



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

A Piece of Her Heart

Rock Star Janis Joplin Found a Place to Crash in Noe

By Corrie M. Anders

Just about everybody remembers the crazy-looking car.

It was a 1964 Porsche painted in so many psychedelic colors you could get high just looking at it.

The little two-seater was Janis Joplin's dream car, and she drove it all over the city. The convertible was a familiar sight in Noe Valley, where the singer lived during the late 1960s era of sex, drugs, and rock and roll.

The rock star with the belting bluesy voice was at the height of her career when she died in a Hollywood hotel on Oct. 4, 1970, the victim of an accidental heroin overdose. She was 27 years old.

Nearly 50 years after her death, RM Sotheby's sold her Porsche 356 Cabriolet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Flower Power. The 1964 Porsche that once belonged to Janis Joplin recently sold at auction for more than \$1.7 million. The sale stirred up memories of when the Texas-born singer lived in Noe Valley and toiled around the neighborhood in her flashy convertible.

Photo Darin Schnabel © 2015 courtesy RM Sotheby's

Town Square's Animal Sculptures Get the Eagle Eye

Arts Committee Hearing Postponed to March 16

By Matthew S. Bajko

A trio of "Garden Guardians," statues of an owl and two toads, would serve as sentinels in the Noe Valley Town Square, under a proposed public art project for the new park.

The bronze figures of an abstract 3-foot-high owl flanked by a pair of 2-foot-high toads are the work of Scott Constable and Ene Osteraas-Constable, the married couple and artist team behind Wowhaus, which won the commission to create the public art for the community gathering space being built at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

"From an environmental standpoint, owls and toads are signs of a healthy ecosystem; both species are also endangered, so they warrant our attention. The owl is a symbol of the sky and night; the toad is a symbol of the earth and the day," stated a city description of the work.

As the *Noe Valley Voice* reported last

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Todd David Has an Idea for That

He's the Spark Plug Behind the Town Square, a Parent PAC, the Dems Club, and Now a Film School

By Matthew S. Bajko

Should one encounter Todd David out and about, it is quite likely he will be adorned in a wide brim straw hat. For it is his signature look.

"It is totally for practical purposes. I don't like sunscreen," says David, 46, who uses it to protect his bald head from the sun's rays. "As the Ashkenazi Jew that I am, I refer to it as my Ashkenazi sunscreen."

He's so known for the hat, "people are like, 'Where's the hat?' if I don't wear it," he says.

In fact, David, 46, wears many "hats" when it comes to his professional and community work. Since 2011, he has been president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley and now is in his second term as president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

Six years ago, he co-founded, and serves as president of, the Residents for Noe Valley Town Square, which successfully fought to turn a church-owned parking lot on 24th Street into a new public park, set to debut in October.

He is also the current treasurer of the San Francisco Parent Political Action

Committee, which he helped start five years ago to lobby political leaders on behalf of the city's public schools, children, and families. While the group makes endorsements of candidates and ballot measures each election year, David sends out his own endorsements to an email list of 900 people.

And that is just his volunteer work. David is working for Supervisor Scott Wiener as the political director of his campaign for state Senate, and is the campaign manager for a measure on the June

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Tenth Year for Week of Words

24 Writers and Comedians to Appear at Noe Literary Fest

By Richard May

Editor's Note: *The Voice* doesn't usually let our writers report on their own projects, but we decided to make an exception in the case of regular *Voice* scribbler Richard "Rick" May. May is the founder and organizer of Noe Valley Word Week, an event that this year will showcase the works of two dozen writers, comedians, and pundits, from March 20 to 26. With all those words spinning, who better to tell the tale than the mastermind himself? Take it away, Rick!

Chapter One

Once upon a time, back in 2007, Noe Valley was full of writers, had a busy branch library, and boasted four bookstores. The group Friends of Noe Valley decided to celebrate all this with an annual literary festival. At first, it was called Book Week. Later, the name was changed to Word Week, to include any kind of words used creatively.

Authors originally were booked by the neighborhood bookstores—Cover to Cover, Phoenix Books, the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, and Omnivore Books on Food—but as the bookstores dwindled to three, two, and then one, a Friends of Noe Valley ad hoc committee was formed to organize events. (Happily, Folio Books opened soon after Phoenix Books closed, and Charlie's Corner, a new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



What's Under the Hat. Todd David's dome can hardly contain all of his plans. Some of his latest are to create a film school in an old theater on Mission Street and to campaign for a June ballot measure that would lock in funding for city parks.

Photo by Beverly Tharp



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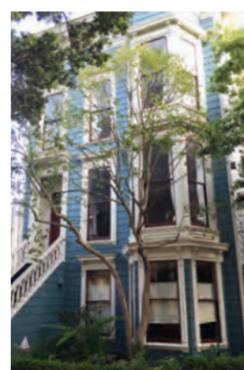


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March 10, 2016

Update on Breast Health

Anne Peled, MD
April 6, 2016

Waterworks—Overactive Bladder and Urinary Incontinence

Heidi Wittenberg, MD
March 16, 2016

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Robert J. Purchase, MD
April 20, 2016

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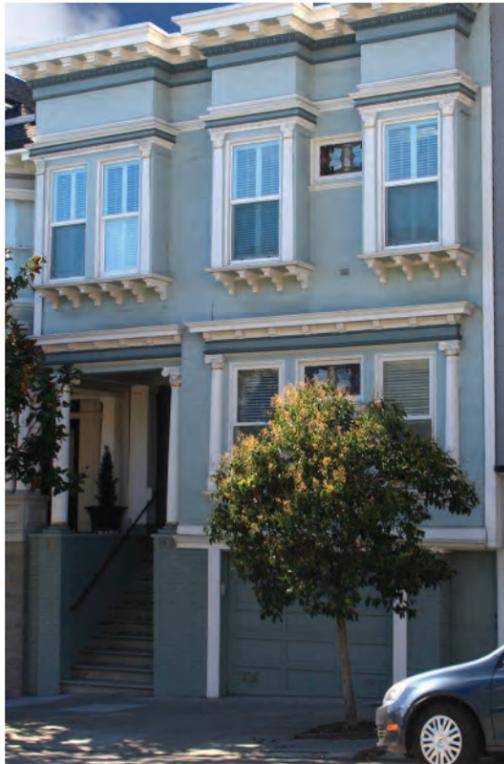
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LETTERS 49¢

Housing Program Is a Bonus

Editor:

I love Noe Valley's charms and I feel lucky to have found a rent-controlled apartment in the neighborhood six years ago. But today I find myself saddened by neighbors who are claiming that the Affordable Housing Density Bonus Program (which you covered in the February edition) threatens the neighborhood.

I am not afraid of this program. In fact, I support it because I believe that we need more housing built all across the city (and across the region). As Supervisor Scott Wiener noted in the article, the impact of this law will be quite small in Noe Valley. But it could have a much greater impact in neighborhoods that are much less dense than ours—including those on the western side of the city that have not supported their fair share of new housing in the past few decades.

Recent amendments to the proposal have made it so that developers cannot claim the bonus if they demolish any existing housing. Furthermore, any developer seeking the bonus and wanting to build higher than what standard zoning would allow will still have to go through the city's regular and rigorous design review process.

This program is one more way we can try to keep San Francisco affordable to a wide range of residents. It would have a small impact in Noe Valley and certainly won't destroy its charm. And while it will also only have a modest impact in terms of making our neighborhood affordable to more people, it's an important step in that direction. And for that reason, I hope it passes.

Eli Zigas
Diamond Street

The Void Left by Real Food Co.

Editor:

I have been watching 24th Street in San Francisco for the past 48 years—when I had my office on 24th Street for 35 years prior to retiring, and afterwards being there to take care of my buildings.

If you walk on 24th Street, you will notice several vacancies in the area, and soon you will see even more, due to the high cost of rentals. It seems everyone wants to change 24th Street to Rodeo Drive, but that is not the reason for the existence of the Noe Valley feeling.

For the past 10 years or so, there is a business that was closed due to a dispute between the clerks and the owners, who wanted to remodel the business. Why should the owner of a business be obligated to hire people by force and pay them the high wages they want? The fact is the clerks want to remain clerks and have no ambition to own and operate a business and have the responsibility that comes with running a business.

Prior to the closing of this market, it would draw people from the neighborhood as well as other areas. Those people do not come to Noe Valley anymore, and you can see the lack of foot traffic, which has gone to other markets in other areas instead. The business was a provider of organic produce at reasonable prices. Now you go elsewhere and pay high prices for them.

It is your duty as a local newspaper to fight for the rights of all people, not just 10 or so clerks that left the area to pursue other interests, thus leaving the owners with the burden of maintaining a tax bill of more than \$5 million a year. Is this Russia or China? I thought we were a democracy, not a communist state.

That \$5 million could be paid in wages. Taking the side of the employees is NOT your business. Your business is to be impartial.

Soon the dot-com'ers will be leaving, the economy is faltering, and once again we will depend on the local dwellers to sustain the economy and the stores will be empty. You will see only banks, real estate offices, beauty salons, and nail salons, and there won't be the variety of businesses to give the area the flair it once had.

The success of Noe Valley is based on the human element that composes it. It is one of the most unique places in the USA. No matter where you come from, you feel as if you belong.

Max M. Selva
Windsor, Calif.

Bought-and-Blocked Parking

Editor:

[Nov. 23, 2015] On Thursday, Nov. 16, Whole Foods parked a freezer truck behind its market on Elizabeth Street. A diesel motor turned on and off every 10 minutes, around the clock. Some neighbors complained and Whole Foods

moved the truck to one of their parking spaces—thanks for that. The truck was loud and it stunk.

After moving the vehicle on Friday morning, they put out traffic cones to preserve their two-week parking space. A week later, the space still hadn't been used for anything.

I was shopping and decided to ask someone about these bought-and-blocked parking spaces. The person with whom I spoke at the store told me that it would be used on one particular day that week. I said, "I guess you paid for it..." And this person agreed, end of story. I was a little taken aback by the inflexible, I'm-not-having-it demeanor. Was this person ticked off that residents had complained about the truck? It was a bad idea and the complaints were inevitable.

When the place first opened as a market, an agreement with the city was reached to "... ensure a reasonable compatibility of the market use with the residential properties along Elizabeth Street;... 5. There shall be no parking of trucks outside of the truck dock structure.... There shall be no storage of merchandise...outside of said truck dock structure...."

I know that there are very few small trucks driven by individual suppliers as there were when the agreement was made, and it might not be reasonable to expect everybody to pull into the structure and shut the door, but buying up parking spaces to park their trucks is way out of line and in flagrant violation of the agreement.

When Whole Foods took over [in 2009], one of their people questioned the validity of the agreement. That's nonsense. It doesn't just expire of its own accord. It is still in force. In fact, Ralph's Grocery had to change some of its plans when a resident produced a copy.

Marc Gardner
Elizabeth Street

Pizza Tab Doesn't Match Menu

Editor:

I'm writing to you to expose an issue that concerns many members of the Noe Valley community, I'm sure. In early September, I ordered delivery from Haystack Pizza and the total was higher than I would've expected, but I figured I had an old menu. Prices rise; it's the way of the world. But when I checked, I noticed that my charged amount didn't match the menu prices. Their computer system seemed to be systematically adding in the extra charge for whole wheat crust for some reason, in my case, \$2.25 for two pizzas.

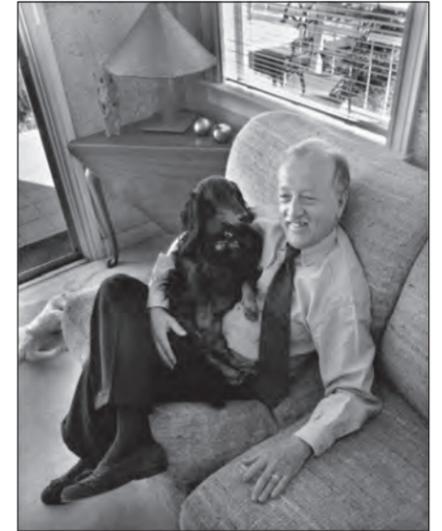
I left a message for the manager, who wasn't on duty at the time. A month later, the same thing happened, but this time I kept calling until I spoke directly to the manager. She remembered the message but hadn't attended to the matter. She promised to fix it and refunded me one of the pizzas I had ordered for the hassle of reaching her over several phone calls.

Tonight [Dec. 13], it happened again, though only on one of two pizzas. So, I'm

reporting it to you.

I really like Haystack. I've been eating there since the 1970s when my parents would take me for my favorite meal: sausage and mushroom pizza and root beer. It pains me to out them this way, but they've been overcharging customers for months, and it didn't stop when it was brought to their attention. Their menus say one thing and their bills say another. The extra money taken in should be accounted for and returned to customers or donated to a deserving charity.

Erik Olsen
Via email



Wilkes Bashford at home on Collingwood Street. 1996 photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Wilkes Bashford, Gentleman

Editor:

I was sorry to read in the February issue of the *Voice* that Wilkes Bashford had died. He was a gracious gentleman in the most time-honored sense. I was lucky to have met and photographed him a few times over the years—in his home and at his shop.

This photo was shot in 1996 at his home [see above]. And at the time at least, it was his favorite photo of himself with his original dachshund. He presented a copy of it to his friend Harry Denton, who owned the famous Starlight Room atop the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. I don't know for sure, but I'd like to think it is still hanging there!

Najib Joe Hakim
Valley Street



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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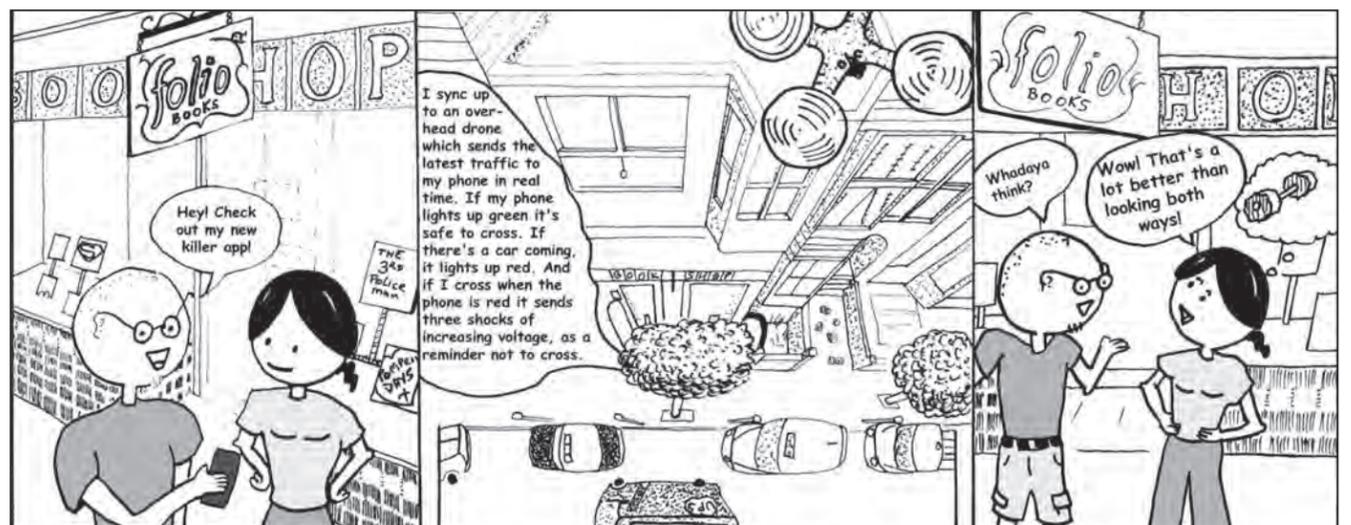
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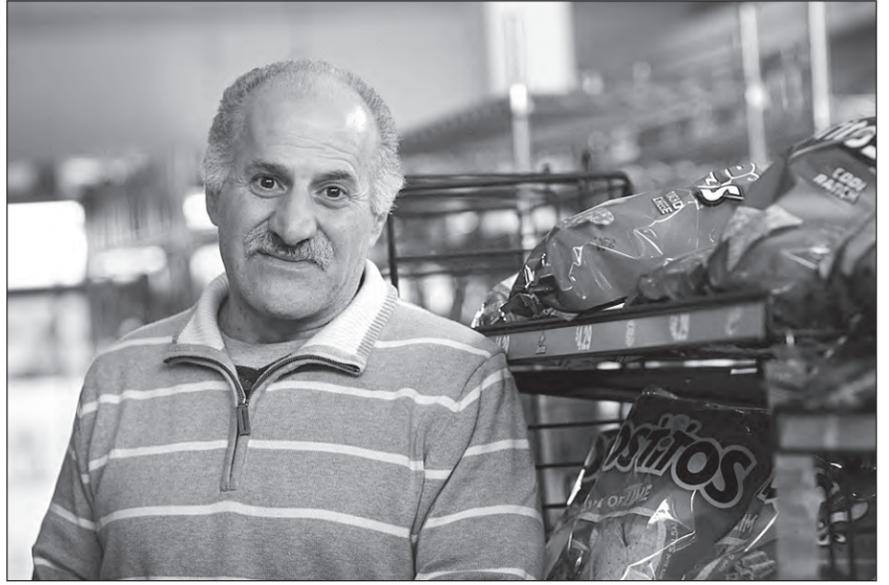
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I N M E M O R Y



When this photo was taken in 2014, Elias "Alex" Louh was getting ready to close the doors of St. Paul's Market, a business his family ran for more than 40 years. *Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*

**Shopkeeper Elias
'Alex' Louh Dies**

1,000 Attend Funeral Service

By Corrie M. Anders

Grocer Alex Louh was always loath to take off his apron and slip away from St. Paul's Market—even for special family gatherings.

