



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

New Sand Poured, Gravel for Dog Run Coming Next

Friends Groups Lobby for Repairs to Upper Noe Rec

By Matthew S. Bajko

Ten years ago this September, dog owners and their canine companions christened an upgraded dog run area at the Upper Noe Recreation Center. Known as Joby's Run, the play space for neighborhood pooches sported better entranceways, new foliage, and a special surface material that didn't leave paws dirty.

Barbara Amato regularly brings her 6-year-old mini-Australian shepherd, Annie Oakley, to the dog run. She told the *Voice* that the dog run "has been a wonderful park" since its restoration in 2008.

A core group of volunteers, she added, has watched over the run.

"It is a gathering place, like a little village here," said Amato.

But the dog park is now showing its age due to a decade of use and of weathering the elements. The irrigation system needs repairs, and most significantly, the



Ready to Dive Into. Kids and their caregivers appreciate the refreshing of the giant sandbox at Upper Noe Rec Center. Photo by Art Bodner

granite scattered around the dog run has worn away and needs to be replaced.

The Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG) estimates the work will cost roughly \$10,000. It has been lobbying the city's Recreation and Park Department to allocate funding for

the repairs so the upgrades can be in place prior to the 10th anniversary of the rec center's rebirth this fall.

"What gets off people's radar is keeping up this park," said Chris Faust, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Preschool Owner Loses Home to Wildfires

Outpouring of Support From Noe Community

By Heidi Anderson

Last year, the staff at Moldovan Academy celebrated 10 years by giving back to the community. Each month for 10 months, the school worked to create awareness and encourage support for a deserving Bay Area organization.

Unfortunately, the owner of the preschool would wind up needing a great deal of support too, once the campaign ended.

"I'm here to tell you," says Kathleen Moldovan, the school's founder. "I've learned first-hand that life is about love."

Tucked quietly into the Bethany United Methodist Church building on Sanchez Street, Moldovan Academy serves children ages 2 to 5 from Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods. The site was established five years ago.

The school's brightly lit rooms currently

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Jennifer Katz's Talking Points

Speech Therapist Helps Children Learn Their ABCs

By Matthew S. Bajko

For Kai Diamond, it was a frustration he encountered nearly every day. When asked what his name was, the 4-year-old would stumble over the first letter of his first name.

So, rather than saying Kai, he would pronounce his name as Tai.

"It is kind of hard when your name is Kai and you can't do the K sound," said his mother, Melissa Barger.

At age 2, Kai, who has his father's last name, was not as talkative as other children. He had only eight words, recalled Barger, so the couple took Kai to speech language pathologist Jennifer Katz's practice in Noe Valley on the recommendation of the family's pediatrician.

Outside of the therapy sessions, Kai would be given homework to do to help him improve his vocabulary.

"When we would be playing, I would prompt him with certain words," recalled Barger. "If we were playing with train tracks, I would try to say the word 'track' and wait until he said 'track.' He graduated out of that pretty quickly. He got a burst of language, so we stopped going."

Since the earlier sessions were successful, Barger brought Kai back last fall when she noticed he was having difficulty pronouncing his name. Kai also would struggle with the letter G when talking. Within weeks of working again with his speech therapist, Kai had mastered both letters.

In February, when a reporter asked him to name his favorite word, Kai said his first name, "Kai." As for whether he liked



The Sound Heard Round the Square. Group drumming and dancing (some drums provided) livens the Noe Valley Town Square on the second and fourth Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. The above photo is from the inaugural event on March 25. Photo by Art Bodner

seeing his speech therapist, he smiled and nodded yes, though he didn't like the voice on his parents' cellphones. When it came to sounding out the alphabet and practicing his speech, Kai said he found it "easy" to learn.

It is not uncommon for children as young as 2 to have difficulty pronouncing certain letters, said Katz, 46, who has been advising Noe Valley families for a dozen years.

Many struggle to properly pronounce the letters R and S, even as old as 5 or 6 years of age, she said. Eventually, they will master the consonants without the

need of seeing a speech therapist.

"The general rule of thumb," said Katz, is a child at age 3 should be 75 percent intelligible with their speech to people they don't know. By age 4, 90 percent of what they say should be easy to understand. If they aren't meeting those thresholds, they may need to see a speech therapist, said Katz.

"So, if you are at the park and are still playing translator, that is a reason to call," she said. "Any loss of language is a reason to call. For me, so much of it is maintaining a child's self-confidence."

In instances like Kai's, when a child

may be embarrassed or upset with their inability to say certain letters, Katz feels it often makes sense for them to start speech therapy at an earlier age.

"When a kid is asked how old they are and what their name is, if they can't say their age or name, they may feel bad about themselves," said Katz. "In making that decision if they should come in, we have several questions we go through with the parents. Even if our gut decision is to wait and the parent is concerned, that itself is important. We want to give that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

OPENSFHISTORY



A Noe Tradition: Kids and Pets. Could it have been Bring a Pet to School Day when this photo was snapped circa 1920 on Elizabeth Street near Douglass, across from then Noe Valley School, now Noe Courts Park? More likely it was Take a Pet Home, Can We Please? *Photo courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

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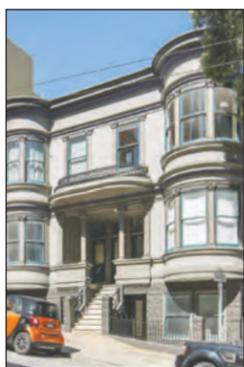
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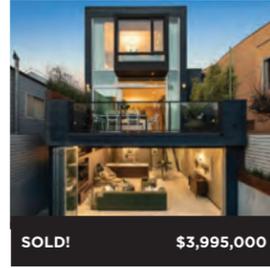
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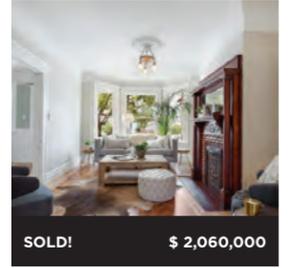


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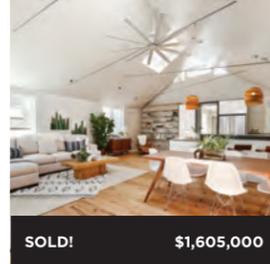
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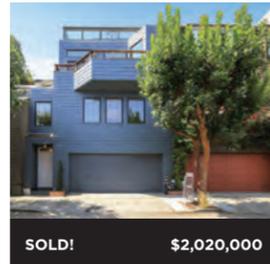
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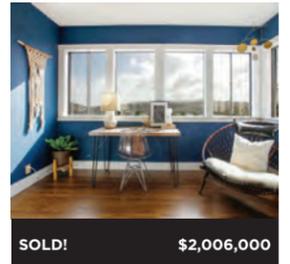
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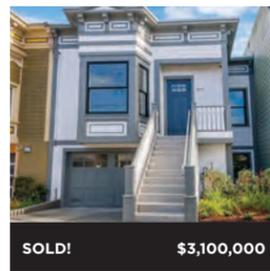
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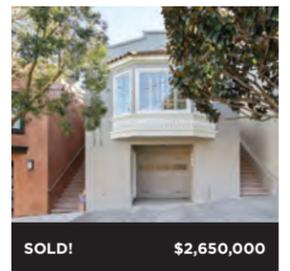
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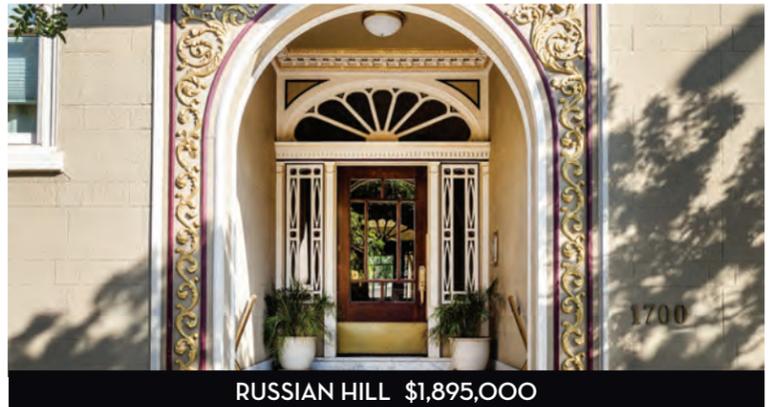
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LETTERS

Politically Energized

Editor:

As a member of ActionSF, our own Noe Valley political action group, I was pleased to see Tim Simmers' article on the front page of your March issue ["Activists Take to the Road"]. In addition to pursuing specific action items we agree on at every meeting, contacting our Congresspeople (Feinstein, Harris, Pelosi), and meeting our neighbors at the Saturday Farmers Market, we participate as a group in various marches and demonstrations. This group has lots of energy and keeps us from feeling depressed or helpless. The resistance is IN!

Kristin Anundsen

Word Week Turns a Page

Editor:

As chair of Noe Valley Word Week, I'd like to thank everyone who came to our eight events March 4-10, the authors and speakers at these events, and the commit-

tee which worked since September to make the 2018 festival happen. Kim Shuck, San Francisco Poet Laureate, organized the children's poetry event, Susan Kroll the Obi Kaufmann appearance and Therapy Animals Change Lives, Wayne Goodman Queer Words and International Literary Cuisine, Maxine Einhorn Language & Power: Celebrating International Women's Day, Mary Jo McConahay and Dani Sheehan-Meyer Memoir & Prosecco, and Marylee McNeal and Dani Sheehan-Meyer, who worked with me on the Authors Festival, as well as Susan Dambroff, Cara Black, and Brandon Brown, who each provided good ideas and worked to realize them.

Word Week is a project of Friends of Noe Valley. Most of us on the committee are authors who live in the neighborhood. Others work at bookstores. Still others are avid readers.

If you're interested in helping create the 2019 festival, we begin work this September with brainstorming event ideas. Everyone is welcome. Please contact me at wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com.

All the best,
 Rick May

Shooting the Messenger

Editor:

I am a longtime 21st Street resident who has been having a problem with one of my neighbors. This person, whom I will call "Mark," is constantly asking me questions about personal things, like where I went to high school or what my favorite kind of turtle is. He claims he wants to "update my profile," but I have already stood there and turned sideways for him to see for himself. "Mark" insists I must know certain people he mentions, and wants me to contact them and ask to be friends with them. When I ignore him, he just keeps on asking, every single day, about the same people.

He wants me to take quizzes that will tell what breed of dog represents my personality, and he asks me for photos of what I had for dinner last night. Then, out of the blue, he suggests I should shop for candles at World Market or that I have to stop everything I'm doing and go look at a video of a moose. I never know how to respond, and frankly, I have been avoiding him. Can you help me get "Mark" out of my face?

Sharon Post

THE CARTOON BY MICHAEL BLAKE



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(Hey, Pal, It's a Palindrome!)

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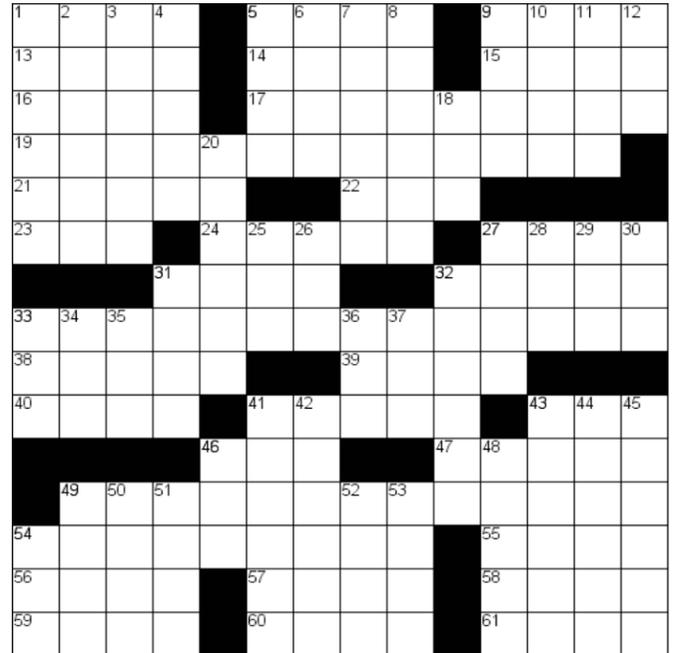
THE CROSSWORD BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN

Who What?!

Editor's Note: In observance of April Fool's Day, some Voice contributors have played a trick. Solve this puzzle to see what's different about this page.

