



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Swann Swings Store Association Helm Forward

Energetic Noe Resident Adept At Multitasking

By Matthew S. Bajko

The new president of the 94-year-old Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association is brimming with ideas for how to attract additional customers and businesses to the neighborhood’s commercial corridors.

Real estate agent Rachel Swann, 39, took over leadership of the business group last December. Since then, she has helped activate the one-year-old Noe Valley Town Square in order to increase foot traffic to local stores, kept close track of the sale of the long-vacant Real Food Company site, and started discussions with District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy’s office on amending zoning rules in the area to make it easier to fill vacant storefronts with new retail concepts.

“Rachel has brought to the table an infusion of new ideas and new energy,” said Cliché Noe Gifts + Home owner Dani Sheehan-Meyer, who has belonged to the business group for seven years and is its vice president of marketing and publicity. “She is a disrupter and a go-getter. She is



Thinking Green. Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association President Rachel Swann was an early adopter of Friends of the Urban Forest plantings in the neighborhood. She proudly stands by “her” two trees on Sanchez Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

bringing new direction to the group. We are very excited.”

Swann’s involvement with the business group stemmed from her decision to co-locate her real estate office into a storefront on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets with that of a home furnishings store her friend and local de-

signer Ian Stallings had long wanted to open. (His IS: Fine Art and Design is the subject of this month’s Store Trek profile.)

After presenting the shared workspace concept to neighborhood business owners, Swann not only walked away with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Want to Buy a Real Food Site?

The Latest Chapter in the Long-Running 24th Street Serial

By Corrie M. Anders

The Real Food Company store on 24th Street, which has sat vacant for 14 years, is for sale.

The owner made a quick decision in late August to sell off the coveted site—a move that could bring fresh vitality to Noe Valley’s main commercial strip.

That bright prospect came after HGGC, a private investment firm based in Palo Alto, announced Aug. 23 that it had completed acquisition of Real Food’s corporate owner, Nutraceutical International Corporation, a global manufacturer and retailer of nutritional supplements.

The \$446 million transaction originally was announced May 22, but Nutraceutical had 60 days to weigh bids from other buyers. When none materialized, Nutraceutical shareholders gave final approval to the purchase Aug. 21.

HGGC wasted little time in moving to sell the store, located at 3935-39 24th St., directly across from Whole Foods Market. Within days of taking possession, HGGC asked commercial real estate broker Cush-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Bike-Share Stations Get Rolling in Noe Valley

Autos May Need to Search Longer for Parking Spaces

By Matthew S. Bajko

Over the summer, five bike-share stations were installed throughout Noe Valley, giving residents a new way to commute to work or run errands around town. The number of locations is one less than had been proposed for the neighborhood last year. Nonetheless, the quintet of stations has a total of 86 bikes that can be rented out for use.

There are 19 bikes at the Jersey and Castro streets station adjacent to the Walgreens parking lot. At the intersection of Jersey and Church streets is a station with 18 bikes, with another station of 19 bikes located nearby at 24th and Chattanooga streets. The two other stations each have 15 bikes and can be found at the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Dolores streets and further south at 29th and Church streets.

The five Noe Valley stations are part of the regional bike-share system operated by Motivate and dubbed Ford GoBike due to the sponsorship of the Ford Motor

Company. As of late June, there were 3,500 bicycles at 332 stations scattered across San Francisco, the East Bay, and San Jose.

Reaction to the bike-share stations has been mixed, with stations in the Mission vandalized by those who argue they add to gentrification of the largely Latino district. In Noe Valley, the complaints have centered on the loss of street parking spaces.

“The bike-share station on Jersey at Castro has taken up three spaces,” said Noe Neighborhood Council co-founder Ozzie Rohm, adding that many of the city’s elderly residents cannot use the bikes and rely either on Muni or their own cars to get around.

But Progress Noe Valley co-founder Laura Fingal-Surma hailed the expansion of the bike-share stations into more residential areas of the city, as usage of the bikes by residents to commute to work will result in less car congestion and traffic, in particular during the morning and evening commutes.

“Sure, there are less parking spots available,” she conceded, “but how many people can give up their cars, now that they have good options to get around the city by bike?”

When fully installed next year, the program will boast 7,000 bikes at 546 stations. It is set to become the second largest bike-share network in North America. New York has the most, with 645 stations, while Chicago is currently in second with 581.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

The Poet Laureate From Eureka Street

Active Citizen and Prolific Artist Is Homegrown

By Richard May

The new San Francisco poet laureate grew up on Eureka Street between 22nd and 23rd streets. Kim Shuck, who still lives on Eureka Street, although not on the same block, was named San Francisco’s seventh poet laureate June 21 by Mayor Edwin Lee and City Librarian Luis Herrera. She follows in the poetic footsteps of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Janice Mirikitani, devorah major, Jack Hirschman, Diane di Prima, and Alejandro Murguia. Her term is for two years.

Shuck will be busy during those 24 months. Her duties include delivering an inaugural address, appearing at local poetry events, and working on one or more poetry events in cooperation with the San Francisco Public Library, Friends of the Library, and WritersCorps, a writers-in-schools program. She will also have to lead a poetry event at Litquake, the October literary festival held at various venues around the city.

None of this will be a problem for Shuck. “I’m already doing most of it,” she says. She has volunteered for over 20 years in San Francisco public schools, assisting elementary school students in math and poetry. She already participates in Litquake and in poetry readings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Go for a Ride. There are five Ford GoBike stations in Noe Valley, including this one on Jersey at Church Street. Currently, the cost is \$3 for a single trip from one dock to another, or \$9.95 for half-hour trips all day. Photo by Pamela Gerard



Above
Karin Payson and **Michael Fassman** have just returned from Isla Del Sol in Lake Titicaca, Bolivia where they kept up with the local news at 13,000 feet.

Calling All Readers

Left
Greetings from Germany! Noe Valley residents **Paulina** (age 4), **Linda** (1) and **Lucie** (6) **Leetz** are spending their summer in Germany with grandparents and family friends. They took time to pose for their parents **Julia Reinhardt** and **Peter Leetz** in front of Cologne Cathedral. When in Noe Valley, the family runs the German bilingual Sandann Family Day Care.

Where have you been lately? If you remembered to take a photo that includes *The Noe Valley Voice*, please let us know. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com



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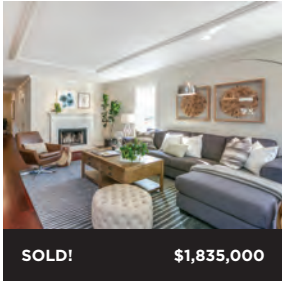
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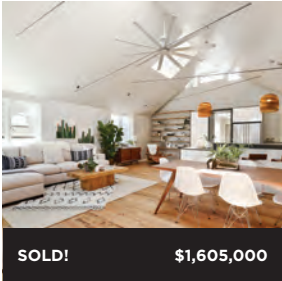
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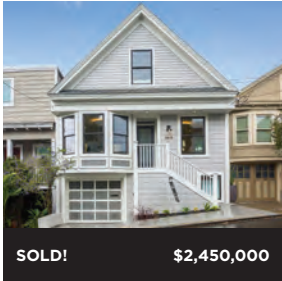
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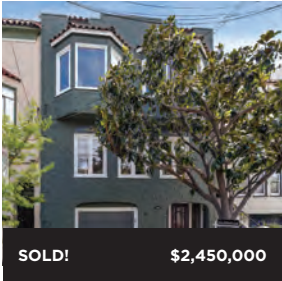
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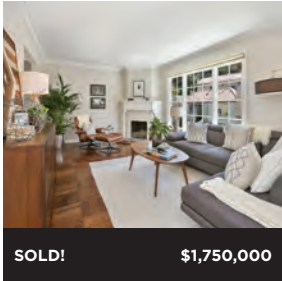
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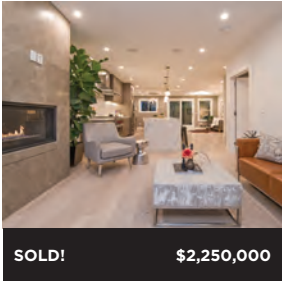
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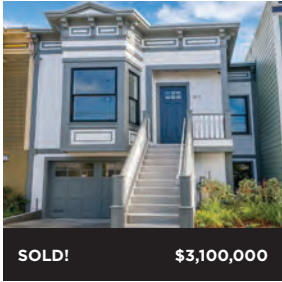
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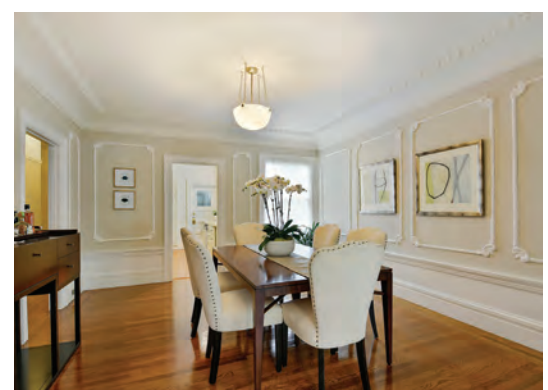
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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsolicited letters will not be considered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

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Corrie M. Anders, *Associate Editor*

Olivia Boler, *Other Voices Editor*

Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko,

Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske,

Jan Goben, Liz Highleyman, Suzanne Herel,

Tim Innes, Jeff Kaliss, Nick Kaliss, Doug Konecky,

Richard May, Joe O'Connor, Roger Rubin,

Olivia Starr, Tim Simmers,

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pamela Gerard, Rick Gerharter, Beverly Tharp,

Najib Joe Hakim, Art Bodner

ACCOUNTING

Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION

Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION

Jack Tipple

WEB DESIGN

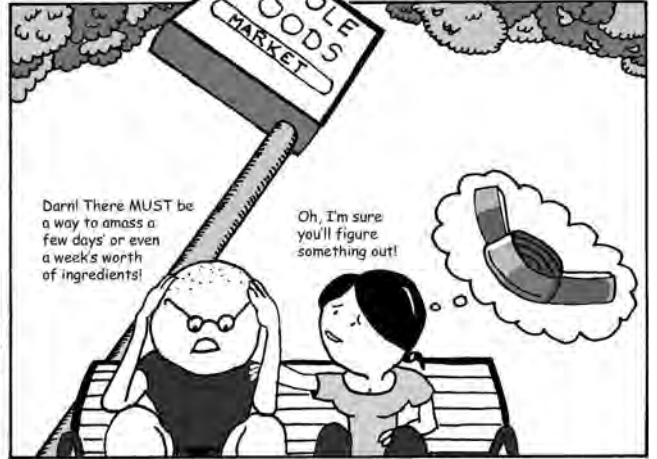
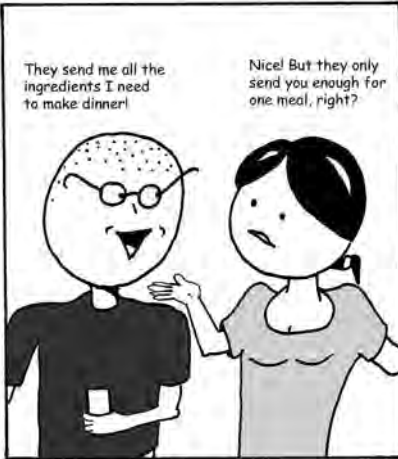
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LETTERS

Bucket Brigade Saves Martha's Editor:

Around 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday [Aug. 22], the fire department was dispatched to the corner of Church and Duncan streets in response to a broken water pipe beneath the street. SFFD and SFPD worked together to handle the incident. Construction below the concrete began at 4:30 in the morning, resulting in zero water for our building and a wakeup text with a concerned message from my daughter wondering how we would be able to open the coffee shop if we had no water.

Without water, we were extremely limited as to what we could do from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., our preparation hour, besides set up morning pastries and bagels. No drip coffee, no lattes, no americanos, no fresh squeezed juices, no hard-boiled eggs, all the essentials our customers need every day to get their mornings started. Our

doors opened at 6 a.m., and all we had to offer were pastries and cold-brew coffee; some customers took what they could and others went elsewhere, including our location on 24th Street.

Without knowledge of when our water would be up and running again, we were desperate until a customer, Richard Strell, offered to run up to a neighbor/customer's house on Duncan (Sharon Dunham) and bring up a bucket of water so that we could make drip coffee. Richard was kind enough to do this several times, allowing us to provide coffee until the water was turned on again. Richard even got behind the counter and helped us brew drip coffee!!

With everything happening in our society today, these are the small gestures that show there are still good-hearted people—this is Noe Valley. This is the love and support we are so thankful to have here at Martha and Brothers on Church Street. They are our everyday family and we need them just as much, if not more, than they need our coffee to keep them going every day.

Ivonne Guerrero
Martha & Brothers Coffee
1551 Church St.

Stand Up SF, and Action SF, continue to thrive.

Anastasia Yovanopoulos
24th Street resident

Rapid Response to Small Fire Editor:

As we were getting our monthly ad together for the *Noe Valley Voice*, I recalled a photo I took recently [shown below]. I thought I should send it to the *Voice* in appreciation of the amazing response of our San Francisco Fire Department.

At about 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 28, a small army of help appeared on Sanchez near 23rd Street (probably within minutes) in response to a fire the size of a kitchen oven. As I understand it second-hand from one of the chiefs at the scene, a fire was reported in the kitchen oven of the top-floor unit and spread no further.

