



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

December—It’s The Party Month

24 Days and Nights on 24th Street

By Richard May

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone for another year. Now it’s time for some serious local shopping.

Businesses in Noe Valley depend on your purchases. According to Rachel Swann, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, “December is huge for the merchants, and for most, it represents their profit margin for the entire year.”

To entice you to shut down the computer, the NVMPA and the Noe Valley Association organize a month-long party called 24 Holidays on 24th Street. As the event name implies, something happens nearly every day in December. Here’s a sampling (or see the *Voice* Calendar, page 26.) For the full list, go to 24on24th.com.

Hayrides and Santa Sightings

The Holiday Hayride can offer you a magic memory. A covered wagon, drawn by two white horses, rolls along 24th Street on Saturdays, Dec. 2 and 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pickup and return is outside Walgreens drugstore at 1333 Castro St. The ride is sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate, so the round trip is free. Also at 11



A Quiet 24th Street will brighten with festive warmth during the days and nights of December, as merchants and neighbors band together for a series of seasonal events.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

a.m. Dec. 2, Santa Claus and Rudolph the Reindeer invite you to join them for refreshments and selfies at Zephyr’s 4040 24th St. office. For a non-selfie photo, Santa pops up at noon Dec. 2 for free photos with your pet at the Animal Company, 1307 Castro St. Make a reservation, though: 415-647-8755. If you’re already booked Dec. 2, you’ll have a third opportunity with the big guy Saturday, Dec. 16. You can join him in the photo booth sponsored by The Agency, 3848 24th St.

In between, Santa will be at Folio Books Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 to 4 p.m., sharing his cider and cookies, and at Just for Fun, Thursday, Dec. 14, with some of his reindeer, 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Good Cheer: Red or White?

If you define your holiday cheer in terms of liquid refreshment, the Holiday Wine Walk is right around the corner. Guest

Tenants Win Second Round in Development Fight

Commission Sends Grand View Project Back to Drawing Board

By Matthew S. Bajko

A group of Noe Valley tenants has won significant concessions in a dispute with an apartment building owner who had wanted to make renovations that would displace the residents for upwards of a year.

At a hearing Nov. 2, the San Francisco Planning Commission denied the owner’s request to add a fourth floor to the three-story building as part of a seismic retrofit. The oversight body also put a temporary hold on plans to build four additional units in the building, located at 505 Grand View Ave. at Elizabeth Street.

The delay, until March 1, was to give the architects time to fashion plans that would add the new apartments without reducing the size of the existing units and complete the seismic work without displacing the tenants.

“We were ecstatic,” said Dana Mulaney, 62, who has lived in the building for 41 years. “It was a lot of hard work put in, but it was definitely worth it, and everyone in the building was so grateful

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Extra, Extra Voice to Publish in January

Many *Noe Valley Voice* readers are familiar with the vacation schedule your favorite editors have been indulging in for the past 39 years or so: the July and August editions and the December and January papers are combined giving the *Voice* a summer and winter break.

In 2018, a special January edition will hit the streets and internet featuring the winners of our Kids Photo Contest and a look back at the highlights of 2017 as reported in these pages.

For more information on that contest, see our ad on page 6. And get those phones and cameras busy. The deadline is December 20!

Our columns and features will return in February. To participate, get us your news and notices by January 15. For display ads, contact Pat Rose (415-608-7634) by January 20.

See you in the new year!

—Jack Tipple and Sally Smith
Editors and Co-Publishers

Dr. Kinney Will See You Now

50 Years of Brightening Our Bite

By Richard May

Businesses come and go on 24th Street, but one business located in the heart of the commercial strip has been serving the public for nearly 50 years.

Dr. Barry Kinney, D.D.S., opened his dental office at 3969 24th St., between Noe and Sanchez streets, in 1968, right after he graduated from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry on Webster Street.

He and his wife, Coragene Savio, bought the 1896 Victorian house on 24th Street and set up shop. Coragene was still in dental school, but after she graduated in 1969, they became partners in dental practice, as well as in marriage.

At first, they left the house as it was because, Kinney says, “there was not a lot of money.” The front bedroom became the patient reception area, and the living room and dining rooms became dental treatment offices. Later, as the practice began to succeed, the Kinney-Savios modernized and expanded their offices to the up-to-date space now available for patient care.

Dr. Kinney has a funny story about moving into the neighborhood. He was out front, painting the façade of the building himself, when three dark-suited gentlemen appeared on the sidewalk behind



24th Street Fixture Barry Kinney, D.D.S., operates out of airy offices that make good use of light, stained glass, and murals.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

KIDS Photo Contest!

The *Noe Valley Voice* is sponsoring a photo contest just for kids. Winners will receive cash prizes and their entries published in the special January 2018 edition.

Kids who are 7, 8 or 9 years old can enter the Junior Kids category. First Prize: \$25, second \$15, third \$10.
Kids who are 10, 11 or 12 years old enter the Big Kids category. First Prize: \$50, second \$35, third \$20.

Photo subject should be people, places or things in Noe Valley. Submit one, two or three jpegs by email to editor@noevalleyvoice.com

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20, 2017, by 7 p.m.

Parents can help with the entry and contact with the *Voice*, but not with the photos themselves.
No Photoshop editing help please.

Thank you!



*Talon Tipple and Dylan Hugill – Photo by mom Nicole Hugill
NOTE that this photo would not qualify for the contest because it was taken by a mom.*

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*Statistics based on 2017 MLS data at time of print



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C.M. Foo | 415.706.6550
Modern-Mission.com



FINANCIAL DISTRICT \$2,200,000

550 Davis Street #14 | 3bd/2.5ba
Marsha Williams | 415.533.1894
550Davis-14.com



PACIFIC HEIGHTS \$2,195,000

2948 California Street | 3bd/2.5ba
Michelle Englert | 650.387.4405
2948California.com



LOWER PACIFIC HEIGHTS \$1,998,000

2055 Bush Street | 3BR/3BA
Patricia Lawton | 415.309.7836
2055Bush.com



SOMA \$1,275,000

338 Main Street #21D | 1bd/1ba
Denise Paulson | 415.860.0718
Dpaulson.apr.com



SOUTH BEACH \$1,195,000

403 Main Street #512N | 2bd/2ba
Mike Hood | 415.710.9976
403Main.com



LAGUNA HEIGHTS \$1,049,000

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GraceM.apr.com



DOWNTOWN \$935,000

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Debi Green | 415.816.2556
1158Sutter8sfca94109.com



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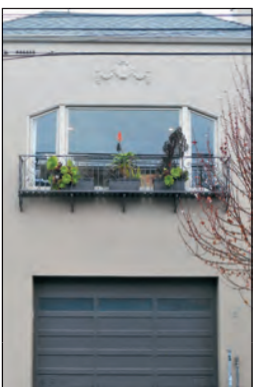
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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered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

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I don't know, Santa. Maybe you shoulda parked on the roof!

LETTERS

How to Curb Demolitions

Editor:

I was glad to see Art Bodner's response to the October article "Housing in Noe Valley Gets Taller and Denser" [Letters, November 2017].

The idea that the old Victorians need to be torn down to make room for taller buildings with additional housing because 24th Street is "a commercial corridor" is self-serving. Pro-Noe Valley development advocates are shortsighted, and the true benefactors are only the developers, who make a huge amount of

money on the redesigned buildings that destroy the character of Noe Valley. The old buildings are the definition of the charm of Noe Valley.

Look to what was done in South Beach, Fla. In recent history, there was a movement to tear down all the old run-down boutique hotels in favor of multi-story modern beachfront hotels. One woman began a movement to save the beautiful old Art Deco style small hotels by chaining herself to a building so it couldn't be torn down. The movement grew and the buildings were saved. They now personify the charm that is South Beach.

We could learn from this and save our Noe Valley character by stopping the demolition of our old architecture. Builders should have to keep the exteriors and remodel inside.

Libby Longinotti
Dolores Street resident

Harvey Milk—Laughter

Editor:

Thank you so much for the November article on Harvey Milk writing for the *Noe Valley Voice* ["Harvey Milk in the Pages of the Noe Valley Voice," by Matthew S. Bajko]. What a wonderful tribute. I appreciated the history lesson, and the letter you showed in the paper still has me laughing.

Mark Giberson

Harvey Milk—Tears

Editor:

[This email was addressed to writer Matthew S. Bajko.]

Just a note of gratitude for your Harvey Milk article in the November edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Reading it brought tears to my eyes. Tears of joy, for we have come a long way from those dark days of the Briggs Initiative but at the same time, I was nostalgic for the days when an unabashed leftist like Harvey Milk could be elected to office and continue expressing his progressive opinions and thoughts in the form of his column with impunity. Even today those columns resonate, as you pointed out in the article.

[Reading his words] is an excellent way for us to take pride in our accomplishments over the past 40 years and also a way to see what Harvey thought could be done with problems that still persist. Let's celebrate our local civil rights hero by keeping his ideas and aspirations alive.

Thanks again to you and the *Voice*.

Ozzie Rohm
Clipper Street resident

Candles in the Square

Editor:

I'm glad the community has a gathering place to hold events at the Noe Valley Town Square, such as the Nov. 8 Candlelight Vigil, held there on the one-year anniversary of the 2016 election. The event, which drew 75 people, was organized by Action SF and featured a short program.

Key members from six local resistance groups: Paul Silverman from Stand Up SF, Rodrigo Toguetao from Democracy Action, Lou Riordan from Indivisible SF, Susan Shain from Swing Left SF, and Stephanie Kengelsen from Sister District, spoke about the resistance work they've been doing in the year since this country elected a new president.

As we stood in a circle with our candles lit and listened to several more of the vigil participants share their thoughts and feelings, it gave me a feeling of solidarity and hope for the future.

Pamela Ketzell
Action SF member
43-year resident of Noe Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes your Correspondence. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, or other contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Please note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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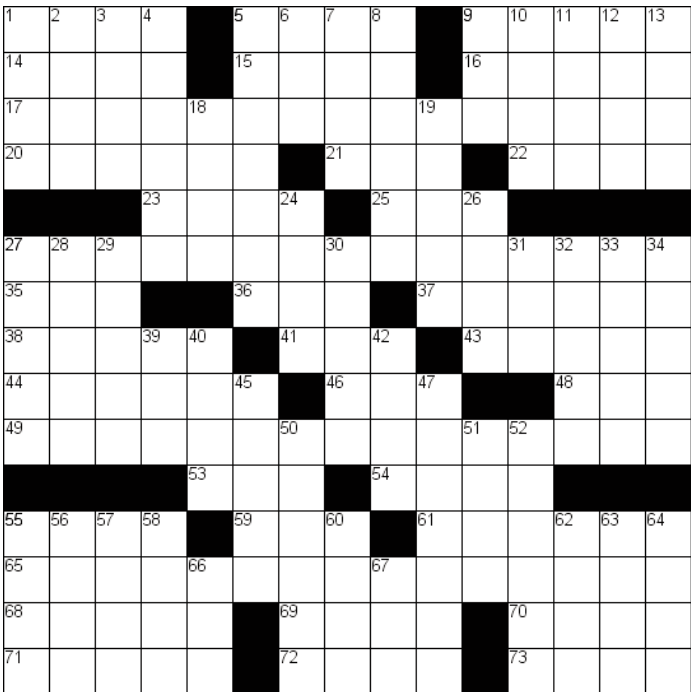
Solution on Page 28
NOTE: The current Voice Crossword and all past puzzles can be found at www.noevalleyvoice.com

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Did Bowie Ever Play Noe?

ACROSS

- Partner of Circumstance
- "___ Lap" (1983 racehorse film)
- World leader with "Hussein" in his name
- Late Noe Valley character Harry
- Actor's quest
- Like some cats in the Presidio
- Worst seating at a nearby movie palace?
- Part of CBS
- Kabuki cousin
- Phone message
- Diner with Edna in a palindrome
- Vegas bag-tag abbr.
- What makes "joyful noise" on Noe Valley's eastern edge?
- "Like, awesome!"
- Dermis or Pen lead-in
- Like Oscar-winner "The Artist"
- "Saying it ___ thing, doing..."
- Business-letter abbr.
- "The Godfather" crowd
- Material used to create many of SF's "Smothered Victorians"
- Jazz session
- "The Raven" author's monogram
- Bird's nest behind St. Paul's?
- Blesses
- Word on a DMV renewal notice
- Duelist's cry
- "Foucault's Pendulum" author
- Key of Clapton's



Decking 24th With Boughs and Bows

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vintners pour varietals and blends Thursday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 8 p.m. in businesses along 24th Street, from Diamond Street in the west to Church Street in the east. Buy your \$20 ticket online ahead of time at eventbrite.com. On the day, it's \$25 at the ticket booth in the town square.

The host businesses will be providing eats, treats, and specials.

Cliché Noe Gifts + Home, 4175 24th St., hosts a selfie booth with the Nutcracker of ballet fame and is serving cross-street neighbor Holy Kitchen's chili chicken appetizers.

Ambiance, at 3979 24th St., is hosting a customer appreciation party from 4 to 9 p.m., with plenty of food and non-alcoholic bubbly. To keep things merry and bright, the Loosies, San Francisco's all-female *a cappella* singing group, will stroll the avenue, singing holiday hits and popular tunes.

Latkes, Dreidels, and Gelt! Oh, My!

Twenty-four Holidays on 24th Street isn't just about Christmas, however. You also get two opportunities to get your Chanukah on.

First up is Thursday, Dec. 14, the third night of the eight-night Festival of Lights. Members of Congregation Emanu-El with light the menorah in the town square at 6 p.m., with edible treats and music to follow. Meanwhile, forget the Mogen David. Across the street at The Agency, you can celebrate Jewish survival with latkes and vodka from 4 to 7 p.m.

Your second chance to spin the dreidel and win some gelt is at the Chanukah Wonderland Sunday, Dec. 17, also in the

town square, sponsored by Chabad of Noe Valley, Just for Fun, and the NVMPA itself. The menorah is glow-in-the-dark and there's a moonbounce, fire show, latkes, hot chocolate, music, singing, dancing, and probably exhaustion from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Music, Maestro, Please!

