



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Covid-19 Shuttters Noe Valley

Exceptions to Government Orders Are Few

By Corrie M. Anders, Matthew S. Bajko, and Sally Smith

For much of the neighborhood, life as people knew it came to a screeching halt in March.

Responding to the novel coronavirus epidemic spreading across the globe, city and state leaders enacted shelter-in-place orders in March in an attempt to halt transmission of the disease dubbed Covid-19. As health officials raced to find a cure and vaccine, scientists begged for more testing and worried the severe respiratory illness could be fatal not only in the elderly and people with compromised immune systems but in millennial and younger populations as well.

The orders, first covering adults age 60 and later all residents of San Francisco and California, forced most people to sequester inside their homes and only venture out for supplies or to work in jobs essential to others. The everyday routines of residents and businesses were shattered, and it was unclear how soon a sense of normalcy would return.

The disaster-preparedness group Resilient Noe Valley, launched just a year ago, swiftly organized to conduct near-daily phone meetings and brainstorming sessions to make sure people knew how to protect themselves. It launched a web-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Prime Time Closure. The Starbucks at 24th and Noe streets closed upon city orders to limit service, as did Philz Coffee. The other caffeine emporiums Bernie's and Martha & Bros. remained open for takeout and with restrictions on the number of customers who could enter at one time.

Photo by Sally Smith

Restaurants Turn To Takeout and Delivery

Bistro SF Grill Has Creative Response with Low-Cost Meals

By Corrie M. Anders, Matthew S. Bajko, and Sally Smith

Particularly hard hit by the coronavirus outbreak have been neighborhood restaurants, as their normal operations were upended by shelter-in-place orders. Some closed their doors, while others began offering takeout to help prop up sales amid severely diminished demand.

With people fearful of losing their livelihoods on account of the myriad businesses closed by the pandemic, diners quickly vanished, many opting to cook at home. The health and economic concerns led neighborhood mainstays like Firefly, La Ciccia, and NOVY to close their doors in the early weeks of the crisis.

Firefly, 4288 24th St., was one of the first to stop service, even prior to Mayor London Breed's edict that eateries close their doors to eat-in diners and accept only home-delivery and to-go orders. In business for 26 years, Firefly announced in a March 15 Instagram post that the coronavirus was forcing it to shut down temporarily.

"We are devastated," the post said. "We have made this difficult decision... for the safety of our staff, our customers, and the public good."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

March for Babies Ambassador Knows a Lot of Pi

Teenager With Numeric Knack Is a Fundraising Powerhouse

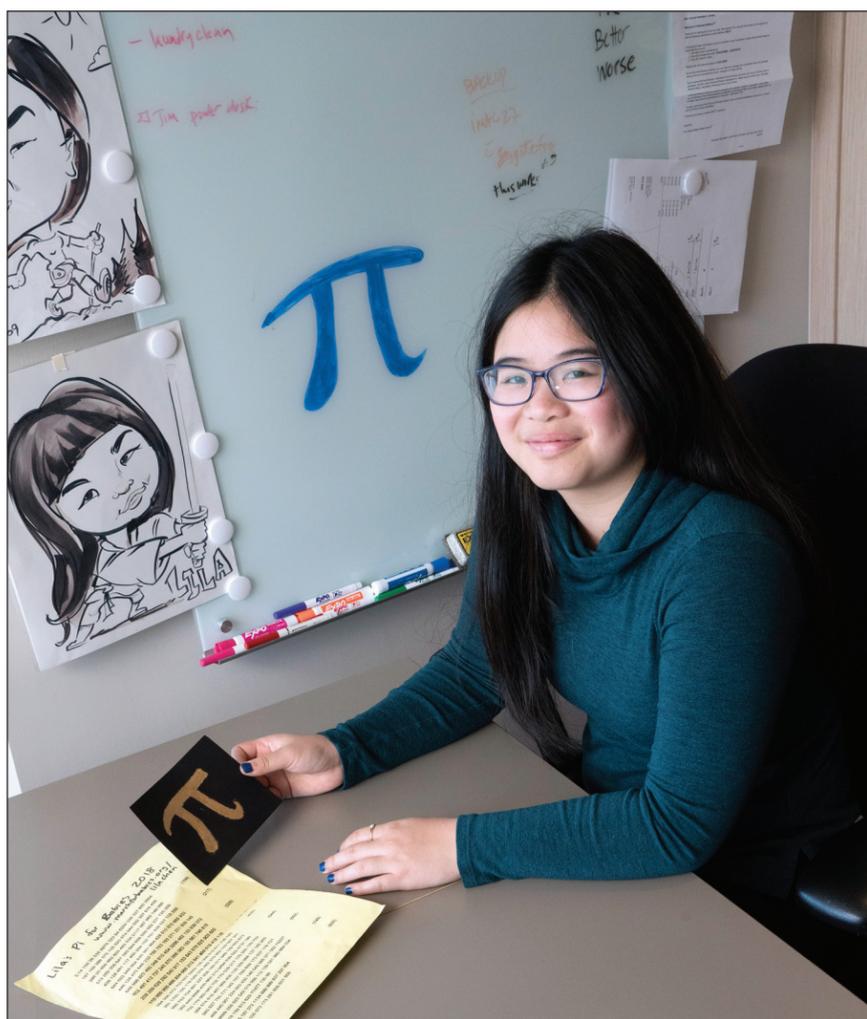
By Matthew S. Bajko

When Lila Chen was named this year's March of Dimes San Francisco March for Babies Ambassador, there was no way the Noe Valley resident could know how her duties in the role would be upended. The annual fundraiser, which brings attention to the fight for healthy moms and strong babies, was set to take place the morning of Saturday, April 25, in the Great Meadow at Fort Mason, with its vista views of the Golden Gate Bridge. As the event's ambassador, the 16-year-old Chen was expected to address the 1,500 people who usually took part in the three-mile march.

Yet because of a virus that was quickly spreading around the globe, and the ensuing orders for people to shelter in place and social-distance from one another, many of the fundraiser's spring events had to be cancelled or postponed and the actual March for Babies turned into a virtual event.

Chen would still play a part in it, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



It's Her Sign. Sixteen-year-old Lila Chen will recite more than 1,500 digits of pi at an April fundraising event for the 2020 March of Dimes San Francisco March for Babies. You can find out how to virtually join the party at MarchforBabies.org/LilaChen.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

New Virus Affects People of All Ages

Couple Exposed to Disease Face Harsh Reality

By Liz Highleyman

As the new coronavirus sweeps the globe, it's clear that some people are more likely to develop severe illness and need to take extra precautions. Seniors and people with other health conditions are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus.

But people of all ages are at risk.

No one knows that better than Noe Valley residents Mark Khoury and Steve Baechtle. At press time, Khoury, 56, was in intensive care, fighting for his life on a ventilator. His husband, Baechtle, 55, had just tested negative for the virus after a week of mandatory quarantine.

Like many local residents, Baechtle was out and about in mid-March, running errands in Noe Valley and the Castro in advance of the city's shelter-in-place order. "I was in the rush line at Whole Foods, Safeway, and the farmer's market getting ready," he told the *Noe Valley Voice*. And as a professional dog walker, he had been at dog parks all over San Francisco.

"I had no idea I had been exposed," he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CORCORAN GLOBAL LIVING* CONGRATULATES 2019 Top Producer Agents



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Real SF
Properties



#1 Noe Valley Team
Team
Howe



#1 Pacific Heights Team
Gullicksen
Group



Top 10 Team
Pacific Edge
Real Estate Group



Top 10 Team
Rose
Beck



#1 Upper Market Team
Pat Rock
Group



#1 Marin Team
SF
North



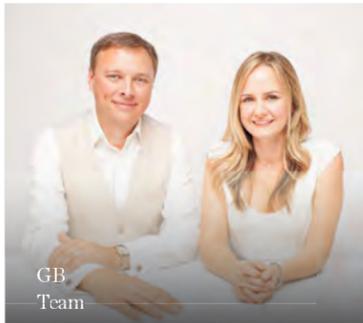
Top 10 Team
Domain
San Francisco/Marin



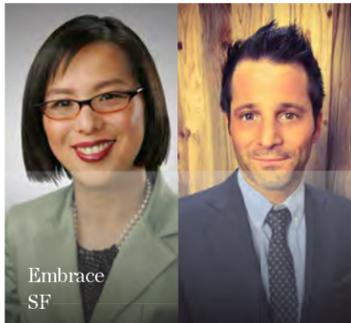
Top 10 Team
Joan Loeffler &
Jim Beitzel



Top 10 Team
Team
O'Brien



GB
Team



Embrace
SF



Team
Honda SF



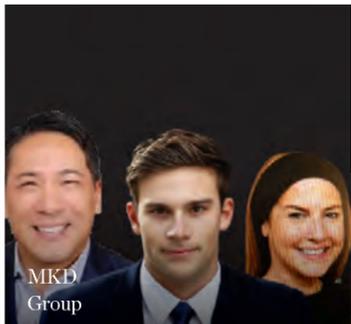
SellingSF



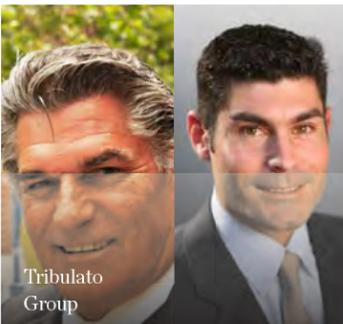
Mike &
Oliver



Frank Villanueva &
Samson Ng



MKD
Group



Tribulato
Group



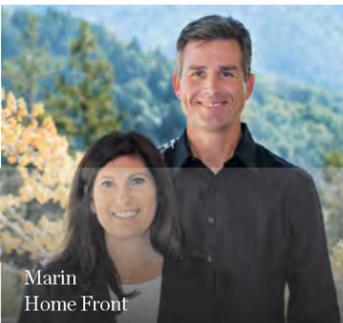
Bonnie
Spindler



Darry Liu &
Dawn Cusulos



Scott Yarmark &
Dan Bunker



Marin
Home Front



Steve &
Debbie Dells

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A Joyful Community of the Spirit



Holy Week, Easter & Beyond



In this time of social distancing, we are all still very much connected in solidarity and hope.

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We shall continue to celebrate new Life!

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6:30 a.m. KTXL 40 Sacramento

Mass on EWTN Global Catholic Television Network

The Pope's Mass - Vatican News on youtube.com

An Act of Spiritual Communion - EWTN and others

USCCB - Order of Mass

Stay Safe – Stay Informed with

ADSF - sfarchdiocese.org/health-alerts

ADSF - Archdiocese of San Francisco - [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - cdc.gov

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Noe Valley Ministry, a Presbyterian worshipping community, joins the city in the preventative shelter-in-place order.

We pray for all affected by virus, by fear, by anxiety, by boredom. It is all real.

While we are all sheltering-in-place, we are worshipping via ZOOM every Sunday at 10:30 am.

Information on our website:
www.noevalleyministry.org

Please join us!
Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter worship are at your fingertips!

Blessings to all in this time of uncertainty. We stand together.

www.noevalleyministry.org





THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
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 www.noevalleyvoice.com

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
 Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Corrie M. Anders, *Associate Editor*
 Olivia Boler, *Other Voices Editor*
 Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Katie Burke, Janet Goblen, Liz Highleyman, Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Tim Simmers, Karen Topakian

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING

Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION

Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION

Jack Tipple

WEB GURU

Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES

Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



LETTERS

Ways to Live Aloha

Dear Editors:

As I greeted the dawn this first morning of lockdown (March 17), I reflected on the spirit of Aloha which infuses human relationships in the state of Hawaii. Google tells us that "Living Aloha" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It is expressed continuously when a driver pauses to let another make a left turn across her lane. Or when a full shopping cart motions the lady with one tomato to go in front. In both business and personal relationships, it is an awareness of others' needs, big and small. In Honolulu, it is such a constant that after a while you don't notice anything special because it is just normal.

Last night, a friend described an encounter she had with a neighbor which was so much the opposite of Aloha.

I felt I had to remind myself, her, and anyone else reading this that Aloha does

exist, and there are many examples in Noe Valley right now. (I have noticed many kind offers on Nextdoor, for instance.) I am thinking of ways I can share Aloha, and I know you are too: tipping extravagantly, checking up on our old folks, writing donation checks. Even just speaking kindly to the annoying customer service representative, sharing music and jokes via social media, or smiling at the stranger coming down the street are ways to express grace and mercy.

I hope very much we will all rise to the opportunity to Live Aloha as the next few weeks and months go on.

Cordially yours, with Aloha,
 Kit Cameron

P.S. A friend from L.A. told me some people there were canceling their housecleaners and not paying them. So, please send a check to your housecleaner, who can always make up the work later.

March 11 Muni Story

Editors:

I thought this worth a mention. My disclaimer is I am more concerned about the J-Church. Also, I spent seven years with

Muni, as a cable car gripman, motor coach driver, and streetcar driver.

Today I boarded the 36 Teresita bus to get up to Portola at 11 a.m. Along Teresita, just before the coach usually turns up Reposa to Myra, the driver asked if I was going up the hill. I said no, and he said he would just keep going straight.

I said, "There may well be people waiting up there." (Buses have a turnaround along Myra at the foot of the path to Mt. Davidson.)