ACROSS

- A short range
- One can put these on
- Washer cycle
- A type of bike
- Tech review website
- He warned, "Jealousy; it is the green-eyed monster..."
- "Electrifying" rock band
- You can get these at Martha's and Bernie's
- See Editor's Note: part 1 of what's different on this page
- An Adams
- Old-time movie studio
- ten Tomatoes
- You can also get one of these at Martha's and Bernie's
- Sound of 38 across
- Carbonated beverage
- It's a great day for Brandon Crawford if he doesn't make one of these
- What's different, part 2
- Stop! Or I'll ___!
- In debt to
- A narrow cut
- A cute river animal
- Golf goal for some
- I give up! It's no ___.
- A photo
- What's different, part 3
- Spock wasn't this
- A kind of skirt
- You can play this in



- the water or on horses, but not at the same time
- Norwegian capital
- Terminations
- "Toy Story" kid
- It can be in the wool
- Absolutely perfect in detail

DOWN

- James Cameron movie
- crat
- Most elderly
- Big sport in North Beach
- One who does well on tests
- Part of MIT (abbrev.)
- We ___ You decide.
- One of these can be a bad thing
- i me gusta! i me gusta!
- Your posse can head them off here
- ___ it!
- Kids hear these a lot
- Rock musician and crossword staple
- 110% or a Japanese manga series
- This tool may appear in crossword puzzles more than in real life
- Cartoon character's nickname
- Forty Pitt
28. Forty days and nights of rain and you'll need this
- Spanish owner of 28 down
- Don't make me angry!
- Out, out damned ___ or what you might call your dog
- Chef Lagasse
- Beast of burden
- Gretzky played in this league
- Backward marriage vow
- Often vacant parcel of land
- She sheep
- CBS radio commentator with his own file
- Reallllly small
- Actor Al
- Republicans have one. So do Democrats.
- Darth Vader tells Luke it's useless to do this
- Short for a one-wheeled vehicle
- Playwright David
- Puh-leeeeeaaase?
- Know when to ___ 'em
- Stop playing with that! It's not ___!
- A Carnegie
- Trudge
- Scott Pruitt runs this org.

Solution on Page 28



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Developers Pull, Delay Projects

79 28th and 505 Grand View

By Matthew S. Bajko

Two development projects that have caused consternation in the neighborhood are facing uncertain fates.

The owner of 79 28th St. pulled his permit request to add a backyard extension that was opposed by his neighbors and the current tenants of the house. As the *Voice* reported in February, Gene Kristul had bought the property with plans to move his family into the house and was in the process of evicting the longtime occupants, Michael and Connie Juarez.

But Kristul, president of Saxe Mortgage Company, withdrew his plans in late February. He did not respond to questions on what he now plans to do with the property.

Michael Juarez told the *Voice* in mid-March that he was unsure of his landlord's plans and that they were still fighting their eviction notice. Ken Hoegger, the owner of an adjacent property who

had contested Kristul's proposed remodel, also said it was unclear what would now happen with the property.

"I am feeling, whichever way Kristul goes, we are going to fight it," said Hoegger.

Meanwhile, the owner of 505 Grand View Ave. is seeking more time before returning to the city's planning commission for approval of his remodel plans. In the fall, the oversight body rejected Otto Miller's request to add a fourth floor for an owner's townhouse. It also told his representatives to return March 1 with revised designs for a quartet of new rental units in the apartment building's lower levels.

The current tenants, as well as the San Francisco Tenants Union, had fought the proposal because it would displace the tenants for a year or more. The planning commissioners shared their concerns and requested that Miller's architect find a way to seismically upgrade the six-unit, rent-controlled apartment building, constructed in 1961, and build the four additional dwelling units with as little impact on the existing tenants as possible.

The planning commission is expected to revisit the project in June. ■

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Doing the Hard Work



We have poor, mentally unstable, addicted human beings living on our streets, it costs our city hundreds of millions a year, and we are still failing to fix the problem. All of us have had enough.

Homelessness is the biggest concern in this upcoming Mayoral election, and it should be. The homeless crisis diverts money and resources away from their primary purposes, while shifting spending and staffing priorities from where they should be.

Police Officers spend their day acting as social workers, when they should be policing. Department of Public Works serves as a disposal company, when its employees should spend their days beautifying the City and maintaining it.

I fixed homelessness before and I will do it again as your next Mayor, because we need to end this crisis now. As Heather Knight's recent *SF Chronicle* article explained—My Ten-Year Plan moved 11,362 homeless adults into permanent supportive housing.

San Francisco Chronicle

"...the city's "Ten Year Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness," an initiative begun by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004 and crafted by a council headed by Alioto.

"By 2014, the city had moved 11,362 homeless single adults into permanent supportive housing. Another 8,806 were given bus tickets home to receptive family members or friends through the city's Homeward Bound program.

(Hey, any real politician would have taken credit for those, too. Come on, Angela!)

"Obviously, all that effort was great, but it made little dent in the city's stubborn, increasingly in-your-face homeless population. Alioto says that's exactly why she wants voters to send her to Room 200 in June.

"She thinks the city's much-hyped Navigation Centers — more relaxed, service-rich homeless shelters — are OK, but the city needs to focus far more on permanent housing solutions so people don't wind up back on the streets.

"Or you might as well just throw the money away," Alioto said, adding she would focus her first 100 days as mayor on cleaning the streets and moving those in tents inside.

"It would be me actually doing the hard work, and it is hard work," she said.

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Dog Run Needs Spiffing Up, Say Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chairs the stewardship committee for the group Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center (FNVRC). “It is part of the critical first impression for people looking to move here.”

The booster group for the rec center raises funds for the park and assists with its upkeep. It recently raised \$1,000 to pay for 11 tons of play sand to refresh the tot lot in the children’s play area in the Sanchez Street side of the property.

Over the years, the Friends and dog owners groups have also raised money to improve Joby’s Run. Two years ago, for instance, they installed a gate to make it easier to keep the dogs in certain sections of the dog park.

The main section is at the end of the recreation center property closest to Church Street. But another, slimmer section of the dog run wraps around the athletic field and over to the middle section of the rec center property, which has its main entrance at 295 Day St. Prior to installation of the gate, the layout had made it difficult to keep an eye on one’s dog when it could run around the entire space.

Near the dog park’s internal gate is a shaded sitting area at the end of a wrap-around concrete pathway adjacent to an L-shaped dog play area. Like the larger dog run space, it too is in need of additional granite material. Without it, puddles of standing water form when it rains and the turf no longer has a protective cover. What’s left is yellow adobe clay, which tends to cling to dogs’ feet.

Extra-Fine Gravel Preferred

While the dog run surface appears to be dirt or sand, it is actually decomposed granite. The Friends group has told rec and park officials that about three inches of a high-quality version of the material, called Ginger Path Fines, is needed to spread around the entire dog run surface area.

“If we had decomposed granite here, the puddles would be under it, so you could walk over it,” said Faust, as he showed off the conditions of the dog run in the morning of Sunday, March 4, accompanied by his 12-year-old mini-border collie, Grover. “It should be flush with the concrete walkway.”

Dog owners have dubbed the main dog run area “the pig lot” because of the mud puddles that now form there when it rains.

“We are down to the last inch or half-inch of decomposed granite until we get down to the clay,” said Faust.

Amato said the current conditions are “filthy and slippery. It is not a pleasant atmosphere for anybody. Anybody who goes here gets dirty, both the dogs and the dog owners.”

The Friends groups do not want to see rec and park install synthetic turf at Joby’s



After a week of rainy weather in March, local canines were eager to sniff and stretch at Joby’s Dog Run, despite the poor condition of the park’s gravel surface.

Photo by Art Bodner

Run as is being done at the nearby Walter Haas Dog Play Area up the hill off Diamond Heights Boulevard. They also do not want to see rec and park gardeners apply the red infield mix that is used for baseball baselines.

“That red stuff has a lot of clay; it is messy, too light to be stable for our use, and is not a hygienic solution,” Faust explained.

The dog owners prefer the fine granite material to artificial grass or other types of gravel because they contend it is more sanitary and doesn’t adhere to the paws of the dogs. But for the material to work properly, it needs to be watered on a regular basis.

That became an issue during the recent drought years, although Faust argued it doesn’t require that much water to ensure the decomposed granite is clean and kept in place. The six sprinkler heads in the dog run, however, do not function properly due to an electrical connection issue, he said.

“Twenty minutes, four times a week, would be enough,” Faust said of the watering needs.

A Local Fur Favorite

District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy supports the dog owners’ funding request and brought it up during a meeting March 19 with Recreation and Park general manager Phil Ginsburg. Sheehy told the *Voice* he is “hopeful” the work can be done by September.

“We are looking specifically to make that happen,” said Sheehy, who lives not that far from the recreation center in Glen Park. “It is a great dog park. There is a community of people and their dogs that make heavy use of that park, so we should keep it in the best position as possible.”

Sheehy said Ginsburg didn’t seem to have heard about the condition of the dog run when he brought it up during their meeting. He added that Ginsburg didn’t raise any objections to the funding request either.

Connie Chan, rec and park’s deputy director of communications and public relations, told the *Voice* a week later the work was scheduled to begin in the spring and should be completed by the fall.

“The Department has been working closely with the Friends of Upper Noe Valley to improve the Dog Play Area,” Chan wrote in an email.

According to Faust, in early March city gardeners did inspect the irrigation system. He also said that Carol Sionkowski, the park services manager who was recently given oversight of the area that includes the Noe Valley rec center, had informed the Friends she was working on getting more decomposed granite for the dog park but wanted to make sure the watering system was working before it was applied.

“We are pleased that she is listening to our input and that she is considering our experience,” Faust said. ■



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Valley Views



As our rainy season comes to a close, we find we didn't get the normal amount of precipitation. But though clouds make for dramatic and colorful skies, it's nice to see a rainbow.

Photo by John Peters

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Lessons From the Wildfires: Love And Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shelter 45 children during the day. Moldovan says she is proud of what she has grown in the neighborhood, and proud of her staff.

“Over here is our tiger,” she says, pointing to teacher Wanda Lee. “She gets things done.”

“There’s Summer [Manqueros]. Don’t tell anyone, but I think she’s their favorite,” Moldovan says in a dramatic whisper as she winks at giggling kids.

She then points to Haydee Caliboso. “My director. I absolutely could not do this without her.”

“Gone. Completely Gone.”

The night of Oct. 21, 2017, unfolded for Moldovan and her family like it did for thousands of other Sonoma Valley residents.

“At 11:30 p.m., my husband Jason and I smelled smoke. We looked online, saw there was a fire in Napa Valley, and went back to bed.”

Jason woke her up a few hours later. “Honey, come look,” he said.

By that time, says Moldovan, they both could see police cars coming up the long hill where they and 14 other families lived.

“The cops said, ‘You guys gotta get out of here.’”

Moldovan, her husband, and her 14-year-old stepson, Dylan, grabbed clothes for the next day, plus a few other things for a night away from home.

“Once we got down the hill and saw horse trailers evacuating, I realized much more was happening.”

Moldovan says that night she still figured life would get back to normal in a day or two.

But as the firefighting continued for weeks, she realized how *not* normal things would become.

“We have a friend who works for the County of Sonoma,” says Moldovan. “He was working up near our property. He sent us photos. Gone. Completely gone.” Her home of a year and seven months had been completely destroyed.



Moldovan Academy owner Kathleen Moldovan takes a quick break in the school's main room at Bethany Church. She says, thanks to her wonderful staff, the school ran smoothly while she moved her family from hotels to rentals and more, after her Sonoma home was destroyed in the October 2017 Northern California wildfires. Photo by Heidi Anderson

The family began moving from one hotel room to another to accommodate their dogs and the growing need for long-term housing.

In Survival Mode

Moldovan, who is typically on site at the Noe location three days a week, recalls how understanding her Academy staff were.

“I told them what was happening, and they were just like, ‘Stay up there. You do what you have to. We’ve got this.’”

Nevertheless, she drove down to the

school’s open house a few days after her evacuation, stopping in Truckee to buy some clothes to wear for the evening.

“I was in survival mode, you know. I knew I just needed to show up and get it done.”

After that, she settled down enough to email her staff and students’ families to let them know what had happened. And the outpouring of love began.

“People immediately started asking what we needed. I checked with my [Sonoma] neighbors to find out what they needed too, and then passed along a list.”

When she got to the school a few days later, the lobby was “a mountain of things. So many things. Socks, towels, suitcases, dishes, sheets, pillows, blankets. Even dental floss.”

