



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## On Staycation in SF? Find Beauty In Our Museums

There's Much to See Inside and Out: Art, Culture, and Sharks

By Heidi Anderson, Sally Smith, and Corrie M. Anders

With the world opening up and masks going down, a lot of Noe Valleyans are leaping onto planes for exotic spots or long overdue family reunions.

But right here in the city, those who opt for a staycation can find new worlds only a hike or a short ride away. Local museums are opening up and offering tours—of ancient Roman daily life, the dreams of muralist Diego Rivera, neighborhood queer history, or even life on a giant lily pad.

Here is a roundup, in no particular order, of museum adventures in San Francisco. Since you left your heart in Noe Valley, though, remember to come back home.

### San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Not ready to go indoors for too long? The San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park has 55 acres of both landscaped gardens and open spaces, with 8,000 different kinds of plants from all over the world.

There are three main gardens: the Mediterranean, with mostly native Californian plants; the Mild-Temperate, including plants from Australia and New Zealand (and a Japanese Moon-Viewing Garden); and a section showcasing plants from the Mesoamerican and Southeast Asian cloud forests.

You'll also find fragrance and perennials gardens, and a "Dry Mexico" collection.

The Bookstore and Plant Arbor are now open, offering books, gardening tools, and, of course, plants! But before you depart this urban oasis, follow the winding paths to the Coast Redwood



**Reflect on Art:** In March 2020, the Legion of Honor and most other museums in San Francisco were still, their doors closed while city residents cocooned at home. Now, they are open again and inviting us to step in. Photo by Gary Sexton, courtesy Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Grove, for a peaceful communion with trees planted in the 1880s.

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### Asian Art Museum

The Asian Art Museum features more than 18,000 artworks ranging from ancient jades and ceramics to contemporary video installations. Among its masterpieces are a pair of 1,200-year-old guardian deities from a Japanese Buddhist temple.

Currently, Bay Area artist Zheng Chongbin's shimmering installation *I Look for the Sky* is on view, as is *After Hope*, a show of 50 short "videos of resistance." Run, don't walk to the exhibit of art recovered from shipwrecks (it closes July 12).

Opening July 23 in a new pavilion at the museum is the exhibit *teamLab: Continuity*, where "you will find yourself immersed in a wondrous ecosystem of lush imagery drawn from nature and East Asian art that dynamically evolves around you."

On Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m., visitors are invited to a virtual event "Honoring Shellmounds," an artistic collaboration

with the Ohlone community. Later in the month (Aug. 27), 18th-century Korean portraiture will be on display.

True staycationers should take advantage of the free Takeout Tuesdays: Lunchtime Conversations About Art, where docents spotlight museum pieces via Zoom.

Don't miss the brightly colored mural viewable from Hyde Street by Jenifer

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## Two Restaurants And Their Special Ingredients

Firefly and Uma Casa Find Ways to Serve and Satisfy

By Nico Madrigal-Yankowski

One of the many joys of Noe Valley is eating at a restaurant with friends and family. Locals can do that more often now, as the Covid pandemic ebbs and the neighborhood's eateries return to a sense of normalcy.

While most of Noe's casual dining spots were able to nimbly adjust their routines to the special protocols required during the health crisis, some of the neighborhood's higher-end restaurants found it a bit more difficult to pivot their operations.

Nevertheless, many, including the venerable Firefly and stylish Uma Casa, managed to cook up pathways to survive their 15-month endurance test. Chef/owner Brad Levy of Firefly and Telmo Faria, chef/owner of Uma Casa,



**We'll Have Another!** Swift bar service has returned along with indoor dining, at Uma Casa, a Church Street restaurant specializing in Portuguese cuisine. Photo by Art Bodner



**Words of Rebuttal:** After an anti-semitic message was tacked to the door of the Gan Noe Preschool in May, the children created a peace mural. Photo courtesy Chabad of Noe Valley

## Noe Chabad Tightens Security

Jewish Center Shaken by Hateful Graffiti

By Corrie M. Anders

For two decades, Chabad of Noe Valley has operated a religious center in the neighborhood without incident. It has quietly conducted Shabbat services, educated preschool children, and hosted cultural activities.

But there's a different feel these days around the center on Cesar Chavez Street near Dolores Street. A professional security guard stands watch, Chabad volunteers keep vigil at the front entrance during services, and San Francisco police officers cruise by more

frequently than in the past.

The increased security comes after anti-Semitic graffiti was scrawled on the door to the center's Gan Noe Preschool. Teachers discovered the vandalism when they arrived shortly after 8 a.m. for classes on Friday, May 14. The words, written in black ink and misspelled, read: "Death to Israil" and "Israil Terror".

The incident left Chabad members stunned and worried, said Rabbi Gedalia Potash.

"I've never experienced anything like this in Noe Valley," Potash said. Teachers who saw the graffiti "were quite troubled by it."

Potash said he had no idea who would defile the grounds at Chabad Noe, an Orthodox synagogue that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

OPENSFHISTORY



4-1108 ~ 5-3-28 Grand View Ave. & Market St. at 23rd St.

**Conquering Hills.** Here's the view south on Grand View (Grandview) from 23rd Street showing a completed retaining wall and ramp to Upper Market Street. None of the near houses in this photo remain. The wall and ramp were demolished in the 1964 straightening of Upper Market. *Photo and information courtesy OpensFHHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

## NEWLY NOE NOTED

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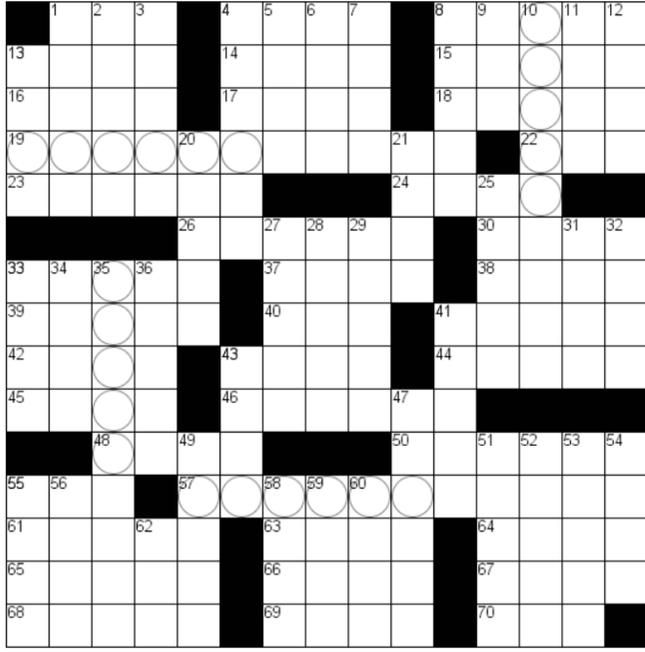
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**THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE**

*Same Name, Different Goods*

- ACROSS**
- 1. Ran into
  - 4. Nukes, as leftovers
  - 8. Small bites at Fresca
  - 13. Actor's part
  - 14. Soothing application
  - 15. First of 3 consecutive 5-letter U.S. President surnames
  - 16. Tiny amount
  - 17. Clue or Life
  - 18. Tenzing Norgay's nation
  - 19. Mail carriers' aerosol
  - 22. Superlative ending
  - 23. Shirt's arm cover
  - 24. "Let the Sunshine In" musical
  - 26. European peninsula
  - 30. Govt. agent
  - 33. Insurance giant
  - 37. "\_\_\_ got the Good News": old slogan in *Voice* ads
  - 38. Wacky, in Oaxaca
  - 39. Keats contemporary
  - 40. In addition
  - 41. Tom and Jerry, e.g.
  - 42. Ogle salaciously
  - 43. Egg, in Épernay
  - 44. Specialty of Noe Valley Bees
  - 45. Gouda alternative
  - 46. Many a smartphone photo
  - 48. Raised platform
  - 50. Like the tiled entrance to Billingsgate
  - 55. Paw's mate?
  - 57. Pastel-colored, nearly weightless treat
  - 61. "Good Night" girl of song
  - 63. Donated
  - 64. Design gallery on Sanchez
  - 65. Contract with a landlord
- DOWN**
- 1. Beck's on Market Street, e.g.
  - 2. Flee to wed
  - 3. Arizona college town
  - 4. Capital of Croatia
  - 5. "More's the pity"
  - 6. \_\_\_ and Circumstance
  - 7. Crystal ball consultant
  - 8. Skater Harding
  - 9. \$5 bill, slangily
  - 10. 1973 film starring two O'Neals
  - 11. Latin 101 word
  - 12. What may rim a glass at the Valley Tavern
  - 13. Does hip-hop
  - 20. Big name in bottled water
  - 21. "Gotcha!" cries
  - 25. Arctic dome home
  - 27. Cosmetics magnate \_\_\_ Lauder
  - 28. WWII diplomat \_\_\_ Wallenberg
  - 29. "Gotta run!"
  - 31. Teen's bane
  - 32. Like a busybody
  - 33. Skillful
  - 34. Spotted
  - 35. What may send you to Noe Valley Auto Works for new tires
  - 36. \_\_\_ Jeane Mortenson: Marilyn Monroe's birth name
  - 41. Fox drama set in southern California
  - 43. \_\_\_ buco: veal dish
  - 47. "Wait your turn!"
  - 49. Slurpee alternatives
  - 51. Capital of the Beaver State
  - 52. Cathode's counterpart
  - 53. Ran without moving
  - 54. Ink cartridge color
  - 55. Cannabis provider (once a clothing store) on 24th Street, whose unchanged name can follow this puzzle's circled words
  - 56. Real-estate measure
  - 58. "The weekend's almost here!"
  - 59. Not wild
  - 60. Like most horse-race tracks
  - 62. Agcy. headed by Paul Nakasone under both Trump and Biden



- 66. Big screen at the Metreon
  - 67. Paradise
  - 68. "\_\_\_ Theme" (*Doctor Zhivago* song)
  - 69. Mark \_\_\_, FBI agent who was Deep Throat
  - 70. Sweatshirt size: Abbr.
- Solution on Page 22**  
Find more Crosswords at [noevalleyvoice.com](http://noevalleyvoice.com)

**CRIME SNAPSHOT**

After a lull in April, crime in Noe Valley was on the rise again in May, according to the city's digital record of San Francisco Police Department incident reports. The data showed there were at least 100 incidents reported during the month, in the 10 crime categories the *Noe Valley Voice* follows (see table below). By far, the largest category was larceny/theft, crimes involving the theft of property, such as bicycles, tires, and batteries.

Thirty of the 36 theft incidents in May involved vehicle break-ins. The other six had to do with license plates or other auto parts stripped from vehicles.

Meanwhile, 19 cars, two trucks, and two motorcycles were reported stolen from Noe Valley streets. In May, only one of those vehicles had been listed as recovered, and it was found outside San Francisco.

Residents and merchants also reported 16 burglaries in May, at least eight of which occurred at homes. (Seven other incidents took place at unspecified "other" locations, and one was a burglary at a store at 28th and Noe streets.) See the SFPD's burglary crime-prevention video at <https://vimeo.com/477012071>.

The *Voice* gathered the numbers for this month's Crime Snapshot on June 17, 2021, from the digital "Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" online at [Data.sfgov.org](http://Data.sfgov.org). The map defines Noe Valley as an area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

As most residents know, Noe Valley straddles two police districts—Mission and Ingleside. To contact Mission Station Captain Rachel Moran, call (415) 558-5400 or email [rachel.moran@sfgov.org](mailto:rachel.moran@sfgov.org). Or if you live south of Cesar Chavez Street (the dividing line), call Ingleside Captain Nicole Jones at (415) 404-4000; her email is [nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org](mailto:nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org). In an emergency, call 911.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

**Noe Valley Incident Reports December 2020 – May 2021**

| Incident Reports     | Dec 2020   | Jan 2021   | Feb 2021   | Mar 2021  | Apr 2021  | May 2021   |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Larceny/Theft        | 45         | 33         | 27         | 29        | 24        | 36         |
| Burglary             | 30         | 36         | 54         | 17        | 11        | 16         |
| Malicious Mischief   | 8          | 13         | 13         | 11        | 5         | 7          |
| Motor Vehicle Theft  | 25         | 18         | 12         | 15        | 12        | 23         |
| Assault              | 4          | 4          | 4          | 2         | 1         | 4          |
| Robbery              | 7          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 2          |
| Other Miscellaneous  | 6          | 8          | 8          | 3         | 7         | 6          |
| Fraud                | 4          | 3          | 3          | 2         | 2         | 3          |
| Family Dom. Violence | 1          | 1          | 0          | 2         | 0         | 2          |
| Vandalism            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1         | 2         | 1          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>130</b> | <b>117</b> | <b>121</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783>. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting. Disclaimer: The SFPD does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications and updates are completed. *NVW June 17, 2021*

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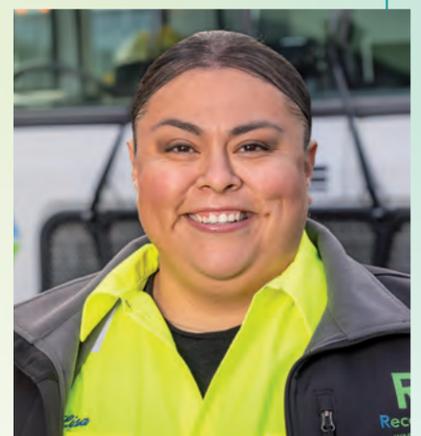
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# LETTERS 55¢

## Skyscrapers in Noe?

Editor:  
 Maybe it's not 10 stories, but for Noe, this is a skyscraper. (See photo, this page.)

This letter is intended to be a question for all of us in Noe Valley about what we'd like our neighborhood to be, and become.

