

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Make Tuesday Your 24th Street Holly Day

Noe Merchants Set to Give More Than \$5,000 in Raffle Prizes

By Richard May

The Covid-19 Grinch almost stole the December holidays in Noe Valley, but our own Cindy Lou Who, Carol Yenne of Small Frys children’s store, called together Rachel Swann and Kristen Gianaras McCaffery, president and vice president respectively of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, and Friends of Noe Valley and the Town Square, and the group has come up with a new tradition: the Tuesdays on 24th Street Holiday Raffle.

“We hope this Tuesdays on 24th Street event will be a fun, easy, and affordable way for our neighbors to come out and shop locally,” says McCaffery. “It’s going to be a long, hard winter for our small businesses, and we need our residents’ support now more than ever!”

Here’s how it works. Every time you buy something from a participating Noe Valley store on a Tuesday in December (before Christmas), you will be entered into a drawing for a prize donated by that store. Over three dozen stores—and counting—on 24th, Castro, Church, and beyond (think Mitchell’s Ice Cream at 688 San Jose Ave.)—are offering gift certificates and other items as raffle prizes. The businesses will hold the drawings on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Santa’s Steed. Cooper the Horse brought holiday cheer to Martha’s at Church and Duncan streets on Thanksgiving morning. He was visiting from Halleck Creek Ranch in Marin, which offers riding adventures for kids and adults with disabilities. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Light at the End Of the Tunnel

Local Experts Say Stay Strong During Our Covid Winter

By Liz Highleyman

With Covid cases surging in the Bay Area and nationwide, people are wondering how they’ll get through the holiday season and the long winter ahead. Effective vaccines are on the horizon, but it will be months before they’re widely distributed. Inconsistent advice from public health officials and clashing opinions on social media raise the question of what’s actually safe—or at least safer.

Fortunately, San Francisco has some top experts in the field to help make sense of the information overload.

Longtime Noe Valley resident Dr. Bob Wachter, chairman of the Department of Medicine at UCSF, has become a leading voice on Twitter, offering both a local and a wider view of the pandemic to his more than 153,000 followers.

“When Covid hit, no one knew anything about it, and everybody was scared out of their wits,” says Wachter, 63, a pioneer in the hospital medicine field. “I found myself spending my entire day taking in information about this thing, and I figured maybe there would be some utility to tweeting about it as I go along.

“I’m a generalist—I tell people I’m what happens when a political science major becomes an academic physician,” he continues. “I felt like there would be world experts in virology and immunol-

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Mini Mice at Mapamundi: Store owner Terra Andrews, seen holding her soft toys from Danish toymaker Maileg, is among dozens of Noe Valley merchants taking part in “Tuesdays on 24th” holiday raffles in December. For the entire list, go to nvmpa.com. Photo by Sally Smith

Takami Craddock—Creating a Circle of Positive Energy

Beloved Teacher Inspires Young And Old to Dance

By Astrid Utting

Nine-year-old Lily freezes mid-dance, forgetting what comes next in her solo. She bolts off the stage, eyes wide and glistening with tears. The music stops and the 400 people in the audience remain silent.

Instead of scolding the mortified child, her dance teacher, Takami Craddock, whispers, “You can do it.” The audience hears Craddock’s voice over the microphone: “Lily is going to try again. Okay?” Slowly the audience begins chanting, “Li-ly! Li-ly! Li-ly!” Dancers cheer from the wings. Legs shaking, Lily runs back on stage.

From the reality show *Dance Moms* to the Bolshoi Ballet, the stereotype of a dance teacher is a harsh taskmaster who pushes students to the brink of collapse in the pursuit of perfection.

But Craddock, founder and teacher at DancEsteem on Church Street, believes imperfection is what makes dance beautiful. Caring more about fostering confi-



Our Dancing Queen. Whether indoors or out, Takami Craddock keeps bodies flowing and spirits lifted at DancEsteem on Church Street. Photo by Art Bodner

dence and a love for dance than flawless execution, she encourages kids of all ages to find individuality through dance, regardless of experience or body type.

Craddock’s sunny demeanor and signature Japanese toe socks don’t fit the mold of a typically rigid dance instructor.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



OPENSFHistory

A View North of the Market Street Extension Project in 1921 showing the Upper Market construction at Corbett (from left) and Market streets. This section of Market Street (now called Cuesta) would be bypassed by a bridge in the 1960s. Since construction, the houses at right have been demolished.

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

NOE PLACE LIKE HOME

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.


I can't help but think 2020 is a twisted Dickens tale. There has been incredible darkness, loss, sadness and grief. In the darkness, many forget to focus on the light and what we are grateful for. What is so wonderful about our country and our community has been its ability to pick up the pieces and come together, and the many incredible moments that have come out of the ashes of 2020 cannot be overlooked in Noe Valley, San Francisco and beyond. The humanity we have seen, the generosity, the coming together of neighbors, strangers and community has been truly heartwarming. During this holiday season and beyond, I ask you to please join me in supporting our small business corridors in Noe Valley – I ask that you shop local whenever and wherever you can. So many of our merchants are suffering and these months are make or break moments for them. With your help, we can make all the difference in the lives of our local business owners, their employees and their families. I ask that you lend a hand where you can and show compassion generously.

It's amazing what a smile, a kind word and even a small purchase can mean to one's livelihood. This is a moment in time where we can make a difference, together, to ensure the future of our neighbors, small business community and beyond.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Rachel Swann
President
Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Tuesdays on 24th!
December 1, 8, 15, 22



Shop Local in Noe Valley
Free raffle ticket with purchase

For a list of prizes & participating Noe Valley merchants:
nvmpa.com/holiday-affle-2020
Over \$5,000 in prizes!
Winners will be notified in early January 2021

Participating Noe Valley Businesses: Ambiance • Animal Company • Bacco • Bernie's • Billingsgate (NEW!) • Bistro SF Grill • Diamond Café • Easy Breezy Edward Jones • First Republic Bank • Folio Books • Gallery of Jewels • Just for Fun • JV Skin & Beauty • La Ciccia • Lovejoy's • Mapamundi Kids Marcus Grogans, The Swann Group • Martha & Bros. Coffee • Mitchell's Ice Cream • Noe Valley Bakery • Noe Valley Farmers Market Noe Valley Wine & Spirits • NOVY Restaurant • Olive This Olive That • Plump Jack • Rachel Hooper, The Swann Group Rachel Swann, The Swann Group • Skin Spirit • Small Fry's • State Farm • Stephen Moore Home • Sub's Inc. • Tanya Bolshakoff, The Swann Group Terra Mia • The Rabbit Hole Theater • Two Birds • Urban Remedy • Video Wave • When Modern Was • Wink



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3841 18th St, Eureka Valley
SOLD for \$3,450,000



110 Liberty St, Eureka Valley
SOLD for \$2,974,800



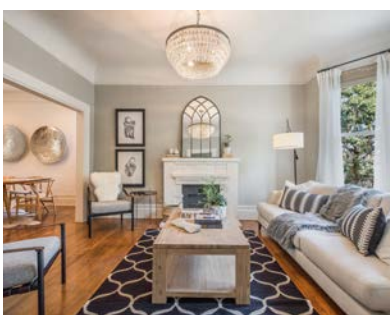
170 Valley Street, Noe Valley
SOLD for \$3,800,000



25 Hartford St, Eureka Valley
SOLD for \$2,795,000



135 Bennington, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$2,750,000



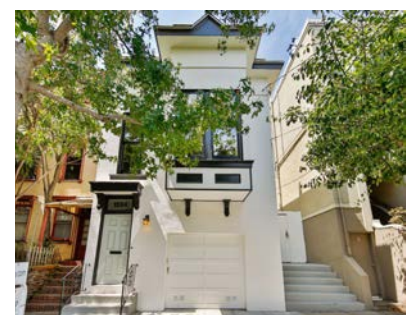
86 Whitney St, Glen Park
SOLD for \$2,515,000



173 Ellsworth St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$2,400,000



109 Gates St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$2,375,000



1504 Sanchez St, Noe Valley
SOLD for \$2,000,000



518 Anderson St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$2,000,000



1338 Noe St, Noe Valley
SOLD for \$1,950,000



178 Randall St, Glen Park
SOLD for \$1,900,000



315 Coleridge St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$1,850,000



694 Peralta St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$1,800,000



366 Chenery St, Glen Park
SOLD for \$1,800,000



68 Nevada St, Bernal Heights
SOLD for \$1,750,000



52 Collingwood St, Eureka Valley
SOLD for \$1,500,000

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THE
CROSSWORD
BY
MICHAEL BLAKE

A Rows Garden

Editor's Note: In place of the usual crossword, Michael Blake has produced a variety puzzle, called a Rows Garden.

Each letter is part of a row (a normal Across entry) and a bloom (a hexagon).

This Rows Garden puzzle has one answer on Rows A, J, and L. Other Rows have two entries.

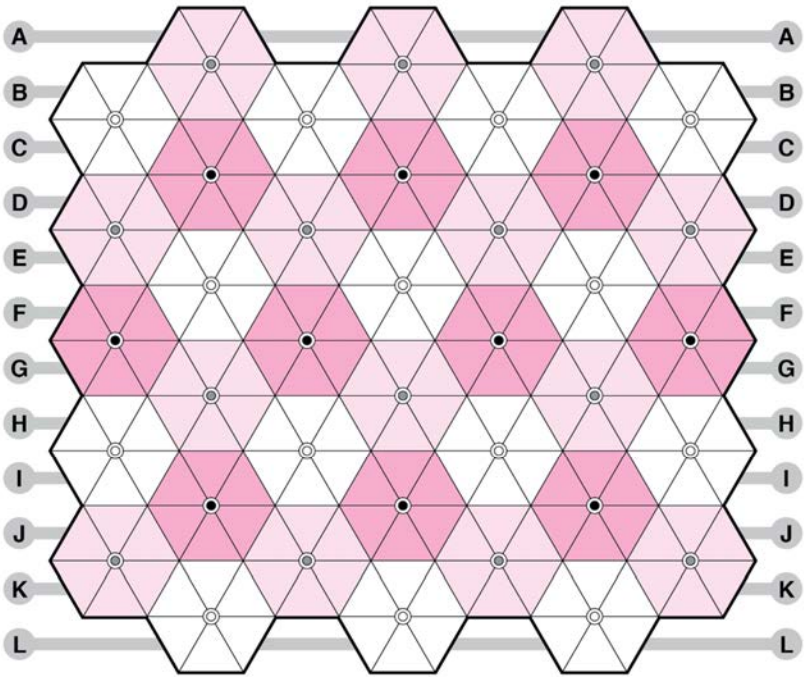
Lengths of Row answers are given, including whether there is a hyphen or apostrophe, in parentheses.

There are also 38 White, Medium, and Dark Blooms defined by the dot in each bloom's center. Each is a 6-letter word unless indicated. It can start at any point and can read clockwise, marked with (+), or counter-clockwise, marked with (-). Clues in the Blooms lists are in grid order from left to right, top to bottom.

