. Food barrels in Noe Valley will be available for donations through the end of the year. Rainbow Grocery has a Food Bank collection barrel year-round.

Non-perishable food items can be donated, preferably not in glass containers. High-protein items like tuna, beans, soups, and peanut butter are especially in demand.

Dog Park Closing Thursdays

Dog walkers, take note. On Oct. 16, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department began closing Upper Douglass Dog Park all day on Thursdays. Connie Chan, a Rec and Park spokesperson, said the move was necessary to give gardeners a safe environment in which to maintain the park.

Chan said the one-day-a-week closure of the park, at Douglass and 27th streets, was precipitated by high-volume use of the park and its negative impact on the grounds. Gardeners will be improving the turf through aeration, planting, irrigation repair, top dressing, and gopher management. "There is no end date, and evaluation is ongoing," added Chan.

James Collins, chair of Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park, a neighborhood advocacy group for the park, agreed with the Rec and Park decision. "The Thursday closure is needed for park maintenance and to give the turf a day off."

The park remains open the remaining six days of the week from 5 a.m. to midnight. Noe Valley also has a second dog park, Joby's Run at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The entrance is on 30th Street near Church.

If you have questions about the closure at Upper Douglass Dog Park, email Park Services Area Manager Marianne Bertuccelli at marianne.bertuccelli@sfgov.org.



The Noe Valley Ministry is asking the community for help in paying for this stained-glass window, which was recently installed in the second-floor sanctuary of the church on Sanchez Street. The multi-paneled artwork, designed by Elizabeth Devereaux, is 19 feet tall. Photo by Beverly Tharp

A Stained-Glass Window for All of Us

The fully renovated and environmentally upgraded Noe Valley Ministry is about to reopen for public use. The renewed space includes one special item not originally budgeted for, the stained-glass window in the sanctuary on the second floor.

Plans included only drawings for the window, but when artist Elizabeth Devereaux delivered them, members of the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church were so impressed with the design they decided they would find the money somehow and commissioned the window. It's now in place.

As you enter the sanctuary, the window—positioned over the altar, at the rear of the

building—dominates the room. It is 19 feet tall and multi-paneled. A central yellow gold swirl is crowned in purples. A sea of blues and lavender churns beneath it. Everyone who attends a service, meeting, or event in the sanctuary will be able to enjoy the view.

Tax-deductible contributions to help pay for the window can be made two ways. Go to www.noevalleyministry.org and click on Donate, and then pay via PayPal or credit card. Or you can make a check out to the Noe Valley Ministry and mail it to 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Please be sure to note that your check is a donation toward the window.

Garden Tour Wants Your Garden

Winter got you down already? Think spring! The eighth Noe Valley Garden Tour will take place the first week of June 2015, and your garden can be part of it. The Garden Tour committee is looking for 10 gardens for folks to view.

Chairperson Linda Lockyer of Friends of Noe Valley says no theme has been set, so all gardens are welcome. You can nominate your garden, your neighbor's, or your friend's by emailing lindalockyer3@gmail.com or info@friendsofnoevalley.com.

Gardens must be within the boundaries of 30th Street on the south, Guerrero Street on the east, 21st Street on the north, and Grand View Avenue and Diamond Heights Boulevard on the west.

Proceeds from the Garden Tour will go to neighborhood beautification. The 2015 beneficiary has not been selected yet, but if you have suggestions, please email them to the addresses above. Previous donations have included trees and flowers along 24th Street, landscaping at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, and renovation of the garden at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.



This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

Kegs Help Fill PTA Treasury

There was nothing robotic about the crowd that gathered Nov. 14 for a fundraiser to help students at Alvarado Elementary School. The mood was positively festive as dozens of folks drank from kegs of home-brewed beer and nibbled sausages, braised red cabbage, and mac-and-cheese prepared by Alvarado parents, including John Lombardo, a former chef at Gary Danko's restaurant.

The occasion was the third annual Great Alvarado Beerfest, a party to raise funds for new technology equipment at the school, located at 625 Douglass St. Approximately 160 guests attended the event at the Douglass Street home of Amie Fineberg—a capacity crowd that spilled out onto a deck with views stretching from downtown San Francisco to the East Bay hills.

"This is fun. I love it," said Fineberg, whose daughter Josie is a second-grader at the school.

Parent Fabien Lannoye said the \$55 price of admission was more than worth it to keep good computers at Alvarado.

"And it might as well be fun, too," said Lannoye, who has two children at the school, fourth-grader Viggo and sixth-grader Milla.

Antje Kann said she was there to help support the students, a group that includes her daughter Amelie, in fourth grade, and son Marion, in third. "But this is a fun way to connect with the other parents outside the school environment," she said.

Alvarado PTA co-president Sarah Monroy said the Beerfest brought in about \$5,500, far exceeding the association's \$4,000 goal.

Monroy, whose son Nathaniel is a student in fourth grade, said the funds would go toward replacing outdated computers in each of the school's classrooms for the 2015 school year.

—Corrie M. Anders

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Car-Sharing Takes to the Streets

The Voice has reported previously on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's On-Street Car Share Pilot Program. What was proposed is now a fact in Noe Valley: Two parking spaces in the neighborhood have been prepared for use by car-sharing companies. One, at 24th and Sanchez, outside La Boulange, is for Getaround users. The second, on 23rd Street near Church, is for City CarShare members. Both spaces have been outlined in white paint and have signs posted saying illegal parkers will be towed. (No cars were in the spaces when we checked in mid-November.)

City CarShare says it will send out an email to members when a car is available at 23rd and Church. A Getaround representative explained that the 24th Street space will be "sold" to a Getaround member-owner. (Getaround does not operate its own cars. Owners sign up their cars and specify where drivers can find them.)

Using parking spaces on Noe Valley streets for car-sharing has been controversial, especially spots on 24th Street, the neighborhood's main retail strip. Andy Thornley, SFMTA project manager for on-street car-sharing, said the location of spaces can be changed. He pointed out that this is a pilot project with a beginning and an end (August 2015). Data on usage will be gathered during the program and evaluated afterwards. The intent is to see if safe and efficient travel on city streets is improved by on-street car-sharing.

The two Noe Valley car-share spaces are among 154 on-street spaces that the SFMTA gained approval for in the first wave of the pilot program, out of 275,000 parking spaces in San Francisco. In January, the project will begin to set aside additional spaces, including possibly more in Noe Valley.

For more information, contact Thornley at 415-701-4213.

—Richard May



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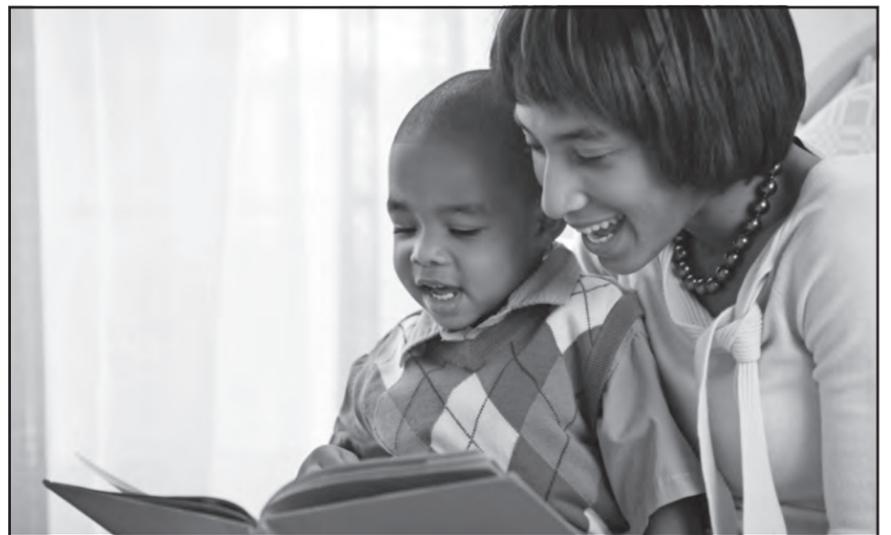
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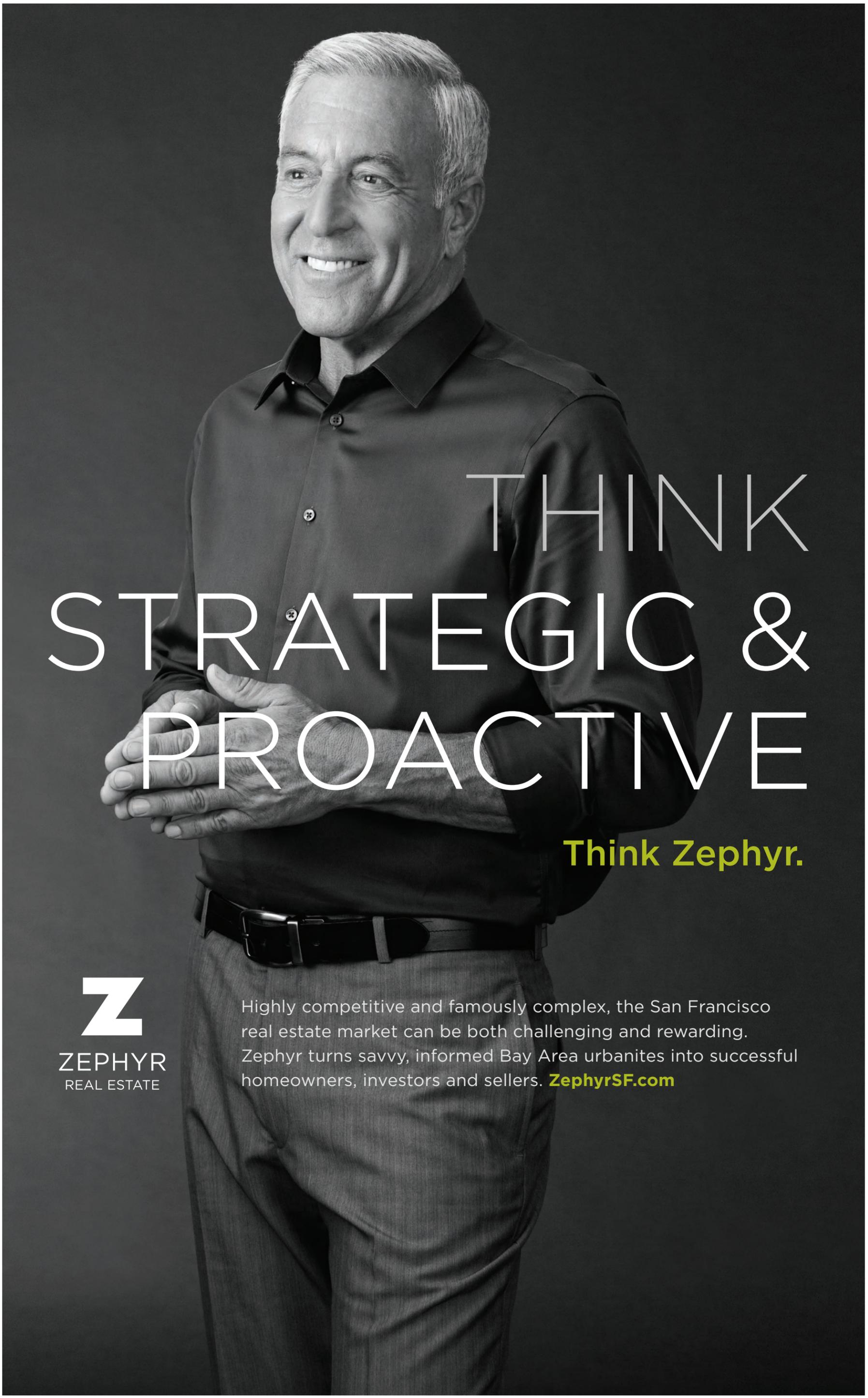
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www.240Douglass.com