The driver said, "I'll risk it."

In a few minutes, my stop came up, Teresita and Portola. As I got off, I told the driver I had been a Muni driver, my cap number on the old list, #2784, and that my generation of drivers felt the transit was "public." I also mentioned that the 36 line was "iffy" during the middle of the day, as Muni would occasionally pull a bus off the line without any notification to the public.

I would like to add that the driver was courteous, and in my opinion was simply never trained to realize that working for Muni is a kind of public trust. I was never a saint, especially on the cable cars, but passing up people was never an option.

Thanks for listening. I wish there was an SFMTA listening post for such incidents.

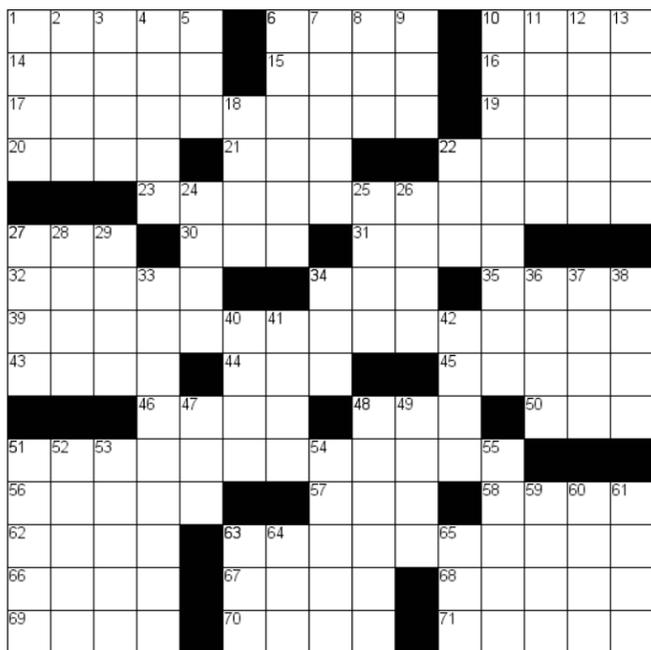
Will Segen

Editor's Note: The SFMTA's website recommends you call the 311 Customer Service Center or fill out the Muni Feedback Form at <https://www.sfmta.com/eml/getting-around/muni/muni-feedback>—if you have a complaint.

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Going Viral

- ACROSS**
- Levi's fabric
 - ___ check: DMV requirement
 - "Ghost Hunters" channel
 - Unaccompanied
 - Ring ___ on a phone
 - Cleveland's Lake
 - Big-selling houseplant at French Tulip these days
 - TV's "Warrior Princess"
 - "Frozen" sister
 - Rearward, at sea
 - Fabricates
 - Hot Video Wave rental about a mortuary family that practices social distancing
 - Tavern
 - Caesar's 61
 - 50-and-over org.
 - Get up
 - SFMOMA display
 - Facility
 - Promotional name for a delivery-only entree from Bacco
 - "The Bridge on the River ___"
 - Abbr. on a viral email
 - Hybrid fruit
 - Toyota hybrids, humorously
 - ___ Lanka
 - Sit-up targets
 - New frozen goodie from Shufat Market that you enjoy alone
 - Fix, as software
 - Move like a rabbit
 - Canoodle
 - Mitt Romney's ___ capital
 - The Dubliner's cocktail that you make at home



- Pt. of PG&E
- Grow fatigued
- Green ___
- Musician John
- Fortune teller
- Greek isle
- Information
- NC college that's in more crosswords than "Duke"
- Person, place, or thing
- Bygone Peruvians
- "I'm overwhelmed"
- Graf on the court
- Del ___ Foods
- "Dear Yoko" dedicatee
- Understand
- Physical attractiveness
- Palindromic bakery's California town
- "Nothing could be ___ than..."
- Noe Valley Bakery need
- T.J. ___ (store)
- Apr. preceder
- "___ Three Lives"
- Member of the nobility
- "Later!"
- Pitcher's mistake
- "... pretty maids all in ___"
- Costa ___
- Fast at noontime
- "Your point being...?"
- Water, in Oaxaca
- Elitist
- Has a meal
- "Think nothing ___"
- 1940s conflict, for short
- ___ & Span (cleanser)
- "The Vatican ___" (song by Tom Lehrer, who turns 92 in April 2020)
- Noisy bedfellow
- Morning TV host Kelly
- Words before "my life" or "even money"
- Bobby of the Black Panthers
- "Village Voice" theatrical awards
- Chicago air hub
- Stage direction
- Emerald Isle
- SF-based tech review service
- Ben Franklin's flier
- Gallon pts.
- 180 turn, slangily
- "The Peacock Network"

Solution on Page 22
 Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

CORRECTION

The caption in the "tree stump" story in the March 2020 issue of the *Voice* should have placed the two stumps on Sanchez Street between Day and 30th streets (near Upper Noe Recreation Center) on the east side of Sanchez, not the west side. In addition, the storm that caused a 30th Street tree at Whitney to damage the fence surrounding the rec center occurred several years ago and not in January 2019, as implied in the story. The January storm damaged a tree at 29th and Dolores streets. Finally, the San Francisco Department of Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry is the agency that will determine whether and when as well as what type of trees will replace the ones removed on Sanchez Street next to the rec center. The *Voice* apologizes for any confusion caused.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



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EVENING AND WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

State of the Market

Noe Valley

NUMBERS SOLD FROM 1/1/20 - 3/17/20

Numbers reflect where the Noe Valley market ended when the order began on March 17th.



SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

10	\$1,891,454	\$1,215
# Sold < \$3M	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft
8	\$4,531,000	\$1,380
# Sold \$3M +	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



CONDOMINIUM

8	\$1,692,125	\$1,109
# Sold < \$2.5M	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft
0	-	-
# Sold \$2.5M +	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



2 - 4 UNITS

6	\$2,130,593	\$906
# Sold	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



In compliance with the Mayor's Shelter in Place Order and recommendations from SF and CA Realtor Associations and Compass: All Broker Tours and Public Open Houses of San Francisco properties have been canceled through April 7th as of this writing. Our showing and marketing schedules are severely impacted, but serving our community and our clients has not come to a halt.

When our mobility and ability to engage with you in person resume, the state of inventory and amount of buyer demand will determine market values.

In the meantime, we are available by **phone, email, Zoom, or Google Hangouts Meet** to provide information on how this may impact you and address any questions about the housing market.



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How to Continue Resisting from Home Check Out 7 Groups Working Remotely

	 Action SF, based in Noe Valley, focuses on political participation and action. Contact: resistry.net/actionsf or actionsfteam@gmail.com
	 Stand Up San Francisco meets electronically with staff of our California Congressional representatives and conducts weekly phone campaigns to them. Contact: standupsf.net
	 Democracy Action is a group of volunteers advocating for Congressional, State Legislative and other Democrats nationally through weekly phone banks in SF. Contact: demaction.us
	 Sister District Project focuses on state elections to help break the stranglehold of gerrymandering and voter suppression. Contact: sisterdistrictsf.com
	 In 2020 Swing Left SF will work to keep the House of Representatives blue, and focus on Arizona to flip state legislative seats and a Senate seat. Contact: swingleft.org or swingleftsanfrancisco@gmail.com
	 Airlift is a zero-overhead solution to political giving. They fund grassroots groups working all year long to turn out the untapped, underserved, non-voting populations around the U.S. Contact: airlift.fund
	 Can't decide the right group for you? Resistry.net helps you discover the SF resistance group that's right for you. Contact: resistry.net

Created by your Noe Valley friends at Action SF.
Contact: ActionSFteam@gmail.com

This ad is presented by Kristin Anundsen, Betsy Johnsen Esq, Lisa Jolicoeur CPA, Betsy Mayer MD, Charlie Spiegel Esq, Amy Tyson MD, and others

Noe Valleyans Sheltering in a Good Place

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

site at <https://www.empowersf.org/resilient-noe-valley/> in order to post updated information and created the email address resilientnoevalley@gmail.com for people to reach out.

“Our goal is twofold: to want to be in touch with people who want to volunteer, and we want people in need to contact us so we can try to assist them,” explained Denise Sanderson, a member of the group and also the branch manager at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

With the city’s public and private schools closed due to the pandemic, both the Main Library and Upper Noe Recreation Center were transformed into emergency daycare centers for the children of parents who needed to continue to do their jobs.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Unified School District began providing free meals to all children 18 and younger at 19 sites around the city, including James Lick Middle School at 1220 Noe St. Between 9 and 10 a.m. Monday through Friday, students could pick up breakfast, lunch, supper, fresh fruit, vegetables, and milk to take home. No identification was required, but a child had to be present. And families did not need to enter the school building to collect the food.

Food Pantry for 94131

Operations were also impacted at the Diamond Heights Food Pantry at St. Aidan’s Church.

On March 13, the pantry was continuing to hand out food bags to low-income, senior, or disabled residents living in the zip code 94131. However, a new coronavirus protocol was being used for the program, held Fridays, 1 to 2 p.m., at the church, at 101 Goldmine Drive. All volunteers were wearing gloves, the food was pre-packaged, and shoppers were asked not to touch or sort through items.

Also, only 16 shoppers at a time were allowed into the church hall, where four grocery stations had been set up a significant distance apart. The regimen was due to a new edict from health officials requiring people to practice “social distancing” and stay at least six feet away from anyone else.

“We are instituting a type of social distancing called the ‘rule of four,’” said Grace King, a volunteer coordinator of the program, which provides meat or fish, eggs, and a variety of produce donated by the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank.

She said the church had put out chairs for seniors, since they might be waiting in line much longer than usual. King said she hoped the food giveaway would go on each Friday as scheduled, but she was not sure what the church or city’s next move might be. She suggested people call the church office at 415-285-9540. *(The food program is continuing, though services at St. Aidan’s are now taking place online via Zoom.)*

Shopping Hours for Seniors

At nearby Diamond Heights Safeway, there were daily runs on toilet paper, paper towels, eggs, frozen foods, produce, and roast chickens. By mid-March, the store had set aside the 6 to 9 a.m. time slot “for senior citizens and other at-risk members of our community such as pregnant women or those with compromised immune systems.”

Janet Tarlov, who operates Canyon Market in Glen Park, said she was reserving the 7 to 8 a.m. hour daily for seniors 65 and over. Walgreens on Castro Street near Jersey saw crowds appear the mo-



The Day Before Lockdown: The venerable Peaks bar, on Castro near 24th Street, was still a home away from home for loyal customers, but many were drinking the cheapest beer available, \$4 Budweiser.

ment shipments came in. The store finally instituted a two-per-customer policy on select items.

A similar scenario was playing out at Whole Foods Market on 24th Street. The store began staggering customers and allowing “guests 60+” to shop before the store opened, from 8 to 9 a.m. Still, long lines spilled into the store’s parking lot in the early days of the health restrictions.

A Resilient Phone List

To help inform the public about local resources, members of Resilient Noe Valley hung posters at the Noe Valley Farmers Market, which remained open in order for people to buy food, and at other locations in the neighborhood. The flyers included a letter from Supervisor Rafael Mandelman reminding people to shelter in place and urging them to contact the group if they needed assistance.

The Resilient neighbors also created a help card to hand out at the Farmers Market and planned to put up door hangers with their contact information and other resources people could utilize in the neighborhood.

“We are going to set up a neighborhood phone check with volunteers calling their designated people daily to check in on them,” Sanderson told the *Voice*. “We are hoping to create cards about this program shortly, so people will be able to sign up if they would like to have someone check in on them via telephone.”

The Noe Neighborhood Council also created a special page on its website at www.noeneighborhoodcouncil.com, where people could get updated information. It asked its members to share the news with their social networks.

“You might be helping those in our community who might need it most! Until we see you next, stay safe!” the council noted in an email.

Smaller Markets

Janell Pekkain, owner of Olive This Olive That on Vicksburg near 24th, said her store had lost foot traffic but was receiving calls from customers looking for pasta, extra-virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and seasonings. “[At OTOT] you can get a pretty good meal even if you only have olive oil and pasta,” she said. Starting in April, she planned to offer Noe



On Sunday, March 15, 9-year-old Alvarado student Sophia Gallo was on her last day of selling Girl Scout cookies. It’s a good thing, because the next day she and her potential customers would all be “sheltered in place.”

Valley residents free delivery with a \$25 minimum, “for anyone who can’t come to the store to pick up.”

Shufat Market, a fixture for decades at 3807 24th St., remained open its regular hours and offered home delivery for elders or others who couldn’t get out. Tina Omar, who was in the store March 26 assisting her relatives who own the market, said customers were welcome to phone the store and ask about the availability of items, and they would set them aside.

Neighbors Who Deliver

Noe Valley saw a host of residents jumping in to help others. Castro Street residents Jenn Houseman and Sierra Hutto began making and delivering free homemade soup and tea on Sundays to the area’s vulnerable population.

“We know a lot of people aren’t getting out to go shopping, and it’s our way to give back,” said Houseman.

Houseman and Hutto started March 22, delivering 32-ounce containers of soup to about half a dozen people. Requests increased as soon as the word got out, said Houseman, a hospital psychologist who enjoys cooking in her spare time.

“Just over the course of a day, it’s grown into care packages. People are really wanting to help. People with kids are making cards, people with gardens putting in their produce, and we are making more food for caregivers who are feeling strained,” she said.

