

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## SkinSpirit Fills Long-Empty Space

New Business on 24th Brings Both Smiles and Frowns

By Heidi Anderson

For readers who haven't kept up with the latest twists in the fate of the large empty building on 24th Street across from Whole Foods, news that the site is now occupied by a brand-new remodeled store might come as a surprise.

So, here's a brief history: The space, at 3939 24th St., was once a health food store called Real Food Company. But new owners based in Utah abruptly closed the grocery in September 2003 in the face of a union-organizing effort. The store was papered over for months and then years, while former employees, customers, residents, merchants, and District 8 supervisors engaged in debates about its future use.

Some people wanted to create smaller retail spaces within the building, and reiterated the neighborhood's general tradition of keeping out big-box or chain stores. Others demanded a grocery or hardware store fill the spot or that housing be part of any new development. Ownership of the building changed hands in 2017 and then again in 2018, and different plans were submitted.

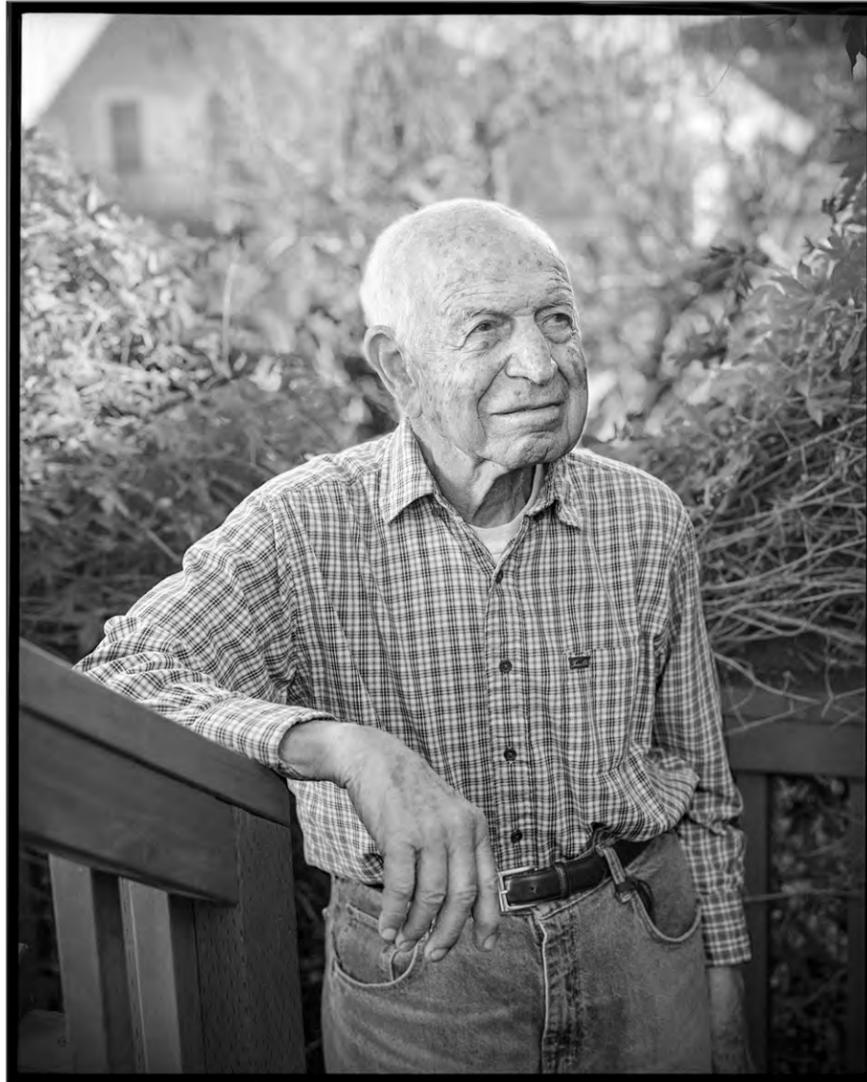
Still, for 15 years and counting, the building remained vacant.

### Spa/Clinic Moves In

The latest owner, Aralon Properties (a San Francisco real estate developer), remodeled the building last fall and decided to lease the space to a single tenant, SkinSpirit Skincare Clinic and Spa.

SkinSpirit describes itself as "the ultimate skin and body care destination in the SF and Seattle areas." (It has eight locations in the Bay Area, plus three in Seattle.)

Launched in 2003 by plastic surgeon Michael Dean Vistnes, the clinic offers "Botox, dermal fillers, facials, laser treat-



**A Living History.** Palestinian-born Amin Muwafi shares his experiences in the old country and as an immigrant math professor. See page 12.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

ments, and other non-invasive aesthetic services," including a fat-reducer called CoolSculpting.

In March, large stylish "Coming Soon" posters went up on the Real Food windows, announcing the spa to the neighborhood.

SkinSpirit-Noe Valley then opened its doors on April 16.

### 'Disappointed'

On Nextdoor, a popular social-networking site, the reaction was swift.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



**New Kid on the Block.** Some locals have given SkinSpirit a chilly reception, but others express confidence the spa will bring foot traffic to 24th Street.

Photo by Jack Tipple

## Resilient Group Gets Shakin'

When the Big One Hits, Will Noe Valley Be Ready?

By Matthew S. Bajko

A group of concerned citizens is mapping out a neighborhood response, so Noe Valley can be ready for the next major earthquake, fire, or other natural or manmade disaster.

Known as Resilient Noe Valley, the group formed in the fall of 2017 and has been working to formalize itself under the city's Neighborhood Empowerment Network. Its formal public debut is May 1, when it will host twin meetings to hear suggestions from the public and recruit new members to the organizing body.

The group aims to spend the summer finalizing the plan and to release it to the neighborhood this fall, likely in October. So there is plenty of time to join the ranks.

"We are hoping to get more folks involved in sitting around the table and thinking through this as a strategy," said Rev. David Brown of the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church on Sanchez Street. "What do we want our disaster plan to look like?"

The issue is particularly important for Brown, 69, who has led his church's congregation for five years. He works in Noe Valley but lives in Marin County. Should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Noe Courts: The Creation Story

From School Site to Cherished Open Space

By Christopher Pollock  
Historian-in-Residence, San Francisco  
Recreation and Park Department

In the pre-United States era, a vast tract of the peninsula known as the San Miguel Rancho was granted by Mexico in 1845 to José de Jesús Noé.

In 1853, John Meirs Horner purchased the tract from Noé and platted his purchase to develop Horner's Addition, the city's first residential suburb. Horner's Addition remained unbuilt due to an economic downturn, and Horner was forced to sell his mostly vacant land, which was purchased to create homestead association tracts.

As the 19th century turned to the 20th, German and Irish immigrants flooded Noe Valley. They were lured by easy availability of transportation to downtown. With the area's growth, the San Francisco Board of Education established that a district school was to be built with an appropriation amount of \$45,000 in 1898.

The site chosen occupied one-third of the east end of the block bordered by Elizabeth, Douglass, and 24th streets. It was purchased during the years 1901 and 1902 from four different owners. This .93-acre purchase was a part of the tract known as the Noe Garden Homestead

### A Series on Local Parks

Anyone who has roamed the streets of a Noe Valley knows that the parks, playgrounds, trails (and town squares) are some of the neighborhood's most treasured assets. Hardly a day goes by that residents don't find a way to sun on a park bench or hike to a scenic vista.

Now we have a chance to learn more details about the places we go to play ball or commune with nature. Christopher Pollock, historian-in-residence at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, has offered to share the histories he has written of Noe Valley's parks. They are among the 220 studies he has done covering each of the city's green spaces. The first park in the series for the Voice is Noe Courts, the small park and playground at 24th and Douglass streets. We'll meet you there when the paper is done. —The Editors

Union, which was organized in 1869.

The three-story-over-basement building contained 15 classrooms. Three free-standing buildings contained individual classrooms as well. Known as Noe Valley Primary School, the main building was completed about 1904 for \$29,474. As with most other contemporary schools, the construction was of wood.

### 1906 Earthquake and Fire

The massive fire that was a consequence of the April 1906 Earthquake did not breach the school, but did scorch

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

**OPENSFHISTORY**



**Creating Space:** Demolition in progress on 30th Street near Laidley in 1958. The San Francisco Redevelopment agency made way for a part of the Diamond Heights project that would become the public park known as Billy Goat Hill.

*Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

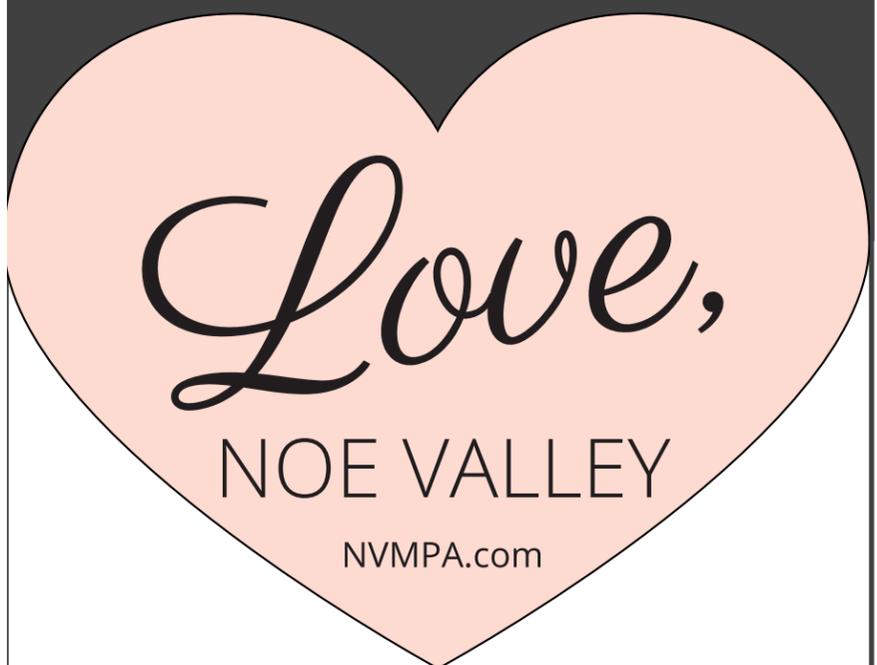
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# JESSICA BRANSON

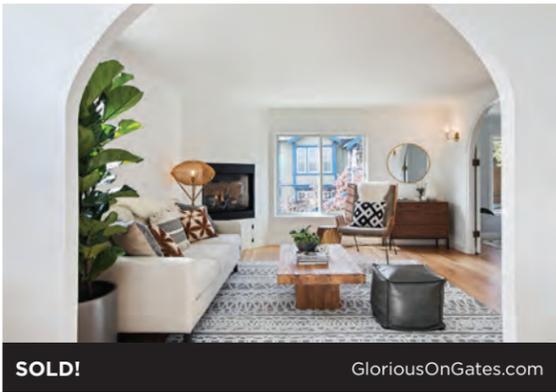
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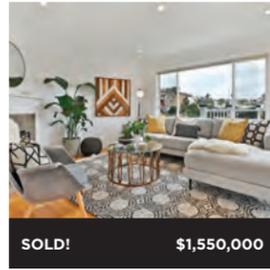
At the end of 2018 and early January 2019 it looked as though the local housing market was stabilizing after a meteoric rise. But now, thanks to the recent NY Times article predicting an uptick in real estate prices due to a spate of upcoming SF IPOs, buyers seem almost desperate to get into the market before they get priced out by newly minted millionaires. Now well prepared, well priced homes are being snatched up again in bidding wars. There is opportunity here now for sellers. Jessica will guide you. With more than a decade of experience, she will help you achieve the best possible sale price, while she and her team seamlessly manage every detail.



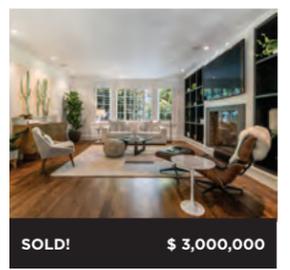
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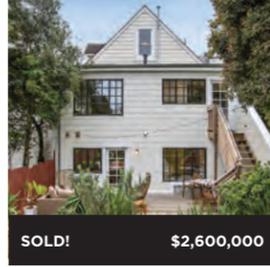
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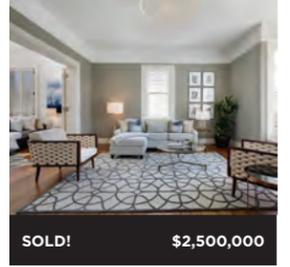
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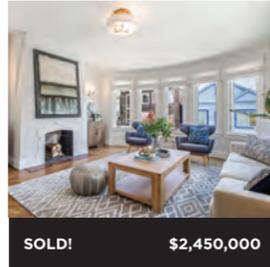
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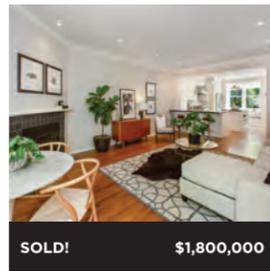
SOLD! \$2,500,000



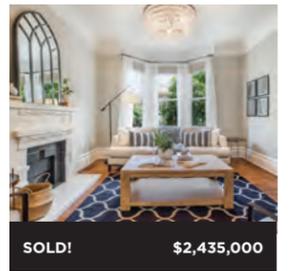
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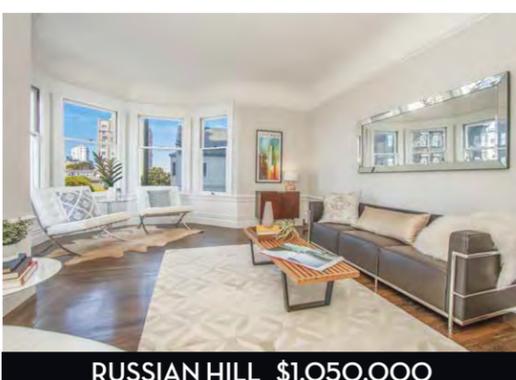
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photo: Amanda Brauning

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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Bend It