Up in Sebastopol, where she and her family had begun renting a furnished home owned by one of her students’ families—“a haven for our frayed nerves,” she calls it—Moldovan set up a “store” for other displaced Sonoma residents.

All You Need Is...

While all the replacing of things was important, the event revealed something Moldovan and her neighbors yearned for even more.

“They all came and got what they needed. But I could see that what they really needed was community.”

She says she saw a quietness settling over her neighbors “and an unquestioned sense of peace and cooperation.”

In a thank-you letter to all who had donated, Moldovan described how healing the store event had been.

“We all came together to help each other with issues regarding the cleanup, rebuilding and restoring water to our 14-house community,” her letter read.

Reflecting upon it now, she draws another big conclusion from what she and her neighbors have been through.

“Fight for that universal love,” she says. “It’s the most important thing we can pass along to our kids.”

“All we need is love.” Moldovan laughs at the unplanned Beatles song reference. “I know that’s corny. But it really is true.”

To drive her point home, she adds: “L-O-V-E.”

The Voice checked in with Moldovan in late March. She reported she and her family had just moved to a rental house in Novato. As for conditions in Sonoma, “Unfortunately, everything is moving so slowly for everyone. Our neighbors are all scattered about the North Bay, so there is not a lot of cohesiveness right now. Everyone is just trying to figure out their next steps. Several are timing out of their six-month leases and looking for housing. We have heard that several of our neighbors are most likely not going to rebuild due to high building costs. We are going to wait for a couple of years to see if the prices go down.” Best of luck.

Editor’s Note: Preschool owner Kathleen Moldovan, whose home was destroyed in last fall’s wildfires in Sonoma, sent this letter of gratitude to her school community on Oct. 31, 2017.

Dear Moldovan Families & Teachers:

I am sending you a BIG thank you from all my neighbors and myself for all the donations... We set up a “women’s and men’s department” with all your donations. Honestly, everyone was completely surprised by how much there was to choose from. They all left with big bags full of clothes, towels, jackets, shoes and other useful things. You guys are all greatly appreciated by everyone here in Santa Rosa!!! THANK YOU!!!

The gathering we had was both healing and helpful. We all came together to help each other with issues regarding the cleanup process, rebuilding and restoring water to our 14-house community. There are about three to four neighbors who are choosing not to rebuild, including our 92-year-old neighbor, Beryl. Fortunately, we were able to find her a nice place to live in Oakmont. It is estimated that it will take about three years or more to rebuild our neighborhood... mainly because we are so rural. The next step for all of us is to tackle the cleanup process.

Thank you for all the gift cards, presents, handmade cards, really nice clothes and household items. I also wanted to say thank you for all the Target gift cards, especially from Tawny’s class and the teachers. You guys are very thoughtful.

It was really nice to see everyone Friday at the Halloween party. For the next few weeks Friday will be my regular day to come in. I look forward to seeing everyone! I especially miss your kids!

Kathleen Moldovan
Owner/Executive Director
Moldovan Academy

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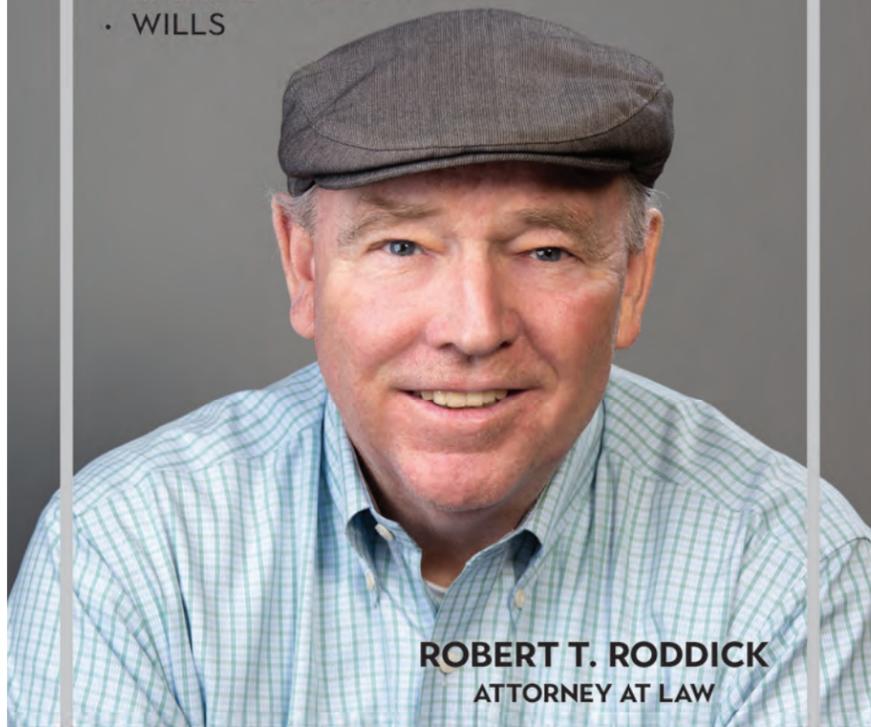
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Valley Views



It's not a bug, it's a feature. The Dubliner bar on 24th Street advertises some of the specials available within.
Photo by Jack Tipple



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Speech Therapist Jennifer Katz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

parent some peace of mind.”

Katz may or may not suggest an appointment to do an assessment of the child. “I don’t want to discount a parent’s intuition. If we determine they don’t need to come in, we can empower the parents with tips and strategies; things they can do to support their child,” said Katz.

There are the obvious, like reading to your child and modeling the correct sound. For example, saying “water” correctly instead of a babyfied version of the word, like “wawa.” Something to avoid is calling out verbal mistakes in a negative manner.

“We don’t want to haphazardly or randomly be correcting them during the day. If they could say it, they would. That just sets both of you up for frustration,” said Katz. “So, for example, if they say ‘blue tar,’ don’t yell back at them that, ‘No, that is a blue car.’ Always acknowledge a communication attempt. It is better to respond, ‘You are right, that is a blue car.’”

For those children who do need speech therapy, the length of time they would be working with a therapist varies by the individual. Those with autism, who Katz said are a growing part of her client base, may require speech therapy into adulthood, while children like Kai will age out sooner, she said.

“The typical child is like Kai, who has specific speech and language concerns. The idea is they will come to speech therapy and graduate out at some point,” said Katz. “The idea is we are able to bring them to the point where they are functioning at their maximum potential.”

Peace and Understanding

That was the case for Sherri Reifsteck, 6, who worked with a speech therapist at Katz’s practice for two and a half years.

When she was first placed with her foster, now adoptive, parents Shawn Reifsteck and Beth Kuenstler at the age of 2, Sherri was a chatterbox. But what she was saying was largely undecipherable, recalled Kuenstler, adding that it was also difficult to understand Sherri’s former foster family.

“She had significant developmental issues around her speech,” said Kuenstler.

Having been referred to Katz’s practice, it took only weeks of seeing a speech therapist for Sherri to become comprehensible. Her behavior also began to change, as she was calmer due to being able to communicate her needs.

“Even within a month, we could tell she was starting to be able to organize her thinking and putting some thoughts together. The way she was pronouncing her words, we could start to understand her,” said Kuenstler.

Sherri’s preschool classmates still found it hard to know what she was saying. But within six months of speech therapy, “she just took off,” said Kuenstler.

As her speech improved, Sherri’s relationship with her older sister, Carill Reifsteck, who is almost 10, also changed for the better.

“We used to argue a lot, but now not as much. We have arguments over little things,” said Carill. “I couldn’t really understand her.”

For Sherri, who said her favorite letter now to pronounce is S, it has been fun being able to converse with her sister.

“We talk about Harry Potter and the Descendants,” said Sherri, referring to Disney Channel musicals about the offspring of the company’s animated movie heroes.

The family had a similar experience



In the 12 years that Jennifer Katz has been in Noe Valley, she has expanded her practice to include 16 therapists. A new face on the staff is Dorothy the puppy. Photos by Pamela Gerard



Speech therapist Rachel Proudfoot (left) enjoys playing word games with client Kai Diamond, 4, who often brings his sister Ayla, 2, and mom Melissa Barger.

with Sherri’s and Carill’s younger brother, Will Reifsteck, who initially lived with Kuenstler and her husband in their Forest Hill home. They had his speech tested at age 2 and were told there weren’t any significant issues. But in preschool the other children had a hard time understanding Will, so at age 3 he began speech therapy.

“We all felt it would be beneficial and give him a leg up,” said Kuenstler, who with her husband adopted all three of the siblings. “He is still in preschool and starting kindergarten in the fall. We wanted to get that extra boost for him so there wouldn’t be issues. His friends definitely have no problems understanding him now.”

The plan is for Will, now 5 years old, to keep seeing his speech therapist through the fall. Having gone to different practitioners with other children the couple fostered, Kuenstler said she has been the most impressed with Katz and the speech therapists she employs, as they know how to best work with children.

“I have seen speech therapists who know the nuts and bolts to do speech therapy but just aren’t warm and inviting to children. If a kid is not having fun and wanting to play with them or not feeling comfortable and safe, they are never going to be able to thrive in that setting,” said Kuenstler. “Jennifer knows how to get those people and keep those people, so there is a great continuity of great people working for her.”

A New England Transplant

Katz and her scientist husband, Stephen Decker, have a 10-year-old daughter, Pearl. The family lives in Bernal Heights with their two dogs. Pearl never had any speech issues growing up.

As for Katz, who grew up in central Massachusetts, she joked that the only speech issue she had as a child was her inability to keep quiet.

“I didn’t stop talking,” Katz said.

She earned a B.A. in communication disorders at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She then received a master’s in speech language pathology from Worcester State College, now known as Worcester State University.

“In undergraduate school I knew I wanted to work with kids,” said Katz, who chose the career in her sophomore year and shadowed several speech pathologists during her time in Florida. “I was hooked.”

After Katz moved to San Francisco and first settled into Noe Valley, she opened her practice in 2006 in a basement space on Sanchez Street just off of 24th Street. No one showed up, so she had her mom call the office to make sure the phone was working.

To drum up business, she held a free consultation day and advertised it in the *Voice*. No one came, but a family walking by did inquire what her business was. When told Katz did speech therapy, the mother asked about making appointments for her four sons since they lived in Noe Valley but were seeing a speech therapist across town. The brothers were her first clients. Soon after, Katz’s busi-

ness started to grow.

“I can’t even believe people came. There was no bathroom, a steep set of stairs to climb, and no window,” recalled Katz of her original location.

Her ad in the paper had drawn the attention of a speech pathologist with an office around the corner who, at first, viewed Katz as a competitor. But one day Barbara Rockman invited her out to lunch, which led to Katz moving into her office space.

“She took me under her wing,” said Katz, who took over Rockman’s business when she retired.

At that point, Katz had opened a second location near Chloe’s Café on Church Street and soon had moved the 24th Street office to another location on Church Street near 29th. A patient’s family had provided her the financial assistance to relocate.

Despite no longer being her clients, the couple again loaned Katz the money she needed to relocate her practice in 2016 to the corner storefront at 901 Castro St. and 22nd. The site was home to a former pharmacy and later a comic store and architecture firm.

“I was very committed to staying in Noe Valley, but it was hard to find a space. So many of our families are here,” said Katz, who now also has locations in Forest Hill, Duboce Triangle, and the Western Addition.

Seeking Bilingual Therapists

She is currently accepting new clients, with openings most days between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Because early morning and after school hours are more popular, there is often a wait to see one of the 10 full-time or five part-time speech pathologists working for Katz. Services include speech, language, and “oral motor” or feeding therapies.

Currently, the practice only has English-speaking therapists. Katz is looking to hire bilingual therapists—in the past she has employed people who spoke Chinese, Spanish, Russian, and Tagalog.

Jennifer Katz, Inc., as the business is called, sees upwards of 350 families, with clients ranging in age from 2 to 22 years old. Most are between 4 and 12 years old.

For the last three years, Katz has also co-owned Coast SF, which stands for Connecting Occupational and Aerial Speech Therapy, with occupational therapist Michelle Kemper. Under one roof, their clients can get both speech and occupational therapy.

Will and Sherri Reifsteck saw both types of therapists when they started out, and Will continues to do so. Kuenstler said the OT helps the children to translate commands like brush your teeth or get dressed into actionable tasks. In Will’s case, he continues to have trouble accomplishing three tasks in a row.