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Homeowners Cash In

By Corrie M. Anders

Home shoppers looking to settle down in Noe Valley went on a buying spree in October, purchasing 18 single-family homes in our small town in the big city.

The number of sales was a notable increase over the 13 recorded last year in October, or the 12 deals posted in 2012. It also far surpassed the eight sales in September of this year.

Condominium sales too were higher in October. Buyers purchased 15 attached units during the month, compared to 14 a year ago and seven this September, according to data provided monthly to the Voice by Zephyr Real Estate.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's president, said the fall binge came after a big jump in the number of homes listed for sale. Last spring, "For Sale" signs in Noe Valley were nowhere to be found.

Some of the new inventory followed a seasonal pattern—traditionally, more houses come on the market in September, when people are back home from summer vacation. But Kostick said other sellers appeared to be taking advantage of the neighborhood's rise in home values—a median 21 percent for single-family homes and 26 percent for condos—year over year.

"Prices have gone up so much that sell-



This contemporary home on Jersey Street near Church sold in October for nearly \$5 million, making it the most expensive buy of the month. The original 1909 home had been enlarged to encompass five bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and a five-car garage.

ers have realized it's a pretty good time to sell," he said.

With more properties from which to choose, fewer buyers had to compete for the same house, and the bidding wars "toned down a wee bit," Kostick said.

"Overbids were not as frequent as they used to be," he said, "and not every single property got an overbid."

Still, buyers didn't hesitate to pay top dollar for choice properties. Detached-home buyers in October forked over an average 12 percent more than the sellers' asking price.

Noe Valley remained a neighborhood for wealthy buyers. Every house cost more than \$1 million, and six of the 18



A buyer paid \$1.7 million for the top unit of this turn-of-the-20th-century building on the corner of 24th and Quane streets. The two-bedroom, two-bath flat featured heated floors, a solarium, one-car parking, and a gourmet kitchen. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
October 2014	18	\$1,125,000	\$4,895,000	\$2,146,222	19	112%
September 2014	8	\$1,420,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,112,500	27	109%
October 2013	13	\$1,123,000	\$5,550,000	\$2,002,769	32	108%
Condominiums						
October 2014	15	\$610,000	\$1,705,000	\$1,178,367	26	118%
September 2014	7	\$602,000	\$1,589,000	\$1,113,679	37	107%
October 2013	14	\$625,000	\$1,275,000	\$986,929	30	115%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
October 2014	6	\$1,375,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,057,500	34	109%
September 2014	2	\$1,300,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,875,000	25	132%
October 2013	5	\$735,000	\$1,995,000	\$1,920,000	49	97%
5+-unit buildings						
October 2014	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2014	1	\$5,250,000	\$5,250,000	\$5,250,000	58	95%
October 2013	1	\$1,575,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,575,000	194	95%

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for providing sales data. NVV 12/2014

sold for at least \$2 million.

\$4,895,000 was the price paid for the most expensive home, a newly renovated and expanded dwelling in the first block of Jersey Street near Church Street.

The five-bedroom, 4.5-bath house, originally built in 1909, featured a pre-wired heating system, a penthouse media room, two large terraces, cityscape views, and parking for five cars.

Condo buyers in October were more aggressive bidders than their free-standing-home counterparts. They paid an average 18 percent over the asking price, compared with a 15 percent premium in October of 2013 and a 7 percent tip this past September.

Though they are a less expensive option than most houses in Noe Valley, 11 of the 15 condos sold for at least \$1 million and typically took less than one month to close escrow.

The costliest condo sold for \$1,705,000—14 percent above the \$1,495,000 original price. Buyer and seller took only 28 days to close escrow on the top-floor unit, located in the 3600 block of 24th Street between Dolores and Fair Oaks streets.

The two-bedroom, two-bath luxury home offered a gourmet kitchen, heated floors, solarium, decks, expansive views, and—most important—a parking space in the garage.

Small apartment buildings, especially those that could be converted into tenants-in-common residences, also were a hit in October.

Buyers purchased six of the buildings, defined as having two to four units. Half of the sales were for buildings with two units—the most desirable for buyers looking to purchase jointly and live in separate units. ■

Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2014	Average November 2014	Average October 2014	Average November 2013
Studio	10	\$1,695 – \$3,800	\$2,379 / mo.	\$2,379 / mo.	\$2,174 / mo.
1-bdrm	27	\$2,000 – \$4,490	\$2,993 / mo.	\$2,773 / mo.	\$2,805 / mo.
2-bdrm	40	\$3,300 – \$7,250	\$4,435 / mo.	\$4,418 / mo.	\$4,193 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$4,700 – \$8,950	\$6,449 / mo.	\$6,257 / mo.	\$5,606 / mo.
4+-bdrm	3	\$6,200 – \$7,995	\$7,048 / mo.	\$7,145 / mo.	\$7,071 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 103 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist Nov. 7–20, 2014. NVV 12/2014



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Sophia Mendoza accompanied her mom **Monika Khushf** on a trip to Thailand recently and made sure to pack a copy of their favorite hometown newspaper.

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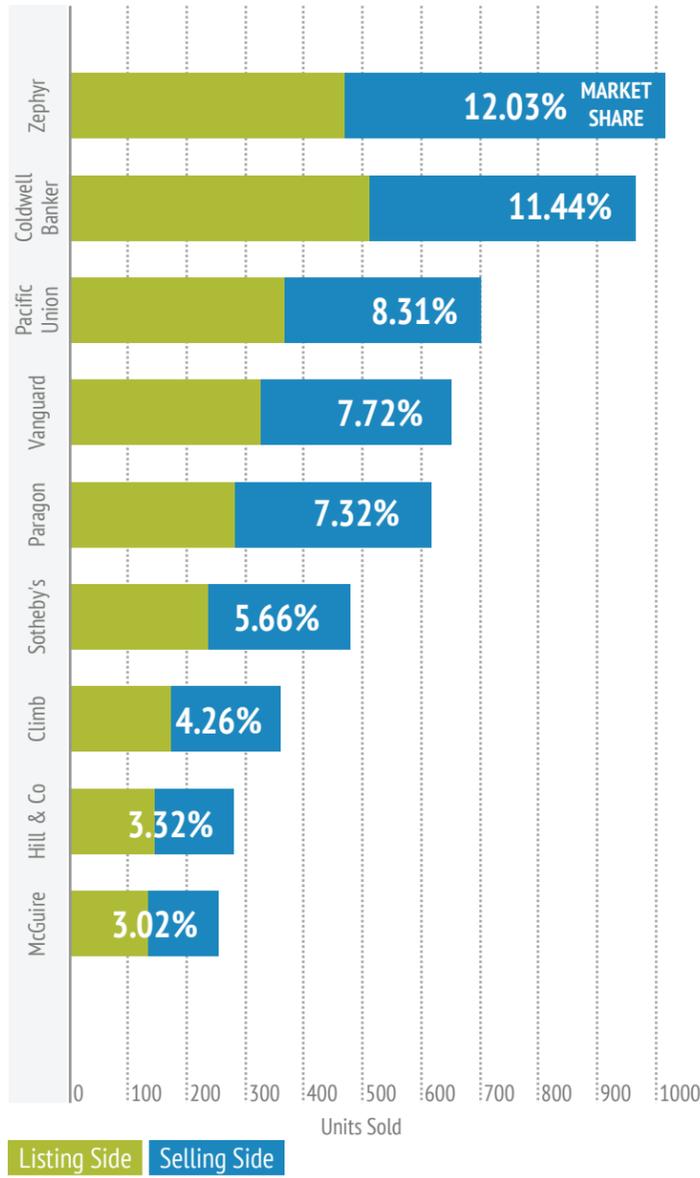
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Mass of the Lord's Nativity - 9:30 a.m.

