



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Spelling Bee Family All the Buzz at James Lick

Dad and Teacher Help Sixth-Grader Advance to Regionals

By Matthew S. Bajko

James Lick Middle School sixth-grader Evangeline “Evie” Chien readily admits that orthography, until this school year, hadn’t been her forte. So it came as a surprise that she took first place in her classroom spelling bee held in December. “I haven’t been good at spelling,” said Evie, 11, the editor of the Noe Valley school’s online newspaper, the *JLMS Guard Dog*.

And going on to compete in the school-wide bee, held in January, took some convincing from her father.

“He wanted me to do it,” said Evie, confiding that she didn’t think she could beat her eighth-grade competitor since he had advanced to the regional round last year.

But she again landed in first place by correctly spelling “potentialities” while the runner-up misspelled “recusant.” (As for the previous year’s winner, he was tripped up by “overweening.”)

“I wasn’t sure I would win,” said Evie, adding that she was nervous competing in her school bees.



Playing With the Dictionary. Evie Chien gives her father, Chi-Ming Chien, the chuckles as they make a game out of word-sleuthing.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

By representing James Lick in this year’s CBS Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee competition, Evie was carrying on a family tradition. Both her father and uncle were also successful spelling bee competitors in school.

In 1991, her uncle made it to the national spelling bee, held each year in Washington, D.C., while her father, Chi-Ming Chien, won his first spelling bee competition in 1983 as a fourth-grader in the Los Angeles Unified School District’s regional elementary competition. His winning word was “questionnaire.”

Blue Bear School of Music Brings Joy to Noe Small Fry

By Olivia Boler

Music programs for babies, tots, and their parents abound in San Francisco, especially in Noe Valley. Here one can find introductory music classes at Russo Music on 24th Street, Little Folkies on Church Street, and Music Together on Fair Oaks Street and on Castro Street.

It’s no surprise then that one of the most venerated San Francisco music schools got into the neighborhood’s

melodious mix about three years ago. Since 2014, Blue Bear School of Music has been offering classes for the 5 and under set, as well as those for adults, at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street.

Established in 1971, in a little storefront on Ocean Avenue, Blue Bear’s founders were members of a rock band, Wolfgang & Strauss, who wanted to earn

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If You’re Happy and You Know It. Youngsters rock out at a Boppin’ Bears class for Little Bears at the Noe Valley Ministry building on Sanchez Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

End of the Line for House and Tenant On 26th Street

Death of Elderly Resident Sheds More Light on Developer Plans

By Corrie M. Anders

For 63 years, Carl Jensen lived in the ground-floor flat of a two-unit building on 26th Street. Every morning, the 93-year-old bachelor meandered the half block from his apartment to Chloe’s Cafe on Church Street for a breakfast of scrambled eggs, toast, and coffee. As he left, he put a \$2 tip into his server’s hand—never on the table.

That routine and the serenity of his golden years began to evaporate about a year ago, when a new owner unveiled plans for a major renovation of Jensen’s duplex—a project that would require him to vacate for a year or more. (The other unit was empty.)

According to neighbors and tenants’ rights advocates, Jensen in February was preparing to testify against the proposal before the San Francisco Planning Commission. He’d said in a letter to the city that he wanted to stay in his home.

In early March, however, after no one had seen Jensen for several days and mail

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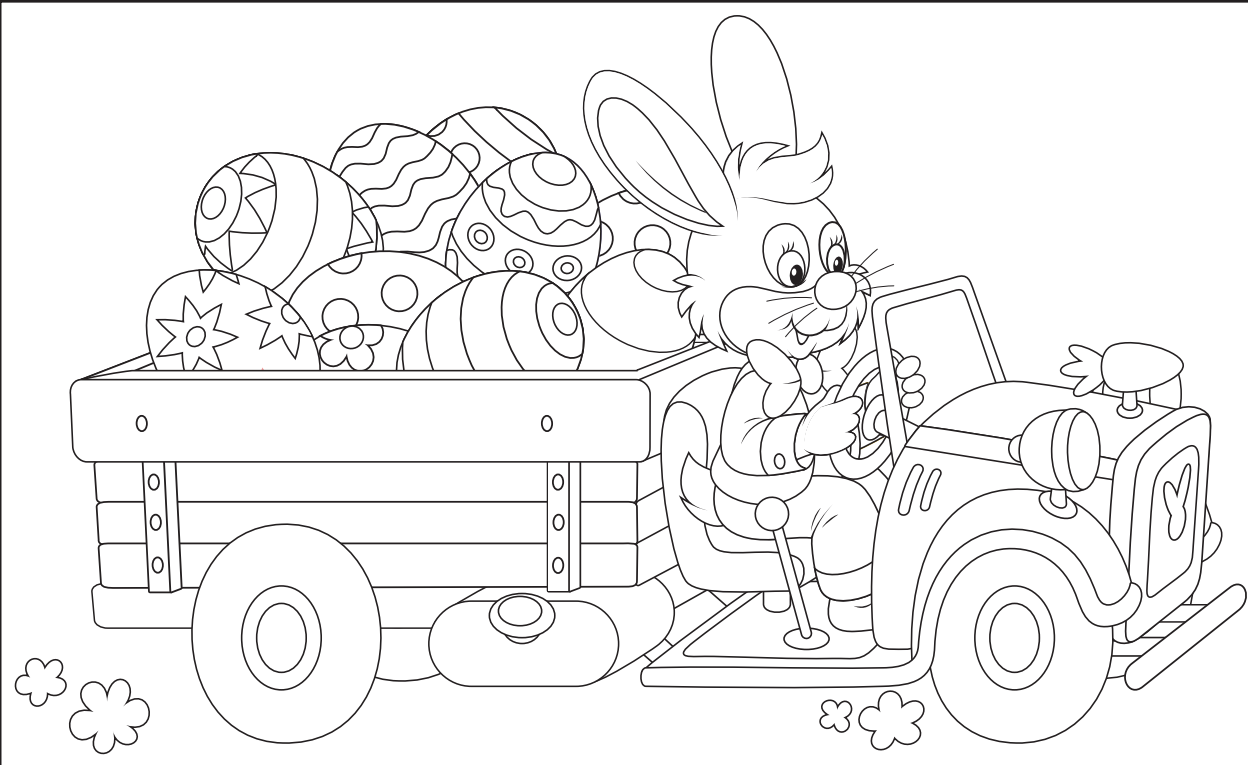
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Memorial for a Long Life. The passing of 93-year-old Carl Jensen inspired this outpouring on the steps of the building that was his home.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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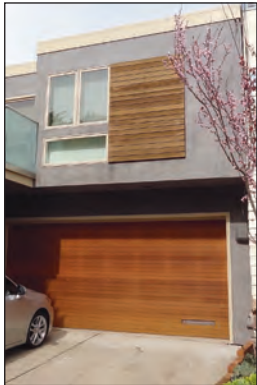
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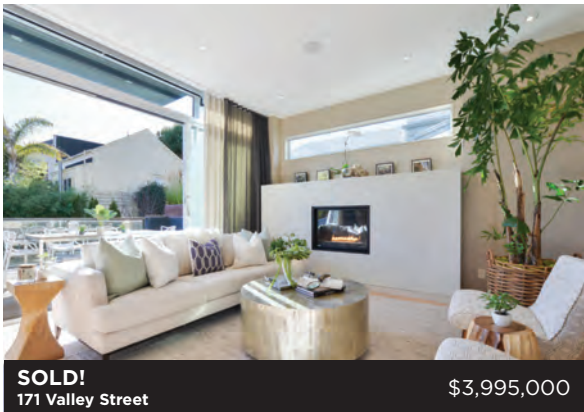
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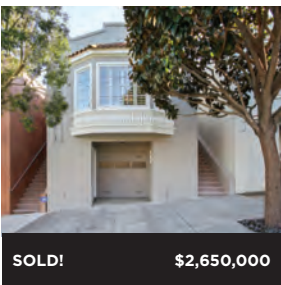
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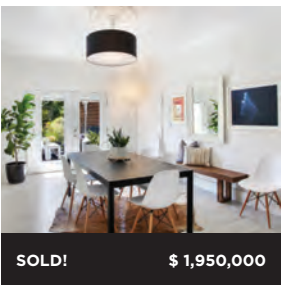
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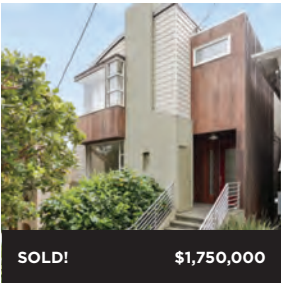
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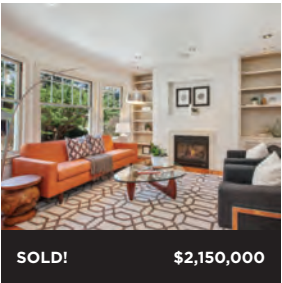
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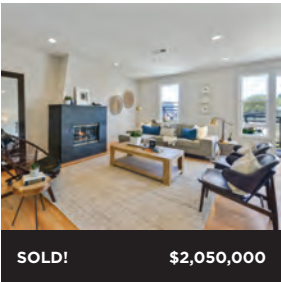
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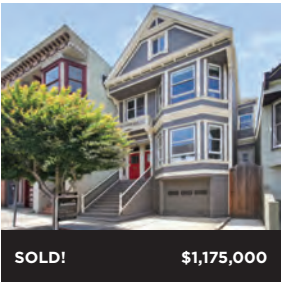
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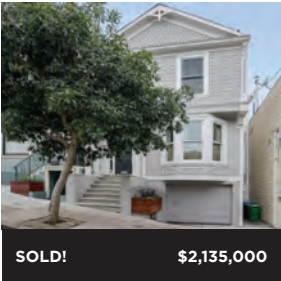
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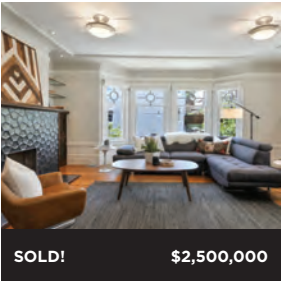
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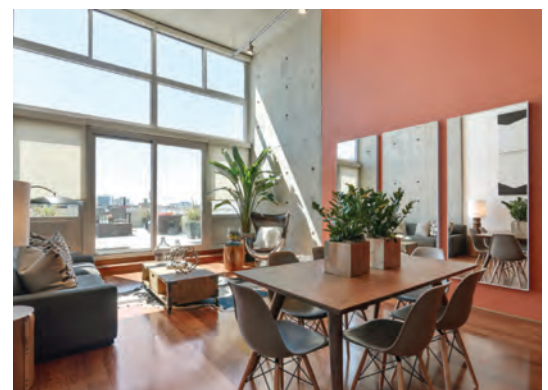
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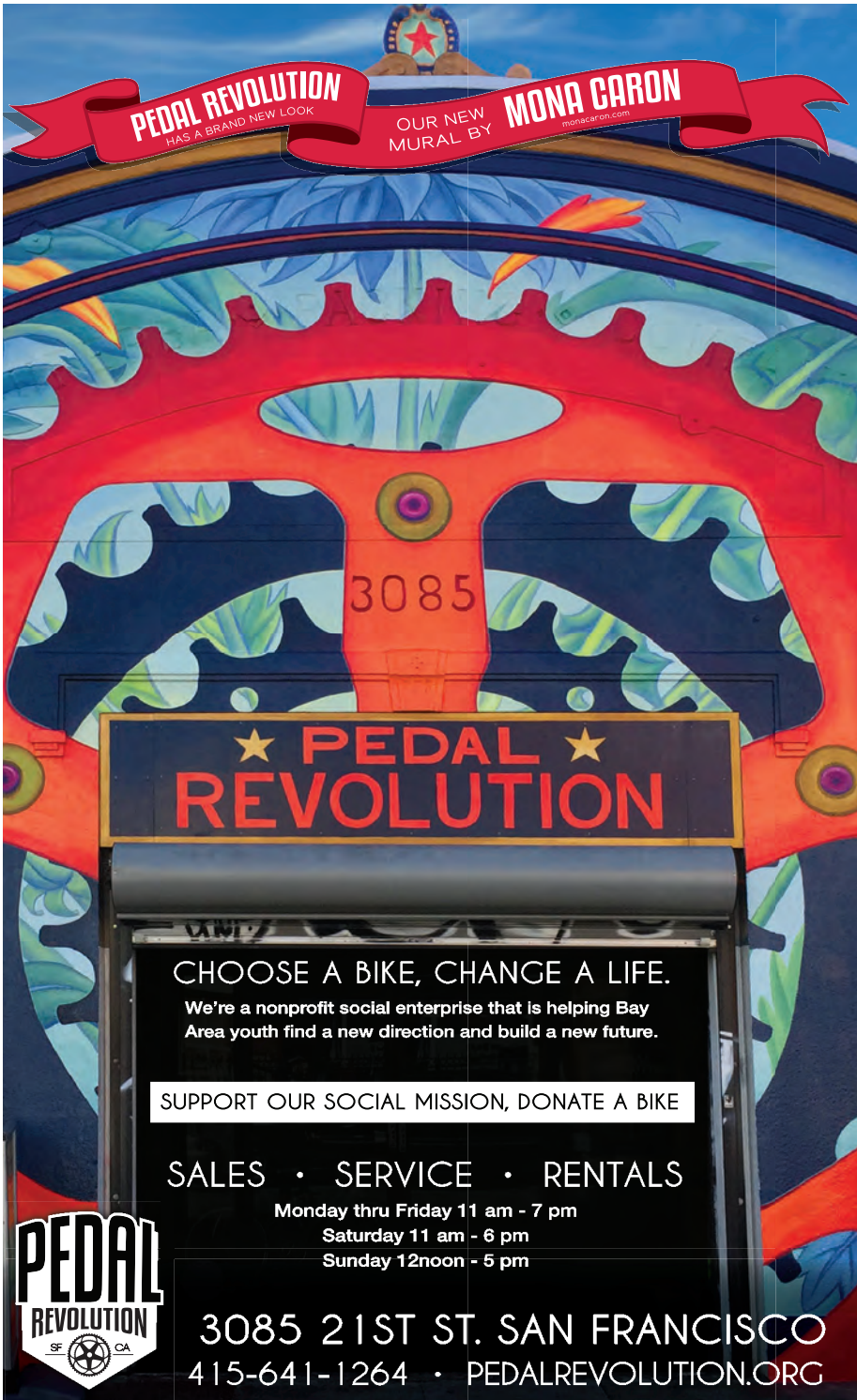


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The dictionary is a precious object in the Chien family, shown here in non-alphabetical order: mom Juliette; daughters Micayah, 9, Joelle, 14, and Evangeline ("Evie"), 11; and dad Chi-Ming Chien.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

James Lick Student a Top Bee Contender

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of plants in the grass family, as "d-u-s-h-a-m-p-s-i-a."

