



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

It's Time to Go With the Holiday Flow

Sparkling Our Town Square With Chi and Other Energies

By Kit Cameron

The Noe Valley Town Square will be aglow with LED lights, a sparkling Christmas tree, music performances, and Flow Arts dancing on Saturday, Dec. 3. There might even be treats, along with an introductory song from a surprise Noe talent. The merriment starts at 5 p.m., and everyone is invited.

Local residents Chi Energy and Leslie Crawford, the elves organizing the Town Square events for the holidays, promise an extravaganza of activities for adults and children.

They have invited the Mission High School cheerleading squad to lead audience members in a countdown to the tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. Jaime's Martial Arts students will give us a demonstration of their skills, and local a cappella group the Loosies will lead the singing of familiar carols.

But the most festive moments may come when Flow Arts practitioners direct the crowd in dance movements set to holiday grooves, using LED hoops, wands, and scarves. The Town Square will be bathed in black light,



Lighting Up the Night. At the Dec. 3 tree lighting in the Town Square, there will be cheerleaders, a holiday sing-along, a taekwondo demonstration, and glow-in-the-dark flow dancing led by performers like Chi Energy and Sue Laurita (shown). Photo by James Fitzgerald

and everyone is encouraged to wear UV-reactive clothes (think a bright white T-shirt or a fluorescent orange hoodie).

Chi Energy, whose chosen name shows his desire to reflect "the energy inside and outside [that] holds us together," has been bringing Flow Arts to the Town Square since 2021. His

most recent event in August attracted scores of grade school kids, who played bingo as they mastered the flowing dance moves. In the noncompetitive spirit of the sport, everyone was a winner and got a prize, he says.

Energy, who often volunteers as a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Major Hurdles On the Road to Electric Cars

Public Charging Stations Still Few and Far Between

By Matthew S. Bajko

For Adam Gill, one of the advantages of driving a Model 3 Tesla, which averages 310 miles per a full charge of its battery, is that California of any state in the country has the largest number of charging stations for owners of electric vehicles to use.

But, as Gill lives in an apartment on Elizabeth Street in Noe Valley without access to a garage, being able to easily charge his electric vehicle near his home has always been a concern. As he first told the *Voice* for a story in the November 2019 issue, the city lacks adequate EV-charging infrastructure in Noe Valley and across the city.

Three years later, the neighborhood continues to have just one publicly accessible charging station, located in the parking lot adjacent to the Walgreens on Castro Street. There are no immediate plans to add charging stations to the city-owned parking lot on 24th Street. And the city has yet to truly look at designating on-street parking

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Rasa Gustaitis: Her History Is Ever Present

Author Mines a Painful Past To Tell Lithuania's Story

By Kit Cameron

The hallway of Rasa Gustaitis' house on Jersey Street tells you that an artist and an internationalist made this their home. A hat stand, made by Gustaitis' late husband, sculptor/musician Mel Moss, is a repurposed headboard. A fabric portrait of Mother River Nagara, a gift from poet Nanao Sakaki, hangs over the stairs.

In the home, purchased in 1973, Gustaitis and Moss raised two daughters: one, Tara, from his previous marriage, the second, Usha ("goddess of dawn" in Sanskrit), born in 1970. A study off the hall archives the books and materials Gustaitis used in her 62 years as a journalist and teacher.

Her remarkable career stretched from writing for the *Washington Post* and the *New York Herald Tribune* in the early 1960s; to penning *Turning On* (1969), a bestseller on the Human Potential Movement; to teaching at San Francisco State and Berkeley from 1986 to 2010; to editing the significant *Coast and Ocean*, an environmental journal published by the California Coastal Commission.

All along, Gustaitis knew that some-



A Lithuanian Migrant: Noe Valley resident Rasa Gustaitis will appear at the Nov. 7 Odd Mondays series at Bethany Church to talk about *Flight*, her book recalling her family's seven-year journey to the U.S. after Russians invaded their country in 1940. Photo by Beverly Tharp

day, "I would want to write a personal story about my father, who disappeared in one of Josef Stalin's prisons in 1941. As a daughter and a writer, I felt an obligation."

That day arrived last fall. Gustaitis celebrated the publication of *Flight: A Memoir of Loss and Discovery by an Aviator's Daughter*, a 306-page book detailing not only her father's and her own odyssey from their home in Lithuania but also the history of their beleaguered Baltic country in the 20th and now 21st century.

The book, available in Noe Valley at Folio Books, has been praised as "a treasure," "an exceptional story of grief and resilience," and "a delicately woven tale that's so relevant today, as Europe again cascades through a cruel darkness."

A Traumatic Past

Gustaitis was only 6 years old in 1940, when Russian soldiers marched into her Lithuanian town, she reveals in *Flight*. Her father, Brigadier General Antanas Gustaitis, who headed the Lithuanian Air Force, was arrested by the Soviet leadership and later executed. Lithuania was occupied by the Nazis throughout World War II and then again by the Russians from 1944 onward.

As their homeland was torn apart, Gustaitis and her remaining family, three generations of women, embarked on a torturous journey leading

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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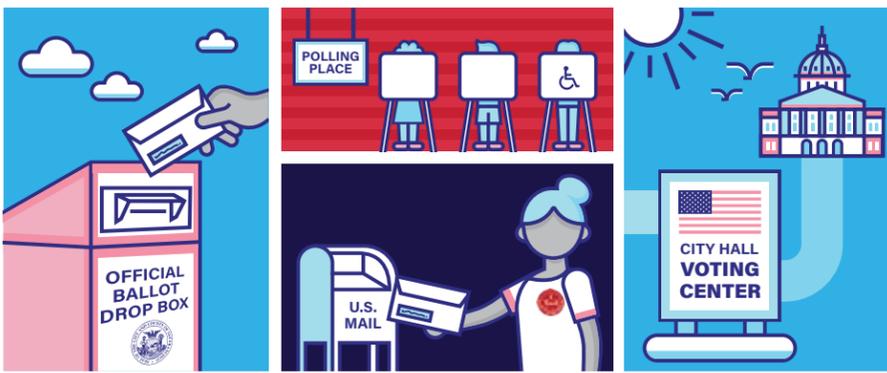
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November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election



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Voter Registration

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Not sure if you are registered to vote in San Francisco or if your information is up to date? Check at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

Per local law, certain non-citizen San Franciscans can register to vote in the November 8 School Board election. Learn more at sfelections.org/ncv or contact us.

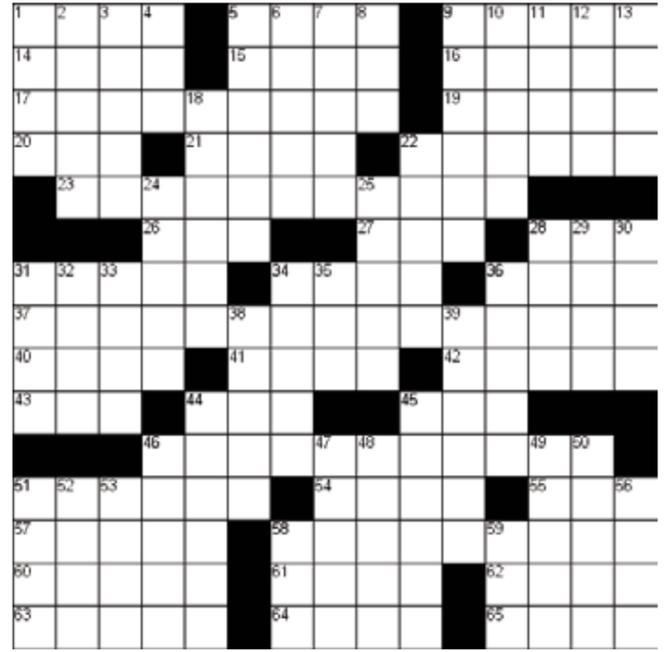
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Verdant

ACROSS

1. Sage
5. Genesis guy
9. SeaWorld whale
14. Fighting force
15. Ms. Spelling of 90210
16. *The Alienist* author Carr
17. Salon at Church and 25th
19. Chicago airport
20. Ocean
21. Clowns' shoe widths
22. Pencil part
23. "Natural Spa and Lash" place on 24th near Church
26. Psychedelic stuff
27. Auction action
28. Computer-downloading initials
31. "Hi!"
34. Macbeth, for one
36. Joyousness
37. Offerers of "immersive cannabis experiences" with a Church Street HQ near 24th
40. High school junior, usually
41. Bury the ____ (commit a journalistic no-no)
42. Florida senator Marco
43. Kid-____ (children's show)
44. Popular beer, for short
45. Fleeting craze
46. With "The," bookshop at Market and Gough
51. "No more for me, thanks"
54. ____ vera (medicinal plant)
55. Grand ____ (wine-bottle words)
57. ____ Cup (classic



12. A ____ pittance (very little)
13. Lyft alternative
18. Actor Liam
22. Digital party notice
24. Funny Degeneres
25. Residence
28. Error
29. Actress Hatcher of *Desperate Housewives*
30. Coin in Mexico
31. *Curb Appeal* cable network
32. "... ____ saw Elba" (famous palindrome)
33. ____ Platinum (building rating)
34. Elvis's *Blue* ____ Shoes
35. Spanish hero El ____
36. Cheese variety
38. Cemented
39. Bullet that leaves a trail
44. Quidditch players' needs
45. Like some voices in the morning
46. Mideast's ____ Heights
47. Model Campbell
48. Inuit cousin
49. Battery for a large flashlight
50. Bert's *Sesame Street* pal
51. Film buff's website
52. Kate or Rooney of Hollywood
53. ____ Park: Noe Valley neighbor
56. "We deliver for you!" sloganer: Abbr.
58. Degree past bachelor: Abbr.
59. Logical beginning?

DOWN

1. Quipsters
2. Kind of verb (Abbr.)
3. Besmirch
4. Look over
5. Show up for
6. Carpentry rod
7. Get up
8. Cold War jet
9. Orchestrated
10. A couple of laughs
11. "Sad to say"

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

vivre

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

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Ross M.

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Muni Alert



Starting November 19, the new Muni Metro Central Subway will run special weekend service Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. every 12 minutes. Transfer at Powell Station to access the four new Central Subway stations: Chinatown-Rose Pak, Union Square/Market Street, Yerba Buena/Moscone and 4th & Brannan. Learn about the new stations and Muni Metro connections. Sign up for a tour.

New T Third service from Chinatown-Rose Pak to Sunnydale starts January 7, 2023.

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

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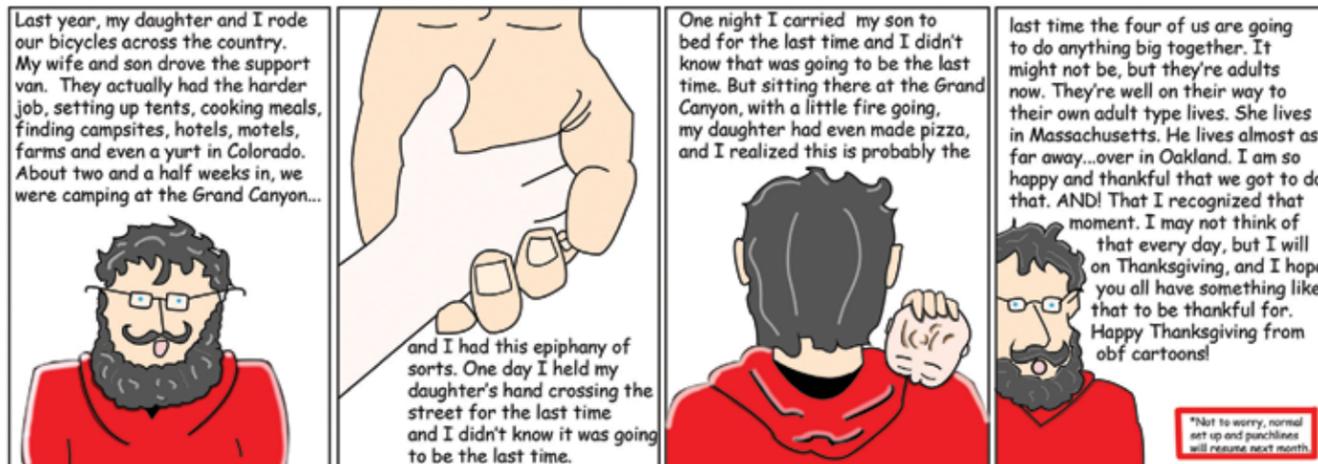
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



LETTERS

Graffiti Getting Out of Hand
 Editor:

My name is Carlos Rocha. We have lived in Noe Valley for 12 years. I have been noticing an increase in graffiti that starts at Sterling Bank and the neighboring purple building's second-floor walls, as well as on all restaurants' outdoor dining parklets, utility boxes, etc.

I also haven't seen our SF graffiti cop on his bike lately to enforce this issue.

It seems a shame if we end up like Valencia or Mission streets, where even residents' homes and businesses are being tagged on a daily basis. It is so sad that businesses are losing their reputation for being nice and clean for tourists and their community pride.

Maybe do a follow-up article on the Curb Appeal program and graffiti problems in Noe Valley.

Carlos Rocha

Editor's Note: Thank you for the suggestion, Carlos.

Action-SF Voting With Their Feet
 Editor:

If you've been following Action-SF.com in the pages of the *Voice* (Thanks, *Voice*!) or at the Noe Valley Farmers Market (Thanks, NVFM!), we want to give you this interim report, even though while writing this we can't know the results of the Nov. 8 election and you may know them before we do.