Those in need of a delivery can email 2soupdupers@gmail.com.

“It’s the first time we’ve ever done anything like this,” said Houseman. “We are going to do this as long as we can.”

Liberty Street’s Debbie Findling also was out delivering homemade chicken soup to elderly and other shut-ins, including one person who was infected with the coronavirus. Findling said she came up with the idea while in her kitchen.

“I was making soup for my in-laws and I realized I had made more soup than I could ever use,” she said.

So she posted the fact on social media and got an immediate response—“from people who were diagnosed with coronavirus, the elderly, and those who just wanted soup.”

Findling said she had no worries about visiting the ill patient. “I practiced good



The Dubliner Bar at 3838 24th St. was getting ready to play the violins. Its sign read, “You remember in *Titanic* when the band played while the ship sank? That’s us. Let us be your band.” *Photos by Sally Smith*

social distancing. I rang and then left the soup on the porch and chatted with them from the street.”

Findling’s action struck a chord with Kim Dang, co-owner of two restaurants in the neighborhood, Eric’s on Church Street and Alice’s on Sanchez. She too began stirring pots of chicken soup and personally delivering meals to elderly and vulnerable local residents.

“I was inspired to do so because of Deb Findling,” Dang told the *Voice* through her daughter Susie Mao.

Dang delivered six containers of chicken vegetable soup on her first day, March 20, and changed her menu the next day to chicken corn soup.

“She would leave the soup on the front porch,” Mao said, “ring the doorbell, walk eight feet away, and wait until they picked up the food.”

Mao said her “jack of all trades” mother, who turns 60 in June, shopped for the menu’s ingredients, had the Eric’s crew prepare the soups, and then did her own deliveries.

“She wants to do it every day,” or for as long as she can, said Mao.

Businesses Disrupted

Unless deemed an essential service, such as grocery stores, banks, and dry cleaners, most businesses in Noe Valley were forced to close their doors due to the shelter-in-place order. The order also caused many of the neighborhood’s bars, gyms, retailers, and other shops to close, at least temporarily. To many people’s consternation, Chase and Wells Fargo closed their Noe Valley branch offices.

Rachel Swann, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, said the city-ordered shutdown was causing considerable economic pain for merchants along the 24th Street commercial corridor. “I think it’s going to be huge,” said Swann, who manages the local office of The Agency real estate company. “We’ve got to find a way to adapt, or it could be extremely devastating.”

She encouraged Noe Valley residents to purchase gift cards from merchants, which could be used at a later date. That’s one way to help keep cash flowing into merchants’ pockets, she noted, while they are struggling.

She also urged businesses to consider ways they could change their business model to “adapt to the changing climate.” Many bars and restaurants were doing so already, moving from dine-in to takeout and delivery. *(See story, starting page 1.)*

Swann said police officers in cars and special teams of undercover officers on foot had increased along 24th, Castro, and Church, to keep watch during times when streets were deserted.

Homebuyers won’t see real estate

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Now More than Ever!

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Patronize Noe Restaurants offering Take-Out and line up for the best bagels and coffee.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS IN NOE VALLEY

A Week in Noe Like No Other

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

firms hosting open houses for a while, Swann noted. The city's real estate association has cancelled all open house tours for the public as well as brokers' tours for real estate professionals, she said, at least through early April.

A bit of good news for car owners was that parking meter rates across the city were set to go down March 24, to 50 cents an hour for vehicles and 10 cents an hour for motorcycles. Also, the SFMTA was ordered to halt ticketing for residential-parking-zone or street-cleaning infractions, at least until April 7. (However, Mayor London Breed stressed you must still move your car during street-sweeping days, to keep the city clean.)

Getting Creative

Forced to shutter their combined stores Just for Fun & Scribbledoodles and Art-sake, co-owners David Eiland and Robert Ramsey sent customers a note saying if they needed anything to help them get through staying at home to email them at justforfun@justforfunsf.com.

"Feeling bored, blue, artistic, playful? Need soothing soap or scents to brighten the spirit? Or puzzled about how to keep everyone focused and busy?" the store's email read. "Monday thru Friday we will monitor the email and if we have what you need, we will arrange a time for you to swing by the front door of the store and hand off your purchase, clean and safe, keeping our 'social distancing' promise."

They added that their "hope is for everyone's sanity, safety, creativity...and especially healthy return to normalcy."

Charlie's Corner bookstore postponed

its popular story readings for children, though the store remained open for book sales in early March.

"Our story times are on hold for now," said Gabi Velez, a storyteller for the store.

But she said Charlie's planned to start a once-a-day live streaming of story time later in the month. You can also subscribe to the store's YouTube channel for stories at noon and 3 p.m.

Folio Books had to cancel events and close its doors to customers.

"We are not letting anyone in to browse," said manager Paul Laffoon a day before the stay-at-home order. "We are still conducting business through some other channels."

Customers could make transactions through the Dutch door at the front of the store, buy books for mail delivery, or Laffoon would make "rounds in my (car) and drop off books on doorsteps."

The operation was expected to extend into April. "We are still here to support the readership of Noe Valley," Laffoon said. But "we decided to get ahead of being a place to congregate,...in the interest of public safety."

Laffoon said the decision was spurred by the closing of local schools and the Noe Valley Library. "Without schools and library and no place for people to go, we feared they'd congregate here and we'd be a hotbed of pestilence. We thought long and hard about this," he said.

At month's end, both Folio and Charlie's were entertaining their readerships online.

Some Receive a Bounce

While some stores were struggling, others, like Barons Quality Meats & Seafood on Church Street, were flush with new business.

"We've doubled to tripled our customer counts," said Barons manager Matt

Ebling, noting that activity began to pick up March 8, as the city began to count cases of Covid-19.

A few customers appeared to be hoarding, he said.

"On Saturday [March 14], I sold 125 pounds of assorted [meat] cuts to a single customer, and she was going to bunker down," he said.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said the seasoned butcher. "It's amazing."

He said the shop got continuous supplies of product, and that "we are going to be trying to keep up and stay open as long as we can."

Billingsgate, a new seafood market and cafe that is under construction at 3859 24th St.—and won't open until the end of April at the earliest—started delivering products from its parent company, Four Star Seafood.

Chef/owner Adrian Hoffman, a Valley Street resident, said Four Star, which sells fresh fish to restaurants throughout the Bay Area, decided to switch to delivery after sales went from a "robust business, up 18 percent, to nothing" in the space of a week. "It's horrible," Hoffman said. "To some extent, it couldn't be worse."

But the company's first day of deliveries in Noe Valley and elsewhere (March 17) "went really well," he said. He hoped it would continue. Shoppers can order online for same- or next-day delivery at www.fourstarseafood.com.

Video Wave, the video-rental store at 4027 24th St., saw its business rise starting the Friday before the official shelter-in-place, on Monday, March 16.

"I've had more daily rentals and transactions [since then] than I've had in years," said store owner Colin Hutton, who last year launched a GoFundMe page and other fundraisers to keep his doors open.

Hutton said because of concerns over the virus, he was limiting the number of people who could enter the store to "two sets of people at a time, maximum four people."

The most popular movie titles, he said, were *Knives Out*, *Parasite*, and *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

A funny thing, Hutton said, was that customers often asked to rent *Contagion*, but after they thought for a minute, they decided not to.

From Peaks to Valleys

At the beginning of the outbreak, The Peaks, a bar that has been around since Prohibition days, was trying hard to remain open.

Owner Keli Leal said she'd bought Clorox, Lysol sprays, and sanitation wipes to keep the place clean, wiping down the bar every two hours and the door every time someone left. But as the seriousness of the epidemic sunk in the second week in March, bar traffic slowed to a crawl.

"Everyone was just scared. It was the weirdest thing. The only reasons we are keeping the doors open are because the customers have no place to go—there's no more than eight to ten people here at a given time—and for my bartenders. They are mostly working for tips, so they still have a job," Leal said.

She said she also saw a change in what her patrons ordered.

"They went from the more expensive beer," like a \$5 Lagunitas or \$7 microbrew, to a \$4 bottle of Budweiser.

"My Budweiser sales tripled within three days, and we even ran out of it. I was surprised we ran out," said Leal.

On March 16, Leal told the *Voice* she'd close The Peaks but only if ordered to do so. California Governor Gavin Newsom issued the order that same day. ■

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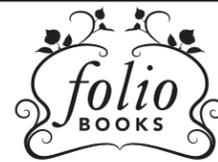


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Restaurants Switch to Takeout

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

La Ciccia, the cozy Sardinian restaurant at 291 30th St., also posted a closing notice on Instagram: “It is with a heavy heart today that we announce La Ciccia will be closing temporarily through these unforeseen times,” the restaurant said, adding, “We really hope we can resume business within 3/4 weeks from now or sooner if it is safe to do so.”

The Brewing Storm

Philz Coffee shut down all of its locations, including the one at 24th and Douglass streets (4298 24th), on Tuesday, March 17.

“We’ll continue to track the situation daily and will reopen our stores as soon as it is safe to do so,” wrote company head Jacob Jaber in an email to patrons. He also vowed to pay workers for scheduled shifts and to pay “all current benefits.” He advised customers to go to Philz’ website, as the company was waiving shipping charges between March 20 and April 20.

Just the Sunday before, six people sat at tables staring into their phones as customers trickled in to buy croissants or bags of Silken Splendor at the Noe Valley Philz.

Barista Christian Camara said the past week had been a strange one. “We’ve been busier than usual during times when we were normally quiet,” he said, despite that their tech-savvy clientele, many working from home, were doing their best to calculate the best time for coffee



Among the “grab-and-go” meals at Bistro SF Grill in late March was a meatball and zucchini combo. Photo by Jack Tipple



Hamano chef-owner Jiro Lin hopes his customers will take advantage of the restaurant’s new personal delivery service, staffed by employees. Photo by Sally Smith

breaks sans crowds.

To keep the café safe and to honor the city’s restrictions, Camara said, the staff was using only to-go cups and not letting people bring in their mugs. Workers seemed to be weathering the storm well—no layoffs, no illnesses so far, he said—but the clock was ticking and the social distance was widening.

Bistro Serves Hundreds

At Bistro SF Grill at 1305 Castro St., Hasim Zecic and Senijad Felic were setting up a table outside their restaurant to offer boxed meals at cost (\$5.50 each). Customers could choose from three meals—such as meatballs and veggies, Veracruz tilapia, and vegan mushroom polenta—daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The service, Felic said, would help keep his staff working while providing food for seniors or the newly unemployed. “There are a lot of people who don’t have access to kitchens—seniors who have nowhere to cook. And the price of food is so high. And a lot of people have lost their jobs and aren’t working.”

The meals were “our donation to the community,” said Felic, who noted how people had supported him when he fled his native Balkans during the Bosnian War in the early 1990s.

Felic said Bistro SF, which also offered

food delivery, had the capacity to serve 2,000 meals a day. Customers urged the restaurant to launch a fundraiser for the employees, which it did at GoFundMe.com. As of March 28, the effort had raised \$7,660 of a \$25,000 goal.

Favorites Still Available

Uma Casa, the Portuguese restaurant at 1550 Church St., created a special “shelter in place” menu for takeout Tuesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. It included soups, hot foods, and packaged meals people could heat at home, like steak stir-fry or chicken cacciatore, priced \$30 for two people or \$56 for a family of four.

“Though San Francisco restaurants have been asked to close for dine-in service, Uma Casa is still here to help you during this time,” noted the restaurant in an email to patrons.

At the corner market Douglas, 1598 Sanchez St., the proprietors remained open for in-store pickup or delivery within the neighborhood. People could order online via the store’s website daily meals created in partnership with local restaurants like Namu Stonepot, Pizzeria Delfina, and Nopalito.

“We’ve never felt more of a connection to our community and a sense of purpose than we do now, to serve our neighborhood delicious food that nourishes you and our food shed by directly supporting local farmers and makers. We’re here to stay,” the family-owned business wrote in an email to customers.

Eric’s Restaurant, at the corner of 27th and Church, had closed its doors initially, but then reopened for takeout orders. Its sister restaurant, Alice’s, 1599 Sanchez St., did the same, and in mid-March its owner was making soup deliveries to neighbors.

Saru, the small sushi bar at 3854 24th St., began offering a takeout-only menu daily from 5 to 8 p.m., and 30 percent off its omakase tasting menu.

Hamano and Chloe’s

During the week before the city’s stay-at-home order, Hamano Sushi saw its business drop 60 percent, restaurant chef-owner Jiro Lin told the *Voice* on Sunday, March 15. “It’s been terrible,” he said, while standing on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant at 1332 Castro St.

Lin said he’d been busy buying iceboxes and gloves to outfit his 15 employees. The restaurant was launching a “personal delivery service” the following day.

Hours for pickup or delivery orders would be 5 to 8 p.m., and the deliveries—to customers in Noe Valley and Bernal Heights—would require a \$5 charge “and maybe a \$40 minimum order,” Lin said. It was the first time in the restaurant’s 17-year history it would deliver its menu. But Lin and his staff hoped to meet to the challenge.

That same Sunday, Chloe’s Cafe at 1399 Church St. still had a list of names on its signup sheet. Asked how the restaurant was doing, manager T.J. Jackovich replied, “So far, so good. Our numbers are about the same” as before the coronavirus outbreak.

