



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Street Fair To Be June 11

It's time to start mass-producing those macrame plant hangers again. The seventh annual Noe Valley Street Fair, sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants Association and Friends of Noe Valley, will take place Sunday, June 11.

If all goes according to plan, 24th Street from Church to Diamond Streets will be peppered with more than 300 booths displaying a wide assortment of crafts and foods.

Marcia Smolens, co-chairperson of the fair's coordinating committee, says the first item on the group's agenda is the selection of a poster design to publicize the fair.

Artists interested in submitting a design for consideration should pick up an application at Color-crane Art Supplies, 3957 24th St. Entries must be made by May 1. The artist whose poster design is selected will receive both a monetary reward and the citywide advertisement of his or her design.

The scramble for space at the fair has already begun so now's the time to reserve a booth.

A \$25 fee will be charged for crafts booths, \$55 for food booths. Non-profit organizations can obtain free booth space.

Call Marcia Smolens at 285-6443 or Del Dawson (co-chairperson) at 647-3334 for information.

Organizing a street fair is no small task. Smolens said the coordinating committee needed help in the areas of permit acquisition, booth space arrangements, finance, entertainment, advertising and promotion, security and clean-up. If you can make a contribution, attend the next meeting of the committee April 17 at 4215 26th St., 8 p.m.

The Noe Valley Street Fair is the only one in the city sponsored as a non-profit venture by neighborhood groups and merchants. A major share of the proceeds will go to the community service project of a local group or organization.

80 Percent Solution

Group Favors Speculation Tax

By Corey Michaels

Okay, Noe Valley residents, especially property owners, here's a quick mathematical quiz guaranteed to tax your brain if not your pocketbook.

If you bought a house for \$80,000, made no improvements, and sold it within one year for \$120,000, how much is your profit? (a) \$10,000, (b) \$40,000, (c) \$8,000, or (d) \$32,000.

The correct answer, of course, is (c) if a proposal being circulated by the San Francisco Housing Coalition is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

The Coalition has drafted and is lobbying hard for a tough tax measure that would "spoil the speculator's game" and hopefully put an end to the skyrocketing property prices that have hit Noe Valley and the rest of the city.

"When a speculator buys a house, they never intend to make it a home. They just want to turn a quick profit and get out," says the Coalition. "They don't come to San Francisco to live. They come to make a killing and they're killing San Francisco."

The Coalition's anti-speculation tax is tough -- no doubt about it. And the

proposal has caused heart murmurs among those in the real estate industry.

The Coalition made a strong lobbying effort March 29 when several dozen speakers spoke in favor of the measure, which also drew sharp opposition, before the Supervisors' Finance Committee. The group has also sought endorsements from neighborhood groups across the city, including Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Neighbors for Action.

The Friends' Steering

Continued on Page 7



Friends' Can. Can you?

This trash can certainly is getting a lot of attention. And not just because it's the 900-pound, theft-proof and vandal-proof Mack Truck of litter receptacles. A gift of Friends of Noe Valley, this concrete and metal marvel bears the distinction of being the first of its kind in the neighborhood. It now sits in front of the public parking lot on 24th Street between Castro and Noe Streets.

Hoping to inspire other neighborhood groups and merchants to buy similar cans, Friends staged a ceremonious unveiling March 29, complete with parades of school children, accordion accompaniment, a guest appearance by Sir Beaky Penrose, the "litter-ary pig" of Noe Valley, and a blessing delivered by Rev. Carl Smith of the Noe Valley Ministry.

Assorted dignitaries from neighborhood and city organizations were on hand to christen the Supercan with champagne and feed the container its first delectable morsels of 24th Street garbage.

Citing a growing litter problem on 24th Street, Friends' Trash Can Committee member John Knox said the group decided to buy the can as a first step toward the even-

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COMPASS

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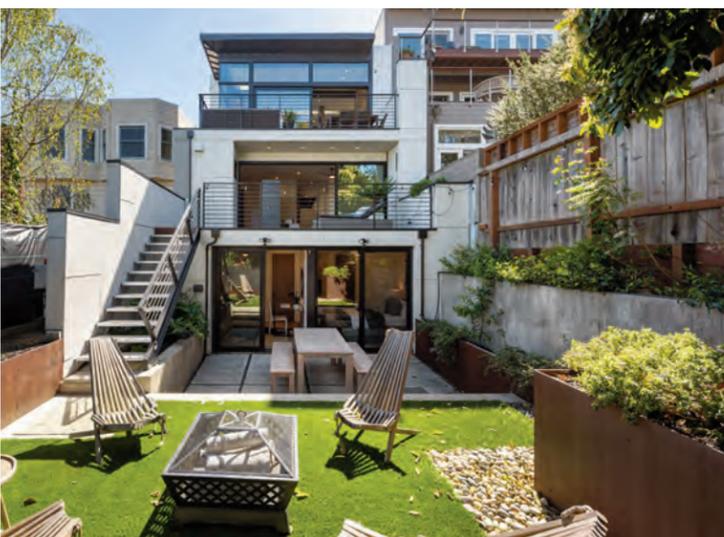
A Noe Valley Oasis with Panoramic Views

4258 26th Street is an entertainer's oasis with modern architecture and panoramic views. Set behind a Victorian facade, lies an exquisite modern home with incredible ceiling height, open concept living and luxurious upgrades. The foyer welcomes you with a jaw-dropping glass floor leading to the generous great room with a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access.

The true heart of the home is the kitchen, which features a waterfall counter island with dining area, and is fit for a chef with built-in Miele appliances. While you will never want to leave the house, the outdoor spaces are the cherry on top for al fresco dining and entertainment.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 4258 26TH STREET

- *5 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,304 SQFT.
- *OUTDOOR SPACE ON EVERY LEVEL
- *GLASS WINE VAULT
- *SOPHISTICATED CITY OASIS
- *MODERN OPULENCE



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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

War in Ukraine On the Minds Of Many

Those With Family Ties Increasingly Worried

By Corrie M. Anders

Almost every day since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February, Yuliya Van de Sande has made a call or sent a text to family or friends caught up in the brutal war 6,000 miles away.

Each call brings a wave of anxiety for the Noe Valley shopkeeper, who fears the worst if a relative or friend fails to respond right away.

For Van de Sande and other local San Franciscans with ties to Ukraine, it has been a painful few weeks, filled with stories of wailing air-raid sirens, harrowing escapes to neighboring countries, and genuine human suffering as lives are lost and buildings destroyed in the conflagration in their homeland.

"It hurts," said Van de Sande, who owns the Flowers of the Valley boutique on 24th Street near Castro.

Van de Sande was born in the Ukrainian city of Odessa and immigrated to the United States in 1998, at the age of 18. She purchased the flower shop 10 years later.

"I'm talking to a lot of people that I'm still in contact with in Ukraine,"



In Solidarity: Within days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, flags began appearing on Noe doors and windows, in support of a country whose citizens had been left helpless in the face of war. Here they wave on a row of houses along Castro Street near 26th. Photo by Jack Tipple

she said. They are cousins, friends, and former classmates—some too old to leave the country and others who chose to "stay there and fight."

Remaining behind was especially difficult for her elderly godmother, Van de Sande said, and her godmother's 80-year-old husband. They live in a small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Business Owner Gets City to Relax Rules for Massage

Providers Can Set Up in Several Types of Medical Offices

By Matthew S. Bajko

Late last year, Cocoon Day Spa opened its doors on 24th Street and started offering massage services to Noe Valley residents. The lack of places nearby where people could book a massage was one of the primary reasons the owners had wanted to be in the neighborhood.

Two blocks away, Marnie McCurdy, owner of East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic at 23rd and Sanchez streets, was frustrated. A certified acupuncturist and longtime practitioner of Chinese medicine, she had planned to offer massage services when she bought the Noe Valley property in September 2019. Formerly home to health care provider One Medical, the space was already built out for a medical type use, and it wasn't far from her location in Glen Park, where she had been offering massage services for two decades.

"I'd thought it was fine to do massage [at 3901 23rd St.]. But after

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Founder of Roe v. Rape Is More Than a Survivor

She's Taking the Law Into Her Own Hands

By Suzanne Herel

Emma Sandberg never dreamed she'd become an activist.

The Noe Valley native is a self-described introvert, more comfortable sitting alone and researching a cause.

But Sandberg's world changed four years ago, when she was raped at a party by a man who plied her with alcohol until she was drifting in and out of consciousness. She was 17.

Two years later, she founded Roe v. Rape, a nonprofit that helps survivors of sexual assault heal through activism.

Now 21, Sandberg has succeeded in advancing important legislation on the state and local levels, among other accomplishments.

And while it still takes her out of her comfort zone to rally a group of people, she has hosted countless protests, teach-ins, and camp-outs at the University of Michigan, where she graduated in December with a bachelor's degree from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Sandberg's interest in activism bloomed in her first year at UMich, when she became involved in protesting Title IX changes permitting those accused of sexual misconduct to cross-

examine victims.

"I was realizing that all of a sudden my mind was off of my personal pursuit of justice, and suddenly I was feeling I was starting to heal," Sandberg said. "What I really wanted in that moment was a nonprofit that would help me become an activist. And I wanted that resource to be available for other survivors."

Sandberg was no stranger to protests, growing up in Noe Valley on 26th Street, in the house where her parents and two brothers still live. But, she said, she didn't know how to lead one.

So, she posted on Instagram, catching the attention of a fellow student who offered his help. The result: a Change.org petition that garnered more than 78,000 signatures. That effort attracted the support of the American Civil Liberties Union, which pressured the University of Michigan to change how it handled Title IX cases.

Personal Justice Denied

While marked with victories, some more tangible than others, the road she continued on has been long, frustrating, and painful for Sandberg.

"It was really tough," Sandberg said, starting with pressure from friends who knew her attacker, to not file a police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

April Fool's to You, Dear Readers!

The flashback to the archives on page 1 proves that the Voice you are now reading has a history. And if you'll check out pages 23 and 24 of this edition, you'll see a review of some of the seasonal humor that has enabled us to survive, and sometimes thrive, in Noe Valley land.



A Future RBG? After she rests her activist genes this summer, Noe Valley native Emma Sandberg, shown here on the steps of Columbia University, will head back to the East Coast and a career in constitutional and civil rights law. Photo courtesy Emma Sandberg

vivre

REAL ESTATE

DANIELLE LAZIER

(vê'vr) v. [Fr.] to live; to experience.

Kind Words From a Happy Client!

"Danielle and her team were amazing. We sold our Noe Valley condo with her in the midst of the pandemic and right before the Holidays. I can say without doubt that things were very smooth. Our place went into contract quickly and Danielle and her team handled everything so we didn't have to worry. Highlights included Danielle picking the right stager to make our place shine; she knew exactly what to do to market our place. The marketing, photos, etc. were very high quality. Once we went into contract, we were impressed that we didn't have to do much coordination or have any stress. We are very happy sellers! Thank you, Danielle. We will happily and confidently continue to use Danielle as our real estate agent."

— Kristina B. —

Insights for Homebuyers & Sellers



Tips from the Experts

- Top Ways to Prepare a SF Home to Sell
- Reputation Matters! Hire a Connected, Respected Agent

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- Selling an Investment Rental Property in SF

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CRIME SNAPSHOT

There were considerably fewer crimes in Noe Valley during the month of February, though it may not have felt like it for owners of motor vehicles.

The city's digital record of San Francisco Police Department incident reports showed 67 incidents in the 10 categories the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly. That's a big improvement over January, when 106 complaints hit the police blotter.

As usual, the "larceny/theft" category had the most incidents: 28. Of those, 19 involved vehicle break-ins, stripped car parts, or stolen license plates. The rest were a bicycle theft, a home package theft, and seven thefts described only as "other."

There also were 16 vehicles stolen during the month, including 10 cars, five trucks, and one motorcycle. Four had been recovered by the time we did our data survey, on March 10, 2022.

Burglaries declined to nine in February, from 18 the previous month. Five involved thefts from residential properties.

Physical confrontation is generally an outlier in Noe Valley. However, police reports showed three robberies in February, defined as incidents where a gun or other physical force is used. In addition, there were three reported assaults.

To check current data, see the Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present, at Data.sfgov.org under Public Safety. A search of "Noe Valley" yields data for an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

In an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, call 415-553-0123. The Mission Station number is 415-558-5400; for Ingleside Station, call 415-404-4000.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports to February 2022

Incident Type	Feb2021	Sep21	Oct21	Nov21	Dec21	Jan2022	Feb2022
Larceny/Theft	27	41	38	39	23	38	28
Burglary	54	23	14	12	26	18	9
Malicious Mischief	13	3	12	7	9	16	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	8	13	13	17	18	16
Assault	4	4	2	2	2	0	3
Robbery	0	2	2	2	1	0	3
Other Misc.	8	8	9	7	7	7	0
Fraud	3	3	3	7	4	8	4
Family D.Violence	0	2	0	7	5	0	0
Vandalism	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	121	96	93	96	94	106	67

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at 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 for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed.