Here is what we do know: Action-SF is a Noe Valley-created independent political group focused on swing states and swing districts (i.e., not SF or Bay Area). Last month, we exceeded our \$60,000 goal for our 2022 Mid-Term Victory Fund by over \$20,000, funding one grassroots group each in Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and our own Central Valley. We have worked in similar ways for every election since the 2017 First Women's March on Washington, have collectively raised over \$200,000 in electoral and charitable giving, and

have written more than 10,000 postcards and letters in the last Presidential election.

We know that until Nov. 8, we will be turning out voters by calls or texts from home or by knocking on doors in the Central Valley or Nevada, through TheLastWeekend.org and Speaker Pelosi's volunteer HQ at 541 Castro St. mobilize.us/cadems/event/517127/.

We also know there is a chance we will need volunteers in November for the 7- to 30-day period during which technical errors in mail-in votes can be "cured"—of things like failure to date or sign the ballot envelope properly—via calls, postcards, or texts. Contact us at ActionSFTeam@gmail.com if you want to help. Finally, we will be meeting via Zoom on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., to analyze the results in the swing states and figure out who or what to help next. Because in the end, helping is what we each can do. Email us for the link. See you on the other side, Noe Valleyans!

Charlie Spiegel
 Sanchez Street

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Smash-and-grab car break-ins and residential burglaries in Noe Valley both declined in September. However, assaults and motor vehicle thefts revved up, according to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of crimes in the city.

There were 28 incidents tagged as "larceny/theft," 15 fewer than in August. Among them were 13 car break-ins, six vehicles stripped of parts, three stolen license plates, one stolen bike, one shoplifting, and four miscellaneous incidents.

Police also were busy with 16 motor vehicle heists (compared to 13 in August). The take included 12 cars, one motorcycle, and three unidentified "other" vehicles. Three had been recovered.

Five "hot prowls," in which thieves broke into residences while people were at home, were among the 16

reported burglaries in September.

Police reported 10 malicious mischief incidents, ranging from graffiti damage to harassing phone calls to driving under the influence.

One robbery was reported. In that case, a person armed with a gun held up a victim near Noe and Elizabeth streets about 9 a.m. on Sept. 7.

There also were five reported assaults, including three persons hurt in a single incident at 24th and Church streets about 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 26.

Altogether, 83 incidents were reported in September in the 10 categories the *Voice* tracks monthly.

We collected the data on Oct. 14, 2022, using the dataset "A Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present," found under Public Safety at Data.sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports January to September 2022

Incident Type	Jan22	Feb22	Mar22	Apr22	May22	Jun22	Jul22	Aug22	Sep22
Larceny/Theft	38	28	24	22	41	45	37	43	28
Burglary	18	9	21	25	17	28	18	20	16
Malicious Mischief	16	3	8	12	10	4	0	5	10
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	16	7	6	7	11	14	13	16
Assault	0	3	2	0	5	0	0	3	5
Robbery	0	3	1	0	0	1	3	0	1
Other Misc.	7	0	0	9	2	3	5	4	5
Fraud	8	4	3	4	2	2	5	1	0
Family D.Violence	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0
Vandalism	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Totals	106	67	68	78	84	94	90	93	83

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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Flow Arts to Swirl Light Around the Tree in December

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

greeter at the Saturday Farmers Market, came to the sport from competitive baton twirling. As the sole male twirler in his Texas middle and high schools, he says he was the object of ridicule at first, but by 1995 he had advanced all the way to the World Baton Twirling Championships in Italy.

When he moved to San Francisco in 2003, he discovered the Dolores Flow Arts community, which meets in Dolores Park on Sundays at 11 a.m. Accustomed to the competitive (and, he claims, “back-biting”) nature of baton twirling, Energy says he was surprised to encounter a group where “everyone was so nice!”

Flow Arts dancers use props such as wands, ribbons, and hoops to create elaborate gestures in what has been described as a “moving meditation.” Similar to yoga and other body-mind activities, but perhaps more exhilarating, prop dancing is easy to learn, says Energy, but achieving expertise requires practice and concentration.

The addition of LED props makes the Flow Arts experience a magical event, he says, and is reminiscent of the light shows at Burning Man.

Energy is hoping more elementary- and middle-school kids will take up the sport. “Kids want to move around!” he says, and when he taught them the fundamentals in Town Square events last summer, he found “they discovered new ways to express themselves through physical activity.”



Pro juggler Cary Jerome (above) teaches ribbon dancing while Chi Energy (right) referees the kids at this summer's Youth Activity Bingo at Noe Valley Town Square. Photos by James Fitzgerald

For the holiday party on Dec. 3, Energy and Crawford expect a hefty turnout from Noe Valley and beyond for music, spectacle, and flow. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes.

For details on events at the Town Square, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets, check out the webpage at noevalleytownsquare.com. For more information about Flow Arts go to flowartsinstitute.com. ■



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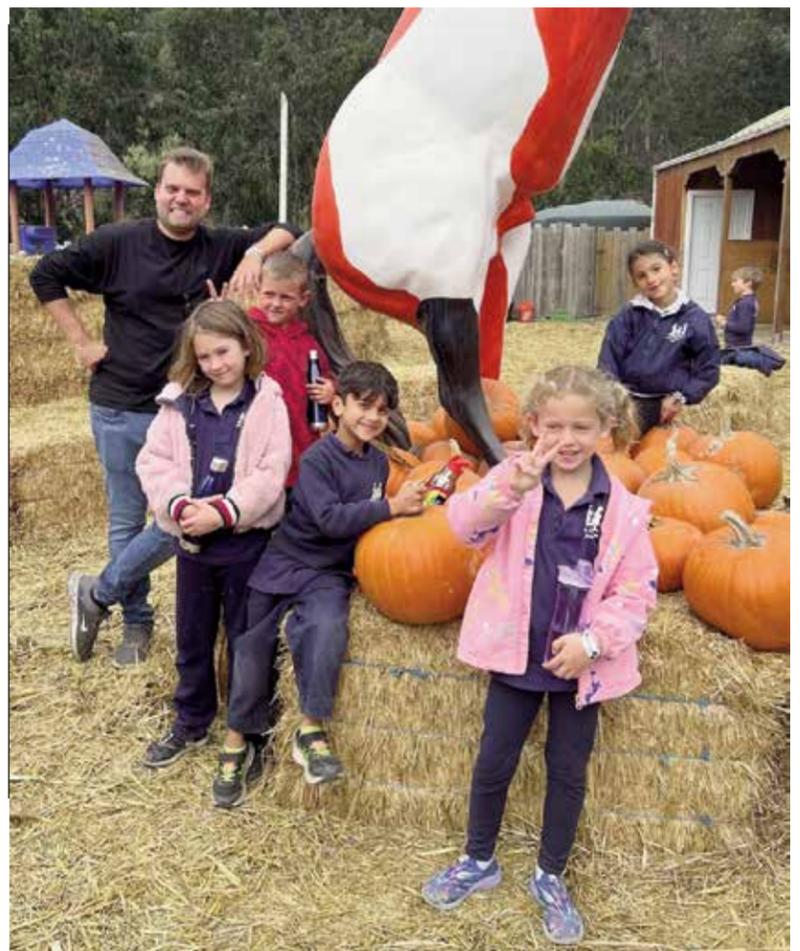


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The Downside of Electric Vehicles—No Place to Plug In

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spaces exclusively for EV-charging at the curb, as cities across the globe are doing.

“Basically, nothing has changed since then,” Gill said in a recent interview. “Basically, there has been no progress, from what I can see, in expanding public charging, not only in Noe Valley but citywide.”

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman agrees with Gill that the city needs to do more to address the expected growth in EV ownership. It is why, he said, he joined Mayor London Breed and his Board of Supervisors colleagues this summer in passing new rules to make it easier to convert existing gas stations and other automotive businesses to EV-charging stations.

“We need to make it easier for people to move from gas cars to all-electric cars. It is too hard to charge them right now,” Mandelman acknowledged. “We [also] need to do more to encourage or require property owners to provide or allow for charging in multi-unit buildings.”

Problem Will Accelerate

With the state of California now phasing out the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, the problem for how people will be able to charge their electric vehicles if they do not have access to a private garage will become acute. The Plug-in Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Research Center at the University of California Davis reported in May that the state needed to install 3.2 million additional chargers by 2035 in order to accommodate all the new EVs expected to be on the roads by then.

The influx is due to the California Air Resources Board this summer adopting new rules calling for 35 percent of new vehicles sold in 2026 to be fully electric or hybrid. By 2030 such vehicles must account for 68 percent sold, going to fully 100 percent by 2035. The penalty for automakers that do not abide by the goals will be upwards of \$20,000 per non-compliant vehicle sold.

State lawmakers are also trying to address the need for more EV-charging stations. Governor Gavin Newsom this month signed into law a bill authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) that requires state agencies to work together on updating future voluntary and mandatory vehicle-charging standards in the California Building Standards Code.

Another bill that was awaiting Newsom’s signature at the *Voice’s* deadline would require the California Building Standards Commission to adopt mandatory building standards requiring access to EV-charging in the garages of multifamily dwellings.

“Now is the time to expand EV-charging access for apartment and condo dwellers,” noted Western States Campaign Manager for the Union of Concerned Scientists Coreen Weintraub, who is based in Oakland.

Stations Need a Jump

As part of San Francisco’s own EV Roadmap, the city has a goal of seeing all private vehicles be emission free, and thus electrically powered, by 2040. The document also calls for all new car sales to be electric by 2030.

In addition to those goals, the city



Adam Gill stands beside his Tesla, waiting to plug in at the only EV-charging station in Noe Valley, in the Walgreens parking lot at Castro and Jersey streets. He thinks as electric cars proliferate, the city needs to quit stalling and provide spots for curbside charging. Photo by Art Bodner

last year adopted climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 61 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2040. To meet those targets, all private and commercial vehicles driven in the city will need to be electrified.

“So, speaking of the future, EVs are inevitable,” said Lowell Chu, the energy program manager for San Francisco’s Department of the Environment.

Renters Out of Luck

But purchasing an EV vehicle is easier for someone who owns his or her own home, noted Chu at a City Hall hearing in June.

“A transition from fossil fuel to electricity is accelerating. Currently, however, this transition is much easier for single-family residents because of home-charging,” said Chu. “In California, residents in single-family homes are three times more likely to purchase electric vehicles. However, 70 percent of our city’s residents live in multi-unit dwellings. Many of them don’t have access to home- or workplace-charging. Most park their vehicles on the streets.”

For many apartment dwellers, running an electrical cord from a window in their home to their EV parked outside isn’t a feasible option. Thus, ensuring there is access to public EV chargers is essential.

5,000 Needed by 2030

In October 2019 the city adopted a regulation requiring commercial parking lots and garages with more than 100 parking spaces to install EV-charging stations in at least 10 percent of the parking spaces. It included a stipulation that owners of 300 private parking facilities in the city install EV-charging stations by Jan. 1, 2023.

San Francisco now has 1,016 public EV chargers, up from 600 three years ago. By 2030 an estimated 5,000 public EV chargers will be needed, according to the city agency.

“San Francisco needs like five times more public charging by 2030. Currently, we don’t have enough,” Chu acknowledged.

EV Car-Shares in the Works

One solution is providing EVs as car-

share options for residents of large apartment buildings. The company EV Mobility, LLC, in September became a certified car-share organization in San Francisco and has plans to offer dozens of EVs for rented use at residential buildings around the city.

“We have already installed chargers and EVs in four properties, which have quickly become some of the highest utilized and highest revenue per vehicle in our fleet,” said the company’s CEO, Ramy El-Batrawi.

EV-charging solutions need to cover a gamut of locations, added Chu, whether it be home, workplace, retail, or curbside.

“The city has done a lot to increase some of these options. The city has policies to advance charging in commercial and municipal garages,” noted Chu. “The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Clean Power SF have incentives and EV-friendly rates for home and workplace charging, but when it comes to dedicated, public-serving EV and fleet-charging locations, we need to do more.”

The Perennial Debate

Mandelman said he supported seeing the city allow charging stations to be installed on city streets in residential areas and along commercial corridors. Doing so would likely be met with

objections, he predicted, since there had long been debate in the city over preserving parking spaces versus removing them for building bike lanes and bulbouts for pedestrians.

“We need to do more to use the public spaces we have, to allow there to be charging stations installed on our sidewalks,” said Mandelman, similar to how sidewalks are used for parking meters and other infrastructure.

“Another element is we need to have on-the-street parking spaces where you can pull up into and charge your car and be there a little while you do that. It will take up parking and, no doubt, be controversial.”

The ideal solution for Gill hasn’t changed from what he told the *Voice* three years ago: he should be able to charge his Tesla overnight somewhere walkable from his home.

“The project of considerable interest for me is curbside charging. It obviously needs to happen at some point,” he said. “Other cities have it, and we should find the barriers to making this happen in San Francisco and address them.”

To find out more about the city’s EV plans and to locate a public charging station, visit the Clean Fuels and Vehicles section at sfenvironment.org.

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Local Champion Peter Gabel Dies

Beloved Activist Lived the '60s in Spirit and Deed

By Corrie M. Anders

Peter Gabel, an attorney, author, and longtime community activist in Noe Valley, died Oct. 25 from complications due to amyloidosis, a rare blood disease. He was 75.