Do you like puzzles like this? You can sign up to receive a Michael Blake Rows Garden every week at gardenpartycrosswords.com.

Solution is on page 22.

- Rows**
- A 21st and Guerrero's corner of the Noe Valley map (9)
 - B Type of dentistry focused on looks (9)
Marcher with a Black Lives Matter sign, e.g. (12)
 - C With "Herb's," a long-time, but now closed, Noe eatery (12)
What Obama liked to do with terrorists, per Sarah Palin (3 6)
 - D Comedian Will who regularly headlines at The Marsh (5)
Arlo Guthrie "massacree" or a Mandarin dining place on Sanchez (5'1 10)
 - E Bridge or software designer (8)
Without cracking a smile (8-5)
 - F Kitchen helpers for reaching high shelves (4 6)
Like medicines that offer fast relief (5-6)
 - G Thomas Paine pamphlet of 1776 (6 5)
Musial, popularly (4 3 3)
 - H Where the "good" person in a parable was from (7)
Sports metaphor applied to any technical jargon (6 8)
 - I San Francisco Zoo episode that led to a teen's death, 2007 (5 6)
Company that runs the Metreon and Kabuki 8 theaters (3 7)
 - J One of Jesus's original 12, or a church and K-8 school on Diamond Street (5 6 3 7)
 - K In a way that hurts no one (10)
Toys that run in the Noe Valley Bakery window (5 6)
 - L "[Up where] it's peaceful as can be," in a Carole King song (2 3 4)



- | Light Blooms | Medium Blooms | Dark Blooms |
|---|---|---|
| ⦿ Open, as classified records (-) | ⦿ Charlize of <i>Monster</i> (-) | ⦿ Disobeys the rules (+) |
| ⦿ Take heed (+) | ⦿ Having a motif, as restaurants or amusement parks (+) | ⦿ English or Irish dog (+) |
| ⦿ Apply hastily, as paint (4 2) (+) | ⦿ "I'm not finished, but it's ____" (1 5) (+) | ⦿ ____ Borealis (+) |
| ⦿ On the portly side (-) | ⦿ Raiders' head coach Jon (-) | ⦿ Halley's and Hale-Bopp (-) |
| ⦿ Short upright piano (+) | ⦿ Bits of antiquity (+) | ⦿ Make less taut (-) |
| ⦿ Oil-change quantities (-) | ⦿ With "Crazy," a card game (-) | ⦿ Boston suburb, and a term for an unfairly obscure crossing in a crossword (+) |
| ⦿ Rich person, slangily (3 3) (+) | ⦿ Pour from one container to another (+) | ⦿ Christening (+) |
| ⦿ Mark of shame (-) | ⦿ Legendary Dolphins quarterback Dan (-) | ⦿ Part of PTA (-) |
| ⦿ Reach, as a goal (+) | ⦿ Fails to respect (+) | ⦿ Eat, as a meal, in a desultory fashion (4 2) (+) |
| ⦿ ____ and Mrs. Miller (1971 Warren Beatty flick) (-) | ⦿ Where Oedipus reigned (+) | ⦿ Voices one's views (+) |
| ⦿ Camels' Peruvian cousins (-) | ⦿ Muslim law (-) | |
| ⦿ Talk-show host ____ Williams (-) | ⦿ Con artist accomplices (+) | |
| ⦿ Cry from a rescued damsel (2 4) (-) | ⦿ Cured (+) | |
| ⦿ A <i>Bridge</i> ____ (Cornelius Ryan WWII book) (3 3) (-) | ⦿ What's hanging on a lot of trees now (-) | |



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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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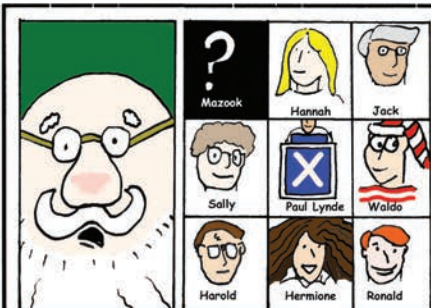
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Oh kids, I have some bad news. When I get to San Francisco, I'm going to have to elf quarantine. I'm afraid...I'm afraid...I'm going to have to cancel Christmas in San Francisco.



No Santa, no! It's self quarantine, not "Elf Quarantine", silly. You can still come on Christmas Eve! Please! You have to!



I don't have to... I can still come on Christmas Eve? That's great news, Hannah! You saved Christmas! You're the Christmas miracle!

LETTERS

Words Matter

Editor:

In an account of a recent Upper Noe Neighbors meeting, the November 2020 *Voice* reported that, when asked about an outdoor basketball game where players were not wearing masks, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman said: "The spread [of the coronavirus] is not outdoors. It is in the workplace, close quarters ... and then spreads to households."

Perhaps there was more nuance in his response than came through in the article, but any suggestion that Covid-19 cannot be spread outdoors is just plain wrong. The CDC advises that outdoor activity is safer than indoor, especially if you stay at least 6 feet apart from others and everyone wears a mask, but "safer" does not mean that the virus can't spread outdoors.

Indeed, a recent study concluded that outdoor spread contributed to the severe virus outbreak in New York City last

spring.

Regardless of what someone may believe about outdoor risk, the City and County of San Francisco mandates that masks be worn outdoors if you are within 6 feet of someone not in your household.

Let's be careful with our language and facts when we talk about Covid-19 risks and spread. And please do your part to help stop the spread of the virus in our community—wear a mask!

Ruth Borenstein
24th Street

Campaign Shifts to Georgia

Editor:

I'm a manager for Action-SF, our local activist organization in Noe Valley. I'm also a born and raised Noe Valley local! I grew up reading the *Noe Valley Voice*, and brought a copy with me to take pictures with in all sorts of corners of the world :)

I digress... I just wanted to thank you for the write-up in the November Rumors about our fundraising efforts, and to update you on what we are doing now. We

are focusing on the two crucially important Senate races in Georgia. The Georgia runoff elections will determine control of the U.S. Senate. With two Georgia victories, Democrats will tie Republican senators at 50-50. VP Kamala Harris would then serve as the tie-breaker.

Our campaign push is twofold, centering around Taking Action and Fundraising. We'll be at the Saturday Farmers Market at the Town Square, helping our neighbors get involved via postcarding, text-banking, and phone-banking. (We help set folks up using a touch-free QR code—it's all very Covid-safe!)

We've also highlighted a few campaigns we view as the most efficient way of donating directly to the two Georgia candidates we support, Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock.

You can find them on our website, Action-SF.com. Thank you!

Sam Faustine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters.
Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Car thieves were downright devilish in Noe Valley in the weeks leading up to Halloween this year.

According to data culled Nov. 16, 2020, from the city's *Digital Crime Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports From 2018 to the Present*, 18 motor vehicles—10 cars, six trucks, and two motorcycles—were reported stolen from local streets during October. That was the highest number for any month this year and nine times the number of car thefts reported in September.

Unfortunately, the stolen wheels were part of an overall increase in crime in the neighborhood.

After three months of decline, the total number of reported incidents rose from 58 in September to 95 in October, for the 10 categories of crime the *Noe Valley Voice* has been charting since January. More than a third (34) were larceny-theft incidents, such as car break-ins and package thefts from doorsteps. The data also showed 14 burglaries of homes or businesses in Noe Valley.

The good news is, there were no robberies reported during the month (and just one case of fraud). But there were three assaults, two domestic violence incidents, and 16 reports of malicious or miscellaneous mischief.

The digital crime map, which you can find under Public Safety at the website Data.sfgov.org, defines Noe Valley as the area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. The database is updating constantly, as police reports are filed.

To report incidents in your area, call the SFPD's non-emergency number, 415-553-0123, or file a police report online at sanfranciscopolice.org. To contact Mission Station Captain Gaetano Caltagirone, call 415-558-5400 or email Gaetano.Caltagirone@sfgov.org. Ingleside Station Captain Christopher Woon can be reached at 415-404-4000 or by emailing Chris.Woon@sfgov.org. In an emergency, call 911.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incidents Reported January–October 2020

Incident Reports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	YTD
Larceny/Theft	37	31	29	48	41	49	26	21	25	34	341
Burglary	15	15	8	11	20	20	17	9	14	20	149
Malicious Mischief	9	13	8	9	2	6	10	10	5	7	79
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	8	9	16	9	14	15	11	2	18	111
Assault	3	2	1	1	2	1	5	1	0	3	19
Robbery	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	3	0	15
Other Misc.	5	6	3	6	7	4	4	4	5	9	53
Fraud	4	6	0	4	3	4	2	3	4	1	31
Fam. D.Violence	1	0	0	5	2	1	2	2	0	2	15
Vandalism	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
TOTALS	86	82	58	104	89	101	83	63	58	95	819

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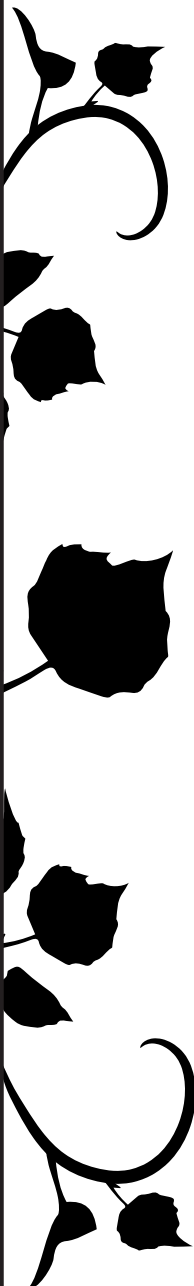
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& ARMAGNAC • VODKA • GIN TEQUILA & MEZCAL
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This holiday season, we hope you will take every opportunity to shop with your local small businesses. Not only do they need your support, but they are awaiting the chance to support you.

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Little Big Deals. Miniland baby dolls are among the toys in high demand at Mapamundi Kids, at 1306 Castro St. *Photo by Sally Smith*

Toy Trek

Voice Elves Take a Quick Stroll Through Noe Valley’s Toyville

By Santa’s Helper Sally and Jack Frost

As mask-wearing scouts for Saint Nick, we made short visits to five toy shops in Noe. This is what we found:

Mapamundi Kids, on Castro Street near 24th, has cute baby dolls and cute baby mice, even one that has its own cute tiny tin for the tooth fairy (by Maileg). Wooden toys are a specialty. “And we added more books after Charlie’s Corner left,” says shop owner Terra Andrews. If you’re worried you will stay too long (too cute), use the store’s website. “Everything is there. You can buy, ship, add gift wrap, or pick up at the store,” says Andrews.

Wink SF, the whimsical gift shop on 24th above Castro, is selling cards and puzzles, along with mark-able placemats by Modern-Twist, with the alphabet or other designs. Owner Marcy Israel adds that T-shirts, books, and face masks in both kid and adult sizes are popular too.