Ours is a neighborhood full of music, with classical concerts in venues across the valley and jazz and pop in bars and restaurants. Our annual month-long party is no exception. Choral groups, strolling carolers, bands, and even music students will provide a soundtrack for your shopping.

Hitting the charts first is the San Francisco City Chorus singing at the town square Christmas tree lighting, Friday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. They'll be back Dec. 7, 6 to 7 p.m., strolling along 24th Street during the Holiday Wine Walk, followed by the aforementioned Loosies, singing from 7 to 8 p.m.

Blind Lemon Pledge plays two gigs in the East Parklet outside Martha & Bros. Coffee, 3868 24th St. This quintet describes its music as "a steaming bowl of Delta and Chicago blues, a dash of New Orleans, a hint of country, and a teaspoon of rock." Hear for yourself Saturday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Dec. 20, both dates 1 to 3 p.m.

The West Parklet, outside Just for Fun, 3982 24th St., provides some musical competition on several days. Applaud your budding Joni Mitchells and Joshua Bells at two Russo Music student concerts, the first Sunday, Dec. 17, noon to 1 p.m., and the second Thursday, Dec. 21, 2 to 3 p.m. Holiday music is promised. Chanukah and Kwanzaa, anyone?

Also in the West Parklet, the duo Skil-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Blue Light for a cheerful night in Noe.

2016 Photo by Beverly Tharp

The North Pole in Noe Valley!

Z
ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE



Santa Claus is coming to 24th Street!

Join us at Zephyr Real Estate for our annual holiday celebration.

We'll be ushering in the season with treats for all and visits with

Rudolph and, of course, Santa! It's a Noe tradition—hope to see you there!

Saturday, December 2nd
11 am to 2 pm
4040 24th Street, San Francisco
Call 415.695.7707 for more info
.....
www.zephyrre.com



Folio Books was among the first 24th Street shops to get in the spirit of the holiday season, with matching windows celebrating Christmas and Chanukah.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

24 Holidays on 24th

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

let Licorice appears on Christmas Eve Eve (Saturday, Dec. 23) from 1 to 3 p.m. Violinist Elise Engelberg and guitarist

Matt Knoth will play Roaring 20s rags and waltzes and “traditional dance music from the coal mines of eastern Kentucky.” A nice break from holiday music.

Et Cetera

If you’re looking for something differ-



ent, 24 Holidays on 24th Street has that, too. Olive This Olive That celebrates the new harvest of California olive oils with free tastings. Mapamundi will help kids create their own Christmas ornaments and felt gingerbread figures (11 a.m., Dec. 10 and 17), and Whole Foods will help you build the “perfect cheese platter.” And, the day after Christmas—Boxing Day in England—you can take the sport literally at the town square by making a cardboard-box art. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative, the silliest, and the strangest box. Boxes and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own.

And in the true spirit of Christmas, sisters Kristen and Kathryn Gianaris, the owners of NoVY Restaurant at 24th and

Noe streets, are hosting a wine tasting for Wine Country fire relief Wednesday, Dec. 20, 5 to 8 p.m. at the restaurant. Wine from the region has been donated by their suppliers. There is a \$10 suggested donation, but you can afford more than that. All proceeds will go to the Napa Valley Community Foundation.

The fires hit home for Kristen and Kathryn. Their parents live in Napa, and they have employees from the region, too. Their homes were spared, but others were not so lucky. Support this generous gesture—and the local wine.

Got all that? No? Well, lucky for you it’s all available at 24on24th.com. Party hardy and shop local. ■

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Commissioners Reject Grand View Remodel Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to all those who stood with us. Without them, we would have been facing eviction.”

As the *Voice* reported in the November issue, building owner Otto Miller was seeking approval to seismically upgrade the six-unit, rent-controlled apartment building, constructed in 1961. He also wanted to add a fourth floor to create an owner’s townhouse, and build four additional dwelling units in the structure’s existing lower levels and garage.

Planning department staff had granted permits for the work over the counter, but the Tenants Union of San Francisco requested a discretionary review (DR) of the project. It pointed out that the renovation would negatively impact the existing occupants of three of the building’s units. Those tenants had all turned down buy-out offers to move out.

In Mullaney’s case, she had faced returning post-construction to a smaller apartment, as the proposed plans called for reducing her deck and carving out about 60 square feet from her living room in order to create a light well for the new units to be built below her apartment. She shares her two-bedroom unit with one of her two adult sons who is in training to join the city’s Fire Department as an EMT.

At the planning commissioners’ Nov. 2 meeting, Mullaney and other tenants voiced their fear and frustration.

“The thought of losing my home is un-

bearable,” Mullaney said. Should she have to move, she said, “there is no way I can afford to live in the city I love so much.”

David Serrano, 61, has lived in the building for 30 years. He also told the planning commissioners that having to move, even temporarily, would be financially difficult due to the city’s high rents.

“My place is my home, and I look forward to the day I don’t have this housing cloud hanging over my head,” Serrano said.

Matthew Hirsch’s wife gave birth to their two children in their apartment, where they have lived for seven years. Acknowledging the need for more housing in the city, Hirsch argued that it should not come at the expense of existing tenants.

“This is not how you fix the housing problem in San Francisco,” said Hirsch. “You don’t kick out tenants and leave units vacant for Airbnb.”

Owner Remains Absentee

After buying the building in late 2013 for more than \$2.2 million, Miller rented out a third-floor unit via the home-sharing website in violation of the city’s home-rental policy and paid a fine as part of an abatement action brought by the city. His doing so prompted the tenants union to ask Miller to sign a pledge that he would move into the building. He declined to do so.

Miller did not address the planning commission, and no one from the public spoke in support of the project at the hearing. His architect, Edward “Toby” Morris, with Kerman Morris Architects, told the commissioners that his firm had tried to find a solution amenable to the tenants. To limit the amount of time the current tenants would need to vacate their units during construction, the architects nixed

renovating the tenants’ kitchens and dropped plans for a private elevator to the rooftop unit.

“This meets many important city goals,” Morris said of the project, from maintaining existing housing stock to creating new rental units.

Yet the five planning commissioners present for the hearing unanimously voted to deny the permit for the fourth-floor addition, continued the permit request for the four additional dwelling units (ADUs), and asked the architects to further revise the plans so the work could proceed without displacing the current residents.

Plea for Fairness

The decision comes as the commissioners are increasingly questioning the merits of remodeling projects in other neighborhoods that also threaten to uproot existing tenants.

“I don’t think we can look at this project and say there is going to be displacement here and say we can be okay with that and not be okay with it in other places,” said Planning Commissioner Christine Johnson.

She added that she felt there was a way for the building owner to make the seismic upgrades, which are required by the city since it is a multi-unit soft-story structure, and construct the additional units without displacing the tenants.

“I don’t think I can support anything that requires tenants to move out when we have recent DRs under consideration and we are not willing to allow displacement in other areas,” said Johnson.

Planning Commissioner Dennis Richards called the Grand View property plans “eviction by ADU construction or eviction by seismic upgrade,” while Commissioner Kathrin Moore said the project was “mega-mansioning under the

disguise of ADUs and seismic retrofit.”

The proposed remodel, she added, “is not about doing something in support of the people currently living there,” but instead is meant to “address a new, higher-end renter.”

More Scrutiny of ADUs

Looking at similar projects the planning department has approved permits for over-the-counter that went uncontested, Moore criticized what she perceived as a lack of quality with the ADUs being built in the city.

“We are creating slum units; that is where this ADU thing is basically going,” she said. “I do not see quality new living units that deal with the crisis we are in.”

Richards also raised concerns about approving ADUs if it meant taking a portion of someone’s existing apartment to create another unit.

“It just doesn’t feel right,” said Richards.

The goal of the legislation that allowed for the construction of ADUs, noted Richards, “was to create units in currently uninhabitable space, not to carve out space from current tenants.”

Ozzie Rohm, a co-founder of the group Noe Neighborhood Council, who spoke in support of the Grand View tenants at the hearing, told the *Voice* she was “delighted” with the commission’s decision to reject the fourth-floor vertical addition. But she cautioned that the plans for the new units continued to pose a “potential threat to the three families in the building by proposing more work than is necessary.”

Unless the tenants and their landlord can reach a written agreement over the next three months, “the case isn’t over yet,” Rohm said, “and we’re still mobilizing for the next hearing on the remaining permits.” ■



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City Looks to Provide Lawyers in Eviction Cases

By Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco renters facing eviction from their apartments could soon have legal help provided by the city under a proposal several supervisors are sponsoring. But their legislation could face opposition from the backers of a right-to-counsel ballot measure expected to go before voters next year.

District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, who represents Noe Valley, and Board President London Breed, who represents District 5, are working with the city attorney's office on drafting legislation that would provide renters with legal counsel in no-fault eviction cases. The law would be modeled after a first-of-its-kind pilot program known as Civil Right to Counsel that former District 3 Supervisor David Chiu, now a state assemblyman, pushed for in 2012.

"San Francisco renters are facing an incredibly high cost of living, so losing one's home through an eviction proceeding literally could mean you have to move out of town," said Sheehy. "This commonsense measure would provide immediate relief for our most vulnerable—seniors, people with HIV/AIDS, and longtime residents."

The legislative proposal comes in the wake of Noe Valley resident Betty Rose Allen successfully fighting her landlord's attempt to evict her from the apartment on Valley Street she has lived in for close to four decades. The case, which was decided Nov. 9, was reportedly the first time a jury had rejected an Ellis Act eviction. Under state law, landlords who no longer want to rent out their property can legally evict tenants under the Ellis Act.

Tariq Hilaly, along with his wife and elderly parents, bought the three-unit property in 2014 with the intention of all living there together. In June of 2016, they sought to evict Allen and her mother, Beatriz Allen (who

died earlier this year), in order to move into the building. After the tenants complained to the local media, however, the Hilalys delayed their owner-move-in eviction plans.

This past June, the Hilalys sued Betty Rose Allen in San Francisco Superior Court in order to get her to move out of her apartment. The jury's decision to deny the eviction came down to a tenancy-agreement dispute over whether Allen had use of a parking space in the building; the landlord is expected to appeal the decision.

Breed and Sheehy expect to introduce their legislation this month, once it is finalized. They contend more renters will be able to fend off evictions if they have legal representation like Allen, whose case was argued by lawyers with the Tenderloin Housing Clinic.

"On any given day, I have a constituent in my office with an eviction notice," said Breed. "It's heartbreaking that we only have limited resources to refer them to. This legislation will give them the right to an attorney, which gives them a fighting chance of staying in their homes."



Their move to introduce the legislation has drawn suspicion, however, from backers of the ballot measure, which would require the city to provide renters facing eviction with an attorney, thereby ensuring they have a right to counsel. One issue will be whether the Breed-Sheehy legislation provides a carve-out for nonprofit agencies that serve as landlords, something the ballot measure does not do, as its only exemption is in cases where the eviction is sought by a landlord or master tenant who lives in the same unit with the person they are trying to evict.

"We find it odd that after all these years, supervisors would suddenly introduce this kind of legislation with no outreach to the SF Tenants Union, less than two weeks after we announced a ballot measure on this exact topic," said Deepa Varma, executive director of the tenants group. "We look forward to learning more about the proposal, but it will not derail the ballot measure. A right to counsel for tenants is long overdue." ■

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A Visit With the Affable Dr. Kinney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him. They introduced themselves as emissaries from the local merchants association and announced that the group planned to oppose Kinney's new business because, "We don't want any topless nightclubs here." Twenty-fourth Street had gone into decline, and our civic fathers were trying to prevent it from getting any worse.

Dr. Kinney swore to them that he had no plans to operate a topless dental practice.

A Family of Dentists

Why did he choose Noe Valley? Since Kinney is an Irish name and Noe Valley was an Irish neighborhood, you might think that was the reason—but you'd be thinking wrong. His father-in-law already operated a dental office out of a Victorian on Church Street—which his brother-in-law and sister-in-law still run—so it seemed like a good idea to the newlyweds to take a similar tack. And Kinney isn't 100 percent Irish anyway. He's also a registered member of the Chickasaw tribe.

And it wasn't just his father-in-law who was a dentist. Kinney married into a whole family of dentists. His wife's grandfather, father, mother, uncle, sister, and brother were dentists, and new generations of dentists have graduated since. One, Dr. Jocelyn Skelley, Dr. Savio's niece, has joined the Kinney-Savio practice on 24th Street.

You might think all of these dentists would make for lots of shoptalk at family gatherings like Thanksgiving, but Dr. Kinney says, "We have a rule: don't talk about dentistry." In most families, it's religion or politics that's taboo.

Outlaws Have Teeth Too

Over the years, Kinney has cared for the teeth of some pretty interesting patients. Two famous ones were Emily and Bill Harris. They were members of the Symbionese Liberation Army and notorious in 1975 for abducting and converting newspaper heiress Patty Hearst into a bank robber. As a patient, "Emily was just a regular person," said Kinney. "Bill, on the other hand, had that wild-eyed look. He made you feel uncomfortable. He never was any trouble, though."

The pair were referred by a famous San Francisco criminal attorney, who shall remain nameless. He was a patient of Dr. Kinney's, and sent a number of his clients to the dental office to have their choppers worked on. Asked if that helped their cause, Dr. Kinney explained it was always post-trial. That meant they likely



Drs. Barry Kinney and Coragene Savio (right), who are partners in marriage as well as in dentistry, recently welcomed Dr. Jocelyn Skelley to their thriving 24th Street practice.
Photo by Beverly Tharp

won their case. Otherwise, they would have been in jail. One time, though, a patient was brought to him in chains. The man was an alleged IRA terrorist. He had started his dental treatment with Dr. Kinney and had the right to have it finished before he was extradited.

Classic Cars Bring a Smile

But it hasn't all been teeth and gums over the years. In 1971, three years after he began his dental practice and got married, Kinney happened on a third lifelong interest: classic cars. A neighbor owned a Model A and Model T Ford and frequently asked Kinney to help him work on them. Finally, he decided he might as well buy his own to work on and he did, a 1930 Model A coupe, which he still owns and keeps in a friend's garage. It took him five years to restore.