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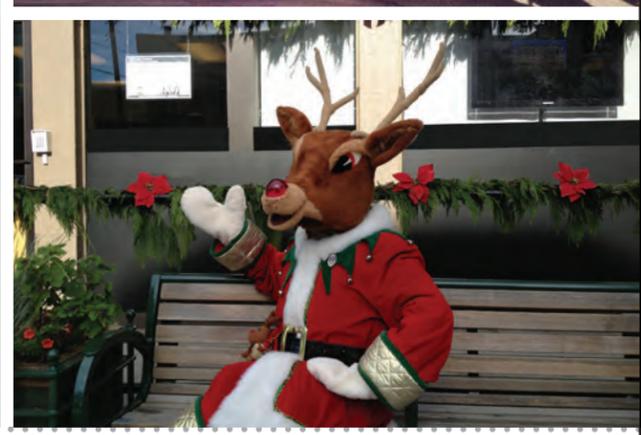
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Upper Noe Memories

By Maria Cuevas

I moved to Noe Valley from Honolulu 30 years ago in 1984. I was glad to be moving to San Francisco in July because I thought it would give me a chance to get acclimatized gradually to the winter. Little did I know that I was about to experience, as Mark Twain apocryphally did, the coldest winter in the history of summer. It was overcast, foggy, cold, and windy, and I only had summer clothes and one very light jacket. The wind blew right through me and I wanted to head straight back to the tropics! Although I missed Hawaii, I was happy to see date palms, bougainvillea, birds-of-paradise, and other tropical flowers growing profusely in sunny Noe Valley.

We landed in a small apartment on Jersey Street, near Sanchez, and I loved shopping along 24th Street and discovering a new city. Unfortunately, our apartment was only a sublet, and soon my husband and I were searching all over the city for a more permanent home. We had a hard time finding a reasonably priced place and thought ourselves lucky to land a one-bedroom apartment on 30th Street next to the senior center for only \$600 per month. We considered this to be a transient abode, as we had this silly idea that we could buy a house in San Francisco.

A few years later, we decided to start a family. My son was born in 1987 and my daughter in 1991. Both our kids were born at home with wonderful, nurturing midwives. Maria Iorillo still runs her midwifery practice at Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions on Church and Clipper. Dr. Jim Schwanke of Noe Valley Pediatrics had a separate well-baby office right near us on Church and he even used to make home visits, doing a newborn exam in our living room after the birth of each of our babies. In a wonderful life circle, he did my son's physical exam prior to entering college.

After my kids' teeth came in, we all paid regular visits to Tad Savio, DDS, on Church near Day. She and her family have practiced dentistry for decades. Both her parents were dentists and she still keeps the old dollhouse her mother used to entertain her kid patients. Dr. Tad and her assistant, Carina, lovers of kittens and Teletubbies, always put their patients at ease with their welcoming warmth. I even nursed one of my babies in her dental chair while she cleaned my teeth. My kids, now in their mid-20s, still see Dr. Tad. Her hilarious sense of humor always has us in stitches!

We had a great time eating in the neighborhood. We ordered tasty takeout pizzas from Verona Restaurant on 30th Street (now La Ciccina). We ate delicious Hunan Chinese food at the family-run and kid-friendly China Pepper Restau-



Though Florida is two months away, Maria Cuevas, son Daniel, and daughter Elena are already reminiscing about their good times in Upper Noe: clocking the J-Church, seeing the filming of *Sister Act*, and finding friends, lattes, and bagels at "Monkey Town" Market. 1999 family photo

rant on Church (now the Clay Oven) and watched each other's kids grow up over the years. We couldn't walk by Star Bakery (now GetzWell Pediatrics) without buying cupcakes or their famous hot cross buns at Easter. Mikeytom Market, aka Monkey Town Market by our kids (now Cardio-Tone), was another favorite stop for mom's lattes and the kids' bagels with cream cheese. Thankfully, Drewes Bros. (the "Bad Boys of Butchery") is still in business even after the tragic death of Josh Epple in a motorcycle accident. We were (and still are) regular customers at Church Produce at 30th and Church, and bought health foods at the old Community Store on Sanchez (now Alice's).

We loved to buy spinach calzones and lentils smothered with caramelized onions from Alex at St. Paul's Market across the street from the Community Store. Seeing his strong arms in the tank tops he liked to wear, my 4-year-old daughter observed, "Mommy, his muscles are so big, he can't wear regular shirts!" Unfortunately, Alex retired a few months ago after some medical problems. The store, which his family ran for decades, has been renovated and is set to open as Bom Dia Market in late November.

One of the highlights in the history of Upper Noe was the filming of *Sister Act* in 1991. We'd hang around St. Paul's Church to watch the filming, hoping to catch a glimpse of Whoopi Goldberg. Soon enough, photos of her posing with the owners of China Pepper and Verona's appeared on their restaurant walls. We spotted Mother Superior Maggie Smith striding down 29th Street looking forbidding in full black habit. I love to watch that old movie, just to see how the set designers transformed Church Street into a ghetto 'hood. Hall Realty was turned into *XXX Adult Videos* and still sports a bright red coat of paint. If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a life-sized cardboard cutout of Whoopi in her black

habit and red stilettos still hanging out in the garage of a house across from St. Paul's.

I asked my kids for their childhood memories of Upper Noe, and the highlight for my son, lover of trains and public transit, was the building of the J-Church light-rail extension from Church and 30th to Balboa Park Station when he was 3 years old. Track construction went right by our apartment and he was ecstatic when streetcars started rolling by in March 1992. Unfortunately, he would howl if he missed one, so my husband and I started shouting "Streetcar!" when we heard one coming so he could run to the front window and watch it go past.

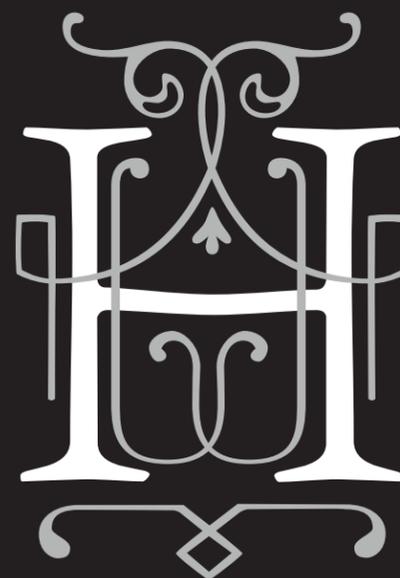
My daughter remembered the night we walked down Church Street at 11:30 p.m. to attend a pajama party at Cover to Cover Books on 24th Street to buy the latest Harry Potter book, and

counted down the seconds to midnight with a crowd of other kids and parents. We loved that bookstore and had bought many kids' books there over the years. We were so sad to see it close in 2011.

After 16 years, we moved from that one-bedroom apartment on 30th and migrated to Bernal Heights. Luckily, after a few years, we landed back in Upper Noe in a two-bedroom family-owned apartment building on Valley Street behind St. Paul's Church. I love my neighbors in the building, especially my 87-year old landlady, Angelita, who lives in the apartment across from mine. The lovely folks who occupy the other units are all related to her, and I feel very safe and welcome there.

Soon I will be making my goodbyes, however. I plan to retire from my job as a secretary at the San Francisco School District at the end of December. I had hoped to retire next year but faced the daunting prospect of living on a reduced income in this very expensive city. In February or March, I'll be moving to a new tropical locale, Florida, where I have family. The hot weather there could be a lot better for my arthritic joints than the wind and fog of summer in Noe Valley.

After 30 years in this city, my kids have graduated college and are now responsible, independent adults, working and traveling around the world. While I'm glad they're making it on their own, I sometimes miss those baby days: pushing them in their strollers all over Noe Valley, walking them up to the school bus stop at 30th and Noe, holding birthday parties at Upper Noe and Douglass playgrounds. When I see new parents walking with their kids in strollers, I am reminded of all those wonderful memories. Noe Valley and San Francisco have been very good to all of us. ■



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The next *Voice* will be the **February 2015** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of December. **The deadline for Class Ads is January 15.**

The Class Ads also will be displayed at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we introduce a new children's store whose owners have roots in Argentina and New York. We also have an update on one of Noe Valley's most popular fashion boutiques.

MAPAMUNDI KIDS

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(Mapamundi website not available at press time)

Mapamundi Kids, a new children's store featuring toys, books, and gifts from around the world, opened in the former Peekabootique shop Oct. 31. The wife-and-husband team of artist and designer Lorena Siminovich and fashion executive Esteban Kerner made the acquisition quickly from Peekabootique owner Mike Stanton, who had been looking for a buyer for some time. Stanton's new and used children's clothing and toy store at the corner of Castro and 24th streets was a fixture in the neighborhood for 27 years. "Mike wanted to sell the store and move to Germany," said Siminovich. "We started talking to him about buying the store in October, and were able to make a deal with him quickly. We got the store on a Monday and opened on a Friday."

After a coat of paint, some work on the display shelves, and offers of employment for all three staff members of Peekabootique, Mapamundi Kids opened for business.

Mapamundi is Spanish for map of the world, and the store embraces an international theme, offering wooden stacking boxes from German toymaker Grimm's Spiel und Holz, classic Uncle Goose ABC blocks (available in 21 languages), and colorful animal-character pull toys from French toymaker Vilac, along with American brands like Tegu and PlanToys. All of the toys are sustainably sourced and manufactured with non-toxic materials.

The store also emphasizes kids crafts with Seedling craft kits like Create Your Own Dragon and the Mini Fossil Dig for the 5-years-and-up set.

There's a book corner that the couple were still unpacking when the *Voice* visited. In addition to being a designer, Siminovich is a children's book author and illustrator of more than 20 books, including two series of board books from Chronicle Books, *Are You My Baby?* and *In My Nest*. She also writes craft books, including the recent *Petit Collage: 25 Easy Craft and Décor Projects for a Playful Home*, from Potter Craft. She plans to carry a



Esteban Kerner and Lorena Siminovich display an international collection of children's toys and nursery décor at Mapamundi Kids, their new shop on Castro Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

wide range of children's books and host author readings and events in the store.