- ACROSS**
- Possesses
  - Kill Bill* actress Thurman
  - Geological period
  - Motel unit
  - "Golly!"
  - Columbus's birthplace
  - Con \_\_\_\_ (spiritedly)
  - Bill Yenne, for Noe Valley
  - "Not to worry"
  - Joey's mom
  - Rafael Mandelman, for one
  - Old TV's *My Mother* \_\_\_\_
  - Drivers' org.?
  - Abbr. for a person with only one given name
  - Sped
  - First on the moon after Armstrong
  - E\*Trade purchase: Abbr.
  - "You mean me?"
  - Canonized person
  - Noe Valley store with four kids' story times a day, or a name for any of four circled turns in this puzzle
  - "Able was \_\_\_\_ saw Elba"
  - Noe Valley \_\_\_\_: place for a massage
  - Miracle-\_\_\_\_
  - Oscar-winning role for Whoopi
  - Hairy Himalayan
  - Apocalypse Now* setting, informally
  - Blender setting
  - Lipton alternative
  - Evil
  - Name that means "king"
  - Bookcase part

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- DOWN**
- Gum brand
  - Rival of *Money Magazine*
  - Kind of urban pollution
  - Kiss
  - "Eww!"
  - Golda of Israel
  - Fabulist of old
  - Freudian topic
  - Arrested suspect, informally
  - Annular treat at Savor
  - Underground worker?
  - Solo of *Star Wars*
  - Julius Caesar* costume
  - Chiang \_\_\_\_-Shek
  - "Do \_\_\_\_ fa..."
  - Besides
  - Emcee's offering
  - Some deer
  - \_\_\_\_es Salaam (Tanzanian port)
  - Boxy car rebranded as Toyota in 2017
  - A 1917 Cleopatra
  - Brothers in a Dostoevski title
  - 1960s Cosby/Culp espionage series
  - Dream-period acronym
  - Kinsey star Neeson
  - Herb of Chronicle fame
  - Leprechauns' land
  - Parisian possessive
  - Beatty/Hoffman bomb of 1987
  - A noble gas
  - Elon Musk's company
  - Thrill
  - BlackKkKlansman* hairdos
  - Hamlet, for one
  - Princess played by Lucy Lawless
  - Partner of neither
  - Cocoon* director Howard
  - Type of milk at Whole Foods

**Solution on Page 26**  
Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

# LETTERS 55¢

## Proud of Her Wrinkles

Editor:

I have been living in Noe Valley for the past 15 years. During most of that time, the building across from Whole Foods grocery store stood empty. I always felt it was sad that such a big space wasn't being put to good use. Especially since it is located in the middle of 24th Street, the most traveled and popular thoroughfare in our little town.

I had visions about what it could be. One was an accessible congenial market-like area with all kinds of interesting boutiques and small businesses offering an assortment of attractive merchandise—home made or from other countries—for people of all ages and financial means.

However, to my shock, awe, and dismay, this valuable piece of property has been turned into a corporate enterprise that provides wealthy, obsessive, youth-seeking people a place where they might get a nip and tuck. Or any kind of spa treatment to relieve their aching feet or sagging bodies.

In my opinion, it is a shame that in this family-friendly neighborhood an establishment that promotes high-priced vanity care has been welcomed. I have nothing against people who dread aging and grasp at whatever they can to erase its presence, but all I can say, as a proud wrinkled senior, is NOT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD!!

Anna Freeman  
Jersey Street

## Is Someone's Face Red?

Editor:

After years and years of an empty storefront where Real Food's once was, we now have construction for a new busi-

ness and a refurbished building and storefront. Apparently someone isn't happy with this, as the front of the building was "egged" overnight April 1 or 2, presumably in protest.

How sick and sad is this, not to mention childish (although it may not have been done by children). I hope the *Noe Valley Voice* can speak out against destructive and hateful behavior like this.

Lolly Schiffman  
Via email

*Editor's Note: See our story on page 1 discussing the arrival of SkinSpirit Skin-care Clinic and Spa at 3939 24th St., former home of Real Food Company.*

## Not Taking It Anymore

Editor:

I just emailed SFMTA regarding the new parking permit fees (\$136 a year for those of you who haven't yet received your bill). I'm outraged that the cost keeps going up, when they are rarely or not at all enforcing the parking zones ("Z" and "S" for us Noe Valleyans, but this applies citywide).

If anyone else is frustrated at the increases and lack of coverage, I suggest you email them as well.

Here's a link to the online form: [https://crmproxy.sfgov.org/EF3/General.jsp?form=SSP\\_Request\\_For\\_City\\_Services&page=SSP\\_Page\\_EmailEnter](https://crmproxy.sfgov.org/EF3/General.jsp?form=SSP_Request_For_City_Services&page=SSP_Page_EmailEnter), plus a copy of my rant:

"Just got my permit renewal fee. Wow! \$136. And you rarely enforce the area. We are paying for nothing. I'm sure we all wouldn't mind paying the fee if you'd actually enforce it. Every day, 75 to 90 percent of cars on my block are NOT permit holders. They stay for hours. "J" commuters most likely. I've sent two emails in the past, trying to get enforcement. Seems they come out a day or two after the request, then never again. Raise the violation rate (and enforce it) rather than penalizing permit holders."

Mad-as-Hell "Z" Holder  
J. Reed

## A Charged Conversation

Editor:

I bought a number of items this morning at Whole Foods, including oranges. When I stepped up to the cashier, we had the following interaction:

*Cashier looks at oranges.*

*Me:* They are \$1.49 per pound.

*Cashier charges \$1.99 per pound.*

*Me:* The oranges are \$1.49 per pound.

*Cashier:* What kind of oranges are these?

*Me:* The kind that are behind the \$1.49 per pound sign.

*Cashier looks at oranges.*

*Cashier:* Sometimes we make mistakes.

*Me:* I've been overcharged by Whole



**We Remembered Paris:** Voice reader Anna Waclawiczek sent us this painting of Notre Dame by her late stepfather, local artist Jack Freeman (1938-2014), the morning after a ferocious fire toppled the spire of the 850-year-old cathedral on April 15. Freeman painted the image in 2002 on a trip to France. Waclawiczek and many others, in Noe Valley and around the world, mourned the extensive damage to one of Paris' most iconic buildings.

Foods 11 times in a row, and never undercharged. The probability of that being a mistake is less than 1 out of a 1,000.

*Cashier:* I don't get paid extra for overcharging.

*Me:* I'm sure you don't, so why do the cashiers at Whole Foods consistently overcharge and never undercharge?

*Cashier:* I guess someone does make money.

*Me:* So you believe Jeff Bezos needs a few dollars more than a senior citizen on a fixed income?

*Cashier ignores me and waves over next customer.*

Over the last few years, Whole Foods has regularly overcharged me for my purchases. Was wondering if anyone has been consistently undercharged for purchases made at Whole Foods?

Edward Bell  
Longtime Noe Valley Resident

## Good Food Within Walking

Editor (and neighbors):

Next time you're jonesing for Tex-Mex, try Noe's Cantina, the newest inhabitant of the Church and 24th Street corner venue.

I've had only lunch there, but I found it delicious and reasonably priced.

My motivation is at least partly selfish. Like Holy Kitchen at the other end of 24th Street, Noe's Cantina is just beyond the few blocks that get a lot of foot traffic, and I don't want it to go under before I've had a chance to try everything on the menu.

Even though I know if it succeeds "bigly," the prices will go up and the quality down.

Leslie Wellbaum  
Sanchez Street

*Editor's Note: Holy Kitchen has closed. It reportedly will reopen as an Indian restaurant called Bon Appetikka.*

## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

P.O. Box 460249  
San Francisco, CA 94146  
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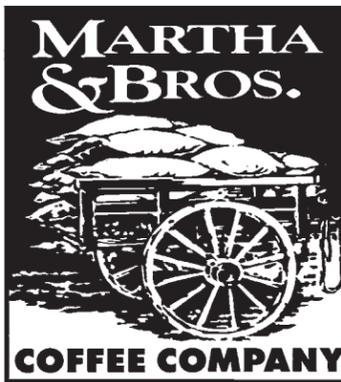
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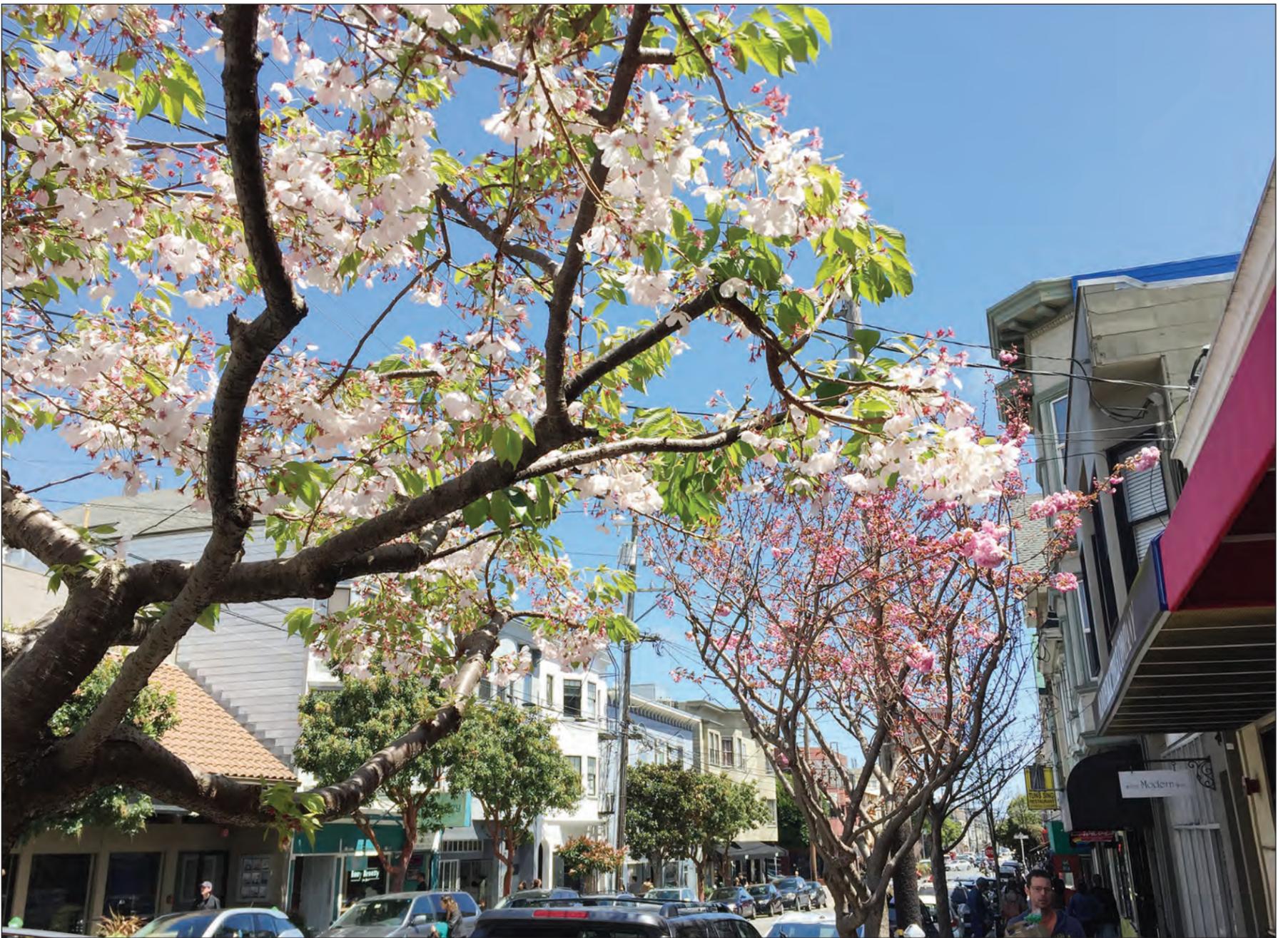
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Let There Be Pink in the Valley. April blossoms bring the promise of Spring growth to 24th Street.

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# Resilient Noe Valley Gets Off the Ground

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Golden Gate Bridge become impassable due to an earthquake, Brown might find himself stranded in the neighborhood, unable to make it home to his wife. A disaster plan would provide him and others a roadmap for what to do in such a situation.

“We know some things it would probably involve, like what would be the go-to places in the neighborhood for people if they needed shelter,” Brown said. “If they needed to find a place, would it be the churches or schools or a different place?”

The plan would also address if the reverse were to happen and people couldn’t get back into the city to their jobs in the neighborhood. Similarly, it would provide guidance for what residents who work outside the city, such as at tech campuses on the Peninsula, should do in order to return to their homes. And if they are parents, the plan might spell out what group or agency would watch their children.

“What do we do with their kids in the meantime and what is the school’s responsibility?” are questions the plan will address, said Brown. “We are helping the schools think through that. Having a strategy in place is really important.”

### Good Way to Meet Neighbors

The issue is one Stephen Fiehler is contemplating, as he and his wife are expecting their first child this fall. Fiehler, 32, works for Stanford Children’s Health as an IT project manager and belongs to the congregation at Noe Valley Ministry.

“If there is an event,” said Fiehler, “we looked in the mirror and asked, ‘Well, what can we do to help in the event of an earthquake or fire or who knows what else?’”

He sees his involvement in Resilient Noe Valley as countering the narrative of millennials being self-absorbed and out of touch with their community. Having moved into the neighborhood three years ago from the East Coast, Fiehler has gotten to know Noe Valley rather well and believes he is equipped to provide help in the event of a disaster.

“I feel passionate about being helpful in the community,” said Fiehler. “The disaster plan goes a long way toward improving community ties and creating relationships in the community.”

### Lessons From Wildfires

Those neighborly ties could become a key asset in times of crisis, noted Brown.

“One of the big lessons learned from the Santa Rosa fires and the Paradise fire is when people were going to other people’s doors to warn them about the fires, they wouldn’t open the door because they were afraid of being burglarized or something like that,” he said. “Having a strategy for getting to know your neighbors on any given block is a good idea.”

### Block Captains in Works

One proposal being considered for the neighborhood disaster plan is for people to sign up to be captains of their block. Block captains would be tasked with getting to know the other residents on their street. That way, in times of disaster, they would know their neighbors and how to contact them to offer assistance.

“In the event of a disaster, having those ties and those relationships is important,” said Fiehler.

Not only is it necessary to have a neighborhood disaster plan in place, said Brown, it is also advantageous to have neighbors talking to one another before a disaster strikes.

“Even in the process of coming up with something, it will result in better neighborly communication with each other,” he said, “because involved in this process is thinking about businesses, residents, churches, and schools all working together. If you have had those conversations, just in themselves it helps create better community.”