"The store meant everything to him. He would miss out on weddings and birthday parties because he didn't want to close the store," said Louh's sister, Souzan Katami.

And he never took a vacation in all the many years that he operated the convenience store and delicatessen on the corner of Sanchez and 29th streets.

"It's so sad," said Katami. "He ended up with cancer and then he died."

Elias Yacoub "Alex" Louh was 53 years old when he succumbed on Jan. 30, 2016, after a four-year bout with the disease. By then, the popular neighborhood market had been closed for two years as cancer sapped his strength.

Still, Louh was such a beloved figure that nearly 1,000 people—many of them Noe Valley friends and customers—attended a Feb. 2 memorial at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Diamond Heights. There were so many English-only visitors that Father George Baalbaki presided mostly in English rather than the customary Arabic.

Shivani Ganguly, owner of Bom Dia, the grocery that replaced St. Paul's Market in late 2014, lauded Louh as "just a lovely person" who was helpful during the store transition.

"Many remember his kind smile, generosity, and friendly waves to passersby," Bom Dia staff wrote in a note on the door. "We honor his legacy of love and neighborliness and aim to carry it forward."

Louh was an old-school shopkeeper. His routine started at 6 a.m. and went on till 9 p.m. or later—selling household staples, beer and wine, apples and ice cream bars, while stocking the shelves and filling takeout orders.

He would let neighbors and regular customers run tabs. A mom in need of a carton of milk could knock on the door at sunrise because Louh would be on hand well before the store officially opened, at 7 a.m. He also made handshake loans to people who were a tad short on the rent money.

"He was just a generous guy," Katami said.

And he was known for making the tastiest and biggest, hand-carved sandwiches this side of a New York City deli.

"He was very famous for his sandwiches. They were huge. His sandwiches could feed two men," laughed Katami.

Louh was born on June 11, 1962, in Jerusalem, one of five children of Yacoub and Laila Louh. In the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War, the family immigrated to San Francisco in 1972. A year later, his father opened a mom-and-pop grocery at 1598 Sanchez St.

Elias Louh attended McAteer High School, but did not go on to college. Instead, he began running the store with his father. He took over full-time in 1991, when his dad began having serious heart problems (Yacoub Louh died in 2003).

Almost everyone called him Alex, not Elias. His family wasn't sure how the name came about, but Katami believes customers tagged him with the moniker. Even she called him Alex.

Louh never married and had no children. Katami said his only passions were his store and his young nieces and nephews. He lived in South San Francisco until his health deteriorated. He then moved in with family members in Daly City.

He is survived by his mother, Laila Louh; brother, Yousef Louh; and sisters Souzan Katami, Saida Jaghab, and Suha Khoury. ■



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A memorial of flowers and candles appeared at the corner of Sanchez and 29th streets soon after friends and neighbors received word Alex Louh had lost his fight with cancer. Many will remember his smiles and kind gestures. *Photo by Jack Tipple*



Memories of Janis Joplin on Noe Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

last December for a record \$1.76 million. Joplin had purchased the car in 1968 for \$3,500 from a Beverly Hills dealer.

The Sotheby's sale evoked a wave of nostalgia among Noe Valley residents, who remember the car and their interactions with the star-crossed celebrity.

Eye-Popping Artwork

"Everybody knew that Porsche," said Len Chermack, whose family lived on Noe Street two doors from Joplin's apartment above the corner laundromat. It was covered with butterflies, rainbows, mountain and valley landscapes, and the faces of her band, Big Brother and the Holding Company, on the left front fender.

"I never got to ride in it. But I remember going by and touching and examining it. As a kid, you had to love it," said Chermack, 60, now a corporate executive living in Frisco, Tex.

Joplin lived with roommate Linda Gravenites on the top floor of a three-story building at the corner of 22nd and Noe streets. Let's Do, a coin-operated laundry, still fronts the ground-floor commercial space on 22nd Street, and the entrance to Joplin's old apartment is a few steps around the corner at 892 Noe St.

Joplin resided in the seven-unit building for more than a year during 1968-69. Her new home was likely a refuge from the Haight-Ashbury scene, which had devolved from flower-power nirvana to drug-inflamed mayhem, her road manager, John Byrne Cooke, said in a phone interview with the *Voice*.

"It was a step up from being a beatnik in the Haight...an apartment that wasn't part of the counterculture," said Cooke, author of the 2014 book *On the Road With Janis Joplin*. "It was kind of a hideaway and not someplace that everyone was going to drop in."

At the time, Noe Valley was a blue-collar neighborhood populated mostly by Irish, Italian, and Latino families. Young people wanted to emulate Joplin's free spirit, while their conservative elders saw Joplin and her car as emblems of rebellion and debauchery.

Some Neighbors Standoffish

"Some of the older people weren't really fond of her," said Dennis Costanzo, who lived across the street from the so-called "queen of psychedelic soul." In the rumor mill, Joplin's name was frequently linked with sex, booze, and speed.

"Remember, this was the late '60s, and this was a very straight, working-class neighborhood, nowhere near as accepting as today," said Costanzo.

One traditionalist was his father, who worked for the California Highway Patrol and saw duty during periods of student unrest at San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley.

"He'd come home, and there would be a bunch of whacked-out people from the Haight hanging out" near Joplin's apartment, said Costanzo, 52, a city auto mechanic who now lives in San Bruno.

Costanzo's aunt, Nancy Richey, remembered that her mother wasn't too happy either, with Joplin's presence in the neighborhood.

"My mother always called her a dirty, filthy hippie," said Richey, whose family lived across from the laundromat. "My mom always said, 'Stay away from that woman.'"

But Richey said she herself was a big Joplin fan. "I loved the way she dressed. I still buy clothes like she used to wear."



A *New York Times* photographer shot this portrait of Janis Joplin, dated Feb. 4, 1969, as she relaxed on the bed in her Noe Street apartment.

Photo Sam Falk/The New York Times/Redux



In the late 1960s, singer-songwriter Janis Joplin lived in this three-story building at 22nd and Noe streets. When she died suddenly in October 1970, tenants in the building draped a large black banner from the top floor. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

She and other residents described Joplin as a charismatic, sweet, unpretentious neighbor, who engaged in casual conversations and gave souvenirs and treats to local kids. Occasionally, she would parcel out albums, like her best-selling *Cheap Thrills*, which featured the hits "Summertime," "Piece of My Heart," and "Ball and Chain."

Young Fans Delighted

"She was really down to earth. She was always waving at the kids," said Richey, a youngster then of 8 or 9 years old. "And we didn't act like she was anyone big and famous."

Richey said she remembers sitting on the front stoop of Joplin's building one day when the singer emerged and walked over to Mark Korz's Grocery, a now-defunct convenience store that was kitty-corner from the laundromat.

"She came back and said, 'Here, I have something for you.' She had ice cream for me. I thought that was really nice," recalled Richey, 55, who has retired to the small Humboldt County town of Fortuna.

Scott Ellsworth, who lived on Hill Street a block from the laundry, had a similar experience. He and his wife were in their garage with the door raised, bottling up a batch of homemade beer, when Joplin and her dog, George, sauntered by.

"She turned and came right in and said hello," said Ellsworth. "We pretty much just chatted and we told her we liked her music."

Despite a taste for alcohol (Joplin was a Southern Comfort enthusiast), "she never sampled" the beer, said Ellsworth, 73, who works as a commercial architect. "That was the only time we saw her in the neighborhood."

Halloween 1968 was a special night for

Noe Valley teen Eileen Collins Spiers, who summoned the courage to ring Joplin's doorbell—and got invited upstairs.

"We entered a world scented with exotic incense and swathed in bright fabric with plenty of beaded fringe," Spiers wrote in a first-person account in the September 2000 *Voice*.

"I can't remember if she actually was prepared to give us any treats, but she was very gracious, and frankly we were too starstruck at that point to care," said Spiers, whose family lived on Noe Street. "We left running and giggling down the stairs, ready to exclaim to all we encountered, 'Oh my God, we met Janis!'"

Parking a Little Too 'Far Out'

Despite its physical charms, the Porsche was often a source of irritation among Joplin's neighbors, especially those with driveways.

Several people told stories about how Joplin would return late at night from a gig or a party and park her car helter-skelter—legal or not.

Chermack said that "she would come home totally blitzed" and block his father's driveway so that he couldn't get in or out of the garage. "Many, many times, my dad would have her car towed."

"She would park her car wherever she wanted," confirmed Costanzo. "I know my grandfather and others had that car towed a few times."

The apartment was also a magnet for friends and musicians. Members of Big Brother would drop by for dinner, as would other rock stars of the era—Kris Kristofferson, the Jefferson Airplane, and the Grateful Dead.

Costanzo said he remembered one occasion when someone hung "a rope out

the window with a jug of wine" tied to the end. "They were hanging out on the street just drinking wine," he said.

Near Tragic Tryst

The Noe Street apartment was also the site of a dark incident in which a prominent political figure nearly OD'd on drugs, according to two books about the city's music scene.

In his 2012 best-selling book about San Francisco's counterculture, *Season of the Witch*, author David Talbot told about the bizarre time Terence Hallinan and his girlfriend, Peggy Caserta, stopped by Joplin's place for a visit. The bisexual Joplin and Caserta were also lovers.

Talbot wrote that Joplin gave Hallinan, a San Francisco lawyer, a shot of heroin and he passed out. While Hallinan was unconscious on the floor, the singer and Caserta engaged in sex. Afterwards, Joplin revived Hallinan with a cold towel.

"I didn't think she was a great person," Talbot quoted Hallinan as saying about the incident. Hallinan subsequently became the city's district attorney.

The episode was also recounted in Caserta's 1973 autobiography, *Going Down With Janis*.

Joplin left Noe Valley after she purchased a Marin County home in 1970 and relocated to Larkspur. But her death less than a year later resonated in the old neighborhood, as it did around the world.

"We were getting ready for school and it was on the news," said Richey. Someone "hung a black banner from the apartment she lived in."

"In white letters it said 'Janis.'" ■



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I N M E M O R Y

Father Tom Seagrave, a Priest For Everyone

By Steve Steinberg

Father Tom Seagrave, a much-loved former Noe Valley priest, has died. Known for his warmth and “wonderful sense of humanity,” Seagrave passed away on Dec. 18, 2015, after a nine-year struggle with cancer.

He had been an assistant pastor at St. Paul’s Catholic Church on Valley Street for several years beginning in 1970, and then again in 1985 for several more years. He also served as pastor and assistant pastor at many other San Francisco and Bay Area Catholic churches.

According to friends and parishioners, Seagrave was someone for whom people always came first. “He never said ‘no’ to a person who needed help,” said Terri Brady, the secretary of St. Paul’s parish office.

She recalled that when he came to a new church assignment, he made it a practice to knock on every door in the parish and introduce himself to the residents, whether they were members of the church or not.

“He was a very good man, a holy man,” Brady added.

Former Sanchez Street resident Laura McHale Holland echoed that sentiment. “He was so unassuming, gentle, and kind,” she said.

Father Mario Farana, the current pastor at St. Paul’s, called him a “devoted priest,” whom he admired very much. Farana related how Seagrave took money from his own small salary to pay for the Catholic school tuition of numerous stu-

dents over the years. “He was there for people,” Farana said.

Such was the impact of Seagrave and his good works that an online petition to canonize him began circulating soon after his death. So far, several hundred signatures have been collected.

Seagrave was born Thomas Leo Seagrave in San Francisco on April 30, 1942. He grew up in nearby Bernal Heights. St. Paul’s had been his family’s parish since the 1870s. His father was a postal inspector and his mother a church secretary. His sister, Jane Calavano of Burlingame, remembers that religion was always very important to her brother. “He started talking about entering a seminary after grammar school,” she said.

Seagrave attended St. John the Evangelist School in Glen Park and then Archbishop Riordan High School in the Sunnyside district before entering a seminary to begin training for the priesthood. He never regretted his decision, said his sister. “He loved being a priest.”

Asked how she thought he would feel about being nominated for sainthood, Calavano said she did not think he would like it. “He was very humble. His message was never about him; it was about what God would want.”

After his ordination in 1968, Seagrave’s first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary’s Church in Gilroy. Two years later, he returned to San Francisco and St. Paul’s to serve as assistant pastor under the direction of Father John Dwyer.

In 1976, Seagrave left St. Paul’s to become co-pastor at St. Peter Catholic Church in the Mission. His fellow pastor at St. Peter’s, Father Tom McElligott, remembers the years with Seagrave as the “most important experience” of his priesthood.



Father Tom Seagrave was 26 in 1968, the year he was ordained as a priest. Two years later, he was assigned to St. Paul’s, serving as an assistant pastor until 1976 (and 1985–92). By 2007 (below), he was serving as pastor of St. John of God, with responsibilities at UCSF Medical Center. Photos courtesy Jane Calavano



“We worked together to create a place where people could feel at home and accepted,” McElligott said. Seagrave, he said, “loved others and wanted to convince them how much they were loved by God, how sacred they were.”

McElligott, who now teaches theology at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, said that despite Seagrave’s religious commitment, he did not want people to blindly accept dogma. “He questioned everything and encouraged others to do the same. He didn’t want any church authority to bully you into anything. He felt you should follow your conscience.”

Seagrave continued to perform the rites of the church and minister to his flock despite his struggle with cancer. In 2008, he lost his voice box to the disease but learned how to talk again with the aid of an electronic device. Illness finally forced him to retire in 2011, but he still traveled around the state performing marriages and baptisms by request. His last baptism occurred a month before he died. He had been living at the Serra Clergy House senior living community in San Mateo.

More than a thousand people crowded the aisles of St. Paul’s Church in Noe Valley for his vigil on Dec. 22, and for his funeral mass the next day. A celebratory mass in honor of his life was also held at St. Peter Church on Feb. 20.

Besides his sister, Seagrave is survived by his brother Peter Seagrave of Las Vegas, Nev.; his brother and sister-in-law James and Janet Seagrave, also of Las Vegas; as well as by many nieces and nephews.

Anyone wanting to sign the petition promoting Seagrave’s candidacy for sainthood may do so following the link below or by logging on to Facebook and entering Father Tom Seagrave in the search box. Many tributes are also posted on his Facebook page.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/524/011/549/sainthood-for-father-tom-seagrave/>



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Word Week's Super Literary Lineup

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

children's bookstore, arrived in 2015, so the neighborhood is back up to three bookstores.)

This year, the 10th Annual Word Week—yes, we're celebrating our first decade—will host nine events at five venues: a bookstore, a gift shop, two bars, and a bank. Here's a preview.

Words Are Hilarious

Word Wit is comedy night, set for Sunday, March 20, 7 p.m., at Caskhouse, 3853 24th St. If you went to Word Wit last year, you remember how crowded Caskhouse was, so come early, take a seat, order some food and drinks, and get ready to laugh. Comedians Nicole Calasich, Mike Capozzola, Joe Nguyen, and Liz Stone will do their best to break you up. All appear frequently at Punchline, Cobb's, and other comedy clubs in the Bay Area.

Calasich, Capozzola, and Stone all live in Noe Valley. As a result, organizer Wayne Goodman promises, "There'll be plenty of jokes and funny stories about life in Stroller Valley."

Calasich describes her comedy as "big words smartcool." Capozzola and Stone both moonlight at other jobs, Capozzola as a cartoonist and actor, Stone as an attorney. She claims she does standup to show off her shoe collection.

Quantum Theory at Odd Mondays

Odd Mondays, the long-running, every-other-week reading series organized by Noe Valley's Judy Levy-Sender and Ramon Sender, is always part of the festival.

This year, Judy and Ramon present Dr. Brandon R. Brown, Noe Valley resident, physics professor at the University of San Francisco, and the author of *Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War* (Oxford University Press, 2015). German physicist Max Planck's discoveries in energy quanta paved the way for Albert Einstein's quantum theory and modern quantum physics. Planck was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1918.

Planck died in 1947, but had lived long enough to see the defeat of the Nazis, whose policies he openly opposed, including persecution of Jews. One of his sons was executed for his part in a failed plot to kill Hitler.

Brown became interested in Planck in college because he seemed like an unlikely hero. Most physicists make their major discoveries early in their careers. Planck was already middle-aged when he did his most famous work. Also, he didn't believe what he found could be true. Brown says Planck "was very confused by his own discovery. He tried for 10 years to fit it into classical physics."

Word Week at Odd Mondays is March 21, 7 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

Women Who Write

Women in Their Own Write is the Tuesday Word Week event, March 22, 7 p.m., at Folio Books. Ruth Galm, Janis Cooke Newman, and Erica Lorraine Scheidt will read from their work and discuss why and how they write. The event will be moderated by Noe Valley author Maggie Tokuda-Hall.

Scheidt will read from her essay in *The V Word*, edited by Amber J. Keyser. In the anthology, 17 women write about the first time they had sex.

Newman's novel *A Master Plan for Rescue*, set in 1942 New York and Berlin, was a *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of 2015. Her story brings together a boy who has lost his parents and a man who has lost the love of his life, and tells



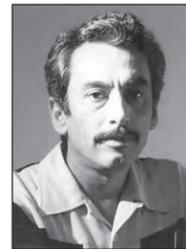
Ruth Galm



Cara Black



Liz Stone



Alejandro Murguía



Mike Capozzola

how they join forces to keep memories alive.

Into the Valley by Galm opens on the day in July 1967 when her character B. decides to pass her first counterfeit check and flee San Francisco for the Central Valley. *Booklist*, in its starred review, says *Into the Valley* "is a natural for anyone who loves Joan Didion's work."