This tall building has recently gone up on 24th Street. It isn't in the style or esthetic of Noe. There are Victorians next to this building, which is on the Shufat Market block of 24th Street between Vicksburg and Church. This is the view from my apartment on Elizabeth Street, one block from 24th. I worry about our neighborhood if buildings this high in height are now being approved. I also wonder if others are worried too. It's four stories higher than the highest building I see on 24th Street as far as I can look either way from out my window. It looks like a skyscraper in comparison to other buildings. The building from my side is very strangely windowless and created with a lack of any esthetics.

Although it's on 24th Street, which is commercial, it's also one block from the residential streets. Aren't there laws against something this high in a residential area? Are other readers aware of this building code change?

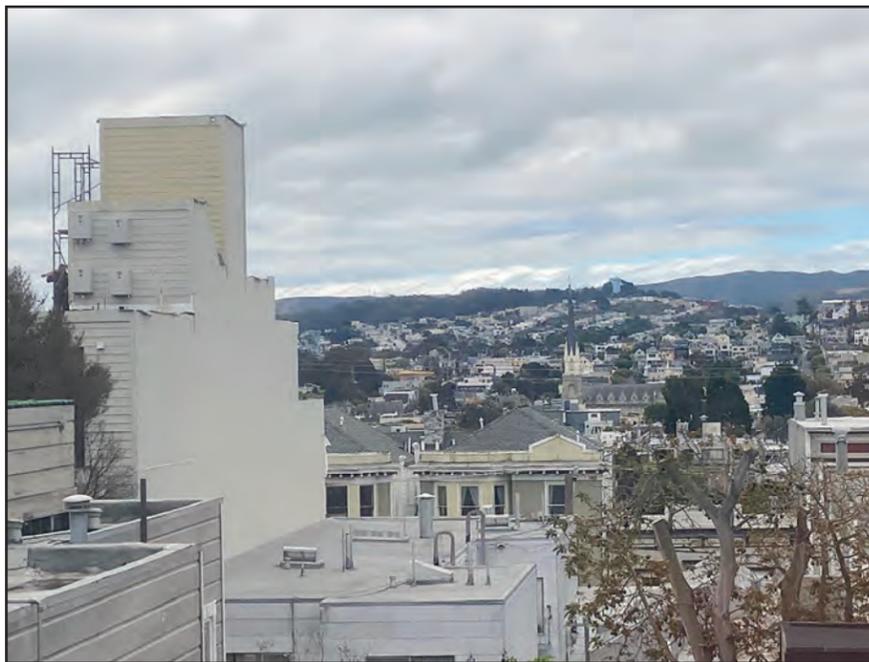
I have been in Noe for 25 years, and in this location for 16. I've seen the neighborhood slowly turn from retail to real estate agencies, mom and pop to mortgage companies, bistros to banks. And now from neighborhood stores to "skyscraper" condos.

I don't know exactly how and when this went through city planning, but I

encourage all of us to watch more carefully, including myself, when we get a mailed notice of a new building or zoning meeting. We could lose our sweet 24th Street and the intimacy of Noe Valley to a developer's feast.

Developers/contractors/investors who erect these buildings most likely don't live here. They potentially won't be invested in how their buildings affect those who make Noe our home as they calculate their potential and immense financial gain...all at the neighborhood's and residents' expense.

Suzanne Nason  
 Noe Valley resident



Elizabeth Street resident Suzanne Nason sends us this view of a building on 24th near Church (across from Shufat Market), which she fears is a harbinger of roof heights to come.

## Slow Down and Think

Editor:  
 Is something wrong with sidewalks? What is the goal of blocking off streets? Is there a problem they solve or a goal behind them? Perhaps during the pandemic they were useful as open spaces when there was nowhere else to go, but what is their purpose now?

It's a nice idea to imagine that standing on asphalt fosters community, but community isn't built with casual contact, but by long-term talks across backyard fences.

Frustrated drivers circling around and around the closed street, looking for parking in an already crowded area, are not spewing a sense of communal spirit around the neighborhood as much as radiating waves of anger. Overstuffed public garbage cans spilling out coffee cups and poo bags are bad enough, but people using households' garbage bins is generating resentment rather than convivial conversation.

Having Sanchez Street closed has radically increased traffic on other streets, so made those streets more dangerous. As cars circle three blocks around instead of going down one block, they jam up not just Noe and Church streets but every cross street as well. Muck about a car-free city is a concept that doesn't bear out in reality.

78% of San Franciscans own at least one car. Car ownership has risen during the pandemic, with car sales shooting up 51% from March to May. That doesn't even count ride shares.

There is already a large, clearly delineated, easy to maintain, safe space for walking: sidewalks. The sidewalks on Sanchez Street are 200 feet long and about 18 feet wide. That's a lot of room for a lot of people to meander. Sidewalks have never been crowded, have many trees and some pretty nifty fairy gardens for walkers to enjoy.

I am sure the MTA would prefer to focus on slow streets rather than the brain-damaged squirrel farm that is Muni/Metro or whatever dysfunctional street map app sends a team of eight to tear up each city street every 167 days

to install a speed bump or a new, wrong-sized track. Instead the MTA is doing what all political organizations do: framing the problems they create as a solution to an issue we didn't have.

Sidewalks do what a slow street does, only much, much better.  
 Mary McFadden

## Allies for Voting Rights

Editor:  
 This past month, I, along with other Noe and Castro residents, gathered in two neighbors' homes for our first in-person political organizing. It was great to be able to do that in person after 15 months of lockdown!

Together we wrote over 500 postcards, as part of a total of 1,500 our group has written, urging West Virginians to contact their U.S. Senator Joe Manchin urging him to support national legislation protecting voting rights for all eligible voters.

While he still opposes the "For the People Act" called S.1, he has just put forth a compromise measure that Georgia's Stacey Abrams, among others, supports. Fingers crossed!

We've also led an effort for Californians to contact our own Senator Dianne Feinstein, asking her to support S.1 and to do away with the filibuster if needed to enact President Biden's agenda. To join any of our activities, check us out at Action-SF.com or email us at ActionSFTeam@gmail.com.

Donna Di Meo  
 Castro resident and U.S. veteran

pre-pandemic ridership and train frequency. If this change becomes permanent, there are many ramifications for riders from Noe Valley:

—We would permanently need to transfer to get downtown, losing the direct service that helped make Noe attractive to many people who chose to live in our neighborhood.

—Transferring at Market Street to the underground requires crossing busy streets like Market Street, regardless of any surface improvements.

—There are additional impacts on seniors and people with disabilities: no escalators at Church/Market to the underground, and limited or no seating on the inbound subway for seniors/disabled because those seats are already occupied by people on cars from the Sunset.

Given the decreased ridership due to many people permanently working from home either full- or part-time, perhaps the SFMTA could reconsider and let some J streetcars into the subway, at least during off-peak hours when many seniors go downtown. Noe Valleyans should be prepared to weigh in on the SFMTA changes before they become permanent.

Kathy Setian  
 Sanchez Street

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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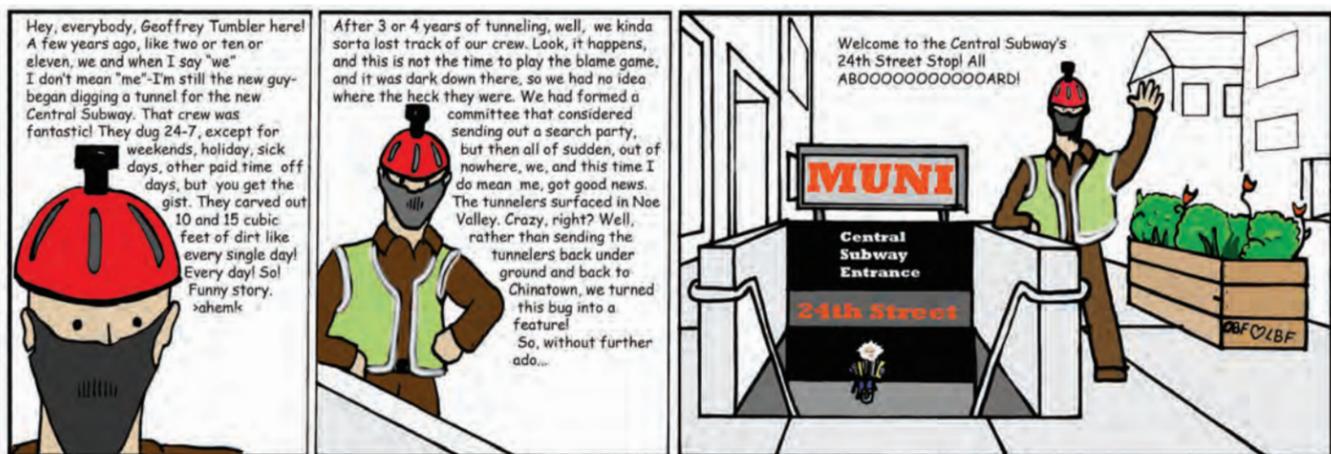
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## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN





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Heavy competition among buyers for both condos and single family homes, and a low inventory of property in the first half of 2021 created another seller's market. Most of San Francisco is vaccinated, companies are calling workers back to the office for most of the work week, and interest rates are still at record lows. Jessica Branson, as one of SF's top Realtors, adapted skillfully to selling during the pandemic, broke 2020 sales records, and continues to lead her clients to success with intelligence and professionalism.

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## Restaurants Show How to Be Resilient

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spoke with the *Voice* about how they and their staffs came through the pandemic and are welcoming customers back.

### Firefly: A Culinary Landmark

Located on a blustery block near the corner of 24th and Douglass streets, a bit off the beaten path from “downtown” Noe Valley, Firefly has been a dining destination for all San Franciscans, not just neighborhood residents, since 1993. Its menu of contemporary American fare relies on the fresh ingredients it locally sources.

Dishes like the braised beef short ribs, fresh rockfish and scallops, and fried heritage chicken—served with mashed potatoes and gravy, horseradish slaw, and self-proclaimed “damn fine buttermilk biscuits”—have been crowd favorites for years. But traditionally, they could be enjoyed only in the restaurant’s cozy dining room and bar, as Firefly didn’t offer to-go orders.

Thus, one of the main hurdles Levy and his small team of managers encountered after being ordered closed for indoor dining last March was the need to switch to takeout.

“We never did any takeout [prior to the pandemic]. Just as a rule. We didn’t believe our food translated well that way,” Levy explained. “Our entire business model, outside of really great food, is the way we take care of people and the relationships we build with our clientele.”

Besides that paradigm shift, the restaurant had to contend with another issue.

While most restaurants, hoping to salvage some business, were able to open again for takeout last summer, the Firefly team had to delay their takeout-model because of a seismic retrofit of their building, and it took longer than expected. But when they did start, Levy was proud of the way his team handled the change of service.

“It’s really hard to do that [great service] when you’re just handing a bag of food over a counter to someone with masks on. But that’s what we could do and so we put our heart into it, and I think we did some good things there,” he said.

Also top of mind were the health demands his staff faced.

“We’re cautious with our staff and don’t put them in harm’s way, both physically and emotionally, like having to deal with policing people’s health etiquette,” he said as he awaited the June 15 reopening, when the state was



Firefly offers seating in the parklet at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets, so diners can eat inside or out.

Photo by Art Bodner

lifting its mask mandate.

When Levy spoke with the *Voice*, he was still operating at a 75 percent indoor capacity limit, with some outdoor seating on Douglass in what the restaurant called its “little parquette” built onto the street.

No longer offering takeout at that time, Levy said he was taking a calculated approach to returning to full capacity. Still, he expressed optimism about what was to come.

“We’re determined to stick around,” Levy said. “We have great support from the community and that’s what allowed us to do it and what’s given us the motivation to go on.”

### Uma Casa Keeps Giving

Uma Casa, the Portuguese restaurant Faria opened four years ago at the corner of Church and Duncan streets, had its own unique way of surviving during the pandemic. Faria recounted that his team shifted to a takeout model almost immediately and was able to weather the stormy year by finding another route: donation cooking.

Within days of the shelter-in-place order, Faria had teamed up with SF New Deal, a non-profit organization that was birthed from the pandemic and which paid restaurants to feed neighbors in need. It had reached out to him about entering into a partnership, and by March 19 of last year, Uma Casa was delivering 150 hot meals to people in the community.

“I started promoting it [the to-go model] on social media right away,” said Faria, “and I had somebody reach out to me and say, ‘Hey, can you take 50 meals to frontline hospital workers?’ and I said sure!” He was excited to be helping in any way he could. “Sometimes the best ability is availability.”

Faria said he was thankful for the opportunity to get his foot in the door with the then-grassroots programs that were helping those in need.

“SF New Deal was that kind of a crucial lifeline for us in the fact that we got in with them in the early days and kept working with them throughout the pandemic,” he said.

Unlike other restaurateurs who erected outdoor dining platforms in parking spots fronting their locations, Faria ruled out doing so at Uma Casa. In the stretch of Church Street where he is located, between 27th and Valley streets, there are no stop signs, and Faria recalled seeing drivers barrel through the intersection.

He didn’t believe he could safely put a parklet in front of the marble-colored stone building with arched windows above 10-foot-tall glass doors. He also felt that outdoor dining wouldn’t really fit with the feng shui he had created in his restaurant or enable diners to enjoy his food the way he had envisioned.

“At Uma Casa, there’s a very intentional decor that fits the Portuguese concept and I just never really felt the

experience could translate to an outdoor setting,” said Faria, though he did later decide to put a few tables and chairs on the sidewalk adjacent to the front door of the restaurant.

Being able to quickly adapt to the circumstances, securing a federal loan through the PPP program for struggling businesses, and having a landlord who afforded some rent forgiveness, said Faria, all were crucial to the survival of Uma Casa. He also cited his loyal customers, who supported him by ordering dinner from Uma Casa several times a week.

The plates they returned for most often? The Frango Piri Piri, a halved chicken with semi-spicy piri piri aioli, and the seafood, like the Bacalhau a Gomes de Sa, a salt cod casserole, or the Arroz de Marisco, arborio rice in a tomato-saffron broth with fresh fish, clams, and shrimp.