Jackovich had begun to notice fewer people at breakfast and more showing up for lunch. “In the last few days, a lot of people are working from home,” he said. He’d also seen an increase in food-to-go orders. With only nine tables, Jackovich said the 33-year-old restaurant would have a hard time putting six feet between customers, if required to do so by the city. “If and when that happens, it would be horrible for us,” he said.

Within 24 hours, the world had tilted. Chloe’s and all other restaurants in the city were ordered to end dine-in service. The café put out a sign saying takeout only. New hours were 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The ‘Something Borrowed’ Was the Dress

Keeley Rankin wasn’t going to let the turbulence around the coronavirus waylay her marriage to her French sweetheart.

But the Noe Valley resident didn’t have a wedding dress and needed one quickly. So she put out an urgent call on social media to borrow one: “Do you have a wedding dress that needs a new bride?”

The response was immediate and heartwarming. Several women offered their bridal gowns. Two dresses especially struck Rankin’s fancy: a cream-colored sheath with beading, and a traditional gown with a high neck and a floor-touching train.

But first the back story.

Rankin, 34, a sex therapist and relationship coach in San Francisco, lives on Douglass Street with her fiancé, Benoit Cristou, 44, a visual



storyteller who helps clients prepare PowerPoint and other presentations.

The two, who always knew in the back of their minds they would marry, were on a backpacking vacation in Nepal last year when near tragedy struck.

Cristou fell into a river and “almost drowned,” and Rankin suffered a serious bout of altitude sickness while climbing Manaslu Mountain.

That gave them the push they needed last October to get formally engaged. They set an April 17 wedding date, booked a spot in Cristou’s hometown of Paris, and invited a gathering of 17 family and friends. Cristou would immigrate to the United States after they tied the knot.

Then the pandemic hit.

“We realized we had to reconsider having people traveling right now,” Rankin said in late March. “We had no idea it would look like it is today.”

The couple decided to get married in the U.S. (in Marin) April 10, “before he has to head back [to France] for visa reasons,” Rankin said. “Every day we delay our legal marriage, we delay the option to live together easily.”

With many businesses closing up shop, Rankin couldn’t find a place to buy a wedding dress. A five-foot-three friend, who first offered her own wedding dress to the five-foot-nine Rankin, suggested she ask on Nextdoor to borrow a nuptial gown.

From the women who responded, “we picked up two dresses and they both fit, which is crazy,” Rankin said. “What a problem to have.”

Her out-of-state mother was “devastated” she wouldn’t be able to attend the wedding, now confined to a party of four. But Rankin was still marveling at the generosity of her neighbors in Noe Valley.

“I feel really lucky to live in a neighborhood where folks are so sweet and kind,” she said. “It’s been so sweet, so touching and such a great distraction from all of it.”

—Corrie M. Anders



Senijad Felic and Hasim Zecic (right) stand ready to offer \$5.50 takeout meals from their Bistro SF Grill on Castro Street. They started the service on March 17. Photo by Sally Smith

Postscript: Eleven days after closing, NOVY restaurant decided to reopen its kitchen, for takeout and home deliveries only. Starting April 1, the eatery will offer a limited menu of burgers, wraps, pastas, and salads. The 24th Street restaurant had shut down on March 16, ironically on its fifth anniversary. Co-owner Kathryn Gianaras said she wanted to open again to help support the restaurant’s 30 employees. NOVY also created a GoFundMe page. By March 27 it had raised nearly \$17,500 of its \$30,000 goal. ■



Some Stores Signaled Caution and boarded up their fronts after local government ordered shut downs. PlumpJack Wine and Spirits, at 4011 24th Street had their coverup complete on March 28. Photo by Jack Tipple



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Coronavirus Doesn't Discriminate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. "I thought, I'm healthy and don't need to worry. But still, I kept my distance. I wiped down the keypad on the ATM and the gate at the dog park."

Things changed when Khoury started developing symptoms. After Khoury's fever spiked to 105°F, Baechtle brought him to the emergency room at California Pacific Medical Center on March 20. "They met us at the front door in full gear for triage," he said. "Mark was tested and admitted, and I was tested and sent home to self-quarantine."

Baechtle said he had no idea how he and Khoury might have been exposed to the coronavirus. But he recalled that a couple of weeks before, he had symptoms including a sore throat, pain when breathing, and extreme fatigue. "I felt like I'd been hit with a cinderblock," he said. "But at that time the coronavirus still seemed far away, and it didn't even register."

Although Baechtle's recent coronavirus test was negative for active infection, that doesn't mean he couldn't have previously been infected and recovered. For that, he would need an antibody test, which shows whether a person has developed immunity.

Unfortunately, Khoury's experience is far from unique.

Reports from China, where the pandemic emerged in December, showed that people under 60 accounted for only a small proportion of severe illness and death. This led to a widespread sense of reassurance, and as the virus took hold in the United States, many young adults appeared to feel invincible as they ignored social-distancing recommendations.

But a recent study of more than 4,000 early U.S. cases by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 12 percent of people who required intensive care for COVID-19 were in the 20-to-44 age range and 36 percent were ages 45 to 64. Of the 44 reported deaths, nine involved people ages 20 to 64.

"This isn't just a disease of the elderly," Dr. Mike Ryan of the World Health Organization said at a March 18 briefing. "There is no question that younger, healthier people overall experience much less severe disease, but a significant number of otherwise healthy adults can develop a more severe form of the disease."

This means millennials need to take social-distancing recommendations seriously, both for their own health and for the safety of older loved ones and the community as a whole. Slowing the spread of the virus takes pressure off the health-care system at a time when hospitals nationwide are starting to run out of resources.

What About Kids and Seniors?

The good news is that, unlike seasonal flu, children who catch the coronavirus seldom become seriously ill. Among the early cases reported to the CDC, no one under 19 required intensive care or died.

But that doesn't mean kids are immune to the virus or that they can't transmit it to others.

"It's not true that children don't get the coronavirus," Dr. Julia Getzleman, founder of GetzWell Pediatrics at 1701 Church St., told the *Voice*. "They are more likely to be asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, but they can pass it on. Children absolutely should be included in social distancing."

To help protect patients, parents, and staff, GetzWell, like many medical prac-

tices, is relying more on phone consultations, virtual visits, and house calls, Getzleman said.

While no one likes being cooped up at home, experts advise that playgrounds and play dates are not a good idea right now. It's safe to take a walk around the neighborhood, but stay at least six feet away from people who don't live in the same household. And it's never too early to teach kids how to wash their hands.

Older people, in contrast, are the most likely to develop severe respiratory problems. The immune system gets weaker with age, and older adults are more likely to have pre-existing health problems that raise the risk of COVID-19 complications. The recent CDC study found that just over half of intensive-care admissions and 80 percent of deaths occurred among adults age 65 or older.

While everyone in San Francisco is now being asked to shelter in place, seniors should be particularly cautious about avoiding close contact with other people, including family members who are in contact with the public.

If possible, seniors can order food for delivery or ask younger friends or relatives to help so they can avoid going to stores themselves.

Seniors living in elder-care facilities are especially vulnerable. For this reason, some nursing homes and other care providers are strictly limiting visits. Seniors who rely on non-residential social services should check with their providers to see what services are still being offered.

On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center has cancelled its activities and classes until further notice, staff member David (who declined to give his full name) told the *Voice*. Although group lunches have been suspended, seniors can pick up lunches to go from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday

through Saturday at the center, at 225 30th St.

Looking to the Future

There are currently no approved treatments for COVID-19 or vaccines for the coronavirus, but intensive research is under way. "Antivirals, monoclonal antibodies, and other agents are being developed and tested in real time, literally as we speak," said National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the federal government's leading voices on the pandemic response.

Several experimental therapies are now under study. Khoury is being treated with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, an anti-malarial and antibiotic combination recently touted by President Donald Trump. A potentially more effective therapy is remdesivir, an antiviral developed by Gilead Sciences in Foster City.

The first coronavirus vaccine trial started in mid-March, but a vaccine likely won't be available for another 12 to 18 months, Fauci said in a March 26 Instagram Live chat with Golden State Warriors star Steph Curry.

Antibody tests—which are easier, quicker, and cheaper than tests for the virus itself—will soon be available. These tests can show whether people have recovered, developed immunity, and are now protected from the virus, meaning it's probably safe for them to leave home and help others.

But some habits developed during this period of social distancing may become the new normal.

"I don't see my germophobia ending when this is done," Baechtle said. "It will change the way we think about things. People used to laugh when I pushed doors open with my elbow. Now it makes sense." ■

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

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- Burned-Out Streetlights**, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) 311
- District 8 Supervisor's Office** Rafael Mandelman 415-554-6968
- District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention** Jessica Closson . 415-713-6877
- Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)** 415-695-2017
- Hazardous Waste Disposal** / free pickup bulky items 415-330-1300
- Homeless Services** Street Outreach Services (SOS) 415-355-2250
- Lost or Injured Animals** Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services** sfmayor.org 415-554-7111
- NERT** (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) 415-970-2022
- Parking Enforcement** DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
- PG&E** Gas or electrical issues 1-800-743-5000
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- Recycling** Recology San Francisco 415-330-1300
- Rent Board** 415-252-4600
- Sewer Problems, Overflows** 415-695-2096
- Tree Planting** urbanforestry@sfdpw.org 415-554-6700
- 24th Street Community Benefit District (CBD)** 415-519-0093
- Water Leaks, Water Pressure** 415-554-3289

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—Baltasar Gracián, Spanish Jesuit and philosopher (1601-1658)



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Kristin Anundsen, Noe Valley Resident

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Thank you! Jack Tipple and Sally Smith, Editors and Co-Publishers

Pi Master Lila Chen Approaching Infinity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organizers were finalizing the details when the *Voice* went to press in late March. They still hoped to raise \$300,000 in donations, by having participants track their steps through a mobile app over the span of the campaign.

“We are going to get creative and expand her role in a different way this year. She will have a virtual role this year,” said Robert Pinnix, a spokesperson for the March of Dimes in the Greater Bay Area.

Life had already been turned upside down for Chen when the *Voice* talked with her in early March. Two days prior, the Lowell High School student had been sent home after school officials abruptly closed the campus due to one of her classmates having possibly been exposed to the novel coronavirus Covid-19.

The shutdown resulted in Chen’s debate team forfeiting its season, as it was forced to cancel attendance at a competition that weekend. Days later, school officials shuttered all of the city’s public schools in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus.

“It was kind of a bummer,” said Chen of seeing the debate team’s season aborted.

She was able to attend this year’s kick-off event in February for the March of Dimes fundraiser and give an address. Chen had been picked for the honor because she raised \$11,000 for the nonprofit over the last two years. Her surpassing \$5,500 in donations in 2018 made Chen the second highest individual March for Babies fundraiser in San Francisco.

This year, her goal is to raise \$8,000, and as of March 27, Chen had netted more than \$5,300 in donations. The secret to her fundraising success is Chen’s unique



Though her upcoming Pi for Babies party may not have the crowds of past years (due to coronavirus restrictions), digital wiz Lila Chen (left) knows she will have the enthusiastic support of younger sister Elise and mom and dad Sandy and Jim Chen. Photo by Beverly Tharp

talent for reciting from memory multiple digits of pi. The irrational number, represented as 3.14, continues infinitely without repeating, and calculations of it stretch to more than one trillion digits.

Breaking Her Own Records

As a fifth-grader, Chen was intrigued by her middle school’s tradition of having sixth-graders compete in a pi memorization contest. In 2015, the winner had memorized 150 digits, and Chen set out to best them. She won the next year’s contest by memorizing 396 digits, and dared on by her friends, Chen worked her way up to 800 digits in seventh grade, and continues to expand the number of pi digits she can recite by memory.

“I guess it is not a defining feature of my personality, but I am up for a good competition,” she said. “With myself, I want to see how far I can go. It isn’t about can I beat the next person.”

Two years ago, Chen’s reciting of 800 pi digits at Patxi’s on 24th Street on March 14, celebrated as Pi Day, so impressed the manager that the family’s pizza was comped. “The way I do it I don’t have them all memorized at once,” she explained. “When we get close to the Pi Day, I memorize more and more.”

Her younger sister Elise, 8, has yet to master memorizing pi digits. Asked how

many she could recite, she said, “I think 40. Compared to my sister, that is like one.”

In Honor of Little Brother

Lila Chen has put her knack for piphilology toward raising funds for the March of Dimes in honor of her little brother, Jonah, who died at just nine days old from a neonatal viral infection when Chen was 4 years old. On Pi Day, she kicks off her fundraising drive for the event by emailing friends and relatives to ask them to donate.

Then she and her family hold a pie-themed party at their home in mid-April, the week before the March for Babies, for upwards of 50 guests who have donated at least \$100. In return, they get to enjoy mini fruit pies and witness Chen attempt to break her pi memorization record.

“Lila’s story is really neat, and she is fundraising in a unique way to honor her

brother,” said Pinnix when asked why she was named this year’s ambassador. “She is taking this opportunity and utilizing a really unique skill she has to memorize an astounding number, and she has turned that into a fundraiser.”