### Partnering With Government

The 15-member Resilient Noe Valley committee currently includes residents, business owners, and church and city officials. There are 11 such groups in San Francisco, including a Resilient Diamond Heights, listed on the website for the Neighborhood Empowerment Network.

The Noe Valley committee had sought to win a \$25,000 grant through the District 8 supervisor’s office in 2018 but was unsuccessful in doing so. Nonetheless, it continued to meet and receive guidance and assistance from Daniel Homsey, director of the Neighborhood Empowerment Network. He works out of the city administrator’s office.

The late Mayor Ed Lee, when he

worked as the city administrator, was inspired to see San Francisco neighborhoods develop their own disaster plans after he took a trip to New Orleans in 2007. He saw firsthand the damage the Crescent City had sustained by Hurricane Katrina two years prior.

As explained on the program’s website, “The mayor concluded that the incredible destruction and loss of life could have been prevented if the community had been brought to the table as an equitable partner by local government and actively participated in the creation of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies.”

After District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman took office last July, he and his staff lent support to the creation of the neighborhood disaster plan.

The resiliency group meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. To learn more about the neighborhood disaster plan and to sign up for updates, visit the Resilient Noe Valley committee’s website at <http://www.empowersf.org/resilient-noe-valley/>. ■

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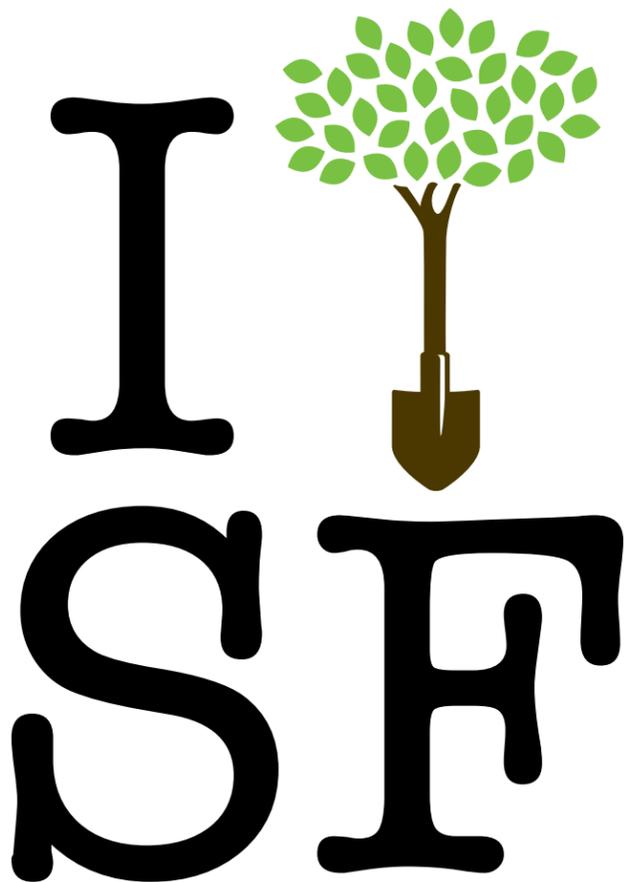
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Photo by Art Bodner

## Body and Skincare Clinic Replaces Real Food Store

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Early April posts from Noe Valley residents used words like “disappointed” and “out of character,” and argued that SkinSpirit would be a “constant reminder that we are being priced out of the city.”

Others in the thread lamented the defeat of more housing or suggested small-shop alternatives for the space.

And in a letter to the *Voice* this month (see page 7), a resident complained, “To my shock, awe, and dismay, this valuable piece of property has been turned into a corporate enterprise that [caters to] wealthy, obsessive youth-seeking people....”

Around the same time, an unknown poster “egged” the windows of the store.

### On the Other Hand

Neighbor Sheila Thompson said she would welcome the new spa.

“I’m a regular client at the one on Sacramento Street,” said Thompson, who lives on Clipper Street and owns her own business. “I’ve had really positive experiences.”

She added, “I’m thrilled there is one less empty storefront, and it now has a legitimate and successful business there.”

Another resident brought up the loss of Dermalounge on Church Street, and said services there had made a “dramatic positive improvement on my life.” She added, “I may even use their [SkinSpirit] services.”

### Survey Says...

Bernie Melvin is the owner of Bernie’s Cafe, across the street from SkinSpirit.



Proponents hope the new clinic that filled a nearly 16-year vacancy at 3939 24th St. will be a boost to the local economy. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

Once it was obvious to the neighborhood that SkinSpirit was moving in, she conducted an informal poll of her customers for a few weeks. She said she was

surprised.

“I can tell you that 50 percent of my customers are all for the new store, and 50 percent are definitely opposed to it.”

Melvin, who has been operating her cafe for almost 12 years, is giving SkinSpirit a pass. She said she convinced some naysayers to see her point after she explained it this way:

“I’m a small business owner. You know what I think we all need around here to stay in business? Foot traffic. More foot traffic.”

Rachel Swann, managing director of The Agency real estate firm on 24th Street and the current president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, agrees.

“I can’t tell you how many people I’ve had yelling at me about this store,” said Swann. “But I also have heard from neighbors that they routinely go outside this neighborhood to get services like this. Now they will walk to SkinSpirit.”

### SkinSpirit Goes Face to Face

Meanwhile, the manager for the new store, Jane Yeh, is busy settling in her staff and meeting her next-door neighbors.

“I’m doing a lot of face-to-face greetings with neighbors and merchants,” said Yeh. “It’s important to us that we know who our neighbors are. We love to find like-minded businesses who we can get behind.”

Yeh said this was a common practice of hers. She listed stores in Palo Alto and San Francisco’s Presidio Heights where she has managed SkinSpirit spas.

Regarding the messages of un-welcome online, Yeh said she had not been aware of the controversy until she read about it in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (April 3).

So she posted her own message on Nextdoor.

“While I understand that not everyone in the neighborhood wants more personal

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Nadia has been a proud member & homeowner in the Noe Valley community for 35 years. This month, she is celebrating her 30th year as a Realtor with Zephyr Real Estate!

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## Amin Muwafi— Home Away From Home

By Najib Joe Hakim

“Monday-Wednesday-Friday” is how mathematics professor Amin Muwafi got his American students to remember the three syllables of his name. They used to pronounce his name “Mafia” but after “Monday-Wednesday-Friday,” no student ever forgot the name, he says proudly.

Prof. Muwafi spent almost 50 years, until he retired at 70, as an educator, first in Palestine, then in Jordan, Lebanon, and at several American universities. Although his education began quite humbly, sitting on the floor at the feet of his kindergarten teacher learning Arabic, arithmetic, and some Quran, he later came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship and obtained a post-doctorate at U.C. Berkeley.

Born in 1923 in the central Palestinian town of Qalqilya, “still now in the West Bank of Palestine,” Muwafi spends his days at On Lok’s 30th Street Senior Center before returning to his daughter’s home each evening.

Until recently, Amin Muwafi lived on Alvarado Street, where I met him a few years ago for a project on the Palestinian community in the Bay Area. He made us some Arabic coffee as we discussed his life and memories.

He is a gracious, soft-spoken man with a gentle sense of humor. You can see all that in his eyes before he ever says a word. But once he speaks, he draws you in further with his charm.

Family is central in Muwafi’s life. “Half my family, my two sisters, are still in Qalqilya, and half, my two brothers,



For guests, Amin Muwafi makes a delicacy he brought from his Palestinian homeland, sweet Arabian coffee.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

are in Jordan,” he says. “Every Sunday, every Sunday, I wake up between eight and nine, and I have to call [my family members] in Qalqilya and Amman [Jordan]. I go one by one by one. I call them every week.... If one week I do not call, they start worrying. So this is a must.”

Muwafi met his wife, Khalideh, in

1964 while teaching at the American University of Beirut (AUB), where he spent much of his career. Together they raised three children.

In 2007, he and Khalideh moved to the U.S. permanently and settled in their Alvarado Street home. They lived there for seven years. After his wife passed away, he moved into his daughter Jumana Muwafi’s home near Mt. Davidson.

Prof. Muwafi’s memories of his Palestinian hometown go back to 1927, when his father and three uncles started an orange grove on a hundred acres of land on the edge of Qalqilya. They exported their crop of Palestine’s famous oranges to England and Europe. “The distance from here [Alvarado Street] to the [30th Street] Senior Center is the same distance from where we were living to our orange grove.”

After he left Palestine in 1948, he was invited to teach high school in Amman, Jordan. In 1952, “I was offered a scholarship to come to the United States. All right, of course, I accepted the scholarship and came to the University of Florida.”

Unlike other Arab countries, Jordan offered Palestinians citizenship. So Muwafi was able to travel to the U.S. using his new Jordanian passport. He was later ac-

## SkinSpirit Opens On 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

cepted into Phi Beta Kappa and received an assistantship to continue for a master’s degree.

“And if you’d like to know, at that time I was offered \$121 a month. That’s the salary. After you deduct income tax, I had \$119 left. And from that \$119, I had to send part of my salary back home because the troubles from Palestine started and we lost our property.”

Like the Irish, Muwafi calls the political conflict in his homeland “the troubles.”

“When the 1948 troubles started,” referring to the time known in Palestine as the Nakba, Israeli soldiers came and demanded the family abandon their orchard, he said. The Muwafis initially left but soon returned, as did the soldiers, who shot the family cat as a warning. Undeterred, Muwafi’s brother and three cousins returned a third time to work in their grove. This time, the Israelis took the four young men to the edge of town and “with a machine gun, killed the four of them. [After that] we lost everything except the house we were living in,” Muwafi said.

I asked him whether he had ever returned to Qalqilya after they left in 1948. He replied, “I did not return except once. Once since 1948.” After the Oslo Accords were signed by PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1993, the PLO selected one member from each family to accompany Arafat back to their towns and villages in Palestine, Muwafi said.

“I was chosen to be among the group, and we went in two buses there. I saw my brothers, sisters, cousins.... I slept there [in his former home].... Qalqilya had about, I think, 25,000 acres of orange groves. We don’t know what the Israelis did with the orange groves.... They sell it? They give it to people to use?”

Muwafi describes the Israeli wall in the West Bank as [former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] “Sharon’s Berlin Wall,” as in, “The whole town is now surrounded by Sharon’s Berlin Wall.... Life in Qalqilya is a prison.... People can’t go anywhere except through one gate where there are Israeli guards.”

Near the end of our interview, I gave Muwafi my business card, which has my company Jaffa Orange Photography printed on the front. Looking at it, he exclaimed, “Ah, Jaffa! Jaffa was my favorite place. We’d go there to the beach. We went frequently when I was in elementary school. We’d go there to see a movie in the afternoon and come back. When we went by bus, we paid two pilsasters. That was five cents. Many times I went with my uncle on the side of my mother. He was working in an orange grove belonging to an Israeli Jew north of Tel Aviv. I used to go and visit him there and he would take me to the beach. The last time I went to Jaffa was in 1948. No more. We were in danger. We would be killed.”

I came away from meeting Prof. Muwafi thinking of the calculus of life experiences there must be in our neighborhood guarded behind front doors and gates. The world and history seem to be well within our reach if we wish to pursue them. I vowed to myself to reach out more.

About a year after I first met Prof. Muwafi, I ran into him and his two nurses outside Mitchell’s Ice Cream shop. He sat on the bench with a sundae about the size of a pumpkin in his hands and a twinkle in his eyes which declared, “Longevity has its rewards!”

At 96, amen to that! ■

*Editor’s note: You can listen to Amin Muwafi’s story about leaving Palestine at Najib Joe Hakim’s website, [www.jaffaorangephoto.com](http://www.jaffaorangephoto.com). Search on the Home Away From Home link.*



A Celebration of Life for Nina Youkelson will be held June 1, 11 a.m. at San Mateo Memorial Park. See Rumors on page 27. Photo by Beverly Tharp

## Rest in Peace

# How Noe Courts Park Came to Be

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

areas just to the northeast. After the cataclysm, the school was one of the city's many official distribution stations offering the necessities of life to those who lost their homes.

After the earthquake, the school resumed classes for many years. But the building became surplus in 1932, when the student body was moved to the new fire-resistant, masonry Alvarado School nearby. That year, the school board suggested to the Recreation Department that the vacant property be turned into tennis courts.

## A New Recreation Spot

The school building was demolished, and in the throes of the Great Depression, construction of a new recreation facility was carried out by the Works Progress Administration, a federally funded work-assistance program.

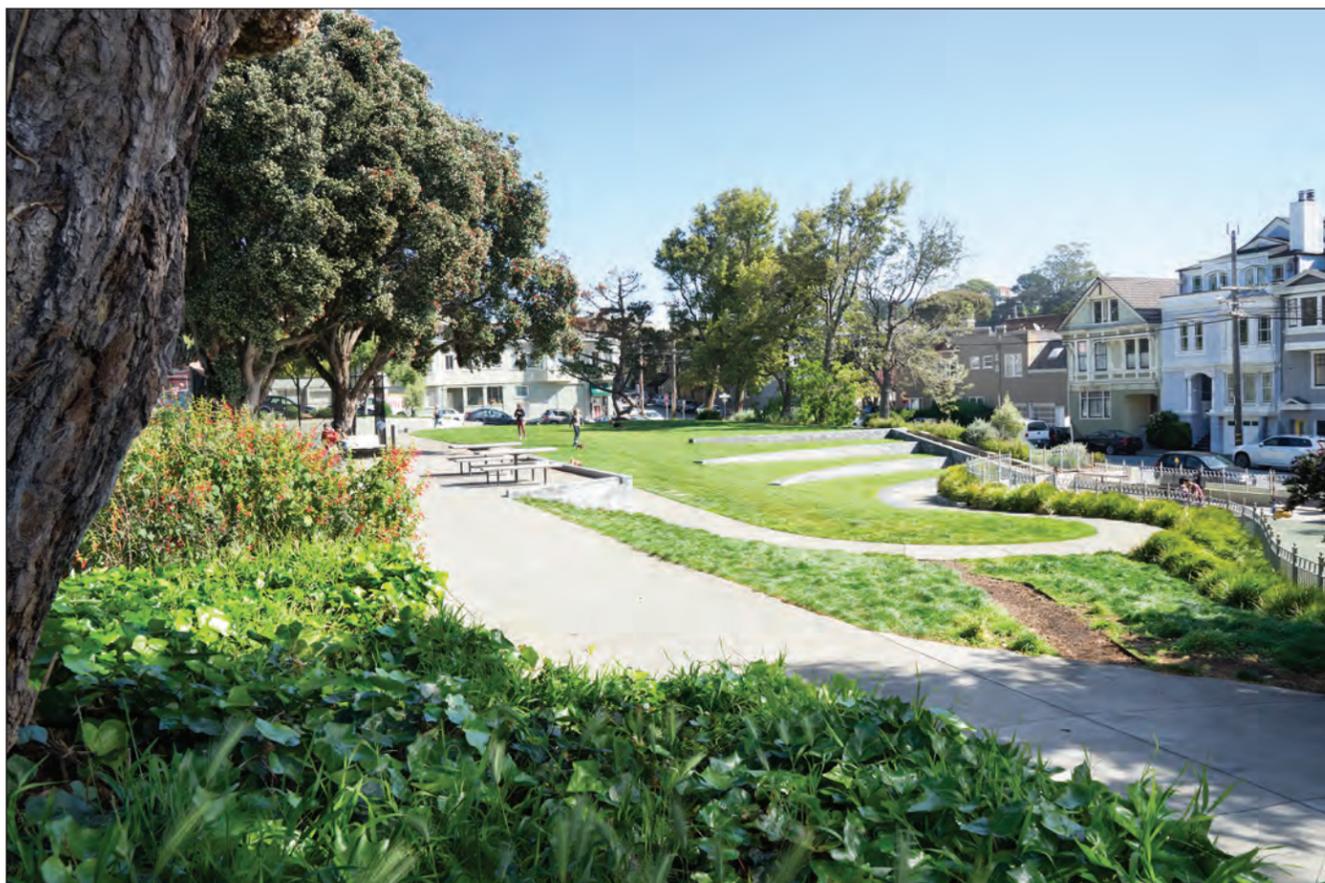
Noe Valley's second park—Douglass Playground was the first, built in 1923—started to take shape. The work included three tennis courts in the south two-thirds of the property, a convenience station, and a playground. The project was finished by 1939 and cost \$32,667. The name used by the Rec and Park Commission was Noe Valley Tennis Courts.