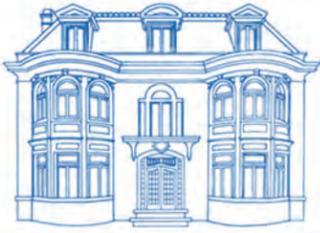
“He will do one of those steps. A series of three commands is hard for him,” Kuenstler said. “His auditory intake and being able to process it and tell his body to do that has been a real challenge.”

Having both therapists co-located makes it easier to coordinate appointments and plan out what Will needs from each one he sees, said Kuenstler.

“They give me tons of ideas and strategies. They alter their work with Will to make sure he is getting the work that he needs. That combination has been really successful for him,” she said.

Barger has recommended to other parents that they take their children to Katz’s practice. She likes that the business is up-front about the costs involved and has created an inviting atmosphere for kids. Kai’s twice-weekly, 30-minute sessions “fly by,” she said.

“It is a really positive environment where you go and have fun,” said Barger. “It feels really kid led.” ■



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Valley Views



The face of home. This 28th Street house was weathered some storms, but remains the shelter and place of hope we all look for.
Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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The Cost of Living in Noe

Four Super-Luxury Home Sales in February

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers in Noe Valley, especially those favoring the posh and palatial, purchased 12 single-family detached homes in February.

That number was three times the number sold in January and in February a year ago, according to sales data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

There also were more condominium customers this go-round. Six condos changed hands in February this year, compared to three in January and four during February of last year.

Zephyr president Randall Kostick noted there was strong demand this year from well-heeled prospective owners. Two buyers in February spent \$5.5 million each for their Noe Valley spreads. Two others dropped \$4,950,000 and \$4.9 million.

Kostick said the four big sales came as something of a surprise, because the market for high-end homes—brand-new or lavishly renovated—had seemed to evaporate in recent months. The last \$5-million-plus sale in Noe Valley occurred almost a year ago, in May 2017.

“I kind of got the feeling they couldn’t sell those houses at those prices, and things were coming down,” Kostick said. “But there are still a few of those buyers out there.”

Most of them got a lot of house for their money, even by Noe Valley standards.

There was only one two-bedroom home among the 12 that sold in February, Kostick said. “Everything else was three, four, and five bedrooms.” The largest



A backyard view of February’s top seller shows many of its modern features, including glass corner walls and a fully enclosed patio and garden.

Photos courtesy Gregg Lynn/Sotheby’s International Realty

house offered 4,785 square feet of living space.

The top seller, a hillside home in the 4300 block of Cesar Chavez Street—with five bedrooms, five baths, and 4,200 square feet of living space—sold for \$100,000 above its \$5.4 million asking price, after only 10 days on the market.

Located between Diamond and Douglas streets, the house boasted a modern rectangular design that featured light pouring through glass walls, a “great room” leading to a terraced garden, a gourmet kitchen with marble countertops and copious cabinetry, radiant floor heating, two laundry rooms, and decks with bay and downtown views. It had only enough parking for one car, however.

The four luxury home sales pushed the average value of a Noe Valley home in February to \$3.6 million, nearly double the average price last year (\$1.9 million). But that didn’t necessarily signal a trend—there were only four house sales in the 2017 sample, so be wary of its statistical significance.

Meanwhile, condominium values remained high, with an average sales price in February of \$1.6 million. (The average a year ago was \$2.2 million, but that stat is even less reliable—one condo in the group of four sold for more than \$4 million.)

The most expensive condo in February 2018 was a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit in the first block of Jersey Street, between Church and Chattanooga streets. Buyers paid the \$2,120,000 asking price.

The residence was one of two units in a two-story Spanish-Mediterranean building constructed in 1933. The unit had been remodeled, though the entry design and many of the vintage interior features were retained. Highlights of the 2,000-square-foot space were a large living room with period details, high ceilings, handcrafted arched doors and windows, a shared garden, and one-car parking.



Buyers in February paid \$5.5 million for this renovated home on Cesar Chavez Street. It has five bedrooms, five baths, and two laundry rooms.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
February 2018	12	\$2,225,000	\$5,500,000	\$3,592,167	30	107%
January 2018	4	\$1,400,000	\$4,715,000	\$2,526,250	59	114%
February 2017	4	\$1,050,000	\$2,525,000	\$1,857,250	13	121%
Condominiums/TIC						
February 2018	6	\$975,000	\$2,120,000	\$1,607,720	13	117%
January 2018	3	\$870,000	\$2,360,000	\$1,576,667	63	99%
February 2017	4	\$1,500,000	\$4,025,000	\$2,206,750	24	115%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
February 2018	3	\$2,437,500	\$2,930,000	\$2,639,167	38	97%
January 2018	1	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	0	100%
February 2017	1	\$4,975,000	\$4,975,000	\$4,975,000	223	98%
5+-unit buildings						
February 2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
January 2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 2017	1	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	49	100%

* 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. NW4/2018

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2018	Average March 2018	Average February 2018	Average March 2017
Studio	7	\$1,500 - \$2,500	\$2,171 / mo.	\$2,228 / mo.	\$2,252 / mo.
1-bdrm	31	\$2,200 - \$4,900	\$3,331 / mo.	\$3,139 / mo.	\$3,219 / mo.
2-bdrm	34	\$3,099 - \$7,000	\$4,310 / mo.	\$4,432 / mo.	\$4,396 / mo.
3-bdrm	6	\$4,500 - \$8,750	\$6,224 / mo.	\$6,040 / mo.	\$6,411 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,995 - \$22,500	\$9,191 / mo.	\$11,788 / mo.	\$8,475 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 84 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 5-12, 2018. NW4/2018

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Where front yards are scarce, a bit of creativity puts flora out where all in Noe Valley can see.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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SHORT TAKES

Green Way to Meet and Greet

The Noe Valley Garden Tour is looking for volunteer garden greeters to work a two-hour shift at one of the eight gardens that will be on beautiful display Saturday, May 19. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the tour, which runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Greeters will also be invited to a fun orientation on Wednesday, May 16, where food and drink will be provided by Umpqua Bank. Contact Linda Lockyer at Lindalockyer3@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

A project of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley, the garden tour each year donates proceeds from the event to a green project in the neighborhood. If you know of a deserving project, send a brief description to Lockyer's email as well. "All green ideas are welcome!" says Friends member Peggy Cling.

Love and Curry Without Worry

The soup kitchen Curry Without Worry is celebrating its 10th anniversary in the Noe Valley Town Square with a party on Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. It's free and open to all.

Shrawan Nepali, who founded the organization in 2006, says the event will feature 3,000-year-old traditional dances performed by local members of the Tamang community from Nepal. Nepali explains that there are 115 different ethnic groups in his native country. He identifies as Newar, the group that comes from the Kathmandu Valley. He plans to celebrate his nonprofit's anniversary each year, featuring a different Nepali ethnic group, he says.

At this year's party, the Tamang dancers will dance, then instruct the willing in some of the traditional movements. Nepali himself will perform the Newari Laughing Dance, which is merely 1,000 years old. Accompanying the festivities will be Nepali folk music, played on the *tabala* drum and the harmonium.

The dining menu will include Curry Without Worry's famous nine-sprouted-bean soup, vegetable curry, rice, bread, and *achur*, a kind of Nepali salsa made with tomatoes and hot peppers.

Why Noe Valley? For one thing, Nepali has a house here on Hoffman Avenue. Secondly, he and his team of 15 to 20 people prepare food every Tuesday in the kitchen at Bethany United



Supervisory rivals (left to right) Rafael Mandelman and Jeff Sheehy will join at least seven candidates for mayor at an April 28 candidates forum hosted by the Diamond Heights Community Association at St. Aidan's Church.



Methodist Church on Sanchez Street. After it's cooked, the food is transported to United Nations Plaza at the Civic Center and served free to all comers.

The organization also has a booth each Saturday at the Noe Valley Farmers Market at the square, 3862 24th St. By buying the food there, you are helping donate to the hungry.

Nepali says his dream is to feed people every day at a Curry Without Worry healing center, open to all. "The main ingredient in Curry Without Worry is love, with generous doses of spices!" he says.

Come Hear the Candidates

Contenders for San Francisco Mayor and District 8 Supervisor on the June 5 ballot will appear at a candidates forum sponsored by the Diamond Heights Community Association on Saturday, April 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive.

Seven of the eight candidates for mayor have confirmed they will appear, including the three leading hopefuls: London Breed, Jane Kim, and Mark Leno. Also confirming are Angela Alioto, Michelle Bravo, Richie Greenberg, and Ellen Lee Zhou.

Both District 8 challenger Rafael Mandelman and appointed incumbent Jeff Sheehy will also appear at the forum. The District 8 supervisorial district encompasses Diamond Heights, Noe Valley, Glen Park, and the Castro.

DHCA president Betsy Eddy says she will introduce the District 8 candidates. Then each will have 10 minutes to present their views and five minutes to respond to the other's presentation or wrap-up. The candidates can decide whether to take questions during their allotted time. Otherwise, there won't be a formal question-and-answer period.

The mayoral candidates will be introduced by DHCA vice president Mike Kramer. Each of the seven will have 8 to

10 minutes to make a presentation. Again, there will be no q-and-a period facilitated by DHCA.

Eddy says you do not have to be a DHCA member or Diamond Heights resident to attend. Everyone is welcome. No endorsements will be voted on at the meeting, since DHCA is a 501(C)4 organization and prohibited from political recommendations.

Authors Crowd the Calendar

Author appearances abound in April, but four stand out this month. Local activist and parent Leslie Crawford will debut her first children's book. Environmentalist Paula Ginsburg will help us celebrate Earth Day. Chef Edward Lee will share America's new blend of cooking flavors. And Judy Bebelaar and Ron Cabral will talk about their just-published book on the Jonestown massacre.

Bebelaar and Cabral will read and sign copies of *And Then They Were Gone* on April 23 at the Odd Mondays speaker se-

ries, 7 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. The book presents the tragic lives of the teenage members of Jim Jones' Peoples Temple. The authors both taught at Opportunity High School in San Francisco, the school at which Jones chose to enroll his followers' older children before sending them to Guyana, where many were killed in a mass "suicide." *And Then They Were Gone* tells the stories of these 120 children against the backdrop of the Bay Area in the 1970s.

On Sunday, April 22, at 10:30 a.m., Ginsburg, author of *One Simple Thing*, featuring Sammy the Seagull, will be the special guest at Charlie's Corner, at 24th and Castro streets. Besides a reading of the popular picture book, the bookstore promises free "earthy treats" in honor of Earth Day.

Crawford, whom you may know from her roles as a founder of the Noe Valley Farmers Market and the events coordinator at the Noe Valley Town Square, will read from *Sprig the Rescue Pig* on Saturday, April 28, 4:30 p.m., as part of Folio Books' celebration of Independent Bookstore Day. *Sprig* is her first in a planned series of stories on "animals we eat," according to Crawford, who is a vegetarian. The store will have refreshments and giveaways all day.

Four-time James Beard award nominee Edward Lee will discuss his two years on the road uncovering stories for *Buttermilk Graffiti: A Chef's Journey to Discover America's New Melting-Pot Cuisine*, on Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., at Omnivore Books on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez St. Omnivore will also be celebrating Independent Bookstore Day with wine, sake, and snacks at a reading April 28 of *Japan: The Cookbook* by Nancy Hachisu Singleton from 3 to 4 p.m. at the

SHORT TAKES
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

bookstore. For information on all 20 author appearances in our neighborhood this month, go to the *Voice* Calendar page or the bookstores' websites.

The Legacy of Composer Henry Cowell

Henry Dixon Cowell (1897-1965) was a California-born composer, musician, and teacher. He was the instructor of John Cage and George Gershwin, two composers who have had a monumental effect on 20th and 21st century music. He promoted the work of Charles Ives and Aaron Copland. He collaborated with Martha Graham. He was an early advocate of world music. But you've probably never heard of Cowell himself.

Allegra Chapman, director and co-founder of Bard Music West, says that is probably "because he was such a promoter of other people's music. He didn't promote his own." Chapman and Bard Music West want to change that.

Now in its second year, Bard Music West, an extension of the long-running Bard Music Festival at Bard College in upstate New York, is spotlighting Cowell's life, work, and influence at a two-day festival April 6-7 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The festival begins Friday evening with "In Search of American Music," featuring pianist Sarah Cahill and a cappella singing group Volti. It continues Saturday afternoon with a talk by Cowell's biographer, Joel Sachs, and a per-

formance, "Living in the Whole World of Music," by Shahab Paranj and the Third Sound ensemble, that will explore the inspiration Cowell drew from non-Western music. Finally, on Saturday evening, the Telegraph Quartet will play Cowell's *United Quartet*, and SFDanceworks and Third Sound will perform a new piece commissioned by the festival.