Finding Mr. Dinosaur

Wednesday is the busiest word day. First up, at 10 a.m., is Word Week's children's event, Stories, Stickers, and Scribbles, at Folio Books. Author-illustrator Corey M.P. will do an interactive story time focusing on two of her picture books, *Mr. Dinosaur Is Hiding* and *Green Bird Loves to Count*. Both books are half picture book, half coloring book. Kids will get stickers of Mr. Dinosaur and Green Bird, coloring sheets, and crayons to use at the store if they want to color during the reading.

From German to English

Also at Folio on Wednesday, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., is In Translation, a cooperative venture of the Goethe-Institut San Francisco and Folio Books. The occasion is the U.S. book tour for the English translation of German author Christopher Kloeble's second novel, *Almost Everything Very Fast* (in German, *Meistens alles sehr schnell*). Kloeble will be on hand to read from and discuss his book, translated by Aaron Kerner.

This event came to Folio Books via Jale Yoldas, who lives in Noe Valley and is program curator at the Goethe-Institut SF. She frequents Folio and wanted her neighborhood bookshop to host. Folio event coordinator Susan Kroll wanted to agree but Word Week already had a Wednesday event. However, the Goethe-Institut agreed on a 5:30 p.m. start time, ending at 6:30. That gives the literati 30 minutes to scamper down 24th to the second event of Wednesday night.

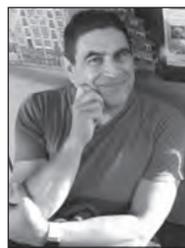
Cocktails and Crime

The big finish to Wednesday is Noir at the Bar, fiction in the noir style, at The Peaks bar, 1316 Castro St., at 7 p.m. Come have a cocktail and listen to five writers read from the seamy side of life. A dollar off the price of drinks for everyone wearing 1940s attire! Think curvy hats and cool fedoras, padded shoulders (men and women), and slinky dresses.

Noirish readers will include Cara Black, Noe author of the bestselling Aimée Leduc mysteries set in Paris; Alejandro Murguía, San Francisco's poet laureate and author of the noir short story "The Other Barrio" and many books; Kelli Stanley, Macavity Award winning creator of the Miranda Corbie novels set in 1940s San Francisco; Domenic Stansberry, award-winning author of the North Beach Mystery Series crime novels; and Lia Volz, who has just finished a novel she describes as "an urban cowboy noir in which all of your favorite characters die." Books will be available for purchase and signing, dead or alive, thanks to Folio Books.

So You Want to Be an Author

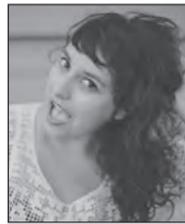
Noe not only has many published authors, it also has many soon-to-be published authors. For them—and anyone who enjoys hearing how book-publishing



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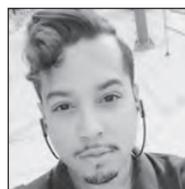
Scott Hutchins



Nicole Calasich



Joe Nguyen



Roberto F. Santiago



Kelli Stanley



Brandon R. Brown

works, Word Week brings back one of its most popular programs, How to Get Your Book Published, with a panel that knows how. Publishing insiders Christine Carswell, publisher, Chronicle Books, and Andy Ross, literary agent and former owner of Cody's Books in Berkeley, will give you tips on making it more likely your book will be seen and considered, and the three authors on the panel will tell you how they reached the published state.

Scott Hutchins, author of *A Working Theory of Love*, scored his first novel with Penguin Books, one of the world's largest publishers. Genanne Walsh just debuted her first novel, *Twister*, with small publisher Black Lawrence Press. Wayne Goodman has three self-published novels to his credit, including the recent *The Seed of Immortality*. Hear them all Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m., at Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th St. Books by all three authors will be available for purchase and signing, again thanks to Folio Books.

Queer Words: Lesbian and Gay Authors

The venue for Friday night is Cliché Noe Gifts + Home, 4175 24th St. Owner Dani Sheehan-Meyer says the store is "naturally supportive of events with words. It's in our name. Word Week is a terrific event, well thought out and planned."

She is pleased to



Corey M.P.

welcome three award-winning authors Friday, March 25, 7 p.m. Wilfredo Pascual's essays won the 2015 Curt Johnson Prize for creative nonfiction, Anne Raeff's short story collection *The Jungle Around Us* won the 2015 Flannery O'Connor Award, and Roberto F. Santiago won the Alfred C. Carey Poetry Prize. Pascual will read from an essay collection in progress, Raeff from her story collection, and Santiago from his debut poetry collection, *Angel Park*. Prosecco, prosciutto, and Italian cheeses will be served and door prizes awarded, so the authors won't be the only prize winners!

Cat Guru Explains All

Dr. Tony Buffington, proclaimed the Cat Guru by the university he taught at for 30 years, appears in *Does Your Cat Love You?*, the final Word Week 2016 event, Saturday, March 26, 4 p.m., at Folio Books. The Animal Company, on Castro Street, will supply treats for pets and humans. Pets are welcome, but leashes or carriers might be a good idea.

Dr. Buffington's newest book, *Cat Mastery*, presents the latest research on who cats are, what the world looks like to them, and things their humans can do to help them thrive indoors. The interactive book is available on iTunes and comes with a complimentary iTunes U course to help each owner achieve a black belt in cat mastery. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/cat-mastery/id859588058?mt=13>

The good doctor was a professor of veterinary clinical services at Ohio State University. Event organizer Susan Kroll was an associate vice president at O.S.U., responsible for the Health Services Library. Kroll says that their friendship brought the Cat Guru to Noe Valley.

Word Week 2016 is sponsored by Martha & Bros. Coffee and Friends of Noe Valley. For more information and updates, "like" Word Week's Facebook page, go to friendsofnoevalley.com, or follow the fest at #WORDWEEK2016 on Twitter.

All Word Week events are free and open to the public. If you'd like to participate next year, contact me, Rick, at wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com. Work starts in September. ■

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I N M E M O R Y

PJ Did It Her Way

You have plenty of time to prepare. You're ready. You build up your little wall. And then she goes and dies, and it all comes crashing down.

My friend and writing partner, PJ, is gone—Jane Underwood, our mentor, fairy godmother to a zillion local writers, the founder of our writers' group TIAPOS,* and I guess the first friend I made here in San Francisco.

Jane Underwood Oct. 8, 1952 – Feb. 5, 2016

Jane Underwood—writer, poet, photographer, teacher, mother, lover, and friend—died the morning of Feb. 5, 2016. Her “soulmate” Jack Carroll, son Will Underwood, and best friend Toby Salk were by her side. She was 63, and had been battling breast cancer off and on for a decade. But in her final weeks, she was still writing and teaching classes at The Writing Salon, the successful business she started in her home in Bernal Heights in 1999 and later expanded to Berkeley.

We at the *Noe Valley Voice* met Jane about 20 years ago, not long after she arrived in San Francisco (with an M.A. in creative writing from the University of Utah). A resident of 25th Street, she joined our staff as a writer and editor—from 1983 to 1998—while raising a toddler, hawking cookies on Market Street, clerking at Small Press Traffic, and selling ads for *Yellow Silk* magazine. Through it all, she wrote. She poured her passion into journals, poetry, erotica, and personal essays, many of which found their way into print and the farthest reaches of the blogosphere.

We're grateful to have known Jane and to be able to share two of her last poems, as well as a remembrance by Sanchez Street writer Doug Konecky, one of Jane's closest friends. They should give you a glimpse of Jane's remarkable life in words. And they also may break your heart.

—Sally Smith, *Noe Valley Voice*

Her companion of the last 10 years about whom she wrote so eloquently, that heartless and voracious little weasel named Cancer, has taken away another good one. He's already got plenty. He didn't need her too.

I was warned. I saw her in the hospital, it was coming for sure. I thought I was ready. But I've found this hole, like that sinkhole that opened up under the J-Church streetcar last month. The ground was solid, and now it's falling rock and gravel.

I hadn't realized how Jane was the link to just about everybody I know and love in SF—all the *Voice* people and all my beautiful TIAPOS writers, so many of whom have become friends, without whom my life simply wouldn't function.

Jane's trees? The photographs of trees? And sidewalks? She saw things no one else saw. The way shadows played on a fence. A mannequin's silhouette in a shop window. Jack's coveralls hanging on the line.

And her stories, through 10 years of struggle, and before that another 10 years of heartaches and bad haircuts and wrestling with her own demons, the biggest one of which maybe was that if everyone wanted A, Jane had to do B. If you wanted her to come to a party, you couldn't call to remind her or she wouldn't show up. She had to get there on her own. She was a poet, after all, and poets listen to things the rest of us can't hear, and then split stanzas in half just because they feel like it, and if you understand it on the first reading, they change it.

She and I wrote two kitschy country songs together. A producer I knew needed songs for an album he was preparing, so I asked our writers' group to feed me titles and ideas. Jane was the only one who cared to do the work. Our songs came out on a compilation called *A Trucker's Christmas* (which stores gave away for free if the customer bought two yellow plastic cigarette lighters). Each year, when Jane and I got our ASCAP royalty statements, we'd celebrate if we'd broken a buck.

When we used to partner as writers, in the days before email when you sent each other letters, we told each other secrets. I could do that with Jane but not really with anyone else. My bet is that all her collaborators felt that way. You could trust her not to

I Was Wrong

Sunlight bakes my thinning hair,
and through the open window
wafts a wig of balmy air.

Sixty years gone by, plus two. You'd
think I'd never felt the sun,
you'd think no other kiss or whisper
ever skimmed this skin.

A mockingbird takes on the dawn.
Repeat, repeat, he sings his stolen songs.
Repeat, repeat, from early morning on.

Tireless and alone at five a.m.,
he starts to sing himself to
us, the world, the universe.
He does this from atop
a barren pole.
Burst of sun, trill and chirp, another
day gone by. Things I thought
could never be enough, but are.

Wildfire

Drought and winds could give a
shit. Those who fight the flames are
spread thin as worn out veins,
and tired down to the marrow.
Evacuation may be the only option.
Leave everything behind.
You can't wait for the dog. Seconds
are too tiny, decades too heavy. You're
breathing in the ashes of other people's
houses, the hair of spooked horses who
were too freaked to get in their vans.
It has eaten your left breast already,
flattened a town in your thigh.
Now it's headed for the woods—
hips, ribs, spine, blood. Did you hear me?
Are you deaf? I said forget the dog.

— Jane Underwood

laugh, and to always find the best part
in whatever you brought her.

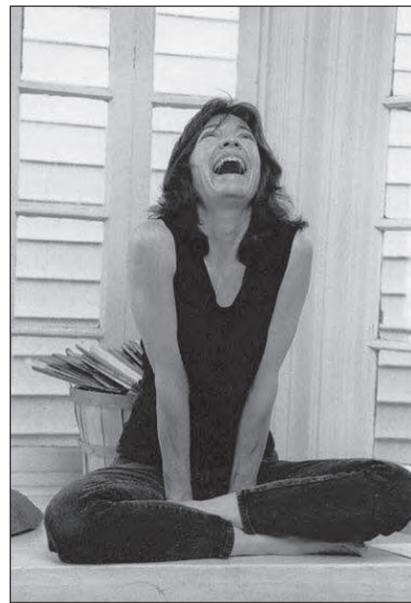
She looked for her perfect man for
most of her life, and when she found

him he lived right next door. How about
that? Jack Carroll is a jewel, a rare one.
But he's in the hole too, with the rest of
us.

I just feel lousy. They say “Write
your pain. You'll feel better.” It's a lie.
Ahhhh, hear that whine? That's Doug.
Not Jane. Ten years of cancer, endless
and I do mean endless rounds with
medical bureaucracies and vulturous
insurance companies and doctors who
cared as much as doctors with a golf
ball instead of a heart inside the white
coat, and let's not even mention fear
and in the end the body falling in on
itself like that loose gravel holding up
our walls—and not one whine.

Jane dealing with cancer defines the
word “grace.” She'd listen to our
stories, then tell us exactly what was
wrong and right with them. And in her
own life she took every punch, and
dealt with it, then punched back, with
another poem, or story, or photo, and
then she got ready for the next blow,
always hoping something good might
happen next. And often it did.

—Doug Konecky



The sometimes quiet and reticent Jane Underwood let it all hang out at her 40th birthday celebration in what was to become The Writing Salon, a haven for writers on Moultrie Street. Photo by Beverly Sharp

* TIAPOS is the name of our writers' group. We've been together 20 years. It stands for "This Is A Piece Of Shit." Like all writers, we used to spend a long time apologizing for the pieces we were reading before we read them. We'd say, "Oh, this isn't any good. I didn't have time to work on it enough. I just wrote it on the back of my hand in a taco shop." It got too cumbersome, so now we just say "TIAPOS" and everyone understands.

—D. K.

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Todd David—Man With Many Hats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

primary ballot that would create a permanent budget set-aside for local parks and recreation programs.

He also announced in October that he had been hired as the project director for the Mission Cinema School. The project aims to transform the abandoned Tower Theater on Mission Street near 20th Street into a state-of-the-art film school that would be donated to City College of San Francisco. The idea is the brainchild of former college board member Rodrigo Santos.

David was tapped to help shepherd the monumental undertaking, which has yet to be approved by City College officials, due to his experience convincing local, state, and federal officials to support the Noe Valley Town Square project, which cost \$7 million to acquire the land and build out the park.

‘I Like to Complain’

In an interview at Martha & Bros. Coffee Co. on 24th Street, across the street from where the new park is being built, David said his juggling of so many disparate duties derived from his personality, which he admits can be persnickety at times.

“The overlying theme is that I am someone who has strong opinions and I want stuff done in a certain way. I hate it when people complain but refuse to do any work,” he said. “I am cranky and I like to complain. I feel I have an obligation to roll up my sleeves and get to work.”

He strives to compartmentalize his various interests so when he is tackling a certain project it has his full attention.

“I’ve gotten used to saying this is who I am representing today. I’ve been in meetings with politicians who want to talk about issues that cross over, but I say let’s schedule another meeting to discuss that,” said David.

He credits school board member Jill Wynns with sparking his political activism. After meeting with a group of parents regarding budget issues, she approached David and said to him that San Francisco operates like a small town, where those who speak the loudest have the most power.

“That demystified political power for me,” he recalled.

A New Jersey Native

David grew up in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, a suburb outside Philadelphia. In 1993, he graduated with a philosophy degree from Stanford University, where he met his wife, Tiffany Loewenberg.

The couple moved to Manhattan but decided to relocate to San Francisco in late 1997. They moved into a flat on Oak Street initially, and within a few years, bought a unit in the Valley Street building that formerly housed St. Paul’s Primary School in Noe Valley.

When they were looking to buy a larger home for their growing family 11 years ago, the couple told their real estate agent they were only interested in properties in Noe Valley. They ended up on the border between Noe Valley and the Castro but consider themselves to be Noe Valleyans.

“My wife and I have easy access to the heart of the Castro and Noe Valley. We are fortunate that both of the best neighborhoods are equidistant from where we live,” he says.

The couple have three children who all attend public schools. Their youngest, Isaac, and middle child, Alana, both attend Alvarado Elementary School, a short walk from their home on Eureka Street. Their oldest, Noah, goes to Everett Middle School.



Noe’s busiest family includes Noah, 14, mom Tiffany Loewenberg, Isaac, 8, and Alana, 11. Do you think Dad (Todd David) organized the meeting? Photo by Beverly Sharp

It was his family’s Saturday routine—David wakes up his kids and brings them down to the Noe Valley Farmers’ Market—that led him to spearhead the community effort to create the Noe Valley Town Square.

Leaders of the Noe Valley Ministry, which was selling the parking lot that had housed the weekly market in order to retrofit its Presbyterian church on Sanchez Street, approached David about finding a way to save the land as open space while also raising the money they needed. He offered to help and was soon asking the various candidates running in 2010 for District 8 supervisor if they would support saving the parcel.

“I have a personal belief: never let an election cycle go by without asking for something,” said David.

It was through Rafael Mandelman, who lost to Wiener and now serves on the City College board of trustees, that David was introduced to Meredith Thomas with the Neighborhood Parks Council. She pointed out to David that the city had an open space acquisition fund, which hadn’t been used in years.

The town square boosters then spent five months looking for a major donor who could pledge \$1 million, to show city leaders the neighborhood was serious about preserving the nearly 11,000-square-foot lot. Yet their efforts to find such a person went nowhere.

“The only thing I know to do is community organizing, so I said let’s run this as a political campaign,” recalled David, who started tabling each weekend at the farmers’ market to drum up public support. “We wanted to show City Hall there is support, and there will be pockets of money for this.”

The tactic worked, as more than 600 individuals pledged financial support, raising \$540,000 over two years, said David, with checks continuing to come in from donors. While there were times when it looked like the effort would fail, David said in the end it was a “win-win” for the church, the community, and the city.

Watch for the Beret

He is now taking the lessons learned from that project and using them to advocate for the creation of the film school, estimated to cost at least \$12 to \$14 million. He has been collaborating with the film department faculty at City College, where about 450 students are enrolled in film classes, on what sorts of amenities they would need built inside the former theater

building.

“Here is the vision, to create a state-of-the-art film school,” said David.

While Mandelman, currently president of the City College board, called the proposal a “cool idea” in an interview with the *Voice*, he also stressed that the struggling community college district has far more pressing matters it needs to address before committing to the project.

“I think the project has a long road ahead that is going to involve working with the community to get buy-in and involve primarily funding,” said Mandel-

man, who has offered to set up a meeting between David and the college district’s chancellor to discuss the proposal. “Certainly, it is not a project City College has the resources to fund.”

In a way, David has been preparing for years to tackle the film school project. It will require his bringing together the various “hats” he wears in order to see it come to fruition.

“It blends so many of the things I care deeply about,” David acknowledged. “I am really excited about it. It is a great project.”