Gabel was the former president of New College of California and associate editor of the left-progressive magazine *Tikkun*. With flowing gray hair down to his shoulders, he was a well-known and beloved figure who took on many neighborhood causes.

"I have never known a person with a bigger heart," said Leslie Crawford, who along with Gabel was a cofounder of the popular Noe Valley Farmers Market at the Town Square. "At every turn, he wanted to build community and connections, and that's absolutely what he did."

In 2003, he spearheaded the effort to raise \$200,000 for Cover to Cover, a neighborhood bookstore in financial distress and on the brink of shutting down. He convinced 40 people to loan \$5,000 each and helped save the store, though it ultimately succumbed in March 2011.

Gabel also supported employees of the Real Food Company, who in the summer of 2003 were attempting to unionize the health food grocery on 24th Street. The store abruptly closed and locked out the workers on Labor Day, prompting Gabel and others to launch the Noe Valley Farmers Market.

"His most recent mark on the neigh-



Peter Gabel, shown here in 2003, was a key figure in saving a bookstore, defending local workers, and bringing the Saturday Farmers Market—and maybe even the balloons and joy—to the neighborhood. He will be missed.. Photo courtesy Leslie Crawford

borhood was leading the campaign to raise over \$35,000 to restore the Noe Valley Town Square's Mona Caron murals," noted Crawford. Gabel's image can be seen on the westside mural.

Gabel, the son of actors Arlene Francis and Martin Gabel, moved to Noe Valley in 1973, and lived on Elizabeth Street for the past 17 years. He is survived by his lifelong partner, Lisa Jaicks, a union organizer, and by his son, Sam Gabel, 27, a hip-hop performer and actor.

A memorial will be announced at a later date, the family said.

Donations in Gabel's name may be made to Friends of the Children—SF Bay Area, friendssfbayarea.org or 111 Quint St., San Francisco, CA 94124. ■

State of the Market Noe Valley

NUMBERS SOLD FROM 9/1/22 - 10/27/22

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



SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE



CONDOMINIUM

# Active < \$3M	# Pending < \$3M	# Sold < \$3M	Average Sales Price	Average \$/Sq Ft	YOY Avg Sales Price Change
20	4	8	\$2,197,000	\$1,324	-2.5%
11	1	5	\$3,883,000	\$1,498	+3.3%

# Active < \$3M	# Pending < \$3M	# Sold < \$3M	Average Sales Price	Average \$/Sq Ft	YOY Avg Sales Price Change
15	5	19	\$1,591,100	\$1,054	-5.9%
1	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A



What constitutes a "buyer's" or "seller's" market can change considerably depending on what people get used to. The wildly, overheated pandemic market became the norm for almost 2 years, and those indicators cooled over Q2 - Q3 2022. Buyer demand has weakened, appreciation and overbidding has plunged, and price reductions have become a more common occurrence, though some homes are still selling quickly if priced correctly. The speed and scale of change altered the balance of power to buyers' advantage.

Please note that these data trends are general. If you are considering buying or selling a home this year, we'd be happy to provide information on how this specifically impacts you while market adjustments progress.

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Rasa Gustaitis Pens A Moving Memoir

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

eventually to the United States in 1947.

But it wasn't until after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 that she could freely travel back to the place of her birth. (In 1990, Lithuania became the first of the Soviet bloc countries to declare its independence.)

Secrets Revealed

Of her first trip back, Gustaitis writes, "[W]hen we stopped at a small station, I heard an announcement over the loudspeaker in Lithuanian. My own private language, spoken within my family and with a few friends, was sounding out in public, amplified." She was "speechless with joy."

Over the course of four more visits, she found her family's orchard with her mother's plum trees still growing, she

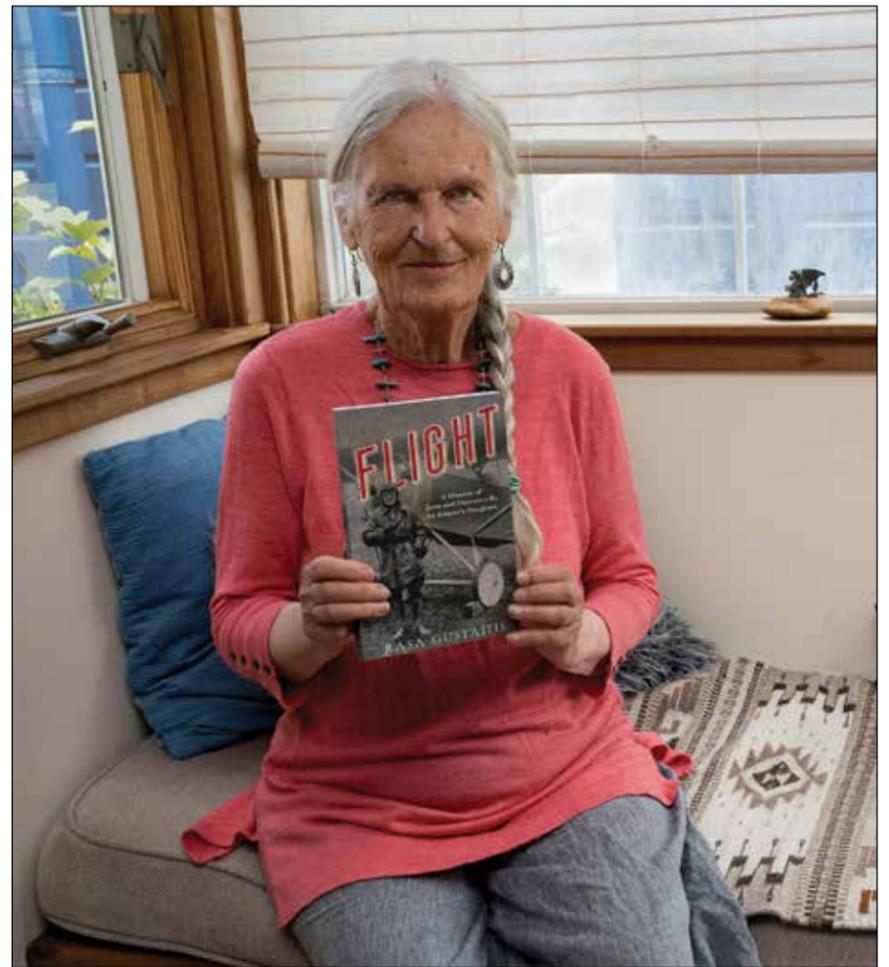
was feted at a festival to honor her father ("Only a little while before, it had been dangerous to mention my father's name in public. Now I was hearing him praised as a national hero"), she met a cousin who had been sent to Siberia, and she met the crew who had lovingly built a replica of one of her father's first planes. "Once the links with my relatives were established, they multiplied."

Most significantly, she was able, finally, to read the file of her father's interrogation by the Soviet secret service.

"I had expected to find questions about his expertise, airplane design and construction, but found none," she says. "The single goal of these interrogations seems to have been to make a case that my father was a traitor to the Soviet Union."

Ukraine Triggers Fears

The book's publication has meant stronger ties with family in Lithuania.



Rasa Gustaitis shows off her book, the cover of which depicts her father, who in the 1930s designed and built a fleet of aircraft for the Lithuanian air force. After Russian troops invaded, the planes were pulled out of their hangers and left to rot in the fields. Photo by Beverly Tharp

The End of the Time Before

From *Flight, a Memoir of Loss and Discovery by an Aviator's Daughter* by Rasa Gustaitis

The moment the world began to collapse around me is precisely recorded in my mind. I can feel it and hear it and see it even now, more than eight decades later.

I was swinging in the rope hammock in the birch grove outside the back door of our home in Kaunas, the second-largest city in Lithuania, near the Baltic Sea. Brushing the tall grass with one bare foot, I was enjoying the soft tickle. Above the treetops, white cumulous clouds were sailing in the pale blue sky, in the shape of sheep, horses, and animals never seen before. In a chair at the foot of the hammock sat my grandmother, Baba, knitting.

It was mandatory nap time, Mama's orders, or at least rest time after a morning of running around with a couple of neighbor kids. Mama was strict on things she thought were good for me and Jurate, my older sister, and gentle Baba, who spent more time with me than Mama did, carried out her decrees. Mama was beautiful, elegant and in charge. Baba was plain, rounded, and warm. When she laughed, her belly shook. That was funny and nice when I sat in her lap. I loved to see and feel her laugh.

In a while, Baba would go into the house and come out with a glass of carrot juice for me, and also the dreaded spoonful of cod liver oil, with a piece of black bread sprinkled with salt to kill the vile taste. Sometimes I tried to avoid it by running away, but whenever I came back she would be waiting for me, ready. It was best to just open my mouth as the spoon approached and be done with it.

Maybe today I could persuade her to make me some *kogil-mogil* before we went for our afternoon walk. This traditional Lithuanian treat is made of egg yolks beaten with sugar, with some of the whites folded in, and sometimes a bit of cocoa. Then Jurate would be home from school, and I'd try to hang around while she had a lesson from Phyllis, the English governess who lived with us. I was learning English too, just by listening.

In a couple of weeks Jurate's school vacation would begin, and then we'd go to Palanga, a resort town on the Baltic Sea, and spend two months there. Phyllis would come with us for a while, then return to Birmingham to visit her family during August. My father, Brigadier General Antanas Gustaitis, would take us to Palanga and then come back, to work, usually returning to visit us from Saturday afternoon to Sunday. He designed and built airplanes and also was the chief of Lithuania's air force.

I'd had enough of cloud animals and thoughts of the seashore and my right foot was tingling.

"Grandma, maybe it's enough? Can I get up?"

"All right," she said. And then the day was shattered by a man's loud voice in our doorway: "The Russians have already crossed the border!"

Baba drew in her breath and crossed herself.

"Bozhe moi," she said softly. My God.

I looked up at her face and saw fear. In Lithuanian, the word for border is the same as the word for wall. So I understood that some Russians had come across some wall and that this was bad—very bad.

My grandmother and I hurried to join the cluster of neighbors who had gathered to listen to the man's news. I was six years old and this was the moment when my peaceful and comfortable childhood ended. It was June 15, 1940.

This excerpt is published with the permission of Rasa Gustaitis, from Flight, a Memoir of Loss and Discovery by an Aviator's Daughter (RasaTime Publishing, September 2021). The author will discuss the book at the Odd Mondays series at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St., at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, Nov. 7. There is no charge for admission.

"It's a close-knit group, several generations now," says Gustaitis, all from her father's side and living in either Kaunas or Vilnius. "Just two days ago, I got an email from my favorite nephew, Jonas. He sent a photo of an early apple he had just picked," she says.

She notes that since last spring, "they all have been involved in helping Ukrainian refugees. Young men, and also older men, have taken military training in anticipation of an invasion by Russia.

"Lithuanians are very aware of how Putin's current invasion of Ukraine is what Stalin did in Lithuania in 1941," she says. "It's the same cycle being repeated.

"People say he's not going to stop [with Ukraine]," she adds, and that "Putin wants to establish the old boundaries of the Soviet Union."

The view is understandable.

"People in the United States have not experienced the urgency to pack up and run away from invading troops," as Lithuanians have, she says.

Resonating Everywhere

These days, Gustaitis has been writing "short little essays and personal reflections on a variety of things." A recent post on her website

(www.RasaGustaitis.com) suggests a way for Russian mothers to help wind down the war in Ukraine.

As a member of a vibrant community of Lithuanian expats in San Francisco, she also participates in local events, including the annual Christmas fair held at the Latvian Lutheran Church on Hoffman Avenue.

"I had an amazing experience recently," she says. "In a Little Free Library on Eureka Street, I found all kinds of books in different languages. I found a book translated from English to Lithuanian."

Thus, in life and in *Flight*, Gustaitis has come full circle, traveling back to a past she was forced to leave so sadly and abruptly as a child, while staying firmly in the present as an advocate and seeker of truth.

At the end of her memoir, she tells us, "I hope that *Flight* opens a small window into the history of the small country on the Baltic Sea from which I came, and that it resonates with others who arrived in the United States as refugees."

Rasa Gustaitis will appear at the Odd Mondays series at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St., at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, Nov. 7.

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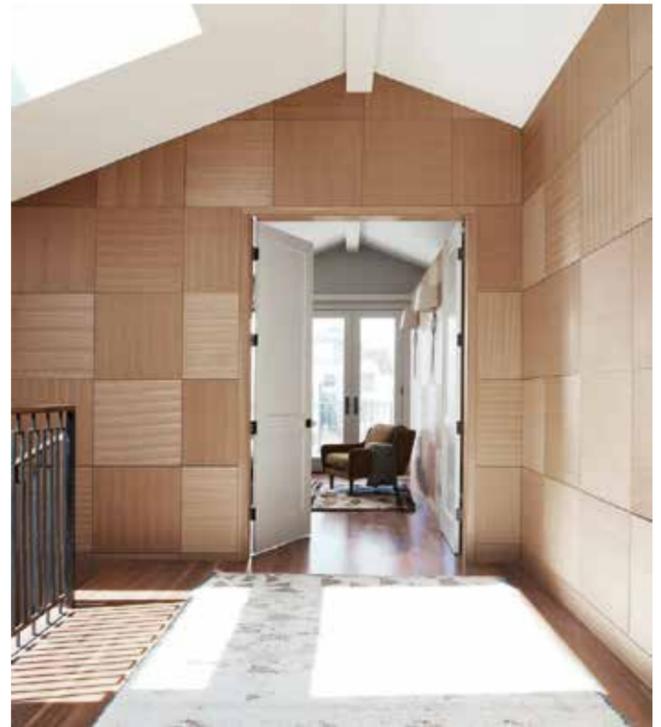
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In the four-plus decades that we have published the Noe Valley Voice, the column that, hands down, drew the most positive response was *Florence's Family Album*, a collection of reminiscences by 21st Street resident Florence Holub (1919–2018). And the most popular in the bunch had to be “the turkey story.” It was first printed in our November 1989 issue, but it also ran in 1992, 2001, 2007, and 2009. Yes, the story has legs! We hope you enjoy it once more.