Playground equipment was added to the site in 1956, which included a baby swing, small slide, and a whirl-a-round ride, all costing \$660. The project was carried out by William McIntosh and Son, which constructed the playground for a cost of \$3,849.

## A Series of Rehabilitations

By the 1970s the name was informally shortened to Noe Courts. Work on improving the playground started in 1977, the year Lanier and Sherrill, Architects and Planners, were hired to provide plans to update the park. Their fee was \$12,624. (Lanier was the husband of renowned local artist and former Art Commission board member Ruth Asawa.) Construction work was carried out by J. Lansdowne Engineering in late 1980, and finishing touches such as landscaping and fencing were installed in early 1981.

With the work financed through Open Space funds and by the Friends of Noe Valley, which donated the new futuristic climbing apparatus, the park was rededicated on April 5, 1981. The jungle-gym play structure consisted of geodesic forms molded from transparent acrylic plastic. The assembled modular elements looked like giant blown bubbles that



On weekdays, Noe Courts is a quiet oasis at the corner of 24th and Douglass streets. Visitors can relax at tables or on terraced seating installed in the park during the last renovation two years ago.

Photo by BeverlyTharp

might float through the air. A child could crawl on and through the three-dimensional shapes.

## Climbing Bubbles

But time took its toll, and in 1990 the Noe Valley community was asking the city for a "spruce-up" of the park. Later that year, the jungle gym, which was becoming a maintenance problem, was removed, leaving only a concrete curbed sandbox area with swings and a chin-up bar.

By mid-1991, a new double-platform climbing structure with a clear acrylic bubble window reminiscent of the play structure was in place. There were further discussions with the community about continuing improvements, such as a fence for the play area.

As a pro-active measure, local resident Steve Kolm, an architect, designed pro-bono a painted galvanized steel fence with gates to enclose the play area. The fence was installed with some layout revisions, concrete planters constructed to further enclose the park, and the tennis and basketball courts were repaved. The phased project was finished by the end of 1994. The work was funded by an Open Space grant.

## Friends of Noe Courts

Residents discussed a renovation of the playground in 2005. In May of 2007, Val-

letta Construction was awarded the contract for their base bid of \$292,220 for renovation of the play area. The group Friends of Noe Courts contributed \$16,000 toward the renovation.

The play area was extended, fencing added to enclose the play area, and play surfaces replaced. Ramps were also added for ADA access. The playground was reopened later in 2007.

Not long after the park was renovated, the issue of dogs and children sharing the park's spaces became hotly debated. The debate continued until discussions of a new park renovation started in 2011.

## Recent Renovation

On May 15, 2014, the Recreation and Park Commission approved a plan that focused on the creation of a lawn area with amphitheater-style seating separate from areas where dogs might play. (Dogs must stay on leash in the park.) The concept included less tennis and more general use court space. A ramp to the bathroom and renovation to the building's interior were added to further comply with ADA standards.

Funding came from Friends of Noe Courts, which applied for a Community Opportunity Fund grant combined with funds from the voter-approved 2008 Park Bond.

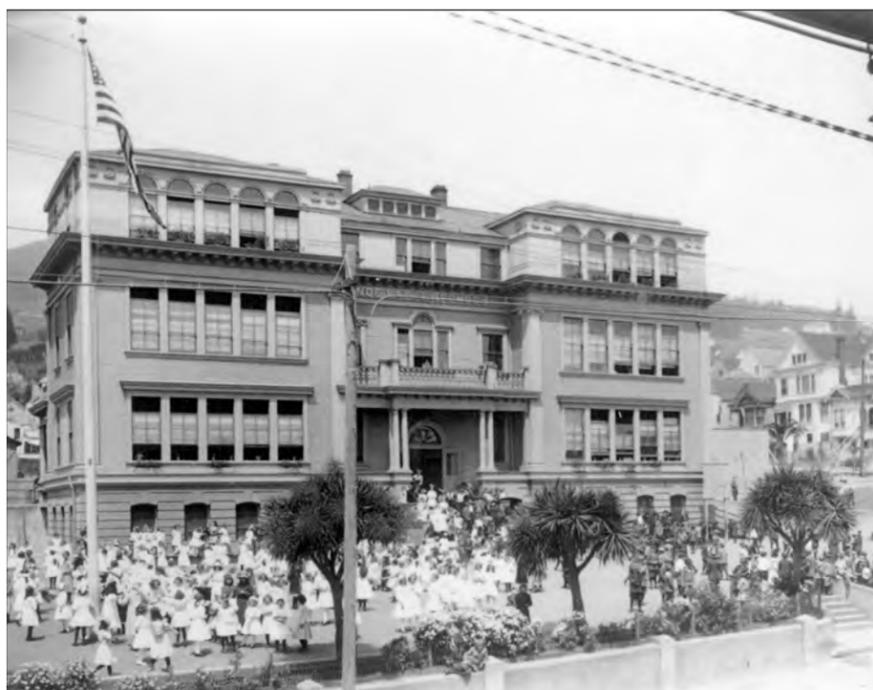
On May 12, 2017, the recreation facility was reopened to the public. ■



A photo in the February 1981 Noe Valley Voice captured members of Friends of Noe Valley helping to assemble a play structure at Noe Courts.

Photo by Charles Kennard

**Christopher Pollock** is a 40-year resident of San Francisco and the author of *Reel San Francisco Stories: An Annotated Filmography of the Bay Area*. He was named the first historian-in-residence at the city's Recreation and Park Department in 2016.



Before Noe Courts there was Noe Valley Primary School, serving neighborhood children from about 1904 until 1932.

Photo San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library



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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Marching in Step

By Corrie M. Anders

Home shoppers in March purchased an even dozen single-family detached homes in Noe Valley, proving that demand remains high despite ozone-level prices.

The sales volume was in line with that of March of last year, when 10 homes were sold, according to data provided monthly to the Voice by Zephyr Real Estate.

It was an “uneventful March, and very similar to prior years,” said Zephyr president Randall Kostick. (In March of 2017, the number was 15.)

Home values held pretty steady, year over year. Shoppers paid an average price of \$2,330,000 for a detached home—1.4 percent less than what buyers paid in March a year earlier.



A three-bedroom condominium in this elegant Victorian on Fair Oaks Street sold in March for \$1,760,000. The interior had been remodeled, but it retained some vintage features, including a fireplace, double parlor, and bay windows.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Buyers continued to overspend to land an address in the neighborhood. They paid an average 9 percent over the seller’s asking price. Still, that was a lot less than they paid in March 2018. Then, the typical buyer sweetened the deal 19 percent.

For the most expensive house sold this March, buyers paid the precise amount the seller wanted—\$4,988,000—for a modern luxury home on the quiet 2400 block of Castro Street (near Billy Goat Hill).

The five-bedroom, 5.5-bath, 4,407-square-foot home boasted floor-to-ceiling windows, spacious living areas, a gourmet kitchen, a sauna, a media/family room, a meditation/office space, one-car parking, and expansive city views. An interesting note: The previous owner kept the house only for 14 months.

Buyers paid \$1,760,000—10.3 percent more than the asking price—for the most expensive condominium sold during March, a three-bedroom, one-bath residence occupying the top floor of a Victorian on the 100 block of Fair Oaks Street, between 22nd and 23rd streets. The 1,550-square-foot space had been remodeled, but retained much of its Victorian charm. Units shared a two-car garage and a garden.



A two-story wall of glass guaranteeing a view of the bay may have created enough curb appeal to attract buyers to this luxury contemporary home on Castro Street. It was sold, for the second time in 14 months, for just under \$5 million.

| Unit    | No. in Sample | Range April 2019   | Average April 2019 | Average March 2019 | Average April 2018 |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Studio  | 6             | \$1,995 - \$2,975  | \$2,407 / mo.      | \$2,498 / mo.      | \$2,355 / mo.      |
| 1-bdrm  | 34            | \$2,175 -          | \$3,388 / mo.      | \$3,343 / mo.      | \$3,266 / mo.      |
| 2-bdrm  | 26            | \$3,200 - \$5,995  | \$4,727 / mo.      | \$4,372 / mo.      | \$4,172 / mo.      |
| 3-bdrm  | 21            | \$4,150 - \$13,000 | \$6,675 / mo.      | \$6,511 / mo.      | \$6,308 / mo.      |
| 4+-bdrm | 8             | \$5,395 - \$30,000 | \$12,643 / mo.     | \$15,532 / mo.     | \$9,640 / mo.      |

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 95 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from April 1-7, 2019. NVV5/2019

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| Total Sales                   | No. | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Avg. Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Single-family homes</b>    |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| March 2019                    | 12  | \$1,410,000    | \$4,988,000     | \$2,329,917        | 22                  | 109%                          |
| February 2019                 | 7   | \$1,600,000    | \$4,500,000     | \$3,050,714        | 29                  | 103%                          |
| March 2018                    | 10  | \$1,400,000    | \$3,150,000     | \$2,363,900        | 12                  | 119%                          |
| <b>Condominiums/TICs</b>      |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| March 2019                    | 7   | \$670,000      | \$1,760,000     | \$1,177,857        | 24                  | 110%                          |
| February 2019                 | 5   | \$732,500      | \$1,660,000     | \$1,134,500        | 20                  | 111%                          |
| March 2018                    | 14  | \$1,135,890    | \$1,805,000     | \$1,469,750        | 12                  | 115%                          |
| <b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b> |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| March 2019                    | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |
| February 2019                 | 1   | \$1,500,000    | \$1,500,000     | \$1,500,000        | 86                  | 94%                           |
| March 2018                    | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |
| <b>5+-unit buildings</b>      |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| March 2019                    | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |
| February 2019                 | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |
| March 2018                    | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |

\* Survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley for purposes of this survey is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (zephyrre.com) for providing sales data. NVV5/2019



River of Wildflowers, 8x10 inches, oil on canvas panel

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## Pietro Fonda Reaches Another Milestone

Photos and text by Najib Joe Hakim

Orthopedic cobbler Pietro Fonda celebrated his 95th birthday on Saturday, April 6, at Ardiana's Pizza on Church Street. Fonda is probably the oldest fully employed citizen of Noe Valley, running his specialty shoe shop

at 1787 Church St. with his business partner, shoe artist Suzanne George, for 20 years. Before that, he had a shop on the other side of Church for 24 years. It was at that spot in 1995 that he repaired the sandals of Mother Teresa (now known as Saint Teresa).

Joining him and his grown children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for pizza and cake were about 75 friends, neighbors, and customers. Near

the end of the event, a man, a total stranger, dropped in and offered Fonda a simple but beautiful flower, with well wishes. That's the kind of person Fonda is—easily making friends with his charm, robust energy, and deep faith.

As I left, Fonda told me in all earnestness that he wanted to eat as much cake and other sweets as he could, because when he was a boy near his native Pirano, Italy, he never had

cake or sweets for his birthday. Instead, they built a bonfire and danced around it until bedtime.

On Monday morning, at the grand age of 95 plus two days, Fonda planned to be back at St. Paul's Chapel across the street for a pre-dawn prayer. Then he would open his shop again for another day of work.



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# OTHER VOICES

fiction, poetry, essays • the noe valley voice

## Neighborhood Boundaries And a Story That Crossed Them 50 Years Ago

By LisaRuth Elliott

What are the bounds of Noe Valley? Do we go to Google maps to find out? Are the borders geographical or based on other landmarks? Do they exist because a real estate company created them—and the micro-neighborhoods within them? Is the neighborhood given an identity in relation to the Mission District, or to Glen Park or Eureka Valley?

While working to digitize neighborhood newspapers with the San Francisco Department of Memory—including the *Noe Valley Voice*, which goes back to 1977—I’ve found in the Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco Collection many indications of the permeability of neighborhood boundaries as expressed over the decades. The *Noe Valley Voice* covered the potential closure of the Mission Cultural Center on the front page of its September 1980 issue, and in September 1982 had a front-page photo and blurb about the 24th Street Cultural Festival with the headline “The Other 24th Street Fair.” The *Voice* also reported on businesses located along Valencia Street, which was “up and coming” in September of 1984. For its part, the *New Mission News* showed in December 2000 how the neighborhoods might be linked with an additional BART station between 24th Street and Glen Park stations.

Do the Mission District and Noe Valley have much in common besides a bus line that brings us through each of them? In Mona Caron’s Farmer’s Market murals on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez, we see ribbons pulling past, present, and future together, including lower and upper 24th Street, drawing together an immigrant rights rally at Mission and street life near Church and Sanchez streets, and suggesting that while the street may look different at the base of and on top of the hill, they are parts of a whole.