Pursuing this interest, Kinney joined the San Francisco Model A Club 40 years ago. He now serves as its president. The club meets monthly and takes a monthly road trip. They used to travel far afield—to Canada, Death Valley, the Grand Canyon—but, as Dr. Kinney says, both the cars and the drivers got a lot older, so they travel closer to home now. They did trek to Fort Bragg in Mendocino County

one time and met a man who had 300 Hudson automobiles parked in a field. Collecting cars "gets to be a disease," Dr. Kinney says, chuckling.

Nowadays, the club avoids freeways and bridges. Model A's, even in the best of condition, reach only 45-48 miles per hour. A line of them might be a road hazard on the Bay Bridge or Interstate 80. They tootle mainly to places on the Peninsula but sometimes venture as far south as Santa Cruz or Monterey. Wherever they go, the cars garner lots of attention. "We get lots of hoorahs," Kinney says with satisfaction.

Kinney is not a proselytizer, but if you're interested in joining the SF Model A Club, he says you don't have to own one. "You just have to be interested in them."

Interestingly enough, a third of the members, including Dr. Kinney, own classic Ford Thunderbirds. As a teenager in the 1950s, he always wanted a T-bird. Finally, five years ago, he got one, a 1957 model. It resides at his home in Diamond Heights.

Dr. Kinney has considered, over the years, holding a car show of classic automobiles in Noe Valley but is reluctant to inconvenience residents and businesses

by closing off streets. With the opening of the Noe Valley Town Square, however, he's discussing mounting a smaller car show at that location with the town square committee. Stay tuned!

Brush Twice a Day

What with car tinkering and being 76 and nearly 50 years in business, you might think Dr. Kinney would be planning to retire, but he's definitely not. That will be good news to his many loyal patients, one of whom this writer knows was getting pretty nervous. He says, however, that he will reduce his office hours next year to three days a week—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Doctors are not always happy to dispense free medical advice, but Dr. Kinney obligingly gave our readers three basic tips for good dental health. One, brush your teeth twice a day. Two, reduce the amount of sugary foods you eat. And three, visit your dentist regularly for a cleaning and exam. That way, problems can be handled before they become a nuisance.

After all, just like a car, your mouth needs periodic maintenance to make it to classic status. ■

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More Gala Gold Benefits Town Square

Photos by Lawrence Lauterborn

Noe Valley loves “puttin’ on the ritz”—especially when it’s for a good cause. Ninety people turned out for the second annual Noe Valley Gala, a community fundraiser held Friday, Oct. 27, at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street. The event netted \$9,500, which will be used to stage free movie nights—hopefully starting soon—at the Noe Valley Town Square.

The evening featured a cocktail reception, a three-course dinner, a “Raise the Paddle” fundraising challenge, and film and musical entertainment. Appetizers were donated by Firefly, Bacco, and NoVY restaurants. Other donors included Noe Valley Wine Merchants, Valley Tavern, and Cliche Noe Gifts + Home.

With the Jazz Preservation Trio playing in the background, diners feasted on pear and arugula salad, Tuscan-style beef short ribs, porcini mushroom ravioli, and chocolate mousse pyramid cake with raspberry cream. The crowd enjoyed a screening of *The Ring*, a humorous film by Ava Auffret-Reid, a finalist in this year’s Noe Valley Girls Film Festival.

Capping the four-hour affair was a movie-musical revue, starring baritone Joshua Hollister and pianist Karen Heather. A big hit was their performance of “Puttin’ On the Ritz,” Irving Berlin’s song from the 1930s movie of the same name. “The music was amazing. People were just mesmerized,” said Gala Co-Chair Yvonne Keene.

—Corrie M. Anders



Haley Sausner, Chef de Cuisine, with Brad Levy, owner, Firefly Restaurant.



Carol Yenne, Dani Sheehan-Meyer, Dona Taylor.



Cynthia Hogan, Scott Rubin, Stephen Moore, Merserv Platt.



Dave Maltz, Shannon Hughes, Antje Kann, Andy Ferguson, Lena Mullins, Todd David.



Debra Niemann, Peggy Cling, Peter Cling.



Nicole Krassner, Yvonne Keene, Christine Tawadrous, Cynthia Hogan, Gala MC David Brown, District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy.



Elizabeth Moreno, Rachel Swann.



Maddy Dorvillier, Greer Bingham.



Karen Heather, Joshua Hollister.



Karen Heather, Jerry Heather.



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SHORT TAKES

Make December Bright

It's that time of year, when holidays stack up one after the other and gift giving is de rigueur. Each holiday involves shining light into darkness. After all, the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice, is Dec. 21.

Festivities at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street near Sanchez Street begin with a Christmas tree lighting Friday, Dec. 1, 5 to 7 p.m., accompanied by caroling from the San Francisco City Chorus and hot chocolate and cookies. Then comes the "Chanukah Wonderland," a menorah lighting Sunday, Dec. 17, at sundown, with a party to follow sponsored by Chabad Noe Valley, Just for Fun, and the Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals Association. Everyone is welcome to share latkes, hot chocolate, dreidels, arts and crafts, and music. (Chanukah begins at sundown Dec. 12 and ends Dec. 20 this year.)

Another tradition is the Tom and Jerry Christmas Tree, Tom Taylor and Jerome Goldstein's annual gift to the city. Every year, their white gingerbread Victorian at 3650 21st St., between Church and Sanchez streets, is engulfed by Volkswagen-sized gifts, gigantic teddy bears and dolls, an oversized model train, and huge Christmas stockings dangling from the garage. The now 65-foot Norfolk pine, which began as a considerably smaller houseplant, is covered in lights. This year, the decorations are up and the tree is lit from Thursday, Dec. 7, through New Year's Eve. Santa Claus will hand out candy canes from Tuesday, Dec. 12, through Christmas Eve.

Kwanzaa is celebrated in Noe Valley on Friday, Dec. 22, 5 p.m., at Charlie's Corner bookstore, at the corner of 24th and Castro. The Charlie's Corner staff will read books about the holiday, play African music, share harvest fruits, light the *kinara* (candleholder), and explain the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa officially runs Tuesday, Dec. 26, through New Year's Day.

New Year's doesn't have an official celebration in Noe Valley, but you can visit one of the neighborhood's bars or restaurants and then head over to Dolores Park for the annual revelry and watching of fireworks. Be sure to wear warm clothing, take a blanket, and recycle your trash.

Ding, Dong! Bethany Calling!

Not many churches in the world have a handbell orchestra, but Bethany United Methodist Church does, and they are holding a concert Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. They'll be playing ringing renditions of Christmas music and pop songs arranged by orchestra members. A reception with light refreshments follows the concert. Admission is by donation, and a portion of the proceeds goes to charity.

If you're unclear what a handbell is, it's a bell with a handle. Each bell in the orchestra sounds a different note when rung. If you're Swiss or old enough to have watched the *Ed Sullivan Show*, you get the picture. Bethany Church is located at the corner of Cesar Chavez and Sanchez streets.

Battle of the Seasonal Bulge

Thanksgiving is over, Christmas and Chanukah are dead ahead, and New Year's isn't far behind. To keep extra pounds off, you may wish to go to a fitness boot camp—or at least to the gym or yoga more regularly.

BootCampSF conducts exercise



It was a wintry day in 1996 when this view of Tom Taylor and Jerome "Christmas Tree House" at 3650 21st St. was captured. Waiting for Santa were three local elves: Florence and Leo Holub, and Boychik.
1996 photo by Sally Smith

classes Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Upper Noe Recreation Center basketball court, "rain or shine," according to owner Randy Green. All equipment is provided but Green says to wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes and to "bring a bottle of water because you're going to sweat." The next session starts Dec. 1, but you can still join if you hurry. Call 415-567-9009 or see bootcampsf.com for pricing. The basketball court is at 30th and Whitney streets.

The Noe Valley Town Square on 24th

Street is another site for bootcamp exercise, on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11 a.m. (Dec. 1 through 22). The classes are led by Dylan Phillipy, a fitness enthusiast with a background in kinesiology and physical therapy. There's a \$20 suggested donation. For more information, email dylanphillippy@gmail.com.

If boot camp is not your thing, you can prevent pounds in any number of other ways in Noe Valley. For a traditional gym within walking distance, try Cardio Tone (1747 Church St.), Purely Physical Fitness (1300 Church St.), or 24 Hour Fit-

ness (3800 24th St.). Carry your yoga mat to Yoga Mayu (4159 24th St.) or Integral Yoga Institute (770 Dolores). For Pilates, try Noe Valley Pilates (1304 Castro St.) or Sanchez Street Studios (1587-1589 Sanchez St.).

See? No excuse. Exercise opportunities abound. But if none of these work for you, you could always rent a Ford GoBike from any of the handy nearby stands and cycle away all that turkey, candy, and champagne.

A BAVA Christmas

The girls and boys of the Bay Area Vocal Academy perform classical, Broadway, and popular songs and scenes in two holiday concerts, on Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The program includes selections from Handel's *Messiah*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Berlin's *White Christmas*, and more. A light reception follows each performance.

Tickets from \$5 to \$20 are available at bayareavocalacademy.org. BAVA provides vocal training for talented young singers, preparing them for college and a career in classical music.

Funny Chocolate Grinch

December is a time for gift giving, and what better gift than a book? Our three neighborhood bookstores—Charlie's Corner, Folio Books, and Omnivore Books on Food—all have plenty of potential presents and offer free entertainment as well.

Folio Books is hosting a new comedy book club, Book'd, organized by Liz Stone, neighborhood denizen, stand-up comedian, and shoe maven. First up is *Shopgirl* by Steve Martin. Tuesday, Dec. 5, Stone's team of comics, including Joe Gorman, Annette Mullaney, Cole Chapman, Alexandria Love, and Ali Littman, will perform skits based on the book and lead a discussion about the plot. The show starts at 7 p.m. at 3957 24th St.

Chocolate is "almost" as good a gift as a book and you'll learn all about it from the owners of Mission District chocolatier Dandelion Chocolate and Molly Gore, the author of *Making Chocolate*, Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., at Omnivore Books on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez.



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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Dandelion will offer free samples and copies of *Making Chocolate* will be available for purchase and signing.

Something—or someone—a lot less sweet is on hand Monday, Dec. 11, at Charlie’s Corner children’s bookstore, at 4102 24th St. The Charlie’s staff will read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and audience participation is required. You know the Grinch’s heart only grows if you sing the Whoville carols. Readings are at 10 a.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m.

That’s just a sample. For everything happening in December and January, go to foliosf.com, omnivorebooks.com, and charliescorner.com.

How to Survive Afterward

After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the San Francisco Fire Department, knowing emergency services might be strapped, began training city residents neighborhood by neighborhood to take care of themselves after a disaster. That program was dubbed the Neighborhood

Emergency Response Team.

NERT training is back in Noe Valley beginning Wednesday, Jan. 17, for a six-week run. Classes include learning how to prepare for a disaster and to survive one, and simple search-and-rescue techniques—ways to help your neighbors. The course is free. You can enroll online at sffdnert.eventbrite.com.

The course is sponsored by Upper Noe Neighbors and will be held at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

Evenings With Kai Christiansen

Noe Valley is exploding with opportunities to hear live classical music, but now there is an opportunity to learn more about it. The venerable Noe Valley Chamber Music series has launched “Evenings With Kai,” monthly get-togethers to drink wine, eat a light meal, listen to music, and learn in a small, friendly group.

The salons are held in the Elizabeth Street home of Jessica and Richard Anderson, longtime supporters of NVCM. Kai Christiansen, local musician and musicologist, leads the discussion. He plays recordings of three or four classical pieces and discusses their musical characteristics, for example, their texture or theme. Attendees are encouraged to say what they feel about the music.

NVCM Executive Director Tiffany Loewenberg says, a while back, she and Christiansen were having coffee, talking about sharing chamber music more widely. Christiansen said he had wanted to lead short seminars for a long time. Loewenberg was looking for ways to connect NVCM with its audience. The result was a series of conversations called “Up Close & Personal.” They have now morphed into “Evenings With Kai.”

Two three-session series have been held, focusing on music from the then



Musicologist Kai Christiansen invites those who want to learn more about classical music to join him and friends of Noe Valley Chamber Music at a monthly salon series on Elizabeth Street.

current season. The third starts Jan. 17, and continues on Feb. 28 and March 14. All sessions are on Wednesdays and begin at 7 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to eventbrite.com and search under Evenings With Kai. The series is \$100. Individual sessions cost \$35. All proceeds go to fund NVCM programs, including the main concert series and Classical Kids concerts. See nvcm.org.

Classic January

Our usually robust selection of classical music and song is almost nonexistent in December, but it comes back strong in January with five concerts.

First up are two concerts Sunday, Jan. 14. Lieder Alive’s “Neue Lieder, Neues Jahr!” has a 5 p.m. start time at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. So-

prano Heidi Moss Erickson and mezzo Kindra Scharich, accompanied by pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg, will sing new songs composed by Mark Carlson, Kurt Erickson, and Luna Pearl Woolf. Purchase tickets at liederlive.org.

The first 2018 concert in the Bethany Second Sunday series at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St., is also Sunday, Jan. 14. Music director Ray Capral, a classical pianist as well, will tinkle the ivories at 6 p.m., with works by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, and Ravel. Admission is by “free will” offering. Proceeds will go to causes helping the homeless and the hungry.

There’s another double bill on Saturday, Jan. 20. The 2 p.m. concert is “The World of Percussion” at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Three San Francisco Chamber Orchestra percussionists will play “everything from a bass drum and cymbals to a thunder sheet and crotales.” Admission is free.

That evening, at 7:30 p.m., the Vinifera Trio—clarinet, piano, and violin—will play Gershwin, Milhaud, Poulenc, Ravel, and Stravinsky at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for the 6 to 18 crowd, and free if you’re 5 or under. Check eventbrite.com for reservations.

Last but not least, on Sunday, Jan. 21, Noe Valley Chamber Music hosts the third concert of its Silver Season. The Joshua Trio—cello, harp, and soprano—will play and sing works by 14 artists, including Pablo Casals, Joni Mitchell, and Camille Saint-Saens. The concert begins at 4 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, and is followed by a complimentary party down the hill at La Boulangerie, 3898 24th St. Tickets are \$25 at nvcm.org.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, or other contact information. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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The Cost of Living in Noe

The Limit of Affordability

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley homebuyers have been pretty consistent in closing deals during the month of October.