For more information, times, and tickets, go to www.bardmusicwest.org. To hear audios of several pieces by Cowell, go to www.henrycowell.org.

Students Do *Little Shop of Horrors*

James Lick Middle School on Noe Street is presenting its newest musical production in April, *Little Shop of Horrors*, complete with quintessential nebbish Seymour Krelborn and talkative Audrey II, the person-eating plant that puts new teeth into the meaning of carnivorous.



Little Shop has had quite the life. It began as a low-budget 1960 film, became a 1982 off-off-Broadway play, graduated to off-Broadway that same year, opened in London's West End in 1983, circled back as a 1986 film, and hit the big time (Broadway) in 2003. The music is in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop, and Motown. The most famous songs are the opening title song and the wistful ballad "Somewhere That's Green."

The James Lick production hits the boards with three evening performances, Thursday through Saturday, April 12-14, at 7 p.m., and a Saturday matinee at 1:30 p.m., in the school auditorium at 1220 Noe St. \$20 adult tickets (\$10 for students) are available at www.eventbrite.com or through the Lick Parent-Teacher-Student Association website www.jameslickpta.org.

Net proceeds go to support the JLMS visual and performing arts program.

A Parade of Classical Concerts in April

In addition to the Bard Music West festival (see first column this page), music lovers can attend three individual concerts in the neighborhood this month.

The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco holds another of its family concerts at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St., on Saturday, April 14, 4 p.m. The CMS String Quartet will play "At the Zoo," an interactive program for children. Using the music of Haydn, Saint Saens, and other composers, the group "will explore how the string quartet can sound like our favorite animals," according to violist Clio Tilton. Tickets are available on www.eventbrite.com for \$20 for adults and \$5 for children 6 to 18. The concert is free for children under six years of age.

On Sunday, April 15, the Ensemble for These Times will play music focused on



Composer Henry Cowell is the subject of a Bard Music West festival April 6-7 at the Noe Valley Ministry.

the life and works of poet Paul Celan at 4 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Included in the program will be "Plus 4 1/2" by Libby Larsen, "Memoire de l'Ombre" by Aleksandra Kaca, and three commissioned compositions by Stephen Eddins, David Garner, and Jared Redmond to poems by Celan and his contemporary Czeslaw Milosz. Tickets are \$30 at Eventbrite.

The youthful Friction Quartet appears at Classical Kids, Saturday, April 28, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, also at the Noe Valley Ministry. According to NVCM executive director Tiffany Loewenberg, the quartet will play several different musical genres, including classical, pop, and folk. Tickets are \$15 individual general admission and \$40 for a family pass good for four people or fewer. To purchase tickets, go to www.nvcm.org and click on Classical Kids.

There's one other April concert, the Noe Valley Chamber Music 25th Anniversary Gala on April 22. At press time, it was sold out. But it never hurts to check at the door. Renowned composer Jake Heggie and the great mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade are the headliners.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May.



photo: Amanda Brauning

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The restored pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*) is expanding to create one of the few wetlands on San Francisco's shoreline.

After a year of exploring local wildflowers, the *Noe Valley Voice* editors and I thought this column might branch out in a new direction. *Off the Beaten Path* will highlight outdoor spots in San Francisco that some might not know about—say, the wave organ in the Marina, the estuary at Crissy Field, or the bird habitat at Seal Rock.

This month it is about Heron's Head Park, a nature refuge located on the Bay at the foot of Cargo Way at Jennings Street. (From Noe Valley, take Cesar Chavez east, turn right on Third Street, then left on Cargo Way until you reach the end.)

Heron's Head is a little park (just 22 acres), but it's free, and it features 0.75 miles of walking path, numerous community activities, an ecological center, a dog park, picnic sites, barbecues, and a restored bay coastline.

The Port of San Francisco created this land in the 1970s as part of a project that went nowhere. The little peninsula stood abandoned until, after extensive rehabilitation, it opened as a park in 1999. Its name comes from its heron-head outline.

The shoreline supports salt-loving

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

nature trails • the noe valley voice

Heron's Head Park

By Joe O'Connor

plants, migratory and nesting shorebirds and waterfowl, tidal wetlands, and a native oyster population. Judging from the many herons, egrets, and cormorants at the park, the park has an abundant fish population, too.

April is the right time to visit Heron's Head. You'll see marshes made of pickleweed and sea heath. Pickleweed "stems" are, well, pickle-shaped, but those aren't really stems. They're actually the plants' leaves, tightly rolled up as part of their salt-tolerant lifestyle. Pickleweed at Heron's Head has been expanding its coverage gradually. This expansion will serve to make more salt-marsh habitat by trapping sediment, building soil, and allowing the growth of plants like sea heath, marsh rosemary, and gumweed.

The park's tidal pools and channels support invertebrates that feed migra-

tory shorebirds like the American avocet, greater yellow-legs, and whimbrels.

Avocets are graceful and colorful

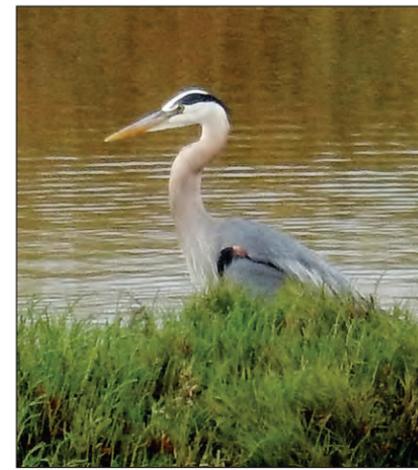
birds that probe the mud for food with beaks that are up-curved at the end. Whimbrels probe mud and between rocks for food, but with heavier beaks that are down-curved. Avocets nest at Heron's Head during April. In May,



Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) are distinguished by their long, down-curved beaks.

Along the rocky, armored shore, small crabs, snails, worms, and shrimps provide food for willets, whimbrels, and various sandpipers. Willets are a lovely gray-brown in color and have medium-sized straight beaks. They show a bright white wing patch as they fly.

Shoreline structures are encrusted with the quarter-sized shells of native olympic oysters. There are enough oysters to support a pair of black oyster-catchers. If you walk the water's edge at low tide, you'll see large numbers of oyster shells on and between the rocks and on driftwood. Did you know that native oyster populations are rare in the Bay? Very few people know that native



A great blue heron (*Ardes herodias*) fishes at the edge of the marsh. Photos by Joe O'Connor

oysters persist at Heron's Head Park.

That's a quick look at Heron's Head. It's truly a wonderful place. And I haven't even mentioned the wading birds and ducks you'll find there in April, or the killdeer or the geese.

Check out the Heron's Head website or visit iNaturalist.org for information on biodiversity at Heron's Head. The EcoCenter has great information onsite and online. It hosts bird walks and tours of the center's tertiary treatment project, and has pamphlets covering the history of the restoration and all the birds and plants at the park.

Joe O'Connor is a retired professor of Ecology with an avid interest in local plants, wildlife, and natural history. He's also a docent at the California Academy of Sciences. A longtime resident of 26th Street, O'Connor will publish a guide to San Francisco wildflowers in 2018.

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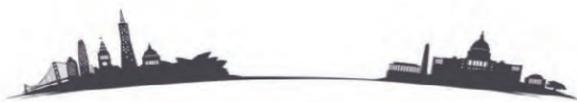
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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we show off a jewelry boutique that sits in one of 24th Street's smallest storefronts.

AZIL BOUTIQUE

4010 24th Street at Noe Street

415-757-0388

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

<https://shopazil.com/pages/visit-us>

During her junior year of high school, Liza Anongchanya's best friend taught her how to make jewelry. It led the Los Angeles native to launch her first business, selling her designs to her fellow classmates.

She then went to Cal Poly Pomona and earned a degree in business administration. Wanting to create her own company, Anongchanya decided it would be easier to do so in San Francisco and moved to the city 10 years ago.

She christened her jewelry line Ofina, which is her middle name and her mother's maiden name. Her mother is from the Philippines, while her father is from Taiwan.

"It couldn't be my last name, it is too long," joked Anongchanya, 39, who now lives in Mill Valley.

Anongchanya reached out to her childhood friend, who had also gone into the jewelry business, and asked her to teach her more techniques. She started off selling her designs at outdoor festivals, farmers markets, and to other stores before opening her own shop in Hayes Valley with another designer.

After three years, they went their separate ways, but Anongchanya kept the storefront and rebranded it as Azil Boutique. The store's name is Anongchanya's first name spelled backwards.

Azil's jewelry aesthetic can be summed up with two words: dainty and classic.

"We don't follow the trends," explained Anongchanya. "A lot of the pieces I have had from the beginning because they are timeless and don't go out of style."

The business is a family affair. Her niece, Shamani Anongchanya, assists in running the Noe Valley store and makes jewelry on-site when she is not attending San Jose State University, where she is majoring in hospitality and event management.

They also work with a metalsmith in Texas who works out of her home. The



Azil owner and designer Liza Anongchanya and Noe Valley store manager Tatiana Taylor (left) hope to fill your jewelry needs, including wedding and engagement rings. Photo by Pamela Gerard

company employs eight people, including Tatiana Taylor, who not only helps manage the stores but is also featured in its marketing posters.

"Liza gives me a lot of opportunity and creative freedom," said Taylor, who joined Azil a year ago.

The Noe Valley location opened in October 2016 in the 150-square-foot storefront where the Walkershaw Man clothing store had been, at 4010 24th St. Azil first went into the space as a month-long pop-up in May of 2016, and its success led Anongchanya to sign a five-year lease.

The boutique now only has two locations in San Francisco, having closed its Russian Hill store last year. The 24th Street store draws a broad clientele, from teenagers to adults.

Two of its more popular necklace designs feature thin chains with either a metallic tube (\$60) or three attached circles (\$52).

"Anything with circles people like," said Anongchanya.

Azil sells rings in various designs (\$30-\$60) that are also top sellers. Made with 14-karat gold and sterling silver, they can be worn in the shower or when swimming without turning green. The same is true of the chains the store sells. The cost depends on the length, with shorter neck-

laces \$45 and longer ones running \$100 to \$150.

The store also carries a line of wallets and billfolds (\$32-\$42) created by Shara Porter. Made with genuine leather, they come in various colors and sport whimsical designs, ranging from dogs and dinosaurs to trees and other flora.

Azil recently began featuring the work of local designer Sam Chen, who for five years had worked at the Hayes Valley location. His brand, called Thesis of Alexandria, or TOA for short, includes jewelry as well as wallets and handbags.

While the Hayes Valley store draws more tourists, locals account for the bulk of sales at the Noe Valley location. Due to its small size, the retail space is financially viable, said Anongchanya.

Still, she is mindful of how e-commerce is changing the way people shop. Anongchanya has been putting more focus on Azil's website in order to boost sales and draw more foot traffic to her stores. The company also has been using social media to showcase its jewelry.

"We definitely feel the trend is toward online, even online sales for people who live in San Francisco," said Anongchanya.

Through Azil's website, customers can sign up for the store's email and receive 15 percent off their first online order. The

store also offers Uber rush same-day delivery within San Francisco for a charge of \$5 to \$10.

"It is mostly men," noted Anongchanya, surmising they are in need of a last-minute gift or peace offering. "Guys will also come in to the store because they have seen something online and ask if we have this necklace or ring."

Azil will also customize jewelry for customers who need a necklace shortened or want a certain gem used, and repair the jewelry they already own. The store also makes custom engagement and wedding rings.

"We can work around any budget," said Anongchanya.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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APRIL 2018

April 1: Richard A. Walker reads from his new book, *Pictures of a Gone City: Tech and the Dark Side of Prosperity in the SF Bay Area*, at City Lights Bookstore. 5 pm. 261 Columbus. 362-8193; citylights.com.

April 1: Nancy B from Buena Vista, Colorado, speaks at the AL-ANON First Things First quarterly meeting and potluck. 7-8:30 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez.

April 1 & 15: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts DRUMMING and dancing on first and third Sundays; check noevalleytownsquare.com for times. 3861 24th.

