



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Missing Beats. Doug Roomian and daughter Rachel Roomian stand outside the now-shuttered store that was a magnet for musicians for more than three decades. He will continue to design and repair guitars out of his workshop in the Outer Mission. *Photo courtesy Doug Roomian*

Noe Valley Music Now Playing Solo

Venerable Noe Institution Ends 34-Year Run on 24th Street

By Kate Haug

“People have been wonderful.” That is Doug Roomian’s overarching sentiment on the closure of his 24th Street store Noe Valley Music, which shut its doors on April 30.

The store, at 3914 24th St., was opened in 1981 by Bobus Smithdon and Larry Walker. In 1984, Roomian and finger-picking legend Dale Miller became partners with Walker. Throughout its 34-year history, the shop had additional partners, including a folk-singing couple and mu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Valley Tavern to Host Live Music

Singer-Songwriter Heather Combs Opens Show on June 17

By Corrie M. Anders

Heather Combs blew into town from Boston in the late 1990s, youthful and confident that San Francisco was the right place to establish her career as a singer and songwriter.

She landed in Noe Valley, sharing a room in a Valley Street house with an assortment of other musicians. It didn’t take long for her to find a favorite hangout in the neighborhood—the Rat and Raven—a saloon on 24th Street that catered to a young blue-collar crowd.

Now one of the brightest lights in San Francisco’s alternative rock scene, the guitar-playing vocalist will inaugurate live music performances on June 17 at her

old pub, now known as the Valley Tavern.

“I think it’s really exciting,” the singer said about the once-a-month concerts at the neighborhood’s only bar with live music. “It’s something that is definitely needed on this side of town.”

(A weekly Sunday jazz show at Bliss Bar ended in 2013 after a fire destroyed the 24th Street club. The lounge is under renovation, and the owners anticipate offering weekend music.)

Combs, premiering the Tavern series with noted guitarist Max Delaney at her side, also will help line up future gigs at the bar, located at 4054 24th St.

The shows, she said, are going to be “a little bluesy, a little funky, and a little heartfelt.”

That sounds just right for Valley Tav-

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City Looks to Tame Clipper Street Traffic

Parking Spots, Turn Lane May Be Removed

By Matthew S. Bajko

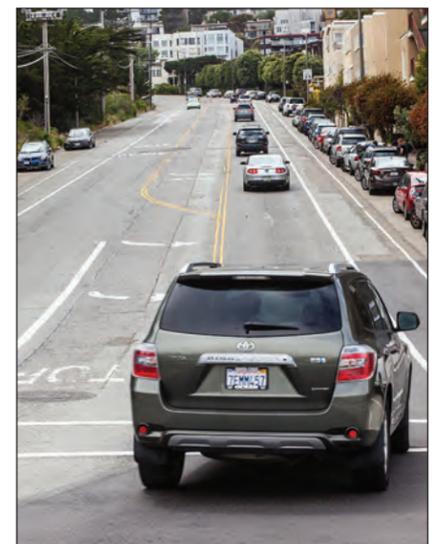
Clipper Street, a major commute route through Noe Valley, could be put on a diet in order to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

In response to requests from residents to tame traffic on the two-block stretch of the roadway between Douglass Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard, city traffic planners are proposing to reconfigure the street after it is repaved in December. The primary outcome would reduce Clipper Street from three lanes to two.

The traffic-calming measures under consideration run the gamut from removing the middle turn lane to eliminating parking on the south side to converting the existing parallel parking on the north side to back-in angled parking. Parking of oversized vehicles, such as trucks and RVs, would be banned.

Changes would also be made to the bicycle lanes along that stretch of Clipper

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Slippery Slope. Creating a safety plan that will please riders and residents is proving to be no simple matter. *Photo by Art Bodner*



He Froze for the Pose. Michael Creasy couldn’t pause long to celebrate reaching the North Pole. Temperatures during his trip were -31 to -58 degrees F. *Photo courtesy Michael Creasy*

Creasy Takes Cause to the North Pole

Local Resident Raises \$2,500 in Marathon Trek

By Matthew S. Bajko

Six days of skiing over constantly moving ice sheets, tugging an 80-pound sled behind him, Michael Creasy had finally reached his destination at the top of the world. There he stood at the North Pole, taking in a beautiful sight of snowy desolation. Due to the ever-shifting arctic environment, it was a landscape no one but Creasy and his fellow travelers would encounter.

“The ice is always changing, so no one will see what we saw. What I saw is unique to me,” marveled Creasy, 36, following his return in late April. “I have an

idea of what seeing the North Pole is, but it is different from what other people saw. Since the ice is always moving, someone who reached the North Pole four hours after me has a totally different view of the North Pole.”

A resident of Noe Valley for five years, Creasy spoke to the *Voice* on one of San Francisco’s rare hot evenings, the weather the polar opposite of what he experienced on his arctic trek. Even with near constant sunlight, his traveling party estimated they encountered temperatures between -35 degrees Celsius and -50 degrees Celsius (or -31 degrees Fahrenheit and -58 degrees Fahrenheit.)

It was eight days after he had left the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Happy 100th Birthday



San Francisco City Hall

Join the Celebration

Friday, June 19, 2015
Civic Center Plaza
 Start Time 6:00 pm

Free Public Celebration

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Noe Valley Summer FEST



Saturday June 20 11-5

Please visit
www.noevalleysummerfest.com
 for event details!

Petting Zoo! Bouncy House! 11-5
Sidewalk Chalk Drawing Contest 11-4 PRIZES!!
Photo Booth 12-3! Face Painting 11-3!
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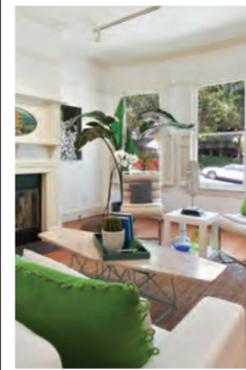
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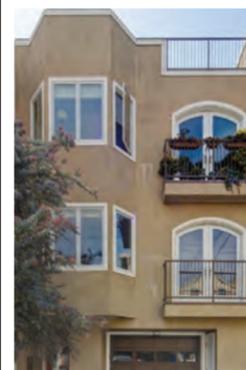
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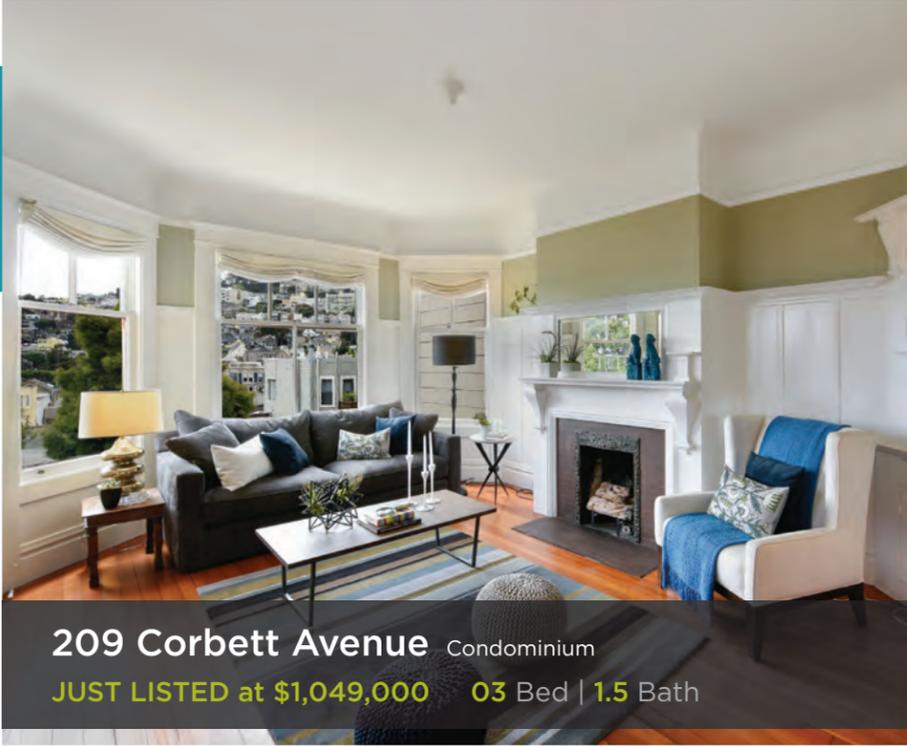


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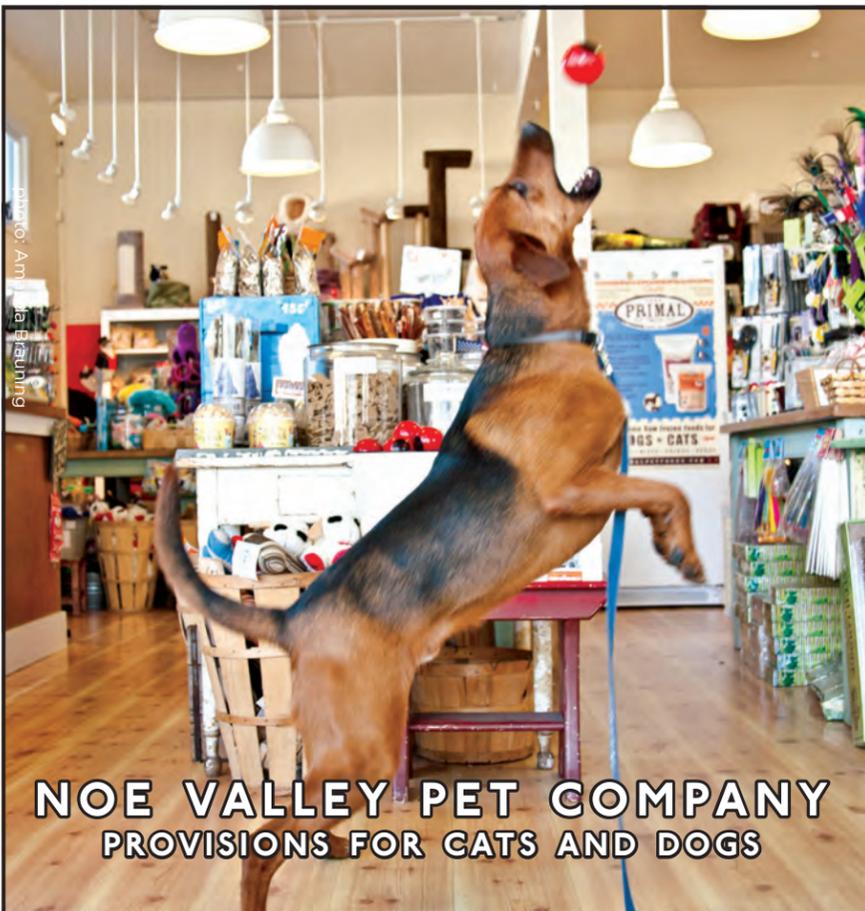


San Francisco Village is a membership organization dedicated to empowering older adults to continue to live active and full lives in their own homes and neighborhoods. Village members have access to expert guidance and support so that they remain independent and connected as they age.

To join San Francisco Village or learn more about the benefits of becoming a member, please attend one of our upcoming meetings in your neighborhood.

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Too Many Tall Buildings

Editor:
I'm concerned about the five-story buildings being considered or planned for construction on 24th Street. They not only block sunlight and view space, but are way out of scale with the rest of the one- to three-story properties on 24th, threatening the charm and small community ambience unique to Noe Valley, zoning caps notwithstanding.

Take a look at the new five-story building at 3820 Church St., and I think you will agree. An equally tall building will be built next door in place of the quaint two-story Victorian house. Proposals for several more tall buildings are expected shortly, according to a recent article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Change is inevitable, especially with the current housing shortage. At the same time, we should place a limit on the number of such structures before it is too late, and the unique character of our main street is lost forever.

Jim Morrell
Elizabeth Street

Equal Parts Divorce and Marriage

As a "Noe Valley-officed" family lawyer, I'm writing to share two timely topics with your readers:

One, for married couples or registered domestic partners (gay or straight) who have decided to divorce, it is useful to take action before the end of June (of each year), because California divorces take at least six months and one day from filing the divorce or separation petition and serving it on the other spouse.

Filing and serving before the end of June is the way to give the couple the option to have a divorce effective in 2015, or 2016, depending on what may help their taxes, as well as the psychological step of starting next year on a "clean slate." I have co-written a state-wide public education program, "Divorce Options," which is presented in all Bay Area counties, and I happen to be co-presenting it in San Francisco on Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the JCC-SF, 3200 California St. Cost is \$35 to \$45 per person. See <http://www.cp-sf.com/resources/divorce-options-workshop>.

LETTERS 49¢

Farewell to Eddie Peters

A familiar figure in the Church Street neighborhood has gone from us for good, it sadly seems. A gray-haired, quiet, and somewhat stooped man, with a shuffling gait, Edward Peters, known as "Eddie" (Brother Ed, while living at the "Blue Church"), was hospitalized at St. Luke's in early- to mid-April. He had some complications, moved to another facility in the next week or two, and subsequently passed on.

Before the Lux apartments were built several years ago on the northwest corner lot at Church and 28th streets, a very old, bright-blue building was an oft-referenced landmark here in Noe Valley, i.e., the Blue Church. Used for years as a non-denominational church (which is what it was when I arrived in 2000), it was a movie theater—actually, seven movie theaters—from 1916 to 1965. The church, Holiness Temple in Christ, was comprised of a minister and his young family and a few changing residents, mostly gentlemen of unknown origin, to whom the church provided shelter and food in exchange for whatever jobs and repairs they could accomplish when needed.

When the church was sold and torn down at the end of 2009, all those residents seemed to scatter to the wind, except Eddie Peters, who had made a bit of a name and need for himself among several of the local merchants, including Chuck's Sun Valley Grocery, the One Stop Party Shop, and Drewes Meats. Others in the neighborhood asked him to do odd jobs, and he appeared to have a place to live. He was well-known and greeted mornings on the street by everyone. He often called the ladies "Dear" and gave his well wishes.

A kind and sweet-natured man, ready with a happy hello, Eddie will be missed. His heart seemed made of gold...always wanting to give, but expecting nothing in return.

Upon his death, his nephew and niece contacted a couple of the businesses, but no information was available about a service or their uncle's final resting place. Just remember Eddie as an unassuming sweet gentleman, who always said hello with a twinkle in his blue eyes.

—Joey at Drewes, Chuck at Sun Valley, Mardie at One Stop, and Shannon on Duncan Street



In April, someone hung a swing from the Billy Goat Hill tree which had a seat made from an orange traffic cone. Photo courtesy Jenny Badger Sultan

the hill and to someone from structural maintenance repairing the fence, however, they said they knew of NO policy to remove the swings. Often when they are removed, ropes are left trailing and frequently other ropes are attached to those. In late April, someone roped a traffic cone to serve as a swing seat!

Some beautiful, well-made swings have been put up, with attention to protecting the tree branch, and they too have been cut down. Some kind of swing has been a fixture there for years and has provided a joyful experience to the people who use it.

But here is my main point: I think it is hypocritical, unfair, and inconsistent for people from the Recreation and Parks Department to cut down these swings when the logo for Recreation and Parks on signs all over the city and on their website shows a child swinging joyfully on a swing attached to a tree! If Recreation and Parks is going to continue this policy, then it should get rid of this logo.

Jenny Badger Sultan
30th Street



Two, in anticipation of the U.S. Supreme Court issuing a hoped-for marriage equality decision in June, San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and others are trying to get out the word that even a complete win at the Supreme Court will not immediately (or ever) eliminate the need for adoptions by married California LGBT couples. Adoptions will still be needed to ensure parenting status is respected throughout the U.S., even if the Supreme Court rules all states need to recognize same-gender marriages.

The NCLR is really helping with this difficult education process. Find their pdf on "Protecting Your Family After Marriage Equality" at www.nclrights.org.

Charles Spiegel
Elizabeth Street

The zoning administrator counseled the owners' representative to rethink the extension of the building to the property line and to meet the square footage limitation without a permit variance. A planning commissioner also told the owners' representative that even if they met the square footage limitation, there seemed to be substantial neighborhood resistance on the other variance requests.

We continue to be concerned about the hours, the amplified music, late-night patrons, and their need for parking on already crowded streets. For example, although I live on Elizabeth Street, I am on the other side of the street up the block from the Bliss Bar location. Many of the current residents are in homes that do not have garages and are competing for street spaces. I much prefer parking close to my home when I return from an evening concert rather than circling and then parking several blocks away.