The point is that we are fortunate indeed to have such an amazing and dedicated fire department, and I just wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation. It also meant a whole lot to the apprehensive neighbors who were standing on the nearby sidewalks!

We are surrounded by 100+-year-old wood-frame homes in Noe Valley, and it is reassuring to know we have such a responsive bunch of valiant men and women watching out for us.

Bill Redican
Zephyr Real Estate
4040 24th St.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

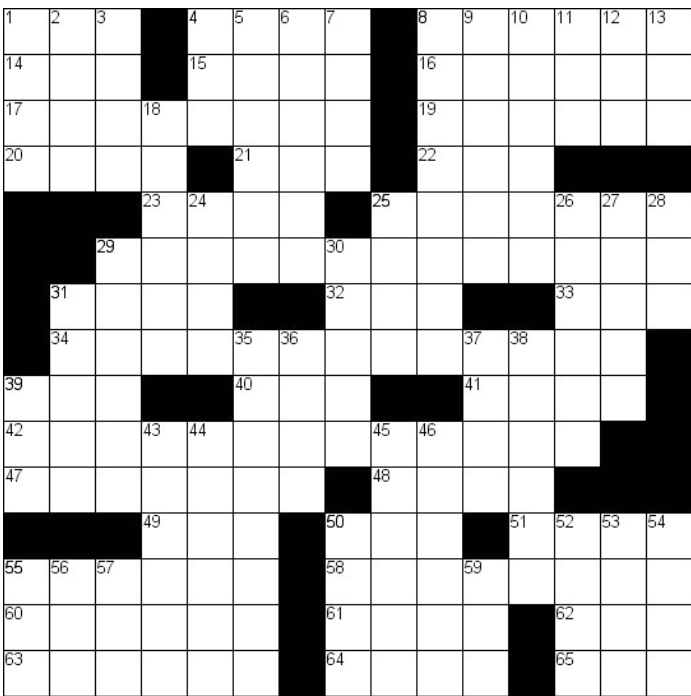
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Flocking Together

ACROSS

1. "Silent Spring" subject
4. iPhone add-ons
8. Subway-car dangles
14. Flub
15. Lieutenant in "Beetle Bailey"
16. "Pay later" arrangement
17. *Mechanism for lowering Leno to the stage?
19. Proceeded (toward)
20. On the road
21. El ____ (Spanish hero)
22. "Cosmo" or "GQ"
23. Destroy
25. "Unforgettable" duettist Cole
29. *Petty complaint from a red-robed cleric?
31. ____ W (root beer brand)
32. London's locale: Abbr.
33. 2,000 pounds
34. *Epithet for a grumpy old man?
39. Diamondbacks, on scoreboards
40. Blooming neckwear?
41. Whizzes
42. *How Batman's foe escaped the high prison wall?
47. With "Hyatt," hotel near the Ferry Building
48. The old Atlantic Hwy.
49. Tongue-clucking sound
50. Canon SLR series
51. Inking
55. Tenant
58. Feature of this puzzle's starred entries, or a women's clothier



- on Castro
60. 2009 film that grossed over two billion dollars
61. Prefix with -algia or -itis
62. Yuck!
63. Freight buildings
64. Palo ____
65. "Golly!"

DOWN

1. ____ vu
2. Gunfighter's exhortation
3. "____ Little Tenderness"
4. Where Nigeria is: Abbr.
5. Lake ____; 1980 Olympics site
6. Sandwiches at A.G. Ferrari
7. Went very fast
8. (1) Rendered chicken fat (2) Obsessive sentimentality

9. Picks up the tab
10. Alternative to landing at Dulles
11. Sum up
12. "Peasant" product sold at Castro and 24th
13. Norm: Abbr.
18. Rostand's long-nosed lover
24. Official language of Pakistan
25. Half an Orkan goodbye
26. Liquid units, in the UK
27. Apple devices with earbuds
28. "Velvet" or "hallow" ending
29. Giving a damn
30. Ora pro ____ (pray for us)
31. Be of one mind
35. With "City," a Billy Crystal film
36. Start of a counting-out rhyme

37. Jewelry entrepreneur Morris
38. Middle part of a Shakespearean play
39. Deadline mo. to file tax returns
43. Really annoys
44. Vote out of office
45. Masonry tool
46. "No way! ____ of the question."
50. Highest European volcano
52. Walgreens purchase
53. Shave-gel name
54. Arthur of tennis
55. Wee Scot
56. First Lady?
57. Drain away, as energy
59. Sib

Solution on Page 28

NOTE: The current *Voice* Crossword and all past puzzles can be found at www.noevalleyvoice.com



Local resident Bill Redican reports that firefighters were quick to respond to a small kitchen fire in late July on the top floor of a building at Sanchez and 23rd streets. Let's join him in thanking them.

Rachel Swann's New Vision

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their support, she was asked to take over leadership of the association.

"I saw a need," Swann said for why she agreed to become president.

Stallings said of Swann, his friend for close to a decade, that, "She is very much a connector. She connects people."

In Favor of Shop Sharing

In an interview with the *Voice* in her office garage space, which she has turned into a conference room and community meeting space, Swann said her main focus was to see that businesses in Noe Valley not only survive but also thrive.

"We have way too many empty spaces," said Swann, who has lived in Noe Valley since 2013, a short walk from her office, with her wife, Elizabeth Moreno, a corporate attorney she met five years ago. "We want to keep things vibrant instead of vacant."

Yet, on their own, many locally owned businesses can't afford the rents landlords in Noe Valley are asking, said Swann. Her landlord initially wanted \$10,000 a month, though Swann was able to negotiate for a reduced price, which she declined to disclose, and signed a five-year lease with an option to extend it another five years. But not every building owner with vacant ground-floor retail space is willing to cut the lease price.

"They can sit around and wait to rent out a storefront," said Swann.

One way for local business owners to afford the rents, argued Swann, is to allow merchants to share the same storefront as she and Stallings have done. Yet not everyone supports the idea, as someone filed a complaint with the city arguing

that Swann had exceeded the allowable square footage for her real estate office.

Swann told the *Voice* that she is using just 5 percent of the storefront for two desk work areas, well below the 25 percent city planners had told her she could occupy. That is in addition to the garage space, which is accessed separately off Vicksburg and consists of several work stations, a sitting area, and a large conference table. She and Stallings expect the issue will go before the city's planning commission sometime this fall and are hopeful the matter will be dismissed.

"I am confident we can resolve it," said Swann.

To assist in the matter going forward, Swann has approached Sheehy's office about re-examining the zoning in the neighborhood to ease the rules for when two businesses share the same storefront. With more and more people shopping online, Swann argued that brick-and-mortar stores could be less financially stressed by splitting the cost of their rent with another business.

"The city needs to realize we are living in the world of Amazon and online retail, which is not helpful for merchant corridors," she said.

Tech Tools and Open Spaces

Putting technology to use for local merchants, however, is a priority for Swann. One immediate goal is revamping the business association's website—<https://www.noevalleymerchants.com>—as it hasn't been updated in years.

"It was pretty much a fossil. I am not sure what code they even used," joked Swann of the association's outdated online platform. Besides redesigning the site, she is producing a weekly email newsletter, which promotes NVMPA activities and those of new and existing merchants.

Another idea she is exploring is to use

drone footage to highlight the different shopping and dining areas in Noe Valley, such as along Church, 24th, and Diamond streets. Swann recruited Chateau De Noir Holdings Chairman and CEO Cameron Silva to serve on the merchant group's board as a vice president, partly to oversee the project.

"I brought him on as he is a true visionary on finances and a master drone operator," she said.

Taking advantage of the Noe Valley Town Square to draw in customers to the neighborhood is another key focus for Swann, particularly on Sundays when the area can feel "like a ghost town," she said. The public park on 24th Street opened last October and is across from Swann's storefront.

A barbecue event held there in late July drew roughly 600 people. Other events Swann would like to see in the square are movie nights and music performances.

"We are the only neighborhood with a town square space in San Francisco. We should take advantage of that," said Swann, who serves on the events committee for the open space.

One long-festering neighborhood issue Swann has been tackling is the vacant Real Food Company site. She has been closely tracking the sale of Nutraceutical, which had shuttered the former grocery store due to a unionization effort by the staff, to a private equity firm co-founded by former 49ers quarterback Steve Young.

Swann said she has made clear to the firm that Noe Valley residents and merchants deserve "transparency" on what plans it has for the site. The sale closed Aug. 23, and Young's firm, Palo Alto-based HGGC, put the vacant grocery building up for sale. (*See story, page 1.*)

Ideas she has heard floated for the retail component of any redevelopment at the site include a spa or a co-working office space. In addition, she said, many

people want to see "lots of housing" built there. "It should be something community centered and focused. That would be great," she said. "You could put anything there, and a lot of people are going to be happy to see something there."

Partners and Pastimes

Swann has worked in the neighborhood since 2011, having started her real estate career with Hill & Co. Real Estate. By 2013 she had created her own team of agents under the banner of the Swann Group. In May of 2016, Swann brought her team to Vanguard Properties, and last month she merged her office yet again with Los Angeles-based firm The Agency.

"Rachel has a deep understanding of the market and its nuances, and we're excited to partner with her as we firmly establish our foothold in Northern California," stated CEO Mauricio Umansky.

Taking on the title of managing partner and overseeing the firm's San Francisco office, Swann will lead a team of agents specializing in luxury homes, vacation leases, and new development projects throughout the city.

"The Agency was born to redefine and modernize the real estate business, and we know this forward-thinking approach will be well received in the extremely active San Francisco market," stated Swann in announcing the news.

"I am thrilled to bring The Agency's innovative approach to the real estate industry to San Francisco."

Prior to launching her career selling properties, Swann spent 17 years working in the restaurant and wine industry. She continues to be a food and wine enthusiast, as she and her wife love to frequent new restaurants and bars in the city.

When not traveling, another cherished pastime of Swann's, the couple can often be found in Dolores Park with their dogs LaToya, Diego, and Besito. ■



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The Real Food store at 3935-39 24th St., which is now for sale, has been shuttered since 2003. On the 10-year anniversary, protesters covered the windows with posters, offering passersby a history lesson and a chance to write comments. *2013 photo by Sally Smith*

Real Food Space On the Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

man & Wakefield to sell the property on its behalf.

“We are already moving forward with plans to sell this property so that it can be redeveloped for the good of the community,” Steve Young, managing director of HGGC, told the *Voice*.

“We are optimistic that we will find a buyer with ties to Noe Valley, and we are working hard to achieve the best outcome, as we know that the property is highly valued by the local residents,” said Young, who may be best known for his earlier enterprise as a winning quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers.

Rachel Swann, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, applauded the move. Swann, who has been in close contact with HGGC executives since spring, said the firm had been briefed on Real Food’s history and the community’s desire to transform the space.

In her view, it is “very important” that HGGC act fast, “so this saga can be over,” said Swann, a real estate agent and four-year resident of Noe Valley.

District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy also was pleased.

“After 14 years of abandonment, this is a great opportunity to revitalize this

part of 24th Street,” Sheehy said. “I look forward to working with the community and the new owner to get the best possible outcome for our neighborhood.”

The Real Food saga, as Swann and most of the neighborhood refers to it, began in August 2003. That’s when Nutraceutical shuttered the health food grocery without warning, leaving 30 employees out of work. The workers, who were attempting to unionize the store, took their case to the National Labor Relations Board and won favorable decisions in 2005 and 2007. Over the next decade, community leaders and District 8 supervisors pleaded with Nutraceutical to restore or sell the property, to no avail.

Now that the Real Food building is finally on the market, politicians, merchants, and residents are turning their attention to what should occupy the site. Most express hope that any new development will have some combination of housing and retail.

HGGC did not immediately set a price for the property. City documents show that it last sold, in 2005, for \$1,615,000.

The one-story structure was built in 1921. San Francisco property tax records also show that the land and building together last year had an assessed value of \$1,901,651.

The building has 4,000 square feet of commercial space and sits on a 5,802-square-foot lot. The parcel is larger than most in the block. ■

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SFMTA to Relocate Two Commuter Shuttle Stops

Loading Zones at 24th and Church Are Moving East

By Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco transportation officials are set to relocate two bus shuttle stops on 24th Street this month. The change is aimed at making it easier for Muni buses to travel through the intersection at Church Street during the morning and evening commutes.

The eastbound (morning) stop will be moved from the Muni zone at the southwest corner of 24th and Church streets, in front of Happy Donuts, across the street to the southeast corner of 24th and Church, in front of Navarrete’s Black Belt Academy. Five parking spaces there will be turned into a shuttle-only zone from 6 to 10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The westbound stop at the bus shelter in front of the restaurant Hamlet will be moved to the bus stop at Dolores Street. To accommodate the shuttles for workers of technology companies in Silicon Valley, the city will restrict parking in two spaces by the bus stop from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

“We expect the changes will go into effect by mid-September,” said Erica Kato, a public information officer for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

The SFMTA board approved the bus shuttle stop changes in July. According to a staff report, the southwest corner stop at the intersection has received the most complaints since the Commuter Shuttle Pilot program began in August 2014.