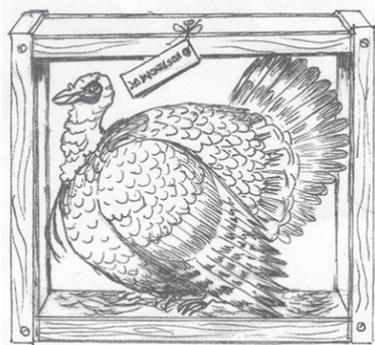
Nowadays, when preparing for a Thanksgiving feast, we have only to go to the market to purchase a bird that has already been plucked, drawn, and readied for the oven. Compare this with the Pilgrims, who hunted their turkeys in the woods with firearms.

But I remember one Thanksgiving when the turkey had to be chased and captured—without the aid of a weapon—making those involved feel somewhat akin to the early settlers of America.

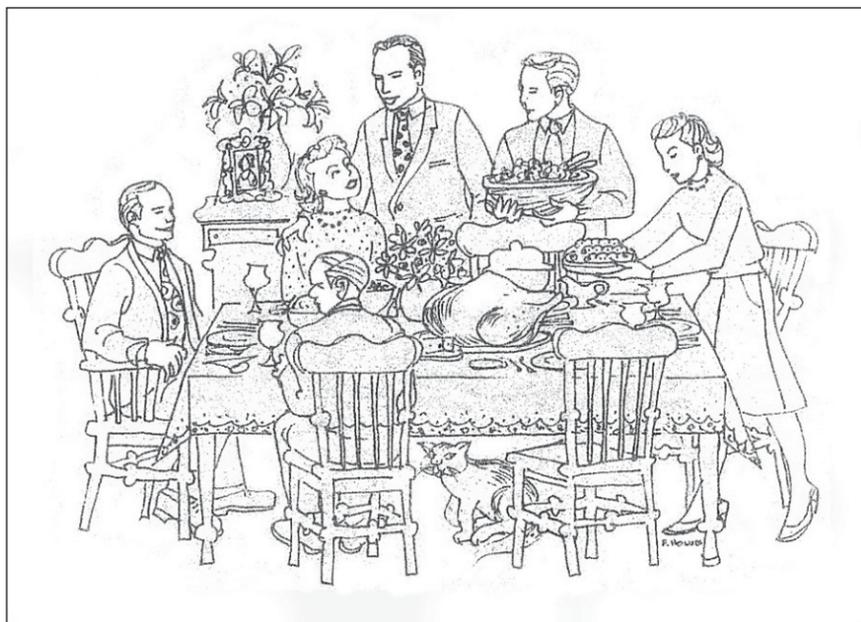
This happened in the late 1930s, when my parents' lodge for Swedish-speaking Finlanders, the Star of Finland, held its annual “Turkey Whist” party at Dovre Hall on 18th Street.

Each October, the lodge ordered more than a hundred turkeys from a farmer in the San Joaquin Valley. They then printed up a few thousand raffle tickets and doled out the tickets to lodge members and their families so they could sell them to friends. I remember the feeling of relief when I sold the last of my large allotment.

On the big night of this particular Turkey Whist party, the ticket stubs were put into a large box, shaken well, then drawn. The names of the lucky ticket holders were announced between card games. Winners of the whist games (an early form of bridge) also won turkeys, so the hall was filled with tables of eager players. As each winner was called, his or her name was written on a tag that was then tied to one of the many crates—each containing a live turkey—stacked in the entrance of Dovre Hall. During the long evening, the crowd gradually thinned as each winner claimed his gobbling prize and carried it away.



FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM



Illustrations by Florence Holub

De Turkey Det Got Away...Almost

By Florence Holub

My good-looking older brother Mike, who was then 21 and working on Montgomery Street, did not attend the early part of the Turkey Whist because of a heavy date with a blue-eyed beauty, Margaret Schudel, who lived on Elizabeth Street in Noe Valley. Mike and Margaret dropped in at Dovre Hall after their date, but by the time they arrived, there was only one turkey crate left in the entrance.

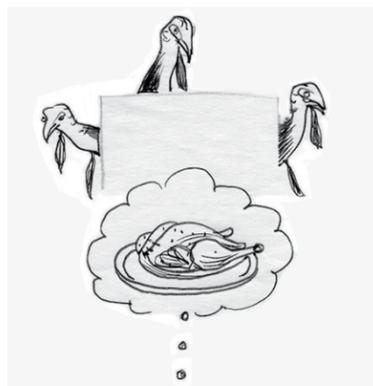
When my brother glanced at the tag, he was astounded to see his name written on it as a raffle winner. Unprepared for this good fortune, he had to borrow a rope to tie the large crate to his Ford V-8 coupe. Then he carefully drove his date home—even though the evening was still young. (This was the only time that Margaret had to play second fiddle to a turkey.)

The next day back at the house, my father began to build an impromptu pen for the bird in the yard, using assorted pieces of wood and a woven wire bed-spring for the top. The pen seemed big enough, but my father questioned its security. His brother Ed, however, reassured him, saying, “The turkey can't get out of that pen.”

Uncle Ed, a shy, silent man except when he'd had a couple of drinks, had spent the early part of the day at the Pilsner Bar on Church Street near Market, so he was feeling talkative, and his Swedish accent was more pronounced than usual. “Det turkey von't

go anywhere, Yohn,” he declared.

When the task was completed, we went into the house for a coffee break. It wasn't long, however, before my younger brother Warde burst in, shouting that the turkey had escaped and was headed for the hill.



My father and brothers ran out in pursuit, but the hill was covered with dry grass and gopher holes—making it difficult terrain to maneuver—and the turkey had a good start. The three figures sped unevenly up the slope while I watched breathlessly from the window and Uncle Ed gave a blow-by-blow account:

“Vhat a race! Det turkey iss vun quvick runner—but Yohn and de boys are pretty quvick too.

“Oh no! Yohn vent down (tripped by a gopher hole), but he yumped up again!

“De tree fellas are catching up. De turkey's vaiting at de top of de hill—

no, he's spreading his vings. Yumping yimminy, he's flying away! Vell, I warned Yohn det turkey vould get away.”

And that's what happened.

At the top of the hill the bird spread his wings and disappeared over the crest, the three men still after him. As they followed, they watched the turkey soar down and over the nearest rooftops, heading for a street edged with bungalows—a perfect landing strip. But by the time they got to the street, the fugitive was nowhere to be seen. After searching every front yard in several blocks, they finally found him huddled under a bush, gasping for breath.

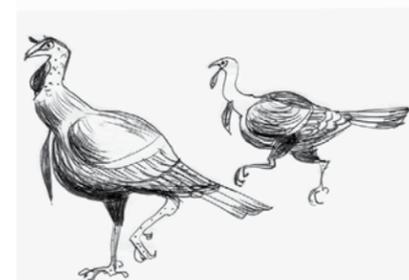
The three hunters, each gripping a section of bird, marched to the butcher shop nearby, where our exhausted escapee was promptly immobilized, de-feathered, and put in cold storage.

On the day before Thanksgiving, we collected our turkey and began preparations for the feast. Since we had lost our mother to cancer a year earlier, and I was the only female in the family, it became my duty to cook the dinner. I was 18 at the time and had never had anything to do with a turkey before; it could have been a disaster but for the kindness of a good neighbor, who helped me with the dressing and baking directions the night before.

In the morning, I stuffed, baked, and served that turkey, along with the traditional fare of mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, corn, salad, and—from Plate's Bakery on 24th Street—pumpkin pie. Gathered around the dinner table was our family of four, my brother's girlfriend, Margaret, and a very quiet Uncle Ed.

All six of us had been acquainted with the entree, and remembered the great effort expended by those powerful thighs, so we feared the meat would be tough, but it wasn't. In fact, of all the Thanksgiving turkeys we sampled over the years, this remarkable bird was the most delicious, the most memorable—and the most appreciated for his sacrifice.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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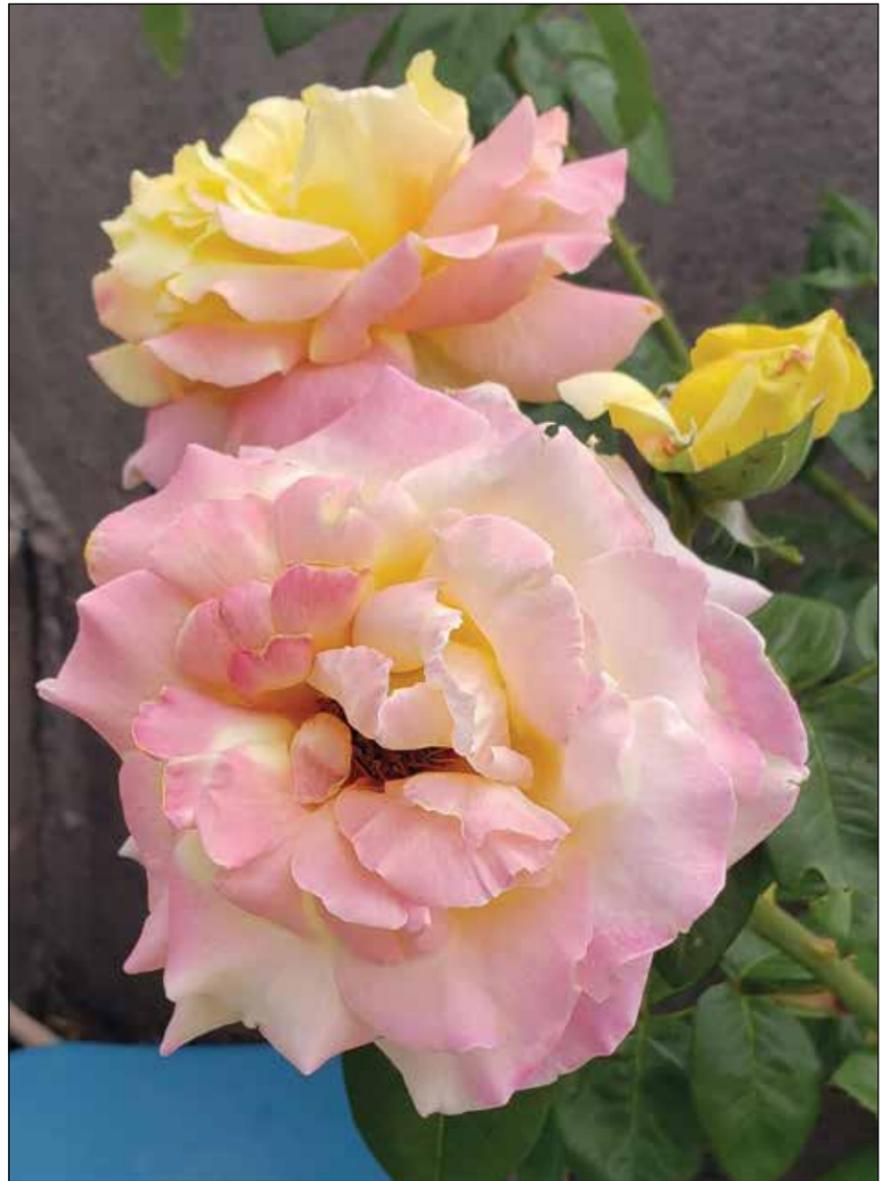


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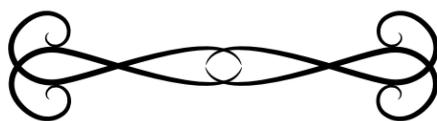
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers Get the Willies

By Corrie M. Anders

Hikes in mortgage interest rates, coupled with sharp declines in the stock market, put the kibosh on sales of single-family detached homes in Noe Valley in September.

Only four such homes closed escrow during the month, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco. That's compared with 17 sales in September a year ago.

Would-be buyers may have gotten cold feet the first week of September, when they saw the Fed's raise interest



A three-bedroom, two-bath condominium sharing this Edwardian on 22nd Street sold for \$1,850,000 in September. It was one of eight condos sold during the month.

rates another three quarters of a point, causing the cost of a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage to reach its highest level since 2008 (5.89%).

But their teeth were really chattering by month's end, as the Dow shrunk 9 percent, erasing all the gains of the past two years.

"I think the stock market is impacting both buyers and sellers," said Corcoran President Randall Kostick, noting that some owners were not putting their homes on the market because they sensed that "buyers were not as motivated as they once were."

Despite the dreary economic news, sales of condominiums, which are considerably less expensive than detached homes, held their own in September. Eight condos closed escrow, one more than in August.

While sales of detached homes were few, the buyers who did forge ahead spent an average \$3.4 million.