We have been frustrated in getting the facts from the owners and their representative on what they are really planning for the location. For example, in your article, you reported that the owners intend to have live musical acts. The owners' representative told us at a meeting in April hosted by the Planning Department that there was no intention to have live acts at the location.

We are waiting for the June 11 meeting. The owners are redrafting their plans and hopefully that will include the elimination of all variance requests including the amplified music and change of hours.

Jessica Anderson
Elizabeth Street

Talks Like a Nightclub

Editor:
I am a Noe Valley resident living on Elizabeth Street. I would like to expand on the story published in the May issue of the *Voice* about the "Bliss Bar Project."

Fifteen neighbors attended the April 23 meeting of the Planning Commission. We presented a petition signed by about 100 Noe Valley residents. The petition firmly rejected the application by the owners as inappropriate for the neighborhood on a number of issues. Their application asked for variances on hours of operation, use of live amplified music, extending the building to the property line eliminating green belt, adding two apartments, and waiving the need for providing parking for those apartments.

As one of the neighborhood speakers said, "If this project needs so many permit variances to get it done, perhaps it is not in keeping with the quiet and residential quality of our neighborhood." Another neighborhood speaker pointed out that "being open until 2 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights with amplified music actually constituted a 'nightclub,' and to name it as such points out its inappropriateness for the neighborhood."

You Can't Swing Both Ways

Editor:
I've been a resident of Noe Valley since 1986. My husband and I climb Billy Goat Hill on a daily basis—it's a great walk and we appreciate the trail improvements. We've been following the whole swing drama for years, and have wondered what was going on. [See "The Riddle of the Goat Hill Swing," April 2015 *Voice*.]
When I have talked to city gardeners on

A Loyal Reader

Editor:
I was up late last night reading about my neighbors across the street who made it "above the fold" ["Judges Share More Than a Love of the Law," May 2015]. Once I got reading, I kept going till I finished the issue. You do not need to send me a subscription! I pick up my *Voice* every month in the 'hood. Save the stamps!
I like your visual quiz. Keep it up.
Peggy Cling Sanchez Street

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, 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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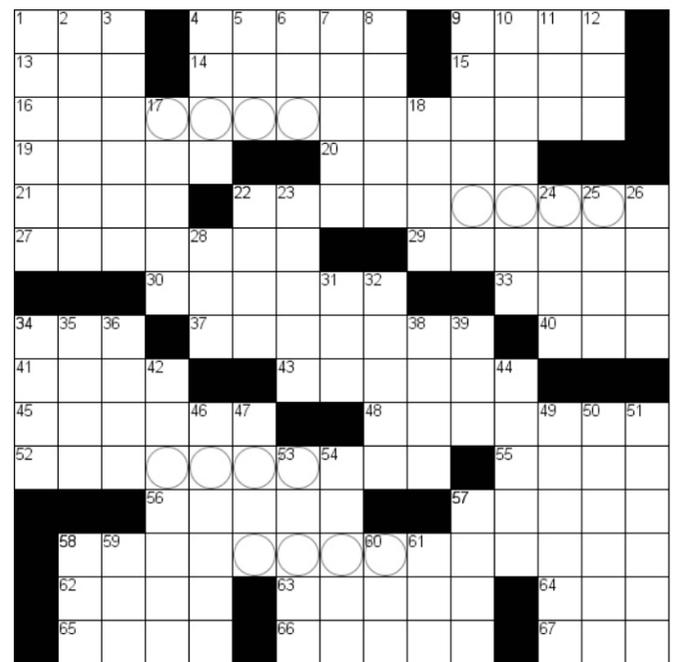
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Cram It In

ACROSS

1. Big hunk
4. Japan's "City of Water"
9. WWW programming code
13. Sgt.'s mail drop
14. Showed one's hand?
15. Prefix with -drome
16. Drought sufferer's anguished question
19. Couric on TV
20. Music devices whose sales slowed when smartphones took over
21. British prep school
22. Tuxedo, often
27. Subscriber's encore
29. Whirlwind of energy
30. Learned person
33. "___ and bear it"
34. Land in la mer
37. 24th Street gym, or what this puzzle manages to do in the middle of four entries
40. Toy store on 24th
41. ___ Hari (spy)
43. Fishing for morays
45. Gulf of Sorrento town
48. Street between Church and Guerrero
52. "Let's agree nobody won, okay?"
55. Booze it up
56. Largest word on many a nametag
57. Cap projection
58. Occasion to make romance, perhaps
62. South Park friend of Stan and Kyle
63. Alternative to a



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| station wagon | Abbr. | 42. Words of introduction for a dictator |
| 64. Examine | 12. Silent film star Chaney | 44. Entered, as a car |
| 65. Word before elk or fog | 17. Alonzo King ___ Ballet | 46. Like a Bengal tiger |
| 66. Grownup | 18. Country way | 47. "___ just take a minute" |
| 67. Units at Noe's Nest, briefly | 22. Sitar player Shankar | 49. More hopeful |
| | 23. Thrill | 50. Abel Tasman, vis-à-vis Tasmania |
| DOWN | 24. "Gone With the Wind" estate | 51. Some worsted fabrics |
| 1. Rubbernecker | 25. Mideast leader | 53. 50-down of a health spa on 24th |
| 2. Religion, to the masses, per Marx | 26. Tony Shalhoub TV role | 54. "I ___" (election-day badge) |
| 3. Singer Michael or former U.N. Ambassador John | 28. Female flyers in the military: Abbr. | 57. Let off some steam |
| 4. Boo-boo | 31. Atl. Braves' division | 58. Tennis match division |
| 5. Emulated Jack Horner | 32. ~ | 59. Capote, on Broadway |
| 6. Van Ness, e.g.: Abbr. | 34. Apple desktop computer | 60. URL ending for UCSF |
| 7. Costner or Bacon | 35. Dalai ___ | 61. Actor Kilmer |
| 8. Really good (at) | 36. "And others," in a bibliography | |
| 9. "Why do baby ducks walk softly? Because they can't walk ___!" | 38. Suffix for "orchestra" | |
| 10. Needling | 39. Walgreen photo service, for short | |
| 11. Test at St. Luke's: | | |

Solution on Page 29

Bob St. Clair, A Man of Many Spirits

Feb. 18, 1931 – April 20, 2015

By Jeff Kaliss

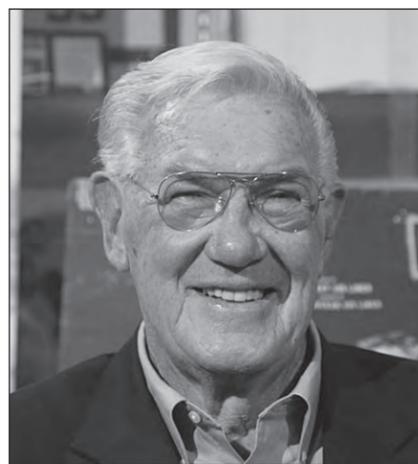
Bob St. Clair, who played as an offensive tackle for the San Francisco 49ers for more than a decade, was not offensive at all when he stood behind the counter at the store that still bears his name, St. Clair's Liquors, at 24th and Sanchez streets.

Those of us fortunate enough to have done business with him there cherish the memory of looking up at the six-foot-nine ex-footballer's benevolent countenance and listening to some good bass-baritone advice on wine and spirits.

Robert Bruce St. Clair, a five-time Pro Bowler and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, died on April 20, at the age of 84. He was born and raised in the Mission District. But he'll be missed in towns and cities all over the Bay Area, including Daly City, where he was mayor while still with the 49ers; Redwood City, where he served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; Petaluma, where he did marketing for Clover Stornetta Farms; and Santa Rosa, the place he last made his home.

'He Was Just a Nice Man'

In Noe Valley, St. Clair was known as the generous man at the store at 3900 24th St., which he'd purchased in 1960. (It was one of four he eventually owned.)



This portrait of Bob St. Clair was taken in September 2011, when several members of the 1951 USF Dons got together for a mini-reunion. Photo by Shawn Calhoun

He often doled out treats or 49ers souvenirs to neighborhood kids, said Eric Roberts, who lived at Noe and 24th, a block from the store, during the 1960s and '70s. "I was about 7 or 8," Roberts recalled. "First, he gave me an autographed football, and later a signed helmet."

The most fun days were when St. Clair did his strongman antics and a crowd of children formed around him. "Bob would take a phone book and he'd tear it in half, and we'd all be in awe," said Roberts, 51, now a resident of Willits, Calif.

"He was just a nice man," Roberts said. "He was good with all the little kids who'd come in. He was like a hero."

St. Clair's fame was so widespread that brothers Maher and Mousa Khouri decided to keep the liquor store's moniker when they purchased the business in 1991.

"We liked the name, and we liked the story behind the name," said Mousa Khouri. "There's a lot of history behind it."

St. Clair also dabbled in neighborhood and city politics. He was president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association. In 1977, he was a candidate for supervisor in District 5 (now District 8), in a campaign that saw Harvey Milk become the city's first openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

His Football Feats

But chief among St. Clair's talents was his football prowess. The field at Kezar Stadium in Golden Gate Park now bears his name, emblazoned in brass on the goalpost guards. The honor was bestowed by the City of San Francisco in 2001: St. Clair had played 189 games on that turf, first as a team member at Polytechnic High School; then as a lineman for the University of San Francisco Dons, a squad that went unbeaten in 1951; and finally as a tackle with the 49ers, before the team was relocated to Candlestick Park.

Hugh McElhenny, 86 and a former 49ers running back, remembers his teammate's playing skill as "way above everybody else in the league."

From his home in Henderson, Nev., McElhenny told the *Voice* that St. Clair, known for his blocking, "had the ability to be a tight end. He had great speed, and most of the plays that [quarterback Y.A.] Tittle called for me, Bob played an important part. I'd pick him up downfield, and he was always there. There was a nose tackle for the Detroit Lions, some 300



Except for a slight paunch, Bob St. Clair still looked fit and trim at 47 when he posed inside his liquor store for a 1978 *Noe Valley Voice* photograph. The inset shows the San Francisco 49ers lineman in a classic football pose of the era. Photo by Roger Burd

pounds, and we put a trap play in where Bob pulled and wiped him out of the way."

St. Clair, who played for the 49ers from 1953 until injuries ended his career in 1964, was chosen team captain three years in a row. Before he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990, he teased, "I don't think the question should be, 'Could we play today?' The question is, 'Could these candy-asses have played with us?'"

Two of his fellow Dons, Ollie Matson and Gino Marchetti, also went on to pro careers and the Hall of Fame, but their team is perhaps best remembered for refusing to participate in an Orange Bowl game because their African-American teammates would not have been permitted to play.

In his early career, St. Clair had a taste

for eating raw meat, a family culinary tradition. Despite or maybe because of this quirk, he was applauded by his teammates on the 49ers, who nicknamed him "the Geek."

After many years as a loyal 49ers season-ticket holder, he bitterly opposed the team's move from San Francisco to Santa Clara.

Otherwise, "Bob wasn't a yeller," McElhenny said. "He got along with everybody, and I know we'll miss him back at the Hall of Fame."

Bob St. Clair is survived by Marsha Bonfigli St. Clair, his wife of nearly three decades; sons Gary St. Clair and Greg St. Clair; daughters Rene St. Clair, Jill St. Clair, Gail St. Clair-Midyett, and Lynn St. Clair-Gretton; sister Rosemary Umland; 19 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Garden Tour Blooms on Saturday, June 13

The 10th annual Noe Valley Garden Tour is Saturday, June 13. Neighbors across Noe Valley will open their gardens to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight home gardens and the half-acre garden at the 30th Street Senior Center will be on display.

The home gardens were all designed by the homeowners themselves. They range from a quiet meditative zen garden with a water feature to a spectacular private botanical garden. Eight of the nine are backyard gardens; the ninth tumbles down terraces and stairs in front of the owners' house. A drought-resistant succulent garden is also on the tour, as well as a traditional cottage garden, a garden with a mural, and two mature floral gardens.

Tickets for the garden tour are on sale now online, at neighborhood stores, and Saturdays outside the Noe Valley Farmers Market. Pricing is \$18 general admission and \$15 for seniors over 60. Children under 18 are free. A map indicating the garden locations is provided.

Online tickets are available at friends ofnoevalley.com. Merchants selling tickets are Cliché Noe Gifts + Home, Folio Books, Just for Fun, Olive This Olive

That, and Small Frys on 24th Street, and K9 Scrub Club and Omnivore Books on Church Street.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers will staff a table outside the Farmers Market to sell tour tickets and raffle coupons for prizes donated for the second year by Stephanie Johnson of Zephyr Real Estate. Raffle prizes are a \$300 Sloat Garden Center gift card and four hours of labor provided by Franco Landscaping. Buy one chance for \$5, three for \$10, or eight for \$20. Raffle proceeds go to the Noe Valley Garden Tour.

In addition to the tour itself, three gardening talks will be offered at the 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St. J. Charmain Giuliani, professor of environmental horticulture at City College of San Francisco, will discuss and demonstrate container gardening at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., Suzanne Bontempo of Our Water—Our World will offer natural pest-control tips and ways to conserve water, prevent pollution, and reduce yard waste.

The Noe Valley Garden Tour is an all-volunteer effort, and people are still needed to staff tables at garden entrances. Take a two-hour shift and receive a free



The gardening talks offered at this year's Noe Valley Garden Tour will likely point to the advantages of drought-tolerant plants, such as this Agave attenuata. Photo by Jana King

ticket to the tour. Shifts on June 13 are 9:30 a.m. to noon, noon to 2 p.m., and 2 to 4 p.m. Contact Michelle Echenique at sellech@gmail.com to sign up.

The garden tour is sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley neighborhood as-

sociation, which makes a donation toward Noe Valley beautification each year from Garden Tour proceeds. This year, the recipient project will be the garden at the 30th Street Senior Center.

—By Richard May



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Noe Valley Views



Just Foolin'. The content of *Noe Valley Voice* of the early 1980s was rich in satire as evidenced by this cartoon published in 1982. Illustration by Susan Koop



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New Designs on Clipper Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Street. The westbound bike lane would be striped between the parked cars and the sidewalk. The south-side bike lane would have a buffer installed between the bike lane and the travel lane.

The configuration of the bike lane would result in parked cars on Clipper Street no longer needing to be moved for street-sweeping. And the removal of the south-side parking, noted traffic planners, would eliminate the risk of having drivers walking across the street to access their vehicles.

48 Bus to Be Rerouted

The proposal comes as the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency plans to reroute the 48-Quintara/24th Street bus line so that it runs along Clipper Street rather than turning onto Grand View Avenue. When heading south on Clipper, the bus line would turn onto Diamond in order to connect with 24th Street.

Once the route change is implemented, a new bus stop will likely be added at the intersection of Clipper Street and Douglass. The proposed traffic-calming measures at the intersection could accommodate the bus stops, according to the project planners.

SFMTA staff met with a dozen nearby residents about the traffic-calming project, dubbed the “Clipper Road Diet Concept,” at an open house in early May. Based on the feedback gathered at the meeting, planners decided to move forward with the plan.

“With enough community support voiced at the project’s May 6 meeting, the SFMTA will now refine designs for a lane reduction and parking reconfiguration on Clipper Street,” wrote Miriam Sorell, a planner with the agency’s sustainable streets section, in an email to the *Noe Valley Voice*. “Staff will be following up with residents in June to share detailed information on how various aspects of the design would work. At that time, SFMTA will also provide details on the approvals process, which could include a community ballot.”



A plan floated by the city in May would reduce the car lanes to two, remove parking on the south side (left), and create angled parking on the north side of Clipper Street, west of Douglass Street.

Photo by Art Bodner

‘I Hate It’

Various aspects of the plan elicited negative responses at the open house, however, based on the comments attendees wrote down for the SFMTA and iterated in interviews with the *Voice*.

“I hate it,” said Richard Dodds, who has lived on Clipper Street for 18 years. “The current situation is not so bad as to require such a radical reconfiguration of the street.”

Dodds’ biggest concern is the removal of the middle turn lane, which would require eastbound traffic on Clipper to make a U-turn at Douglass in order to park or enter the driveways to the various apartment complexes and townhouses on the north side of the street.

“Our driveway services 20 residences,” noted Dodds. “Currently, we have a large amount of parking and it is easy to get into our garage.”