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Art for Town Square Gets Closer Look

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

month, a panel comprised of city staff, artists, and a neighborhood resident awarded Wowhaus the \$37,100 set aside to pay for the design, fabrication, and transportation of the pieces to the site.

The owl and two toads would be placed along a rear pathway that leads to a play space for small children. As described by the San Francisco Arts Commission, which is overseeing the approval process for the sculptures, both animals “are naturally elusive, so their presence evokes a rare encounter with nature.”

According to the artists, the statuary was inspired by animal sculptures created by the late sculptor Beniamino Benvenuto Bufano, many of which can be found in various locations around San Francisco.

“I’ve always admired the work of 20th-century sculptors like Brancusi, Bufano, Eva Hesse, Henry Moore, among others. I particularly like Bufano’s figurative public work, which is prevalent in the Bay Area,” Scott Constable explained in an email to the *Voice*. “His animal forms feel like the distillation of the spirit of the animal, while allowing for a particular character to emerge. They always have something new to offer despite their simplicity.”

Constable added that he also loved how the works “respond to and encourage touch. Bufano’s work has had a strong influence on my sculptural forms in bronze....”

Are Toads Too Tempting?

In early February, the arts commission released images of the works online and



The owl sculpture proposed for the tot area in the new Noe Valley Town Square, is 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide, as currently designed by Wowhaus. Photo courtesy SFAC

sought feedback from the public ahead of a mid-month hearing before the agency’s Visual Arts Committee.

The announcement noted that, “The owl can be looked through, both framing a view and giving the impression of seeing through the eyes of another creature—or perhaps inviting games of ‘peek-a-boo.’ The wide-backed toads can be climbed upon and ‘ridden’; the pair of toads stand guard over the park, echoing the classical tradition of pairing lions or other creatures at the entryway to civic spaces.”

It also noted that the patina of the sculptures should deepen with use and wear and that the “naturalistic color palette” would not clash with the two existing murals at the site.

However, due to safety concerns raised about children climbing on the sculptures, the hearing was postponed to March.

“The prime reason was there was some concern about the toads as a climbable element and the safety of that,” said Mary Chou, the project manager for the arts commission’s Public Art Program. “The form of the owl is less conducive than the form of the toads to climbing.”

The artwork is now expected to be heard by the Visual Arts Committee at its March 16 meeting and would then go before the Arts Commission for final approval at its April 7 meeting. In preparation for the hearings, Chou said city staff was evaluating what the safety concerns were before giving direction to the artists on how to address them.

Constable, however, told the *Voice* that he and his wife “don’t believe there are any safety concerns. The toads would be roughly as high as a public bench, so would be no more dangerous than any seating structure.”

Two Hoots for Owl

In terms of aesthetics, the artwork has prompted various reactions from residents and merchants in the neighborhood.

“I like them. They are clearly created for children to climb on,” said Todd David, president of Residents for Noe Valley Town Square, which advocated for turning what had been a church-owned parking lot into a public park. “Given where they will be placed, going in near the children’s play area, it is great. I have heard people say they don’t think this is a right fit for Noe Valley.”

In an email to the arts commission, one of five the agency received in response to its call for public comments last month, Juliette Hirt praised the owl statue but questioned the “toadness” of the amphibian pair.

“The owl sculpture is inspired. Beautiful, elegant, friendly but not snooty. It really captures the feeling of ‘owlness,’ without being literal about it,” she wrote, adding, “I think it will stand the test of time, and add a really lovely element to the park. I can imagine little children growing up with it, and recognizing it with great fondness when they return years later. It is that iconic.”

As for the toads, Hirt wrote that she found them “bland and uninteresting. They are like plain blocks, with no sense of gesture or motion. I’m not sure a child would know what they’re supposed to be, or feel drawn to interact with them.”

Wish for More Choices

Robert T. Roddick, president of both the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and the Noe Valley Association, described the statuary as “lumps of unfinished or eroded objects”

in his emailed comments about the look of the proposed artwork.

He suggested something evocative of the city’s “Victorian ambiance” would be more appropriate. He also criticized the arts commission for its lack of outreach about the proposed artwork to neighborhood groups, noting they donated thousands of dollars for the city to purchase the property.

“We need to see various options and proposals and definitely get the community involved in this project that will stare us in the face for many years to come,” wrote Roddick, who offered to assist in setting up a neighborhood meeting.

Still Time to Comment

In an email to the *Voice* addressing the outreach done, Chou noted that the announcement about the proposed artwork was shared with the email lists of Residents for Noe Valley Town Square, Friends of Noe Valley, the merchants as-



The Wowhaus artist team also envisions two toads like this one in the new square on 24th Street. They are about half the height of the owl, and might have a shiny bronze patina. Photo courtesy SFAC

sociation, and the Noe Valley Democratic Club. Arts staff also handed out 50 flyers one Saturday at the Noe Valley Farmers’ Market.

The public can address any issues about the project at the upcoming hearings. The March 16 committee meeting will begin at 3 p.m. in Room 125 at the War Memorial Building, located at 401 Van Ness Ave. The April 7 commission meeting will start at 2 p.m. in Room 416 at City Hall.

People also can find the Artwork Proposal for Noe Valley Town Square at www.sfartscommission.org.

With the town square expected to open to the public in October, Chou said the arts commission anticipates the public review schedule will allow enough time for the artwork to be installed by then.

“We want to make sure we evaluate these concerns properly and deliver artwork that is right for the site,” she said. “We are not going to rush it just for the installation, but definitely our goal is to have it in by the time the park opens.” ■

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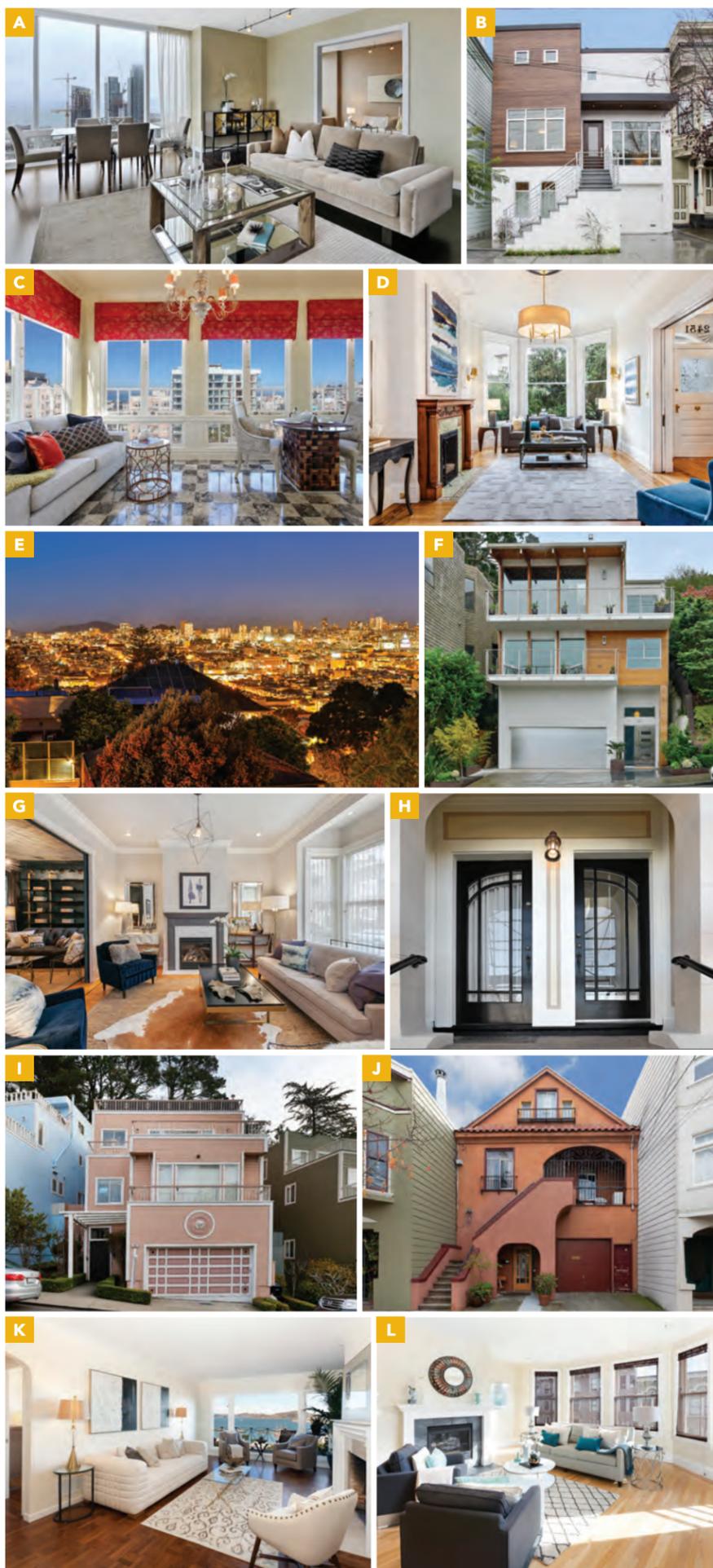
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Palm Sunday, March 20:

The blessing of the palms (outside) before the **10:30 a.m.** Mass, with procession into the church. (Masses: Saturday, **5:00 p.m.**; Sunday: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**) Palms distributed at all Masses.

Holy Thursday, March 24:

Soup Supper at **6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Mass of the Lord's Supper **7:00 p.m.** Concludes with Eucharistic Procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until **10:00 p.m.** (in the daily Mass chapel).

Good Friday, March 25

12:00 Noon: Celebration of the Lord's Passion, which includes the reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

7:15 p.m. - The traditional Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 26: Easter Vigil begins at **8:00 p.m.** with the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of the Easter Candle.

Easter Sunday, March 27, Masses: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**



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Jack at the 2014
San Francisco Marathon.
Photo courtesy of Shutterfly

Noe Valley Voice editor and co-publisher Jack Tipple is fundraising for the Red Cross team running the Boston Marathon on April 18th. Will you help? Your donation is tax deductible and will be very much appreciated. Here's a link to Jack's fundraising page:
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Good Friday Services, Noon and 3:00 p.m.
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- HOLY SATURDAY • MARCH 26** Confession / Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.
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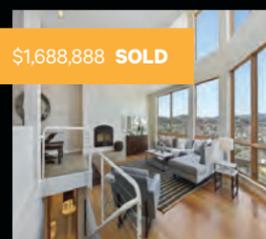
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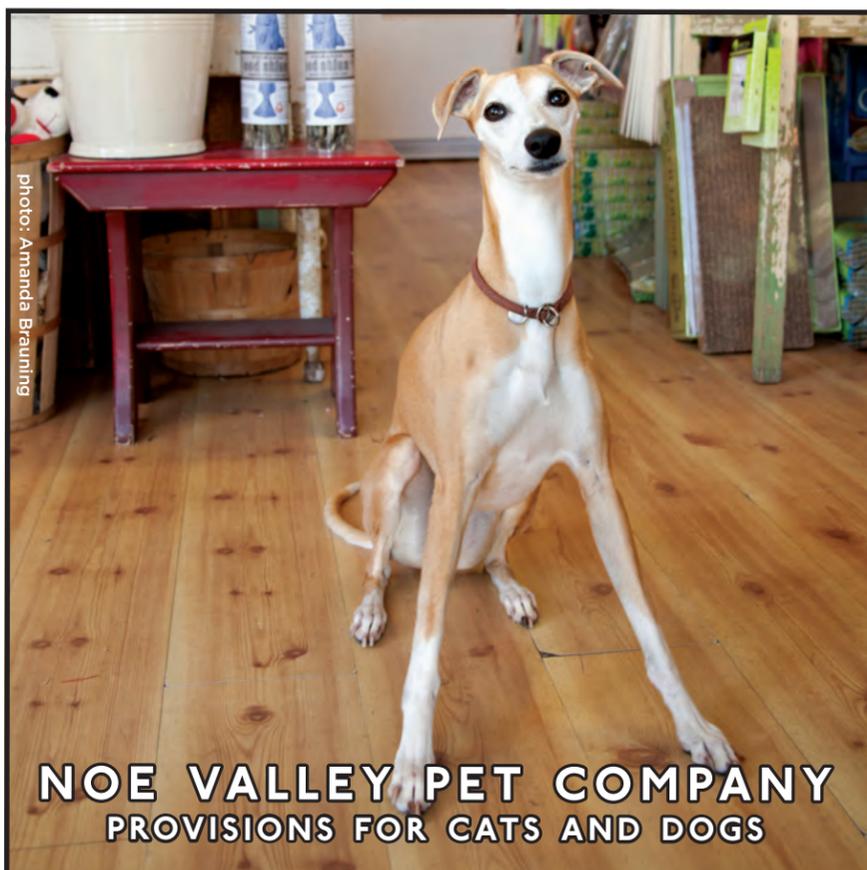


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Calming Effect of Holidays

By Corrie M. Anders

January was a quiet month for residential real estate in Noe Valley. Only five single-family homes changed hands as the year got under way, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Most of the sales were initiated in December, traditionally a slow month, and the January tally was nearly as low as January a year ago (three houses sold).

Still, there was enough interest in Noe Valley that buyers sweetened the deal by paying 8 percent more on average than the sellers' asking price.

The most expensive sale occurred in the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street, between Castro and Noe streets. The four-bedroom, four-bath home, which had undergone a major renovation, sold for \$4.5



Buyers paid \$1,588,888 for the top-floor unit within this 1981 building on 28th Street. The residence includes three bedrooms, two baths, a modern kitchen, and city views. *Photos by Corrie M. Anders*

million. The property originally (last fall) had a \$4,850,000 price tag. When no one bit, it was taken off the market, then returned with a \$4,395,000 asking price. With 3,480 square feet of living space, the house featured floor-to-ceiling windows, a gourmet kitchen with Italian marble countertops, wet bar, media room, nine radiant-heat zones, a rooftop deck and two balconies, elevator, and two-car garage.

The winter holidays also cooled condominium sales, noted Zephyr president Randall Kostick. Buyers purchased four condos in January—the same number as a year earlier. (There were a dozen condo sales in December 2015.)

Unlike bidders in the single-family-home market, however, condo buyers paid 1 percent less on average than the sellers' asking price.

In the case of the priciest condo, buyers wrote a check for \$1,588,888—\$106,112 less than the asking price (\$1,695,000)—for a unit in a 1981 building in the 400 block of 28th Street, between Castro and Noe streets. Located on the top floor, the flat offered three bedrooms, two baths, a state-of-the-art kitchen, city views from all seven rooms, and parking for one car.

Note: Some averages may hold little statistical significance, due to their small sample size.



This newly renovated home, located on a Cesar Chavez Street cul de sac, sold in January for \$4.5 million. It featured four bedrooms, three fireplaces, three decks with panoramic views, an elevator, and a two-car garage.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
January 2016	5	\$1,192,999	\$4,500,000	\$2,318,600	42	108%
December 2015	9	\$1,510,000	\$4,100,000	\$2,472,222	32	106%
January 2015	3	\$1,900,000	\$3,575,000	\$2,530,000	24	101%
Condominiums						
January 2016	4	\$750,000	\$1,588,888	\$1,029,722	58	99%
December 2015	12	\$690,000	\$2,375,000	\$1,326,255	47	106%
January 2015	4	\$365,000	\$2,215,000	\$1,120,000	37	123%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2016	2	\$1,450,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,475,000	74	100%
December 2015	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2015	4	\$1,325,000	\$1,890,000	\$1,614,250	40	106%
5+-unit buildings						
January 2016	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2015	1	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	93	95%
January 2015	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley for purposes of this survey is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (zephyrre.com) for providing sales data. *NVV 3/2016*

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2016	Average February 2016	Average January 2016	Average February 2015
Studio	7	\$1,750 – \$2,800	\$2,351 / mo.	\$2,394 / mo.	\$2,079 / mo.
1-bdrm	23	\$2,395 – \$5,500	\$3,433 / mo.	\$3,320 / mo.	\$3,185 / mo.
2-bdrm	44	\$3,399 – \$6,760	\$4,615 / mo.	\$4,579 / mo.	\$4,367 / mo.
3-bdrm	17	\$4,400 – \$9,495	\$6,751 / mo.	\$6,713 / mo.	\$5,580 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$7,995 – \$13,000	\$10,456 / mo.	\$10,907 / mo.	\$9,875 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 98 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Feb. 5 to Feb. 13, 2016. *NVV 3/2016*

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MARCH 31, 2016
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PROGRAM
6:00 pm

Moderated by **Katy Fike, PhD**, Co-Founder, Aging 2.0
Featured Panelists: **Reg Kelly**, OBE, Executive Director, QB3
Mike Masserman, Director of Federal & International Government Relations, Lyft, **Scott Mauvais**, Director of Technology & Civic Innovation, Microsoft, Founding Member, San Francisco Tech Council

7:30 pm
VIP Network Event★

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San Francisco Business Times and Aging 2.0

★ To attend our Network event and for sponsor opportunities, please contact:
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415.550.2213 or ctorres@onlok.org

SHORT TAKES

St. Patrick's Day in the Valley

Several neighborhood watering holes are planning festivities for the wearing of the green on Thursday, March 17. You can even get a head start on March 12.

The Peaks bar at 1316 Castro St. is offering Irish food, drink, and music, according to owner and chief bartender Keli Leal. Corned beef and cabbage will be available for purchase. You can wash it down with green beer, a pint of Guinness, or an Irish Car Bomb (pint of Guinness, half shot of Baileys, half shot of Jameson's). Recorded Irish music will play in the background.

Vince Hogan, the Irish owner of the Valley Tavern at 4054 24th St., promises live Irish music on St. Patrick's Day, including a bagpiper. There'll also be Irish dancers, several local young people performing step-dancing. Corned beef and cabbage will be served, as will salads. No green beer at the Valley Tavern, but there will be plenty of beer specials, says Hogan.