Complaints from Muni Riders

The agency said it had fielded 341 complaints about the shuttle stop, roughly 20 percent of all complaints received city-wide. More than 50 of the complaints concerned the shuttles blocking buses on Muni’s 48-Quintara route from being able to unload passengers, particularly during peak commute times.

“The high volume of shuttle vehicles in combination with the 48-Quintara-24th Street bus can result in more than three vehicles arriving at the stop at the same time. However, the current stop is only long enough to accommodate one vehicle at a time,” noted the SFMTA staff report. “As a result, shuttles and Muni vehicles often stop in the travel lane because another vehicle is already using the stop, blocking through traffic, and creating safety concerns as other vehicles veer into oncoming traffic to get around these vehicles.”

Transportation officials did consider several other options for relocating the stop that were suggested by the public at an open house it held in the spring. But those proposals, such as moving it to near the Noe Valley Town Square or to the southwest corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets, were rejected due to the impact on businesses and concerns for pedestrian safety.

Progress Behind the Change

Supporting the SFMTA’s preferred relocation spots for the shuttles was the pro-development group Progress Noe Valley, which garnered 318 signatures on an online petition it created in favor of the changes.

“By an order of magnitude, commuter shuttles serve the transportation needs of many more residents than the parking that is impacted when new white loading zones are created,” stated the petition.

“Establishing new white loading zones as needed to facilitate the flow of traffic should take priority over the preservation of existing parking that serves private automobiles.”

Laura Fingal-Surma, a co-founder of the neighborhood group, believes the relocation of the shuttle stops will be a positive change. She noted that the majority of people who supported the petition lived in Noe Valley.

“The reality on the ground is there is lots of support in the neighborhood for the shuttle program and, in general, for prioritizing mass transit over parking for private automobiles,” said Fingal-Surma. “The more people use the shuttles, it reduces congestion on the roads, especially on Highway 280.”

One signatory to the petition, Madelaine Boyd, noted that because of the commuter shuttles, she didn’t need to buy a personal car and drive to work.

“I don’t want to make traffic or parking in this area worse than it already is, and am grateful for commuter shuttles which make that possible,” wrote Boyd. “The Bay Area’s public transit systems are already stretched to capacity. Commuter shuttles alleviate this strain in the short term until BART, Caltrain, Muni, etc., secure the funding and approval to expand service.”

Smaller Vans Proposed

The Noe Neighborhood Council, however, opposed the change. Ozzie Rohm, who co-founded the group, formerly known as Protect Noe’s Charm, doubted the shuttle stop changes would make a difference on car congestion near that intersection.

“The same congestion is going to occur even with the change in shuttle stops,” said Rohm. “That is not addressing the problem; it is just moving the gridlock to

the next block.”

The council also raised objections about losing access to the parking spaces due to the changes.

“This is not a question of being pro-cars and anti-shuttles. This is simply a matter of social justice,” said Rohm. “Why should the residents and shop owners on 24th Street bear this burden?”

The council had launched its own petition that called on the technology companies to stop using the double-decker shuttle buses—which in accordance with city and state rules can only be driven on certain main arterial streets—and to instead use smaller vehicles such as the vans employed by the ride-sharing company Chariot.

“Our logic was and is that small vehicles will enable these shuttles to travel on streets other than major and minor arteries. Hence, less congestion because the load would be spread out,” argued Rohm. “Plus, small vehicles will open the possibility of using electric or hybrid minibuses or vans and therefore they will be more environmentally friendly.”

Concerned that the council’s position could result in the elimination of the shuttle stops altogether prompted the Progress Noe Valley group to advocate for the relocation proposal, said Fingal-Surma, adding that usage of smaller vans could be “a win-win for riders, but I am not sure that would be practical for the tech companies.”

Rohm told the *Voice* that the council had no plans to continue pushing the van idea in light of the SFMTA board’s decision.

“We are going with it for now,” she said of the relocated shuttle stops. ■

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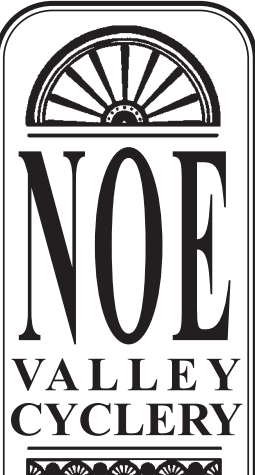
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The GoBike docks at Chattanooga and 24th streets were in heavy use on a foggy weekday in August.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

5 GoBike Stations Ready to Ride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Bike-sharing helps reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make neighborhoods more livable,” stated San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee. “Ford GoBike makes this mode of transportation a safe, accessible, and convenient option for residents and communities across San Francisco.”

In March of 2016, a proposed map of the expansion of the bike-share system, which launched four years ago in downtown San Francisco and the South of Market neighborhood, had proposed a station in front of the Noe Valley Town Square at 3861 24th St., as well as at the corner of Dolores and 22nd streets.

Yet those sites were nixed, according

to the digital map of the station locations found on the program’s website at <https://www.fordgobike.com/>.

The website map shows not only the location for each bike-share station but regularly updates how many bikes are available and how many empty bike docks there are at the individual stations.

A single ride going from one bike dock to another within 30 minutes costs \$3 through Sept. 30. But that option is only available by downloading the Ford GoBike app.

Day passes for unlimited 30-minute trips in a 24-hour period cost \$9.95 per day or \$19.95 for a three-day pass. If you surpass the 30-minute timeframe during a ride, then it will cost \$3 per additional 15 minutes.

The passes can be bought via the app or at any station using a credit or debit card. The system also accepts Clipper

cards.

People who want to use the bikes as a regular commute option can purchase a yearly membership that is good for unlimited 45-minute trips. The annual pass costs \$149 upfront or can be paid in monthly installments of \$14.90, for a total of \$178.80.

There are also discounted memberships available for low-income residents, as well as corporate membership options. To sign up or download the app, visit the program’s website at <https://www.fordgobike.com/>.

“With Ford GoBike, we’re able to dramatically expand access to an urban mobility solution that’s accessible, affordable, sustainable, and fun,” stated Jessica Robinson, director of City Solutions, Ford Motor Company. ■



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Back to Nature

Alvarado Plants a Woody Play Area

By Beverly Tharp

When students arrived for the first day of school at Alvarado Elementary last month, they were greeted with a surprise: a new outdoor play area with plants, trees, and giant logs.

The Dragonfly Garden, also known as the Alvarado Natural Playspace, was officially unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 27.

For years, parents had discussed the idea of removing black top in part of the open area behind the school, along the Eureka Street side.

“We wanted less blacktop and more nature for the kids, also trees for shade. Research shows that kids do best when they have options: blacktop for sports, play structures, and nature. We were missing nature,” said Angela Laffan, one of dozens of school parents who helped create the garden.

“Our PTA and outdoor education committee worked with various designers,” said Laffan. “We held community meetings to brainstorm the idea with kids and parents. Kids drew up plans and made wish lists. At the top was a zip line!” she said with a laugh. (Sorry, kids, the line didn’t make the cut.)

Laffan spearheaded the project but it was truly a community undertaking.

“On workdays, 10 to 20 people showed up to help in the physical work or other logistical support. Dropbox also sent a group of corporate volunteers,” said Laffan, who with husband Cooper Marcus has two children attending the school.

“We built the space over the summer,



The Laffan-Marcus family is one of the many that helped design and build Alvarado School’s new Dragonfly Garden. Shown from left are brothers Myles and Remi, in fourth grade and first grade respectively, and on a log in the back, parents Cooper Marcus and Angela Laffan. The play space is open to the public on weekends.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

five weeks of back-breaking work, after about three years of planning and working with the [school] district. Marcus was the project manager who made sure that all the pieces fell into place.”

The play space is around 1,800 square feet and cost roughly \$10 a square foot to build, an amount the parents said compared favorably with other play structures. The money came from the PTA, and from many volunteers and businesses.

The garden has little chairs cut out of redwood logs and tables where the kids can play tic-tac-toe. The bigger logs surrounding the play space came from a yard in Richmond; they were trucked in and craned into place.

“On the day we completed the space, some moms and I sat down on the little wood chairs to relax,” said Laffan. “As we sat there, two dragonflies and a butterfly appeared. That is how we came up with the name.”

Through the program Shared Schoolyards, the area is open to the whole neighborhood every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A ranger comes around at 4 p.m. to let everyone know it’s time to close the gates.

If other schools are interested in making a garden like Dragonfly, they are welcome to contact the Alvarado PTA to find out how to do it. Go to <http://alvaradoschool.net/pta-programs/> or the school’s Facebook page.

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S.F. Poet Laureate Kim Shuck

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

throughout the Bay Area. Shuck’s inauguration is Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library in Civic Center. The event is free and Shuck says everyone is welcome. It starts with a reception in her honor at 5 p.m., followed by her opening address at about 6 p.m.

Her other upcoming readings include Poetry in the Parks, Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area and a reading Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. at Green Apple Books on the Park, 1231 Ninth Ave. She’ll be reading from her one book of prose, *Rabbit Stories*, at the latter event. She also curates a continuing reading series, Gears Turning, second Sundays of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Adobe Books, 3130 24th St. in the Mission.

Shuck has plans beyond the requirements of her new position, too. She says she hopes to bring a “series of collectible objects” to poetry readings around the city. She also intends to create “a poetic map of San Francisco.” This map will be online and interactive. As the viewer moves the cursor over the map, it will pull up poems pertinent to that location, either about San Francisco poets active there or events which happened there.

Expect the poets and events to be lesser known, Shuck says. “So much is being lost,” beyond the famous few.

Becoming a Poet Laureate

The requirements to be considered for poet laureate are simple in outline. Nominees must be San Francisco residents and have a considerable body of published work.

Shuck says a poet usually applies to be considered for poet laureate but she never did. She says that, at a series of public events, different people said they heard she was going to be the new poet laureate or said they would nominate her. To her surprise, she appeared on the initial long list of nominees, then she was on the short list, and then she got a phone call.

Shuck has written three other books, all of them poetry collections or chapbooks: *Smuggling Cherokee*, *Clouds Running In*, and *Sidewalk Ndn*. She has also edited several other books and has been published widely in periodicals and anthologies. City Lights Books will publish a



Kim Shuck is not only an author with three collections of poetry, but a master weaver in beads, wood, and textiles.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

new collection of her work as an addition to its San Francisco Poet Laureate Series.

Of her own writing, Shuck says, “Poems are what happens when normal speech just won’t cut it. It’s a matter of making sense of the world through story.” She writes as a natural expression of her being. “I think that most artists create because it doesn’t occur to them not to.”

An Artist As Well

Shuck’s fame isn’t just as a poet, however. She is also a master weaver in beads, wood strips, and textiles, and has had exhibitions of her work throughout the United States. Some of her creations are for sale locally at the Gathering Tribes gallery at 1412 Solano Ave. in Albany. Her beadwork appears on the regalia of many Native American dancers.

An interest in Native American beadwork came naturally. Shuck is Ani Yum Wiya through her father. She explains that Ani Yum Wiya is the real name for people generally called Cherokee. It means “the people in the center.” *Cherokee* was the Muscogee word used to describe their neighbors. It means “speakers of another language.” European explorers encountered the Muscogee first and, as so often happened, when the explorers asked who their neighbors were, they were given the name their Muscogee hosts used in their language.

Shuck is also Polish, through her mother, and speaks Polish, as well as Tsalagi Gawonihisdi, the Ani Yum Wiya language. Through her mother’s family, she is a fifth-generation San Franciscan. She lives in the house that originally belonged to her maternal grandparents.

Shuck’s roots go deep in the city in other ways, too. She attended Alvarado Elementary School and spent many happy hours at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. She graduated from city public schools and San Francisco State University. She holds three degrees from SFSU: a B.A. and M.A. in Art (with a minor in Native Studies) and an M.F.A. in Textiles.

‘It’s All Storytelling’

Shuck doesn’t differentiate between the intent of her poetry and her artwork. “It’s all storytelling,” she says. Her art includes beadwork, baskets, and weavings. She creates beaded slippers, other articles of clothing, and decorative pieces for Native American garments worn at powwows across the country.

Her basketry involves the production of “math baskets.” for which. she says,

she “generates an equation.” She draws a base for the basket and notes directions on its side as to how the wood strips are meant to go. She explains that the words determine a pattern, with which she can “proceed with a rhythm.” If that sounds like a combination of math and poetry, Shuck says, you would not have misheard. She often uses the one to explain the other to the students she works with.

Her mantle as poet laureate may have come as a gift, rather than from her own need, but Shuck intends to wear the gift well. “As the city changes,” she says, “we only get to keep what we support.”