Chen’s recitation of 1,364 digits of pi last April unofficially ranked her as 43rd in the U.S. and 120th in the world, according to the Pi World Ranking website. The family is looking into how to get her ranking officially recognized.

1,500 in 15 Minutes

This year, she is aiming to recite 1,500 pi digits at her Pi for Babies fundraising party on April 18. (Whether anyone other than her sister and parents can attend remains to be seen, as the shelter-in-place order runs through at least April 7 but may be extended.)

As of early March, Chen was able to recite 1,256 digits and was confident of reaching her target this year. She prints out sheets of pi digits that are grouped per line into 12 sets of three numbers each. “The groups give it a cadence or a beat,” said Chen, who expects it will take her 15 minutes to recite all 1,500 pi digits. “I remember them in relation to each other.”

She credits having a photographic mind and an ability to remember how each set of numbers sounds for her memorization talent. Her being left-handed may also play a role, although she hasn’t confirmed it does.

“It isn’t exhausting, but it is tiring,” Chen said of reciting the pi digits.

Her mother, Sandy Chen, designs workplace software, and her father, Jim Chen, is a radiologist at an East Bay hospital. They “both have good memories,” said Jim Chen, but he agrees with his wife that their daughter’s talent “is all Lila.”

To donate toward Chen’s fundraising goal online, visit the website marchforbabies.org/lilachen.

New Ways to Word
 Try the *Voice* **Crossword!**
 See page 5 for this month’s puzzle. Or go to our website to find old puzzles. You can do them online or print them out.
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SHORT TAKES

What to Do? What to Do?

Short Takes tries to let readers know what's happening in Noe Valley—readings, fundraisers, events, etc. So what's happening this month? The short answer is not much. The longer and more accurate answer is quite a bit, if you're willing to look. When the *Voice* looked in late March, here's what we found.

Spiritual and Virtual

Though their buildings may be closed, most Noe Valley religious institutions are providing a way for continued observance.

Bethany United Methodist Church is streaming Sunday services, 10:45 a.m., via Facebook. Search for @BethanyUMCsf.

The neighborhood's two Catholic churches, *St. Paul's* and *St. Philip the Apostle*, direct parishioners to daily online masses presented by the Eternal Word Television Network at ewtn.com.

Chabad Noe Valley is holding Shabbat services Friday evenings and Saturday mornings via Zoom.us (a cloud platform for video or audio conferencing). Check the website chabadnoevalley.org or sign up for email at chabadnoevalley@gmail.com.

Holy Innocents (Episcopal) is live streaming 10 a.m. Sunday services on Facebook and holding virtual coffee hours after services on Zoom. Check the church website, HolyInSF.org.

Noe Valley Ministry (Presbyterian) provides live Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. and recordings of the live service via Zoom for the duration. See noevalleyministry.org.

Buddhist Church of San Francisco offers online services and Dharma talks on YouTube channel *Buddhist Church of San Francisco*.



Noe Valley Chamber Music co-directors Owen Dalby and Meena Bhasin say follow them to Facebook or to the series website, where they'll share tips on how to join the Noe Music Listening Club, online edition.

Words—Written, Spoken, Read

Other cities have boxing matches, bowling tournaments, and auto races. San Fran-



Story time lives! Though Charlie's Corner has closed its doors temporarily, you can find live and recorded videos on the bookstore's channel on YouTube. Photo courtesy Charlie's Corner

cisco has book clubs, readings, and open mics. Everyone is either reading a book, listening to someone else read a book, or writing one themselves.

Most book readings in Noe Valley have been cancelled or postponed. Even Word Week (March 14–21) had to be put off.

However, Charlie's Corner children's bookstore is still holding its noon and 3 p.m. daily story times via live streaming on its YouTube channel. In addition, there are videos of past readings on the store's website, charliescorner.com.

Folio Books also welcomes readers to its site. There you can join the Folio page at Bookshop.org and see Folio's staff picks and others' recommendations. "The commission we receive is very generous and will be a big help in paying staff while we are shuttered," the site said. Email info@foliosf.com.

At the virtual Omnivore Books on Food, owner Celia Sack is offering Quarantine Quenchers, a list of books aimed at keeping you busy (baking) during the stay-at-home order. Either that or yearning after the intimate food tastings you once enjoyed at the store. Sign up for the shop's newsletter at omnivorebooks.myshopify.com.

Also, don't forget the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, which, though closed, will be happy to help you find ebooks, podcasts, and you name it online.

And about those books we've all been writing. If you're in need of a writing community, try Lit Camp's Virtual Writing Community, which holds three two-hour free writing blocks each week via Zoom. Find out more at litcampwriters.org. Or

Zoom your own writing group (or dance party or singing practice). A 40-minute session is free to organize. Longer meetings require a monthly fee.

Free Concerts Online

Even though music venues are shuttered for now, there are plenty of online avenues to watch musical performances in all genres. Here are a few.

Noe Valley Chamber Music is sharing "inspiring videos from artists we love," according to co-directors Meena Bhasin and Owen Dalby. To access the free videos, go to Noe Valley Chamber Music on Facebook or [noechambermusic](https://www.instagram.com/noechambermusic) on Instagram. You can also find clues to the Noe Music Listening Club at their website, nvcn.org.

Bird & Beckett Books in Glen Park is streaming all scheduled performances in its Jazz in the Bookshop series on Facebook. You can watch for free, but the store hopes listeners will press the donate button to help pay the musicians. Also, the store is open for phone or email book orders, with pickup through the locked front door gate.

SF Jazz is broadcasting live-recorded performances on Fridays at 5 p.m. If you're a member, it's free. If you're not, it only costs \$5 for a digital membership. Go to sfjazz.org.

Popular music is also being live-streamed. Although live concerts are kaput, many of the scheduled artists are performing from their homes. One way to find out who and when is to go to vulture.com. Check The Feed column for info or click on Coronavirus on the upper left.

Speak to Me, Please!

The Commonwealth Club and City Arts and Lectures, two of our most venerable lecture/talk/discussion series, are streaming events online to replace some of their cancelled live ones. The Commonwealth Club is streaming both live and archived events. Go to commonwealthclub.org and click on Watch+Listen.

The City Arts and Lectures series is streaming some of its April events, including Dolores Huerta & Alice Waters April 3, Namwali Serpell & Carmen Maria Machado April 9, and Miranda July on April 20. All three begin at 7:30 p.m. City Arts and Lectures requires a donation to watch. Go to cityarts.net to access.

Another way to listen to these series is on NPR, National Public Radio. That's at 88.5 FM.

Museums Open 24/7

Been meaning to go to the Asian Art Museum? Now's your chance. Browse the Asian Museum online at asianart.org. You

can wander the exhibits photo by photo.

Touring the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park online is a little more difficult. Start off at deyoung.famsf.org and click on Collections, then the box Explore on Google Arts and Culture, then on Stories or specific collections. Both offer static screen shots, not videos. It's the same process for the Legion of Honor, at legionofhonor.famsf.org.

With SFMOMA, the pickings are even slimmer, but you can watch videos with or about some of the artists whose work is on exhibit. Go to sfmoma.org, click on Exhibitions, then on a specific exhibition. If that exhibition has a Watch button, there's a video.

At the Museum of the African Diaspora, moadsf.org, there are no exhibition tours but there are video discussions of exhibits and a collection of audio recordings of Americans who were once slaves. Slide your cursor over the Explore button to get the dropdown list.

Farther afield, many world museums have visual tours. Go to the website for the Louvre or the British Museum or whatever and see. Also, many museums have YouTube channels or videos on their Facebook pages.

The Show Won't Go On

Live theater in San Francisco has mostly been cancelled, the exceptions being at the American Conservatory Theater and Theatre Rhinoceros, where performances are live but virtual. However, check with your favorite theater company. They may be streaming or Zooming no-audience shows.

A.C.T. is streaming performances of its two current productions, *Gloria* and *Toni Stone*. If you go to actsf.org and buy a ticket, you will be sent a link to watch.

Theatre Rhinoceros is presenting a free, live remote reading via Zoom of *SCOTUS Gay: Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* on Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. The play is based on court transcripts and the real lives behind the case, heard by the Supreme Court Oct. 8, 2019. A decision is pending. For the Zoom code, go to therhino.org or email info@therhino.org.

On YouTube, you can listen to selected numbers from two other cancelled local productions, *The Book of Mormon* and *Hamilton*. Try the song "You'll Be Back."

Dance, Stream, and Zoom!

For balletomanes or dancers of all kinds, there are a variety of online choices to get you through the physical distancing of April.

San Francisco Ballet has snippets of dance at sfballet.org. More satisfying may be SF Ballet on YouTube, where you'll find excerpts from ballet performances over the years and one full *Nutcracker*.

You'll also find dance works on YouTube by smaller dance companies, including the Smuin Ballet and Alonzo King LINES Ballet.

Unfortunately, Noe Valley native Emma Lanier's directorial debut of the performance *HOMEBOY* at ODC Theater (April 10–11) was postponed due to COVID-19. She and Ky Frances are the co-artistic directors of the company Kickbal. If you'd like to send a note of support, write to their publicist Sandra.Halladey@gmail.com. To help financially, make a donation to their sponsor for the show, Dancers Group.

To watch a ballet with others around the world, try the Royal Opera Ballet's performance of *The Metamorphosis*, set to be available free on Facebook or YouTube on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., London time, which is 11 a.m. Noe Valley time.

Or, for hot LatinX music, try the Alt.Latino Playlist at NPR.

Lastly, if you're looking for a relaxing stretch, try Yoga Flow or Yoga Mayu, both grounded on 24th Street. They each have live streaming schedules that include three or four classes a day. See yogaflowsf.com or yogamayu.com and breathe out slowly.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May and Sally Smith.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Lows and Highs in February

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers had to spend at least \$1 million in February to purchase a Noe Valley address.

The neighborhood saw only a handful of sales—just five detached homes and four condos—according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco. But all were million-dollar babies.

The month's bargain, so to speak, was a one-bedroom, one-bath condo selling for \$1,050,000, 5.5 percent more than its asking price (\$995,000). Located in a three-unit 1927 building in the 400 block of Elizabeth Street near Sanchez Street, the residence featured a remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, a shared garden, and parking for one car.

The neighborhood's cheapest "single-



This modern showpiece on Douglass Street—the priciest home in Noe Valley in February—sold for its asking price, \$4,398,000. Photos by Sally Smith

family" house started out with a price tag just under \$1 million. But a buyer quickly bungee-jumped the value by handing over \$1.4 million. Described as having "great possibilities," the one-story cottage, built in 1908, offered a single bedroom with 1.5 baths. The main appeal of the 1,025-square-foot home, in the 200 block of Grand View Avenue near 22nd Street, was its hillside location. It afforded a great view of downtown San Francisco.

On the flip side of modesty was a three-bedroom, 3.5-bath dwelling that sold for its asking price of \$4,398,000. It was February's priciest home, located in the 1400 block of Douglass Street near Duncan Street. The house, originally constructed in 1948, had undergone a dramatic renovation in 2016 and was billed as an entertainer's dream. Amenities now included a designer kitchen, an open-concept living and dining area, a family/media room, an office studio, a refrigerator with a 70-bottle wine chiller, and a two-car garage. The pièce de résistance was an electrically operated glass ceiling that allowed entry to a sky deck offering panoramic views.

Buyers paid \$2,070,000 for a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath condominium in the



A three-bedroom townhome in the lofty 2000 block of Castro Street was the most expensive condominium sold in February. Buyers paid \$2,070,000. Photos by Sally Smith

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
February 2020	5	\$1,400,000	\$4,398,000	\$2,879,600	14	112%
January 2020	8	\$1,350,000	\$6,995,000	\$2,957,125	27	106%
February 2019	7	\$1,600,000	\$4,500,000	\$3,050,714	29	103%
Condominiums/TICs						
February 2020	4	\$1,050,000	\$2,070,000	\$1,506,750	9	109%
January 2020	6	\$998,000	\$2,225,000	\$1,478,833	78	103%
February 2019	5	\$732,500	\$1,660,000	\$1,134,500	20	111%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
February 2020	2	\$1,825,000	\$2,455,555	\$2,140,278	70	98%
January 2020	2	\$2,150,000	\$2,203,000	\$2,176,500	24	104%
February 2019	1	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	86	94%
5+-unit buildings						
February 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2019	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 Corcoran Global Living San Francisco for providing sales data. NVV4/2020

2000 block of Castro Street near Duncan Street. That was 6.2 percent above the asking price for the three-story, 2,435-square-foot townhouse (\$1,950,000). Highlights of the remodeled Marina-style home were a master bath with soaking tub and steam shower, a deck and patio, one-car parking, city views, and a zen garden with a waterfall.

Corcoran Global Living president and CEO Randall Kostick said he was not surprised by the dearth of sales in February. It's generally a slow month because most deals are initiated in even slower January, he said.

He noted that the latest data, though

sparse, was part of a "calming" trend showing up in the past few Februaries.

In the condo category, there were five sales last February, six the previous February, and four the year before that. Single-family detached homes recorded seven deals in 2019, a total of 12 sales in 2018, and four in February of 2017.

Meanwhile, the number of homes for sale of all types has been trending upward, Kostick said. There were 46 active listings in February, 44 in the same month last year, 29 in 2018, and 32 in the February before that.