“I’m super grateful to have been in Noe Valley during this time. We really had great neighbors,” Faria said. “We didn’t have people making a fuss about wearing masks, we just had a lot of really great people that genuinely cared about our well-being and supported the restaurant and gave us a lot of well wishes. It was great being part of a good community during that rough time.”

Reservations for Firefly can be made online at <https://www.fireflysf.com/>. To book a table at Uma Casa, visit <https://www.umacasarestaurant.com/>. ■



If you’re lucky enough to get a reservation, you can now enjoy a peaceful dinner inside Firefly, a homey restaurant known for its comfort food.



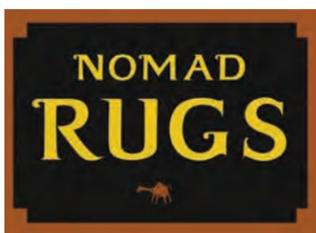
Uma Casa reopened its spacious dining room on Church Street in April, and the customers flooded in.

Photos by Art Bodner

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## Chabad House Increases Security After Incident

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

describes itself as “inclusive and non-judgmental. Our programs are open to all Jews.”

“Somebody must have been having a bad day,” he said. “Any citizen in their right mind would not want to cause such discomfort to decent people.”

Gan Noe’s 30 preschool children were not exposed to the hate message, which was covered before they arrived in the morning, the rabbi said. The students responded to the graffiti by putting up a hand-drawn, multicolored banner that bore a peace symbol and read, “Shabat Shalom” (Sabbath of Peace).

The incident came during an extremely violent exchange between Israel and Hamas (and other Palestinian-armed groups) in the Gaza Strip this spring. Nearly two weeks of rocket and missile attacks, causing the deaths of more than 200 people, ended in a May 21 ceasefire.

The Bay Area was the scene of both pro-Israel and pro-Palestine demonstrations during the conflict.

Potash said local officials and San Francisco police reacted quickly after the preschool vandalism.

“They definitely were very responsive and very supportive throughout this process,” Potash said. He particularly mentioned the efforts of District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and State Senator Scott Wiener.

“They were very proactive about

making sure we got the resources and support we needed,” he said.

David Burke, a civilian who works with the police department as public safety liaison for District 8, said Mandelman asked him to make sure that law enforcement was aware of the incident.

“I reached out” to the Mission and Ingleside police district commanders, Burke said. Police stepped up security and ordered patrol cars to pass by the Chabad more often, he said.

The police continue to investigate the incident. The FBI also was notified.

Potash said police told him they had made no arrests as of late June but were looking at “someone of interest.”

Potash said the anti-semitic message had the markings of a hate crime rather than typical graffiti vandalism.

“In the climate under which it took place,” he said, “it qualifies as a hate crime.”

Chabad of Noe Valley was established by Potash in 2000. He and his wife, Leah, and seven children welcomed Jews “of all stripes” to their Chabad House, which occupied several locations before the family, with the help of the community, was able to purchase the Cesar Chavez Street property in 2005. Five years later, after organizing a successful capital campaign, the synagogue acquired and renovated the school site next door.

The rabbi said the center would continue its mission of embracing tolerance and peace.

“We feel very confident that over all, this is a very safe place,” Potash said, “and people shouldn’t hesitate to go about their lives and be proud of who they are.” ■

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## A Mountain of Museum Adventures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

K. Wofford. It has names of Asian-American artists in comic-book bubbles, including the legendary Ruth Asawa.

200 Larkin St.

Thurs. 1-8 p.m.; Fri.-Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
(415) 581-3500; <https://asianart.org>  
\$10 to \$15

Free day: First Sunday of every month

### GLBT Historical Society Museum

Founded in 1985, the GLBT Historical Society Museum and Archives is recognized internationally as a leader in LGBTQ history. Located in a storefront near the corner of 18th and Castro, the museum spotlights items drawn from the 900 collections stored at its separate Archives and Research Center at 989 Market St.

On permanent display are documents, photos, and videos focusing on queer life in San Francisco. You can see works published by lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and personal items belonging to Harvey Milk (our former supervisor and California's first openly gay elected official), including the suit he was wearing the day he was assassinated.

The show installed for the museum's reopening during Pride month was "Performance, Protest & Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker." Baker was the activist and artist who with the help of friends stitched the iconic rainbow flag. Featured in the exhibit is part of one of the two eight-color flags he and others raised at the June 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade in Civic Center. The segment, lost for over 40 years, was recently found and donated to the GLBT Historical Society.



The GLBT Historical Society Museum on 18th Street is currently showcasing the works of Gilbert Baker, maker of the first rainbow flag. Photo by Sally Smith

Mark Sawchuk at the museum promises a unique experience, including "matchbooks and advertising from long-gone gay dive bars, scribbled protest chants in spiral notebooks belonging to AIDS activists, and even fabulous satin kimonos worn by a legendary drag performer."

Most important, says Sawchuk, "you'll bear witness to how LGBTQ people have made San Francisco the city that it is, from the earliest days of the Gold Rush to the drive for marriage equality."

4127 18th St. near Castro Street

Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6 to \$10; free to members and children under 12

(415) 621-1107

[www.glbthistory.org/museum](http://www.glbthistory.org/museum)

Free day: First Saturday; reserve ahead.



Joseph Wright's 1774 painting *Vesuvius from Portici* is part of the "Last Supper in Pompeii" exhibition at the Legion of Honor, running through Aug. 29.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

### Precita Eyes Muralists

Noe Valley residents have only to walk a few blocks to the Mission District to enjoy lots of outdoor art.

Stroll through the neighborhood and view dozens of murals created by local artists, many under the guidance of Precita Eyes Muralists, a community-based mural arts organization.

Pre-pandemic, the group provided public tours of the more than 100 works on walls, storefronts, and billboards. Now, they offer limited private tours or you can follow their self-guided tour.

Pick up a copy of the \$5 Mission Mural Map at Precita Eyes' home, 2981 24th St., or at its online bookstore. The map includes mural locations, title, date, and artists' names.

One outstanding example is *Once Upon a Time in the Mission District*, painted by Mission District teenagers, located on Shotwell Street at the corner of 24th Street.

Tours by reservation only.

[precitaeyes.org/tours](http://precitaeyes.org/tours)

2981 24th St.

(415) 285-2287

[www.precitaeyes.org](http://www.precitaeyes.org)

### The Legion of Honor

As the ash from an eruption of Mount Vesuvius began to rain down on Pompeii in AD 79, evidence shows the people of the city were engaged in their daily activities of eating and drinking. That meant that many household objects were suddenly preserved forever, as were their hapless owners.

Through Aug. 29, the 209-year-old Legion of Honor is exhibiting a trove of Roman tableware, furnishings, and other items that might have been part of a "Last Supper in Pompeii: From the Table to the Grave."

According to Renée Dreyfus, distinguished curator at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, "the objects not only capture our imagina-

tion but also [inform] us of the glory that once was Rome."

Pompeii was rich in erotica too, with statues, frescoes, and mosaics decorated in explicit imagery. You'll find some here in the "Naughty Art" gallery. Parental discretion is advised.

Outside (and indoors as well) is a striking exhibit of sculpture by Nairobi/New York artist Wangechi Mutu. It's a group of bronze figures that appear to be part-animal, part-human, and part-alien, on display through Nov. 7. You can't miss them—they surround Rodin's *Thinker* in the Legion's courtyard.

Did you know? The Legion (well, the Fine Arts Museums) has a collection of 167 film negatives by photographer Arnold Genthe, chronicling the 1906 earthquake and fires. Most are preserved in a deep freeze, but you can see samples online and at the museum.

Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave.

Tues.-Sun., 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

(415) 750-3600

Free to \$15; please wear masks.

<https://legionofhonor.famsf.org>

Free day: First Tuesday

(Bay Area residents receive free entry on Saturdays with advance reservation online and proof of residency.)

### The Tenderloin Museum

A neighborhood that continues to struggle, the Tenderloin often makes headlines for issues related to drugs or homelessness. But the Tenderloin Museum, opened in 2015, promotes a much longer, more diverse history by highlighting the neighborhood's artistic, cultural, and charitable vibrancy.

The gallery space features vintage photos, films, and artifacts left by its residents over the years—immigrants, office workers, bartenders, musicians, actors, dancers, techies, and sex workers. It also hosts art shows, such as the recent "Tenderloin Trolls and Potholes"



Precita Eyes Muralists offer tours of murals, like this 2015 street art at 24th and Folsom titled *Present! A Tribute to the Mission Community*.

Photo courtesy Precita Eyes Muralists

and the upcoming "Hear Me Out," with portraits by Deirdre Weinberg (reception July 8, 5:30 p.m.).

If you take the walking tour led by resident jazz singer Pam Coates, you'll see "the residential hotels where legendary boxers Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and Sugar Ray Robinson sparred; the streets where trans-led uprisings took place in resistance to police brutality; and the recording studios and jazz clubs where the Grateful Dead and Miles Davis produced iconic albums."

According to the museum, there are more than 400 buildings in the Tenderloin listed on the National Register of Historic Places, many of them hotels built for visitors to the city's 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.

It's best to reserve tickets for the walking tour. It's popular.

398 Eddy St. at Leavenworth

Tues.-Sun. 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

\$6 to \$10; \$15 includes museum and walking tour

(415) 351-1912

[www.tenderloinmuseum.org](http://www.tenderloinmuseum.org)



In these arid times, we all need to relax in a rainforest. Why not visit or volunteer at the Conservatory of Flowers? Photo by Drew Bird

### California Conservatory of Flowers

The California Conservatory of Flowers, a majestic Victorian greenhouse erected in Golden Gate Park in 1879, is a museum devoted to cultivating rare and unusual plants and to bringing awareness of the need to preserve them for the future.

According to Sarah Sawtelle, manager of engagement, this is a good time to visit. "We have lots of flowers in bloom, and it's the season to see the iconic Victoria Giant Water Lilies."

You also can ponder the Bat Flower, found in the potted plant gallery. Local botanists are debating what the flower uses its long whiskers for.

Because space is limited in this rainforest garden, be sure to bring your mask.

100 John F. Kennedy Drive

Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Free to \$12 (discount to SF residents with proof of residency)

[www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org)

Free day: First Tuesday

### The California Academy of Sciences

The Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park is a delight for kids. Grown-ups too.

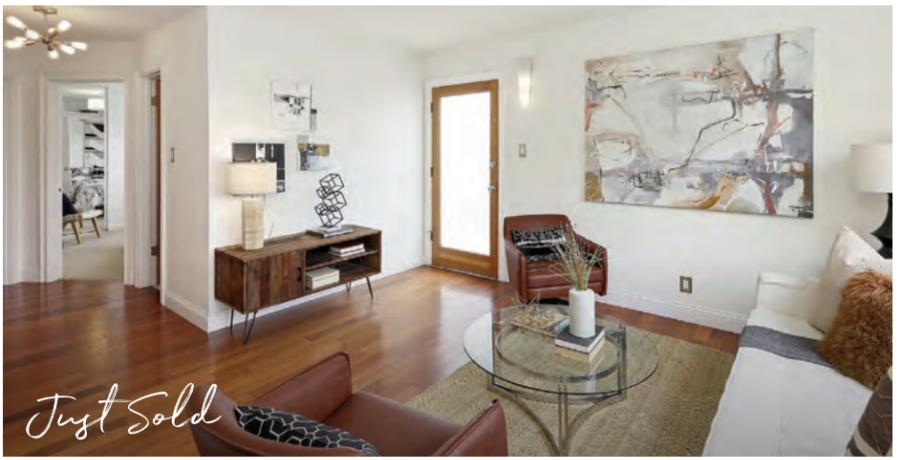
The sprawling complex is the home of 40,000 live animals, a forest of dripping trees, a new shark tank, and enough fear and fascination to keep you hooked all day long.

The place is an aquarium, planetarium, rainforest, and natural history

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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## Discover New Worlds in Local Museums

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

museum all in one.

At the Steinhart Aquarium, you'll find yourself in a world of underwater creatures and terrestrial habitats, including a haven for venomous animal species, from assassin bugs to scorpion fish.

The big draw, though, is the "Sharks" exhibit (open till Jan. 23). Besides real sharks, it has more than a dozen full-scale shark models—from hammerheads to bull sharks. You can also see and hear tales of human-shark encounters.

Always fun is the four-story Osher Rainforest, a tropical paradise with 1,600-plus live plants and animals. Perhaps better than *Star Wars* is the Morrison Planetarium, housed under a 75-foot dome. There you can view the cosmos—from our own Milky Way galaxy to the farthest reaches of the universe.

Nightlife, one of the Academy's most popular attractions, is back in action. On Thursdays, July 8, 15 and 22, adults 21 and up can enjoy cocktails, music from live DJs, and ambient lighting. *55 Music Concourse Drive (Golden Gate Park)*

Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$38-\$43.75

(415) 379-8000

[www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)

Free day: Select Sundays.

Reservations and masks required

### Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD)

In this era of race awareness and activism, the Museum of the African Diaspora offers tons of art, history, and cultural richness to explore. Founded in 2005, it has a full calendar of exhibitions and events online, including a Forum on Art, Joy, and Rage coming up on July 20. However, the museum is waiting till the fall to reopen completely, in an abundance of Covid caution.

Meanwhile, MoAD is co-presenting a new installation in Golden Gate Park, one that stands as a sculptural reminder of the scourge of slavery. The work, by news anchor turned artist Dana King, is located in the Music Concourse and encircles the spot long occupied by a statue of Francis Scott Key, a slaveholder better known as the man who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner." (Protesters knocked down the Key stat-



Hammerhead sharks are among the friendly predators you'll find at the Academy of Sciences. Fish feedings at the Steinhart Aquarium are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Photo courtesy California Academy of Sciences

ue in June of last year.)

Titled *Monumental Reckoning*, King's sculpture is actually 350 figures, each representing a human kidnapped from Africa and taken to the new world in 1619 aboard the slave ship San Juan Bautista.