Just for Fun, the tree-resplendent shop at 24th and Noe, has many loyal customers, including the Kalay family, pictured at right. When asked what toys they thought kids would like, daughter Miri said, “I would give a doll.” Her older sister Lilah suggested a Fidgetz, a 3-D puzzle game. Store owner David Eiland says arts and crafts are the top attraction. A hot item for tweens is the Alex Spa Hair Chalk, pens of color to streak your hair.

Small Frys, across from Just for Fun, can’t be beat, says Castro resident Penelope De Paoli. “It has great things for the little ones. And better prices than Nordstrom.” Gift items include trucks and tea sets by Green Toys. Look for others in the Small Frys window. The store also has a feature many will appreciate: you can make an appointment to shop privately.

Nancyland Kids, at 3920 24th St., has two tunnels of toys. Employee Sydney Behel-Lujan says the store’s Doll Kind dolls and the wind-up dinosaurs are best sellers, along with anything cuddly, like teddy bears. (We could all use one of those.) Also, the shop’s owner, Nancy Guettier, will hand-deliver in the neighborhood. Now that’s a gift. ■

- Mapamundi Kids - 1306 Castro St. - 415.641.6192 - mapamundikids.com
- Just for Fun - 3982 24th St. - 415.285.4068 - Facebook.com/JustforFunSF/
- Wink SF - 4107 24th St. - 415.401.8881 - WinkSF.com
- Small Frys - 3985 24th St. - 415.648.3914 - smallfrys.com
- Nancyland Kids - 3920 24th St. - 415.412.6541 - nancylandkids.com



Big Fun at Small Frys. Tiny tots will love Green Toys trucks and tea sets, say Jennifer Cuevas (left) and Elizabeth Moncada, of Small Frys at 3985 24th St. *Photo by Art Bodner*

Needy Kids Need Toys

Toy drives have changed due to the pandemic, but our firefighters and police are still collecting toys to distribute to kids over the holidays. The need is greater than ever. The San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program is offering several ways to donate. You can drop off toys at local stations, such as No. 11 at 3880 26th St. or No. 26 at 80 Digby St. Or you can buy from any shop and have the toys shipped to the SFTP at 2225 Jerrold Ave., SF 94124. You can also buy online at sffirefightertoys.org. The most needed items are bicycles, arts and crafts, board games, backpacks, school supplies, dolls of various nationalities, and cultural books. Donations received through Dec. 25 will be distributed. The Police Department continues its five-year toy drive collaboration with Walgreens. Our Walgreens, at 1333 Castro St., has a collection barrel near the door. Donations should be unwrapped. Officers will collect them through Dec. 20. —Richard May



The Kalay Family favors the store that seemingly has everything: Just for Fun at 3982 24th St. Mom Hillary and daughters Lilah, 9, and Miri, 4, paused for a quick photo while shopping for arts and craft supplies to make a Thanksgiving project.



Fanciful Toys, Cards, and Puzzles are catching eyes at Wink SF, at 4107 24th St. *Photos by Sally Smith*



A Santa-in-the-Box and the wind-up dinosaurs at Nancyland Kids, 3920 24th St., may ask to go home with you.

Tuesdays on 24th!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jan. 4, 2021, and notify all winners. In normal years—remember them?—local merchants organized “24 Holidays on 24th Street,” with hayrides, Santas on every block, reindeer, a tree lighting, and a wine walk store to store. This year, those plans have been shelved due to Covid worries. That is sad news for all, but especially for shop owners. Some small businesses make half of their revenue the last month of the year. McCaffery, who co-owns NOVY Restaurant at 4000 24th St., says, “Every business on the 24th Street and Church Street corridor is hurting. Many of us are on the brink of shutting down.” She hopes Tuesdays on 24th will breathe new life into the shopping strip. Bacco Ristorante Italiano, in its new location at 3913 24th St., is giving away four \$25 gift certificates. Lovejoy’s, at 1351 Church St., is doing the same. Win an earthquake emergency kit worth \$100 at State Farm, 3650 24th St., or four holiday candles worth \$45 each at Stephen Moore Design, 3845 24th St. To see the growing list of businesses

and the prizes they’re offering, go to nvmpa.com. Stores include coffee emporiums, pet shops, clothing boutiques, skincare salons, banks, you name it. Many, like Folio Books and Mapamundi Kids, encourage you to call or buy from their websites and pick up wrapped packages at the door. So on Dec. 1, 8, 15, or 22, call, text, or visit 24th Street for your end-of-the-year gift giving. (A few businesses not open on Tuesdays will offer alternative days. Check with your favorite stores.) Extra inducements will be strolling carolers—see, not everything was lost—the tree and the Hanukkah menorah at the Town Square, and holiday backdrops for selfies at the square, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Wouldn’t your mother love a Facebook photo of you in the snows of San Francisco? Unfortunately, because of no congregating, the official Christmas tree lighting and Hanukkah party are off, but the bulbs will be bright and shiny on the tree at the square from Dec. 1 through Jan. 2. And every night at 5 p.m., Dec. 10 through 18, Rabbi Gedalia Potash of Chabad Noe Valley will light another candle on the hanukkiyah. So celebrate anyway! ■

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Takami Craddock In a Positive Space

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With her firm voice, soft giggle, and boundless energy, she is hard not to like. Wearing leggings, a tank top, and a bouncy high ponytail, at 60 she demonstrates movements with agility and ease. Craddock grew up in Numazu, Japan, an industrial town in the central coast region. As a child living with a view of Mount Fuji in a place that rarely saw tourists, she never imagined she would end up a dance teacher in San Francisco. In fact, Craddock, who had been dancing since age 5, never intended to become a dance teacher at all.

“No, no way!” she says. “I wanted to be a radio personality when I was in middle school and high school.”

But the competition to get into Japan’s broadcasting programs was intense, so Craddock chose to go to a “SOTA-type college,” a school focused on the arts. She soon decided to concentrate on dance.

In Japan, dancing meant committing to a studio and its particular style of dance. Although she loved her studio and to this day remains close with her *sensei* (teacher), she was excited when she was allowed to explore styles other than modern dance. In fact, it wasn’t until she was grown up, when she went to Nihon University in Tokyo, that she had the opportunity to take a ballet class.

Recalling her first dance tour in the United States, Craddock said, “When I came to the U.S., like all of a sudden, everyone was so free. You could take any class you wanted! That was really shocking to me.”

When Craddock returned to Japan, she started a dance studio with the purpose of allowing students to choose any style of dance they wanted. She left her studio to study for a few months in New York and ended up staying permanently. She was saddened to learn that one of her students in Japan missed her classes so much, the student began losing her hair. Craddock’s studio had been the student’s stress relief.

Many students at DancEsteem feel the same way. The moment they walk into her small, sunlit studio at 1605 Church St., they are greeted by Craddock’s smiling face and positive attitude. She always asks how they are doing and what school has been like. As the J-Church rumbles by, students move and stretch across the soft gray matted floor, relieved of stress and transported into a bright world where they can just be happy moving their bodies. *(Current health restrictions have moved classes outdoors.)*

First Students Were Little Ones

In her move from New York, to Baltimore, then finally to San Francisco in 1990, Craddock’s goal had been to continue as a dancer. But her career as a solo dancer was interrupted by the birth of her daughter, Ellette, after which she felt she could no longer perform at the same level. Craddock then took the opportunity to learn more about Butoh dance, a form of dance theater she had always been intrigued by. She fell in love with the improvisational aspects of Butoh, even going on to co-found the San Francisco Butoh Festival.

But it was her baby group that led her to rediscover her passion for teaching. After learning she was a dancer and teacher, the mothers urged her to open a dance studio that all their kids could attend.

Craddock began her children’s program in 1996 in a studio space at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street. It moved across the street and became



Outside her studio at 1605 Church St., Takami Craddock gestures toward the DancEsteem logo that captures the essence of her teaching. Photo by Art Bodner

MoBu Dance Studio in 2006, then moved to Church Street two years later. Along the way, she and husband Gary Craddock settled in the Forest Hill neighborhood.

Though she embraces all styles, Craddock’s teaching reflects her own journey. “I’ll never be completely American, and now I’m not completely Japanese. I’m just such a kind of mix culture-wise,” she says.

Her experience in Japanese Butoh dance laid the foundation for her program’s focus on self-expression. “This dance form basically teaches your own way to create movement... Some kids just really shine not following choreography, and if they find their language through dance, that will connect to self-esteem.”

Individuality is something Craddock strongly encourages. “Something *you* can do but I can’t do. That is very important to me.”

The ‘Creative Performance’

That emphasis is evident in DancEsteem’s annual creative performance. In addition to the formal, teacher-choreographed spring recital, Craddock also holds a winter “creative performance.” This year, due to the pandemic, it will be outside, with small groups holding recitals at different times, for audiences limited to parents.

The show is casual, experimental, and most importantly choreographed entirely by the students. Kindergarteners skip around a high school auditorium stage, making shapes based on words they choose themselves, like ladybug and lollipop. Groups of older kids dance to music of their choice, experimenting with different tempos and emotions. Craddock stands to talk about the stages of learning choreography—its timing, formations, and cues. Backstage, students make last-minute adjustments to their choreography while parents set up a bake sale for after the performance. Everyone participates in the celebration of self-expression.

Above all, Craddock’s goal is to inspire her students to dance. “Dance you can do forever if you want to,” she says. “In any way. You don’t have to be a professional.

You don’t have to be a dancer to dance.”

Though some students do return to help teach—the studio has classes ranging from ballet to hip-hop—Craddock secretly hopes that someday one of her students will return to fill her role. She laughs, “I’ll be like ‘Take it from me!’”

Transcendent Duets

Every year, the formal recital ends with a farewell dance by Craddock and her

graduating seniors. This tradition began when her first student graduated. The student and teacher walked out on stage, the lights became bright, and their movements evoked images of mother and daughter. The graduate sobbed and Craddock reached out.

These performances are always filled with tears, from parents in the audience to younger dancers in the wings, thinking of the day when they too will take the passion for dance Craddock gave them into their own new world.

The intimacy of two dancers, one young and one more mature, also can be seen in her close relationship with her dance teacher from Japan, whom she still calls sensei. Though her sensei is now frail and elderly, they perform a duet that leaves the audience in awe. There is beauty and appreciation in the flick of her sensei’s bony finger, or the twirl of her pale hand. Craddock glides across the dark stage in a simple dress, ponytail let down, curly hair framing her face. They move at different times and places on the stage, yet they are still dancing together, connected by their strong bond.

Craddock is proudest of the commitment that stems from these profound relationships. “I’m proud that kids stay for a long time, not just one or two years. My first graduated kids still contact me, like I do with my sensei,” she says.

Back on Earth

When Lily ran off the stage, midway through her solo, Craddock’s encouragement turned what could have been a devastating experience into a lesson in self-confidence, resilience, and community.