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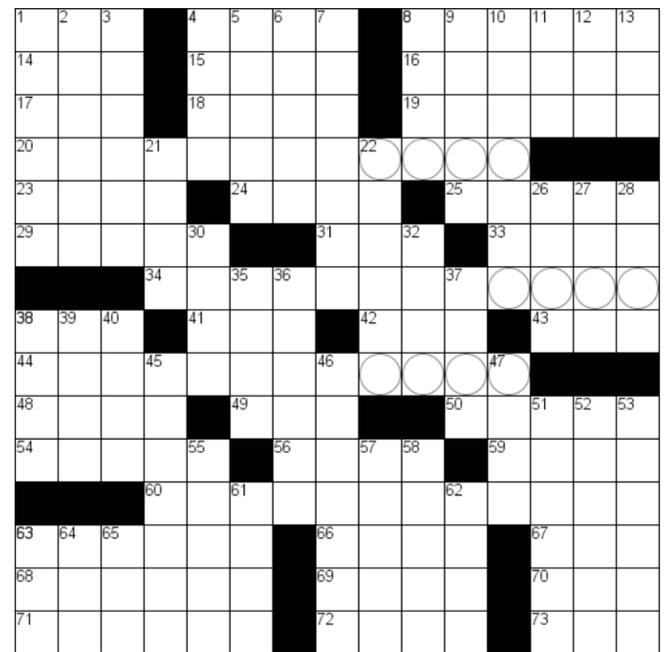
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Fishtailing

ACROSS

- (Just a) tiny bit
- Gomer Pyle, ____: old TV show
- What shares Richmond Station with BART
- Comedian ____ Philips
- Backside
- Big sandwich in the Mission
- ____ Dhabi (Mideast land)
- Palm used for starch
- Adjusts, as wheels at Noe Valley Auto Works
- "Hey, ____ / What did you kill": Beatles lyric
- Regarding
- Udon cousin, noodlewise
- ____ Marner
- "You look like you've seen a ____!"
- Summer cooler
- ____ Sushi on 24th Street
- "You doing okay?"
- Critical hosp. department
- Coffee container
- '60s muscle car
- Uno plus uno
- "Keep your distance behind my car"
- An egg in Caesar's salad
- Peruvian singer Sumac
- Frauds
- Citrus often drizzled over fish
- Lhasa ____ (dog)
- Triumph cry
- Seafood place on 24th, made of the tails of this puzzle's starred entries
- Enter the scene



- Bull, in Barcelona
- BART stop, for short
- Prepared, as fish
- Lyft rival
- "Ideas Worth Spreading" talks
- Command for renaming a file
- "Hey! You!"
- Dashes narrower than ems

DOWN

- Lipton unit
- Waylay
- Golden Rule starter
- Bear in the sky
- Flipped fish eaters
- Nearsighted "Mr."
- Heavy tool for prying
- Berry in a Pressed bowl
- ____ over (ponders)

- Georgia's capital (no, the other Georgia)
- Sponge alternative
- Cape ____, Mass.
- Boxing match enders, briefly
- "Wow!"
- No-goodnik
- Alight
- 2012 Best Picture with Ben Affleck
- Figure (out), in Britspeak
- Racetrack information broker
- "At Last" singer ____ James
- King Kong star Fay
- Kind of crackers
- Cinnamon candies: Red ____
- Worshiped one
- Crane ____: new SF park near Chase Center
- "E pluribus ____"

- Company that merged with Sprint
- ____ like a dog: greedily take
- Vaping device, informally
- Words before "of time" or "of talent"
- Snowsuit attachment
- J.C. and Sam of the PGA
- Skin "Creme" in blue tins
- Nose-in-the-air types
- Fairy tale beasts
- Some digital displays, briefly
- Variety
- Buffoon
- "His Master's Voice" sloganer
- Toyota ____-4

Solution on Page 22
Find more Crosswords at noevalleyvoice.com

LETTERS 58¢



Patricia and Jasmine bring out the sunshine.

Photo courtesy Martha & Bros.

More Women We Love

Editor:

The March issue of the *Voice* was full of interesting news. An especially fun read was “These Women Do It With Heart” on pages 1 and 11.

However, our morning coffee group, which includes longtime Martha’s customers, thinks you missed/forgot two important 24th Street Martha’s ladies in your article: Patricia and Jasmine. They are among the best at Martha’s, and just being in the company of these women seems to bring out the sunshine.

Pete, Emil, Jean Paul, Peggy, Susan, Bill W, Bill C, Doug

At the Noe Valley Town Square

What Makes Community

Editor:

Your cover article about Martha Lau in the March 2022 issue (“These Women Do It With Heart,” by Megan Wetherall) caught our family’s eye.

We love Martha, and ever since we moved to Noe Valley in 2016, she has single-handedly given us a huge dose of community.

I showed the article to my 7-year-old daughter Lucy, who has a special fondness for Martha. Every time we come in or pass by her store (*Danny’s Cleaners*) to say hello, Martha always has a warm hello for us and a lollipop of choice for Lucy. My daughter’s affection for her goes beyond red, green, and blue lollipops.

I explained to Lucy how a person can respond to a newspaper article, and as a life-learning lesson she wanted to write you a letter to the editor.

She dictated it into my phone and I transcribed it for her.

Kindly consider printing this letter in your next edition.

Thank you!

Steve Zwillinger

Editor’s Note: We are pleased to print the following letter, which accompanied the one from Steve Zwillinger and family.

Martha Lau ‘Nice to Everyone’

Editor:

Martha is very sweet to a lot of kids. I saw the newspaper and was very happy to see that Martha was honored to be a good neighborhood person. And she is very nice to everyone. That is why she should be honored.

Lucy Wainschtein, age 7

Garden Tour in Full Bloom May 7

After an absence of two years, the Noe Valley Garden Tour is *back!* The Friends of Noe Valley Garden Committee has almost finished lining up the gardens to be included on the tour.

You will be amazed at what the huge December rain has done for local gardens this year. Come and be inspired.

The tour will be Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will offer seven to nine gardens bursting with greenery and color. Featured gardens will showcase a variety of styles. You may see a vegetable garden, a lovely meadow-like garden, a hidden garden in a forest setting, a garden for dining and entertaining, a terraced garden on a steep hillside, a garden with a koi pond (and incredible views), a rose garden, sidewalk gardens, and a public garden or two. Plans are also in the works to include art and music in select gardens.

As always, a donation to a beautification project in the neighborhood will be made with Garden Tour proceeds.

Ticket prices will remain the same as past years at \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors 62+. Children under 12 are free.

Tickets are being sold at **When Modern Was, Just for Fun**, and **Folio Books** on 24th Street; at **Olive This, Olive That** on Vicksburg Street; and at **Omnivore Books** on Cesar Chavez at Church Street.

The tickets also can be purchased at the **Farmer’s Market** in the Town Square on Saturdays April 16, 23, and 30, and on the day of the tour, May 7. You may also purchase tickets online after April 16 at friendsofnoevalley.com.

Raffle tickets will be sold, and among the prizes will be an orchid from Flowers of the Valley and \$100 gift certificates to Flora Grubb Gardens and Flowercraft Garden Center. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the same locations as Garden Tour tickets, at the Saturday Farmer’s Market, and on the day of the tour at all of the gardens. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and 30 for \$20.

We are still in need of **Garden Greeters!** If you would like to volunteer, please email lindalockyer3@gmail.com. Shifts are two hours and Garden Greeters will receive a **free ticket** to the Garden Tour.

We look forward to seeing you on May 7!

Peggy King and Linda Lockyer and the Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour Committee

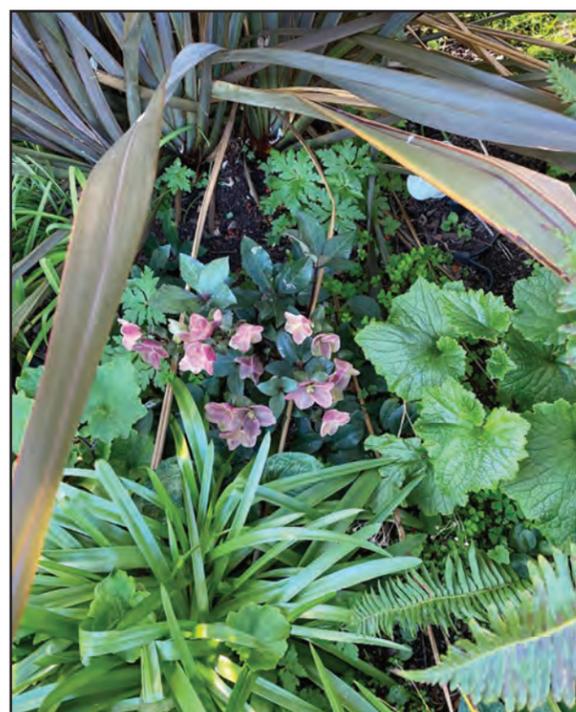


Photo courtesy Peggy King

Round of Applause for Noe Valley Town Square

Editor:

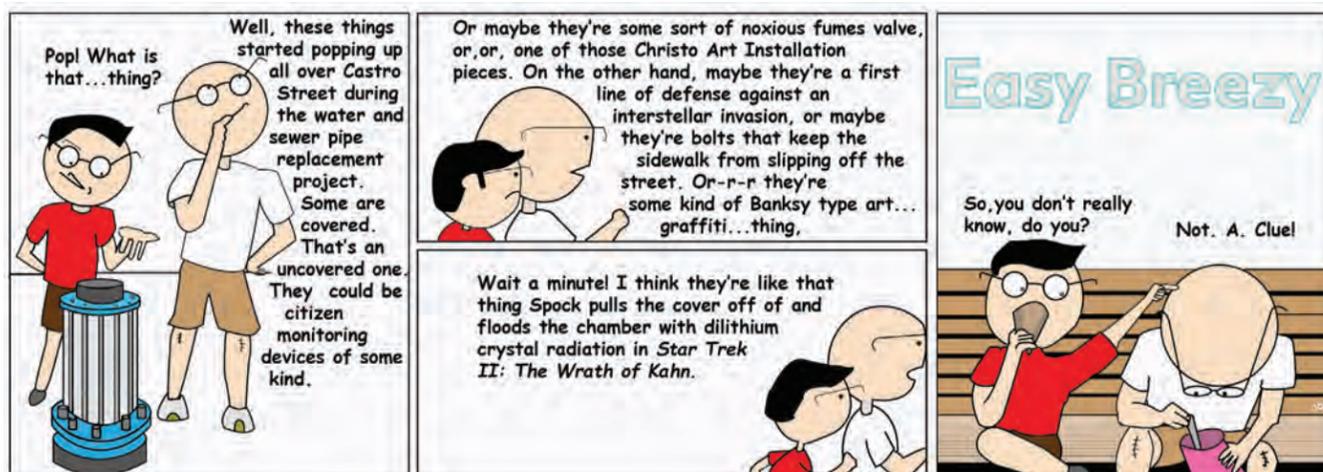
I’m a longtime Noe Valley resident. While relaxing in the well-used Noe Valley Town Square again, I was reminded that this wonderful, well-designed community feature is a brilliant reuse of a prime parcel, far

superior to a block of looming, exclusive condos.

A huge thank-you to the Noe Valley community and its activist prime movers, and to the City and the former owner (the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church), for enabling the town square to exist.

Peter Grenell

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Easy Breezy

So, you don't really know, do you? Not. A. Clue!

Wait a minute! I think they're like that thing Spock pulls the cover off of and floods the chamber with dilithium crystal radiation in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn*.



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JB JESSICA BRANSON

- Top 5 All San Francisco Listing Agent, 2022 so far
- Top 7 Overall Agent City Wide, 2022 so far
- Noe Valley Property Owner
- Stellar marketing, intelligent strategy, amazing results!

So far 2022 SF real estate has had some mind-blowing sales. We've seen mobbed open houses, dozens of disclosure requests for a single home, and achieved sale prices that are beyond the sellers' wildest dreams. With the war in Ukraine, rising interest rates, extremely low inventory, and a volatile stock market, there is uncertainty. But with SF's strong economy and large swaths of wealth, real estate is still quite an attractive bet.

As a top SF realtor for 15 years, Jessica is an expert at timing, strategy and preparing property for successful sales. If you are considering selling your home, make sure to interview Jessica, and let her intelligence, experience, and wisdom guide you! Her record of success speaks for itself. Call Jessica today at 415.341.7177 for a free, no strings estimate of your home's value.

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20 Hill St \$4,040,000



SOLD

ValleyStreetDream.com
170 Valley St \$3,800,000



SOLD

LuxeMissionModern.com
917 Florida St \$3,510,000



SOLD

BernalBliss.com
101 Santa Marina \$3,177,000



SOLD

GlenParkDream.com
762 Chenery St \$2,835,000



SOLD

NoeValleyBeauty.com
4434 23rd St \$2,795,000



SOLD

DiamondInNoe.com
569 Diamond \$2,735,000



SOLD

LaidleyStreetDream.com
100 Laidley St \$2,400,000

COMPASS



New Listing!

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Noe Saddened and Concerned About Fate of Ukraine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

house in Odessa.