She means to show strong support for poetry during her term of service, as she has already done, and to encourage all San Franciscans, native and new, to support the writing and reading of poetry. ■

Among Other Works

By Kim Shuck

Because people are not about hands and work but belief
Rodrigo decided what parts of my discovered body
Belonged to Spain it was early in a month of
Strawberries which are a true thing a
Thing that can be held in a hand but
Hands do not make a person

Because some people are not about hands and work but are owned
Imagination is a deep mine into the
Mountain of silver and both hands and silver can be
Hauled to the name of God and
Taken by boat to Spain and we know that
Silver can be a fact or an imaginary friend

Because belief is a hand that draws lines
We are a drawing that can only be seen from
Very close up or from very far away and
Only in a few languages
We did not break we were
Broken like lines in a poem, map or working hand

Because we believe that fingerprints and calluses can
Identify a person
Borders are dangerous are
Amputations that we carry like truth through stories and other stories
We carry them as though it is our work as though it were a
Strawberry we could hold in our hand

The Hills Hold Down

By Kim Shuck

Try to dream the things that
Yerba Buena plants dream when the
New printed storm runs
Fingers through the
Cypress and reaches
Along hidden
Roots and quiet water songs in the
Cracks in the serpentine they
Find salamander prayers in layered
Stone
Coins lost in the fret of
Post earthquake with
Slumped brick and the
Full panic of
Witness and dynamite these
Hills hold down hold
Down and breathe
Storm and
Smile up into the
Rain eyes and
Change again

The Hills Hold Down is printed with author’s permission from Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California, edited by Lucille Lang Day and Kurt Schweigman, Scarlet Tanager Books (January 2016)

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Upper Noe Mural

A Picture of Community

By Chris Faust

Upper Noe Recreation Center has a colorful new addition. On a warm summer Saturday in July, over one hundred children and parents crowded the Day Street sidewalk to paint a mural, transforming the park wall into a celebration of joy and community pride. In just a few short hours, under the labor of many tiny hands, the clean but plain beige concrete canvas metamorphosed into a dazzling work of art.

The process began early in the morning. Art teachers, using chalk and masking tape, outlined a paint-by-number design, adding a dot of an appropriate color to each area. Volunteers, using small brushes, neatly applied color inside the lines. And while it seemed that the tiny bristles would be inadequate for the hundred-foot-plus span of the design, the focus, enthusiasm, and skill with which they were handled made color seem to leap upon the wall. Undulating green hills arose, stylized orange poppies popped out, and big blue waves swelled up like breakers upon the shore.

The theme is all San Francisco: flowers, hills, houses, and the sea. California native species, like the poppies, mix with lupine and other wildflowers, while redwoods and Victorian houses dot the hills. The design is the work of Anna Calonje, director of Little Artistas, an art school for children on Church Street near 27th Street. “We wanted a design that honored California’s beautiful landscape but was fun and stylized, could handle friends of all ages participating, and that highlighted native California plants,” said Calonje.

Visitors will notice that the design



The new mural at Upper Noe Rec Center on Day Street is an ode to the city’s landscape: it has frothy ocean waves, bright orange poppies, and Victorian houses nestled in the hills. Anna Calonje of Little Artistas created the design, drawing inspiration from neighborhood residents, young and old.

works well also with the bronze native plant sculptures and the large Native Plant Garden within the rec center grounds.

The project was sparked by the civic notions of resident Sara Fenske Bahat. A parent of children who have attended Little Artistas, Fenske Bahat was impressed with the murals the art school had created at Alvarado Elementary School. It has also painted murals at Cleveland Elemen-



It’s good to be green. Teacher and artist bond through the simple joy of painting.

Photos courtesy Chris Faust

tary, Buena Vista Horace Mann, and Glen Park School.

“I knew it was the kind of thing they were capable of pulling off, and well,” said Fenske Bahat. The rec center came to mind because “it has great traffic and a ton of blank walls! For community impact, that was a logical location.” She floated the project at an Upper Noe Neighbors party last fall before joining the UNN board in March. Collaborative projects between park groups, businesses, non-profits, and neighbors had been the focus of UNN discussion, so the board unanimously and enthusiastically approved sponsorship of the mural last spring.

It all came together well. Working with Calonje, the group developed a concept and prototype. Then Fenske Bahat pitched it to Rec and Park, where it met an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

While the July 22 event was slated from 10 to 4, the size of the turnout and the joyful focus of the artists—the children hardly noticed the free snacks and lemonade on hand—ensured that the work was mostly complete by 1 p.m. With the children dispersed for their naps, Little Artistas teachers continued adding stencils, touching up the paint, and then packing up supplies. A few small children, showing up late, were sadly disap-

pointed to miss the fun. With friendly smiles, paints and stencils came out of boxes again. With gentle guidance, the teachers helped the tots to contribute their artistic talents.

This was truly a family affair. Moms and dads joined in, too. Some used this as an opportunity to teach skills, while others reveled in the simple joy of painting. Brooke Wheeler, who lives across the street overlooking the activity, had never done anything like this before. Since the task was open to one and all, she quickly grabbed a brush and joined in.

As the painting emerged, many children abandoned the swings and slides in the playground to join in the fun. Said Wheeler, “It’s bright and cheery! What’s neat is how the colors are different in each type of daylight. Every time I look at it, it changes.”

Everyone involved in this project agrees that a great big thank-you is due Cheryl Woltjen, Alvin Torres, and all of the staff at Upper Noe Recreation Center for their enthusiastic support and logistical assistance.

Chris Faust is chair of Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center.



The Katherine Michiels School After School program offers children afternoons filled with learning, enrichment, and games for students in grades K-5, five days a week, from 2:00pm-6:00pm.

We are located at 1335 Guerrero Street with a School Bus drop-off from Alvarado Elementary School.



(415) 821-0130

1335 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

For more information email us at: afterschool@kmsf.org

SHORT TAKES

A Hand for Small Businesses

The residents group Upper Noe Neighbors is focusing its September meeting on small businesses along the Church Street corridor. Local volunteers from SCORE, a business-mentoring program partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration, will attend the event to describe their services and speak with local business owners and the neighbors who support them.

“Our small businesses are paramount in keeping our neighborhood the place you love to live in,” says UNN President Olga Milan-Howells.

With 300 chapters nationwide, SCORE offers free one-on-one introductory sessions with small business owners and inexpensive workshops on management, operations, marketing, and finance.

All Church Street business owners and community residents are welcome at the UNN meeting, which takes place Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets. Refreshments will be available at 7 p.m. The SCORE presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m.

For more information on the meeting, email info@uppernoeneighbors.com. To find out more about SCORE, go to <https://www.score.org/>.

Diamond Heights Park Fest

The first-ever Christopher Park Festival will celebrate the park—and present information on proposed improvements to it—Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the George Christopher Playground, 5210 Diamond Heights Blvd. The fun includes live entertainment, hands-on art, a raffle, and booths highlighting the work of Diamond Heights community groups.

Children’s activities include Tree Frog Treks’ reptile and amphibian encounters, a scavenger hunt, face-painting, a bouncy house, and garden-planting. Music will be provided by Little Folkies, Eric Beattie and the Party Ants, the Canyon Birds Jazz Trio, and the Pat Wilder Band. A fire engine from the San Francisco Fire Department will be stationed nearby, as will a “talking” police car. Park for free at the San Francisco Police Academy, 350 Amber Drive.

The free event is co-sponsored by Friends of Christopher Park and the Diamond Heights Community Association.

For more information, contact Brynna McNulty at friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com or Betsy Eddy, DHCA president, at betsy.eddy@gmail.com. To get a preview of plans for the park, visit <http://sfpark.org/>.

Midwest Literary Cuisine

Local literary impresario Wayne Goodman and Janell Pekkain, owner of Olive This Olive That at 304 Vicksburg, present *Midwestern Literary Cuisine*, an event combining books and food on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. at the store just off 24th Street.

Three local authors with novels set in the Midwest will read an excerpt on food from their book, and Pekkain will recreate Midwestern snacks from the books—using olive oil, of course. She will also provide olive oil and vinegar tastes and food pairings and sparkling water infused with blackberry vinegar.

The authors reading will be Mary McNear, creator of the best-selling *Butternut Lake* books set in Wisconsin; Lori

Ostlund, whose award-winning novel *After the Parade* partially takes place in Minnesota; and Laura J. Merrill, who wrote *The Hedge Tree*, an Indiana novel full of wit and chicken. Copies of the books will be available for purchase and signing. The event itself is free.

For more information, contact Pekkain at 415-251-7520.

Two Parties on Fair Oaks

Residents on Fair Oaks Street and surrounding streets are invited to attend a neighborhood mixer Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. Attendees are asked to bring family and friends, something to drink, and a favorite appetizer to share.

The mixer is sponsored by Fair Oaks Neighbors, the group that produces the popular Halloween block party along the street, and the annual street fair. FON just completed a successful campaign to raise funds for this year’s Halloween celebration. But they might need to do some sorcery for the event itself.

The second Fair Oaks gathering in September is a block party hosted by Holy Innocents Church. On Saturday, Sept. 23, 1 to 4 p.m., neighbors are invited to come enjoy ice cream, live music, face-painting, and, of course, a bouncy house.

Both events are free.

Charlie’s Grandparents Day

National Grandparents Day is Sunday, Sept. 10, and Charlie’s Corner children’s bookstore thinks that deserves a party, so all day long at the regular story times, there will be a treat, a game, some fun, and a good book or two, according to store manager Jeff Gomez.

Story times are at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. Party activities include playing peek-a-boo, freeze dance games, craft projects, and a reading. The books selected are *The Goodbye Window*, *Nana in the City*, *My Granny Went to Market*, *The Grandma Book*, *The Grandpa Book*, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, and *How to Babysit a Grandpa*.

For information on more readings during September, go to the store’s website at <http://charliescorner.com/home/>.

Mahler at the Ministry

Lieder Alive!, the San Francisco non-profit advocating the “teaching, performance, and appreciation of German lieder (songs),” kicks off its seventh annual Liederabend (evening of song) series Sunday, Sept. 10, with a MahlerFest Grand Opening. The program begins at 5 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich and the Alexander String Quartet will perform Mahler’s “Songs of a Wayfarer,” “Ruckert Lieder,” and “Kindertotenlieder.”

Season tickets to the five-performance series are \$250 for reserved seating and \$160 for general admission. Individual



Take Two for the Noe Valley Girls Film Festival

By Corrie M. Anders

An estimated 350 people are expected to attend the Second Annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival, on Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Noe Valley Ministry.

As August came to a close, a panel of judges was busy viewing more than 45 submissions—five-minute films made by elementary and middle school age girls from around the world. The judges, with the help of six young festival organizers, will select 10 finalists whose films will be shown at the event.

Samantha Grant—a celebrated filmmaker, journalist, and educator—will be the festival’s keynote speaker.

Grant, whose documentaries include *A Fragile Trust*, about the Jayson Blair/*New York Times* plagiarism scandal, and *The Girls in the Forest*, about a girls high school in a remote forest in Paraguay, said she was delighted to be asked to speak.

“I was totally thrilled and I’m happy to do it,” said the Church Street resident. “As the mother of two young girls, promoting women’s and girls’ films is so important to me.”

At the festival, Grant will talk about her experiences as a director/producer, and the need for women filmmakers “to support each other moving forward.” She also will share a trailer from a new film and do a Q&A with the audience.

The same group of Noe Valley girls who launched the first fest in September 2016 is working hard to create even more excitement this year. They include sisters Charlotte and Caitlin Kane, ages 14 and 12, and sisters Ella and Maggie Marks, 14 and 11—all students at the Hamlin School. Joining the quartet this time around are Eleanor Mullen, 11, and Hannah Tawadrous, 12, one of last year’s winners.



Documentary filmmaker Samantha Grant will be the keynote speaker at the Second Annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival on Sept. 9.

Big names also number among this year’s judges. They include Alix Blair, who made *Farmer/Veteran*, winner of the best documentary award at the Shanghai TV Festival; Laura Fries, a longtime producer for Showtime Sports; Ariana Garfinkel, producer of the award-winning documentary *Best and Most Beautiful Things*; screenwriter/director Ryan Lynch, who created the comedy web series *SanFranLand*; Myra Paci, known for her award-winning debut feature *Searching for Paradise*; Pixar alumna and independent film producer Ariel Sultan; Cameo Wood, who wrote and directed *Real Artists*, a thriller about artificial intelligence; and Mimi Zora, whose short film *Goulash* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Last year’s keynote speaker, award-winning comedy writer and director Serena Schuler, is contributing as well.

Among the festival sponsors are the Noe Valley Association, Another Planet Entertainment, the Noe Valley Ministry, Debra Niemann, Droubi Team, the Noe Valley Town Square, and Umpqua Bank.

Festivities get under way at 4 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Entrance is free, although donations will be accepted. At press time, “tickets” were going fast. RSVP soon to the festival’s website: <http://www.nvgff.com/>. ■

tickets to MahlerFest cost \$100 reserved, \$45 general, and \$25 for seniors, students, or working artists. Go to <http://liederalive.org/new/> to purchase.

Chamber Music Turns 25

This fall Noe Valley Chamber Music opens its 25th season of providing classical music for the neighborhood. NVCM will present six regular performances, three family concerts, six Up Close & Personal musical events in intimate settings, and the annual benefit concert, through the fall, winter, and spring.

Discounted tickets for the six regularly scheduled performances on Sunday afternoons at the Noe Valley Ministry are on sale now. Featured performers for 2017-18 include Angela Lee & Marc Teicholz, Lazuli String Quartet, the Joshua Trio, Brian Thorsett, Jake Heggie, the Chamber Music Society of San Francisco, and the Telegraph String Quartet.

Go to <http://nvcm.org/season/> for more information on these and other concerts, to purchase discounted season tickets, or to become a beloved donor and patron of the arts.