The most expensive home sold in September was a renovated Victorian in the 200 block of Fair Oaks Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

The \$4,050,000 final price was



This classic Victorian on Fair Oaks Street, originally built in 1905, sold in September for \$4,050,000. The renovated gem featured four bedrooms, four baths, and two-car parking.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
September 2022	4	\$2,850,000	\$4,050,000	\$3,362,500	7	108%
August 2022	12	\$2,100,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,614,583	15	105%
September 2021	17	\$1,220,000	\$4,010,000	\$2,946,918	17	112%
Condominiums/TICs						
September 2022	8	\$1,050,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,500,000	22	102%
August 2022	7	\$610,000	\$2,599,000	\$1,447,000	19	105%
September 2021	12	\$1,100,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,815,000	18	113%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
September 2022	5	\$1,550,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,250,000	26	118%
August 2022	1	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	11	93%
September 2021	3	\$1,600,000	\$2,107,500	\$1,902,500	18	110%
5+-unit buildings						
September 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2021	1	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	309	96%

*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. NVV11/2022

slightly more than what the sellers had sought (\$3,995,000). For that price, the buyers got a four-bedroom, four-bath home with 3,025 square feet of living space, originally built in 1905. The house included a chef's kitchen, a fireplace, a one-bedroom apartment, and two-car parking.

A three-bedroom, two-bath residence in a classic Edwardian was the highest-priced condominium sold in September. The cost was \$1,850,000, or 8.9 percent more than the asking price.

Located on a steep hillside in the

3600 block of 22nd Street, between Sanchez and Church streets, the 1911 structure had been remodeled in 2006.

With 1,519 square feet of living space, the two-level condo featured an updated kitchen with breakfast area, a patio, and one-car garage.

September also saw the sale of five flats at an average price of \$2,250,000. All were in two-unit buildings—long a favorite of unrelated buyers who often occupy individual units as tenants in common. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range October 2022	Average October 2022	Average September 2022	Average October 2021
Studio	11	\$1,700 – \$3,150	\$2,338 / mo.	\$1,695 / mo.	\$2,061 / mo.
1-bdrm	47	\$2,295 – \$6,000	\$3,229 / mo.	\$3,178 / mo.	\$2,726 / mo.
2-bdrm	49	\$2,775 – \$6,600	\$4,182 / mo.	\$4,010 / mo.	\$3,921 / mo.
3-bdrm	25	\$3,900 – \$12,000	\$6,447 / mo.	\$7,025 / mo.	\$5,365 / mo.
4+-bdrm	14	\$4,975 – \$20,000	\$8,550 / mo.	\$8,062 / mo.	\$10,887 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 146 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Sept. 11 to Oct. 10, 2022. In October 2021, there were 113 listings. NVV11/2022

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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Students from MoBu Dance Studio wow the crowd attending the Upper Noe Block Party on Sept. 24.

Photo by Chris Faust

Time to Drop In to Zumba

The Fall Session at Upper Noe Recreation Center ends on Nov. 17, and formal classes take a break until Winter Session begins in January. Fortunately, the rec center will remain busy with free activities like open gym, free play, pickleball, and Zumba to provide fun and exercise.

In addition, two informal sessions of Zumba with Moira DeNike on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. on the exterior basketball court will now be part of the park's regular program. So get your dance on. Drop by and drop in and join the fun.

For more information, visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the office at 415-970-8061. The rec center is at 295 Day St., at Sanchez Street.

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

Upper Noe Fall Session Sept. 6 to Nov. 17, 2022

Rec Center Hours: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun. & Mon. closed; outside activities only. Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Auditorium Free Play

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

Tuesday

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Flag Football, Senior Division
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday

Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (All Ages)
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
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
5 to 6 p.m. Flag Football, Junior Division
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Karate Kidz
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp
7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning

Friday

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
2 to 4 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
4 to 5 p.m. Volleyball League – Upper Noe Team
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
5 to 6 p.m. Volleyball League – Upper Noe Team
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis, Beginning
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Play Sport – Instructional Volleyball

Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Gym (All Ages)
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE



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SHORT TAKES

Woo Woo at Arab Film Fest

Filmmaker Amir Youssef, an Egyptian immigrant and now a Noe Valley resident, will showcase his latest short film this month at the 26th annual Arab Film Festival in San Francisco.

Youssef's comedic flick, *The Laughing Woo Woo*, is one of 60 films to be screened during the event, running Nov. 11 to 20 at the Castro, Roxie, and other theaters around the Bay Area.

The Laughing Woo Woo, to be shown along with three other shorts on Nov. 20, 2 p.m., at the Roxie, 3117 16th St., follows the travails of an asylum seeker trying to latch on to the American dream. The story takes place in 2011 during the Arab Spring, when Egypt is in turmoil.

"The [16-minute] film is about a



Noe Valley filmmaker Amir Youssef's *The Laughing Woo Woo* has already won awards.

lonesome Egyptian immigrant, and he's battling his way to navigate the immigration procedure—and his only hope is his greedy lawyer," Youssef told the *Voice*.

The main character, who has gotten himself to San Francisco, finds he has only hours to submit paperwork to the immigration office. His missed appointment is the least of several calamities in the film. Think stolen Muni bus.

Youssef, 38, who with his wife moved to 28th Street two years ago, works as an engineer for a clean energy firm. A naturalized citizen who emigrated from Egypt in 2002, Youssef says the film is not his real-life story.

"It is not autobiographical by any means," he says, "but it is deeply personal in a metaphorical way." The



Here's your closest drop box for Nov. 8, on the sidewalk in front of the Noe Valley Library, at 451 Jersey St. Photo by Suzanne Herel

refugee is "a character trying to belong in a new society after leaving behind friends, family, loved ones, and basically starting a new life," says Youssef.

The film, which debuted earlier this year, has won three awards from festivals around the country. It is Youssef's second film, following his 2019 *The Initiation*.

Festival prices range from \$8 for a single event to \$200 for a VIP Festival pass. For more information, visit www.arabfilmstitute.org. Many films are also streamed online.

—Corrie M. Anders

Figure-Drawing Studio Reopens

Sharpen your drawing pencils—after 2½ years of waiting out Covid, the 23rd Street Studio has reopened its doors.

The studio, at 3747 23rd St. at Chattanooga Street, offers live models for non-instructional and instructional figure-drawing sessions.

Noe Valley artist Michael Markowitz has been teaching his unconventional figure-drawing technique here for more than 22 years.

But if you sign up for Markowitz' classes, don't expect traditional instruction on how to copy a figure.

"That's the opposite of creativity," Markowitz says.

"These classes use drawing to explore the nature of perception and how that relates to identity, and the whole idea is to unlock the creative process. It's a pretty rigorous course, and there's a lot of talk about neuroscience and psychology."

Markowitz says his 12-week or longer courses aim to give students a visual experience that's similar to listening to music.

"After the first week, we don't look at the page," he says. "It's so you don't care about the product. It's so that you care about the experience in and of itself."

Classes resumed Oct. 2. Participants must present proof of vaccination and wear a K95 mask while indoors.

Visit 23rdstreetstudio.com for information on schedules and cost.

—Suzanne Herel

Get Ready, Set, Vote!

As usual, there's no shortage of state and local propositions and political posts to be decided Tuesday, Nov. 8. Here are some tips to get your ballot to the box on time.

All registered voters in San Francisco should have received a ballot in the mail. If you haven't, or you misplaced it, you can access your ballot at



Rocket Dog Rescue founder Pali Boucher poses in this 2018 photo with her pals Thelonious Monk (left) and Trombone Shorty. Photo by Art Bodner

Emmylou Harris Headlines Pali's Bummers Ball

When Emmylou Harris closed out the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival last month, some in the throng might have been surprised to hear her make a speech advocating for the care and feeding of dogs and then follow it up with a rendition of "Big Black Dog," about her own pet.

But Pali Boucher, founder of San Francisco's Rocket Dog Rescue, would have smiled in recognition. She's known the country music diva since the two met in 2016, and she's well aware of her fondness for animals.

Harris's sentiments will have her performing at the fourth Bummers Ball, a benefit for Rocket Dog, on Saturday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m., at the SFJAZZ Center at 201 Franklin St.

The live music event is named for one of the strays allowed to roam the streets of San Francisco in Mark Twain's time, because the dog was a good ratter. Bummer and his running mate, Lazarus, "were treated with honor and respect by the shopkeepers," notes Boucher, who's done her own part, for the past 21 years, to promote the same response to stray dogs and cats from the residents and shopkeepers of Noe Valley.

"I have adoption pop-ups all the time on 24th Street, in front of When Modern Was and Just for Fun. Sometimes the kids will volunteer for us, and their parents can be super relaxed and enjoy it," she says. "People who might have adopted a dog from us 10 years ago will think, maybe we could foster these puppies. It feels like family."

Boucher, who works part-time at Chocolate Covered, lives in Bernal Heights with four canine companions of her own: Thelonious Monk, Trombone Shorty, Motown Superfly, and Calamity Jane.

Aside from Emmylou Harris, "we've got Margaret Belton (who's in Noe Valley all the time), and she's going to do her Patsy Cline story" at the ball, says Boucher.

"We've [also] got Tim Flannery, who sings and has an incredible band, and Beso Negro, who're from Marin County. And Liam Mayclem, who lives in Noe Valley [and formerly booked events at Noe's Cantina], will be our auctioneer, auctioning everything from a tattoo to a getaway in Goatlandia to a getaway to New York to the Macy's parade.

"At the Ginger Rubio Salon," Boucher continues, "Anthony, who's also a Noe Valley resident, is offering a gorgeous package for friends to come and have their hair and makeup done and have sushi and get their tarot cards read."

Rocket Dog Rescue is a nonprofit almost entirely funded by donations and staffed by volunteers, including Boucher.

Readers wanting to volunteer at the Bummers Ball should email bummers-ball@rocketdogrescue.org. Tickets, ranging in price from \$60 to \$120, can be retrieved at www.rocketdogrescue.org.

Be advised: "We're selling out fast, and it's going to be incredible!"

—Jeff Kaliss

[Sfelections.org/access](https://sfelections.org/access). Any registered voter may vote by mail.

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Nov. 8. Ballots returned in person must be hand-delivered to the City Hall Voting Center (1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place), a ballot drop box, or a polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Polling places open at 7 a.m.

If you missed the Oct. 24 deadline to register to vote, you can register conditionally and vote provisionally at City Hall or a polling place.

The city now boasts 501 polling places for in-person or ballot drop-off voting. To see them all, check your voter's pamphlet or visit <https://sfelections.org/tools/portal/>.

sfelections.org/tools/portal/.

Noe Valley has a bright red and blue drop box located outside the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St.

Though the city's supervisorial district map changed recently, Noe Valley remains in District 8. Our district includes voters from the Haight-Ashbury, Castro/Upper Market, Twin Peaks, (Noe Valley), and Glen Park. And yes, we're voting for supervisor this go-round.

For more information, call the Department of Elections at (415) 554-4375, email sfvote@sfgov.org, or visit sfelections.org.

—Suzanne Herel



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Community Outreach Public Notice

Department Announcements

Department of Public Health
Families Grow Healthy with WIC!
San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program provides healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, health care referrals and community information. You may qualify if you:
• Are pregnant, breastfeeding, just had a baby; or
• Had a recent pregnancy loss; or
• Have a child or care for a child under age 5; and
• Have low-to-medium income; or
• Receive Medi-Cal, CalWORKS (TANF), or CalFresh (SNAP) benefits; and
• Live in California
To learn about California WIC Program, visit www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov or call 1-888-942-9675. To enroll in SFDPH WIC Program visit www.sfdph.org/wic to start your application or call 628-217-6890 to make an appointment.
Newly pregnant individuals, working families, including military and migrant families are encouraged to apply! WIC welcomes dads, grandparents, foster parents, or guardians who care for eligible children.
This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

Notice of Availability of Draft 2021-2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report
The Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) will make available the Draft 2021-2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for public review and comment from November 7, 2022 through November 21, 2022. The CAPER represents the annual report of the City and County of San Francisco's implementation of the following four federal programs during program year 2021-2022, which covers the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022:
• Community Development Block Grant (CDBG);
• Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG);
• HOME Investment Partnership (HOME); and
• Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

The Draft 2021-2022 CAPER will be available for review beginning Monday, November 7, 2022. The draft document will be available electronically on the MOHCD website at <https://sfmohcd.org/>, OEWD website at <https://oewd.org/>, and HSH website at <http://hsh.sfgov.org/>. Members of the public who wish to provide feedback on the document may do so by submitting written comments to gloria.woo@sfgov.org. The deadline for receiving written comments is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Current or Upcoming Board or Commission Vacancies:

The Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)
The AAB resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board 1 – two; Board 2 – four; and Board 3 – five. Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision.
To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For a full list of current or upcoming Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, please visit <https://sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces>.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a Voice column profiling new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we spotlight a boutique now featuring clothing, jewelry, and stoneware by three women artists.

PURPLE MAROON

4089 24th Street at Castro
415-317-5075
<https://purplemaroon.com/>

In opening a brick-and-mortar location for her clothing line Purple Maroon, designer Josephine Tchang is aiming for it to be more than just a storefront. The boutique is also meant as a gallery to showcase the craftwork of her friends, from their jewelry to ceramics, and as an event space to form a sense of community between the public and the artisans.

"I want to create a space not just for clothing but also a lifestyle, and for the things I love having and that I use. The space will be curated by me, as it is my store, and I will bring in different artists in my circle of friends," explained Tchang, who launched her clothing line nine years ago.

Because of the disruption caused by Covid, Tchang closed down the atelier she operated in the Dogpatch neighborhood and began doing her design work out of her Ingleside home. But she missed seeing her clients in person, who also were tiring of online consultations, so Tchang began holding pop-up events in Noe Valley this past year.