April 1 & 15 SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

April 1-29: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

April 1-29: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the area around MISSION DOLORES. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

April 1-29: MARIPOSA STUDIO is open on Sundays from 12:30 to 4 pm. 2808 Mariposa, at Project Artaud. 861-4330; mariposastudio.org.

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

April 1-May 3: CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibits images, excerpts, and videos from the zine *Whipper Snapper Nerd*. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm (Thurs. until 7 pm), Sat., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

April 1 & May 6: The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

April 2: Ali Rosen introduces *Bring It! Tried & True RECIPES for Potluck and Casual Entertaining*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The ACC Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. For details, email krismoser@aol.com.

April 2-30: BootCampSF conducts FITNESS training Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30 am. SF Rec Center Basketball Court, 30th and Whitney. 567-9009; sbootcamp.com.

April 2-30: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

April 2-30: The On Lok 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

April 3: Jessica Battilana discusses *REPertoire: All the Recipes You Need*. 6:30-8 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 3 & 17: Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING lessons on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. 6:30-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

April 3-24: The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 3-24: John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8:15 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

April 3-26: Dylan Phillipy leads BOOTCAMP on the Square, Tuesdays at 6 pm and Thursdays at 11 am. Noe Valley Town Square, 24th & Vicksburg.

April 3 & May 1: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

April 3-May 5: SF WOMEN ARTISTS exhibit "The World of Abstraction," a juried all-media show. Reception April 5, 5:30-8 pm; Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm. 647 Irving. 566-8550.

April 4: Create paper spring flowers at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 4-25: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts TAI CHI classes with Alex Medel. 7:15 am. 3861 24th.

April 4-25: Folio Books offers STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

April 4-25: Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

April 4-25: The Eureka Valley Library hosts BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 4-25: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesdays, 4 to 7 pm, through November. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

April 4-25: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church holds Candlesong, a TAIZE-style service followed by a potluck on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

April 4-25: History group Shaping San Francisco offers free PUBLIC TALKS on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Eric Quezada Center, 518 Valencia. shapingsf.org.

April 4-25: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

April 4 & 21: Children 4 and up can read to a dog named Oliver at PUPPY DOG TALES. April 4, 6:30-7:30 pm; April 21, 2-3 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

April 4 & May 2: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

April 5: Von Diaz introduces *Coconuts and Collards: Recipes and Stories from PUERTO RICO*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 5-8: Litquake co-sponsors "Wordology," the SFJAZZ POETRY Festival. Thurs.-Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 3 pm. SFJAZZ Center, 201 Franklin. For the lineup: 920-5299; sfjazz.org.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 5-26: Shrawan Nepali leads Thursday Morning MEDITATION in the Noe Valley Town Square; bring a pillow. 3861 24th. 8-9 am.

April 5-26: Newcomers welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

April 5-26: Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

April 5 & May 3: Regulars Liz Stone, Ruby Gill, and Drew Harmon, and guests perform COMEDY GOLD on the first Thursday of the month. 9:30 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. 285-0674; lizzystone@gmail.com.

April 6: Bard Music West's "The World of Henry Cowell," the innovative Bay Area COMPOSER, includes performances Fri., 7:30 pm and Sat., 4 & 7:30 pm, and a discussion Sat. at 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 857-1632; bardmusicwest.org.

April 6-27: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

April 6-27: Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

April 7: All Bay Area 8th to 12th grade students are invited to a free TEEN CAREER conference, focusing on Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math. 8:30 am-2:30 pm. SF Zoo. bayareateenscience.org.

April 7: Learn to knit or crochet at the Noe Valley Library's KNITTING CIRCLE. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 7: SF SHAKES performs *Romeo and Juliet* at the Noe Valley Library. 1:30 to 3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 7-8: Mission Artists United hosts OPEN STUDIOS throughout the neighborhood. Noon-6 pm. For info: missionartistsunited.org.

April 7-28: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET brings you fresh produce and live music from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 7-28: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyrecenter.com.

April 7-28: The Randall Museum offers a close-up of California wildlife in "Meet the ANIMALS," on Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

April 7-28: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 7:30 to 10 pm; refreshments available. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.



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· CALENDAR ·

April 8: Hospice by the Bay hosts its annual interfaith Service of REMEMBRANCE at 4 pm. St. Aiden's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine. 526-5699; hospicebythebay.org.

April 8 & 22: Noe Valley political group ACTION SF meets on 2nd and 4th Sundays. 3-4:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsolidarity@gmail.com.

April 8 & 22: Bongo leads free DRUMMING and dancing classes from 3 to 5 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th.

April 10: The Noe Valley Library offers a "drop-in" eReader and ONLINE RESOURCE workshop from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 10: John Freeman discusses "The Odyssey of the Hearst Monastery Stones" at the SF HISTORY Museum meeting. 7:30-9 pm. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello. Reserve a seat at 537-1105; sfhistory.org.

April 11: The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:15 to 8:15 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 12: The DIAMOND HEIGHTS Community Association meets on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 pm. Call 867-5774 for location; dhcasf.org.

April 12-14: Students at James Lick perform the MUSICAL *Little Shop of Horrors*. Thurs.-Sat., 7 pm, and Sat. 1:30 pm. 1220 Noe. jameslickpta.org.

April 13: The Noe Valley Library screens the 1953 FILM *Roman Holiday*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 14: LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on second Saturdays. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. info@noevalleyreccenter.com.

April 14: Authors Ian and Sarah Hoffman bring *Jacob's New Dress*, and Leslie Newman brings *Heather Has Two Mommies* to read at Charlie's Corner Bookstore. 10:30 am. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 14: The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco performs a FAMILY CONCERT, "String Quartet at the Zoo." 4 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. chambermusicsocietysf.org.

April 14: Curry Without Worry hosts "Celebrate, Celebrate, Dance to the Music," featuring NEPALESE dancing, live music, and dining. 5-8 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th.

April 15: LESLIE CRAWFORD introduces her new children's book, *Sprig the Rescue Pig*, at a launch party at Urban Putt miniature golf course. 1- pm. 1096 South Van Ness. 341-1080; urbanputt.com.

April 15: City Guides offers a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Meet at the Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

April 15: STAND UP San Francisco discusses local citizen resistance to the Trump agenda at its monthly meeting. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. standupsf.net.

April 15: The Ensemble for These Times performs "Once/Memory/Night," music focused on the poet PAUL CELAN. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. e4tt.org.

April 16: Andrew Friedman discusses *CHEFS, Drugs, and Rock & Roll*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 17: A talk on VACATION PLANNING using computer resources is presented at the Noe Valley Library from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 17: Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. Community room, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane. Confirm meeting location at 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

April 18: Ages 10 through 17 are invited to a "Flavors of Spain" COOKING WORKSHOP. 3:45-5 pm.

Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Limit 10 participants, register at 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 18: JACQUES PEPIN introduces *A Grandfather's Lessons: In the Kitchen with Shorey*. 6-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 18: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group considers *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 19: Walter Stahr discusses *Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary* at the SF CIVIL WAR Round Table. 6 pm. United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Ave. and Sloat. Reservations required for dinner: civwarrountabsf@yahoo.com.

April 21: BUG DAY at the Randall Museum includes a visit from the SF Beekeepers Association. 10 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

April 21: The 25th annual "Senior Smiles and Wellness HEALTH FAIR" offers hearing, blood, bone density, and dental screenings for ages 55 and over. 10 am-1 pm. U of the Pacific, Dugoni School of Dentistry, 155 Fifth. dental.pacific.edu.

April 21: NIGELLA LAWSON discusses *At My Table: A Celebration of Home Cooking*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 21-22: Spring OPEN STUDIOS at Hunters Point Shipyard features more than 100 artists. 11 am-6 pm. 300 Donahue. For info: shipyardartists.com.

April 22: Paula Ginsburg reads from *One Simple Thing*, in honor of Earth Day. 10:30 am. Charlie's Corner, 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 22: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts its 25th anniversary gala, "What a Wonderful World," an Earth Day concert featuring Frederica von Stade. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236;

nvcn.org.

April 22: Music on the Hill features a CONCERT by the Redwood Tango Ensemble. 7 pm. St. Aiden's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

April 23: ODD MONDAYS hosts Judy Bebelar and Ron Cabral, authors of *And Then They Were Gone*, an examination of People's Temple. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

April 24: A talk on the warning signs of ALZHEIMER'S disease is presented at the Noe Valley Library from 1:30 to 3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 24: 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.

April 24: Martha C. Taylor discusses "From Labor to Reward: Black Church Beginnings in the Bay Area" at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. Congregation Sherith Israel, 2800 California. 881-7342; sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 25: The RESILIENT Diamond Heights work group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5 pm. St. Aiden's Church, 101 Gold Mine. 867-5774.

April 25: Adam Federman introduces *Fasting and Feasting: The Life of Visionary Food Writer PATIENCE GRAY*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 27: Join with BIOBLITZ to identify animal and plant species around the Noe Valley Library; bring smartphone with iNaturalist app. 3:30 to 6 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

April 27: HERCHURCH offers a Women's Drumming Circle the fourth Friday of the month. 6-7:30 pm. 678 Portola. 731-2953;

herchurch.org.

April 28: Volunteer at JURI COMMONS 9 am to noon-ish, with coffee and pastries. The park cuts through the block bounded by Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.

April 28: Noe Valley Chamber Music's CLASSICAL KIDS hosts "Comfy Concerts" with the Friction Quartet. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nvcn.org.

April 28: The Diamond Heights Community Association hosts a CANDIDATES FORUM for Mayor and District 8 Supervisor. 2-4 pm. St. Aiden's Church, 101 Gold Mine. dhcasf.org.

April 28: Jed Alexander introduces his new book, *Red*, at Charlie's Corner Bookstore. 3:30 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

April 28: The SF Civic Music Association performs "An Afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC" at the Noe Valley Ministry. 3-4:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. sfcivicmusic.org.

April 28: Nancy Hachisu Singleton discusses *JAPAN: The Cookbook*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

April 28: Leslie Crawford introduces her new CHILDREN'S BOOK, *Sprig the Rescue Pig*. Celebrate Independent Bookstore Day all day. 4:30 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

April 28: The Invoke Quartet performs a free concert to honor families of autistic children. 7 pm. SF LIVE ARTS at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Come What May

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



APRIL EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

MON APR 16	ANDREW FRIEDMAN • CHEFS, DRUGS AND ROCK & ROLL: HOW FOOD LOVERS, FREE SPIRITS, MISFITS AND WANDERERS CREATED A NEW AMERICAN PROFESSION 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE
WED APR 18	JACQUES PEPIN. • A GRANDFATHER'S LESSONS: IN THE KITCHEN WITH SHOREY • 6:00-7:30 P.M. FREE • Jacques's gives his granddaughter, a charismatic pupil, a short course on preparing food that is plain, but elegant, and more than anything, fun.
THU APR 19	EDWARD LEE • BUTTERMILK GRAFFITI: A CHEF'S JOURNEY TO DISCOVER AMERICA'S NEW MELTING-POT CUISINE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • A natural-born storyteller, Lee decided to hit the road and spent two years uncovering fascinating narratives from every corner of the country.
SAT APR 21	NIGELLA LAWSON • AT MY TABLE: A CELEBRATION OF HOME COOKING • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • As Nigella writes, "Life is complicated; cooking doesn't have to be."
SUN APR 22	SONJA & ALEX OVERHISER • A COUPLE COOKS - PRETTY SIMPLE COOKING: 100 DELICIOUS VEGETARIAN RECIPES TO MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH REAL FOOD • 3:00 - 4:00 P.M. FREE
WED APR 25	ADAM FEDERMAN • FASTING AND FEASTING: THE LIFE OF VISIONARY FOOD WRITER PATIENCE GRAY • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Federman tells the remarkable life story of Ms. Gray.
THU APR 26	SOMER SIVRIOGLU • ANATOLIA: ADVENTURES IN TURKISH COOKING • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>Anatolia</i> is a beautifully illustrated exploration of classic Turkish cuisine and culture, adapted for modern life.
SAT APR 28	NANCY HACHISU SINGLETON • JAPAN: THE COOKBOOK • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Iconic and regional traditions of Japan are organized by course and contain insightful notes alongside the recipes.
SUN APR 29	SHANTA NIMBARK SACHAROFF • COOKING TOGETHER: A VEGETARIAN CO-OP COOKBOOK • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • In addition to recipes from her native India, local author, Sacharoff discusses the basics of cooking, planning well-balanced vegetarian meals and the importance of cooking and eating together with friends and family.