One historic event involving Noe



A policeman was killed in front of 429–433 Alvarado St. on May 1, 1969, and seven young men were accused of the crime. Photo by LisaRuth Elliott

the community response, on Wednesday, May 8. Heins and Lopez will be among them.

The study guide accompanying the art exhibition reminds us, “The Los Siete Defense Committee transformed itself into a radical community organization, animated by principles of self-determination and ‘Serving the People,’ starting a free breakfast program, a free Centro de Salud clinic, a workers’ restaurant, a legal aid and immigration support storefront, and the *Basta Ya!* newspaper.

“Los Siete developed a revolutionary Third World Internationalism, embodied in the inclusive term *Raza*, linking the struggles of Latinx people with those of other indigenous and working-class communities, including the Alcatraz occupation, the Black Panthers, the Red Guard Party, and the Puerto Rican Young Lords. The issues that Los Siete raised continue to be relevant in today’s struggles.”

Today, issues like gentrification and displacement cross neighborhood boundaries, forcing working and middle-class residents out of longtime homes. The national attempt to create a hard southern border is boundary-making based on the same values that half a century ago created suspicion around seven young men in front of one of their own homes. Perhaps knowing our histories will allow us to rethink and erase perceived boundaries.

LisaRuth Elliott, co-director of *Shaping San Francisco*, is the project manager of the *Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco*, a collaborative effort of the San Francisco Department of Memory. She contributed to the organizing of the Remember Los Siete series in May. To find out more about the events, go to <https://www.brava.org/all-events/veromajanorememberlossiete>.



A page from *Basta Ya!* publicizing the free breakfast program that arose out of Los Siete de la Raza.

Valley and the Mission in an intertwined saga took place 50 years ago this month. It extended over two years and left a lasting legacy in the community.

On May 1, 1969, in front of 429–433 Alvarado St. (between Sanchez and Noe), several young Latinx men were seen as suspicious, perceived as part of a burglary ring, and accused of killing a plainclothes policeman who confronted them with his partner that afternoon. Later, seven young Central American men, alumni of Mission High School, some living in the Mission District, and José Ríos living with his family in Noe Valley on Alvarado Street—would be arrested and known as Los Siete. The two white policemen grew up in the Mission District, but resided in Eureka Valley and Pacifica.

In the 1960s and 1970s, “[w]ith many working-class Irish residents (as well as Italians, Germans, and East Europeans), Noe Valley was a stronghold of local conservatism,” writes Marjorie Heins in her 1972 book *Strictly Ghetto Property: The Story of Los Siete de la Raza*.

Then as today, suspicion of immigrants, racist state policies, and outright discrimination against Central American youth in the mainstream press were barriers for these young men to overcome. Several of the seven men had become politicized by Third World Liberation

and the Strike at San Francisco State College (now university) and were pursuing further education and recruiting others to do so as well.

With Los Siete in jail, the community became activated and an outpouring of support rose up around the young men, six of whom would stand trial for the killing, the seventh fleeing the country. On Nov. 7, 1970, all six defendants were acquitted of the murder charge.

Fifty years later, a host of Mission District organizations have joined together to present *Remember Los Siete*, a series of events commemorating Los Siete and the movement the case inspired. Heins will be in conversation with Eric Landau at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., on Thursday, May 9, 4 to 5 p.m.

An art exhibition, “50 Years of *Cultura y Resistencia* in the Mission,” at Acción Latina (2958 24th St.) through May 17, features art generated by the movement curated by Noe Valley resident Fernando Martí and Mission District Los Siete artist, Yolanda Lopez. The exhibition connects the radical politics of self-determination defined 50 years ago to today’s struggle against police brutality and white supremacy and for services like health clinics in the community.

A panel on gentrification will take place on Wednesday, May 15, also at Acción Latina. Shaping San Francisco will host a conversation between women of the Los Siete Defense Committee who were active in organizing



The *New Mission News* reported on plans for a new 30th Street BART station in December 2000.



Events in the Remember Los Siete series continue through May 17, artwork: Yolanda Lopez, poster design: Annette Muller, Brava

The **Noe Valley Voice** invites you to submit fiction, essays, or poetry for possible publication in **Other Voices**.  
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OtherVoices@noevalleyvoice.com or write **Other Voices**, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name and contact information.

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## Ramblin' Reader Report



Rena Burns catches up on the news from back home after applying her sunscreen while on the Riviera Nayarit in Mexico.



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# SHORT TAKES

## Garden Tour May 4

Don't forget. "Art in the Garden," the 14th annual Noe Valley Garden Tour, happens on Saturday, May 4. Buy your tickets at stores on 24th and Church streets, online at [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com), or on the day of the event at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St. Tickets are \$20 for people under 65, or \$16 if you're over that. Proceeds benefit neighborhood beautification.

Ten gardens in the neighborhood will be open for public viewing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Among this year's attractions is a succulent garden with a puzzle for finding hidden animals and insects, a backyard "Tuscanesia" with terraced stonework, a garden of tropical plants tended over 40 years (and refreshed by laundry water), and a garden with lush flowers and trees, including roses, ferns, bamboo, live oaks, and Japanese maples.

Each garden will also feature sculpture, painting, or photography by local artists. Precita Eyes muralists have had a hand in a new mural in the garden at 30th Street Senior Center. A self-guided tour map will be provided with each ticket.

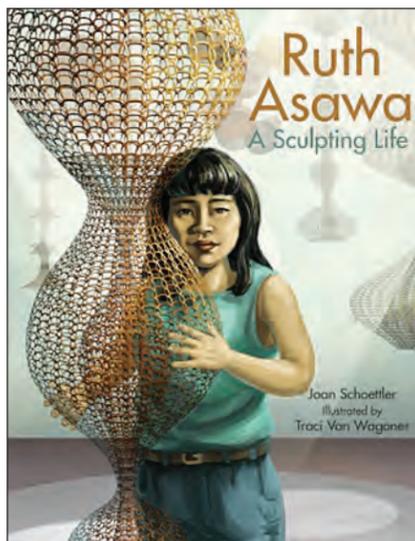
## Ruth Asawa and Kids' Positivity

A new children's picture book on Ruth Asawa and a panel on promoting positivity in your child top the list of a busy month of readings, story times, and events at our three neighborhood bookstores.

Author Joan Schoettler, a native of the Bay Area and an instructor at Cal State Fresno, will read from her picture book *Ruth Asawa: A Sculpting Life* Sunday, May 19, 11:30 a.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. This story time may be of interest to adults as well.

Ruth Asawa was both a Noe Valley resident and a world-renowned sculptor. Her work is in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum, and the de Young Museum, to name a few. Examples of her monumental sculpture can be seen outdoors across San Francisco, including the San Francisco Fountain at the Grand Hyatt Union Square and Andrea, the mermaid fountain at Ghirardelli Square. Some of her work will be included in "Specters of Disruption," an exhibition at the de Young, which will run from Aug. 15 through Nov. 10.

Charlie's Corner hosts the child positivity panel Tuesday, May 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., at its temporary relocation, 3813 24th St., while its corner is earthquake retrofitted. The panel is composed of Merriam Saunders, psychotherapist and



On Sunday, May 19, 11:30 a.m., Folio Books will host a visit from Joan Schoettler, author of a picture book about artist Ruth Asawa, one of Noe Valley's best-known residents.

author of *My Whirling Twirling Motor*; Michael Genhart, clinical psychologist and author of *Rainbow: A First Book of Pride*; and Danielle Dufayet, who runs public-speaking and self-empowerment classes for kids and is the author of *You Are Strong*. The event is free, and snacks and drinks will be provided.

For information on May events at all three Noe Valley bookstores, go to [charliescorner.com](http://charliescorner.com), [foliosf.com](http://foliosf.com), and [omnivorebooks.com](http://omnivorebooks.com).

## Music and Movies at the Town Square

Our neighborhood outdoor event venue, also known as the Noe Valley Town Square, hosts three free events in May—a record hop, movie night, and an afternoon of live acoustic music.

Rick Hildreth will be the DJ for the Record Hop, held Friday, May 3 (and reprised on Friday, June 7), from 5 to 8 p.m. He says the hops are an opportunity for "folks from the neighborhood to share their vinyl collection." Bring 45s only, however. No 78s, CDs, data sticks, or thumb drives. Dancing is encouraged.

*Freaky Friday*, with Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan, is the movie for Movie Night, Saturday, May 11. Showtime is 8 p.m. Free popcorn will be served. Bring blankets and low lawn chairs to make yourself comfortable. Event manager Leslie Crawford suggests arriving at 7:30 to snag a good spot.

Local band Liberty Street, led by Dave Johnson, plays live acoustic music Sunday, May 26, 1 to 3 p.m. The group plays mid-20th-century pop standards, with a tilt toward country, according to Hildreth.

Except for the movie night popcorn, it's bring your own food and drink at all three events. For more information and updates, go to [noevalleytownsquare.com](http://noevalleytownsquare.com). You can also check out the continuing weekly events like yoga and tai chi.

## Better Than a Stationary Bike

Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 9. If you'd like to join with neighbors to make the trek downtown, meet up at the town square on 24th Street by 7:45 a.m. Leading the charge will be District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

Joining Mandelman will be Kelsey Roeder, Noe Valley resident and membership manager for the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, the organizer of Bike to Work Day.

Whether you go it alone or go with the group, plan to stop by one of the 26 energizer stations to snag free snacks, water, bike-related swag, and a tote bag to carry it all in. A downloadable map of the stations is available at [sfbike.org](http://sfbike.org), the website for the bicycle coalition and the day's events. The stations will be open for the morning and afternoon commutes on May 9.

Community rides are starting from each supervisorial district, with each supervisor hoping to put their pedal to the metal.

## Whole Lotta Classical Goin' On

Spring is busting out all over—and so is classical music, with vocal groups, opera, and chamber ensembles popping up in locations across the 'hood.

The vocal groups include Volti, which specializes in new music on "timely issues of the modern human experience"; the Resound Ensemble's eclectic blend of classical, jazz, pop, and gospel; Clerestory's Americana pieces; and Teatro Mistral's "Voyages," with music by Maurice Ravel.

Volti's 40th anniversary gala is Saturday, May 4, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. A \$75 ticket allows you to hear music, meet the singers and composers, drink and eat, and



Art such as this will be sprinkled throughout 10 gardens on display at the Noe Valley Garden Tour May 4. Look for tickets at the Town Square or at stores along 24th Street.

bid on silent auction items. Buy tickets at [voltisf.org](http://voltisf.org).

Resound Ensemble performs their spring concert, "Still I Rise," three nights at the Ministry: Friday and Saturday, May 10 to 11, 8 p.m., and Monday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. The program includes modern classical, contemporary pop, and other choral works. Buy \$25 tickets at [resoundensemble.org](http://resoundensemble.org).

"Songbook II" is Clerestory's program at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St., Saturday, May 11, at 8 p.m. The group sings African-American spirituals, barbershop quartet harmonies, folk songs, and jazz. Admission runs from \$5 to \$25 at the door.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



**PROPERTY OWNERS: Turn In Your Required ABE Form TODAY!**

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) is reminding property owners to comply with the Accessible Business Entrance (ABE) program, which requires existing buildings with a place of "public accommodation" to have all primary entrances from the public way accessible for people with disabilities. If you own commercial storefront(s), this Program applies to you.

### TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP!

To comply, property owners are required to submit one of the following: Pre-Screening, Waiver or Category Checklist Compliance form to DBI.

To read about the Program's requirements and your next steps, visit [sfdbi.org/businessentrance](http://sfdbi.org/businessentrance).

| Tier | Category Description         | Submit form or compliance checklist and specify compliance option |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 1    | In Compliance                | 1/1/19  |
| 2    | No Steps but barriers        | 1/1/19  |
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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Teatro Mistral is a new Bay Area company hoping to combine opera, dance, and theater in new ways. “Voyages,” their Saturday, May 25, performance, includes the erotic *Chansons madécasses*, *Kaddisch/L'enigme eternelle*, and *Don Quichotte a Dulcinée* by Maurice Ravel. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance at the Ministry are \$35 general admission, \$25 seniors at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).

Opera is represented in May with a production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, sung in English by the teenage singers of the Bay Area Vocal Academy. Different casts will sing Saturday, May 18, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 19, at 6 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry. Go to [bayareavocalacademy.org](http://bayareavocalacademy.org) for tickets. General admission is \$20. Students pay \$5.

Chamber music's usual domination in Noe Valley may be challenged in May by vocal performances, but there's still plenty of it to choose among.

Music director Ray Capiral at Bethany Methodist on Sanchez Street has organized a free Mother's Day concert, Sunday, May 12, 4 p.m., with pieces for flute and mixed flute and other instrument duos and ensembles. Works by Haydn, Khachaturian, Stravinsky, and others are included.

Also on Sunday, May 12, Noe Valley Chamber Music presents its final “Sundays at 4” concert of the 2018-19 season. The performers will play Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Schumann on 300-year-old violins, a viola, and a cello pro-

duced by the likes of Stradivarius, Bergonzi, and Goffriller. A reception and talk follow the concert at the Noe Valley Ministry. Tickets are \$40 general admission, \$35 seniors, and \$15 students at [nvcm.org](http://nvcm.org).

Back at Holy Innocents, the Chamber Music Society of San Francisco plays Bartok's String Quartet No. 1 and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* Saturday, May 18, beginning at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$25 at [chambermusicofsociety.org](http://chambermusicofsociety.org).

And finally, the San Francisco wind and brass octet Nomad Session plays established pieces by Grieg, Grainger, and Part and a premiere by Mario Godoy Friday, May 31, 8 p.m., at 1021 Sanchez. Mix and mingle at the after-party. Tickets are \$25 at [nomadsession.org](http://nomadsession.org).

## Keep Noe Valley Odd!

The venerable Odd Mondays reading and discussion series was founded by local literary luminaries Ramon Sender and Judy Levy-Sender. Now in its 18th year, it continues under the auspices of Richard May at Folio Books on 24th Street.

Readings and discussion happen almost every Odd Monday at 7 p.m., allowing for some national holidays. For example, there won't be an Odd Mondays on Memorial Day Monday, May 27.

There will be a reading Monday, May 13, on the topic “Chinese Diaspora Stories,” with authors Vanessa Hua, Yang Huang, and Kaitlin Solimine.