The Dubliner at 3838 24th St. will offer distillery giveaways, like T-shirts and party necklaces. Owner Kenneth Jung is putting on an extra bartender and adding an extra Guinness tap for St. Pat's. He also says his bar will be decorated with all kinds of Irish paraphernalia, and Irish music will be piped over the sound system.

If you want to get an early start on St. Patrick's, you're in luck. The men's group at St. Paul's Church is hosting a St. Pat's

dinner Saturday, March 12, at St. Paul's Parish Center, 1690 Church St. Corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, and drinks will be available for \$25 general admission, \$20 seniors, and \$10 children under 13. A limited number of hot dogs are also on the menu for finicky kids.

The Driving With Fergus band will play live Irish music for listening and dancing. Buy tickets at the door or ahead of time at the church rectory, St. Paul's School office, or after the 9:15 a.m. mass. Dinner is at 7 p.m., but the doors open at 5 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt Is Back!

The eighth (almost) annual Noe Valley Easter Egg Hunt is on for the day before Easter, Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. to noon at Douglass Park near the corner of Douglass and Clipper streets. The event is free—thanks to donations from the Robert Roddick family, the Droubi Team at Coldwell Banker, Just for Fun, and the Noe Valley Association, our local community benefit district. There will be refreshments, music, and of course the egg hunt.

Debra Niemann, who directs the NVA, wants to give "a shout-out to the Droubi and Roddick families for sponsoring the egg hunt. It takes money to run neighborhood events." (Last year, no one stepped forward as sponsors, and the event had to be cancelled.) Niemann also wants to thank 24th Street merchant Just for Fun "for donating the eggs and candy," because, in this case, it also takes eggs.

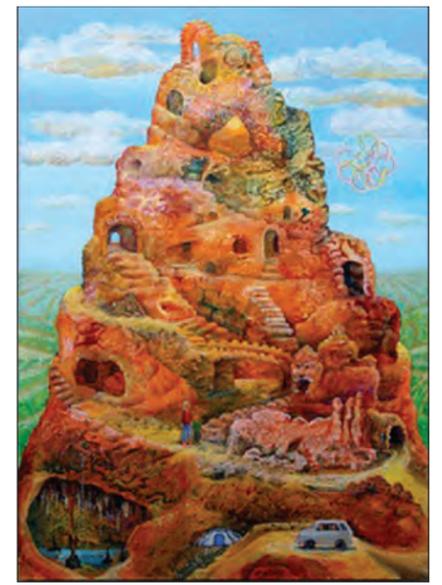
For more information, go to the site noevalleyassociation.org.

Sultans of Gallery Sanchez

“Onward: Work by Jenny Badger Sultan and Henry Sultan” opens at Gallery Sanchez Easter Sunday, March 27, and runs through May 28. Gallery di-



From March 27 through May 28, Gallery Sanchez will display mandalas by Henry Sultan (such as the one above) and art by Jenny Badger Sultan, whose *Descending the Mountain Tower* appears at right.



rector Kit Cameron tells us the Sultans are artists who've "shared life, home, studio, and children for 50 years." Their work complements each other, and both express spirituality through their art.

Using brightly colored acrylic paint, Henry paints mandalas, traditional geometrics and figuratives, and "landscapes of the mind." Over 50 of Sultan's mandalas, of all three types, are collected in his book *The Art of the Mandala*, published in 2014.

Jenny also paints with acrylics, experimenting with layered surfaces and random mark making, then developing the archetypal images that emerge from the marks.

Gallery Sanchez is at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. A reception for the artists will be held Sunday, April 3, from noon to 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. There'll be live music from pianist Betty Wong, and copies of Henry's book will be available for purchase and signing. For more information, go to noevalleyministry.org, click on ongoing classes and events, then Gallery Sanchez.

sociation, and Diamond Heights Association have been invited. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact Marianne.Hampton@comcast.net.

Help Mission Students Go to College

For 12 years and counting, staff and volunteers at Athletic Scholars Advancement Program (ASAP) have helped more than 1,000 Mission High School students go to college.

A home-grown nonprofit program developed at the Mission High campus on 18th Street, ASAP mentors students academically, connects them with summer athletic, academic, and leadership training programs, and guides them through the college and scholarship application process.

Executive Director Liz Butler Steyer says ASAP students achieve nearly a 100 percent high school graduation rate, and over 90 percent get into college. In addition, ASAP itself funds \$150,000 in scholarships.

Most ASAP funds come from foundation grants and individual donors, Steyer says. The program receives almost no government funding.

To attract more support, ASAP is holding a fundraiser, "The Beat Goes On," Thursday, March 10, at the Beatbox in SOMA at 314 11th St. (Tickets are available at Eventbrite—enter ASAP in the search box.)

The program is also looking for volunteers. Steyer says you "don't need a knowledge of career counseling." They will teach you.

Bari Ness of 29th Street is already a volunteer. She says she helps out "because all of us in San Francisco benefit when the most students get the best education."

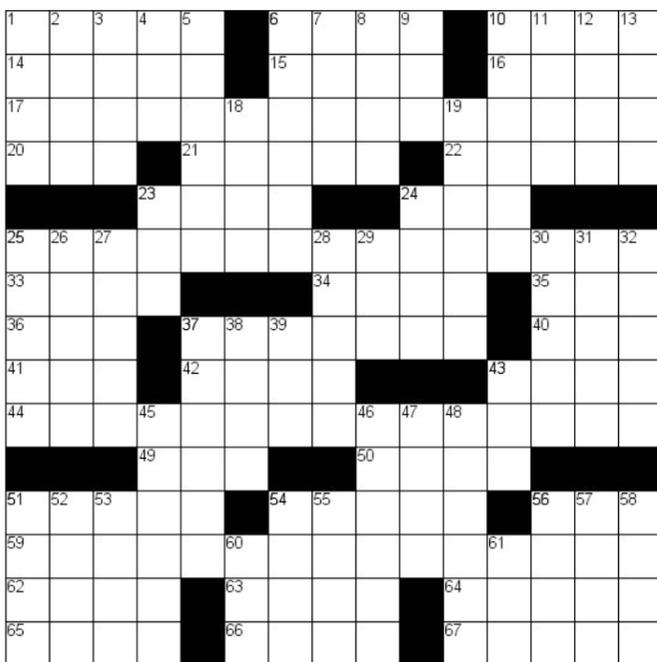
If you'd like to join up, contact programs manager Amanda Posner at Amanda@missionasap.org.

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Don't Mess With Her

ACROSS

1. Taken _____ (surprised)
6. Pit at a rock concert
10. Fake out, on the ice
14. Cry before administering an electroshock
15. '70s-80s Giants infielder Mike
16. *Giant* writer Ferber
17. Badass enchanter in Harry Potter movies
20. Tango need?
21. Turn down
22. Opinions
23. "Do not change," to an editor
24. Thumbs-up vote
25. Badass investigator in *The Silence of the Lambs*
33. Silhouette of Twin Peaks, Sutro Tower, etc., for the *Voice*
34. Fourth rock from the sun
35. Neither's partner
36. Bauxite or galena
37. What each badass in this puzzle plays in her film, or a women's clothing store on 24th Street
40. Become extinct
41. Channel for Anderson Cooper
42. "Gymnopedias" composer Satie
43. Shave-cream brand
44. Badass *Hunger Games* archer
49. Little worker
50. Currier's art partner
51. Court defense
54. Honda model
56. Pound sound
59. Badass Girl with



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| the Dragon Tattoo | 10. Repudiation | criminal |
| 62. <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> migrant | 11. Advantage | 46. Bon _____ (playboy) |
| 63. Herb of the <i>Chronicle</i> | 12. Was certain | 47. Wicked |
| 64. Without food or shelter, say | 13. Big rabbit features | 48. Go back on, as testimony |
| 65. Be inclined (to) | 18. Oil cartel formed in '60 | 51. Oodles |
| 66. Chandon's champagne chum | 19. Reluctant | 52. Facebook button |
| 67. Pluperfect, e.g. | 23. "All seats have been sold" sign | 53. "The proof _____ the pudding" |
| | 24. Tale that's spun | 54. Former labor secretary who married Majority Leader McConnell |
| | 25. Big Ben, e.g. | 55. Words of understanding |
| | 26. Liza's half-sister | 56. Yemeni seaport |
| | 27. Actor's representative | 57. Cincy nine |
| | 28. Partner of mirrors | 58. Big name in boots |
| | 29. Mai _____ (drink) | 60. Cable channel for old films |
| | 30. Many a film at the Roxie | 61. Wedding announcement word |
| | 31. Kind of pollution | |
| | 32. Eco-friendly | |
| | 37. Keister | |
| | 38. Former "formerly" | |
| | 39. Grafton's _____ for <i>Ricochet</i> | |
| | 43. Lines on city maps: Abbr. | |
| | 45. Caught, like a | |

Solution on Page 33
Note: The current *Voice* Crossword and all past puzzles can be found at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Are Groups Still Relevant?

Neighbors banding together in neighborhood associations has been a long tradition in Noe Valley. The Friends of Noe Valley was founded in 1971 and Upper Noe Neighbors in 1988. Both groups have done good work for the neighborhood in the past, including saving the Carnegie library on Jersey Street, providing forums for discussion of issues, and producing community events like the Garden Tour, Word Week, the Harvest Festival, and Music in the Park. But are these groups still needed today?

Upper Noe Neighbors has organized a panel to discuss the topic at a gathering on Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m., at Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets. Representatives of Friends, Upper Noe Neighbors, the Glen Park Association, Fairmount Heights As-

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SHORT TAKES

New Musical at James Lick

“Homecoming: A Night at the Copa,” an original musical revue, is playing at James Lick Middle School on Noe Street Thursday through Saturday, March 10 to 12. Director of Theatre Arts Keith Carames created the plot skeleton, and he and the student actors made it come to life in rehearsals. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, with a Saturday matinee at 4 p.m. Tickets are available only at the door. A \$10 donation is suggested.

Thirty-five JLMS students will be on-stage acting, singing, and dancing, and another 10 have been involved behind the scenes in design, lighting, and other aspects of the show. Carames is the production director, local cabaret singer and pianist Katy Stephens is the musical director, and JLMS dance teacher Karina Vela is the choreographer.

This is Carames’ first year at JLMS. Previously, he was at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts. He says the JLMS production is going very well. “If

I direct a show,” Carames says. “It’s either going to be a success or a flop. I’m not interested in mediocrity.”

Also contributing to the production were acting and singing coaches Curt Branom from Beach Blanket Babylon, Nicole Folland of the San Francisco Opera, Kristen Clayton from Teatro Zin-zani, and Connie Champagne, a cabaret singer and a JLMS teacher.

A 6 p.m. dinner option organized by the JLMS Parent-Teacher-Student Association will be available Thursday and Friday evenings. Dinner menu and prices will be posted on the school website (<https://jlms-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com>). The JLMS Band, directed by Brendan Reilly, will play during the two meals.

Carames has also started a gofundme campaign to help the PTSA pay for the musical. If you’d like to contribute, go to gofundme.com/sqnrwxsk.

Boomers and Beyond

The 30th Street Senior Center at 225 30th St. has long been known for its popular lunch program and beautiful half-acre garden. But development officer Carmen Torres wants to “increase services to a changing population, especially the newly retired,” who may be seeking a more active and engaged lifestyle. She is even changing the annual fundraiser.

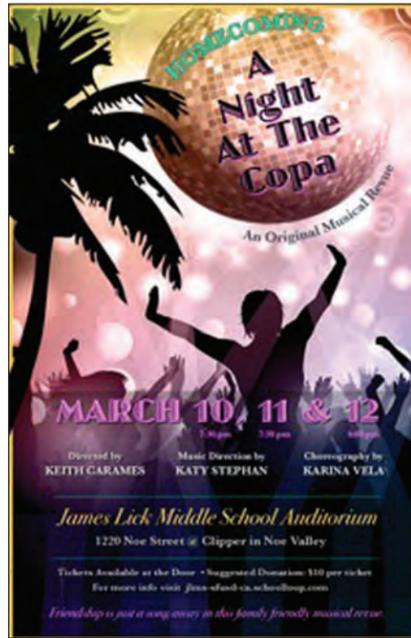
“Boomers and Beyond” is the title of the senior center’s March 31 event at Herbst Theatre. Rather than just cocktails and canapes, however, donors will be privy to a panel of “silver-tech” experts, including Reg Kelly, co-founder of QB3—an incubator for innovation in drugs and devices delivery; Scott Mauvais, director of technology at Microsoft; and Mike Masserman, Lyft’s director of federal and international government relations. The panel moderator is Dr. Katy Fike, co-founder of Aging 2.0, a platform to improve the lives of older adults.

General admission for the fundraiser is \$50, which admits you to the panel discussion and q & a afterwards. A donation of \$100 or more also admits you to the VIP reception following the panel. Reception participants will have one-on-one access to the speakers and enjoy cocktails, wine pourings and tastings, and food from Bay Area celebrity chefs.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., the panel begins at 6 p.m., and the reception at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through City Box Office. Go to onlok.org/30th-Street-Senior-Center and click on events.

Camino Comes to Noe

Russell Moore and Allison Hopelain, the couple behind the successful Camino restaurant in Oakland’s Grand Lake district, visit Noe Valley Tuesday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. They’ll be discussing their book *This Is Camino* at Om-



Students at James Lick Middle School will present the musical revue “Homecoming: A Night at the Copa” March 10-12 in the school’s auditorium at 1220 Noe St.

nivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez St.

Camino is famous for its locally sourced food cooked over a fire in the middle of the restaurant, its communal tables, and spare decor. *This Is Camino* tells the story of Moore and Hopelain opening a restaurant in the middle of a recession and succeeding anyway, thanks to hard work and innovative cuisine. A hundred recipes are included in the book. Copies will be available for purchase and signing by Hopelain and Moore.

For other food events at Omnivore, go to omnivorebooks.com.

Chamber Music Benefit

The annual benefit concert for the Noe Valley Chamber Music series will be held Sunday, March 13, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1023 Sanchez. Director

Tiffany Loewenberg says proceeds from the benefit will enable NVCM “to compensate our artists more equitably, as we try to approach market rate for artist fees...in order to continue to attract the best musicians.”

Lieder—meaning songs in German, —will be the benefit focus, with mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich singing and the LiederALIVE! Chamber Ensemble playing. The ensemble is Jeffrey LaDeur, Anthony Striplen, and Paul Yarbrough on piano, clarinet, and viola respectively. World premiere lieder by Kurt Erickson is on the program, along with songs by Brahms, Mahler, and Schumann.

Tickets are \$85 and are available online at nvcm.org. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with wine and savory appetizers, followed by the one-hour concert at 7 p.m. and a closing reception with dessert, champagne, and a chance to meet the performers.

A Day of Reflection

St. Philip’s Church is opening its parish hall on Thursday, March 10, to anyone needing or wanting “the gift of introspection,” as organizer Sandra Kearney puts it. The Day of Reflection will be open to the community from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Visitors can be on their own or utilize guided prayer, the Path of Peace labyrinth, or stations of the cross on the walls of the hall. There is no cost.

Kearney says, “We have so much noise around us and so many distractions that it is easy to forget our spiritual selves need attention too.” She urges people to “come discover just how beautiful you are and just how much you are loved.”

The day will end, for those interested, with communal prayer and worship through song at 6 p.m. For more information, call St. Philip’s at 415-282-0141.

Short Takes were written by Richard May.

Open House at Willie Brown School

Children in grades four and five can explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math at STEM Day on Saturday, March 5, at Willie L. Brown Jr. Middle School.

At the event, students will rotate through five activity stations in the school’s library, the Maker’s Garage, gymnasium, computer lab, and science classroom. A teacher with the help of a student will lead 25-minute STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities at each station. Principal Bill Kappenhagen also will be there to welcome students and their families.

Willie Brown Jr. Middle School, which opened this school year, will be serving two grades—sixth and seventh—in the 2016-17 school year. The school has a state-of-the-art campus, and offers the only middle school science laboratory in San Francisco.

At the event, families can explore the campus and learn more about the school, located at 2055 Silver Ave. To register, visit <https://goo.gl/sNyQog>. To get more information, go to <https://wbms-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com>.

—Maricella Miranda, SFUSD

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Noe Valley Views



The Wearing of the Green. Winter rain has brightened Noe Valley with good fortune.

Photos by Najib Joe Hakim

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Flyaway Productions, Alayna Stroud pictured. Photo credit: RJ Muna

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Shawermas, dolmas, and baklava are back on the menu in Noe Valley with the opening of Lazeez Mediterranean Grill in the remodeled storefront that had housed longtime retailer Joshua Simon.

Three years ago, the neighborhood lost its go-to place for Mediterranean-inspired, quick-serve meals with the shuttering of the Noe Valley Deli & Grill. The closing came a year after that of Joe's 24th Street Café, which also had served a variety of Greek dishes.

With the two closures, Zaid Fakhouri, who has owned Savor Restaurant for 22 years, sensed there was an opportunity. When his neighbor, Liz Klein, announced she was closing her clothing store and retiring, he decided to take over the lease and return the food of his youth to the 24th Street corridor's culinary choices.

"I began asking around, and there was a lot of demand from people looking for Mediterranean delights," said Fakhouri, whose ancestors were preachers who left Greece for Lebanon. During the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, his grandparents fled Lebanon and moved south to Jordan, where Fakhouri was later born. He moved to San Francisco in 1985.

He chose to name his second eatery Lazeez as it means delicious in several languages, such as Urdu, Arabic, and Persian.

"The concept of the food is it is a mix of Mediterranean with a touch of Greek. So we have gyros, and we do also Middle Eastern spices for the shawerma and the falafel," he said. "The gyros are very popular, and the vegetarian falafel everybody loves it."