Coincidentally, the winner that year, Stephanie Petit, lives in the Bay Area and has served as a judge of the regional bees the last few years, including this year's competition that took place Saturday, March 18, at the studios of the local CBS affiliate, KPIX 5. Her winning word was "staphylococci."

"I remember thinking at the time that there was absolutely no way I would have even come close on that one!" recalled Chien, who earned a B.S. and a master's in electrical engineering from Stanford University and moved to San Francisco in 1996.

Playing Word Games

To help his daughter prepare for this year's contest, Chien bought her a brand new edition of Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged, the official dictionary used by the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

"I remember my parents getting me a dictionary like this when I was in the bee," Chien said during an interview in early March with his daughter in their Bayview home. "They can pick any word from that one."

Leading up to the regional bee, each night father and daughter engaged in a game where Evie randomly picked a word out of the dictionary for him to spell. If he got it wrong, she earned a point.

A second game they played entailed picking a word, pulling out its root or prefix, and seeing how many other words they could come up with using the root or prefix until they became stuck.

"Working with Evangeline on these words brings back memories of my mom

and I writing down words," said Chi-Ming Chien, whose parents both immigrated to the United States from Taiwan in the 1970s and met in graduate school at Cornell, where his father studied engineering and his mom studied veterinary medicine. "She had stacks of computer punch cards, and I would write down words and definitions on them."

Evie also found it helpful to write down various words in order to remember their correct spelling. In addition to her dictionary, she and her dad used a workbook prepared by the spelling bee organizers that broke down words into their country of origin. It was a sort of cheat sheet for how letters can sound different when derived from various languages.

"I think knowing the origins helps," Evie said, "because in Greek the *f* sound is spelled *ph*."

To Bee or Not to Bee

Prepping for the regional bee provided a fun way for father and daughter to spend quality time together, said Chi-Ming Chien, the co-founder and principal of Dayspring Technologies, a custom web development company with clients including the Warriors basketball team, clothier The North Face, and building supply chain Home Depot.

"It has been enjoyable to spend time talking about words," said Chien, noting that the games are a way to turn studying into a fun pastime. "If it is not fun, then it is not fun to do anymore."

He and his wife, Juliette, have three girls, with Evie the middle child. The old-

est, Joelle, is an eighth-grader at James Lick, and the youngest, Micayah, is in third grade at Monroe Elementary in the Excelsior.

During the interview with the *Voice*, Micayah sat right by her sister's side peering through the dictionary with her. But when asked if she planned to one day compete in a spelling bee, she clammed up and shook her head to signal no.

Her dad, however, interjected that "Mia has a good spelling sense."

Altogether, Evie spent upwards of six hours a week studying for the regional bee. "My goal is to get to the third round," she told the *Voice*, having made it through the written test used to winnow down the nearly 200 school spelling bee winners from the Bay Area to the top 51 students who would compete in the regional oral competition.

"The regional bee is very competitive," noted Chi-Ming Chien. "The person who won last year placed in the top 10 in the country."

Round 1, Round 2...

Looking poised and confident during the regional spelling bee, which was shown live on KBCW (44, cable 12) and streamed online, Evie was the 33rd student to take part in round 1. She correctly spelled her word "karma" to advance to the second round with 50 other students after one girl was knocked out for misspelling "windily."

She also survived the second round after correctly spelling "bellicose" and achieved her goal of making it through

the third round by getting "poignant" right. At that point, there were 40 competitors remaining.

Her fourth round word, "hircine," which means of, relating to, or suggestive of a goat, especially in smell, tripped her up. After asking for the definition to be repeated and then for the word's origin, which is Latin, Evie asked the bee pronouncer, KCBS morning anchor Stan Bunker, if she was pronouncing it correctly. (She was.)

After asking one last question—if there were any alternative pronunciations for the word, which there weren't—Evie spelled it as "h-e-r-s-i-n-e." She was the 25th competitor to misspell her word.

Under the spelling bee rules, she and the 23 other students who failed to spell their words correctly during round 4 all tied for 17th place, since 16 students advanced to round 5. This year's regional bee went for 16 rounds, with Rutvik Gandhasri, 13, from Chaboya Middle School in San Jose, declared the winner after correctly spelling "omodynia." He had also won the regional bee last year.

Teacher Inspires Confidence

As for Evie, if her school next year hosts a spelling bee competition, she said, "I probably will enter the bee again."

Her father credited Elise Dicharry, Evie's sixth-grade journalism/English teacher, for allowing his daughter the experience of being in the spelling bee, as she is the sponsor of the competition at James Lick.

"Without Ms. Dicharry, the spelling bee wouldn't happen at Lick, and she is one of those teachers who pours her heart and soul into her teaching—and who, as a result, has an incredible impact on the kids she teaches," said Chien. ■

Readers who'd like to see videos of the March CBS Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee, round by round, can find them at <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2017/03/18/cbs-bay-area-spelling-bee-2017-video/>.

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

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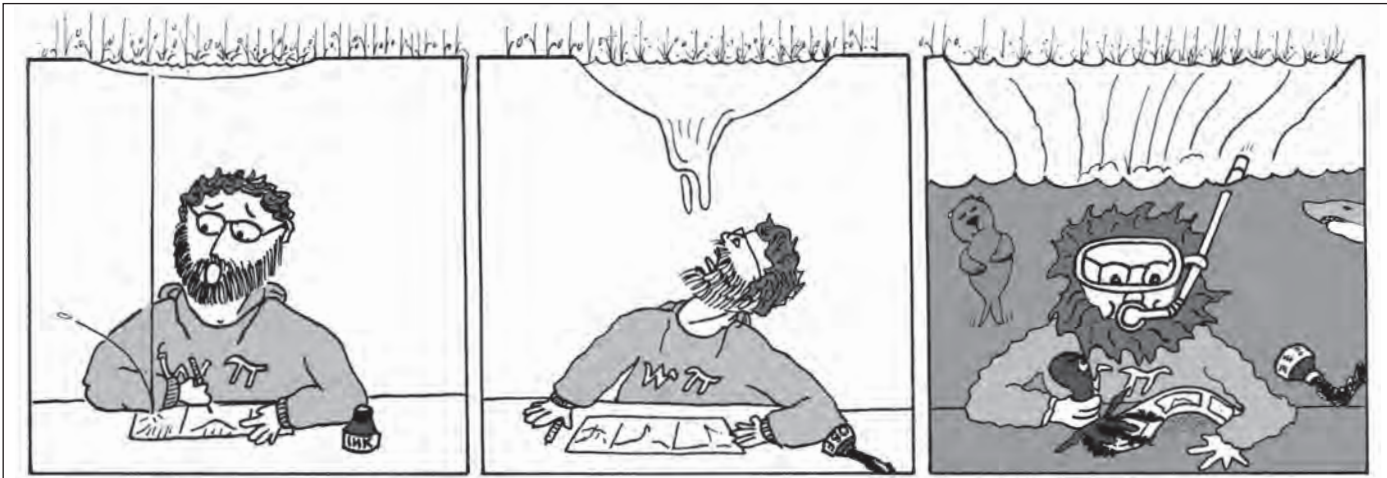
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OH FOR THE LOVE OF GOD MORE RAIN! Shall stay this Noe Valley Voice cartoonist from his deadline

LETTERS

Flights Causing Most 'Screams'

Editor:

Thank you so much for your March 2017 front-page article "Airplane Noise Rattles Noe's Nerves."

From my observations while working at home during the day here at 30th and Castro (Billy Goat Hill), the map you published [on page 13] is somewhat misleading with regard to the noise.

If the lines for the planes landing, or for the jets above 5,000 feet, were removed, you would discover that there are not that many lines. The lines that are remaining are the source of most of the noise complaints: the jets that grind their turbines on departure at low levels.

These few bad apples are spoiling the quality of life here in Noe Valley. And the worst of the bunch is Hawaiian Airlines, most specifically flights HAL 11 and HAL 41, from SFO to HNL (Honolulu).

I attended the SCREAM meeting

held at the Noe Valley Library this past January, and to my amazement the No. 1 complaint was noise from these HAL flights. The attendees were telling me that HAL calls into the control tower requesting tourist-ceiling override in order to fly below 4,000 feet and that the CEO has been sent letters by the FAA as to the number of complaints, and so on. What good is NextGen if the CEO can call in and override the agreed-upon flight path?

Rather than throwing out the baby with the bathwater, go after this bad apple (and those few like it) and there would be a bit more peace in Noe Valley almost instantly. The 6 a.m. batch of flights mentioned in the article are annoying as well, but at least they are trying to climb higher, not grind right over our roofs like HAL.

Simon Namikas

Returned to Lender

Editor:

You might not have heard the news: 699,563 items were returned during the San Francisco Public Library's fine-amnesty program from Jan. 3 to Feb. 14, 2017. During the six-week amnesty, late fees were waived on all returned books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials, regardless of how long overdue. Included in the bonanza were 12,246 items that were more than 60 days past due. The value of all returned items was nearly \$236,000. More importantly, San Francisco library patrons saved \$329,797 in fines.

So how did the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library do? Exactly 135 overdue items were returned to the Jersey Street branch. The longest overdue item was the graphic novel *Kick-Ass* by Mark Millar, published in 2010. It had been overdue since Jan. 3, 2013, and was returned on Feb. 14 (the last day of the amnesty). So it was checked out for just over four years.

The most expensive book returned at Noe Valley was *A State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California* by Laura Cunningham, also published in 2010. It was checked out Sept. 27, 2016, and was priced at \$50.

From the Library's perspective, the coolest result of the amnesty was recovering materials so that other patrons could use them. Of the long-overdue items returned to Noe Valley, no fewer than 53 (out of just 135, remember) had already been checked out by new patrons by the end of February. These items wouldn't have been available at Noe Valley without the amnesty. In addition, three items were on the hold shelves, waiting for patrons to pick them up: *In the Woods*, a novel by Tana French; David Sedaris' *Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls*; and the DVD *Before Sunrise*.

So, judging by Noe Valley—and measuring our success in terms of getting more materials into the hands of library patrons—the amnesty was a big win. Thank you!

Katherine Jardine
Public Relations Officer
San Francisco Public Library

Run on Stamped Postcards

Editor:

Overheard at our little Noe Valley village post office in March:

The 24th Street station was completely sold out of pre-stamped U.S. postcards. Never happens, the mail clerk said. In late January, Noe Valleyans started buying pre-stamped postcards.

Wonder why? Not hard to figure out.

This shows that Noe Valleyans are joining other Americans in contacting our Washington representatives (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and other leaders (1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500).

One such effort is the self-grown local group Action SF, which the *Noe Valley Voice* covered last month [March 2017]. But there are many other organized and self-driven efforts.

Thanks, Noe Valley! Keep it up—even if you need to buy your own separate 34-cent postcard stamps and index cards from our local Walgreens.

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KHAM KHOUNPANGNA 1956 – 2017

It is with sadness we report the passing of longtime staff member Kham Khounpangna, who worked at Chloe's Café for over 25 years. She passed away on March 1, 2017, after a brief illness.

Born on May 7, 1956, Kham grew up in Laos. In 1981, she and her family escaped the country's communist-led government in pursuit of their dream to come to America to start a new life. They first made it to Thailand, where they had to spend five years in a refugee camp while waiting for the right to immigrate to the United States. After enduring many hardships, the family arrived in San Francisco in June of 1986.

We are so fortunate to have had this remarkable woman be a part of Chloe's.



Kham Khounpangna was known for her smile.

Working primarily as a dishwasher and in preparation in the back, she was often seen by many customers bringing in supplies.

She was a dedicated, hard-working individual whose smile, laugh, and beautiful spirit will forever be with us.

Steven Baker and Melania Kang
Owners, Chloe's Café

End of the Line For House and Longtime Tenant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was piling up, a neighbor became concerned and alerted several of his friends. One broke through Jensen's back door and found him lying on the floor next to his bed, dead.

To all, it was a sad end to the upstanding life of a World War II veteran and retired city worker.

"I think the stress of a possible displacement killed him," said Lynn Rosenzweig, a neighbor who lives across the street. "He would say, 'I've lived here since 1954. Why would I ever want to move? It would kill me. The next place I'm going to go'—and he pointed to the ground," said Rosenzweig.

Jensen was "extremely stressed out," agreed Tommi Aviccolli Mecca, director of



Carl Jensen, a regular at Chloe's Cafe and a retired engineer who worked for the City of San Francisco, died March 6 in the apartment he'd rented for 63 years.

Photo courtesy Steven Jensen

counseling programs for the San Francisco Housing Rights Committee. "He was absolutely terrified at the thought he would have to leave."

Dennis Richards, vice president of the planning commission, said he was "stunned" to learn of Jensen's death.

"He may have died of natural causes. It may have been his time," Richards said. "But if you can imagine the last year of someone's life trying to get through the stress of not understanding or not knowing where they are going to live...it's incredible."

Richards said because of a loophole in city paperwork rules, the planning commission had not been informed until February that an elderly person was living in the building. To ensure a similar lapse does not happen in the future, agency staff have been instructed to find out the names of all tenants living in buildings proposed for demolition or major renovation, Richards said.

Sidewalk Memorial

Within hours of Jensen's March 6 passing, a memorial sprung up on the sidewalk in front of his home. Friends, neighbors, and activists festooned the steps to his apartment with flowers, small U.S. flags, and protest flyers.

His sister-in-law, Beverly Jensen, a

resident of Santa Rosa, confirmed that Jensen was a creature of habit who loved his independence. After getting a degree at UC Berkeley, he worked 37 years in the same job as a mechanical engineer for the City of San Francisco before retiring in 1991. She said despite having pain in his knee Jensen enjoyed walking around the neighborhood or catching the J-Church to go downtown to do his banking.

In an email statement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, an attorney for the developer said, "We were deeply saddened to learn of Mr. Jensen's passing. He and the property's owner had a good relationship.... We send our sincere condolences to Mr. Jensen's family."

Renovation Meets Resistance

Jensen, in death as well as in life, has become a cause célèbre for those trying to protect older residents renting apartments in San Francisco.

But his story is not the typical scenario.

Back in March 2016, veteran developer Ashok Gujral notified city planning that his limited liability corporation, Ninety Four Feet, wanted to do a substantial makeover of the 1910 building at 3932-34 26th St., which he'd bought in 2015 for \$1,825,000.