“When they hear sirens, they literally hide in a small hole in the garage, in case they [Russian forces] start bombing,” she said. The “hole” is a shallow grease pit of the type that mechanics use to repair vehicles. “That’s mind-blowing, but they do what they can to survive over there,” Van de Sande said.

It is difficult for frail residents to seek safe haven abroad, and the Ukrainian government has required male adults to remain in the country to fight or volunteer in other ways. As of March 25, more than 3.6 million people, mostly women and children, had fled Ukraine.

“A lot of ladies took their kids and tried to go to nearby countries,” such as Poland, Romania, and Moldova, Van de Sande said.

“I had a neighbor who took her daughter and grandson and went all the way to Portugal while driving.” It was a 2,700-mile journey through Poland, Germany, and France to Lisbon.

“That’s amazing, for a woman to just leave everything behind so her child and her grandson would be safe in another country,” she said.

Van de Sande, who lives in the Outer Richmond, said support from the rest of the world was crucial to Ukraine’s survival. “People are really in need in my hometown.”

She invited Noe Valley residents who wished to help directly to come by the flower shop to get information on how to donate.

‘Heartbroken and Scared’

Paulina Fayer, a Diamond Heights resident and a member of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, also was born in Ukraine. Her family resettled in the United States in 1993, two years after the Soviet Union broke apart and Ukrainians voted to become an independent country. She was 7 at the time.

For the past month, worries over the fate of Ukraine have dominated her thoughts.

“We are heartbroken and we are scared,” said Fayer, who works as an educator and marketing copywriter. “I



Tetyana Chukhriy and daughter Yuliya Van de Sande, of Flowers of the Valley, stand beneath a Ukrainian flag holding bouquets reflecting the colors of their homeland. The blue is for the sky and the yellow wheat. The hearts represent their love for Ukraine. Photo by Beverly Tharp

still have extended family in Odessa.”

Fayer said a cousin with three young children had been able to leave the country, while older family members had stayed. One group of relatives was using the basement of their business as a potential shelter during missile attacks.

“It’s the closest you can get to a legitimate bomb shelter,” Fayer said. She said they had invited other members of the community to join them in the basement “for peace of mind and support” and first-aid training.

At first, most of the devastation was occurring in the cities of Mariupol, Kyiv, and Mykolaiv, with Russian bombs hitting both military and civilian targets, including schools and apartment buildings. Attacks had not yet reached Odessa, though the city was in a precarious position. As a major port on the Black Sea, it was vulnerable to sea assault.

Fayer has been channeling her anxiety into activism. She joined more than a thousand demonstrators at protests at City Hall and the Ferry Building in downtown San Francisco in late

February.

“My parents went with me to the one in front of City Hall,” she said, adding that a local television station interviewed her father, Leon Fayerbuerg, about the crisis in their home country.

Waving the Yellow and Blue

Ukrainian flags appeared on poles and in windows in Noe Valley within days of the Russian invasion on Feb. 24. Most local residents were stunned to hear Russian President Vladimir Putin describe his country’s offensive as a “special military operation” designed to “denazify” Ukraine.

A large Ukrainian flag—with two horizontal bands of color, blue and yellow—now stretches across the window of Van de Sande’s flower shop.

“It’s to show that I’m thinking of them, even though I’m here in America for so many years and I’m a U.S. citizen. But my roots are in the Ukraine,” she said. “I can’t just cross it out because I’m here.”

Noe Street residents S.A. Kushinka and Mike Underhill put up a homemade Ukrainian flag on the front of their house, as did a neighbor across the street.

“The morning after the invasion, I just drove to the Joann fabric store and I found blue and yellow fabric,” Kushinka said. “I came home and sewed the two pieces of fabric together.”

Kushinka is two generations removed from the “old country.” Her grandparents lived in Mukachevo, on Ukraine’s western border with Slovakia.

But that doesn’t diminish her concern, said Kushinka, a business consultant for community health clinics. “I think we’re all feeling the outrage and sadness and disbelief.”

Kushinka said she also feels “sorry for the Russian people. They’re being lied to and are suffering because of their megalomaniac leaders.”

A Moscovite’s Lament

Noe Valley merchant Andrei Abramov, who is from Russia, is similarly appalled at the escalation in hostilities.

“It’s just a horrible thing,” says Abramov, owner of the French Tulip shop at 24th and Sanchez streets.



Feeling sadness, outrage, and disbelief, S.A. Kushinka and Mike Underhill of Noe Street draped a homemade flag the day after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Photo courtesy Mike Underhill

Abramov has both immediate family and close friends in Ukraine, who have fled to Baltic Sea countries bordering Russia. His daughter and her husband traveled by train to Riga in Latvia, where they initially had trouble finding housing.

“They are scared they are going to be next after Ukraine. Everyone is scared [because] you never know where he [Putin] is going to stop. It’s very sad,” Abramov said.

He has sent money to friends who escaped to Tallin in Estonia, and he continues to check in on his loved ones daily.

“How do you go about your everyday life without thinking about what’s going on there?” he said.

Abramov, a native of Moscow, came to the U.S. in 1992, arriving a year after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

“I was 33 years old,” he said. “I started my life with a little small suitcase and \$300.” He and his wife, Natasha Tchesnokova, took over the French Tulip more than a decade ago.

While always “happy to be here,” Abramov says he has been disturbed by the rise in tensions between



A poster and a spray of daffodils appeared on a store window on 24th Street in early March to note the tragic death of 26-year-old Anastasiia Yalanskaya, one of three Ukrainian volunteers killed in their car after they delivered food to a dog shelter on the outskirts of country’s capital. It was a stark reminder the war was real. Photo courtesy Peggy Cling

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Letter From Berlin

The Noe Valley Voice thanks Kit Cameron of 28th Street for sharing this correspondence from a friend living in Germany. Kit provided additional background: "Marilyn and Steve Johnston moved from Fair Oaks Street to Italy in 2004, and they now live in Berlin. When refugees from Ukraine began arriving in Germany in late February, Marilyn and Steve volunteered to be greeters at Berlin's Central Train Station." Marilyn sent Kit a letter, describing her experiences, and Kit asked if she could pass it along to the Voice. We're grateful Marilyn said yes. Here is her letter, dated March 26, 2022.

Dear Kit,

To give you an idea of the scale of the refugee influx: Between midnight and 10 a.m. this morning, a "slow" period, 44 trains and buses arrived in Berlin from Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary with Ukrainian refugees. And they will continue to arrive all day and into the night, occasionally with as many as 400 refugees on a train from Warsaw, for example.

So, yes, we still volunteer; it seems to work out to every other day. We don't do much other than smile with our eyes, give a helping hand with heavy (!) bags, or maneuver a stroller down an escalator or flight of stairs. We try to be gentle and calm, direct them to the line for train tickets or Vodafone prepaid phone cards, or to the toilet or canteen area, where they can sit down and have something to eat or drink, charge up a phone, pick up a donated necessity, and wait.

It's a big station on five levels, more of a vertical mall with train tracks in the upper and lower levels, and it's dynamic and very confusing. I had to print a sectional exploded diagram of the station to orient myself. I hope we make them feel welcome and safe enough to let someone else take over for a few minutes.

Some arrive well turned out and others in degrees of disarray. A woman with a baby and her elderly father leaning on her arm and walking with a cane. A young couple with backpacks and a cat. She had a litter pan tied to her backpack.

Steve helped a group of women and a young child who arrived with an infant—no stroller—and four or five heavy plastic sacks with no handles for carrying. They must have left in a panic. I helped a woman and her daughter of maybe 11 to the train ticket line, the woman chatting away with me in Ukrainian, undeterred by the fact that I couldn't speak a word, while her daughter managed a "Thank you." Her mother just beamed with pride and said, "Danke schön."

Amazingly, I haven't seen anyone crying or terrified or angry. I think they are too exhausted to feel much of anything. They can't afford to break down—yet. But that will come. I just hope they can go back and that there is something and someone to go back to.

The EU has really stepped up its game. Our neighbors told us about their friends who have a large house with an in-law apartment and took in a woman with two kids. The family registered with the local police, which means they are eligible for social and medical benefits and can work. The kids are already in school! That's solidarity. Let's hope the U.S. makes good on its pledge to take in 100,000.

xxx, Marilyn



French Tulip owners Natasha Tchesnokova and Andrei Abramov pose with store employee Elena Telford. They are among the many local residents of Russian background who are condemning the violence in Ukraine.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

Whether Ukrainian Or Russian, They Stand for Peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Russians and Ukrainians, not only in his former country but also in America.

"We have friends and family on both sides. The whole history is intertwined, and I've never seen the difference," he said. "You can't blame a whole nation for what the government is doing."

Restaurant Benefit for Ukraine

Chef/owner Anya El-Wattar opened Birch & Rye, a Russian-themed restaurant, at 1320 Castro St. on Feb. 9, a mere two weeks before Putin's troops invaded Ukraine.

A Moscow resident who immigrated to the U.S. when she was 18, El-Wattar declined to discuss with the *Voice* whether there had been any negativity aimed at her eatery during the past month. (Anti-Russian emails had hit some restaurants and bars in New York and elsewhere.)

Instead, El-Wattar via her public relations firm provided a statement of support for Ukraine.

"We are devastated by the Russian government's attack on the people of Ukraine. Birch & Rye condemns this senseless violence and says #НетВойне (No to War). We stand for peace. We stand with Ukraine," the statement read.

Birch & Rye also created a special cocktail, "to express our support for the people who have been affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine." The drink is called Olena's Flowers, named after the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska (the wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky). The statement said all of the cocktail's proceeds would be donated to Doctors Without Borders.

In addition, on April 13 at the restaurant, El-Wattar and chef Dominique Crenn of Atelier Crenn Restaurant, will co-host a fundraising dinner with all proceeds going to the nonprofit World Central Kitchen's work "in and near Ukraine." Tickets for the five-course, vegetarian dinner start at \$2,500 and can be reserved at birchandryesf.com. ■

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Lent, Holy Week & Easter Events

Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:30 am

Procession of the Palms
A Worship of Joyful Noise!

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 6:00 pm

Light into Darkness: A Tenebrae Service
Simple Meal and Communion

Easter Sunday, April 17, 10:30 am

A Worship Celebration with Guest Musicians!
Emil Miland, Joshua Brown, Merrill Grant,
Lindsay Rader and the NVM Choir
Festive Refreshments After Worship

Labyrinth Walk, Thursday, April 21, 6:30 pm

Revive Your Spirit in Serenity
A Candle-lit Meditation with Quiet Music

As we provide refreshments after Worship Services, in keeping with the City's guidance, we require all worshippers to be vaccinated if they can be.

www.noevalleyministry.org



Looser Rules for Massage Providers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

buying it, I found out I couldn't do massage there," said McCurdy. "So that was a little confusing. It definitely limited the income I could make there."

It wasn't that she was banned from offering massage. Rather, the permitting process had become long and involved, with no guarantee of success.

During the 2010s, former Supervisor Katy Tang had convinced the board to adopt strict rules for massage parlors, to discourage their use as fronts for sex trafficking. An unintended consequence was that the barriers were too high for legitimate massage practitioners. (In addition to getting licensed by the state and the San Francisco Health Department, would-be massage providers had to obtain special approval from the city's Planning Commission.)

The massage community responded by lobbying the supervisors to relax the zoning laws for legitimate massage businesses in San Francisco. District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen took up the cause and pushed through an ordinance last year allowing massage providers to partner with medical providers and work out of their offices.

Still, McCurdy had been sad to learn, Ronen's ordinance didn't apply to chiropractic or acupuncture clinics like hers. Working with massage advocates and other business leaders in Noe Valley, she pressed City Hall to expand the new rules so that proprietors like her could work with massage therapists.

"I just think everyone should be able to offer [massage] at a legitimate establishment," said McCurdy. "We are obviously a little more medically inclined, so why can't we do that?"

The Headache Is Over

After being apprised of the issue, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced an ordinance Dec. 6 to correct the omission and include chiropractic and acupuncture businesses in the next zoning update. The supervisors adopted the zoning change with a unanimous 11-0 vote at their March 8 meeting.

"This ordinance recognizes that massage therapists, who are predominantly women and have been especially hard hit during the pandemic, are health service providers whose care we welcome in our neighborhoods," said Mandelman after its passage.

The new rules should take effect by the end of April or early May. Under the ordinance, any acupuncturist or chiropractor in a ground-floor commercial



By questioning an omission in a pending city ordinance, Marnie McCurdy, owner of East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic on 23rd Street, helped clear the path for massage practitioners to set up shop in the offices of chiropractors and acupuncturists. Photo by Art Bodner

space who wants to offer massage at their business will not have to seek a conditional use permit from the planning commission in order to do so. Instead, they should be able to secure approval by applying for a permit with city planning staff.

Mandelman told the *Voice* that McCurdy "gets all the credit" for accomplishing the zoning change. If she hadn't alerted his office to the issue, Mandelman said, he wouldn't have pushed to address it.

"She was obviously right, and it was obviously something we needed to fix," he said in a phone interview in late February. "We were happy to do it."