When the music started again, Lily teetered slightly as she twirled and took a few more steps. Her movements became more intentional. She leaped and twirled, slid across the floor, and bounced back up again.

When the music ended and a beaming Lily took her final bow, the audience erupted in cheers and applause. Lily’s parents also cheered and cried. Craddock cheered the loudest of them all. ■



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It's Going to Be a Long Winter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ogy writing and tweeting, but my niche is seeing the big picture and trying to explain it in a way that people can understand. The next thing I knew, I went from 20,000 to 50,000 to more than 150,000 followers, so it's been pretty wild."

Wachter spends a couple of hours a day digesting the latest news from his Douglass Street home, where he lives with his wife, journalist and author Katie Hafner, and their miniature poodle Newman. He also hosts UCSF's weekly virtual grand rounds, where leading experts discuss everything from the local and national Covid response to advances in treatment and vaccines. He is the author of six books, including *The Digital Doctor: Hope, Hype, and Harm at the Dawn of Medicine's Computer Age*.

San Francisco has been a relatively bright spot in the pandemic, Wachter says. The city was the first to shut down and has been one of the slowest to reopen, resulting in the lowest death rate of any major U.S. city. By late November, the city had reported approximately 14,600 Covid cases and 158 deaths. If the rest of the country had followed the same path, he estimates that the national death toll would be around 70,000 rather than 260,000.

"In March and April, people acted really responsibly and the city health officials did great," Wachter told the *Voice* a few days before Thanksgiving. "In June, we had a pretty big spike and everybody was worried that we were going to follow the path of New York City, but we turned it around quickly."

Wachter says he's proud of how his neighborhood and the city as a whole



UCSF doctor Bob Wachter and wife and journalist Katie Hafner have their hands full these days, what with tweeting facts on Covid and walking their poodle Newman through the neighborhood (without allowing too much petting). Photo courtesy Bob Wachter and family

have weathered the pandemic thus far. "As I look around Noe Valley, people are wearing masks. In San Francisco generally, and in Noe in particular, people believe the science," he says. "We've had none of this business about it's a hoax or just the flu. People here believe that if we follow the rules, we'll save lives, and they get that there are no shortcuts."

Keep Your Guard Up

But Covid cases are rapidly rising as the months drag on, the weather gets colder, and people grow increasingly eager to spend time with family and friends and enjoy their holiday traditions. "We've done remarkably well, but the

question is whether we can turn things around again—past success is no guarantee," says Wachter, who attributes the recent rise in San Francisco to the city relaxing its rules and more people getting together. "People are tired of it and want their lives back. It's understandable, but it's dangerous to let your guard down."

At press time, San Francisco was in the red tier, meaning "substantial" transmission of the coronavirus, based on the four-tier system California introduced in late August. But the city was on the verge of joining its Bay Area neighbors in the most restrictive purple tier, indicating "widespread" transmission, S.F.'s public health director, Dr. Grant Colfax, warned on Nov. 24.

Indoor dining in San Francisco had been open for little more than a month when it closed down again in mid-November. Several local restaurants have built outdoor parklets, but they may be less inviting as the days grow shorter and chillier. Most public schools had not yet opened, and now they'll remain closed a while longer. According to state and city mandates, Californians now must wear masks in public, including at restaurants, unless they're actively eating or drinking.

Luckily, Wachter says, we've gotten smarter about risk over time. "In the beginning, we really didn't know whether you got it from touching things, and we didn't know about inside versus outside. But it's really crystal clear now that you can safely be outside with people. "At this moment, I would not eat inside in a restaurant, get a haircut indoors, or go to an indoor gym," Wachter says.

"Walking outside and eating outside is fine, but keeping a distance is a good idea when we get together with friends."

Masks Are 'Powerful'

Dr. Monica Gandhi, a professor of medicine at UCSF and a former Noe Valley resident, agrees that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. "Sheltering in place and seeing no one doesn't take into account the human experience and how lonely people are," she says. "I would rather take a harm-reduction approach and advise people about how to get through the winter with the second layer of interventions, which includes masks, distancing, ventilation, and testing." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new evidence shows that masks can protect the wearer as well as reduce the spread of the coronavirus to others.

"I know masks feel artificial, but they're so powerful," Gandhi says. "We can gather outside wearing masks and keeping distance. People in this city have been convinced, and there's very high compliance."

Vaccines Promising

Both Wachter and Gandhi see a light at the end of the tunnel. In November, three companies announced that their experimental vaccines reduced the risk of symptomatic Covid by 90 percent or more.

"Two months ago, I don't think we could have been sure that there would be a vaccine that works," Wachter says. "That was really scary, because it wasn't obvious what Plan B was. So this is spectacular news."

While one or more vaccines are expected to receive emergency-use authorization in December, it will take several more months before they are widely available. Vaccination for healthcare workers could begin by the end of the year. Essential workers and people who are vulnerable to severe Covid, including older individuals and those with underlying health conditions, are next in line, according to a CDC vaccine advisory panel. Most experts think vaccination for the rest of the population could start around April.

"If we get 60 to 70 percent of people vaccinated with a vaccine that's more than 90 percent effective, we probably will reach a point that's pretty close to herd immunity, where the virus just can't find enough mouths and noses that aren't immune, and then it starts dying out," Wachter says. "It's reasonable to expect that by next summer, we'll be in pretty good shape."

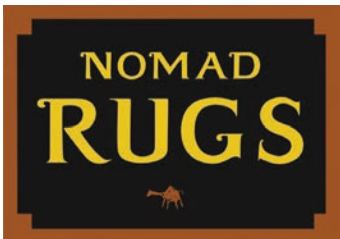
Until then, the experts agree, we'll need to keep wearing masks, keep social distancing, and keep our activities outdoors. "I'm very hopeful about quick distribution of vaccines, but we still have to do it," says Gandhi. "The message should be to just hang on a little bit longer." ■

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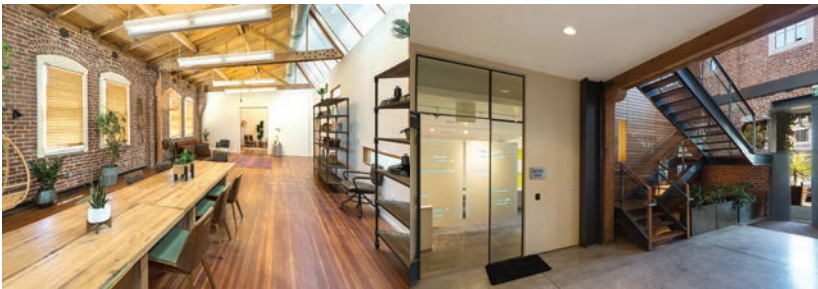
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Community Garden Offers Needed Respite

Residents Tend Plots at Former Dairy Farm Above Grand View

By Matthew S. Bajko

Grand View Avenue resident Robin Perry was invited in February to be a “garden buddy” by two of her friends who had a plot at the Clipper Terrace Community Garden. Though she had a back yard where she grew various plants, it was not big enough for a vegetable patch.

When she planted her first crop of broccoli rabe and lettuces, little could Perry know in just a month’s time the Covid-19 coronavirus would upend life’s normal routines. Her two friends left the city for their second home in Sonoma, leaving Perry as the main garden plot caretaker.

“It’s been a saving grace,” said Perry, 68, executive director of the William J. Perry Project, which educates the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons and is named after her father, who served as secretary of defense during the Clinton administration. “Many a day I felt so isolated and alone. I could come out here, sit on a bench, and feel things were normal even though they were not normal. They are normal here.”

The garden, laid out on a triangular hillside at the intersection of Clipper, Clipper Terrace, and Grand View, has been her “solace,” said Perry. “And the view, my God. It is one of the best views in the city.”

Once the Sunnyside Ranch

From pretty much anywhere in the garden, one can see downtown San Francisco, the Bay Bridge, the bay, the Oakland hills, and hovering off in the distance, Mt. Diablo. The land used to be part of James Barsotti’s Sunnyside Ranch, a 10-acre dairy farm, back in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Barsotti’s nephews, Edward and Alfred Paige, lifelong residents of Noe Valley, inherited the property and, in 1985, planted the first vegetables where the community garden is now located. Earlier this year, the current gardeners erected a signboard that includes an old newspaper story about the Paige siblings and a salvaged “Paige Brothers Community Garden” sign.

Today, the communal garden space is one of 42 overseen by the city’s recreation and park department. It is connected to what is known as the Portola Open Space abutting High, Clipper, and Portola streets. When he served in the 2000s as the District 8 supervisor, Bevan Dufty worked out a deal to prevent a housing development from being built adjacent to the garden where Clipper meets Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The developer was given city-owned

land elsewhere while the wildlands were forever protected as open space.

A Refuge for Wildlife

The area provides a natural corridor and habitat for various birds, mice, raccoons, coyotes, skunks, butterflies, red-tailed hawks, ravens, and the occasional banana slug.

“Having that greenspace was important to the neighbors. I could see that,” recalled Dufty. “With all the housing in Noe Valley and Diamond Heights right there, those two greenspaces really improve the character of the neighborhood.”

Around that time, nearby residents planted an orchard at the top of the garden with various apple and lemon trees. A beekeeper keeps hives tucked into the hillside, which is covered by blackberry plants.

When the city removed a towering pine tree that had stood at the garden boundary closest to Grand View, deemed dangerous after one of its branches fell onto Clipper during a winter storm, it not only opened up the views to the east but allowed for the addition of 10 new garden plots.

“It made a big difference. It opened up the garden and we got more planting areas and a better view,” said Terry Edeli, 74, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1976 and was granted a garden plot in 2007. “I lived here 30 years before I knew it existed.”

Long Wait for Garden Space

There is now an 80-person waitlist for one of the garden’s 60 plots; a person is allowed only one plot. It only costs \$30 a year for a garden plot. The fee covers the water bill and also pays for wood chips that are delivered each year.

In recent years a new crop of gardeners has banded together to make improvements to the greenspace, including terracing a picnic table area and sprucing up the walkways between the plots. This year, the gardeners planted California pipevine in order to provide a food source for caterpillars of the endangered butterflies known as California pipevine swallowtails.

Joanne Mohr, who has lived in Noe Valley 11 years, first gained access to her garden plot eight years ago after being on the waitlist for “many years.” A lifelong gardener, she worked plots on Potrero Hill and in Brisbane until being given one closer to home.

“I was very happy to get a plot. It has been a long wait because we need more,” said Mohr, who joked she was “old” when asked her age.

Her plantings run the gamut from Brussels sprouts, kale, and beets to potatoes and garlic. When the *Voice* caught up with her in November, Mohr was planting purple cabbage and lettuce.

Having the patch of earth to till and tend has been a godsend this year, said Mohr. It helps her to cope with living through the pandemic and having to remain home most days. It is easy to stay six feet apart from others at the garden, Mohr noted, while safely socializing and



The peace and tranquility at Clipper Terrace Community Garden is magnified by a view of downtown San Francisco and the East Bay. Photo by Beverly Tharp

soaking up some sunshine.