The reduction of the existing 80 parking spaces on both sides of the street to roughly 58 parking spots solely on the north side also raised objections, with one

person writing on an oversized piece of white paper the SFMTA staff had placed out, “Do not take away any parking.”

The person, who did not give their name, added, “I have lived at Douglass and Clipper for five years and did not recognize a problem, so I’m okay without changes.”

Even the creator of the website www.clippertraffic.com, who has spent the last decade pushing for calming measures on the street, expressed misgivings with the proposed plan, particularly the removal of the middle turn lane

“It really opens up a straightaway for people to speed on with this design,” said Samir Ghosh, who bought a townhouse on Clipper Street in 2002. “At night, I know people are flying up that hill.”

Ghosh has pressed for a variety of traffic-calming measures over the years, which SFMTA planners have ruled out for various reasons. His rejected ideas included reducing the speed limit from 35 to 25 miles per hour and creating a traffic circle at the Grand View Avenue and Clipper intersection.

Safety Record Relatively Good

Despite concerns about high vehicle speeds on Clipper Street, traffic planners noted that the street’s safety record “is good relative to other San Francisco streets.” Data provided by the SFMTA show there were six injury collisions between 2003 and 2008, dropping to three injury crashes between 2009 and 2014 following previous changes made to the roadway.

Most of the car crashes involved driv-

ers hitting parked cars or other fixed objects. Over the past 10 years, there was one pedestrian-related injury, which happened in May of 2014, and it involved a pedestrian crossing Clipper at Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Changes implemented in 2008—adding bike lanes and reducing the traffic lanes from two each way to the current one lane in each direction separated by a middle turn lane—has helped some, said Ghosh, but problems remain.

“It’s loud with people racing up the hill. It creates more pollution,” he said. “It generally devalues the property.”

Residents to Vote on Plan

As the SFMTA planners refine their proposal, one idea being considered is to truncate the proposed back-in angled parking to end at 750 Clipper St. West of the driveway would remain as parallel parking. Doing so would allow for a left turn lane to be striped so residents could access their driveways.

Residents on the two blocks of Clipper Street impacted by the changes, as well as those on Clipper Terrace, High Street, and portions of Grand View Avenue, will be asked to weigh in on the final plan through a mail-in ballot. If an overwhelming majority objects, then the traffic-calming measures could be scrapped.

“If people say we don’t like it, then the street will be repainted as it is now,” Nick Carr, a senior planner with the SFMTA, told the *Voice*.

For more information, contact SFMTA planner Nick Carr at 415-701-4468 or email him at nick.carr@sfmta.com.

Supervisors Update Rules on Offices

Non-Retail Businesses Need Permits to Open on 24th St.

By Matthew S. Bajko

No longer will non-retail businesses be able to open overnight in ground-floor storefronts along 24th Street in Noe Valley, due to a zoning change adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

The zoning change does not outright ban such businesses from opening in sidewalk-fronting storefronts. It instead requires them to seek approval from the city’s Planning Commission at a public hearing.

By a unanimous vote of 10-0, with Supervisor Jane Kim absent, the supervisors at their May 19 meeting passed legislation that requires medical services and business or professional services to apply for conditional use permits in order to move into a ground-floor retail space on 24th Street between Diamond and Chattanooga streets.

District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener sought the zoning change in response to neighborhood concerns that office-type businesses were moving in without public debate and potentially creat-

ing dead zones on 24th Street at night or on weekends. Residents also had complained that too many offices and not enough stores or restaurants might negatively impact the vibrancy of Noe Valley’s main commercial strip.

Similar interim controls for Market Street west of Octavia Boulevard have now become permanent, and the rules will also cover the 400 and 500 blocks of Castro Street, once the legislation becomes law, likely in early July.

The new zoning provisions also say that non-retail uses are principally permitted in second-story spaces along 24th Street. Wiener rejected a recommendation from the Planning Commission, which voted in support of his legislation in April, that the supervisors also principally allow offices in third-story spaces along the corridor.

“It requires a lot of additional discussion. With a lot of the development going in, there is a strong preference to have housing,” Wiener said, when the board’s land use committee held a hearing on his zoning proposal Monday, May 11.

“We wouldn’t want to see a lot of these buildings become retail and not housing. I respectfully decline that amendment now.”

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Heather Combs Plays Valley Tavern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ern owner Vince Hogan, who last year obtained a permit allowing live music until 10 p.m. seven days a week. For the present, he said, the bar will only have music the third Wednesday of the month.

"It's the start of something new in Noe Valley," Hogan said.

During the shows, a stage will be set up in an alcove in the front section of the bar—with soundproofing to keep music from spilling into the street.

"We want to keep the neighbors happy," Hogan said.

Combs, 40, comes to the Tavern able to pick from quite a rich repertoire. She has written approximately 200 songs, including several featured on TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *E.R.* Her music is raw and honest, and she has been likened to Bonnie Raitt. On stage, she can blow away her fans with vibes ranging from rough and intense to sweet and melodic.

Combs has performed at clubs throughout the Bay Area, among them the Great America Music Hall, Cafe du Nord, and the Hotel Utah in San Francisco, and the old Sweetwater in Mill Valley.

"I think I've played every club in this city, even ones that have closed," said Combs.

But her fame extends far beyond San Francisco. Over the past decade, she and her group, the Heather Combs Band, have opened for Sheryl Crow, Stevie Nicks, Los Lobos, Tom Petty, and other nationally recognized artists.

Combs also has five CDs under her

belt, including the 2013 *Everybody Has Their Turn*. The album was recorded and mixed in two and a half weeks, she said, "in a not so quiet little room" in Noe Valley.

A Natural Songwriter

As much as she lights up the stage playing her roots rock and Americana music, Combs displays a strong talent for writing good lyrics. Her song "My Mistakes" was a finalist in both the John Lennon and USA Songwriting contests.

"I'm not a methodical songwriter. I'm not going to set aside these two hours and [say] I'm going to write a song," Combs said. "Songs find me and I have to be ready to write them down or they're gone."

For years, Combs has helped organize the Songwriting Series in the Round at the Hotel Utah, 500 Fourth St. The monthly forum gives local artists a platform to perform their original music and to push themselves "out of their comfort zone."

The occasion sometimes draws big names, like John Mayer. The Grammy Award winner made a surprise visit in 2013 and sat in with Combs and other songwriters.

"He was super humble and super supportive of us as musicians just trying to make our way," Combs said. "It was a really neat experience."

Cat Carter, Hotel Utah's general manager, says not too long ago Combs and her band "would pack the place on a Saturday night without any advance promotion." They'd draw "this huge fun crowd and she rocked it."

Combs also gets ample airtime on KFOG, a radio station that spins a variety of urban rock and pop music. "We love Heather," said Sheri Nelson,

KFOG's director of marketing.

Renee Richardson, KFOG's music director and an on-air personality, said a listener "turned me on to her music" about a decade ago. "I saw her live and I was enthralled," Richardson said. "I've seen her so many times."

Richardson said Combs also "has helped to do fundraisers and benefits for various charities. She's an amazing part of the community," she said.

When not making music or working—her day job is in technology marketing—Combs and partner Cassidy Garvin are out and about in Noe Valley, sipping coffee at Martha & Bros. on Church Street or shopping at the nearby Drewes Meats.

Raised on the Beatles

Combs has been involved with music almost since her birth in Gainesville, Fla. "My parents will tell you that I popped out of the womb telling everyone, 'Sit down, I'm going to sing you a song.'"

As a kid, she was enamored with the Bee Gees, Peter Dinklage, and the Beatles, particularly the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album. Her parents gave her the record, "and I knew every single word...probably to my parents' dismay," she laughed.

By the time she was 15, Combs was blowing a saxophone and thinking she was going to be the female version of Charlie Parker. That was until she discovered saxophonist Candy Dulfer was already laying claim to the title.

Combs finally found her way playing acoustic guitar (and sometimes harmonica). And of course singing and writing songs.

Early in her career, she had very definite opinions about sharing her works.



Heather Combs Photo by Cassidy Garvin

"I did not sell any songs. I did not want other people playing my songs. I wanted to be the one to share my songs," she said. "They were a big strong piece of my voice, me finding myself, and I didn't want to find myself through other people."

That, she admits, was probably a mistake. "Now I wish, monetarily, sometimes I had," she said. She has found it "really touching to see the way that [other musicians] interpret the emotions that I provided."

Combs says she was pleased when Hogan asked her to kick off the new series at the Valley Tavern.

"I said absolutely, I'd love nothing more."

Heather Combs is an open book for most people. But there is one segment of her life that few know.

"I'm a closet huge country fan," she said. "I love good country music." ■

Noe Valley Music Lost to History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sician and teacher Chris Gray. At the close of the store, Roomian was the sole proprietor. Asked why the store typically had partners instead of the traditional employer and employees, Roomian replied, "It's that San Francisco thing—everyone's a waiter and a playwright. Nobody wanted to be just a store owner."

Serving as a neighborhood social hub and resource for musicians, Noe Valley Music offered sheet music, instrument sales and repair, and custom-made string instruments. Over the years, the shop drew a wide range of clients, from local celebrities like singer Bobby McFerrin, to Dale Miller's fingerpicking friends, to aspiring young musicians.

One of Roomian's most memorable visits was from legendary folksinger Pete Seeger. Seeger and Roomian engaged in a long discussion about instruments, specifically Seeger's self-designed, long-necked banjo. It was a conversation Roomian had wanted to have for a long time.

From Canada to Whole Earth

Roomian's history is a personalized portrait of San Francisco and its changes. In the 1960s, Roomian, a Detroit native, was in Canada, helping draftees escape the Vietnam War. A friend brought over a copy of the now famous, culture-shifting publication the *Whole Earth Catalog*. Roomian describes the catalog as making "every job sound like it was an integral part of the greater mandala universe.... If you were a potter, you were on the path to enlightenment." By chance, Roomian came across an article on guitar-making and it changed his life.

For a few years, he tried to build guitars, but felt he hadn't mastered the craft. So he tried his hand at photojournalism.



Roomian Rocks. Noe Valley Music may be no more, but owner Doug Roomian will remain faithful to the sweet sounds he can coax from his handcrafted Telecaster. Photo by Kate Haug

En route to San Francisco from doing a story about visionary architect Paolo Soleri, Roomian picked up some hitchhikers in Big Sur. When he left them off on Fell Street, he discovered they had stolen his camera and he'd lost his whole story. While in town, he noticed a flyer for a guitar-making class in Palo Alto. Through taking the class, he found a mentor in Rodney Albin, brother to Big Brother and the Holding Company's guitarist Peter Albin. Rodney Albin took Roomian on as an apprentice luthier, someone who makes or repairs string instruments.

With a loan from the Grateful Dead, the two opened Acoustic Music on Haight Street near Ashbury, in the heart of hippiedom, around 1971. After selling that store seven years later, Roomian worked out of warehouses in the Mission.

In 1984, he went into business with Walker. The partners were attracted to the smaller shops and calmer pace of 24th Street. Roomian himself had grown tired of the frenetic atmosphere in the Haight,

where one of Acoustic Music's best-selling T-shirts read, "No spare change." He also enjoyed the musicians and warm community he found in Noe Valley.

Dulcimers and Telecasters

Roomian started out making dulcimers, made popular in the 1970s by singer and songwriter Joni Mitchell. Dulcimers were not then made by a commercial producer, which left a void for smaller makers to fill.

In the 1970s, Roomian had three dulcimers in production, including a low-cost \$35 model. When the demand for dulcimers waned, he began making acoustic guitars and electric guitars. He hit a strong sales streak with his fretless bass in the late '70s, during "the Jaco years," when popular jazz artist Jaco Pastorius was playing bass guitar with the fusion band Weather Report.

Today, Roomian's hollowed-out Telecaster remains his best-selling instrument. In all of his production, he strives

to make instruments affordable to working musicians.

Over the years, Noe Valley Music has had a succession of great teachers, including Jodie Guthrie, son of Arlo Guthrie, Dale Miller, and Amos Garrett, known for playing on the 1973 hit "Midnight at the Oasis." Most recently, Dennis White, a well-respected Bay Area teacher, taught out of the store. (White will continue to teach guitar and can be contacted by phone at 415-728-8224.)

Internet Reverberations

Like many retail businesses, Noe Valley Music experienced a drop in sales after the Internet became a primary marketplace in the 2000s. In contrast to previous decades—when instrument sales were the majority of revenue—instrument repair, guitar setup, and music lessons became the store's main business. Roomian says, "People still need good guitars. My daughter and her heavy metal friends bring in their guitars."

Roomian closed the business because the owners of the space planned to increase the rent. He also was getting close to retirement. As Roomian had always repaired instruments at his off-site workshop in the Outer Mission, he decided to work directly out of his studio. He will continue to make instruments and perform repairs, and will honor any outstanding warranties on instruments. To make appointments, clients can reach Roomian at 415-239-4445.

Roomian ended our conversation saying he has always felt that San Francisco is a generous place and he's appreciative of all the people who took the time to help him in his career. While his store on 24th Street touches on musical fads and neighborhood changes, it's emblematic that after his 30-year run on 24th Street, Roomian can walk away saying, "Literally, for all it, the people have been wonderful in Noe Valley. I can't think of a better place to have spent so much time." ■

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Peggy Cling won our May contest. She correctly identified the colorful mosaic that graces the storefront formerly occupied by Global Exchange. *Photo by Jack Tipple*



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Intrepid Trekker Visits North Pole

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ice, and the tips of his two middle fingers still tingled, signaling there was nerve damage in each.

"The fingers will feel normal but will never completely be the same," said Creasy. "It is a badge of honor for folks who go up there."

On His Bucket List

A traveler to distant locales—he visited North Korea in 2012 on a tourist visa—Creasy wanted to cross off an arctic trip from his travel bucket list. A Google search led him to a company called Polar Explorers. After talking by phone with a guide for an hour, he decided to join one of their trips.

Founded by Rick Sweitzer, who in 1993 led the first dog sled expedition to the North Pole, the company has brought nearly 400 people to the remote locale, most by helicopter.

"A lot less have skied the last degree like Michael did," said Annie Aggens, a guide with Polar Explorers. "He was the perfect teammate. He was so positive, so organized, and never complained about anything. They gave him the nickname 'Crease Lightning' because he was so fast."

The guide service costs \$47,000, with additional travel costs and expenses bringing the total to \$60,000. Creasy also took part in a training exercise held in Minnesota in February so as to simulate the arctic conditions he would encounter.

Dropped Off by Helicopter

The trip began on April 12 when Creasy reached Longyearbyen, Norway, 21 hours after departing from San Francisco. Two days later, he arrived at Barneo ice station, a base operated by Russia, and on April 15 he boarded a helicopter to reach 89 degrees, the starting point of a planned nine-day trek to the North Pole at 90 degrees.

Each day consisted of skiing five pushes, each lasting 75 to 90 minutes, with 12-minute breaks in between to rest and snack on nut bars, fruit, and peanut M&Ms. The breaks also brought discomfort.

"Once you are done eating, all your blood goes to your stomach. The pain in your fingers is indescribable," said Creasy. "After 10 minutes of skiing, the numbness wears off and your fingers come back to life."

Day four of the trip, "things deteriorated," recalled Creasy, as a blizzard hit, requiring them to remain in their tents. Thereafter, they encountered open water, impeding their trek and turning the last 10 miles to the pole into a six-hour ordeal.

"It was pretty scary. You know it is a dangerous environment and things can happen," he said. "The one thing you have to have faith in is the guides."

Adrift on Top of the World

With the last leg of their journey blocked by open water, the group realized if they waited where they were, then the ice would eventually drift into the coordinates for the North Pole. At 3:07 a.m. on April 20 their GPS confirmed they had arrived.

"It was exciting and anticlimactic," said Creasy, who camped for another two nights on the ice before a helicopter arrived to return his group to the base camp. "It was incredibly cold, we were tired, and hugging each other. It was just windy white."

His trip also served as a fundraiser for CALICO, a nonprofit agency in Alameda County that works with abused children

FROM MICHAEL CREASY'S JOURNAL

Here are a few excerpts from Michael Creasy's diary of his ski trip to the North Pole, latitude 90° north. You can read more at www.baytopole.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

Day 1: May the wind be behind you.

Current location: 89°08'08" N 90°45'56" E
Starting point: 89°00'07" 89°47'20" E
Distance covered north: 8 nautical miles
Distance to go: 52 nautical miles

We flew in to Barneo ice station yesterday. Spotted polar bears from the plane, but we were safely 7,000 feet up. Basic dinner at Barneo, and as it was so late that we arrived we spent the night there—in a heated tent for 11!