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Zumbini Toddler Classes: I am so excited to present Zumbini an adorable music and movement class for 0-4 year olds and their caregivers! I have 6 weeks of classes starting on Monday, April 9 at 11 a.m. at MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church Street. Go to <https://www.zumbini.com> to sign up! Contact Maile at 415-779-4806 or zumbiniwithmaile@gmail.com.

Noe Valley Voice writer needs new home: High rents are squeezing me out, but I want to stay in the Noe Valley area with my gardener wife. Looking for a miracle, a two bedroom home, flat or apartment rental. Thank you! Tim 415-801-5220.

Cleaning Professional: 28 years of experience. Apartments, homes, or offices, and buildings. Roger Miller, 415-794-4411.

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

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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you get a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total due for 10 issues. The next *Voice* Class Ads will appear in the **May 2018** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of March. **The deadline for Class Ads is April 15.**

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

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



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Players from St. Philip's fend off challengers from Potrero Hill at a Catholic Charities CYO game in March. Photo courtesy Chris Faust

Spring Swings

Even with needed rains forming puddles, activity is everywhere at Upper Noe Rec Center. As children revel in the replenished sandbox, others take to the field. Baseball season has started. Youth teams up to age 12 are rounding the bases again. Stop by and cheer them on.

To read the rec center's newsletter, find out more information and updates to the schedule of classes and events, visit www.noevalleyrecenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or just drop in to the rec center office at 295 Day St., open Monday through Saturday.

To register for Spring Activities visit sfrecpark.org.

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

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING SESSION MARCH 6 – MAY 31, 2018

Check www.noevalleyrecenter.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	2:30-5 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer	10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun for All	10-11:30 a.m.
Feldenkrais	1-2 p.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	1-3 p.m. FREE
Soccer (ages 5-6)	4-5 p.m.
QuickStart Tennis (ages 9-11)	5-6 p.m.
Soccer (ages 9-12)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis Intermediate/Advanced (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Yoga - Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult Boot Camp	7:45-8:45 p.m.

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

Open Gym	12-3:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	3-4 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates beginner (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.
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	6-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.*
Movin' & Groovin' (ages 2-4)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	1-3 p.m. FREE
Argentine Tango, advanced (55+)	1-4 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. FREE
Theater Mini Players (ages 5-6)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Zumba (family)	5:30-6:30 p.m. Drop-in only. FREE
Yoga - Gentle Hatha (18+)	6:45-7:45 p.m.

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

Open Gym	12-3:30 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.
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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ADULTS / TEENS

The AAC Conversation Club uses communication devices like Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, plus smartphone and tablet applications, to explore new topics. Provided in partnership with Support for Families of Children with Disabilities. For more information contact Kris Moser at krismoser@aol.com. Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Adult Craft Night: Get ready for spring with a class on how to make flowers out of paper; all materials provided. Sign up by calling 415-355-5707 or asking at the information desk. Wednesday, April 4; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Knitting Circle: Learn how to knit or crochet on the first Saturday of every month. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles if you have a special project in mind. Saturday, April 7; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Expect swashbuckling action and star-crossed romance in a **SF Shakes** presentation of **Romeo and Juliet**, directed by Carla Pantoja and performed in Shakespeare's original text. Saturday, April 7; 2 to 4 p.m.

eReader and Online Resource "Drop-In": Bring your mobile device or laptop, your library card and PIN, and any passwords you might need to a workshop on using the SFPL's library catalog and databases, Kanopy for streaming films, Flipster and RBDigital for magazines, OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks, and Hoopla for movies, music, and audiobooks. Tuesday, April 10; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the non-profit Great Books Council of San Francisco, meets to discuss outstanding works of writing. For information, contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, April 11; 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee: The library screens the 1953 romance *Roman Holiday*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. Friday, April 13; 2 to 4 p.m.

Vacation Planning: Take an instructional class, using computers, on planning a vacation. Find out how to get travel guides, research destinations, and use Mango to practice languages. Space is limited; call 415-355-5707 to sign up. Tuesday, April 17; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Book Discussion Group: The selection for April is *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. Copies of the book are held at the circulation desk for checkout. Wednesday, April 18; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Alzheimer's Disease Education: Learn the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, what is involved in getting a diagnosis, and the benefits of early detection. Tuesday, April 24; 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Bioblitz: Find Nature in Noe Valley and Help San Francisco Win! In partnership with Bay Nature, come explore the nature in Noe Valley, as part of the 2018 international City Nature Challenge. Bioblitzes are gatherings of citizen scientists all working together to find and identify as many different species as possible. Adults and children over 5 with their parents should meet at the library, and bring your smartphone with the iNaturalist app. Friday, April 27; 3:30 to 6 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.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Nose in a Book

You can discover female detectives from the 1800s, explore why teenagers take risks, and put yourself in the shoes of a wild turkey just by reading the books on this month's book list, suggested by Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

To check on the books' availability—or on the CDs, DVDs, and other collections at the branch—call 415-355-5707 or drop by the beautiful Carnegie building at 451 Jersey St. Remember to ask about Kanopy, the library's new streaming service. You also can visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org.

Adult Fiction

• Editor Leslie S. Klinger's anthology *In the Shadow of Agatha Christie: Classic Crime Fiction by Forgotten Female Writers, 1850-1917*, features women who influenced later crime authors.

• Five worlds and three centuries are woven together in Gregory Blake Smith's tale *The Maze at Windermere*.

• In *Dead Man's Blues* by Ray Celestin, Pinkerton detectives try to solve a mystery in 1928 Chicago.

• After a perilous ocean voyage, Sri Lankan refugees face threats of deportation in *The Boat People* by Sharon Bala.

Adult Nonfiction

• The photos and stories of 800 puppies are featured in *The Dogist Puppies* by Elias Weiss Friedman.

• Jess P. Shatkin analyzes adolescent behavior in *Born to Be Wild: Why Teens Take Risks, and How We Can Help Keep Them Safe*.

• Condemned, missing, and failing buildings are featured in *Bound to Fall: San Francisco in Transition, 2010-2016*, by photographer and journalist Arthur J. O'Donnell.

• Women's roles in the Middle Ages are examined in *Illuminating Women in the Medieval World* by Christine Sciacca.

Adult eBooks

• Simon Garfield considers how we are affected by the clock in *Timekeepers: How the World Became Obsessed With Time*.

• *No Way but This: In Search of Paul Robeson*, by Jeff Sparrow, tells the story of the athlete, actor, and activist.

• In *The Winter Station* by Jody Shields, a Russian doctor races to contain a deadly plague in 1910 Manchuria.

• Cynthia Swanson's suspense novel *The Glass Forest* uncovers the truths of a deeply troubled family.

Adult DVDS

• A teenage girl and her mother come to terms in Greta Gerwig's 2017 film *Lady Bird*.

• Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford star in *Blade Runner 2049*, a continuation of the original 1982 thriller.

• *The Arctic Expedition: A Historic Journey to Find the Truth* details a scientific quest to research climate change.

• The challenges facing female big wave surfers at Ocean Beach are documented in 2016's *It Ain't Pretty*.

Children's Fiction

• A young girl leaves a trail of damage in *Edie Is Ever So Helpful*, written and illustrated by Sophy Henn. Ages 3 to 6.

• In *The Pink Umbrella*, by Amelie Calot with illustrations by Genevieve Godbout, friendship and love turn rainy days into happy days for a young café owner. Ages 4 to 8.

• Seven classic fairy tales are retold in *Brave Red, Smart Frog: A New Book of Old Tales*, written by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Rohan Daniel Eason. Ages 5 to 10.

• A girl and her dog investigate a kitchen mystery in *King and Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats*, by Dori Hillestad Butler with illustrations by Nancy Meyers. Ages 6 to 8.

• *Stanley Will Probably Be Fine*, written by Sally J. Pla and illustrated by Steve Wolfhard, features a safety superhero and a trivia scavenger hunt around San Diego. Ages 8 to 12.

• *The Lost Rainforest: Mez's Magic* is an animal fantasy adventure written by Eliot Schrefer with illustrations by Emilia

Cooking With Kids: Spanish Tapas

The cooks from A Little Yumminess will present a **Flavors of Spain Cooking Workshop** for kids ages 10 to 17 on Wednesday, April 18, 3:45 to 5 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library (register at 415-355-5707). Meanwhile, here's one of their favorite tapas recipes.

Gambas al Ajillo (Spanish Garlic Shrimp)

Spanish-inspired small bites are fun for a get-together or family meal and a great theme for a kids' cooking project. A delicious centerpiece is gambas al ajillo (garlic shrimp). It's quick and easy to make, especially when you start with peeled and de-veined shrimp. Younger kids can help mash garlic using a garlic press, tear or chop parsley, squeeze lemon, and even help sauté. Experienced kid chefs can try making this dish from start to finish. Serve plenty of bread to mop up the pan juices!

Ingredients

1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

4 large cloves of garlic, minced or thinly sliced

1/4 cup olive oil

Pinch of chile flakes (optional)

Juice of 1 lemon

Salt and pepper to taste

1. In a frying pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and chile flakes (if using) and sauté for 1-2 minutes.

2. Turn heat to medium-high and add the shrimp. Cook on each side for about 2 minutes, until shrimp is pink and just cooked through.

3. Immediately remove from heat. Drizzle with the garlic oil from the pan, season with salt and pepper, sprinkle with chopped parsley and squeeze a bit of lemon juice over the top. Serve hot with the rest of your tapas meal.

To accompany the shrimp, try these simple, classic tapas: **Jamon & Melon**—Cut melon into wedges and wrap the wedges with Spanish ham (jamon). **Catalan Tomato Toast**—Toast slices of rustic bread. Rub each toast with a clove of garlic, then with the cut side of a halved tomato. Drizzle toast with olive oil and some salt to finish. **Spanish Cheese & Olives. Grilled or Broiled Asparagus** (or your favorite seasonal vegetable).

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Join Miss Catherine for **Toddler Tales**, and you will listen to stories, learn rhymes, sing songs, and share movement activities. For children 6 months to 2 years, with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19 & 26; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For T(w)eens: A Little Yumminess invites ages 10 to 17 to a hands-on **Flavors of Spain Cooking Workshop** featuring tapas, appetizers popular in Spain. Learn about ingredients and make an assortment of tapas to eat at the end of class (see recipe below). Limit 10 participants; sign up at 415-355-5707. Wednesday, April 18; 3:45 to 5 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.

Dziubak. Ages 9 to 12.

• An 11-year-old girl in 1945 Detroit grows up to be a civil rights activist in *Betty Before X*, written by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renée Watson. Ages 10 to 14.

Children's Nonfiction

• Poems tell the story of a variety of creatures in *Song of the Wild: A First Book of Animals*, written by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Petr Horacek. Ages 3 to 7.

• The story of Lucile Godbold, a shot put star in the 1922 games, is told in *Long-Armed Ludy and the First Women's Olympics*, by Jean L.S. Patrick and illustrator Adam Gustavson. Ages 5 to 8.

• Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger's *Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People* describes Ice Age life on our continent. Ages 8 to 13.

• *When I Was a Turkey*, written by Joe Hutto and illustrated by Brenda Z. Guiberson, is based on the PBS documentary *My Life as a Turkey*. Ages 9 to 14.

Annotations were penned by Voice bookworm Karol Barske.

BRANCH HOURS

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

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

This Is a Test

By Mazook

WE'VE GOT NOE QUIZ QUESTIONS: If you can answer all of these questions, consider yourself a true Noe Valleon.

1. What Noe Valley cartoonist and *Voice* contributor ("Rumors" shared a page with him) created a character who always asked, "Are we having fun yet?"

2. Can you name the first automobile built on the West Coast? Clue: The space is now, and has been for almost 90 years, a print shop with a huge printing press.

3. Have you ever walked into the Noe Valley Mall? Where is it?

4. Where was the Gifts of the Magi first located, and what did the shop change its name to when it moved up the street?

5. Herb and Margaret Gaines opened what Noe Valley restaurant in 1945?

6. When and where did J.K. Rowling appear in Noe to read from her children's novel *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*?

7. Where in Downtown Noe Valley would you encounter Denny Giovannoli and Andy Gomez?

8. Who was Lost in the Fog and in what sport did he become famous?

9. What was located on the corner of Castro and Jersey before it became a Safeway grocery, circa 1945?

10. What Noe Valley duo became the first same-sex couple to be married legally in California?

You will find the answers to the quiz at the end of the column.