“I would be so bummed out the last six or seven months if I were not able to come out here,” she said. “This is my meditation.”

Covid Changes Gatherings

Prior to Covid-19, the gardeners would hold quarterly potluck barbeques that attracted upwards of 50 people. After suspending their monthly workdays at the garden in the spring due to the health crisis, the plot holders restarted in July but split up into smaller groups.

“This is the best ‘community’ group of people because on workdays people show up,” said Mohr.

Assisting her with the more strenuous tasks is her partner of 17 years, Charles Hardy, 65. Hardy jokes he serves as “the Clydesdale when they need to move big

stuff.”

Helping to coordinate the workdays is Susan Martin, who has lived in Noe Valley since 1986 and has had a garden plot since 2012. The retired schoolteacher grows broccoli, chard, lettuce, tomatillos, rhubarb, and various herbs throughout the year.

“It is magical. I come up here almost every day. It has been really great,” said Martin, who lives a five-minute walk away.

To learn more about the city’s community garden program and sign up on the waitlist for a plot, visit <https://ca-san-franciscorecandparks.civicplus.com/1403/Community-Gardens>.

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1021 Sanchez St., between 23rd & 24th

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am via Zoom

Rev. David Brown, Pastor

Advent Community Gatherings

Four Wednesdays in December, 7 - 8 pm

Advent Sharing & Meditation

December 2, 9, 16, 23

email: office@noevalleyministry.org
for Zoom link & information

Sunday Worship

Every Sunday, 10:30 am

Reverend Brown Preaching

find the Zoom link on our website

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24, 5 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols

With Noe Valley Ministry Choir &
Guest Musicians

find the Zoom link on our website

New Year's Eve Service

Thursday, December 31, 6 pm

"A Time to..."

Meditative Service for "Letting Go"

Service of Rededication

find the Zoom link on our website

www.noevalleyministry.org

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On-Line Services:

Christmas Services:

Blue Christmas, December 16 at 6:30 pm

For those who struggle at Christmastime

Christmas Eve, December 24

Storytelling & Carols at 5:30 pm

Christmas Day, December 25 at 9:00 am



Weekly Services:

Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm

Morning Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:30 am

Contemplative Prayer

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday at 9:00 am

Email office@staidansf.org for connection info.

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PLACING A CLASS AD

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **January 2021** issue, distributed the first week of January. The deadline for items is **Dec. 15**. Please write Class Ads, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Enclose a check or money order for 40¢ a word.

If you buy 10 issues in a row, deduct 10%.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

A ‘Healthy’ October

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers purchased 14 single-family detached homes in Noe Valley in October, the fifth consecutive month of double-digit sales, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

“The October market was very healthy,” said Corcoran President Randall Kostick. He added that he expected brisk sales to continue at least through November.

After the coronavirus put the chill on sales activity in early spring, the market rebounded in June and picked up further steam over the summer.

The 14 sales in October were three more than in September, and matched the number of properties that closed escrow in October a year ago.



An Edwardian façade and backyard fig and lemon trees were among the selling points of a three-bedroom condominium on 23rd Street, purchased in October for \$2,180,000. Photos by Corrie M. Anders



This contemporary home on 29th Street, offering five bedrooms, 5.5 baths, and spacious open-plan living, sold in October for \$5.6 million.

No surprise, most buyers were persons of means. Of the 14 houses sold in October, four went for \$4 million or more, including one that sold for \$5.6 million. The new owners won their preferred address by spending an average 6 percent over the asking price.

The big spenders and the overbidding in general pushed up the average value of a Noe Valley home to \$3.08 million, 13.6 percent above the value last October (\$2.71 million). It was the third month in a row that the average topped \$3 million.

Though they needed a king’s ransom, those wishing to buy in Noe could be choosier than in past years. According to Kostick, the inventory of properties for sale was the highest it’s been in a decade.

“That’s good news because it gives more options to the buyers,” Kostick said, “and it calms the sellers’ [expectations] down a little bit.”

Still, the buyers of the \$5.6 million house wasted little time in snapping up October’s most expensive property. They made an offer the day the home hit the market, and for their efforts paid 5.3 percent less than the owner’s asking price (\$5,895,000).

The three-story dwelling, located in the 100 block of 29th Street between San Jose Avenue and Dolores Street, had five

Noe Valley Home Sales*						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
October 2020	14	\$1,445,000	\$5,600,000	\$3,077,500	14	106%
September 2020	11	\$2,000,000	\$6,520,000	\$3,155,847	16	101%
October 2019	14	\$1,820,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,709,286	17	108%
Condominiums/TICs						
October 2020	12	\$900,000	\$2,180,000	\$1,520,417	25	103%
September 2020	10	\$799,000	\$1,860,000	\$1,500,800	27	105%
October 2019	9	\$805,000	\$3,200,000	\$1,935,745	18	107%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
October 2020	3	\$1,701,000	\$3,600,000	\$2,750,333	62	93%
September 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
October 2019	1	\$1,529,000	\$1,529,000	\$1,529,000	201	100%
5+-unit buildings						
October 2020	1	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	134	84%
September 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
October 2019	3	\$2,225,000	\$3,095,000	\$2,731,667	55	93%

*This 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 *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Global Living San Francisco for providing sales data. NVV 12/2020

bedrooms and 5.5 baths in 4,140 square feet of living space. Extras included a luxury kitchen with a “double-stone” island, two offices, glass walls and decks on all three levels, walk-through access to a wood-paneled back yard with built-in seating, solar and radiant heat, and a two-car garage with electric-charging capability.

Condo Prices Decline

Sales activity was high in the condominium market too, with 12 condos changing hands in Noe Valley in October, compared to nine the same month last year.

Though not cheap by any means, the average price of a condo was down noticeably from a year ago. Buyers paid \$1.52 million for a condo this October—

22.4 percent less than in October of 2019 (\$1.94 million).

Kostick said most of the prices for condos were in the mid range—not too high and not too low.

October’s most expensive condo, located in a two-unit Edwardian in the 4000 block of 23rd Street between Noe and Castro streets, changed hands for \$2,180,000—11.9 percent over its asking price (\$1,949,000).

The upgraded three-bedroom, two-bath residence, with 1,865 square feet of space, featured an open living and dining area, a chef’s kitchen, high ceilings, a wood-burning fireplace, and a south-facing garden with fig and lemon trees. The condo also came with garage space for one car. ■

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2020	Average November 2020	Average October 2020	Average November 2019
Studio	18	\$1,499 - \$2,400	\$1,968 / mo.	\$2,104 / mo.	\$2,601 / mo.
1-bdrm	108	\$1,795 - \$4,200	\$2,692 / mo.	\$2,717 / mo.	\$3,296 / mo.
2-bdrm	101	\$2,620 - \$6,450	\$3,526 / mo.	\$3,739 / mo.	\$4,551 / mo.
3-bdrm	56	\$3,000 - \$12,500	\$5,241 / mo.	\$6,006 / mo.	\$5,805 / mo.
4+-bdrm	17	\$3,995 - \$22,500	\$7,607 / mo.	\$7,208 / mo.	\$11,124 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 300 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Nov. 1 to 8, 2020. In November a year ago, there were 108 listings. NVV 12/2020



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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice column profiling new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This issue, we feature a shop that local canines may find irresistible.

MAXWELL’S PET BAR
1734 Church St. at Day Street
415-970-2231
MaxwellsPetBar.com

The faucets are running again at the upper Noe Valley storefront that has long been the site of a dog-wash and pet-supply business. The new iteration, Maxwell’s Pet Bar, whose moniker is “Holistic Health for Cats & Dogs,” soft-opened Nov. 16 with a self-wash service and will roll out additional services and products in the weeks ahead.

Couple Jen and Kristi Maxwell decided to re-launch the business for local canine owners in the middle of a health pandemic because they saw a need that wasn’t being met in the neighborhood. With people working from home because of the health crisis and looking for animal companionship while they limit their interactions with humans, dog adoptions have skyrocketed in Noe Valley.

“We want it to be a community hub and a friendly place for kids as well,” said Jen Maxwell. “I hope it becomes a go-to spot for the community.”

For the last decade, a dog-washing business had operated at the storefront, on Church Street a block from Joby’s Dog Run. Between April 2016 and July of this year, the space had been home to VIP Scrub Club, operated by longtime dog groomer Lancy Woo, who owns VIP



Jen and Christi Maxwell, and their closest companion Hazel, are excited about the Dec. 14 grand opening of Maxwell’s Pet Bar on Church Street. Hazel says she has volunteered to test one of the shop’s features, a sampling bar for broths and yogurts. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Grooming on 24th Street, and her spouse, Sage Cotton.

Cotton and Woo had taken over the business from their friends who owned K9 Scrub Club, which closed in November 2015 after five years of operation.

The Maxwells had long brought their dogs to Woo for grooming and had frequented the scrub club with their current dog Hazel, a 3-year-old mini poodle and terrier mix, whose photo could be found

on the business’s wall of pet customers.

They had also talked about opening a business together. Kristi Maxwell owns a hair salon in San Bruno, while Jen Maxwell has spent the last 20 years in the retail sector, mostly in management at housewares purveyor Williams Sonoma.

For the past two years, she worked as a category manager for health and wellness at Pet Food Express. But in June, she was laid off, so when the couple learned that the Church Street space was available for lease, they made the decision to take a chance on opening a pet self-wash service in addition to offering other products for pet owners.

“I want to share what I learned at Pet Food Express about health and wellness,” said Jen Maxwell.

For the Maxwells, both 51 years old and together 27 years, the location is a short commute from their home at the corner of Castro and Clipper streets, where they have lived for 16 years. Jen Maxwell is the primary operator of the pet business for now, and customers can expect to see Hazel by her side.

They are planning to have a grand opening for Maxwell’s Pet Bar Monday, Dec. 14. To keep customers safe during the Covid pandemic, just three of their five tubs are available for use either by appointment or walk-in, if one is free.

A 30-minute wash with organic shampoo and optional blueberry facial wash

costs \$25. Packages are available: if customers buy five washes, they get a sixth for free.

There will be a full retail section with various toys and food products. Maxwell’s will also be selling supplements and treats infused with CBD, the cannabidiol extracted from hemp plants and used to treat everything from a pet’s separation anxiety to hip or joint pain.

“It is an alternative to the pharmacological medicines people are giving their dogs,” said Kristi Maxwell.