Breakfast and then waiting for the helicopter. Flew to our starting point at 89 degrees. Amazing scenery of the ice on the way. Condition looked very good.



Helicopter dropped us off and quickly flew away. Leaving us alone. I watched the helicopter fly away with a sense of excitement and relief. Excited to be finally starting the expedition. Started skiing straight away. Cloudy and overcast, but not too cold. Almost warm even.

First push over lots of rubble ice, all pressure ridges and not much flat. Challenging work. Amazing ice. Blocks over 8 feet tall strewn around. Blue in color. More snow than expected. Going good, though. With four pushes we covered 8 nautical miles. Good for a short day...

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

Day 3: Halfway but challenged

Current location: 89° 30' 49" N 103° 48' 12" E
Starting location: 89° 20' 23" N 100° 08' 34" E
Distance traveled: 10 nautical miles

The wind has picked up and made for more challenging conditions. With total cloud cover, seeing very far is difficult. Thankfully the wind is behind us and is pushing towards the pole. Overnight we drifted one nautical mile north.



First challenge of the day was a huge pressure ridge. These are formed when plates of ice collide and can leave giant blocks of ice forming a barrier we must pass. So far we've been able to find a route we could ski through, but today we could not. We had to take our skis off and then form a line across the ridge and pass skis, poles, and sleds from person to person. Tricky to say the least. We made it over without injury and skied on to get warm. Stopping means getting cold and it's not fun.

and their families. Creasy donated \$1,000 himself and had his employer, Apple, match it.

CALICO Executive Director Vicky Gwiasda told the *Voice* that Creasy had raised \$2,500 as of early May. The total far surpassed the \$500 amount the agency asked participants of a recent Oakland running festival to raise on its behalf.

"First off, it is great, amazing he did this," said Gwiasda. "And raising aware-

The next obstacle was water. Water brings a sense of dread over the team. It's dangerous to cross and you have to be very careful. We skied alongside the break and found a safe place to cross. Going over quickly and one by one. Later in the day, we faced the same obstacle again but had to ski further to get around it.

We made camp and the wind is brutal. We are hoping it doesn't get colder as it might force us to stay in the tent.

We are halfway through and in only three days. It's hard not to be pleased with the progress. In three days we could be there.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015

Day 5: A trial by fire and ice

Current location: 89° 49' 05" N 121° 59' 59" E

I have not left the tent today... After the optimism of yesterday the arctic has taught us humility. The wind has picked up dramatically and the temperature dropped even further. We estimate the temperature to be between -35C and -50C, but we have no way of knowing. It was apparent when we woke up at 7 a.m. that we would not be going far. The tent was being blown around and we could feel the cold seeping in. A shout between tents made it known to go back to sleep until 8:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. it was clear we were going nowhere soon. It's too dangerous to spend much time outside in these conditions. Skiing would be too much and the risk of cold injuries far too high. As it turned out, being in the tent could be just as dangerous.



Our stoves are simple, but even then things can go wrong. The seals on the fuel bottles are rubber, and at very low temperatures they cannot seal as well as intended. A little fuel leak from the bottle can be hard to spot, but when it catches fire, it's easy. Flames soared up inside the tent vestibule and we tore open the door and threw the stove outside. We have to cook inside because of the temperature, and the tents are designed for this. Now we had a stove covered in ice. At the same time our tent was filling with snow from the wind. We sealed up the tent and found one spot that had been letting the snow in. Another guide made us some hot food and helped get the stove working again and we recovered with no harm or damage done.

The environment outside is deeply unpleasant. The wind has drifted snow over everything. Our tents are barely visible, sleds and skis are buried, and visibility is limited to no more than 100 meters. It's too cold to go outside to take a photo and there's nothing visible anyway...

ness about CALICO is incredibly valuable to us. We appreciate he did something so physically challenging to support an agency that supports kids."

Satellite Call from the Pole

Creasy's girlfriend, Christina Walburn, has served on the agency's board of directors for two years. She followed his trek via Facebook posts and updates to his blog at <http://www.baytopole.com/>,

where people can make additional donations to CALICO.

"He was really good about every day putting an update there. And he called me once he made it to the pole; that was very exciting," said Walburn, who spoke to Creasy via satellite phone. "When I met him at the airport, I had a sign made for him that said 'Welcome home North Pole explorer.' I got to break out my glitter pen for that."

One image Creasy posted on Facebook was of a dinner he had in Norway featuring two of the country's signature dishes, reindeer and whale. Asked about the meal by the *Voice*, Creasy pointed out it was Minke whale and noted it is not an endangered species.

"I know it is controversial to eat whale, but it is also a delicacy of the area," said Creasy, who described the whale as "beefy, very lean, dark red meat."

As for the reindeer, it tasted like venison, he said.

"I would happily eat more reindeer," said Creasy, though another trek to the North Pole is not in his future.

Exploring in His Blood

Creasy moved from Great Britain to the United States 14 years ago in order to work for Microsoft in Seattle. In 2007 he moved to San Francisco after landing a job with Apple. He would only say he works on the hardware for the company's iPhones and iPads because, "I have to be fairly vague about what I do."

His love for life in America led him to become a U.S. citizen last July, though to his chagrin, the ceremony was not on the fourth.

"Because this is my home country, I wanted to be more involved in American life," said Creasy, who is still a British citizen. "I wanted to be able to vote and have a say in things."

Growing up in Canterbury, England, Creasy developed a love for travel at an early age. His family vacationed throughout Europe, and in 1988, went to Walt Disney World in Florida, and a few years later to Hong Kong.

"At university, during our second-year summer, a friend and I went on a month-long backpacking trip around Europe," recalled Creasy.

South Pole Like a Resort

In January of 2014 he flew to Antarctica and the South Pole, where he camped. The ice and landscapes of the two polar zones, he said, are vastly different.

Because Antarctica is on a land mass, "the ice is smooth and goes up and down by the way the wind sculpts it," said Creasy. "The Arctic is totally different. You are on plates of ice that are very thin or thick. The wind pushes them together so they collide."

The South Pole trip also featured a base camp for the season, where visitors are allowed one hot shower per week.

"It is practically civil, almost like a resort," said Creasy, whereas the arctic is "exceptionally cold and a much harsher environment."

He is planning a return trip to the South Pole in 2017, a journey that Walburn would like to join him on.

"When he told me he wanted to do the North Pole, I thought that is awesome. I would love to do it too," she said. "I have an adventurous side as well, but Michael has the financial resources to pull it off. It is not cheap."

For now, the couple in September plans to climb Mt. Whitney, which Walburn did alone last year, though she fell short of reaching the summit.

"Michael has that explorer kind of attitude, I think that is the English side of him coming out," said Walburn. "They are a well-known group wanting to go to places no one else has been." ■



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- Lost or Injured Animals** Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services** www.sfgov.org/mons 415-554-7111
- NERT** (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) 415-970-2022
- Parking Enforcement** DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
- PG&E** Gas or electrical issues 1-800-743-5000
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—Lili Tomlin, writer and comedian (1939–)



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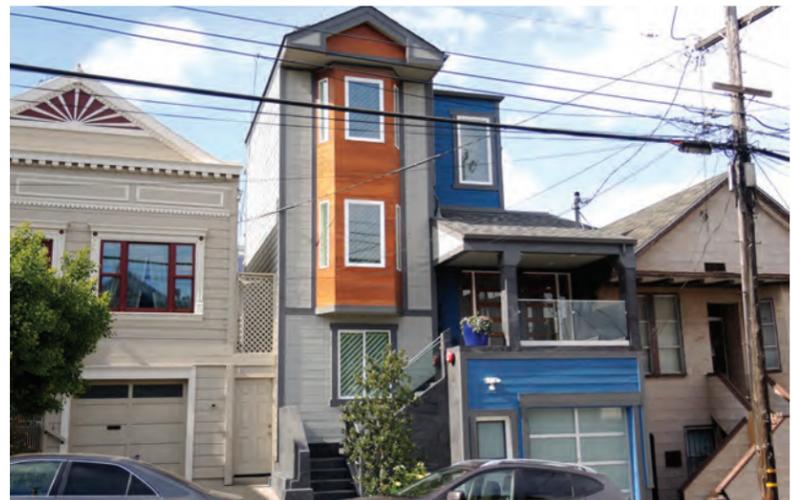
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The Cost of Living in Noe

April Brings Showers

By Corrie M. Anders

Home sales in Noe Valley rose for the second consecutive month, as April buyers purchased 14 single-family homes, including one that sold for more than \$5 million.

The neighborhood also saw strong demand for condominiums and duplexes, according to sales data provided to the



This Eastlake Stick Victorian on Alvarado Street, with four bedrooms and 4.5 baths, sold in April for \$5.4 million—well over the seller's asking price.

Noe Valley Voice by Zephyr Real Estate.

The April house sales total was two higher than in March and four higher than in April of last year. That's in contrast to the first two months of 2015, when only five detached homes were sold.

Zephyr president Randall Kostick attributed the strong sales to a springtime bounce in the number of homeowners offering their homes for sale, and an immediate pounce from would-be buyers, who had been held back by pitifully low inventories during the winter months.

In January, there was a "three weeks' supply" of homes—that's how many weeks it would take to sell all the homes listed in Noe Valley if no new properties hit the market. In April, there was a six-week inventory, Kostick said.

"It makes a difference," he said, noting that the demand for homes in Noe Valley has remained high for several years. "When inventory picks up, we start to see sales pick up."

Buyers didn't appear to flinch at the rising price tags in the neighborhood. The average cost of a single-family home was \$2.7 million in April, a nearly 20 percent increase over the \$2.25 million average in April a year ago.

Of the 14 detached-home sales, four were in the \$2 to \$3 million range, one in the \$3 to \$4 million range, and two in the \$4 to \$5 million range.

The most expensive purchase was a four-bedroom, 4.5-bath home located in the 500 block of Alvarado Street, between Noe and Castro streets. The \$5.4 million final offer was 14 percent higher than the seller's asking price (\$4,750,000). Built around the turn of the last century, the Eastlake Stick Victorian had been substantially renovated and expanded. Fea-

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
April 2015	14	\$1,315,000	\$5,400,000	\$2,692,143	25	107%
March 2015	12	\$765,312	\$4,350,000	\$2,196,068	17	107%
April 2014	10	\$1,000,000	\$5,250,000	\$2,252,700	18	119%
Condominiums						
April 2015	9	\$630,000	\$2,415,000	\$1,394,444	22	120%
March 2015	13	\$618,000	\$2,250,000	\$1,226,385	27	117%
April 2014	14	\$505,000	\$1,950,000	\$1,255,000	27	117%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2015	6	\$1,315,000	\$2,225,000	\$1,660,000	34	120%
March 2015	3	\$1,780,000	\$2,450,000	\$2,202,000	26	107%
April 2014	1	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	21	100%
5+unit buildings						
April 2015	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2015	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2014	1	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	15	108%

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley for purposes of 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 6/2015

tures in the four-level home included a new radiant heating system, high-tech computer wiring, a two-car garage, and two decks with views of the city and bay.

Meanwhile, condominium buyers purchased nine residences in April, compared to 13 in March and 14 in April of last year. And to say they paid dearly is no exaggeration. Buyers offered winning bids that averaged 20 percent more than the sellers' asking price.

The costliest condo in April was a four-bedroom, three-bath unit in the 4000 block of 26th Street, between Sanchez and Noe streets. With a \$1,895,000 list price, the property attracted eight bids and sold for \$2,415,000—a 27 percent windfall for the sellers. The two-story, house-like condo was built in 2001, and its modern amenities included a patio, garden, hot tub, and one-car parking.

Shoppers looking to get in on the ground floor also gravitated to small apartment buildings with two to four units, many of them "tenancies in common," where buyers share the cost but

live in individual units. Buyers purchased six small buildings—all duplexes—in April, compared to three in March and one in April of 2014.



There were eight bidders for a four-bedroom condo in this building on 26th Street. The competition drove the price up to \$2,415,000, 27 percent over asking.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2015	Average May 2015	Average April 2015	Average May 2014
Studio	8	\$1,995 – \$3,250	\$2,391 / mo.	\$2,261 / mo.	\$1,888 / mo.
1-bdrm	39	\$2,395 – \$5,100	\$3,404 / mo.	\$3,099 / mo.	\$2,913 / mo.
2-bdrm	44	\$2,895 – \$6,435	\$4,324 / mo.	\$4,439 / mo.	\$3,831 / mo.
3-bdrm	26	\$3,640 – \$9,295	\$6,275 / mo.	\$5,881 / mo.	\$6,304 / mo.
4+-bdrm	10	\$5,295 – \$15,000	\$9,309 / mo.	\$10,932 / mo.	\$7,000 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 127 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from May 1-17, 2015. NVV 6/2015

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SHORT TAKES

Noe Valley's Solstice Celebration

SummerFest, Noe Valley's celebration of midsummer, is Saturday, June 20. Activities are planned all along 24th Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 24th and Noe intersection will be a children's fun zone, with a petting zoo—alpacas and goats and sheep, oh my!—and bouncy house from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a balloon and magic show with Funnybone the Clown from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Through-traffic on Noe Street will be blocked 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accommodate the fair. No driveways will be blocked, however.

The free hayride is sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate. Board the horse-drawn covered wagon from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Walgreens parking lot at Castro and Jersey streets and at 24th and Noe streets.

Other sponsored activities are the photo booth, with costumes and props, operating noon to 3 p.m. next door to Cliché Noe Gifts + Home (co-sponsored by Edward Jones and Cliché Noe); the sidewalk chalk-drawing contest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Olive This Olive That; and face-painting outside DavidsTea, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rare Device, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Cliché Noe, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Live entertainment is on the bill, too. The Clef Divers, an a cappella singing group, will stroll and sing along 24th Street, starting at 1 p.m. Dancers will do the hula outside Just for Fun, also at 1 p.m., and musicians will play at the Noe Valley Farmers Market from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SummerFest is a gift to the community by the Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals Association and the Noe Valley Association. You can find out more at noevalleysummerfest.com.



Can we ride him? No, but kids can have fun petting and feeding the miniature horses, alpacas, and goats arriving June 20 at SummerFest on Noe Street. 2014 photo by Sally Smith

Cars, Bikes, and Pedestrians

A free public forum on traffic in Noe Valley will take place Monday, June 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (between Elizabeth and 23rd streets). The meeting will be held in the church's upstairs sanctuary, which is now accessible by elevator.

Panelists include District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener; Deanna DeSedas, public outreach coordinator for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; Livable Streets Project Liaison Neal Patel; and representatives from SFMTA Enforcement, the San Francisco Police Department, and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. The moderator will be the Rev. David Brown, interim pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry, Presbyterian Church (USA).

The title of the forum is "Can't We All Just Get Along: Cars, Bicycles, and Pedestrians in Noe Valley." The goals are to clarify laws pertaining to traffic and to foster etiquette and courtesy on neighbor-

hood streets. There will be a question-and-answer period.

Rev. Brown says, "This is the beginning of several forums on community issues" that the church is organizing. For information, call 415-282-2317 or email office@noevalleyministry.org.

Adda Clevenger Students Perform *Oliver!*

Oliver! was both a popular Broadway musical by Lionel Bart and an acclaimed film based on the Charles Dickens novel *Oliver Twist*. Now, the students at Adda Clevenger School on Fair Oaks Street will bring it to life again on Thursday and Friday, June 11 to 12, at the Mercy High School Theater, 3250 19th Ave., near Stonestown. Showtime both

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

San Jose Avenue 'Road Diet'

A proposed traffic plan that would have a major impact on drivers who use I-280 and San Jose Avenue will be the focus of a community meeting next month. The Upper Noe Neighbors is hosting the July 8 event, which starts at 7:30 p.m. at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is ready to implement the plan, which calls for reducing the freeway exit ramp onto northbound San Jose Avenue from two lanes to one. The project is Phase II of the agency's effort to slow traffic speeds from the San Jose Avenue exit to the stoplight at Randall, Mission, and Dolores streets. The first phase cut the number of merging lanes from three to two and provided a safer bike lane.

"These changes did not bring about the desired 15 mph speed reduction along the corridor," according to agency engineer Damon Curtis. "We will be moving forward with Phase II beginning on June 2." Both phases are part of the Northbound San Jose Avenue & I-280 Off-Ramp Road Diet Pilot Project, launched in June of 2014.