Gujral proposed replacing the building's two flats above a garage — each with 1,300 square feet — with a four-story, 4,650-square-foot house and an 870-square-foot cottage in the rear.

In the months that followed, a number of nearby residents came forward to express their dissatisfaction with the project. They complained that it was too large, would block natural light and disturb privacy, and that its stark modernistic façade was out of character with traditional homes on the block. Gujral agreed to soften the design.

Planning department staff reviewed his revised plans and concluded in a Feb. 2 report that "this project does not contain or create any exceptional or extraordinary circumstances."

Surprise at the Hearing

Meanwhile, the neighbors asked for a discretionary review, which the planning commission scheduled for Feb. 9.

At that hearing, Rosenzweig voiced her concerns about the size of the project, but she also brought up a new issue: there had been no mention of Jensen's tenancy in the developer's application to the city.

"Carl's existence has not been acknowledged in any of the documents before this commission," she said. "What is going to happen to him, and how is he going to be taken care of? I am very concerned."

During the hearing, Richards expressed consternation at the news. He later expanded his comments in an interview with the *Voice*.

"We already had issues with the project, and lo and behold, we discovered from a neighbor that Carl was there and it kind of stunned us," he said. "The project sponsor wasn't going to say anything."

The commission's staff had earlier searched the building's eviction history and "it came up clean," Richards said. And a document that the developer submitted in support of his application also did not list Jensen as a tenant.



The owner of the building at 3932-34 26th St. wants to replace it with a four-story house and rear cottage. In February, the city planning commission continued the project until June 1.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

The "Historical Resource Evaluation" (HRE) showed that Jensen lived in the apartment until 1972. The document ended with another tenant listed as living in the unit from then until 1982.

The Developer's Offer

However, Gujral's attorney, Ryan Patterson, explained in an email to the *Voice* that a listing of current tenants wasn't within the scope of the HRE.

The "report's purpose is to determine whether a building is tied to historically significant events or individuals between the date of construction and 1967," said Patterson. He added that the list of prior tenants was based on historical city directories that stopped publication in 1982.

At the Feb. 9 hearing, Patterson pro-

vided the commission with a letter from Gujral, in which he claimed Jensen on numerous occasions had expressed an interest in moving because he could not easily go up and down stairs due to his advanced age. Patterson said the letter also showed the developer had no intention of moving Jensen against his will.

"If he wishes," Gujral wrote, "I will relocate [Jensen] at my own expense and provide rent-controlled tenancy at the same rental rate in another apartment nearby. If he does not want to move, he can continue living at the property."

If it were the latter case, Patterson said, Gujral would hold up the construction project as long as Jensen were alive. He added that the developer was in the process of drafting a formal life estate letter for the tenant.

Back to the Future

When all was said and done at the Feb. 9 meeting, the commission voted 5 to 1 to continue Gujral's application until June 1. Richards said the extension would give the developer time to consider the commissioners' suggestion that Gujral scale back the fourth floor and construct a building with two units of equal size instead of a big house and cottage.

Richards added that day that he hoped Jensen's situation would be resolved soon, "so he's in a new home and is good, and we don't see an Ellis Act eviction or something else."

Obviously, that statement is moot now. Jensen died less than a month after the hearing. To note Jensen's contributions to the city, the planning commission closed its March 16 meeting in his honor.

On March 18, a nice day when threatened rains held off, Jensen was buried at Santa Rosa Memorial Park just a few miles from the ranch in Sebastopol where he was born in 1923. ■

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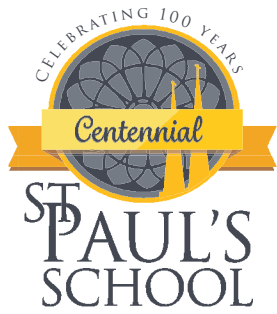
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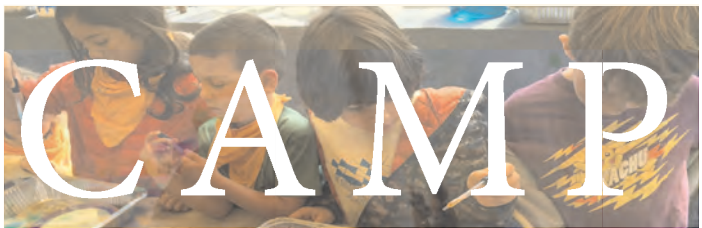
Noe Valley Wildlife



Talking Turkey. Ed and Cara Alter woke up in their 22nd Street home the morning daylight savings took effect and did double takes. "There's a really strange bird on the neighbor's house," Cara said before grabbing a camera. "It was a single wild turkey," Ed reports. "No gobbles. The crows didn't like her, but she was unaffected by their noise."

Photo by Cara Alter

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Little Bears Make Big Music

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

money to support their music. At the time, most musical education was of the classical or traditional variety. Blue Bear exposed its students—primarily adults or young adults—to “new” pop music like rock, blues, and jazz.

They moved to their current home in Fort Mason Center in 1978. The non-profit school has four group-practice spaces, a performance hall, and various smaller spaces for private lessons. Just this year, Blue Bear was named a Legacy Business in San Francisco by the Small Business Commission.

In 2007, the Blue Bear board of directors decided to get into the booming field of baby and toddler music classes, much like Music Together, which runs family classes all over the city. That’s also around the time Blue Bear started offering satellite classes away from their main Fort Mason school.

They called the new program Little Bears. Tanya Yule has been the Little Bears director since 2010.

“When we started out, Blue Bear’s student makeup was about 85 percent adults and 15 percent kids,” she says. “Now it’s about 60 percent adults and 40 percent children, just at Fort Mason. If you include our outreach programs, the number of kids probably increases.”

Other Little Bears in San Francisco are in the Marina and the Children’s Creativity Museum.

Bringing It All Back Home

Yule describes the Little Bear classes as having a flow. They start with a “hello” song and end with a “goodbye” song. In between is an arc of wiggles and giggles, and then, so parents don’t have to go home with amped-up kids, the energy is brought down to a calmer level.

“I really want the teachers to shape the class to the kids,” Yule says. “We all have different tastes in music, and most parents at this point aren’t looking for a music education class. They want a class they can do with their child that has developmental elements.”

Little Bears instructors have an instrument kit, which includes a parachute, scarves, hand drums, rhythm sticks, shakers, and tambourines—all good for little hands to manipulate. There are no pre-recorded CDs or songbooks to take home. “There’s no homework, but the kids will bring the music home,” Yule says. “It’s hard to get some of those songs out of your head!”

Teachers are encouraged to introduce popular music that parents might already like to listen to in the car and at home. “As long as it’s age appropriate,” Yule says. Parents are also free to record class sessions on their phones or mobile devices.

From Baby to Boogie

Little Bear classes are divided into age-group categories with cute names. The youngest section is for babies ages 4 months to 1 year old, and is called—what else?—Baby Bears.

“This class is more for the parents, with lullabies, rhythmic songs, clapping, and songs for bath time,” says Yule.

For those 1 to 2 years of age, who are starting to move independently, it’s Bouncy Bears. Wee ones are learning to use their bodies and voices to make sounds and rhythms. There’s a lot of dancing and game play. Next up is the Boppin’ Bears class, for the 2- and 3-year-olds.

The final class in the series is Boogie Bears for 3- to 5-year-olds. “At this point, a child’s brain is really soaking it all in,” says Yule. “There’s a lot more game play and talking about music. There’s also more exposure to diverse instruments.”

Teacher Trips the Light Fantastic

Little Bears instructor Rachel Hoiem has been teaching at the Noe Valley location since it opened, and has been a Blue Bear teacher for nine years. The 36-year-old got her start as a student of the school when she was 12, and has a degree from San Francisco State University in jazz piano.

“It’s wonderful to see the progression of students that I’ve had for a long time,” Hoiem says. “I’ve seen kids go from babies who use the rhythm sticks mostly as teething devices, to crawling, walking, clapping, stomping, strumming, and singing. Older kids age 3 and up really en-

Blue Bear Has Classes for Adults and Big Kids, Too!

For adults, Blue Bear School of Music offers two types of classes at the Noe Valley Ministry—group acoustic guitar and group voice. Guitar classes are Monday evenings at two levels—II and III, with about three to seven students per class. The adult voice classes take place on Thursday evenings, and if you’re intimidated, don’t be—the introductory class is titled, “Singing for People Who Can’t Sing.” Singing II is also offered.

Adult classes begin April 10, and run for 11 weeks. The guitar session costs \$275, and the voice session is \$340. Registration for classes takes place online.

Got older kids? Blue Bear conducts afterschool programs in several San Francisco schools and private lessons and classes at its Fort Mason campus. Summer camps at Fort Mason are big draws for students in grades 4 through 12. Camps include Rock Band, Songwriting, Guitar, Voice, and Creating & Recording Music. Visit bluebearmusic.org for more information.

joy songs and activities that challenge them, or have unexpected twists and surprises.”

In addition to Little Bears, Hoiem gives private piano lessons to older children and adults. She also plays keyboard and sings in a band called Light Fantastic.

“Our first full-length album, *Out of View*, came out this fall,” she says. “It’s been described as dreamy California Beach music.”

12-Week Session Starts in April

The spring session of Little Bears begins April 17, and runs for 12 weeks. Classes are 45 minutes long. The \$275 price tag includes two makeup classes. If the session isn’t a good fit for whatever reason—a change in naptime or attitude—a full refund is available if you let Blue Bear know two days before the second class.

Additionally, Blue Bear offers a sliding scale to those in need. “As a nonprofit, we have the opportunity to give back,” Yule says. That includes raising funds to

do programs in St. Joseph’s Family Center, an emergency shelter in the Mission, and the Homeless Prenatal Shelter on 18th Street.

The option to drop into Little Bears at \$25 per class will become available the second week of the session, April 25, although Yule encourages parents to sign up for a whole session.

“We want to emphasize the importance of the repetitive nature of the weekly classes because it plays into a young child’s social-emotional development,” she says. “They form relationships with the instructor and with their classmates. That’s a huge part of the experience.”

Plus, the setting is ripe for making friends.

“I just love the space at the Noe Valley Ministry,” Yule says. “There are lots of windows and light, and there’s something just very peaceful about it.”

After class lets out, families can catch a moment to meet and talk, and make their way down to 24th Street for a coffee or snack. “Group classes are an experiment in socialization.” ■

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New Owner Takes Over Cardio-Tone With the Help of a Noe Valley Native

By Olivia Boler

In November, Cardio-Tone founder Rachel Aram sold her three fitness studios—on 24th Street, Church Street, and Third Street—to Shomrat Sarkar. According to Cardio-Tone general manager Jenn Philpot, Sarkar’s family owns Lak-eridge Athletic Club in the East Bay, so running a neighborhood gym operation is a natural career choice.

“Shomrat is passionate about fitness and wanted his own venture,” says Philpot. “This was the perfect opportunity.”

The Noe Valley studios have continued to offer classes that emphasize a variety of cardio or aerobic workouts and services clients have grown to love and count on. As for changes, folks can expect to see more variety in the realm of strength-building.

“There’s been a misconception from our name that we only offer a cardio focus,” Philpot said. The studios have had spin and yoga classes since the beginning, while occasionally dabbling in other types of workshops, like belly-dancing and pilates. These days, the menu includes barre, which uses the principles of ballet to sculpt and tone; and circuit, which combines cardio exercise, workout tools like free weights, and “partner challenges,” all within a 45-minute session.

As for strength-training in particular, clients have access to equipment like kettle bells and classes like TRX (total-body resistance exercise), which build muscle strength and improve balance and flexi-



Cardio-Tone’s Jenn Philpot challenges a client to make the most of a strength-building session. The fitness studio, with two locations in Noe Valley, has expanded its classes to include barre, circuit, and buti yoga, a “tribal-dance yoga infusion.” Photo courtesy Cardio-Tone

bility. One of the classes offered combines barre with TRX to target major upper- and lower-body muscles.

“We’re working on expanding our class selection,” Philpot says.

Along those lines will be a new offering, Buti Yoga, which she describes as a “tribal dance yoga infusion.”

Clients interested in attending classes need to sign up in advance on the website cardio-tone.com/classes. They can then see which classes are offered where, and when. New clients can take advantage of a couple of specially priced passes. One is \$30 for three classes, and the other is an introductory rate of \$100 for a month of classes.

“With these, you can make sure we’re the right fit for you without getting into a long-term commitment,” Philpot says. Among a variety of regular packages is a \$135 monthly unlimited pass that offers access to all three studios.

“We’re working on changing the online system to make it easier to drop in for a class,” Philpot says. Right now, folks still need to sign up and pay online either on their computer, tablet, or smart phone. The drop-in rate is \$22 per class.

In the Noe Valley locations, Philpot notes, most clients are from the neighborhood. Some are parents with small children. While Cardio-Tone does not offer childcare, well-behaved preschool-aged tots are welcome to hang out with a book or game within view of their parent while Mom or Dad gets in their workout.

“It works out because our 24th Street space is one big room with a lounge area in the back that has couches,” Philpot says. The Church Street location is Cardio-Tone’s largest studio, made up of two rooms with spin bikes, TRX equipment, and open floor.

Philpot, 34, is a Noe Valley native. After a stint in Hawaii, she returned to the house she grew up in on Sanchez Street in the spring of 2016.

“My family has been in this house since it was built,” she says. “We’ve watched the neighborhood grow and change. It’s nice to be involved in a career in this location. I’m embedded in Noe Valley.”

Bernadette Melvin, owner of Bernie’s Coffee on 24th Street, is Philpot’s cousin. Philpot had been working in Hawaii as a spin and TRX instructor. Melvin encouraged her to talk to her friend, Rachel Aram, who still owned Cardio-Tone at the time. Philpot got a job there as an instructor. Within months, she was promoted to manager. When Aram sold the studios, Sarkar offered her the position of general manager.

“Plus, I still teach classes,” Philpot says.

Free Showcase April 29

To introduce the studios’ changes to the neighborhood, Cardio-Tone will be hosting a series of free community events. The first will be Saturday, April 29, 2 to 5 p.m., at the 24th Street studio. A showcase of three different classes will be the highlight—Body Weight HIIT, Barre, and Buti Yoga. Each section will be 20 minutes long.

editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Where to Work Up a Sweat

Just can’t get enough of those exercise-induced endorphins? Here are some athletic options in Noe Valley:

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Purely Physical Fitness

1300 Church St.
415-282-1329

Family-owned, Purely Physical Fitness offers a variety of customizable services including personal training and fitness assessments. Other offerings include boot camp and circuit classes that combine aerobics and weights. Go to purelyphysicalfitness.com for more information.