A Boost for Small Business

Former Noe Valley resident Christine Doo, who owns Plava Bodyworks on Van Ness Avenue, told the *Voice* the more onerous rules the city had enacted last decade made it nearly impossible for massage therapists to legally work in San Francisco. The new rules, she predicted, "will definitely open the doors" for more therapeutic practices to offer bodywork and massage services.

"Chiropractic and acupuncture go really well hand-in-hand with bodywork and massage therapy. They compliment each other, and people experience greater benefit from having those two together," said Doo, who in the 2010s worked for six years at FitWell Chiropractic Sports Medicine in Noe Valley.

With so many people working from home these past two years, often hunched over desks or kitchen tables, the need for massage services has only grown, said Doo. Making it easier for massage practitioners to open for business could help fill vacant commercial spaces in neighborhood retail corridors, she said.

"Everybody's body is a wreck from being at their home offices for so long due to Covid. And it shut down so many businesses. This could help bring

small businesses back to San Francisco," said Doo, who helps lead the SF Massage Community Council.

McCurdy hopes to complete the permitting process and hire a full-time staff massage therapist at her Noe Valley location by the summer. As for taking credit for pushing through the zoning change, she was somewhat reticent.

"I would love to take a little credit, I guess," she said. "I don't know if I can. It does make me so happy." ■

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Emma Sandberg on Track to Set New Precedents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

report. “A lot of victims question themselves,” she said. “But right off the bat, I didn’t question myself. I didn’t ever blame myself, which is unusual for victims.”

She did report the rape, which did not occur in California.

“All of my power had been taken away,” she said. “I was trying to get my power back.”

Five months later, however, the investigation hit a dead end. Authorities declined to prosecute because they could not prove Sandberg’s attacker had known she was incapacitated when the act took place.

“I was totally devastated when that didn’t go through,” she said.

Battle Over the R Word

Sandberg was determined her frightening experience wouldn’t affect her plans of moving away for college—to her father’s alma mater in Michigan. It did, however, help shape her interest in studying public policy.

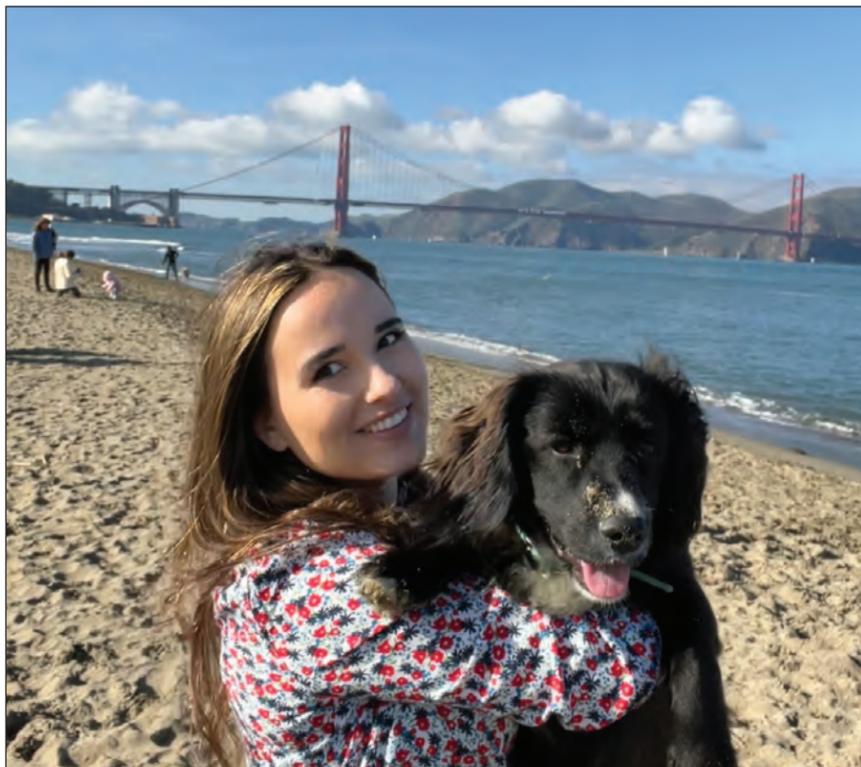
Being surrounded by campus parties and drinking was a challenge.

“I had some friends who left me because I didn’t want to go out to frat parties,” she said. “It was pretty difficult for me at first.”

Then, Sandberg was contacted by her perpetrator’s university, asking her to be a complainant in an unrelated Title IX investigation.

“That added a lot more stress,” Sandberg said. “I had to skip classes to interview with that investigator.”

Further frustration followed when,



When she’s not advocating for survivors of sexual assault, Emma Sandberg is likely having fun visiting family in San Francisco, which often entails a romp on the beach with pal Inslee.

after her freshman year and foray into activism, she created Roe v. Rape and tried to incorporate her nonprofit. The State of Delaware initially refused because of the word “rape” in the name.

Sandberg was furious.

“I was on a plane flying home to San Francisco, and the whole ride I was typing up a three-page legal brief,” she said, pointing out several entities incorporated in Delaware with “rape” in the name.

“I sent it in, and within an hour, they changed their position. That confirmed my interest in law. That was the first time I had to create a legal argument. I purposely made it seem like it was writ-

ten by an attorney.”

Sandberg went on to exercise her legal muscle.

She worked to get Michigan Senate Bill 497 introduced last year to change the definition of “mental incapacitation” as it pertains to sexual assault. Currently, in that state and a number of others, an individual who willingly uses drugs or alcohol is not considered to be mentally incapacitated, making sexual assaults trickier to prosecute.

Before her attack, Sandberg had interned in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Representative Karen Bass. Afterward, she interned with Senator Dianne Feinstein.

While with Feinstein’s office, she

helped draft a proposal addressing the very loophole that allowed her perpetrator to escape prosecution—having to prove that the attacker knew the victim was incapacitated. It is now in the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

What Sandberg learned, she said, is it’s not enough to change a statute; you need to ensure the district circuit courts will interpret it the correct way.

That has informed Sandberg’s next step. This fall, she will be attending Columbia Law School, where she plans to concentrate in constitutional and civil rights law.

Bader Ginsburg Her Inspiration

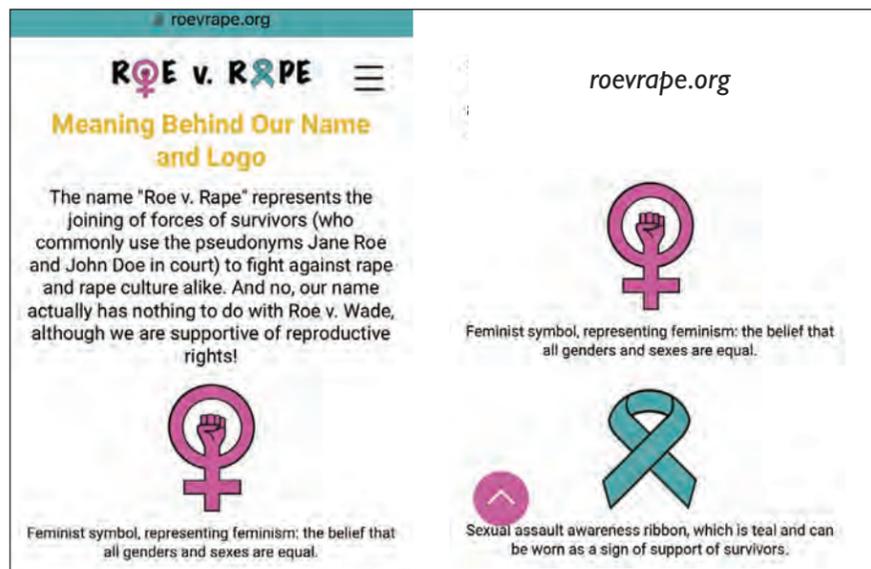
Before then, however, she is enjoying a break from activism. In March, she and brother Evan, whom she describes as a “chessmaster and professional poker player,” departed Noe Valley to ride the rails through Europe for a few months.

Copenhagen, Germany, Prague, Vienna, Slovenia, Italy, Greece, Barcelona, and the United Kingdom are on their itinerary.

In their absence, it will fall to brother Zachary and parents Amy, a retired nurse, and Joel, who writes software, to keep up the family outings to the dog park at Upper Noe Recreation Center. That’s their favorite spot to take mutt Inslee—named, of course, for environmental activist and Washington Governor Jay Inslee.

As for the future, Sandberg would like to get a Roe v. Rape chapter going in San Francisco, and to bring consent education to high schools like her alma mater, Lowell.

At the same time, she has her sights set on loftier goals. Said Sandberg: “I hope to follow in RBG’s footsteps and become an appellate lawyer to change legal precedent.” ■



The Roevrape.org website that Emma Sandberg helped create offers videos and information that can be shared or downloaded and used as handouts.

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State of the Market Noe Valley

NUMBERS SOLD FROM 1/1/22 - 3/30/22

Numbers reflect where the Noe Valley market is as of this writing.



SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

20	\$2,424,000	\$1,523
# Sold < \$3M	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft
9	\$4,663,000	\$1,457
# Sold \$3M +	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



CONDOMINIUM

21	\$1,492,000	\$1,173
# Sold < \$2.5M	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft
1	\$4,000,000	\$1,555
# Sold \$2.5M +	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



2 - 4 UNITS

8	\$2,123,000	\$802
# Sold	Average Price	Average \$/Sq Ft



We continue to see a trend of multiple offers on homes and condos, and buyer attendance at open houses are strong. More than ever, the state of our inventory and amount of buyer demand will determine market values. It appears that fear of rising interest rates and inflation have spurred a buy-now mentality.

These data trends are general. If you have considered selling your home this year, we would be happy to provide information on how this may impact you and address any questions about the housing market.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Homes a Hot Commodity

By Corrie M. Anders

Real estate love bugs in Noe Valley purchased 11 single-family homes in February, including a beauty that sold on Valentine's Day for nearly \$7 million.

The number of sales was six more than in January—and two more than in February a year ago—according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

The spate of home-buying was spurred by inflation fears and pending hikes in mortgage interest rates.

"There's so much talk about inflation and rates going up, and people are worried they will go up a lot more," Corcoran president Randall Kostick said. "When interest rates begin to rise,



A two-bedroom condominium in this classic Victorian on Dolores Street sold in February for \$1,455,000.

buyers get scared they are going to get priced out" of the market.

In January, when February buyers were still house-hunting, interest rates ranged from 3.22 to 3.55 percent. By March 10, they had risen to 3.85 percent, according to the credit agency Freddie Mac. "Mortgage advisers are telling buyers to lock in your rates"—that is, get a firm loan-rate commitment—"because they don't know where rates are going," said Kostick.

Low inventory and strong demand for homes in Noe Valley also drove shoppers to act fast and make top-dollar offers. Buyers on average took fewer than two weeks to bid on a home and paid 114 percent of the asking price to get their desired property.

There was "a tremendous shortage" of homes for sale, "almost as bad as it has ever been," Kostick said.

The Valentine's Day property, a dream home blending "warm minimalism and timeless European design" on the 300 block of Jersey Street between Noe and Castro streets, was sold before it had a chance to hit the market.

The 133-year-old Victorian had undergone a modern renovation that expanded its three stories to four bedrooms and six bathrooms folded into 3,820 square feet of living space.



Behind the facade of this 1889 Victorian on Jersey Street is a four-bedroom, six-bath home with all-modern conveniences. It sold on Feb. 14 for just under \$6.9 million.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2022	Average March 2022	Average February 2022	Average February 2021
Studio	10	\$1,795 – \$2,595	\$2,156 / mo.	\$2,051 / mo.	\$1,863 / mo.
1-bdrm	39	\$1,900 – \$4,800	\$2,834 / mo.	\$2,842 / mo.	\$2,618 / mo.
2-bdrm	33	\$2,450 – \$5,000	\$3,723 / mo.	\$3,904 / mo.	\$3,317 / mo.
3-bdrm	13	\$4,000 – \$7,200	\$5,123 / mo.	\$5,823 / mo.	\$4,668 / mo.
4+-bdrm	5	\$5,199 – \$17,900	\$8,909 / mo.	\$8,719 / mo.	\$8,239 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 100 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 4 to 11, 2022. In March 2021, there were 258 listings. NVV4/2022

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
February 2022	11	\$1,705,000	\$6,866,278	\$2,958,753	13	114%
January 2022	5	\$1,970,000	\$4,425,000	\$3,012,300	80	110%
February 2021	9	\$1,788,000	\$6,600,000	\$3,637,556	30	101%
Condominiums/TICs						
February 2022	4	\$562,000	\$1,455,000	\$949,875	19	113%
January 2022	4	\$880,000	\$2,001,000	\$1,587,750	45	102%
February 2021	7	\$1,190,000	\$2,230,000	\$1,625,000	24	107%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
February 2022	1	\$1,549,000	\$1,549,000	\$1,549,000	103	100%
January 2022	3	\$1,850,000	\$4,266,500	\$2,748,833	121	98%
February 2021	2	\$1,825,000	\$2,455,555	\$2,140,278	70	98%
5+-unit buildings						
February 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2021	1	\$12,950,000	\$12,950,000	\$12,950,000	136	76%

*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. NVV4/2022

Designed by San Francisco developer Michael Kramer, the remodel featured a gourmet kitchen with a 17-foot Pietra stone island, Gaggenau appliances, a family room opening onto a garden, skylights illuminating all three levels, a media lounge with a built-in entertainment wall, a fireplace, radiant heat, a fenced back yard, and a two-car garage with EV-charging. The final price was \$6,866,278, slightly below the seller's asking price (\$6.9 million).