The heart of the shop is Petit Collage, Siminovich's own line of modern nursery wall décor and children's playthings with a vintage twist. Products include puzzles, memory games, handmade wooden push toys, and pop-out and play sets, all made of Forest Stewardship Council-certified natural wood and sustainably harvested bamboo. Items for the nursery include whimsical prints on wood (Hip Cat, Reading Rabbit, Party Bear); fabric wall decals: stars, hearts, and confetti that are eco-friendly and reusable; and a selection of laser-cut bamboo mobiles: starry skies, owls, and fish.

Natives of Buenos Aires, Siminovich and Kerner both worked in New York: Siminovich as a creative director with a gifts and stationery company and Kerner as a fashion executive with a major U.S. apparel brand. They relocated to San Francisco in 2005 and have lived in Noe Valley ever since.

Siminovich started Petit Collage in a studio on Guerrero Street in 2006 and initially sold her products online and in a few children's boutiques. But the line quickly caught on with coverage in *Dwell* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, the

New York Times, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and a feature on *The Martha Stewart Show*. Her children's products are now available in more than 1,400 stores around the world, including SFMOMA, Barneys New York, Anthropologie, and Pottery Barn Kids.

To complement its own toys and décor, Mapamundi Kids purchased some of Peekabootique's remaining stock, including swimwear, raincoats, and dress-up apparel, along with toys and books. All are currently available at a discount in the store's back section.

Siminovich plans to carry some children's clothes, but doesn't want to compete with other local stores such as Small Frys. "We'll try not to have the same brands," she said. "Maybe some baby clothes as gifts, but we don't want to step on any toes."

Meanwhile, the reception from the neighborhood has been great. "Customers are excited by the arts and crafts we have and the more modern children's toys," said Siminovich.

Mapamundi Kids is open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—Pat Rose

A New Ambiance on 24th Street

By Gary Kauf

Sometimes one can be better than two. That could be the case with the bigger and bolder Ambiance women's boutique, set to open its doors Thursday, Dec. 11, in the space previously occupied by Sway and before that by Streetlight Records (3979 24th St. near Noe Street).

The new store will replace the two tiny Ambiance shops at 3985 and 3989 24th St.—the ones with the crowded clothes racks, narrow aisles, and merchandize stacked nearly to the ceiling.

The *Voice* got a sneak peek at the new space. At 2,340 square feet, it is about a third larger than the two smaller stores combined. The new store will have brick-like gray display walls, a skylight, and natural light flooding the dressing rooms in back, while retaining its San Francisco feel with a big bay window.

Ambiance owner Donna O'Leary says in her view, "One is definitely better than two. All the stock in one place, all the staff in one place, the store will be more shoppable."

More clothes, more jewelry, more accessories. More of Ambiance's particular style, which O'Leary characterizes as "girly industrial chic."

A bigger store means more display space and room for extra stock, which the owner says "you really need if you are going to sell shoes." And that she does.

A bigger store also means a higher rent. These days, small storefronts along 24th Street command four to five dollars a square foot.

O'Leary won't say how much rent she'll be paying for the new shop, but says, "I think it is surprisingly reasonable considering this is a terrific neighborhood and you are in a world-class city."

Retail stores rarely move in the middle of the holiday shopping season. O'Leary says she didn't plan it that way. The building's owner had to do an earthquake retrofit, and putting up steel frames took longer than expected. She says Ambiance, which is regularly voted San Francisco's best women's clothing store by local weeklies, has a great following in the neighborhood, so it doesn't have to depend on holiday shoppers. Ambiance also has stores on Haight Street, Union Street, and in the Inner Sunset. O'Leary and husband Kieran opened their first store on 24th Street in 1999.

As for the two storefronts Ambiance is vacating, Mark Kaplan of Rockwell Partners, the leasing agent, says the smaller one (3985 24th St.) has been rented to The Podolls, a shop that advertises "eco-friendly clothing for ladies and tots."

Rockwell doesn't expect to sign a lease on the other location until the new year, he says.

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Want to knit a scarf? Join the Noe Valley Knitting Circle on first Saturdays. Some supplies are available for practice, but for special projects bring your own yarn or needles. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:30 to noon.

Opera for the People: The series explores the surprisingly warm *Die Meistersinger*; Richard Wagner's work about a wise cobbler-poet of medieval Nuremberg. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 to 3 p.m. A Metropolitan Opera performance will be shown in local theaters on Dec. 13.

eReader Drop-In Class: Bring your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or other eReader to a drop-in tutorial on borrowing ebooks from the Library's growing collection of digital titles. Tuesday, Dec. 9, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Great Books: The Bible's book of Exodus will be the December topic at the Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For information, contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday Matinee at the Library screens the 2004 film based on William Makepeace Thackeray's 1848 novel *Vanity Fair*; about an ambitious girl from a poor family (Reese Witherspoon) who takes a job as a nanny for the children of an aristocrat. Friday, Dec. 12, 2 to 4 p.m.

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets on third Wednesdays (except in December) to discuss current fiction and nonfiction. The January book is *You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself*, by David McRaney. Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/ Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Comfort and Joy

The December-January selection of books, films, and eBooks, suggested by Adult Services Librarian Susan Higgins and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, features Leonard Maltin's latest movie guide, a recipe collection from the Model Bakery in Napa Valley, and a book for kids about saving a flock of endangered falcons. To discover what else is on the shelves, call or drop by the branch at 451 Jersey St. (415-355-5707), or visit the San Francisco Library online at www.sfpl.org. Happy hunting and happy holidays..

Adult Fiction

Edward St. Aubyn, author of the celebrated Patrick Melrose novels, has written a satirical novel about a fictional literary award, **Lost for Words**.

The Liar's Wife by Mary Gordon contains four novellas about Americans abroad and Europeans in America.

The Beggar and the Hare by award-winning Finnish author Tuomas Kyrö is the story of a Romanian beggar living in the streets of Helsinki.

Life Drawing by Robin Black explores the complex relationships among a middle-aged couple, a new friend, and the friend's daughter.

Adult Nonfiction

Find temptations, including espresso bundt cake, bear claws, and brandied pumpkin pie, in **The Model Bakery Cookbook: 75 Favorite Recipes From the Beloved Napa Valley Bakery**, by Karen Mitchell and Sarah Mitchell Hansen with Rick Rodgers.

Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide, 2015 edition, is a terrific resource for helping you decide what to watch next.

Confidence, or the Appearance of Confidence: The Best of the Believer Music Interviews, edited by Vendela Vida and Ross Simonini, contains transcripts of 34 interviews, including Lucinda Williams, Bjork, Jack White, and Eddie Vedder.

Looking for ideas for your next vacation? The Noe Valley Library's travel guide section now includes updated guides for 2015, including **Fodor's London**, **Fodor's Paris**, **Rick Steves' Best of Europe**, and **Europe Through the Back Door**.

Films on DVD

In **Run & Jump**, directed by Steph Green, an American doctor goes to Ireland to study a family's recovery process after the father has a stroke.

The Heiress and Her Chateau: Carolands of California, produced and directed by Catherine Ryan and Gary Weimberg, is a documentary about the 98-room Hillsborough home constructed for the heiress to the Pullman railroad car fortune.

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the hosts, engineers, and programs of Radio France in the documentary **La Maison de la Radio**, a film by Nicolas Philibert.

New eBooks

A novelist is strangled in his home in the Japanese page-turner **Malice** by Keigo Higashino, translated by Alexander O. Smith.

Mark Kurlansky, author of the popular books *Salt* and *Cod*, and his daughter Talia joined forces to create **International Night: A Father and Daughter Cook Their Way Around the World: Including More Than 250 Recipes**.

Mindfulness for Teen Anxiety: A Workbook for Overcoming Anxiety at Home, at School, and Everywhere Else, by psychologist Christopher Willard, provides instruction for dealing with situations such as dating, public speaking, and test-taking.

Learn how to make great projects, like throw pillows, curtain panels, and accessories with adhesives, with **No-Sew Love: 50 Fun Projects to Make Without a Needle and Thread**, by Ashley Johnston, creator of Makeit-Loveit.com.

Children's Fiction

In artist Hervé Tullet's interactive **Mix It Up**, you can make colors splatter, blend, and change hues simply by touching the pages. Ages 3-5.

Princess Sue likes that her prince finally rescued her from the tower, but his next move—stashing her in a penthouse, in another tower—she finds less than charming, in **The Worst Princess**, by Anna Kemp, with illustrations by Sara Ogilvie. Ages 3-7.

Two canine buddies enter an all-day road race in **Digby O'Day in the Fast Lane**, a tortoise-and-hare-type adventure by British author Shirley Hughes and illustrator Clara Vulliamy. Ages 5-8.

To save his city, Conn must find out who's stealing the locus magicalicus stones, in **The Magic Thief: Home**, the fourth book in the popular fantasy series by Sarah Prineas. Ages 8-12.

In **The Swap** by Megan Shull, middle-school students Ellie and Jack swap lives—even their bodies—and discover what it's really like to walk in another's shoes. Ages 10-14.

Children's Nonfiction

Goal! by Sean Taylor, with photography by Caio Vilela, offers fun facts on soccer, and shows kids playing the game all over the

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Celebrate the wintertime holidays by creating **Holiday Duct Tape Masterpieces** using colorful and patterned tape. Materials provided. Ages 9 and up. Tuesday, Dec. 23, 3 to 5 p.m.