Huang will read from *My Old Faithful*, her collection of linked short stories, and Hua and Solimine from their novels *A River of Stars* and *Empire of Glass*. All three books have received excellent reviews. Huang's book won the Juniper Prize for Fiction.

The two readings in June are “Women



Vanessa Hua will read from her best-selling novel *A River of Stars*, about a modern-day Chinese immigrant who arrives in Los Angeles pregnant, at the Odd Mondays series at Folio Books on May 13.

at the Edges” on Monday, June 3, with books by Kristin Kaye, Bridget Quinn, and Beth Winegarner on women pushing boundaries in music, art, theater, and competitive bodybuilding; and “LGBTQ Pride Readings” on June 17, which will highlight local queer authors with new books for Pride season.

July will bring three Odd Mondays, presenting books by local people in tech, readings by three short-story authors, and an in-conversation event featuring two travel book authors.

Richard May welcomes ideas for readings and discussions and suggestions of authors and their books. Contact him at [oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com). To keep up on what's scheduled, follow Odd Mondays on Facebook and Twitter or ask to join the email list.

## Shred-a-thon at Umpqua

Each year, manager Tony Roldan at Umpqua Bank organizes document shredding at the 24th Street bank to help you ditch the clutter and protect your financial privacy. This year, the Shred-a-thon continues May 4, 6, and 7.

Bring up to two boxes of documents to obliterate Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or bring your own two small bags of shred, and the bank will dispose of it safely. Either way, it's free.

Roldan asks that you not bring stiff metal, plastic bags, DVDs, or other items likely to jam the shredder. He also advises that, even though Umpqua has five large shred bins, “they fill up fast!” So shred early (but not often).

Umpqua Bank is located at 3881 24th St. near Sanchez Street.

## Pop Stars in the Park

Two new concerts have been booked by the Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center in their Concerts in the Park series. Audio Blonde plays Saturday, May 4, and Essence on Saturday, May 18. Both concerts start at 10 a.m. and run two hours in the rec center playground at 295 Day St.

Audio Blonde is a teen duo, Buffy and Ellie (both blondes), based in Fremont. They write their own songs and create harmonies of favorite work by other people, with a folk, soft rock sound.

Essence (not a blonde) also writes her own songs, with a strong country streak running through them. There is also a little Summer of Love going on, which is natural since she says her parents were “two free-spirited bohemian artists from the Haight-Asbury.” She's recorded several albums. Both events are free.

*Short Takes are written by Richard May.*




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# NOE KIDS

## Robby Koch: Sea and Field Explorer

By Katie Burke

Eight-year-old Robby Koch might be a marine biologist someday. “Marine biology is very interesting because I like the sea and like whales and I like fish. And you get to go on boats around the world,” he says.

Robby should know. His Aunt Kate is a marine biologist who lives in Seattle but travels a lot for work, “mostly on boats.”

Or he might become a full-time athlete.

Now in second grade at San Francisco Friends School, Robby plays basketball, football, “sometimes lacrosse,” and soccer. In soccer, he plays goalie, his favorite position. In football, he plays quarterback and wide receiver.

His favorite thing to do in Noe Valley? “Play sports in the street with my mommy out there.”

Robby has two moms. “Mama” is Jane Stafford, and “Mommy” is Nancy Koch. Mama is an associate director for corporate grants and sponsorships at Gilead Sciences, and Mommy is the CEO of Ophirex, a small startup developing the first field antidotes to snakebite. The family lives and plays on Valley Street.

Robby also has a 26-year-old sister, Kailin. She lives in Menlo Park but visits “all the time—more than 20 days a year,” he says.

A family rule is that Robby must remember where he put his baseball mitt and hat. “I’m terrible at keeping track of my gear,” he admits. “It’s been left a few



Robby Koch says his favorite thing to do in Noe Valley is play sports—that and go out to eat in the neighborhood. Photo by Art Bodner

places. My hat is the big problem.”

Robby wants to have two kids someday. “I would name one Tom Brady Jr.,” after New England Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady, “and the other Odell Beckham Jr. Jr.,” since Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham is already a “Jr.” Robby adds, “I would have a Great Dane that’s also very sporty and energetic. It would chase frisbees and balls.”

Asked where he and his family would live, Robby says, “If I’m a billionaire, I’m gonna live in a mansion in a forest.” He has in mind Canada’s boreal forest, which he has read about but has yet to visit.

“Too much carbon dioxide is coming and hurting the forest,” he says. Robby hopes to course-correct the problem by “donating to some cause.”

Robby’s favorite movie is *The Benchwarmers*. “It’s about sports,” he says. “It’s pretty inappropriate, though. It has potty humor.”

While Robby is serious about his career goals, his life is not all surf and astroturf. He is reading the third of the 44-book fantasy series *The Secrets of Droon*. His favorite books are from the middle-grade dystopian series *The Unwanteds*.

Robby plays guitar and can play “Yellow Submarine.” Robby says, “That’s basically all I know—but my mommy has taught me a variety of songs over the years.” He wants to learn violin.

Robby prefers dining out to staying home. “[Restaurants] have a bigger variety of choices to eat, and they cook it really well. I’m not saying my parents are bad at cooking. I’m just saying these people are professional cooks.”

His favorite restaurant is NOVY on 24th Street. “I love their shrimp rings—calamari,” he says. He also likes Holey Bagel down the block, where he orders an everything bagel with cream cheese, not toasted.

When the family stays in, Robby likes cooking with Mama, who packs sandwiches, pasta, or lasagna for his school lunches, and Izze sparkling juice or apple juice to drink.

He treasures Christmas. “You get presents, and I really like the dinner at Christmas,” which is chicken or turkey. “And you basically get to hang out with your whole family.”

A handful of times per year, Robby and his parents make the eight-hour drive to Bend, Oregon, home of Aunt Kate’s brother, Uncle John, whom Robby dubs the funniest family member. “He has very inappropriate jokes,” Robby says. He gets to see 13-year-old Savannah and 16-year-old Sydney, his cousins, who are Uncle John’s daughters. He sometimes sees Emma, another cousin.

On the road, Robby watches movies, does math with Mama, and goes to Subway, where he orders a salami sandwich with pickles, tomatoes, and lettuce. The best Christmas gift he ever received was laser tag, from his grandma last year.

The best gift he ever gave was a whale-shaped coffee mug he made for Aunt Kate last year, at Terra Mia on Castro Street... a nod to their shared vocation. ■

**K**atie Burke is a writer and family law attorney, who lives where Noe Valley meets the Mission. Her Noe Kids column features interviews with Noe Valley kids ages 4 to 12. In April 2020, Burke will publish a collection of profiles of San Francisco kids, titled *Urban Playground* (SparkPress). Know a great Noe Valley kid? Email [katie@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:katie@noevalleyvoice.com).

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. MAY 2019 .

**May 1:** The RESILIENT NOE VALLEY Initiative launches its disaster preparedness workshop at two meetings, 9:30 to 11 am, and 6 to 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. empowersf.org.

**May 1:** Amy Kimoto-Kahn introduces *Simply HOT POTS; A Complete Course in Japanese Nabemono and Other Asian One-Pot Meals*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 1:** Make a Furoshiki fabric gift wrap at adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 1-5:** The 24th annual SILENT FILM Festival screens at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro. For a schedule, silentfilm.org.

**May 1-29:** The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm, through Nov. 20. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

**May 1-29:** Folio Books offers STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**May 1-29:** Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

**May 1-29:** The Eureka Valley Library hosts BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**May 1-29:** Holy Innocents Episcopal Church holds Candlesong, a TAIZE-style service followed by a potluck on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

**May 1-29:** Anthony Holdsworth teaches OIL PAINTING for beginner and advanced students on Wednesdays in the gallery of Alley Cat Books. 6:30-10 pm. 3036 24th. 824-1761; anthonyholdsworth.com.

**May 1-29:** 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.

**May 1-29:** AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

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

**May 1-31:** Charlie's Corner offers children's STORY TIMES every day. Mon.-Fri., 10 am, noon, 3 & 5 pm; Sat. & Sun., 10:30 am, 12:30 & 3:30 pm. 3813 24th; 641-1104.

**May 1-31:** The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER's Mission Nutrition program serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays, including holidays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

**May 1 & June 5:** The GLBT HISTORY Museum is free on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107;

**May 2:** The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses; Emily Zisman performs in Jane Warner Plaza from 6 to 7 pm. 6-9 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

**May 2:** Gabriela Cámara discusses *My MEXICO CITY KITCHEN*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement on Thursdays. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 2-30:** The Noe Valley Town Square offers group MEDITATION Thursdays, from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 2-30:** Charlie's Corner Bookstore has a FRENCH STORY TIME Thursdays at 3 and 5 pm. 3813 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**May 2-30:** Newcomers welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

**May 2-30:** Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

**May 2-31:** BootCampSF conducts FITNESS training Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30 am. SF Rec Center Basketball Court, 30th and Whitney. 567-9009; bootcampsf.com.

**May 3-31:** Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for Adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

**May 3-31:** The Friday night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore, from 5:30 to 8 pm; Saturday night JAZZ is 7:30 to 10 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

**May 3 & June 7:** Come to the Noe Valley Town Square for a RECORD HOP, from 5 to 8 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 4:** The all-girl band AUDIO BLONDE plays at the Concerts in the Park music series at Upper Noe Rec Center happening on first and third Saturdays, 10 am-noon. 295 Day. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**May 4:** The 14th annual Noe Valley GARDENTOUR, "Art in the Garden," includes 10 local sites. 10 am-4 pm. Tickets at Noe Valley Town Square or stores on 24th. friendsofnoevalley.com.

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

**May 4:** New music group Volti celebrates its 40th anniversary with a GALA at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6:30-10:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. voltisf.org.

**May 4:** Our ImmigrantVoices series continues with a performance by Van-Anh Vanessa Vo and Mahsa Vahdat at 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**May 4, 6 & 7:** The free SHRED-ATHON continues at Umpqua Bank; bring up to 2 boxes of paper. Sat., 10 am-2 pm; Mon. & Tues., 9 am-5 pm. 3938 24th. 268-5260; umpquabank.com.

**May 4-25:** 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.

**May 4-25:** Upper Noe Rec Center offers free Vinyasa YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**May 4-25:** The Randall Museum's close-up of California wildlife, "Meet the ANIMAL KEEPER," happens Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

**May 4-28:** 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.

**May 5:** Illustrator Diana Toledano discusses her work on *One Snowy Day* and the Polly Diamond series at a 2 pm STORYTIME. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 5:** Mai K. Nguyen reads from her CHILDREN'S BOOK *Pilu of the Woods* at Charlie's Corner Bookstore. 3:30 pm. 3813 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**May 5 & 19:** SF City Guides offers a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

**May 5-26:** A free T'AI CHI class at the Noe Valley Town Square is set for Sundays, from 9 to 9:45 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 5-26:** Bring your own mat to a free YOGA CLASS at the Noe Valley Town Square. Sundays, 10-11 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 5-26:** 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.

**May 5 & June 2:** The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

**May 6:** Elizabeth Minchilli introduces *The ITALIAN TABLE: Creating Festive Meals for Family and Friends*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 6:** John Burnham Schwartz discusses his HISTORICAL NOVEL *The Red Daughter*. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 6, 13, 20 & 27:** The ACC Conversation Club meets on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. For details, email krismoser@aol.com.

**May 7 & 21:** Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING lessons with Ray Capiral on first and third Tuesdays; free yarn, needles, and instruction. 7-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**May 7-28:** The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**May 7-28:** Volunteer on Tuesdays to make meals for the hungry at Civic Center Plaza at "Curry Without Worry." 1:30-5 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**May 7-28:** John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

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| THURS MAY 2  | GABRIELA CÁMARA • MY MEXICO CITY KITCHEN: RECIPES AND CONVICTIONS • A LIVE SALT + SPINE PODCAST WITH BRIAN STEWART • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • 150 recipes for the chef/owner of Cala and Contramar's vibrant, simple, and sophisticated contemporary Mexican cooking. |
| SAT MAY 4    | MICHAEL VOLPATT • THE BIG BOTTOM BISCUIT: SPECIALTY BISCUITS AND SPREADS FROM SONOMA'S BIG BOTTOM MARKET • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Big Bottom Market has perfected and elevated the humble biscuit with a California twist.  |
| MON MAY 6    | ELIZABETH MINCHILLI • THE ITALIAN TABLE: CREATING FESTIVE MEALS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • <i>The Italian Table</i> delivers both parts of the fantasy and reality of Italian meals as they would be eaten on location.                        |
| WED MAY 8    | MARIA ZIZKA • THE NEWLYWED TABLE: A COOKBOOK TO START YOUR LIFE TOGETHER • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Author Maria Zizka offers 100 recipes for classic and modern recipes to build a young couple's cooking repertoire.  |
| FRI MAY 10   | ABRA BERENS • RUFFAGE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO VEGETABLES • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • A collection of techniques that result in new flavors, textures, and ways to enjoy all the vegetables you want to eat.  |
| SAT MAY 11   | PRIYA KRISHNA • INDIAN-ISH: RECIPES AND ANTICS FROM A MODERN AMERICAN FAMILY • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • This colorful, lively book is food writer Priya Krishna's loving tribute to her mom's "Indian-ish" cooking.   |
| SUN MAY 19   | ANNA FRANCESSE GASS • HEIRLOOM KITCHEN: HERITAGE RECIPES AND FAMILY STORIES FROM THE TABLES OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Features 100 recipes from around the world in celebration of strong immigrant women.  |
| MON MAY 20   | TYLER MALEK, IN CONVERSATION WITH ALI BOUZARI • SALT & STRAW ICE CREAM COOKBOOK • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE, WITH ICE CREAM! • Because ice cream isn't just a thing you eat, it's a way to live.   |
| THURS MAY 23 | NANDITA GODBOLE • ROTI: 40 CLASSIC INDIAN BREADS & SIDES • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Explores essential breads like roti and chapati, alongside classic festive dishes like Puran Poli.  |

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# CALENDAR

**May 8:** Maria Zizka discusses her COOKBOOK *The Newlywed Table*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 8:** The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 9:** Celebrate BIKE TO WORK Day, sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition, by joining District 8's ride to City Hall. Meet at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th, at 8:45 am. sfbike.org/BTWD.