Critics have complained that the earlier lane reduction led to traffic jams along San Jose Avenue, which feeds cars and shuttle buses into Noe Valley, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and the Mission. They said merging the two lanes into one would exacerbate the gridlock.

For information on the meeting, email president@uppernoeneighbors.com. To view the project, go to Projects at www.sfmta.com.

—Corrie M. Anders

Supervisor Wiener Paves Way for In-Laws

Hoping to make a dent in the housing shortage in San Francisco, District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener has proposed legislation that would allow homeowners and landlords in Noe Valley—and in Glen Park and Diamond Heights—to construct new in-law units on their properties.

"These units are the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing," said Wiener, in introducing the measure April 14. "They are a piece of the puzzle" needed to increase rental space in a city that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, added nearly 50,000 residents from 2010 to 2014.

The new legislation replicates Wiener's Castro District in-law legislation, passed by the Board of Supervisors last year as a prototype. It allows owners to add new units in garages, basements, attics, and other vacant spaces within their buildings, and relaxes certain density limits and building code provisions.

"Now, we're expanding to additional neighborhoods in order to provide homeowners and apartment building owners with the same flexibility," Wiener said.

In Noe Valley, the change would apply to parcels within 1,750 feet of the Noe Valley Neighborhood Commercial District, which runs along 24th Street and parts of Castro and Church streets.

Wiener said there had been "strong support" in the neighborhood. "When

I introduced the Castro legislation [in April 2014], a number of residents of Noe Valley asked me when I intended to extend the legislation to Noe Valley," he said.

Wiener's legislation for District 8 neighborhoods contains several restrictions. A new unit cannot exceed 750 square feet and must be built within the envelope of the existing building—without increasing its height or bulk. The new unit also must have its own kitchen and bathroom. Subdividing a current unit is not allowed. Buildings with 10 or fewer existing units are limited to one new in-law unit. Larger buildings are allowed a maximum of two. Any in-law unit created in a currently rent-controlled building also will be regulated by rent control.

Last summer, the Planning Department noted that the looser rules in the Castro could produce as many as 400 new units. So far, only one new unit has been created since the trial began, though Wiener said "a number of other units" are in the pipeline.

"These units don't spring up overnight," he said.

In late April, the Board of Supervisors approved additional legislation that gives legal status to an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 illegal in-laws built before 2013 in San Francisco.

For more information, contact Wiener's office at 415-554-6968.

—Corrie M. Anders

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

nights is 7 p.m.

Student actors will play all the many parts, including Fagan, Mr. Bumble, the loving Nancy, and brutal Bill Sykes, as well as Oliver and the Artful Dodger. The cast will be in full costume—and full voice—and a professional orchestra will play the music, including the memorable “As Long As He Needs Me.” Period sets will make the production look authentic.

Three teachers from the school have been key in the production. Will Huddleston is the theatrical director, Alexis Murphy-Egri the musical director, and Cade Burkett production manager.

Tickets are available online at www.addaclevevenger.org. Under Performing Arts, click on Current Production, then click on the photo. Proceeds go to pay for the performance. Any net proceeds will go toward next year’s play or musical.

The Picture Book Story

If you are interested in children’s picture books—as a parent, writer, illustrator, or aficionado—Folio Books has an event for you, on Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m. Creston Books of Berkeley, a children’s picture book publisher, has organized a panel of five Bay Area authors and illustrators to discuss the art—and text—of storytelling for children.

The panelists are Muon Van and April Chu, author and illustrator of *In a Village by the Sea*; Georgia Lyon, author-illustrator of *How to Be Human: Diary of an Autistic Girl*, under the pseudonym Florida Frenz; Julie Downing, illustrator



The city has allocated funds for a new trail on the forested slope rising above Beacon Street and connecting to Walter Haas Park. The path, as currently designed, will be mostly earthen path with four sets of box steps. *Concept plan courtesy SF Recreation and Park Department*

of *Don’t Turn the Page*; and David Schwartz, author of *Rotten Pumpkin*.

The evening is free. Folio Books is located at 3957 24th St.

LGBT Pride in Noe Valley

June is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month around the world. Celebratory events are planned throughout California, San Francisco, and Noe Valley.

The main events in San Francisco take place on Pride Weekend June 26 to 28, and include three marches. The Trans March kicks off at Dolores Park Friday, June 26, at 6 p.m. It’s followed on Saturday by the Dyke March, gathering at Dolores Park at 6 p.m.

The San Francisco Pride Parade is Sunday, June 28, starting at 10:30 a.m. at Market and Beale streets and proceeding

along Market to Eighth Street, with parading to follow at the Pride Celebration in Civic Center. For the complete calendar of activities, see sfpride.org.

In Noe Valley, the big event will be a “LGBTQ Pride Reading” by five local authors, at Odd Mondays on Monday, June 15, 7 to 8 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. Wayne Goodman is launching his new picaresque novel, *The Seed of Immortality*, and will be the featured reader. Other readers include Bud Gundy, Rick May, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, and Arisa White.

Meanwhile, the LGBT seniors group Openhouse, which meets at 30th Street Senior Center, among other locations, is looking for volunteers to help collect donations at the various gates to the Pride Celebration June 27 and 28. If you’d like to help, email suzi@openhouse-sf.org or call 415-296-8995.

They’re Cooking at St. Paul’s

Seasoned tri-tip, mesquite smoked pork ribs, southwestern marinated chicken, handmade assorted sausage links, corn on the cob, longhorn potato salad, cowboy beans, grilled veggies, watermelon... All that food and more will be available at the St. Paul’s Catholic Church All You Can Eat BBQ, Saturday, June 6, 5:30 to 9 p.m. The event will be at the parish center, located up the driveway between the church and St. Paul’s School next door at Church and 29th streets.

BBQ tickets are \$50 for adults, \$15 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Call 415-648-7538 for reservations. Or you can buy tickets at the St. Paul’s Rectory, 221 Valley St.—Monday through Friday—or after mass on Sundays. Proceeds go toward parish operating expenses.

Planting on the Boulevard

Free on Saturday, June 20, from 9 a.m. to noon? You can get some great exercise by helping to add new plants to the median strip on Diamond Heights Boulevard between Diamond Street and Addison Way. Paul Matalucci, who heads up this Diamond Heights project, says, “No experience required. Just a willingness to dig in the dirt and laugh.”

The San Francisco Department of Public Works will close a traffic lane on either side of the median for safety and provide safety vests and tools. The volunteer project team will offer kneepads and a free lunch following the planting. Team leaders will demonstrate proper planting technique.

Meet at 9 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, at the corner of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Addison Way, across from the dog park. Please let Paul Matalucci know you’re planning to help, at paul@wordwc.com or 415-826-

New Hillside Hiking Trail Approved

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission has voted to replace an unsanctioned trail that ran through the mini forest between Billy Goat Hill and Walter Haas Park.

At its May 21 meeting, the commission authorized \$147,000 in Open Space funds to construct a new footpath with 560 feet of earthen trail and 120 feet of box steps. The steps will be located on the curves and entries to the steep, zigzagging path.

Construction is expected to start this fall, said Rec and Park spokesperson Connie Chan, and the old trail will be allowed to revert to its natural state.

A “modest” amount of split-rail fencing will be built to “guide” users to the trail starts and to discourage short-cutting, according to the plan. One entry will be located off Beacon Street at the top of Billy Goat Hill, and the other on the north or back side of Walter Haas Park, located off Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Along the route, five trees that were considered hazardous will be removed and three others will be pruned for trail safety. The plan also includes buffer zones of small trees and other vegetation, designed to protect the privacy of residents in nearby homes.

The original design was drawn up following a community meeting Dec. 10 at Upper Noe Rec Center. On May 18, Rec and Park held an outdoor meeting on the trail site to hear last-minute concerns.

The trail has not been given an official name but has been variously called the Beacon Street Trail and the Walter Haas Park Trail. For information, email Lisa Wayne, Open Space manager, at lisa.wayne@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6326.

—Corrie M. Anders

0045, so he has an accurate head count for food, drink, tools, and equipment.

Fatherhood Made Easy

Famous Noe Valley stay-at-home dad Mike Adamick has just published another book in his Dad’s Book of Awesome series. This time it’s *Dad’s Book of Awesome Recipes*. His first book was *Dad’s Book of Awesome Projects*, published in 2013. Last year, it was *Dad’s Book of Awesome Science Experiments*. Altogether, the three books present plenty of activities dads—or moms—can enjoy with their kids.

Each book has a pretty awesome subtitle too: 25+ Fun Do-It-Yourself Projects for Families, From Stilts and Super-Hero Capes to Tinker Boxes and Seesaws (*Awesome Projects*); 30 Inventive Experiments to Excite the Whole Family! From Boiling Ice and Exploding Soap to Erupting Volcanoes and Launching Rockets (*Awesome Science Experiments*); and now 100+ Recipes the Whole Family Will Enjoy! From Sweet Candy Bacon to Cheesy Chicken Fingers (*Awesome Recipes*). The latest book also has such delicacies as mango hedgehogs, spaghetti-tips, and the Nacho Tower of Doom (contributed by Adamick’s wife, Dana).

The books are printed in colorful oversized paperbacks (8 inches by 9-1/4 inches). All three are available at Folio Books on 24th Street or online. Father’s Day is Sunday, June 21. Just sayin’.

This month’s Short Takes were written by Richard May.

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Noe Valley Views



Swinging Noe Family. Ten-month-old Flora shows delight during her first swing ride under the guidance of parents Sophia Park and Fabrice Della Mea, who'll be celebrating his first Father's Day on June 21. Many exhilarating rides await them. *Photo by Art Bodner*



A Rose for Mom. It was cloudy and chilly on Sunday, May 10, but Stern Grove Festival's "Grove on the Road" music war med the moods of all who gathered at the Noe Valley Town Square. And while Dad corralled a toddler and the dog, Mom was presented with a token of her special day from a wingless angel. Photo by Art Bodner

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OTHER VOICES

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The Truth of It

By Dipika Kohli

Seattle lay at the tip of a long diagonal from my parents' state, which is all the way on the East Coast in North Carolina. I'd needed to put distance between my family and me. Jealous of friends whose parents came to visit—taking them out for posh meals in Belltown, sharing and connecting—I saw that being Punjabi-American meant being mostly quiet about the things that really mattered. Which is why it was so hard to deal with, when the thing that happened did.

In Seattle, I was looking for real connection, perhaps something to make up for a sister I didn't have with whom I could confide, a sister I could comfort, and be comforted by. I'd imagined that my little brother could do that, since we had the same experiences together in our early years. But, of course, he's a guy.

In the gleaming city in the Northwest, there seemed to be plenty of chances to meet people, especially smart women. I got it into my head that I could invent some composite of personalities who might "be there" for me—in a way that my brother couldn't—when things got hard, or lonely, or too quiet and gray. Could I make friends with lots of women, and somehow, in so doing, manage to create a feeling, at least, of having someone close by who was female and kind of knew me?

As we age, we see it more clearly: people have their own stuff going on, all the time. So it wasn't personal, when no one seemed to care too much about how it had felt to lose my baby-in-the-making. First pregnancy. A puncturing diagnosis. A heart-wrenching, gut-choking choice.

"It's like carpooling," said one friend, a photographer with an artist's eye. "You know people for as long as they're

traveling the same vector with you, but when your paths veer, that's it. You say goodbye. Maybe you'll see them again, maybe you won't." Driving up I-5 from Portland, she at the wheel and me riding shotgun, we kept our gazes forward-facing, through a giant windshield, rain patters just starting. We were quiet for a long time. I didn't know she would be one of those who'd fade into the background, like we missed the connection to a new road and a farther-on exit, when I'd tell her through trembling quivers that I'd lost my pregnancy, after all. *It's like carpooling. Maybe you'll see them again, maybe you won't.*

Getting pregnant the summer of 2005 was supposed to be a highlight, wasn't it? But that thing happened. The diverging, and pulling away. "I'm kind of busy this week," came the responses to invites for coffee or lunch.

Getting pregnant the summer of 2005 was supposed to be a highlight, wasn't it? But that thing happened. The diverging, and pulling away. "I'm kind of busy this week," came the responses to invites for coffee or lunch. Old girlfriends didn't want to hear how I was so tired all the time, or felt like having to pee, or what a flutter in the abdomen, just there, just new, could trigger in the heart. Pregnancy and the newborn became topics relegated to Internet forums, where we all participated knowing how contrived it was, what with oversaturated JPEGs

and impossibly smart captions.

Having just turned thirty-one, I was thinking that this was it, the next phase, the thing to talk about with girlfriends I'd been getting to know over nights out, what with listening to their stories about dating, about teenage crushes, about the books we liked, and the places we were discovering. Wasn't this the most fantastic place of all, the one that we'd most want to share in? But, no. It was, "Oh, congratulations, but I've got other plans." Had I been wrong about the sense of connectedness with these women, also my age, also in the city, seeking and searching? A twinge of failure hit me, there.

Then, I got the diagnosis.

My baby had a defect.

A stubborn, extra chromosome. Down Syndrome.

My mother, a woman I don't talk to, had told my relatives not to call me, because I was "depressed." People who did reach out said, "Just try again." They didn't know the whole story. Which is exactly why I was so relieved to find I did, in fact, have one true friend. Paige, a medical doctor, sensed it. She brought a single-stem, white flower over to my apartment one afternoon, minutes after I'd picked up her call and said, "Will you come over?" We often went for spontaneous walks around the neighborhood, but that day, we stayed put.

I buzzed her up and opened the door. Her eyes looked to me as though they already knew, even as she extended the offering. "You just sounded so sad on the phone." We stood in the doorway and I blurted the whole thing—feelings of already pulling away from the little being in my abdomen, but wanting to cling to her, too—collapsing, holding my belly, feeling the little scoot of the newly forming bones. Five months along. Paige knew what that looked like, as in scientifically, and told me, straight up. She held my wrists the way she'd held the stem and let me speak. She was there, to hear me, when the deep fright, loneliness, and the biggest ache my heart has ever known

swallowed me whole in overwhelm.

Even though Paige is in another state now, and I'm in Asia, and we don't talk or message each other, I'm still very grateful to her. She was there for me, in a way no one could dare to be, right then. At that darkening-sky moment in our shared carpool of life, she was summer light. I'll never forget how much that mattered, how much strength she imparted to me to trust myself to do the thing I didn't want to do, but knew I would. I learned just how vulnerable a doctor could be when she wasn't in a pressed white coat in a hospital, wasn't on stage, wasn't even trying to be, but was totally honest and open. For all my life I will remember the shape, color, and scent of that very essence of how it felt just then to have, for an afternoon's instant, one very real, very true friend. ●

• • •

Dipika Kohli is the author of The Dive, a true story about fetal loss and its multiplicity of complications. Her essay "The Truth of It" is included in the anthology Sisters Born, Sisters Found: A Diversity of Voices on Sisterhood, a winner in the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Kohli also is an artist, who does collage and "conversation installations," which she describes as "a bit like cocktail parties, but the spaces are changing and the topics and people who come to them are always rotating, too." She has participated in 50 events so far, in America, India, Cambodia, and Thailand. Born in Michigan and trained as a civil engineer, she now lives in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Find her at @dipikakohli or at Kismuth Books.

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication in Other Voices. Email OtherVoices@noevalleyvoice.com or write Other Voices, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want items returned. We look forward to hearing from you.

DocFest 2015: Portraits of the Mission—Then and Now

The Mission District, its people and its culture, will be among the themes explored at this month's 14th annual San Francisco Documentary Film Festival. More than 50 films will be shown during the event, running June 4 to 18 at four venues in the city.

A film featured on opening night is *All Things Must Pass*, about the rise and fall of Tower Records, the store that dominated the Bay Area music scene in the 1970s and '80s. Directed by Colin Hanks, the film screens June 4, 8 p.m., at the Brava Theater, 2781 24th St.

Among the festival's short documentaries will be *The Mission Cool: San Francisco Art in the '90s*. The eight-minute film tells the stories of artists Alicia McCarthy, Chris Johanson, Cliff Hengst, and Amy Frances-

chini, who lived in the Mission District two decades ago and went on to achieve international recognition. The documentary was directed by Kristin Farr, who also has delved into the issue in a video for KQED and SF-MOMA. *Mission Cool* screens June 14, 7 p.m., at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St.