February condominium buyers acted almost as quickly as their single-family-home counterparts, purchasing four in an average 19 days. They typically paid 14 percent above the seller's asking price.

All four were relatively small, said

Kostick. Three were one-bedroom units, each selling for under \$1 million.

The least expensive was a condo on Grand View Avenue with 585 square feet in a nine-unit complex built in 1960. It sold for \$562,000.

The price leader was a two-bedroom, two-bath home on the upper floor of a Stick Victorian in the 1500 block of Dolores Street, between 29th and Valley streets. With 1,100 square feet of living space, the home offered abundant natural light, a spacious kitchen with eat-in dining, a rear deck, a shared back yard, and Twin Peaks views. (However, there was no parking garage.)

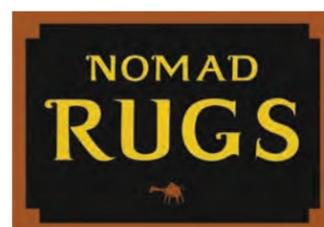
The sales price was \$1,455,000—21.8 percent above what the seller originally sought (\$1,195,000). ■

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Sunday April 17th



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\$4.99



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SHORT TAKES

Lick Mounts Pandemic Plays

You won't want to miss the latest theater production by James Lick Middle School. It was born out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Theater Arts instructor Keith Carames had the idea to have students create plays from their experiences during the long shutdown, working with a professional playwright.

Twelve students participated in a 12-week playwriting workshop last fall via Zoom. Each developed, completed, and revised a piece of theater, from three pages to 20. Carames then selected eight plays to direct and fully stage.

The eight include comedies, dramas, an Absurdist work about orange skies in San Francisco, and two musicals produced under the supervision of guest directors from the San Francisco Opera Guild, Kristen Jones and Lindsay Rader.

The next step was unusual for Lick productions. The plays were filmed, rather than staged live. Carames explained, "We weren't sure what Covid restrictions would be come spring," when the performances were scheduled. Filming was by professional cinematographers, who used six cameras. All Covid-19 precautions were followed, and parental permission was given.

Twenty hours of filming have been boiled down to 75 minutes for presentation to the public one night only, Friday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at the Brava Theater, where the plays were filmed. A donation is requested at the door—\$20 for adults, \$5 for students—but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The Brava Theater is located at 2781 24th St. in the Mission.

What's That Sound?

Family-favorite Friction Quartet returns to Noe Music Kids Saturday, April 9, for "All About Strings" at 10:30 a.m. The program lasts one hour in the upstairs space at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The Friction Quartet has played Noe Music Kids several times in the past and has proven highly popular with children and adults. They have an ability to entertain youngsters while imparting do-re-mi's and other musical concepts.

This time out, their topic is what they do: play in a string quartet. The audience will hear the weird and wacky sounds stringed instruments can make and how musicians turn these sounds into music. Audience interaction is the name of the game.

Tickets are \$15 for people 3 years of age and older. Under 3? You get in free! For more information and to make reservations, go to www.noemusic.org.

Ground Waters at ChungNamont

Photographer Liz Hickok, who resides in the Castro, has a solo exhibition of her fine art photos at the ChungNamont Gallery in Noe Valley through May 7. An opening reception Thursday, April 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., will feature Hickok in conversation with Ann Jastrab, director of Carmel's Center for Photographic Art, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Photos from Hickok's Ground Waters series will be on display and for sale. Her work involves images of scenes she has created using miniature sculp-



The daughter and grandson of the late Sally Schmitt, founder of the French Laundry restaurant, will visit Omnivore Books on Saturday, April 9. Photo by Mariah Tauger

tures, drenched in crystals. They are sometimes realistic, sometimes abstract.

The ChungNamont Gallery, the brainchild of Diane Chung and Emmanuelle Namont, is located at 4071 24th St., and focuses on photography-based works. Open hours are from 1 to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and by appointment on Tuesdays. See www.chungnamont.com for more information.

Ode to French Laundry Chef

The life and culinary work of California cuisine pioneer Sally Schmitt will be celebrated at Omnivore Books Saturday, April 9, in an in-store event at 3 p.m. Ms. Schmitt founded Yountville's French Laundry restaurant in 1978.

Sadly, she died this March, just weeks before her magnum opus, *Six California Kitchens: A Collection of Recipes, Stories, and Cooking Lessons*, was published. Her daughter Karen Bates and grandson Byron Hoffman will be at the store to discuss the book and their mother and grandmother.

Schmitt had the novel idea, in 1978, to design her menus around local, seasonal ingredients grown at local farms, inspiring the farm-to-table movement. The book describes the six kitchens she worked in during her lifetime, where she learned to cook and made her innovations.

The event is free. Seating will be first come, first seated. There will be standing room also, as long as it lasts. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

For information on other in-person events at Omnivore in April, go to www.omnivorebooks.myshopify.com. The store is located at 3885 Cesar Chavez St.

One Encanto Evening

Magic is coming to Noe Valley! Disney's *Encanto* has a one-night screening Saturday, April 16, at Movie Night at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St. The film, which runs two hours, starts at 5:30 p.m. It's free but bring your own blankets, low-back



Photographic works by artist Liz Hickok will be on display through May 7 at the ChungNamont Gallery on 24th Street. A reception will be held Thursday, April 7.

chairs, and refreshments.

Encanto, an animated musical that had a limited theatrical run in 2021 during the pandemic, tells the story of the Madrigal family, who live in the Colombian mountains in a magical place called the Encanto. When the magic starts to fade, daughter Mirabel must save the day.

The movie has been nominated this year for three Oscars—best animated feature, best score, and best original song, for "Dos Oruguitas (Two Caterpillars)," one of eight written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Since the Oscars are March 27, we'll know who won by *Encanto's* Noe Valley movie night.

For information on all April events at the town square, including yoga and the Saturday farmer's market, go to www.noevalleytownsquare.com.

Una Noche de Poesia

The Odd Mondays reading series celebrates National Poetry Month in April with a night of poetry in Spanish and English. Four Latinx poets will read from their works from Los Angeles Monday, April 11, 7 to 8 p.m. Local author Wayne Goodman will host the event.

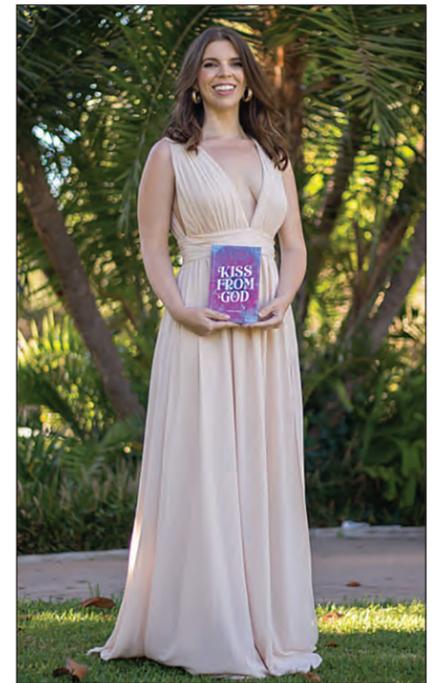
Adrian Ernesto will read poems from *Speaking con su Sombra*, written for and inspired by his late mother. Natalie Garcia plans to share Spanglish poems, mantras, and rituals from her *Còsmica* collection.

Jean-Pierre Rueda's poetry in *Herencias* celebrates historical Latinx figures. Stephanie Sorady, who is also a therapist, will share poems about mindfulness, feminism, and grief from *Kiss From God*.

All four books were published recently by Alegria Publishing, an independent Los Angeles publisher of Latinx writers. Copies will be available through Folio Books, 3957 24th St., and online at www.foliosf.com/odd-



Movie Night at the Noe Valley Town Square features the 2021 animated Disney film *Encanto* on Saturday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.



Stephanie Sorady will be among four Latinx poets sharing work in Spanish and English at Odd Mondays via Zoom April 11.

mondays.

To tune in for the reading, request the Zoom link from oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

In This Corner

David Campos and Matt Haney are back in the ring for the next round in their fight to be our new assemblyperson in the 17th Assembly District, on the east side of San Francisco. David Chiu resigned in October 2021 to become San Francisco City Attorney. Since then, it's been taxation without representation.

Former Supervisor Campos and current Supervisor Haney were the top two vote-getters in the February primary election (held with the school board recall vote), but neither received a majority of votes. Both are Democrats, which probably does not come as a surprise.

You should have received your voter info pamphlet and, if you vote from home, your ballot. The run-off in the 17th is the only item. Easy peasy. You can mail it back, drop it off at the Department of Elections drop box outside the Noe Valley Library (451 Jersey St.), or take it to any polling place on Election Day (April 19) between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. You can also vote in person during those hours.

The winner will be paid about \$115,000 a year. Let's get our money's worth. Please vote.

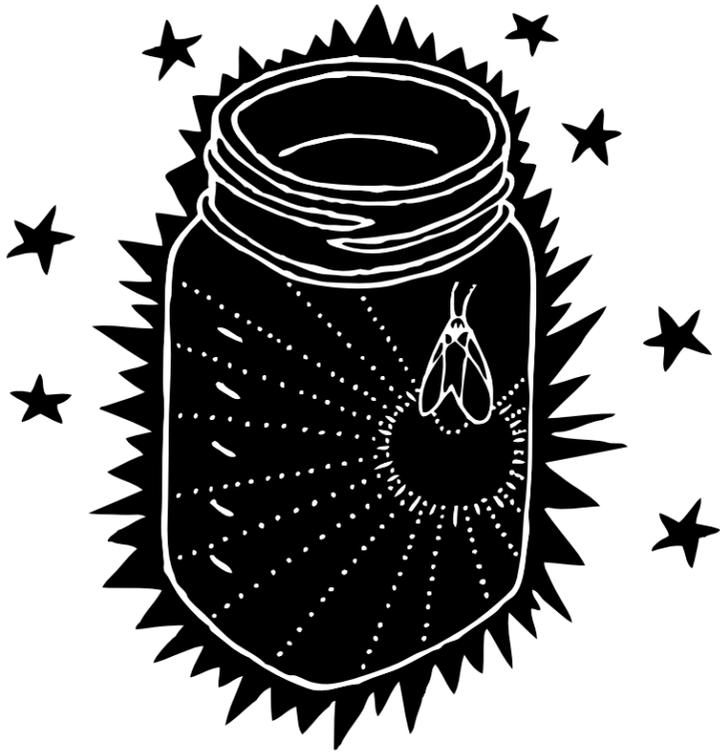
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Short Takes are compiled
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Gardens provide a floral frame for unofficial March Madness basketball. Photo by Chris Faust

Upper Noe Rec Center in Bloom

Spring is blooming at Upper Noe Rec. Gardening staff has been working with young park employees through the **Greenager Program** to spruce up the perimeter gardens and borders. The view from the sidewalks is looking fresh and colorful.

Inside the park, the view has improved, too. Visitors are once again greeted by smiling faces, as proof of vaccination and face coverings are no longer required to enter the building.

Spring Session continues through May 19. See <https://sfrecpark.org/> to select courses.

For updates on the schedule, check www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the center at **415-970-8061**. The park grounds, at 295 Day St., between Sanchez and Church streets, are open every day, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Get out and play!

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

Spring Session March 28 to May 19, 2022

Auditorium Free Play

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

Monday

5 to 6 p.m. Tennis Beginning
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Intermediate

Tuesday

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym
5 to 6 p.m. Tennis Beginning
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Intermediate
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais FREE
4 to 5 p.m. Girls Volleyball
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Thursday

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz – Little Kickers
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Karate Kidz
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp

Friday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
1 to 4 p.m. Argentine Tango 55+ FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Gym
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE
5 to 6 p.m. Tennis Beginning
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Intermediate

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature about new stores, restaurants, and other businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we profile YuBalance, a fitness studio on Church Street specializing in personal training.

YUBALANCE NOE VALLEY
 1461 Church St. at Cesar Chavez Street
 Frontdesk@YuBalance.com
<https://yubalance.com/index.html>

When Rory and Shala Cox mapped out their plans to open a personal training business back in 2011, they eyed Noe Valley as the perfect location to launch YuBalance. But during the tech boom, they found themselves priced out of the neighborhood. In 2014 they opened their first fitness studio in the Mission District.

With their business thriving, the couple opened two more locations, in the Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods. And they jogged in place, waiting for the right time to move into Noe Valley.

That time came in March 2020. But so did the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. City and state mandates forced them to close their doors and pivot to providing workout sessions online and bootcamps in city parks.

“We lost 50 percent of our members in a week,” recalled Rory Cox. “We went to Zoom overnight. It kept our employees going, but we took massive pay cuts.” Nonetheless, “it worked,” said Shala Cox. “We were grateful.”