'ROUND THE SQUARE: About 200 showed up at sundown at the Noe Valley Town Square on Saturday, March 10, for the square's first-ever movie night. The film playing was *The Princess Bride*, a 1987 fantasy adventure. It was truly a cozy, family-oriented scene.

The Town Square went first-class, hiring an outdoor exhibitor with a "blow-up" silver screen and movie projector. It cost \$750 for the equipment, and \$250 to rent the movie, according to Town Square director Leslie Crawford. She says the next movie night has been set for Saturday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. Showing then will be *My Neighbor Totoro*, a 1988 Japanese animated fantasy film directed by Hayao Miyazaki. The film, which won the Animage Anime Grand Prix in 1988,

is about two young girls living in postwar Japan.

Coming up Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., Curry Without Worry will celebrate the group's 10th anniversary with an evening of Nepalese food, music, and traditional dance, to thank supporters and the local community.

Drumming and dancing are now scheduled on the second and fourth Sundays each month from 3 to 5 p.m., with Noe Valleon Bongo (Alph Oumar Sidibe) leading group drumming and dancing. Some drums will be provided, but you should feel free to bring your own drums or other percussion instruments. All ages are welcome, and it is free and open to the public.

And if you want to tai one on, Crawford also reports that there now are free one-hour tai chi classes every Wednesday, starting at 7:15 a.m.



WORLDLY GOODS: Moving into the space recently vacated by Cliché Noe (4175 24th St. near Diamond) is the world headquarters of Globe In (known online as GlobeIn.com), which despite its name, CEO Vladimir Ermakov describes as a small start-up. Founded in 2013, it is a subscription service that sends four or five handcrafted products curated around a theme each month to subscribers, and each monthly shipment includes a handmade basket. Ermakov and co-founder Liza Moiseeva travel around the world and gather items that are produced by fair-trade collectives or those adhering to fair-trade principles. They emphasize that all artisans and farmers whose products are distributed by Globe In are paid a fair wage for their products.

According to Ermakov, the business has 10,000 subscribers. A subscription costs \$50 per month. Last month's theme was "Cozy," and included a Marquet scarf from Thailand, a tin of Divine Chocolate cocoa powder from Ghana, a Le Souk Ceramique mug from Tunisia, a palm leaf basket from Mexico, and recipes for hot cocoa and cocoa-roasted almonds.

"We have an online showroom, but now we can have a [brick and mortar] outlet where people can see our wide selection of goods created by, and that will help support, those artisans around the world," says Ermakov. "We hope to open the retail shop by the end of May."

Sounds like the items you used to find at Global Exchange, the fair-trade store that left Downtown Noe Valley several years ago.



TART FARE: At press time, news arrived that the SoMa-chic Vive La Tarte bakery café will fill the space last occupied by Bliss Bar, at 4026 24th between

Noe and Castro streets. They'll be bringing stuffed croissants and traditional pastries to the neighborhood.

Belgian couple Julie Vandermeersch and Arnaud Goethals co-founded the business in 2011, selling their tarts from a cream-and-orange VW Westfalia van before expanding to a bakery-café at Seventh and Howard streets in 2015. Then last year they opened a café in the Ferry Building. Besides the tarts and other sweets, they will have breakfast and lunch bites, like their chicken-avocado or pulled-pork "tacro," a cross between a croissant and a taco.

Don't look for the grand opening for several months, though, because the interior of the space must now be built out to accommodate the bakery. Why didn't they rent the empty space next door that once was La PanotiQ café? "Too small," said the realtor.

Down the street to 3915 24th St., Mediterranean grill Lazeez, known for its chicken gyros, closed its doors at the end of February. But the space reopened on St. Patrick's Day as a new Mediterranean café, Sultan's Kebab. Restaurateur Fatih Ulas has two other locations in the East Bay, in Pleasanton and Danville. "The name is my dad's, and we come from Turkey," says Ulas, "and we are very excited to bring our menu to San Francisco, and very happy to be in this wonderful neighborhood."

Sultan's Kebab is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., "and we are planning to stay open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays this summer," Ulas says. The most popular dishes are the combo shawarma and the chicken shawarma plates, \$11.99 each, or \$9 à la carte. The best bargain on the menu is the House Falafel Wrap for nine bucks.

Interestingly, Ulas says that almost 70 percent of his food orders are pick-ups by

patrons. Still, he is also arranging deliveries through DoorDash and UberEat.

After more than three years standing closed, the space formerly known as Bom Dia, a grocery/café at Sanchez and 29th streets, has found new owners: Michael Molesky, his longtime partner Maggie Spicer, and his father, Jim Molesky, who is moving here from Berkeley to run the store. The business, also a grocery/café, will be called Douglas Fir.

Some of you might know Michael M., who currently oversees Placemarkr, an app that turns your photos into a travel guide. He was COO of LiveRail, a cyber-ad platform that was acquired a couple years ago by Facebook for a half billion dollars. Spicer is an event designer and a contributor to the foodie website Edible San Francisco.

According to Michael, the store will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, except on Fridays, when they will stay open until 9 p.m. (On Sundays they'll open later, at 8 a.m.) Light breakfasts and lunches will be their forte, and a wine bar starting at 3:00 in the afternoon. There will also be "quality everyday grocery items on the shelves."

Michael says they hope to open the doors "soon," possibly by the end of this month.

The store's name is derived from the Douglas fir used in the building, and, says Michael, "because when my dad's house in Oakland burned to the ground, he chose to rebuild it himself, with the wood frame being all Douglas fir, so the name is quite symbolic to our family."



CLOSING CALL: Pete's Laundry and Cleaners closed at the end of March after more than 60 years on 24th Street near

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

LUCKY YOU!

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
Contact: Laura Norman
Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
Address: 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@noevalleyrecenter.com
Website: www.noevalleyrecenter.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 (FUNDG)
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
Website: www.noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

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

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

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

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743
Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
Website: www.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
Facebook: [facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley](https://www.facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley)
Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

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

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
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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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Vicksburg, next to the Noe Valley Town Square. For the past 30 years, Pete's has been owned and operated by Ray Kwong, who says he is very sad to leave Noe Valley.

"I made many friends here over the years and did not want to leave," says Kwong, somewhat teary-eyed, "but over the years the cost of doing business has grown so much that I just can't make enough to stay in business here, [especially] since my lease ran out and the landlord wants to raise the rent, which he has done every year since I took over the business. I am now unable to pay; there is no profit left for me."

Kwong still operates another shop, Bay Breeze Cleaners, located at 1018 Hyde, between California and Pine. I will follow up with Kwong on the fate of the antique cash register which stood proudly at the front counter for each one of those 60 years.



SAY YOUR GOODBYES: The *Voice* has also learned that this will be the last summer for Rabat, the venerable store selling men's and women's clothing and shoes at 4001 24th St. It's been on the corner of 24th and Noe for the past 40 years and will have sale prices until then.

We will truly miss the store's proprietor, Patty Woody, who brought great fashions to our village. She will continue doing business at Rabat's Berkeley location, 1825 Fourth St.

It also appears that The Podolls, which offers its own unique brand of designer clothing and accessories, is planning to

close its retail store at 3985 24th St., perhaps as soon as this summer.



CLOTHING CALL: The city-owned Harry Aleo public parking lot on 24th near Castro—which currently has a mini park and benches at the sidewalk—has been chosen to be one of the three spots in San Francisco to get a collection box for the recycling of shoes, clothes, bedding, and other textiles.

The San Francisco Department of the Environment gave a grant to the non-profit Recycle for Change, which services more than 100 recycling spots in the city on private property, according to SFDE spokesperson Peter Gallotta. Recycle for Change will pick up items left in the tall green donation box in Noe Valley, in the Mission Bartlett garage, and in a lot at California and Steiner streets. The SF Municipal Transportation Agency gave its approval in early March for the spaces to be used, as part of a pilot program.

However, you are free to dispose of your textiles and clothes (but not shoes) in your own blue bin at home, as long as they're put in a tied plastic bag. Gallotta suggests that before you put the clothing in the bin you should seal it in a plastic bag at least the size of a basketball to ensure it's seen and recycled.

This is all part of SF's "Zero Waste by 2020" goal set back in 2003. FYI, zero waste at the city means "waste prevention, reducing consumption, reusing, recycling, and composting with nothing going to landfill or incineration."

Of course, lots of people already know that unwanted clothing (also housewares, furniture, books, and whatnot) can be donated directly to local thrift stores, such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, and Community Thrift on Valencia. Just sayin'.



WE'VE GOT NOE QUIZ ANSWERS: Be honest, now. How many correct answers did you have for the Noe Valley History Test?

1. Bill Griffith first created comic strip character Zippy in Noe Valley in 1971. Zippy's most famous quotation: "Are we having fun yet?"

2. Lest we forget, the car was the Pioneer, and it was built by J.A. Meyer in 1896 in the building at 4175 24th St., where Cliché Noe was and where Globe In soon will be.

3. The Noe Valley Mall is in back of Savor restaurant, on 24th near Sanchez Street.

4. Gifts of the Magi opened in 1978 in a storefront on the corner of the El Vira building (also known as Elvira), where Starbucks currently sits (3995 24th St.). It moved up and across the street to where Easy Breezy is now and became Star Magic in 1979.

5. Herb's Fine Foods, of course. It also was located in the El Vira building, where Toast is now. The lunch counter was originally a soda fountain, opened in 1943 by Cyril Saunders and later named X-From-Noe (referring to the Noe Theater across the street). Herb and Margaret Gaines took over in 1945 and eight years later renamed it Herb's Hamburger House. "Herb's later settled on calling it Herb's Fine Foods," wrote Bill Yenne in his book *San Francisco's Noe Valley*. "Herb operated his lunch counter until 1974, when he sold the business to Sam Kawas." Herb's the restaurant carried on until 2008.

6. J.K. Rowling appeared at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Oct. 30, 1999, to read from and sign copies of her book *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

7. Denny was the owner and Andy was the longtime manager of Tuggey's Hardware, 3885 24th St., where One Medical is now.

8. Horseracing. Noe Valley realtor Harry Aleo (1919–2008) owned thoroughbred Lost in the Fog. The horse won his first 10 starts, and 11 of his 14 lifetime races, with career earnings of \$978,099. And it was the subject of a 2008 documentary, *Lost in the Fog*, written and directed by Noe Valleon John Corey.

9. Walgreen's now sits at 1333 Castro St., but from 1887 to 1941 the Castro Street Cable Car Barn occupied the spot. The cable-car line, running from 18th to 26th Street, climbed the Castro hill for 54 years, and was later replaced by the diesel-powered 24-Divisadero bus.

10. Two of our more famous Noe Valleons, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, were the first same-sex couple to be married at San Francisco's City Hall on Feb. 12, 2004, and again by Mayor Gavin Newsom on June 16, 2008, after the Supreme Court gave them the constitutional right to marry. Martin and Lyon met in Seattle in 1950. Three years later, they set up house in San Francisco on Castro Street. In 1955, they founded the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first lesbian civil rights organization in the United States. That same year, they purchased a house on Duncan Street and lived there together until Martin died in 2008 at age 87.



CURTAIN CALL: Hope you had fun. See you at the Town Square, where we can hang out and bang on our drums for a while. Ciao for now.

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TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL AGENTS



Seated, left to right: Andrew Roth, John LePage, Tanya Dzhibrailova (#1 Companywide Agent), Isabelle Grotte (#1 Noe Valley Agent), Simon Shue (#1 Pacific Heights Agent). Standing, left to right: Robin Hubinsky (#1 West Portal Agent), Laura Kaufman, Suhl Chin. Not pictured above: Chris DeNike (#1 Marin Agent), Damon Knox (#1 Upper Market Agent).

TOP 10 AGENT TEAMS



Group at far left: Real SF Properties (#1 Upper Market Team) with Kira, Danny & Harry. Group seated at center, left: Team Howe (#1 Companywide Team) with Kristin, Samantha & Sherri. Group seated at center, right: Amy Clemens & Alec Mironov (#1 Noe Valley Team). Group at far right: The Gullicksen Group (#1 Pacific Heights Team) with Tim, Jonathan & Virginia. Back two rows, from left: Spiro Marin (#1 Marin Team) with Dorothy (seated) & Spiro (standing); Team Honda with Darryl & Julia (seated) and Nick & Jason (standing); Joan Loeffler & Jim Beitzel (seated/standing); The Valandra Group with Priya (seated) & Vicki (standing); The Shagley Team with Carren (seated) & Jennifer (standing); SFNorth with Greg (seated) & George (standing).

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