Fadi Rabadi and Dauan Santo (right) of the new Lazeez Grill on 24th Street carve slices to fill a sumptuous beef and lamb gyro. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

All of the menu items are priced below \$13, so Lazeez is an economical option for those looking to order lunch or a quick dinner. The gyros come in two choices—chicken (\$9.95) or a mixture of beef and lamb (\$10.50)—and can be upgraded to a platter with salad and rice (\$3 extra).

There is also a beef shawerma (\$11.50) or chicken shawerma (\$10.95), while the falafel wrapped in lavash bread can be made regular (\$8.95) or deluxe (\$9.95) with eggplant and potato. A vegetarian combo plate (\$12.50) is served with hummus, baba ghanouj, tabbouleh, falafel balls, dolmas,

feta cheese, tahini sauce, and pita.

The eatery opened Oct. 28, 16 months after Fakhouri took over control of the storefront. The build-out resulted in a galley kitchen installed on the left-hand side with a small front counter and a case for desserts up front.

Counter seating is provided in the front windows, with eight high stools split between the two sides. There is also a small table with two chairs that is wheelchair accessible on the right-hand side, with an ADA-accessible bathroom at the end of the hallway.

As for the stairs, they lead to a second-level mezzanine that is set back from the entranceway. Fakhouri installed a walk-in cooler and built a food-prep area as well as a small office.

"They do not allow second-story seating," he said of the city's zoning codes for 24th Street. "What we ended up with is we took 12 feet from the front entrance and opened it up."

Paintings of various Mediterranean dishes adorn the lower portions of the eatery's front windows facing the street. Inside, on the right, is a floor-to-ceiling wall mural depicting a cobblestoned city street with couples eating at a café's outdoor tables, while across the way, a woman shops for fruits and vegetables at a small market. The tableau includes several other pedestrians strolling around town.

"I wanted something that looked like you were walking into a market in any town in Greece," explained Fakhouri.

He is working on upgrading the website for Lazeez so customers can order online by early March. He is also looking to engage several delivery services, as the restaurant right now is only eat-in or takeout.

Business has been "so far, so good," said Fakhouri, who expects things to pick up further by the end of spring.

Lazeez is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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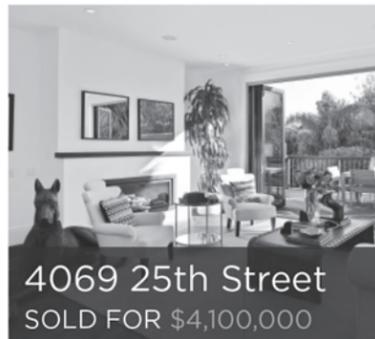
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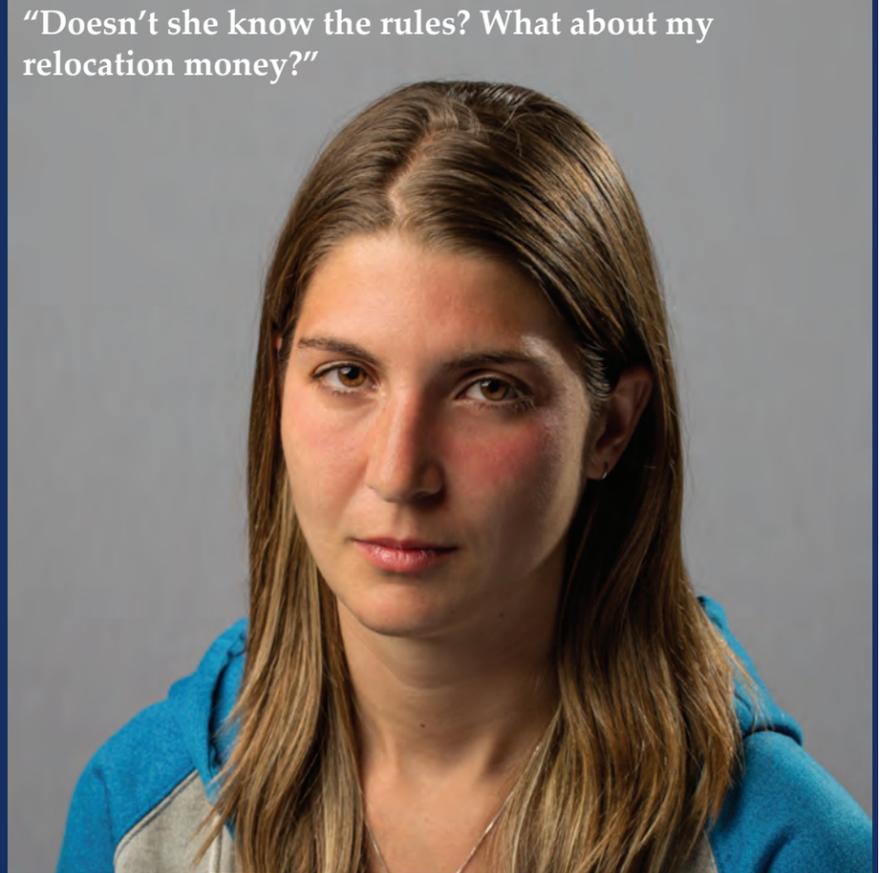
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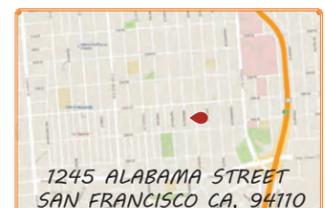


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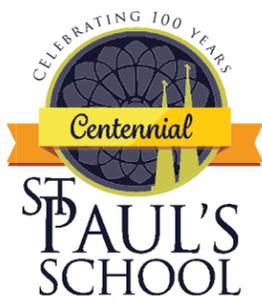




Noe Valley Views

Play Ball. While Spring Training for our hometown Giants, this house on 26th Street keeps a colorful and faithful watch.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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A Bird's Eye View on Real Estate: The role of real estate in your long-term investment portfolio. Do you want to downsize? March 17th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Umpqua Bank on 24th Street by Carol Koffel. CalBRE#01982667

www.DogWalkingServiceOfSanFrancisco.com: 415-731-0120.

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.

HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email.)

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 **April 2016** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of April. **The deadline for Class Ads is March 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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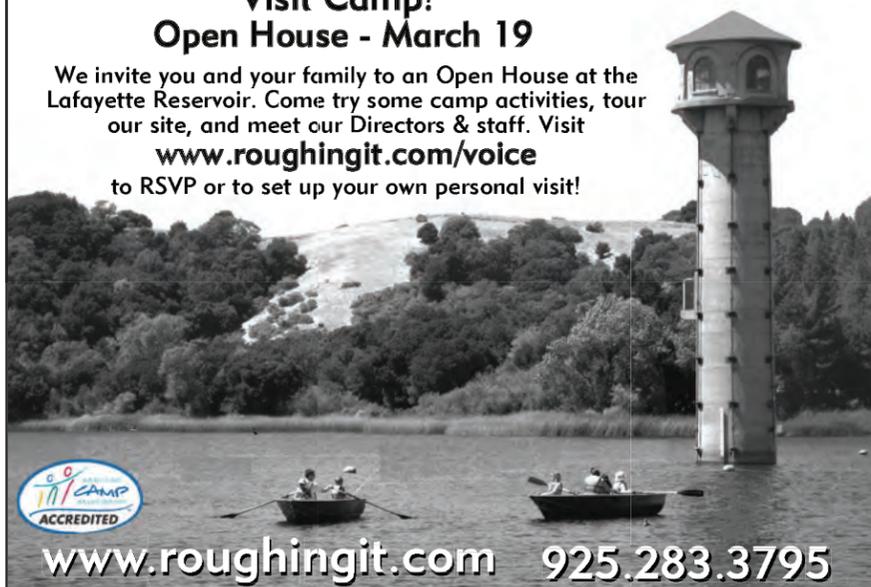
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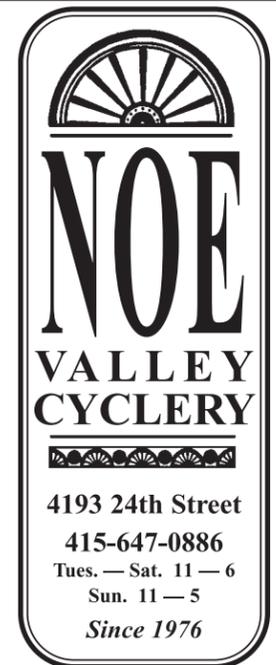
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'Uptown Funk' at Upper Noe Rec Center

Just watch 'em! Upper Noe Recreation Center will be hosting a karaoke class for adults (18 and up) on Friday nights, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the spring session running March to May. The five-week class, emceed by Chris Sequeira of tai chi fame, invites you to belt out your favorite songs on stage with the best in digital accompaniment. The singing order will be determined by your place in line 15 minutes before class, says Sequeira. Sign up soon. It sounds like the course, which runs March 25 to April 29, could draw a crowd. (The fee is \$54.)

Also new to the Day Street park is youth soccer, on Tuesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. for 5- to 8-year-olds; and Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for kids 9 to 12.

Continuing classes and sports activities include beginning and advanced tennis, Hatha and Vinyasa yoga, volleyball, cooking lessons, play times for toddlers, free qi gong for seniors, and lots more.

Registration for the spring session starts **Saturday, March 5**, at 10 a.m. Signup for summer day camp starts two weeks later, **Saturday, March 19**.

To register for classes, drop by the center at 295 Day St. (between Church and Sanchez) or visit San Francisco Rec and Park online at <https://www.sfreconline.org>.

If you'd like to help plan events at Upper Noe, contact facilities coordinator Cheryl Woltjen at 415-970-8061 (cheryl.woltjen@sfgov.org) or consider joining the **Upper Noe Community Recreation Council**, which meets on third Wednesdays. The next meeting is March 16, 7 p.m.

The group **Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center** has more information at www.noevalleyreccenter.com. To get the scoop on **Joby's Run**, contact Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners at fundogsf.org. The dog run is open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING SESSION, MARCH-MAY 2016

MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)

TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

I...2...3 Ready (10 mos-3 yrs)
 Rec 'n' Tot Soccer (3-5 yrs)
 Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs)
 Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs)
 Open Gym
 Auditorium Free Play
 QuickStart Tennis (8-13 yrs)
 Soccer (5-8 yrs)
 Combat Athletics (8-16 yrs)
 Soccer (9-12 yrs)
 Tennis (18+, intermed./advanced)
 Yoga - Vinyasa Flow (all levels)
 Open Gym
 Boot Camp (adult, 18+)

Tues., 10-11:30 a.m.
 Tues., 10-11 a.m.
 Tues., 10:15-11:15 a.m.
 Tues., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Tues., noon-3 p.m.
 Tues., 1-3:30 p.m.*
 Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 Tues., 4-5 p.m.
 Tues., 4-5:30 p.m.
 Tues., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Tues., 6-7 p.m.
 Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Tues., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Pilates (intermed.)
 Pilates (18+)
 Pilates (18+)
 Open Gym
 Qi Gong for Seniors
 Basketball Jr. Warriors League (kindergarten)
 Basketball Jr. Warriors League (1st & 2nd grades)
 Tennis (18+, beginning)
 Drop-in Volleyball (18+, free)

Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Wed., 10-11 a.m.
 Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Wed., noon-3:30 p.m.
 Wed., 1-3 p.m.
 Wed., 4-5 p.m.
 Wed. 5-6 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.)

I...2...3 Ready (10 mos-3 yrs)
 Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs)
 Open Gym
 Senior Argentine Tango (55+)
 Girls Volleyball (7-9 yrs)
 Zumba (family; drop-in, free)
 Yoga - Gentle Hatha (18+)

Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m.
 Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Thurs., noon-8:30 p.m.
 Thurs., 1-4 p.m.
 Thurs., 4-5:30 p.m.
 Thurs., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Baby & Me (1-3 yrs)
 Pilates (18+)
 Open Gym
 Auditorium Free Play
 So You Think You Can Act (7-11 yrs)
 Girls Volleyball League, Upper Noe (10-14)
 Mini-Players (5-6 yrs)
 Combat Athletics for Kids (8-16 yrs)
 Future Chefs (9-13 yrs)
 Karaoke (for adults, 18+)
 Drop-in Volleyball (18+, free)

Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Fri., 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 Fri., noon-3 p.m.
 Fri., 1-3 p.m.*
 Fri., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 Fri., 4-5:30 p.m.
 Fri., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
 Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
 Fri., 6:30-8 p.m.
 Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Yoga - Vinyasa (18+, all levels)
 Rec 'n' Tot Soccer (3-4 yrs)
 Zumba (family; drop-in, free)
 Auditorium Free Play
 QuickStart Tennis (7-9 yrs)

Sat., 9:15-10:15 a.m.
 Sat., 10-11 a.m.
 Sat., 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 Sat., noon-4:30 p.m.*
 Sat., 1-2 p.m.

SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)

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Notary Public Service

MARCH 2016

March 1: LITQUAKE Epicenter hosts Cintra Wilson in conversation with Gary Kamiya. 7 pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the New Mission, 2550 Mission. litquake.org.

March 1-25: "O Glorious City," Artist-in-Residence Jeremy Fish's exhibition of drawings and photographs of SAN FRANCISCO, celebrates City Hall's 100th birthday.

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Eureka Valley Library offers its TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 1-29: Larkin Street Youth Services gives free HIV TESTING for youth 24 and under. Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. 1800 Market. 673-0911; sfcenter.org.

March 1-29: See Jane Run offers a Tuesday RUN CLUB, beginning at 6 pm, at 3910 24th. 401-8338.

March 1-29: 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.

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

March 1-31: Charlie's Corner offers children's STORY TIMES every day. Mon.-Fri., 10 am, noon, 3 and 5 pm; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am, 12:30 and 3:30 pm. 4102 24th; 641-1104.

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

March 1-31: Chandler Lee exhibits PHOTOGRAPHS in "Patterns. Landscapes, and Urban Design" at Spark Arts. Reception March 5, 1-4 pm. 4229 18th. 887-2207; sparkarts.com.

March 1 & April 5: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

March 2 & 16: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to Oliver, a calm canine. For ages 4 to 7, but older welcome. 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley

Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: 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.

March 2-30: Folio Books hosts STORYTIME for toddlers every Wednesday at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 2-30: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

March 2-30: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

March 2 & April 6: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

March 3: The SF Zoo offers information about its DOCENT TRAINING program. 10 am-noon. Osher Great Hall in the Lurie Education Center. RSVP to 753-7122 or docent@sfzoo.org.

March 3: Supervisor SCOTT WIENER holds open office hours from 11 am to 1 pm at SF City Hall, room 274. Call 554-6968 to confirm.

March 3: Cynthia Nims discusses OYSTERS: Recipes That Bring Home a Taste of the Sea. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 3, 10, 17 & 24: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 3-31: Attend PUB QUIZ NIGHTS on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

March 3-April 13: Creativity Explored hosts its artists at work in the gallery in "TABULA RASA." Reception March 31, 7-9 pm; Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

March 4: The Lily Cai Chinese Dancers perform at the Rotunda DANCE series at SF City Hall. Noon.dancersgroup.org.



San Francisco Neon will be revealed March 29 at St. Philip's Catholic Church by guest speakers Randall Ann Homan and Al Bama.

March 4-25: 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.

March 4-25: 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.

March 4-25: Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday-night MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com.

March 5: REGISTRATION begins for spring classes at Upper Noe Rec Center. For info: sfreconline.org or noevalleyrecenter.com.

March 5: Fourth- and fifth-graders are invited to STEM DAY (science, technology, engineering, and math) with activities, presentations, and discussions. Willie L. Brown Jr. Middle

School, 2055 Silver. goo.gl/sNyQog.

March 5: The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets at the Noe Valley Library from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. 415 Jersey. 255-7200.

March 5: The Glen Park Library hosts Laurel Nagle and Delle Maxwell's discussion of "PLANTS for Water-Wise Gardens." 4-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

March 5: Alvarado School sponsors a New Orleans MASQUERADE BALL and auction to benefit school programs. 6-10 pm. SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan. alvaradoschool.net.

March 5 & 6: SF HISTORY DAYS at the Old Mint feature exhibits and presentations. Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. sfhistorydays.org.

March 5 & 19: NEON WALKING TOURS of the Mission and Castro run from 5 to 7 pm; start location given with reservation at neonbook.xyz.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26: "Meet the Animals!" at the Randall Museum features California wildlife. 11 am. Mission Art Center, 745 Treat. 695-5014.

March 5-26: 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.

March 5-26: The Noe Valley Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyrecenter.com.

March 5-26: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 8 to 11 pm. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

March 6: Amy Halloran introduces The New BREAD Basket: How the New Crop of Grain Growers, Plant Breeders, Millers, Maltsters, Bakers, Brewers, and Local Food Activists Are Redefining Our Daily Loaf. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712;

omnivorebooks.com.

March 6 & 20: 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.

March 6-27: 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.

March 6-27: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the area around MISSION DOLORES. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

March 7: ODD MONDAYS celebrates Women's Day with poet Doreen Stock and dance/gallery owner Claudia Chapline. 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.

March 7: United Nations Force Commander Roméo Dallaire discusses "The Courage to Do What Is Right: From the Hell of Rwanda to the Plight of SYRIAN REFUGEES." 7 pm. USF, Presentation Theater, 2350 Turk. usfca.edu.

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conversation Club meets Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 8: The SF BIKE Coalition hosts a free basic class, "Intro to Urban Bicycling." 6:30-7:30 pm. Mission Creek Senior Community, 224 Berry. sbike.org.