At a workshop on the art of **Button-Making**, you can make special somethings for your backpack, hoodie, or hat. Materials are provided. Buttons are less than two inches in diameter, so think small! Ages 7 to 14. Monday, Dec. 29, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Asian Art Museum Storytelling for Children: Chinese New Year. Why do people wear red and pop firecrackers to celebrate the new year? Storyteller Elizabeth will explore these traditions through art and stories such as Nian the Beast, Why the Rat Comes First, and the Dragon's Pearl. Ages 4 and up. Friday, Jan. 23, 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Toddler Tales: Join children's librarian Miss Catherine for stories, songs, rhymes and movement. The half-hour story time is aimed at ages 16-36 months with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, Dec. 4 and 11; Jan. 8, 15, and 22, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel Preschool Films: Children ages 3 to 5 years with parent or caregiver are invited for a half hour of short films on Thursdays, Dec. 18 and Jan. 29, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

The AAC Conversation Club, for kids or adults using Alternative and Augmentative Communication devices like Dynavox, QuickTalker, Talk Bar, smart phones and tablets, continues on Mondays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; and Jan. 5, 12, and 26, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/ Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

world—in Ghana, Brazil, Iran, and Tanzania, to name just a few. Ages 4-8.

Skydiver: Saving the Fastest Bird in the World, by Celia Godkin, follows a family of peregrine falcons that was taken to a sanctuary and eventually returned to the wild. Ages 6-9.

Weird-but-true facts about nature, science, and animals appear in the 2015 **National Geographic Kids Almanac**. Ages 8-12.

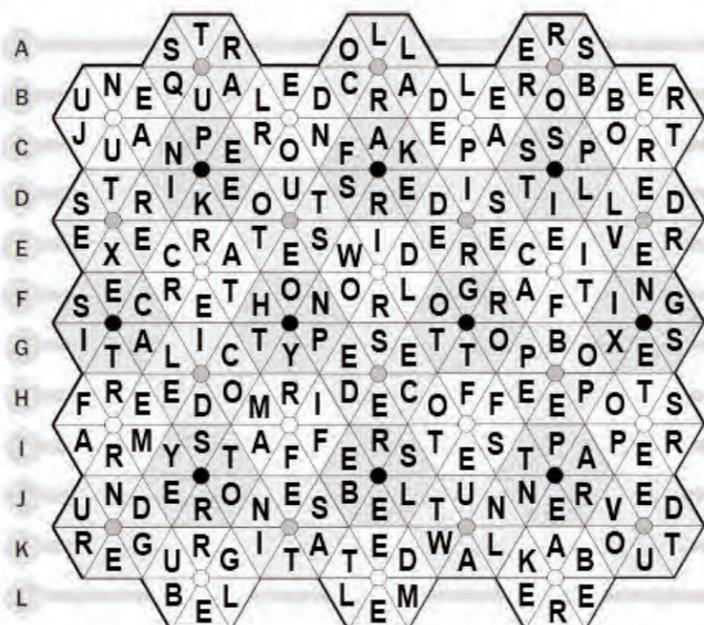
Lonely Planet's "Not for Parents" series **South America: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know** gives the scoop on a continent that has man-eating fish, lost cities, dirty dancing, and a navy without an ocean. Ages 8-12.

Frank Lloyd Wright for Kids: His Life and Ideas is Kathleen Thorne-Thomsen's story of the architect who designed a house over a waterfall (Fallingwater in Mill Run, Pa.) and a round building higher at the top than the bottom (the Guggenheim Museum in New York City). Ages 9 and up.

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	12-6	10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6	
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	1-6	10-9	10-9	10-9	1-6	10-6	
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	12-7	1-6	1-6	
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
12-6	10-9	12-9	10-6	1-6	12-6		

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DECEMBER • JANUARY

Dec. 1: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a Pop Up Night with Andrew McIntyre, Judy Sender, Ramon Sender, Ruthie, Bill, and more. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Dec. 1: Sally Love Saunders reads her POETRY at Folio Books' Open Mike night. 7 pm. 3957 24th, 821-3477.

Dec. 1-Jan. 8: The annual HOLIDAY SHOW at Ruby's Clay Studio features handmade ceramic art by 25 local artists. 10 am-7 pm. 552A Noe. 558-9819; rubyclaystudio.org.

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 1-31; Jan. 1-31: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

Dec. 1-31; Jan. 1-31: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon and 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

Dec. 2: Author Joshua Davis introduces Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream at a 7 pm BOOK LAUNCH PARTY. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Eureka Valley Library offers its TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 2 & Jan. 6: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

Dec. 2-30; Jan. 6-27: Dogs 6 months and older are invited to the Tuesday PUPPY SOCIAL at K9 Scrub Club. 7-8 pm. 1734 Church. Register: k9scrubclub.com.

Dec. 2-Jan. 31: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides

walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Dec. 3: Friends of the SF Public Library and Poet-in-Residence Jack Hirschman present a CONTEST, "Poets 11 2014." 6-7 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Dec. 3-17: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and Playtime on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 3 & Jan. 7: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

Dec. 3-31: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Glen Park Rec Center, 70 Elm. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

Dec. 3-31; Jan. 7-28: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

Dec. 4: The fourth annual Holiday WINEWALK features tastings along 24th Street, with a motorized cable car running between venues. 4-8 pm. 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond. For tickets: sresproductions.com. 24on24th.com.

Dec. 4: Evan Goldstein discusses and offers tastings of WINES of South America. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 4, 6 & 9: Guitarist/singer TESS VEIGA plays classic covers and original songs (West Parklet, 6:30 pm). Dec. 6, 6-7 pm; Dec. 9 (East Parklet), 6:30 pm. 24on24th.com.

Dec. 4 & 11: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-

5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 4 & 20: ERIN BRAZILL & the Brazillionaires releases a CD of holiday tunes to benefit Mission Graduates after-school program. Dec. 4: East Parklet, 5-6 pm). Dec. 20: West Parklet, 2:30-4 pm. 24on24th.com.

Dec. 4-25; Jan. 1-29: Attend PUB QUIZ NIGHTS on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

Dec. 4-27: Brian Copeland performs The Jewel Box...A Genuine CHRISTMAS Story at the Marsh. Thurs. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat. 5 pm. 1062 Valencia. themarsh.org.

Dec. 5: PERUVIAN DANCE and music ensemble De Rompe y Raja performs at the Rotunda Dance series at SF City Hall. Noon. dancersgroup.org.

Dec. 5: Literary DEATH MATCH at Elbo Room is hosted by Adrian Todd Zuniga. 6:30-9 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; elbo.com.

Dec. 5-26; Jan. 2-30: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett with artists Don Prell, Jimmy Ryan, and the Third Quartet. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Dec. 5-26; Jan. 2-30: Shout "BINGO!" at St. Paul's on Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). St. Paul's Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Dec. 5-26; Jan. 2-30: Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday-night MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com.

Dec. 5-31: The Holiday ART SALE at Creativity Explored includes paintings, ceramics, sculpture, and textiles by 135 artists. Reception Dec. 5, 6-9 pm; Mon & Tues., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

Dec. 6 & 13: A free Noe Valley Holiday HAYRIDE features a horse-drawn carriage traveling 24th Street from Sanchez to Castro, with the

turnaround at Jersey. Pickup at Walgreens on Castro. Noon-3 pm. 24on24th.com.

Dec. 6: The JURI COMMONERS' last work day at Juri Commons Park runs from 9 am to noon, weather permitting. RSVP to meetup.com/Juri-Commoners.

Dec. 6: The first annual BALTIC Christmas Fair includes Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian gifts and food, plus a raffle, children's activities, and a traditional lunch. 10 am-5 pm. Latvian Hall, 425 Hoffman. 647-9398; lvnc.org.

Dec. 6: SANTA visits his elves at Zephyr Real Estate. 11 am-2 pm. 4040 24th. 695-7707.

Dec. 6: The Animal Company greets SANTA bringing good wishes to pets. Noon-4 pm. 1307 Castro. 647-8755, 24on24th.com.

Dec. 6: OPERA for the People discusses Die Meistersinger by Richard Wagner. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 6: Yigit Pura introduces Sweet Alchemy: DESSERT Magic. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 6: The KINDERHAUS German Xmas Fest is a fundraiser for the German immersion preschool, featuring St. Nikolaus, music, bratwurst, beer, and pony rides. 3-10 pm. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 16th & Dolores. 863-6371; stmatthews-sf.org.

Dec. 6: Noe Valley merchants celebrate HOLIDAY Hospitality Night by serving refreshments and staying open till 8 pm. 24on24th.com.

Dec. 6 & Jan. 3: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing KNITTING CIRCLE meets on the first Saturday of the month, from 10:30 am to noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live musicians from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861

24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 8 to 11 pm. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

Dec. 7: The Noe Valley HUM, based on Bonnie Barnett's 1981 Tunnel Hum Project, invites you to hum a tone that's also being played on various musical instruments. 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. RamonSender@comcast.net.

Dec. 7: Music on the Hill presents the Farallon Quintet performing CLARINET music by Mozart and Jean Francaix and "Souvenirs de Voyage" by Bernard Herrmann. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

Dec. 7 & 21; Jan. 4 & 18: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Dec. 7 & 14; Jan. 11, 18 & 25: The SF Museum and Historical Society gives Sunday tours of the OLD MINT at 1:30 and 3 pm. 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Dec. 7-28; Jan. 4-25: The Glen Park Village FARMERS' MARKET is open Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm, in the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington. pcfma.com.

Dec. 7-Jan. 25: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the MISSION DOLORES area. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Dec. 9: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing E-READER drop-in class runs from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 9: THE LOOSIES, an 11-woman a cappella chorus, performs at the West Parklet on 24th Street. 6:30 pm. 24on24th.com

Dec. 10: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group considers the Book of Exodus in the Bible. 6:15-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

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M W F 10:10 - 11:00 AM BNGL 715 Gonzales

R 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 217 Rochmis

Jour 22: Feature Writing 3.0 Units

T 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 217 Rochmis

Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing 3.0 Units

W 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 218 Rochmis

Jour 25: Editorial Management 3.0 Units

MWF 12:10 - 1:00 PM BNGL 615 Gonzales

Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Rel 3.0 Units

TR 11:10 - 12:25 PM HC 202 Graham

Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production 3.0 Units

T 06:30 - 08:45 PM Mission/RM 218 Graham

T TBA Mission/RM 218 Gonzales

Jour 31: Internship Experience 2.0 Units

PREREQ: JOUR 24 HOURS ARR Gonzales

Jour 36: Advanced Reporting 3.0 Units

M 6:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/RM 217 Gonzales

Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism 3.0 Units

T R 9:40 - 10:55 AM BNGL 615 Lifland

W 6:30 - 09:20 PM Mission/RM 217 Lifland

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CALENDAR

Dec. 10: "Dessert Queen" ALICE MEDRICH discusses her new book, *Flavor Flours*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 10 & 24: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to a calm canine; ages 4 to 7, but older welcome. 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 10-24: The annual Tom and Jerry CHRISTMAS TREE display is lit and ready for outdoor viewing from sunset to 11 pm daily. 3560 21st. tinyurl.com/mhh98vz.