Upper Noe Recreation Center

295 Day St.
415-970-8061

Offering some of the most affordable deals in town, Upper Noe Rec Center’s spring schedule runs from March through May. Adult exercise classes on the schedule include boot camp, yoga, pilates, qi gong for seniors, and tennis. How about some Argentine tango for seniors? To register, go to sfrecpark.org, or try dropping in. For more information, visit noevalleyreccenter.com.

Cardio-Tone

Two locations in Noe Valley:
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415-999-6150

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First, read our story at left. Then visit cardio-tone.com or email info@cardio-tone.com. To work out in the free April 29 classes showcase, email jenn@cardio-tone.com.

After class, you can sample some juices from Pressed Juicery and coffee from Bernie’s. Other neighborhood vendors will be on hand as well with product samples. Cardio-Tone instructors will also be there to answer questions about the studios and classes. All are welcome to enter a raffle with prizes like Cardio-Tone class packages.

To take part in the classes showcase, advanced signup is necessary, and can be done by emailing jenn@cardio-tone.com. Space is limited to 18 participants for the classes. That portion of the program will take place from 2 to 3 p.m. The vendor fair, starting at 3 p.m., will be open to all.

“Invite your friends or have your family meet you afterwards!” Philpot says.

The Noe Valley Cardio-Tone studios are located at 3813 24th St. and 1747 Church St. Check the website for class schedules and descriptions.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

TIC Sale the Only Uptick in February

By Corrie M. Anders

A newly constructed mansion and a renovated 1908 cottage on the same lot set a record price in February for a tenants-in-common (TIC) sale in Noe Valley.

The TIC buyers paid a total of \$4,025,000 — the kind of price usually associated with single-family detached homes or condominiums in Noe Valley. (TICs, in which residents own shares in a project rather than specific units in a building, are generally considered starter homes.)

Novice buyers or not, the TIC sale was the standout among the eight single-family-home and condominium closings in the neighborhood in February, according to sales data compiled by Zephyr Real Estate for the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Located in the 400 block of Valley Street near Castro Street, the house part of the deal sold for \$3,125,000, while the detached two-bedroom, one-bath cottage went for \$900,000. The previous high price for a TIC came last October, when buyers paid \$2,050,000 for a three-bedroom unit on Church Street.

The new building on Valley, erected



Buyers paid \$2,525,000 for this renovated Victorian on Day Street, which included three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a library and media room, and a south-facing deck and garden. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

last year on a hillside parcel affording panoramic views, offered 4,040 square feet of living space spread over four stories, and an elevator to make all those heights accessible. Designed with ultra-modern detailing, the house also featured four bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, a gourmet kitchen, radiant heat, two decks, high-tech wiring, and a two-car garage.

Aside from the TIC buyers, few home seekers were opening their wallets in February. Buyers purchased just four detached homes, compared with eight in February 2016. And with no high-end sales in the mix, the average value of single-family homes dropped to \$1,857,250, compared to \$2,921,875 a year ago.

Zephyr president Randall Kostick predicted sales would pick up during the spring, however. He noted that February’s escrow closings were for sales mostly initiated in January, a winter month when few people are out hunting houses.

“This is not an atypical February,” he said. “It’s always terribly slow.”

Buyers paid \$2,525,000 for the most expensive detached home, located in the 300 block of Day Street near Noe Street. That figure was 27 percent more than the seller’s asking price (\$1,995,000) for the substantially renovated three-story home. The house had three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2,028 square feet of living space, a media room, library, deck, and a one-car garage.

There were four condo transactions in February. The pricey TIC package pushed average values to \$2,206,750, compared with \$900,000 the previous February. Don’t pay too much attention, though. With so few sales, it’s hard to distinguish real trends.



In February this corner lot property on Valley Street was sold as a tenancy-in-common (TIC) for \$4,025,000. The house, built from the ground up in 2016, featured four bedrooms, six baths, an elevator, and 4,040 square feet of living space.

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						
February 2017	4	\$1,050,000	\$2,525,000	\$1,857,250	13	121%
January 2017	3	\$1,695,000	\$4,100,000	\$3,061,000	47	101%
February 2016	8	\$1,825,000	\$4,000,000	\$2,921,875	22	112%
Condominiums/TICs						
February 2017	4	\$1,500,000	\$4,025,000	\$2,206,750	24	115%
January 2017	2	\$1,225,000	\$1,675,000	\$1,450,000	111	98%
February 2016	3	\$550,000	\$1,300,000	\$900,000	55	108%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
February 2017	1	\$4,975,000	\$4,975,000	\$4,975,000	223	98%
January 2017	2	\$1,552,000	\$1,674,360	\$1,613,180	120	92%
February 2016	3	\$2,600,000	\$3,475,000	\$3,025,000	39	108%
5+-unit buildings						
February 2017	1	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	49	100%
January 2017	2	\$1,552,000	\$1,674,360	\$1,613,180	120	92%
February 2016	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. NVV4/2017

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2017	Average March 2017	Average February 2017	Average March 2016
Studio	12	\$1,700 - \$2,500	\$2,252 / mo.	\$2,184 / mo.	\$2,548 / mo.
1-bdrm	36	\$1,995 - \$4,900	\$3,219 / mo.	\$3,121 / mo.	\$3,285 / mo.
2-bdrm	36	\$2,800 - \$9,000	\$4,396 / mo.	\$4,277 / mo.	\$4,396 / mo.
3-bdrm	20	\$4,500 - \$9,500	\$6,411 / mo.	\$6,845 / mo.	\$6,674 / mo.
4+-bdrm	5	\$6,450 - \$11,500	\$8,475 / mo.	\$8,422 / mo.	\$8,879 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 109 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 5 to 10, 2017. NVV4/2017

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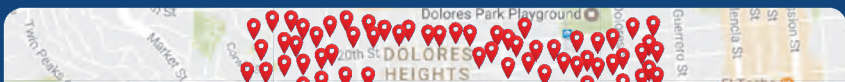
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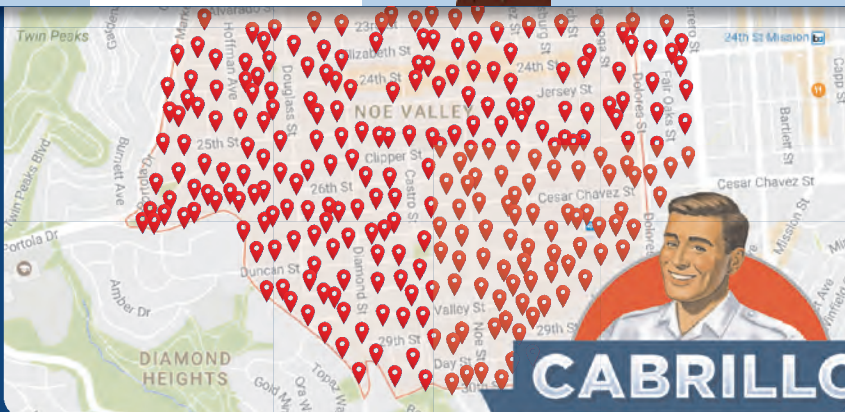


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March Madness In Noe Valley

Among the many rainy days grateful California residents experienced during the winter and spring seasons, a flukeish and brief hail storm visited our neighborhood. While most people ran for cover, the intrepid Peggy Cling grabbed her camera and recorded the photos at left.



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Blue-eyed grass. *Sisyrinchium bellum*.

Hi. Joe O'Connor with your wildflower update for April. Anyone who walked in our parks during March noticed that the wildflowers are spectacular this year! Spectacular, yes, but somewhat late. Cool rainy weather in February and March slowed the bloom by a week or two. But don't worry. Even the heavy flowering of late March will pale in comparison to the outburst we'll see in April. If questions about identifications come up, write to me.

April will see dozens of species blooming in our parks: native daisies, several species of lupine, yellow mats, goldfields, bladder parsnip, two kinds of wild iris, California violets, checkerbloom, catchfly, rock cress, beach strawberries, two kinds of morning glory, and lizard tail! Get out and see them all. Google them. Look at photos. They are likely to be the best San Francisco has seen in 10 years!

NOW APPEARING

local wildflowers • the noe valley voice

Colorful April Show

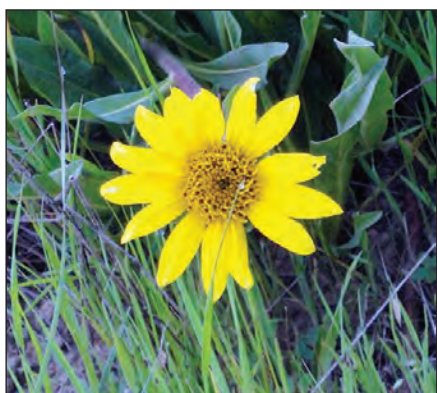
By Joe O'Connor

Pictured on this page are two of my favorites: blue-eyed grass, a member of the iris family; and a daisy-like flower called "narrow leaf mule ears." (Not as bad a name as "bladder parsnip"!)

Also known by its scientific name, *Sisyrinchium bellum*, blue-eyed grass is a small flower, about ¾ inch across, and 6 to 10 inches tall. It is bright blue with a bright yellow spot in the middle. Blue-eyed grass tends to grow in patches, so when you see one, you're probably going to see 10, or 50, or 100.

Blue-eyed grass shows up all over,

by roadsides, trails, and pathways in our neighborhood. The best place to see lots of it is to walk along the south side of Clipper Street from Diamond Heights down to Douglass. Despite the high volume of traffic there, blue-eyed grass flourishes in huge numbers. You'll also find the grass on Mt. Davidson and in Bernal Heights, Glen Canyon, Corona Heights, and Twin Peaks. The narrow leaf mule ear, scientific name *Wyethia angustifolia*, is a great big daisy, sometimes 6 inches across. They're brilliant yellow with a darker yellow center, and they grow in loose patches on grassy slopes. The



Narrow leaf mule ears. *Wyethia angustifolia*.
Photos by Joe O'Connor

"mule ear" name comes from the leaves, which resemble the droopy ears of a mule.

They're abundant on the eastern slope of Mt. Davidson, on the east wall of Glen Canyon, and on Eureka Peak, especially the grassy slope facing west. You may have to look closely to see the bright yellow blossoms of the mule ears in the thick grass. But it's worth the effort.

Enjoy! As always, send comments to drdifiori@gmail.com. ■



Blue-eyed grass.



Narrow leaf mule ears.

Joe O'Connor is a retired professor of ecology with an avid interest in local plants, mushrooms, and natural history. He's also a docent at the California Academy of Sciences. A long-time resident of 26th Street, O'Connor is working on a guidebook to San Francisco wildflowers.

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SHORT TAKES

The Hunt Is On

At least two free public Easter egg hunts will be conducted this year in Noe Valley, one outdoors and one inside. The outside egg search will be Easter eve, Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to noon on the grass field at Douglass Playground at Douglass and 26th streets. Actually, there will be two outside hunts, one starting at 10:15 and another at 11:15 a.m. Toddlers take off first at each. Seasonal limit: maximum five eggs per hunter. Refreshments will be available and the Skillet Licorice duo of Elise Engelberg and Matt Knoth will provide live music to hunt eggs by.

The annual neighborhood hunt is produced by the Noe Valley Association, 24th Street's community benefit district, and is sponsored this year by the Droubi Team Compass real estate company, Just for Fun & Scribbledoodles, the Roddick Family Trust, and the NVA.

Meanwhile, on Easter Sunday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Folio Books will be hiding treat-filled eggs amidst the books and in other nooks inside the store at 3957 24th St. Kids are invited to find



an egg, as long as the treats remain to be found. Inside or out, both Easter egg hunts are bound to be eggstravanzas!



The contrasting styles of artists Kristin Kyono and Nathalie Fabri are featured in a show running April 16 to May 22 at Gallery Sanchez. Pictured here are Kyono's 2013 painting *Neighbors* (above) and *Somewhere in SF*, a 2016 work by Fabri (below).



Evocative Art Exhibit

Guest curator Maude Visinand presents the work of two contemporary Bay Area artists, Nathalie Fabri and Kristin Kyono, in "Reflections," the new art exhibit opening Easter Sunday, April 16, at Gallery Sanchez on Sanchez Street.

Visinand, who studies curation and exhibition design in the Museum Studies master's program at San Francisco State University, says the juxtaposition of work by Fabri and Kyono "offers two interpretations of how the natural and human-built environments of San Francisco fuse to become one."

Fabri paints urban landscapes in acrylics, adding or deleting detail and changing colors to heighten a sense of

place. Kyono first photographs her subject, modifies the photos digitally, prints the result on wood panels, then paints on top of screen prints.

The exhibit will be up from April 16 through May 22. The public is invited to a free reception for the artists and Visinand Sunday, April 30, noon to 2 p.m. Gallery Sanchez is on the second floor of the Noe Valley Ministry building at 1021 Sanchez near 23rd Street.

A Swell Time Will Be Had by All

The St. Philip School Spring Gala & Auction 2017 on Saturday, April 8, promises to be an elegant affair. For one thing, it will be held this year in the gorgeous Green Room of the War Memorial Opera House. And then there's the formal or semi-formal attire requested.

Cocktails will be served from 6 p.m. on, on the loge overlooking City Hall, which of course will be lit up all evening. Partiers can also make silent auction bids on the loge while sipping white wine, scotch on the rocks, or whatever their cocktail of choice might be. At 7:30 p.m., dinner will be served in the Green Room, followed by the traditional raffle and live auction of donated goods and services. Some of the dozens of prizes include making your kid Principal for the Day, four rounds of golf (and a cart) at the Presidio Golf Course, a week at the Russo Music summer music camp, cases of wine, six tickets to the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, First Grade Kids Night Out, and end-of-school oysters and champagne.

Of course, there will be dancing, too, but this year the Gala offers something a little different: a dance contest. Dancers from each grade at St. Philip's and from the faculty and staff will compete. In keeping with the age we live in, Gala attendees will vote for their favorite Fred and Ginger by smart phone. Ongoing votes will be shown on a large flat screen.

The Gala is not all cocktails and contests, however. It raises important funds for vital school programs and welcomes sponsors. Platinum sponsors this year include James Wavro & Associates, Selecta Auto Body, and Jesse Fowler of the Paragon Real Estate Group. To buy your \$100 ticket, go to stphilipschool.schoolauction.net/springgala2017.



The Green Room at the Opera House will be the site of St. Philip School's April 8 Gala.