March 8: PFLAG's monthly meeting has moved to the Women's Building at 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

March 8: Dominic Angerame discusses "Early EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA in San Francisco" at the monthly meeting of the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7:30 pm. 455 Golden Gate. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

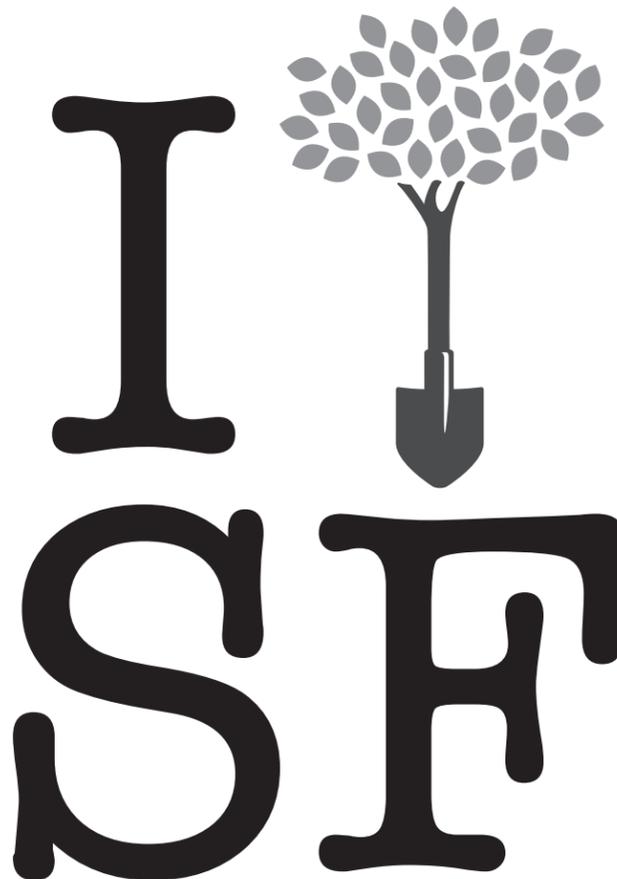


MARCH EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

THU MAR 3	CYNTHIA NIMS • OYSTERS: RECIPES THAT BRING HOME A TASTE OF THE SEA • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • For oyster lovers everywhere, this luscious cookbook features recipes, shucking instructions, and the local farming success story of the many delicious oysters from the Pacific Coast. From Hangtown Hash with Fried Eggs to Half-Shell Oysters with Kimchi-Cucumber Relish, this gorgeous cookbook features 30 recipes, ideas for what to drink with oysters, and tips for buying, storing, and shucking.
SUN MAR 6	AMY HALLORAN • THE NEW BREAD BASKET: HOW THE NEW CROP OF GRAIN GROWERS, PLANT BREEDERS, MILLERS, MALTSTERS, BAKERS, BREWERS, AND LOCAL FOOD ACTIVISTS ARE REDEFINING OUR DAILY LOAF • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Today, bread and beer are once again building community as a new band of farmers, bakers, millers, and maltsters work to reinvent local grain systems. <i>The New Bread Basket</i> tells their stories and reveals the village that stands behind every loaf and every pint.
THU MAR 17	JOHN HAEGER • RIESLING REDISCOVERED: BOLD, BRIGHT, AND DRY. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>Riesling Rediscovered</i> looks at the present state of dry Riesling across the Northern Hemisphere: where it is grown and made, what models and objectives vintners have in mind, and what parameters of grape growing and winemaking are essential when the goal is a delicious dry wine. John Winthrop Haeger explores the history of Riesling to illuminate how this variety emerged from a crowded field of grape varieties grown widely across northern Europe.
SAT MAR 19	THOMAS PARKER • TASTING FRENCH TERROIR: THE HISTORY OF AN IDEA • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • This book explores the origins and significance of the French concept of terroir, demonstrating that the way the French eat their food and drink their wine today derives from a cultural mythology that developed between the Renaissance and the Revolution.
TUE MAR 22	ALLISON HOPELAIN & RUSSELL MOORE • THIS IS CAMINO • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Russ and Allison first opened the doors to Camino restaurant in Oakland, California, just as recession forced would-be diners home. Faced with a walk-in refrigerator full of uneaten food and an idling staff, they got industrious—canning, preserving, brining.

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CALENDAR

March 9: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group meets from 6:15 to 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

March 9: The UPPER NOE Neighbors meeting hosts a panel discussion on neighborhood associations, with reps of local groups. 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. president@uppernoeneighbors.com.

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

March 10-12: James Lick Middle School hosts a production of original MUSICAL REVUE "Homecoming: A Night at the Copa." Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 4 pm. 1220 Noe. 672-1023.

March 11: The Noe Valley Library offers a screening of the FILM Divergent, based on a volume of the Veronica Roth trilogy. 2-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 11: TAIZE service at Holy Innocents Church is held on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. Holyinsf.org.

March 12: Green Mann and Lisa Erdos conduct a free PLANT CLINIC on the second Saturday of the month. 10 am-noon. 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th. lisa.erdos@att.net.

March 12: The Noe Valley Library hosts Larry Oppenheim's discussion of Verdi's OPERA Falstaff. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 12: "Una Noche," a dance and auction FUNDRAISER for Fairmount Elementary School, runs from 6 to 11 pm at the Women's Building, 3542 18th. 695-5669.

March 12: St. Paul's Church hosts a ST. PAT'S DINNER with corned beef and cabbage and Irish music. 7 pm. 1690 Church.

March 12: Box Set performs a concert at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC Series) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 13: The Gears Turning POETRY SERIES and open mic at Modern Times Bookstore begins at 4 pm. 2912 24th. 282-9246.

March 13: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts a benefit concert by LiederALIVE! ensemble. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org.

March 13: Music on the Hill presents CHAMBER MUSIC by the Light & Shadow Ensemble, "Tell Me the Truth About Love." 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

March 14: LITQUAKE Epicenter hosts Joyce Maynard in conversation with Katie Crouch. 7 pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the New Mission, 2550 Mission. litquake.org.

March 15: The Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting the third Tuesday of the month. 7 pm. Rosenberg Building at the Jewish Home, 302 Silver. 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

March 16: HERCHURCH hosts a Women's DRUMMING CIRCLE the third Wednesday of the month. 5:45-6:45 pm. 678 Portola.

March 16: The UPPER NOE Community Recreation Council and Friends of the Noe Valley Rec Center host their monthly meeting. 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. 970-8061; cheryl.woltjen@sfgov.org.

March 16: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707

March 16: LIVE MUSIC continues at the Valley Tavern on third Wednesdays. 7-9:30 pm. 4054 24th. 285-0674.

March 17: Carol Koffel leads a free discussion about real estate investments. 5:30-7 pm. Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th. 268-5260.

March 17: John Haeger discusses RIESLING Rediscovered: Bold, Bright, and Dry. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 18: The Randall Museum offers a BIRDING WALK for ages 5 and up at Corona Heights Park. Meet

8 am at the Randall Museum Parking Lot, 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

March 19: Umpqua Bank offers FREE SHREDDING of paperwork from 9 am to 1 pm. 3938 24th. 268-5260.

March 19: Registration for DAY CAMP begins; camps run from May 31 through Aug. 12. 10 am-3 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. sfreonline.org.

March 19: Thomas Parker introduces Tasting French TERROIR: The History of an Idea. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 19: The SF SHAKESPEARE Festival performs Hamlet at the Noe Valley Library. 3-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 20: Noe Valley comedians Nicole Calasich, Mike Capozzola, Joe Nguyen, and Liz Stone do standup at WORD WIT, part of the Word Week literary festival running March 20-26. 7 pm. Caskhouse, 3853 24th. wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com.

March 21: Word Week at the ODD MONDAYS series features a talk by UCSF physics professor Brandon R. Brown, author of Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War. 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.

March 22: The Noe Valley Library offers an eREADER drop-in from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 22: Allison Hopelain and Russell Moore discuss their Oakland RESTAURANT in This Is Camino. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 22: "WOMEN in Their Own Write" Burnita Bluit, Janis Cooke Newman, and Ruth Galm read from their work at Noe Valley Word Week at Folio Books. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 23: Kids will enjoy Word Week's "STORIES, Stickers, and Scribbles" with author-illustrator Corey M.P., author of Mr. Dinosaur Is Hiding and Green Bird Loves to Count. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 23: The Resilient Diamond Heights WORKGROUP meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 867-5774.

March 23: German author Christopher KLOEBLE reads from his novel Almost Everything Very Fast, translated by Aaron Kerner, at Folio Books as part of Word Week. 5:30-6:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 23: Word Week continues at 7 pm with "NOIR at the Bar," featuring authors Cara Black, Alejandro Murguía, Kelli Stanley, Domenic Stansberry, and Lia Volz. Dress in 1940s garb for a bar tab discount. 7 pm. The Peaks, 1316 Castro. 826-0100.

March 23: Olive This Olive That hosts an ITALIAN COOKING class with Chef Francesca Lorenzon. 251-7520; info@olivethisolivethat.com.

March 24: Owners of A Little Yumminess help Miss Catherine conduct a CHINESE COOKING workshop for kids 6 and up. 3:45-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Limit 12 participants; call 355-5707.

March 24: Umpqua Bank hosts Word Week's panel discussion about getting your BOOK PUBLISHED. Meet authors Scott Hutchins, Genanne Walsh, and Wayne Goodman, and publishing insiders Christine Carswell and Andy Ross. 7-8 pm. 3938 24th. 268-5260.

March 25: Award-winning AUTHORS Wilfredo Pascual, Anne Raeff, and Roberto F. Santiago read from their "Queer Words" at Noe Valley Word Week. 7 pm. Cliché Noe, 4175 24th. 282-5416.

March 25-April 29: Chris Sequeira leads a Friday KARAOKE for Adults group at the Noe Valley Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day.

March 26: The eighth annual Noe Valley EASTER EGG HUNT runs from 10 am to noon. Douglass Park, Douglass and Clipper. noevalleyassociation.org.

March 26: Make a little NOTEBOOK at the Noe Valley Library; all materials provided. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. Limited space; call 355-5707 to register.

March 26: "Does Your CAT Love You?" is the topic at a talk by veterinary expert Dr. Tony Buffington at Noe Valley Word Week. Folio Books. 4 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 27-May 28: GALLERY SANCHEZ in the Noe Valley Ministry exhibits "Onward: Work by Jenny Badger Sultan and Henry Sultan." Reception April 3, noon-2 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org.

March 29: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

March 29: Artists' Television Access (ATA) screens 16mm FILMS at the Noe Valley Library. 6:30-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 29: Randall Ann Homan and Al Bama from Neon Book discuss "San Francisco NEON: Survivors and Lost Icons" at a meeting of the SF HISTORY ASSOCIATION. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

March 31: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Aprille With His Shoures Soote

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the April 2016 issue. The deadline for items is March 15. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write Calendar, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Thank you.



Come see why kids love SF Tots!

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kids 18 months - 6 years



Seasons Begin:
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10th Year

March 20-26, 2016

#WORDWEEK2016

Noe Valley's celebration of written, spoken, and sung words.

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www.friendsofnoevalley.com or Word Week on Facebook

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Feline Finding. A calico caricature graces the cement on Church Street.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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www.cds-sf.org

LIBRARY EVENTS

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival: The library hosts *Hamlet*, a murder mystery featuring Shakespeare's most famous soliloquy, "To be or not to be..." and a sword fight that promises to have audiences on the edge of their seats. After the show, the cast of the touring production will answer questions from the audience. Weather permitting, the play will be performed on the patio. Saturday, March 19, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Make a Little Notebook Craft

Class: Learn how to bind and design a notebook of your very own. Space is limited; call 415-355-5707 to register or go to Eventbrite.com. Saturday, March 26, 11 a.m. to noon.

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Still working on that scarf? Join your fellow knitters, meeting monthly on Saturdays. There are supplies to practice with, but bring your own if you have a special project in mind. Saturday, March 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

At the **Great Books Discussion Group**, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco, people discuss and learn from outstanding works of writing. Wednesday, March 9, 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens *Divergent*, a sci-fi action/adventure film based on the trilogy of books by Veronica Roth. Friday, March 11, 2-4:30 p.m.

Opera for the People: Larry Oppenheim alternates video clips and commentary in a discussion of *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi. Saturday, March 12, 2 to 3 p.m.

Noe Valley Book Discussion Group: The neighborhood book group's selection this month is *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. Wednesday, March 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

eReader and Online Resource Drop-In: Bring your mobile device or laptop, library card and PIN, and passwords for downloading apps to an informal workshop on using the SFPL's digital resources, including the library catalog and databases, Zinio for magazines, ebooks, and Hoopla! for movies, music, and audiobooks. Tuesday, March 22, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

ATA @ SFPL: Experience Reel Cinema: Artists' Television Access (ATA) teams up with SFPL to screen movie gems from the library's 16mm film archive. Tuesday, March 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Don't Mess With Her by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

March to the Library

Interviews with the late David Bowie, shortcuts and tips for simplified living, and science experiments to cook up in the kitchen are among the topics of books selected this month by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

To find them and other items in the library's collection, call or drop by the branch at 451 Jersey St. near Castro (415-355-5707), or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org. Also, be sure to catch the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's rendition of *Hamlet*, playing at the Noe Valley Library on Saturday, March 19, 3 p.m.

Adult Fiction

- A father tries to reunite with his son and recapture the Holy Grail in *House of the Rising Sun*, the latest novel in the Holland family saga by James Lee Burke.

- An older brother has to choose between loyalty to his family and doing the right thing in *The Little Brother* by Victoria Patterson.

- *Stories From the Kitchen*, edited by Diana Secker Tesdell, is an anthology of culinary tales by famous authors, including Dickens, Chekhov, Proust, Shirley Jackson, M.F.K. Fisher, and Nora Ephron.

- Ron Childress' *And West Is West*, winner of the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, explores the lives of characters bound together by forces beyond their control.

Adult Nonfiction

- David Pogue's bestseller *Pogue's Basics: Life, Essential Tips and Shortcuts (That No One Bothers to Tell You) for Simplifying Your Day*, tells how to solve problems ranging from staying awake behind the wheel to getting the last drop of ketchup out of the bottle.

- In *The Road to Character*, David Brooks discusses the values that create and influence our relationships and life choices.

- *The Hands-On Home: A Seasonal Guide to Cooking, Preserving & Natural Homekeeping* includes recipes, tips, and inspiration from *Northwest Edible Life* blogger Erica Strauss.

Hoopla now has ebooks & egraphic novels! Here are some selections:

- Fantasy/science fiction drama *Saga*, a graphic novel by Brian K. Vaughan, is a tale of forbidden love during a never-ending galactic war.

- A small-town cop who had never fired a shot tries to find his wife and son after the *Walking Dead* have taken over the world, in a novel by Robert Kirkman, illustrated by Tony Moore.

- *Bowie on Bowie: Interviews and Encounters With David Bowie*, edited by Sean Egan, spans five decades and spotlights the late singer's many transformations.

- Meg Carter's psychological thriller *The Lies We Tell* mixes the past and present when two girls meet after a 20-year separation and odd things start to occur.

Films on DVD

- The wife of Victorian art critic John Ruskin, *Effie Gray* (Dakota Fanning), has an affair with pre-Raphaelite artist John Everett Millais in this 2014 drama written by Emma Thompson.

- After the loss of their son, a couple try to find healing in the 2015 drama *Meadowland*.

- *Chi-raq*, Spike Lee's 2015 adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, is set against the backdrop of gang violence in Chicago.

- Ian McKellen stars as a retired Sherlock Holmes, now in the throes of early dementia, in the 2015 drama *Mr. Holmes*.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Cooking Class: Simran Singh and Stacie Dong, co-owners of A Little Yumminess (www.alittleyum.com), join children's librarian Miss Catherine in leading a **Chinese Cooking Workshop for Kids**, ages 6 and up. Scallion pancakes and vegetarian pot stickers will be on the menu! Reserve your spot (limit 12 participants) by calling 415-355-5707. Thursday, March 24, 3:45 to 5 p.m. Note: A kid-friendly recipe for Easy-Peasy Dumplings, courtesy of A Little Yumminess, appears below.

Story Time: Miss Catherine will share books, rhymes, small movement, and music at the half-hour **Toddler Tales**, geared to children ages 16 months to 2 years, with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel: Children ages 3 to 5 with parent or caregiver are invited to a showing of fun, vintage **Films for Preschoolers** Thursday, March 31, at 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

FOR TEENS AND UP

AAC Conversation Club: Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users of all levels meet to practice on devices such as Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, and smartphones and tablets. Mondays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Reef, the Black Forest, and the Himalayan Mountains. Ages 7 to 10.

- The science of cooking is explained in National Geographic's *Edible Science: Experiments You Can Eat* by Jodi Wheeler-Toppen and Carol Tennant. Ages 8 to 12.

Noe Valley Voice bookworm Karol Barske wrote this month's book annotations.

A Lot of Yumminess from a Little

A Little Yumminess invites you to sign up for its **Chinese Cooking Workshop for Kids** March 24 at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. There it will share recipes like this one, for steamed dumplings (or pot stickers!).

Easy-Peasy Dumplings

Make these super-easy dumplings with your little ones or for a kitchen playdate. Have the kids help with beating the egg, brushing the egg wash to help seal the dumplings, and even folding the dumplings into little triangles. Makes 15 to 18—you decide how many that serves.