Take a Chance

The St. Philip Parish Annual Festival unfolds this year on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24. The arcade at 24th and Diamond streets is open both days, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will be full of children’s games, food and drink, arts and crafts, wheels of chance, and live entertainment.

For more information on the festival, the annual dinner, or the raffle, contact the school office at 415-824-8467 or go to

<http://www.saintphilipschool.org/st-philip-festival.html>. All proceeds benefit St. Philip the Apostle School, which serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.



Put on Your Thinking Cap


Word Week is Noe Valley’s annual literary festival. The organizing committee is soliciting ideas for events before it meets in October. Send suggestions to wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com before Oct. 15. If your idea is selected, you’ll win a genuine thinking cap!

Word Week 2018 is March 18 to 24. The festival is a project of the neighborhood association Friends of Noe Valley.

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

House Prices Decline, Condos Go Up

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers in Noe Valley purchased 17 houses during June and July, four fewer than they'd bought last summer.

Buyers also closed escrow on 23 condominiums, compared to 24 the previous year, according to sales data provided monthly to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Zephyr president Randall Kostick said those in the hunt for real estate ratcheted up the amount they were willing to pay, thanks to a scarcity of homes on the mar-



This 1914 home on Douglass Street, which sold in June for \$3.1 million, featured five bedrooms, four baths, a luxurious kitchen, garage, and views of San Francisco Bay.

ket during the peak sales season. Single-family home buyers paid an average 13 percent more than the seller's asking price in June and 19 percent more in July—a considerable increase compared to the same months a year ago.

Still, the top-heavy sales were not enough to offset a decline in overall values. The average detached home in Noe Valley sold for a shade over \$2 million in July, contrasted with \$2.3 million in July of last year. June's average sales price was \$2.3 million, around \$600,000 less than the year before.

One possible explanation for the drop-off, Kostick said, was that buyers in San Francisco may have reached the limit on what they can afford or are willing to pay.

The affordability issue "may be even more pronounced in Noe Valley because there has been such a surge [in prices] in the last five years," he said.

Most of the summer sales in Noe Valley were for dwellings in the mid price range, and there were no transactions in the \$4 million to \$7 million category.

Buyers paid \$2.5 million for the most expensive home sold in July, a three-bedroom, two-bath house in the 500 block of



A three-bedroom condominium in this modern building on 29th Street sold in July for \$2,340,000. Amenities included a fireplace, 17-foot ceilings, a patio, high-end kitchen, garage, and 1,993 square feet of living space. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range August 2017	Average August 2017	Average June 2017	Average August 2016
Studio	4	\$2,200 - \$2,800	\$2,437 / mo.	\$2,367 / mo.	\$2,250 / mo.
1-bdrm	30	\$2,500 - \$4,900	\$3,219 / mo.	\$3,166 / mo.	\$3,324 / mo.
2-bdrm	31	\$3,095 - \$6,500	\$4,517 / mo.	\$4,443 / mo.	\$4,160 / mo.
3-bdrm	14	\$5,200 - \$8,000	\$6,565 / mo.	\$6,531 / mo.	\$6,646 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$5,750 - \$14,450	\$9,056 / mo.	\$16,333 / mo.	\$11,883 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 86 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Aug. 2 to 9, 2017. NVV9/2017



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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						
July 2017	7	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,002,857	14	119%
June 2017	10	\$1,525,000	\$3,100,000	\$2,302,040	15	113%
May 2017	13	\$1,550,000	\$5,325,000	\$3,134,080	38	103%
July 2016	12	\$1,250,000	\$4,900,000	\$2,315,000	35	105%
June 2016	9	\$1,425,000	\$4,985,000	\$2,930,556	28	103%
Condominiums/TICs						
July 2017	8	\$950,000	\$2,340,000	\$1,546,375	16	115%
June 2017	15	\$368,093	\$2,900,000	\$1,378,123	32	107%
May 2017	15	\$535,000	\$2,445,000	\$1,364,467	30	108%
July 2016	13	\$550,000	\$1,825,000	\$1,217,692	32	108%
June 2016	11	\$780,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,352,955	29	108%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
July 2017	4	\$1,800,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,310,000	82	106%
June 2017	5	\$1,900,000	\$2,900,000	\$2,325,500	183	101%
May 2017	5	\$1,650,000	\$4,420,000	\$2,395,000	34	106%
July 2016	1	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	170	82%
June 2016	4	\$1,350,000	\$3,435,000	\$2,105,000	51	107%
5+ unit buildings						
July 2017	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2017	1	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	61	116%
May 2017	1	\$3,040,000	\$3,040,000	\$3,040,000	21	95%
July 2016	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 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. NVV9/2017

Jersey Street between Diamond and Douglass streets. The home originally was priced for sale at \$2,595,000.

Amenities in the extensively remodeled Victorian, with 1,935 square feet of living space, included a gourmet kitchen, a large deck, built-in barbecue, a south-facing garden, and a one-car garage.

June's most expensive house was a five-bedroom, four-bath home in the 600 block of Douglass Street between 22nd and 23rd streets. The \$3.1 million deal was slightly above the seller's asking price (\$2,995,000). Built in 1914, the 2,783-square-foot home had been restored with contemporary flair. Updates included a chef's kitchen, an attic converted to a master bedroom suite, numerous skylights, and one-car parking.

Condos Rise in Value

On the other side of the coin, condominium values rose in June and July, compared to last year.

In July, buyers paid \$2,340,000—18 percent above the asking price—for a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit, with 1,993 square feet of living space, in the 500 block of 29th Street near Noe Street.

Part of a four-story, two-unit building

constructed in 1999, the dwelling had been renovated to include a stylish kitchen with a six-burner Bertazzoni gas range, radiant heat, a wine cellar, a patio and deck, and one-car parking.

Another condo with a house-like price tag (\$3.2 million) sold in June for \$2.9 million. The two-unit building—located in "downtown" Noe Valley, in the 3900 block of 24th Street between Noe and Sanchez—had a commercial storefront on the ground floor and a fenced back yard. Built in 1925, the 4,840-square-foot property advertised spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and a fireplace made with imported Italian tile.

Although the average price of a condo midsummer hovered around \$1.5 million, not every unit required its buyer to possess a pot of gold.

A one-bedroom condo in the historic St. Paul's Commons building, a former convent in the 300 block of 29th Street, sold in June for \$368,000. The 536-square-foot home with one-car parking was the cheapest residential property sold in Noe Valley, according to Zephyr's survey—though it must be noted that the condo was a BMR (below market rate), designated for a first-time home buyer. ■

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Photos by
Pamela Gerard

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The Pacific aster, whose scientific name is *Symphyotrichum chilense*, adapts well to dry coastal terrain.

Welcome to September, an unpredictable month for wildflowers. September’s unpredictability arises from the rare rain shower and from the number of hours of daylight each day, called the “photoperiod.”

Some spring plants, like mustards, beach strawberries, and blackberries, use photoperiod as a cue to time their flowering. The photoperiod during September is like that in March, around 12 hours a day. Fueled by the warmth of the sun, these spring-flowering plants make a last stab at reproduction in autumn. And who could blame them their desire to procreate?

Fall-only wildflowers, on the other hand, read their photoperiodic cues correctly. They flower in late summer and early autumn. The seasonal growth pattern reduces competition, allowing each species to get the resources it needs (nutrients, moisture, space, etc.).

The list of fall-flowering flowers is impressive. It includes belladonna lily (Naked Ladies), tall fireweed, coyote brush, California sagebrush, and goldenrods. (Check them out on Calflora.org.)

NOW APPEARING

local wildflowers • the noe valley voice

Farewell to Summer

By Joe O’Connor

My favorite September wildflowers are Pacific asters (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) and elegant rein orchids (*Piperia elegans*). The Pacific aster is a favorite because it persists in dry, inhospitable conditions while adding color to the summer landscape. The elegant rein orchid is the only wild orchid growing in San Francisco. It is unique, beautiful, and surprisingly easy to find.

Pacific asters used to be called Chilean asters because their scientific name implies they are from Chile. They’re not! They’re native to western North America from British Columbia south to Mexico. In the Bay Area, they grow in open fields, along roads and trails. The stem of the Pacific aster is 10

to 40 inches tall and has lance-shaped leaves 1 to 3 inches long. Its small (½- to 1-inch) lavender flowers often grow in clusters. Each flower has 15 to 40 purple petals (ray florets) and a yellow center (disc floret), which may turn brown as the plant ages. Pacific aster flowers can last several weeks. Their blooms attract many pollinators, especially butterflies. Sometimes tiny predators such as spiders use the flowers for cover while stalking insects.

Rein orchids (genus *Piperia*) are native to western North America, including Northern California. Our city’s orchid, the elegant rein orchid (*Piperia elegans*), is most commonly found in the Presidio, on the coastal



A lord of the underbrush, *Piperia elegans* can grow to 14 inches in height.

Photos by Joe O’Connor

bluffs east and west of Fort Point. But there are quite a few elegant rein orchids within a short hike of Noe Valley. They flourish on the northwest slope of Noe Peak, some within a few feet of the east shoulder of Twin Peaks Boulevard. They’re also present on the adjacent hill south of Noe Peak, poking their heads above the shrubs and dried grass. In September, you’ll see flower spikes 5 to 14 inches tall bearing dozens of small (¼ inch), bright-white flowers.

So get out there and enjoy the flowers. Beware poison oak; it’s getting red this time of year. Need identification help or care to join a walk? Drop me a note at drdifiori@gmail.com.



A camouflaged crab spider waits on a Pacific aster in hopes of finding an insect meal.



The elegant rein orchid (*Piperia elegans*) is the only wild orchid growing in San Francisco.

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

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

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

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

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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 design firm showcasing artists and art objects for the home.

IS: FINE ART AND DESIGN 3848 24th St. at Vicksburg Street 415-621-5660

<http://ianstallings.com/>

The IS in the name of the home furnishings store and art gallery at the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets stands for Ian Stallings, an interior designer and artist who left the Midwest two decades ago to make a go of it in San Francisco.

IS: Fine Art and Design is a division of the Indiana native's eponymously named Ian Stallings Design firm. IS shares the retail space, formerly home to stained-glass studio Cradle of the Sun, with the office of real estate agent Rachel Swann.

Without the arrangement between the longtime friends, Stallings said, he wouldn't have been able to afford opening the store on his own. Apart from two desks Swann's firm uses, Stallings' shop occupies the bulk of the space, which is partitioned in front by diagonally placed, floor-to-ceiling shelving used to display the high-end items Stallings has curated for the store.

"She asked me to design the space, and in the process, we formed more of a collaboration effort," said Stallings, 41, who lives on Nob Hill. "Opening the store was a big venture. I had been thinking about doing it for a few years, but the time was never right. With Rachel inviting me to share the space, she pushed me into doing it. If it wasn't for Rachel, I wouldn't have had the platform to do this."

Among the items on sale are soy-wax handcrafted candles from Bungo Candle Co. (\$35), which come in a variety of scents, including patchouli, rose, pine, and fire island pine, and sturdy black umbrellas made in Europe (\$125) that come in unique shapes. They have become one of the store's best sellers; a local tango troupe bought a bunch for a recent performance.

"I was thinking we would just have those for April showers," said Stallings, who initially ordered the umbrellas to incorporate them into a display that month.

In August, the store had in stock vari-



Artist and interior designer Ian Stallings offers a selection of jewelry, candles, and unique home furnishings in his store and gallery on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

ous vases (\$90 for a pair of white porcelain ones); unique furnishings, such as a Syrian lexagon marquetry box (\$1,000) or a mid-century rosewood hourglass (\$400); and a variety of match strikers (\$90 to \$200).

"I want the objects to be unique, and you can't just buy them anywhere," explained Stallings. "We want it to be special."

Each month, Stallings uses the store to mount a new art show by a local artist that is themed to the seasons. The space's main right-side wall is painted a new color for each show that fits the theme. In August, it bore a bright orange color to feature "Labor of Love," works inspired by the tradition of quilt-making, by artist Steven Vasquez Lopez.

"I represented artists privately and have been placing artists' work in the homes of my design clients, but I wanted bigger and better exposure for the artists,"

said Stallings.

On his website, he posts a story about each new show; in June he featured the work of artist duo BLECHMEKI, a partnership between Noe Valley residents Max Blechman and Kazu Umeki.

(The wall that month was painted a dark purple.)

The store hosts an opening reception for each new show the first Friday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. The free events, open to the public, have been attracting upwards of 200 people.

"We would like to bring people from all over the Bay Area to the neighborhood," said Stallings. "We want to make it a destination spot for people from the East Bay who either don't come here often or for people who used to live here but moved away."

One artist he has no plans to feature, however, is himself.

"I didn't want it to be a vanity gallery," said Stallings.

Since the store opened in January, Stallings and his one employee, who manages the day-to-day operations, have largely felt embraced by the neighborhood.

The local community "has been very supportive and welcoming," he said. "We have met lots of lovely people we didn't know before."

One person did file a complaint with the city's planning department, claiming that not enough of the store was being used for retail. Stallings and Swann told the *Voice* a city planner assured them their shared-use arrangement met zoning laws prior to their opening.

They also contend that IS uses 95 percent of the storefront's square footage. The matter is expected to go before the planning commission in the coming months. Stallings is confident they will prevail and doesn't expect he will have to close his store anytime soon.