For the third year in a row, buyers have bought a dozen single-family homes in October, according to sales data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Condominium buyers also have been busy. This October, they purchased 13 attached units—two more than in October a year ago.

All in all, though, home sales activity in Noe Valley has continued to level off since its peak two years ago.

Zephyr president Randall Kostick notes that home values, the time it takes



Buyers paid \$1,895,000 for a three-bedroom condominium in this Sanchez Street building. The condo features a designer kitchen, a two-sided fireplace, a private back yard, and one-car parking.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

to close escrow, and sales volume in the neighborhood appear to have stabilized.

“We’ve reached the pinnacle...the limit of affordability, and it’s kind of holding prices in check,” Kostick said. “There is only so much people can afford, and salaries aren’t going up that high.”

The average price for a single-family home sold in October was \$2,651,000, down 4.4 percent from \$2,772,000 a year earlier. And there were fewer bidding wars, he said.

“It’s a much better environment for buyers than it was a year ago,” Kostick said, “but it’s still tough.”

How tough? The Noe Valley property easiest on the wallet was a one-bedroom, one-bath, 790-square-foot home on 23rd Street. It sold for \$1,065,000—about 40 percent above the \$749,000 asking price.

The priciest house in October was a major remodel in the 1100 block of Dolores Street, between 25th and Jersey streets. Originally built in 1912 but now transformed into a chic contemporary dwelling, the house sold for 7 percent below the \$6,995,000 list price.

For their \$6.5 million, the Dolores Street buyers got a five-story home with five bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and 4,850



An elevator stops at all five floors of this new home on Dolores Street, which sold in October for \$6.5 million. The five-bedroom house sports a spa, kitchenette with barbecue grill, and a rooftop garden with Japanese maple and olive trees.

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2017	Average November 2017	Average October 2017	Average November 2016
Studio	9	\$2,100 - \$2,895	\$2,446 / mo.	\$2,647 / mo.	\$2,262 / mo.
1-bdrm	28	\$2,450 - \$4,900	\$3,186 / mo.	\$3,496 / mo.	\$3,245 / mo.
2-bdrm	44	\$3,250 - \$7,500	\$4,521 / mo.	\$4,620 / mo.	\$4,229 / mo.
3-bdrm	22	\$4,599 - \$9,649	\$6,526 / mo.	\$7,382 / mo.	\$5,776 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$4,995 - \$22,500	\$11,822 / mo.	\$10,965 / mo.	\$10,279 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 110 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Nov. 1 to 8, 2017. NVV12/2017

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						
October 2017	12	\$1,065,000	\$6,500,000	\$2,651,358	31	106%
September 2017	6	\$1,475,000	\$2,301,000	\$1,824,333	24	108%
October 2016	12	\$1,250,000	\$4,399,000	\$2,772,000	20	102%
Condominiums						
October 2017	13	\$621,000	\$1,895,000	\$1,314,647	18	113%
September 2017	3	\$685,000	\$1,407,000	\$1,007,333	22	111%
October 2016	11	\$460,000	\$2,050,000	\$1,392,273	22	108%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
October 2017	2	\$1,835,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,042,500	72	102%
September 2017	5	\$1,200,000	\$4,450,000	\$2,380,000	63	97%
October 2016	8	\$1,350,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,930,000	44	105%
5+-unit buildings						
October 2017	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2016	0	—	—	—	—	—
October 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. NVV12/2017

square feet of living space. An elevator serves each floor. Additional amenities include a state-of-the-art kitchen, radiant floor heating and other energy-efficient features, a built-in 70-inch home theater system, a fireplace, and two-car parking. There’s also a penthouse and a rooftop garden planted with Japanese maple and olive trees, a kitchenette with a gas grill, a hot tub, a fireplace, and 360-degree views.

The most expensive condominium in October was located in the 1200 block of Sanchez Street between 25th and Clipper streets. Buyers paid the \$1,895,000 asking price for the three-bedroom, 3.5-bath home with 1,592 square feet of living

space, a sleek modern façade, pre-wiring for high-tech electronics, a gourmet kitchen, a two-sided fireplace, a private back yard, and one-car garage parking. ■

JOURNALISTS

The Noe Valley Voice

is looking for freelance journalists who enjoy reporting on neighborhood people, places, and events. If you fit that description, send an email and a writing sample to Sally Smith at sally@noevalleyvoice.com.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24, 2017
Vigil of Christmas

Children's/Family Mass:	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Carols:	7:30 p.m.
Solemn Mass:	8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25, 2017
Mass of the Lord's Nativity - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 31, 2017
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Regular weekend Mass schedule

Monday, January 1, 2018
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 7, 2018
Epiphany of the Lord - Regular weekend schedule

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Christmas Joy in Noe



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Sunday, December 24, 5:00pm ~ Christmas Pageant with Carols
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Sunday, December 24, 10:30pm ~ Midnight Mass
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Presbyterian Church, USA 415-282-2317
1021 Sanchez St., between 23rd & 24th
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am Childcare provided
Rev. David Brown, Pastor

Music for the Soul Sunday
December 10, 10:30 am
The Gospel According to Handel
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Guest Musicians Performing Christmas Excerpts.



Charlie Brown Christmas & Other Delights
Friday, December 15, 6:30 pm
Featuring Dave Len Scott Jazz Ensemble
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With Dancing! Also, Kaethe Blue Henning
will sing *Goodnight Moon!* No charge.

Labyrinth Walk
Wednesday, December 20, 6 pm
A Serene Candle-lit Meditation
Music by Cellist Lori Hennessy

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24, 5 pm
A Candle-lit Service of Lessons and
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New Year's Eve Morning Worship
Sunday, December 31 10:30 am
www.noevalleyministry.org



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The Fourth Sunday of Advent • SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2017
8:00 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am Masses in English
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Christmas Eve Vigil • SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2017
4:30 pm Family Mass with Pageant & 8 pm with Adult Choir

Christmas Day • MONDAY, DEC. 25, 2017
8:00 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am Masses in English
12:15 pm en Español

Sacrament of Reconciliation • SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 2017
3:30-4:15 pm • 4:30 Vigil Mass

New Year's Eve • SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 2017
8:00 am; 9:15 am; 11:00 am Masses in English
12:15 pm en Español

New Year's Day • MONDAY, JAN. 1, 2018 - 9:15 am

*Merry Christmas, Joyeaux Noel,
Feliz Navidad, Maligayang Pasko,
Buon Natale*

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Abundant cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) lives along O’Shaughnessy Boulevard.

December is spring for wildflowers in San Francisco. Zen master Jakusho Kwong says it best: “It’s just beginning. Everything is always just beginning.”

Leafless arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) along Islais Creek in Glen Canyon will show catkins—think “pussy willows”—in December. At many locations, you’ll begin to see dense growths of flat, blade-like green leaves emerging from packed masses of bulbs. These leaves will die off completely before flowers pop up, giving us huge, pink belladonna lilies (also called Naked Ladies) in July and August.

Grasses grow quickly in December. Their density depends upon the amount of rainfall. Our earliest grasses are non-natives like wild oats, rattlesnake grass, and feathery brome grasses. Buried among them are the shoots of plants to bloom later: mustards, coast onions, wally baskets, wild cucumbers, and many others.

Two showy December denizens are cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and Bermuda sorrel, or sour grass (*Oxalis pes-caprae*). Just about everyone knows sour grass, or Bermuda buttercup—with its delicate, five-petaled yellow flowers and three-lobed, clover-like leaves. But

NOW APPEARING

local wildflowers • the noe valley voice

New Beginnings

By Joe O’Connor

also look for the clumps of small yellow flowers on cape ivy vines. Cape ivy is all over, easily recognized by its bright-green, pointed flat leaves. Note, though, that cape ivy vines can overrun and smother other plants. Both sour grass and cape ivy are considered invasive and harmful in California.

My favorite “harbingers of spring” are yellow mats, or “footsteps of spring” (*Sanicula arctopoides*). Yellow mats are perennial and are found in nearby parks even where the soil is poor and seemingly without nutrients.

Early in December, yellow mats’ first leaves emerge—they’re an inch or so long with tips that appear spiky. Later in the month, the heads pop up, bearing tiny umbrella-shaped clusters of flowers. Yellow mats tend to make a linear path over a wide area, looking like



The leaves of yellow mats (*Sanicula arctopoides*) are the first “footsteps of spring.”

bright yellow footprints across an otherwise wintry landscape.

December can produce many mushrooms, too. Almost any planter box, garden, or bit of open soil might sprout LBMs that are both interesting and inscrutable. “LBM” is mushroom-expert speak for those hard-to-identify “Little Brown Mushrooms.” See *All That the Rain Promises and More* by David Arora for more information.

A wonderful mushroom show can be seen under the pines and cypresses at the intersection of Addison, Digby, and Everson streets near Haas Park, across from the SFFD Fire Station 26. Under those trees, in December, you’ll find slippery jacks, pine spikes, fool’s agaric, rosy russulas, saffron milk caps, and a wide assortment of LBMs.

Look also for growths of honey



This bunch of honey mushrooms (*Armillaria mellea*) was found in Juri Commons.
Photos by Joe O’Connor

mushrooms (*Armillaria mellea*) on old stumps or logs. Honey mushrooms thrive on dead wood but they can also attack live wood. They grow in dense patches, sometimes in the most unlikely places. The photo above shows a clump of honey mushrooms growing on the path through Juri Commons, a route many Noe Valleyans take getting to BART or Muni. The patches can be impressive; the caps are a honey-brown color often dusted with white from the many spores being released to re-start the complex fungal life cycle.

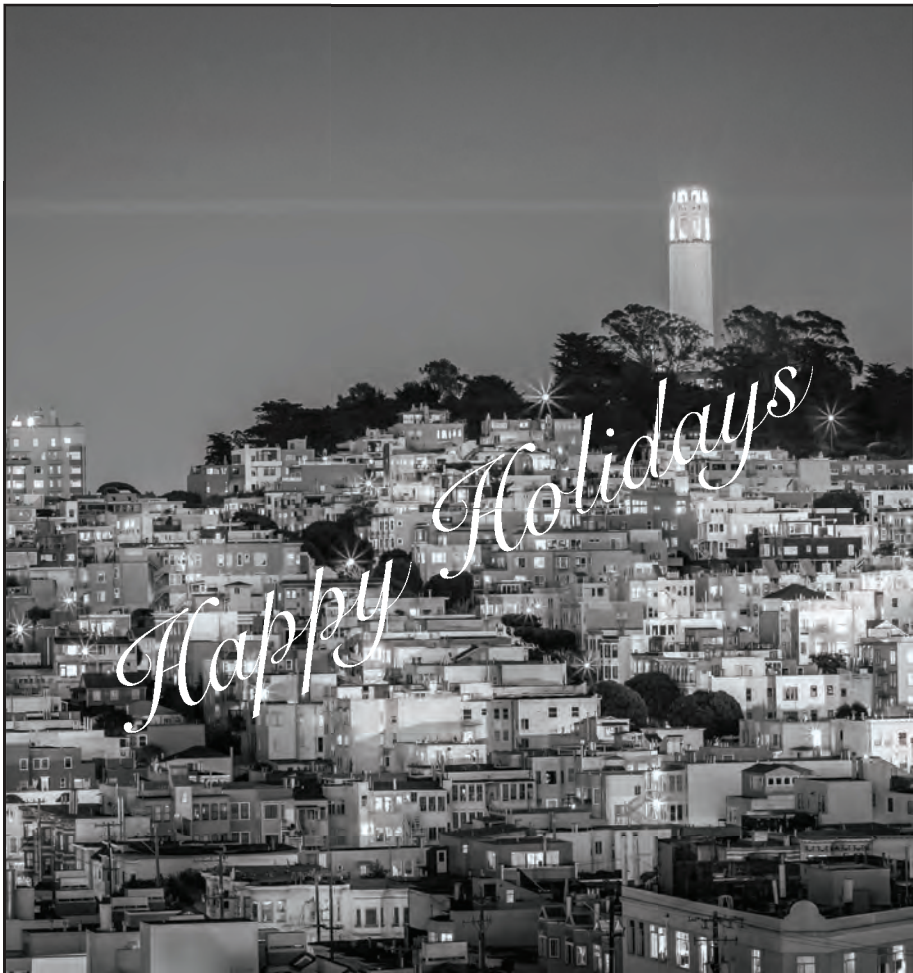
Enjoy December outdoors. And have a wonderful holiday season.

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 longtime resident of 26th Street, O’Connor will web-publish his guide to San Francisco wildflowers in early 2018.

For information on native plants, see Calflora.org.



After December rains, yellow mats make their own tiny bouquets.



Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season and a warm home filled with family and friends. Thank you for a fabulous year!



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How to Place A Class Ad

Type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check for the total. (A phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. (Sorry, we don't accept Class Ads by phone or email.)

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

Note that Class Ads will not appear in our special January 2018 edition.

The next *Voice* Class Ads will appear in the **February 2018** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of February. **The deadline for Class Ads is January 15.**

The Class Ads are also displayed at **www.noevalleyvoice.com**.

Only the first few words of the ad will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets are provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. .

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we introduce a home furnishings store that has already become recognized for its signature work of art: a penny-farthing (high-wheeled) bicycle.

STEPHEN MOORE HOME MERCANTILE

3845 24th St. at Vicksburg Street
415-817-1931

Living in London for three years at the start of the decade, Stephen Moore became enthralled with the small, locally owned shops he encountered throughout Britain and on visits to Paris. When his family jumped back over the pond, he wanted to transport that British style of merchandising stateside.

"It fostered a passion in me for traditional shopkeeping," said Moore of his time abroad.

Two years ago, having noticed that the Ark toy store was shuttered, Moore tracked down the property owner and convinced him to lease him the space.

"They took a leap of faith in me because I had no retail experience," said Moore, a 30-year resident of Noe Valley who grew up in North Carolina.

When he first moved to San Francisco, Moore, 57, worked in real estate. Having developed "a passion for renovation," he began buying and renovating homes, many in Noe Valley.

After clients started asking him to oversee the renovation of their own homes, Moore added interior design to his resume and served as a go-between for the homeowners with architects and contractors.