Representatives of MoAD and Mayor London Breed, among other dignitaries, attended the unveiling of *Monumental Reckoning* last month. The artwork will be on display through June 2023.

*Museum of the African Diaspora*  
685 Mission St.

(415) 358-7200

<https://www.moadsf.org>

### The de Young Museum

This museum, founded as the Memorial Museum in 1895 but later renamed for its main sponsor, journalist Michael H. de Young, has been a destination for millions of residents and visitors for more than a century. It has 800 European paintings from the 14th to early 20th centuries as well as large collections of American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Besides that, there is art from Africa, Oceania, and other Americas; costume and textile arts; and international modern and contemporary art.

Opening July 17 is an exhibition of paintings by Chinese-born artist Hung Liu. Liu, who was raised under the Maoist regime before immigrating with her family to the United States, uses archival images and a Socialist Realist style to focus on themes related to wandering and displaced people, according to the museum.

Also on July 17, 10 Bay Area artisans will be offering handmade jewelry, pottery, and apparel at the museum's first Summer Artisan Fair. It will take place in the outdoor sculpture garden from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Later in the summer (Aug. 28), the museum will present "Judy Chicago: A Retrospective," featuring 150 works by the ground-breaking (plate-breaking?) feminist and creator of *The Dinner Party* (1981). The show will coincide with the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

Any trip to the de Young deserves a ride in the elevator to the top of the Hamon Observation Tower. The view of the city, from downtown to the beach, is spectacular.

*50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive (Golden Gate Park)*

Tues.-Sun. 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Free to \$15 (reserve online)

(415) 750-3600

<https://deyoung.famsf.org>

Free day: First Tuesday of every month

(Bay Area residents receive free admission on Saturdays with advance reservation and proof of residency.)

### The Contemporary Jewish Museum

This summer, the Contemporary Jewish Museum on Mission Street pays homage to two icons—prolific composer Leonard Cohen, who brought us the ethereal "Hallelujah," and Bavarian Jewish immigrant and Gold Rush entrepreneur Levi Strauss, who brought us blue jeans, hallelujah.

"Levi Strauss: A History of American Style," running through Aug. 8, displays 250 items culled from the Levi Strauss & Co.'s San Francisco archives.

They include a suit owned by Lauren Bacall, a never-before-exhibited jacket worn by Albert Einstein, and an AMC Gremlin with an interior upholstered completely in denim.

Noe Valleyans might want to attend "A Lifetime of Levi's," a July 16 noon-time talk on the impact of denim on San Francisco fashion. The special guest will be Dorothy "Polka Dot" Quock, whose mother worked for years at the Levi's factory at 14th and Valencia.

The tribute to Cohen, whose music and "words gave voice to the human condition, in all of its grace and imperfection," starts Aug. 5 with a series of solo exhibitions presenting intimate artworks by contemporary artists George Fok, Judy Chicago, Candice Breitz, and Marshall Trammell.

On digital display through Dec. 5 is a free video exhibit, "GOLEM: A Call to Action," which draws on Jewish allegory, folklore, and spiritual practice to confront societal and ecological disasters. It's by Los Angeles-based artist Julie Weitz and consists of three video works: *Golem v. Golem*, *My Golem as a Wildland Firefighter*, and *Prayer for Burnt Forests*. In Yiddish folktales, a golem is a helper, companion, or rescuer of an imperiled Jewish community.

For these and other exhibits, reservations online for timed tickets are strongly encouraged.

*736 Mission St.*

Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free to \$16

(415) 655-7800; [www.thecjm.org](http://www.thecjm.org)

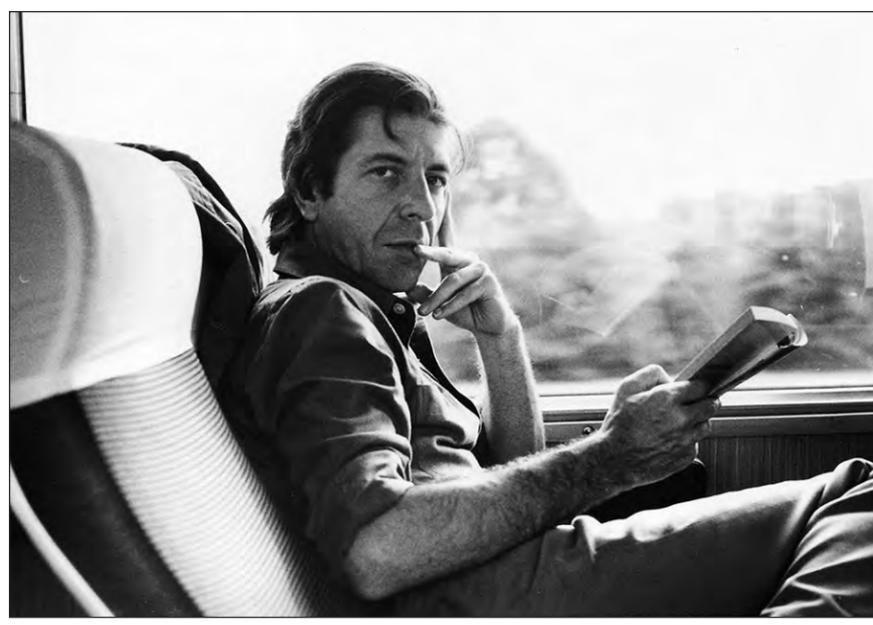
Free day: First Tuesday of every month

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Artist Dana King's work *Monumental Reckoning*, a testament to the shame and sadness of slavery, was installed on the eve of Juneteenth in the Music Concourse across from the de Young Museum.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders



From Aug 5, 2021, to Feb 13, 2022, the Contemporary Jewish Museum on Mission Street will be presenting four exhibitions of work inspired by the words and music of Canadian composer Leonard Cohen.

Photo courtesy Old Ideas LLC

# Art to Enthrall And Transform Us

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

## San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the United States and a well-known cultural center for the Bay Area.

On exhibit through Sept. 5 is “Close to Home: Creativity in Crisis,” works by seven local artists that look at the Covid-19 pandemic and the unfolding crises of 2020. Displayed across three floors of the museum, the works “reveal the far-reaching impact of these events on Bay Area communities.”

You can also view the more than 200 works in the first West Coast retrospective of work by Nam June Paik (1932-2006), a “visionary experimental artist who bridged art, music, performance, and technology.” That show runs through Oct. 3.

The seventh floor is devoted to “Future Histories,” video works by Theaster Gates and Cauleen Smith that create Black madonnas and feminist

utopias out of images from old *Ebony*, *Jet*, and *Life* magazines (through July 18). There also are exhibits of works by Charles Gaines, American abstract artists, German art after 1960, and pop, minimal, and figurative art from the '60s on.

Most dramatic of all is a 10-panel fresco by Mexican artist Diego Rivera called *Pan American Unity*. It was first painted for the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. Painstakingly moved in June from its home in the lobby of the theater at City College, the 30-ton mural will be displayed at SFMOMA until sometime in 2023 and then returned to the college. You can see it now in a first-floor free gallery. The fresco is part of a larger exhibition, “Diego Rivera’s America,” that is set to open in 2022.

Timed tickets are required for the major shows, so reserve them online.

151 Third St. at Mission

Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs. 1-8 p.m.

Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free to \$25

(415) 357-4000

[www.sfmoma.org](http://www.sfmoma.org)

Free day: First Thurs., 4-8 p.m.

Free family day: Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

## The Exploratorium

The Exploratorium, founded in 1969 and relocated to the Embarcadero in 2013, offers a way to learn about art and science while enjoying hundreds of explore-for-yourself exhibits.

This non-profit museum is best known for play. As its promo says, you can dance with your own shadow, levitate, touch a tornado, and even stop time.

The Living Systems area will captivate you for hours with its challenges to compare identical twins, touch sensitive plants, or see how live zebrafish embryos’ blood circulates.

A Tinkering Gallery has an oscylinderscope that plays music and a toothpick replica of the city of San Francisco which artist Scott Weaver has been building since 1974.

July 1 to Oct. 10, you can immerse yourself in the “Sensor Fusion” exhibit and learn how an autonomous car figures out how to see around you.

In the outdoor gallery, you might want to ride the bike rope squirter, walk in a distorted room, or lower rings into the Bay and watch how far you can see them through the water.

The museum has regular Storytime Science for Kids, a short-film series called “Something Wonderful,” and After Dark events on Thursdays. And then there’s the Seismic Joint Café and

the Seaglass Restaurant. The only way to do everything is to become a member!

Pier 15, The Embarcadero

Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sun. noon-5 p.m.

Thurs. 6 to 10 p.m. (ages 18+)

\$20-\$30; 3 and under free

(415) 528-4444; [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

Free day: Four to five times a year (check website)

## And There’s More

These museums were not fully open in June, but are worth checking out online.

### Randall Museum

The Randall, located in Corona Heights Park, is a free science and nature museum known for its live animal exhibits, nature walks, and field trips. The website has loads of fun activities for kids. Summer camp spots may open up, so keep an eye on this favorite sanctuary for Noe Valley families and kids.

199 Museum Way

(415) 554-9600

<https://randallmuseum.org>

### El Museo Mexicano or the Mexican Museum

El Museo Mexicano exhibits works by and about the Latino, Chicano, Mexican, and Mexican-American people. With its space at Fort Mason Center permanently closed, the museum has been waiting for several years to move into the ground-floor space of a newly erected building at 706 Mission St. with frontage onto Yerba Buena Gardens. The pandemic put the project on hold. Check Facebook or the website for the latest.

706 Mission St.

(415) 202-9700

<https://www.mexicanmuseum.org>

### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

This is a museum with a focus on cultural activism and public art, theater, and dance. With the city, YBCA has launched the San Francisco Creative Corps, a program paying artists to serve in local communities during and after the health crisis. The center also lent its support to the mural *Tend Your Orchard* by Cece Carpio and Miguel “Bounce” Perez, which will appear through mid-July on Mission Street between Third and Fourth streets.

701 Mission St.

(415) 978-2700

<https://ybca.org/>



Rodin’s *Thinker* ponders sculptures *Shavasana I and II* by artist Wangechi Mutu in the Legion Court of Honor. Mutu told the *Chronicle* these works were inspired by the murder of Nia Wilson at an Oakland BART station in 2018. Photo by Gary Sexton courtesy the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

### Galería de la Raza

Despite its long tradition of exhibiting Chicano/Latino arts on 24th Street, this gallery had been forced to move to a temporary location on Valencia Street in 2018. Two years later, as the pandemic descended, it was vying to move to a new site in the heart of the Mission. Then lockdown happened. In June 2021, Galería de la Raza in partnership with Horizons Unlimited was asking artists to participate in a public health campaign centering on youth vaccinations. All power to them.

1470 Valencia St.

(415) 826-8009

[www.Galeriadelara.org](http://www.Galeriadelara.org)

### Don’t Forget the Ferris Wheel

The SkyStar Observation Wheel in the Music Concourse is offering stunning views of the city. The ferris wheel has 36 gondolas, each holding up to six people, that soar 150 feet above Golden Gate Park (in celebration of the park’s 150th birthday).

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Inked silk paintings such as this *Portrait of Oh Myeonghang, 1728-1800*, are so intricate they deserve close-up viewing at the Asian Art Museum on Larkin Street. This one is from the Hyeju Oh Family Collection on loan from the Gyeonggi Provincial Museum in Yongin-sin, South Korea.

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# TEEN TALK

## On the Road to Getting My License

By Astrid Utting

**M**y mom was at the Department of Motor Vehicles the minute it opened on her 16th birthday, excited to get her keys to freedom. I signed up for an online driver's education course a week after my 16th birthday in May.

While it's no secret San Francisco's public transportation isn't the most efficient in the world, its existence means that many San Francisco youth can get by without a car. The fact that San Francisco is such a small and walkable city also helps.

Living in Noe Valley, I can head downtown by hopping on the J train at the bottom of my hill. And with 24th Street only a few blocks away, I don't need a car to find something fun to do. I am not tied down by my lack of a driver's license, but at the same time having one would make life easier.

To me, driving would mean the ability to meet up with friends more easily, to go anywhere in the city, and maybe even to drive to school. It would give me independence from my parents and the opportunity to take on more responsibility.

Sixteen-year-old Dante Falzone, who already has his learner's permit, plans to use his driving powers for good. "I

believe that having a driver's license will give me a lot of freedom but will also be a way to help my family with errands or things like that," he says.

Noe Valley resident Audrey Carpenter, 18, who got her license in March, is enjoying her newfound liberty. She just got back from a camping trip with friends and will be going on a road trip later this summer. She says neither would have been possible without her license.

The truth is, we kids see a driver's license as our ticket to freedom. Parents see their teen's driver's license as a new opportunity for us to run their errands.

The other day I was talking about all the fun things I could do when I'm able to drive. My mom got excited, "Oooh, and you can drive to Target and get toilet paper! Or pick up your sister from school. Or return your own packages! Keep working on getting that license," she said. "This is going to be great!" Hmmm...

Eighteen-year-old Fionnuala Eastwood, who has her learner's permit, has hit this same speed bump.

"My mom thinks that I will be driving my sisters to school every morning. That is debatable," Fionnuala says.

Audrey feels her mother is worried about a rash of new parking tickets, insurance bills, and meter fees. But Audrey holds fast to her vision of "road trips with friends and long adventures with loud music."

For Audrey and Fionnuala, driving in Noe Valley has been a unique experience.

Audrey says she always sees some-

**The truth is, we kids see a driver's license as our ticket to freedom. Parents see their teen's driver's license as a new opportunity for us to run their errands.**

one she knows when she is driving in the neighborhood—often her mom walking the dog!

Fionnuala, on the other hand, "crashed into a local tree on one of the first days of driving. I have passed the tree frequently since, and am pleased to report it is recovering and looking healthy."