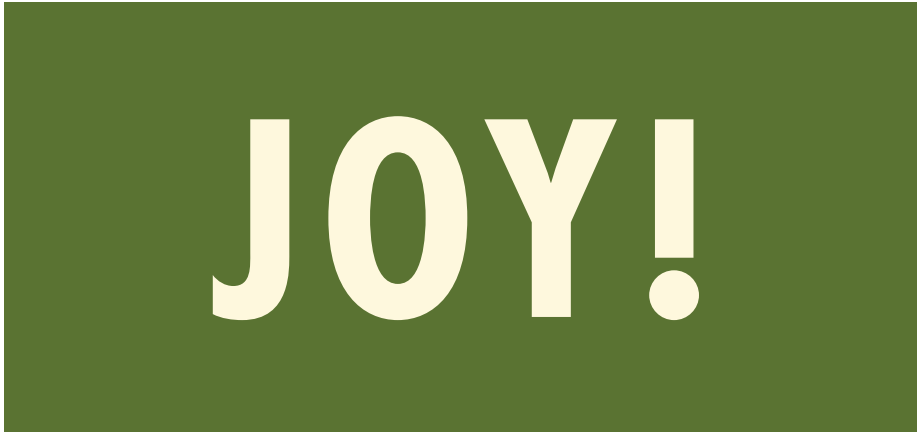
Of particular interest to their canine customers will be a treat bar and a sampling bar, where dogs can taste various broths, yogurts, goat milk, and other food items to see if they like them. Depending on the needs and feedback from its clientele, Maxwell’s might also hold dental clinics and other educational sessions for pet owners.

And when it is safe to do so again, the women want to host social gatherings for dogs and their owners, like those they frequented at VIP Scrub Club.

“We want it to be a space where people can hang out,” said Kristi Maxwell.

Maxwell’s is open every day except Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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NOE KIDS

Tayo, Makana, and Koa—Happy Together

By Katie Burke

Tayo, Makana, and Koa Jones admire one another. The brothers live on Douglass Street with mom Chrysty Esperanza—a lawyer for Square financial services—and dad Scott Jones, who works in marketing for NextRoll Group.

Chrysty and Scott met in high school, and their parents still live across the street from each other in Los Gatos, where the kids love to play in their grandparents' pool and hot tub.

Chrysty's family is Filipino-Hawaiian, and the kids' first names each mean something in Tagalog: Tayo's name means "together," to signify that Chrysty and Scott were "in this together" when Chrysty became pregnant with Tayo. Makana, which means "gift," became Makana's name because his parents were in the hospital with his delivery for a long time, and there was a picture there of Makana Mountain. "Koa," a type of wood from a Hawaiian tree called a koa tree, means brave. The boys share the middle name Esperanza, Chrysty's surname, which means hope.

The trio agree that 10-year-old Tayo is the best basketball player of the siblings, followed by Makana, 7, and Koa, 4.

Makana says Tayo is good at drawing, especially the L.A. Clippers jersey. But he points out that Tayo roots harder for the Warriors than the Clippers.

"Tayo is a really good, skilled baker," Makana adds. Smiling, Tayo says, "I make a lot of stuff: mochi muffins, brownies, cookies. Because of the pandemic, I've been baking more because I have more time."

"Makana is really talented at hide-and-go-seek," Tayo says. "He finds the best hiding spots. Also, he's—I'm being honest—he is good at finding people. And he's a really good soccer player."

Tayo and Makana have March birthdays, and Koa was born in July. So all three had shelter-in-place celebrations this year. "It was odd, kind of, because actually my birthday was the day our school [San Francisco Friends School on Valencia Street] shut down," says Tayo, who turned 10 on March 12. Tayo says he did get to celebrate at school that day.

But the family had to cancel their plans to celebrate Tayo and Makana's birthdays at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, a



Tayo, Makana, and Koa—10, 7, and 4 respectively—have found ways to have fun at home this year: they're playing hide-and-go-seek, building LEGOs, and baking pizza with Mom and Dad.

Photo by Art Bodner

theme park at Hollywood's Universal Studios. They also had to call off their Plan B, mini-golfing in San Francisco, at Stagecoach Greens. So they filled the house with balloons, ordered cake, and had Zoom calls with family and friends.

For Koa's July 25 birthday, the family had a Harry Potter-themed party. Tayo and Makana created a Diagon Alley in the garage and made Koa a Quidditch broom.

Makana goes to Friends School too, and Koa attends Cielito Lindo Preschool on Gold Mine Drive.

"I goes in Spanish," he explains, demonstrating why Tayo and Makana label Koa the comedian of their family. "He says stuff that's funny, even though he's not trying to make a joke," Tayo says. "He calls hand sanitizer 'hanitizer.'"

Makana also credits Koa with being a strong hider and finder, just like Makana. Tayo adds that Koa is great at building LEGOs, "especially at his age."

Koa enjoys going to the beach and playing basketball with Makana and Tayo in their back yard. Tayo likes that Sanchez Street has turned into a slow street in the pandemic. He likes riding his bike,

skateboard, and scooter there.

Tayo misses playing basketball at Noe Courts. "That park is really good, and we like to go there and ride our bikes or play catch with the football or play with the soccer ball," he says. "But they took down the hoops, so we can't play basketball. It's just the backboard."

"I miss going to Charlie's Corner," Makana says. The children's bookstore closed its doors on 24th Street last spring.

"Folio Books, too," Tayo chimes in. (*Folio is open for pickup/appointments.*)

"I miss reading in the big library and looking at books," Makana adds, explaining that now you order books online and go to the store to pick them up.

"You have to kind of know what you want," Tayo says. "It's nice to just go into the library and look at books and be like, 'Oh, I want this one!'"

Tayo also misses going to Warriors games and dining inside restaurants, like Rin's Thai Restaurant, Hi-Way Burger, Little Chihuahua, and Saru, all on 24th Street.

"At Saru, I really like the bubbles," Makana says, referring to the salmon roe.

"I miss sports," Koa chimes in. "I miss

basketball, I miss soccer. My soccer field's closed. Because we went there and now it's closed, so I'm kind of staying home. It isn't open."

All the kids miss vacationing in Hawaii and reminisced about their trip to Italy with their cousins last summer.

Tayo and Makana take piano lessons as they did before, but now the lessons are online. The boys miss seeing their music teacher in person.

About Sept. 9, the day the sky turned orange in San Francisco, Tayo says, "It was eerie because it was so dark outside in the morning when we woke up, and it was still so dark later. It was very orange and weird."

Makana agrees. "I thought, it is still nighttime, so I don't have to go to school. The sky was like a pumpkin-ish color."

Around that time, the family went to Carmel and had to evacuate their hotel because of the fires. "It was scary, a little," Makana says.

"Well, yeah," Tayo adds, "it was really unexpected, actually. It seems to be getting much better now."

"But you never know," Makana says. "It can change any second."

All three are happy they can still go to the zoo and take walks around the neighborhood. "Once we finish schoolwork," Tayo says, "we have a free afternoon to do some of that stuff, and that's always some fun."

Makana is grateful Noe Valley Bakery on 24th Street has remained open throughout 2020. "I like to get the cheesecake," he says. "And we like to play football in the Town Square." Tayo likes the Noe Valley Farmers Market.

Tayo has used the time indoors to finish reading his Harry Potter books, and the family recently cooked pizza together, making their own dough.

"The good part before Covid," Makana says, "was that we got to go outside and have fresh air and see a bunch of our friends."

Tayo adds, "I think the best part of Covid is that the fires kind of make you understand how important it is to have fresh air, so to be grateful for fresh air because it could be really bad, and then you can't go outside. So I think the best part of this year is Covid and the fires teaching us a lesson, to be kind of grateful for what you have have." ■

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. Last April, Burke published a collection of profiles of San Francisco kids, titled *Urban Playground* (SparkPress). Know a great Noe Valley kid? Email Katie at katie@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22: Shop TUESDAYS on 24th Street at 40+ stores, and win prizes totaling over \$5,000. Drawings Jan. 4. See Holiday Raffle 2020 at nvmpa.com.

Dec. 1, 8, 13, 15, 22 & 29: The San Francisco Public Library tells "Sweet Stories for Families," virtual STORYTIMES, from 11 to 11:15 am. 312-9685; sfpl.org.

Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-30: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous at St. Aidan's meets via Zoom, Monday through Saturday 7 to 8 am. 314-0720 or 779-6273; oasf.org.

Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-30: The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER's Mission Nutrition program offers takeout lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

Dec. 1-31: Chris O'Sullivan leads a virtual discussion, "Bret Harte's Gold Rush," at the SF HISTORICAL SOCIETY, sfhistory.org.

Dec. 2-30 & Jan. 6-27: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open Wednesdays, 2:30 to 7 pm, with the first hour reserved for seniors. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Dec. 4-25 & Jan. 1-29: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts Friday JAZZ live-streaming from the shop. 7:30-9 pm. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Dec. 4-Jan. 29: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church hosts GAME NIGHT Fridays on Zoom. 7 pm. holyinsf.org.

Dec. 5: Orientation is scheduled for kids 6 to 10 to try out the HEALTHY KID Project, a free six-week program starting Dec. 7, promoting healthy choices. Thehealthykidproject.org.

Dec. 5-26 & Jan. 2-30: The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open from 8 am to 1 pm (8 to 9 am for seniors); masks required, 6 feet distancing, and prepared food to-go only. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Dec. 6: The NOE MUSIC features a virtual lecture, demonstration, and performance of

Beethoven's Archduke Trio, in "What Makes It Great?" by Rob Kapilow and the Horszowski Trio. 7-8:30 pm. noemusic.org.

Dec. 6 & Jan. 3: Political group ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com to receive the Zoom meeting link.

Dec. 7: ODD MONDAYS features virtual readings of short stories by Daniel Curzon, Vanessa Hua, and Valerie Miner. 7-8 pm. The Zoom link will be on the Odd Mondays Facebook page, or email oddmondays@gmail.com.

Dec. 8: Community Music Center hosts an online Zoom performance, "Creative Voices: MUSIC for Life—Ukulenny with Beth Wilmurt." 5:30-7 pm. 647-6015; sfcmc.org.

Dec. 8: St. Philip's School hosts a virtual Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE. 6:30-7:30 pm. 824-8467; register at info@saintphilip-school.org.

Dec. 10: Poet/editor Molly Fisk and contributors to California Fire & Water: A Climate Crisis Anthology discuss their work at a SFPL virtual POEM JAM. 6-7 pm. 312-9685; sfpl.org.

Dec. 11: The SF MIME TROUPE streams "A Red Carol," a working-class take on Dickens' classic. 285-1717; sfmt.org/a-red-carol-press.

Dec. 12: The SF Public Library hosts "San Francisco BALLET'S Chair Dance and Oral History." 4-5 pm. 312-9685; sfpl.org.

Jan. 11: ODD MONDAYS features a virtual reading by Ron Nyren of The Book of Lost Light, set during the 1906 earthquake. 7-8 pm. See Zoom link on the Odd Mondays Facebook page. Email oddmondays@gmail.com

We'll Be Home For Christmas

The next Noe Valley Voice will be the **January 2021** issue, distributed the first week of January. The deadline for items is **Dec. 15**. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write Calendar, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

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SHORT TAKES

Little Food Pantry on Sanchez

There's a four-foot-tall blue box on Sanchez near Duncan with a sign saying "Little Free Pantry." This is the brainchild of Mia Dixon of Noe Street.