"The interior design work spoke to my whole interest in home-making," he said, "and how clients can turn a house into something that feels personal."

He now has three eponymously named businesses that, when combined, serve as a one-stop shop for his clients. There is Stephen Moore Real Estate, which is based out of the Noe Valley office of Paragon Real Estate Group, and Stephen Moore Interior Design, which he runs out of his home near Dolores Park. The newest venture, Stephen Moore Home Mercantile, is an eight-minute commute by foot from his home to the corner location at 24th and Vicksburg streets.

"I can sell you a house, help you remodel it, and do the interior work, and sell you things to put in it," noted Moore.

Dismayed by the closing of many locally owned stores along 24th Street, Moore specifically wanted to open his store in the neighborhood and have it feel a part of the community. Modeled after corner stores of yore, the shop combines



Stephen Moore relaxes in his Home Mercantile at 24th and Vicksburg, a shop he designed to resemble an English country house. In a nod to the former occupant, the Ark, Moore carries a selection of toys and baby clothing, as well as furniture, art, and kitchen and bath accessories.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

elements of a hardware store and apothecary with a finely curated home-furnishings store.

"I wanted to rekindle the corner store," said Moore. "I wanted something that was filled with things you could really use, like what you would find at a general store."

Designed to resemble an English country house, the space is meant to feel like it has been welcoming customers for decades. While overseas, Moore purchased a number of furnishings to adorn the store. The penny-farthing bicycle, for instance—which hangs behind the store's cash wrap and is also the store's logo—was purchased in London.

Another piece hailing from Britain is the long, communal dining table in the center of the room, which Moore plans to use for workshops and events at the shop. Twice a month on Saturday mornings, local favorite Le Dix-Sept Pâtisserie sells pastry and confections at the store.

A section of shelving near the front entrance is stocked floor-to-ceiling with children's toys and baby clothing in an homage to the previous occupant, where Moore and his husband, Scott Rubin, used to buy gifts for their son, Zeke, and daughter, Stella, now 17 and 13, respectively.

Many of the items Stephen Moore Home Mercantile carries are for daily use, whether it be cleaning products, personal care items, or candles, so that customers have a reason to return.

There are also various jams (\$9.50) and jars of honey from Lazy Dog Farm, an organic orchard and farm the couple owns

in the small Sonoma County town of Occidental.

Other food items include maple syrup (\$34) from Westwood Orchard in New York's Hudson Valley and goat's milk caramel (\$14) in cold-brew coffee and salt bourbon from the family-run Fat Toad Farm in Vermont.

About half of the products Moore offers are general merchandise, with the rest decorative antiques and artwork. Moore is stocking more gift items and accessories this month for holiday shopping but limits the amount of merchandise he carries.

"It was important for me to have fewer nicer things. In London, there is still such a respect for craft and tradition. I wanted to offer things that had a bit of narrative to them," said Moore. "You will pay 10 percent more than at a big-box store, but I wanted to explain why it costs more."

He carries hand-beveled straw brooms (\$50) made by local designer Hannah Quinn, who Moore first met at the Renegade Craft Fair. He also sells wood-handled brushes and other cleaning tools from the French-based brand Andrée Jardin.

For backyard gardeners, there is a set of six hand-forged metal tools with walnut handles (\$375) made by Bozeman, Montana-based Fisher Blacksmithing.

He stocks Old Man Mckittrick candles (\$34) in aromas called Shut the Blinds,

Dirty Money, and Good Day Colonel, and a variety of Boy Smells candles (\$28) in fragrances named Prunus, Cedar Stack, Gardener, and June's. Moore also sells 12-inch taper candles by Northern Lights (\$2.95) in a range of colors.

For the kitchen are ceramic dishware (\$30-\$100) made by local resident Carole Neilson, who uses clay that has been smoked in layers of sawdust, and linens (\$70 for six) from a small mill in South Africa sold under the Mungo brand.

Bathroom products include Marvis toothpastes from Italy (\$10.50-\$13.50), Claus Porto soaps from Portugal (\$23), and unisex perfumes by Penhaligon's of London (\$35-\$175).

The store first opened this summer, but only on Saturdays, as during the weekdays Moore was focused on his interior design projects. In November he expanded the shop's hours to four days a week.

Stephen Moore Home Mercantile is now open Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Moore plans to hire an employee in the coming weeks to help oversee the store and have it be open more days.

"It has been really surprising to me how warm my reception in the neighborhood has been," said Moore. "People want things that have character."

—Matthew S. Bajko

BREATHING YOGA

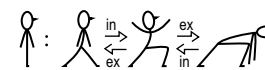
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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER

Winter Activities at Your Feet

Time to put on your running shoes. Registration for the winter session at Upper Noe Recreation Center—and at all our city parks—starts **Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. sharp.** You can register online or at 13 city parks, including Upper Noe. New catalogs are available at the rec center or online at sfrecpark.org/register. For information about programs citywide, call 415-831-6800. Winter classes begin in early January and run through mid-March.

To check out special events or classes at Upper Noe, call 415-970-8061, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, or drop by the rec center office at 295 Day St. The office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

—Chris Faust, Chair, Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center

UPPER NOE REC CENTER FALL SESSION THROUGH DEC. 29, 2017
Note: Most classes in the winter session will be the same as those in the fall.
Check www.noevalleyreccenter.com for updates.

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	12-5 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer (ages 2-3)	10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun for All	10-11:30 a.m.
Feldenkrais	1-2 p.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	1-3 p.m. FREE
QuickStart Tennis (ages 8-13)	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Soccer	4-5 p.m.
Tennis Intermediate/Advanced (18+)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Soccer	5-7 p.m.
Yoga Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult Boot Camp	7:45-8:45 p.m.

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

Open Gym	12-3 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	3-4 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Qi Gong for Seniors (55+)	1-3 p.m.
Coed Flag Football Pee-Wee Division (ages 8-10)	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Volleyball Girls Beginner (ages 7-9)	4-5:30 p.m.
Coed Flag Football - Senior Division (ages 11-13)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Little Kickers (ages 4-7)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Karate Kids (ages 6-12)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis beginner/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	3:30-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	1-3 p.m. FREE
Argentine Tango, advanced (55+)	1-4 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. FREE
Theater Mini Players (ages 5-6)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Zumba (family)	5:30-6:30 p.m. Drop-ins only. 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 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	1-4 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Shred N Butter (ages 6-13)	4-5 p.m.
Volleyball League Girls Intermediate (ages 10-14)	4-5:30 p.m.
Jiu-Jitsu (ages 8-16)	Cancelled for fall.
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	None
Auditorium Free Play	12-4:30 p.m.*
Yoga Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	9:15-10:15 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer (ages 2-3)	10-11 a.m.
Zumba (family) Drop-in only	10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE

SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)

*Hours are subject to change.

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Dec. 1: The CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING in the Noe Valley Town Square will be accompanied by carols sung by the SF City Chorus. 5-7 pm. 3861 24th.

Dec. 1-18: Lola Art Gallery hosts an exhibit of PAINTINGS by Dana Zed, “Absolutely Beautiful.” Reception Nov. 3, 5-7 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

Dec. 1-22: BootCampSF conducts FITNESS training Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30 am. SF Rec Center Basketball Court, 30th and Whitney. 567-9009; sfbootcamp.com.

Dec. 1-24: The eighth annual 24 HOLIDAYS on 24th Street begins. For a schedule of events, 24on24th.com.

Dec. 1-30: The annual holiday gift shop at CREATIVITY EXPLORED is open all month long. 3245 16th. Call to confirm hours: 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

Dec. 1-Jan. 7: GALLERY SANCHEZ exhibits “True Colors,” watercolors by Golden Gate Artists. Weekdays, 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org.

Dec. 1-29; Jan. 5-26: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Dec. 1-29; Jan. 5-26: Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

Dec. 1-Jan. 28: The Legion of Honor exhibits “KLIMT & RODIN: An Artistic Encounter.” Tues.-Sun., 9:30 am-5:15 pm. 100 34th Ave. 750-3600; legionofhonor.org.

Dec. 1-30; Jan. 1-31: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

Dec. 1-31; Jan. 1-31: 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.

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

• DECEMBER 2017 •

Dec. 2: Volunteer at JURI COMMONS 9 am to noon-ish, with coffee and pastries. The park cuts through the block bounded by Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.

Dec. 2: Value Line offers INVESTMENT advice. 2:30-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 2 & Jan. 6: Learn to knit or crochet at the Noe Valley Library’s KNITTING CIRCLE. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 2-30; Jan. 6-27: 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.

Dec. 2-30; Jan. 6-27: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

Dec. 2-30; Jan. 6-27: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 7:30 to 10 pm; refreshments available. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

Dec. 2-31; Jan. 2-30: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Dec. 3: Jasmine Worrell teaches the basics of the FOXTROT in “Wedding Dance for All.” 1-2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Call to reserve a spot: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 3: Excerpts from Richard Wagner’s The Flying Dutchmen will be discussed at OPERA for the People. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 3: Music on the Hill presents “New Wave SF,” a CONCERT of original new works, led by Andrew Vickers. 7 pm. St. Aidan’s Church, 101

Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

Dec. 3 & 17; Jan. 7 & 21: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Dec. 3-31; Jan. 7-28: 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.

Dec. 4: Philip Tessier discusses the BOCUSE d’OR competition in Chasing Bocuse: America’s Journey to the Culinary World Stage. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 4, 11 & 18; Jan. 8, 22 & 29: The ACC CONVERSATION CLUB meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. For details, email krismoser@aol.com.

Dec. 5: The Noe Valley Library offers an eREADER drop-in from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 5: Justin Spring introduces The GOURMAND’S Way: Six Americans in Paris and the Birth of a New Gastronomy. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 5: Artists’ Television Access screens FILMS from the SFPL 16mm archives. 6:30-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 5: Folio Books’ book club COMEDY SHOW “Book’d” features Steve Martin’s Shopgirl, interpreted by Liz Stone, Annette Mullaney, and Joe Gorman, and guests Ali Litman, Alexandria Love, and Cole Chapman. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 5 & 19; Jan. 2 & 16: Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING AND CROCHET lessons on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. 6:30-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

Dec. 5-26; Jan. 2-30: The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 5-26; Jan. 2-30: John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8:15 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

Dec. 5-28; Jan. 2-30: CJ Blackman of Precision Fitness leads BOOTCAMP on the Square, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 24th & Vicksburg.

Dec. 6: Adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library features the creation of a sugar scrub and a holiday card. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 6 & 20: Children 4 and up can read to a dog named Oliver at PUPPY DOG TALES. 6:30-7:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 6 & Jan. 3: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: Folio Books hosts STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: 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.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: History group Shaping San Francisco offers free PUBLIC TALKS on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Eric Quezada Center, 518 Valencia. shapingsf.org.

Dec. 6-27; Jan. 3-31: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip’s Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

Dec. 7: The 6th annual Noe Valley WINE WALK runs from 4 to 8 pm. noevalleywinewalk.ticketbud.com.

Dec. 7: Molly Gore and the owners of Dandelion Chocolate discuss Making CHOCOLATE: From Bean to Bar to S’more. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 7: The 8th annual “DRAG QUEENS on Ice” is emceed by Donna Sachet. 8-9:30 pm. Safeway Holiday Ice Rink, Union Square. 781-2688; unionsquareicerink.com.

Dec. 7: Regulars Liz Stone, Ruby Gill, and Drew Harmon, and guests Feel Woods, Emily Catalano, and Andrew Orolfo perform COMEDY GOLD on the first Thursday of the month. 9:30 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. 285-0674; lizziestone@gmail.com.

Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28; Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 7-28; Jan. 4-25: Shrawan Nepali hosts Thursday Morning MEDITATION in the Noe Valley Town Square; bring a pillow. 3861 24th. 8-9 am.

Dec. 7-28; Jan. 4-25: Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

Dec. 8: The Noe Valley Library screens the 1933 GROUCHO MARX film Duck Soup. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

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DECEMBER EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

THU NOV 30	JIM LAHEY • SULLIVAN STREET BAKERY COOKBOOK • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • The bread at <i>Sullivan Street Bakery</i> , crackling brown on the outside and light and aromatic on the inside, is inspired by the dark, crusty loaves that James Beard Award-winning baker Jim Lahey discovered in Rome.
SAT DEC 2	BILL ESPARZA • L.A. MEXICANO: RECIPES, PEOPLE & PLACES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Richly photographed and authentically local, L.A. Mexicano showcases L.A.’s famously rich and complex Mexican-food culture, including recipes, profiles of chefs, bakers, restaurateurs, and vendors, and neighborhood guides.
SUN DEC 3	OFF-SITE EVENT! • ANDY RICKER • POK POK: THE DRINKING FOOD OF THAILAND • DINNER WITH THE AUTHOR AT CAMINO! 5:00 P.M. • A celebration of the thrill and spirit of Thai drinking food. Thailand has its own roster of addictive snacks: spicy, salty, and sour, they are perfect accompaniments for a few drinks and the company of good friends. Get Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/thai-drinking-dinner-at-camino-with-andy-ricker
MON DEC 4	PHILIP TESSIER • CHASING BOCUSE: AMERICA’S JOURNEY TO THE CULINARY WORLD STAGE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE The dramatic story of the American team’s journey from obscurity to the silver-medal and ultimately the gold-medal win at the world’s most renowned cooking competition, with French Laundry executive sous chef Philip Tessier and his assistant Skylar Stover as the primary competitors.
TUE DEC 5	JUSTIN SPRING • THE GOURMANDS’ WAY: SIX AMERICANS IN PARIS AND THE BIRTH OF A NEW GASTRONOMY • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • A fascinating biography of six writers on food and wine (A. J. Liebling, Alice B. Toklas, M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Alexis Lichine, and Richard Olney) whose lives and careers intersected in mid-twentieth-century France.
THU DEC 7	MOLLY GORE & THE DANDELION CHOCOLATE TEAM • MAKING CHOCOLATE: FROM BEAN TO BAR TO S’MORE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • From Dandelion Chocolate comes the first ever complete guide to making chocolate from scratch. From the simplest techniques and technology—like hair dryers to rolling pins—to the science and mechanics of making chocolate from bean to bar.
SAT DEC 9	JIM MEEHAN • MEEHAN’S BARTENDER MANUAL • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • This groundbreaking work chronicles Meehan’s storied career in the bar business through practical, enlightening chapters that mix history with professional insight.

OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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PHONE: 415.282.4712 • OMNIVOREBOOKS.COM

Dec. 9: Jim Meehan introduces Meehan's BARTENDER Manual. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Dec. 9 & 10: The Bay Area VOCAL ACADEMY performs a Holiday Concert. Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. bayareavocalacademy.org.

Dec. 9 & Jan. 13: LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on second Saturdays. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. info@noevalleyreccenter.com.

Dec. 9 & Jan. 13: 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.

Dec. 15: The Randall Museum offers a walk around Corona Heights Park, "BIRDING the Hill." 8 am. Meet in the parking lot, 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

Dec. 10: The Glen Park Neighborhoods HISTORY Project hosts a walk through Fairmount Heights, "Cowbells in the Spring." 10 am-1 pm. Meet at Walter Haas Playground, east of Diamond Heights Blvd. RSVP: glenparkhistory@gmail.com.

Dec. 10: Meet SANTA and eat snacks at Folio Books, 2 to 4 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 10: Community Music Center's annual WINTER CELEBRATION includes music by faculty, students, and guests. 4 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015; sfcmc.org.

Dec. 10: The HANDBELL CHOIR at Bethany United Methodist Church performs a concert from 6 to 8 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

Dec. 10; Jan. 14 & 28: Noe Valley political group ACTION SF meets from 3 to 5 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsolidarity@gmail.com.

Dec. 12: Charlie's Corner Bookstore offers HANUKKAH story times at 10 am and 5 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Dec. 12: Learn to DIGITALLY

CALENDAR



The Joshua Trio, Emil Miland, cello, Ann Moss, soprano, and Meredith Clark, harp, perform Sunday, January 21, 4 p.m. for the Noe Valley Chamber Music series. The venue is located in the Noe Valley Ministry building at 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco.

ARCHIVE your photos at a Noe Valley Library workshop. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. 451 Jersey. Call to sign up: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 12: Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting, starting at 7 pm. Crocker Amazon Park Clubhouse, 799 Moscow. 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

Dec. 12 & Jan. 9: PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

Dec. 13 & Jan. 10: The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:15 to 8:15 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 16: WINTER REGISTRATION for classes at Upper Noe Rec Center begins. Pick up a catalog at the Center, or online at sfreconline.org.

Dec. 16: The Diamond Heights HOLIDAY PARTY at St. Aidan's features music, caroling, craft making, food, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. 3-5:30 pm. 101 Gold Mine. 285-9540, ext. 3; staidansf.org.

Dec. 16: Violinist Mads Tolling and pianist Larry Vuckovich perform a CONCERT of original music, jazz standards, Latin, and contemporary tunes. 7:30 pm. Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda. fhcfca.org.

Dec. 17: "CHANUKAH Wonderland" at the Noe Valley Town Square includes a fire show, latkes and hot chocolate, and a glow-in-the-dark Menorah. 3-5:30 pm. 3861 24th.

Dec. 22: Charlie's Corner Bookstore hosts a KWANZA celebration at 5 pm and African-themed story times all day. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Dec. 22: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church hosts a CONCERT, "A Blue Christmas." 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

Dec. 22-Jan. 12: Pick up a log sheet for Tween WINTER READ 2017 at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Dec. 22 & Jan. 26: HERCHURCH offers a Women's Drumming Circle the fourth Friday of the month. 6-7:30 pm. 678 Portola. 731-2953; herchurch.org.

Dec. 23-25: Kung Pao KOSHER COMEDY's 25th anniversary features Cathy Ladman, Gary Gulman, Wendy Liebman and Lisa Geduldig in "The Best of Kung Pao," to benefit fire and hurricane relief. 5 & 8:30 pm. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific. 925-743-1282; koshercomedy.com.

Dec. 26: To celebrate BOXING DAY, all ages are invited to a cardboard box

creation contest at the Noe Valley Town Square. 1-5 pm. 3861 24th.

Dec. 26 & Jan. 23: Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Social hour 6 pm; program 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. ToddsDavid@gmail.com

Dec. 27 & Jan. 24: 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.

Dec. 29: Ages 5 and younger are invited to a big PLAYDATE at the Noe Valley Library. 3:30-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 3: Create watercolor bookmarks at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 4: Regulars Liz Stone, Ruby Gill, and Drew Harmon, and guests perform COMEDY GOLD on the first Thursday of the month. 9:30 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. 285-0674; lizziestone@gmail.com.

Jan. 5: Lola Art Gallery exhibits "Carved PAINTINGS" by Bob Armstrong. Reception 5-7 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

Jan. 6: Teens from the de Young Museum Ambassador Program lead an art activity inspired by the TEOTIHUACAN exhibit; max 30 participants, no pre-registration. 2-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 9: The Better Business Bureau offers a workshop identifying "The Top Ten SCAMS Against Consumers." 1-2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 12: The Noe Valley Library screens the 2015 thriller starring KEANU REEVES, John Wick. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 13: Rado from KIDS MUSIC SF performs for ages 5 and younger. 10:30-11:15 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 13: Cookbook author Shanta

Nimbark Sacharoff discusses making CHUTNEY at home. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 13: The SF Civic Music Association performs "An Afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC" at the Noe Valley Ministry. 3-4:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. sfcivmusic.org.

Jan. 13: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts bring your own picnic BINGO. 3-5 pm. 3861 24th.

Jan. 14: LIEDER Alive! hosts a concert, "Neue Lieder, Neue Jahr!" 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

Jan. 16: The many STREAMING DEVICES available are explained, from 1 to 3 pm, at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 17: Jessica and Richard Anderson host the first of three chamber music evenings with MUSICOLOGIST Kai Christianson. 7 pm. 564 Elizabeth. nvcm.org.

Jan. 17: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group talks about The Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Jan. 17-Feb. 21: The SF Fire Department offers free six-week NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) training on Wednesdays at the Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-10 pm. 299 Day. sf-fire.org.

Jan. 20: The SF CHAMBER ORCHESTRA performs "The World of Percussion." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. www.thesfco.org/events/family.

Dashing Through Noe

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **February 2018** issue, distributed the first week of February. The deadline for items is Jan. 15. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.



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"When you give someone a book, you don't give them just paper, ink, and glue, you give them the possibility of a whole new world."

— Christopher Marley

**Happy Holidays
from your friends at
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SANTA VISIT
Sunday, Dec. 10
from 2-4pm



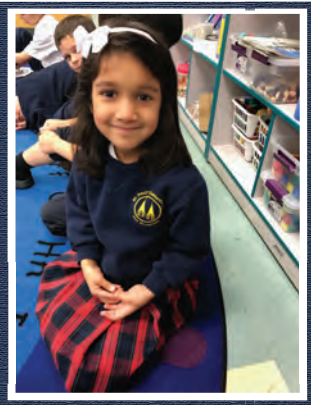
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Lowell * Mercy Burlingame * Mercy SF * Sacred Heart Cathedral * Convent of the Sacred Heart
Saint Ignatius * SOTA * University * Waldorf * Stuart Hall

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Learn how to knit or crochet or improve your skills the first Saturday of every month. Saturdays, Dec. 2 and Jan. 6; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Invest Smarter: Value Line offers research on industries and companies to help you reach your portfolio goals. Saturday, Dec. 2; 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Wedding Dance for All! Learn beginning foxtrot with Jasmine Worrell. Reserve a spot in the class by calling 415-355-5707. Sunday, Dec. 3; 1 to 2 p.m.

Opera for the People: Richard Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* is discussed, with video excerpts from a 1975 performance, featuring Catarina Ligendza as Senta and Donald McIntyre as the Dutchman. Sunday, Dec. 3; 3 to 4 p.m.

eReader and Online Resource “Drop-In”: Bring your mobile device or laptop, your library card and PIN, and any passwords you might need to a help session on using the SFPL’s catalog and databases, Kanopy for streaming films, Flipster and RBDigital Magazines, OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks, and hoopla for movies, music, and audio-books. Tuesday, Dec. 5; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Artists’ Television Access @ SFPL: Experience “reel” cinema when ATA teams up with SFPL to show gems from the library’s 16mm film archive. Tuesday, Dec. 5; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Adult Craft Night: Learn how to make a sugar scrub and holiday card; all materials provided. Sign up by calling 415-355-5707 or asking at the info desk. Wednesday, Dec. 6; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens the 1933 film *Duck Soup*, starring Harpo, Chico, Zeppo, and Groucho Marx, who plays Rufus T. Firefly, the dictator of Freedonia. Friday, Dec. 8; 2 to 4 p.m.

Personal Digital Archiving: Bring your photos and documents and learn how to scan and save them as digital files on your USB flash drive or how to upload files on image-hosting websites. Call to sign up: 415-355-5707. Tuesday, Dec. 12; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Discuss outstanding works of writing at the monthly meeting of the **Great Books Discussion Group**, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For information, contact Elena or eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10; 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Adult Craft Night: Create bookmarks using salt, ribbon, and watercolor paint; materials provided. Sign up by calling 415-355-5707 or asking at the info desk. Wednesday, Jan. 3; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Top Ten Scams Against Consumers: The Better Business Bureau leads a workshop on how to protect yourself from scams. Tuesday, Jan. 9; 1 to 2 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens *John Wick*, the 2015 R-rated neo-noir action thriller starring Keanu Reeves as an ex-hitman. Friday, Jan. 12; 2 to 4 p.m.

Making Chutney at Home: Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff, author of *Flavors of India: Vegetarian Indian Cuisine*, teaches a class in making two kinds of chutney, one with nuts and the other with dried fruits. Samples will be provided. Saturday, Jan. 13; 2 to 3 p.m.

Streaming Without Screaming: Patient library staff demonstrate ways to watch videos and other content from the Internet on your TV and show how to use streaming devices like Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Chromecast, and Roku. Tuesday, Jan. 16; 1 to 3 p.m.

Noe Valley Book Discussion Group: The January selection will be *The Invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf. Pick up a copy at the circulation desk. Wednesday, Jan. 17; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Healthy Feet Over 50: Certified foot care specialist Susan Loric, RN, shows how to take care of troubled feet with massage, skin care, and proper footwear. Saturday, Jan. 20; 2 to 3 p.m.

Alzheimer’s Disease Education: Families, friends, and people facing Alzheimer’s disease can learn about the latest research on diet and nutrition, exercise, brain work, and social engagement. Tuesday, Jan. 23; 1:30 to 3 p.m.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Library Now Under the Kanopy

The San Francisco Public Library has partnered with Kanopy, a local online streaming platform, to bring 30,000 documentaries, classic films, and independent releases to anyone who has a library card. Using the Kanopy app, you can stream movies on smartphones, tablets, or computers and watch up to eight films a month for free. To find out more about Kanopy, search online for sfpl.kanopystreaming.com or come to the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library drop-in session Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m.

If it’s books you prefer, check out the titles suggested this month by Noe Valley Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr (see below). Among the many topics covered are the healthful effects of meditation, 77 arguments in modern ethics, and the physiology of the olinguito, a mammal recently discovered in South America.

To check on the availability of books, CDs, DVDs, and other library stuff, call 415-355-5707 or drop by the Noe Valley branch, located at 451 Jersey St. Visit the San Francisco Public Library online at sfpl.org. Note: All city libraries will be closed on three upcoming Mondays: Dec. 25, Jan. 1, and Jan. 15.

Adult Fiction

• A Berkeley mother goes missing on a hike in *Watch Me Disappear* by Janelle Brown.

• In *Sulfur Springs*, the latest mystery by William Kent Krueger, a former Chicago cop and his wife search for her son in the Arizona desert.

• *The Good People* by Hannah Kent is based on the true story of a child believed to be a changeling—part fairy—in 19th-century Ireland.

• In *There Your Heart Lies* by Mary Gordon, an American woman’s experiences in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) influence her granddaughter’s life.

Adult Nonfiction

• Annie Spence talks back to the books that have influenced her in *Dear Fahrenheit 451: Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks: A Librarian’s Love Letters and Breakup Notes to the Books in Her Life*.

• In *Altered Traits: Science Reveals How Meditation Changes Your Mind, Brain, and Body*, Daniel Goleman and Richard J. Davidson discuss the latest research on mindfulness.

• Over the past 15 years, Tom Atwood has photographed LGBTQ celebrities, leaders, and workers in their homes, in *Kings & Queens in Their Castles*.

• In the memoir *Between Them: Remembering My Parents*, Richard Ford tells stories about his mom and dad and their lives in the rural South in the early 20th century.

Adult Ebooks

• Noah Strycker backpacks through 41 countries hoping to see half of the world’s 10,000 species of birds in *Birding Without Borders: An Obsession, A Quest, and the Biggest Year in the World*.

• *Mind Game*, Iris Johansen’s latest thriller, set in the Scottish highlands, is the 21st novel in the Eve Duncan series.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Did Bowie Play Noe?

By Michael Blake

P	O	M	P	P	H	A	R	O	B	A	M	A
A	L	E	O	R	O	L	E	F	E	R	A	L
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S	Y	S	T	E	M	N	O	H	T	E	X	T
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C	H	O	R	U	S	O	N	D	O	L	O	R
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• Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s fantasy tale of manners, *The Beautiful Ones*, has the romantic atmosphere of La Belle Époque (1871-1914).

• *Modern Ethics in 77 Arguments: A Stone Reader*, edited by Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley, explores ethical and moral issues in the modern world.

Adult Kanopy (free streaming video service)

• The 1953 Oscar-nominated Japanese film *Ugetsu* is set during the Japanese civil wars of the 16th century.

• Alain Delon stars in the 1967 French thriller *Le Samourai*.

• An impoverished priest leaves his rural Bengali village to find a better life for his family in the 1955 film *Pather Panchali*, directed by Satyajit Ray.

• Jacques Demy’s 1964 musical *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* stars Catherine Deneuve.

Children’s Fiction

• A little boy and his mother take a nighttime walk in *City Moon*, written by Rachael Cole and illustrated by Blanca Gomez. Ages 2 to 6.