These indicators, he said, "suggest that properties are not selling as quickly." ■

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2020	Average March 2020	Average February 2019	Average March 2019
Studio	5	\$1,875 - \$3,095	\$2,323 / mo.	\$2,624 / mo.	\$2,498 / mo.
1-bdrm	50	\$2,395 - \$4,800	\$3,118 / mo.	\$3,273 / mo.	\$3,343 / mo.
2-bdrm	36	\$3,150 - \$8,500	\$4,310 / mo.	\$4,416 / mo.	\$4,372 / mo.
3-bdrm	9	\$5,195 - \$7,500	\$6,227 / mo.	\$5,978 / mo.	\$6,511 / mo.
4+-bdrm	9	\$5,400 - \$12,495	\$9,319 / mo.	\$9,482 / mo.	\$15,532 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 109 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 7-14, 2020. NVV4/2020



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NOE KIDS

BY KATIE BURKE

Lucky Cousins Talia Bryant and Caeden Lynch

Talia Bryant and Caeden Lynch, 10-year-old cousins who live on 26th Street, are close friends—so close that they live four houses from each other on the same side of the street.

Talia's mom and dad are Christina and Jason Bryant. Caeden's parents are Joanna and Charles Lynch. Christina and Joanna are identical twins. Christina is an OB-GYN at Kaiser Mission Bay, and Jason is an emergency room doctor at Mills-Peninsula Medical Center in Burlingame. Joanna and Charles are both accountants, Joanna with Connor Group and Charles with KPMG.

Caeden has 8-year-old twin sisters, Rowan and Devin. Talia has a 13-year-old brother, Cole.

Caeden was born in Germany. His parents, who had previously lived in San Francisco, relocated back to the city from Germany and lived in their 26th Street home for nine months before a house four houses away went up for sale. Talia's family looked at the listed house and bought it, wanting the two families to be neighbors.

Talia and Caeden, who are in the same fifth-grade class at Starr King in

Potrero Hill, carpool to school together. Caeden's mom and dad alternate the driving duties. After school, the kids enjoy playing with the other kids on their block.

Caeden says he is the funniest person in his family because people always laugh at what he says. Talia says Sadie, her English Cream golden retriever, is the funniest "person" in her family. "She does weird things," she says. "She's funny without trying to be."

Caeden points out that he and Talia's dog have the same birth month, June. He admires Sadie because "she has no fears. She has a dark, fierce growl," he says.

Caeden has never had a dog. He had a hermit crab who died.

Talia's favorite class in school is computer science. "You can make your own stuff," she explains. Caeden adds that students can watch YouTube videos during class if the videos help them research their projects. But Caeden's favorite class is P.E.

Talia and Caeden are also neighbors in Tahoe, where they ski together on the Tahoe Ski Team. Talia claims skiing as her favorite sport, but she also likes soccer.

For Caeden, it's the other way around. Soccer is number one. "I don't really have a set position," Caeden says of his soccer team. "I just play a lot of defense."

He also excels at swimming and biking. Talia's runners-up are reading and rock climbing.

Asked for the name of someone she admires, Talia says, "George Washington. Without him, we'd probably still be in the control of Great



Cousins Talia and Caeden share many common interests. It's a good thing, since in March they were sequestered with their families in the mountains near Lake Tahoe.

Photo courtesy Charles Lynch

Britain. And someone that I really don't admire is Adolf Hitler, because if he went to war, we would all be dead right now."

Caeden says he and Talia are Sadie's heroes. "I don't think so," Talia says.

Talia also admires Ms. Baker, her favorite teacher, because she's nice. Caeden admires Ms. Cho and Mr. Lee, two of his teachers. "They just have complete control over the class," he says.

For Christmas, Talia's and Caeden's families, and all their relatives who can make it, gather in Tahoe. Talia buys gifts for her maternal grandmother, like the mug she bought that read: "I'm a grandma. What's your superpower?"

Talia's favorite Christmas gifts she's received were a jacket and a Fitbit,

which she uses to ensure she reaches 10,000 steps a day. Caeden's favorite gift was an iPad.

Caeden says the best vacation spots are Tahoe and Hawaii. Talia has vacationed in Utah, France, Spain, and Portugal. If she could go anywhere else on vacation, it would be Taiwan, Hawaii, or Maui.

Closer to home, Caeden and Talia like spending time on 24th Street, where they patronize Noe Valley Bakery for cupcakes; Easy Breezy for frozen yogurt; AP's Cafe for Peasant Pies; Bon Appetikka for Indian food; Casa Mexicana, where they make their own burritos; and Lupa Trattoria, whose penne arrabiatta they both love.

Asked which shop is his favorite, Caeden answers, "All of those are my favorite place. I also like Subs Inc.," he says of the Castro Street shop. "I get Pastrami Rami."

Talia isn't sure what career she will pursue. Caeden says, "I'm going to study Earth diseases from Mars." ■

Katie 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, 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.

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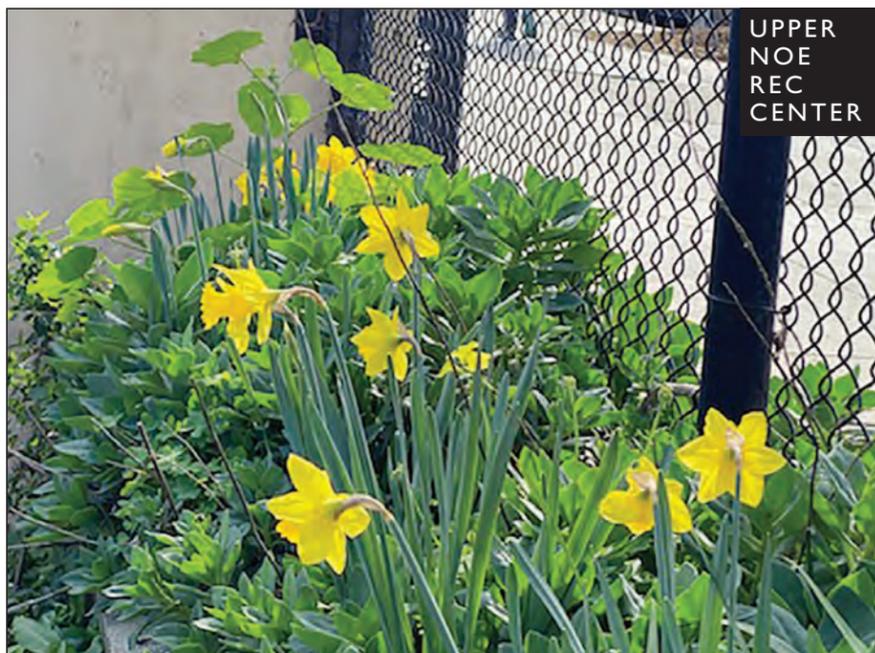
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Spring has sprung at Upper Noe, and these daffodils along Sanchez Street are inviting you to stroll by and check out the garden colors. *Photo by Chris Faust*

Classes Suspended on Friday the 13th

Upper Noe Rec Center programs ran out of luck on Friday the 13th. In response to the health crisis, Rec & Park cancelled all classes and activities and closed the building, at 295 Day St. It reopened on Monday to serve through March 31 as an emergency daycare facility for the children of Department of Public Health staff, health care workers from public hospitals, Disaster Service workers, and low-income working families. Park staff themselves serve as Disaster Service workers and thus are exempt from the shelter-in-place order. Eleven days later, the playground, field, and courts were closed, though Joby's Run remained open for dogs and their owners.

Throughout the month, Rec & Park increased its custodial staff and upped the sanitation efforts at all of its public facilities and restrooms. To monitor the parks' response to COVID-19, see <https://sfrecpark.org/AlertCenter.aspx>. For updates on class schedules at Upper Noe, call 415-970-8061 or go to noevalleyrecenter.com.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING SESSION MARCH 17 TO MAY 23, 2020
To register, visit sfrecpark.org. Check www.noevalleyrecenter.com for updates.

MONDAY (Closed; outside activities only)

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

Open Gym	6:45-8:30 p.m. *
Auditorium Free Play	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer	10-11 a.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE
Feldenkrais	1-2 p.m. FREE
Soccer	4-5 p.m.
QuickStart Tennis (age 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	3:30-5 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.
Tennis - High Performance Juniors (age 9-11)	4-5 p.m.
Jr. Warriors practice 1st & 2nd graders	4-5 p.m.
Jr. Warriors practice Kindergarten	5-6 p.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE
Tennis beg/intermediate - Youth (ages 9-13)	5-6 p.m.
Tennis beg/intermediate (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6-8:30 p.m. FREE

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

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-noon, 4-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	9:30-11 a.m.
Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (age 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
Volleyball - Girls - Beg. (age 7-9)	4-5 p.m.
Theater-Mini Players (age 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	1-5:30 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 - Interm (ages 10-14)	4-5:30 p.m.
Karaoke for Adults (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6-8:30 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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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Voice, introducing new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we profile a fitness studio that began its long marathon in November.

FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS STUDIO

1747 Church St. at Day Street
415-525-4045
Functionalelementsstudio.com

The new fitness studio that took over the Church Street space formerly occupied by Cardio-Tone doesn't operate like other gyms or personal fitness studios. There are no workout machines crammed together or a set schedule of classes, other than a few cycle classes each day.

Instead, people are welcome to drop by at their convenience to complete the personal training program the business calls the Infinity Circuit. Owner Lissy Stalter modeled the concept after the workout regimen boxers use.

"Functional Elements Studio is a completely new concept when it comes to fitness studios," she said. "It's not a class, but it's also not an open gym. We are essentially a personal training concierge."

Since opening Nov. 7, Stalter has fielded lots of questions about the concept, mostly from puzzled patrons as they walk in the door. But, she said, the program is simple: The Infinity Circuit consists of 10 exercises that take roughly one minute to finish. Patrons are welcome to repeat the circuit as many times as they wish. Always on hand to help is a National Academy of Sports Medicine cer-



Functional Elements Studio was functioning well last month, but like most other businesses in San Francisco, was asked to close temporarily due to the coronavirus outbreak. Owner Lissy Stalter hopes the studio can reopen soon. Photo by Jack Tipple

tified personal trainer—either Stalter or one of her two employees.

Each month, the trainers come up with a new routine for the workout, which utilizes such things as free weights and medicine balls, as well as non-traditional fitness equipment.

In March, it was a Bodyblade, which works off inertia to force a person's muscles to relax. "Here we work on fixing people's movement patterns, so they are not injuring themselves in the real world," said Stalter. "Form and function is the priority and the focus when we are designing the workouts."

The studio is open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. most weekdays, but closes an hour earlier on Fridays. On Saturdays and Sundays, it's open 8 a.m. to noon.

The 2,000-square-foot space is split into two main sections, one being the cycle room. It features 12 bike machines that are also free to use at one's leisure throughout most of the day.

The studio's only timed classes are cycle sessions, held most weekdays at 6 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. "Business has been good. People love the concept to drop in anytime they want," she said. "Whenever you arrive is when class starts."

Stalter, 33, has worked as a personal trainer in the Bay Area for the past decade, most recently as an independent contractor on the Peninsula near where she lives in Los Altos. She grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska, and in 2009 earned a B.S. in kinesiology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on Oahu.

That same year, she met Omar Lima, owner of a studio called Functional Core Fitness in Mountain View. Eventually, the two fitness enthusiasts became a couple.

Lima's landlord at FCF also owned the retail space in Noe Valley, and after Cardio-Tone announced it would close, the landlord asked Lima or Stalter if they were interested in taking it over.

As people had been telling Stalter for years she should open her own studio, she decided to take the landlord up on the offer. For now, she has a month-to-month lease. "This space was an offer I couldn't refuse," she said. "It literally dropped into my lap."

Since Lima was advising her on the business, Stalter decided to give it a similar name to his fitness studio. The drop-in fee at the studio costs \$20, while monthly memberships run \$139 for unlimited access to the Infinity Circuit.

The drop-in fee to use the cycle machines is \$24, or \$110 for a five-pack and \$200 for a 10-pack. Unlimited access to use both the bikes and workout circuit costs \$189 a month.

As news of a viral epidemic began spreading in February, Stalter and her employees increased their vigilance about cleaning the studio's equipment, washing their hands, and following other protocols issued by health officials. They also moved a hand-sanitizer stand to make it more visible to patrons. There are no showers on site, only bathrooms with sinks for patrons to wash up in.

"Exercising is a part of being healthy," Stalter said.

—Matthew S. Bajko

Editor's Note: On March 16, in response to a shelter-in-place order issued by the city, Lissy Stalter closed her studio's doors. She told the Voice she would reopen as soon as the mandate was lifted. "Our community is supporting us a thousand percent, which is amazing," she wrote in an email. "We are sending private links to workout videos for our community to continue their routine with Functional Elements Studio."