"I have a full-time employee who wouldn't have a job without this space," he noted. "It is proper retail."

The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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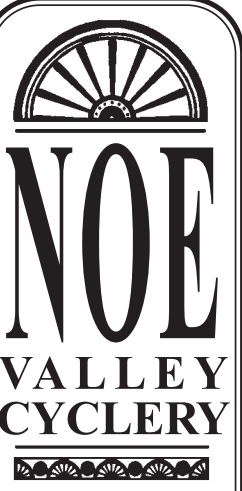

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Free for All: You can join the pickleball pairs making a racket on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons or sign up for volleyball Wednesday and Friday nights at Upper Noe Rec Center. *Photo by Chris Faust*

Movie Night Under the Stars at Day Street Park

Fall Session is already in full swing but some classes are just starting at Upper Noe Recreation Center, including volleyball for girls ages 7 to 14. It’s not too late to register. Many fun activities, like pickleball and Argentine tango, are free or available on a drop-in basis. Check out the schedule below. On Saturday, Sept. 23, the rec center will host a free family **Movie Night in the Parks** sponsored by Sutter Health CPMC 2020. Last fall, more than 400 neighbors covered the field to be entertained by acrobats and watch *Inside Out*. This year's feature is *Batman Lego*. So gather the entire family, grab some snacks and a blanket, and come on out. Movie time is 7 p.m. or dusk. Gates open at 6. The first 250 attendees will receive a special goodie bag. To read the park’s newsletter or get updates to the schedule of classes and events, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or just drop in to the rec center office at 295 Day St., open Monday through Saturday.

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

UPPER NOE REC CENTER FALL SESSION, AUG. 22 - DEC. 29, 2017
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.
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)	4:30-6 p.m.
Karaoke for Adults (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE
SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	
Open Gym	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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Sept. 1-29: Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

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

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

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

Sept. 1-Oct. 19: Linda Trunzo exhibits OIL PAINTINGS in "Portraits with Good Hair" at the Lois Art Gallery. Reception Sept. 1, 5-7 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

Sept. 1 & Oct. 6: Ian Stallings Design GALLERY features a new artist opening on the first Friday of the month, with a 6 to 8 pm reception. 3848 24th. ianinstallings.com.

Sept. 2-30: 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.

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

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

Sept. 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.

Sept 3 & 4: The SF MIMETROUPE offers the final performances of "Walls" at 1:30 pm. Dolores Park. sfmt.org.

Sept. 3 & 17: 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.

Sept. 3 & 17: City Guides offers a WALK focusing on Noe Valley's working-class roots. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Sept. 3-24: 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.

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

Sept. 5-26: The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Sept. 5-26: John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8:15 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

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

Sept. 6: The Noe Valley Library hosts a CRAFT WORKSHOP for adults to make cork coasters using vintage maps. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. Sign up at 355-5707 or sfpl.org.

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

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

Sept. 6-27: Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center,

Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

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

Sept. 6-27: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesdays, 4 to 7 pm, through November. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Sept. 6-27: 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.

Sept. 6-27: History group Shaping San Francisco offers free PUBLIC TALKS on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. 518 Valencia. foundsf.org.

Sept. 6-27: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

Sept. 6 & Oct. 4: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

Sept. 7: Liz Stone, Drew Harmon, Ruby Gill, and special guests Natasha Muse, Zach Chapaloni, and Walter Glenn perform COMEDY GOLD on the first Thursday of the month. 9 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. 285-0674; lizziestone@gmail.com.

Sept. 7-9 & 27: The Bernal Heights FILM FESTIVAL opens on Sept. 7 at the Mission Cultural Center, continues Sept. 8 with a film crawl along Cortland, and a Sept. 9 screening in Precita Park; the Best of Bernal screening is Sept. 27, 1525 Cortland. 577-8561; bhoutdoorcine.org.

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

Sept. 7-28: Shrawan Nepali leads Thursday Morning MEDITATION in the Noe Valley Town Square; bring a pillow. 8-9 am.

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

Sept. 8: Celebrate International LITERACY DAY at Charlie's Corner with readings from new books this fall. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Sept. 8: The Noe Valley Library screens the 1934 FILM It Happened One Night. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Sept. 8: Elbo Room hosts DUB MISSION's 21st anniversary party from 10 pm to 2 am. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; elbo.com.

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

Sept. 9: Green Mann and Lisa Erdos conduct a free PLANT CLINIC on the second Saturday of the month. 10 am-noon. 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th. lisa.erdos@att.net.

Sept. 9: The memory of historian Kevin Starr is honored at a SF HISTORY Association's presentation. 10 am-2 pm. USF, Xavier Hall. Reserve a seat at 537-1105, ext. 0; sfhistory.org.

Sept. 9: 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.

Sept. 9: Michael Harlan Turkell discusses Acid Trip: Travels in the World of VINEGAR. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Sept. 9: The second annual Noe Valley GIRLS FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Noe Valley Ministry. Film director

Samantha Grant kicks off the event, produced by six local girls. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez. nvvgff.com.

Sept. 9: A NEON WALKING TOUR, "Market-Mission-Castro," runs from 5 to 7 pm; start location is given with reservation at neonbook.xyz.

Sept. 9-30: Artisana hosts an exhibit, "Bordering ABSTRACTION," by artists Lesley Tannahill, Doron Fishman, Vanessa O'Neill, and Emily Van Engel. Opening reception Sept. 9, 4-7 pm. 3927 24th. 500-2257.

Sept. 9-Oct. 7: The 2017 ALTERED BARBIE "Iconic Super Heroine and Hero" show is on display at Back to the Picture, 934 Valencia. Opening reception Sept. 16, 7:30-9:30 pm; closing reception Oct. 7, 7-10 pm; Mon.-Sat. 10 am-6 pm; Sun. noon-5 pm. alteredbarbie.com.

Sept. 10: Community Music Center offers a MUSICAL INSTRUMENT Petting Zoo, demonstrations, and workshops for all ages. 3-5 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015; sfmc.org.

Sept. 10: LIEDER ALIVE! hosts the Liederabend Series' MahlerFest with the Alexander String Quartet. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

Sept. 10 & 24: Noe Valley political action group ACTION SF meets from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com.

Sept. 11: ODD MONDAYS hosts a discussion of the Tech Workers Coalition with Peter Gabel, Matt Schaefer, and coalition members. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). Call 821-2090 to confirm; oddmondays.com.

Sept. 12: The ACC CONVERSATION CLUB meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.


Sept. 12: Artists' Television Access screens the 1980 documentary FILM The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter. 6:30-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.



Join us aboard the *Eureka* for our 5th annual concert and celebration of the sea, boats, love, and life, as 4 highly-acclaimed Bay Area Latin musicians share music drawn from the folkloric and popular music traditions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

September 23, 7-9pm, Hyde Street Pier
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Use code **Pececillo5** for a **\$5 discount** per ticket!

TICKETS: WEPLAYERS.ORG
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above all literary art.
Every block is a short story,
every hill a novel.*

— William Saroyan

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• CALENDAR •



Shaping San Francisco presents “Other Food Systems are Possible” a talk by Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff and Antonio Roman-Acalá on Wednesday, September 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics – 518 Valencia Street (near 16th). Photo of Alemany Farm by LisaRuth Elliot

Sept. 12: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts a salon-style discussion with musicologist Kai Christiansen. 7 pm. Elizabeth Street address provided with ticket purchase. 648-5236; tiffany@nvcm.org.

Sept. 12: PFLAG meets at the Women’s Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagssf.org.

Sept. 12: David Talbot discusses “Lessons from the Summer of Love” at the SF HISTORY Association. 7:30-9 pm. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello. 537-1105, ext. 0; sfhistory.org.

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

Sept. 14: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

Sept. 14: Amy Kritzer introduces Sweet Noshings: New Twists on Traditional JEWISH DESSERTS. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Sept. 14: Bring a beverage or appetizer to the Fair Oaks MIXER, to meet neighbors and discuss neighborhood issues. 6:30-8 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. fairoaksneighbors.org.

Sept. 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.

Sept. 15: Jill Diamond discusses her new mystery series at the BOOKWORMS Club. 6 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, eventbrite.com/e/bookworms-club-tickets-25485102628.

Sept. 17: STAND UP SF hosts a public meeting to discuss resistance to the Trump agenda. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 415 Jersey. standupsf.net.

Sept. 19: Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. Miraloma Club House, 350 O’Shaughnessy. 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

Sept. 19: Ahoy, it’s TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY at Charlie’s Corner Bookstore. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Sept. 19: The Noe Valley Library hosts a workshop by Rachel Fleischman, “SELF-HEALING through Creativity, Mindfulness, and Motion.” 6:30-8 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Sept. 20: The group Upper Noe Neighbors invites reps from SCORE to describe their low-cost business-mentoring services at a 7 pm meeting. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. 756-4455; uppernoeneighbors.com.

Sept. 20: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group meets from 7 to 8:30 pm; call for selection. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Sept. 21: A Little Yumminess hosts a HISPANIC COOKING class for kids 6 and up. 3:45-5 pm. Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey. Reserve a spot at 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Sept. 21: COMEDY Returns to El Rio, a Kung Pao Kosher Comedy production, at 8 pm. 3168 Mission. elriosf.com.

Sept. 22: HERCHURCH offers a Women’s Drumming Circle the fourth Friday of the month. 6-7:30 pm. 678 Portola. 731-2953; herchurch.org.

Sept. 23: Diane Krantz leads a workshop sponsored by the Older Women’s League (OWL), “Reframing AGING: Confronting and Transforming Society’s Current Images, Biases, and Prejudices.” 10 am-noon. Main Library, Hispanic Room, Lower Level, 100 Larkin. 712-1695; owlsf.org.

Sept. 23: The CHRISTOPHER PARK Festival includes music, art, and bounce houses. 10 am-2 pm. 5290 Diamond Heights Blvd, between Gold Mine and Duncan.

Sept. 23: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church hosts a neighborhood BLOCK PARTY. 1-4 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

Sept. 23: 2017 FILM NIGHT in the Park shows The Lego Batman Movie (2017). 7 pm or dusk. Upper Noe Rec Center. sfntf.squarespace.com.

Sept. 23 & 24: St. Philip’s annual FESTIVAL includes games, live entertainment, and wheels of chance. 10 am-6 pm. 665 Elizabeth. 824-8467; saintphilipschool.org.

Sept. 24: Gabi Moskowitz and Miranda Berman discuss Shot Mess Kitchen: RECIPES for Your Delicious Disastrous Life. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Sept. 26: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of every other month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

Sept. 26: Senator Scott Wiener’s first annual Craft BEER BASH fundraiser runs from 6 to 8 pm. Bare Bottle Brew Co., 1525 Cortland. scottwiener.com.

Sept. 26: 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

Sept. 26: Judi Leff discusses “The Gold(berg) Rush: History of Jews in SF” at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. Congregation Sheith Israel, Newman Hall, 2266 California. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

Sept. 27: 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.

Sept. 27: Kathy Brennan and Caroline Campion introduce The DINNER Plan: Simple Weeknight Recipe. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Sept. 29: Charlie’s Corner Bookstore features OWL STORY TIMES all day. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

Sept. 30: Volunteer at JURI COMMONS 9 am to noon, 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.

Sept. 30: SF Assessor Carmen Chu leads a FAMILY WEALTH forum, including free one-on-one counseling. 10 am-1 pm. City College, 50 Phelan. Register at 554-7434 or sfassessor.org/familywealthforum.

Oct. 3: “MIDWEST CUISINE” at Olive This Olive That features local authors Mary McNear, Lori Ostlund, and Laura J. Merrill, reading from their novels. 7 pm. 304 Vicksburg. 251-7520.



Oktoberfest

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **October 2017** issue, distributed the first week of October. The deadline for items is September 15. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority.



SEPTEMBER
EVENTS AT
OMNIVORE BOOKS

SAT SEP 9	MICHAEL HARLAN TURKELL • ACID TRIP: TRAVELS IN THE WORLD OF VINEGAR • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • An avid maker of vinegars at home, Turkell traveled throughout North America, France, Italy, Austria, and Japan to learn about vinegar-making practices in places where the art has evolved over centuries.
TUE SEP 12	OFF-SITE EVENT! BOOK LAUNCH PARTY AT BAR AGRICOLE FOR OWNER THAD VOGLER’S NEW BOOK, BY THE SMOKE AND THE SMELL: MY SEARCH FOR THE RARE & SUBLIME ON THE SPIRITS TRAIL • 6:00-8:00 P.M. FREE • Thad Vogler takes readers around the world, celebrating the vivid characters who produce hand-made spirits like rum, scotch, cognac and mezcal.
THR SEP 14	AMY KRITZER • SWEET NOSHINGS: NEW TWISTS ON TRADITIONAL JEWISH DESSERTS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>Sweet Noshings</i> takes the ever-evolving world of Jewish desserts to the next level. With stories of life as a Jew in Texas, and plenty of kitsch, Amy’s modern interpretations of classic recipes bring new light to old favorites and creates a whole new unique cuisine.
SAT SEP 23	TOMMY McDONALD • FIELD ROAST: 101 ARTISAN VEGAN MEAT RECIPES TO COOK, SHARE, AND SAVOR • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Founded in 1997 in Seattle, Washington, <i>Field Roast</i> creates artisan vegan meats, made with real ingredients and traditional food making practices.
SUN SEP 24	GABI MOSKOWITZ & MIRANDA BERMAN • HOT MESS KITCHEN: RECIPES FOR YOUR DELICIOUS DISASTROUS LIFE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Authors Gabi Moskowitz and Miranda Berman want to save millennials from the perils of takeout and take back the kitchen with their new book, <i>Hot Mess Kitchen</i> .
WED SEP 27	KATHY BRENNAN & CAROLINE CAMPION. THE DINNER PLAN: SIMPLE WEEKNIGHT RECIPES AND STRATEGIES FOR EVERY SCHEDULE. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>The Dinner Plan</i> offers five meal strategies—Make-Ahead, Staggered, One-Dish, Extra-Fast, and Pantry—that will help get dinner on the table no matter what the workweek throws at you.
THR SEP 28	SHANNA FARRELL • BAY AREA COCKTAILS: A HISTORY OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND CRAFT. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE, WITH NEGRONIS! • This is the story of how the Bay Area shaped the art of elevated drinking in America. Through oral history interviews and recipes, author Shanna Farrell chronicles the narrative history of the modern cocktail renaissance.