Guernica Commemoration

Eighty years ago this month, on April 26, 1937, the quiet Spanish village of Guernica, a center of Basque culture and of the resistance to Francisco Franco, was reduced to ruin by bombs, its citizens also machine-gunned by low-flying Nazi German and Fascist Italian war planes. Franco and his nationalist operatives had requested the assault. A few weeks later, Pablo Picasso, at that time a 55-year-old Spanish expatriate living in Paris and under commission by the "republican" forces sympathetic to the resistance, was inspired to create a mural-sized memorial to the terror and sorrow of the village's human and animal inhabitants.

Today, as military aggression persists endlessly across the globe, Picasso's *Guernica* remains one of the best-known and most compelling anti-war icons.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the assault, as well as the artistic reaction, the San Francisco-based contemporary chamber group Ensemble for These Times (E4TT) will present "The Guernica Project," a multimedia program at the Maybeck Studio in Berkeley on April 2 and at the Noe Valley Ministry on April 8.

At the Ministry concert, E4TT's Nanette McGuinness—singing in Basque and four other languages—pianist Dale Tsang, and guest cellist Anne Lerner-Wright will perform the premiere of *Guernica*, a work by award-winning composer Jeffrey Hoover. A piece bearing the same title, by Frederic Sharaf, will also be featured, along with compositions by Spanish composers Mario Carro and Mercedes Zavala, New Yorker Derek Bermel, and a second piece by Hoover, featuring guess violinist Dawn Harms.

The Museo de la Paz in Gernika-Lumo (the Basque name for Guernica) has donated historical images for a slide show. Also, dancers and a singer from the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center will begin the evening. The concert is supported in part by a grant from the Ross McKee Foundation.

The Maybeck event is sold out, so make sure you secure your place at the Noe Valley Ministry by visiting www.e4tt.org. Tickets are \$15 to \$30.

The church is located at 1021 Sanchez St.,

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SHORT TAKES

We'll Have a Gala Ol' Time

Our neighborhood has become a hotbed of classical music, but let's remember it all began with Noe Valley Chamber Music in 1992. For 26 seasons, NVCM has brought Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, and all the other letters of the classical alphabet just a short walk away from us.

Besides its musical goals, NVCM also aims to keep concerts affordable, while paying performers what they deserve. It achieves this through grants, donations from neighborhood arts patrons, and its annual benefit gala.

The gala this year is set for Sunday evening, April 23, at the Noe Valley Ministry, NVCM's home in the 'hood. "It's a fun, local fundraising event showcasing the best of what we do," says executive director and neighborhood resident Tiffany Loewenberg.

The evening begins with cocktails and a silent auction at 6 p.m. and the concert at 7 p.m., followed by a dessert reception sponsored by Martha & Bros. Coffee Co., Paragon Real Estate Group, and Umpqua Bank. Violist Geraldine Walther of the Takacs String Quartet and pianist David Korevaar will play Schumann's *Marchenbilder* (translated as "Fairy Tale Pictures") and David Carlson's *True Divided Light*, a piece commissioned by NVCM. The pair will also perform one of Chopin's notoriously difficult to play sonatas.

Guests may also sign up for Up Close



Violist Geraldine Walther and pianist David Korevaar will perform April 23 at a gala benefit for Noe Valley Chamber Music.

& Personal events—small concerts and art exhibits in private homes across the Bay Area. Loewenberg touts these as "more intimate chances to connect with artists and attendees."

Go to nvcm.org for more information and to purchase tickets. Individual admission to the gala is \$85, \$50 of which is tax-deductible. Advance purchase is required.

Happy Independents Day

It's said that bookstores—especially non-chain, independent bookstores—are dying off. But not in Noe Valley. We have three—count 'em—three independent bookstores: Charlie's Corner, Folio Books, and Omnivore Books on Food.

That sounds like reason to celebrate and you can on Saturday, April 29—Independent Bookstore Day across the U.S.A. And our neighborhood bookstores will give you even more reasons to whoop it up.

Charlie's Corner, at 24th and Castro streets, is offering a 20 percent discount on books and merchandise all day long and a special 3:30 p.m. story time featuring music, treats, and visits from favorite children's book characters.

Folio Books, 3957 24th St., is hosting a string of "guest booksellers," according to manager Nicole Gluckstern, who will be helping customers select books. Local novelists Meg Donahue, Ruth Galm, and Mary McNear, zine-maker Christina Tran, coloring book artist Kristin Henry, poet Garrett Caples, vegetarian cook Shanta Sacharoff, and mapmaker Burrito Justice will help out during the day. Giveaways, exclusive offers, and an 11 a.m. reading and activity hour with author-illustrator Sue DiCiccio (*Adventures in Asian Art*) will add to the fun.

Omnivore Books on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez, is hosting Melissa Clark, author of the new book *Dinner: Changing the Game*, which aims to help busy people make quick, simple, and inventive evening meals. Clark will appear at Omnivore from 3 to 4 p.m.

For more information, go to charliescorner.com, foliosf.com, or omnivorebooks.com.

Israel Here They Come

Chabad of Noe Valley, the neighborhood synagogue at 3781 Cesar Chavez St., is organizing an eight-day trip to Israel, and you don't have to be a member—or even Jewish—to go. From June 5 to 12, tour-goers will visit Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias, Tzfat, and the Judean desert.

Highlights of the trip also include a tour of Jerusalem's Old City, the port of Jaffa, swimming in the Dead Sea, a klezmer barbecue concert, the Yad



Any Eggs Along the Perimeter? These wascally wabbits adopted a good strategy at last year's Egg Hunt, sponsored by local businesses and the Noe Valley Association. They may be hopping to return this year on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. to noon, at Douglass Playground.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

Vashem Holocaust Museum, and many historical sites.

The cost depends on how many people sign up, and is expected to range from \$2,890 to \$3,440 per person. This includes eight nights in five-star hotels, daily breakfast, four dinners, a guide, and tours. Airfare is not included.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jessica Waterston at jessicawaterston@gmail.com.

Queer Words Conversations

The Queer Words reading series at Folio Books is changing, under new curator Wayne Goodman of 21st Street. Starting with the April event, Queer Words will follow an "in conversation with" format, according to Goodman.

Rather than a traditional reading by one or more authors, with questions and an-

swers to follow, Goodman and one or two authors will sit down, literally, to chat about the authors' life, as well as their books. Will there also be a reading? "I'm letting the authors decide," Goodman says. "It's a more informal format."

Otherwise, Queer Words will remain a quarterly series at Folio Books, with readings on the third Tuesday in January, April, July, and October, from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission will still be free, and so will the refreshments!

Goodman will converse with iconic gay author Daniel Curzon in April, zine artist and Black Literature scholar Ajuan Mance in July, and wife-and-wife team Lori Ostlund and Anne Raeff in October. For more updates, go to foliosf.com.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May.



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On 24th Street

What is your second favorite neighborhood?

Asked on Thursday, March 9, in front of Noe Valley Town Square at 24th and Vicksburg



Nadia, Jersey Street: My second favorite neighborhood would have to be the Sunset, because it's a lot quieter there and there's not so much commotion. You can actually walk there and walk to the beach. I know it's foggy or people don't like it because it's so cloudy, but it's a good place because it's quieter.



Guy, Church Street: Bernal Heights is my first [favorite neighborhood]. Because it's like Noe Valley used to be 20 years ago, 25 years ago.



Verena, San Jose Avenue: The Mission. It's very colorful, very hyper. A lot of life is going on there. Very vibrant.



Kit Cameron, 28th Street: Fisherman's Wharf and that area around it where the Maritime Museum is, and then that old building and the beach there. Then it goes out and there's a pier. It's such a beautiful piece of architecture from the WPA period and inside the museum is a fabulous mural by Hilaire Hiler.



Rachel Kanter, Day Street: My second favorite neighborhood... hmm. Well, it's probably Cow Hollow, I guess. Or no, maybe it would be Fillmore, like Fillmore Street. It's got a lot of cute boutique shops and restaurants and I think it's just a fun street in San Francisco.

Interviews and photos by Olivia Starr and Nick Kaliss



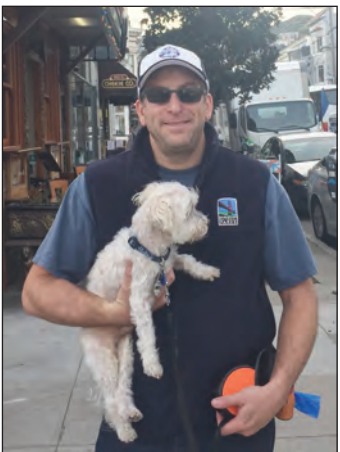
Juliet, 24th Street: My second favorite... Let's see. I would say Hayes Valley. I think it's really cute, it's a calming atmosphere. I like to walk around there, and even if I'm not shopping or buying things, it's fun to go into the little stores, and everyone's friendly.



Elizabeth Madaus, Clipper Street: Duboce Triangle, because it's in the middle of everything. For them (gestures to children), there's still a fun playground and a dog park. And Muni running through there, but there's lots of fun restaurants and cafes.



Emily Fudge, Union Street: My first favorite is North Beach, because we live in North Beach. How about I'll say Noe Valley, because our family lives there. Great diversity, Easy Breezy, post office, library, bank.



Geoff Skigen, Bartlett Street: Noe Valley. If I wasn't living where I was, I'd be here. But there are neighborhoods that are like fantasy...like Sea Cliff or St. Francis Wood. Beautiful, but not really city living. I guess if it wasn't here, maybe Eureka Valley. It's nice, it's quiet, it's central, it's sunny. It's got Muni access.



Alex Jelinek, Amber Drive: I guess downtown. I work there and I'm there a lot and there's a lot of stuff to do.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice column profiling new stores, and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we introduce a French bistro that serves dishes inspired by the cuisine provençale of southern France.

CHEZ MARIUS

4063 24th St. near Castro Street

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<http://www.chezmariaus.com>

Noe Valley's newest French bistro shares a commonality with the famed Berkeley restaurant Chez Panisse. Both were named after the beloved 1931 French film *Marius*.

Based on the play of the same name by Marcel Pagnol, the black-and-white classic features a bartender, Marius, who dreams of traveling the world. Marius falls in love with Fanny, who is also courted by Panisse, and struggles to suppress his seafaring desires.

A poster of the film hangs near the front window of Chez Marius, on 24th Street between Noe and Castro. Most nights, the movie plays on the television hanging over the restaurant's small bar area.

The name Marius also happens to be the middle name of chef-owner Laurent Legendre, as well as that of Legendre's paternal grandfather, who was also a chef. The Parisian native studied at the internationally acclaimed *Ecole Hoteliere* and worked at top Parisian restaurants.

He moved to San Francisco after falling in love with the city, once known as the "Paris of the West," while on vacation in 1996. Over the years, he operated a series of French restaurants throughout



Chef-owner Laurent Legendre and manager Christen Camp invite you to try the seafood and cocktail specials at Chez Marius, the new French bistro that replaced Le Zinc on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

town, opening his Glen Park restaurant, Le P'tit Laurent, in July 2007.

Legendre and his wife, Sophie, opened Chez Marius Dec. 19, replacing the former French bistro, Le Zinc, which for 15 years had operated out of the restaurant space. Overseeing the new restaurant's day-to-day operations is manager Christen Camp, who started off as a server eight years ago at Le P'tit Laurent.

"Everyone has been really warm and welcoming to us," said Camp, who lives in the College Hill neighborhood east of Glen Park and south of Noe Valley. "Noe Valley is a beautiful village."

She noted that many of her regulars at the Glen Park eatery lived in Noe Valley and had begun stopping by Chez Marius.

"It is nice to see familiar faces here," Camp said of her customers. "They have brought us flowers and cards to welcome us to the neighborhood."

Apart from some cosmetic changes, the interior, which seats 60 people, re-

mains largely the same as when it was Le Zinc. The backyard patio area, which is dog-friendly, has been opened up so it now can accommodate 40 people.

A fire pit has been added that Chez Marius promotes as perfect "for kids to roast some marshmallows." The lunch and dinner menus also feature several choices for *les enfants*, such as steak frites or grilled chicken (\$10).

Despite it being twice the size, three times if counting the outdoor seating, of the Glen Park restaurant, Chez Marius has been dubbed the "sister bistro" to Le P'tit Laurent.

"I said we should call it Le Grande Laurent," joked Camp.

With the winter rains subsiding, Chez Marius' outdoor space is proving quite popular with diners, said Camp.

"Compared to Glen Park, it feels more like summer over here. It feels a little bit like the South of France, and we have this nice patio too," said Camp on a sunny af-

ternoon in March. "Nice days like today we are totally full. Rainy days, forget it, no one wants to come to the patio."

The menu at Chez Marius, overseen by chef Julio C. Caceres, differs somewhat from that of Le P'tit Laurent and is influenced by the dishes of southern France. The Noe Valley restaurant features more seafood dishes, like a seafood bouillabaisse (\$31) or a sautéed bass filet (\$24).

Still, a number of favorites have been brought over from Glen Park, such as the onion soup (\$9 at brunch, \$9.75 at lunch or dinner), escargot (\$9), and mussels and frites (\$21, \$19 at lunch). Due to demand, boeuf bourguignon by April should also have been added to the menu.

With Chez Marius having only a wine and beer license at present, Camp has created a specialty cocktail list derived from fortified wines, aperitifs, and lower-percentage alcohol spirits.

"It doesn't mean they are wimpy," she promises. "The flavor profiles are very interesting. We worked very hard on it."

Business has been strong since the bistro first opened, said Camp. But to draw in more customers during weeknights, she has been offering a "\$23 Noe Special" at dinner that includes a choice of soup or salad and a featured entrée. It changes weekly, with past offerings being swordfish or steak. Other specials are featured on the weekend.

"We are really excited to offer a French menu to this local spot, but also want this to be a place people anywhere in the city come to," said Camp.