**May 9:** The Noe Valley Library commemorates the 50-year anniversary of Los SIETE DE LA RAZA with a discussion of the 1969 clash of police and Latino youth in Noe Valley. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 9:** Psychologist Dr. Christa Santangelo discusses *A New Theory of TEENAGERS*. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 10:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1962 FILM *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Marlon Brando. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 10:** Charlie's Corner Bookstore hosts "Teach Kids to SAVE Day," with Wells Fargo Bank. 5 pm. 3813 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**May 10:** Abra Berens introduces *Ruffage: A Practical Guide to VEGETABLES*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 10-13:** The Resound Ensemble performs its SPRING CONCERT, "Still I Rise." Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Mon., 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Resoundensemble.org.

**May 11:** Kristy Oshiro leads a TAIKO DRUMMING workshop for pre- and elementary school kids. 10:30 to 11:15 am, at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 11:** Family DOG RESCUE brings adoptable canines to Noe Valley Pet Company from noon to 4 pm. 1451 Church. 282-7385.

**May 11:** The American GOTHIC LITERATURE series concludes with a discussion of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 11:** Misner & Smith and Maurice Tani perform a concert honoring Marlene Aron. 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**May 11:** MOVIE NIGHT in the Town Square features *Freaky Friday*, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. 8 to 10 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 11:** Clerestory performs American musical styles in "Songbook II" at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. 8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

**May 11-June 16:** Lorri Holt performs Lynne Kaufman's solo show, *Who Killed SYLVIA PLATH?* at the Marsh. 1062 Valencia. 282-3055; themarsh.org.

**May 12:** The Inner Sunset FLEA MARKET, on second Sundays of the month, runs from 10 am to 4 pm, on Irving between 9th and 10th avenues. 465-2475; isflea.com.

**May 12:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents a concert by Tompkins, Zivian, Stone, Bhasin, and Dalby. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

**May 12:** Bethany United Methodist Church hosts a MOTHER'S DAY chamber music concert at 4 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**May 13:** ODD MONDAYS hosts "Chinese Diaspora Stories," read by Vanessa Hua, Yang Huang, and Kaitlin Solimine. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. oddmondays.com.

**May 14:** The Noe Valley Library hosts an eReader and ONLINE RESOURCE "Drop-In" from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707;

**May 14:** PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

**May 14:** Ed Heryn discusses the Midwinter Fair of 1894 at the SF HISTORY Museum meeting. 7:30-9 pm. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello. Reserve a seat at 537-1105; sfhistory.org.

**May 15:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a LABYRINTH WALK, on third Wednesdays, at 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**May 15:** The UPPER NOE Neighbors is scheduled to meet at 7 pm, at the Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day.

**May 15:** The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION group takes on *Happiness*, by Aminatta Forna. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 16:** 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.

**May 18:** Singer ESSENCE performs at the Concerts in the Park music series at Upper Noe Rec Center on first and third Saturdays, 10 am-noon. 295 Day. 970-8061; noevalleyrecenter.com.

**May 18:** Castro Patrol offers a Basic Patrol Volunteer TRAINING from 1 to 4 pm. Chase Bank Community Room, 2112 15th. castropatrol.org.

**May 18:** Political group ACTION SF meets from 3 to 4:30 pm on the second Sunday of the month. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com; resistry.net.

**May 18:** The CHAMBER MUSIC Society of SF performs "In Search of Love" at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

**May 18 & 19:** The Bay Area Vocal Academy (BAVA) performs *The Magic Flute*. Sat. 7 pm & Sun. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 723-2282; bayareavocalacademy.org.

**May 19:** Joan Schoettler reads from *RUTH ASAWA: A Sculpting Life*. 11:30 am. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 19:** Anna Francese Gass discusses *HEIRLOOM Kitchen: Heritage Recipes and Family Stories from the Tables of Immigrant Women*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 19:** Folio Books hosts a Young Adult WORKSHOP with Rebecca Hanover, author of *The Similar*. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 21:** Learn EMAIL BASICS at the Noe Valley Library, from 2 to 3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 22:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a KIMCHI CLASS, led by chef Ji Young Park. 6:30-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**May 23:** Nandita Godbole introduces *ROTI: 40 Classic Indian Breads and Sides*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**May 24:** Laura Resau discusses *Tree of Dreams* at the BOOKWORMS Club (and pizza party) at Folio Books. 6-7 pm. 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, tiny.cc/followorms.

**May 25:** Coffee and pastry are provided for volunteers at JURI COMMONS, 9 to 11 am, on the last Saturday of the month. The park is between Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.

**May 25:** Teatro Mistral performs "Voyages," a CONCERT of music by Maurice Ravel. 7:30-10 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. teatromistral.org.

**May 26:** The 2019 SF CARNAVAL Grand Parade begins at 9:30 am, at 24th and Bryant. carnivalsanfrancisco.org.

**May 26:** Local band Liberty Street, led by Dave Johnson, plays live ACOUSTIC MUSIC in the Town Square, from 1 to 3 pm. BYOB. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**May 27:** MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400; missionpolicestation.org.

**May 28:** LisaRuth Elliott and historians from the Dept. of Memory discuss "Activating Community History Through Digital Preservation of Neighborhood Newspapers" at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. 2266 California. 881-7342; sanfranciscohistory.org.

**May 29-June 13:** The 18th SF Documentary FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th, and the Brava Theater, 2781 24th. sfindie.com.

**May 30:** Shauna Pilgreen reads from *Love WHERE YOU LIVE: How to Live Sent in the Place You Call Home*. 7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. foliosf.com.

**May 31:** Charlie's Corner Bookstore hosts a performance by the LITTLE FOLKIES family band at 10 am. 3813 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**May 31:** Nomad Session, a wind and brass octet, performs a CONCERT at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nomadsession.org.

### June Croon

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **June 2019** issue, distributed the first week of June. The deadline for items is May 15. Please email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com). Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

*30th Street Senior Center Lecture Series*

## HOW YOU AGE MATTERS



People are living longer and for most seniors the future seems like uncharted territory. Being prepared is the best way forward. Join us to hear from the experts who will share practical strategies to face aging.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>JUNE 5 - 4:30-6:00 PM</b><br/> <b>The Many Faces of Dementia</b><br/>                 Presented by Dr. Louise Aronson</p> <p><b>JUNE 12 - 4:30-6:00 PM</b><br/> <b>Active Minds, Healthy Brains</b><br/>                 Presented by Dr. Sergio Lanata</p> | <p><b>JUNE 19 - 4:30-6:00 PM</b><br/> <b>Get on Your Feet and Stay There:</b><br/>                 Exercise for Preventing Falls<br/>                 Presented by Dr. Christian J. Thompson</p> <p><b>JUNE 26 - 4:30-6:00 PM</b><br/> <b>Facing Aging</b><br/>                 Presented by Dr. Patrick Arbore</p> |
|---|---|

Free and open to the public. RSVP REQUIRED.  
 For more information on each session and to RSVP:  
**[www.onlok.org/events](http://www.onlok.org/events) or call 415.550.2223**

All sessions will be held at:  
**30th Street Senior Center**  
 225 30th Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco





[www.onlok.org](http://www.onlok.org) 30th Street Senior Center

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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## MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

**PRESIDIO NATIONAL CEMETERY 11 AM**  
**GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL CEMETERY 11 AM**  
**PRESIDIO KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL 1 PM**  
**GOLDEN GATE PARK GROVE OF HEROES**  
 John Kennedy Drive, near 8th Ave. **3 PM**

## VETERANS GALLERY



**War Memorial Veterans Building**  
 401 Van Ness, San Francisco  
 March 6 - June 30, 2019  
 1pm - 8 pm  
 Wednesday - Sunday

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Community Service Project**

# Neighborhood Services

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### Cat and Dog Lover - Responsible:

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are available. Daily text, photo and home security. References available by request. Mary 415-994-4853.

**Driver Available:** Doctor appointments, shopping, errands. Dependable and punctual. 10+ years experience. Great references. \$25 hour (2 hour minimum). Bill 415-826-3613.

**Over 16 Years Pet-Sit Experience:** Cats and small animals. 13 years shelter background assisting with medical and behavior support. Dependable, responsible and caring. Noe Valley resident. Kathleen Marie 415-374-0813.

**Creative Cleaning:** House or apartment. Call Marlene S. 415-375-2980.

**Handyman Services:** Custom and refaced cabinets. Replacing dry rot deck planks. All carpentry, painting and demolition services. Miguel 510-333-0732.

## How to Place A Class Ad

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

**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes Class Ads 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 **June 2019** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of June. **The deadline for Class Ads is May 15.**

The Class Ads are also displayed at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://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.



UPPER NOE REC CENTER

**Spiking for Glory:** Dozens of advanced volleyball players enjoy fast-paced drop-in games at Upper Noe Rec Center each Wednesday and Friday evening. *Photo by Chris Faust*

### Summer Registration—Inside and Out

**S**ummer Registration opens at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, for classes and sports programs throughout the city's parks. At Upper Noe Rec Center, because the building is closed for maintenance the first two weeks of June, indoor classes will begin June 17. "Outside activities are unaffected," notes Chris Faust of the Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center. "Popular free activities like zumba, volleyball, and pickleball will continue through the summer."

At the end of April, spots in **Summer Day Camp** were still available, the center reported. Call 415-831-6800 to check for openings.

Upper Noe is hosting one-week-long **basketball** day camps (M-F, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) from June 17 to Aug. 15. The free **Concerts in the Park** live music series kicks off the 2019 season with the all-girl band **Audio Blonde** on May 4 and recording artist **Essence** on May 18. Concerts are every first and third Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in the playground.

There are lots more ways to get involved in the park, which fills almost a whole block from Church to Sanchez and Day to 30th. To find out about the stewardship committee, as well as upcoming classes and events, visit [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com), drop by the rec center office at 295 Day St., or call 415-970-8061.

### UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING SESSION MARCH 16 – JUNE 1, 2019

Check [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com) for updates.

#### MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)

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

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Open Gym                                     | 6:30-8:30 p.m.*      |
| Auditorium Free Play                         | 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.        |
| Pickleball (all ages)                        | 12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE |
| Feldenkrais                                  | 1-2 p.m.             |
| Soccer                                       | 4-5 p.m.             |
| QuickStart Tennis (ages 8-13)                | 5-6 p.m.             |
| Soccer                                       | 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                            | 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*  |
| Auditorium Free Play                | 3-4 p.m.*             |
| Pilates intermediate (18+)          | 9:30-10:30 a.m.       |
| Pilates all levels (18+)            | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Qi Gong for Seniors (55+)           | 1-3 p.m.              |
| Volleyball -- Girls Beg. (ages 7-9) | 4:5-5:30 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 beg/intermediate (18+)       | 6-7 p.m.              |
| Drop-in Volleyball (18+)            | 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE   |

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

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Open Gym                                     | 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 4-8:30 p.m.* |
| Auditorium Free Play                         | 9:30-11 a.m.*                      |
| Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register | 10-11 a.m.                         |
| Movin' & Groovin' (ages 2-4)                 | 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.              |
| Pickleball (all ages)                        | 12:30-3:30 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. FREE                |
| Yoga-Gentle Hatha (18+)                      | 6:45-7:45 p.m.                     |

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

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Open Gym  | 9:30 a.m.-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 -12:30 a.m.    |
| Shred-N-Butter (ages 6-13)                        | 3:45-4:45 p.m.       |
| Volleyball League -- Girls Intermed. (ages 10-14) | 4:5-5:30 p.m.        |
| Karaoke for Adults (18+)                          | 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE  |
| 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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every hill a novel.*

— William Saroyan



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**ADULT/TEEN EVENTS**

**Adult Craft Night:** Make a fabric gift wrap with furoshiki, the Japanese art of wrapping with cloth decorated with ink and stamps; materials provided. Sign up at 415-355-5707 or ask at the information desk. Wednesday, May 1; 7-8:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Knitting Circle:** Bring your knitting or crocheting or learn on the library's practice yarn and needles, on the first Saturday of every month. Saturday, May 4; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**The Great Books Discussion Group,** sponsored by the non-profit Great Books Council, discusses outstanding works. For information, contact Elena at [eschmid@sonic.net](mailto:eschmid@sonic.net). Wednesday, May 8; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Remember Los Siete de la Raza:** Fifty years after, come hear author-journalist Marjorie Heins and video producer Greg Landau discuss the May 1, 1969, killing of a police officer on Alvarado Street that led to the trial and acquittal of a group of Latino youth and the birth of a movement for racial and class justice. Thursday, May 9; 4 to 5 p.m.

**Friday Matinee:** The library screens Marlon Brando's 1962 film *Mutiny on the Bounty*, about an uprising on an ill-fated ocean voyage. Friday, May 10; 2 to 4 p.m.

**American Gothic, Part III:** The series concludes with a reading from Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, noting how elements of gothic literature manifest themselves in portraying slave narratives and history. Saturday, May 11; 4 to 5 p.m.

**AAC Conversation Club:** Practice the use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication devices, including Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, and smart phones. Contact [KrisMoser@aol.com](mailto:KrisMoser@aol.com). Mondays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**eReader and Online Resource "Drop-In":** Bring your mobile device or laptop, your library card and PIN (and passwords) to an informal workshop about the SFPL's digital resources, including the library catalog and databases, Kanopy for streaming films, Flipster and RBDigital for magazines, and OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks. Tuesday, May 14; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group** will discuss *Happiness* by Aminatta Forna. Copies are held at the circulation desk for checkout. Wednesday, May 15; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Learn Email Basics:** This class will cover the fundamentals of email, including how to set up a gmail account, email etiquette, and internet safety. Laptop computers will be available for use, but please feel free to bring your own device. Tuesday, May 21; 2 to 3 p.m.

**Learn to Make Kimchi:** Noe Valley resident Chef JiYoung Park leads a Korean cooking class featuring spicy Kimchi salad (Geotjolli). Jiyoung will demonstrate the preparation, tell the history of Kimchi, and provide free samples. Wednesday, May 22; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**May Day**

A collection of stories from The Moth podcast, a humorous memoir by a "Very Smart Brotha," and a book about what one needs to support life on a planet like Earth are among this month's new titles offered by Branch Manager Denise Sander-son and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

To see if they are available, call 415-355-5707, drop by the Noe Valley Branch (451 Jersey St.), or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

Remember, all San Francisco libraries will be closed on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day. And don't forget Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12!

**Children's Fiction**

❖ Patricia C. McKissack's picture book about the joy of giving, *What Is Given from the Heart*, is illustrated by April Harrison. Ages 4 to 8.