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SaintPhilipSchool.org/st-philip-festival.html

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ADULTS AND TEENS

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Learn how to knit or crochet, or share your skills, on the first Saturday of every month. The library has supplies to practice on but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you're working on a special project. Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 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 an informal workshop on using the SFPL's digital resources, including the library catalog and databases, Zinio for magazines, ebooks and Hoopla! for movies, music, and audiobooks. Sept. 5, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Adult Craft Night: Make cork coasters using recycled maps; all materials are provided. Sign up by calling 415-355-5707 or asking at the library's reference desk. Noe Valley, Sept. 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday Matinee: Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert star in the 1934 film *It Happened One Night*, about a young woman who runs away from her wealthy family and the brash and cynical reporter who pursues her. Sept. 8, 2 to 4 p.m.

AAC Conversation Club: Users of Alternative and Augmentative Communication devices, such as Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, get together to explore new topics. Mondays, Sept. 11, 18, and 25, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

ATA @ SFPL: Artists' Television Access (ATA) teams up with SFPL to mine the treasures of the library's 16mm film archive. This month's film is *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*, a 1980 documentary about women working in factories during World War II. Sept. 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Discover, discuss, and learn from outstanding works of literature at the **Great Books Discussion Group** sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For more information, contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Self-Healing through Creativity, Mindfulness, and Motion: Rachel Fleischman, LCSW, REAT, leads an experiential healing workshop to reconnect us to our bodies, relax the nervous system, and come back home to ourselves. Sept. 19, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets to discuss *The Little Red Chairs*, a 2016 novel by Edna O'Brien inspired by the life of war criminal Radovan Karadzic. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. Sept. 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Flocking Together
By Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Books of the Month

The story of a Dutch family held in a concentration camp during the Boer War, a documentary about Sikh communities around the world, and a fictional tale about two children who get locked in a zoo are among the offerings provided this month by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr, of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

To check on the availability of books, CDs, DVDs, and other library stuff, call 415-355-5707 or drop by the Noe Valley branch, at 451 Jersey St. Or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org. Don't forget—the San Francisco Public Library will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 4.

Adult Fiction

- A daughter uncovers her father's past in *The 12 Lives of Samuel Hawley* by Hannah Tinti.
- Set in South Africa in the early 1900s, *The Lost History of Stars* by Dave Boling centers on a Dutch Afrikaner family held in a British concentration camp during the Boer War.
- In *Down Among the Sticks and Bones*, the latest in Seanan McGuire's Wayward Children series, twin sisters enter a world of magic.
- *Sour Heart Stories* by Jenny Zhang is narrated by the daughters of Chinese immigrant artists.

Adult Nonfiction

- *In the Great Green Room: The Brilliant and Bold Life of Margaret Wise Brown*, by Amy Gary, is a biography of the author of *Goodnight Moon*.
- Journalist Elizabeth Farnsworth examines early influences on her career in *A Train Through Time: A Life, Real and Imagined* examines.
- Patricia Bosworth describes her relationships with actors and authors in *The Men in My Life: A Memoir of Love and Art in 1950s Manhattan*.
- In *The Grim Sleeper: The Lost Women of South Central*, by Christine Pelisek, a serial killer stalks women of color in Los Angeles.

Adult ebooks

- Jack E. Davis explores the changing marine life in the Gulf of Mexico in *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*.
- An unconventional woman discovers what really matters to her in *All Grown Up* by Jami Attenberg.
- A family moves to the suburbs from Manhattan in the humorous *City Mouse* by Stacey Lender.

Children's Fiction

- All the fun starts when Max and Mia get locked in the zoo overnight in *Midnight at the Zoo*, by Faye Hanson. Ages 3 to 7.
- Author and illustrator Maria Dek explains all the things to do (and imagine) in the woods, in *A Walk in the Forest*. Ages 4 to 8.
- A Korean boy who moves to West Virginia adjusts to his new world in *A Piece of Home*, written by Jeri Watts and illustrated by Hyewon Yum. Ages 5 to 9.
- *The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes*, by Duncan Tonatiuh, won an Americas Award for children's literature in 2017. Ages 6 to 9.
- *Project Best Friend* is the latest in the Penelope Perfect series, written by Chrissie Perry, illustrated by Hardie Grant Egmont. Ages 7 to 10.
- A 12-year-old girl who was found at sea as a baby discovers her identity in *Beyond the Bright Sea*, by Lauren Wolk. Ages 9 to 13.

- The swashbuckling adventure *The Journey to Dragon Island* is the sequel to *The Voyage to Magical North*, by Claire Fayers. Ages 10 to 13.

- A girl has to deal with the loss of her mother in *Speed of Life* by Carol Weston. Ages 11 to 14.

Children's Nonfiction

- Ages 4 to 7 can guess which jobs are being done in *Whose Hands Are These? A Community Helper Guessing Book*, written by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Luciana Navarro Powell.
- You will find cheesy pizza jokes in *Laugh-Out-Loud Awesome Jokes for Kids*, by Rob Elliott. Ages 6 to 10.
- Plant life is on display in full-color scientific illustrations in *Botanicum: Welcome to the Museum*, curated by Katie Scott and Kathy Willis. Ages 8 to 12.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

¡Viva! Hispanic Cooking Class for Kids: Let's make cactus tortillas, different salsas, and guacamole! Local cooking teachers and A Little Yumminess co-owners Simran Singh and Stacie Dong, along with librarian Miss Catherine, will lead this workshop for children ages 6 and up. Please reserve your spot by calling 415-355-5707; 10 participants max. Thursday, Sept. 21, 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Please join Miss Catherine for **Toddler Tales** and share books, songs, and rhymes! Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21, and 28; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.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.

Adult DVDs

- When a 9-year-old girl questions her religion, her family takes her on a journey to visit Sikh communities around the world, in the 2017 documentary *Under the Turban*.
- An art collector tries to rescue a street artist's painting in *Saving Banksy* (2017).
- Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes solves the mystery of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2017).
- Tom Hanks and Emma Watson star in *The Circle* (2017), a workplace thriller set in the not too distant future.

Annotations by Noe Valley Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your full name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

California Institute of Integral Studies

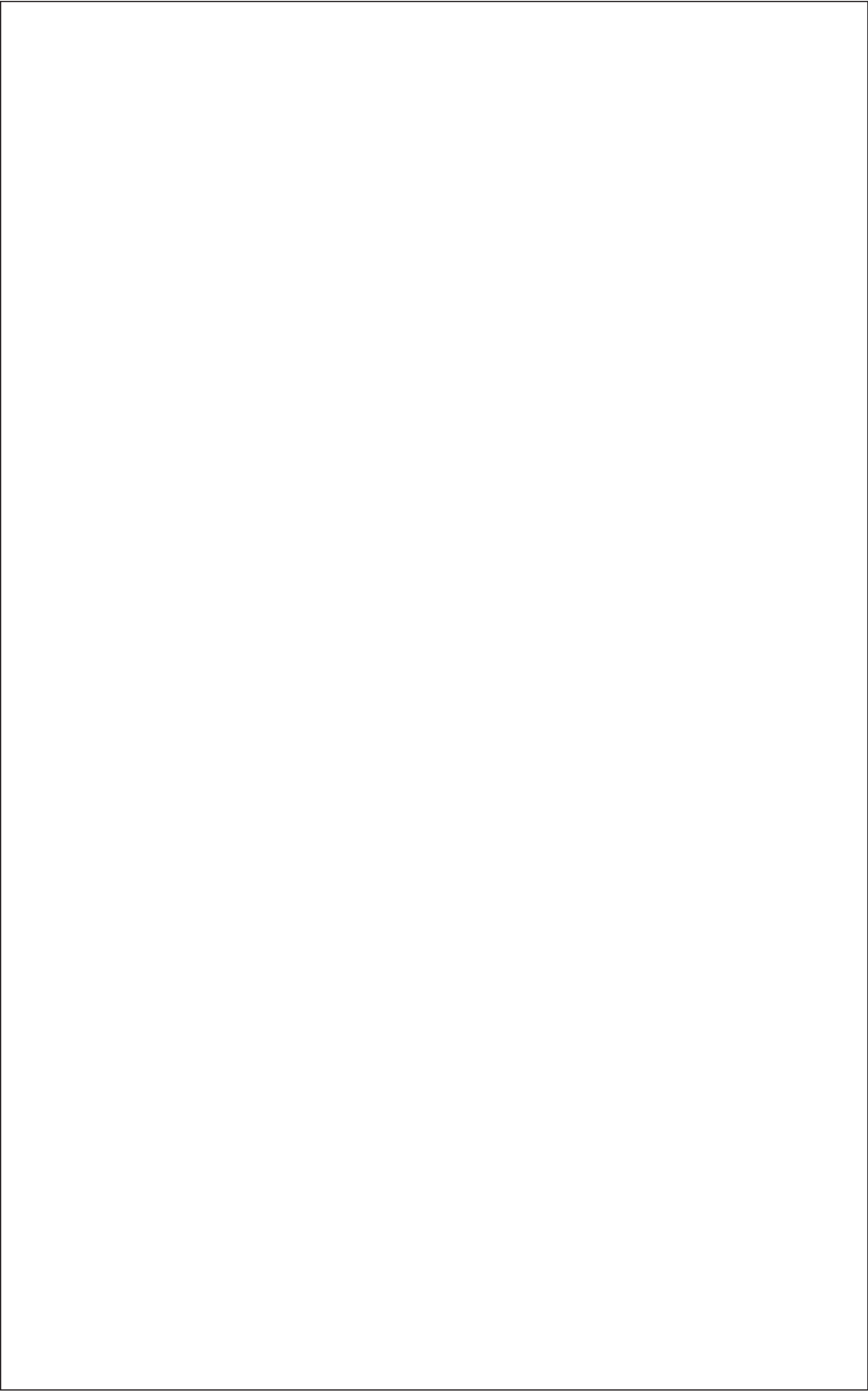
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Al-Anon Noe Valley
Contact: 834-9940
Website: www.al-anonsf.org
Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.
St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street through parking lot)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski,

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

828-5772
Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
Website: www.friendsofdolorespark.org
Meetings: See website.

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

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

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

Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center (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 (FUNDOG)
Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel
Email: info@fundogsf.org
Website: www.fundogsf.org

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

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

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@jibewl245.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.NoeValleyMerchants.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
Contact: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings announced via Facebook group. See website for details.

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

San 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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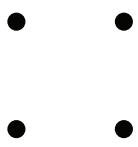
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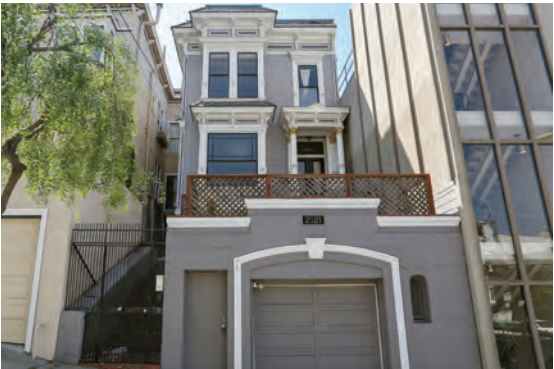
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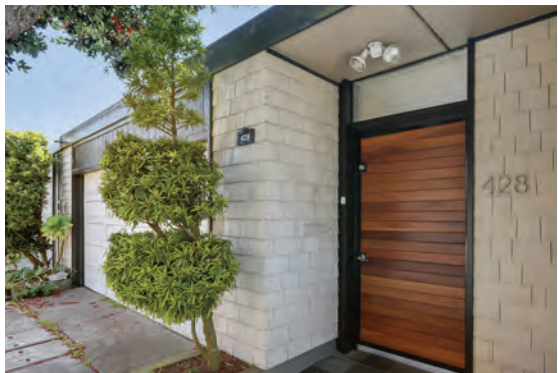
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Pacific Heights Single Family Home
5 BED | 5.5 BATH | 1 PARKING



Bernal Heights SFR w/Income Unit
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Diamond Heights View Home
3 BED | 3 BATH | 2 PARKING



Eureka Valley Victorian Condo
2-3 BED | 1 BATH | 1 PARKING



Hip Inner Mission Loft
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Recently Sold



210 Chattanooga Street
3 BED | 2 BATH | SOLD FOR \$2,200,000
Received 5 offers in 4 days!



559 Jersey Street
3 BED | 2 BATH | SOLD FOR \$2,500,000
Sold for \$1,291 per square foot!



2115 Castro Street
3 BED | 2 BATH | SOLD FOR \$2,150,000
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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Total Eclipse of the News

By Mazook

WELCOME BACK to Noe Valley, all of you who have been off on summer holidays, junkets, expeditions, getaways, or just plain away. Buckle your seatbelts and let’s cruise the latest news in the neighborhood.