Chez Marius is open for lunch Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner is served Tuesday through Saturday, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Weekend brunch hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and to 3 p.m. on Sunday. The bistro is closed Mondays.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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

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The next *Voice* will be the **May 2017** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of May. **The deadline for Class Ads is April 15.**

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

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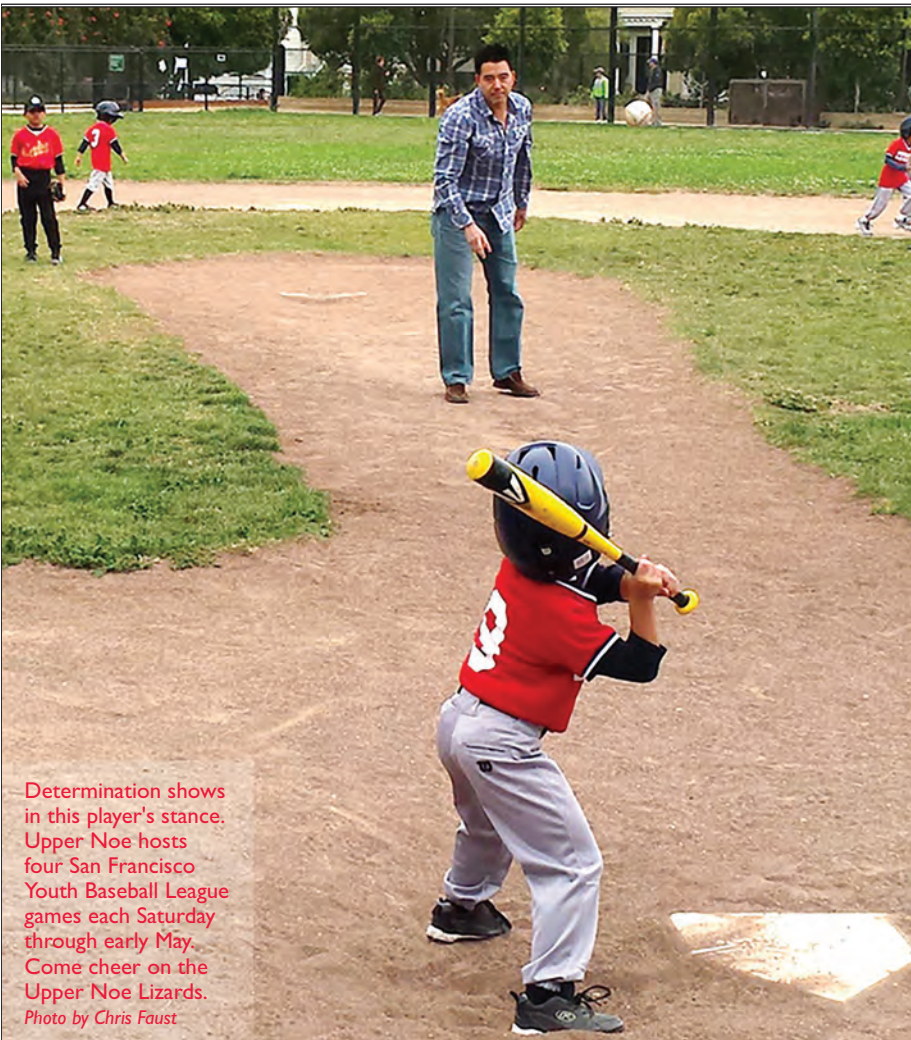
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Determination shows in this player's stance. Upper Noe hosts four San Francisco Youth Baseball League games each Saturday through early May. Come cheer on the Upper Noe Lizards. Photo by Chris Faust

Play Ball

The winter rains have helped restore Upper Noe, making the field ready for a great season of baseball. While this non-regulation-size ball field is limited to ages 12 and under, excitement abounds every weekend morning as teams slug it out. Stop by and cheer them on. To read Upper Noe’s newsletter and get updates on the schedule of classes and events, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or just drop in to the rec center office at 295 Day St., open Tuesday through Saturday.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING SESSION, MARCH 17 - MAY 26, 2017

MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only)

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Open Gym | 6:30-8:30 p.m.* |
| Auditorium Free Play | 1-5:30 p.m.* |
| Rec-N-Tot Soccer (age 2-3) | 10-11 a.m. |
| Simply Fun 2 (formerly 1,2,3 Ready) (age 10m-4yrs) | 10-11:30 a.m. |
| Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register | 10:15-11:15 a.m. |
| Movin’ & Groovin’ (age 2-4) | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Pickleball (all ages) | 1-3 p.m. FREE |
| QuickStart Tennis (age 8-13) | 3:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Youth Soccer (age at least 5 but less than 6) | 4-5 p.m. |
| Youth Soccer (age 9-12) | 5:30-6:30 p.m. |
| Tennis Intermediate/Advanced (18+) | 6-7 p.m. |
| Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels) | 6:30-7:30 p.m. |
| Boot Camp (18+) | 7:45-8:45 p.m. |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Open Gym | 12-3:30 p.m.* |
| Auditorium Free Play | 3-4 p.m.* |
| Pilates intermediate (18+) | 9:30-10:30 a.m. |
| Baby & Me (age 1-3) Drop-in only | 10:30-11:30 a.m. |
| Pilates beginner (18+) | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Qi Gong for Seniors (55+) | 1-3 p.m. |
| Little Kickers (ages 4-7) | 4:30-5:30 p.m. |
| Karate Kids (ages 6-12) | 5:30-6:30 p.m. |
| Volleyball-Girls in Sports-Beginner (age 7-8) | 4-5:30 p.m. |
| Tennis beg/intermediate (18+) | 6-7 p.m. |
| Drop-in Volleyball (18+) | 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE |

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Open Gym | 3-8:30 p.m.* |
| Auditorium Free Play | NONE |
| Simply Fun 2 (formerly 1,2,3 Ready) (10m-4yrs) | 10-11:30 a.m. |
| Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register | 10:15-11:15 a.m. |
| Movin’ & Groovin’ (age 2-4) | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Pickleball (all ages) | 1-3 p.m. FREE |
| Argentine Tango, advanced (55+) | 1-4 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. FREE |
| Kid Theater-Mini Players (age 5-8) | 4:30-5:30 p.m. |
| Zumba (family) Drop-in only | 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE |
| Yoga-Gentle Hatha (18+) | 6:45-7:45 p.m. |

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

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Open Gym | 12-3:30 p.m.* No open gym thru 4/8 |
| Auditorium Free Play | 1-3 p.m.* |
| Baby & Me (age 1-3) Drop-in only | 9:30-10:30 a.m. |
| Pilates intermediate (18+) | 9:30-10:30 a.m. |
| Pilates beginner (18+) | 11:30 -12:30 a.m. |
| Youth Theater-So You Think You Can Act (age 7-10) | 3:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Jiu-Jitsu (formerly Combat Athletics) (age 8-16) | 4:30-6 p.m. |
| Volleyball-Girls in Sports-Int. (age 10-13) | 4-5:30 p.m. |
| Karaoke for Adults (18+) | 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| Drop-in Volleyball (18+) | 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Open Gym | 12-4:30 p.m.* No open gym thru 4/8 |
| Auditorium Free Play | 12-4:30 p.m.* |
| Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels) | 9:15-10:15 a.m. |
| Rec-N-Tot Soccer (age 2-3) | 10-11 a.m. |
| Zumba (family) Drop-in only | 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE |
| QuickStart Tennis (age 7-9) | 1-2 p.m. |

SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)

*Hours are subject to change.

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• APRIL 2017 •

April 1-14: The photography and journalism departments of City College exhibit “Street Life: SF by Day, SF by Night.” Front Page Gallery, 50 Phelan, Bungalow 615. 239-3446.

April 1-29: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

April 1-29: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live music from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 1-29: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

April 1-29: The On Lok 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

April 1-29: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 7:30 to 10 pm; refreshments available. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

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

April 1-30: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

April 1-May 4: Creativity Explored hosts an exhibit by NON-VERBAL ARTISTS, “Full Stop!” Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

April 1 & May 6: Artists Leonard Breger and Beth Pewther host an OPEN HOUSE with tours, conversation, and tea and cookies the first Saturday of the month. 10 am-1 pm. 80 Bronte. 826-2952; artfools.com.

April 2 & 16: 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.

April 2-30: 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.

April 3: ODD MONDAYS hosts Dr. Victoria Sweet reading from her book about Laguna Honda Hospital, A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper; 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). Call 821-2090 to confirm; oddmondays.com.

April 3: Elbo Room hosts “Quiet Lightning,” a free LITERARY MIXTAPE performed by the authors; book given to first 100 people. 7 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; elbo.com.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ACC) Club meets Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 4: The Noe Valley Library offers an eREADER drop-in from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 4-28: Voice photographer Najib Joe Hakim is among the exhibitors in “Reverence” at the Mill Valley Community Center and City Hall. Reception April 4, 6-8 pm. 180 Camino Alto. 383-1370.

April 4-May 6: SF WOMEN ARTISTS present “Natural Wonders,” a juried all-media exhibit. Reception April 6, 5:30-8 pm; Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm. 647 Irving. 566-8550.

April 5: Seattle COOKBOOK author Jess Thompson introduces A Year Right Here: Adventures with Food and Family in the Great Nearby. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 5: The Noe Valley Library hosts a CRAFT WORKSHOP for adults to make a terrarium; bring a glass container. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. Sign up at 355-5707 or sfpl.org.

April 5 & 19: Children ages 4 and up can read to a dog named Oliver at PUPPY DOG TALES. 6:30-7:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 5-26: Folio Books hosts STORYTIME for toddlers every Wednesday at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

April 5-26: Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays, 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center; Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

April 5-26: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesdays, 4 to 7 pm, through November. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

April 5-26: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church hosts Candlesong, a TAIZE-style service followed by a potluck on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

April 5-26: History group Shaping San Francisco offers free PUBLIC TALKS on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. 518 Valencia. foundsf.org.

April 5-26: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip’s Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

April 5 & May 3: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

April 6: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am.

Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 6-27: Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

April 6 & May 4: Liz Stone joins other comedians at “Comedy Gold” on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. 285-0674; lizziestone@gmail.com.

April 7: Ian Stallings Design GALLERY features a new artist opening on the first Friday of the month, with a 6 to 8 pm reception. 3848 24th. ianstallings.com.

April 7-28: Shout “BINGO!” at St. Paul’s on Friday nights at 6:45 pm (doors open at 5 pm); snack bar available. St. Paul’s Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

April 7-28: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett with artists Don Prell, the late Jimmy Ryan’s spin-off bands, the Scott Foster Ensemble, and the 230 Jones Street, Local 6 Literary Jazz Band, featuring Dorothy Lefkovits. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

April 7-28: Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

April 8: LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on the second Saturday of the month. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. info@noevalleyreccenter.com.

April 8: 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.

April 8: The Noe Valley Library hosts Mary Lehrman’s performance, “NOAH WEBSTER: The Man Who Invented America.” 1-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 8: Natural Resources offers an ongoing opportunity to meet doulas (2-4 pm) and home-birth MIDWIVES (4-6 pm). 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; naturalresources-sf.com.

April 8: “WAM: Wine Art Music” is a fundraiser for the women’s choral group Resound Ensemble. 4-7 pm. Peggy Gyulai’s art studio, 1890 Bryant #408. resoundensemble.org.

April 8: The formal/semi-formal St. Philip School SPRING GALA & Auction 2017, “Springtime Around the World,” will be held in the Green Room of the War Memorial Opera House. 6 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner, raffle and live auction, and ending with a dance contest. 401 Van Ness. saintphilipschool.org.

April 8: The Ensemble for These Times performs the world premiere of the concert “The GUERNICA Project.” 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. e4tt.org.


April 9: Joan Nathan discusses King Solomon’s Table: A Culinary Exploration of JEWISH COOKING from Around the World. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 9: The YA BOOK CLUB for ages 13 through 18 features authors Kristin Elizabeth Clark, M.G. Hennessey, and Tim Floreen. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

April 9: Noe Valley political action group ACTION SF meets from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsolidarity@gmail.com.

April 11: PFLAG meets at the Women’s Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

April 11: Angus MacFarlane discusses Haight-Ashbury HISTORY in “From Orphans to Freeways: A Magical History Tour of SF’s Most Celebrated Neighborhood” at the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7:30 pm. 460 Arguello. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.



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above all literary art.
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every hill a novel.*

— William Saroyan




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April 12: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group at the Noe Valley Library meets from 6:15 to 8:15. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 13: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

April 13: The Noe Valley Library hosts Creative FREE PLAY with puzzles, wooden blocks, and Magnatiles, for ages 2 to 5. 10:30-11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 14: The Noe Valley Library screens the 2016 remake of Ghostbusters, starring Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 15: A free children's EASTER EGG HUNT in Douglass Playground features live music and refreshments. Two start times: 10:15 am and 11:15 am, ending at noon. Toddlers start first at both times. Douglass & Clipper. noevalleyassociation.org/easter-egg-hunt.

April 16: Folio Books features an all-day EGG HUNT for all ages. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

April 16: May 22: GALLERY SANCHEZ exhibits "Reflections," artwork by Kristin Kyono and Nathalie Fabri. Reception April 30, noon-2 pm; weekdays, 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org.

April 17: Dave Broom introduces RUM: The Manual. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 18: Jeremy Fox discusses On VEGETABLES: Modern Recipes for the Home Kitchen. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 18: Author, educator, and playwright DANIEL CURZON discusses his work as part of the quarterly "Queer Words" series. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

April 18: Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. SF Police Academy Community Room, 350 Amber. 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

CALENDAR



More than 100 artists will show their work (including the painting by Carol Jessen pictured above) April 22 and 23, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hunters Point Shipyard, 300 Donahue, San Francisco. See www.shipyardartists.com for more information.

April 19: Rachel Khong introduces her book All About EGGS. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 19: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 20: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers are shown at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 20: Folio Books hosts a PAJAMA PARTY and story time with Elizabeth Crane and Alissa Hugel. 6 pm. 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

April 21: The Randall Museum offers a walk around Corona Heights Park, "BIRDING the Hill." 8 am. Meet in the Museum parking lot, 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

April 21: The Spring Fling SOCK HOP at Charlie's Corner Bookstore has live music by Julia Beth. Noon. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 21: Arts journalist Nicole Gluckstern leads a workshop at the BOOKWORMS Club. 6 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bookworms-club-tickets-25485102628.

April 22: Noe Valley's ACTION SF marches from the Farmers Market (9:45 am) to join the 11 am March for Science at Justin Herman Plaza and a Civic Center rally; "wear green for the earth." actionsolidarity@gmail.com.

April 22: The Civic Symphony Association of San Francisco performs a free CONCERT of music by Haydn, Vellere, and Mendelssohn. 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. sfcivicsymphony.org/

April 22 & 23: Artists at the Hunters Point Shipyard host their annual spring OPEN STUDIOS from 11 am to 6 pm. 300 Donahue. shipyardartists.com.

April 23: FILM PREMIER Arrested (Again) documentary by Dan Goldes about activist Karen Topakian as part of the SF Green Film Festival at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street.

April 23: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts a benefit gala, including cocktails, a silent auction, a dessert reception at 6 pm, and a 7 pm concert by violinist Geraldine Walther and pianist David Korevaar. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nvcm.org.