Ingredients

For dumplings:

1/2 lb ground pork, chicken, or turkey
2 scallions, finely sliced
1-1/2 tsp soy sauce
1/4 tsp white pepper
1/2 tsp sesame oil (optional)
1 egg, beaten
Store-bought square wonton wrappers (usually available next to tofu in most grocery stores)

For dipping sauce:

2 tsp soy sauce
1/4 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp rice wine vinegar (optional)

Method

- Mix the minced meat with the scallions, soy sauce, white pepper, sesame oil and half of the beaten egg. Reserve the rest of the egg for sealing the dumplings.
- Combine the ingredients for the dipping sauce.
- Arrange several wonton wrappers with corners facing you and place half a tablespoon worth of meat mixture in the center of each wrapper. Use a pastry brush or your fingers to brush the edges with the beaten egg. Fold the wrapper in half and form little triangular parcels. Repeat till meat mixture is used up.
- Steam for 5-6 minutes (do not forget to grease the steamer basket with cooking oil if using a metal steamer). Alternatively, you can cook the dumplings in boiling water, which is easier and takes about 3 minutes.
- For pot stickers, if you want more calories and crunch, pan-fry the cooked dumplings in a little oil, 2-3 minutes on each side. Serve warm with dipping sauce and watch them disappear.

A Little Yumminess (www.alittleyum.com) is a blog created by Simran Singh and Stacie Dong, two San Francisco moms with a passion for cooking. To reserve a spot for the library class, call 415-355-5707.



Ah Spring. Pretty posies for sale abound on 24th Street.

Photo by Jack Tipple

Betty Taisch Top Producer



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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

March Forth

By Mazook

HISTORY DAZE in Noe Valley was a blast last month. I'm talking about the February meeting of the San Francisco History Association (SFHA) at St. Philip's community room. (The group meets there the last Tuesday of the month.) About 130 people showed up to hear historian, tour guide, and performer Rick Shelton, aka Countess Lola Montez, give a presentation he called "Low Life in High Heels: Dragging Along Through History."

Shelton lived up to his billing and provided "a lively, visually stimulating, and informative romp through the city's colorful drag history." It all started in 1860, when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a law making it illegal for anyone to wear in public "a dress not belonging to his or her sex."

"We had quite an interesting crowd," said SFHA Host Committee spokesperson Vicky Walker, "and everyone seemed to enthusiastically enjoy the show." She said about 60 percent of the crowd were not members of the SFHA, "so the word had got around." Members go free and non-members pay a \$5 donation at the door.

By the way, refreshments were served, including some wonderful pear cake with matching wine, worth the price of admission alone.

The next event, happening March 29, is "San Francisco Neon: Survivors and Lost Icons," about the neon signs, many of them animated, that used to blink throughout the city. Author-historians Randall Ann Homan and Al Barna will give a talk and show sign

images they've culled from San Francisco home movies.

And for those of you who want to soak yourself in more history, the sixth annual San Francisco History Days at the Old Mint 2016, hosted by the mayor's office on March 5 and 6, will have over 75 groups presenting pop-up museums and around 20 speakers on various topics. Admission to that old (opened 1874) "Granite Lady" at Old Mint Plaza, Fifth and Mission, will be free.



HUNGER PAINS: A For Lease sign has appeared on the front door of that longtime wannabe restaurant at 1298 Church St. (corner of 25th). It was completed in the fall of 2012, after having taken about four years to build. As you *Rumors* regulars know, back then the plans were for a Vietnamese/Thai fusion eatery run by the folks at the popular Regent Thai (Church and 29th streets). However, co-owner Jean Son would always report, "We are not ready yet, and it's going slow."

Now it looks as if the corner may find a tenant. The owner's real estate agent, Santino DeRose, says that since he posted the sign on Feb. 10, he has received many inquiries about the space, which is a ready-to-go, fully equipped, never-been-used, "turnkey" restaurant with 1,500 square feet and 300 more in the basement—a rare opportunity, DeRose says.

He says the owners are hoping to rent to a restaurant that will be compatible with the neighborhood. "The rent is negotiable and not the driving force for selecting among the prospective [lessees] but what these community-based landlords think will be good in the neighborhood."

That building has quite a history. It was built in 1907 by one John M. Fischer, and the city directory shows that he opened up a saloon there with a residence on the second floor. He got a water permit for the building and built a horse trough in the back barn. Apparently, Prohibition closed down the saloon in 1919. During the latest remodel, old bottles were found in the basement, which seemed to indicate that during the 1920s it

was a speakeasy. Around 1933, it became a corner grocery store that lasted until the 1950s, at which time it was turned into a barbershop.



HAIR APPARENT: Speaking of barbershops, Downtown Noe Valley has seen the transformation of Mylene's Beauty Shop into Mo's Barber and Beauty Parlor. Kind of a milestone. The doors opened Feb. 17.

Beautician Mylene Carol had put her name on the storefront, located at 4008 24th near Noe, when she unveiled her salon back in 2001. Before that, the Doll House beauty shop had occupied the spot since 1971.

"Mylene has retired," says building and business co-owner Duncan Wheeler, who has lived above the shop for the past 28 years and later bought the property. "We knew that both beauticians, Debbie Rodriguez, who has worked here for 40 years, and Dennis O'Brien, who has been here for the last 10 years, had a clientele of neighborhood residents, and we wanted to preserve this service for many."

"We [he and co-owner Marcellino Gioia] wanted to add full-service barbers as well, and we have four who joined the group, offering barbering, beard and mustache trims, and shaves," Wheeler says.

Wheeler, a realtor at Vanguard Properties, says there will be a grand opening in the latter part of March. Oh, and by the way, Moe is the name of his 14-year-old Jack Russell terrier, and "Moe is a Noe Valley native."

== =

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD: The mid-February Noe Valley Farmers' Market saw a film crew walking from booth to booth with world-class chef Paul Svensson (aka Paul Smith) narrating the tour and interviewing several vendors.

According to his bio, Svensson is a Swedish and Finnish television chef, the creative director for several top restaurants, and a professional educator and lecturer in the food industry.

As to why he was visiting the NVFM, one of the camera people said they were in the process of making a documentary about



Civilian Nabs Cake. Longtime Noe Valley beat cop Lorraine Lombardo celebrates her retirement from the SFPD with a Noe Valley Bakery confection and a party at Le Zinc restaurant, courtesy of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Photo courtesy Meagan Fishell

culinary practices around the world, and the crew "had heard that this Saturday market would be a good place to go and see this weekly event. But," the camera person said, "nobody knows about this [documentary] yet, so you've got a scoop."

Uh, thanks.

And have you noticed the buzz of satisfaction about the farmers' market's move over to 24th Street on Saturdays during the building of the Noe Valley Town Square? Peter Gabel of the NVFM says he's received many positive comments about the move and that soon there'll be more vendors filling in the extra spaces.



PARK PLACES: Big news up at Noe Courts! The bathrooms have opened after being closed for around 40 years (and re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

We wish this egg hadn't come filled!

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

opened about two years ago and then closed again for months awaiting renovation).

The *Voice* covered this topic back in September 1998, when Mark Robinson reported that our neighborhood had adopted two local parks, Noe Courts and Douglass Park. A new organization was founded that summer, the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association, and as for their plans, “First of all, the association wants the city to repair and reopen the Noe Courts bathrooms. They’ve been unusable for decades, having been converted to a storage area in the 1970s.”

Supervisor Scott Wiener notes that the latest renovations were made possible through the voter-approved 2008 Park Bond. In his February newsletter, he proudly announces, “Each restroom has been converted to single-occupancy units for wheelchair accessibility. Water-saving fixtures and lighting were updated while maintaining the historic character of the building.”

Now let’s go to the park and try them out.

Meanwhile, Upper Noe Rec Center has placed a plaque honoring longtime neighborhood activist and Upper Noe Neighbors president Vicki Rosen at the entrance to the center’s auditorium. It’s there so people can easily see it as they enter the meeting room. Rosen died in June at the age of 68. At a memorial gathering in October attended by hundreds, State Senator Mark Leno and Supervisor Wiener praised Rosen’s fiery spirit and dedication to neighborhood causes.



HIPPITY-HOPPITY: Big news in the local real estate community is that after 41 years in Noe Valley, BJ Droubi is retiring and turning over the reins of her local real estate office, Droubi Team, to daughter Lamisse Droubi. BJ plans to move to Sacramento to start a new business in home and commer-

cial security with her other daughter, Christina. According to the family Droubi team, BJ is also going to be “raising chickens, painting, throwing pottery, and playing the piano.”

Good luck to you all. Thanks for co-sponsoring all those Easter egg hunts. (This year’s Easter Egg Hunt, co-sponsored by Droubi Team, Just for Fun, the Robert Roddick family, and of course the Noe Valley Association, is at Douglass Park on March 26, 10 a.m. to noon.)

Best of luck to former Noe Valley beat officer Lorraine Lombardo, who retired from the SFPD in January after 30 years on the force, 23 years of them as a bike cop on 24th Street. “It was really nice of the Noe Valley Merchants Association to give me that wonderful party last month [at Le Zinc restaurant],” Lombardo says. “Meagan Fishell [of Edward Jones] also brought in an amazing chocolate cake from Noe Valley Bakery.”

As for Lombardo’s retirement plans, “I’m working on getting a trail in Dixon named after my grandmother, and we still have the family ranch that I’m involved in, and I’m having a lot of lunches with friends. Everybody tells me I should get a job, but I’ve been too busy to look for one!”



ALL NEWS, NO CELLULOSE: For those of us who routinely buy our fully grated parmesan cheese from Whole Foods, it was a shock to see that the \$4.99 365 brand had vanished from the top shelf of the pasta aisle last month. What? I had to go to Walgreens to buy my cheese and it was Kraft’s. Well, word came back in response to my inquiries that there had been a recall of that cheese lot at Whole Foods, but it would be restocked in the future.

It seems there was a nationwide parmesan problem, which involved Castle Cheese, Inc., using cellulose, a form of wood pulp, as an anti-clumping agent in the cheese. Castle supplies cheese to most major grocery stores in the country.

According to *Bloomberg Business*, FDA tests found that Jewel-Osco’s Essential

Everyday 100% Grated Parmesan Cheese contained 8.8 percent cellulose, while Wal-Mart’s brand registered 7.8 percent. Whole Foods’ 365 brand didn’t list cellulose as an ingredient on the label, but still tested positive at 0.3 percent. The Kraft Parmesan I ended up buying had 3.8 percent of the filler.

The Market Pantry brand 100% Grated Parmesan Cheese sold at Target not only contained cellulose. It had no parmesan. Instead, according to the FDA, it was a mix of Swiss, mozzarella, and white cheddar (and cellulose).



DOWN AND UPS: The restored Noe Valley Engine 44 Firehouse at 3816 22nd St., which was offered for sale last year at almost \$7 million, still remains unsold.

“Now its owners are taking a different approach,” reports Tracy Elsen of *sf.curbed.com*. “They’ve listed it on Airbnb for a whopping \$1,500 per night. Visitors have access to a full gym in the basement, a backyard fire pit, and an outdoor roof deck. Bits of the firehouse’s history also remain, including a brass fire pole, copper stable doors, and zinc doors sprinkled throughout.” Be careful of that fire pole, tourists.

Trending on Nextdoor Central Noe Valley, and probably on every other Nextdoor group, is the rise in “smash and grab” incidents, i.e., car break-ins, in the neighborhood. The solution that should be trending is: Don’t leave anything in your car. Nothing. Recently, my car window was smashed and the thief grabbed my gym bag off the front seat. Whoever it was ran off with my funky gym stuff...pew.

Also losing a little something is Philz Coffee. The outlet in Noe raised its prices for coffee drinks by 50 cents, to the dismay of regulars.

Shoe Biz has gone through a change recently. Owner Mehran Esmaeli merged the four stores of his company, including ours in Noe Valley, with an online retailer called Nice Kicks, that has its flagship store in Austin, Tex.

Esmaeli and his wife, Nooshin Ansarinia, will still be in charge of operations, but they will focus their energies on their house brand, Sutro, which is designed here and manufactured in Mexico.



ACTING UP: The stage has been set for The Rabbit Hole Children’s Theater, which last month moved from its space on Valencia (near Cesar Chavez) to the space on the corner of Diamond and 24th, which was a laundromat for many years. As reported here in February, the previous owners never got around to opening the children’s play space they had planned, and sold the building.

“It was pretty amazing,” says founder Brooke Wallace, “that we found this space for our theater in this great neighborhood, and could literally turn the key and move into a space that fit our needs perfectly. We are very lucky. The landlords have been more than generous with us to help us move...they are artists themselves.”

Wallace hails from New York City, where she studied musical theater. She came west two years ago and opened a dance and theater arts studio in the Mission, “where we focus on creativity and imagination through theater.”

“We currently have over 50 students ages 2 to 12 years old, with a six-week program and 12 different classes during the week for the various age groups. For example, we have an art class for ages 4 to 9, Bunny Ballet for ages 3 to 6, theater class for ages 5 to 8, and Friday Drama Club for 8- to 10-year-olds.” There are also camps during vacations and in the summer, centered on theatrical play.

Wallace says that most of the students come from Noe Valley, the Mission, Bernal Heights, and Glen Park, and the next classes start in Noe on March 7.



THAT’S 30. Have a marvelous March and a happy St. Patrick’s Day. See you on April Fool’s.

Ciao for now. ■



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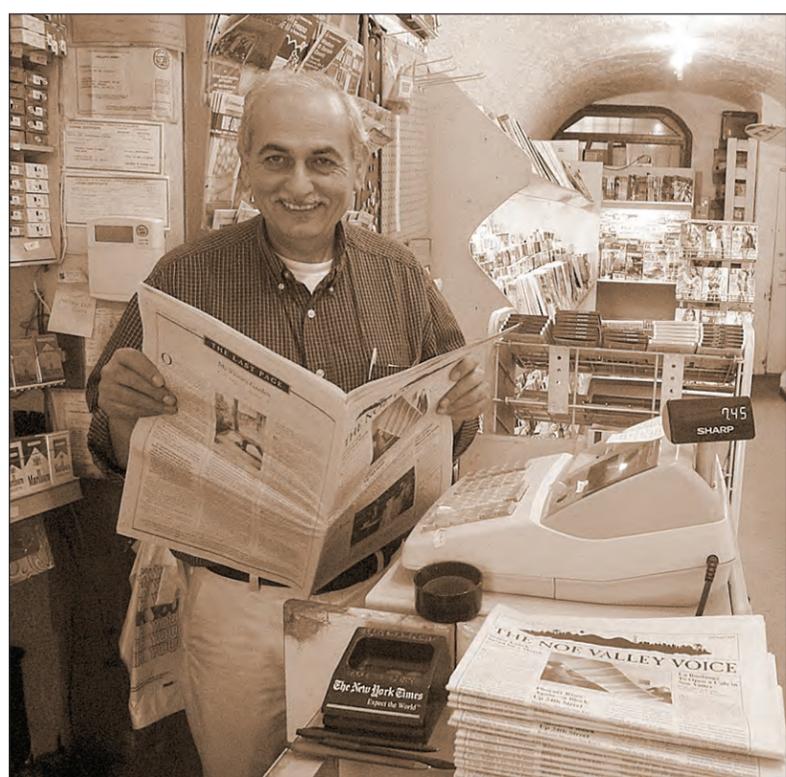


Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Noe Valley Views

Shapes of Nature and of man comfort the gaze upward at 26th and Noe Streets.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Spring is a Seller's Market in Noe Valley

Since the recovery began in 2010, prices have steadily risen in our neighborhood and across the City. This 5 year graphic clearly shows the rise, and demonstrates the seasonality of our market. Spring has always been a great time to sell, and the numbers bear that out. **If you are considering a sale of your home, now is the time to prepare it for market to receive the highest possible price this year.**



All data courtesy of San Francisco Association of Realtors.



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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

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

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

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association
 Website: www.evna.org
 Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, 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
 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, 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: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235
 Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

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

Fairmount Heights Association
 Contact: Kathy Keller, 912-9365
 Email: Kathy.Keller44@gmail.com
 http://fairmount-heights.org
 Meetings: Monthly social mixer and discussion, 350 Amber Drive

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, or Jean Connor, 584-8576
 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

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

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

Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center
 Contact: Chris Faust
 Email: info@noevalleyreccenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)
 Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel
 Email: info@fundogsf.org
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

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

Juri Commoners
 Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon. Check website.

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

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro
 Contact: 835-8720
 Email: info@castromerchants.com
 Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, 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 Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
 Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687
 Meetings: Last Wednesdays, Bank of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
 Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Progress Noe Valley
 Contact: progressnoe@gmail.com
 Website: progressnoe.com

Meetings announced via Facebook group. See website for details.

Protect Noe's Charm
 Contact: Ozzie Rohm
 Email: ozzierohm@sbcglobal.net
 Address: 1101 Diamond St., SF, CA 94114
 Website: protectnoescharm.com
 Meetings: See website.

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: noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Address: 294 29th St., SF, 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: Marianne Hampton, 821-2150
 Email: president@uppernoeneighbors.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm date and time.

*All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.

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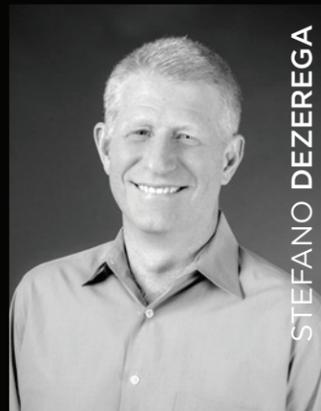
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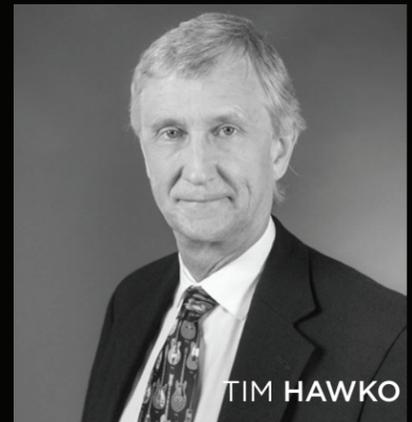
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