Starting with Upper Noe Valley... Uh-oh, do you all know exactly where “Upper Noe Valley” is?

It actually is one of the oldest neighborhoods in San Francisco, below Fairmount Heights, which was mapped for subdivision in the early 1860s. I have noticed over the years that many people living in Fairmount think they live in Glen Park—but I digress.

The metes and bounds of Upper Noe are “Cesar Chavez to 30th Street, and San Jose Avenue up to Diamond Heights Boulevard,” according to the words of Vicki Rosen (1949-2015), who ran Upper Noe Neighbors for 25 years.

Anyway, in Upper Noe on Aug. 8, Sharon Ardiana and co-owner Greg Hinds opened the doors of their Italian/Mediterranean restaurant Ardiana, in the space at 1781 Church last occupied by La Nebbia. This is Ardiana’s third restaurant in San Francisco—the others are Gialina in Downtown Glen Park and Ragazza over on Divisadero—and already it’s got a five-star rating on Yelp.

“I absolutely love it in this neighborhood,” says Ardiana, “and meeting many new people in addition to people who have gone to our other restaurants and live in the neighborhood.”

Ardiana moved to San Francisco “right after the quake of ’89,” from Philadelphia, Pa., where she graduated from the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. She currently resides “in the Mission, so it is very close by.”

Ardiana says she wanted to open a restaurant at the Star Bakery site many years ago, but was not successful in leasing the space.

While her pizza gets rave reviews, she notes the most popular items at Ardiana are the For the Table dishes, served with warm pita bread. They include combinations like pickled baby beets, orange blossom yogurt, pistachios, and mint; smashed avocado, Meyer lemon, Aleppo pepper, chili oil, and toasted sesame; roasted eggplant dip, pomegranate molasses, Greek yogurt, and mint; and carrot hummus, black tahini, watermelon radish, and sumac. Prices for these small plates are \$7 each, three for \$19, or five for \$31. “The Whole Shabang” (six dishes) can be had for \$37. The restaurant also serves salads, halibut, lamb chops, and “coffee-brown-sugar-rubbed beef short rib.”

Ardiana’s doors are open Tuesday through Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m. (later on Friday and Saturday). Looks like this is an eatery where they will come from all over, so best to make a reservation at 415-926-5062 or online at ardianasf.com/reservations.



MEATS AND BOUNDS: Near the corner of 29th and Church is the Drewes Building, named for the butcher shop that had been operating there since 1878. The current butcher, Baron’s Meats, this summer added shelves stocked with grocery items like pasta, pickles, and sauces, including a variety from Michael’s of Brooklyn.

As far as filling the shelves, manager Lazarus Gereke-Covacaud is happy to take suggestions. Mine was Pickapeppa Sauce. Hopefully, the deli will start selling their famous sandwiches.

Moving up 29th Street to the corner of Sanchez, the long-closed Bom Dia grocery had the same For Sale sign that was posted at the end of May. The business is for sale, along with all the fixtures and equipment, the stock in trade, and the leasehold, which includes extra garage space. Steven Gerry of Noe Valley’s Zephyr Real Estate represents the seller, who says the asking price is

\$279,000.

“We actually are currently in negotiations with a prospective buyer,” says Gerry. The monthly rent on the lease, by the way, is \$8,000.



WHEN THE MOON HITS YOUR EYE: Back up Church (across Cesar Chavez), we find the remnants of a pizza parlor that was vying to open in the former space of Fat-toush, at 1361 Church near Clipper.

In a Jan. 3 blog item, Noe Valley SF reported Sasa’s Pizza was taking over the location. Apparently, it was trying to open without permits, and after complaints were filed, the city learned at the end of last year that a wood-burning pizza oven had been installed on the premises.

Eviction notices were taped on the front door relating to an SF Superior Court lawsuit filed Aug. 4, which revealed that Sasa’s owners, Maurizio Iantorno and Salvatore DiStefano, had rented the space in September of 2016 and allegedly stopped paying rent (\$5,600 a month) in March of this year.

The building owner’s lawyer, Daniel Bornstein, would comment only that they are “confident about the case and hope a viable business will be there shortly.”

As you might know, these “unlawful detainer” proceedings are quickly judged, and the real goal is a judgment giving the owner the right of possession, which usually happens about 30 days after filing the lawsuit. Stay tuned, as we will be updating this next month.



TO BE, OR NOT TO BE: Last month a sign was posted on the entrance to Caskhouse, the popular pub at 3853 24th St. at Vicksburg. “Sorry, but we will be closed tonight. Hamlet is open down the street, though. Check out the menus below... Cheers, John [Dampeer].”

When initially contacted, Dampeer said, “We want to go in a new direction at Caskhouse, and are trying to figure that out right now.” He said he realized that it was hard to compete with himself, with the same menus, and “having two very similar bars a block away from each other doesn’t make sense.”



A newsrack in the Noe Valley Town Square has a shelf for the *Noe Valley Voice* and a shelf for a book exchange. The rule is: Leave one, take one. But the Voice you can take home.

Photo by Jack Tipple

As we were going to press, it appeared that Dampeer’s new plan was to close Caskhouse completely. SFeater.com (Caleb Pershan, Aug. 25) reported that the owner explained, “It’s a natural progression. We’ve transitioned the whole vibe over to Hamlet.”

There was progression indeed at Hamlet on Aug. 19, when almost 200 people showed up for a Cellarmaker Brewing Company “mini-tap takeover.” The brewery, at 1150 Howard St., specializes in hop-driven beers.

According to the *Chronicle*, which covered the event, Hamlet was serving “one of [Cellarmaker’s] two Monkish collaboration double IPAs, the ‘Keeping the Family Together.’ In fact, they’ll do you one better; the bar is throwing that beer into a cask along with pineapple and Aleppo peppers, meaning it’s the only place you’ll be able to try that variation on the brew.” Cheers!

After almost 10 years, the Cardio-Tone fitness center has vacated the 3813 24th St. space. As all you cardio folks know, Cardio-Tone also has a large space in Upper Noe

Valley, on the corner of Church and Day streets.

There may be a For Rent sign posted at the 24th Street location by the time you read this. The monthly rent was rumored to be “in the low sevens,” but could not be confirmed.

And then there was the For Rent sign on the windows of where See Jane Run had a long run (3910 24th). After 16 years, the fitness clothing store vacated the premises about a year ago. I’m sorry to report the new building owner is staying mum about the rent they are asking for the space.

Meanwhile, Verizon plans to open a new store in Noe Valley by the end of this year. The company has leased the storefront of the late Radio Shack (which had a short-lived run sharing the space with Sprint and closed up earlier this year, after the Radio Shack chain’s bankruptcy). According to building owner Diane Connell, Verizon will be installing all new fixtures in the space, at 4049 24th St.



WAKE UP, LITTLE SUSHI: Downtown Noe Valley’s Saru Sushi restaurant at 3856 24th has been declared by SFist’s Jay Barmann one of the “18 Best Sushi Spots in SF,” which explains why folks line up early every day for lunch and dinner. Says Barmann, “Fish is flown in from around the globe, they’re super uptight about their three kinds of soy sauce, and the rice—oh, the rice—is seasoned with a red vinegar called akazu which prohibits the use of too much sugar.”

Umpqua Bank doled out scoops of creamy confection at its Free Ice Cream Happy Hour on Friday, Aug. 11. Umpqua said it was “giving back to the community by giving happiness in a cup of Mitchell’s Ice Cream to everyone in the community that [came] in.”



DUCK, DONALD, DUCK: The rubber ducks returned to Noe Valley the morning of Saturday, Aug. 26, a big demonstration day in the city. The quackers were lined up and down Sanchez Street and on 24th Street at the intersection, to the bemusement of the crowds going to the Farmers Market that sunny morning.

We still don’t know who’s behind the duck parades—this was at least the third one this year. But they could be a form of protest. As noted here in the July issue, the rubber ducks have become a symbol of protest in Russia, and of anti-corruption in Ukraine, Serbia, and Brazil.



KUDOS GO OUT to Noe Valley Farmers Market and NV Merchants & Professionals Association board member Regina Faustine (professional moniker Regina Starr Ridley), who was recently named executive director of Bay Nature Institute. Local activist Charlie Spiegel says, “Regina spearheaded the merchants’ parking lot [option] during the Noe Valley Town Square construction and has supported numerous political projects by the Noe Valley Farmers Market.”

Ridley describes Bay Nature as a “non-profit [that] inspires our Bay Area community to learn about and explore the nature of the Bay. Attention to and protection of our beautiful open space is more important now than ever with current threats from the new Administration.”



IT WAS DO-SI-DO at the Town Square Dance held the last sun-drenched Sunday afternoon in August. “About 300 people are here,” said a smiling Leslie Crawford, coordinator for the event. Folks gathered at 4 p.m., and pies were eaten. Square dance lessons started at 5, and by 6 p.m., it was allemande left and promenade right. Very cool.

However, there was a tiny controversy pre-dance when Rec and Park failed to approve the children’s pie-eating contest. “They said it would be too messy, so the contest could not be permitted in the park.” Aw, heck.

“Everything turned out great, though,” Crawford said. “Quite simply, we moved the contest to the public sidewalk, and it turned out to be big success. After the contest, we cleaned up the ‘mess,’ and the sidewalk was even cleaner.”

Back in July, Town Square coordinator Crawford had a box installed in the northeast corner of the square, next to the bulletin

board. The bottom shelf is for books, the top is for—you guessed it—the *Noe Valley Voice*. For the true lit, the rule is: Leave a book, take a book.

Readers can take or leave (so to speak) the *Noe Valley Voice*, which is also found at Whole Foods, the library, the rec center, and in various stores as well as in some pedestals along 24th Street.



LOOK BOTH WAYS: Just learned the city’s transportation planning department (SFMTA) is set to consider two Noe Valley items at its Sept. 1 meeting. First, it plans to install a stop sign on Liberty Street, east-bound, at Noe Street, “stopping the stem of this T-intersection.” Second, the agency is poised to establish residential permit parking (two-hour, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday) except for vehicles with Area Z permits, on both sides of 24th Street between Dolores and Chattanooga streets (the 3700 block). Area Z residents, your thoughts?



PATCH KIT COUNTY: The burgeoning bike-rider population now has a repair station available at Whole Foods, for free, located at the northeast corner of the parking lot.

The apparatus, called “Fixit,” has all the tools needed to do basic bike repairs and maintenance, including the hanger arms, pump, and accessories. There’s a QR barcode which takes smart phone users to a bike repair website.

“A lot of people are using the repair station,” says the store’s co-manager, Melanie Holt, “and we see many coming to our customer service desk where they can get patch kits, which we offer free, to fix their flat tires.” You can also borrow a bike lock while you shop.

And shop you will, now that Amazon’s \$14 billion buyout of Whole Foods has been okayed by federal regulators. Just as Amazon promised, on the last Monday in August prices of many staples and produce items dropped. In the meat counter, New York steaks dropped to \$14.99 a pound. The key is to look for the orange price tags on the shelves.



START THE PRESSES: Cliché Noe Gifts on 24th near Diamond has partnered with local non-profit SFMade to create a pop-up section in the store with products actually made in SF. Owner Dani Sheehan-Meyer said the SFMade brands featured at the August launch were Rickshaw Bags, Spicer Bags, Bert’s Bites, Charles Chocolates, Henry’s Coffee, Heliotrope, elizabethW, and Jamnation. She says the partnership is the first one of its kind to offer a permanent destination with a rotating selection of brands made in San Francisco. She and SFMade are hoping “it will serve as a model for other neighborhoods.”

Behind Cliché Noe (the shop) is one of the few operating printing presses in San Francisco. Operated by Fred Meyer, whose grandfather Albert Meyer started the business and passed it to his son Robert Meyer, the thing dates back to 1932. Robert Meyer had closed down the presses in 1996.

Fred, who was a San Francisco fireman from 1977 until he retired in 2007, started the presses up again about six years ago. He prints up letterheads, business cards, NCR forms, one- or two-color brochures, newsletters, and takeout menus.

“My dad did a lot of printing for the trades, from newsletters to timecards and also printed beer labels for many of the large breweries that used to be located in San Francisco,” Meyer says.

The Meyers’ house was built by Fred’s great-grandfather John Meyer (aka J.A. Meyer). J.A. Meyer built the first automobile in California, the Pioneer, in his machine shop on the ground floor of the house at 4181 24th. In 1897, he rolled it out to 24th Street and took a spin. The machine shop later became the home of the printing presses.



THAT’S ALL, Y’ALL. Have a great autumnal equinox and look for us to land back on your planet in October, the beginning of the “holiday season”—can ya believe it? Ciao for now.