April 23: Music on the Hill presents a CONCERT by the Thalea String Quartet. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

April 25: Emily Thelin, Andrea Nguyen, Toni Tajima, and Eric Wolfinger discuss Unforgettable: The Bold Flavors of PAULA WOLFERT's Renegade Life. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 25: Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC Club holds its regular monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Social hour 6 pm; program 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. ToddsDavid@gmail.com

April 25: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

April 25: Joseph Amster discusses "Splendid Survivors" among San Francisco buildings, at the monthly meeting of the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 26: The RESILIENT Diamond Heights work group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 867-5774.

April 26: A Little Yumminess hosts an "Introduction to INDIAN SPICES and Condiments" at the Noe Valley Library, 4-5:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 27: Rado leads an interactive MUSIC session for ages 5 and younger with parent/caregiver at the Noe Valley Library. 10:30-11:15 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 28: Meet Amy Novesky, author of Love Is a Tutu & Love is a Truck, at Charlie's Corner Bookstore. 5 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 28: HERCHURCH offers a Women's Drumming Circle the fourth Friday of the month. 6-7:30 pm. 678 Portola.

April 28: Zak Pelaccio introduces Project 258: Making Dinner at FISH & GAME. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 29: Celebrate Independent BOOKSTORE DAY at Folio Books with local authors and booksellers, all day. 3957 24th. For a schedule: foliosf.com.

April 29: Celebrate the TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC Day at Charlie's Corner Bookstore with stories and snacks; bring your favorite teddy bear or toy. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 30: Jack Bishop discusses his cookbook VEGAN for Everybody. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

May 6: A benefit for Rocket DOG RESCUE will be held, from 9 am to 4 pm, at Vanguard Properties, 3848 24th. 756-8188; rocketdogrescue.org.

May Quil!

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **May 2017** issue, distributed the first week of April. The deadline for items is March 15. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

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APRIL

EVENTS AT

OMNIVORE BOOKS

WED APR 5	JESS THOMPSON • A YEAR RIGHT HERE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Seattle-based writer Jess Thomson spent the year exploring the food of her own backyard: the Pacific Northwest.
SUN APR 9	JOAN NATHAN • KING SOLOMON'S TABLE: A CULINARY EXPLORATION OF JEWISH COOKING FROM AROUND THE WORLD 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Joan Nathan - "the queen of American Jewish cooking" - gathers together more than 170 recipes, from Israel to Italy to India and beyond.
MON APR 17	DAVE BROOM • RUM: THE MANUAL • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE The mission of this book is to help drinkers appreciate this complex spirit, find the style they like and discover how versatile rum can be.
TUE APR 18	JEREMY FOX • ON VEGETABLES • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE Jeremy Fox presents his food philosophy in the form of 160 approachable recipes for the home cook.
WED APR 19	RACHEL KHONG • LUCKY PEACH ALL ABOUT EGGS: EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT FOOD • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Eggs: star of the most important meal of the day, quite possibly the world's most important food.
TUE APR 25	EMILY THELIN, ANDREA NGUYEN & ERIC WOLFINGER. UNFORGETTABLE: THE BOLD FLAVORS OF PAULA WOLFERT'S RENEGADE LIFE. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Paula Wolfert is a legendary hero to some of our most influential chefs. When she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2013, this remarkable team Kickstarted this book to introduce her to a new generation.
THU APR 27	ANA SORTUN • SOFRAMIZ: VIBRANT MIDDLE EASTERN RECIPES FROM SOFRA BAKERY AND CAFE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • A charming collection of 100 recipes from Cambridge's Sofra Bakery, showcasing Middle Eastern delights.
FRI APR 28	ZAK PELACCIO • PROJECT 258: MAKING DINNER AT FISH & GAME • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Fish & Game restaurant in Hudson, NY, is a leader in the local foods movement.
SAT APR 29	MELISSA CLARK. DINNER: 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Each recipe in <i>Dinner</i> is meant to be dinner—one fantastic dish that is so satisfying and flavor-forward it can stand alone—or be paired with a simple salad or fresh bread on the side.
SUN APR 30	JACK BISHOP. VEGAN FOR EVERYBODY • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Jack Bishop is the editorial director of America's Test Kitchen. In this cookbook, vegan cooking is decodee and demystified.


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 **Garden Party** 
CROSSWORDS

Crossword Puzzle Solvers!

Michael Blake, who makes the Noe Valley Voice crossword, has a new website specializing in the **Rows Garden**, a particularly addictive variety of crossword. Visit gardenpartycrosswords.com for a free Rows Garden puzzle and a link to his Kickstarter project, in which you can get 10 Rows Gardens for \$5.00. Watch his Kickstarter video to see how it works!

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ADULT PROGRAMS

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Learn how to knit or crochet on the first Saturday of the month. The library has supplies to practice on but bring your own yarn and needles if you’re working on a special project. Saturday, April 1, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SF Shakes: The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival’s touring group SF Shakes performs *Twelfth Night*, a comedy about castaway twins, on the library’s outdoor patio, weather permitting. Carl Holvick stages the show, performed in Shakespeare’s original text. Saturday, April 1, 2 to 3 p.m.

eReader and Online Resource Drop-In: Bring your mobile device or laptop (and passwords) and your library card and PIN to an informal workshop on the SFPL’s digital resources, such as the library catalog and databases, Zinio for magazines, Axis360 for ebooks, and Hoopla! for movies, music, and audiobooks. Tuesday, April 4, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Adult Craft Night: Learn to make your own terrarium. Bring a glass container (no higher than 5 inches tall), and the library will provide the rest. Space is limited, so register at the info desk or call 415-355-5707. Wednesday, April 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Noah Webster, the Man Who Invented America: Marv Lehrman performs “a work in progress” about Noah Webster, who in the 1700s wrote the first American dictionary and possibly the first statement for a new constitution. Saturday, April 8, 1 to 3 p.m.

Discuss outstanding works of literature at the **Great Books Discussion Group** sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For more information, contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, April 12, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens the 2016 remake of *Ghostbusters*, starring Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, and Leslie Jones. Friday, April 14, 2 to 4 p.m.

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets to discuss *Our Souls at Night* by the late Kent Haruf. You can pick up a copy (to check out) at the library’s circulation desk. Wednesday, April 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Indian Spices and Condiments: Simran and Stacie of A Little Yumminess demonstrate how to make madras curry with roasted cauliflower, mint/coriander chutney, and carrot raita, and they’ll host a tasting afterwards. Class size is limited; call 415-355-5707 to reserve a spot. Wednesday, April 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Confused Neighborhood by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Spring Fever

A book on the pros and cons of GMOs, a movie about 20th-century women, and the latest adventures of the Noodlehead brothers are on April’s list of new arrivals at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, offered by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr.

To check on their availability, or on other books, CDs, and DVDs on the shelves, call 415-355-5707 or stop by the Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St., or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org.

Adult Fiction

The Girl From Venice, a World War II love story, is the latest thriller by Martin Cruz Smith.

A missing woman leads her twin sister on a scavenger hunt in *Dead Letters* by Caite Dolan-Leach.

The Dark and Other Love Stories by Deborah Willis includes 13 stories whose characters live on the edge of danger and where “every house is haunted.”

Andrew Hilleman’s debut novel, *World, Chase Me Down*, is based on the true story of an 18th-century Robin Hood who kidnapped the son of a meat-packing baron.

Adult Nonfiction

In *Reading the Silver Screen: A Film Lover’s Guide to Decoding the Art Form That Moves*, Thomas C. Foster explains the grammar and language of film.

Dmitry Orlov analyzes ways to take back control, in *Shrinking the Technosphere: Getting a Grip on the Technologies That Limit Our Autonomy, Self-Sufficiency, and Freedom*.

Food Fight: GMOs and the Future of the American Diet, by environmental writer McKay Jenkins, offers a nuanced look at the risks and benefits of genetically modified foods.

In *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars*, Dava Sobel describes the work of women pioneers in Harvard’s astronomy department.

eBooks

In *The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire*, Stephen Kinzer reconstructs the 1890s political debate over whether the United States should meddle in other countries.

The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting

of Europe’s Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance, by Anders Rydell, reports on the attempts to restore books stolen from libraries during World War II..

In her thriller *What You Don’t Know*, JoAnn Chaney shows the deadly impact a serial killer can have on the lives of his wife and the detectives who captured him.

Paulo Coelho’s *The Spy* is a biography in novel form of Mata Hari, the Dutch “exotic dancer” who was tried as a double agent and executed in 1917.

Children’s Fiction

In Kelly DiPucchio’s follow-up to *Gaston* (a bulldog), *Antoinette* (a poodle) searches for a missing puppy; illustrations by Christian Robinson. Ages 2 to 7.

Tony is the story of a boy and his horse by author Ed Galing, with illustrations by Caldecott Award winner Erin E. Stead. Ages 2 to 12.

Before You, by Rebecca Doughty, explains how much better things are, now that you’re here. Ages 4 to 7.

The goat assistant to a mystery-solving Venus flytrap is wrongfully accused of stealing a paperweight in *Inspector Flytrap: The Goat Who Chewed Too Much*, written by Tom Angleberger, illustrated by Cece Bell. Ages 6 to 9.

The Noodlehead brothers’ second adventure, *Noodleheads See the Future*, is a folktale retold by Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Ages 6 to 10.

Based on historical documents, *Freedom Over Me: 11 Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life* is a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book by Ashley Bryan. Ages 7 to 11.

The niece of Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle has the remedy for children’s misbehavior in *Missy Piggie-Wiggle and the Whatever Cure*, written by Ann M. Martin with Annie Parnell; illustrated by Ben Hatke. Ages 8 to 11.

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Join Miss Catherine for **Toddler Tales**, featuring books, rhymes, music, and gentle movement for children 16 months through 2 years, with parent or caregiver. Thursday, April 6, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

A **Creative Free Play** session featuring Magnatiles, jumbo wooden blocks, and puzzles will delight kids ages 2 to 5 (and their parent or caregiver). Thursday, April 13, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The library shows vintage **Reel-to-Reel Preschool Films** for children ages 3 to 5, with parent or caregiver. Thursday, April 20, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Musician Rado and Kids Music SF: Using props such as eggs, sticks, instruments, and a parachute, Rado leads an interactive session of music-making, for children 2 to 5 with parent or caregiver. Thursday, April 27, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

ESPECIALLY FOR TEENS

AAC Conversation Club: Users of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices, including Dynavox, QuickTalker, and Talk Bar, meet to explore new discussion topics. Mondays, April 3, 10, 17 & 24, 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.

A girl plays a Munchkin in a summer theater performance of *The Wizard of Oz* in *Short*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Ages 8 to 12.

Three strangers work together to find a boy’s missing grandfather in *The Harlem Charade*, by Natasha Tarpley. Ages 8 to 12.

DVDs

A young Malawian tries to rescue his family from famine in the 2013 documentary film *William and the Windmill*.

The documentary *Danny Says* (2015) focuses on the career of manager, publicist, and “punk pioneer” Danny Fields, who worked with the Doors, Lou Reed, and the Ramones.

Annette Bening, Elle Fanning, and Greta Gerwig star in last year’s award-winning film *20th Century Women*.

The 2016 action drama *Assassin’s Creed* stars Michael Fassbinder and Marion Cotillard.

Annotations by Voice bookworm
Karol Barske

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



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Why Wait for May? This bed of tulips at the corner of Diamond and Duncan Streets demonstrates the care of the gardener. The rains of March enhanced the bloom too. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

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A photograph of a plate of food featuring a large sandwich, fries, and a side salad.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Big Noe-It-All

By Mazook

NOE FOOLING: It's time for the spring quiz. Answers will become evident as we walk down a few "memory lanes."

1. What do Blanche, Comerford, Mersey, and Severn all have in common?
2. What do Martha's Coffee on 24th Street, Chloe's on Church Street, and the Dorian Clair clock shop on Sanchez Street share in neighborhood history?
3. What year was the first tract map drawn for Fairmount Heights (and houses built soon thereafter)?
4. What year did Radio Shack open its doors in Downtown Noe Valley?
5. What is the last name of "David," the founder of DavidsTea?
6. Where was Roger's Barber Shop located?
7. Where was San Francisco Fire Department Chemical Engine House 44 (now being used as a residence) built in 1909?
8. Is there anywhere you can get a tattoo in Noe Valley?
9. What is a "Rows Garden"?
10. Where are the Noe Valley houses you see in the image on this page?



RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY: The answer to the first question is easy. Blanche, Comerford, Mersey, and Severn are all scenic alleys in our quaint little village.

Blanche Street, off 23rd Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets, was named in the mid-1880s, when water



Question No. 10: Guess where this was in Noe Valley history? Hint: Most of the buildings seen in this 1939 view still exist today. For the answer, see the bottom paragraph at the end of Rumors on the next page.

Photo courtesy David Gallagher and OpenSFHistory

lines were installed by the city up the Sanchez Street hill and out past 22nd Street.

Comerford is found perpendicular to Sanchez and Church streets, between 27th and Duncan streets. The alley was named for Joseph Comerford, one of the builders who constructed a bunch of single-family homes in the 1870s, '80s, and '90s in Noe Valley, when it was still known as Horner's Addition. It was the subject of legal actions over neighbors' easement rights to the alley in 1907 (Mey-

ers vs. Kenyon, 7 Cal. App. 112). In the 1980s, Comerford was offered for sale by the city to satisfy a tax lien on the alley left over from the 1930s. There were no takers and the city now labels it a "fire lane."

Mersey Street, off 24th Street and parallel to Dolores Street, and Severn Street, off 23rd just below Church, date back to the early Horner days. In 1909, Mersey Alley became Mersey Street. Severn probably looks much as it did back in 1868, when the house next to it was built

(3780 23rd St.). Both are worthy of a stroll this spring.



THIRTY YEARS IN NOE VALLEY is what Martha's, Chloe's, and Mr. Dorian Clair all have in common. Martha and Bros. Coffee opened on 24th Street at the end of 1987, and you will find many of the same people there these days as were there then. They have called themselves

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

“the bench people” and can be seen in a mural on Martha’s wall and on the benches in front of the café.

Chloe’s Café was born on the corner of Church and 26th streets in July 1987. Steven Baker and Melania Kang opened Chloe’s Café after getting off “the road” in their motion-picture catering business. They moved into the site of the former Bernhardt’s Café and started serving breakfast and lunch in the tiny kitchen space using hot plates to make their egg scrambles.

“Well, our kitchen became well equipped to prepare the food,” says manager and longtime server (since 1988) T.J. Jackovich, “but actually very little else has changed over the years and just a very few menu changes. We did start taking credit cards two years ago, but we still have no fax, no wifi, no email, no website, or Twitter,” he says, “but I see people coming in who were dating back then, then brought their children, who now bring their children here.”