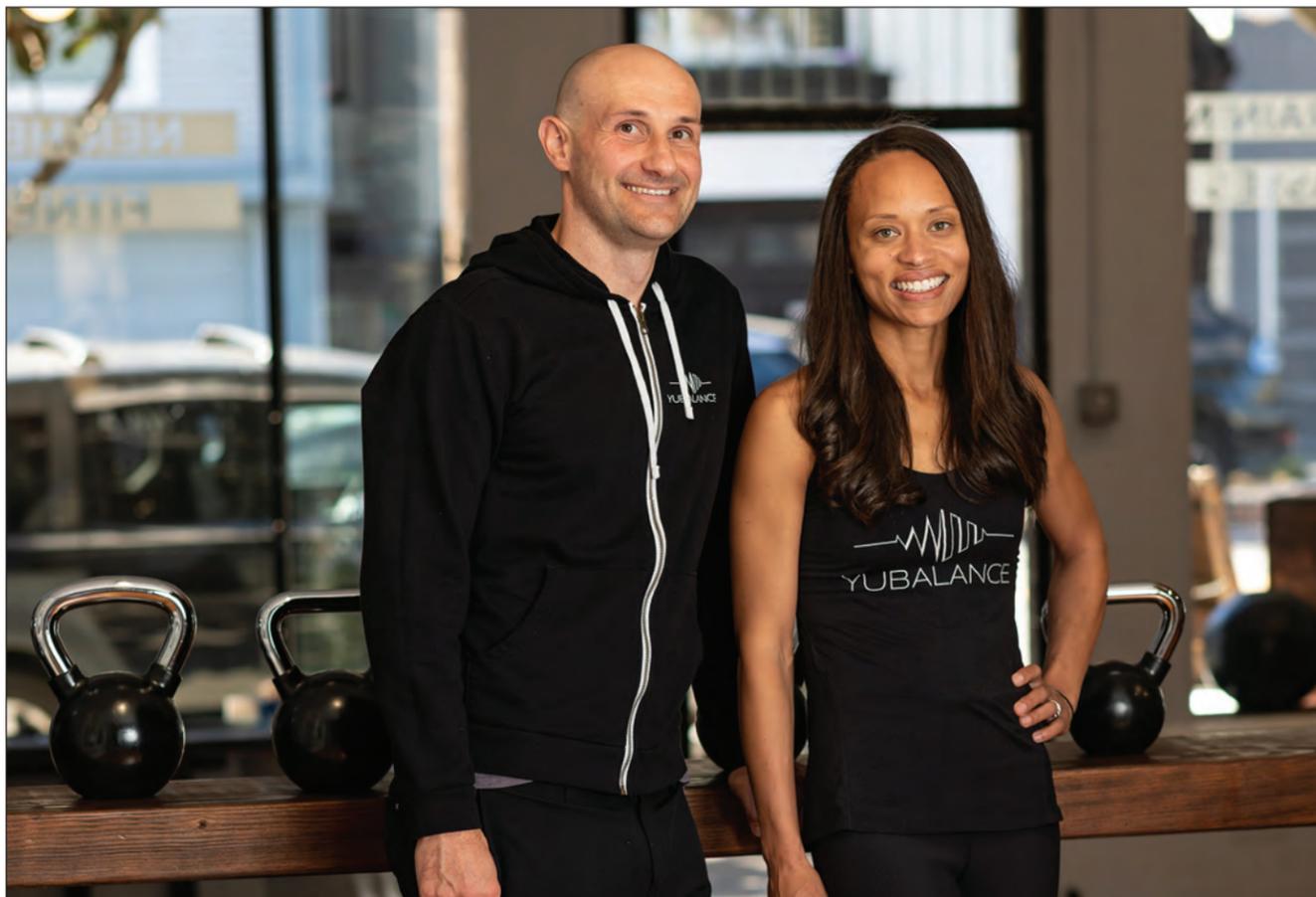
That same spring, they learned that Royal Cleaners had closed up shop at 1461 Church St. and was available to lease. Pleased with its back yard and open interior, which they saw could be converted with a minimal remodel, the couple took over the 2,000-square-foot space on April 1, 2020, and shuttered their Mission location.

“Noe Valley was always our number one neighborhood we wanted to open in,” said Rory Cox.

Commuting to work from their home in the Sunset, they began conducting personal training classes in the new space in September 2020.

At first, they could only do one-on-one sessions or workshops limited to four people. To further protect the health of their clients and staff, they taped spaces on the floor (for people to stay within) and propped the doors open to provide fresh air.

“We are not a regular gym. We are known for being clean and small, so it



With most of the weight from the pandemic now lifted from their shoulders, Rory and Shala Cox are eager to show off their flexible workout system at YuBalance on Church Street. Photo by Art Bodner

affected us a lot less,” said Rory Cox of the limitations they had to work under during the health crisis.

With Covid cases in retreat and the city easing up on its masking policies, they can now accommodate 10 people on-site per training session with no masks required. They also are hiring new trainers to join their 10-person staff across their three locations.

They are once again offering promotional rates for their training sessions, which last 45 minutes and need to be booked in advance via the website, YuBalance.com. A monthly \$99 Silver membership breaks down to \$24.75 per class per week, while the monthly \$199 Platinum membership covers five classes a week at \$9.95 each.

The Coxes describe their program as “fun and efficient full-body workouts designed to build lean muscle, reduce body fat, and improve cardio endurance.” In simpler terms, Rory Cox says, “it’s for people who don’t like running” or for those “who want to lose some weight.”

There are six types of workouts, with the lowest intensity, YuStretch, aimed at those who sit at a computer all day or who just want to be more limber. The medium-intensity Body Sculpt and Ball Method classes incorporate free weights and stability balls into the routines. Three high-intensity sessions—YuFit, YuSweat, and YuPower—all use free weights and foam rollers.

Individual sessions with a personal

trainer run 30 minutes and are scheduled by appointment. They are offering a special rate of \$389 for eight sessions.

“We focus on business professionals who are working from home,” said Shala Cox, who was born on the East Coast and grew up in Los Gatos.

Rory Cox grew up in the South. He moved to California after graduating from Roanoke College in Virginia. The couple met 15 years ago at a Marina bar and married five years ago. They have a 7-year-old son, Jabion, and a 1-year-old daughter, Lexi.

Opening in Noe Valley has proved to be the right move, said Shala Cox.

“People here have come back faster than at our other locations,” she said.

With many residents “successful and wanting to be healthy,” Rory Cox said, relocating to the neighborhood has been “a match made in heaven.”

The Noe Valley YuBalance offers sessions Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 to 8 p.m. It’s open by appointment on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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3

CHERYL YOU CHEPUSOVA • NOODLES, PLEASE! • 3:00 P.M. . FREE! In this board book shaped to mimic bowls, readers will discover 26 different noodle varieties as they eat their way through the alphabet, from Ash Reshteh in Iran to Zaru Soba in Japan. This is a storytime-style event for kids!

TUES
APR
5

CHETNA MAKAN • THE CARDAMOM TRAIL AND CHETNA'S INDIAN SERIES • 6:30 P.M. . FREE! Chetna (from The Great British Bake Off) combines creative flavor twists and a love of simple Indian home cooking. Join us to learn all about her books on desserts, 30-minute meals, street food snacks, healthy and vegetarian cooking.

SAT
APR
9

KAREN BATES AND BYRON HOFFMAN IN CELEBRATION OF SALLY SCHMITT • SIX CALIFORNIA KITCHENS: A COLLECTION OF RECIPES, STORIES, AND COOKING LESSONS FROM A PIONEER OF CALIFORNIA CUISINE • 3:00 P.M. . FREE! Sally Schmitt opened The French Laundry in 1978 and designed her menus around local, seasonal ingredients—a novel concept at the time. Her daughter and grandson will join us to talk about her life and recently published book.

THUR
APR
21

TREVOR FELCH • SAN FRANCISCO COCKTAILS: AN ELEGANT COLLECTION OF OVER 100 RECIPES INSPIRED BY THE CITY BYTHE BAY • 6:30 P.M. . FREE! Featuring recipes from and profiles on some of the most recognizable bars in San Francisco. Learn about this definitive guide to drinking in SF while imbibing cocktails poured by Golden Rule Spirits!

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Websites: <http://www.action-sf.com/> or <https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/>
 Email: ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com
 Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m. Virtual meeting. All welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

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

Castro Community on Patrol

Website: castropatrol.org
 Email: info@castropatrol.org

Castro Merchants

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

Diamond Heights Community Association

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

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

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

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

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

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

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

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

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

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

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

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
 Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)

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

Glen Park Association

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

Juri Commoners

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

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

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

Noe Neighborhood Council

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

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

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

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

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

Noe Valley Parent Network

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

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

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

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Progress Noe Valley

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

Resilient Noe Valley

Contact: Antoinette
 Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com
 Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5>
 Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
 Website: <https://SF-fire.org>
 New classes will be commencing soon. Visit the SF NERT website for more information.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
 Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
 Website: SlowSanchez.com

Upper Noe Merchants

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

Upper Noe Neighbors

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

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



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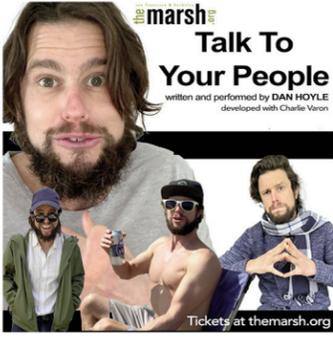
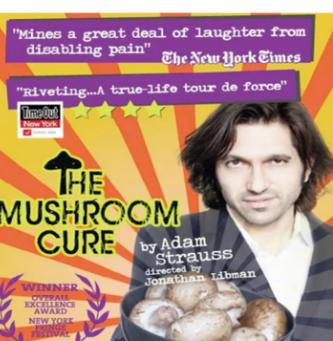
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CALENDAR APRIL 2022

or email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

April 1-30: April 1-30: Willa Owings shows California landscapes at LOLA'S Gallery. Reception April 1, 5-7 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875. lolasanfrancisco.com.

April 1-May 7: A solo ART EXHIBIT by Liz Hickok is on view at the Chung|Namont Gallery. Reception April 7, 6 to 7:30 pm. Wed.-Sat., 1-6 pm. 4071 24th. 795-1643; chungnamont.com.

April 1-May 20: "The ART of Disability Culture" is exhibited at Ruth's Table, 3160 21st. Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm. 642-1000; creativityexplored.org.

April 2-30: Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm (8-9 am for seniors). 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 3: ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

April 3: PROYECTO 3 performs music from Cuba, Brazil, and Mexico at the Noe Valley Town Square. 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

April 3: Cheryl You Chepusova introduces *NOODLES, Please!* 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

April 3 & 24: The Noe Valley Town Square offers free Moxie YOGA. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

April 5: Chetna Makan discusses *The CARDAMOM Trail*. 6:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

April 7-28: Bethany United Methodist Church offers Thursday AL-ANON meetings, 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez (use Clipper side door). 845-3203.

April 9: The Friction Quartet performs at NOE MUSIC KIDS, 10:30-11:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org.

April 9: Karen Bates and Byron Hoffman discuss food pioneer SALLY SCHMITT and her *Six California Kitchens*. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

April 11: Odd Mondays presents "Una Noche de Poesia: POEMS in Spanish and English." 7-8 pm. Zoom link is on Facebook,

Events in May 2022? Email your listings to calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com. Noe Valley events take priority. Thank you.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Springing Into April

By Mazook

MARCHING RIGHT ALONG: It was sunny and warm in the Valley last month, and Daylight Savings Time was welcomed by the many walkers in the neighborhood. We all sprung our clocks forward at 2 a.m. on March 14, and I sprung out of bed at my standard time whilst the sun was rising. After woolgathering for an hour, I went for an early walk down Slow Sanchez to 30th Street in Upper Noe Valley and then back up to 24th Street on Church Street.

As I ambled south past Dorian Clair's clock repair shop on 26th, I was reassured to see that the huge clock in the window was on daylight savings time. But it looked like the usual crowd of walkers, runners, and bike riders on Sanchez were very few, probably sleeping in.

The walk back north was interesting. At 30th Street, I admired the acclaimed restaurant La Ciccía, and imagined that chef Massimiliano Conti would soon arrive to start prepping the ingredients for his evening menu. Little did I know that, on the next day, Conti would announce he had sold the restaurant and was going back to his native Sardinia to help take care of his aging mother. More on that later, with some details.

The space where Pomelo used to be looked like it was ready to become another restaurant, but not soon. Next door at 1781 Church, the Ardiana eatery looked very closed, with the awning sadly hanging over the sidewalk. On the front window was a notice from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control stating that the beer and wine license was being transferred to "Damansara." But more on that later.

Down the block, it was nice to see Delights by Lisa was back in business, albeit only open Wednesdays to Fridays from 11 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon, and on Saturdays from 11 to 2.

And on the corner of Church and Day, MoBu Dance Studio had taken over the fitness center that couldn't make it through the pandemic. MoBu now occupies all of the space that many years ago was one of the first Safeway stores in San Francisco. MoBu is doing great stuff. Later for that, too.