Mission District resident Daniel Lichtenberg explores art and gentrification in a five-minute film, *Framed Targets*, which runs June 9, 7 p.m., as part of the "Shorts 2: Don't Call It San Fran!!!" series, also at the Roxie. It focuses on artist Truong Tran and his show about "the plight of artists and other displaced communities in San Francisco as the city's demographic changes with the rise of the technology industry and cost of living."

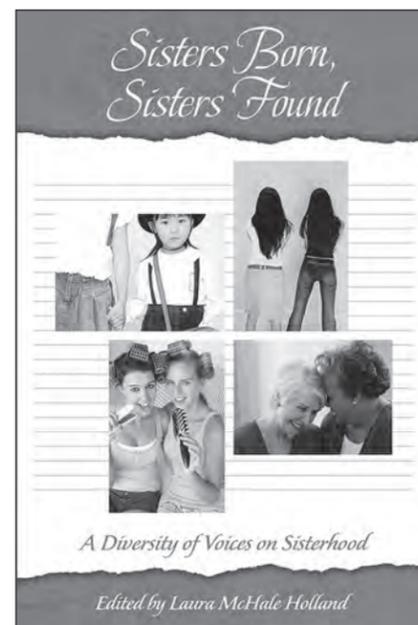
In the same vein, director Christopher Giamo of Palo Alto spotlights a Chicano man who is feeling the loss of his community in the Mission. The four-minute film, *New Mission*, plays June 9, in Shorts 2 as well.

Last Day of Freedom, a 32-minute film directed by Mission resident Nomi Talisman, ponders a brother's agonizing decision whether to call the police on a sibling who has committed a crime. It airs June 15, 7 p.m., at the Roxie. Other venues include the Vogue and Balboa theaters.

The festival is sponsored by the nonprofit San Francisco Indiefest. General admission starts at \$12.

For more information, go to sfindie.com or call 415-820-3907.

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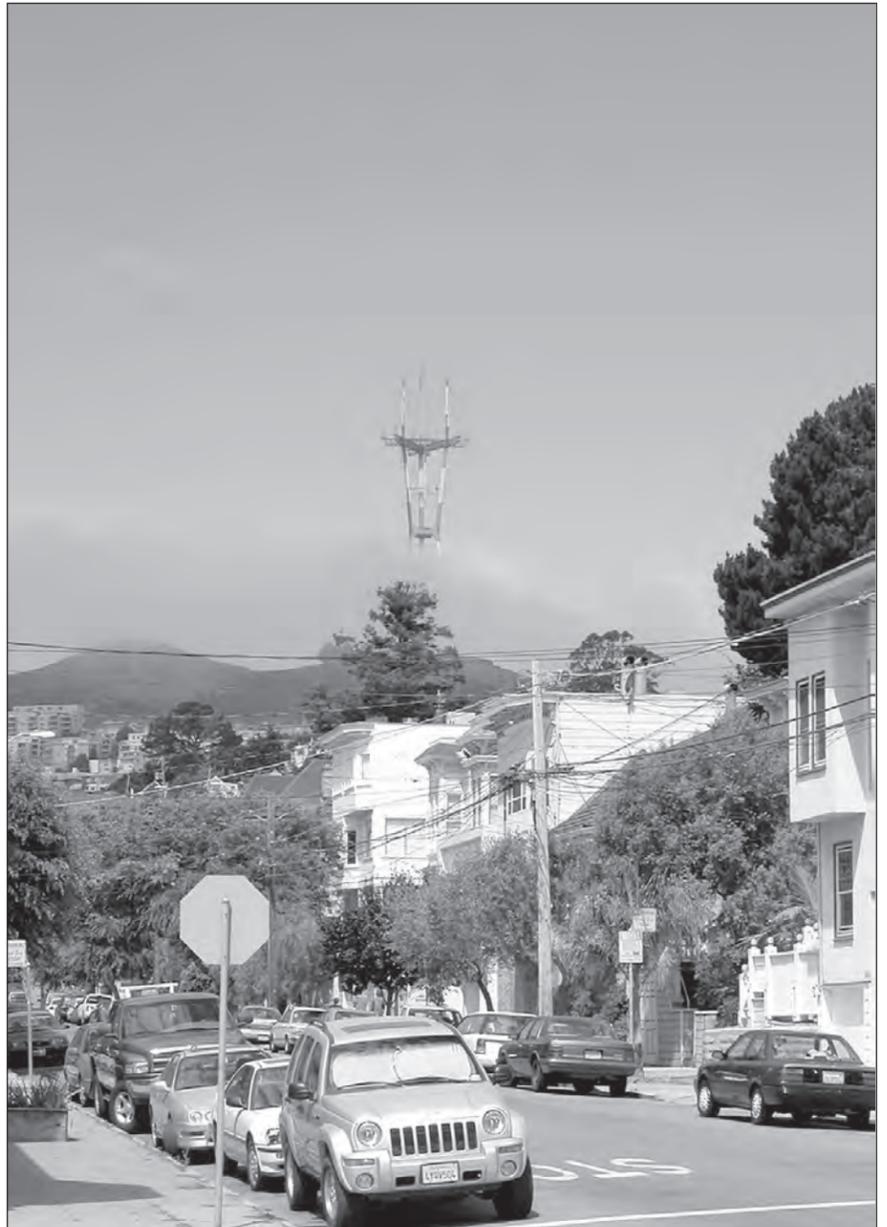
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Noe Valley Views



Fog Line. Sometimes it stops just at the top or west of Twin Peaks as if afraid to ruin the lovely warm day in Noe Valley.
Photo by Jack Tipple



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Submissions: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of short fiction, essays, or poetry, particularly those relating to Noe Valley. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include a phone number.

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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the **July/August 2015** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of July. **The deadline for Class Ads is June 15.**

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

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. We appreciate your support.

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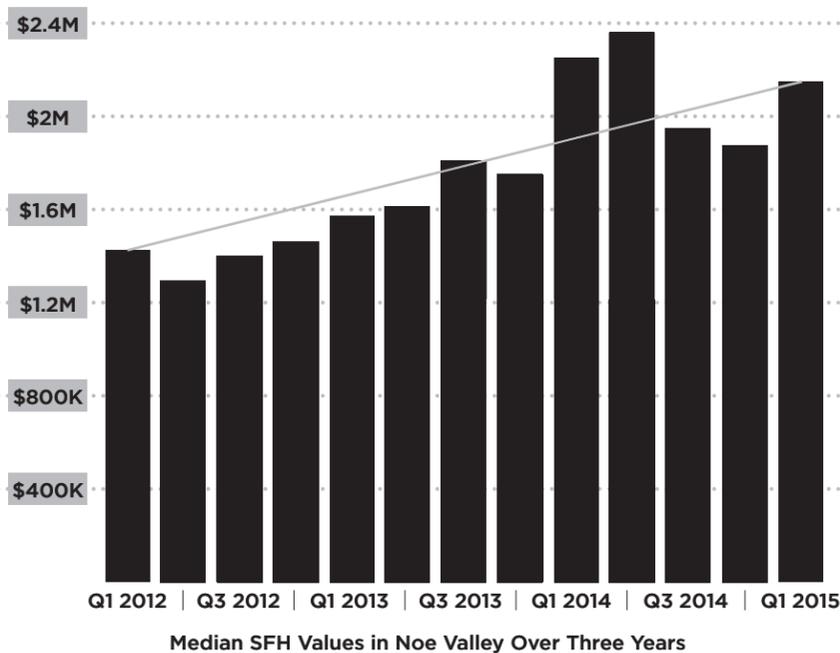
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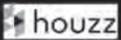
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June 1: The ODD MONDAYS series holds a participatory event by Alexandra Jacopetti Hart and David "Lucky" Goff, authors of *The Age of Actualization: A Handbook for a Growing Elder Culture*. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizzeria, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

June 1-17: CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts "Super Contemporary," an exhibit pairing studio artists with Bay Area artists. Mon & Tues., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

June 1-18: Israeli artist SHALOM FLASH exhibits paintings in "Views and Streets of Noe Valley and San Francisco" at Cliché Noe Gifts + Home. 4175 24th. 282-5416.

June 1-26: Artists from The Arc San Francisco exhibit their creative work in an ART EXHIBIT at the Noe Valley Library, 452 Jersey. 255-7200.

June 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.

June 1-30: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

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

June 2: "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.

June 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.

June 2-30: 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.

June 2-30: Larkin Street Youth Services gives free HIV TESTING for youth 24 and under. Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. 1800 Market. 673-0911; sfcenter.org.

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

June 3 & 17: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to Oliver, 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.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: 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.

June 3-24: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for toddlers every Wednesday at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 3-24: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Glen Park Rec Center, 70 Elk. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

June 3-24: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesday, from 4 to 8 pm, through mid-December. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

June 3-24: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anon.org.

June 3 & July 1: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

June 4: Local STORYTELLER Doris Feyling brings songs, fingerplays, and puppets to ages 3 and up. 10:30-11:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 4, 11, 18 & 25: See Jane Run offers a Tuesday RUN CLUB, beginning at 6 pm, at 3910 24th. 401-8338.

June 4-18: DOCFEST 2015, in its 14th year, hosts "Portraits of the Mission," and dozens of other documentary films. Brava, Roxie, Vogue, and Balboa theaters. For info: 820-3907; sfndie.com.

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

June 4-Oct. 30: The NIGHT MARKET at UN Plaza features local vendors and artists, live music, and food trucks. 5-10 pm. Seventh and Market. fridaynightmarketsf.org.

June 5: Community Boards fifth annual SF PEACEMAKER AWARDS begins with an 8:30 to 11 am workshop, "Gender at Work," and an 11:30 am to 1 pm lunch, ceremony, and keynote address. City Club of San Francisco, Stock Exchange Tower, 155 Sansome. 920-3820.

June 5: Emma Christensen introduces Brew Better BEERS: Learn (and Break) the Rules for Making IPAs, Sours, Pilsners, Stouts, and More. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 5-26: 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.

June 5-26: 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.

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

June 6: Folio Books hosts EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY, with teachers, librarians, and teaching assistants getting 20 percent off purchases. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 6: Charles Spiegel discusses DIVORCE OPTIONS for married couples and registered domestic partners at the Jewish Community Center. 9:30 am-12:30 pm. 3200 California. cp-sf.com/resources/divorce-options-workshop.

June 6: POETS A.D. Winans and Linda Lerner read from their work at Alley Cat Books, starting at 4 pm. 3036 24th. 824-1761.

June 6: St. Paul's Church hosts an All You Can Eat BBQ to benefit the 104-year-old church and its programs. 5:30-9 pm. Parish Center, Church and 29th. 648-7538.

June 6-27: 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.

June 6-27: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. 295 Day. 205-5855; noevalleyreccenter.com.

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

June 7: Hugh Acheson discusses *The Broad Fork: Recipes for the Wide World of Vegetables*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 7 & 21: 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.

June 7 & 28: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to Stanley the dog; ages 4 to 7. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 7-28: 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.

June 7-28: 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.

June 7-28: The SF Museum and Historical Society gives Sunday tours of the OLD MINT at 1:30 and 3 pm. 88 Fifth. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

June 9: The Noe Valley Library offers an eREADER CLASS from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 9: Folio Books hosts LEGO Play Night for all ages. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 9: Christopher Pollock discusses "Learning about Golden Gate PARK HISTORY through New Technology" at the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7-9:30 pm. 455 Golden Gate. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

June 10: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group takes on Søren Kierkegaard's *The Knight of Faith*. 6:15-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

June 10, 17 & 24; July 1, 8 & 15: The SF Fire Department offers NERT TRAINING on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 10 pm. St. Kevin Church, 702 Cortland. To register: 970-2024; http://bit.ly/1fNNLMw.

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

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

June 11: Brigit Binns introduces *Eating Up the West Coast: The Best Road Trips, Restaurants, and Recipes From California to Washington*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 11: A BOOK LAUNCH party for Brandon Brown's *Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War* begins at 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.



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SUN JUN 7	HUGH ACHESON • THE BROAD FORK: RECIPES FOR THE WIDE WORLD OF VEGETABLES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Hugh Acheson is the chef/partner of the restaurants Five & Ten, The National, Cinco y Diez, and Empire State South, named restaurant of the year by <i>Atlanta Magazine</i> . He is winner of two 2011 James Beard Awards for Best Chef Southeast and Best American Cookbook, has been featured in numerous food and wine publications, and appears on Bravo's <i>Top Chef</i> as a judge.
THU JUN 11	BRIGIT BINNS • SUNSET EATING UP THE WEST COAST: THE BEST ROAD TRIPS, RESTAURANTS, AND RECIPES FROM CALIFORNIA TO WASHINGTON • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Cookbook author Brigit Binns takes readers on a mouthwatering tour along scenic highways and picturesque back roads of the Pacific coast.
SAT JUN 13	SHAUNA SEVER • REAL SWEET: MORE THAN 80 CRAVE-WORTHY TREATS MADE WITH NATURAL SUGARS • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • <i>Real Sweet</i> uses natural sugars that pack in subtly amazing flavors that elevate treats of every kind.
SAT JUN 20	WARREN BOBROW • BITTERS AND SHRUB SYRUP COCKTAILS: RESTORATIVE VINTAGE COCKTAILS, MOCKTAILS, AND ELIXIRS • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • If you love vintage cocktails, you'll surely enjoy this guide to mixing delicious elixirs.
THU JUN 25	JENNIFER JORDAN • EDIBLE MEMORY: THE LURE OF HEIRLOOM TOMATOES AND OTHER FORGOTTEN FOODS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Jennifer Jordan examines the ways that people around the world have sought to identify and preserve old-fashioned varieties of produce.
SUN JUN 28	MIYOKO SCHINNER • HOMEMADE VEGAN PANTRY • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • A guide to creating vegan versions of staple ingredients to stock the fridge and pantry.
WED JUL 1	TARA AUSTEN WEAVER • ORCHARD HOUSE: HOW A NEGLECTED GARDEN TAUGHT ONE FAMILY TO GROW • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Tara sees potential and promise in a neglected and wild Seattle yard, not only for the edible bounty the garden could yield for her family, but for the personal renewal she and her mother might reap along the way.

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CALENDAR

June 11 & 12: Students at Adda Clevenger School perform the MUSICAL *Oliver!* based on the Charles Dickens novel. 7 pm. Mercy High School Theater, 3250 19th Ave. addaclevenger.com.

June 12: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of Roman Polanski's 2010 FILM *The Ghost Writer*, based on the book *The Ghost* by Robert Harris. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 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.

June 13: The Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR features nine private gardens open from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets available at the Farmers' Market, at local shops, and at friendsnoevalley.com.

June 13: Maria Luna teaches the history and culture of Mexican FOLK DANCE; ages 4 and up are invited to dress in costume. 1:30-2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

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

June 13: Shauna Sever discusses *Real Sweet: More Than 80 Crave-Worthy Treats Made With NATURAL SUGARS*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 13: Artists' Television Access hosts 16mm SHORT FILMS from their archives. 3-4:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 14: PFLAG's monthly support group hosts a presentation by reps from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. 2-4:15 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflags@aol.com.

June 15: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts LGBTQ PRIDE READINGS hosted by Richard May, featuring *The Seed of Immortality* with author Wayne Goodman. 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.

June 15: LITQUAKE's Epicenter features Maggie Nelson in conversation with Lucy Corin. 7 pm. Viracocha, 998 Valencia. litquake.com.

June 16: The Noe Valley Library offers "Screen Time with ZINIO," an online collection of digital magazines. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 17: A Women's DRUMMING CIRCLE meets the third Wednesday of the month. 5:45-6:45 pm. herchurch, 678 Portola.

June 17: The Summer Celebration fundraiser of the Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB features appearances by city politicians, a no-host bar, and hors d'oeuvres. 6:30-8:30 pm. Savor, 3913 24th. noevalleydems.com.

June 17: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group takes a look at *The World According to Bertie* by Alexander McCall Smith. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 17: Singer-songwriter HEATHER COMBS, whose music has been featured on E.R. and *Grey's Anatomy*, is set to kick off a live music series at the Valley Tavern. 7-10 pm. 4054 24th. 285-0674.

June 18: Bonnie Lockhart performs "Songs and MUSIC GAMES From Around the World," for all ages. 10:30-11:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 18-28: Frameline39 International LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Castro, Roxie, and Victoria theaters in SF. For schedule and more venues, 861-1404; frameline.org/festival.

June 19: The BOOKWORMS CLUB at Folio Books meets the third Friday of the month with pizza and book discussion for ages 8 through 12. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; RSVP at foliosf.com.