As we were talking, a diner looked up. “Yeah, I was here that first day and was the second person to order a café latte, which Steven timidly prepared and served to me,” said longtime Noe Valleyan Christi Springer, “and it was, uh, not too good, but became very good very soon.”

The anniversary party, by the way, is set for sometime in May, according to Baker. You won’t want to miss it.

Dorian D. Clair opened the door to his clock repair shop at 1301 Sanchez in July 1987, “after spending a very cold five years in the Outer Sunset.”

Clair is world famous for his talents in cleaning, repairing, and oiling timepieces

of the past. Since 2000, he has worked on that big clock on the San Francisco Ferry Building, which he says dates back to 1898, as well as the 1916 vintage clock at Ghirardelli Square, Stanford University’s 1901 Seth Thomas Tower Clock, and UCSF Medical Center’s 1896 clock.

“I enjoy my work every day,” he says with a smile. “This neighborhood has a lot of nice people whom I’ve met over the years.” He points out two of his favorite clocks among the bazillion in the shop, both dating back to the 1750s “and still ticking to this day.”

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE woods: The Fairmount Heights area was first platted and mapped in 1861. When the Fairmount Homestead Association was formally organized three years later, it offered “Fairmount Tract” lots. Cobb & Sinton were the real estate agents for the lots and gave these directions for your bumpy buggy ride to the tract from downtown, according to the Glen Park Neighborhood History Project: “Go out Mission Street...past Park Street (24th Street), Yolo (25th Street) and Navy (26th)...at New Market (now Cesar Chavez), you cross a wooden toll bridge crossing Serpentine Creek and then proceed on to Vale (28th), Dale (29th) and Grove (30th) and end at Palmer (Randall) Streets.”

NOT RADIO-ACTIVE: Radio Shack opened its doors at 4049 24th St. 29 years ago, in May 1988, and it’s still open for business, although the odds of making it to the 30-year mark seem unlikely.

The home electronics store went bankrupt in February 2015 and emerged as a company known as General Wireless Operations, Inc. Then it went into a partnership with Sprint Mobile, which shared

half of the store until just over a month ago, when Sprint pulled the plug on its operations and exited from all the Radio Shacks nationwide.

General Wireless filed for bankruptcy (Chapter 11) on March 8 and immediately closed about 200 of its 1,500 stores nationwide. In San Francisco, the 300 Pine St. Radio Shack is history. As for the remaining 1,300 stores, “We are currently evaluating our options and exploring available strategic alternatives to maximize value for creditors, including the possibility of keeping stores open on an ongoing basis,” says Radio Shack spokesperson Tim Ragonas. He confirmed that the partnership with Sprint Mobile ended primarily because of the “poor performance of mobility sales.” As to their future on 24th Street, he demurs, “We will have to wait until each store is evaluated.”

‘TEA’ IS FOR TENANT: David Segal founded DavidsTea in 2008. He left the company over a year ago, and the purveyor of specialty teas has now left Noe Valley. Sorry about my typo last month as to when the store would close. My editors corrected the online edition but the ink was quite dry by the time I caught my mistake. March 25 was the shop’s last day at 3870 24th St.

According to the building owner, the 1,200-square-foot retail space is being offered for lease at \$7,000 per month, “which is negotiable.” The owner says so far there has been interest by a group that wants to open a wine bar. Old-timers might remember this was the space where See Jane Run started its run.

By the way, the old See Jane Run space at 3910-3912 24th St. is currently available for lease. The asking rent for that somewhat larger space is rumored to be \$9,500 a month, although the real estate agent will neither confirm nor deny the rumor.

After more than a decade, the corner will be occupied...and we’ll have a place where everyone can speak easy.

FIRE SALE: Chemical Engine House 44, located at 3816 22nd St., was built in 1909 and served as a firehouse for 50 years. In 1959, it was closed and sold at public auction for \$7,500 to well-known artists Mark Adams (tapestries) and Beth Van Hoesen (prints). It was their home and studio for the next nearly 50 years. After Adams died in January of 2006, Van Hoesen sold the home to new owners, who renovated the four floors (with an elevator). Two years later, they offered the 6,140-square-foot residence for sale for a cool \$6.38 million. It sold again three years after that for a little over \$4 mil.

In 2015, it went on the market for almost \$7 million, then went off the market and was rented on Airbnb, reportedly for \$1,500 a night. Evidently it must have been a popular place, since the neighbors complained. So now you can pick up this gem for \$5.7 million. You can see the photos and some history at sf.curbed.com—just search for “Noe Valley firehouse.”

TATTOOS IN NOE: Tired of traveling outside the nabe to get ink? Don’t stress. Noe Valley’s first tatt shop has opened in the spot that for many years was La Sirena Botanica, and more recently the administrative offices of Tacolicious, at 1509 Church St. Authentic Tattoo is the name of the custom tattoo studio where artist Laura “Tex” Buss offers her creations both on your body and on the walls.

“It’s a tattoo shop and art space,” says Bernal resident Buss, who has been tattooing for the past 23 years. She had her last shop on 18th and Treat streets. “We don’t do piercings or sell jewelry,” she says. “Just art works.”

RIGHT-SIDE-UP FOOD: Roger’s Barber Shop had a long run on the northwest corner of Church and 25th streets (1298 Church St.) from the 1950s to the ’90s, and was home to J & S Barbers for a time. But it has been closed for more than 10 years. A remodel was started in 2008, and several years later an Asian fusion restaurant was equipped and ready to open, but didn’t. Last year, a “for lease” sign appeared.

Built in 1907, by one John M. Fischer, the building at that corner originally had a saloon and a residence on the second floor. City records show Fischer obtained his water permit and had a horse trough in the back barn. The storefront was rumored to be a speakeasy during Prohibition, and then it became a corner grocery store.

Finally, a restaurant will open in the spot, apparently very soon.

“To give you an idea about what we are opening: it’s a space to share bites and thoughts about putting the food system right side up,” texts a spokesperson, Lamiaa, for the public-benefit corporation opening the restaurant. “We will be doing nutritious gourmet food while hosting events to think and educate about the food system and how we can use it as an opportunity to make our health, planet, and communities thrive.

“We will be open for breakfast, lunch, snacking in the afternoon, and dinner,” Lamiaa continues. The menu will be “ancestral recipes from all around the world, honoring ingredients for better health while reconnecting with pleasure. We are very excited to create something for the neighborhood and become a trusted place for people who want to hang out at any time of the day.”

Lamiaa says the restaurant will be opening in early April and “unveiling the name of the business in a few days.”

A “ROWS” BY ANY OTHER NAME: As for the ninth question, crossword aficionados are likely to know that Rows Gardens, introduced by the *Wall Street Journal*’s Patrick Berry in 1995, are word puzzles with circular blooms, where the answers read clockwise or counter-clockwise.

The *Noe Valley Voice*’s own Michael Blake, who has published 13 crosswords in the *New York Times* and created nearly a hundred Noe Valley-themed crossword puzzles for the *Voice*, is also a creator of Rows Gardens. He recently launched a Kickstarter campaign and subscription service that he hopes will generate new fans of these puzzles of the Rows Garden variety. “I’m selling 10 puzzles for five bucks,” he says. “I was hoping for 100 subscribers at \$5 each.”

The campaign, which runs through May 2, has already exceeded his initial goal of \$500, he says, but more puzzlers are welcome. Go to Kickstarter.com and search for Garden Party Crosswords or check out his website, gardenpartycrosswords.com. There you’ll find a couple of free Rows Garden puzzles.

HASN’T CHANGED A BIT: And finally, **Answer No. 10**, the photo on page 31. Imagine you’re standing at Kronquist Court looking east. The year is 1939. Just before the cliff is where the grading for Newburg Street is going in. On the left, that’ll be the intersection of Castro and 27th streets. Those two houses at the center are 1907 and 1913 Castro St. No kidding. The photo is part of a collection of historical images being archived and made available to the public by OpenSFHistory.org, a program of the Western Neighborhoods Project.

That’s all, boys and girls. Enjoy your spring break. Ciao for now.

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“History is written by the victors.” — Walter Benjamin

It was a lovely, sunny afternoon to eat medium-rare natural beef and garlic fries at Barney’s, the hamburger joint in the heart of Noe Valley. Mike, my former work colleague, thought so too as we reminisced about the high-tech startup we’d both worked for in Massachusetts back at the turn of the 21st century (remember the “Y2K” bug scare?).

Close-knit, idealistic, creative, mentoring, and passionate described our little coterie back then. The technology was exciting too, and Mike gets complete credit for actually remembering the nuts and bolts of what it did.

About all I could remember was the mission statement hyperbole that claimed we were the “world-leading” blah, blah, blah—that and spending a good amount of time proofreading soon-to-be glossy and expensive brochures nobody was ever going to read (social media marketing was still a ways off).

Our lunch and fond memories a wrap, we Euro-pecked cheek to cheek—promising another reunion soon—just as the first lashes of windy fog rolled down from Twin Peaks.

That evening, my curiosity had me checking out my old stomping ground’s website just to see what they were up to. In what can be described as a Loma Prieta quake-like jolt, I discovered that there was no longer any mention of the company’s early beginnings. Poof! Massachusetts roots non-existent. Original logo buried. Original founders’ names missing. I realized the tables were turned: someone else’s rebranding would make it a challenge to prove I’d ever worked there.

Far be it from me to know what rifts or strategies might have precipitated the company’s decision to chop its beginning chapters. One could fairly argue that all that’s really important is the firm’s “now” existence—not who had cradled, nurtured, pushed, sweat, screamed, and stayed up late over its inception 16 years ago. And yet, it just didn’t feel right to have been, well, so completely obliterated.

I remember it had taken our team weeks of brainstorming to come up with a company name that hadn’t already

OTHER VOICES

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When the Eraser Gets Erased

Anna Waclawiczek



Photo by Jack Tipple

been trademarked somewhere else in the world. The final (available) pick would be inspired by two rivers: one in Essex County, Massachusetts, and the other in close proximity to the brilliant developers who’d whispered up some very nice code for us in southeastern Russia. In fact, about the only remaining vestige of the firm’s early history is

Then: bitter layoffs, sacked CEOs, collateral damage, and worthless stock options. Repeat.

indeed a tie to a river. Now headquartered in Dallas, the company has the Trinity to boast.

Neither Mike nor I stayed on for very long at this company. Mike would follow his heart to California. I would leave at the onset of an all too familiar software startup playbook: venture capitalists who want more control and who think they can run things better; founders who don’t want to relinquish control and give glowing but reality-skewed board presentations to the investors; lusty spending sprees on new hires, chic office furniture, marketing,

travel perks, wine-and-cheese Fridays, and holiday parties; and an inevitable overkill sales force not remotely aligned to the product’s readiness to launch. Then: bitter layoffs, sacked CEOs, collateral damage, and worthless stock options. Repeat. The difference here is that this privately held company seems to have sorta-kinda thrived—a laudable achievement considering the bubble-

prone, bumpy road for the software industry in general.

The company has rebranded itself as offering “solutions that deliver unparalleled prescriptive insights, linked directly to businesses execution.” I’m not sure really what that means, and it’s probably for good reason that I moved on from software esoterica to concepts I better understand and care about, like “No Farms. No Food.”

But I digress. Today this company crowds growth, a Gartner ranking, and new venture capital funding. Kudos! Do its early Massachusetts roots really matter? Doubtful. With that said, I have colleagues, friends, family, and yes a few foes who have been impacted enormously by the “victor’s” liberties with history. I’ve also seen the victors become the vanquished; and so the never-ending cycle begins again—often at the expense of valuable institutional memory and public transparency.

This is ethical meat on which every communications specialist who ever worked on branding and rebranding should chew. And it’s also perhaps a good time to introduce another well-known quote: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” ■

Alvarado Street resident **Anna Waclawiczek** is a communications consultant who has worked across a broad spectrum of industries, including software, food and agriculture, state government, and art.

ZARA ROWBOTHAM

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Crossword Puzzle Solvers!

Michael Blake, who makes the Noe Valley Voice crossword, has a new website specializing in the **Rows Garden**, a particularly addictive variety of crossword.

Visit **gardenpartycrosswords.com** for a free Rows Garden puzzle and a link to his Kickstarter project, in which you can get 10 Rows Gardens for \$5.00.

Watch his Kickstarter video to see how it works!

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



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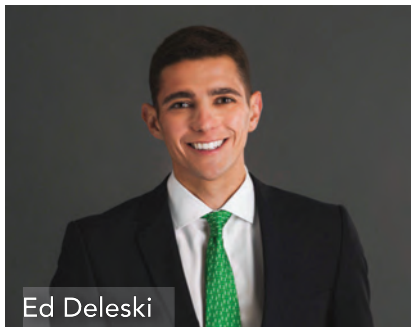
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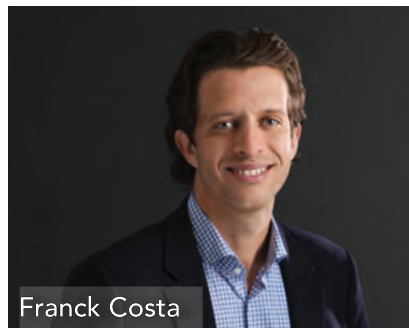
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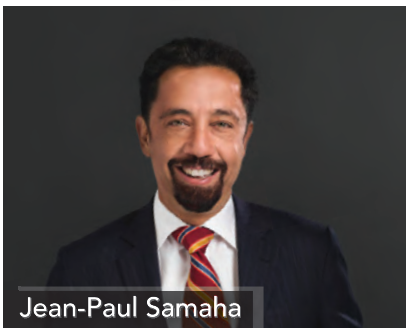
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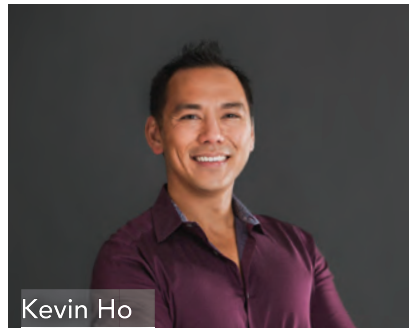
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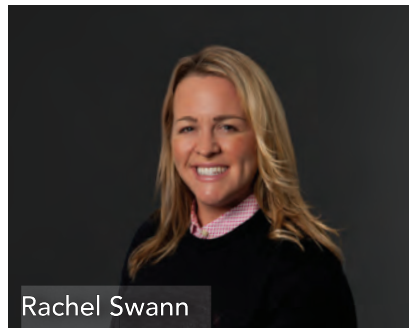
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