Before I can crash into any trees, I have to continue my driver's ed course, which I'm more than halfway through and currently avoiding. So far, I've learned different signs and road markings and the inner workings of a car, and I've watched an hour's worth of super depressing videos about car

crashes (don't text and drive!).

Over all, I'm learning how to be a good, safe driver. But my first thought in the class? Wow, my parents have not been the best example.

**T**o be fair, and not get my parents in trouble, both my parents are very good drivers. To be really fair, my dad is a better driver than my mom. To be really really fair, my mom is a better person, a better cook, more charming... (My mom is looking over my shoulder as I write this.)

But when we're in the car, I keep noticing little things my mom does occasionally, like not keeping two hands on the steering wheel. Each time I see this, the car crash videos flash through my mind and I feel compelled to give her a gentle reminder such as "HANDS ON THE WHEEL!"

Audrey had a similar awakening: "It wasn't until I started driving and paying attention to the rules of the road that I realized how many rules—turn signals,

coming to a complete stop, seatbelts, speed limits, the list goes on—that adults ignore!"

In my mom's defense, she was often distracted when I was little by kids bickering or asking her to hand back chips, pretzels, or apples, and by sticky fingers that couldn't resist rolling the windows up and down for fun. Kids are dangerous!

Regardless of online driver's ed, a future of running errands, tickets, uprooted trees, and the distracting charm of my mother (again, reading over my shoulder), driving is an exciting rite of passage. Even a sentimental one. I remember how giddy I was to be old enough and tall enough to move from the back to sit in the front seat of the car. Soon I'll be the person driving the car.

For Dante and many other teen drivers, driving is about growing up.

"Learning how to drive has made me realize that I do not have much time living with my family. I am not the kid I once was," he reflects.

Is that why so many kids in San Francisco don't drive? We don't want to grow up?

My mom swears that each visit to the DMV has taken years from her life. Maybe there's a lesson here...

Seriously though, I can't wait. ■

**A**strid Utting, 16, lives with her family at Duncan and Sanchez streets. As a regular contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*, she reports on what local teens are thinking and talking about. If you have ideas to suggest, write to her at [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com).



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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## In the Heights, Of Luxury

By Corrie M. Anders

The home-buying fervor that swept through Noe Valley in March and April continued unabated in May, as residential shoppers snatched up everything from humble flats to towering McMansions.

Sixteen single-family detached homes sold in May, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco. It was the third consecutive month that buyers had purchased that many houses in the neighborhood.

Also closing escrow were 13 condo-



This three-year-old contemporary home on Duncan Street sold in May for \$6.7 million. The main attraction was 5,165 square feet of light-filled living space.

miniums, four more than in April (but a couple fewer than in March).

A sizable number of small apartment buildings changed hands as well. Buyers picked up keys to seven two- to four-unit buildings—most of them two-flat properties considered ideal for co-ownership.

### We Need Space

The flurry of activity was not unexpected. “It’s a bustling spring,” said Corcoran President Randall Kostick, one that was generated by “pent-up demand” from shoppers long hindered by pandemic worries.

“Everything is opening up,” said Kostick. “Mortgage interest rates are low and the stock market has gone up, and there is more down-payment money. It all combined to get us to where we are.”

Kostick noted that luxury homes—those priced above \$3 million—were “solid” in Noe Valley, meaning their popularity remained high.

“What you get for \$4 million or \$5 million in Noe Valley is a pretty big house,” he said. “If you went to Pacific



Buyers paid \$2,225,000 for this three-bedroom, four-bath townhome condominium on Sanchez Street. The price included a private back yard and one-car parking. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

| Total Sales                   | No. | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Avg. Days on Market | Sale Price as % of List Price |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Single-family</b>          |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| May 2021                      | 16  | \$1,650,000    | \$6,700,000     | \$3,388,125        | 22                  | 108%                          |
| April 2021                    | 16  | \$1,880,000    | \$6,625,000     | \$3,406,938        | 27                  | 103%                          |
| May 2020                      | 4   | \$1,900,000    | \$4,500,000     | \$2,693,750        | 13                  | 107%                          |
| <b>Condominiums</b>           |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| May 2021                      | 13  | \$1,075,000    | \$2,225,000     | \$1,658,385        | 10                  | 111%                          |
| April 2021                    | 9   | \$940,000      | \$2,250,000     | \$1,591,538        | 17                  | 109%                          |
| May 2020                      | 3   | \$925,000      | \$1,565,000     | \$1,348,333        | 75                  | 100%                          |
| <b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b> |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| May 2021                      | 7   | \$1,365,000    | \$6,000,000     | \$2,725,571        | 63                  | 108%                          |
| April 2021                    | 4   | \$1,700,000    | \$2,280,000     | \$2,013,750        | 32                  | 98%                           |
| May 2020                      | 2   | \$2,225,000    | \$2,800,000     | \$2,512,500        | 78                  | 98%                           |
| <b>5+-unit buildings</b>      |     |                |                 |                    |                     |                               |
| May 2021                      | 0   | —              | —               | —                  | —                   | —                             |
| April 2021                    | 2   | \$2,400,000    | \$3,500,000     | \$2,950,000        | 205                 | 90%                           |
| May 2020                      | 2   | \$2,225,000    | \$2,800,000     | \$2,512,500        | 78                  | 98%                           |

\*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley 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. NVV7/2021

Heights, you aren’t going to get that kind of size for that kind of money.”

The top-selling home in Noe Valley in May, located in the 600 block of Duncan Street between Castro and Diamond streets, did have a lot of bang for its buck. The contemporary residence—which sold for \$6.7 million, \$100,000 more than the seller’s asking price—offered four bedrooms, five baths, and 5,165 square feet of living space on five levels.

Built in 2018 (and selling originally for \$6.6 million), the property also featured floor-to-ceiling glass walls, a gourmet kitchen, a family-media room with wet bar, a patio, a rooftop deck with panoramic views, and a wine cellar. The house was equipped with an elevator and a three-car garage with an EV-charging station.

By comparison, a four-bedroom, 4.5-bath house on Scott Street in Pacific Heights with 3,071 square feet of living space was listed in June for \$5,590,000. That translates to \$1,820 per square foot on Scott, and a mere \$1,278 per square foot on Duncan—a bargain.

### Go to the Mat for a Flat

Condo shoppers found themselves engaged in bidding wars in May. On average they paid 111 percent of what sellers were asking, considerably more than their counterparts a year earlier.

The 13 sales represented the highest total for the month of May in the past

three years, according to Kostick, who observed that condos should be considered an affordable alternative to detached homes.

That’s not to say that Noe Valley condos are inexpensive. The average price of an attached unit in May was nearly \$1.7 million, and the most expensive was a Sanchez Street dwelling that sold for \$2,225,000.

The luxury residence proved so attractive the buyer was willing to pay 11.5 percent over asking for the home, located in the 1200 block of Sanchez between 25th and Clipper streets.

Built in 2012, the house-like condominium had three bedrooms and four bathrooms in 1,750 square feet of living space. Amenities included a chef’s kitchen showcasing CaesarStone counters with waterfall edges, a built-in surround-sound system, a private back patio, and one-car parking.

Enthusiasm for Noe Valley real estate also led buyers to purchase seven two- to four-unit apartment buildings.

Five of the buildings had just two units (or flats)—a favorite of buyers who want to share ownership as tenants in common (TICs).

These kinds of buildings usually cost less (per unit) than either houses or condos. However, one, a renovated Victorian, sold for \$6 million, or \$3 million per flat. The property was located in the 500 block of Alvarado Street between Castro and Noe streets. ■

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

| Unit    | No. in Sample | Range June 2021    | Average June 2021 | Average May 2021 | Average June 2020 |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Studio  | 18            | \$1,595 - \$2,900  | \$2,001 / mo.     | \$1,882 / mo.    | \$2,292 / mo.     |
| 1-bdrm  | 79            | \$1,795 - \$5,950  | \$2,713 / mo.     | \$2,714 / mo.    | \$3,099 / mo.     |
| 2-bdrm  | 49            | \$2,200 - \$6,250  | \$3,560 / mo.     | \$3,491 / mo.    | \$4,125 / mo.     |
| 3-bdrm  | 17            | \$3,595 - \$11,000 | \$5,571 / mo.     | \$5,183 / mo.    | \$6,118 / mo.     |
| 4+-bdrm | 17            | \$3,995 - \$21,500 | \$8,123 / mo.     | \$7,418 / mo.    | \$8,840 / mo.     |

\*\*This survey is based on a sample of 180 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from June 1 to 8, 2021. In June 2020, there were 143 listings. NVV7/2021



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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature spotlighting new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a shop some children may enjoy as much as the play area in the nearby Town Square.

**FLEXA**  
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<https://flexa-usa.com/>

Kids of all ages are welcome to try out the whimsical and colorful bedroom furnishings at a new showroom in Noe Valley: the fourth Bay Area location of Flexa, a Danish company with a 49-year-old pedigree. On display are four versions of the firm's "interior solutions" for children, as Flexa refers to its designs.

Three are traditional bedroom sets that show how the company's beds can be reconfigured as children get older. One, featuring a safari animal motif, is a mid-high bed with a ladder on one side and a slide on the other and storage space hidden behind decorated curtains.

Another is a classic bunk bed to be shared by siblings. Yet another is an example from Flexa's Popsicle line, where corners are rounded popsicles. The fourth is one of the company's white little house beds. It resembles a garden shed or treehouse but is made for indoor use.

"The beauty of our product is you never have to throw out that bed. It is like Lego. You rebuild it and reconfigure it for your child's needs and make it age-appropriate," said Caroline Krogh-Jensen, who began working with Flexa in 2018 to bring the company's children's furnishings to the United States.

She and her husband, Soren, have both been selling Danish furniture for years. He entered the business 25 years ago with the company BoConcept, founded in Denmark in 1952. Fifteen years ago, the couple launched the first outlet of the adult furniture maker in the Bay Area.

A colleague from BoConcept who had left to join Flexa urged Krogh-Jensen to consider becoming a franchisee. She and her husband had already spent time looking for furniture for their own daughter, Scarlett, and fielding questions from parents who wanted to find modern furnishings like BoConcept's for their children.

"We are adult retail sellers, and so many clients need matching furniture



Caroline Krogh-Jensen and daughter Scarlett, 9, worked together to set up Flexa, a Danish furniture outlet specializing in beds, desks, and toys for children. Photo by Art Bodner

for their kids. The only other brick-and-mortar store is Pottery Barn Kids and a few small places," said Krogh-Jensen. "Flexa is the type of furniture I felt meshed very well with the urban-minded shopper who shops for furniture at BoConcept, especially in the Bay Area, New York, and other big cities. Flexa is a complementary business we felt could fill a need."

After securing the franchise rights for all of the U.S. in 2018, the couple a year later opened their first Flexa shop at the Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto. By the start of 2020, the business had begun to take off and the couple began planning to open additional locations, only to have to hit pause when Covid-19 arrived last March.

"Once Covid shut us down, it was like starting over," said Krogh-Jensen.

Last June, they were able to reopen the South Bay store and added a Flexa store at 25 Division St. in San Francisco next to their BoConcept location. A third Flexa opened on Fourth Street in Berkeley, and over Memorial Day weekend the Noe Valley location opened at 3848 24th St., where the real estate firm Swann Group had its office.

"Our pop-up in Noe Valley is part of our full-immersion strategy we are executing here in the Bay Area," said Krogh-Jensen.

Both the Berkeley and Noe Valley stores are pop-up locations and could become permanent stores if customer demand is there. The lease runs through the end of November for the 24th Street storefront.

"I think we will know later this summer," said Krogh-Jensen. "For us, if the opportunity arises to get a permanent location and we feel our product is in demand on 24th Street, we would love to stay. This is an opportunity to open

up, get the word out, and see if people will continuously shop at our location."

The Krogh-Jensens' daughter, now 9 years old, helped set up the furniture in the store. The products are 90 percent made of natural wood from sustainably harvested forests, and all of the paints used are non-toxic.

Prices range from \$449 for a twin single bed to \$2,940 for a house bed with a roof, windows, and a slanting ladder. A classic bunk bed with ladder runs \$1,745. Accessories can be added, like cave structures in various motifs for the bed and play curtains for beds raised off the floor. There are also color options like cherry and blueberry, and a wide range of other products, from cribs and toys to desks for children.

"We give people a product that lasts 10-plus years, especially when it comes to the beds. Typically our twin bed can

go all the way to being a teenager," Krogh-Jensen said. "You can have a twin bed in its simplest form. All this stuff you can add to it over time, and subtract. That makes it a new bed every year for the child."

Because they stock the various collections they are selling, she said customers should expect delivery of their Flexa furniture within two weeks of purchase, or one week if they choose white-glove delivery where the delivery person also sets it up. Those items not in stock are marked as such on the website but should become available later this summer as new shipments arrive.

In September, Flexa will be debuting a new line of toys for children 2 and younger. The store also holds free events where parents can enjoy fun activities with their children. "A lot of our activities in store are built around that feeling of wanting to have a place for moms to do something fun with their kids and feel safe," said Krogh-Jensen.

Krogh-Jensen is hopeful the business will grow as pandemic fears recede and word spreads among local families.

"We are part of that voice in saying let's rebuild, get out there interacting and shopping again and being humans," she said. "It is all up to how the recovery happens. More and more people are comfortable getting out there."