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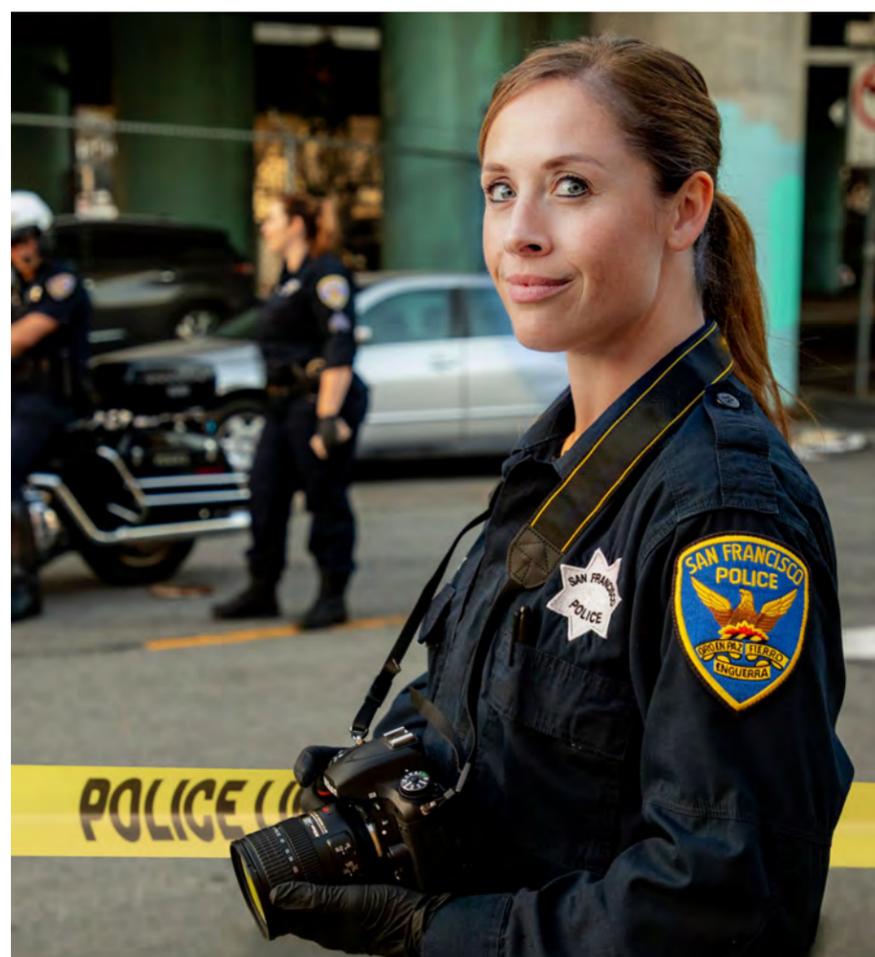


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The New Normal

By Mazook

WE HAVE 2020 HINDSIGHT on a daily basis now in the Here and Now-ey Valley. My daily stroll through our quaint hamlet is a lonely one. Surreal. I do see other walkers. We smilingly shun one another, and some move out to the street as I come upon them. I have learned just how far six feet is and see it measured by everyone I encounter. Downtown Noe Valley is basically “closed.”

Everyone is sheltered in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It’s a “novel” version of a coronavirus that may have been with us for a while. By chance, it has a name like a famous beer. And a neighborhood in San Francisco, Corona Heights.

This sort of highly contagious virulence we have not seen since the Spanish Influenza of 1918. As that flu gripped the city, San Francisco responded with mass quarantines. Peter Hartlaub described it in the March 6, 2020, *San Francisco Chronicle*: “By mid-October, the Presidio Army base was closed to outsiders because of virus fears, and city leaders announced wearing masks in public was mandatory, under penalty of a \$100 fine and 10 days in jail. The San Francisco Department of Public Health told commuters to keep streetcar windows open. Dancing was discouraged, and later banned.” He hauntingly noted: “By the time the virus circulated again in early 1919, more than 6,000 Bay Area residents were dead... It was a small fraction of the 675,000 who died in the United States, and more than 50 million worldwide.”

Our urban village has been rocked again 102 years later. Just before noon on March 16, our mayor, London Breed, tweeted, “Effective at midnight, San Francisco will require people to stay home, except for essential needs. Necessary government functions and essential stores will remain open.”

Wow!

After the initial shock, I recalled the immortal words of baseball player Yogi Berra: “It’s déjà vu all over again!”



SOCIAL DISTANCING: Noe Valley has been a ghost town since one minute after midnight March 16. Mayor Breed’s executive order meant city residents were prohibited from leaving their homes except for trips to grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, and other “essential” locations or jobs.

Lines formed at Martha’s and Bernie’s for coffee in the morning—with spacing strips on the floor every six feet. Meanwhile, Philz and Starbucks closed shop.



George Kintas (center) is pleased to pass on his legacy at Church Produce to son and daughter Yianni Kintas and Fotini Kintas. The new owners hope to open their remodeled store in mid-May.

Photo by Tom Ruiz

Chase and Wells Fargo also closed their DNV branches, while Bank of America, Umpqua, and Sterling remained open.

Many local restaurants are still cooking, and are in desperate need of your patronage. Now is the time to plan a meal or 10 around your favorite eatery’s menu. Order it online or by phone, and go pick it up. They will hand over your meal at the door of the restaurant. Urban Remedy, a plant-based food purveyor with grab-and-run meals, is open and busy.

It looks like the new ghost kitchen, on Diamond Street where PastaGina used to be, is busy these days. The Local Food Hall, as it’s called, fills orders of restaurants they partner with, prepare the menu dishes ordered online, and have the meals delivered to your door. They have kitchens in Noe Valley and in the Marina, and they have opened two more, in the Sunset and South of Market, to accelerate their deliveries throughout the city.

According to one of Local Food Hall’s owners, Ken Chong, they have plans to allow orders to be picked up at the kitchen’s door and to have tables for walk-ins. “Out of concern for our employees, we will not do this until the current pandemic passes,” Chong says.

Also planning to enter the pickup scene is the 24th Street drinkery Valley Tavern. According to “Mr. Tavern,” Vince Hogan, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will allow bars that normally serve inside the bar, now closed during the pandemic, to sell prepackaged containers at their door. Restaurants with full or beer and wine licenses can now also provide pickup for your favorite alcoholic beverages when you pick up or use their delivery service to get your to-go meal.

Hogan says he is serving to-go Growlers (4 pints) of your favorite draft beer, and sealed mason jars filled with your favorite cocktail. He is also preparing food to go with your drinks. “We will prepare and sell

our famous sandwiches and expand that menu if there is enough demand.”

And Peruvian eatery Fresca has now parked its “Lomo Libre” food truck in front of its restaurant (currently closed) at 3945 24th St. The truck is serving an array of “fusion” dishes, with specials including slow braised pork stew (pork adobo) and pulled chicken stew (aji de gallina), for twelve bucks.

Jose Calvo-Perez, who mans the Lomo Libre Peruvian food truck, is the owner of Fresca, and says he is “parking my truck out here in front of my store for takeout. Delivery is available. Will be here Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.”



THE HOARDING HORDES: Our local grocery store for the past 10 years, Whole Foods Market, saw its shelves being emptied of food on Sunday, March 8, as San Francisco’s schools began shutting down. Then the store was completely mobbed when Mayor Breed announced the stay-at-home order.

As reported online March 16 at half past 2 p.m. by Eater SF’s Becky Duffett, “The scene at Whole Foods in Noe Valley, normally cheerful and sunny during a weekday, rapidly devolved into admirably controlled chaos.”

She continued: “Following the mayor’s announcement, pedestrians and cars rushed into the parking lot, with vehicles backed up on 24th Street and blocking traffic. Every shopping cart and every basket was quickly taken, leaving an empty corral at the entrance. Checkout lines grew all the way down one aisle, snaked around the end, and then all the way down the next aisle.”

The shelves were stripped of dry goods, breads, frozen foods and toilet paper, the produce became depleted, and the meats, fish, and poultry filled the carts.

My source in the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation reported the store topped

\$270,000 in sales that day, the produce department around \$40K, and the butcher’s counter had sales of near \$37K.

Since that eventful Monday, our supermarket and all of us have risen to the challenge. The Noe Valley team has been able to stock the dairy fridges, the produce department, and the meat counter with ample food stuffs. Fresh bread is usually gone by sundown.

Whole Foods’ management has since limited access to around 30 shoppers at a time (the fire department normally allows a capacity of 300), who wait their turn in line, keeping their distance from one another. Sometimes the line will go out of the parking lot and down 24th Street. There is a problem with Whole Foods’ supply line, however. Some grocery items, like my favorite candy and veggie pasta, are missing from the shelves.

The store has also shortened its hours—it’s now open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.—and has set up a seniors (60 and up) time to shop, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Kudos go out to all those WF team members who dutifully and helpfully keep our local market going, with a smile even. While I was waiting in line in the parking lot, it started to rain. About six feet in front of me, there was an elderly lady who was somewhat distressed by the rain. One of the fellows who works in the store was getting off his break, and he stopped on his way back to work and handed his umbrella to her. She took it reluctantly, and he told her to return it to him when she finished shopping. She remained dry, and I am told (by him) that of course she later returned the umbrella to his department.



PRIMARY COLORS: The March 3 election seems like a decade ago, but you might be interested in how Noe Valley voted in the primary. According to the Department of Elections, there was a 74.5 percent turnout of the nearly 17,000 registered voters in Noe Valley, 12,656 to be precise. (See the data at sfelections.org.)

In Noe Valley, the breakdown for the top five candidates in the Democratic presidential primary was: Elizabeth Warren, 29.78 percent; Bernie Sanders, 26.68 percent; Joe Biden, 25.86 percent; Michael Bloomberg, 9.65 percent; and Pete Buttigieg, 5.14 percent.

In District 8, the breakdown was: Elizabeth Warren, 29.66 percent; Bernie Sanders, 27.87 percent; Joe Biden, 24.45 percent; Michael Bloomberg, 9.13 percent; and Pete Buttigieg, 6.24 percent.

In local propositions, here’s the Noe vote: Prop. A for City College repairs carried with 75 percent in favor. Prop. B for seismic upgrading, 80 percent voted yes. Prop. C regarding vacant commercial store penalties, 75 percent of us said yes.



SHORT SHIFTS: There will be a vote by the SF Planning Commission sometime in the future on the application to open a cannabis dispensary on the corner of 24th

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RUMORS

and Chattanooga. The hearing was scheduled for mid-March, then postponed to April 7, and now has been continued to a date to be announced after the coronavirus leaves the city. Applicant and building owner Sharon Cassidy says, "Planning has put off the hearing indefinitely and I was told they are prioritizing new residential conversions, so I don't know when we will be put back on the calendar."

Friends of Noe Valley had to cancel the always well attended Word Week 2020, Noe Valley's annual literary festival, which had been scheduled for March 14 through 21. Hopefully, it will reappear later in the year. We are also very hopeful that FNV will find a member willing to serve as president of the organization. C'mon neighbors, step up!

Good News: Church Produce, which abruptly closed near the end of last year, has been taken over by brother and sister Yianni Kintas and Fotina Kintas. The vegetable store was started in 1979 by the siblings' father, George Kintas, and his partner, John Hilas. Yianni and Fotina were in the middle of a remodeling of the store at 30th and Church streets in March, when the coronavirus started acting up. They originally planned to open the new store mid-May. I will have to update you next month on what the new plans might be.

Video Wave is open to serve the needs of all of us homebound folks, and has posted a notice in the front window that its hours have changed and are now "1-ish to 7-ish" daily except Wednesday. The video-rental store will allow only four people in at a time and "no touching anything without gloves," which are provided by the store.

Bad News: Some of the many benches in Downtown Noe Valley have banned seating, and the parklet in front of Martha's Coffee has been cleared of all tables and

chairs, and now it's standing-room-only. We all know to sit six feet apart. Luckily, the benches in the Noe Valley Town Square are still available (as of press time), as well as those in front of Whole Foods. And for those who want to walk or exercise, the courts at Noe Courts are available, but not the toddler park.

Good and Bad News: Be reminded that Neighbor's Corner, at 499 Douglass St. at 21st Street, is open, but for takeout only. Ryan Kenkel and Vivienne Virani have organized a GoFundMe page on behalf of their employees at the store, now open 7 a.m. to noon on weekdays, and 8 a.m. to noon on weekends. "A hundred percent of the funds we receive will go to them," the owners say. "If you can give any amount at all, we would be truly grateful."



CLEANUP SONG: Here's a great story gleaned from social media, about some local kids who've spent part of their down time picking up trash on streets in the neighborhood.

It seems that Ruth Stein and Karen Strauss were sheltering in place in their 24th Street home one day last month, when "I looked out my window and I saw a young girl with a gripper and an adult man was with her, and she was picking up street trash from the gutter," Stein said.

"I yelled across, 'Thank you!'" and she kept working. I said he's keeping her productive while she is out of school. Isn't that fabulous?"

Stein and Strauss didn't know the pair, but felt the workers deserved some recognition and posted the news on Nextdoor.

Turns out the cleanup organizers were Arcadia Golub and Yahli Aizen, both 7-year-old first-graders at Children's Day School. Their effort involved four families of 14 people cleaning in the blocks around Noe Courts at 24th and Douglass.

Arcadia's mother, Laura Ricci, said the parents borrowed trash grippers and bought gloves. They also practiced social distanc-



A canine resident at Saru Sushi Bar advertises for a little attention.

Photo by Liz Highleyman

ing. "We had a great time and it was kind of fun," Ricci said, adding that they picked up a "a ton of micro-trash," like plastic and cigarette butts. The only problem, according to Arcadia, was "one of our bags leaked."