"I love the connection when I interact with customers. Online doesn't have that touch," said Tchang, who has spent three decades working in the fashion industry. "Having a physical store will allow me to build that relationship, to build that connection, and to build that trust."

In the spring, her clothing could be found at the SF Collective Gallery at 3977 24th St., alongside jewelry pieces by artist Deborah Boskin, many made with natural objects like stones and twigs. Due to their success there, Tchang decided to rent her own, permanent storefront at 4089 24th St., near Castro Street.

The space had been home to Gallery of Jewels for decades, but owners Bill Hoover and Dona Taylor closed their Noe Valley outlet last year, after a series of burglaries during the pandemic shutdown.

In Tchang's re-design of the interior, she left the tilework on the floor but removed the cabinetry and the glass chandelier. In their place, she painted the walls of the roughly 250-square-foot store a stark white and installed a more modern light fixture.

"Bill, he came over and gave me his blessing. I know how tough it was," said Tchang, adding that because of the problems the couple had experienced, well-wishers have stopped by to tell her, "Good luck with your window!"

Purple Maroon opened to customers Oct. 5. In addition to Tchang's clothing and Boskin's db:designs jewelry, ceramics under the brand name Blue Plate by Maija Lahdesmaki are on display and for sale.

"I was looking for a Noe Valley space for a long time, even before Covid. But I couldn't find the right space, and a space I could afford," said Tchang.

Her clothing line is named Purple Maroon because they are her mother's



Josephine Tchang, a designer with three decades in the fashion industry, has opened a gallery and boutique in the space formerly occupied by Gallery of Jewels. She hopes it will become a place for artists and community members to congregate. Photo by Art Bodner

favorite colors. Born in Vietnam to Chinese parents who had immigrated to Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City, Tchang learned to sew from her mother, who had her own school to teach people how to make clothes.

"My playground was her classroom. I helped her teach 'Pattern 101' as a child at 13 years old," recalled Tchang, who initially arrived in the U.S. as a nursing school student. "Nursing didn't work out for me, and I ended up in the design and merchandising department

at SF State."

After graduating, Tchang went to work for the owner of former Bay Area clothing line Babette. Within a couple of years, she had enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, where she earned a design degree, then returned to work for Babette for 23 years.

Next, Tchang enrolled in Central Saint Martins, a constituent college of the University of the Arts London, to learn about knitwear. She decided to

launch her own line of sweaters and other knitted clothing, adding over the years pants, dresses, jackets, and other pieces ranging in price from \$195 to \$450.

The yarn she uses is organic. All of her pieces are washable and made to be travel friendly.

"I consider myself a sustainable designer," said Tchang, who only does two collections a year and orders a select number of styles and sizes to sell. "The store is very limited because I don't overproduce. Once I sell out, I am sold out."

She had been working with a factory in Oakland pre-pandemic, but it closed due to the health crisis. Tchang was able to find a new factory in Hong Kong, which now makes her garments. Her designs are influenced by what her customers and close friends tell her they want for their wardrobe.

"I want to listen for what they are looking for or what they need," she said. "I am not just selling a piece of clothing. I am selling something that will make them feel great and feel beautiful, and I want to make sure it is something they will wear a lot."

Because of the manufacturing issues she faced over the last two years, Tchang hasn't been able to design and produce a full clothing collection this season. She hopes to do so with her Spring 2023 collection.

She has plans to do some fundraising events in the storefront early next year and will be inviting different artisans to sell their wares there on a quarterly rotation. Boskin and Lahdesmaki are to remain at least through the end of 2022.

"This is a place for women artists to have a place to present our work," said Tchang. "We want to create, but at the end of the day, we also need to have a place to sell."

Since opening the doors, people have stopped by to say, "Thank you! We need you here," said Tchang.

"We have felt so loved the first two weeks, and that has continued every day," said Tchang. "I feel Noe Valley is my home now, so I feel really, really blessed."

The women are taking turns staffing the store each day. It is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Mondays and Tuesdays are by appointment only.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov. 1-29: A WOMEN'S AA meeting is Bethany happens Tuesdays at 6 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 845-3203; bethanysf.org

Nov. 2-12: Chung 24 Gallery displays PHOTOS by Adam Chin. Wed.-Sat., 1-6 pm. 4071 24th. chungnamont.com

Nov. 3, 10 & 17: The Noe Valley Library holds Children's STORYTIMES at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 3-24: Join Mutiny Radio Thursdays at The BAR on Dolores for free standup comedy. 1600 Dolores. 8-10 pm. 695-1745.

Nov. 5: Noe Music KIDS offers "Rhythm-ALLogy," with Aaron Kierbel. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

Nov. 5: SF Civic Music Association plays a free chamber MUSIC concert of Haydn, Bush, Dvorak (donations accepted). 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

Nov. 5 & 6: Artspan's annual OPEN STUDIOS features Noe Valley and Glen Park. 11 am-6 pm. For a map: artspanart.org

Nov. 5, 11, 12 & 20: Cookbook AUTHORS starting with Vicky Bennison (*Pasta Grannies*) Nov. 5, 3 pm, visit the bookstore. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712. See complete lineup OmnivoreBooksmyshopify.com.

Nov. 5-26: Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Nov. 5-26: Stride around Noe with NOE WALKS Meet at 24th and Sanchez Saturdays, 10 am. NoeWalks.com

Nov. 6: ACTION SF hosts virtual monthly meetings 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

Nov. 6: LIEDER Alive! offers a concert of "Songs for Lviv," featuring Ukrainian and Polish settings of Goethe and Heine, performed by soprano Alina Ilchuk and pianist Peter Grünberg. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org

Nov. 6 & 27: The Town Square hosts free YOGA for all levels; bring a mat. 11 am to noon. 3861 24th; www.yogagardensf.com

Nov. 7: Odd Mondays hosts readings "In Time of War," with Rasa Gustaitis, John Odell, and Angelo Presicci. 7 pm. Bethany, 1270 Sanchez. facebook.com/OddMondays

Nov. 12: Learn to KNIT or crochet at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am-12:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 12: Bring dinner to a SWING dancing party at the Noe Valley Town Square, featuring the 29th Street Swingtet. 5:30-7:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Nov. 13: The Noe Valley Town Square's MURAL celebration runs from 11 am to noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Nov. 13: The World Literature BOOK CLUB at the Noe Valley Library discusses *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 13: NOE MUSIC offers free babysitting at the Juilliard String Quartet concert, performing works by Beethoven and Jörg Widman. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

Nov. 16: The Noe Valley Democratic Club holds a membership meeting, 6 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th, noevalleydemocrats.org

Nov. 16: The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *In the Margins* by Elena Ferrante. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 16: Attend a COMMUNITY meeting with Upper Noe Neighbors at 7 pm. Info@uppernoeneighbors.com

Nov. 18: The Noe Valley Library screens the 1989 FILM *Smoke Signals*. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 19: It's time for LEGO free play at the Noe Valley Library. 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 20: Join a WORKSHOP to create fabric gift wrap inspired by furoshiki. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Dec. 3: The holiday TREE LIGHTING at the Noe Valley Town Square has performances by the Loosies and LED Flow Arts. 5 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Dec. 4: Music on the Hill hosts a CONCERT by the Town Quartet, with composer/violinist Alisa Rose. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. musiconthehill.org

Email your listings for December 2022 to Calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Photo by Jeannette LaFors

There'll Be Dancin', Dancin' in The Street



Photo by Art Bodner



Photo by Steve Werek



Photo by Jeannette LaFors

Here's a visual roundup of some of the fun Noe Valleyans had in October. Party on.

Top Left: Balloons in front of Bethany Church helped to announce the Sanchez Street Block Party on Oct. 16.

Top Right: The succulents station at the Sanchez festivities was a hit with all ages.

Above Left: Getting our groove on on Sanchez Street.

Above Right: A fairy alighted long enough for a photo pose.

Right: Blocktober Fest, also on Oct. 16, included a hill climb race up 27th Street by the youngest fleet-footed locals.



Photo by Sally Smith

CHILDREN'S FICTION

A curly-haired girl goes on her first trip to a hair salon in *I Love My Beautiful Hair* by Elissa Wentt. Ages 0-3.

In *Jigsaw: Mystery in the Mail*, by Bob Graham, a family searches for a missing puzzle piece. Ages 3-7.

A witch needs an elusive ingredient to make Frog Soup, in *A Spoonful of Frogs*, written by Casey Lyall and illustrated by Vera Brosgol. Ages 4-8.

In the historical fantasy *Black Bird, Blue Road*, by Sofiya Pasternack, a girl tries to find a cure for her twin brother's leprosy. Ages 8-12.

Young Willa must choose between two warring covens in *A Reluctant Witch's Guide to Magic* by Shivaun Plozza. Ages 8-12.

Five students are compelled to perform community service together in *Invisible*, a graphic novel in English and Spanish by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, with illustrations by Gabriela Epstein. Ages 8-12.

In the graphic novel *Smaller Sister* by Maggie Edkins Willis, a younger sibling worries when her older sister struggles with an eating disorder. Ages 8-12.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky: The Graphic Novel by Robert Venditti, with illustrations by Olivia Stephens, is based on Kwame Mbalia's novel about a world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods. Ages 9-12.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

In the picture book *Tree Hole Homes: Daytime Dens and Nighttime Nooks*, Melissa Stewart describes what one may find in a tree; illustrated by Amy Hevron. Ages 4-8.

How Was That Built? The Stories Behind Awesome Structures by Roma Agrawal, illustrated by Katie Hickey, explains the feats of engineering behind skyscrapers, bridges, and underground tunnels. Ages 6-9.

Meghan McCarthy deconstructs the

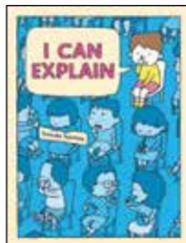
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Verdant by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

We're Thankful



Here's the list of books and DVDs newly arrived at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, compiled for the *Voice* by Branch Manager Jack Tilney and Adult Services Librarian Julieanne Randolph. (Our longtime *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske provides the descriptions.)

For children, there are many books on the humorous side, including one about a witch who is trying to make a soup recipe calling for frogs. Kids may also like books on concrete, holes in trees, or endangered bugs.

For adults who enjoy escaping in fiction, the list includes Nicholas Spark's latest romance and Alaina Urquhart's tale told through the eyes of both a serial killer and a medical examiner. The nonfiction group features a history of transgender people, as well as a retelling of American history from the perspective of indigenous peoples.

You can put any of these books on hold at sfpl.org and arrange for pickup at the Noe Valley branch. If you have questions, call the Noe Valley Library at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org. Or visit your local librarians at 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. Masks are still recommended but not required.

The branch is open Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Whew, that's some reading list!

motion picture and the behind-the-scenes work people do to create them, in *Action! How Movies Began*. Ages 5-8.

Concrete: From the Ground Up, written by Larissa Theule and illustrated by Steve Light, describes the building materials that have been used since ancient times. Ages 7-10.

Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement is a picture book biography by Angela Joy, with illustrations by Janelle Washington. Ages 8-12.

Buzzkill: A Wild Wander Through the Weird and Threatened World of Bugs is authored by Brenna Maloney and illustrated by Dave Mottram. Ages 10-14.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

This Little Wonder: A No-Limits Primer by Joan Holub, with illustrations by Daniel Roode, includes biographies of 10 important people with disabilities. Ages 3-5.

Shinsuke Yoshitake pokes fun at bad habits in the humorous picture book *I Can Explain*. Ages 5-8.

Twenty tales are featured in *Egyptian Myths: Meet the Gods, Goddesses, and Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt*, written by Jean Menzies, illustrated by Katie Ponder. Ages 5-9.

A young Black girl who is a witch must save her magic school, in the middle-school fantasy *A Taste of Magic*, by J. Elle. Ages 8 to 11.

In *Hear Me* by Kerry O'Malley Cerra, a girl who is struggling with hearing loss has to weigh the pros and cons of surgery. Ages 10-14.

ADULT FICTION

A Vietnamese-Australian woman returns home to investigate her brother's murder, in *All That's Left Unsaid* by Tracy Lien.

In *The Book Haters Book Club* by Gretchen Anthony, customers of a bookshop fight to keep it from being closed.

A serial killer and a medical examiner alternate their stories of a grisly series of murders, in *The Butcher and the Wren* by Alaina Urquhart.

The lives of a farmer, an aspiring country music star, and a woman fleeing an abusive husband come together in Nicholas Sparks' novel *Dreamland*.

Laura Warrell's debut novel, *Sweet, Soft, Plenty Rhythm*, describes the romantic affairs of a Boston trumpet player.

ADULT FICTION EBOOKS

The Bullet That Missed by Richard Osman is the third book in the Thursday Murder Club series, and the club tries to solve a decade-old cold case.

In the last days of World War II, a mother and daughter discover a Nazi cell in Los Angeles, in *Mother Daughter Traitor Spy* by Susan Elia MacNeal.

ADULT NONFICTION

In *Before We Were Trans: A New History of Gender*, Kit Heyam goes back in time to reveal trans people from around the world "whose experiences of gender have defied binary categories."

Pekka Hämmäläinen rewrites 400 years of American history from the perspective of Native peoples, in *Indigenous Continent*.

Masa: Techniques, Recipes, and Reflections on a Timeless Staple by Jorge Gavia shows how to make maize (for tortillas, pupusas) from scratch.