June 19: Anna Jones introduces *A Modern Way to Eat: 200+ Satisfying VEGETARIAN RECIPES*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 20: Neighborhood author Mike Sullivan leads a guided walk to introduce some of his favorite TREES in Noe Valley. Meet 10:30 am at Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 20: The sixth annual Noe Valley SUMMERFEST features a hayride, a petting zoo, a chalk-drawing contest, face-painting, a photo booth; and a hula dance performance scheduled for 1 pm at Just for Fun. 11 am-5 pm. 24th between Church and Diamond. noevalleysummerfest.com.

June 20: Park Ranger Fatima tells tales about the history and the flora and fauna of the PRESIDIO. 11 am-noon. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 20: Warren Bobrow discusses *Bitters and Shrub Syrup COCKTAILS: Restorative Vintage Cocktails, Mocktails, and Elixirs*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 22: A community forum to discuss TRAFFIC and safety issues in the neighborhood begins at 6:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 23: Boswick the CLOWN, formerly of the Ringling Brothers Circus, performs for ages 3 and up. 7-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 23 & 25: Orquesta Victoria, a 12-piece TANGO orchestra from Buenos Aires performs at the Mission Cultural Center. 7 pm. 2868 Mission. 734-6478.

June 24: Jim Averbeck leads a STORYTIME with his book, *One Word from Sophia*, at Folio Books. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 24: Sour Flour's BREADUCATOR, Cat Shimizu, discusses sourdough starters for bread. 7-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 25: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 25: Jennifer Jordan introduces *Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom TOMATOES and Other Forgotten Foods*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

June 25: Folio Books hosts a panel discussion, "The Artistry of CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING," featuring artists and authors from Creston Books. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

June 26-28: PRIDE WEEKEND begins with the Friday Trans March at 6 pm and the Saturday Dyke March at 6 pm, both starting from Dolores Park, and ends with the Pride Parade on Sunday, beginning at 10:30 am at Market and Beale. sfpride.org.

June 27: OPERA for the People discusses Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

June 28: PRIDE CELEBRATION & BBQ. Worship celebration at 10:45 a.m. with BBQ at 12 noon. Bethany United Methodist Church at 1270 Sanchez at Clipper. 415-647-8393.

June 28: Miyoko Schinner discusses *Homemade VEGAN PANTRY*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

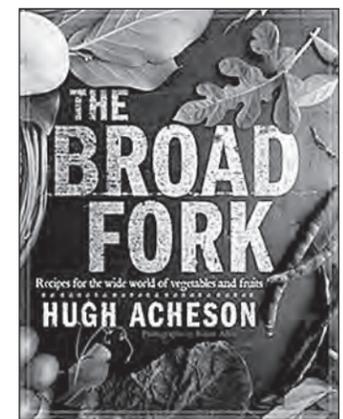
June 29: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a discussion, "The State of San Francisco Through the Lens of City College of San Francisco." 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

June 30: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

June 30: Joseph Amster discusses "Created in SF: The City's Gifts to Gastronomy" at a meeting of the SF HISTORY ASSOCIATION. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

July 1: Tara Austin Weaver introduces ORCHARD HOUSE: How a Neglected Garden Taught One Family to Grow. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

July 8: The Upper NOE NEIGHBORS meeting spotlights the San Jose Avenue/Dolores St./Randall Street traffic changes and the narrowing of lanes on the I-280 North off-ramp. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.



Omnivore Books will host famed chef Hugh Acheson and his book *The Broad Fork* on Sunday, June 7. See Calendar item.

And the Livin' is Easy
The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **July/August 2015** issue, distributed the first week of July. The deadline for Calendar items is **June 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.

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Upcoming Events at Folio Books

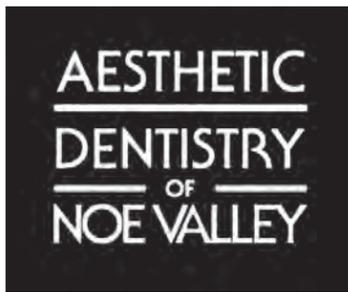
- 6-6 SATURDAY ALL DAY**
Educator Appreciation Day
All teachers, school librarians, and teaching assistants will receive 20% off ALL PURCHASES on this day. There will also be a raffle for tote bags full of books, posters, and gift certificates.
- 6-9 TUESDAY 6PM**
Lego Play Night (all ages)
Join us for a night of Lego building fun! We will have a BIG pile of Legos and lots of books for inspiration. Any creations you build will be featured in our summer window display, so don't miss this night!
- 6-11 THURSDAY 7PM**
Brandon Brown Book Launch Party
Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War
Interweaving the voices and writings of Planck, his family, and his contemporaries — with many passages appearing in English for the first time — physicist Brandon R. Brown seeks to understand Planck the thinker and human being.
- 6-19 FRIDAY 6PM**
BOOKWORMS CLUB: Paige Braddock
Every 3rd Friday of the month means it is time for pizza and bookish things with readers ages 8-12 at Folio Books! This month we will be hosting special guest Paige Braddock, author of the graphic novel *Stinky Cecil*. RSVP REQUIRED: tiny.cc/springworms
- 6-20 SATURDAY 10:30AM**
Talk & Tree Walk With Mike Sullivan
Trees of San Francisco
A short talk and a guided walk of some of author Mike Sullivan's favorite trees in Noe Valley.
- 6-24 WEDNESDAY 10AM**
Jim Averbeck | One Word From Sophia
Sophia has one true desire for her birthday. But she has Four Big Problems in the way: Mom, Dad, Uncle Conrad...and Grand-mama. Will her presentations, proposals, and pie charts convince them otherwise? Turns out, all it takes is one word.
- 6-25 THURSDAY 7PM**
The Artistry of Children's Storytelling
A Panel Featuring Creston Book Authors
Join us for an incredible evening as we celebrate the artistry of storytelling with children's authors and illustrators from Creston Books, including New York Times-celebrated duo Muon Van and April Chu (*In a Village By the Sea*), Georgia Lyon (*How to Be Human*), Julie Downing (*Don't Turn the Page*), and David Schwartz (*Rotten Pumpkin*). We will discuss the compelling, strange, and wonderful ways images and illustrations can bring children's literature to life.

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Photo courtesy Chris Faust

California Blooming at Upper Noe Rec Center

On a May 9 “drought-awareness” tour of the garden at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Markos Major (left), Shauna Woods, Sophie Wallace, and Joan Lionberger happily surveyed the lush growth of native flowers and grasses on the west side of Upper Noe Recreation Center. Visitors and Ladybug Gardeners, which meets quarterly on second Saturdays, also tended a new succulent garden along Day Street in the northeast corner of the park.

All this was taking place as Rec and Park wound down its classes for spring and began signing up Little Kickers, Petite Bakers, and yoga practitioners for the Summer Session, which runs June 1 to Aug. 15.

In late May, there were still spots available for **basketball summer camps** (seven five-day sessions between June 8 and July 31; for ages 8 to 12) and **Shred 'n' Butter SK8board Camp** (June 15 to 19, for ages 9 to 14).

To satisfy the crowd, the rec center added **Mondays** to its hours of operation for the summer, and has changed some times for auditorium free play and open gym—see below for complete schedule. Note that the center is closed on Sundays, and that hanging out in the hallways is not allowed during summer camp hours, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the rec center staff said.

You can register in person at 295 Day St., or online at www.sfreconline.org. To find out more, see www.noevalleyreccenter.com or call the center at 415-970-8061. Dogs are invited to visit **Joby's Run**, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the east end of the park, or the Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners at fundogsf.org.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING CLASSES – JUNE 1 TO AUG. 15, 2015

MONDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	
Basketball Summer Camp Tot Fitness Auditorium Free Play Open Gym	Mon., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon., 9:30-10:30 a.m. Mon., 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.* Mon., 2-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Basketball Summer Camp Auditorium Free Play Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs) Open Gym QuickStart Tennis (beginning) Combat Athletics for Kids (intermediate) Tennis (adult intermediate/advanced) Yoga - Vinyasa (all levels) Adult Boot Camp (18+)	Tues., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tues., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.* Tues., 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tues., 2-8:30 p.m. Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tues., 4-5:30 p.m. Tues., 6-7 p.m. Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Basketball Summer Camp Baby and Me (1-3 yrs) Pilates Mat Class (adult) Auditorium Free Play Open Gym Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs) Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (5-6 yrs) Tennis (adult beginning) Drop-in Volleyball (adult, free)	Wed., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wed., 1-2:30 p.m.* Wed., 2-6 p.m. Wed., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Wed., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wed., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Basketball Summer Camp Auditorium Free Play Senior Argentine Tango, beginning Open Gym Yoga - Gentle Hatha (18+) Core Stability and Balance (18+)	Thurs., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thurs., 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.* Thurs., 1-4 p.m. Thurs., 2-5 p.m.; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thurs., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Basketball Summer Camp Tot Fitness Auditorium Free Play Pilates Mat Class (adult) Open Gym Combat Athletics for Kids (fundamentals) Future Chefs (9-13 yrs) Drop-in Volleyball (adult, free)	Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.* Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fri., 2-6 p.m. Fri., 4:30-6 p.m. Fri., 6:30-8 p.m. Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	
Yoga - Vinyasa (all levels) Open Gym (except June 13) Auditorium Free Play QuickStart Tennis (beginning)	Sat., 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sat., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sat., noon-4:30 p.m. (may vary)* Sat., 1-2 p.m.
SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)	
*Hours are subject to change.	

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Benchmarks

By Mazook

SIT, SIP, STAY: For the first time since 1987, during the third week of May, the legendary benches on the sidewalk directly in front of Martha & Brothers Coffee (3868 24th St.) were gone, poof!

And for the first time since 1993, the four benches that wrap around Starbucks on the corner of Noe and 24th...also were gone. Poof again.

Suddenly, Downtown Noe Valley was filled with rumors about the strange disappearance of outdoor seating. One tale, from a credible source, allowed it must have been “the crazy man” who walks down 24th Street ranting about all the benches on the sidewalks. Another said it was a “crazy woman.” A third rumor alleged that a fake DPW officer had told the coffee shops that if they failed to remove the benches “immediately,” DPW would “impound” their benches.

Well, there must have been some truth to one rumor, since by the time you read this, Martha’s will have the benches back in place (unless someone else has objected) and, presumably, so will Starbucks.

According to Rachel Gordon, spokesperson for the San Francisco Department of Public Works, the city had “received a complaint that there were benches on the street blocking the sidewalk on 24th Street, and when we looked at our records, we found that neither Martha’s Coffee nor Starbucks had permits for their benches.”

Gordon says her department sent a representative out to both coffeehouses to inform them that they did not have permits. At May’s end, Gordon confirmed that Martha Conroy

(the one and only) had made her application immediately and the Starbucks’ application was soon expected. Further, Gordon said, each business had voluntarily removed their benches pending issuance of the permits.

Starbucks’ Noe Valley manager, Christie Gorman, reports that the benchless store has been “getting comments all day, every day, and I explain that our four benches will return soon.”

Gordon also confirmed that an individual was representing himself as a DPW official to Starbucks and threatening to have the benches removed immediately. DPW is looking for that individual, who would have allegedly been “impersonating an officer,” according to the incident report.

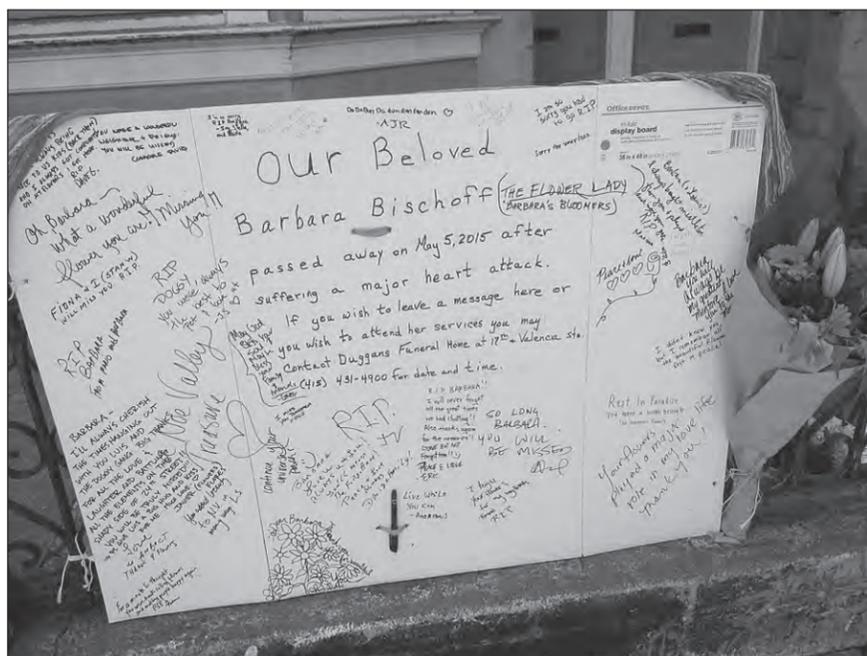
The last time this happened was almost 20 years ago, in the summer of ’97, when DPW officers invaded Downtown Noe Valley to conduct “a three-month ‘pilot project’ aimed at increasing compliance with the city’s sidewalk and outdoor seating laws” (see Dodie Hamblen’s “Benches on 24th Street Disappearing,” July/August 1997 *Noe Valley Voice*).

The raid caused an uproar among many popular businesses, including Small Frys, Little Italy, Noe Valley Bakery, and others. (On that occasion, Martha’s and Starbucks were innocent, having already gotten their permits.) Many merchants removed their benches, but refused to pay the fees. The Wooden Heel Shoe Repair even removed the bench that had sat in front of its 24th Street store for 63 years!

Perhaps an irony is that one of the first things done by the Noe Valley Association, after forming in 2005, was to put benches back on the street. There are the parklets. But you can also find seating in front of the Harry Aleo public parking lot near Castro (along with a table and chessboard), in front of Whole Foods, as well as at the Noe Valley Town Square.



NOE VALLEY COFFEE is what Dolores Street resident Christian Ritter calls the coffee he has been making at home as a hobby.



A makeshift memorial blossomed on 24th Street the day the neighborhood learned that “Flower Lady” Barbara Bischoff had died. One of the remembrances was a note saying, “Your flowers played a major role in my love life—thank you!” Another called Bischoff, who for many years offered bouquets from the fence in her front yard, a “Noe Valley treasure.” Photo by Pamela Gerard

He and his wife, Zoe, moved to the neighborhood in 2002 and enjoy roasting beans they get from various places around the world. “During a trip to Italy before moving here to Noe Valley, I bought a beautiful espresso machine that solidified my passion for ‘specialty coffee,’ which I have had since I was a kid up in Mendocino, and my mom would take me and my brothers to a coffee store in Ukiah. I will never forget that smell of their freshly ground coffee.”

Ritter has installed a custom 1 kg coffee roaster in the garage, called the Huky 500, “where I roast coffee that ultimately has a balanced and sweet flavor to it by sourcing single-origin, high-quality green coffee beans with a light to medium roast,” because, he continues, “often the flavor of coffee is burnt and over-extracted, which tastes nasty and sour rather than a floral and sweet flavor



Barbara Bischoff was known for her smile and her style. Photo courtesy Bernadette Melvin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

[in the medium roast].”

Two months ago, this self-admitted techie (“I work in wireless”), started roasting a batch on Sundays, and then delivering it first thing, at 7 a.m. the following Monday morning, to Spin City Coffee, on the corner of Sanchez and 26th streets.

“It is very gratifying to see people waiting for my coffee delivery and that my blends appear to be very popular,” Ritter says.

As to the future of Noe Valley Coffee, Ritter says he’s not giving up his day job. However, he says that word of his coffee has spread and the newly opened restaurant Bel on Mission at Valencia Street is now serving his blends. (Bel, which specializes in Belgian food and beer, was opened by the same people who brought us Pi Bar pizzeria at 1432 Valencia St. near 25th.)

Also starting a new business between the Noe and Bernal gap is longtime Noe Valley resident Anna Burke—in partnership with Alvarado School parent Jennifer Bing. Burke describes “avenue” at 3361 Mission St. between 29th and 30th streets (www.avenuesf.com) as an event studio.

“We plan to host cocktail parties, birthday parties, and to create events for people,” she says. The inaugural party was a birthday bash for a Noe Valley 10-year-old.