• Ten stories are told in *Princess Tales Around the World: Once Upon a Time in Rhyme with Seek-and-Find Pictures*, written by Grace Maccarone, with illustrations by Gail de Marcken. Ages 4 to 7.

• *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, written and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton, tells the tale of mysterious Professor Brownstone’s collection of relics and treasures. Age 5 to 9.

• A raccoon has to find an evil toy-maker in *Remy Sneakers vs. the Robo-Rats*, written and illustrated by Kevin Sherry. Ages 6 to 8.

• The picture book *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day* is written and illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna, translated from the French by Jill Davis. Ages 6 to 10.

BRANCH HOURS

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

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Join Miss Catherine weekly for books, songs, chants, and small movement at **Toddler Tales**, geared for ages 16 to 36 months, with parent/caregiver. Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28, and Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

It’s time for an old-fashioned **Big Play-date** featuring mega-blocks (for the youngest builders), Octoplay, Twig Toys, and Giant Jenga. For ages 5 and younger with families/caregivers. Friday, Dec. 29; 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Teotihuacan Family Art: Teens from the de Young Museum Ambassador Program invite kids ages 6 to 12 to join an art activity inspired by the museum’s “Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire” exhibition. Maximum 30 participants (come early, no pre-registration). Saturday, Jan. 6; 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Using props such as eggs, sticks, musical instruments, and a parachute, musician Rado of **Kids Music SF** leads an interactive fun session of music-making. For children ages 5 and younger with parent/caregiver. Saturday, Jan. 13; 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

ESPECIALLY FOR TEENS

T(w)een Winter Read 2017: Tweens or teens ages 10 to 18 can win prizes for their reading over the holidays. Pick up reading logs at the library and fill out a log for every five hours read. Return them by Jan. 12. The logs will also be your entry in raffles, and the more you read, the more chances you have to win. Dec. 22 (1 to 6 p.m.) to Jan. 12.

AAC Conversation Club: Users of alternative communication devices, including Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, and smartphone and tablet applications meet to explore new topics. For information, contact Kris Moser at krismoser@aol.com. Mondays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18; Jan. 8, 22, and 29; 4:30 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.

• A 12-year-old girl starts a band at her new school in *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez. Ages 9 to 13.

• A boy tries to live safely in the Harlem projects after his big brother is killed in a gang-related shooting, in *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, by David Barclay Moore. Ages 10 to 14.

• A seventh-grader searches for the ghosts haunting her younger brother in *Spirit Hunters* by Ellen Oh, founder of We Need Diverse Books. Ages 10 to 14.

Children’s Nonfiction

• *Fine Art Adventures: 36 Creative, Hands-On Projects Inspired by Classic Masterpieces*, by Maja Pitamic and Jill Laidlaw, includes a coat-hanger mobile and a jungle scene in a shoebox. Ages 6 and up.

• Kids ages 8 to 11 can learn *Magic Tricks with Coins, Cards, and Everyday Objects* in this step-by-step guide by Jake Banfield.

• Sandra Markle describes a mammal recently discovered in the cloud forests of the Andes in *The Search for Olinguito: Discovering a New Species*. Ages 8 to 12.

• Forty biographies are included in *Rad Women Worldwide: Artists and Athletes, Pirates and Punks, and Other Revolutionaries Who Shaped History*, written by Kate Schatz and illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl. Ages 11 to 15.

Annotations were penned by Voice bookworm Karol Barske.

OPENSFHISTORY



The Techies of 1927: Neighborhood kids turned out for a parade of new Whippet automobiles on Fair Oaks Street between 25th and 26th streets. According to the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA), the Whippet, first introduced in 1926, was smaller, lighter, and faster than its predecessors. "It featured full-pressure oiling and pump-circulated cooling." Priced under \$1,000, it quickly became a best seller. However, the Wall Street crash and ensuing Great Depression ended the car's production. Photo courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project



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Debra King: A Gift to Children

April 3, 1951 – Sept. 19, 2017

By Corrie M. Anders

Debra King, a beloved teacher and owner of a Noe Valley preschool for close to 20 years, died at her Mt. Shasta, Calif., home Sept. 19, surrounded by family and friends. She was 66.

Lena Brook, whose daughter Ava attended the school, recalled King’s “kindness, her warmth, and how incredibly child-oriented she was. My daughter had an incredible experience there and loved going to school every day,” Brook said. “Debra definitely was a pillar in the community and touched many people’s lives.”

King’s love affair with children began in her teens. With a degree in early childhood education from Temple University, she taught school in her hometown of Philadelphia and, after moving to San Francisco in 1979, at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the KZV Armenian School in the city.

She was living in Noe Valley on Douglass Street when she met her future mate, Dennis King, through a mutual friend. They married in Reno in 1981. The couple were delighted when daughter Katie was born in 1987.

“Instead of going back to teaching,” Dennis remembers, “Debra decided to open a little school so that she could be with her own child, make some money, and care for other kids.”

The Debra King School, for toddlers mostly 2 to 4, opened in 1989 in a duplex at 3857 26th St., near Church Street. The King family, which welcomed daughter Laura three years later, lived on the top floor above the school.

Over the years, enrollment—just six

children at first—grew to 50, and the school expanded into several other locations.

In the classroom, Dennis said, his wife stressed three rules: “Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of this place, meaning the school, and by extension, the world,” he said. “It was a big part of her routine.”

Another big part was music, say daughters Katie King and Laura King.

“When she came to San Francisco, the guitar was one of her only possessions,” said Katie. In fact, Debra toured with a couple of bands, working as a laundress, and even wrote a song called “Rock & Roll Laundry.”

At the preschool, sing-alongs happened every day, with Debra accompanying on the guitar. “My mom changed the lyrics around so they’d work with the kids,” Laura said. The new words embraced growing bigger and wiser, and helping others, she said. A special treat was when her mother would sing the inspirational song “I Can Fly.”

Debra also emphasized the joy of learning through play. “She exposed the kids to all different cultures and had different celebrations for every holiday,” said Katie.

It was a sad day, though, in 1997, when Debra was diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the next two decades, she valiantly fought the disease, and often went into remission. But in 2008, when she became too sick to continue teaching, she had to close the school. That same year, she and Dennis relocated to Mt. Shasta.

Her husband says that was where Debra launched the second act of her life. “She was an advocate for women with cancer. She was always on the phone with women who were starting to go through chemotherapy, or giving someone advice about nutrition, what to expect, or alter-



A Perfect Picture of Debra King

For many years, I worked as the school photographer at the Debra King School on 26th Street. Only about three blocks from my house, the preschool became a second home to me. I would show up at random times to photograph the kids and soak up the happiness there. It seemed as if everybody was always having a good time, perhaps Debra most of all. She would be having fun with the kids, playing her music, handing out snacks, or fixing a boo-boo. The school can only be described as a joyous place to be. And Debra was in charge of the whole show: the kids, the employees, the paperwork, the planning—but she made it all look so easy.

I found working with Debra to be a true pleasure. We became good friends, and in the midst of everything, we had lots of conversations. I was there when she got the very first cancer diagnosis, and I witnessed her struggle with the disease year in and year out, always with such courage and grace. Debra’s heart was filled with love, and I was honored and inspired by our friendship over so many years. I miss her and will never forget her warmth and generosity of spirit.

—Pamela Gerard

native treatment methods,” Dennis said.

Her generosity in her later years garnered her many new friends.

Former students, parents, and old and new friends are invited to come share

their memories with her family at a memorial service for Debra King on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m., at the Swedeborgian Church of San Francisco, 2107 Lyon St.



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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Noe Noel

By Mazook

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PASTA: Loyal patrons of PastaGina were quite shocked at the beginning of November when a sign at the front door announced that “PastaGina will be CLOSED until further notice.” PastaGina was opened 23 years ago by now 40-year Noe Valley residents Joanie Basso-Ginsberg and husband Gene Ginsberg, who had taken over Auntie Pasta, at 741 Diamond St. near 24th Street. Like Auntie Pasta, PastaGina offered a takeout menu of Italian specialties, including fresh pasta, homemade spaghetti sauce, meatballs, cannoli, and salads (the beets were great).

Some of you vintage Noe Valleons will remember when Auntie Pasta opened in 1981. Joanie worked in the kitchen back then.

What happened? “Well, we wanted to retire from the business by the end of this year,” says Gene, “and were putting it on the market for sale, with the buyer to continue the business. It would be ideal for someone, maybe a young couple, to step in and take over.” However, near the end of October, both of their cooks quit after 20 years, “giving us eight days’ notice they were leaving, which frankly caught us flat-footed. Getting kitchen or counter help these days is a challenge.”

Gene says he was overwhelmed by how many of their patrons had contacted him about what might happen to this neighborhood institution. “I have had over 500 contacts since we closed, many expressing how shocked they are that we closed.”

Hopefully, all of this will be temporary. “There is a possibility that we will reopen sometime in December, and hopefully someone can take over the business. We are willing to train whoever buys the business and include the library of Italian recipes that have been handed down by Joanie’s family over the years,” he says. If you are interested or know anyone who might want to step in, then hurry and email them at pastagina@sbcglobal.net and make an offer.

☎ ☎ ☎

GRABBING A BITE: It looks like the Caskhouse space on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg will become the venture of Hi-Way Burger and Fry, according to the notice of application for a beer and wine license posted on the front window on Nov. 21. The name of the business listed on the form looks more promising: Roadside BBQ III. Geez, forget the burgers and bring on the barbecue, something Downtown Noe Valley does not have, except for very occasional offerings in the Whole Foods hot bar.

Also new on the foodie front is the “Dog Owners’ Meet & Greet” sponsored by Savor Open Kitchen, 3913 24th St., on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. There will be freebie treats for the dogs, appetizers for the peeps, free pics of the pups from Soulful Pet Photography, and free dog training advice from The Pooch Coach.

There was much excitement when Le Cupboard vegan eatery, offering “plant-based food,” opened on the corner of Church and 25th a couple of months ago. They cooked the healthy items that were sold in several vending machines around the city, including a hospital and some fitness centers. It was featured in Store Trek, last issue of the *Voice*. Well, Le Cupboard abruptly closed at the beginning of November and posted a sign informing us that “A New Team is coming in! Thank you for your patience... Stay tuned on our website.”

The gossip is that “the old team” had what appeared to many of the neighbors a great going-away party, and according to Twitter chatter, left a lot of empty beer bottles for recycling that Friday night that were picked up from the curb on the following Monday. A quick check at press time of Le Cupboard’s website revealed no updates, not even an acknowledgment of the closing. Phone calls and email queries by yours truly have gone

unanswered. So time will tell, and we’ll give you an update on this update in the next Rumors in February 2018. By then they may have reopened.

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WHERE’S THE WATER? Last month Whole Foods shoppers noticed that the stacked cases of water in the front of the store were moved to make space for more than 50 different-sized lockers. The lockers are for delivery of items purchased online from the dry goods e-commerce behemoth Amazon.

Amazon purchased Whole Foods earlier this year for \$13 billion in an effort to have a brick and mortar presence on the planet. And, as you can see, this then enabled the many Noe Valleons who shop online to get shipment of their purchases in a secure locker rather than having them left on their porch.

According to Whole Foods’ co-team leader, Michael Suter, as well as several team members, the lockers have been very busy, and sometimes filled almost to capacity. As you Amazon customers know, an electronic message is sent when your package arrives at the store.

Suter says Thanksgiving went very smoothly this year and the store sold “a lot of turkeys.” He would not reveal how many except to say, “We got a bigger refrigerated truck this year.”

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BATTING AN EYELASH: New to Downtown Noe Valley is a women’s boutique, Arte Bella, that has moved into the space just vacated by Monroe at 3920A 24th St. Owner Youngji Ahn promises “high-quality women’s clothing and jewelry.” She says she has worked in the fashion industry for about 10 years, designing and marketing women’s clothes, and last worked at Macy’s as a visual merchandiser. Ahn’s artwork is hanging on the store’s walls.

Also newly opened is The Upper Hand, a nail spa that has taken over the space at 3836 24th St. formerly occupied by Beauty Matters. (Beauty Matters is now in Cole Valley.) The proprietor of The Upper Hand, Nguyet Nguyen (“call me Ann”), is now offering an emporium of services for those to whom beauty does matter.

“I have been a licensed esthetician since 2010, and have been a lash artist since 2011. We offer hair-styling, manicure and pedicure, waxing, and we have one of the largest selections of eyelash extensions in the Bay Area,” says Nguyen. Skin treatments are also on the beauty menu, which Nguyen describes as “Green Leaves Natural Treatments,” using organically grown fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, botanicals, clays, butters, and oils to rejuvenate complexions for any skin type or condition. Note that their hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., by appointment only.

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SHORT SHIRTS: Navarrete’s Black Belt Academy has temporarily moved into the See Jane Run space (3910 24th) while the owner of its building at 1201 Church St. does a seismic retrofit. It will take until maybe February.... Last month (Nov. 8), the SFPD reported that it seized two pounds of heroin, 70 pounds of methamphetamine, and almost \$46,000 in cash from a residence near 25th and Sanchez Street, not far from James Lick. Yikes.... People were very excited late last month when a mountain lion was captured at Duncan and Douglass streets.... The 49ers 50-passenger bus that leaves from the Valley Tavern to Levi Stadium in Santa Clara two hours before every home game for \$50 round trip including “refreshments” (i.e., beer) has, according to VT’s Rikki Okeesse, been running with fewer than 20 fans this season. In their last home game against Seattle, on TV it looked like the stands at Levi had less than 50 people in any crowd shot during the game.... There is another Noe Valley Wine Walk in Downtown Noe Valley, on Dec. 7, from 4 to 8 p.m.... Look for a Supervisor debate to be scheduled next February at the Noe Valley Ministry, between incumbent supervisor Jeff Sheehy and challenger Rafael Mandelman. It could be sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club, among others.... Sorry to see that the editors of the *2018 Noe Valley Guide*, published annually by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, chose, for the first time this year, to omit any mention of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

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ACTION FIGURES: About a hundred Noe Valley activists attended a candlelight vigil in the Noe Valley Town Square on Nov. 8, the one-year anniversary of the Trump election, reports Charlie Spiegel of Action SF. Hosting the event were Action SF, Democracy Action, and others, including Swing Left (local rep is Beatrice Von Schulthess). A representative from the national Sister District Project, which recently had a big victory in Virginia, spoke to the crowd. The event, said Spiegel, “was to renew our commitment to reverse the impacts of Trumpism.” Action SF meets at the Noe Valley Library on second and fourth Sundays starting at 3 p.m.