Dixon saw a little free pantry online. Simultaneously, she heard that local food banks were distributing twice as much food as in past years due to the pandemic. The need was growing all over the city.

Dixon wanted to set up a pantry on her street but it seemed too hilly. Her friend Maria Woodworth offered a space down on Slow Sanchez. Dixon and her boyfriend built the little pantry, using an old bookshelf, leftover paint, and reclaimed materials.

The pantry opened in September. Anyone can take the mostly canned food. Dixon restocks and cleans the shelves frequently. Neighbors and friends on Nextdoor also add items and help maintain the pantry if Dixon is away. The most popular items are rice and beans, soap, deodorant, and cleaning supplies, but "people can use everything," Dixon says. She thanks you for donating.

You can also help the regular food banks. Go to SFMfoodbank.org for San Francisco Marin, or Foodbankccs.org for Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Wrap and Send at Book Rate

Books provide knowledge, joy, and escape, and will be particularly good gifts this December. Our two neighborhood bookstores have given us a few ideas.

Celia Sack, owner of Omnivore Books



Mia Dixon's Little Free Pantry on Sanchez Street was recently restocked with the help of friends and neighbors. Photo by Sally Smith

on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez St., suggests *The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food*, by food activists Marcus Samuelsson and Osayi Endolyn, and *East: 120 Vegetarian and Vegan Recipes From Bangalore to Beijing*, by British chef Meera Sodha. Ready for dessert? Try *Baking at the 20th Century Café* by chef-owner Michelle Polzine. For culinary kids, there's *What's Cooking at 10 Garden Street?* by Felicita Sala.

Paula Foley, owner of Folio Books at 3957 24th St., has tips for the younger crowd, too. How about *Antiracist Baby*, a board book by Ibram X. Kendi and Ashley Lukashevsky. For middle readers, try *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender. It won a 2020 National Book Award.

For adults, there is of course the end-of-the-year blockbuster, *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama, but Foley also recommends *The Forests of California* by Obi Kaufmann, who wrote and illustrated *The California Field Atlas*. Another local suggestion is *Spirits of San Francisco*, written by Gary Kamiya and illustrated by Paul Madonna.

Both stores offer online shopping, gift wrapping, and shipping. Order at www.omnivorebooks.myshopify.com and www.foliosf.com, or drop by the two shops.

Free 'Healthy Kid' Pilot

Local financial adviser Meagan Fishell wants to change the world one kid at a time. To that end, she is inviting Noe Valley kids and families to help her test a new program, the Healthy Kid Project, a free six-week workshop starting Monday, Dec. 7, with an orientation on Dec. 5.

The goal of the project, aimed at kids 6 to 10 years old, is to make eating a plant-rich diet fun while at the same time kind to humans and animals (by reducing

our carbon footprint). "By taking care of our bodies by eating nutritious foods, we are also caring for our planet," she says.

Acknowledging that kids are often picky eaters, Fishell hopes to make the process engaging by offering creative recipes, physical activities, and virtual events like Eco-Day, Saturday Snack-time, and Mindful Movement.

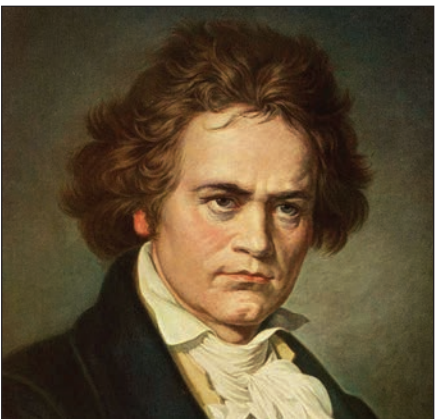
If you are interested in helping Fishell test the pilot program, go to the site www.TheHealthyKidProject.org.

Happy Birthday, Ludwig!

Dec. 17 is the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth. Commemorations have been curtailed worldwide by Covid restrictions, but Noe Music is celebrating online on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with a discussion and presentation of the great composer's Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat major (Op. 97).

Rob Kapilow, of NPR's *What Makes It Great* series, will lead the discussion. Performing will be the New York City-based Horszowski Trio, with Jesse Mills on violin, Ole Akahoshi on cello, and Rieko Aizawa on piano.

Opus 97 is also known as the Archduke Trio, because Beethoven dedicated it to Archduke Rudolph of Austria, his student, friend, and benefactor. According



to Noe Music, the piece, which is in four movements rather than the usual three, was a trailblazer because it "boldly replace[d] the polite private world of chamber music with virtuosic public music of symphonic scope."

Tickets for the event are \$20 at noemusic.org. Tune in via Crowdcast. Bring your own cake and champagne.

Two Months of Odd Mondays

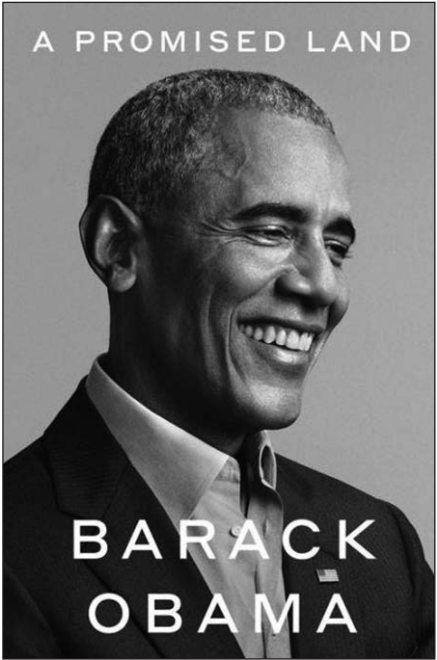
Odd Mondays, the Noe Valley reading series, continues its monthly online readings with short-story authors in December and writers and partners Ron Nyren and Sarah Stone in January.

Story collections from Daniel Curzon, Vanessa Hua, and Valerie Miner are featured Monday, Dec. 7, 7 to 8 p.m. Curzon, author of the Gay classic *Revolt of the Perverts*, will read from his latest work, *Annoying Stories*. Hua talks about the 2020 reissue and expansion by Counterpoint Press of her *Deceit and Other Possibilities*, originally published in 2016. Miner, who's currently artist-in-residence at Stanford University, will read from her 15th book, *Bread and Salt*.

Nyren and Stone, who are married, will celebrate the November publication of Nyren's debut novel, *The Book of Lost Light*, Monday, Jan. 11, 7 to 8 p.m. The book tells how San Franciscans found refuge in the East Bay after the 1906 earthquake, among other things. Stone's most recent work is *Hungry Ghost Theater* (2018), about a family struggling with personal issues while trying to manage a small theater company.

Get the link for either event by emailing oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com or by signing up as Going or Interested on Odd Mondays' Facebook event pages.

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.



Obama's new memoir is on Folio Books' list of recommendations this holiday season.

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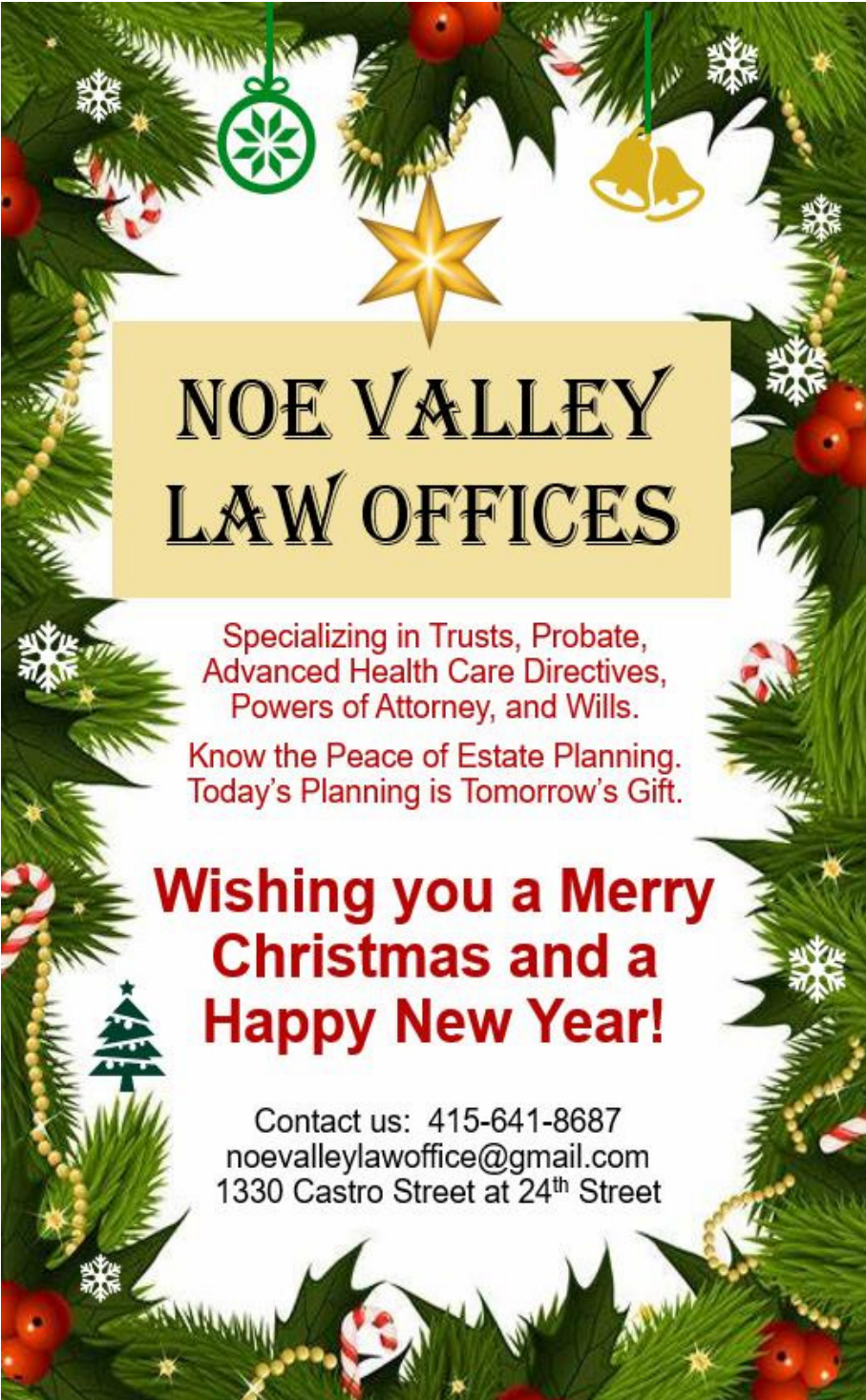
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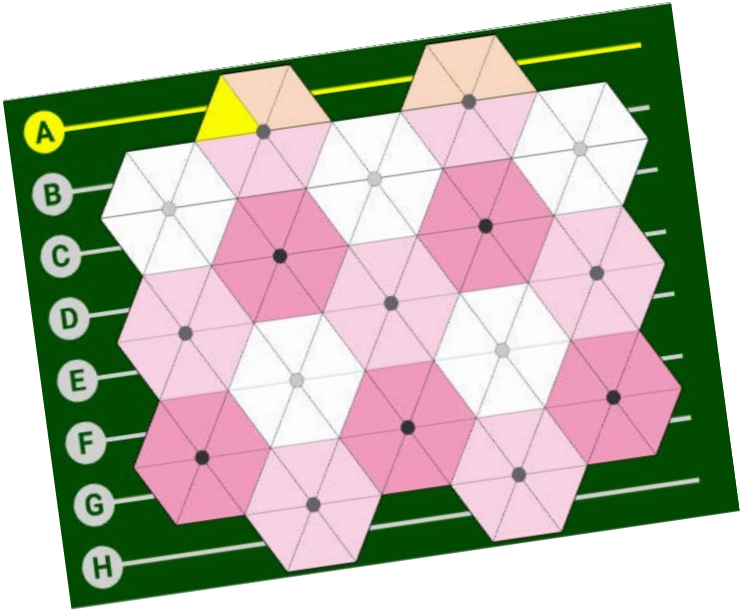
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CROSSWORDS



and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Angels We Have Heard Online