Dec. 10 & Jan. 14: The Glen Park Library's monthly KNITTING CIRCLE continues from 4:30 to 6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Dec. 11: Folio Books holds a fundraiser with SANTA to benefit the Children's Book Project. 5-9 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 11 & Jan. 8: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

Dec. 12: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 2004 FILM *Vanity Fair*, based on the novel by William Thackeray. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 12: TAIZE service at Holy Innocents Church is offered on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

Dec. 13: The LADYBUG GARDENERS dish the dirt from 9 am to noon; bring a hat and gloves. Noe Valley Rec Center, Day & Sanchez.

Dec. 13: Register for Winter 2015 CLASSES and programs at the Upper Noe Rec Center, beginning at 10 am; see noevalleyreccenter.com.

Dec. 13: "Vantage Points: A Lifetime of Perspective" is an ART SHOW by LGBT artists age 60+, sponsored by Openhouse. 2-5 pm. 1800 Market. 296-8995, ext. 310; openhouse-sf.org.

Dec. 13: Quilter Jeanie Low leads a Fabric ORIGAMI Envelope Workshop at the Glen Park Library. 3-4:30 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Dec. 13: Cortney Burns and Nicholas Balla introduce BAR TARTINE: Techniques and Recipes. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 13: Russo Music presents Suzanne's VIOLIN students performing holiday carols. 4 pm. 4072 24th. 655-3136.

Dec. 13 & 20: Carolers from SF City Chorus STROLL 24th Street singing holiday music. Dec. 13: 5-6 pm; Dec.



The Farallon Quintet presents "Souvenirs de Voyage" by Bernard Herrmann. 7 pm at St. Aiden's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive in Diamond Heights.

20: 4-5 pm. 24on24th.com

Dec. 13-21: The sixth annual Mark Foehringer's NUTCRACKER SWEETS will be performed Dec. 13 and 14, 11 am and 2 pm, and Dec. 20 and 21, 11 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm. Cowell Theater at Fort Mason. 800-838-3006; brownpapertickets.com.

Dec. 13 & Jan. 10: Natural Resources invites you to meet doulas (2-4 pm) and home-birth MIDWIVES (4-6 pm). 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; naturalresources-sf.com.

Dec. 14: PFLAG's support group meeting recaps the setbacks and triumphs for LGBT rights in 2014. 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflagsf@aol.com.

Dec. 14 & 21: HOT TODDIES and Cookies nights at Folio Books run from 8 to 9:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 15 & 17: Hear songs and caroling by students from ADDA

CLEVENGER School. Dec. 15: 10:30 am & 1:15 pm.; Dec. 17: 8:30 am. In front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 695-7707.

Dec. 16-19 & 22: Small Frys holds READINGS for kids, including Hanukkah Bear (Dec. 16), Winter Is Coming (Dec. 17), The Winter Train (Dec. 18), The Animals' Santa (Dec. 19), and The Night Before Christmas (Dec. 22). 10 am. 4066 24th. 648-3954

Dec. 16 & Jan. 20: Openhouse hosts a LGBT Senior JOB SEARCH group at the Castro Senior Center. 12:30-1:30 pm. 110 Diamond. 296-8994; openhouse-sf.org.

Dec. 18: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 18: Just for Fun invites you to meet Santa and live REINDEER from the North Pole. 4:30-7:30 pm. 3982 24th; 285-4068.

Dec. 18: COMEDY Returns to El Rio with performances by Michael Meehan, Jabari Davis, Yuri Kagan, Lisa Geduldig, and two surprise guests. 8 pm. 3158 Mission. elriosf.com.

Dec. 20: SANTA visits by the fireplace with music by Kim Gill, Bernie's hot chocolate, and cookies from Whole Foods. 11 am-3 pm. Hill & Co., 3899 24th. 24on24th.com

Dec. 21: Enjoy a Chanukah Scavenger Hunt, a magic show, and a Menorah Lighting (5 pm) at the CHANUKAH Wonderland. 3-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 24th & Vicksburg. 24on24th.com

Dec. 23: Ages 9 and up are invited to make holiday DUCT TAPE masterpieces at the Noe Valley Library; all materials provided. 3-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 29: A BUTTON MAKING class for ages 7 to 14 is scheduled at the Noe Valley Library; all materials provided. 4:30-5:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 30 & Jan. 27: MISSION POLICE

STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

Jan. 5: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a Poetry Evening honoring the memory of Marin poet Jean Pumphrey. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper; 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Jan. 6 & Feb. 3: "Write Now! @ Folio Books" is a monthly WORD JAM led by writer/editor Kathy Dalle-Molle; all levels welcome. 7-8:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; sign up at foliosf.com/events.

Jan. 7-28: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for little ones, Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Jan. 11: The monthly PFLAG support group runs from 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflagsf@aol.com.

Jan. 17: David Jacobs-Strain and Bob Beach record their new CD live, with Chris Ayer, at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Jan. 19: The ODD MONDAYS series offers readings honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black-American history. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper; 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Jan. 21: Cynthia Hogan, wine buyer for Canyon Market, discusses WINE PAIRINGS with a tasting at the Glen Park Library. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Jan. 21: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads *You Are Not So Smart* by David McRaney. 7 to 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 21: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS' meeting features Supervisor Wiener discussing his proposed legislation for

adding in-law units. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473; president@uppernoeighbors.com.

Jan. 23: The Asian Art Museum hosts a CHINESE NEW YEAR storytelling for ages 4 and up. 4-4:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 24: The Glen Park Library screens the 1944 Barbara Stanwyck FILM *Double Indemnity*. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Jan. 25: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents a concert by cellist Emil Miland and friends. 4 pm concert; 3:15 pm pre-concert talk. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

Jan. 27: Folio Books hosts an ongoing adult beginner ITALIAN CLASS. 6:30 pm. 3927 24th. Sign up at 424-272-0507; italianesco@gmail.com

Jan. 28: Paper & Ink CRAFTS NIGHT at Folio Books includes snacks and drinks. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Jan. 30: Jan Ellison reads from *A Small Indiscretion*; wine will be served. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Jan. 31: Art educator and therapist Lauren Owenmark leads a workshop to make a deck of collaged cards, "Self Exploration Through CREATIVITY." 3:30-5 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Jan. 31: Misner & Smith, plus Patchy Sanders, perform a concert at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

WELCOME TO 2015

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **February 2015** issue, distributed the first week of February. The deadline for Calendar items is **Jan. 15**. Write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146, or email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

noe valley chamber music

EMIL MILAND AND FRIENDS

Sunday | January 25, 2015
3:15 pm Pre-concert talk with Emil | 4:00 pm Concert



**Emil Miland | Jake Heggie | Candace Forest | Ann Moss
| Alison Lovejoy | Steven Bailey | Joan Nagano**
Cellist Emil Miland has assembled an unbelievable ensemble to welcome us back to our beloved venue at Noe Valley Ministry!
World premiere by soprano Ann Moss.

Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

TICKETS and INFO: nvcm.org/next-concert/ | (415) 648-5236
at the Door: \$25 | in advance: \$20



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

THR DEC 4	EVAN GOLDSTEIN • WINES OF SOUTH AMERICA • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE, WITH A SELECTION OF WINES FROM ARGENTINA & BRAZIL TO TASTE! The most comprehensive guide to the wines of the entire continent, <i>Wines of South America</i> introduces readers to the astounding quality and variety of wines that until recently have been enjoyed, for the most part, only locally.
SAT DEC 6	YIGIT PURA • SWEET ALCHEMY: DESSERT MAGIC • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • With Yigit's well-written, step-by-step instructions, you will come to understand how Yigit's passion, experiences, and technical skills come together to define his sweet, mouthwatering world. Pura won the first Top Chef Desserts competition.
WED DEC 10	ALICE MEDRICH • FLAVOR FLOURS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE In this monumental new work, dessert queen Alice Medrich applies her baking precision and impeccable palate to flavor flours-wheat-flour alternatives including rice flour, oat flour, corn flour, sorghum flour, teff, and more.
SAT DEC 13	CORTNEY BURNS & NICHOLAS BALLA • BAR TARTINE: TECHNIQUES AND RECIPES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Here's a cookbook destined to be talked-about this season, full of recipes epitomizing the way we cook and eat now. It draws on time-honored processes (such as fermentation, curing, pickling), and a core that runs through the cuisines of Central Europe, Japan, and Scandinavia.
WED JAN 14	MOLLY WATSON • GRAINS + GREENS: RECIPES FOR DELICIOUSLY HEALTHFUL MEALS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • The 45 creative recipes in this book combine greens and grains in dishes for all meal occasions that burst with flavor, color, and lusciousness.
THR JAN 22	LESLEY STOWE • DESSERTS FROM MY KITCHEN • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Stowe is the Vancouver chef who invented Raincoat Crisps, the delicious crackers that Oprah called one of her 10 favorite things of 2013. Now she has returned to her first love – desserts.
SAT JAN 24	RYAN FARR • SAUSAGE MAKING: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE WITH RECIPES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE SAUSAGE-MAKING DEMO! At San Francisco's 4505 Meats, butcher Ryan Farr takes the craft of sausage making to a whole new level with his fiery chorizo, maple-bacon breakfast links, smoky bratwurst, creamy boudin blanc, and best-ever all-natural hot dogs.
SAT JAN 31	JENNIFER MCLAGAN • BITTER: A TASTE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS FLAVOR • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • In this fascinating exploration of bitter through science, culture, history, and 100 deliciously idiosyncratic recipes, McLagan makes a case for this misunderstood flavor and explains how it can bring your cooking to life.