In *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture*, Gabor Maté investigates the

LIBRARY EVENTS

Good news! The Noe Valley Library will again offer a **Children's Storytime**, on Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10, and 17, at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.; space is limited.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind.

The **World Literature Book Club's** selection is *The Round House* by Louis Erdrich. The group meets Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley Circulation Desk for checkout.

This month's book selection for the **Noe Valley Book Club** is *In the Margins* by Elena Ferrante. The group meets Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley Circulation Desk for checkout.

On Nov. 18, the Noe Library's **Friday Matinee** features the 1989 Sundance Film Festival winner *Smoke Signals*, based on a short story by Sherman Alexie. 2 to 4 p.m.

LEGO Free Play, for children age 5 and up, runs from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 19.

A **Fabric Gift Wrap Workshop** is inspired by furoshiki, the Japanese art of wrapping with cloth that's been decorated with ink and stamps. Sunday, Nov. 20, 2 to 3 p.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

causes of illness, and offers a pathway to health.

Poet Javier Zamora's memoir *Solito* describes his 3,000-mile migration from El Salvador, alone at the age of 9.

ADULT NONFICTION EBOOKS

The Biggest Ideas in the Universe: Space, Time, and Motion by Sean Carroll explains "the fundamental ideas informing the modern physics of reality."

A Visible Man is a memoir by Edward Enninfu, the first Black editor-in-chief of *British Vogue* fashion magazine.

DVD / BLU-RAY

Abbott Elementary, Season 1, is a mockumentary sitcom about teachers in a Philadelphia public school, originally aired on ABC.

Set in 19th-century Paris, *Lost Illusions* follows a poet who joins a cynical team of journalists; adapted from a story by Honoré de Balzac.

In Jordan Peele's 2022 horror/suspense film *Nope*, rural California residents make a chilling discovery.

Based on stories by Adrian Tomine, *Paris, 13th District* (2021) is about the adventures of four young people.



Annotations by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6
Mission Branch Library 1234 Valencia St., 355-2800						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-8	1-6	10-6
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	10-7	1-6	10-6
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

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OTHER VOICES

fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction • the noe valley voice

As of June 12, 2022, U.S. citizens no longer needed a negative Covid test to re-enter the country from abroad. Whew! My prayers had finally been answered, and only 23 days too late. With many healthy months under my belt at home in San Francisco, I finally see the humor in the situation that mostly evaded me throughout my mid-May Roman holiday with my long-time book group buddies.

During my travels, I was constantly anxious about Covid. My worst fears morphed into reality when a close contact tested positive towards the end of the trip. In two little exposed days, I would need a negative test to get on the plane home. Oy! My stomach was doing flip flops. My heart was off to the races. That first night, after learning of my exposure, sleep turned into seven-hours worth of the night sweats I'd mostly avoided in my 50s.

Two days later, the day before my flight, I walked the half mile to the nearest farmacia that offered Covid tests. I felt like I was walking to my doom.

After paying 22 euros and filing out the blank paperwork inside the farmacia, I was directed to a tent just around the corner. Outside the tent, the woman just ahead of me was coughing and wiping her nose. Covid! I tried to stand as close to a million feet away as possible.

When my turn came, the nurse giving the test wasn't even wearing a mask. I figured she'd have Covid in two to three days. Then, before she started testing me, the nurse called Coughing Girl's name. Coughing Girl announced to her partner gleefully: Negative!. Hmmm.

With a long q-tip, the nurse made the most cursory swab of the front of each of my nostrils. Did she even touch the sides? Another hmmm.

Two minutes later, the nurse called my name, squiggled a note at the top of my piece of paperwork that was completely in Italian, except for my fill-in-the-blanks entries. She pointed to her initials and a negative sign by it. Why was I not surprised I had passed the test? And how were some Initials and a minus sign an official document for flying? I chalked that up to sloppy Italian bureaucracy.



Photos by Julie LekachHouse

Positively Negative

By Julie Lekach House

I felt like I had bought an indulgence from the Pope. Was this the true meaning of Pay to Play—or fly?

The test was a joke, but the joke was on me, at least a bit.

I wasn't absolutely positive about my negative Covid test, but I was positive I was getting on my flight to San Francisco the following morning. I was practically skipping toward our apartment/six-bedroom villa. I looked for a place where I could have a quiet moment. I wanted to express my thanks to God, Italy, vaccines, boosters and my body's immune system.

This Jewish girl found the perfect refuge for her prayers: La Chiesa dei Cappuccini, a beautiful 17th-century church run by Capuchin Monks. I thanked the One God and the coffee gods for keeping our contact's case mild and the rest of us Covid-free, at least by the test.

Back at our villa, I decided to pack before heading out to the Villa Borghese. My passport was already in the system. I just needed to add my Covid test document. Two hours and six tries later, I was nervous and frustrated. The system kept rejecting my Negative Test document, the one with the cute

squiggle.

The farmacia was closed by then and I couldn't get through to Air France in Italy. I finally bit the bullet, used my one-day, \$10 International AT&T Pass and called the U.S. 800 number. Eventually, a woman in India assured me that Air France just needed to see the document in person and all would be well at the airport.

How I wanted to believe her! After all the wasted hours, at least the missed Villa-Borghese stroll would be vindicated.

The next day, I was four hours early for my flight. Good thing! The serpentine line for flight check-in was 100 deep, and moving slower than a snake. Was everyone having trouble with their test document?

When I reached the desk, the lovely French agent asked for my passport and proof of a negative COVID test. She handed back my paper and asked if I had some other documentation, because what I had given her was an all-in-Italian Privacy Consent form. Duolingo, understandably but regrettably, had failed me on medical/technical jargon.

The helpful agent called the farmacia on my behalf—and scolded whoever was on the

other end of the line that documentation for foreigners should not be written in Italian only. Thank goodness I had kept the test receipt with a phone number, the pharmacy was open on Saturday mornings, and I had an empathetic agent. A half hour—and many emails and photo scans—later, I had my very official-looking proof and not just a squiggle.

All's well that ends well, right? I was feeling really stupid for believing some initials on a piece of paper were valid proof. I was proud, however, that I was able to obtain the appropriate forms all on my little iPhone, all while standing next to the check-in counter as other passengers raised their eyebrows and wondered warily or worse: Are you next in line, or what?

Boarding pass in hand, I debated: Was 10:30 am a wee bit early for a grappa? Instead, I treated myself to my final Italian espresso and a chocolate croissant at the brand new Eataly at the Rome airport. Yum!



When my book group returned from Paris seven years ago, we sighed: We'll always have Paris. When I finally reached San Francisco after our Rome adventure, I paused and sighed: We'll always have Covid—and, on the bright side, many heartfelt memories of a mostly delightful and always delicious and memorable 10 days in Roma, The Eternal City.

Julie Lekach House
October, 2022

Julie Lekach House has lived in Noe Valley since 1990. She and her husband raised two daughters here. Julie is retired and enjoys folk and line dancing, Duolingo Italian, writing for her memoir class and reading and traveling with her book group of 28 years.

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

NVV11/2022

- San Francisco Information Line** www.sf311.org 311 or 415-701-2311
- Covid-19** Text "COVID19SF" to 888-777, see sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19, or call . . . 311
- Burned-Out Streetlights**, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) 311
- District 8 Supervisor** Rafael Mandelman, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org 415-554-6968
- District 8 Community Safety Liaison** Dave.Burke@sfgov.org
- Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)** 415-695-2017
- Homeless Services** Street Outreach Services (SOS) medical care 415-355-2250
- Lost or Injured Animals** Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services** sfmayor.org 415-554-7111
- NERT** (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) 415-970-2022
- Parking Enforcement** DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
- PG&E** Gas or electrical issues 1-800-743-5000
- Pothole Repairs** potholes@sfdpw.org 415-554-5810
- Recycling** Recology San Francisco (free pickup bulky items) 415-330-1300
- Rent Board San Francisco** phone counseling 415-252-4600
- Sewer Problems, Overflows** 415-695-2096
- SFMTA or Muni** Call 311 or email MTABoard@sfmta.com 415-701-2311
- Tree Planting** urbanforestry@sfdpw.org 415-554-6700
- 24th Street Community Benefit District (Noe Valley Association)** 415-519-0093
- Water Leaks, Water Pressure** 415-554-3289

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."
—Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968), American civil rights leader



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Where to Find Your Voice

The green “newsracks” are gone and some fans of the print edition of the *Noe Valley Voice* are in need of a little help in finding their favorite monthly. It’s easy, especially if you live and shop in Noe Valley. Many neighborhood merchants receive stacks during the first week of every month.

If you drink coffee, you’re definitely in luck. Bernie’s and Martha & Brothers will fix you up. And Happy Donuts is well supplied, as is Shufat’s Market next door and Sterling Bank across 24th Street. St. Clair’s Liquors always has some.

A popular spot is PlumpJack’s and Moe’s Barber Shop can keep you looking sharp and give you a copy of the *Voice* too. Folio Books and Small Frys get some and Walgreens and Sea Breeze Cleaners can take care of you as will Angel’s Market further up Castro. The Noe Valley Library gets a stack, as do the Glen Park and Bernal Heights branches.

On Church Street, go to Noe Valley Pet Co., another Martha & Bros., and see Chuck at Sun Valley Market for the latest edition.

If you shop at Diamond Heights Shopping Center, Safeway and Walgreens get copies.

These are just a few of the locations our distribution team delivers to.

If you’re a merchant and would like to be added to the route, just email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or call Jack at 415-385-4569 to get started.

How about joining our subscribers and get your copy via first-class mail? Mail a check to the Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Cost is \$40 for a year, or \$35 if you’re a senior.



With Over 40 years of community support, the *Noe Valley Voice* is widely considered to be the best newspaper of its kind, proven by the popularity of the print edition and the many visits to our website, www.noevalleyvoice.com. The *Voice* is well positioned to continue its mission of telling the stories of local citizens and the news that affects them. When you shop in the neighborhood, and you don’t see a stack of *Voices*, ask the merchant to contact us and we’ll make sure they get some. Thanks. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

With a little help from our friends



With a 46 year history of publishing, the *Noe Valley Voice* has established itself as a vital resource for this neighborhood and the city.

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Writers!

The January 2023 edition of the *Noe Valley Voice* will feature **your** creative fiction, non-fiction, essays, reviews and poetry.

Email your manuscript (MS Word preferred) in 750 words or less to editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Include a brief biographical statement of approximately 30 words.

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Thank you!



and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Toilet Papers

By Mazook

POTTY POTPOURRI: It was the morning of Oct. 19. I woke up, grabbed the *San Francisco Chronicle* off my porch, and headed to Martha's on 24th Street for my coffee latte. I sat down in the parklet and then, finally, looked at the front page. There, below the fold, was the headline: "Only in S.F.: \$1.7 Million for One Public Toilet," above a story by columnist Heather Knight.

This was not news to me, since as you Rumors regulars know, I wrote an item in last month's column in the *Voice*, which reported that "our State Assemblyman Matt Haney will hold a press conference on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 12:30 p.m., to announce that he has secured \$1.7 million from the state budget for the long-awaited installation of a public bathroom at the [Noe Valley] Town Square."

I looked across the street to the square and saw there was already a TV camera crew setting up for the event, which was supposed to feature Haney and a laundry list of other city and state dignitaries. Then I read dear Heather's brilliantly done column, an exposé of how our city does business.

Of course, since I was early, I walked over to join the people gathering for the press conference. Then someone who said they were a Rec and Park commissioner came over and told us that the press conference had been "canceled." This was a surprise to all of us, including the reporters from the TV stations, who then began frantically calling their assignment editors.

By the time the day was over, this "only in San Francisco" story had circled the globe, accompanied by pictures of the poor porta-potty in the square that media assumed the million-dollar bathroom had been designed to replace.

Knight followed up with two more columns, and got a response from Rec and Park director Phil Ginsburg, who gave her a cost breakdown for the \$1.7M. He commented about the complications of city agencies: "For example, for one little bathroom, city laws require Rec and Park to seek approval from or partner with Public Works, the Planning Department, the Department of Building Inspection, the Arts Commission to review its civic design, the Public Utilities Commission, the Mayor's Office of Disability, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company."

Ginsburg also pointed out that the Noe Valley bathroom wasn't a rarity in its hefty price tag. He told Knight that similar single-toilet bathrooms in McLaren Park and Alamo Square had recently cost \$1.6 million and \$1.7 million, respectively.

Knight's exclamation point in her Sunday third column was that "San Francisco's plan for a \$1.7 million toilet in Noe Valley appears to be circling the drain. Governor Gavin Newsom says he'll pull state money for the project unless the city can come up with a cheaper, more efficient plan."

☎ ☎ ☎

DEAR JOHN: Our community overseer of all the Town Square events, including the popular Saturday morning

Farmers Market, Leslie Crawford, says she finds this whole process "quite unsettling." But she says she's "pleased all of this is coming out."

"I see the overwhelming need we have for a public bathroom for the many daily visitors," says Crawford, "including lots of toddlers and up to 2,000 people coming to the farmers market every week, causing so many to have to go across the street to Martha's or down the street to Hi-Way Burger or even up to Whole Foods, and it's just not right."

She says that when the renovated square opened in 2014, bathroomless (although the plumbing had been installed), there were community efforts to raise "the \$600,000 to \$800,000 we were told was needed to install a bathroom." And local residents went about trying to get funding for the project.

In the October 2016 *Voice*, Matthew S. Bajko reported about the prospects for the Town Square loo: "An anonymous donor has agreed to build the restrooms as an in-kind gift to the city. In recent weeks, the donor has been meeting with park officials about ways to lower the cost."