The store is offering a summer sale with 15 percent off its entire collection. And from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 4, it is hosting a free interactive crafts event for families. To RSVP online, visit <https://calendly.com/flexa-sf/4th-of-july-fun?back=1&month=2021-07>

Flexa is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



The new Flexa is located at 24th and Vicksburg, in the spot most recently occupied by Swann Group Real Estate and for many years by Cradle of the Sun stained-glass. Photo by Jack Tipple

## NOE VALLEY

MARKET UPDATE | MAY 27 - JUNE 24 2021

| SINGLE FAMILY        | YoY% CHANGE          | CONDO/ COOP/TIC      | YoY% CHANGE          |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| NEW LISTINGS         | NEW LISTINGS         | NEW LISTINGS         | NEW LISTINGS         |
| 14                   | -42%                 | 7                    | -59%                 |
| LISTINGS IN CONTRACT | LISTINGS IN CONTRACT | LISTINGS IN CONTRACT | LISTINGS IN CONTRACT |
| 18                   | -5%                  | 12                   | +71%                 |
| NUMBER OF SOLD       | NUMBER OF SOLD       | NUMBER OF SOLD       | NUMBER OF SOLD       |
| 26                   | +86%                 | 8                    | +700%                |
| MEDIAN DOM           | MEDIAN DOM           | MEDIAN DOM           | MEDIAN DOM           |
| 9                    | -31%                 | 12                   | +100%                |
| MEDIAN \$/SQ FT      | MEDIAN \$/SQ FT      | MEDIAN \$/SQ FT      | MEDIAN \$/SQ FT      |
| \$1,370              | 0%                   | \$1,335              | +31%                 |
| MEDIAN SALES PRICE   | MEDIAN SALES PRICE   | MEDIAN SALES PRICE   | MEDIAN SALES PRICE   |
| \$2.90M              | -5%                  | \$1.37M              | -5%                  |



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## UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



People are getting back into the swing of things at Upper Noe Rec Center with Tuesday morning zumba and shooting hoops. *Photo by Chris Faust*

### Breath of Fresh Air

Summer Session classes have not reappeared at Upper Noe, but the rec center at 295 Day St. is alive with kids once again as they pile in daily for **Adventure Camp**. Three three-week sessions are continuing through mid-August Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., for ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 12. The center's sorely missed staff—Cheryl, Levi, and Alvin—are back weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to administer the program and watch over the park.

Upper Noe grounds remain open to the public with some restrictions. Summer camp activities take priority, but the staff aims to accommodate as much casual use as possible and will post times for camp activities. The building is off limits to visitors and other activities during camp. As Covid restrictions relax, we anticipate a return of evening and Saturday use of the gym. Stay tuned.

Visitors are welcome to jump into free **Zumba**, led by Noe Valley native and recently certified zumba instructor Moira DeNike. This casual group started four years ago with parents and staff at Dolores Huerta School, and continued online during 2020. In April, about a dozen dancers started meeting live on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m. Get out and play!

To report any issues or concerns, call 311. For updates on the park, visit Friends of Upper Noe Rec Center at [www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com).

—Chris Faust, Chair, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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# SHORT TAKES

## Any Fun This Summer?

California and San Francisco are reopening. What about Noe Valley?

Is there anything going on at our three biggest venues: Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street, and the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street?

Christine Tawadrous of Noe Valley Ministry, which is known for its beautiful upstairs concert hall, says the good news is, “We are starting to book classes and events.” However, she says, “most of the organizations we work with say they are looking to start concerts and classes in the fall.”

Christopher Faust of Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center, as reported elsewhere in this issue, confirms that Adventure Camp is on for this summer, as is youth baseball, but most adult classes are still on hold. Still, the park grounds are open for picnics and exercise, or to cheer on the kids on the field or dogs in Joby’s Run.

Leslie Crawford, events manager for the Town Square, reports, “We are anticipating we can start events in September, but I am still firming up the calendar and need to get confirmation from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.” Stay tuned.

Noe Music, which has produced live classical music events in Noe Valley for nearly 30 years, is “off for the summer,” according to co-director Meena Bhasin. But, she promises, “our season will start in September!”

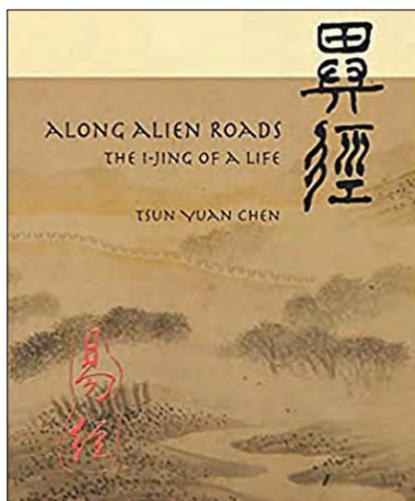
Authors’ visits have resumed at Omnivore Books on Food and continue online from Folio Books. And Bethany Church volunteers are holding regular sock drives and bagging lunches for the homeless (July 11, 1 p.m.). Holy Innocents Church is hosting a concert July 10. Check [www.holyinsf.org](http://www.holyinsf.org) for details.



The trees in Stern Grove will be swaying with the sounds of 1970s rocker Joan Jett at her free concert Aug. 1. Photo by Roger Erickson



Nashville country-soul star Devon Gilfillian shares the bill with L.A. indie-pop band Fitz and the Tantrums at Stern Grove Aug. 15.



Zoom in July 12 at 7 p.m. for an “Even” Mondays reading and conversation with writers Tsun Yuan Chen, Wayne Goodman, and Olga Zilberbourg.

If you would like to book an event at the Noe Valley Ministry, contact Christine Tawadrous at 415-282-2317 or email [office@noevalleyministry.org](mailto:office@noevalleyministry.org). For the Noe Valley Town Square, contact Leslie Crawford at [info@noevalleytownsquare.com](mailto:info@noevalleytownsquare.com). To get information about Upper Noe Rec Center, call site manager Cheryl Woltjen at 415-970-8061.

## Sigmund Is Back!

The 84th (Sigmund) Stern Grove Festival continues in July and August, with eight Sunday concerts—from the San Francisco Symphony (July 4) to the Tower of Power and rapper Too Short (Aug. 29)—in the wooded grove at Sloat Boulevard and 19th Avenue. The 83rd festival was cancelled last year.

Tower of Power is expected to rewind the group’s greatest hits from 53 years of funk and soul at the annual Big Picnic concert, which, although free to all, is also a fundraiser. For a suggested donation of \$5,000, 10 guests can get picnic table seating, valet parking, access to two (count ’em) VIP lounges, and a picnic basket from McCalls Catering.

Running the gamut of musical genres—classical, soul, rap, punk, rock, indie pop, country, and electronic—the lineup also includes Thievery Corporation (July 11), St. Paul & the Broken Bones and the Dip (July 18), X and the Avengers plus DJ Omar (July 25), rock legend Joan Jett and the Blackhearts (Aug. 1), Thundercat and Cassowary (Aug. 8), and Devon Gilfillian and Fitz & the Tantrums (Aug. 15).

All concerts are free and at 2 p.m., but reservations are required. Tickets for each event open up 12 days ahead. Take blankets, food, and favorite beverages—alcoholic or non. If you don’t want to mingle with the masses, you can reserve a picnic table for \$1,500 for up to 10 folks. The deal sweetener is three reserved parking spaces.

If you can’t make the scene, you can live-stream all concerts except the Symphony from the comfort and safety of your home.

For reservations or to sign up for live-streaming, go to [www.sterngrove.org](http://www.sterngrove.org).

## Readings, Inside and Out

Omnivore Books on Food events expand indoors, and Odd Mondays readings continue online in July. Both feature favorite books.

The July Odd Mondays is on an even Monday, July 12, since July 5 is Independence Day. Tsun Yuan Chen, Wayne Goodman, and Olga Zilberbourg will read via Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. at “Favorite Books by Favorite People.” Chen reads from his memoir-novel



Santa Barbara chef/author Pascale Beale will share tips from her popular salad book July 17, 3 p.m., at Omnivore Books on Food on Cesar Chavez Street.

*Along Alien Roads: I-Jing of a Life*, Goodman from volume one in his sci-fi chapter book series *Tim-Tam and the Space Pirates: Race to the Phantom Moon*, and Zilberbourg from her award-winning short-story collection *Like Water and Other Stories*.

Get the Zoom link from [oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com). Get the books online at [www.foliosf.com/oddmondays](http://www.foliosf.com/oddmondays) or inside Folio Books, 3957 24th St. (Folio Books is open but will not hold in-store events until next year.)

Omnivore started its live events in early June with limited capacity. With the reopening of California, the store will allow up to 40 people to come in to meet author Pascale Beale July 17. She will present her latest, *Salade II: More Recipes From the Market Table*, at 3 p.m. If you’re vaccinated, masks are not required. Still unvaccinated? Wear a mask, please. Admission is free.

Beale’s book has 40 new and 60 classic recipes for salads, all beautifully photographed. Omnivore owner Celia Sack says, “I love this book because it’s arranged by ingredient. If you come home from the farmers market with, say, beautiful beets, you’ll find a whole chapter of recipes using them.”

You can buy the book online at <https://omnivorebooks.myshopify.com> or inside the store. Omnivore Books on Food is at 3885 Cesar Chavez St.

## Library Doors Will Open

Good news, library patrons! After more than a year of being closed, the Sally Brunn/Noe Valley Branch Library will reopen in “the second half of July,” according to Jamie Wong, public affairs officer for the San Francisco Public Library. An exact date was not available at press time.

The prolonged closure was due not only to the Covid-19 pandemic but to changes in staffing needs throughout the system. Also, in Noe Valley’s case, Denise Sanderson, former branch manager, was promoted to a regional manager position during the quarantine. But, Ms. Wong assures us, there will be an acting manager come summer reopening.

The library will be open physically, including the children’s room. Patrons will be able to check out books, pick up branch book transfers, read periodicals, use computers, get library cards, etc. Story time will remain online for the time being, as will the Summer Stride reading program and other normally in-person events. Community meetings can be scheduled in the ground floor meeting space for when the library is open.

Initial hours of operation will be just Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For now, the branch, located at 451 Jersey St., will not be open weekends or evenings.

## A Star Is Born (in August)

Girls in Noe Valley and around the world, it’s time to submit a short film to the sixth annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival.

The submission deadline is Aug. 20 for this year’s fest, screening virtually on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 4 p.m. As usual, a well-known filmmaker or other special guest will attend and help present \$1,300 in prizes to winners in two age groups, 10 and under and 11 to 15.

Films should be 5 minutes or shorter (and G-rated). And the girls who make them must be age 15 or under as of Sept. 11, 2021.

Any topic is okay, say the organizers. It could be a comic opera, a love story, or a film about life in the pandemic.

The Noe Valley Girls Film Festival was founded in 2016, by a group of girls in Noe Valley who loved making films. Several have grown up and gone on to film school. Each year, the team of girls welcomes new members. To contact them, email [info@nvgff.com](mailto:info@nvgff.com) or call (415) 606-6558.

Over the years, Noe Valley businesses have helped sponsor the event. If you’d like to donate this year, send a check to the festival’s fiscal sponsor, the Noe Valley Association, Attn: Debra Niemann/NVGFF, 1330 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

For more details, go to the website [www.nvgff.com](http://www.nvgff.com). Or, if you’re ready to submit, go to <https://filmfreeway.com/NoeValleyGirlsFilmFestival>.

—Sally Smith

No word on any Covid-19 restrictions, such as continued indoor mask-wearing, but the library will “follow any city guidance.”

## Take a Hike Crosstown

The San Francisco Crosstown Trail turned two years old in June. You can be forgiven if you didn’t know it existed, since a chunk was closed for a year during the worst of the pandemic.

The trail runs for 17 miles diagonally through the city, from Candlestick Point in the southeast to Land’s End in the northwest. Hikers travel on winding trails, up steps and stairways, and through parks and gardens. Miles five through eight are the closest to Noe Valley, angling through Glen Park and Diamond Heights. The trailhead for this portion is on Bosworth Street near the Glen Park Recreation Center. After climbing 350 feet in elevation through Glen Canyon, the path will take you to Portola Drive near the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. To continue west along the Crosstown Trail, go across Portola into the newly reopened Laguna Honda Trail System, where you can feel lost in nature and discovery.

If you haven’t already seen it, Glen Canyon itself is an urban surprise. Steep canyon walls follow Islais Creek. The full park is 66 acres and has impressive rocks to climb among its chert outcroppings. It’s full of seasonal wildflowers, native plants, and an occasional coyote.

For maps and more information on the complete Crosstown Trail, go to <https://crosstowntrail.org>. ■

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

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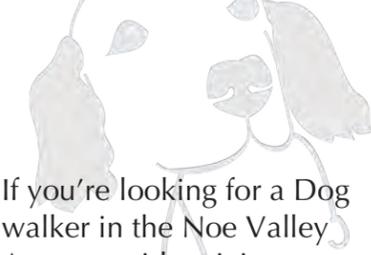
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# Calendar July 2021



## JULY & AUGUST EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| SAT JULY 10 | VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT! SEAN BROCK AND MINA PARK • COOKING FOR YOUR KIDS: AT HOME WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHEFS • 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. FREE! In this virtual conversation, Joshua David Stein joins chefs Brock and Park to discuss the culinary practices they bring into their home kitchens as they strive to raise adventurous (and healthy) eaters. Visit our events page at omnivorebooks.com to register.                                  |
| SAT JULY 17 | IN-STORE AUTHOR EVENT! PASCALE BEALE • SALADE II: MORE RECIPES FROM THE MARKET TABLE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE! This new and revised edition of Pascale's best-selling Salade cookbook includes new and classic recipes of delicious salads fresh from the market table, all beautifully photographed.  |
| SAT AUG 14  | IN-STORE AUTHOR EVENT! MICHELLE POLZINE • BAKING AT THE 20TH CENTURY CAFE: ICONIC EUROPEAN DESSERTS FROM LINZER TORTE TO HONEY CAKE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE! Polzine, one of San Francisco's best pastry chefs, transports readers straight to the grand cafés of Europe, bringing renewed attention to the legendary sweet and savory baking recipes of Central and Eastern Europe, while modernizing the recipes through her California lens. |
| SAT AUG 21  | IN-STORE AUTHOR EVENT! LINDA SHIUE, M.D. • SPICEBOX KITCHEN: EAT WELL AND BE HEALTHY WITH GLOBALLY INSPIRED, VEGETABLE-FORWARD RECIPES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE! San Francisco chef and physician Linda Shiue puts the phrase "let food be thy medicine" to the test. With 175 vegetarian and pescatarian recipes, this a journey of vibrant, fresh flavors through a range of spices from amchar masala to za'atar.                             |
| SUN AUG 22  | IN-STORE AUTHOR EVENT! NANDITA GODBOLE • SEVEN POTS OF TEA: AN AYURVEDIC APPROACH TO SIPS & NOSH • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE! An exploration of the flavors and health benefits hidden in tea, through Ayurveda's six 'rasas' or essential tastes. Learn to make more than three dozen easy brews, teas and tisanes along with simple nosh and eats to pair with your cups of tea.  |

## OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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**July 1-31:** Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous at St. Aidan's meets via Zoom, Mon.-Sat., 7 to 8 am. 314-0720 or 779-6273; oasf.org.