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Al-Anon Noe Valley
 Contact: 834-9940
 Website: www.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 through parking lot)

Castro Area Planning + Action
 Contact: 621-0120
 Email: info@capasf.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association
 Website: www.evna.org
 Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

Castro Farmers' Market
 Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m. (March through December), Noe Street at Market Street
 Contact: Steve Adams, 431-2359
 Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; www.CastroMerchants.com

Diamond Heights Community Association
 Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Website: www.dhcasf.org
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 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: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association
 Contact: Gregg Brooks
 Email: sflyric@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Email for details.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
 Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
 Mailing Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 The annual street fair is 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: www.friendsofdolorespark.org
 Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
 Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
 Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
 Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
 Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
 Meetings: Two or three annually; held at St. Philip's Church or James Lick School

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center
 Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park
 Contact: Alexandra Torre, Kate Haug, or Molly Sterkel
 Email: info@noevalleyrecenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyrecenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Juri Commoners
 Contact: Dave Schweisguth, MI7-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon. Check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
 Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro
 Contact: 835-8720
 Email: info@castromerchants.com
 Mailing address: 584 Castro St. #333, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Call for details.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District
 Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call Ron Vanini, 596-7089.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: www.noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
 Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com
 Website: noevalleydems.com
 Meetings: Third Wednesdays, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm meeting dates.

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 Library Campaign
 Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com
 Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 626-7500, info@friendssfpl.org

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
 Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687
 Meetings: Last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April, July, October, and November, at Bank of America, second floor, 9 a.m. Breakfast meetings May and September at Noe's Nest, 10 a.m.
 Website: www.No ValleyMerchants.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
 http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879
 Meetings: See website for training schedules.

Noe Valley Parent Network
 An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco
 Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Residents for Noe Valley Town Square
 Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleytownsquare.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

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

SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores
 Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480
 Email: safecleangreen@bigfoot.com
 Website: www.safecleangreen.com

Upper Noe Neighbors
 Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Email: president@uppernoeneighbors.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St., 7:30 p.m.

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Noe Noel

By Mazook

24TH STREET WONDERLAND: Downtown Noe Valley is all decked out for the holidays and ready for throngs of shoppers to hit our main drag.

According to Bob Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, 83 trees, poles, and windows have been wired with lights, the parking meters and poles have been candy-striped, and “24 HoliDAYS on 24th Street” will soon unfold on Dec. 1 to 24. It’s gonna be fun.

The first big event will be on Dec. 4, when 24th Street will be filled with more than 600 people walking the Holiday Wine Walk (from 4 to 8 p.m.).

Next mark your calendars to see Santa, who will arrive with his reindeer at Just for Fun on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 4:30 p.m., and stay until 7:30 p.m. Then Chanukah Wonderland lights up the Noe Valley Town Square on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. (Chanukah—or Hanukkah—2014 begins on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 16, and ends on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 24.)

For the complete lineup, check out www.24on24th.com. Or go back a few pages and see our holiday roundup, page 9, or Calendar on pages 31-32.



NOVY MEANS NOE VALLEY: There’s

been lots of buzz about the abrupt closing of Pasta Pomodoro at the end of October and what will now open in the spot at the corner of Noe and 24th. Well, the Gianaras family—John, Vi, and daughters Kristen and Kathryn—have taken over the space and plan to open a new restaurant sometime in March, once the seismic work is finished. John and Vi operated the very popular Panos’ there from 1978 to 1997.

“We asked our daughters [who both live in Noe Valley] if they wanted to open and operate a restaurant in that space, and they both gave us a resounding ‘yes!’” says Vi, “so we are developing a fun, casual, healthful, and affordable menu that offers American cuisine with a Mediterranean twist, with the basic concept to be as green as we can get with a lot of variety, so we have something for everybody.”

For example, she says, souvlaki will be on the menu, a popular Greek fast food consisting of meat and/or vegetables grilled on a skewer.

Vi adds, “We will have an all-day menu and be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the week, with local produce, brunch specials on the weekends, and all our beers and wines will be local and will be ‘on tap’ only, so we will have no bottles or cans.”

The new eatery will be called NōVY, which “is the only name, after going around and around on names, that all four of us could agree on,” Vi says.



CHA-CHA-CHANGES: Ambiance will close its two small stores and consolidate its women’s fashion emporium into the one large store where Sway, and before that, Streetlight Records once reigned (3979 24th St.). Moving into one of the vacated Ambiance shops (3985) will be

Noe Valleons Lauren and Josh Podoll, who have been creating “eco-friendly clothing since 2003.” More than 55 stores across the nation already carry their designs.

The Podolls currently have a retail store in Burlingame, and they are excited to have found a space in Downtown Noe Valley, where they will cater to women and children with their casual clothing designs.

Meanwhile, the second Ambiance spot (3989) is still available, according to the building owner’s real estate agent, Mark Kaplan. Actually it’ll be available only after certain upgrades are made to the space, which, he says, “won’t be until after the new year.”

In other changes, as you regular UPS store patrons know, the company has temporarily moved its Noe Valley operations—lock, stock, and mailboxes—from its store just above Castro Street (4104) to near Church Street in the former Cardio-Tone space (3813), next to Shufat Market. As you can see, 4104 is now in the process of seismic and ADA upgrades, and will be reoccupied by UPS when it’s all fixed up.

“We have moved everything down here,” says Paul Taube, UPS store manager, “and anticipate returning somewhere around the middle of January.”

Taube says the holiday-time move, while difficult, has given the store much more room to accommodate customers. And, of course, the remodel will make things more customer-friendly.

As for that towering retail space being built across the street (from Shufat), which has been for rent since construction started, there’s no news to report except the rumor that the asking rent is a whopping \$16,000 per month, plus an “additional” rent of around \$2,000 per month. I think it is safe to assume Shufat will not

be moving across the street. (Just kidding, Omar.)

Congrats to the folks at L’Atelier who softly opened their recycled-upcycled goods emporium Nov. 9, after seismic upgrades were made to the space where all the UPS mailboxes used to reside (4102). The artist owners are offering a mix of handmade and redesigned clothing and furniture.

You might also want to go up 24th across the street and pay a visit to Stephanie Smith, the barber at Of Barbers and Bears. Not necessarily for a haircut, but to see her stuffed animals and award-winning doll creations, which she fashions in a shop behind the shop. She is taking her online business to brick-and-mortar retail sales. Just so you know, her doll clothes have won international recognition, but don’t ask her about it or she will blush.

“I have always wanted to create space for my works in this small shop, so now I have done it, and everyone is welcome,” smiles Smith.

The welcome mat also has been unrolled at the new Salon Mio Mio (1304 Castro, above Subs, Inc.). During the holidays, salon owner Gilbert Pickett is offering a free haircut with purchase of “a highlight, ombre, balyage, or Gilbert’s flamboyage.”



SHARE ENOUGH: The SFMTA’s On-Street Car Share pilot project (to put more car-share spots on the street) has had a wobbly start in Noe Valley. Only two on-street spots in the neighborhood were designated for use by car-sharing companies in the pilot’s first phase, to run till August 2015. And when the lines were painted and signs posted for one of them in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



3957 24th St. | 821-3477
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Upcoming Events at Folio Books

Children’s Book Project Fundraiser with Santa
Thursday | 12/11 | 5pm

Hot Toddy Nights
Sundays | 12/14 | 12/21 | 8:30pm

Write Now! with Kathy Dalle-Molle
Tuesday | 1/6 | 7pm

Adult Beginner Italian Classes
Tuesday | 1/27 | 6:30pm

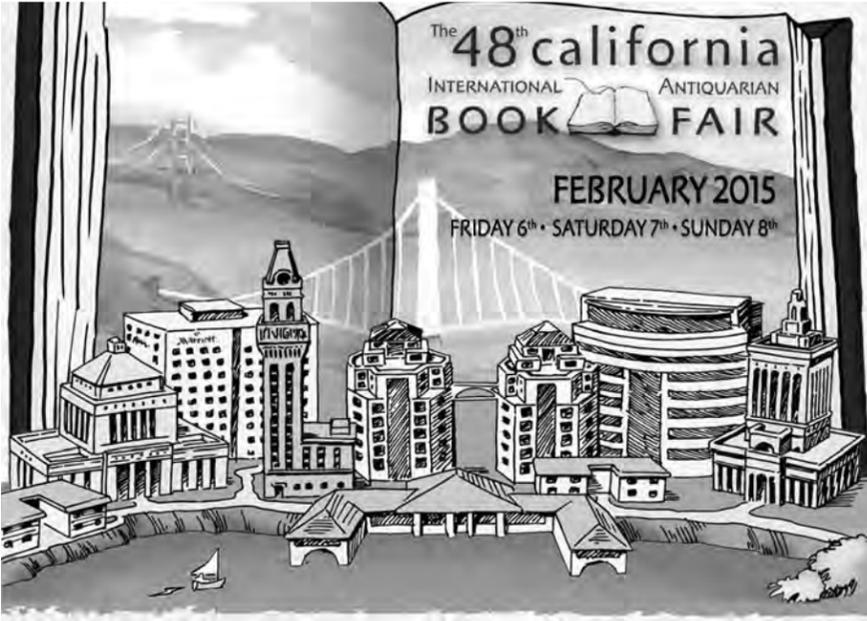
Paper & Ink Crafts Night
Wednesday | 1/28 | 7pm

Reading & Wine with Jan Ellison
Friday | 1/30 | 7pm | *A Small Indiscretion*

ODD MONDAYS
at 7:00pm
12/1
1/5
1/19

STORYTIME
at 10am
1/7
1/14
1/21
1/28

For a full description of all our upcoming events visit: foliosf.com/events



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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

November—on 24th at Sanchez (in front of La Boulange)—there was an immediate uproar by merchants, who objected to its location in a commercial area.