There has also been a flurry of fundraising for victims of the Napa and Sonoma county fires. As you know, part of the proceeds of the Spooktacular event in October were earmarked for relief efforts. “We made just over \$3,300 and the money will be donated to Wine Country victims, both two- and four-legged,” says event organizer Rachel Swann.

A benefit, “Fight Fire With Love,” with musicians District 8, Lily Holbrook, They Call Me Lucky, David Kesler, Blind Lemon Pledge, Jeff Troiano, Mission Hill, and Col-orblind Dilemma, was held at the Noe Valley Ministry on Nov. 17. About a hundred people showed up to rock the night away and raise \$2,400 for North Bay Fire Relief. All proceeds will go to the Sonoma County Resilience Fund and animal rescue groups.

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MEDICAL HEROICS: A film has been released about a Noe Valley teen’s successful nerve reattachment surgery called *A Spark of Nerve*, by filmmakers Linda and Tim Schaller. It tells the story of Dr. Susan Mackinnon and her pioneering nerve-transfer surgeries, including that of the Schallers’ daughter Loren. As you might recall, Loren had been brutally stabbed a couple of years ago by a crazy man near Tower Market up on Portola, and almost lost the use of her arm.

“The film follows several of Dr. Mackinnon’s patients and her development of a free surgery website that is helping the many wounded warriors returning with nerve-dam-

aged limbs. There is hope for paralysis,” say Loren’s parents.

You can rent the film on Amazon video or watch for free if you have A Prime.

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QUIZ KIDS: And now we’ve got the answers to last month’s Noe Valley quiz:

1. The most popular Beanie Baby at the Ark toy store and around the world in the late ’90s was Garcia, a tie-dyed bear designed in 1996 by Nicholas Scarborough to be a tribute to musician Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, who had died in 1995.

2. What occupied the space before Pressed Juicery opened on the corner of 24th and Sanchez? Tuttimelon, the frozen yogurt store. It closed in May 2011.

3. Cameo Coffee, owned by Michael Guest, was the coffeehouse that was in the space at 3913 24th before the Courtyard Café and then Savor restaurant took over.

4. What was located in the corner store at Castro and Jersey before it was First American Title Company? Michelle’s Tailor, now located next door.

5. Where was the cable car barn in Downtown Noe Valley? The corner of Castro and Jersey, where Walgreen’s is now.

6. Where was Dan’s Gas and Diesel? The Noe Valley Town Square spot at 3861 24th St.

7. How many steps are there on the south side of the 22nd Street hill between Vicksburg and Church? Answer: 149.

8. Before it was Caskhouse on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg, what was it? Joe’s Café.

9. Long ago, there was a strictly neighborhood bar located where La Ciccia is now located, on 30th at Church. This was way before it was an Italian restaurant called La Verona. What was the name of the bar? The End of the Line.

10. True or False: The Valley Tavern space, long before it was a bar, was a mortuary. True, from 1911 to 1922.

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THAT’S ALL, Y’ALL: Have some happy holidays and be sure to shop local and support our local retail businesses. Ciao for now.

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Action SF—The National Movement in Your Neighborhood Website: www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity Email: actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com Meetings: Second and fourth Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

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

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

Diamond Heights Community Association Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131 Website: www.dhcasf.org Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club Email: info@doloresheights.org Website: www.doloresheights.org Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA) Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235 Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

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

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

Friends of Billy Goat Hill Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122 Website: www.billygoathill.net

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Friends of Dolores Park Playground Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com Website: www.friendsofdolorespark.org Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862, or Jean Connor, 584-8576 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131 Meetings: Call for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president Email: efromer3@gmail.com Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

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

Noe Neighborhood Council Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com <http://www.noeneighborhoodcouncil.com/> Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

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

Noe Valley Democratic Club Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com Website: noevalleydems.com Meetings: Fourth Tuesdays, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 6:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers Market Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez. Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA) Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm. Website: www.NoValleyMerchants.com

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

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

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

Progress Noe Valley Facebook: facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley Email: progressnoe@gmail.com Website: progressnoe.com Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

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

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com <http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879> Meetings: See website for training schedules.

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

Stand Up San Francisco Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman Email: info@standupsf.net Website: www.standupsf.net Meetings: At offices of members of Congress, weekly. All-group meetings at Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., once a month

Upper Noe Neighbors Contact: Olga Milan-Howells, 756-4455 Email: President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com Meetings: Bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. Next meeting July 19, 7 p.m.

*All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.



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Peace Corps Service Cut Short

Volunteer Hopes to Return in a New Role

By Matthew S. Bajko

His early dispatches online showed a smiling Ken Shaw becoming acquainted with his new life in rural Zambia. Photos posted to his Facebook account showed the Peace Corps volunteer tasting sugar cane straight from the plant, marveling at the local wild egrets, and sharing a meal at night under a raised chicken coop with the men of his village.

Turning 61 in April two months into what was supposed to be a two-year service with the volunteer agency, Shaw arrived knowing he faced a difficult task due to his age. The oldest person among his fellow volunteers, he was a double outsider grouped in with 20-something Americans and the citizens of a foreign country.

Nonetheless, he made friends with the other volunteers. As he wrote on his blog April 30, "It was always a little hard to relate to them just for the reality of age. But I did my best and so did they. Never made me purposely feel out of place."

And he quickly bonded with the Zambians who served as his hosts and teachers.

"I really get along with the older Zambian people who work for the Peace Corps," Shaw wrote in a March 9 post.

As the *Voice* noted in a March profile, Shaw had wanted to serve in the Peace Corps since he was 10 years old. A Noe Valley resident since 1982, who worked as a background actor for television shows and movies filmed in the Bay Area, Shaw decided to apply with the agency last year. Divorced and bored, having retired from his vector-control job with Alameda County 14 years ago, he was accepted and assigned to Zambia, a former British colony known then as Northern Rhodesia, to serve as a conservation gardening expert.

By June, Shaw had settled into village life in Siamuleya, home to 2,000 people and five hours from Lusaka, the country's capital and largest city. As he described in a blog post, "The Tonga Bull, age 82, and his three wives and my host and counterparts are all there to greet me, along with many children and their children."

The tribespeople are cattle ranchers and grow maize to feed their herds. Shaw was there to help the villagers plant other foods, such as beets, chard, and strawberries, which would add variety to the crops and re-nourish the soil.

The nearest town, or "boma" in the local Bantu language, was an hour away by car. A "mizungu," or visitor, Shaw was the only white person in his village. He often drew a crowd of children who would ask in English, "How are you?"

"If you like attention, join the Peace Corps," said Shaw.

Health Issues

Yet just as he was settling into Siamuleya, Shaw was dispatched to see a doctor in Lusaka due to a painful growth on the back of his left hand. Fearful it was cancerous, Shaw was laid up for five weeks, only to learn that it was a wart. It would be the first of several health issues Shaw would face, from food poisoning to what he euphemistically referred to in one August post as "belly boughts." Going to the bathroom meant squatting over a toilet, which put pressure on his back.

One night, after a trip to the bathroom, he woke up and couldn't move. Thinking at first it was something to do with his kidneys, Shaw learned after two days of testing, local doctors suspected it was a disk in his back. The injury would require

him to severely cut back on his physical exertion should he remain in Zambia.

Unwilling to limp through his Peace Corps service, Shaw made the difficult decision to end his time in Africa and return to San Francisco to recover.

"I flipped out. I am screwed. You can't do what I am doing with a bad back," Shaw recalled during an interview with the *Voice* in early November. "I could have been macho and stayed, but the Peace Corps is not for macho. You don't go trying to show off in the Peace Corps. If I had stayed there, it would mean no more bike-riding, no more digging gardens. I would just live in my tin-roof home and be teaching."

Back in the City

Shaw spent seven months and one week in the Peace Corps by the time he left Zambia on Sept. 21. More than a month later, he still longed to be in Africa.

"Even now I don't want to be here [San Francisco]. I want to be in Zambia," said Shaw, adorned in pants he wore every day while in Africa and a shirt made from chitenge, a local fabric he bought there.

He learned from his physical therapist that the pain he was feeling wasn't from a new back injury but an older ailment that had returned to torment him, exacerbated by the physical strain of his Peace Corps service.

"Turns out that the back injury is a re-injury of the bulging disk I messed up in 2013, not the 'new' slipped disk. So recovery is going to be the same as before: core work, stretching, and my wonderful Kyrobak machine," Shaw wrote on Facebook last month. "Keeping it up. And dropping the extra weight I so (way way too) easily gained back after coming back here to the U.S."

If he feels better next year he can reinstate with the agency, though it would mean being sent back to do the same work he was assigned to do in Zambia.

"So I am not sure that is something I want to do," Shaw admits.

Enter Kapwepwe

What he hopes to do instead is return to the country and teach acting classes to both children and adults, as well as educate Zambians on how to teach the classes themselves. He is working with Mulenga Kapwepwe, a renowned Zambian playwright and daughter of the country's former vice president, Simon Kapwepwe, to create the curriculum and apply for a grant from UNICEF to fund the program and pay for his expenses to live and work in the country.

"It would be my own NGO doing non-profit work on my own," said Shaw, using the acronym for a non-governmental organization.

Shaw met Kapwepwe, who chairs the National Arts Council of Zambia and is known as her country's "Queen of the

Hey, Noe Valley

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Ken Shaw is back from the Peace Corps, but he plans to return to Zambia early next year as an acting teacher.

Arts," at a talk she gave in Zambia. Speaking to the *Voice* via Facebook Messenger, Kapwepwe said she first needs her government to approve Shaw's curriculum before she can start fundraising specifically for the acting courses.

"There are other projects that [she and Shaw] are trying to conceptualize into proposals, and for these [too] we shall know which funding organizations to approach," wrote Kapwepwe, who is also a filmmaker and has talked about making a documentary with Shaw about his adventures in Africa.

Asked why she felt Shaw would be a good person to teach acting to her compatriots, Kapwepwe said she was struck by his ability to quickly adapt to the Zambian culture and form warm relationships with people of every age.

"He told me about his acting background and I watched some of his work and was impressed," she wrote. "We

started discussing possibilities of his coming to work at our film school and his approach was exactly the right fit. We work with young people from challenged backgrounds and Ken's ability to fit in to our culture and get on with a diversity of people augurs well for our work together."

A New Leaf

While his back is still sore, Shaw said the discomfort is "nothing strenuous." He would like to be back in Zambia shortly after the New Year. Having committed to be there through May of 2019 with the Peace Corps, he is prepared to stay at least that long to teach acting.

"The Zambian people are the friendliest people I have ever met in my life," said Shaw. "Americans need to learn even if you don't have a lot, you can't walk around worrying about things you can't control."



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East, on 24th

Homes here politely paint over their age, and turn it into money.
A new crop of children regenerates the greened-in playground.
The afternoon flowers and the leftover pumpkins, frowned down on by gray skies.
Gravity pulls me down into the Valley, and draws raindrops from the overseeing clouds.

Now, in the neighborhood plexus, my memories begin to shine through the autumnal present.
Hollandaise glistens on the face of some lovely old young flame.
Loveliness abides, the waitress at the wine bar, the bank officer chumming with tellers.
Here were coffeehouses where we scribbled in our journals towards girls with theirs.
And here were bars where we put shots into our courage and coins into our anthems.

After a long detour of years, I got married again, at the church up there, catered by neighbors.
In a short block, brouguey Irish publicans on one side, goading Greek greengrocer on the other.
One sweet daughter, carried as a babe to the bar & grill there, toddling later to the cleaners here.

And going on, quotidian gravity grabs hold again, towards lower anonymous criss-cross traffic.
I think I'll have to hop on a bus.

Jeff Kaliss
November, 2017

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, essays, poetry, or photos for possible publication in Other Voices. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Or mail submissions to the Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, and a phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.

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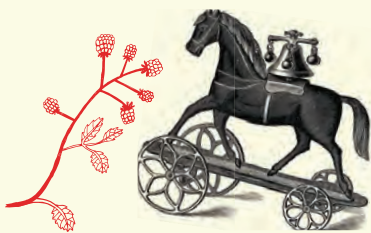
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SANTA!

**Times, locations etc:
24on24th.com**

12/2: The Animal Company
12/2: Zephyr Real Estate
12/10: Folio Books
12/14: Just for Fun
12/16: The Agency



Holiday Hayrides

**Saturdays 12/2 & 12/9
11 AM–2 PM Free!**
A Noe Valley Tradition
sponsored by
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Events For Kids!
**Times, locations etc
at 24on24th.com**

12/10 & 12/17, 11 AM
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& Festive Holiday
Shopping Evening**

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Strolling carolers, a
cappella singers and
holiday merchant events
**Details: 24on24th.com
noevalleywinewalk.com**



**Holiday Events
at local merchants
More details at 24on24th.com**

12/1&2: Anne Sportun Trunk Show, Gallery Of Jewels
12/7, 4-9 PM: Holiday Shopping Party! Ambiance SF
12/10 & 16: Olio Nuovo Tasting! • Olive This Olive That
12/10: Holiday Cheese Platters, Whole Foods Market
12/13, 5-7 PM: Jewelry Trunk Show, Cliché Noe Gifts + Home
12/14, 4-7 PM: Vodka & Latkes, The Agency
12/20, 5-8 PM: Wine Tasting Benefit for Fire Relief at NOVY



Live music!
**Times, locations etc
at 24on24th.com**

12/7, 12/14: The Loosies, a cappella singers
12/7, 12/10, 12/23: Strolling holiday carolers
12/8, 12/15, 2 PM: Adda Clevenger Students
12/2 & 12/20: Blind Lemon Pledge, East Parklet
12/2, 9, 16: Noe Valley Farmers Market Music
12/13, 17, 21: Russo Music students, West Parklet
12/23, 1-3 PM: Skillet Licorice, West Parklet



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Event details subject to change; please visit 24on24th.com

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