Then came the real shocker, that the Key Kraft locksmith shop, which had been on the corner of Church and 28th for about 25 years (but seemed closed for most of that time), was gone.

The place had been fixed up, and by the time you read this will be for rent, according to Laurel Realty broker Jeff Appenrodt.

Key Kraft, by the way, has another location in Eureka Valley, at 3410 18th St., which is still open.

☎ ☎ ☎

AND NOW FOR THE DETAILS: Yes, Massimiliano Conti and his wife, Lorella Degan, have sold their restaurant to another restaurateur, whom he says he cannot name until the escrow closes on the deal. However, Conti will be serving his last supper at 291 30th St. on April 16, the day before Easter.

"My wife and I have had a pretty good run here for the past 16 years, but it is time we left and do other things," he says. "We want to go back home to Sardinia and spend some time with my aging mom and help my sister take good care of her."

Also, he says Degan will take some time to have foot surgery, which "she has put off," and to recover without the stress of running a restaurant.

"We plan on coming back to San

Francisco later this year, and after that I don't know what I will do," he says, then adds laughingly, "Maybe I will learn to dance ballet."

Conti says the new owners plan to keep La Ciccía open with the same menu, recipes, and staff.

Down the street at 1781 Church, while many will lament the closing of the Italian restaurant Ardiana, all will welcome the arrival of chef Tracy Goh, who will open her first brick-and-mortar Malaysian restaurant in San Francisco, called Damansara. She writes on Instagram, "Damansara Utama is my hometown and namesake." It is a small town outside of Kuala Lumpur, from which she immigrated to San Francisco in 2012. It was here that she began a catering business and started hosting pop-ups.

In a profile in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (Jan. 17, 2019), Leena Trivedi-Grenier wrote: "On a dreary day dotted with drizzle in her window-filled apartment in San Francisco's Sea Cliff neighborhood, Tracy Goh is preaching the gospel of Malaysian laksa. Goh not only makes a killer bowl of the spicy noodle soup, but she has served 1,030 bowls of laksa between November 2017 and October 2018 as part of her Laksa Project, a movement aimed to educate locals by feeding them."

Laksa is very common in Southeast Asia, and most often includes noodles made from non-wheat starches like potato, tapioca, or rice. Goh is now going through the city's permit process, and Damansara should open sometime later this year.

In the same block but closer to Day, Lisa Chan is putting the frosting on the cake in her tiny Delights by Lisa, at 1757 Church St. She describes her business on Facebook: "Cakes and pastries retail bakery. Scones, cupcakes, cookies and more. Advance ordering of 6 weeks for best availability on Custom, Wedding, Birthday Cakes and cookies. Party desserts, corporate gifts, and pastry boxes." She has gained fame for her artistic creations.

"Special order customers can bring me a design they want on the cake or a picture to be drawn, or we work together in the creation... It took me over a month to create a castle on one large cake, and a photographer had me make a cake that looked like an 'EOS' Canon camera." She says the cake flavors most in demand are Strawberry Cream and Red Velvet.

After 10 years in San Mateo, she moved her store to Noe Valley in April 2019, "but had to close in February of 2020 when the Covid pandemic hit San Francisco," she says. "I reopened in March of last year filling special orders, but it was very, very slow and quite a struggle for me."

"Finally, last month, after the Covid restrictions were lifted by our mayor, business has really picked up," she smiles, "and more and more people are on the street. I have now got many orders for birthday parties, weddings, and other special events which were halted by the pandemic."

For Chan, "It has been a homecoming to the neighborhood." A San Francisco native, she grew up on Church near Duncan and went to St. Paul's elementary and high schools, then graduated from Mission High.

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SONG AND DANCE: Another surge in business has occurred at the MoBu Dance Studio where, according to owner and dance instructor Takami Craddock, new enrollments are 250 to 300 students with "ages ranging from 3-year-olds all the way through high school."

MoBu started at the Noe Valley Ministry 25 years ago, but had to move out when the Ministry went through its renovation in the early 2000s. Craddock then moved to the corner of Sanchez and 23rd Street, but got noise complaints from the residents who lived upstairs.

She moved her studio to 1605 Church back in 2008, with noise restrictions she practiced in consideration of her neigh-



How to Save on Gas: Follow the new speed limit. It's been reduced from 25 to 20 mph, on 24th Street and many other streets in San Francisco. The new signs went up in February, on both sides of 24th from Chattanooga to Diamond Street (shown). They must be serious. Don't get a ticket.

Photo by Mazook

bors. Then MoBu expanded her studio space by partnering with a fitness center at 1747 Church near the corner of Day. "And then Covid shut us down," says Craddock.

A casualty of the many restrictions, the fitness center ceased its operations in the beginning of this year, and Craddock took over the full space. "It is just perfect for us," she says. "Nobody is upstairs, and we are on the corner where the noise carries into the street."

And finally down at 1550 Church, Uma Casa restaurant is emerging from Covid with dinner shows put together by their director of special events, David Herrera. His dance performance company entertained the diners from March 31 to April 2, with a show he calls "The Tip of My Tongue."

The first dinner party scheduled for Sunday, April 10, will be a "Fado Night." A four-course homestyle Portuguese dinner will be served, accompanied with traditional Fado music (Portuguese singing that is often associated with pubs, cafés, and restaurants), starting at 5:30 p.m. sharp, with a ticket charge of \$90 per person.

The next show will be on Sunday, April 24, and is called "Comedy at the Casa." Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m., and then there'll be a lot of laughs from Taylor Amarante, a Portuguese-American comedian.

Tickets for this event are \$80 each, and you can purchase them at umacasarestaurant.com. *Voice* entertainment reporter Jeff Kaliss says he will have more about events at this venue in the future.

☎ ☎ ☎

OUR 24TH STREET BEAT COP: At the beginning of March, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association held a morning koffee klatch in front of Bernie's coffeehouse for merchants to meet the new captain at Mission Police Station, Michael McEachern, and various members of the SFPD who patrol in Downtown Noe Valley. Many merchants showed up to chat with the police officers who assembled for the coffee talk.

The go-to guy was our beat cop on a bike, Martin ("please call me 'Marty'") Ferreira. I got to meet with Marty later in the month for a one-on-one discussion about our urban village and his bike beat at—where else?—Happy Donuts.

"I just love this neighborhood," he says, "and I have nothing but positive interactions with merchants and neighbors every day I am out on the street with my bike. People here really care when crime happens and become involved, and I enjoy listening to what people say and am happy to offer solutions to their individual problems."

Ferreira started as a beat cop in lower 24th Street in 2003 and walked that beat until 2009. He then shifted to plainclothes work "in violence reduction" for the next two years. Then he headed up graffiti

investigations until 2021, when he returned to a street beat and was assigned to Downtown Noe Valley.

"One thing I first noticed about Noe Valley is how quickly graffiti and tags are abated quickly here." That's the good news.

"Most of the crimes being committed here are property crimes: store break-ins early in the mornings with the thieves taking electronic devices and liquor, and [there are] many random window smashings in the late evening and early mornings, shoplifting, and some graffiti painting," he says. "Sometimes I see some graffiti artists I know and have prosecuted in the past, on 24th Street, and we give each other a nod and move on."

He plans on being in Noe Valley "for the next couple of years before I retire from the department."

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MURAL RENEWAL: Last May, I lamented the deterioration of those marvelous murals created by Mona Caron at the Noe Valley Town Square almost 20 years ago. I asked the question, "Well, community, can we do something?" The answer is a resounding yes.

Town Square manager Leslie Crawford went to work on this project, raising money for a restoration of both walls. The \$35,000 price tag was raised from over 40 Noe Valleyans who donated both small and big bucks, and from a \$4,500 grant from the Friends of Noe Valley's Paul Kantus Grant Fund (thank you, Peggy Cling). Paul Kantus was a longtime resident who championed local history. The Friends were put in charge of his legacy, "to be used for grants to organizations and/or individuals that would benefit the safety, cleanliness, and well-being of Noe Valley."

Also, there was a special grant of \$15,000 from San Francisco's Office of Economic and Work Development agency (thanks, Rafael Mandelman for your help). And a big thank you to Mona Caron—just back from a world tour of painting murals on the sides of tall buildings—who with her team, has agreed to devote her talents to this restoration and start the work this month. Hooray, I say.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT'S 30: Before I go, I want to wish the best to longtime Noe Valley realtor (since the late 1970s) Joyce Boulwood. Born and raised in Eureka Valley and Noe Valley, she closed her 24th and Diamond office at the beginning of this year. Have a happy retirement.

Lastly, in answer to the most asked question of me these days, I can say this: according to reliable sources, the long-vacant spot in the Elvira building (formerly Herb's Fine Foods, and more recently Toast) will soon become an Asian-fusion eatery. More on that next month.

Ciao. ■

Adult Fiction

- Karen Joy Fowler’s epic *Booth* focuses on the family and environment that produced the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln.
- A true crime writer moves into the house where murders occurred during the “Satanic Panic” of the 1980s, in *Devil House* by John Darnielle.
- Axie Oh retells a classic Korean folktale about a girl thrown into the sea to become the Sea God’s bride, in *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea*.
- In *How High We Go in the Dark*, by Sequoia Nagamatsu, an archaeologist unleashes an ancient virus preserved in the remains of a long-dead girl in the Arctic.
- A New York wedding planner reexamines her life when hurricane Maria hits Puerto Rico, in *Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitl Gonzalez.

Adult eBook Fiction

- In *Diablo Mesa*, the third in a series, author Douglas Preston sends archaeologist Nora Kelly to investigate the alleged 1947 UFO crash site in Roswell, N.M.
- *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, by Kim Fu, includes 12 tales of fantasy and nightmare.

Adult Nonfiction

- *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*, first published in 1974, features a new introduction by the activist author.
- In *The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Story of America’s Bird*, Jack E. Davis considers the life and history of our national symbol.
- Author Chuck Klosterman tackles a decade of innovation as Boomers passed the torch to Gen X’ers, in *The Nineties: A Book*.
- *Stolen Focus: Why You Can’t Pay*

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Fishtailing by Michael Blake

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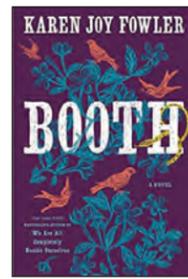
Booth: A novel detailing the family circumstances of actor John Wilkes Booth. *The Impossible City*: A wistful memoir from a millennial who grew up in Hong Kong. *Be Amazing*: A book for kids on LGBTQ history.

These are just three highlights from the list of new books and films that arrived at the *Voice*, courtesy of Adult Services Librarian Jack Tilney and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.



To borrow them all, go to the San Francisco Public Library’s website, sfpl.org. Or drop by the Noe Valley branch and browse the collection. Then sit and read your book on the library’s deck or in the garden.

If you need assistance or information, call the Noe Valley Library directly at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org. It’s located at 451 Jersey St., and is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again, by Johann Hari, examines the reasons people are having a hard time concentrating.

• In *Wild Sweetness: Recipes Inspired by Nature*, Thalia Ho offers over 95 recipes with seasonal, wild flavors.

Adult eBook Nonfiction

- Karen Cheung describes her coming of age during upheavals in her birthplace in *The Impossible City: A Hong Kong Memoir*.
- In *Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect*, Victoria Kastner examines the life and work of the first woman licensed to practice architecture in California.

Adult DVD/Blu-Ray

- Judi Dench stars and Kenneth Branagh directs *Belfast* (2021), a film about a 9-year-old boy growing up during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.
- A Jewish couple who do voice-overs for films move from Russia to Israel in the 2022 film *Golden Voices*.
- Keanu Reeves reprises dual roles in *The Matrix: Resurrections*, the next chapter in the franchise begun in 1999.
- *Summer of Soul* draws on the recording of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, featuring performances by Stevie Wonder, Mahalia Jackson, and B.B. King.
- The 2021 sci-fi/horror drama *Titane*, directed by French filmmaker Julia Ducournau, tells the story of a girl who

had a titanium plate fitted to her skull after a car accident.

Children’s Fiction

- An Anishinaabe girl from the Great Lakes region goes on a search for clean water in *Nibi’s Water Song*, written by Sunshine Tenasco and illustrated by Chief Lady Bird. Ages 3 to 6.
- The dancing mouse is excited to get a library card in *Angelina Ballerina Loves the Library*, written by Katharine Holabird, illustrated by Helen Craig. Ages 4 to 6.
- *Yours in Books*, written by Julie Falatko, with illustrations by Gabriel Alborozo, is told in letters between an owl and a squirrel who owns a bookshop. Ages 4 to 8.
- A girl helps her aunt move, in *Tia Fortuna’s New Home: A Jewish Cuban Journey*, written by Ruth Behar and illustrated by Devon Holzwarth. Ages 5 to 8.
- The empowering picture book *You Are Not Alone* is by the two-time Grammy nominated, Bay Area–based Alphabet Rockers, with illustrations by Ashley Evans. Ages 5 to 10.
- A boy copes with violent trauma through photography, in the graphic novel *The Golden Hour*, written and illustrated by Niki Smith. Ages 8 to 12.
- In *The Witch, the Sword, and the Cursed Knights*, by Alexandria Rogers, a 12-year-old girl who is a witch helps a friend break a curse. Ages 9 to 13.
- A young boy evacuated to Wales during World War II finds a skull hidden in

a tree, in *The Valley of Lost Secrets* by Lesley Parr. Ages 10 and up.