❖ A paper boat makes friends and faces danger as he journeys to the ocean, in *The Real Boat*, written by Marina Aromshtam and illustrated by Victoria Semykina. Ages 5 to 8.

❖ Two friends follow different paths in *Peter and Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths*, written and illustrated by Graham Annable. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ A girl and her family move to Kansas after the Civil War, in *Journey to a Promised Land: A Story of the Exodusters*, written by Allison Lassieur and illustrated by Eric Freeberg. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ In *We're Not from Here*, by Geoff Rodkey, a boy and his family relocate to Planet Croom. Ages 9 to 12.

❖ An English butler helps a boy adjust to middle school in *Pay Attention, Carter Jones*, by Gary D. Schmidt. Ages 10 to 12.

❖ Graphic novel *Illegal*, written by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin with illustrations by Giovanni Rigano, explores the plight of undocumented immigrants leaving Ghana. Ages 10 to 14.

**Children's Nonfiction**

❖ Tedd Arnold's *Fly Guy Presents: Garbage and Recycling* describes where garbage goes, and how it gets there.

Ages 5 to 7.

❖ *Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet*, written by Curtis Manley with illustrations by Jessica Lanan, considers all the things it takes to support human life. Ages 5 to 9.

❖ In *Remarkable Reptiles*, writer/illustrator Jake Williams describes the life cycles and habitats of these slithery creatures. Ages 7 to 18.

❖ Robert M. Edsel tells the story of 11 men (and one woman) who risked their lives to preserve libraries, churches, and works of art during World War II, in *The Greatest Treasure Hunt in History: The Story of the Monuments Men*. Ages 10 to 12.

**Adult Fiction**

❖ Four Oregon neighbors see themselves in disturbing parallel realities in *If, Then* by Kate Hope Day.

❖ In *The Eulogist*, Terry Gamble follows the fortunes of an Irish family in Ohio, from the Napoleonic Wars through the Civil War.

❖ An Australian girl discovers the story of her past in *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hartby* by Holly Ringland.

❖ In Lolly Winston's novel *Me for You*, a widower finds love after the suspicious murder of his wife.

**Adult Nonfiction**

❖ *Occasional Magic: True Stories of Defying the Impossible*, edited by Catherine Burns, features tales from

**CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

**Japanese Taiko Drumming Workshop:** Kristy Oshiro teaches preschool and elementary school-age children the basic rhythms of Taiko drumming, and even some Japanese language. Saturday, May 11, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Miss Catherine leads **Toddler Tales** with books, rhymes, music, and small movement, for children 16 months to 36 months with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

storytelling podcast The Moth.

❖ Clea Shearer suggests ways to have a functional living space in *The Home Edit: A Guide to Organizing and Realizing Your House Goals*.

❖ *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker* is a humorous and provocative memoir in essays by Damon Young, co-founder of the website Very Smart Brothas.

❖ In *Chicago: From Vision to Metropolis*, Whet Moser describes the history and development of "the most American of cities."

**Adult eBooks**

❖ Carl Zimmer explores what we pass on from generation to generation in *She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity*.

❖ *The Diary of a Bookseller*, a memoir by Shaun Bythell, describes a year in the life of a Scotland bookstore.

❖ A blended family faces a crisis when a drunk driver kills a young girl, in *House on Fire* by Bonnie Kistler.

❖ Assassination guilds in Seoul, Korea, compete for dominance in the crime thriller *The Plotters* by Ŏn-su Kim.

**Adult DVDs**

❖ Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin are featured in the 2019 documentary about NASA's 1969 mission to land on the moon, *Apollo 11*.

❖ The 2018 documentary *The World Before Your Feet* chronicles the quest of a man to walk every block in New York City.

❖ Christian Bale stars as former Vice President Dick Cheney in the 2018 comedy/drama *Vice*.

❖ A man having a mid-life crisis proposes to his best friend's daughter in the 2018 romance *Under the Eiffel Tower*.

Annotations by Voice bookworm  
Karol Barske

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

**Bend It**

By Michael Blake

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | W | N | S | U | M | A | E | P | O | C | H |
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| S | T | K |   | M | O | I | S | A | I | N | T |
| C | H | A | R | L | I | E | S | C | O | R | N |
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| R | A | V | E | N | N | A | Y | R | A | E | S |

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**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 |

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### What Do You Noe?

By Mazook

**DAYS OF YORE:** Here's your annual Noe Valley History Quiz, all you *Voice* regulars. If you are able to answer at least eight out of 10 questions, you have likely been hanging out in our quaint "urban village" for 20 years or more. If you are able to answer fewer than three, then you must have just arrived on Caltrain. you've probably only lived here since the Uber Era.

1. What, when, and where was What's for Dessert?
  2. Where is the property in Downtown Noe Valley once owned by John McCarthy and Fred Hornblower? Big clue: John's father first opened his business at that location in 1932.
  3. What now occupies McCarthy/ Hornblower's property?
  4. Can you name the prolific author of *San Francisco's Noe Valley*, which is part of the "Images of America" series published by Arcadia?
  5. Who was Lost in the Fog?
  6. Where is the El Vira Building and who is it named after?
  7. Where in Noe Valley is Engine No. 24?
  8. Where was the cablecar barn for the White Line located, and what is there now?
  9. Who was the last San Francisco mayor to build a house in Noe Valley?
  10. What stands now on the sites of the Noe, the Palmer, and the Princess, our neighborhood's old movie palaces?
- Don't look now, but you will find the answers below. How'd you do?



**GIVE US A RAZE:** Updating last month's Rumors, it does appear that there will be no objections to the demolition of the mansion and affiliated buildings located at 801 Sanchez, on the corner of 21st Street. This is the largest lot in Noe Valley, and plans are for the construction of a 7,200-square-foot single-family residence.

There was a neighborhood meeting, with invitations going to neighbors and members of the Dolores Heights Improvement Club, about the project on April 20 with the architect, Joshua Aidlin, explaining the project and answering questions. A few more than a dozen denizens showed up.

All of those in attendance were presented with renderings of the project, maps, and views of the site and adjoining properties, and a historical analysis of the residence, its permit history, and past ownership. The report was over 100 pages.

Neighbors liked the modern design, which Aidlin described as a residence within a larger "garden pavilion," but they were particularly pleased that the new residence was substantially lower in height than feared and mostly hidden from the street by an exterior wall.

The only questions from the neighbors were: When will you start, where will the workers park, and when will you finish?

The estimated start time is about a year from now, and the project will take about two years to complete. Nothing definite was said about the parking situation. Neighbors are concerned because another demolition-and-construction is planned for the lot next door on Sanchez and also the lot two doors below on 21st Street.

According to the "Historical Resource Evaluation" of 801 Sanchez, the original building "was constructed between 1886 and 1900 [and] between 1900 and 1914, a second-story addition was constructed above the main residence, and a number of small buildings were constructed on the property." Between 1914 and 1950, it read, "A large addition was constructed on the north elevation and a two-story porch was constructed on the east elevation of the main residence." It was also noted that in 2001, a second-story sunroom and master bath were added, as well as major foundational work.

The report also went into the lineage of ownership of the property. The owner and builder of the first residence was Emma Jane



The design for a proposed residence and "garden pavilion" on the peak of the hill at Sanchez and 21st streets was presented to a group of neighbors at a meeting April 20. Construction is expected to start next year and last two years. Rendering courtesy Aidlin Darling Design

Lowell, who purchased the lot for \$10 in 1893. She died in 1901, and the residence was transferred to sisters Annie and Katie Butler. According to the report, Annie Butler listed her occupation as "capitalist" in the 1900 U.S. Census Report. It appears that the extended Butler family lived there. The most recent owners who lived in the residence were Frank Kaye and wife Linna Kaye, who purchased the property in 1953. Frank Kaye died at home in 1983 and wife Linna died in 1990. The property went (via a family trust) to their daughter, Jean K. Tinsley (the aviator), who died two years ago.

As we reported last month, 801 Sanchez was recently sold for \$10 million, and will cost probably that much again to demolish the old and build the new house.



**RUFF TRADE:** There was also a public meeting held April 22 at Savor Restaurant about Doggy Style, the new dog owner "social club, luxe lounge, and hand-curated retail gallery" that opened last month at 3927 24th St. Nearly two dozen neighbors attended a presentation by the proprietors of the business, Rachel Swann and Cameron Silva.

According to Silva, most people are receptive to the new business except for a few neighbors who live in abutting properties on Jersey Street and a lawyer with offices above the storefront. At the meeting, the belligerence of a few caused somewhat of a ruckus, Silva said. "I was very surprised that there was such hostility from a couple of people attending." The Jersey Street neighbors were upset that the "No Bark Park" (as Doggy Style calls it), built in the back yard for the club's dogs and their owners to mingle in, would create a lot of noise.

Silva noted that most of the attendees left after a couple of the neighbors started to bark loudly at Swann and himself. The back yard is in limbo while Doggy Style goes through a permit process for the park, he said.

The dog emporium had its grand opening party on the evening of April 19, by invitation only. Silva said 120 people attended, and dogs were not allowed at the gala.

While the retail doggy goods for sale in the front of the store are available to the general public, entrance to the lounge space in the back will be by membership only, although currently it is open to the public.

Doggy Style's hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. "The lounge is gallery art at the moment. We let people come through to view art, furniture, etc., and all the artwork and furniture are for sale," said Silva.

Right now, there are two tiers of membership: "The Social Climber," which costs \$500 a month for access three days a week, and "The Bougie B\*\*\*\*," \$750 a month for five days per week. Each has an application fee due upon acceptance in the club. This entitles the member to "lounge access for you and your dog, invitations to special events, a six-month introductory rate, and preferred waitlist access to The No Bark Park, Concierge Services [and] new membership tiers."

According to Silva, there have been over 500 people who have shown interest and the application process is now moving forward.



**SHORT SHRIFTS:** At press time we learned that SkinSpirit, at 3939 24th St., will hold an opening celebration on Tuesday, May 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. Attendees will get "deluxe gift bags for all guests and 20 percent off all services booked during the event..."

The Castro Theater has installed the largest digital hybrid pipe organ in the world, stacked with seven keyboards, 800 "stop tab" keys, along with 1,800 pipes built for it, and 120 speakers for surround sounds...

That was Bill Yenne and his grandson who made their way to the Belfry at St. Philip's church on April 15, the day Notre Dame in Paris caught fire. They rang the church bells "in sympathy and solidarity"...

On April 12, seniors from the 30th Street Senior Center began painting a long mural in the garden at the back of the center, designed with the help of Precita Eyes muralists Susan Cervantes and Miranda Bergman as part of series of events commemorating the center's 40th year in the neighborhood...

By the time you read this, a new restaurant called Bon Appetikka should have opened at 4166 24th, replacing Holy Kitchen.... Many are sorry to see Holy Kitchen go.



**KUDOS GO OUT TO Noe Valley/Castro poet Kim Shuck, who was named Poet Laureate of San Francisco in 2017, and recently received a fellowship from the Academy of American Poets. Fellowships, ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, are given each year "to honor poets of literary merit appointed to serve in civic positions and to enable them to undertake meaningful, impactful and innovative projects that engage their fellow residents, including youth, with poetry, helping to address issues important to their communities."**

Kudos also go out to Noe Valley Bakery, which baked a huge, elaborately decorated cake with pictures for the SF Recreation and Park Department in celebration of its 149-year anniversary. Reportedly the bakery-cakery is planning a monumental cake next year for the 150th.

And congrats to Noe Valley resident Ruth Borenstein, member of the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, who led a successful grassroots campaign to stop gun shows at the Cow Palace (after the current contract with the exhibitor, Crossroads of the West, ends in 2020). With support from Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Phil Ting, the Cow Palace's board of directors voted unanimously to ban the shows. The *Voice* will have more on this topic next month.



**THE ANSWER, MY FRIEND:** And now, it's time to score your history quiz.

1. What's for Dessert was the corner cafe at 1797 Church at 27th, from 1988 to 1999. It was the popular family-run bakery of Mervyn

Mark. Currently located in that spot is Kama Sushi.

2. John McCarthy and Fred Hornblower were the owners of the 10,000-square-foot property at 3865 24th St., which started out as McCarthy's Shell Gas Station and later became Dan's Gas and Diesel.

3. As you all know, that former gas station is now the Noe Valley Town Square.

4. Noe historian Bill Yenne. (Who else?)

5. Lost in the Fog was a racehorse owned by neighborhood realtor and Twin Peaks Properties owner Harry Aleo, who bought him from a horse farm in Ocala, Florida, in 2005. The horse, who already had the perfect San Francisco name, won his first 10 starts (including two Breeders' Cup stakes), 11 of his 14 lifetime races across the country, and totaled career earnings of \$978,099. He died of lymphoma in 2006, and his remains were buried at Golden Gate Fields next to another famous racehorse, Silky Sullivan.

6. The El Vira Building is located on the corner of 24th and Noe streets (3993 24th), and is currently occupied at the street level by Starbucks and Toast. The building was built in 1911, according to public records, and got its name from El Vira Breyer, who bought the building in 1955 and had her name tiled in the entranceway to the apartments above.

7. Engine No. 24 is the firehouse located on the corner of Hoffman and Alvarado streets. It was built in 1914 and is the oldest existing fire station in San Francisco.

8. The cablecar barn, built in 1907, was located on the corner of Jersey and Castro streets until 1941, when the line became electric and the barn was demolished. The site became a Safeway grocery store, then Little Bell Market, and currently is the Walgreens store and parking lot.

9. Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph, who served from 1912 to 1932, bought the Tudor-style house located on the northeast corner of Sanchez and 21st streets. It was built in 1928, allegedly for the mayor's mistress. It is currently occupied by one of the inventors of the internet's World Wide Web, who bought it about 10 years ago.

10. The Noe Theater was situated on 24th Street near Noe, where there's now an apartment building that houses Just for Fun. The Palmer was also on 24th, between Noe and Castro on the south side of the street, where Wells Fargo Bank and Old Republic Title Company are now. The Princess Theater was on Church Street at the corner of 28th, and currently is residential condos with a real estate management company on the street level.



**THAT'S 30.** But wait. There's more. We have to wish condolences to the family and friends of Nina Youkelson. She was the much loved director of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School for 37 years, starting in 1969 with the school's inception. Thousands of local kids got to learn, sing, and play under her guidance. She died April 8 at age 83, and a celebration of life will be held June 1, at 11 a.m., at San Mateo Memorial Park. ■



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