**July 1-31:** The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER offers lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

**July 1-31:** LOLA GALLERY exhibits "Connection and Solitude Under Covid," acrylic paintings by Carol Aust. Tue.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez. lolasanfrancisco.com.

**July 1-Aug. 19:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts *Blackiful*, an exhibit featuring Black artists. Fri., 3-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-2 pm. 3245 16th. Make appointment: 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

**July 2-31:** Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts live JAZZ for in-store audiences, on Fridays and Saturdays. 653 Chenery. 7:30-9 pm. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

**July 3-31:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm (8 to 9 am for seniors). 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

**July 3-Sept. 5:** WATERCOLORS by Kit Cameron, Andy Forrest, Eddie Wolowski, and Carlo Grünfeld are on display at the Far Out Gallery. Weekends, noon-6 pm, and by appointment. 3004 Taraval. 463-5537; faroutgallery.com.

**July 4-Aug. 29:** The STERN GROVE Festival hosts eight free Sunday concerts. 2 pm. 19th Ave. at Sloat. Reserve at: 252-6252; sterngrove.org.

**July 4-Sept. 5:** The SF MIME TROUPE performs weekly Radio Play Podcasts, "Tales of the Resistance, Vol. 2: Persistence." sfmt.org/talesvol2.

**July 5-27:** The San Francisco Public Library offers virtual STORYTIMES Mondays, 10 am, and Tuesdays, 11 am. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

**July 7-28:** The Castro FARMERS' MARKET is open Wednesdays 2:30 to 7 pm March 17 to Nov. 17. 290 Noe. pcfma.org.

**July 10:** LADYBUG GARDENERS tidy the grounds at Upper Noe Rec Center. 9 am-noon. 295 Day. To confirm, contact Joan via info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

**July 10:** The Asian Art Museum offers online MEDITATION with a teacher from the SF Zen Center on second Sat., 10:30 am. asianart.org.

**July 10:** OMNIVORE BOOKS hosts a free virtual discussion with Sean Brock and Mina Park, authors of *Cooking for Your Kids*. 1-2 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**July 11:** Bethany Church holds a SOCK DRIVE for the homeless. Bring new or lightly laundered, preferably white socks to 1270 Sanchez, from 1 to 2:30 pm. bethanysf.org; 515-8815.

**July 11 & Aug. 1:** Political group ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com to find out if the meeting is virtual or in person.

**July 12:** ODD MONDAYS features fiction readings by authors Andrew Chen, Wayne Goodman, and Olga Zilberbourg. 7 pm. The Zoom link is on the Odd Mondays Facebook page, or email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

**July 13:** Jonathan Taplin discusses his book *The Magic Years: Scenes from a ROCK-AND-ROLL Life*, with music journalist Greil Marcus, on YouTube Live. 7-8 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

**July 15:** Kung Pao KOSHER COMEDY celebrates the one-year anniversary of "Lockdown Comedy," digitized by Lisa Geduldig, with Marga Gomez, Shazia Mirza, Jim Short, and the Geduldigs. 6 pm. koshercomedy.com.

**July 17:** OMNIVORE Books hosts an in-store discussion with Pascale Beale, author of *Salade II: More Recipes from the Market Table*. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**July 21:** The de Young Museum's VIRTUAL WEDNESDAYS program presents "Black Forums with SeeBlackWomxn." 5 pm. deyoung.famsf.org.

**July 22:** Chef Yan's virtual cooking series, "YAN Can Cook with On Lok," brings Chinese tofu recipes to On Lok's 30th Street seniors. 4-5 pm. Sign up at 550-2210 or onlok.org.

**July 22:** Editors Kitty Costello, Valerie Behiery, and Hanan Nazime host a virtual reading by authors featured in *MUSLIM American Writers at Home*. 6-7:30 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

**July 23:** FLUTIST Diane Grubbe performs as part of the virtual Shenon Faculty Concert Series at Community Music Center. 5:30-6:30 pm. 647-6015; sfcmc.org.

**July 27:** Cory Combs discusses "Early Jazz in San Francisco," via Zoom link at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. For password the morning of the meeting go to sanfranciscohistory.org.

**July 28:** The SF Public Library, SF Neon, and the Tenderloin Museum host an illustrated design presentation, "NEON-MATCHBOOK Typography." 7-8 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

**Summer Stuff:** The next Noe Valley Voice will be the August 2021 issue, distributed the first week of August. The deadline for items is July 20. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write Calendar, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Thank you.

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Back to Normalish

By Mazook

**S**MILES ALL AROUND: After 15 long months, Noe Valley has emerged from the lockdown. Most of us have become fully vaccinated, and Downtown Noe Valley is now open for business. Twenty-fourth Street is filled with maskless walkers and window shoppers, strolling through the doors of local retailers, bars, and restaurants. Diners and imbibers are breaking bread or making toasts with their friends and neighbors once again.

The sanitation and distancing protocols at Whole Foods have finally been relaxed. Hair and nail salons are grooming us at last, and most importantly we can see one another's smiles and chat together un-muffled by face coverings.

However, many are still guarded. For example, Baron's meat market (Church at 29th) notified their patrons: "Just so everyone knows, we will maintain mask protocols in our San Francisco store for the foreseeable future." They explained that "it is a small space and we would rather be safe than sorry [and] we will have masks available for those that don't have one with them."

☎☎☎

THE BELLWETHER of our neighborhood is the Noe Valley Farmers Market, which has been open in the Noe Valley Town Square every Saturday morning since the "only essential businesses" days at the beginning of the pandemic. Back then, we stood at the market in long lines and were masked and distanced from others. Our entry was monitored by the market's managers to conform with health department capacity guidelines, and the vendors dutifully fetched our fruits and vegetables in those plastic baskets at the cashier.

But on the morning of June 19, shopping was altogether different! No more lines. We all got to touch (and smell) the produce we were going to buy, and put the items in our own bags and baskets. Checkout was a breeze, and so was the weather. Tables and chairs were back in place at the back of the market, and families and friends watched as their toddlers played on the slide and other structures.

"People were so joyful," says Farmers Market manager Regina Faustine, "we got to see the smiles once again on everyone's faces... It really felt good."

She was happy that everything no longer had to be micromanaged, and very confident about safety because of the neighborhood's high vaccination rate. "Those who are fully vaccinated are free to shop in the market without wearing masks, and those who aren't will continue to wear their masks... we are on the honor system," she says.

And the word is that by the first week of August, the Farmers Market music series, led by Richard Hildreth, will resume after a silence of 16 long months.

☎☎☎

RECIPES FOR RECOVERY: Another sign of recovery is that finally Omnivore Books (Cesar Chavez at

Church) has opened its doors for in-store events again. On June 26, Carolyn Phillips appeared to talk about her book, *At the Chinese Table: A Memoir With Recipes*. This gem describes in detail how, during the 1970s and '80s, she lived in Taipei and met epicurean J.H. Huang, who encouraged her to explore the cuisine of every part of China.

Coming up on July 17 at 3 p.m., Pascale Beale will talk about her new book *Salade: More Recipes From the Market Table*, a follow-up to Beale's best-selling *Salade* cookbook. It includes 40 new and 60 classic salad recipes. And this event is free and open to the public.

☎☎☎

NEW NOE NEWS: Noba Meal Kits, which are prepared food protein bowls, started selling last year at the company's first outlet, Martha & Bros. 24th Street coffee emporium. Now you can get them at 29 locations in the Castro, Mission, and Noe Valley.

This startup was created by Louis von Guionneau last July, when he convinced Martha Monroy to add these quick take-home meals to her food menu. You can choose between high-protein chicken, steak, salmon, and burrito bowls of already-cooked entrees, which according to Guionneau, you put in hot water for between five and seven minutes (or in the oven at 350 degrees for about five minutes).

Martha's installed a hot-water cooker and at your request will heat the meal up right there in the coffee shop.

Guionneau comes from London and had been working for the Red Lobster chain of restaurants (which is based there) since 2016. He arrived in Noe Valley last year.

Besides Martha's, the kits are available in Noe Valley at Shufat grocery at 24th and Church, Chuck's Sun Valley at 1601 Church, Modern Market at Church and 26th, Church Produce at 30th, Guerrero Hill Market at 3398 22nd, and Noe Hill Market at 19th and Noe. The Noba website is nobasf.com.

By the time you read this, Chung-Namont, a new art gallery, will have

opened in the shop last occupied by the Psychic Eye at 4017 24th St., next to the Noe Valley Bakery. It is named after its owners, Hong Kong-born artist Diane Chung and French-born artist/curator Emmanuelle Namont. Chung has long lived in Glen Park, and Namont resides in Bernal Heights.

Chung-Namont's mission, according to Chung, "will be to offer art lovers and collectors the opportunity to meet artists from diverse backgrounds and practices and will feature photography and photography-based art. We have been collaborating for over six years on domestic as well as international exhibitions, including a Hong Kong Art based satellite show in 2019."

The gallery's first show, "Exposure," will open on Aug. 5 and run to Sept. 8. It will feature photography by Lucien Liu called "One Day Solar," and a series by Bijan Yashar called "Catalina."

"We are very excited about opening this gallery in Noe Valley and involving Bay Area artists to show their works... [O]ur gallery's mission is not only showcasing their work but also creating a physical space for an encounter between the artists and their future patrons," says Namont.

This is the first time that either owner has opened a retail gallery and gone through the arduous process of searching for the commercial space to lease or buy. Says Chung, "We are doing this for our love of art." I say: Bravo!

Chung-Namont is open from noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

☎☎☎

KUDOS GO OUT to longtime Noe Valleyan Ben Fong-Torres, who is the subject of a film that had its debut screening in New York City at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 13. It also was streaming online for 10 days. The title, aptly enough, is *Like a Rolling Stone: The Life and Times of Ben Fong-Torres*.

Fong-Torres started writing for *Rolling Stone* in 1968, less than two years after he graduated from San Francisco State. Within a year of join-

ing the staff, he was hired as editor. He wrote cover stories on Bob Dylan, Marvin Gaye, and Bonnie Raitt, to name just a few. He also wrote regularly for the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Sunday Pink Section and for SFgate, and hosted a radio show with the San Francisco rock band Moonalice.

There was a movie inspired by him in 2000, called *Almost Famous*.

So when can we see the film? "There's no distribution yet," says Fong-Torres, "but I think it may show at the Mill Valley Film Festival in October. We are working on another local screening, maybe before that, but that's up in the air right now."

"I'd rather do it when there's someplace people can go to see the thing," he says.

Fong-Torres wrote on his Facebook page: "I think people were surprised to see Steve Martin pop up for a recent visit, and to hear from such figures as Quincy Jones and Jim Morrison, from George Harrison and Linda Ronstadt, and although she didn't make the trip to Manhattan for the festival, my wife Dianne was clearly a 'star' on the big screen."

☎☎☎

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE was again celebrated this year on Sunday, June 20, on Sanchez Street near 30th, in an event known as the Solstice Sun Crack. The celebration, attended by about a dozen neighbors, was initiated by artist Jenny Badger Sultan back in the early 1990s to record the way the sunlight shined through the thin crack between the home she shares with her husband Henry Sultan at 1696 Sanchez and the house next door.

At around 4 p.m. each year, the sun appears through the narrow crack between the two buildings, and for about a minute you can see the path of light as it crosses the sidewalk.

In 2002, Sultan painted a yellow stripe on the pavement with the words (in red) "Solstice Summer Crack Returns June 24, 2002, 4:27." (The "return" in 2002 was not just the sun but also the second time she'd painted the stripe. The original band she had painted a decade before had been destroyed when new sidewalks had been put in.)

Each year since 2002—except a couple of years when the sun was blocked by fog—Sultan and neighbors have observed the event, touching up the paint if needed. "The building moves a little bit, and so the stripe [or sun] moves a bit too," said Henry Sultan.

Jenny Sultan said, "I got the idea when I saw a film at the old Exploratorium [30 years ago] about a summer solstice 'sun dagger' that was created by the [Chacoan] Native American Tribe in [Fajada Butte] New Mexico." She learned that "there were slabs of stone, and the sun came through on the summer solstice and created a dagger shape, which I thought was fantastic... It's just the way my mind works."

It should be noted that similar sun daggers created by these slabs of rock in New Mexico also mark the winter solstice and equinoxes. The Chacoans are descendants of the Ancient Pueblo people, who were living in that part of the world as early as 1200 B.C. You can check this out further on Wikipedia, like I did after talking with Badger (see Fajada Butte). Very cool stuff.

☎☎☎

THAT'S ALL, Y'ALL. Have a super summer. August is vacation time for me. See you in September. ■

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**Children's Fiction**

A cat and a puppy spend a day together in **Yes and No**, by Caldecott Honor author/illustrator Elisha Cooper. Ages 2 to 6.

**Secret, Secret Agent Guy**, written by Kira Bigwood and illustrated by Celia Krampien, is set to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Ages 3 to 7.

In Julie Flett's **We All Play**, told in English and the Cree Native American language, playtime is something shared by all the animals and children. Ages 3 to 7.

A family loses, and then finds, its dog at a Pride Day parade, in **Pride Puppy!** written by Robin Stevenson, illustrated by Julie McLaughlin. Ages 4 to 6.