Says Crawford, "Supervisor Mandelman and I were having meetings with people at City Hall to work out a solution to getting a bathroom installed in 2019, and then Covid shut down the city, and everything stopped and then we recently learned that [former] Supervisor Haney had finally obtained the funds from the state," she said. Ah, relief was on its way. But Leslie, it was too good to be true!

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman tells me: "I am not happy about the cost, but I am very unhappy for the Noe Valley Town Square not getting a public bathroom, so we just have to figure this out, and I hope that is soon."

☎ ☎ ☎

FLUSH WITH RHYME: Heather Knight reports she has never had this kind of response to any of her other columns. "We have had press coverage around the world, and the links on social media have been in the tens of thousands," she says.

Knight followed up her columns with a podcast in the last week of October, saying to listeners, "Your No. 1 assignment for the week: Enter the Official #Toiletgate Limerick Challenge! The winner will have their limerick read on the #TotalSF podcast [on Friday, 10/28] and receive a #TotalSF T-shirt. (This counts as fame *and* fortune.) Leave your entries below or DM to me and @peterhartlaub."

My personal favorite among the early contestants was the one by Rohit Girotra: Noe residents simply wanted to take a piss, / "Ah!" said the SF bureaucracy, "an opportunity we cannot miss!" / "We too can make a ridiculous bathroom bill!" / A bottomless pit for a high mil, / One might as well call it can-abyss!"

Then Claire Reilly wrote the winning limerick:

Noe Valley just wants a new loo

But it cost 1.7 to do

It was backed by Matt Haney

Now it's gone down the drainy

Guess it's time to try Plan Number Two

☎ ☎ ☎

PARKLET BLUES: It looks as if many of the parklets that were built outside of our city's restaurants and bars during the pandemic may be the victim of SF bureaucracy as well. As you can see, Fresca has removed its parklet on 24th Street (of course, that makes sense since it's been closed for a while). Lovejoy's has moved its parklet on



This One May Be Here for a While. Print and TV news crews and other revelers in "S.F.'s Toiletgate" streamed in and out of the Town Square last month, snapping pix of our pitiful porta-potty in order to contrast it with an alleged \$1.7 million bathroom boondoggle, which, thanks to the media frenzy, may be flushed down the drain anyway.

Photo by Sally Smith

Church Street around the corner and up Clipper Street.

And the Valley Tavern is now petitioning the neighborhood to keep its parklet. The petition, launched by owner/manager Declan Hogan on Change.org, states, "The future of our parklet is in jeopardy. Our application to keep the parklet has been denied by the SFMTA due to the yellow zone located outside of the bar. We have invested a great deal in bringing the parklet to code, yet we may have to remove the structure. Please help us fight this decision by SFMTA and the City of San Francisco."

According to Tavern co-owner Vince Hogan, "We made an application before the Nov. 1, 2021, deadline for making our parklet permanent, and the MTA response was a simple 'no,' to my surprise." He continues, "I then heard from 'the SFMTA Shared Spaces Team,' that since our parklet was built on a yellow loading zone, and their program does not allow for parklets to occupy loading zones, they say they will need to be able to 'identify acceptable replacements to your loading zone that would enable you to keep your parklet.'"

Hogan urges everyone to sign the online petition at Change.org. Just google "Save the Valley Tavern Parklet." All of you drivers who need to park to shop in Downtown Noe Valley should note that it appears the SFMTA plans to double the yellow zones on 24th Street, removing many more parking spaces.

☎ ☎ ☎

AND NOW, THE GOOD NEWS: As many of you know, the illustrious jewelry artist Gilbertina Guarini closed her store Qoio last month (4068 24th). Her sign in the front window says, "Thank you, Noe Valley." However, the good news is her daughter, Natalie, will be taking over the space and opening a retail store featuring women's clothing and accessories, both vintage and new. Her dad, Bruno, has been working furiously since last month to remodel and paint the interior, so that the store can open by the end of November. He says proudly, "It's still a family business."

After opening, he says, he will go to work to recreate the fabulous garden in the back yard, "so customers will have a place to go for some peace and tranquility." My bet is that once he finishes, the garden and shop will become a destination for many in the neighborhood.

There was more good news, this time

on the corner of Dolores and 22nd streets. The store that was Mama's Market, which closed earlier this year, has been taken over by close friends Ramzi Budayr and Zach Negin. The partners first put up a neon sign with the name of their new venture, "Dolores Deluxe." They did some digging into Noe Valley history and learned that that was what the store was called when it first opened in 1909.

Dolores Deluxe, which was set to open in October, will feature wines and spirits, says Budayr, "about 100 different wines, about 80 percent priced at under \$25 a bottle."

The shop will be open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will start you off in the morning with coffee from Emeryville's Highwire Coffee Roasters, bread from San Mateo's Backhaus, and Syrian apricot jam made by Budayr.

You will also find a selection of items from the popular Berkeley bakery Pie Society, plus a variety of sandwiches, and, Monday through Friday, a choice of meat and cheese wraps. Budayr says they will have some great sweets, like a hot fudge Turkish brownie.

Both partners have been in the culinary business for a dozen years. "For me, it is returning to the neighborhood where I grew up on Jersey Street, just off Dolores," says Budayr.

He is back home after stints in both L.A. and New York City. He was general manager at the NoMad Hotel in L.A., and worked at the restaurant Eleven Madison Park in Manhattan. Negin owns a popular Los Angeles wine bar called Tabula Rasa.

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: Soon to open this month is a revitalized Lehr's German Specialties on Church (1581) near 28th Street. And next door on the corner at 1585, where the locksmith used to be, look for a flower shop called Love & Stem... The space vacated last month by Ambiance (3979 24th) is rumored to become the new home for the buyer of the building, who is a chiropractor...

The Slow Sanchez Street Block Party on Oct. 16 was a raving success, with the highlight being the Dry Rub Republic pop-up, which served slabs of brisket, hot links, and pulled pork. Said chef Nick Cantillo, "Gee, we served over 130 pounds of meat in two hours to over 200 people." Cantillo says they will pop up in these parts every other week, so the next time would be on Nov. 12...

Word is that the slow lines at Whole Foods may be sped up by November's end, due to installation of an automated checkstand...

Nancy Mendoza, much loved teller and operations officer at the Noe Valley Bank of America branch, has retired after 23 years there and 45 years with the bank. All the best to her...

Paula Harris of Noe Valley Pet Company sends word she is seeking another salesperson for the shop, at 1451 Church. "It is a part-time position, weekends only. It's a fun job working with dogs and folks who love their pets," she says. If you're interested, wag your tail quick and call her at the store at 415-282-7385.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT ALL, FOLKS. Before I go, I must bid farewell to my longtime good friend, neighbor, and Noe Valley activist, Peter Gabel. I just loved that guy and treasure all the wonderful things he did for our little urban village. My deepest condolences to his family and to all of you for what we have lost.

■

In Loving Memory of Peter Gabel



Peter Gabel was co-founder of the Noe Valley Farmers Market, a community activist, social justice advocate, and tireless champion for so much that is good in Noe Valley and San Francisco.

We are grateful for his friendship, leadership, compassion, and generosity. We will miss him beyond measure.

The Noe Valley Farmers Market Board

October, 2022



NOVEMBER EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

WED NOV 2	MARION NESTLE • SLOW COOKED: AN UNEXPECTED LIFE IN FOOD POLITICS • 6:30 P.M. FREE! A personal story—one that is deeply relevant to everyone who eats, and anyone who thinks it's too late to follow a passion.
SAT NOV 5	VICKY BENNISON • PASTA GRANNIES: COMFORT COOKING: TRADITIONAL FAMILY RECIPES FROM ITALY'S BEST HOME COOKS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! More heart-warming recipes and stories from our favorite Italian grandmothers collected by Vicky Bennison.
THURS NOV 10	JENNIFER REICHARDT • THE WHOLE DUCK: INSPIRED RECIPES FROM CHEFS, BUTCHERS, AND THE FAMILY AT LIBERTY DUCKS • 6:30 P.M. FREE! 80+ recipes from the farm along with 50+ top chefs and butchers from around the country.
FRI NOV 11	NAOMI DUGUID • THE MIRACLE OF SALT: RECIPES AND TECHNIQUES TO PRESERVE, FERMENT, AND TRANSFORM YOUR FOOD • 6:30 P.M. FREE! A deep dive into the miracle of salt and its essential role in preserving, fermenting, and transforming food.
SAT NOV 12	FRANKIE GAW • FIRST GENERATION: RECIPES FROM MY TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HOME • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Frankie Gaw of Little Fat Boy presents a tribute to Taiwanese home cooking, with dishes passed down from generations of family.
TUES NOV 15	OFF-SITE AUTHOR EVENT! TANYA HOLLAND BOOK SIGNING & MEET AND GREET AT FOREIGN CINEMA • 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. \$35. A celebration of <i>Tanya Holland's California Soul: Recipes From a Culinary Journey West</i> . Visit our events page for info & ticket link.
WED NOV 16	YASMIN KHAN • RIPE FIGS: RECIPES AND STORIES FROM TURKEY, GREECE, AND CYPRUS • 6:30 P.M. FREE! A dazzling collection of recipes and stories that celebrate an ever-diversifying region and imagine a world without borders.
SUN NOV 20	JENNIFER LATHAM • BAKING BREAD WITH KIDS: TRUSTY RECIPES FOR MAGICAL HOMEMADE BREAD • 3:00 P.M. FREE! The definitive bread book for learning to make delicious loaves and treats that everyone will enjoy.
TUES NOV 29	OFF-SITE AUTHOR EVENT! CLAIRE SAFFITZ • WHAT'S FOR DESSERT AT THE JCCSF • 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. \$35. The anticipated follow-up to <i>Dessert Person!</i> Visit our events page for info & ticket link.

OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

3885A CESAR CHAVEZ STREET (AT CHURCH ST) SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PHONE: 415.282.4712 OMNIVOREBOOKS.COM



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO Community Outreach Public Notice



Department Announcements

Child Support Services

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. The Department of Child Support Services are available to assist you in person or by phone. Call today at (866) 901-3212 or visit online at www.sfgov.org/dcss to learn how we can help you. Schedule an appointment to open your case at <https://sfgov.org/dcss/opening-case>.

Department of Public Health

Families Grow Healthy with WIC!

San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program provides healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, health care referrals and community information. You may qualify if you:

- Are pregnant, breastfeeding, just had a baby; or
- Had a recent pregnancy loss; or
- Have a child or care for a child under age 5; and
- Have low-to-medium income; or
- Receive Medi-Cal, CalWORKS (TANF), or CalFresh (SNAP) benefits; and
- Live in California

To learn about California WIC Program, visit www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov or call 1-888-942-9675

To enroll in SFDPH WIC Program visit, www.sfdph.org/wic to start your application or call 628-217-6890 to make an appointment.

Newly pregnant individuals, working families, including military and migrant families are encouraged to apply! WIC welcomes dads, grandparents, foster parents, or guardians who care for eligible children.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Current or Upcoming Board or Commission Vacancies:

The Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)

The AAB resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board 1 – two; Board 2 - four; and Board 3 – five.

Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision.

To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For a full list of current or upcoming Boards, Commission s and Task Forces, please visit

<https://sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces>.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF

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.

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 (FUNDG)

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
 The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

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
 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
noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks

Contact: Chris Nanda
 Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com
 Website: NoeWalks.com
 Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: [ProgressNoeValley](https://www.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: Chris Faust, President
 Email: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
 Mail: 235 30th St., SF CA 94131
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm Zoom link by email.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

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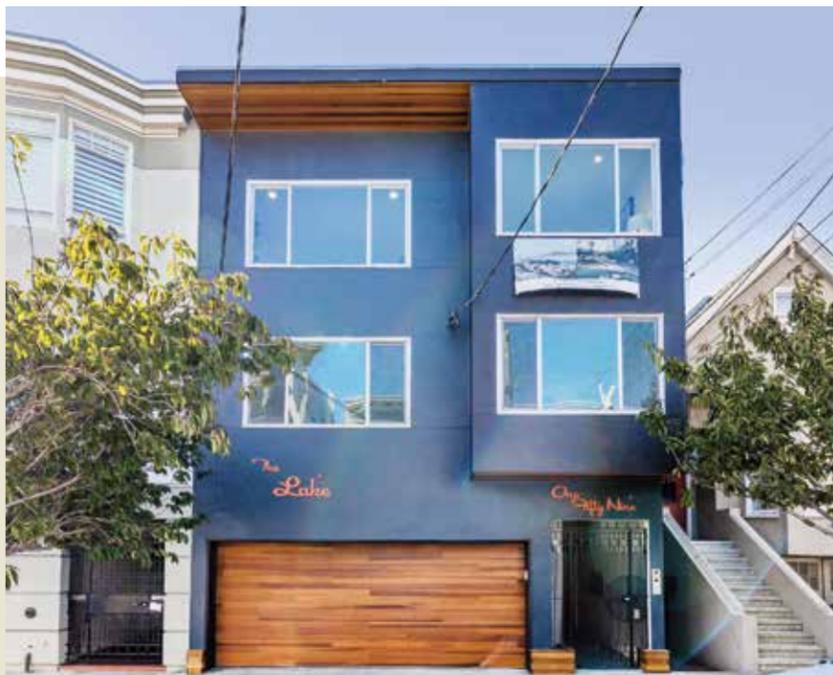


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