If you have a "silver lining" story in Noe Valley, email it to our editors at editor@noevalleyvoice.com They will gladly put it in next month's Letters.



THE BELL OF ST. PHILIP: Is there ringing in your ears? Do not be alarmed. It could be the ringing of the big bell in the belfry at St. Philip the Apostle Church, on Diamond between 24th and Elizabeth streets.

Church volunteers and members of the St. Philip Parish Belfry Society are ringing the bell in the tower at noon on weekdays,

5 p.m. on Saturday, and at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, as a showing of solidarity during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local author and church member Bill Yenne shared the news in a Facebook post titled "Ring of Bells in a Time of Darkness."

Bell captain David Castellanos rang Tuesday, March 24. Yenne was in the next day at noon with his grandson Cash Yenne Bolos. And after that, group members have been taking turns.

Yenne and his grandson rang the St. Philip bell in hope and solidarity with Notre Dame Cathedral last year. Now they're ringing it for San Francisco.



THAT'S 30: Be well, be safe, and make sure to get your exercise. Ciao for now. ■

Thank You Noe Valley!

FRIENDS of The Noe Valley Voice

In October of 2019 the *Voice* noted the financial challenge we face and invited readers to make cash contributions to help us continue our 40 year tradition of local journalism.

It's time to acknowledge those who stepped up (as of February, 2020) and showed us they care. They are true friends and we're forever grateful for their generosity.

Steve Steinberg and Paula Conrey

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Susan Saperstein

Thomas Peck

Rob Spotts

Pamela Dekema

Karen Wickre

Barbara Benjamin

Lincoln and Elizabeth Gunn

Trynne Miller

Andrew Gescheidt

Our need continues. Please join your neighbors with a contribution to

Friends of The Noe Valley Voice - PO Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146

Adult Fiction

❖ *Tiny Love: The Complete Stories of Larry Brown* spans the work of the Mississippi-born author and cult figure.

❖ Translated from the Russian, *Fandango and Other Stories* by Alexander Grin features diverse characters in tales of adventure and intrigue.

❖ *Blue Flowers* by Carola Saavedra is described as “a novel of dark obsession, missed connections, and violent love.”

❖ In *The Boatman’s Daughter* by Andy Davidson, a young woman in the bayou faces down ancient supernatural forces.

❖ With book number 25, *Coconut Layer Cake Murder*, author Joanne Fluke continues her list of culinary whodunits featuring bakery owner Hannah Swensen.

Adult Nonfiction

❖ Tina Schneider-Rading suggests mixing modern and vintage furnishings in *Home Story: The German Approach to Interior Design*.

❖ In *The Cult of Mac*, Leander Kahney explains the widespread appeal of Apple products and technology.

❖ Physicist B. Greene analyzes the cosmos in *Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe*.

❖ *Six Weeks to Zero Waste: A Simple Plan for Life*, by eco-blogger Kate Arnell, stresses the importance of reuse and recycling.

Children’s Fiction

❖ In *Story Boat*, written by Kyo Maclear and illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh, two migrant children must make a new home for themselves. Ages 3 to 7.

❖ Zoe Tucker’s *Greta and the Giants: Inspired by Greta Thunberg’s Stand to Save the World* (illustrated by Zoe Persico) tells the tale of a girl whose forest home is threatened by destructive giants. Ages 4 to 7.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Shelter in Place...and Read a Book

On March 13, the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street, along with all other library branches in the city, closed its doors to the general public. The San Francisco Public Library’s official statement read: “Based on the recommendations issued by the Department of Public Health related to aggressive social distancing to help curtail further spread of COVID-19 in our community, **all locations of the San Francisco Public Library are closed through April 7**. During this period, we will continually assess this developing situation to determine the length of closure.”

The SFPL went on to state, however: “All library programs, classes, and events are canceled through **May 31, 2020**. This also includes any scheduled meetings being held in library community rooms.” Even the book drops are closed.

Nevertheless, in their new virtual reality, the library will continue to offer 24/7 free access to ebooks, audio, magazines, movies, and online classes. Go to sfpl.org, and look for what interests you.

What may interest you this moment is the list of new books sent to the *Voice* by Noe Valley librarians Denise Sanderson and Catherine Starr the first week of March—a time that now seems like prehistory. The titles below include a physicist’s analysis of the universe, a plan for zero-waste recycling, and a tale for children, inspired by Greta Thunberg.

—Sally Smith

❖ A girl’s family moves from Egypt to America in *The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story*, written by Aya Khalil, illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan. Ages 6 to 8.

❖ *Snail and Worm: Three Stories About Two Friends*, by Geisel Honor winner Tina Kugler, follows the silly antics of a pair of invertebrates. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ In Laura Knetzger’s graphic novel *Bug Boys*, two young beetles explore the world. Ages 7 to 10.

❖ During World War II, Rosetta’s family takes in a Jewish refugee boy in *Room for One More* by Monique Polak. Ages 8 to 11.

❖ Fans of Harry Potter will like Catherine Doyle’s adventure *The Lost Tide Warriors*, the second book in *The Storm Keeper’s Island* series. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ A young girl learns that the “perfect” town her family just moved to has drawbacks, including they play only one song in music class, in *Eventown* by Corey Ann Haydu. Ages 8 to 12.

Children’s Nonfiction

❖ *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* is written by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman, and includes an afterword by Philip Freelon. Ages 5 to 10.

❖ Familiar and little-known poets are included in *Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year*, edited by Fiona Waters and illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon. Age 5 and up.

❖ In *Consent (For Kids!): Boundaries, Respect, and Being in Charge of YOU*, Rachel Brian offers a guide to behavior for children ages 6 to 10.

❖ *Cooking Class Global Feast!* by Deanna F. Cook features 44 recipes celebrating cultures around the world. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ Ian Lendler describes how people came to understand giant bones and fossils, in *The First Dinosaur: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth*, illustrated by C.M. Butzer. Age 10 and up.

Adult ebooks

❖ The lives of three women in London are changed by World War II in *The Whispers of War* by Julia Kelly.

❖ In *The Teacher* by Michal Ben-Naftali, a student investigates the suicide of his Tel Aviv high school teacher.

❖ Madeline Levine suggests ways parents can equip their children to succeed in *Ready or Not: Preparing Our Kids to Thrive in an Uncertain and Rapidly Changing World*.

❖ Find ways you can get involved, in *The Field Guide to Citizen Science: How You Can Contribute to Scientific Research and Make a Difference*, by Darlene Cavalier, Catherine Hoffman, and Caren Cooper.

Adult DVDs

❖ The PBS Nova documentary *Dead Sea Scroll Detectives* (2019) uncovers many of the mysteries of the religious relics, discovered in 1947.

❖ Tom Hanks stars as Fred Rogers in the 2019 film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, based on the true story of his friendship with a journalist.

❖ *The Freedom to Marry*, a 2016 documentary film, examines the rights of same-sex couples over the past 40 years.

❖ The 2018 HBO documentary *The Price of Everything* shows how the art world, like everything else, has become commodified.

Annotations by Voice bookworm
Karol Barske

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Going Viral by Michael Blake

D	E	N	I	M	S	M	O	G	S	Y	F	Y		
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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	

*Note: Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all San Francisco libraries have been temporarily closed to the general public. For updates, go to sfpl.org/coronavirus.

We really appreciate the support of our customers and our community.

If you need shoes, toys, PJ's, clothes or books for your kids or a present for new babies coming into the world, or want to buy a gift card for now or to use in the future, call us at **1 415 648 3954** and we will work with you to make sure you get what you need and it certainly will help our store reopen when we can.

Thank you from our families and our staff for remembering us during this difficult time.

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California Institute of Integral Studies

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Affordable, reliable, caring counseling services for the Noe Valley Community.

The Integral Counseling Center offers mind-body-spirit psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and families, providing a safe and supportive setting to explore a wide range of life issues—emotional, interpersonal, psychological, or spiritual.

- Relationship and family concerns
- Depression and loneliness
- Sexuality
- Occupational concerns/choices
- Anxiety and stress
- Abuse issues
- Body image
- Personal growth/spiritual issues
- Grief and loss
- Life transitions/crises

1782 CHURCH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94131 • 415.648.2644
WWW.INTEGRALCOUNSELINGCENTER.ORG

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF, The National Movement in Your Neighborhood

www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity,
http://resistrypac.org
Email: actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com
Meetings: First Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m.,
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.
All are welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

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

Castro Community on Patrol

Website: castropatrol.org
Next volunteer patrol training Tuesday,
March 10, 7-10 p.m. Sign up via website.
Email: info@castropatrol.org

Diamond Heights Community Association

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

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

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

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

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

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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

Fairmount Heights Association

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

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
Website: friendsofdolorespark.org
Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

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

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually. Meeting Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th St.

Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center (Upper Noe Rec Center)

Contact: Chris Faust
Email: info@noevalleyrecenter.com
Website: noevalleyrecenter.com
Meetings: Email or check website.

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel
Email: info@fundogsf.org
Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association

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

Juri Commoners

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

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

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

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

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

Noe Neighborhood Council

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders
Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

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

Noe Valley Farmers Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743
Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

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

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

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

Progress Noe Valley

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

Resilient Noe Valley Initiative

Co-sponsor: Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN). Host: David Brown, Pastor, Noe Valley Ministry, sfrevdab@gmail.com, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Details: 282-2317.

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org
Free NERT training available; see list of classes at SF-fire.org/neighborhood-emergency-response-team-NERT/

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

Stand Up San Francisco

Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman
Email: info@standupsf.net
Website: standupsf.net
Meetings: At offices of members of Congress, weekly.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Olga Milan-Howells, 756-4455
Email: President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. Call to confirm.

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.



JB JESSICA BRANSON

- Top 20 SF Realtor 2019
- Top 15 Listing Agent Citywide 2019
- Noe Valley Property Owner
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I am here for you. And in these unprecedented times we will be here for each other. The SF real estate market was extremely active before the Shelter In Place directive was made — buyers were very eager to take advantage of low rates, to take cash out of securities, and to make aggressive offers on competitive properties. I had three all cash closings in mid-March after the SIP directive was made. These listings closed despite a myriad of potential obstacles. And the buyers were just as eager to close as the sellers. That's the difference between what is happening now versus the 2008 crash — our current market pause is based on medical responses and outcomes not on deep, underlying economic problems.

None of us knows how long this will last or what the final outcome for the economy will be. But I've navigated difficult markets before. Based on my 22 years owning SF real estate and my 14 year SF real estate practice, I am confident that once the real estate market is able to flow again it will begin to move quickly and competitively. I am here to consult with sellers right now and help you create a plan to prepare to list your home as soon as the market opens up again. And I am also here to help buyers get powerfully positioned for their next move.

Call Jessica Branson today at 415.341.7177 to work on a plan for buying or selling as soon as our market opens up!

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SOLD

DoloresHeightsDream.com
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SOLD

\$650K OVER LIST
304 MOULTRIE ST \$2,500,000

SOLD

SOLD \$380K OVER LIST
100 GATES ST \$2,880,000

SOLD

SOLD \$300K OVER LIST
694 PERALTA AVE \$1,800,000

SOLD

MULTIPLE OFFERS
1525 NOE ST \$2,600,000

SOLD

\$600K OVER LIST
4273 22ND ST \$2,600,000

SOLD

SOLD \$275K OVER LIST
335 ELIZABETH \$1,925,000

- ### Top 10 Things to Do While Social Distancing:
1. Have a Game Night
 2. Get Ahead of Spring Cleaning
 3. Cook Your Favorite Staples!
 4. Have an At-Home Date Night
 5. Read a Book
 6. Start Spring Home Maintenance
 7. Brainstorm Ideas for Home Improvement
 8. Workout at Home
 9. Go For a Walk + Be in Nature
 10. Get Rest + Strengthen Your Immunity

SOLD

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...Our shelves may not be entirely full but our hearts and souls are filled with the awe inspiring dedication of our entire staff to step up and be on the front lines of this catastrophe. Young people have stepped forward; managers are deftly handling the day to day problems; a working spirit of care and concern doing the best that everyone can to help feed our community and extend a helping hand. Different ages, different races all working together. Each person is our hero or our heroine and a shining example for their families. We are so proud to have each one of you on our staff to work our way through this together. You are beyond awesome!

And thanks also to the order takers, the delivery drivers, the warehousemen and all along the grocery chain to try each day to get products to the stores when there is so much demand. Everyone working in the grocery business is a first responder. All of us have families and personal needs and each one of us has set that aside to try to get food to our communities. The people you love should be very proud of you. Thank you for all the long hours and the hard work ...we have daily produce, fresh fish, chicken, meat, bread, dairy and grocery goods because of your connection to our hard working team.

And finally, thank you to the Bernal Heights and Noe Valley communities. Your words of encouragement keep us going and coming back to work each day. Your anxious faces, your patience as we figure out what to do and your support makes it all worthwhile ... we are a wonderful community full of kind and caring folks and we are proud to make your days a little easier in this crisis. We know that shopping in the store is a challenge. But so very important is this message

Thank you for shopping at The Good Life

Current hours subject to change – 10-7 daily – Senior Hour 10-11

We will keep these hours to allow for stocking and cleaning in the morning and staff to get home earlier in the evening to rest.

Hopefully this will end soon and we can resume more “normal” hours.



The
GOOD LIFE GROCERY