By Mazook

NOE VOTES, AND HOW: On Saturday, Nov. 7, Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential race by the Associated Press, CNN, NBC, CBS, and ABC, ending what was to many a four-year nightmare. With the news of Donald Trump’s defeat, Downtown Noe Valley exploded with the sounds of people hollering out their windows and honking their horns. The celebration continued all morning, with dancing in the street. When I asked folks how they felt, most simply said, “Relieved!”

The San Francisco Department of Elections has tallied all 16,989 of our neighborhood’s votes in the Nov. 3 general election. There were 15,687 ballots cast by Noeons, with 14,568 voting by mail and 1,119 who actually went to the polls in person. Our voter turnout was a whopping 92.3 percent.

The Democrats’ ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris garnered 14,511 of your votes (93.3 percent), while the Republicans’ Trump/Pence slate got 779 (5.01 percent). The Libertarian Party won 101, the Green Party 87, Peace and Freedom 42, and the American Independent Party (with Kanye West) just 26 votes. Curiously, 111 did not cast a vote for President. If you are in the 111 group, write a letter to our editor and tell us why.

Nancy Pelosi, Democrat, won her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives over challenger Democrat Shahid Buttar by an 84 to 16 percent margin. In the District 11 State Senate race, it was incumbent Scott Wiener winning with 62 percent to Jackie Fielder’s 38 percent. The State Assembly vote was Dem David Chiu with 93 percent to Libertarian Starchild’s 7 percent. And congrats to Bevan Dufty, who was reelected to the District 9 BART Board with 74 percent of the vote.

Our votes on the state propositions are as follows: Prop. 15 (changing tax rates for commercial and industrial properties) passed 79-21 percent (but lost statewide); Prop. 16 (reinstating affirmative action) passed 73-27 percent (but lost statewide). The same margin was in favor of the 17-year-old voting in primaries, Prop. 18 (passed statewide too); Prop 19 (changing certain property tax rules) won 62-38 percent, and narrowly passed statewide; Prop 21 (to allow local governments to establish rent control on residential properties over 15 years old) passed here 53-47 percent, but failed statewide; and surprisingly, Prop. 24 amending consumer privacy laws (allows consumers to prevent businesses from sharing personal information, and create a state agency to enforce it) failed in Noe Valley by a 42 yes, 58 no, but passed statewide 56 to 44 percent.

Of interest in our local propositions is Prop. G, which would have allowed 16-year-olds to vote in local elections. It passed in Noe Valley by a 53-47 percent margin but lost citywide with 49 percent yes and 51 no. Sorry, kids.

Closely watched in Noe Valley was Prop. H, which would simplify the planning code for neighborhood commercial districts (allowing a three-story movie theater), ease public notification for certain uses, and require an expedited permit process for certain others. It passed in Noe by a 53-47 margin and by 61-39 percent citywide.



JUST AN OLD SWEET SONG: Sam Faustine, a manager for Noe Valley-based Action SF, updated last month’s Rumors report on the group’s fundraising tally for key swing states (over \$112K), which must have been the bucks that put Biden over the hump.

Please see Faustine’s letter to the editor this month (page 5), where he says, “We are now focusing on the two crucially important



Oh Happy Day: Noe Valleyans celebrated on 24th Street Nov. 7, the day AP called the election for Joe Biden. Photo by Sally Smith

Senate races in Georgia. The Georgia Senate elections will determine control of the U.S. Senate.”

Big hopes are riding on that midnight train to Georgia.

I decided to check in with longtime Noe Valley resident and campaign manager/political pundit Eric Jaye as to what was key in this year’s election. His response was to the point: “Voter turnout! Around 160 million people voted in this year’s U.S. presidential election, and a good example is Noe Valley, which had the highest turnout ever.” Jaye was doing consulting for the Dems in Georgia and Arizona for this election cycle.

He thinks Trump could have won, but the factor that drove so many to the polls was Number 45’s “total lack of leadership in the Covid crisis. Voters were appalled by his overwhelming cruelty and incompetence.”



LEARNING CURVE: The numbers of Noe Valley kids attending in-school classes have dramatically increased. At Adda Klevenger School on the corner of 23rd and Fair Oaks (in the old St. James School built in 1906), 140 students are now enrolled with 30 teachers and staff. At St. Philip’s (Catholic) School at Elizabeth and Diamond, there are 216 enrolled and 18 teachers and staff. Both are K-8 grammar/middle schools.

Klevenger was one of the first schools to reopen in San Francisco. Kindergarten to second grade opened to classroom learning Sept. 28, third to fifth grades on Oct. 13, and sixth through eighth Oct. 26.

Said Principal Heike Harrison in late November, “We are feeling our way back to normal and strictly complying with all the San Francisco Public Health’s requirements and protocols, which our student families are all very committed to.”

She said this included screening each day with a “wellness questionnaire,” taking everyone’s temperature, making sure masks are worn, and washing hands. Physical distancing is maintained at all times in the classroom and out on the play yard, with “sneeze guards” at the desks. Everyone brings their own lunch and “no sharing.”

“We are in a unique situation of being a small school with plenty of room for staff and students,” said Harrison, “and wonderful parent closeness, and being well aware of the challenges in these times.”

I passed the schoolyard on one of my neighborhood walks going down Quane Alley to the west of the school grounds (a marvelous alley, by the way) and saw a middle-school group going through their exercises under a teacher’s supervision, all with bright eyes and seemingly happy spirits.

Thus far, Harrison reports zero problems with Covid in the school.

St. Philip’s principal, Mary McKeever, said their reopening had been free of problems, too. The K-2 students returned to classroom studies on Oct. 21, the 3-5 classes on Nov. 14, and 6-8 classes on Nov. 18.

Said McKeever a few days before Thanksgiving, “We spent our summer recreating the school scheduling, staffing, and building grounds and yards.

“We strictly adhere to all the San Francisco Health Department’s requirements and protocols for students, faculty, and staff. The parents do home screenings before

school, and the school does symptom checks and temperature testing, and staggered arrivals for classes and creating one-way hall traffic.

“We have created separate spaces in the play yard and roof, so classes don’t have to mix with each other,” McKeever said, “and each has a designated bench space in the yards to eat their lunch.”

She said parents have the option of letting their children attend school remotely via Zoom.



TWENTY-FOURTH STREET VIEW: Soon after the two storefronts at 3977 24th—one of which used to house Locksmith Central—became vacant in October, a new tenant called Art Haus moved in and opened for business. Art Haus is run by artist and art teacher Elizabeth Dekker.

“This has been a lifelong dream of mine: [to] teach art on my own while making art in my studio and selling it,” she says. “It was a good omen when, before I opened the doors, a shopper was looking in the window, knocked on the door and asked if the painting that I was putting up was for sale... Yes it was, and yes he bought it.”

A very enthusiastic Dekker said she had been at a charter art school in Sonoma for 16 years, and then moved to San Francisco and taught art at the Harvey Milk Recreational Center for six years. She has been painting professionally since 1990.

So now she will create art on site and display it on the walls for sale. Also, she currently has 12 students (some are in pods) who are attending classes during scheduled weekday hours, “and my goal once the pandemic ends is to have four to six students per class and have weekend art workshops for adults.”

By the way, the store next door, which was Ocean Front Walkers for many years, has a new tenant, eight-year Noe Valleon Luan Nguyen, who will open a shop featuring new and vintage clothing called “New Old Old 24.” Nguyen, who for the past 20 years has worked at Old Navy, says, “It will be a pleasure to have a business in this

neighborhood close to my home.” He says the opening date will be after he stocks the store and gets the necessary permits for the business.

Downtown Noe Valley also has a new men’s barbershop in the space at 4137A 24th St. recently vacated by barber Stephanie Smith, who decided to retire after 40 years and close her Of Barbers and Bears.

“I was very lucky to hear about the availability of this shop,” says Arvin Del Socorro, “and so I get to return to my favorite neighborhood in the city.” Opening the first week of November, he most recently was in a shop in the Castro and before that was a barber at Moe’s Barber & Beauty one block down at 4008 24th, where he worked for two years. His hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, “but I am willing to come in an hour earlier for those who need a special appointment.”



I AM SO SAD, as are so many, that Chloe’s, my favorite brunch place in the whole wide world will, by the time you read this, have closed its doors. (Nov. 28 was set to be its last day.) Chloe’s has been at the corner of Church and 26th for the past 33 years. Owners Melania Kang and Steven Baker made it a brunch destination. At press time, they wrote a letter saying goodbye to their customers and friends, which we’ll publish next issue. They said the business had been sold and new owners planned to open soon.

Just as I was about to write “That’s 30,” more sad news hit the editor’s desk: Cotton Basics owner Susan Ciochetto says her store’s 38-year run in Noe Valley, at the corner of 24th and Castro, is ending Dec. 31. Where will the populace go for T-shirts? Ciochetto stressed that her Cotton Basics in Oakland and Berkeley (and online) will remain open. Moving into the Noe Valley spot, she said, will be something completely different: a purveyor of wedding dresses.



THAT’S 30. Don’t worry, be happy. Joe Biden will be inaugurated Jan. 20. Ciao. ■



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Happy Holidays! We hope you and your families remain safe and healthy during this holiday season.

As a proud Noe Valley establishment with over 40 years in the neighborhood, we have donated over \$30,000 to local organizations including Jamestown, the Mosaic Project, the Access Institute, Felton Institutes, Lavendar Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC), and Friends of Noe Valley.

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