Evidently, the strong reaction registered with the SFMTA. Pilot program chief Andy Thornley confirmed that the SFMTA “is relocating that spot to down 24th Street, to the south side, east of Church Street.”

Thornley emphasized that the program is in effect only one more year and that changes can be considered. As for when this particular switch will be made, he said, “in a couple of months.”



HOPS TO IT: Local author and Noe Valley archivist Bill Yenne was the featured author at Folio Books’ first anniversary party Nov. 1, along with his new book *Beer: The Ultimate World Tour*. The beer served was created for the occasion by Yenne, using his own recipe and the facility and expertise of Elizabeth Street Brewery’s Richard Brewer-Hay.

“We pitched the yeast at the beginning of October,” says Yenne, “and bottled it on Halloween for the party at Folio the next day.”

Brewer-Hay and Dan Mitchell of Anchor Brewing (another Noe Valleon) also attended the event.

“It was lots of fun, and I signed lots of books,” Yenne says. “Those who were paying attention tell me that there was never not a line at the register, and I know that they were pulling them [books] out of their window display. There was even one young lady who tracked me down at the Valley Tavern, where I went with a

bunch of friends for an impromptu after-party. So we had a second book-signing!”

Yenne, who has authored over 100 books, adds, “We all should do everything we can to support our neighborhood bookstore.”



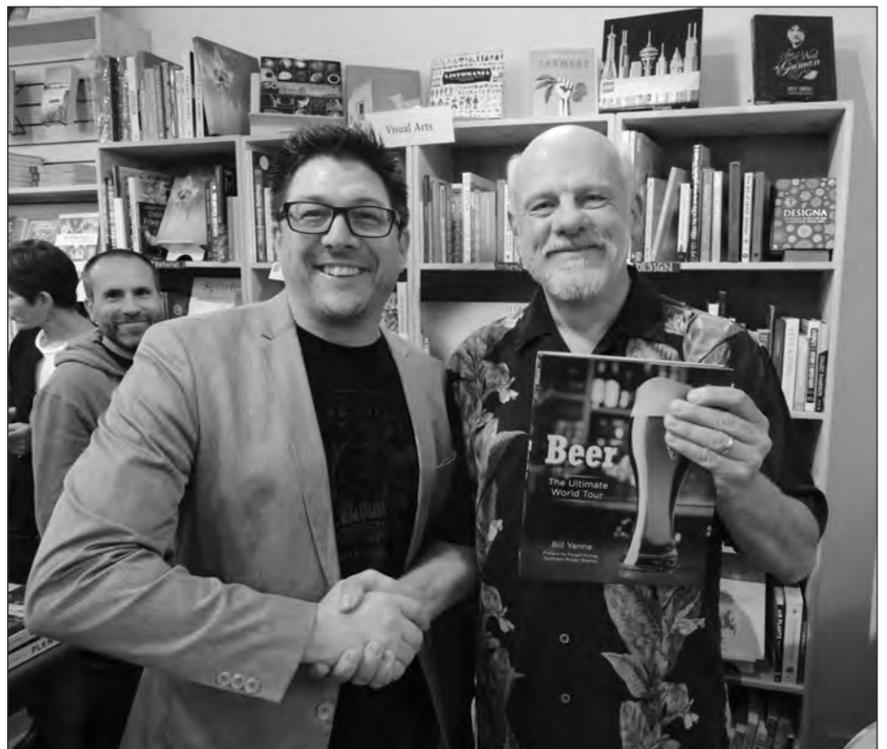
OFFAL NEWS: The NVBI has learned that Porcellino on Church Street—the latest incarnation of the once grand Incanto Restaurant—closed its doors Nov. 26. The restaurant posted a sign that read, “Porcellino is now closed. Please accept our sincere thanks for the 12+ years of support and friendship. For salumi, please visit Boccalone in the Ferry Building... For great Italian food and hospitality, we encourage you to visit our friends down the street at La Ciccia and La Nebbia. Wishing you and your families a holiday season filled with health, joy and laughter.” Our investigation will continue.



EXERCISING OUR FRANCHISE: The results of the November General Election show that people didn’t show up to vote. Of the 15,918 who registered to vote in the neighborhood, according to the San Francisco Department of Elections, 9,927 voted, which means 38 percent of you did not bother to vote. Citywide, half of the voters passed on this election.

Governor Brown garnered 90 percent of the Noe Valley vote, as did our U.S. House representative Nancy Pelosi. State Proposition 47 (to change criminal sentencing laws) passed by an 8 to 1 margin, while the measure to raise medical malpractice limits failed by a 3 to 1 margin.

In closely watched local propositions: The soda tax (Measure E) scored 58 percent in Noe, but needed two-thirds to pass; additional transfer taxes (Prop. G) passed by 18 votes; the grass for Golden Gate Park soccer field (Prop. H) lost by a



Richard Brewer-Hay (left) of Elizabeth Street Brewery congratulates author Bill Yenne on a job well done. The pair recently collaborated on home-brewing a craft beer to share at the first anniversary party of their favorite bookstore, Folio Books on 24th Street. The party was so successful it later continued at the Valley Tavern. *Photo courtesy Bill Yenne*

5 to 3 margin; and minimum-wage increases (Measure J) passed with 77 percent of the Noe Valley vote.



A GOLD STAR GOES to all those involved in the creation of the new mural on the side of the building where Radio Shack is located, high above the Harry Aleo public parking lot on 24th near Castro. The mural is mostly blue-green and gold, and features an array of San Francisco icons. (We saw it when it was only half-finished, but could make out Twin Peaks and a giant Sutro Tower.)

According to Merchants Association member Dani Sheehan-Meyer (of Cliché

Noe), the mural is part of a “Small Business Saturday/Shop Small” celebration, funded by American Express with help from SF Travel, the city’s Office of Small Business, and the SF Chamber of Commerce. Artist Shawn Bullen was chosen for the project by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Shop Small Saturday was Nov. 29, and I hope all of you were out there shopping small, smaller, and smallest.



THAT’S ALL, Y’ALL: See you down on 24th Street for the festivities and remember to shop local and ship global. ■

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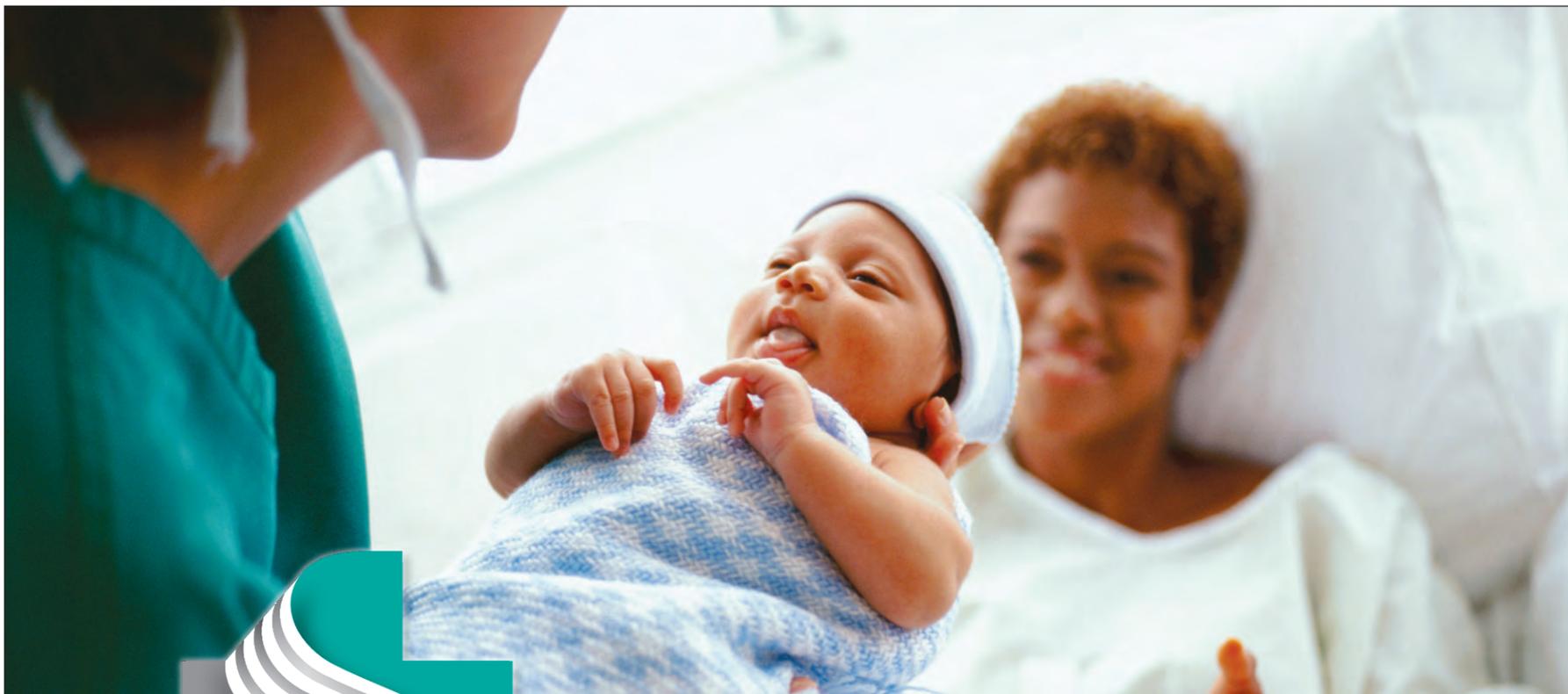


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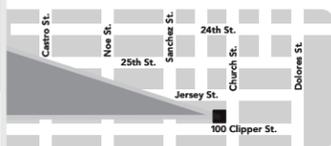
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