A 7-year-old girl on an Ojibwe reservation looks at her close relationships, in **Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-To-Be Best Friend**, written by Dawn Quigley, with illustrations by Tara Audibert. Ages 6 to 10.

A girl once bullied about her weight rewrites the "Fat Girl Rules," in **Starfish**, a novel-in-verse by Lisa Fipps. Ages 9 to 13.

In **Thanks a Lot, Universe**, by Chad Lucas, two boys, one of whom finds himself in foster care, grapple with adolescence. Ages 10 to 13.

A Navajo boy must save a Holy Being from the Navajo Creation Story, in **Healer of the Water Monster** by Brian Young. Ages 10 to 14.

**Children's Nonfiction**

The picture book **Bodies Are Cool** by Tyler Feder shows that all bodies are good bodies. Ages 3 to 10.

Four hundred species of sharks—from great whites to hammerheads—populate **The Shark Book**, written by Caldecott Honor winners Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, with illustrations by Steve Jenkins. Ages 4 to 10.

**Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer**, written by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Natasha Donovan, tells the story of Lockheed Aircraft's first female engineer. Ages 7 to 11.

The roots of racism (and antiracism) in America is the subject of **Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and YOU**, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul, written by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, and illustrated by Rachelle Baker. Ages 10 to 14.

**Children's eBooks—Fiction and Nonfiction—to Read via Hoopla Kids**

**A Mother Is a House**, by French author-illustrator Aurore Petit (translation by Daniel Hahn), shows how in Baby's eyes Mom is many things: a house, a fountain, a lullaby and more. Ages 2 and up.

In **A Garden to Save the Birds**, written by Wendy McClure, illustrated by Beatriz Mayumi, two children work to make their outdoors safe. Ages 4 to 7.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*Same Name Different Goods* by Michael Blake

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**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**We're Booked for July**

The Main Library and six branches are now open for "Browse and Bounce" service. That means library patrons can reserve access to an hour of browsing designated shelves, using a library computer, or returning, checking out, or picking up books put on hold. (For details, go to [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).)

However, the most exciting news, announced at the June 17 virtual meeting of the San Francisco Library Commission, is that the **Library plans to reopen the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library in some form in July**. No details were given, just a simple declaration by the Chief of Branches that Noe Valley, Parkside, and the Presidio libraries were scheduled for July, and a reminder that the SFPL's Reopening Plan was "dynamic and subject to change." (See *Short Takes for the latest news*.)

We hope Noe Valley can perhaps skip a stage and reopen for "Browse and Bounce" or more. But it's likely it will start with SFPL-to-Go, a service enabling patrons to pick up and return items at the door of the branch, at 451 Jersey St. between Castro and Diamond.

Children's Librarian Catherine Starr says SFPL staff want to reopen the branches as much as the public does. But the job is complex. "We are scrambling to get sufficient hands on deck—to prepare collections, to prepare the buildings, and to have enough staff to serve our patrons."

As always, Starr and Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona have taken time to supply the *Noe Valley Voice* with a list of new books and films.

Among the books this month is a fictional biography of photographer Dorothea Lange, Alison Bechdel's graphic novel about fitness, and for kids, the true story of a standoff between Napoleon and a rebellious bunch of bunnies.

To place a hold on these or any other titles, go to SFPL-to-Go (at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org)) and select a branch among the 18 that now have the pickup service.

Kids also should check out the **2021 Summer Stride** program. There are "Story Walks" in three city parks: Land's End, Crissy Field, and the Presidio. Story Walks are pages of children's books on signs throughout the parks, and you can stop and read them while hiking. That's just one activity among dozens.

Summer Stride has events for adults too, such as a virtual talk on the San Francisco Giants' astrological chances, at 7 p.m. on July 6; music critic Greil Marcus' conversation with Jonathan Taplin about Taplin's *The Magic Years: Scenes From a Rock-and-Roll Life*, 7 p.m. on July 13; and a discussion with writers featured in the anthology *Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda*, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on July 25. For all the options, go to [sfpl.org/events/special-programs/summer-stride-2021](http://sfpl.org/events/special-programs/summer-stride-2021).

For information, visit [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org) or call 415-557-4400, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; or Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

—Sally Smith

Based on a true event, **Napoleon vs. the Bunnies**, by J.F. Fox, illustrated by Anna Kwan, is about some rabbits who refused to cooperate with a hunt. Ages 5 to 8.

**Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch**, written by Heidi Tyline King, illustrated

by Ekua Holmes, traces the journey of an opera singer who helped preserve a historically African American beach in northeastern Florida. Ages 6 to 12.

**Adult Fiction**

**The Stars We Share** by Rafe Posey follows the different paths taken by childhood sweethearts during and after World War II.

Alice Zeniter's novel **The Art of Losing** spans three generations of an Algerian family, across two continents and three wars.

**The Bohemians** by Jasmin Darznik imagines the life and times of photographer Dorothea Lange.

A family is divided by a new brain-implant technology, in the futuristic novel **We Are Satellites** by Sarah Pinkser.

**Adult Ebook Fiction**

South Korean writer Kim Bo-Young's sci-fi collection **I'm Waiting for You** is about people and gods traveling the space-time continuum.

Set in the 1600s, **Hour of the Witch** by Chris Bohjalian describes the difficult life of a woman accused of witchcraft.

**Adult Nonfiction**

In **What Happened to Paula**, Katherine Dykstra investigates the 1970 murder of an 18-year-old girl in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Daniel Barbarisi uses a poem to search for a treasure hidden in the desert by a man who believed he was fatally ill, in **Chasing the Thrill**.

Graphic novelist Alison Bechdel depicts her love affair with exercise and fitness, in **The Secret to Human Strength**.

Lisa Napoli writes about four pioneering newswomen in **Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR**.

**Adult Ebook Nonfiction**

**Last Chance Texaco: Chronicles of an American Troubadour** is the autobiography of singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones.

Glen Stout recounts the deadly Jazz Age adventures of Margaret and Richard Whittemore, in **Tiger Girl and the Candy Kid: America's Original Gangster Couple**.

**Streamable Movies on Kanopy**

In **Parasite**, winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2019, members of a poor Korean family strive to make themselves indispensable to a rich family.

The 2018 **Lady Bird** is a coming-of-age film about a high school senior having conflict with her mother.

Willem Dafoe stars in **The Florida Project**, a 2018 drama about the residents of a low-rent motel.

In **I Am Love**, a 2009 film directed by Luca Guadagnino and starring Tilda Swinton, two generations of a bourgeois Milan family experience sudden changes in their romantic relationships.

A widow, played by Emily Mortimer, opens a bookshop in a rural English coastal town, in **The Bookshop** (2017).

Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

**SUMMER STRIDE ACTIVITY TRACKER**

San Francisco Public Library \* Summer 2021 \* [on.sfpl.org/summerstride](http://on.sfpl.org/summerstride)

Use your library card to track online. Sign up: [sfplbeanstack.org](http://sfplbeanstack.org)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**  
Color each square for every 20 minutes of participation. (3 squares = 1 hour.) All time spent reading, learning and listening count. Get your Summer Prize when you complete 20 hours!

**INSTRUCCIONES:**  
Colorea cada casilla por cada 20 minutos de participación. (3 casillas = 1 hora.) Todo el tiempo que pases leyendo, aprendiendo y escuchando cuenta. ¡Obtén tu premio de verano cuando completes 20 horas!

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每二十分鐘的參與，便可為一格填色。(三格 = 一小時的參與。)所有花在閱讀、學習和聆聽的時間都計在內。完成二十小時後即可獲得暑期獎品!

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes your letters. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your full name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood**

Websites: <http://www.action-sf.com/> or <https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/>  
 Email: [ActionSFTeam@gmail.com](mailto:ActionSFTeam@gmail.com)  
 Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m. All welcome.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley**

Contact: 834-9940  
 Website: [al-anonsf.org](http://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)

**Castro Community on Patrol**

Website: [castropatrol.org](http://castropatrol.org)  
 Email: [info@castropatrol.org](mailto:info@castropatrol.org)

**Castro Merchants**

Contacts: Masood Samereie, President; Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245  
 Email: [Dave@mx3fitness.com](mailto:Dave@mx3fitness.com)  
 Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114  
 Meetings: Email [info@CastroMerchants.com](mailto:info@CastroMerchants.com)

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

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

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: [info@doloresheights.org](mailto:info@doloresheights.org)  
 Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://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](mailto:hello@fairoaksneighbors.org)  
 Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110  
 The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122  
 Website: [www.billygoathill.net](http://www.billygoathill.net)

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772  
 Email: [friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com)  
 Website: [friendsofdolorespark.org](http://friendsofdolorespark.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@friendsofnoevalley.com)  
 Website: [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com)  
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: [info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com](mailto:info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
 Website: [uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
 Meetings: Email or check website.

**Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)**

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel  
 Email: [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org)  
 Website: [www.fundogsf.org](http://www.fundogsf.org)

**Glen Park Association**

Contact: [info@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:info@glenparkassociation.org)  
 Website: [glenparkassociation.org](http://glenparkassociation.org)  
 Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

**Juri Commoners**

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

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president  
 Email: [efromer3@gmail.com](mailto:efromer3@gmail.com)  
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders  
 Email: [info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](mailto:info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com)  
 Website: [noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://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 or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.  
 Email: [info@noevalleyassociation.org](mailto:info@noevalleyassociation.org)  
 Website: [noevalleyassociation.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.NoeValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents  
 Contact: Mina Kenvin  
 Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco**

Listserv contact: [noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com). Subscribe: [noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Progress Noe Valley**

Facebook: [facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley](https://facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley)  
 Email: [progressnoe@gmail.com](mailto:progressnoe@gmail.com)  
 Website: [progressnoe.com](http://progressnoe.com)  
 Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Resilient Noe Valley**

Contact: Antoinette  
 Email: [resilientnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:resilientnoevalley@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter signup: <http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5>  
 Website: [www.resilientnoevalley.com](http://www.resilientnoevalley.com)

**San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)**

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com); Carole Roberts, [carole\\_roberts@faludi.com](mailto:carole_roberts@faludi.com)  
 Website: <https://SF-fire.org>  
 New training classes to be scheduled soon. Please check the NERT website for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
 Email: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Website: [sanjoseguerrero.com](http://sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Meetings: See website.

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel  
 Email: [info@SlowSanchez.com](mailto:info@SlowSanchez.com)  
 Website: [SlowSanchez.com](http://SlowSanchez.com)

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: [Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com](mailto:Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com)  
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

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

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com  
 All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.



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## The Noe Estate

4 BED + FLEX SPACE | 4.5 BATH

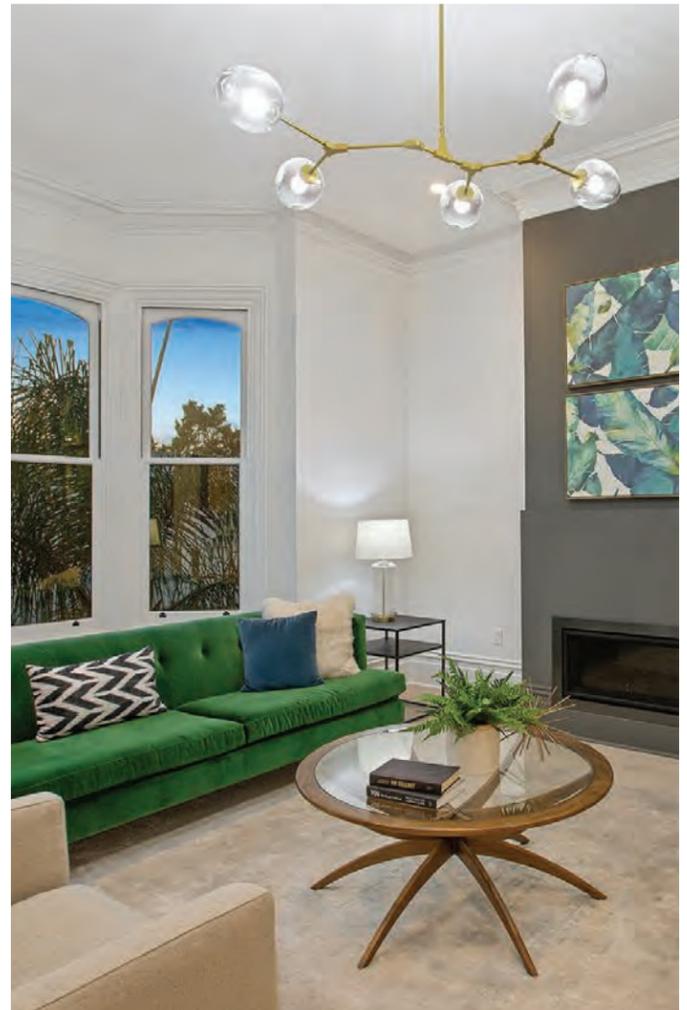
~ 5300 SqFt | 59x114 Lot | 27x40 Sport Court

*Welcome to The Noe Estate, a unique residence offering the superb detail and craftsmanship of a bygone era with a masterful mix of modern opulence and indoor and outdoor appeal. The main level embodies grand scale and elegance and boasts a dream kitchen, formal dining, sexy library, office, powder room and sweeping views from the grand living areas.*

## The Penthouse

3 BED | 2 BATH | \$1,650,000

*Welcome to the Penthouse. Sophistication and luxury combine to create this urban, entertainer's dream - a visual masterpiece framed by 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, impeccable finishes with custom design throughout. From the European White Oak flooring to the handsome custom walnut cabinetry, no expense was spared during this multi-million dollar renovation.*



## The Diamond Residence

3 BED | 2 BATH | \$1,999,000

*Fabulous indoor and outdoor living in prime Noe Valley with bonus commercial income below! Behind a charming historic facade and gorgeous cherry blossom trees you will find this beautiful two unit residence just a few doors to the 24th Street corridor.*

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