POP ART: Contrary to rumors you heard here last month, a pop-up art gallery *has* popped up two doors west of St. Clair’s Liquors, in the space last occupied by Tug-Tug (and before that for many years by Castle Cleaners, and before that by the original Global Exchange). Back in the ’70s, when Bob St Clair was there, it was a garage next to a structure containing ice machines and a dispensary. When the structure was built circa 1894, it was as a horse stable. The current plan is for the structure to ultimately be torn down and replaced with a new commercial unit with residential housing above.

Hence, the property owners, Mousa Khouri and brother-in-law Mike Khouri, pending approval of their plans, have been persuaded to allow Vanessa Maida, who in addition to being a nanny in Noe Valley for several years has since 2007 served as director and curator of Fort Gallery, to hold events in TugTug’s old space, 3906 24th. With her Fort, Maida has done dozens of group and solo shows in the Bay Area and Brooklyn, N.Y.

The weekend of May 16 and 17, a “Group Exhibition of Noe Valley Artists” appeared on the walls, tables, and floors. Signs were posted and then doors opened for the public to browse the objects of art.

“Through those many shows over the last eight years, I have connected and worked with almost a hundred artists, and have created a virtual gallery...for these artists,” says Maida, “and I am keeping the artist community involved through various pop-ups, which has led me to this opportunity to share their art with this community. It’s exciting.”

She says the next show will be a prints group exhibition featuring artists from around the country, opening June 6 and 7, noon to 6 p.m. “I also am planning on hosting multiple group and solo shows through the summer,” she says.



SUGAR TOWN: Lines have been forming outside Noe Valley Bakery, with sugar-craving Noe Valleyans waiting to get their sweets. I was in one such line on Sunday, May 24, to buy a chocolate birthday cake. Sadly, I got there too late for the breadsticks, which have been put back on the menu by popular and repetitive demand—and the demand still exceeds the supply. So get there early in the day.

But that also gave me a chance to pause and admire the new counter the bakery had installed May 18 at the rear of the store. That counter is the one that many, many loyal customers helped to fund via a Kickstarter campaign for \$20,000 for bakers Michael and Mary Gassen. The Gassens had the counter



The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association filled the 24th Street office of Wells Fargo Bank on May 14 to honor several longtime local business owners and community leaders. Pictured top row from left are: Jason Lalak of the WIPP Small Business Saturday Coalition, Cecilia Crocker of Alain Pinel Realtors, Peggy Cling of the Friends of Noe Valley, Fadi Rabadi representing Savor Restaurant, Meagan Fishell of Edward Jones, Mary Gassen of Noe Valley Bakery, Sheila Ash of Noe’s Nest Bed & Breakfast, Supervisor Scott Wiener, Michael Gassen of Noe Valley Bakery, Richard May of Friends of Noe Valley, Dennis Weaver and Suzanne McDonnell of McDonnell and Weaver Law Offices, and Janell Pekkin of Olive This Olive That. Second row from left: Linda Lockyer of Friends of Noe Valley, Susan Walia of Castro Computers, Larry Kline of Noe Valley Cyclery, Nick Demopoulos of Sterling Bank. At bottom is Adrian Bonifacio of Friends of Noe Valley. Photo by Dani Sheehan-Meyer

made in France and brought to the store.

Mary Gassen says, “The whole process was a true learning experience for me.... We have been having an incredibly fun time creating all the rewards for our backers. We have backers that are getting a loaf of bread every week, some that are having cupcake parties and birthday cakes, and one backer, Meagan, backed us at the custom cake level and look what she got for Cinco de Mayo (some of her guests didn’t even realize it was a cake at first!).”

By the way, another customer-supported remodel was at the abovementioned Spin City Coffee, which also received \$20,000. You might find it interesting that many SCC devotees spin by on their bikes or walk from their nearby home offices, which segues right into our next item...



TURN UP THE VOLUME: One of the new businesses that has been settling along the Church and Sanchez Street corridors south of 24th Street is a group that has taken space near Spin City. There is no sign. And you probably would only know of them if you were a musician who wanted to record “Yesterday” tomorrow.

This group, Loudr, has, according to co-founder Sebastian Wolff, “several thousand” clients who request their services from around the globe through cyberspace. The biz was initially established six years ago in Santa Cruz. Then the licensing service was targeted specifically at a cappella groups, but the company rebranded itself and has been open to everybody for the past two years.

What Loudr does for independent musicians and their recording companies is provide a platform whereby they can get the license needed to monetize a cover song on iTunes, Spotify, or other channels worldwide (but not on YouTube).

The group has become a feature story lately for the folks at *Billboard Magazine* and CNN, and you can read many more press clippings at their cyber-site <https://loudr.fm/>.



YET MORE GROUPS TO JOIN: There is apparently a revival of the long-dormant neigh-

borhood group the Fairmount Heights Association (FHA).

In May, an ad hoc group of about 750 people was invited by email, snail-mail, and hand delivery to attend an inaugural meeting at the SFPD Police Academy in Diamond Heights, billed as an “organizational gathering and kickoff meeting #1.” The agenda was to “establish mission, elect officers, residential parking permits, and addressing recent instances of crime.”

According to co-organizer and longtime Laidley Street resident Kathy Keller, there was a core group of six people who restarted the FHA by attempting to locate the previous contacts for the group, which you could have seen in the *Voice’s* famous More Groups to Join column.

“We could not find anyone,” says Keller, who was hoping to get hold of at least a mailing list, “so we followed the borders of the 1861 Fairmount Tract, and created a 2015 mailing list of 750 residents within those borders—Arlington to Beacon and Miguel to 30th.

“To my surprise, about 60 people showed up at the meeting,” says Keller, “and what was astounding to me was that most everybody came there to get involved and in some way participate in reorganizing our neighborhood group.”

Keller says that many of those who showed up were in the tech industry. “We had no books or records or anything regarding the old Fairmount Heights Association, but a lawyer who knew about those things volunteered to form a new group to get it registered,” says Keller.

“Actually,” she adds, “we are considering calling the group the Fairmount Tract Association, as we start this process.”

For those of you who don’t know, including vast numbers of real estate people buying and selling residences, Fairmount is one of the earliest residential neighborhoods of our city, mapped and platted in 1861, with parcels sold and housing built starting in 1864. Long before Glen Park, Bernal, and Sunnyside by around 30 years, and before Diamond Heights by around 100 years.

Church Street near 30th became “Downtown Fairmount,” and a meat market that was

established in 1888 on Church near 29th became Drewes Market in 1889. Across the street was Star Bakery, at the corner of 29th and Church.



KUDOS GO OUT to the recipients of the annual awards given by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association during Small Business Week. Supervisor Scott Wiener handed out the accolades at a reception hosted by Well Fargo Bank on May 14.

Recipients included the Omar family at Shufat Market, Brigitte Lehr and her German specialties shop on Church, attorneys Suzanne McDonnell and her hubby Dennis Weaver, Michael and Mary Gassen (Noe Valley Bakery), Zaid Fakhouri of Savor, and Sam Salameh at Good News (where you can always get a copy of the current issue of the *Voice*), Sheila Ash of Noe’s Nest, and Susan Walia and Raj Walia from Castro Computers.

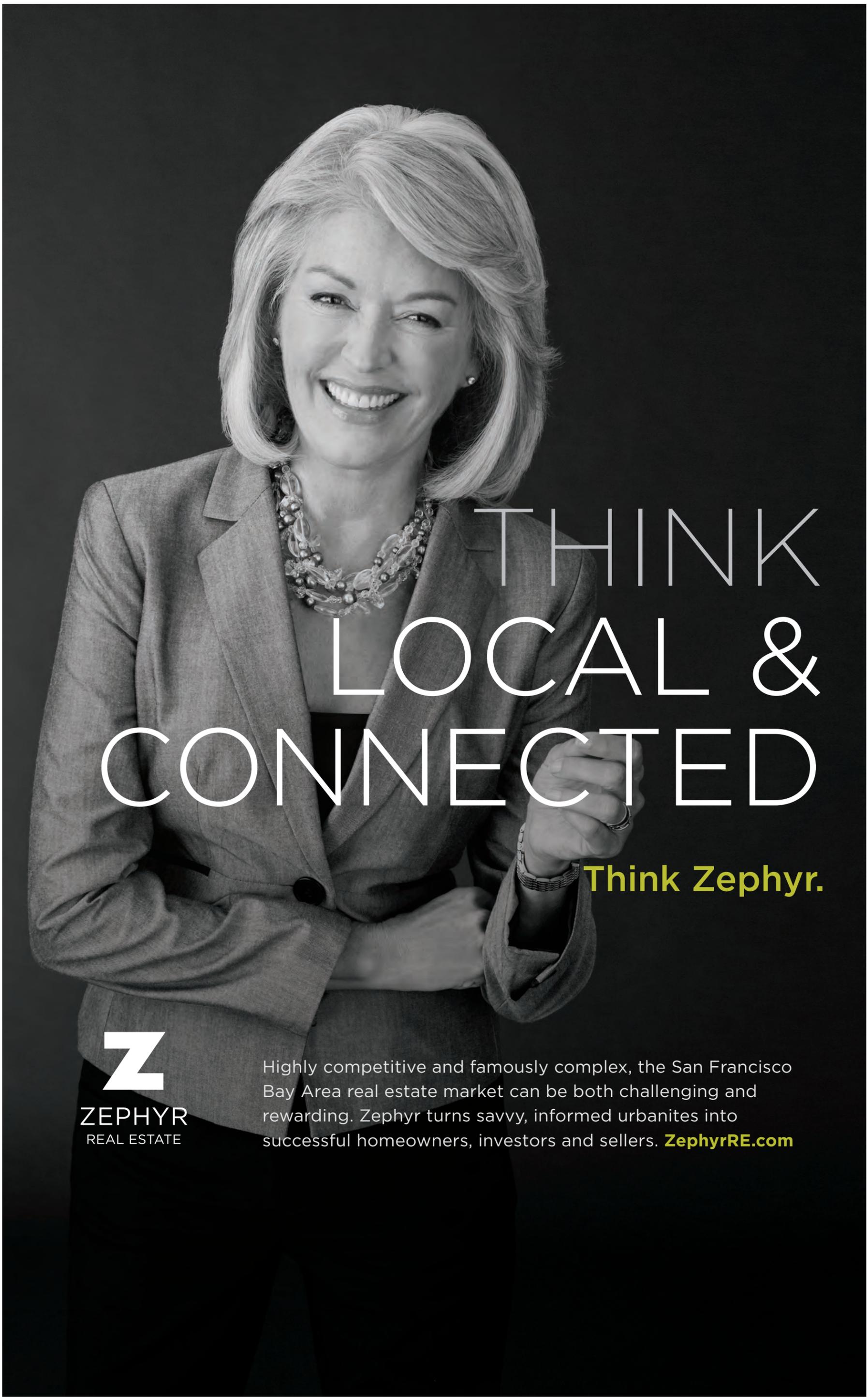
Community awards went to Peggy Cling, Todd David, Richard May, Linda Lockyer, and Adrian Bonifacio of Friends of Noe Valley, along with Jason Lalak of the WIPP Small Business Saturday Coalition, who sponsored the mural on the east wall of the Harry Aleo public parking lot, next to one of the few surviving Radio Shacks in the world.

Meagan Fishell (Edward Jones), vice president of the NVMPA, emceed the event and did a great job.



BYE-BYE TILL JULY: Before we go, it was truly sad for many to lose Barbara Sanchez Bischoff on May 5 (she was born on March 6, 1933), a treasure of Downtown Noe Valley since the 1970s, where she, with the help of her husband Louis (who died several years ago) and various family members, sold flowers from the front-yard fence of their home on 24th Street, across from Whole Foods Market. Many friends left notes and flowers at an impromptu memorial on 24th Street.

That’s all, you all. See you in July. By the way, if you have gotten this far, a great July 4 parade will take place this year (as it has for many years) along Laidley Street from Miguel to Harper. Rumor is that last year over 200 people showed up for the block party. ■



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Noe Valley Readers

Carnevale in Venice. Two costumed ladies risked their incognito leisure at the famous Florian Café when they started reading the Voice. That's **Ann Marie Packard** on the left and her traveling companion **Pacale Fion**.



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—Sue MacLoughlin and Richard Geraghty



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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Al-Anon Noe Valley
 Contact: 834-9940
 Website: www.al-anon.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@noevalleyreccenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Juri Commoners
 Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290
 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.NoeValleyMerchants.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

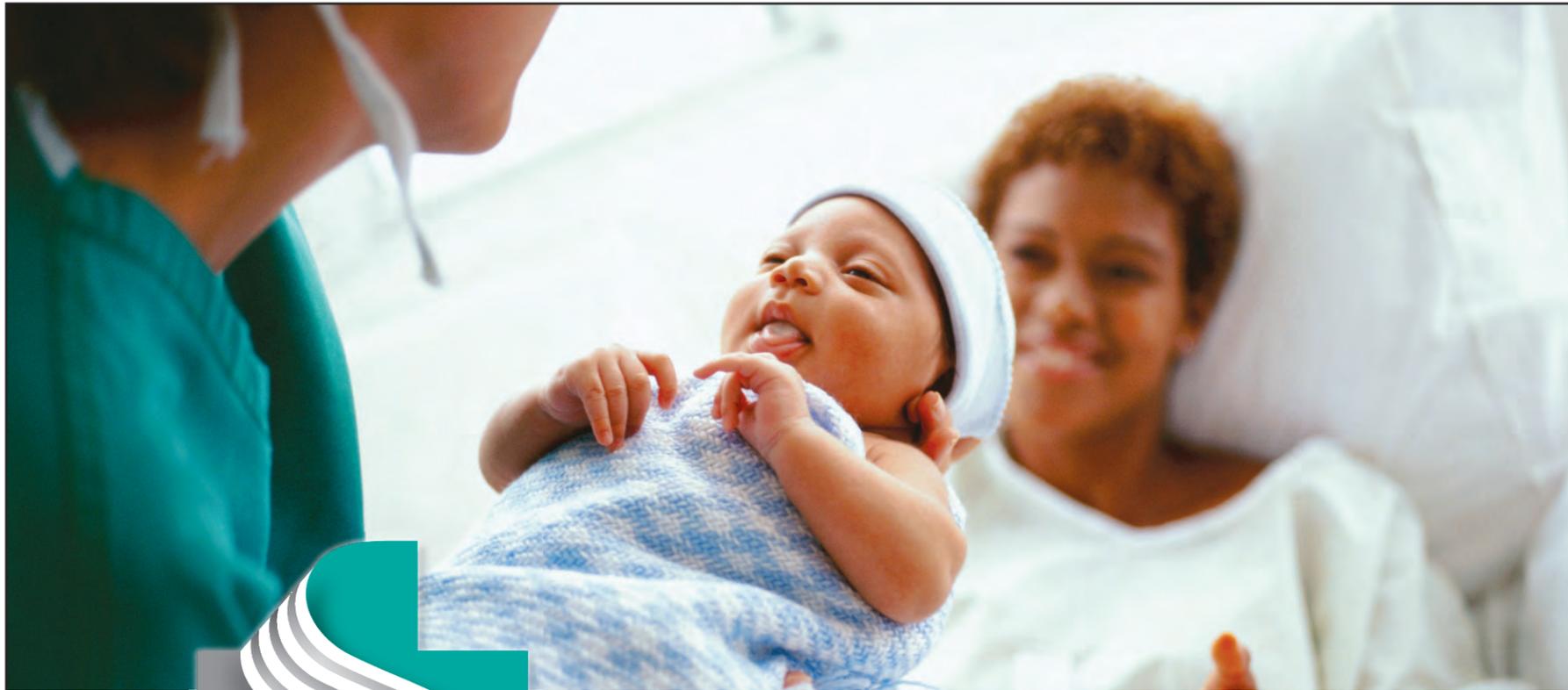
Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

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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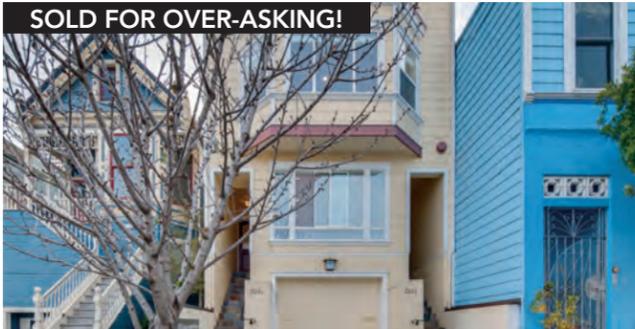
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