• In *Dead Wednesday* by Jerry Spinelli, eighth-graders honor the memory of a teenager who died a preventable death. Ages 12 to 15.

Children’s Nonfiction

- The largest creatures on earth are on display in *Big As a Giant Snail*, written by Jess Keating, the author of *Pink Is for Blobfish*, with illustrations by David DeGrand. Ages 5 to 8.
- The history of the LGBTQ community is told in *Be Amazing: A History of Pride*, written by Desmond Napoles and illustrated by Dylan Glynn. Ages 6 to 10.
- DK Publishing offers lists of events from ancient times to modern in *On This Day: A History of the World in 366 Days*. Ages 9 to 12.

• *White Privilege: Deal With It in All Fairness*, written by Catherine Inglis, illustrated by Wang Xulin, includes scenarios and quizzes to help explain the topic. Ages 9 to 14.

Children’s eBooks, Fiction and Nonfiction

- A boy befriends a newly hatched creature in *Anthony and the Gargoyle*, written by Jo Ellen Bogart and illustrated by Maja Kastelic. Ages 4 to 8.
- The picture book *Light for All*, by Margarita Engle with illustrations by Raúl Colón, recounts the experiences of immigrants to the United States. Ages 4 to 8.
- *Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature*, written by Rachel Williams, illustrated by Freya Hartas, is filled with nature stories. Ages 5 to 12.
- A scholarship student in a boarding school sets out to change a rigged system, in *Omar Rising* by Aisha Saeed. Ages 9 to 13.
- Coretta Scott King Honor winner Tonya Bolden tells the story of a 1960s political crusader in *Speak Up, Speak Out! The Extraordinary Life of ‘Fighting Shirley Chisholm.’* Ages 12 to 14.



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

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POLICE BLEEP

Making Vaguely Derogatory Comments to Corporate Sellout: 8:30 a.m. on April 1, 2002: 3800 block of 24th Street

An employee of Andersen, Shredding and Howe was walking down the 3800 block of 24th Street on his way to BART when he encountered a motley crowd of transients who appeared to have nothing to do but drink hot beverages, talk, pet small animals, and read newspapers while lolling about in a disorganized manner. The pencil pusher noted that as soon as he passed by, the suspects began to cast veiled aspersions, *sotto voce*, such as “wage slave” and “worker drone.”

Although he was outnumbered, the bean counter managed to scurry to the doorway of a salt mine and call for help. A police dragnet resulted in the arrests of two suspects later identified as Kenneth Lay and the bewhiskered Al Gore.

—Karen Topkian

Burglary and Forced Entry of Residence: Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 1, 2002; 500 block of Br'er Oaks Street

The flaxen-haired resident of a thatched cottage in the 500 block of Br'er Oaks Street told police she had locked all the windows and doors of her home before leaving for Hi-Ho Tuffet Solutions, Inc., at 9 a.m. However, when she returned at 5 p.m., the front door was open. The targeted part-time shepherdess with eyes the color of a mountain flower found three members of the Ursus family asleep in three beds of differing sizes. She also reported there were three half-eaten bowls of soy milk and granola, in varying degrees of doneness, left on the kitchen table. After analyzing the scene, Officer Grimm of Ingleside Station determined the report was just a fairy tale.

—Bruno Bettelheim (April 2002)

Limyyric'k —K.B. 2022

A peppy young man from Kyiv
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An old man from Belarus
Was happy and footloose.
He traveled to Minsk
Then settled in Pinsk
Where he read all of Dr. Seuss

What's up with old Ras-Putin?
He sure is mad, darn tootin'.
No more stroganoff
Or noodles romanoff
Since he's given up all gluten

Smoking Gun Found

By Smythy Sal

APRIL 1, 2003: The FBI announced today that the infamous smoking gun, which has eluded authorities for the past two years, has finally been found, on a back table at The Peaks bar.

Though it was partly submerged in a warm Guinness, the weapon was still smoking (despite posted health warnings). It appeared to be covered in fingerprints, likely those of Saddam Hussein, Robert Blake, or Squeaky Fromm. After dousing the fire, FBI agents confiscated the gun and ordered a pitcher of beer.

CRASS ADS

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Mongrels, Mutts, Curs, and their owners will get a new leash on life at a seminar: “Healing the Dog Within.” 8 pm. Integral Institute of

Street Goes from Slow to Snail

By J. Topples with S. Cargo

APRIL 2022: In a move sure to please everyone except sidewalk gardeners, the thoroughfare known as Slow Sanchez in Noe Valley will be rebranded as the city's first Snail Street, on April 1. New rules stipulate that only shelled gastropods will have access to the asphalt road known informally as Chez San.

Walkers, meanderers, and rabbits can apply for a clipper pass, but only if they move along at the so-called “snail's pace,” that is, under 20 inches per hour.

Word is expected to ooze throughout the Noe mollusca phylum, as slowpokes from Glen Park to Diamond Heights make their journey to the slimy strip. Sprinters, joggers, and over-eager individuals are encouraged to consider a different route.

In related news, Guerrero Street has been officially designated a Fast Street, with the minimum speed set at 80 mph for all vehicles. No turns or stopping will be allowed between Market and 30th streets. “If you must slow down or make a right onto Dolores, due to having a panic attack, then be sure you balance on two wheels, maintaining your velocity,” instructs transit chief Harry Upp.

He also noted the SFPTA will be re-alphabetizing the J-Church and L, M, N lines, “but who gets what we don't know.”

LITTER TO THE EDITOR

Chain of Fools

Editor:

This letter has been sent to you for good luck. It has been sent around the neighborhood nine times, and now it is in your hands. You will receive good luck within four days of receiving this letter, provided that you, in turn, follow instructions. This is no joke. Do not send money, as fate has no price. Do not keep this letter. It must leave your hands within an hour and a half.

The chain comes from Alvarado Street, and was written by an anonymous resident. Since it must tour the neighborhood, you must make 50 copies and send them to your friends and associates within the boundaries of Noe Valley. Soon you will get a surprise. This is true—even if you are not superstitious.

Do note the following: José de Jesus Noe received this chain in 1853. He forgot it had to leave his hands in 1-1/2 hours, and was forced to sell his entire rancho. Nine years later, he died.

In 1987 the letter was received by a young woman on Sanchez Street. It was very faded and barely readable. She promised that she would retype the letter and send it on, but she set it aside to do later. She was plagued with ants in her kitchen. She typed the letter as she had promised, and the ants went away.

Do not sign this. It works!

Address withheld by request (1996)

Voice Proofreader Walkout

The *Noe Valley Voice* is sorry to announce that our longtime proofreader Anita Raise has left us for greener pastures. During her 132 years on the staff, she also worked as our fact checker. Raise was responsible for noticing and alerting us to the giant coffee spill on 24th Street and also the Watergate break-in. When 29th Street resident Ann Persande hit her head and fell into a comma, Raise informed us that it was most likely due to a colon problem. With the recent installation of Spellcheck on our computers, we believe that despite her absence we cannot continue to maintain the usual high quality of the *Voice*, from 1977 to.



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THIS DAY IN FOOLS HISTORY

Neighborhood to Earthquakes: You're Outta Here!

By Chuckles LeBaron

APRIL 1990: Starting April 1, a whole lotta shakin' will no longer be going on—at least in this San Francisco neighborhood. That's because residents voted 3 to 1, in a neighborhood-wide plebiscite held last month, to declare Noe Valley an earthquake-free zone. According to the new statute, which was sponsored by Californians for Earthquake Prevention (CEP), earthquakes of a magnitude higher than 4.0 will be outlawed within the area bounded by 21st and 30th streets, and Dolores and Grand View.

Following the election victory, CEP spokesperson Terry Firma expressed the views of many when she forecast a "Golden Age of Noe Valley."

"No more shall our community tremble with fear or our children live with seismic uncertainty," Firma said. "And just think what this will do to our property values!"

As if in response to Firma's statement, the Real Food Company, recently acquired by The Donald, switched its name to the Real Property Company and launched a campaign to offer Victorians either packaged or in bulk.

Meanwhile, hundreds of homeowners began unbolting their houses from their foundations and consuming emergency supplies of canned food and bottled water. And entrepreneurs started churning out "Noe Valley Earthquake-Free Zone" tee shirts, mugs, and other quake paraphernalia. Lassie Sweats, owner of the tee shirt shop that bears his name on 24th Street, reported that the most popular items were a license plate with the words "Live Quake-Free or Die" and a button reading, "This Time We Did It Before Berkeley."

As expected Mayor Art Agnos and

CONTINUED ON PAGE '06



Police Give Prize for One Millionth Car Break-In

By Erin Go Braless:

APRIL 1998: Fair Oaks Street resident and *Voice* contributor Erin O'Burglemee recently became Noe Valley's one millionth auto boost victim. In her honor, Mission Station police officers, led by Noe Valley beat cop Otis Perillo, are planning a gala celebration and have awarded O'Burglemee a pair of golden handcuffs with which to catch the thief.

"It was just a regular break-in," said a flushed and beaming O'Burglemee, "until I found out I was the winner of the prize. I guess the greatest things in life happen when you're looking the other way. I had four break-ins before this," she continued, "and I never won anything."

If she can't catch the vandal who broke the wing window of her 10-year-old Honda Civic but didn't actually take anything from the car, O'Burglemee plans to melt down the 18-karat gold handcuffs and make them into a bracelet. "I don't usually wear gold—it makes me look sallow," she said sheepishly, "but this is special to me."



But Are the Permits in Order? After six months of dust, noise, earthworms, and bug bites, 24th Street merchants are beginning to grow concerned about the progress of the construction project at the old Second Spinach Church next to Bell Market. The development, originally conceived as a mini-mall by the Cassidy Anaconda Step Dancing & Strip Mining Co., caused a dip in Easter sales and the loss of several parking spots at Castro and 24th streets. (Shoppers have been asked to avoid the sidewalk on the north side and to park their cars at Yosemite.)

Photo montage probably copyrighted 1997 Charles Kennard

Who Wants to Marry a Noe Valley Homeowner?

By Sue Mi Herald

APRIL 2000: The Noe Valley Library was transformed into a film set Saturday, April 1, as the Fox Network taped an episode of its wildly popular new series *Who Wants to Marry a Noe Valley Homeowner?* Fifty bachelors and bachelorettes, culled from the 50,000 who had answered a "class ad" in the *Noe Valley Voice*, kicked off the taping by parading through the book stacks in bikinis and Speedos, as the rich homeowner sat behind a two-way mirror in the children's section.

"You don't find out whether the homeowner is a man or a woman until the end of the show," said Phineas T. Barnum, the show's emcee. "That's the ingenious thing about San Francisco—you're not stuck with a boring old man-

woman marriage. Of course, the passage of Prop. 22 did drop a fly in the ointment," he noted.

Of the homeowner, Barnum would say only that he/she is in his/her 20s, has never been married, plunked down cash for her/his house (which has two bathrooms and full-length drapes) and doesn't live with his/her mother.

The homeowner was screened from a field of 50, Barnum said, who had to open their financial records to Fox to ensure they weren't standup comedians or Gulf War veterans.

The contestants, who included at least one *Voice* writer, a bagger from Bell Market, and a gay youth bedding down at a Church Street homeless shelter, were asked to answer a compatibility quiz. The most thought-provoking questions were:

- Are you or have you ever been a virgin?
- If you had to choose between having a child and owning an SUV, which would you choose? Why?
- Define "large cap" and "small cap" without pointing to your head.
- Do you know how to take proper care of hardwood floors?
- Would you be happy spending a quiet evening at home rolling quarters?
- Do you prefer flies in your food, or Firefly Restaurant?
- Do renters have any right to live in Noe Valley?

The Noe Valley Mercantile Club and the Old Geezer WorkGroup rated the contestants by holding up scores from 0

Voice Bunker Construction Almost Done

From Under the Editor's Desk

APRIL 2003: Who's responsible for all that dust and digging on 24th Street? Okay, we confess: it's us. The *Noe Valley Voice* is putting the finishing touches on our seven-story bomb shelter, following approval April 1 by the city's planning commission.

Though the building, to be located six feet under Bliss Bar, is somewhat large, as a concession to neighbors who complained that it was a "monster," we have scaled it down a full three feet and turned down the music.

Designed with the help of Los Alamos scientists and Tuggey's Hardware, the 35,000-square-foot bunker has been built to withstand nuclear missiles, bombers, chemical weapons, and ants. It will be stocked with bonbons, gumbo, and margarita mix for 40. Originally, the *Voice* hoped to accommodate all 22,000 Noe Valley residents in the shelter. However, we are sorry to report that due to personal spatial needs, the bunker will be open only to current staff. If an unforeseen disaster on 24th Street prevents us from executing our plan, you will find us up on Church Street, where we'll all be in Deep Sushi.

to 10 or making animal noises.

Meanwhile, one member from each group scurried down to City Hall to

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